



# The Spade & The Hoe

Volume 8 Issue 5

May 2010

## From the Desk of Judy Oppegard

Happy Mother's Day! Yes, we gardeners are all mothers—seed sowers, propagators, earth mothers. We plant, feed, water, nurse, raise and hope our seedlings rise up and prosper. This month is our busiest spent prepping for the season. Last month we prepared the beds for spring deliveries of annuals, veggies, perennials and our adopted juniper bushes. We loaded the soil with compost and manure, turned and edged it just so. Just like when school starts in the fall and we hoarded school supplies, got new wardrobes and haircuts. Now we begin the race to Pesches, Home Depot, Lowe's and Chalet. There's always just ONE more thing we need to begin to enjoy the garden. Ha! What a cruel addiction we have! Some of us (Pam, Rosette) are starting big renovation projects, enlarging our gardens further. How ambitious we are in the spring! This month's club meeting will be the last to meet at the police station until October. Let's all gather there 'around the May pole' for a timely birds and bees presentation entitled 'Sex in the Garden' by Ted from Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park. Till then...don't forget to mulch!

## May Program

On Tuesday, May 11th, we will meet at the police station at 7pm for a program by Ted Biernacki of Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park who will speak on *Sex in the Garden*.

I am in love with the green earth.

- Charles Lamb

## April Program

Dan Dinelli discussed several gardening tips and various dos & don'ts of design layouts. Thanks to Nancy S. and Margie Cox for the refreshments, and to Judy for the decorations.

## Food for Thought

Illinois is home to fifteen different species of milkweed (asclepias) which is the sole home and food source for Monarch butterflies. They are:

Poke milkweed  
Clasping  
Swamp  
Green  
Side cluster  
Mead's  
Oval-leaf or dwarf  
Showy  
Prairie  
Slim leaf  
Common  
Butterfly weed  
Green comet  
Whorled  
Purple

So, help out a Monarch, plant an asclepias.

## *Through the Garden Gate*

Hasn't this been a marvelous spring? The rains held off so that magnolias were able to show off their blossoms and the whole world was a blaze of color! Now we get down and dirty. Manicures are forgotten as our nails are abused. They only look nice in winter. On our knees we dig and plant — and weed. Where did those nasty things come from? Out, out darn weeds! I've worked my way around the garden, pruning out the old stems of shrubs, cutting off the winter-dead things, fertilizing the beds, then back to the beginning and deadheading spent flowers. It's never-ending but oh, so much fun! All this exercise is keeping us limber (once we get over the aches and pains of winter-lazy muscles), plus the fresh air and sunshine does wonders for the body. Household chores get sidelined on lovely days as we all head outdoors to work in our gardens. Time enough on rainy or cool days to do those chores.

Do you know the best gift to give gardeners this month? A flat of flowers will thrill and delight every gardener. Happy Mother's Day!  
Esther

## Website Statistics

In March we have had 1,952 requests to view our website and to look at 564 pages. So far April has been a big hit with viewers.

*Herbs are the friend of the physician and the pride of cooks.*

- Charlemagne

## Chicago City Hall Rooftop Garden

In 1999 Chicago's mayor Richard J. Daley announced there would be a garden planted on the roof of city hall at 121 W. LaSalle St. The purpose was to reduce the heat buildup on the flat roof, then covered by black tar paper. The dark color dramatically increased the amount of heat the building absorbed forcing the air conditioner to work extra hard to keep the building cool and comfortable inside.

The garden, designed by Wm. McDonough & Co. was the largest to be planted on a public building in a major city. First, the roof was reinforced to support the extra weight of the soil. Over 20,000 plants (prairie grasses, shrubs, vines, flowers and 2 oak trees) were planted. The summer of 2001 was the first full growing season with the plants watered only by rainfall. (Con't. next page)



*The first gathering of salads, radishes and herbs made me feel like a mother about her baby — how could anything so beautiful be mine?*

- Alice B. Toklas

## Rooftop Garden, con't ....

Birdhouses were later added and scientists have identified several different species of birds and insects including butterflies, dragonflies and grasshoppers at home there. On one of the hottest days of the first summer, the 21,000 s.f. garden area registered temperatures at 86°F in the vegetation areas, while the light-colored walkways around the plants measured 110°F. On the Cook County side of the building, which still had the old back tar roof, it was 168°F!! Although the garden isn't open to the public, all the people in the surrounding offices and apartments can now enjoy looking at a colorful and cooling garden.

- Schoolyards to Skylines,  
Chicago Architecture Foundation

*The greatest gift of a garden is the restoration of the five senses.*

- Hanna Rion



*At harvest time, the vegetable garden comes into the kitchen. Not all at once, unfortunately.*

- Barbara Dodge Borland

## Garden Tips

1. When you're ready to put down mulch, cover just-planted flowers with an empty pot to prevent getting mulch on them.
2. Freezing parsley seed will speed up germination.
3. Use slats from mini-blinds to make great plant markers.
4. Add a pinch of Epsom salts to the hole when planting bulbs.
5. Tomato seeds planted directly in the garden develop good roots and produce ripe fruits within 1 week of store-bought plants.
6. Use an old calendar to remind yourself when to do various garden chores, i.e., write the information under the appropriate date. For instance, "prune tree" on Feb. 22, "plant spring bulbs" on Oct. 15, etc. It doesn't matter what year the calendar is, as it just lets you know the time of year to do each job. After several years the calendar is fairly complete and a glance will tell what chores need to be done that month.

- 1,112 Down-to-Earth Garden Secrets by Julie Landry & Jeff Nowak, editors

## Photos Wanted!!!!

**Thanks to our members who have forwarded photos for inclusion in our website.** If you haven't done so yet, and have a really great photo of your garden, send it to Esther or our webmaster (see address in right column) 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.

**Helpful Hint**  
**Sprinkle ground ginger around the base of hummingbird feeders to keep ants away. Works in the kitchen to get rid of them, too.**

*It is a golden maxim to cultivate the garden for the nose, and the eyes will take care of themselves.*

- Robert Louis Stevenson

## **FYI**

Holly's ex is offering a discount to our members on a variety of landscape services. Contact J & S Landscape, 847-209-8556 for more information.

*It's difficult to think anything but pleasant thoughts while eating a homegrown tomato.*

- Lewis Grizzard



## **In May, remember to:**

- Plant warm-season plants after May 15th like annuals, cucumbers, squash, dahlias, cannas, begonias;
- Wait until May 24th for peppers, tomatoes, eggplants;
- Fertilize the lawn;
- Fertilize roses when buds are set;
- Fertilize vegetables with a weak solution at first;
- Prune lilacs after they bloom in May by cutting old stems to the ground;
- Fertilize containers with a weak solution weekly;
- Pinch back fall bloomers once a week until mid-July;
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowering;
- Set up soaker hoses for efficient watering;
- If deer/rabbits are a problem, spray lily shoots, roses, annuals and lilies;
- Remember to pot up excess plants for our Garden Walk and Plant Sale;
- Apply mulch to the garden to conserve water;
- Begin to move houseplants outside once night temps are above 55 degrees consistently.

*On Saturday evening, when we listen to the radio and often shell dried beans, we are able to relax after our week's work and realize that there is more happiness in simple living than in glamour.*

- Jim G. Brown

## **What's Blooming Table**

Thanks to these members for bringing their flowers:  
Osteospermum—Judy Trout lily, grape hyacinth, and Virginia bluebells—Nancy S.  
Fritillaria— Susan

## **www.glenviewgardeners.org**

Judy Oppgard, President  
724-2286  
boppegard@yahoo.com

Pamela Frank, Vice-President  
832-0630  
lp2jfrank@hotmail.com

Sheldon Kimel, Treasurer  
657-0772  
jackishelly@sbcglobal.net

Rosette Swanson, Programs  
846-8289  
mearosette1117@aol.com

Holly Jansen, Garden Walk  
729-7729  
hollyjj77@yahoo.com

Nancy Spears, Publicity  
nancy@spears.net

Brigitte Steinforth, Circulation  
724-9462

Barbara Kazanjian, Hospitality  
729-2171  
philipkazanjian@sbcglobal.net

Bonnie Kimoto, Historian  
486-9048  
bonnie.kimoto@sbcglobal.net

Esther Behnke, Newsletter Editor  
498-4178  
eabehnke@earthlink.net

Carole Balli, Webmaster  
Carole.Balli@gmail.com

**ggardeners@earthlink.net**

The Spade and The Hoe is the official publication of the Glenview Gardeners.