



The Spade & The Hoe

Volume 7 Issue 2

February 2009

From the Desk of Pamela Frank

This last summer we had quite a project going on at my house. We constructed a clean, dry and more practical 'garden room' from a rotting and impractical greenhouse. We had a 9x16' attached wood frame greenhouse that was about 30 years old with rotted wood. Also some of the windows were falling apart and didn't close which allowed snow, rain and who knows what else to come in. The 5 3x5' windows were cloudy and the frame holding them was going south. The greenhouse was used for storage and tools and not good for much else. The slanted windows cut down on interior space.

Days after the garden walk in June, Larry & I began clearing out flower pots, planters, lawn chairs, etc. Next we removed the windows. Larry used 2 2x4s" as ramps and slid the windows to the ground. Then came the walls and roof. I think Larry really enjoyed tearing them down. Luckily we were able to keep half of the side walls and the outside door in place. We came across hundreds of carpenter ants and a bumblebee nest in the insulation in the wall.

The carpentry took all summer and many trips to Lowe's. I made numerous pitchers of Gatorade for Larry, my brother Jim who came every weekend, and our carpenter friend Paul. The garden room has new walls that go straight up to the ceiling. Wow! He installed laminate flooring to cover the old 2x4" floor. The ceiling is bead board planking. The walls are painted a pretty crazy green color. The 6' window over the potting bench is a slider that opens and closes. This summer I would love to give tours if anyone would like to see it.

February Program

On Tuesday, February 10th, we will meet at the police station for a program on *Enabling Gardens by Kristi Robinson*. Refreshments will be provided by Susan Fine.

*But now 'tis winter, child,
And bitter northwinds blow,
The ways are wet and wild
The land is laid with snow.*
- Robert Bridges

January Program

Larry Frank gave a program on solar energy panels for the roof to reduce energy costs.

Membership List

If your name is not on the attached membership list, it's because you haven't paid your 2009 dues yet. Hurry and get them to Shelly for inclusion in next month's listing. Your dues support our fine programming. Dues are still \$30 for a single, \$35 for a couple.

Dues Are Past Due!

Man is wise and constantly in quest of more wisdom; but the ultimate wisdom which deals with beginnings, remains locked in a seed.

- Hal Borland

Pam introduced the idea of our club logo on sweatshirts at the January meeting. The logo can be applied to your garment of choice for \$6.

Through the Garden Gate
If you are like me, so many garden catalogs appeared in my mailbox but I have to remember that it is still winter and too early to start seeds. I look at these catalogs and get antsy to order everything! My practical side asks what on earth I need, as my garden has been established for a long time. But my excitable side wants one of those and two of these and.... In these perilous times, a vegetable garden should be a high priority for us, not only for saving money but for insuring our health. We all have a spot that receives at least six hours of sun daily. Go and grow beyond the requisite tomato plant and pepper plant! Put in a row of lettuce (super easy), beans (also easy), peas (a snap!), and whatever else rings your bell. You will not regret the pride you'll feel when picking a bowlful for dinner, or eating right off the bush. You can also plant food crops in pots. Have fun and eat fresh veggies of your own!

Happy Valentine's Day!
Esther



Primrose

The primrose for many centuries considered to be a magical flower. It is one of the earliest plants to bloom in the spring. In rural England they are known as fairy cups, as it was believed that fairies dwelt within the yellow flowers, using them as shelter in rainstorms. Herbalists recommend adding primrose leaves to a salad to cure arthritis. The primrose was also esteemed as a beauty treatment. Country girls used to rub the leaves on their cheeks to cause a pink blush. In the kitchen, the primrose can be used to flavor custards. Primroses growing wild must not be picked as they are a protected species.

*Much February snow
A fine summer doth show.
- A Country Diary of Garden Lore*



Statistics

In December, the Glenview Gardeners web site recorded 731 hits, the number of page requests was 299, and in the 1st half of January there were 204.

Many web sites have links to our site. Check out our site yourselves. It is at <http://www.glenviewgardeners.org>



Dues are Past Due!

Valentine's Day

The celebration of love that is associated with this day probably has little to do with the obscure St. Valentine. It is more likely to have derived from the Roman festival of Lupercalia, a celebration of fertility. According to folklore, this was the day on which birds chose their mates, and this is probably the origin of the sending of love tokens and messages in the name of St. Valentine.

The pansy is a flower particularly associated with St. Valentine's Day. Its common name for pansy is hearts-ease and others are love-in-idleness, kiss-her-in-the-pantry and tickle-my-fancy. An infusion of pansy leaves is said to cure a broken heart. Shakespeare wrote in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*:

The juice of it, on sleeping
eyelids laid,
Will make a man or woman
madly dote
Upon the next live creature
that it sees.

The forget-me-not is also associated with this day. It grows in most parts of the world. This was said to be because an angel once fell in love with a mortal woman and was banished from heaven. He could only return if he placed them in every corner of the globe. So hard did he and his lover work, that St. Peter took pity on them and allowed them both into heaven. In the Language of Flowers, the forget-me-not means fidelity, friendship and remembrance.

The Symbolism of Herbs

Grow mint in the garden to attract money to your purse.
- A Country Diary of Garden Lore

Starting Seeds

Seeds can be started in wooden or plastic flats, plastic "6-packs", clay or plastic pots, compressed peat pots, newspaper cylinders, margarine tubs, foil bread pans — anything into which you can poke holes for drainage. Peat and newspaper pots can be planted directly into the ground. The rest have to be transplanted.

The seeds need warm soil to grow. So you can put them on top of the refrigerator or water heater, on electric heating cables or heat vents or under fluorescent lights.

For large seeds, there is no problem in poking a hole in the soil or just push the seed in. For very fine seed, simply scatter them over the surface of the soil. Some people mix the fine seed with sand or coffee grounds to be better able to control the amount of seed sown. To make furrows in a flat, drag a pencil or popsicle stick down to make rows.

Newly planted seeds need evenly moist soil in order to germinate. Never water from the top! This will disturb the seed while it's germinating. Either water from the bottom or mist the soil with a plant mister.

When seedlings have their 2nd set of leaves, or their 'true' leaves, then transplant them into larger containers. Use care in digging them out so as not to damage the roots.



Year-End Financial Report for 2008

Income:	
Dues	\$965.00
Plant Sales	<u>136.00</u>
	1,101.00
Expenses:	
Miscellaneous	13.17
Supplies	8.65
Domain registration & website expense	102.63
Door prizes *	19.45
Member gratuities	998.47
Gift	15.13
Postage & Printing **	<u>0.00</u>
	1,157.50

Note:

* The door prizes of books that Esther brings each month are not charged to the club.

** Jane Prentis has not yet turned in her expenses for 2008.

Cash Balance

1/1/2008	\$2,089.91
Income	1,101.00
Expenses	<u>1,157.50</u>
Cash Balance	
12/31/2008	\$2,033.41

Note:

The ending balance does not include postage and printing of newsletter expenses for 2008, which will be considerable.

Submitted by Shelly Kimel,
Treasurer



In February, remember to:

- check plants for animal damage;
- start a new journal for this year;
- order seeds and bulbs for spring planting;
- sow seeds of vegetables and annuals that need 12 weeks to grow before transplanting;
- review seed catalogs;
- prune trees and shrubs but not spring-blooming ones;
- begin to increase water and fertilizer for plants that exhibit new growth;
- gently remove heavy snow from evergreens with a broom;
- if any perennials have heaved out of the ground due to freeze-thaw cycles, press them back down;
- cut branches of flowering shrubs for forced blooming indoors.

Planting Outdoors

Many vegetables can be seeded directly into the garden. Plants that do not transplant well are beans, peas, and other root crops. These large seeds must be planted twice as deep as their diameter.

Cucumbers, melons, squash and pumpkins can be planted in hills. Make mounds about 4-6" high and 3' apart. Plant 5-7 seeds in each mound. After they are up, keep the strongest 3-4 plants and discard the rest. Make sure to keep the soil moist after planting. Vegetables need a lot of water to grow well, and the water must be consistent. No 'feast or famine' here as far as water is concerned or plants, especially tomatoes, will suffer. The best way is to put in soaker hoses before you plant the seeds, so you can adjust the hoses to cover all of the rows. It's always good to have a chicken wire fence handy to thwart rabbits.

What's Blooming Table

Remember to bring your blooming or growing plants for show & tell.

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