



The Spade & The Hoe

©

Volume 4 Issue 6

June 2006

June Garden Walk

Our annual garden walk will be held on Sunday, the 25th, from 1:00—4:00 P.M. There will be no regular meeting this month. The gardens to be open and their co-hostesses are:

Esther's with Jackie's help (2981 Landwehr Rd. Park in the driveway, on Crestwood 1/2 block south, or on Blake 1/2 block north); Pam Frank with Brigitte's help (907 Glendale Rd.); Holly's with Dolores' help (2238 Central Rd.)

Esther is midway between Lake and Willow, Pam is south of Central and west of Greenwood, and Holly is 1/2 block east of Shermer. Each garden is open all afternoon, so you can go to them in any order. Each garden will have plants for sale. Please pot up your excess plants and deliver them a few days beforehand to Holly for distribution to the gardens. Kindly mark each garden or houseplant with its name and major requirements. You can use as pots old teapots, baskets, teacups or plastic or clay pots, BUT not over 4" in diameter.

The May meeting was a wash-out as far as Wisconsin was concerned. The members who gathered went on a local trip instead to Pesche's Garden Center as the day was cold, rainy and windy, especially north of the border! After a great tour of the center, we all scattered and bought things, then repaired to TGIF for a fun lunch. The day turned out to be pretty nice after all, friend-wise.

Garden Walk and Plant Sale—Holly & Dolores

Please pot up your excess plants early so they have time to settle in. Be sure to label everything! Popsicle sticks or plastic knives work nicely. Also, garden décor in good condition will sell, too. Call Holly to let her know what you'll be bringing: 729-7729. Let's make this a really great sale!

The Flower Family Album - Verbenas

Its members include blue vervain, lantana, and garden verbenas. Blue vervain is wild and blooms from the bottom up. Lantanas are bedding plants from the tropics where they are grown for firewood!

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

Through the Garden Gate

I get so excited to see all the different flower displays in spring. It seems that every few days, something else has flowered. What a joy! I have finally expanded the front beds, although it is nowhere near finished. Life has a way of intruding and gardening must take a backseat to some things. Another granddaughter graduates from high school, which necessitates two trips to DeKalb, one for the party and one for the graduation event itself.

That nice stretch of wet weather followed by warm weather followed by wet weather and now followed again by warm weather really keeps us on our toes! Warm finds me out in the garden; wet finds me inside cleaning out and organizing closets, and, of course, quilting. Project Linus found itself richer by a few nice quilts and I have one for ourselves all ready to quilt. The graduate gets her own quilt, too, as a keepsake from us.

Don't forget to pot up some seedlings for our plant sale this month!





The Flower Family— Mint

This family is easily recognized because it has a square stem, strong smell, opposite leaves and two-lipped flowers. Among its relatives are catnip, peppermint, spearmint, garden sage, pennyroyal, Ajuga reptans, self-heal (prunella), the weeds ground ivy and henbit, plus the herbs balm, basil, clary, hoarhound, hysop, marjoram, rosemary and summer savory. These herbs are harvested just before their blossoms open, for that is when they are most aromatic. The cut stems are hung in an airy place to cure. When fully dried the unbroken leaves are saved for teas, and the fragments are powdered and stored in closed jars until needed for flavoring meats. The ornamental mints are most of the salvias, monarda, physostegia (obedient plant), coleus, lambs-ears, lavender, and mother-of-thyme. From time immemorial lavender's sprigs have been placed with freshly laundered linens. And monarda is also called Oswego-tea, a native wildflower.

More than half a century has passed, and yet each spring, when I wander into the primrose wood and see the pale yellow blooms, and smell their sweetest of scents...for a moment I am seven years old again and wandering in the fragrant wood.

- Gertrude Jekyll

Keep Raccoons From Moving In

To prevent raccoons from using your chimney as a nursery, cap the chimney. Caps are available at hardware stores and home improvement stores for \$25-45.

These creatures, plus squirrels and chipmunks, also like to get into attics. Some advice to prevent this are have secure garbage cans with tight-fitting lids, do not leave dog food outside, caulk nooks and crannies in the house and garage where they might enter, and keep the garage door closed at all times.

Quick and Easy

Cluster pots of different sizes planted with colorful annuals or foliage around your patio or deck. Your patio then becomes an oasis, inviting people to come and sit. Large pots set out on the front steps or on the sidewalk leading to the front door not only beautify the front of your house, but also have the house appear to be more inviting. Plant flowers whose colors compliment the color of your house.

In June, remember to:

- apply mulch around plants, but not touching the stems ;
- begin pinching back chrysanthemums throughout June;
- watch for black spot on roses and control by raking fallen leaves and removing infected canes;
- avoid watering leaves of roses;
- plant caladium, cannas and dahlias;
- prune spring flowering shrubs;
- remove spent flowers from spring bulbs but do not remove the leaves until they turn yellow;
- set out tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers and eggplant;
- fertilize vegetables to ensure healthy root systems;
- stake or cage tomatoes as they begin to grow;
- fertilize roses;
- spray lily shoots with anti-rodent spray if rabbits are a problem.

- Chicagoland Gardening,
May/June 2006



Guest Columnist— Dorothy Barz

A number of years ago, I had an experience with edible flowers. Some friends and I had gone to an herb farm. There was a café on the premises that served a salad with edible flowers. Imagine my surprise that edible flowers seem to have come into the mainstream culinary world! Young nasturtium leaves can be tossed into a fresh green salad. Chopped, they can be stirred into soups, cooked into quiches and blended into cheese spreads. They combine well with dill, basil and parsley. Other edible flowers can be candied, frozen into ice cubes and added to beverages, made into jellies and used to make tea. Not all flowers are edible, some taste bad and can even be poisonous. Consult a good reference book. Also do not eat flowers that have been treated with pesticides. Edible flowers can make any dish look special on your table. Here are some ideas to pretty up your meals and perk up your taste buds:

- freeze whole small flowers into ice rings for a pretty addition to your punch bowl
- squash blossoms can be stir-fried or stuffed with soft cheeses and deep fried
- use pansies in fruit salad
- use tulips in salad
- and for a restful sleep make lavender herb tea;
- 1 tsp. dried lavender flowers, 1 tsp. dried chamomile flowers, 1 tsp. green tea leaves; mix well then add to 4 cups of boiling water. Let steep until desired flavor is achieved. ENJOY!

Black Spot Spray

It's that time of year again, and I have been asked to re-run my home-made recipe to keep roses looking their best:

- 1/2 tbsp. baking soda
- 1 1/4 tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 gal. water

Mix well and spray on roses weekly.

Pizza Party Planter

According to Knupper Nursery, this is a great pot:

- 1 16" or larger pot filled with Miracle-Gro potting mix
- 1 Roma tomato plant
- 1 sweet bell pepper plant
- 2 basil plants
- 1 oregano plant
- 1 thyme plant
- 2 chive plants
- 2 parsley plants
- 1 jalapeno pepper plant

Plant the tomato in the center of the pot and the other plants around it. Place the pot in full sun and water well. Continue to water as needed. In about 2 months, the veggies and herbs will be ready for harvest. Add them to your favorite sauce or any home-made pizza.

Deciphering the language

A determinate tomato plant will grow to a certain size and then stop. It will also bear all its fruit in a short period (great for canning). Also called 'bush' tomatoes, most will still need staking. An indeterminate tomato plant will sprawl as far as you let it and keep bearing fruit until the weather gets too cold. These are great for slicing and eating. Use determinate varieties in containers.

What's Blooming Table

We will take a break from this feature until our July meeting.

Questions, comments, payment of dues?

Esther Behnke, President
& Editor 498-4178
eabehnke@earthlink.net

Joan Ruehrmund, Treasurer
729-1383
dieterueh@aol.com

Jane Prentis, Circulation
jrprentis@msn.com

Sharon Geniesse, Hospitality
724-7335
gilandsharon@aol.com

Holly Jansen & Dolores
Gilbertson, Garden Walk
Co-ordinators
729-7729 & 729-2682
hollyjj77@yahoo.com

Nancy Spears, Publicity
nancy@spears.net

Gloria Tralmer, Programs
grammygogi@aol.com

ggardeners@earthlink.net

<http://glenview.northstarnet.org/gardens/index.html>

