



NEWSLETTER



President's Message

We have had a wonderful start to our year and are so fortunate to live on what my husband refers to as “The Riviera” and last summer was lovely. In July we enjoyed gardens in Newport and Middletown, thanks to Anne Almy who orchestrated the tour. The gardens at the RJD were kept tidy by Jim Perry and our extra plants from our plant sale grew happily at the zoo to entice butterflies.

This fall we learned to accessorize “The Little Black Dress” and improve our gardening with hints from C. L. Fornari. Priscilla Twombly inspired us with alpines and ideas for rock gardens and in January we shared ideas on travels with Barri, Nan, Gail and Timmy. With the help of the greenhouse crew and four hard-working new provisionals, Linda Cornell, Carolyn Willard, Ruth Ann Walega and Sally Truslow, cuttings are rooting, the gardens are clean and pruned, and seeds are sprouting. The cold frame is finally full of daylilies from Sue Fairfax and pots of bulbs we hope will bloom in March. Thanks to Ruth we have some viburnums rooted for the September 22-23 Zone I Meeting in the Berkshires. The Mini Zone meeting at Tower Hill was well attended and very informative. Our club is envied by many for our greenhouse and an opportunity to meet weekly.

I am very lucky to have such great group of friends to work with. There is so much going on within our club I am grateful for all your hard work and the wonderful spirit of all the members.

To all, best wishes for a prosperous spring.

Tina Read

REPORTS

WOODLAND WALK, MAY 2008



The Walk for the New Bedford Fourth Graders last May was fabulous, really fabulous for the 400 children who took part. We had the right amount of lecturing along with hands-on experiences to please both the children and the teachers. The students went eagerly from activity to activity and were full of questions like: "Can I work in this garden?" "Or what do cockroaches pollinate?" A few girls, however, were too afraid to touch anything. And others wanted to know where the poison ivy was. Most were well prepared and eager to explore. The garden was in bloom with bees buzzing in the

pink and white dogwood flowers. And the greenhouse is such a great addition. The committee felt the tour was nearly perfect.

The Woodland Walk is a huge project, however. Contacting the teachers and bringing them materials, putting together all the pieces of the 5 different activities, signing up the guides and guiding on the 4 days of the program, require many, many hands. In order to have small groups, at least 10 guides a day are needed. The program is really a wonderful opportunity for the children of New Bedford. The Woodland Walk committee feels it is very worthwhile. It requires, however, a commitment on the part of the all members of the club to be part of the effort. We did it right this year, but we need more help.

I want to thank the members of the committee for their hours of work. Also I want to thank those who gave the botany talks including Sally and all those who were guides. Some people were guides for 3 and 4 days. And I want to thank everyone who worked in the garden to make it special for the children. It was a great time.

Submitted by Ellie Smith

GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE

After resting all summer, the greenhouse is filling up again. Each Tuesday morning it fills with members working on various projects. Thanks to everyone who helps! It also fills with delicious goodies to feed our workers. Thank you greenhouse hostesses!

Our propagation benches are filling up with cuttings, but don't be afraid to bring in more, we still have room! Our soil is filling with roots. The cuttings are indeed taking root, so our tables are filling up with baby potted plants. Our cold frames are seeing some action too. They are partially full of potted bulbs for forcing. Tina and Ruth organized a fun project for us with the goal of filling our greenhouse with blooms come March. Our succulent experts have been sharing their stock



with us too, so our mini dessert area is filling nicely. Don't be afraid to keep filling all our greenhouse areas though ladies. We love more!

Unfortunately, in October, our greenhouse was full of mice, but I think that problem is solved. I must say, mice are quicker, trickier foes than slugs. Our new heating wires are working nicely thanks to Tina after she replaced our old broken wires. The new switches for the vents that were replaced last year are also working well. Yes our greenhouse is full indeed. It is full of sunshine, fun, friends , smiling faces and hard work. What a club!!!



Submitted by Leslie Bernert

BOXWOOD COMMITTEE

The boxwood garden looked great all summer thanks to Jim Perry's crew. A big thank you also to all who helped with the fall clean up. This spring we plan to plant our propagated boxwood in the lath house and raised bed in order to be ready for 2010.

Submitted by Debbie Tinay



OUTDOOR GARDENS COMMITTEE

At this time, I want to make a special pitch for the Outdoor Gardens Committee. Our relationship with the Rotch Jones Duff House goes back more than twenty years. It is because of the care we give the civic, boxwood and woodland gardens that we enjoy the benefits of having a place to meet every week for gardening, camaraderie and meetings. I am convinced that the vibrancy of this club is directly related to the fact that we can come together on a regular basis to learn from each other, support each other, and laugh together. We are the envy of other GCA clubs!

--T.R.

PLANT SALE COMMITTEE

The plant sale committee is totally dependent on every member who attends greenhouse. A thousand thank yous, and kudos to all contributors and worker bees! We're really full and cheery even now, and looking forward to our usual fun-filled planning sessions, and seeding extravaganzas. Who knows what next year will bring? Well, count on May 19th, and plan accordingly. We'll most likely accept perennials on the Thursday, transport on the Friday. Get those wagons ready.....(:

Submitted by Gail Davidson

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE: *HAVE YOU SEEN THIS CRITTER?*

The Asian longhorn beetle (ALB) was found in Worcester, MA this past summer by an observant citizen. A local grandmother reported that a bug was annoying her grandchildren who were playing in the backyard. Her reports were ignored but not to be deterred she used her recently acquired computer to search the web for an ID. Successful, she reported her finding to city officials who immediately went on high alert.

City and state officials determined that the ALB has been in Worcester for about a decade but as it lives in the upper canopy of trees it was difficult to see the infestation and damage. The alarm over its discovery is that it attacks healthy, hard woods like birch, elm, horsechestnut as well as our ubiquitous sugar and red maples. Worcester County is a gateway to concentrated areas of sugar maples whose destruction would be economically and environmentally devastating. Officials in Worcester estimate that 665, 000 trees are at risk and quarantine has been imposed on any movement of trees. Many trees have been cut down while the rest are being treated with imidacloprid (Merit.)

The beetles are shiny black with white spots and about 1-1.5" with long antennae banded black and white. Females lay their eggs in tree bark and the grubs tunnel into the tree feeding on the tree tissue. Dime size, clean cut exit holes are an indication of infestation. (Google Asian longhorn beetle for photo ID)

On a more pleasant note, there was a propagation workshop late summer. Fran Levin graciously gave us space, materials and plenty of cuttings from her wonderful garden. Attendees also propagated viburnums three of which will be sent for the plant exchange at the Zone meeting (September '09) in the Berkshires.



The Mass Horticulture Society announced that the annual spring flower show was cancelled. To satisfy the desire for early spring blooms, Tina Read scrubbed 40 some pots and swept through the likes of Lowe's and Home Depot for whatever bulbs were available. A planting demonstration was held at a Tuesday greenhouse session. Filled pots were stored in the RJD cold frame and some at members' homes. We are hopeful of an outstanding display in late March. Check it out!

Submitted by Ruth Furman

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

NATHAN AND POLLY JOHNSON HOUSE HISTORICAL GARDEN PROJECT

The Nathan and Polly Johnson House, 21 Seventh Street, New Bedford, 02749 is significant in history, locally and nationally: Free-black owners Nathan and Polly Johnson assisted runaway slaves as part of the Underground Railroad—in New Bedford, between 1840 and 1860 over 700 escaped slaves came to New Bedford seeking asylum. In September 1838, the Johnsons took in a fugitive and his wife. They gave the man the name Frederick Douglass—who became world-renowned for his speeches on abolition. Polly Johnson was a well-known caterer and confectioner, who managed to own several properties in the neighborhood.

The house is on the Underground Railroad tour that is part of the New Bedford Whaling National Park, and receives many visitors each year. The New Bedford Historical Society is the current owner of the building. The Society restored the building through many grants and received a National Historic Landmark designation for the site. The NBHS has asked the GCBB to design the garden—mostly in the rear of the house. They have received \$2500 from a private donor for the garden rehabilitation.

Garden club members first visited the garden last year and met with Joan Beaubian who then was the head of the Society. She felt the garden should reflect the history of the house, be educational for children and enhance visitors experience to the site. Some design features could include benches, perhaps an herb garden reflecting Polly Johnson's livelihood. Because the property is historic, significant excavation or earth moving is not permitted because of archeological concerns.

The Conservation Committee previously visited the site and met with Joan in considering the approach to take. We want to start planning in earnest this Fall. Our first meeting will be December 2, 2008 in the greenhouse proper. Anne Webb has received a very informative package of material from the Massachusetts Historical Commission about the house, along with information and guidance for such a project. We will make copies available at the greenhouse for interested members to read prior to the meeting.

Funds to support the project from the GCBB side have been generously made available by Fran Levin who received the Nell Schwartz Mentoring Award from the Dublin, New Hampshire Garden Club. This award is given to one person in New England and was established by the Dublin Club to honor Ms. Schwartz who died very unexpectedly. Fran has kindly directed the entire \$400 stipend associated with her award to this project.

We made a start last year growing some seedlings of horehound which Amy Thurber took under her wing this summer—in relation to the idea of a culinary garden. We haven't gotten very far with historical plant research but did identify the following sources for historical plant selections thus far: *Hervey, E. W. 1860. Catalog of the Plants found in New Bedford, and its vicinity. Press of E. Anthony, 67 Union St., New Bedford. Reprinted by GCBB in 1975, 2007*

Submitted by—Anne Webb and Susan Rothschild

FEATURES

Fran Levin - Green-thumbed Mentor

Fran Levin, a member of the GCBB since 1992 as well as a former president, was honored at our annual meeting for her contributions to horticulture by representatives of the Garden Club of Dublin, NH. Fran is the third recipient of the award established in the memory of Nell Schwartz, an outstanding horticulturist and an enthusiastic mentor. "Today we honor a gifted teacher who is generous with her time, talents and garden treasures," said Ellen Rublee of the Dublin Garden Club. "Mentoring has many diverse interpretations and most certainly is not limited to growing plants," she said.

Calling her the "quintessential mentor in horticulture," Ms. Rublee spoke of Fran's "vast knowledge" and noting her encouragement to others to expand their knowledge of horticulture and to experiment in their own gardens. "Her passion for horticulture is reflected in her own greenhouse and gardens, which frequently have been included in the Open Days program of the Garden Conservancy." noted Ms. Rublee, listing Fran's numerous achievements.



Her gardens are listed in the American Gardens archives at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. She has welcomed national organizations such as the Rare Plant Society and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society to visit and study her collections. A Trustee of the RJD, Fran was instrumental in upgrading the long term plan for the redesign of the woodland garden. She is an accomplished rosarian and actively involved in club and community endeavors.



Winter: "The Other Side of the Year" by Laura McLean

The winter season may slow us down, but it never dulls our passion for gardening. Midwinter found several members focused on some aspect of horticulture...

"Usually I spend the winter pruning my shrubs and trees. It is easier to see the shape and control the size," said Peg Megowen. "I realize one is ideally supposed to prune right after bloom but I practice the philosophy that one prunes when the shears are sharp and there is time. I also have my trees pruned by arborists in the winter. One can usually get a better price then."

With diminished food resources, deer and rabbits find their way to our gardens, as indeed they did to Peg's. "I am spraying everything in sight, particularly yews and rhododendrons. Marvin Grain has some great deterrent that smells like cinnamon. Indoors, I am ordering seeds, looking at catalogs, and watching the greenhouse for bugs. Succulents are fun in the winter, because you can always rearrange and divide."

When she's not in our greenhouse, Gail Davidson was inclined keep gardening at arm's length. "I'm just getting around to straightening up my desk and office, which means putting my materials for garden planning in a neat pile waiting for me to look at them! I did sketch out the veggie garden, as it involves rotation of crops, and figuring out what worked and what didn't, so as to figure out what seeds to order. But it's more fun to go skating! That's what this cold weather is good for. Also, trying to keep the bird bath filled and deiced."

Others simply used the imposing weather as a reason to stay indoors – to read, paint or pick lemons! Sue Siegal took advantage and caught up with old issues of Horticulture. "I can't believe the pile I have!"

In winter, Phoebe Perry does like a bear and hibernates. "I move as many of my outdoor potted plants as possible into my studio where I spend the winter drawing and painting. My studio has big windows facing south which my plants love, but my work doesn't. The sun reflects off the water and the snow and fills the room. So far, no aphids, scales or other pests. I prepared my plants much more thoroughly this fall than last, and I think they appreciated that. Right now, I am working on a pencil drawing, a pastel and an oil painting, and I'm loving every minute of it."

Fran Levin conceded that the cold, "meltless" weather had kept her outdoor expeditions to a minimum. "I haven't done much but check for fallen limbs, but I've been going through all the catalogues selling seeds. I do have my greenhouse and that has given me much pleasure as I've harvested Meyer lemons!!! There is a newsletter called The Avant Gardener and the February issue lists his choice of new annuals and perennials and I'm combing the catalogues looking for those seeds or plants to order. It's labor heavy on the eyes but fun to fantasize about. Our garden club is starting seeds this very day (, Jan. 27)!!"

Some members ventured far afield to warmer zones. Ellen Christie who spent the cold months in Boston, Georgia traded spade for golf club, reporting 75 degree temperatures and the sound of peepers at night.

GCA envoy Timmy Shapiro continued traveling to different parts of the states, experiencing horticulture in different growing zones. "Being a horticulture judge has enabled to me to go to many areas, and I am judging in shows, such as Houston, Texas, which are always

just plain wonderful. The women of the GCA are very welcoming, and we have a chance to see horticulture in different growing zones, and learn about the different sections of the USA.”

On the homefront, orchids and succulents are happier exposed to sun than the coolness of the Shapiro household, and the begonias thrive on partial sun and moderate temperatures in the greenhouse. “We’ll miss the New England Flower Show this year, as it is always the sign of spring coming. Seed catalogues abound on our coffee table, and we do get all pumped up to begin planting for spring summer grow,” she added.

Celeste Penney, meanwhile, has been mentally editing her garden: “I have been thinking a lot about my garden. I would like to change the bed in front of the river, but haven't figured out exactly what I want to do, something totally different. Inside my cymbidium orchids are looking terrific and just seeing them makes me long for the flowers of summer.”

Meanwhile, Ruth Joliffe is continuing to reap the benefits of last summer’s labors in the garden. “The sun is low, the days are short and so is the supply of dollars. But, the freezer is full of the summer harvest, the snow is bright, and under various chairs are jars of canned tomatoes and blueberry jam,” said Ruth.

“Brussels Sprouts, leeks, and carrots are still available in the seaweed and snow covered vegetable garden, and the pots of lettuce I brought in at the end of growing season are still producing in a sun-filled window.”

“On the wildlife end, “ she notes, “the day of the first snow, moments after I took a photo for our Christmas card, the beautiful red berry-filled Winterberries were devoured by a flock of robins. The bird feeders are popular, and we have a nice assortment including a Carolina wren this year. Last Saturday a pair of oh-so-unbelievably-beautiful Blue birds moved into the Inkberries and have been there ever since, accompanied by a robin friend, for a winter feast.”

What is this gardener doing in winter? “Eating the produce of last summer, enjoying the winter bird life, and planning for next summer,” says Ruth. “Add potatoes and spinach to garden, which I didn’t plant this year and have been the only vegetables I’ve had to buy at the market so far. “

“I miss the exercise of summer gardening, walking is okay, but not the same as hauling seaweed, digging and edging. Our winter sport is curling, we read and see a lot of friends. Is this sort of like hibernating in a friendly burrow? It’s lovely, it’s fun, and it’s the other side of the year.”



An Insider’s Guide to Plant Shopping by Linda Cornell

Knowing what information you as the customer can bring to the retailer can enhance your experience and enable you to make plant choices that will thrive in your location. Having almost thirty years in a retail position selling garden and house plants I come to the buyer’s side from a different perspective.

If houseplants are your quarry, knowing where they will ultimately live in your home is a good place to begin. How close to the window, which direction that window faces and the

amount of direct sunlight in terms of hours each day is key to plant survival. If you need a low light requiring plant on your coffee table, the distance away from a natural source of light is a necessary piece of information for choosing the plant that will flourish under those conditions. Full direct sun light is considered next to the source, closest to the window or up to one to two feet away. Indirect light starts at three feet away or sheer curtain filtered sun light. Low light is reflected light off walls and ceilings. Shade is shadowless light such as from a north facing window. Of all a plant's requirements the amount of light is its most important link to health and a long life.

I always asked my customers, "What have you grown successfully in that location in the past?" Knowing the answer to this takes much of the guess work out of the search and allows you to make choices that will work well rather than those that might be considered a risk. Death or simply unhealthy plants due to the wrong choice and/or location can be demoralizing, resulting in buying silk flowers and plants. A common example of this is trying to grow a hibiscus in a dark placement; regardless of your perseverance and dedication, it will slowly die.

These same principals apply to both landscape and outside container plants. You should know the direction the plants will face and if there is shade from existing trees, buildings or fences. Knowing your goal for your intended purchase is the prerequisite to serious shopping. Are you seeking a focal point in the yard or garden? Are you attempting to screen out an undesirable view? Do you need to balance or soften a particular location? You may also want a selection of plants that attracts wildlife to your backyard or by contrast maybe you are looking for prickly plants to discourage kids and dogs. I personally preferred when my customers brought in a photo of their landscape from which we could work.

Another primary concern is the soil condition. It is helpful to know what type of soil your location has. Some soil types are marshy, dry, well-drained, sandy or packed clay. With this knowledge you can be educated in soil amendments along with which plants may accept your offerings as is.

Planting summer containers is always a fun experience. If you are satisfied with last year's creations I hope you saved the labels or took pictures! Otherwise the "lovely blue trailing plant" may end up being something that will work but not the same plant you had in mind. What is fun about containers is the clean palette you have to work with each year. That's where creativity and knowledge of plant material go hand in glove. Hopefully the retailer has a strong knowledge of the material and along with you, the customer, a masterpiece is in progress. Dealing with the variables above is a must for a successful container grouping. Sunlight vs. shade. Good container soil vs. straight garden soil (NOT!) What is your intended goal?

With this knowledge at hand you become an informed player in your quest and the retailer the guide. If you are not asked any questions by the salesperson, offer the information to help direct the course of the search and to enhance your experience with increased participation. Remember plant shopping should be fun and educational!

GARDEN VISITS

SPANNOCCHIA - Mary Schubert

A highlight of my trip to **TUSCANY** this fall was visiting a 700 year old farm just southwest of Sienna. Organic farming is practiced at Spannocchia and its use of natural products and methods of cultivation without chemical fertilizers or pesticides provides an effective lesson in the sustainable management of its 1100 acre organic, agricultural estate. The farm maintains 700 olive trees, five acres of vineyard, extensive vegetable gardens as well as raising traditional breeds of farm animals.

The day we visited we were taken on a tour of the vegetable gardens by Carmen, the garden manager. She gave us some interesting pointers on how she cycles various vegetables throughout the summer to keep the soil enriched and continuously providing the kitchen with fresh, flavorful, organic products. She emphasized the importance of composting to keep the soil fertile. It was impressive to see the beginnings of the process and the progress down to the "pure gold" that is the end result.

After the tour we were treated to a cooking lesson with Loredana, the farm's chef. We prepared a three course typical Tuscan dinner using all products grown or raised on the farm. Once the dinner was prepared we sat at a lovely table where we were joined by the owners of the land, our garden guide and cooking teacher, and enjoyed the fruits of our labor along with a special wine produced in the Spannocchia vineyards.

The Spannocchia Foundation, which supports the farm and its goals, is actually based in Portland, Me. My group discovered it through an article in Bon Appetit magazine last winter. You can learn more about the farm and its goals at [HYPERLINK "http://www.spannocchia.org"](http://www.spannocchia.org) www.spannocchia.org.

Discovering The Elizabethan Gardens - Susan Rothschild

In mid-October I had the unexpected pleasure of discovering The Elizabethan Gardens on **MANTEO ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA**. Manteo Island is the site of the lost colony of Roanoke, the first English colony of North America, and the birthplace of the first child of the colony, Virginia Dare.

The Elizabethan Gardens present the visitor with a variety of delights. The formal entrance leads into the brick Gate House designed as a 16th c. orangery, which houses the reception area and gift shop. Stepping into the garden, the first discovery is the formal Shakespeare Herb Garden, which surrounds a large dish fountain. A well-shadowed path lined with impatiens and hostas leads to a heroic-sized bronze of Queen Elizabeth I by Jon Hair at the Queen's Triangle. From there, one finds secluded glades, vistas of Abermarle Sound skirting a large parterred Sunken Garden ornamented with ancient sculptures (given by the John Hay Whitney family) and arrayed with standards of crepe myrtle.

Further on, one discovers the Queen's Tea Garden featuring The Queen Elizabeth Rose, a gift from Queen Elizabeth II, and a Victorian carrara marble statue of Virginia Dare as a young woman. Along the path circling the Great Lawn, some 85 cultivars of camellias are planted (some were in bloom) along with azaleas, and lace cap and oak leaf hydrangeas. The collection of sasanqua and japonica camellias is considered to be one of the finest in the South. Live oaks grace the grounds, and one giant in particular is believed to date to 1585 when the first colonists landed.

Some plants that stood out during my visit were the



American Beauty Berry *Callicarpa americana* and the Holly Fern *Cyrtomium falcatum*. The garden was designed by the international firm of Innocenti and Webel, constructed by E.W. Reinecke of Fayetteville, and sponsored by the Garden Club of North Carolina. It was opened in August 1955, and photos in the Reception Hall allow the visitor to appreciate its beginnings. Many heirloom plants are grown at the garden's nursery, and the array offered for sale was wonderful in variety and price. The Gardens publish a

newsletter, the Elizabethan Gardener, whose current issue describes garden activities through March 2009. More info can be found at HYPERLINK "<http://www.elizabethangardens.org>" www.elizabethangardens.org. The Gardens are very pleasant stop if you are exploring the Outer Banks.

Eze: Enchanting and Exotic - Laura McLean

Eze is one of those places – fantastic – so extraordinary as not to appear quite real. This French village is off the beaten track, hidden away on a mountaintop overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, close to the Italian border. Atop the summit, I found a garden of pure enchantment, when my husband and I visited it last May.

It isn't your typical South of **FRANCE** landscape or, for that matter, a typical alpine retreat. Le Jardin d'Eze, as it is called, is totally different. It's like a crowded Sonora Desert scene, with towering cactus and succulents amid conventional flora suited to the arid Mediterranean climate. Set on the ruins of a castle, it seems out of place, at first. If it weren't for

the red tiled roofs and the panoramic Cote-d'Azur backdrop, you might think you were at some futuristic interplanetary hothouse, a plant version of the classic Star Wars bar, where strange and weird are the norm.

The exotic plants combine with sculptures that stand out prominently against the lush cliffs and the sweep of the sea. The views from atop this eagle's perch are far-reaching, extending from Italy to Saint Tropez and, on the clearest days, you can see the island of Corsica. From where I stood, the nearby peninsula of Cap Ferrat was discernible, with ships miniaturized out on the horizon. The coastal road and towns etched along the cliffs are part of the marvelous topography, yet the overall impression from the top is that nature still rules.

The obvious question is, why set an exotic garden way up here? As with everything in Europe, there is a history that explains how and why. Markers situated along the former battlement explained how the medieval stronghold morphed into a botanic garden. In 1706, during the war of the Spanish succession, Louis XIV ordered the destruction of the castle, "having seen the strategic situation between Villefranche and Monaco "in order to be able to preserve this communication." After World War II, a local mayor enlisted the help of Jean Gastaud, founder of the Monaco Exotic Garden, and voila! An extraordinary garden was born.

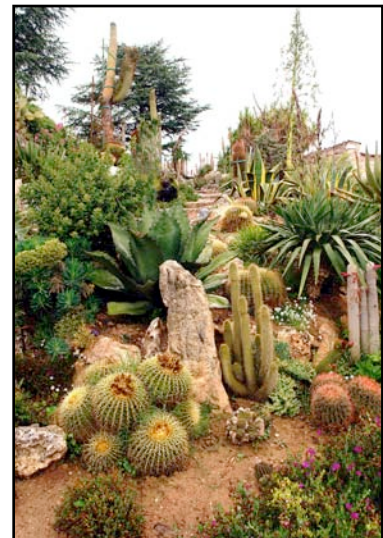
The site — being sheltered, well-drained, dry and warm — is ideally suited to exotics and, particularly, succulents. Thus grows a veritable forest of cactus and agaves and aloes through which one proceeds cautiously (spiky projections are a natural inhibitor of one's pace

here). Other plants soften the picture, including the daintiest sprays of alpine flora, lush tropicals, the sturdiest cypresses and indigenous pines. There are walkways and places to relax amid the vegetation and many panoramic angles to photograph.

Sculptures of earth goddesses by Jean-Philippe Richard are scattered throughout the garden, complementing and contrasting the plants. Stark and silhouetted, they appear intentionally mysterious, each one possessing its own personality. I read with interest that the sculptures are representations descended from Isis, a patron of nature, whom the

ancient Phoenicians venerated in such places.

Superimposed against the greenery to one side of the overlook is an ochre-colored church — a reminder of civilization — and the classic towers, roofs and walls that lead up to the mountain top. The garden is reached through the village of Eze, where narrow winding paths ascend past galleries, shops and cafes through archways and shady squares. It makes for an exhilarating jaunt, where medieval undertones are felt, even in the presence of tourists. The journey peaks with the exclamation points of monolithic cacti and the dramatic spread.



National Tropical Botanical Gardens - Carolyn Willard

When Chicago Industrialist Robert Allerton, art collector and advocate of the burgeoning field of landscape architecture, bought 80 acres of land on the Lawa'i River in Kauai, **HAWAII** from the McBryde sugar magnates in 1938, he planned a relatively simple summer getaway from the Midwest.

However, World War II got in the way. Allerton was at his summer home, once a residence for Hawaiian Queen Emma, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. All civilian travel ceased until the end of the war and that gave Allerton the time to create a landscape masterpiece, fed by an intricate irrigation system that used the run off from the McBryde's cane fields. Tropical plants and sculpture collected over decades of travel form room after outdoor room on the estate. The result is so lush and exotic that it formed the backdrop for the filming of Jurassic Park.

Shortly before Allerton died, his ambition to form a



National Tropical Botanical Gardens was realized and now includes his estate, as well as the McBryde research garden protecting indigenous Hawaii plants and other endangered tropical species and two other sites. The cane fields are no longer active, and the gardens now purchase water. The garden is accessible only by a tram on the old sugar cane railroad bed, which winds up the steep, lush mountainsides spilling with bougainvillea and ferns, while orchids and other tropicals dot the landscape. The two and a half hour tour was fascinating.

Visiting Gardens Trip to Newport, July 2008

On one of the hottest days of the summer, twenty five brave ladies embarked on a tour of five private gardens (all members of the Newport Garden Club) and a tour of the gardens at The Elms on Bellevue Avenue in NEWPORT. Mr. John Schirch of the Newport Preservation Society gave us a very informative tour of the gardens and particularly the restoration of the Sunken Garden.

-Anne Almy, Visiting Gardens Chair



NEW MEMBERS

Carolyn Willard

After living for 30 years in Concord, Mass, my boat designer husband Winn and I moved to South Dartmouth in November of 2006 to a house with a seriously overgrown yard. Bittersweet, the scourge of Dartmouth, covered the stone wall, completely enshrouded a clump of lilacs and forsythia and dangled from several specimen trees. I pulled, dug and carted bittersweet away to the dump to the amusement of the contractors working inside the house. Now I patrol the yard with a jar of Round-up and a paint brush.

Reclamation of the old perennial bed (originally planted by the late Jane Turner, a club member, in the sixties) is almost complete after two summers, lots of compost and addition of several plants from my old house. Since the Concord house was being razed I could dig up anything and I admit I tried to take the whole yard. The only hitch was anything I took I had to move twice, first to our summer home on the Cape and then to Dartmouth after we closed. I filled every pot and many garbage bags with daylily, peony, hosta, herbs, ferns and rock garden plants. A rhubarb my mother had moved from my childhood home in Chappaqua, N.Y. made the trip is now thriving; small mountain laurel and rhododendron that had more sentimental than plant value fell victim to an errant weed-wacking lawn guy in East Dennis. Some favorites are still on the Cape and may eventually make their way here because of the personal associations we gardening groupies seem to cherish (gift from a friend, cutting from Great Aunt Bea's, etc.).

In my former life, I worked as a newspaper reporter and editor at the Lowell Sun before having my three children, all now on their own, and then as a preschool teacher at a parent cooperative in Concord. Now I volunteer at the Whaling Museum and Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust and have done a little writing, as well as create personalized canvas totes for the preschool set (www.cwtotes.com). I am very excited to join garden club to learn more about a passion of mine.

Phoebe Perry

I became a member of The Bedford Garden Club in 1998. I came to gardening late. My mother was an avid gardener and she taught me well, but my creative energies were steered elsewhere. I am a painter with a BA in Art history and Studio Art from Sarah Lawrence College. Once I committed to establishing a relationship with plants, flowers and soil, gardening became a passion. I have a lot yet to learn, but one of my sincerest joys is playing in my garden and caring for my plants and shrubs.

I live in Marion with my husband of 35 years. Our children Ben, 24, and Jennifer 21, have flown the nest. We left Bedford three years ago, after a wonderful 27 years there, to live full time in Marion. My husband and I both spent our childhood summers in Marion, and our respective families continue to live and summer here. Our home overlooks Buzzards Bay with a strong southwest wind in our faces. As a result, our gardens are not formal. The wind and the salt determine their nature.

Linda Cornell

I come to the Buzzards Bay Garden Club with a lifelong interest and involvement with growing things. My love of plant material, both landscape and house plants, was kindled by gardening with both my parents. Dad always had a vegetable garden in the back yard, and Mom had her flower beds. This motivated me to seek a college career in the field, and I attended The University of Rhode Island, where I received a degree in agriculture.

This led to a series of jobs related to plants and landscape architecture. I worked for two years at Chase Farms in Portsmouth RI, specializing in bedding plants. I then worked at Lawton's Garden Center in Tiverton where Lloyd Lawton would challenge and teach me about identifying plants. Finally, I ended up at Peckham's Greenhouse in Little Compton, where my 20-plus years tenure made me an honorary member of the family.

I was approached by Tina Read to join the GCBB on the very day I "retired" from Peckham's. The decision to leave my full time job there has left me with more free time to spend with David, my husband of 22 years. We live on 26 acres of farmland and woods in South Dartmouth, so there is no shortage of outdoor projects to keep us busy. I have designed and created many gardens, and these are in constant need of upkeep and "tweaking."

In 2006 I started school at the New England Institute of Universal Studies in Wareham to become certified in the field of Reflexology. I completed this degree in 2007 and now have my own private practice here in Dartmouth.

On the grounds here where I live, I consider the plantings to be an ongoing study of principles I have been exposed to throughout my career in horticulture. Peckham's Greenhouse served as a never-ending source of new things to try out in the setting of my own "test" gardens. I also enjoyed the challenge of bringing home shrubs that were less than perfect, and not up to the high standards Rick Peckham has for things he has for sale. My "rescue plants" usually thrived with a little TLC.

I am thrilled to be a part of the GCBB. I now have a wonderful greenhouse to go to, and I am surrounded by plant-savvy women who have a vast wealth of knowledge to share.



In Memory Of...

Molly Barrows



Molly Barrows joined the Garden Club in 1996. She willingly supported all the clubs activities, but was partial to working in the boxwood garden. She relished learning the names of the different boxwoods and was proud of the gardens immaculate appearance. She hated to miss greenhouse and attended whenever possible. Molly loved learning and she loved people and she cherished the friendship of the members. Molly and I were friends for more than 70 years, how fortunate I have been.

-Celeste Penney

Kay Buckley

Kay Buckley was a member of the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay from 1973 until this past autumn. She was a vital active member who was agreeable to any task, and initiated a great many of them herself. Kay, on her own, raised a significant amount of money within our club for our greenhouse, built on the RJD property. Without her leadership, this project would never have happened so quickly.

One of my favorite stories about Kay and her humor was that she had a lovely mum plant which none of us had ever seen around New England. With a straight face, she described how when visiting gardens, she always brought a plastic bag and a small pair of scissors. That is where she obtained the cutting for this plant. These adventures were described, along with many others, with a twinkle in her eye.

A description of Kay would include many facets- a natural ladylike quality, warmth, a sense of humor unsurpassed, and a knowledge of many things, including the financial world.

Words cannot express the love and admiration which we all had for her, and we miss her very much.

- Timmy Shapiro



Harriet Baker



Harriet Barker, a veteran club member passed away last May following a stroke. She was 90 years old.

I saw Harriet a few weeks ago in Lee's Supermarket. She looked great and was grocery shopping while being pushed in a wheelchair by an aide. As we chatted, she had wanted to make sure I told everyone how much she had appreciated the "thinking of you" card we had signed at the greenhouse a month or so ago. She said she remembered always signing those cards and not thinking much about it. She said now that she was the one receiving the card, she wanted folks to know how much it meant to her. Harriet had been a member of GCBB for over thirty years. She will be missed.

-Ellen Christie

NOTICES

GCA Spring Meeting in Brookline

The Boston Committee of the Garden Club of America will hold its Spring Meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2009 at The Country Club in Brookline. The featured speaker will be Peter Vanderwarker. Peter Vanderwarker's work has been published internationally in books and in magazines. He has currently completed his fifth book project, "Beacon Hill: A Living Portrait," copies of which will be available for purchase at the meeting, with a portion of the sales price benefiting The Boston Committee.

Peter also travels and exhibits extensively. In 2007, he led a photo expedition to Bhutan. Recent exhibitions include shows in New York and Boston. Upcoming shows include a large one-man show at the Boston Athenaeum in 2009.

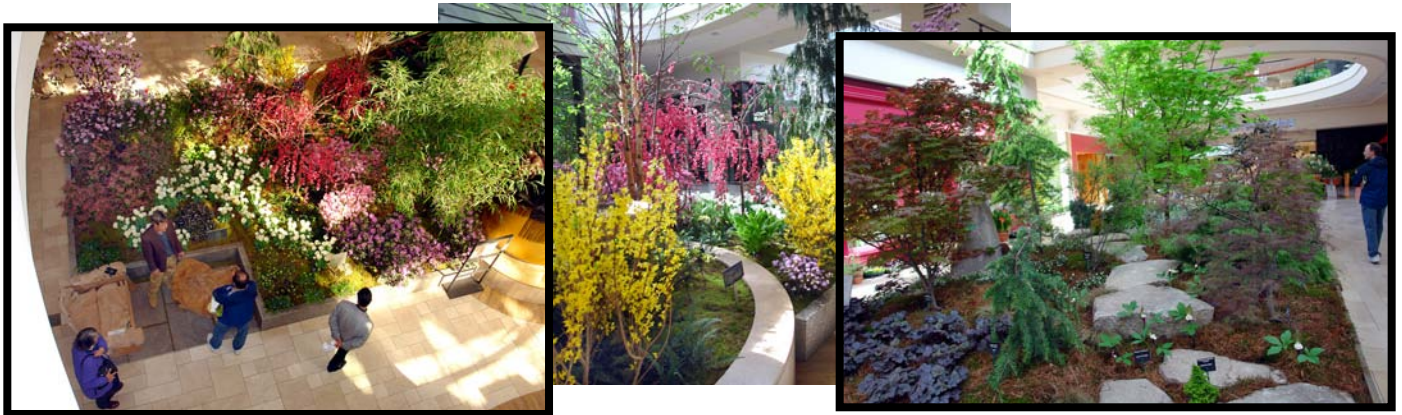
The National Endowment for the Arts and the Graham Foundation have supported Peter Vanderwarker's work, and he has received Institute Honors from the American Institute of Architects.

The Boston Committee Bowl will be presented at this meeting to Boston resident Margaret Pokorny, honoring her work planting and preserving the trees throughout the Back Bay.

The Boston Committee of The Garden Club of America, a not for profit organization, was formed to achieve the following purposes: To educate the general public regarding regional environmental concerns and horticultural practices; to assist individuals and organizations in the design and beautification of public parks and grounds and in the planting of green areas; to meet with representatives to exchange views on issues and concerns of the region; to encourage civic achievement in the environment and in horticulture by presenting awards for design, restoration of public areas, or for other related purposes as part of its public interaction. Through its Blossom Fund, The Boston Committee continues to provide seed money to Boston area not for profit organizations for their garden and/or preservation projects. In the fall of 2007, the Executive Committee announced a three to five year Blossom Fund initiative to raise between thirty and fifty thousand dollars to be disbursed to one or more deserving aspects of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway.

Please also note on your calendars: the 6th Annual Justine Mee Liff Fund Party in the Park, May 13, 2009 11:30 a.m., this year to be held at Kelleher Rose Garden, Back Bay Fens.

Blooms!: A Different Kind of Flower Show



The Massachusetts Horticultural Society collaborated with Simon Property Groups in March to host BLOOMS! – a garden and landscape exhibition at three Boston Malls (Copley Place; Chestnut Hill and the Atrium) and various venues along the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway. The show provided a shot in the arm during these dismal economic times and after the prolonged winter.

The decision made last fall to cancel the flower show broke a 137-year tradition and made waves throughout the industry that relied on it for sustenance, from wholesalers to retailers to home gardeners. The show has been a kind of symbolic thawing out for spring as well as a way of promoting business for exhibitors.

This year's event did serve to revive spirits as Diane Dalton of Chestnut Hill Garden Club remarked while strolling past the displays. "Everyone missed the New England Show. It's a delight to come in and see the color and hear the birds...a breath of fresh air!" A past horticultural judge and design judge for GCA, Mrs. Dalton praised the exhibits - including several by SouthCoast landscapers. "I think it's a win-win," she said of the collaboration between the malls and MassHort. - *Laura McLean*

