



The Spade & The Hoe

Volume 8 Issue 2

February 2010

From the Desk of Judy Opegard

I was so pleased with the wonderful turnout for our social last month. It looked like everyone enjoyed the food and conversation. Many thanks to those who helped me set up the buffet table and to Larry Frank for the info on worm culture. Contact him if you're interested in adopting those adorable hungry little ones.

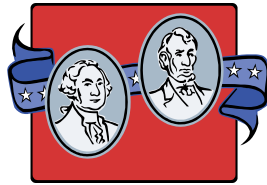
Since I was busy meeting our 6 visitors that evening, I was not able to greet all the members as I hoped. Please remember that I will be available after each meeting and by email if you have any helpful info or questions. Don't forget to go to the calendar page of our glenviewgardeners.org website and print out a copy of the 2010 programs. I'll have some copies at the next meeting for those without computers.

Recently 5 members were appointed to tweak the current bylaws. Hopefully they will further define the board's job descriptions and protect the club's interests. All members will get copies for approval.

Also, in the next few newsletters, I'll be sharing with you some goals I hope to accomplish for our Garden Club. They are already incorporated by most other clubs and will be on a volunteer basis. Please plan to join us Feb. 9 on a tour of the fabulous gardens of South Africa. Carolyn Ulrich, editor of Chicagoland Gardening, is back again and excited to share with us slides from her latest trip.

February Program

On Tuesday, February 9th, we will meet at the police station at 7pm for a program on *The Gardens of South Africa* by Carolyn Ulrich, editor of Chicagoland Gardening magazine.



January Program

Larry Frank exhibited his vermiculture bins. The 'after-holiday social' was held with croissant sandwiches, condiments, and cupcakes, followed by gardening giveaways.

Chicago Flower & Garden Show

March 6-14, 2010

Be sure to attend this exciting show. After a bleak winter, it's nice to see flowers! They have some really great speakers lined up, plus the gardens that they create are unique.

An old charm bids the bride and her groom to dip rosemary sprigs into their wine before they take their first sip, for then love will always flourish between them.

- Growing and Using

Through the Garden Gate

Last month we had such a pleasant surprise—a flock of at least 18 robins were busy searching for worms and other 'meat on the hoof'. They stayed around, too, for days. And now that the snow has gone, I can see the hostas peeking up, as well as the daffodils. It is too early, I know, but these are desperate times. Enough with the snow! Let the flowers come up!

But while we are impatiently waiting for spring, we can check out all the catalogs we've received and make a list of our final choices. And when I tire of that, I start on another quilt. This one will be made with vibrant batiks, shades of reds, oranges, golds, purples, greens, browns. It took a week just to cut out all the pieces, but now I am assembling the blocks and, WOW! This one will be stunning. I gave most of my stash of quilts away to my children and grandchildren so now I can begin again to build it up. Winter is an excellent time to quilt, for in spring and summer I am out in the garden most days. Isn't life wonderful?

Esther

New Owner

Bill Aldrich, who founded the Chicagoland Gardening magazine in 1995, has sold it to Steve Giddings, who owns *State by State Gardening* which included ten garden magazines in the South. "I have always been impressed with the quality of the editorial content found in Chicagoland Gardening," said Steve. "The magazine does a great job of providing the information needed to help the gardeners of this region be more successful in their gardening habits. We plan to build on this great product by offering even more how-to stories and more landscape design stories. We also plan to develop our website into a much bigger resource entity that will provide additional online content for our readers."

Website Statistics

Last year, we had 7,415 hits on our website. People visited it often, looked through each of our pages, and many hits were from all around the world. That is incredible! Thanks to Carole Balli for setting up and maintaining our presence on the web! Members: please send Esther or Carole your photos of our gardens to be uploaded to our website.



He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not

*"T'was the maiden's matchless beauty
That drew my heart a-nigh,
Not the fern-root potion
But the glance of her blue eye."*

Did You Know

The violet was Queen Victoria's favorite flower. The little white snowdrop, which so delights and enchants us, was named the fair maid of February and is associated with Candlemas Day (Feb. 2). The primrose is dedicated to St. Agatha (Feb. 13) and the crocus, which we all wait for, is dedicated to St. Valentine (Feb. 14).

Green fingers are the extensions of a verdant heart.

- Russell Page

February Fact

The month of February is filled with excitement, love and romance. For many centuries there was a close association between the language of flowers and herbs and their meanings in romance, love and marriage. Ladies and gentlemen of the eighteenth century conducted affairs of the heart by sending tussie musies. The bouquets are put together with a doily or stiff hanky as the base and given as a token of love, devotion and affection.

- Growing and Using Herbs in the Midwest.

The soil is a wonderful thing. Treat it like a good old friend.

- Fred Streeter



Life is a flower of which love is the honey.

- Victor Hugo

Garden Tips

1. mulch your entire garden to keep the earth at an even temperature, discourage weeds, and give the garden a neat and comfortable appearance.
2. use ivy, ajuga, sedum or ferns as ground covers to keep out weeds.
3. water plants in the morning so leaves dry by evening to eliminate fungal diseases.
4. get rid of slugs by setting a jar cover filled with beer close by; empty it as often as needed.
5. raise the level of color in your borders using tall hollyhocks, delphiniums, etc. and with hanging baskets.
6. for bedding plants, use 7 to 9 small plants to create a grouping.
7. pinch the tops out of flowers to encourage branching and more flowers; if you pinch off 3" or more, dip the ends in Rootone to make more plants.
8. winter over pots of impatiens for winter color.

- Emily Whaley

Thanks to Lisa Jesselson, a guest, for her donation of houseplants.

Amore 

Photos Wanted!!!!

If you have a really great photo of your garden, send it to Esther in an email, making the photo as large as you can. We will put it up on our website. The photos will be changed regularly during the year.

February House Plant Tips

If you suddenly have aphids, white fly, mealy-bugs or spider mites on your plants, they can be removed with a cloth dampened in water or alcohol. Larger colonies require a bath in the sink. Or, mix 1 tbsp. liquid dish soap with 1 cup vegetable oil, then add 2 tsps of this mixture to 1 cup of water and spray all the affected parts of the plants.

Organically acceptable pesticides are rotenone and sulphur and come in both powder and spray forms. White flies are attracted to the color yellow, so smear a piece of yellow cardboard with grease to trap these pests.

If you travel this time of year for a week or so, use a piece of an old pantyhose as a wick by inserting one end into the bottom of a pot and the other end into a deep pot of water.

"Who that has loved know not the tender tale

Which flowers reveal, when lips are coy to tell?"

- Edward George Earle Bulwer-Lytton



In February, remember to:

- Apply deer and rabbit repellent products to shrubs and trees;
- Don't walk on frozen grass as the blades break easily;
- Grow herbs on a sunny windowsill;
- Fertilize houseplants at signs of new growth;
- Gather supplies to start planting seeds indoors;
- Keep your work area and tools clean and sterilized; spray a mixture of 9 parts water to 1 part bleach;
- Direct your snow thrower away from shrubs and small trees;
- Review those gardening catalogs and choose your purchases based upon need and not upon the fancy (re-touched) photos;
- On warm days, prune trees and shrubs, removing dead, broken, or diseased branches;
- On clematis, cut back old stems to a strong pair of buds;
- Test stored seeds for germination by folding them in a damp paper towel placed in a plastic bag; if the seeds are good, they will sprout in a couple of days;
- Start seeds like onions and leeks now, as well as impatiens, begonias and geraniums;
- Divide and repot any houseplant that might be root bound (except for those that like to be root bound);
- Cut branches of flowering shrubs for forcing indoors.

The Earth is our mother, She cares for us. The Earth is our mother, we care for her.

- Native American Saying

What's Blooming Table

Thanks to all who brought garden magazines and an owl balloon as freebies.

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