



# The Spade & The Hoe

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## From the Desk of Pamela Frank

I recall last year around this time, there were several inches of snow on the ground and there was a light snow falling. I just happened to look out a second floor window when I noticed a large hawk standing on a mound in the middle of my neighbor's backyard. It was a beautiful hawk that was 18"-20" tall. I could clearly see its large eyes, hooked beak and it had a white chest. I ran downstairs to get my camera and was able to take some pictures through the window. When I opened the window to get a better picture he flew up to the electric line. I believe that he could hear the window open.

Sometime later the hawk came back to the mound and it was ripping at an object there with its beak. I went slowly outside into the yard, but even though I was 30 feet away he saw me and flew off. I finally went over to investigate the mound and saw the remains of a duck's bill and feathers. The hawk returned the next day and again was eating something new on the mound. I didn't disturb him this time, but watched him finish and soon he was gone. Was he off to other hunting grounds?

## February Meeting

The program for the February 14th meeting will be presented by Robyn Flakne who will talk about rain gardens, how they affect the village and our own homes. We will meet at the Police Station at 7:15 P.M.

## The January Meeting was

so very good. Dave Toepen showed slides and demonstrated the effects of excessive lighting on our night sky, on our birds and on ourselves. Thanks to Bonnie for providing refreshments.

*The "flowery meade", or flower-filled lawn, was a favorite place in the Middle Ages for strolling and resting. People so enjoyed sitting on soft grassy patches, that they often built benches with natural turf seats.*

## By-Laws Change

The vote was taken at the regular January meeting. The new article is as follows:

Article 7—Meetings, Section 1. Of the Club. Reads "Regular meetings of the Club shall be held monthly, except for any month in which there is a field trip or other activity."

Did you ever meet a gardener, who, however fair his ground, was absolutely content and pleased? ... Is there not always a tree to be felled or a bed to be turfed? ... Is there not ever some grand mistake to be remedied next summer?

- The Rev. Samuel Hole,  
1819-1904

## Through the Garden Gate

There is something about the start of a new year that get me into a cleaning-out mode.

Desk drawers, file cabinets, closets, followed quickly by redecorating, moving furniture around, changing things around. Then I tackle those garden catalogs. If I move this plant over there, and put a new plant over here...

We all tend to look at the offerings in those catalogs as real, honest-to-goodness photos of the plants, instead of the often artificial, air-brushed photos so many of them are. We set ourselves up and wonder why our things do not live up to the pictures. I have a word of advice: Take each description with a spoonful of salt. You will not be disappointed this way.

Their goal is to sell plants; your goal is to beautify your garden. Don't believe everything you read. Ask your neighbors what worked for them, what has been very good, what bombed. That's what so great about our club—members always willing and eager to lend a hand or a word of advice. We'll even share our plants with you. What a great resource!

*A hedge between keeps friendship green.*

- Proverb



### Grasses for Part Shade

Bottlebrush Grass (*Hystris patula*)  
Manna Grass (*Glyceria striata*)  
Wood Reed (*Cinna arundinacea*)  
Canada Wild Rye (*Elymus Canadensis*)  
Virginia Wild Rye (*Elymus virginicus*)

*In addition to using sunflowers for cooking, American settlers in the 1800s planted them around their houses in the belief that they would protect them from malaria.*

- *A Gardener's Miscellany*

### Flowers for Shade

Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*)  
Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra*)  
Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)  
Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)  
Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum canaliculatum*)  
Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria Canadensis*)  
Trillium (*Trillium spp.*)  
Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)  
Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)  
Yellow Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)  
Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)

### Flowers for Ponds or Low Spots

Pickereel Weed (*Pontederia cordata*)  
Common Rush (*Juncus effusus*)  
Common Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)  
Rice Cut Grass (*Leersia oryzoides*)  
Sedges (*Carex*)  
Joe-pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)  
Cattail (*Typha latifolia*)



A garden without trees scarcely deserves to be called a garden.

- Canon Henry Ellacombe  
(1790-1885)

### Flowers for Full Sun

Pasque Flower (*anemone patens*)  
Aster  
Cream Wild Indigo (*Baptisia Leucophaea*)  
Coreopsis  
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)  
Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)  
Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*)  
Western Sunflower (*Helianthus occidentalis*)  
False Boneset (*Kuhnia eupatorioides*)  
Blazing Star (*Liatris*)  
Lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*)  
Wild Quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*)  
Prairie Cinquefoil (*Potentilla arguta*)  
Goldenrod (*Solidago*)  
Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*)

Plus the Grasses:

Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)  
Little Bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*)  
Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)  
Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*)  
Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)  
Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)  
Prairie Cord Grass (*Spartina pectinata*)  
Porcupine Grass (*Stipa spartea*)

*They were out when we came. I rushed to the potager—you know my weakness—and walked up and down between spinach and dahlias in ecstasy.*

*Harriet, Countess Granville,  
1828*

### Flowers for Part Shade

Nodding Wild Onion (*Allium cernuum*)  
Prairie Thimbleweed (*Anemone cylindrical*)  
Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)  
Showy Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium canadense*)  
Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*)  
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)  
Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*, also known as Beebalm)  
Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)  
Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*)  
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)  
Spiderwort (*Tradescantia*)

### Dues

**It's that time of year, when the snow falls, temperatures drop, and dues are due. Please bring your checks to the February meeting or mail them to Sheldon Kimmel at 2141 Mickey Lane. The dues for 2008 will remain the same as last year: single \$30, couples \$35.**

*What can your eye desire to see, your ears to hear, your mouth to take, or your nose to smell, that is not to be had in an orchard, with abundance of variety?*

- *William Lawson,*

*A New Orchard and Garden,  
1618*





#### Guest Columnist —

We are in need of some volunteers for Guest Columnist for the next few months. Kindly let the Editor know if you'd like to 'do' a month.

#### Plants for Song Birds

In order to be serenaded with the sweet song of birds, you must provide them with specific plants that attract them, namely, sunflowers, liatris (blazing star), purple cone-flower, goldenrod, compass plant, prairie dock, big blue-stem, little bluestem, sideoats grama, switch grass, prairie dropseed, downy serviceberry, hackberry, dogwood, juniper, elderberry, and hawthorn. Some of the above are native flowers, some are native shrubs, and some are native grasses. These are the best.

**For Hummingbirds**, the list is a bit different. Plant columbine, jewelweed (impatiens, also known as touch-me-not), native phlox, cardinal flower, and native honeysuckle.

**For Butterflies**, plant asclepias (butterfly weed, milkweed), aster, purple cone-flower, liatris (blazing star), black-eyed Susan, dogbane, coreopsis, Joe-pye weed, goldenrod, vervain and ironweed.

This will give you a heads-up in planning your garden. Most of these flowers can be bought as seeds, or seedlings.

#### In February, remember to:

- after shoveling snow off your walks and driveway, use only the non-corrosive salt on ice that will not burn plants;
- kitty litter makes an excellent ice salt, so does sand;
- for houseplants, only use tepid water and take care not to over water; over watering is the main cause of death of houseplants;
- don't fertilize them during winter and use only at half strength for those that are blooming;
- give your plants a rest period in late winter by reducing water for two months or until they re-sprout;
- continue to feed the birds; suet for woodpeckers, nut-hatches, and chickadees; sunflower seeds for finches, cardinals and chickadees; niger for juncos, goldfinches; a mix for sparrows and other common birds;
- put out a pan of warm water every day for the birds;
- close the drapes and pull the shades at night to protect your houseplants (and your gas bill).

*I like to think how Shakespeare pruned his rose,  
And ate his pippin in his orchard close.*

*- William Rose Benet  
1886-1950*

#### Thyme

In early medical texts, it was mentioned as an antiseptic, disinfectant, stimulant, digestive aid, muscle relaxant, remedy for hangovers, hair loss retardant, respiratory treatment, toner for the skin and it assists the circulatory and immune systems. In hot sun, it has a strong fragrance "like the dawn in Paradise".

An apple tree puts to shame all the men and women that have attempted to dress since the world began.

- H. M. Beecher,  
1813-1887

#### What's Blooming Table

Remember to bring something to the February meeting.

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