



The Spade & The Hoe

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November Meeting

Our regular meeting will be held on November 9 at 7:15pm in room 203 at the Park Center. The speaker will be Lucy Barnas, a Master Gardener with High Honor and emeritus status from the U. of I. She will speak on Closing Your Garden. Plan to attend this informative program.

Flower Family Album Composites

These have rich shades of yellow, orange and maroon and are mostly natives of Mexico. Marigold, sneezeweed or helenium, gaillardia, calendula and the spring-blooming cineraria, an annual that dies in warm houses and when all their buds have opened. Others belong to the cone-flowers group and are called rudbeckia (black-eyed Susan, brown-eyed Susan and golden-glow), and echinacea, or purple cone-flower. Some tough prairie plants are cup rosinweed (so-called because its leaves hold rainwater), compass plant (its leaves point north and south), ragweed, zinnia, and creeping zinnia (a rock garden plant that isn't a true zinnia.)

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

The October meeting was so much fun! Maria Woltmann of Hlavacek Florist displayed her fall and Holiday arrangements, and, when she was done, they became door prizes. Everyone went home with a lovely gift of either flowers or books or a vase. Great program!

Garden Folklore

Nebuchadnezzar was said to have built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon to appease his new bride, who longed for the lush hilly homeland she had left behind. Four acres of terraces, thickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers, were constructed to create the image of a mountain. Historians dispute whether the remains were indeed gardens or a fortress. Perhaps the proof that the Hanging Gardens of Babylon once existed can be demonstrated by later gardens that closely resembled those that Nebuchadnezzar reputedly built for his homesick bride.

Believing that asters were made from star dust and that they were sacred, the early Romans placed these flowers in all of the temples of the gods.

- A Gardener's Miscellany

Through the Garden Gate

Wasn't that early snowfall beautiful? I've worked so hard to put the lawn furniture's cushions away and clean up the beds. The windows are clean, furnace checked, ducts cleaned, and that dead Rose of Sharon removed. So, we almost have the garden ready for winter, too.

But now starts the busy season of shopping for family gifts for Christmas and for three birthdays: mine, my daughter's, and her daughter's! All before the holiday! My head is already spinning.

The trees are daily losing their leaves, which makes the ground look so pretty — before we get out there to rake or mow. Don't leave any accumulation of leaves on the grass, and they will kill the grass.

Funny thing: I was surprised to see an acorn beneath a youngish oak tree in our front lawn. Looking up, I could see another one still clinging to the branch but they are the only two that tree produced — ever!

Be sure to plan on attending our club's Holiday Dinner on December 14th. This is a fun time to get together when we all get dressed up in our holiday best.





The Flower Family— Flossflowers

This family consists of liaris, or blazing-star which make wonderful dried flowers, eupatorium or hardy ageratum, the annual ageratum or flossflower is a good selfsower that makes it act like a perennial, helichrysum or strawflower is also an annual that is used for dried bouquets, pearly everlasting can be cut and dried and used in wreaths, and lastly is pussy toes, a tiny native flower with silvery foliage that is more attractive than its flowers. And we come to the end of the book with the Lettuce Family. This is a great salad family and includes lettuce, the leaves of chicory whose roasted root is a coffee substitute, salsify whose root is chopped to make mock-oyster soup, and dandelion whose leaves are used in salads and its roots in medicine.



Tips

Need some inexpensive plant markers? Disposable plastic knives make good plant markers when written on with permanent marker on the handle. Weatherproof, they last for years, and the serration on the blades makes them easy to insert into the ground.

Here's a tip to make your manicure look as nice as your garden does. Tuck half a cotton ball into the finger tips of your garden gloves. The cotton can stay in the gloves for several work sessions before needing to be replaced.

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www.GardenGateMagazine.com*

Make a Winter Container Box for Outside

Cut an Oasis to fit your plastic or wooden container. Drape stems of spruce bows around the edges, add White Pine for height. Wire pine cones and place them in the arrangement. Insert peppercorn stems or stems with rose hips and any curly stems from your garden to add interest, height and contrast. Add a small bird house for interest. Place the container where you can see it from a window.

I have never had so many good ideas day after day as when I worked in the garden.

- John Erskine

In November, remember to:

- remove leaves from the grass, shred and lay them on the beds as mulch;
- water evergreens until the ground freezes;
- remove withered foliage to eliminate spores, bacteria and insects that try to over winter;
- mound soil around the bases of roses to protect the grafts;
- cut chrysanthemum stems down to about 4-6 inches to trap leaves and snow in order to protect the crown;
- wrap roses, clematis, and other plants in chicken wire to protect them from rabbits;
- put up bird feeders and bird baths and keep them clean and filled;
- cleaning up the garden in fall means less work in spring when so much needs your attention;

. Chicagoland Gardening, November/December 2005



**Guest Columnist—
Jackie Kimel**

I have had a life-long love affair with flowers. I grew up in a third floor apartment in the city and the only background was concrete. But next door was a two-flat with a postage stamp backyard of grass and flowers. I can remember looking down on this "oasis" or peeking through the fence. To me, this seemed like heaven. How lucky those people were to have flowers!

A woman in my Dad's office would give him bunches of tulips to bring home every spring. What a treat! That was long before grocery stores made bouquets so available. My Dad also made sure that I had a corsage for every birthday, from when I was very young. I proudly wore those corsages to school. Some summers we would go to the "country" with aunts and cousins. I was thrilled to be able to gather wildflowers like Queen Anne's Lace and have bouquets in the cottage. Just to have grass outside the door seemed like a luxury. When Shelly and I bought our first home in the city, with a postage stamp backyard, I was so excited. I had no clue about gardening, but I was happy to discover that Shelly, who had the same city childhood I had, was as interested in this pursuit as I. We are in our third house now and, of course, still learning. But I still get such joy from seeing the yard come to life every spring, trying out new plants, and most of all, bringing flowers into the

house! And...thanks to the Glenview Gardeners for continuing our education and sharing your knowledge (and plants!) with us.

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee, consisted of Brigitte, Gloria and Esther. Voting will take place at the November meeting.

Remember: Dues are Due Effective January 1st and can be paid in November or December. Dues are \$30 each or \$35 for couples.

Remember to return your programming survey to Gloria in November.

Tips

To keep your tools in good condition and ready for next year, clean each tool handle and blade, sharpen the blade if needed, then rub with a little motor oil on a clean, soft cloth.

To disinfect your pruner blades easily, use Clorox disinfectant wipes between cuts. No more spilled bleach and water, no more drips.

To get your hoyia plant to bloom, only water it once every two months in winter, and then sparingly. The bud is a nodule on the stem. When it swells a little, that's your signal to resume watering it.

Do not remove the foliage of evergreen plants such as dianthus, hellebores, vinca, pachysandra, and Christmas fern. Remove lamiium foliage as it decays and then let it regrow.

What's Blooming Table

Remember to bring in your treasured flowers or plants to our November meeting.

Questions, comments, payment of dues?

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