



The Spade & The Hoe

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September Meeting

Our regular meeting will be an all-day field trip to Cantigny's historic house, gardens and museum. Lunch will be on the premises. Meet at Gloria's house on Saturday, September 9th at 10:00 am to carpool there. Parking fee is \$7 per car. Call Gloria to let her know you are coming (847-480-0848).

Flower Family Album Strays

Garden Heliotrope (valerian) is the source of the drug valerian. Pink or white flowers with fernlike leaves, it is very fragrant. Teasel was brought here to help weavers. It is a mean weed. Scabiosa (pincushion flower) is in that same family. Cleome (spider flower) is named for its long slender seed pods. It is in the same family as capers. Gas Plant (dictamnus) is related to citrus; it stores so much citrus oil that on hot days a gas rises that will give a flash of flame if touched with a match. Mayapple is related to barberry and blooms in the spring. Mignonette has a calming fragrance. It is an annual.

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

The August meeting was well-attended. I, for one, had no idea that Red's Garden Center went back so far. They certainly have way more than I ever suspected! At the end of their tour and program, they gave door prizes to a few people, discount coupons to everyone, and wrapped gifts to everyone. That was unexpected but a pleasant surprise.

Thank You Notes

Letters were sent to Marlene at Ace Hardware for their donation of spring and summer bulbs to our members. When you go their to shop, be sure to let them know you appreciate their gesture.

Also, to Judy Wehling for her generous donation of \$50 to the club because Brigitte, Holly and Esther raided their gardens of flowers and greenery which they then transformed into flower arrangements and sold at the Farmers' Market last month. Our thanks and gratitude to these women for working all morning there.

*September sunshine...
The hovering dragonfly's
Simmering shadow.*

- Karo

Through the Garden Gate

What ever happened to the rain? Are we back in drought form again? The vegetables are growing well as I keep them well-watered. I have loads of tomatoes and have canned many of them already. I am baking loaves of zucchini bread as my children and neighbor love them. The Angel's Trumpet is blooming profusely—I counted 142 trumpets on the one plant by my patio! After being stung 4 times already by yellowjackets, I don't go outside even for a brief moment without being slathered in Cutter's. Lest you think my every moment is spent in the garden, I have made time for my book and a glass of wine in my chair where I can smell the jasmine and see all the butterflies on the flowers. I had planted several varieties of asclepias which is the favorite flower of Monarch butterflies and their larvae. Plus I am visited by several of the swallowtails, question marks, and others. I will miss the field trip to Cantigny, but Dan and I will be enjoying ourselves in the Mediterranean area, soaking up the sun, checking out the ancient Greek temples, and, of course, the shopping.





The Flower Family— Compositae

Flowers in this family arrange their petals in rays around a center disk. It is the highest order of development, according to botanists. Dahlias grow from tubers carried over winter in the basement. Dwarf dahlias are fine fillers for the summer border. To produce an extra large flower, pinch off all side buds on that stalk. Cosmos is an annual that is useful for cutting. It comes in lavenders, pinks and purples plus Orange Flare. Coreopsis is a splendid perennial that will bloom all summer if it is dead-headed regularly. Its particularly effective in the July garden when massed with the blue balloon flower. It's great as a cut flower. Beggar-ticks are the yellow of our August meadows and the bane of autumn hikers. Their seeds are very thin, with their top end sharply pronged and hooked, ready to catch a ride on passing animals or on your clothing. All these are members of the beggar-tick family, but you'll discover many more relatives hanging on when you take a woodland walk.

I know that if odour were visible, as colour is, I'd see the summer garden in rainbow clouds.

- Robert Bridges

Nominating Committee

It is now time for us to participate in our annual review. Many of us just like to sit back and enjoy the fruits of others' labors. But no organization can exist on just a handful of members doing all the work. It's time for others to step up and take some of the jobs. Brigitte, Gloria, and Esther are on the committee. Please be receptive to their call.

*The Garden in a Vase
It is a joy to look out over a garden in full bloom and see the glorious result of all your hard work and planning. It is equally delightful to bring part of your garden indoors. Pick flowers early in the morning, before the sun has a chance to sap their strength. Cut the stems on an angle. Strip off the leaves so that none are in the vase, and use tepid water. If the stem is woody, split it about one inch up from the base; if the stems hold a lot of liquid, dip them in salt water. Change the water in the vase every day and snip the stems every other day.*

- A Gardener's Miscellany

In September, remember to:

- keep watering perennials and annuals, trees and shrubs;
- divide peonies and replant the eyes no deeper than 2" below the soil;
- stop fertilizing roses and perennials;
- take cuttings of coleus, impatiens, wax begonias, rosemary, thyme and oregano to start indoors for a winter window garden;
- start bringing in houseplants as the night temperatures drop into the 50s;
- renovate the lawn and water until roots get established;
- fertilize the lawn for the last time;
- apply broadleaf herbicides for dandelions, clover and ground ivy;
- check for grubs and treat with an insecticide if you find more than 8-10 per sq.ft.;
- plant lettuce, peas, radishes, spinach and beets for a late crop.

- Chicagoland Gardening,
September/October 2006



Guest Columnist— Edith Hahn

I know all of our Glenview Gardeners love their flowers, shrubs trees...but what about the wildlife that find shelter in our yards and make them their homes? You have to marvel at creation when you look at a little chipmunk, how he gathers acorns with his tiny, tiny "hands", always on the lookout for danger. Have you ever stopped and looked at the gorgeous shiny coat of a black squirrel in sunlight? And what joy are our birds in summer and winter. What multitude of colors in their feathers—and those big dark eyes...the thin legs! I especially love watching them take baths, sometimes four or five together, and end up with a terrific spiked 'hairdo'!

So, please, all you people who are owned by a cat: keep your pets inside. I understand the damage cats can do to the bird population can be considerable! Also, with the present danger of coyotes in the area, our kitties are on their menu, and also our dogs, of course. So please watch your pets when they are outside.

I can go on and on about my animal yard companions: the baby raccoons in a window well; a practically tame rabbit in the same window well (which is hidden under our deck but as escape possibilities); the ducks which used to pay a visit to eat under the bird feeders and then swim in the bird bath; the deer, the baby opossums, and even the little shrew who knew how to scare off my giant Schnauzer and my "Benji" a few years ago.

But the reason for this composition is to make you aware of a few small ways that can make the lives of our furry and feathered friends a little safer: please cut up all plastic material that can prove hazardous to small animals, such as beer and pop can carriers, rings

from milk bottles and juice boxes. Flatten aluminum rings against the lids so that no little head can get caught in them. I have seen a squirrel with a blue plastic ring from a milk container around its neck, and it was a sad sight!

Also, please do not clean our your bird baths with a Brillo pad. Use a plastic scrubber instead because tiny particles can get stuck in the porous surface and then can be ingested by the birds.

And another thing that I hate to see is discarded fishing line. This has really nothing to do with our backyards, but when you find a helpless animal entangled in yards and yards of nylon line it makes you want to talk to the people who are so careless and stupid!

These are just a few thoughts of an animal and nature lover. We are all God's creatures and if it is in our power to look out for those who might need a helping hand once in a while, then let's do it

Using Pesticides Safely

Safe use of pesticides starts with knowing what it is. Pesticide comes in both organic and inorganic formulas. For example: fungicide controls fungal diseases, insecticide controls insects, and herbicide controls herbaceous plants, usually considered weeds. General-use pesticides are usually what is available to the homeowner. Under 'ingredients', you will find the active ingredient (the pesticide) and the inert ingredient (the filler). Also are the signal words that indicate the acute toxicity of the product. "Danger-Poison" with a skull and crossbones denotes the most toxic products, for which a license is required. "Warning" is the next category. "Caution" is the safer of the two. The safest group has no signal words. These are the most common types available for homeowner use. It is essential that use directions are read thoroughly before it is used. Read the entire label before buying, mixing, using, storing and disposing of pesticides so no harm is done to humans, animals, or the environment.

What's Blooming Table

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

Questions, comments, payment of dues?

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