

The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay Summer 2012



NEWSLETTER



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Nonquitt in July

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Past President's Last Word

Thank You!

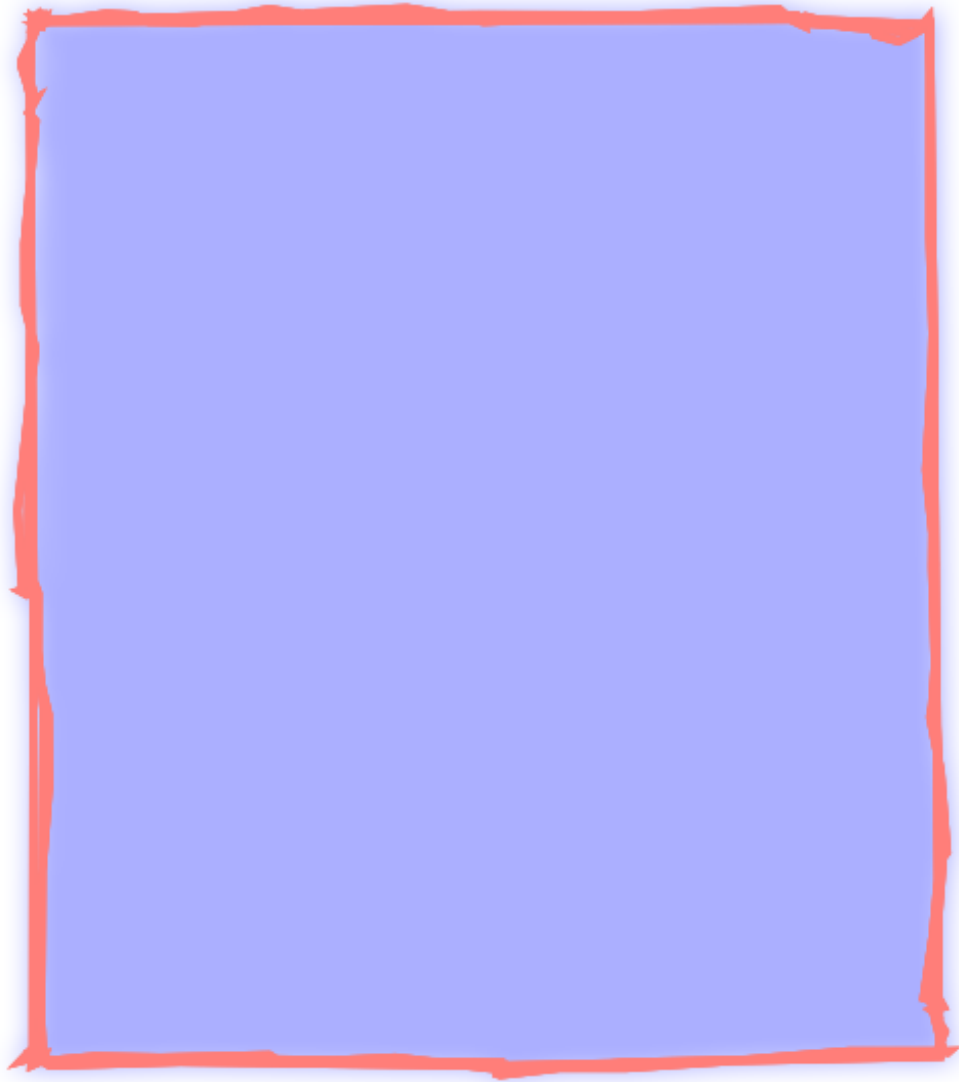
My plan at the Annual Meeting was to walk around and tell each and every one of you how grateful I am for your support during these past two years.

None of us were amazed, I'm sure, when my agenda did not go according to plan. Our surprise guest became my first priority and I am sure you all can understand why all my good intentions were blown away.

I can't walk away, however, without telling you the inspiration you gave me. It is frequently understood that in most organizations there are givers and takers – a few pitch in to do the majority of the work and the others enjoy the benefits. What became very apparent to me, early on, was the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay is not one of those organizations. Each and every member plays a part in the success of our mission. Each one of you is a star flower in our garden!

It has been a pleasure to represent you with pride, and I am delighted to pass this pleasure on to Gail, our new best leader!

Mary



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President's Message

Greetings to everyone!

It was with great trepidation that I anticipated becoming your president, as big shoes leave big footprints to be filled. But, Mary was graciously insistent that the process begin. Last winter. Despite foot dragging, it actually happened.

This is gradual, more like a flower blossoming rather than being picked and plunked into water (we all know it should be warm, not cold!). At any event, there was a hearteningly palpable welcome at the annual meeting, for which I am ever so grateful.

This will be an exciting year, encompassing our own flower show, and ending with the GCA Centennial. This is so because we are “yeasayers,” a very female trait, emphatically, wonderfully realized in GCBB. Thank you, everyone, for all you've done, the wonderful welcome, and the 10,000 hours (a gross underestimation?) of work!!!!

Also, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new provisionals, Jennifer Brindisi and Heather Campbell. You will, indeed, have fun.

Gail

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Annual Meeting Highlights

Mary brought the meeting to order and expressed appreciation on behalf of the membership to Happy for opening her house to the annual meeting. A motion was made to have husband's names included in our yearbook listings. It was seconded and accepted.

Active members are expected to have their primary residence and maintain a garden in the vicinity of Buzzards Bay. Provisional candidates are expected to have their primary residence and maintain a garden in the vicinity of Buzzards Bay area.

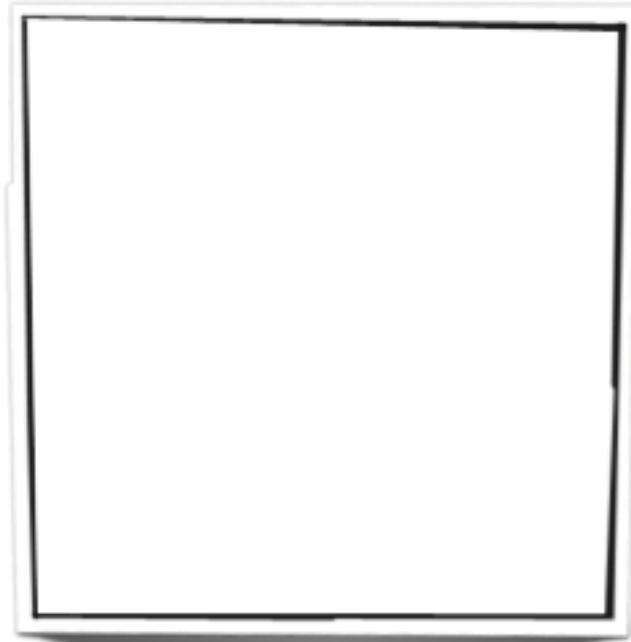
Mary passed the gavel to Gail.



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Committee Reports



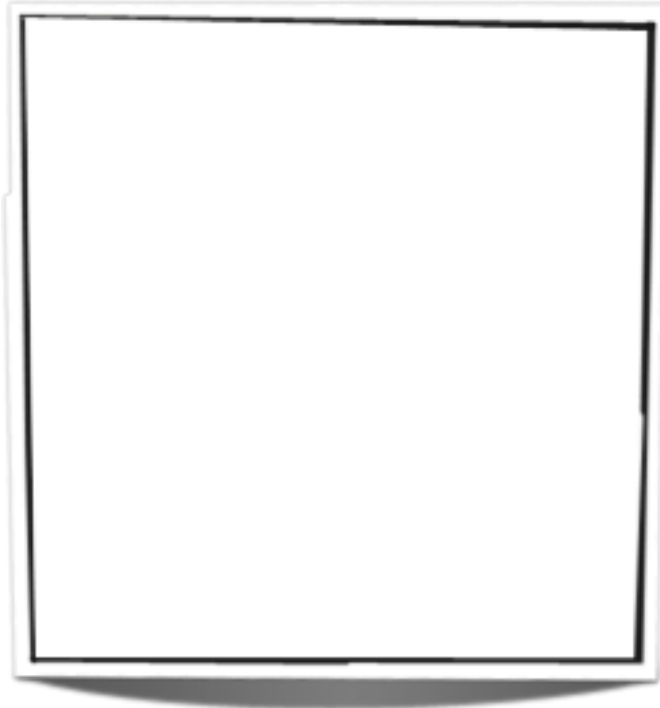
Annual GCA Meeting –

Gail Davidson

Mary Schubert and I attended the Annual GCA Meeting "A Southern Exposure" in Savannah, Georgia in mid-April. It was lavish and busy. A common topic was how to attract new members. There will be a range of activities for the GCA Centennial, in particular, a celebration next June 13th, in New York City, to which all members are invited.

Archives - Judy Sterns

The archives are stored on the second floor of the New Bedford Whaling Museum Library. Currently the inventory is categorized and listed in the Blue notebook in the closet. Plans are to have all the contents of the boxes computerized for easy access. Archive information may be left in the file cabinet in the Coach House. Thank you to all who have added to the collection.



Awards - Ellen Christie

Anne Almy: The GCA Medal of Merit Award. This highest club level award was given to Anne for her many contributions to GCBB. Needless to say, this award is well deserved and long overdue! “Anne's knowledge and leadership have provided a clear vision of how a GCA garden club can richly benefit its membership and its community.”

Carolyn Willard: The Club Civic Improvement Award. “For dedication to her community, her willingness to share her organizational skills and generosity with her time to all our civic projects.”



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Christel Phipps: The Club Appreciation Award. “For her dedicated participation in any activity where help is needed, and her unlimited willingness to

share her creative talents with style and grace.”

Linda Cornell: The Club Horticulture Award. “For her willingness to share her horticultural expertise and for her enthusiasm and commitment to improving our greenhouse practices.”

In addition to the GCA awards,

Helen DeGroot: The GCBB Busy Bee Award, which was instituted at the 2010 Annual Meeting. “This award is presented to a GCBB member who works quietly ‘under the radar’ to assist with responsibilities that are required to keep the garden club humming.”

As Helen was not able to attend the meeting Janet Sherwood, last year’s recipient, graciously agreed to give Helen her award and the sterling

silver Bumble Bee pin that goes with it.

Laura Campbell: President's bowl for many “yesses” with smiles and competence.

Another

club award was given—a one-time only award – to Allan and Mary Schubert: The “Two for One” Award. Not only did we get a great president in Mary, we also got Allan who did a wonderful job fixing up the Coach House.” Mary knew nothing of this award, and Allan thought he was coming to support Mary during her last meeting as president. They were both very surprised!

Congratulations to all our winners! Well done!



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Centennial Tree

Three committees, Garden History and Design, Conservation and Horticulture, have been working on the details to the Club's Centennial Tree project, to plant an 1880's "gentleman's orchard" of six semi-dwarf pear or apple trees at the Rotch Jones Duff gardens.

We will have two club programs on fruit trees. In November, Tower Hill horticulture director Joann Vieira, will discuss heritage apple orchards; in March the chief propagator at the Arnold Arboretum will speak on "Making More Plants" using cuttings, grafting and seeds. Conservation is developing a children's education program for the orchard. Final decision on varieties of the six trees, researched extensively by Hort members at the Elm Bank and Tower Hill libraries, will be made this fall for Spring 2013 planting.

Conservation - Susan Rothschild

Joan Underwood attended the GCA National Legislative Affairs meeting in Washington, D.C. in February where she met with our Massachusetts delegation concerning conservation issues affecting us locally and nationally. Joan said late February was memorable for beautiful, unseasonably warm weather, happy reunions with familiar faces, and introductions to some great new friends. Dennis Dimick, Executive Editor of National Geographic outlined with beautiful slides the history and effects of fossil fuels, global warming, and world population. Senators Kristen Gillibrand (D. NY) and Mary Landrieu (D. LA) urged us as women to participate in local politics for consensus building on environmental issues. (More info in GCA Bulletin, pages 4-8, April/May issue). Joan looks forward to attending

next year's meeting with an additional representative from GCBB.



Civic Garden – Ruth Ann Walega

The yellow "Hyperion" Daylilly was divided in the Fall by a lot of helping hands. The excess were placed in the cold frame for the Plant Sale. The barberry hedge is trimmed by Jim Perry in the Spring, and Gene Bertram trims the hedge in the Fall when he isn't busy in the rose garden. The new clematis planted to enhance the topiary in the middle of the garden is a selection for the mid-1800's called "Marie Boisselot" with large pure white flowers. The committee maintains the garden except for July and August when it is mulched and groomed by Jim Perry. We are pleased with the form and plantings.



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Communications Committee – Tammy Beckman

The Communications Committee's role is quickly evolving into much more than it has been in past years. With the accessibility of email and websites, sharing information is a growing part of the club's opportunities.

Our main focus has been advertising our plant sale. We used of all the media we could access; online, free cable TV, and newspapers. Our club is especially lucky to have two reporters for our local newspapers as members. Laura McLean and Chris Styan both do a wonderful job of incorporating our sale into stories for their respective papers, The Standard Times and the Dartmouth Chronicle.

Carolyn Willard's "What's Ahead" keeps us informed of upcoming events, and is easily forwarded onto the GCA Communications Chairman in a timely manner. Laura Campbell, as Club Administrator made sure we received our Login information for the new GCA website. All members are encouraged to log onto the site with their new password. The goal is 100% percent participation in the GCA's centennial year.

Website – gardenclubbuzzardsbay.org – Holly McDonough

The GCBB is going forward with a website! We will be up and running soon. There will be two sides to the website, one is public and one is private. The public side will have our mission statement, plant sale updates and grant information with an application to download. The private side will be "locked " and for members use only. The calendar, member roster, committee listing, & general information on our programs and events will be available on the private side. There will be links to albums of GCBB pictures!

Flower Arranging – Celeste Penney

Susan Rothschild, Helen DeGroot, Laura Gifford, Gail Davidson, Tina Read, Helen Goddard, and Celeste Penney created glorious centerpieces for seven Garden Club meetings. The Committee also provided six entries for the Flower Show Arrangement Workshop held at the Little Compton Community Center in March. Susan Rothschild, Gail Davidson, Sue Siegal, Helen DeGroot, Carolyn Willard, and Barri Throop entered beautiful, much admired arrangements. See photo spread ahead. This is an incredible committee, rarely does any member say no! Thank you, thank you all for your cooperation and hard work.

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Grants Report – Gail Davidson

There were fewer applicants than usual this year. This may change after we get

the website going, where there will be grant application information. The committee decided to fund eight of ten projects, ranging from window boxes to dune restoration. We awarded \$3000 in grants to:

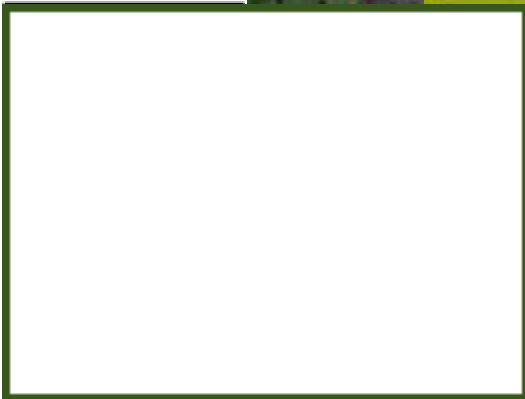
Town of Acushnet Council on Aging - Plants
Boys and Girls Club of New Bedford - Shrubs
Fort Taber/Fort Rodman Historical Society - Perennials
Friends of the Buttonwood Zoological Society - Plants for the Greenhouse area Global Learning
Public Charter School - Trip to a working farm
New Bedford Art Museum - New Window Boxes
Rochester Green Ways Committee - Refurbish flooded out pathway
Westport Rivers Watershed Alliance - Dune Restoration Project

Green House

Tina Read and Linda Cornell recited a wonderful whimsical poem entitled “A Season in The Garden.”

Below is a “Ramblings of an exhausted co-chair of the plant sale.” from Susan Mead

A cutting. A seed. A helping hand.
A greenhouse. One member. One garden club.
To help a community. To make a difference.
Months of growing. Hours of working. Many hands. All lead up to one plant sale making a difference.



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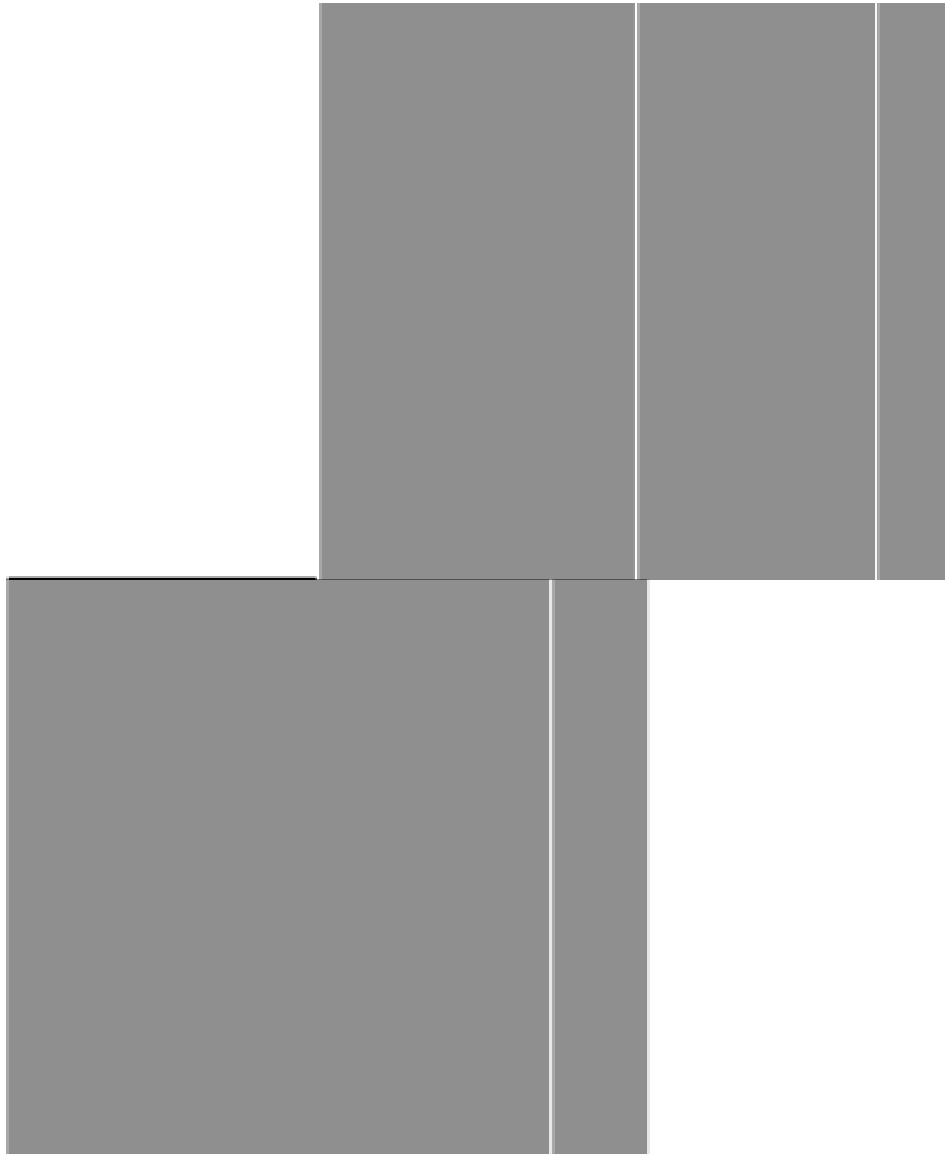
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Library Committee – Janet Sherwood

Like a good garden, a library needs to be weeded periodically, and we've had two good looks at the books and removed a number of outdated/inappropriate titles.

The basic guideline for our library, located in the Coach House, is to have and purchase current reference books. This year's addition is DIRR'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF

TREES AND SHRUBS, which updates DIRR'S COLOR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TREES AND SHRUBS and includes materials from warmer zones as well as some information from the 3rd edition of his Manual. Recommendations for new purchases are invited.



Membership – Fran Levin Jennifer Brindisi and Heather Campbell were inducted at our Annual Meeting as new provisionals. Victoria Peacock is leaving us to pursue her full time art endeavors and Holly McDonough, Jane Howes and Sally Lutz are great provisionals. Nonnie and Peg have moved to Associate status. Margaret Forbush will become an Active member. All told we're a pretty busy Club with great energetic and loyal members.

Plant Sale

Committee – Sally Truslow, Susan Mead, Margaret Forbush

The Plant Sale co-chairs and committee had a great year working ever more closely with the Greenhouse committee to determine not only which plant varieties to propagate but to track the success rate of each chosen plant. As a result, the Committee presented the healthiest plants ever



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at the May 14th sale. A tremendous “thank you” to Tina and Linda for their expertise and never ending good humor for without the greenhouse and their committee there would be no plant sale!

The combination of clearly labeled healthy, beautiful plants along with friendly knowledgeable members proved to be a success: the sale brought in a total of just over \$14,400 or a net of \$10,582.50, an increase of \$847.36 from the 2011 plant sale. (Total expenses were \$3,340.50, an increase \$177 from 2011.)

The unsold plants were gratefully received by the Buttonwood Zoo, The Boys & Girls Club of New

Bedford, and the Children’s Civic Gardens at the North Star Learning Center.

A heartfelt thank you to the greenhouse & plant sale committees and the membership at large for the wonderful volunteer support transporting the plants from the greenhouse, set up, selling, cashiering and customer support! Special appreciation goes to the hospitality ladies who

sustained all the volunteers during the three days of set-up and the day of the sale with delicious, energy maintaining treats and libations.

Debbie Tinay reports that the boxwood was sold out at the sale. Plant sale line up.

Betsy McBratney's potting shed.



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Woodland Walk 2012 – Susan McLaren

In May 2012, the GCBB conducted another successful Woodland Walk program for New Bedford 4th graders, in spite of some challenges and

changes. Over 473 students participated and about 35 club members worked as volunteers. The

weather was cold, gray and rainy but the enthusiasm and excitement of the kids was bright. They donned black trash bags as rain gear, while the docents carried on their teaching.

This year we added a bean seed germination project.

Each of the kids prepared a bean seed in a plastic bag to take back to school and watch it grow.

Feedback on this activity was extremely positive. Many teachers tell us that the Woodland Walk is their favorite field trip and they bring their classes back every year. It's a truly wonderful experience for the kids to learn about plants and nature in a beautiful setting with kind and caring guides as teachers.



Zone 1 Annual Meeting - Carolyn Willard

Mary Schubert and I attended Zone I meeting "Visions and Vistas" hosted by Chestnut Hill

Garden Club on May 21 and 22.

Chestnut Hill celebrated the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted as the father of landscape architecture and particularly his influence on urban parks. They have been very active in the restoration of Olmsted's Emerald Necklace, which stretches along the banks of Boston's Muddy River from Franklin Park to the Charles River. We toured the Emerald Necklace and grounds of Fairsted, Olmsted's home in Brookline. Rain curtailed some of the tour.



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We had no rain when we saw some truly exquisite gardens of Chestnut Hill members, including Diane Dalton's two-acre shade perennial garden designed by the late Allen Haskell. Pictured is a Soguy Japanese Hosta, with its distinctive marking, that was growing next to a shed that had been moved from the John Adams homestead and is now a small garden house, complete with a wet bar. Isabel Stewart Gardner's former summer house, with modern renovations, was also on the tour with several different garden "rooms," including a Japanese-inspired pond with bamboo created from an old pool.

GCA national president Marion Hill commended GCBB for its boxwood gardens: "Mary Plowden-Wardlaw in a booklet published in 1993 by the **GC of Buzzards Bay** outlined the fascinating history of the handsome evergreen trees and shrubs in the genus *Buxus*. Mrs. Plowden-Wardlaw's own Massachusetts garden, which contained plants started in 1918 by her mother (the horticulturalist Sarah Chapman Francis) served as an informal testing ground for many varieties."

GCBB members came away with the following awards:

Floral Design: Barri Throop - Honorable Mention - Barks and Burls (photo to right)

Horticulture: Anne Almy: 1 Blue Ribbon, Redvein Enkinthus; 2 Red Ribbons, Coastal Leucothoe, Variegated pink Weigela; 2 Honorable Mentions, Japanese White Pine, Native Columbine

Plant Exchange: Ruth Furman: 2 Blue Ribbons, Ohio Buckeye seedling, Sourwood seedling

Photo Award - *Reflections Through the eye of the Beholder*: prize, Parisian Garden (photo to left)

Chris Styan: 3rd



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Next year's Zone meeting is in Cohasset. Plant Exchange (PX) theme is hydrangeas.

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Features

A recent trip to visit our daughter, Molly, in Seattle was filled with anticipation on my part to return to the Bouchard Gardens on Victoria Island, BC. My daughter had other ideas, having recently performed with her flute choir at the Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island, WA. She assured me that anyone who was associated with woodland gardens, no matter how small, would be transcended into paradise visiting this estate. Reluctantly, I put away my passport and agreed to a much shorter ferry ride across Puget Sound to Bainbridge Island.

The Reserve encompasses a 150 acre spread of forest land on the coast of the island. It was created by Prentice Bloedel, a timber baron known for his execution of sustainability in his lumber business, and his wife Virginia Merrill Bloedel, a Horticulturist, when they lived on the property from 1953 – 1984. Virginia was responsible for much of the early planning. However, the planning was continued after her death by her husband whose goal was not to create a pretty garden, but rather to promote natural settings for visitors to enjoy peace and tranquility.

As you travel through the gardens, you will note the lack of signage. The Bloedel's hope is that you will appreciate this setting in its natural state as a woodland garden should be enjoyed.

Following the map provided at the entrance, a mulch based path takes you through a meadow of wild flowers into the woods where you encounter stands of paper birch and sequoias among the



The Ultimate Woodland Garden

Mary Schubert

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maples, alders, cedars and Douglas firs along the way. A Bird Sanctuary is announced by bird songs from on high. You will note plantings of ilex, elderberries, crabapple, dogwood and cattails along the trail, as well as a series of ponds, designed to attract osprey, great blue herons, wood ducks. (It was our good luck to sight a hooded merganser enjoying a swim in the area). The trail then leads you into a wilder section of the forest over a narrow canyon, the habitat of various ferns and yellow water iris, and to an open area (shown above) with a lovely view of the original Bloedel home, now serving as a Visitor Center. The center offers gallery space for local flora and fauna artists to exhibit, and a delightful concert hall where local musicians are invited to perform.

After enjoying a magnificent view of Port Madison Bay and the Cascade Mountains from the windows of the center, you are encouraged to step out onto the grounds where you can appreciate the more formal landscape plantings of Dutch Elm trees,

Portuguese laurel rhododendrons, magnolias and a Katsura tree.

You are then directed back to the trail to wander through the Rhododendron Glen and it's waterfall overlook.

From there the path takes you to several other habitats to investigate. Stepping down into a large bog area you are confronted by gigantic Skunk cabbage the size of shrubbery (a bit of envy here). They are joined with cardinal flowers and other wet feet loving plantings. (one shown in left photo, is a mystery plant to me...Perhaps, you can be the identifier.)

Entering the Moss Garden you are introduced to a more staged design within the natural woodland setting.

275,000 Irish Moss plants were planted here to highlight the effect of dark roots and branches of huckleberry bushes growing out of the lush carpet. Then, to further enhance the garden, Alder trees were ripped out to make room for hemlock and cedar trees to flourish in the area. Presented with the architectural look of the Alder root system, Mr. Bloedel insisted that the alder stumps remain to contribute to the surreal look of the setting. (I immediately wondered if he had ever visited Fran Levin's Stumpery!)

Other destinations within the reserve include a Japanese Garden, complete with a tearoom (no tea being served), and a Reflecting Pool, which allows for a moment to decompress and contemplate the beauty and serenity you have enjoyed within this Ultimate Woodland Garden. The Reserve is open all year round, but spring and fall are the optimum seasons to visit. Admission is \$6, (\$4 for seniors). No picnicking or refreshments.



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Recipes

GCA President Marion Hill shared this “recipe” at the May 2012 Zone meeting in Chestnut Hill:
In 1942, **Milton Garden Club** contributed the following recipe to the GCA Bulletin:

How to Preserve Children

Take: 1 large grassy field
A half-dozen children
2 or 3 small dogs
A pinch of brook and some pebbles.

Mix the children & the dogs well together, and put them in the field, stirring constantly.
Pour the brook over the pebbles; sprinkle the field with flowers, spread over all a deep blue sky,
and bake in hot sun.

When brown, remove and set in a cool bath.

Sit back and Relax Salmon, Hot or Cold

Adapted from *NY Times* 1/18/2012 by Ruth Jolliffe

2 lbs of Salmon filets (for 4 people) 1 qt plastic freezer bag
Olive oil
Salt & Pepper

1/4 tsp Ginger Fennel greens or dill

In a large pot heat water (enough to cover bag of filets) to 150 degrees F. Rinse the filet(s) and place it (them) in the plastic bag.

Add oil, S&P, and other herbs and spices and seal the bag.

Put the bag in the water bath and turn off the heat.

Set timer for 25 mins. (Temp should remain above 115)

Remove bag from water bath and cool slightly before removing salmon skin. It is ready to serve or to put in refrigerator to wait for a cool dinner.



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Photo Gallery

Flower Show at the Joint Meeting with Little Compton Garden Club

Themes: *Guess Who's Coming for Dinner*, *Breakfast Tray* and a *Picnic Setting*.



Breakfast Tray - Sue Siegal

Guess Who- Susan Rothschild



Breakfast Tray - Helen DeGroot

Guess Who - Gail Davidson



4th of July Picnic - Carolyn Willard

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Dog's Picnic - Barri Throop

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Happy July Day in Nonquitt Gardens





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