



The Spade & The Hoe

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From the Desk of Pamela Frank

It is September 20th and I have just finished my first batch of canning for the year. I canned nine quarts of tomatoes. Usually by this time of year, I would have had at least thirty-six jars of tomatoes canned. My tomato yield is very low and I am not alone, as I was informed by many gardeners. It was the cool weather, I was told. I got my garden in around the third week of May and therefore by mid-August I should have been lugging in baskets of tomatoes. The tomatoes' ripening process was over thirty days late. The bell peppers and eggplants, on the other hand, are huge and I have more than I can use, also the zucchini. I have been making eggplant parmesan like crazy. My husband loves it very much. As soon as I had eggplants, he was asking for eggplant parmesan. Unfortunately, I won't be making anything extra with the tomatoes this year: no canned stewed tomatoes, no canned zucchini in tomato sauce. There also will be no tomato jam this year, which is the favorite of my mother-in-law. My husband's mother is addicted to my tomato jam and had me send quarts of it through the mail to Florida. Well, my fellow gardeners, let us hope that next year we will have a better climate for our vegetables and flowers.

October Program

Putting Your Garden to Bed for the Winter by West End Florist will be presented on October 13th, Tuesday, at the police station. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

September Program

JoAnn Loebel presented Bulbs Throughout the Season, a slide program that was very interesting.

Slate of Officers for 2010-2011

The Nominating Committee has met and offers the following slate of officers for two-year terms beginning January 1st:
President: Nancy Olderr
Vice Pres.: Pam Frank
Programming: Judy Oppeward
Treasurer: Shelly Kimel
Publicity: Nancy Spears
Circulation: Brigitte Steinforth
Garden Walk: Holly Jansen
Hospitality: Barbara Kazanjian
Historian: Bonnie Kimoto
Editor: Esther Behnke

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the November meeting and a voice vote will be taken.

A Combined Board Meeting

will be held in December at which time the outgoing board will turn over all paperwork relating to their positions to their incoming officers and discuss with them the particulars of their jobs.

The date for the combined board meeting will be ascertained in November.

*Through the Garden Gate
Finally, all the painting has
been completed and the old
homestead shines like new
again. I've been working like
crazy on getting the gardens
into shape but the weather
hasn't been too cooperative.
Tomatoes are supposed to be
ripe by now, we're supposed to
have a glut of tomatoes, actu-
ally. But all I can see are
lots of green ones. Even the
zucchini's are remaining small.
And the world around us is
beginning to put on its lovely
fall garments. Maples and
locusts and ash are turning.
The chokeberry shrubs have
dressed themselves in bright
reddish-orange to match their
berries. You can feel a quick-
ening in the air (if you can get
through all this fog!). Winter
is waiting impatiently in the
wings, ready to pounce on us
as we try to get just a little
more of nice, warm days.
Houseplants are settling into
their favorite windows. So, too
will we.*

Esther





December Holiday Dinner Survey:

Brigitte will ask for a show of hands of members who want to attend a holiday dinner in December. Come prepared to answer her call and to offer suggestions for restaurants.

A notice...

An entomologist at Cornell University is concerned over the supposed dearth of ladybugs. John Losey has launched the "Lost Ladybug Project" to determine the reason why the once-common native ladybug species have all by disappeared across the country. You can help by visiting his web site:

www.lostladybug.org. He is particularly interested in the 9-spotted, 2-spotted, and transverse ladybugs. The Asian ladybug didn't become widely established until after the natives declined.

Summer afternoon—Summer afternoon...the two most beautiful words in the English language..

- Harry James

A Lexicon of Symbols, con't.

- Madonna lily = Easter
- Magnolia = majestic beauty
- Maidenhair fern = bond of love
- Mistletoe = difficulties overcome (magic plant of the Druids)
- Monkshood = chivalry
- Moss rose = superiority



One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.
- William Shakespeare

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!

Happiness is a wayside flower growing upon the highways of usefulness.

- Anonymous

A Lexicon of Symbols, con't:

- Nasturtium = patriotism
- Orange = happiness/prosperity
- Oxeye daisy = patience
- Pansy = remembrance
- Peony = healing
- Primrose = young love
- Rose = I love you
- Rose campion = 'Be worthy of my love'
- Rosemary = fidelity/constancy
- Sedum = lover's wreath
- Shamrock = good luck
- Snowdrop = hope
- Veronica = sanctity/female fidelity
- Star of Bethlehem = purity
- Stock = lasting beauty
- Sunflower = devotion
- Sweet pea = delicate pleasures
- Sweet William = gallantry



- Trillium = modest beauty
- Trumpet vine = fame
- Tulip = dreaminess/reown
- Violet = modesty
- Wallflower = constancy in adversity
- Zinnia = thoughts of absent friends

What are your favorite reference books on gardening? Call me or send me an email (info on back page).

Pressing Flowers

It's easy to begin pressing flowers. Just slide a blossom between 2 sheets of waxed paper and put the 'sandwich' under some heavy books or an old iron. Once pressed, you can make gifts like bookmarks, framed pictures, fancy boxes (covered with varnish to protect the flowers), etc.

Flowers that press well are primulas, basket-of-gold, acanthus, bleeding hearts, ranunculus, California poppies, coreopsis, helleborus, chrysanthemums, clematis, columbines, coneflowers (press petals separately), dahlias, delphiniums, freesia, geraniums, golden marguerites, goldenrods, hydrangeas, larkspur, blue lobelias, calendulas, crocosmias, pansies, violets, blue salvias, tulips, wallflowers, anemones (press petals separately), and ox-eye daisies (press petals separately).

If pressing is not your thing, try drying for winter arrangements.

Try goldenrod, hydrangea, lavender, rosemary, sweet marjoram, tansy, thyme, artemisia, yarrow, foxglove, meadowrue, ageratum, gaillardia, liatris, mum, coneflower, cornflower, astilbe, and others.



Composting

By Shelly Kimel

Jacki and I wanted to start composting for various reasons. We were going to do it in a garbage can—very bad idea. So we went looking for a good, inexpensive composter. Chalet has a relatively inexpensive composter for \$54.99. You make it the size that you want. Installation is very easy. You just need to unroll the sides, put screws in to make the size that you want, and pound stakes in to hold it in place. The composter is open to the ground so that worms have easy access to the debris in the composter. The top and bottom are both open and the sides have holes in them for ventilation. The product is called Geobin. So far we highly recommend it.

Bothered by...

deer? Hang Spring Green or Dial soap bars from trees or shrubs.
 rabbits? Plant monkshood, yarrow, lady's mantle, columbine, allium, astilbe, calamin, cranesbill geranium, bee balm, Russian sage, lamb's ear, etc. Deer and rabbits do not like fragrant plants and plants that are 'fuzzy', as lamb's ear and pussytoes are.

In October, remember to:

- After frost kills annuals, remove and destroy dead plants to lessen disease pathogens;
- Fall evergreen needle drop is natural;
- Wait until early spring to prune trees and shrubs;
- Plant spring-blooming bulbs until the ground is frozen;
- Dig up tender bulbs after frost has killed the foliage. Wash soil from rhizomes, cut off the stems and layer them in a container layered with shredded newspaper, sawdust, or peat moss and store between 40°-45°;
- Add compost to improve garden soil;
- Shred fallen leaves to use as mulch on beds once the ground is frozen hard;
- Cut out and destroy diseased canes and leaves on roses that had black spot;
- Water evergreens thoroughly before the ground freezes;
- Apply anti-desiccant sprays to broadleaf evergreens;
- Mow the lawn until it goes dormant;
- Remove fallen leaves and debris from the lawn to prevent snow mold;
- Apply broadleaf weed control now;
- core aerate the lawn and apply a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer;
- The average date of the first frost in this area is October 10th, so protect growing vegetables if frost is predicted overnight as the weather will continue mild for a few more weeks;
- Prune out diseased raspberry canes and remove old canes that bore fruit;
- After frost has killed tender veggies, remove and destroy all plants and vines.

What's Blooming Table

Thanks to the Kimels for showing us their heliopsis, rudbeckia and feverfew; to Nancy Spears for her turtle-heads and pansies; and to Susan Fine for her crocosmia and goldenrod.

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