



NEWSLETTER



Little Compton Garden Tour Intersectional Peony

GCA Annual Meeting Tour

RELAX AND TURN UP THE SUN At ChanticleerGardens

Turn on the sun
With a stoned
Remote control
from your
overstuffed
Stone Sofas!



President's Message

Greetings to all our members.

As we travel or sit in the shade or weed or swim or read or nap or escape to the air conditioning or run around gathering up provisions for visitors, remember to enjoy the view! It's time for us to renew, to gaze into space and recharge, (ha!) and for our brains to relax, creating some room for new ideas in the future.

Enjoy this issue of the newsletter!

Here's to the idea of R 'n R.

Gail



Committee Reports

Mini- Flower Shows—Floral Design, Photography and Horticulture

By Carolyn Willard

As a follow-up to our very successful September Light flower show with Little Compton, the club staged three mini-flower shows this year. All had full GCA judging and were enthusiastically received.

In February we had 12 floral designs in Color My World; in April, several members entered the photography show, Bark, Bud and Blossom and in June, we had a wide variety and breadth of entries at the Horticulture Show held at the annual meeting. Judges were impressed with the quality of entries in all three shows and urged us to continue to hold club-level shows.

This coming year, we will stage a photography show at our Christmas Party at the RJD in December. After being inspired by Helen Goddard in March, we'll have a Floral Design show at Fran Levin's in April (maybe even matching floral designs with magnificent art!). We plan our next horticulture show for September, 2014 to highlight late summer bloom.

Tina Read wrote a great schedule to expose our members to the fundamentals of design, set up the show and hosted judges at a luncheon for the floral design show. Carolyn Willard organized the photography show and Anne Almy, Gail Davidson and Ruth Furman organized the horticulture show. Thanks to Holly McDonough, Peg Megowen, Susan McLaren, Celeste Penney, Lee Wheeler, Heather Campbell, and Fran Levin for all their help.

Grants

By Carolyn Willard

This year, the club received 16 requests for more than \$10,000 and were able to fund or partially fund 12 projects for \$4,500, an increase of \$1,500 over last year. Since its creation in 2003, the club has funded more than \$30,000 to program throughout the Buzzards Bay area. We have budgeted \$5,000 for 2014.



The funds were given to:

- Helfand Farm Community Gardens in Dartmouth for a new rototiller.
- A sixth grader's project at the Old Hammondtown School in Mattapoisett to install planting around the school's flagpole. We also gave plants from the plant sale.

- Global Learning Charter School's Garden Club, for seeds, plants and food for "healthy eating" lessons.
- Our Sisters' School to plant three coordinated beds under the auspices of the school's garden club, which will operate during the summer months as part of the school's support system.
- Friends of the New Bedford Public Library for two planters and plants at the library entrance.
- Northstar Learning Center for materials for vegetable beds, three herb planters and a flower garden for the center's garden club.
- Friends Academy for new row covers and for plug trays for the school garden. The school has raised more than 5700 lbs of food for food pantries in New Bedford and Pawtucket, valued at more than \$11,000.
- Mass. Audubon, Allen's Pond Wildlife Sanctuary for plants for a new rain garden construction at Stone Barn.
- Dartmouth Middle School's 6th grade math and science teacher to construct grow table and purchase a grow lamp.
- Dartmouth YMCA, Share the Harvest Program for a tractor-mounted fertilizer spreader, eliminating more than 150 labor hours of volunteers. The Share the Harvest program raised more than 150,000 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables to be distributed to the underserved in the south coast area.
- YWCA Southeastern Mass. For top soil, pea gravel, seeds, watering cans and fertilizer for beds for the YWKids afterschool and summer programs.
- Lloyd Center for the Environment to help build a new butterfly garden.



Zone I meeting in Cohasset, May 14 and 15,

By Carolyn Willard

Gail Davidson and Carolyn Willard attended the two-day Zone I meeting hosted by the Cohasset Garden Club on May 14 and 15, "Looking Forward, Looking Back."

Echoing the theme of the Philadelphia Centennial meeting, Zone I presidents and club representatives heard talks by Judith Tankard recounted the impact of landmark garden designers Beatrix Farrand and Ellen Shipman and by Douglas Tallamy, who advocated reviving urban and suburban gardens through the use of native plants and minimalizing lawn areas.

We toured several extraordinary gardens in Cohasset, as well as visiting the refurbished Nantasket Carousel in Hull, where our meetings were held.

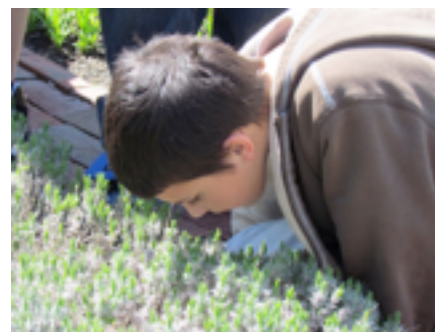
As always, the exchange of ideas, during roundtables, cocktails and dinners, was the best part of the meeting. A few ideas: a photo-mounting workshop to help members get photo show entries ready, have members take photo one meeting and then display at the next; a fundraiser accessories sale where members brought in unwanted jewelry, purses and scarves, several clubs have provisionals undertake a yearly project and the majority have club flower shows on a regular basis.

Helen DeGroot and Anne Webb took a first place for their Pot-et-Fleur floral design in a lightship basket. Ruth Furman earned a blue ribbon for her hydrangea in the plant exchange and Anne Almy took home two second place ribbons in Horticulture.

Woodland Walk Education Program 2013

By Susan McLaren

Once again this spring, GCBB conducted a very successful program at the RJD to teach New Bedford 4th graders about plants. About 475 students from 10 different schools participated, including an English Language Learners (ELL) class from Hayden-McFadden, a new experience for them and us that went extremely well. Our wonderful GCBB volunteers turned out in record numbers for the Monday orientation and worked tirelessly all week as docents, greeters, botany teachers and all -purpose helpers to make sure the kids had a good experience. Over 36 GCBB members worked at WW 2013, and many were there on multiple days. The results are gratifying. Feedback from teachers is consistently positive, and we hear comments like “this is my favorite field trip” and “the kids get so much out of this program”. It’s clear that the time and effort GCBB invests in the Woodland Walk is making a difference to New Bedford schoolchildren.



Every year the Woodland Walk program has different challenges and continues to evolve and improve; 2013 was no exception. The weather was our friend this year. We were lucky to run our program on one of the warmest, sunniest weeks of a cold, delayed spring. However, the wildflowers were somewhat sparse, and the actual path of the WW was shortened by half due to installation of the new apple orchard at the RJD. We adjusted by expanding activities in the gardens, greenhouse, and coach house and demonstrated that the program is really much more than a “woodland walk”. We should consider an appropriate name change for the future. The RJD gardens and greenhouse are truly an urban oasis with lots of

resources for teaching kids all about plants.

Behind the scenes, the Woodland Walk Education Committee works hard to run this program every year. Planning and outreach to teachers begins in January and culminates with intense preparations in April. The real key to our success is continued broad support from GCBB members – our kind and caring volunteers make this program extra special for the kids. Many thanks to all who participated, and especially to the members of the Woodland Walk Education Committee: Carolyn Willard, Sue Siegal, Joan Bullard, Jennifer Brindisi, Mary Schubert, Ellie Smith, Sally Shwartz, Debbie Tinay, Happy Webb, Gertrude Burr, Judi Sterns.



Plant Sale

Margaret Forbush, Susan McLaren, and Sally Truslow

The Plant Sale of 2013 was a success because of the unfailing support of the Committee and the Membership. Everyone helped get the word out of the time change, but we especially thank Chris Styan and Laura McLean for the articles in *The Chronicle* and *The Standard Times*. Thank you to Happy Webb who procured the permission of an alternate site should we have needed it. Thank you to the Greenhouse Committee and members who conscientiously tended each and every plant without which we would have no sale! Thank you to all those who signed up to volunteer before, during and after the sale. And, Thank you to those of you who volunteered to be CORI'd.



Some bills are outstanding, but the gross dollar figure for the sale is \$10,917 despite the rain and time change! Cheers to All!

Visiting Gardens -- Little Compton Garden Tour

By Sally Lutz

On June 12th in lieu of our summer meeting, a number of members attended the Little Compton Garden Club's Tour of Eight Gardens. It was a lovely day and as expected all of the gardens were glorious and inspirational! Among the Little Compton gardens were Mr. & Mrs. Peter Aldrich, Berta & Nathaniel Atwater, Mrs. Nancy



Easman, Mrs Cecelia Halsey, Mr. & Mrs. Hans Hawrysz and Libby & Raoul Moore. In Westport we visited our member garden, Celeste & Jack Penney and the gardens of Dora & Tripp Millikin. At the last garden a lunch was served in two of the antique buildings on the property including Wyndfield's restored working painting studio. (See photos below.)

FEATURES

Getting the most of your flowers

By Carolyn Willard

When creating a flower arrangement, you want the creation to last as long as possible. Nothing worse than a prize bloom in the garden that looks like a wilted discard the next day. Conditioning of the cut plant material can ensure that the life of your flowers and greenery is prolonged as much as possible.



We have posted a detailed listing of how to condition all sorts of plants – from ferns to daffodils to peony to roses on the GCBB website www.gardenclubbuzzardsbay.org. Go to What's the Buzz and click on the pdf link for Conditioning Flowers.

The basics are these:

- Use clean vases, clippers, etc. to minimize bacteria. Add a teaspoon of bleach, alcohol or mouthwash to keep water clean.
- Pick flowers in the optimum shape (for some flowers that can mean in full bloom for others just emerging); at the best time of day (universally in the early morning or late in the day to avoid too much sun);
- Give each bloom the best chance at keeping moisture (that can be anything from holding stems in *boiling* or submerging the whole flower, blossom in all, in warm or cold water overnight).

The variations are many, but they do work! Allow at least 24 hours for conditioning.



The following is a sampling of how to condition mid to late summer and fall flowers:

Black-Eyed-Susan (rudbeckia): Dip stems in a small amount of boiling water for a few seconds. Condition overnight in deep, cool water.

Dahlia: Place stems in two to three inches of boiling water for a few minutes, then immediately into cold water. Condition overnight in cold water.

Geranium: Place in warm water for several hours. Spray with hair spray to keep petals from falling off so quickly.

Hosta: Cut when two or three flowers are open. Split stems. Place in cold water almost up to flower heads and condition overnight. The leaves should be submerged overnight in cold water.

Hydrangea: Flowers will last better if they are cut when they are mature. If possible, cut some woody stem with the flower. Split and sear stems. Submerge in tepid water for several hours. Spray flowers with a fine mist of cool water.



Rose: Remove large thorns and lower leaves. Split stems. Condition for several hours in hot water. If roses wilt, re-cut and recondition in very hot water.

Salvia: Place stems in one inch of boiling water for one minute. Condition overnight in deep water.

Garden Books for Inspiration

By Mary Schubert

This past spring the RJD offered a tour of iconic gardens in Pennsylvania and Delaware. You know of DuPont legends, Winterthur and Longwood Gardens which we all aspire to visit. Yes, they are truly worth the travel and I was certainly delighted to enjoy them at long last, however, the true frosting on the cake were two lesser known, but perhaps even more inspiring venues to visit for the avid gardeners amongst us. It was my intention to describe the visit and urge you all to take the long journey to walk through their gates. But, honestly, I haven't found the words to adequately bring these destinations to life in the same way that the following books about them have done.



The Layered Garden: Design Lessons for Year-Round Beauty from Brandywine Cottage **David Culp**

David Culp personally welcomed us into his gardens, which were in high bloom featuring his favorite cool weather plantings of 90 different cultivars of snow drops growing among hundreds of hellebores of every color imaginable. As we toured we were teased by amazing spring bulbs, succulents, and flowering trees. He was generous in sharing his tips for keeping these gardens vibrant through the

four seasons.

His book is an ideal read for those winter months when we can only dream of how our own gardens will emerge once the ice and snow have disappeared. He offers many good garden tips, and the photography will heighten your anticipation of the coming seasons. Look for it on Amazon, where they offer a discounted Hardcover at \$25.65 with free shipping.

Chanticleer: A Pleasure Garden, by Adrian Higgins

Photographs by Rob Cardillo



As we toured this amazing place under the tutelage of a specially trained docent, it was hard to believe we were in the midst of a forty-eight acre space, as the garden is divided into 13 different “rooms”. As we entered each room we were en-capsuled in a garden with its own individual personality. It was as if we were visiting a neighborhood of friend’s gardens and we could identify with our own spaces at home.

To entice you to seek out this book, I will offer these words from Mr. Higgins, “There are flowers all about, but Chanticleer isn’t about flowers alone; it’s about plants, plants on their stage. It’s music, it’s ballet, it’s cinema. It’s the garden as an art form...” Give this book a look and four luxurious seasons can be enjoyed despite the cold weather outside.

Amazon offers this book at a discount, as well. \$26.42 with free shipping. It is also offered in combo with The Layered Garden at \$52.07 Free Shipping



Garden Conservancy Open Days

by Ruth Jolliffe



On July 13 five South Dartmouth/Westport gardens were open to the public in support of the Garden Conservancy. Over 240 visitors toured the gardens. All were impressed by the imagination and beauty of the designs.

GCBB Members, Anne Almy and Celeste & Jack Penney were two of the five.

The others were the Campbells and the Griswold/Morses at The Meadows, the Coolidge/Goldmans. Much effort went into preparing the gardens, and the gracious hospitality to the visitors



was appreciated by all. Many thanks also to members who volunteered to sit in the sun and take tickets at the gardens. Thank you to my committee for their good ideas and wise counsel, Nonnie Hood, Peg McBratney Gildersleeve and Jane Walker.

Previous page left & right: Urn and Steps at The Meadows. Left: Coolidge/Goldman Garden.



Anne Almy Garden



Celeste & Jack Penney Garden

ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS

By Ellen Christie

A highlight of the annual meeting is the giving of well-deserved club awards. This year was no exception. Members of the Awards Committee, Anne Almy, Fran Levin, Mary Schubert and Ellen Christie, Chair, met several times to choose who in the club deserved recognition for their efforts. The discussions were thoughtful, and the letters written to the GCA in support of these candidates were filled with personal anecdotes, which strongly supported these candidates' nominations. Below is the list of those club members who so richly deserved their awards this year.

Busy Bee Award – Betsy McBratney

Club Horticulture – Tina Read

GCA Club Appreciation Award – Celeste Penney and Carolyn Willard

Club Conservation Award – Joan Underwood

GCA Club Communication Award – Superior Editorial – Ruth Jolliffe



President's Bowl

Gail awarded the President's Award to Carolyn Willard.

GCA TURNS 100!

By Carolyn Willard



Philadelphia, the birthplace of the Garden Club of America in 1913 when several area clubs decided that there was strength in numbers and created the Garden Club of America, hosted more than 600 GCA members for this

year's annual meeting.

The meeting focused on the many accomplishments of the GCA over the years and on its plans for the future. We heard about garden history, the creation of urban parks in New York City.



Peter Del Tredici, (pictured at left) who spoke to GCBB in 2012 on wild urban plants, was named one of four honorary GCA members, nominated by the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay. Anne Almy and Nan Sinton proposed Peter for the membership. Peter, author of Wild Urban Plants of the Northeast : a Field Guide in 2010, is senior research fellow at the Arnold Arboretum and an adjunct professor at Harvard. And great fun! Gail and I had the chance to be in his group on our garden tours on Philadelphia's Main Line. Just wonderful to be able to turn and ask a real expert your garden questions. Later this spring he was off to Kew Gardens in London to be recognized there.

A second part of the Centennial celebration was the dedication of the refurbished 69th Street entrance to Central Park, GCA's Founders Fund project for the year. All 200 GCA clubs financed the project. Timmy Shapiro represented the club at the dedication ceremony and dinner.



Photo Show Bark, Bud and Blossom



**LITTLE
COMPTON
GARDEN
TOUR**





AND



MORE



GARDENS

