



# The Spade & The Hoe

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## November Meeting

The November meeting will be held at the home of Joan Ruehrmund. Sam Darin, the Tool Man, will speak on how to maintain and sharpen our garden tools and he will bring Felco pruners and diamond sharpening tools for sale. Members may bring a small tool that is giving them trouble for an analysis only. Joan is at 2745 Karen Ln.

## New Slate of Officers for 2008-2010:

Holly asked for a vote on the proposed slate of officers:

President—Pam Frank

Vice President—Gloria Tralmer

Editor—Esther Behnke

Treasurer—Shelly Kimel

Programming—Marlene Bothfeld

Hospitality—Bonnie Kimoto

Garden Walk—Holly Jansen

Publicity—Nancy Spears

Circulation—Jane Prentis

Holly said the vote was unanimous to accept the slate as presented. Congratulations to the incoming officers!



The October meeting went quite well, according to Holly Jansen. Diane Smith of Perennial Professional, Inc. spoke on Giving Your Garden a Professional Look. Thanks to Judy Oppgard who was the hostess.

## Congratulations to Diane and Wayne Meyers!

They received the Garden of the Month award for October from the Richmond/Spring Grove Garden Club. Those of us who saw their garden in August know that the award was richly deserved.

*He that hath a good harvest may be content with some thistles.*

- English Proverb

## December Holiday Dinner

The Annual Holiday Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 13th at 6:30 P.M. at Periyali Greek Taverna, 9850 Milwaukee Ave. in Glenview. We will be able to order from the menu and pay individually with a cash bar, the same as last year.

Please call Marlene Bothfeld by December 10th with your reservations. This is a wonderful time to spend a social evening with our members. Please mark your calendars for this festive event!

*Perhaps no word of six letters concentrates so much satisfaction as the word "garden".*

- Richard Le Gallienne

## Through the Garden Gate

Upon our return home from vacation out East, we found branches littering the ground again and 1" of rain in the rain gauge. The east coast and south would love to have had that rain. Their drought is horrendous! Taking a quick stroll around our 'estate', I saw that most plants have finished blooming and the ash and maple trees have begun shedding their leaves. Also, the juncos have returned from their summer sojourn in Canada! I just love those little birds. I plan to address some problems with the lawn this month, rejuvenate the area where I usually plant a few vegetables, and utilize the fallen leaves to work their magic on the perennial beds, enriching the soil.

This yard work has to be done within the next three weeks, as Christmas shopping will be uppermost on the agenda by then. But before I get carried away with that, we will celebrate Thanksgiving here with our children and their families. Happy Thanksgiving to you and to your families!



### **Patchouli**

A member of the lavender family, its essential oil is distilled from the dried branches. It is useful as an antiseptic, particularly for minor burns as it has an anti-inflammatory effect. Add several drops to a warm bath to soothe dry skin. It also works on irritated nerves, calming anxiety. This sensual, musky aroma is attributed with powers as an aphrodisiac.

### **Pine (Pinus sylvestris)**

The clean, fresh smell of pine oil is a familiar, everyday aroma as it is used extensively in soaps, deodorants, and bath preparations as well as household cleaning products, both for its scent and its antiseptic properties. Essential oil of pine is distilled from the resins and needles of pine trees, of which there are over 100 varieties.

Essential oil of pine may be used internally or externally. Pine oil is a powerful antiseptic best known for its effectiveness in treating infections of the respiratory system. The ancient Arab physician, Avicenna, prescribed it as an inhalation and poultice for a patient suffering from pneumonia. The oil has a stimulating effect on the circulation, making it a warming rub for muscular pain. This quality will help treat lethargy and listlessness.

Pine oil should not be used in the bath by persons with sensitive skin, as it can cause skin irritation.

- The Art of Aromatherapy  
by Pamela Allardice

"If the day and night are such that you greet them with joy and life emits a fragrance like flowers and sweet scented herbs—that is your success. All nature is your congratulations."

- Henry David Thoreau

### **Autumn Leaves—A Bonus**

Run chicken wire into a wide circle anywhere in your garden. Toss in all the leaves that you have raked up or run over with the lawnmower. Over every 3-4" layer of leaves, put a thin covering of manure or a sprinkling of blood meal over them, a few wood ashes from your fireplace if you have one, a little compost, and an inch or two of soil. Water it down. Repeat. By the time the last layer is added, the first has packed down considerably. In spring, it's ready to be raked over the garden and placed just where it's needed most.

Another way to use these precious leaves is to shred them and then dig them into the vegetable garden now to a depth of about 12-18". Add whatever fertilizer you have on hand, top it off with some of the soil and water it in well. Layer more leaves on top and let it sit. It will be ready in early spring for the cool-weather plants to go in for a quick start. Remember to add kitchen waste of fruit and vegetable scraps and peels, coffee grounds and tea leaves, bread scraps, and egg shells to your big compost piles. Garden waste can include leaves and twigs, grass clippings, spent flowers, bark and other material but not thick branches, diseased or treated plants. Other materials can include wood ashes from fireplaces, vacuum cleaner dust, hair, wool scraps, shredded newspapers and shredded cotton rags. Your garden will benefit greatly from this application of compost and you, too, in the long run, will benefit most of all.

When God blesses the harvest, there is enough for the thief as well as the gardener.

- Polish Proverb

### **History Lesson 107**

Honeysuckle has been used medicinally for centuries. The Romans used it to treat many ailments, while Renaissance herbalists used it as a sore-throat gargle, expectorant, and laxative. Contemporary herbalists use the herb chiefly in topical creams, as an anti-inflammatory. Braided into the hair or worn as an amulet, honeysuckle was believed to ward off the powers of darkness, and farmers in northern Europe wound it around the horns of their cows to protect them from evil fairies who might want to turn the milk sour.

- Susan Wittig Albert,  
"An Unthymely Death"

### **Dues**

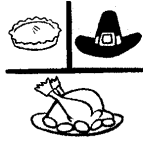
**It's that time of year,  
when the leaves fall,  
acorns are gathered,  
and dues are due.**

**Please bring your  
checks to the November  
meeting or mail them to  
Joan at 2745 Karen  
Lane. The dues for 2008  
will remain the same as  
this year: single \$30,  
couples \$35.**

Starting to plan ahead to next year? Try starting seeds from reneesgarden.com, formerly Shepherd's Garden Seeds. Also search out Seedsavers.com for some wonderful old-fashioned, sweet-smelling, yummy-tasting varieties of fruits, vegetables, and flowers from around the world.

*Better eat vegetables and  
fear no creditors, than eat  
duck and hide from them.*

- The Talmud



**Guest Columnist —  
Nancy Olderr**

I come from a gardening family. I grew up in the same house as my mother. My grandmother planted the original garden and mom took it over when grandma could no longer do the work. One year, when my sister and I were perhaps about 7 and 9 years old, mom decided we should have a garden patch of our own. The spot she chose was between the sidewalk and our swing. Like many of our neighbors, we had an old-fashioned swing with two seats facing each other. Mom injected a little competition in our gardening by splitting the bed in half. We would each be responsible for half.

I remember helping mom dig out the grass to form an oval about four by eight feet, and we planted it with small orange marigolds, most likely from seed. If we planted other flowers, I don't remember them. Mom used small clay pots turned upside down to edge the ends of the oval that bordered the grass. The colors coordinated well with our orange and green swing. We learned how to water and to distinguish the flowers from the weeds which we were charged with pulling out. Part way through the summer we discovered little slugs and worms had made their home under the pots. We thought that was very yucky but that was part of the gardening experience.

Dad, always supportive of our endeavors, smiled approvingly at our garden. When anyone came to visit, mom proudly pointed out our little flower patch and the fact that we maintained it. It looked

pretty and we admired it as we swung lazily on our swing on summer evenings. My memories are vague, but I think we worked our little garden for a couple of summers and then moved on to other things. I don't know if any photos of my first garden exist, but it was a way for mom to introduce us to gardening which was a lifelong love of hers. My sister and I both have had our own gardens since we bought our first homes and enjoy working in them. Sometimes when I see an orange marigold or a little clay pot, I flash back to my first garden by the swing.

**In November, remember to:**

- plant spring bulbs until the ground is frozen;
- after a hard frost, remove all dead plants and discard if diseased;
- dig up tender bulbs, cut off the stems, wash off the soil, and store them in a container layered with peat moss, shredded newspaper or sawdust and store them at 40-45°;
- take cuttings of those annuals like geraniums that you want to keep for next year and root them, keeping them as a houseplant until then;
- or, pot them up and store them in a cool room without light or water until spring;
- or, wash all soil from the roots and hang them upside down in the basement;
- water trees and shrubs well before the ground freezes;
- continue to mow the lawn until the grass goes dormant;
- shred leaves and add them to the perennial beds as a good winter mulch;
- remove fallen leaves and debris off the lawn to prevent snow mold.

It is good to be alone in a garden at dawn or dark so that all its shy presences may haunt you and possess you in a reverie of suspended thought.  
- James Douglas

**What's Blooming Table**

Thanks to Pam for bringing her roses and to Holly for her fleeceflowers. Remember to bring something to the November meeting.

**Questions, comments,  
payment of dues?**

**www.glenviewgardeners.org**

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*I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers.*  
- Claude Monet