



The Spade & The Hoe

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From the Desk of Pamela Frank

I have just finished (my husband helped, thank goodness) making another flower bed out of a grass-covered bit of yard. This time I didn't find as many artifacts as my last bed expansion in 2007. I found one 4" rusty nail, three pieces of glass, stones, juicy insect grubs and some corn kernels. Last time I did this, I hit the mother load: one rusty child's scissor, a safety pin, lots of glass, pottery, part of a squirt gun, rocks, flagstone, bricks, wire from an old fence and lots of baby cicadas. I am expanding my shade garden in the back. It took me seven days to dig up the grass and remove the top soil from it. The soil under the grass was lifeless except for two grubs and so full of roots from our maple tree that the spade wouldn't go in but a few inches. This is where my husband came and helped (again thank goodness) because I was so tired, sore and stiff. He used a chopping tool to loosen up the soil for me. I amended the soil with peat moss, composted manure and worm poo. I put stepping stones down for a path to the back gate. And soon after that the rains came. I bought some shade plants: bleeding hearts, mayapple, ferns and red and white hellebore. I ordered eight hostas from the Hosta Patch, and they came in seven days, healthy, inexpensive and more important, I got what I ordered. Come and see my newest and older gardens this summer. I let my poodle Fifi out the other morning and when I couldn't see her in the yard I went looking. Hearing a squeaking sound coming from the bridal wreath, which is gorgeous by the way, Fifi had found a nest of baby rabbits. Every year there are baby rabbits in my yard and every year they meet a tragic end, if you know what I mean.

June Program

On June 13, Saturday, at 10:00am, members will meet at Pam's house in order to carpool to Lurvey's Garden Center in Des Plaines. Her address is 907 Glendale Rd. Remember, if you are a member of CBG, you will receive a discount.

*Come to the garden,
The soul's sweet bouquet
The flowers of tomorrow
Are in the seeds of today.*

- JoAnna O'Keefe

May Program

The annual Members' Plant Exchange was well attended and the diversity of donated plants was greatly appreciated. Everyone went home with a trunkful of new and wonderful plants. Thanks to all who participated.

Every gardener knows under the cloak of winter lies a miracle — a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream.

- Barbara Winkler

Membership List Additions and Changes

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Through the Garden Gate

With the advent of warm weather, it is so nice to be outside tending to my garden. In spite of that deep snow cover, a few of my roses failed to return this spring. Oh, well. That's life. Other things are very dependable, lasting for years, decades even. Take the peonies. Some of mine are almost 100 years old! Gotten from my father's garden, and from others before him, and into mine. How are your vegetables growing? So far, tomatoes are doing great, as are the zucchinis and peppers. As of this writing, the peas and beans haven't come up yet. I am finishing up my project of last year in repainting all of the lawn furniture. I did the tables and chairs last year and now I just have the two swings and 2 end tables. They do look nice and colorful. Aren't the lupines beautiful? And the irises! Drop dead gorgeous! We are so fortunate, living here, where we have the wonderful season of springtime. Enjoy!

Esther



Name Tags

As you come in to the meeting room, please stop by the table and pick up a name tag. We have several new members and it would be easier for them to make new friends if they knew our names.

The love of flowers is really the best teacher of how to grow and understand them.

- Max Schling



Reminder: Pot Contest

Call or email Gloria to register your pot or pots for the contest. Judging will be in August.

Here is the great mystery of life and growth:

Everything is changing, growing, aiming at something, but silently, unboastfully taking its time.

- Ruth Stout

Helpful Hints

Now that the lilacs have finished blooming, it is important to prune the shrub of all the dead flower tips. This task ensures that next year's blooms will again be spectacular. This pruning, to be done on all spring-flowering shrubs, must be done before July as then the new buds are being set for next spring, plus it shapes and maintains the size of the shrub. Pruning should also be done on conifers, broadleaf evergreens, and plants used as hedges to maintain appearance and size.

Groundcovers

Ajuga reptans, lady's mantle, anemone canadensis, antennaria or pussytoes, rock cress, ginger, false plumbago, lily-of-the-valley, false strawberry, barrenwort, strawberry, galax urceolata or fairy wand, sweet woodruff, geranium macrorrhizum, English ivy, hemerocallis or daylily, houttuynia cordata, yellow archangel, lamium maculatum dead nettle, lysimachia nummularia or creeping Jenny, mahonia repens, golden oregano, penstemon procerus, persicaria affinis or fleecyflower, ribbon grass, sweet William, creeping phlox, pulmonaria or lungwort, Irish moss, saponaria or bouncing bet, stonecrop sedum, woolly thyme, creeping thyme, tiarella cordifolia or foam-flower, veronica, periwinkle or vinca, violet, and barren strawberry.

Some of these can be very invasive. Another groundcover that is highly invasive is goutweed or bishop's weed. Never plant this unless it can be contained by concrete all around it!

Good gardening is very simple, really. You just have to think like a plant.

- Barbara Damrosch

Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own; and from morning to night, as from the cradle to the grave, is but a succession of changes so gentle and easy that we can scarcely mark their progress.

- Charles Dickens

Have You a Special Gardening Tip to Share With Us?

Call or email Esther with your great gardening tip and it could appear right here in *The Spade & The Hoe!*

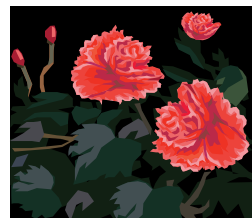
Congratulations to Nancy Spears on being named Super Senior of the Year by the Glenview Senior Center.

Have you a spot under trees where the soil is dry?

Some perennials, like pearly everlasting (anaphalis) makes great dried flowers but is very invasive. Others like brunnera macrophylla, campanula carpatica (bellflower), corydalis lutea, barrenwort, geranium, heder helix (ivy), daylily, coralbells, St. John's wort, candytuft, rose campion (lychnis coronaria), mallow, mertensia lanceolata, various penstemon, persicaria, phlox, pasqueflower, pulmonaria, various salvia, stachys (lamb's ear), and feverfew will fill up that spot with color all summer long.

Toads to the Rescue!

There is no better insect destroyer than the humble toad. He will eat one hundred bugs or slugs in one night. If you haven't plenty of these sturdy little hoppers in your garden, so on a hunt to collect some and bring them home in a bag. If you attract toads rather than kidnap them, they're more likely to stick around. Build toad houses out of an old clay flowerpot with a chipped rim. Turn it upside down and, voila, you've got a toad house!



Trumpet Vine Brings Down the House

I recently sprayed for spider mites on the foliage of the trumpet vine out back. Anyone the least bit familiar with the habits of this plant probably has trouble believing it needs any assistance whatsoever. In fact, if humanity is someday stupid enough to annihilate itself with the hydrogen bomb, the only living things left on the planet will be cockroaches playing beneath a trumpet vine. Like many innocent gardeners, I gathered my first trumpet vine from a wild plant whose gaudy summer blooms brightened an otherwise squalid setting. I dug out a sucker and transplanted it to the base of a big white oak. Shortly, my innocence ended. New shoots raced skyward up the trunk of the oak, slithering beneath strips of bark. Roots were simultaneously prowling underground. Suddenly, the attack began and suckers surfaced everywhere. I decided that the best way to deal with the vine is to segregate it in a bed surrounded by lawn that's mown every week. You can plant it beside a fence, wall or lamppost but you have to look out for suckers. Never grow it against the house, however, as it will insinuate itself beneath shingles and siding and eventually bring down the house. Despite this little failing, trumpet vine will continue to be passed along from gardener to gardener because of its beautiful blossoms. The species boasts orange or red blooms, about 2" long, that open in mid-summer. I can't imagine a flower better shaped or colored for attracting hummingbirds. Anyone who can't grow this plant ought to be summarily drummed out of the League of Gardeners. It doesn't need fertilizer, water, lime, cool temperatures, short days, or a visit from the Pope. It grows in either sun or shade, but blooms better in sun. I've heard some people recommend pruning it back hard in spring, which is a great idea. Once the vine has reached the top of a 60' tree and started coming down the other side, hard pruning is about the only kind of pruning you can do.

- Steve Bender in
Passalong Plants

In June, remember to:

- put houseplants outside for a summer treat;
- pinch back mums, asters and sedum until early July;
- pinch tips of annuals and coleus to promote bushier growth;
- remove leaves of spring-flowering bulbs after they have yellowed and withered;
- stake perennials that grow tall;
- begin checking for Japanese beetles;
- when cutting the grass, leave the clippings on the grass to decompose;
- apply post-emergence broadleaf weed control;
- water the garden with the equivalent of 1" per week if it hasn't rained;
- fertilize tomatoes, peppers and eggplants when they set their first flowers.

Tips for Gardens

phosphorus and nitrogen uptake, increase chlorophyll production, and deter pests such as slugs. They recommend 1 tbsp. per 9 sq. ft. for shrubs and repeat every 2-4 weeks, 3 lbs. per 1,250 sq. ft. for lawns, 2 tbsp. per 9 sq. ft. for trees and apply to the root zone 3 times a year, 1 c. per 100 sq. ft. for new gardens and mix it into the soil before planting, and for roses and tomatoes, use 1 tbsp. per foot of plant height and repeat every 2 weeks. Do not use on sage!

A garden is moved by influences you cannot see, fully comprehend or control. You are only part of the whole blooming things.

- Jamie Jobb

What's Blooming Table

Bring your flowering plants for show & tell at our next indoor meeting.

www.glenviewgardeners.org

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