



The Spade & The Hoe

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From the Desk of Pamela Frank

Carpenter Ants, Carpenter Bees and Bumble Bees! This is not a gardening story but it is about nature. My house seems to have a carpenter ant problem inside and out. I have come home to carpenter ants with wings on the south windows of the sunroom.

They used to turn up in every room of the house. For two years in a row we hired an exterminator, and that did the trick until this year. This year we decided to repair our greenhouse. We found hundreds of ants and pupae living under the greenhouse windows in the wood. When we disturbed their home, they swarmed into our sunroom. Raid to the rescue and we have been annihilating ants for weeks. One day my daughter Jessica was sitting on our back porch and said there was a lot of dust flying around. I have 4x4 posts holding up the porch roof. At the base of one of the posts was sawdust. We examined the post but found nothing wrong. Two weeks later I noticed sawdust at the base of another post. I saw a 1/2" hole drilled into the post and heard buzzing and chewing. Carpenter ants! Again Raid is good.

As Larry continued to work on the greenhouse demolition, he was removing fiberglass insulation, discovered a bumblebee nest and ran into the house quickly. The bees were very angry. Not wanting to kill the bees, we found no one willing to relocate them (the Grove, beekeeper, etc.).

Larry knew he had to do it alone. Wearing jeans and a jacket, rubber gloves and a thick plastic bag over his head, he used a 36" grabber, two plant trays, a large rubber band and, at night, successfully relocated the bees' nest and only got stung once. Hooray!

June Garden Walk

Great garden walk! Thanks go to Nancy and Richard Spears for showing their beautiful garden, to Jacki and Shelly Kimel (how about those magnificent hostas) and Pam Frank (fabulous peonies) for opening their gardens, and to Susan Fine, Esther Behnke, and Brigitte Steinforth for providing the tasty refreshments. Although the day began ominously with downpours, the rain ceased just before the Walk began! We had so many guests viewing these gardens and purchasing plants at each garden that we can term the Walk highly successful. And to Holly who organized the entire day while worried about her mother's illness, a giant THANK YOU!! Thanks to Nancy for great publicity, and, finally, to our members who carefully dug up, labeled, and delivered your excess plants to Holly for distribution to each of the gardens, you all have come through again! Thank you.

Our condolences to Holly on the death of her mother.

July Program

Marian Thill will speak on "Backyard Gardening for Birds and Butterflies" at the police station on Tuesday, July 8th, at 7:00 P.M.

Through the Garden Gate

As any gardener knows, a garden is never really finished. It is always in a state of flux. We expand here, re-plant there, divide these, discard those. I'm no different from everyone else. I am in the process of expanding a shade garden around the crabapple tree. Plus, when I finish with that project, I intend to expand some of the front beds and border them in bricks. As you can see, there is always something going on. But that is part of the fun of gardening. And, after all the hard work of digging and planting, I can relax in my swing with a glass of wine in one hand and a book in the other. For books are an integral part of my life, as is gardening. (The other integral part of my life is quilting, as some of you know.) And, as you also know, summer is an ideal time to sit and swing, relaxing in the shade in the heat of the day, visiting with friends or family, or just reading a nice mystery or one of the many good books on gardening. Enjoy!



Woodland Shade Under Trees

Try using anemone, asarum, forget-me-not brunnera, lily-of-the-valley, bleeding heart, euonymus, cranesbill, helleborus, hosta, hydrangea, lysimachia, pachysandra, pulmonaria, saxifrage, and viola.

Moist Shady Areas

Use hybrid anemones, aruncus, foxglove, euphorbia polychrome, hepatica nobilis, hosta, primula, rogersia pinnata, sanguinaria canadensis, tiarella cordifolia, or trillium.

Dry Shady Areas

Plant ajuga reptans, lady's mantle, bergenia cordifolia, hardy cyclamen, euphorbia, cranesbill, iris, lamium maculatum, lirope muscari, lunaria, thalictrum or vinca minor.

Moist Soils

Good plants include ajuga reptans, arum italicum, astilbe, cornus alba, cranesbill, helleborus sternit hybrids, ligularia, matteuccia, forget-me-not myosotis, and trolius europaeus.

Foliage Plants

These include acanthus, artemisia, arum italicum, carex morrowii, clematis, epimedium, euonymus, festuca, gunnera, helleborus, coral bells, lamium, ligularia, lysichitum, melianthus major, phormium, pulmonaria, rogersia, rosa glauca, and rosa pimpinellifolia.

New Members

Elaine & Mike Pritchett
1636 Cabot Ln., Glenview
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Roshni & Noshir Khory
920 Shermer Rd., Glenview
Noshir.khory@ge.com

Ginny Hindman
2542 Osage Dr., Glenview

Tall Plants

Try using acanthus, angelica gigas, crambe cordifolia, echinops, eupatorium cannabinum, filipendulina kamtschatica, helianthus, Joe-pye weed, ligularia, miscanthus saccharifolius, phormium, rogersia, silybum marianum, or verbascum.

The trouble with garden bugs is simple. People don't know enough about them. Most bugs in your garden are good for the garden. Get to know them.

- Jamie Jobb

Plants for Hot Dry Sites

Use alstroemeria, alyssum, armeria, gerberia, buddleja, caryopteris, coreopsis, crambe, dianthus, erigeron, euphorbia myrsinites, geranium, helianthemum, kniphofia, lavandula, limonium, miscanthus sinensis, nepeta, poppy, salvia, santolina, scabiosa, sedum spectabile, silene, thymus, verbascum, veronica, and viola.

Acid Soil?

Azalea, camellia, cornus, corylopsis, fothergilla, rhododendron, trillium, or uvularia.

A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever.

- Richard Briers

Plants for Clay Soil

Plant acanthus, ajuga, lady's mantle, aruncus, aquilegia, astilbe, bergenia, brunnera, campanula, dicentra, epimedium, cranesbill, hederia, helonium, helleborus, daylily, hosta, ligularia, lamium, lysimachia, persicaria, phlox, rose, and goldenrod.

There is no spot of ground, however arid, bare, or ugly, that cannot be tamed.

- Gertrude Jekyll

Our Annual Plant Sale and Garden Walk netted the club \$136. This will be added to the treasury to help provide quality programs this year.

Public Gardens Worth Visiting—Nancy Olderr

In recent years I have visited public gardens in towns close to Chicago. Here are two.

Anderson Japanese Gardens, Rockford, IL. Five acres of Japanese-style gardens, originally developed as a private garden, are open from May-Oct. A new visitor center recently opened and a café. Docents add to understanding the unique elements of the garden. Because it was spring when I visited, azaleas, rhododendrons and other spring plants were gorgeous bloom. Autumn would be my next choice of time to visit. Though small in area, the garden had interesting things around every corner and places to stop and take it all in. Yet it was not so big as to get tired before you get to the end.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

The previous May, we found ourselves in Madison and stopped here. It consists of the Bolz Conservatory, a glass pyramid, as well as 16 acres of outdoor gardens. We enjoyed lots of spring blooms as we wandered through the various garden setting to their unique feature: a Thai Pavilion and Garden. The red and gold structure was a gift from the Thai alumni of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and had opened just a few years earlier. Explanations in this area helped visitors understand the elements of this unusual area.

Illinois Native Plants

Did you know that prickly pear cactus is native here? Well, it is. Its Latin name is *Opuntia humifusa*. Certain of the ferns are native, including lady fern (*athyrium filix-femina*), rattlesnake fern (*botrychium virginianum*), ostrich fern (*matteuccia struthiopteris*), cinnamon fern (*osmunda cinnamomea*), Christmas fern (*polystichum acrostichoides*), and northern maidenhair fern (*adiantum pedatum*).

Among the flowering plants are sweet William (*glandularia canadensis*), pale lobelia (*lobelia spicata*), evening primrose (*oenothera biennis*), black-eyed Susan (*rudbeckia hirta*), wild garlic (*allium canadense*), windflower (*anemone canadensis*), thimbleweed (*anemone cylindrical*), pussytoes (*antennaria* spp.), columbine (*aquilegia canadensis*), goat's beard (*aruncus dioicus*), butterfly weed (*asclepias tuberosa*), New England aster (*aster novae-angliae*), turtlehead (*chelone glabra*), coreopsis (*coreopsis tripteris*), Joe-pye weed (*eupatorium fistulosum*), queen-of-the-prairie (*filipendula rubra*), cranesbill (*geranium maculatum*), sneezeweed (*helenium autumnale*), blazing star (*liatris pycnostachya*), cardinal flower (*lobelia cardinalis*), great blue lobelia (*lobelia siphilitica*), bluebells (*mertensia virginica*), beard-tongue (*penstemon digitalis*), obedient plant (*physostegia virginiana*), Jacob's ladder (*polemonium reptans*), yellow coneflower (*ratibida pinnata*), bloodroot (*sanguinaria canadensis*), compass plant (*silphium laciniatum*), prairie dock (*silphium terebinthinaceum*), prairie blue-eyed grass (*sisyrinchium campestre*), prairie goldenrod (*solidago missouriensis*), meadow rue (*thalictrum dioicum*), Culver's root (*veronicastrum virginicum*), and golden alexanders (*zizia*

The only thing different about having a green thumb is that you don't get discouraged by failure. When something doesn't work, you try again.

- Beth Weidner

In July, remember to:

- feed the roses for the last time by mid-July;
- compost dying plant matter;
- keep up with deadheading for a tidy garden;
- keep a garden diary;
- remove yellowed foliage from spring bulbs;
- plant native plants for a low maintenance garden;
- use a soaker hose around roses to keep the foliage dry;
- consider planting a peach tree for fresh fruit; plant it in full sun.

Peach Cobbler

Batter: 1/2 c. melted butter, 1 c. flour, 1 c. sugar, 1/4 tsp. salt, 2/3 c. room temperature milk, 1 egg, 2 tsp. baking powder.

Filling: 1 c. sugar, 1 tsp. nutmeg, 1 tsp. cinnamon, 4 c. blanched and sliced fresh peaches.

Melt butter in a 9x13" pan. Mix together batter ingredients and pour over melted butter. Combine filling ingredients and spread over batter—DO NOT STIR. Bake at 350° for 35-45 min. until batter comes to the top and is golden brown and the middle is set. Serve warm with ice cream.

- recipe courtesy of Knupper Nursery staff

Speaking of Knupper's, be sure to visit them on Rand Rd. in Palatine July 4-7 when they have their giant garage sale of drastically reduced plants, pots, etc.

What's Blooming Table

Keep this feature in mind for our July meeting.

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