

The Spade & The Hoe®

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September 2005

The September Meeting will be held on September 8th at the Park Center at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be Susan Ianzark of Jamaican Gardens will present a program on Growing Orchids as Houseplants. Plan to attend.

The Flower Family Album - Pigweeds

The pigweed family is of very little importance for both its food or its flowers, but it does love color. Its plants have no petals. The richly colored combs and plumes are made up of stiff sepal scales called bracts, and, because they do not fade when dried, their name *Amaranthus* means unfading. It was used for funerals and in olden times its seed were ground into a coarse meal for Lenten bread. Among its members are cockscombs, globe amaranth, and Joseph's coat which is used for bordering beds in parks and cemeteries. It is very easily rooted from cuttings.

-The Flower Family Album By Helen Field Fischer and Gretchen Marshbarger

The August meeting was a huge success. Not only did we have many visitors, but we had many members attend to see the owls and to hear the presentation by Mark Spreyer. Thanks to Gloria Tralmer for bringing him.

Statistics

In the month of August, 662 people accessed our website, 30 in the last week alone. The heaviest days and times are Wednesdays between 7-9 AM, then Thursdays. Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, Australia and Japan were the sources of the most hits. The operating system used most were Windows, with a small amount from Macs, Unix, etc.

Part-Time Flowers

The *nyctaginaceae* family only opens at twilight. Four O'Clocks quickly make a hedge as they are so fast growing. Bougainvillea only grow in greenhouses here but are spectacular in the south. The *portulacaceae* or purslane family includes Moss Rose (portulaca) which only grows in hot weather, and Spring Beauty which blooms only in spring.

Through the Garden Gate

I am grateful for the cooler, pleasant weather we have been having. Plus all that rain! The garden has recovered from the heat/drought and my water bill is back into the normal range. I have finished a major overhaul to my back garden and it is now available for next year's garden walk. Would you believe I laid 245 Holland pavers and stepping stones? Wow, do I have the arm muscles! I have decided to forego the front beds until next spring. For whatever reason, there were few Japanese Beetles on my roses. The roses are blooming so well. All the perennials bloomed earlier than usual this year, but there are still plenty of blossoms around. My jasmine plant is out for a

world record, I think, with all its very fragrant flowers. Plus, I have a datura 'Angel's Trumpet' that has, I'm sure, already set a record. The plant is 4 1/2' tall, about 3' wide, and at any given time has about 45-50 flowers on it. If I were to count all the seed pods plus flowers it would number well over 250! And that is just from 1 single, solitary plant! I'll collect seeds to share with you.

From Our Program Chairman:

Be sure to bring your bulb order forms and payment to the September meeting. The order will be placed the next day, so if you want to receive any bulbs, you'd best get your orders in.

The Flower Family—Fragrant Pinks

Members of this family are carnations, starry campion which is a white-flowering native, rock soapworts, sweet William, and bouncing bet which is an obnoxious root spreader. The family names are dianthus and saponaria whose roots secrete a substance that will make a soapy lather. Other members of this family are baby's-breath, rose campion, Maltese crosses, lychnis haageana, creeping baby's-breath, starry cerastium, plus the baddies corn cockle and chickweed.

The Poppies

The juice from the opium poppy is narcotic, but we eat its seeds which are not. Its members are Oriental poppies, Shirley poppies (from Shirley, England), Iceland poppies, celandine, bloodroot, and California. The bright orange juice of the celandine is a wart remover, and the juice of the roots of bloodroot which, when dropped on a lump of sugar, was a cough remedy.

Guest Columnist—Sheldon Kimel

Shade gardens — We have quite a few areas of shade where it is very difficult to grow plants that flower. We have been experimenting with perennials for these shady areas. Obviously the hosta (slug and disease resistant) is a wonderful plant for shade. However, we did not want hosta in all of the shade areas. So, we have been experimenting with other plants. We have found that bishop's weed (aegopdium) works quite well for us. We have tried lamium (spotted deadnettle) and lamiastrum (galeobdolon) with success. There are many varieties of these plants. We find them to be nice looking, produce small flowers, and are quite hardy. We have also been successful with varieties of astilbes.

I received a trellis (about seven feet tall and three feet wide) as one of my retirement presents— I will not bore you with the why. Anyway, this year we decided to use it in our shady area. We put it up but we did not know how to best utilize it. We shopped around and decided to use Boston ivy. For the first year it appears to be doing quite well and there is a bit of new growth in our dense shade area. We have been told that the ivy should cover the trellis in a couple of years.

We have wrestled with planting in shade for many years and appear to be making some progress with finding appropriate plants.

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In September, remember to:

- start a compost pile by layering grass clippings, dried leaves, shredded garden debris, soil, 1/4 cup of fertilizer and a little water;
- plant trees and shrubs;
- divide daylilies and peonies and water thoroughly;
- spray plants with anti-rodent products if rabbits and deer are a problem;
- plant mums, daisies and pansies for fall beauty;
- take cuttings of coleus, impatiens, wax begonias, rosemary, thyme and oregano to make a winter window garden;
- order spring flowering bulbs;
- seed lawns as needed;
- continue to water the garden beds thoroughly, especially trees and shrubs to help them survive the winter's blasts.

-with help from Garden Talk, Fall 2005

Northwest Impressions—Nancy Spears. It's a third springtime for us. The great Northwest has much to offer: the Cascades, Mt. Rainier, Mt. St. Helens, Olympic peninsula and in Victoria, Canada, Butchart Gardens. We rode a ferry to Butchart Gardens. It is a magical place. It is picture perfect, not surprising since they have 54 full time gardeners. Olympic National Park has a variety of adventures, from mountain scenes, hiking trails, rain forests and beaches. In the temperate rain forest valleys, huge trees are laden with many kinds of mosses and other plants, creating a prehistoric feel to the landscape. Ferns blanket the ground. As much as 140" of rain fall in a year fogging the area. At the beaches the tide reveals sea life, shells and seaweeds. Harbor seals sun themselves on rocks. To drive the area is wonderful when around a turn, a snow-capped mountain appears on the horizon. Then you stop for a snack on the delicious fruit grown in the fertile valleys.

What's Blooming Table

Please bring in your treasured plants, blooms, or flowering branches for all of us to admire at the September meeting.

Questions, comments, payment of dues?

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[http://NorthStarNet.org/glenview gardeners/community/Glenview Gardeners](http://NorthStarNet.org/glenview_gardeners/community/Glenview_Gardeners)

Thanks to Len Tralmer for bringing in a canna flower from his 8' plant, and to Holly Jansen for distributing seeds of dark red and magenta hollyhocks from her plants.

Common Butterflies in Our Area

Great spangled fritillary

Viceroy

Hackberry emperor

Little wood satyr

Pearl crescent

Question mark

Eastern comma

Mourning cloak

American lady

Painted lady

Red admiral

Common buckeye

Black swallowtail

Eastern tiger swallowtail

Cabbage white

Clouded sulphur

Orange sulphur

Monarch

Silver spotted skipper

European skipper

Easter tailed-blue

Summer azure

The ones I've seen in my garden are question mark, mourning cloak, painted lady, red admiral, both swallowtails, cabbage white, clouded sulphur and monarch.