



WINTER 2011
NEWSLETTER



THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA
is proud to honor

*Eightieth Anniversary of the Founding of
The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay*

*The Garden Club of America
commends you in representing the ideals of
The Garden Club of America:*

*In the study of horticulture,
propagation, and the beauty of living plants;*

*For the Woodlands Walk in an
urban environment and the teaching of children;*

*For continuing the study of ecological aspects
of conservation, and the preservation of
our natural wonders in this world;*

*For the beauty of flower design which reflect what we
see in sunrise, sunset, and our surroundings.*

*The Garden Club of America
congratulates you for maintaining all of these aspects
in education of yourselves and the public."*

October 2010



President's Message

We're told, "Time flies when you are having fun!" According to this "adage" we must all be flying on the jet stream! It's hard to believe that we are already in the mid-term of our garden club year.

As you peruse this Winter Newsletter, it will become obvious that although we were "promised" last June that we would be given a bit of a rest after the busy Zone 1 Meeting, committee activities and projects have really never slowed their pace and we are all just as happily active as ever.

Hopefully, the articles and the many photographs that Newsletter Chair, Laura McLean, has assembled for us will highlight some good memories, and bring a smile to your faces. I hope they will also stimulate your interest to stay involved during the coming months.

Looking forward, the goals of the Executive Committee for this year, which included our celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the GCBB at our Holiday Party, are still on-going with the assistance of the History and Archive Committee, and the By-law Committee. You will be hearing more from them during the rest of this year.

The Program Committee has this year's monthly meetings in place. Check your yearbook for topics, dates and places and mark them in your 2011 calendar. This is especially important for the assigned Hostesses, as hostessing is a commitment to help with set-up and break-down as well as providing goodies. While marking those dates, please remember to highlight, in red letters, the Wildflower Walk for the local 4th Graders on May 2 -5, 2011 at the RJD Woodland Walk, and the "Color Your World" Plant Sale at St. Mary's Church on Saturday, May 14, 2011. The committees are already meeting and will need all of our participation to succeed with these GCBB community contributions.

The Greenhouse Committee is planning a few special lectures and tutorials for the enjoyment of all our members. They will keep you informed with special Sunday Blast e-mails and the monthly calendar listings.

Okay, clear the runways...we're off and flying again,

Mary



Committee Reports

Greenhouse Committee

A New Day At The Greenhouse

Starting off the new greenhouse season we have put into the directive that our goal, along with healthy happy plants, is to make things more fun and educational. Our small band of Tuesday workers is such a knowledgeable group, with very different skills, that we have encouraged everyone to spend time Tuesday mornings sharing their various areas of expertise. With this, we not only get an education, but we are forming more intimate bonds. Our various tutorials have become our method of working alongside one another as a cohesive group, working from the same "*play book*" for the greenhouse. One of these educational tutorials came from Tina who taught us all how to take herbaceous cuttings. We followed this up with Fran and Leslie teaching us how succulent cuttings differ in their requirements - a stark contrast and one that we can easily follow to make successful plants from cuttings. We have many such tutorials planned for future Tuesdays.

We were happy to have Rick Peckham of Peckham's Greenhouse here in October for his ideas on 'Putting Your Garden To Bed' for the winter. He was, as always, a wealth of knowledge when it came to answering all our questions. Future "in house" tutorials include successful watering, potting cuttings and sprouted seedlings, insect identification and with this, methods of convincing them to live somewhere else. The first Tuesday back after the holidays Andrew Bray came in and discussed the possibility of using beneficial bugs to keep the population of damaging pests in check. As the weather gets warmer these increase in numbers in our greenhouse. This is a new and exciting adventure and puts us in the category of using an Integrated Pest Management Program. In January Nancy, Carolyn and Tina put together a program to teach us about flower arranging. Quite a few of us were hands on creating an arrangement to take home. In February we will have Geoff Dennis with his slide presentation on birds. Geoff's photographs are used by RI Conservancy, RI Audubon, US Fish and Wildlife and Cornell University's online Birds of North America - a most impressive resume. March hopefully brings Leslie back to show us all how to make pots from clay, which she will then fire for us. In March we will also be presenting a repeat of Deb Stevens' Spring Solstice Gong Bath. Last year this was a "not to be missed" event!

Another change we have made is to send along our "Sunday Blasts" via email to all members explaining what we will be working on the following Tuesday. These have been fun for those who have not been able to attend the greenhouse as it keeps everyone updated and involved.

As this is a work in progress we continue to tweak the system in hopes of finding the best way to successfully grow healthy plants for our members and our plant sale. Together we have made the greenhouse a place where we all have a chance to learn from each other and to create a bloomin' fun time!



---Submitted by Linda Cornell

We have had a wonderful Fall into Winter, so many helpers in the greenhouse. The Greenhouse is still evolving and we are changing all the time to try to make things better. At this writing it is hard to note a huge difference as the days are short and predominately grey. Some of our little babies are trying and doing well and a few are not. Thanks to a great pre-greenhouse meeting with the last few years provisionals we have new ideas in teaching and communication. Lots Of Great Things Are Happening!

New for this year are:

- Sunday Greenhouse Blast: to let everyone know what we will be doing and how. Sometimes there are follow-up emails on the Tuesday work.
- Information board with daily jobs and practices located outside greenhouse.
- 9:00 AM instructions, tutorials, discussions, demonstrations then to work.
- Coffee, water, cheese, nuts, are available by fridge, We miss the yummy goodies but we get more done with out and we don't really need them.
- Fall and Spring work is divided between outside and in, your choice.
- Cuttings: We are trying new soil mixtures and methods for greater success.
- Transplants: We are putting in smaller pots then moving up when they have a larger root system.
- Watering: This is the most challenging, when in doubt don't water. That means we need to check each plant and only water on an individual basis.

- Drying Out: we are letting the plants really dry out between waterings.
- Turning: Each week the plant sale plants get turned North, South, East, West.
- Fertilizer: each new transplant gets a dose of osmocote to feed it.
- Cultivating: Last week we started cultivating the surface of each pot to reduce soil gnats and see just how wet each was.
- Beneficial Bugs: We are going to try introducing beneficial bugs into the Greenhouse to eat and destroy the bad bugs. Andrew from Peckham's Greenhouse gave us an outline last week and will start by cleaning the house this week.
- Seeds: The committee met and have ordered seeds for the spring.
- Seed Started mix: We will use a fine milled seed starter mix again this year.

--Submitted by Tina Read





Conservation Committee



The Conservation Committee has mostly completed its front garden design and planting project at the Nathan and Polly Johnson House, a National Historical Register site in New Bedford. The house is famous for its owners taking in the escaped slave who became known as Frederick Douglass, the renowned abolitionist orator. The garden was designed to highlight Polly Johnson's profession as a caterer and confectioner. The committee assembled materials including historical design principles, particulars of plants selected, period recipes, illustrations of period table layouts and selected plant illustrations that will become a website destination associated with the New Bedford Historical Society (NBHS), with whom we partnered in this project. The committee assembled a booklet of these materials that was distributed to attendees of the Zone 1 meeting that our club hosted in June of this year and to the NBHS. In conjunction with our partnership with the NBHS, our committee wrote to New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang expressing our support for the idea to turn a nearby vacant property into a park celebrating Abolitionists' Way, as this area of Seventh St was known in the 19th century. Our last effort this year is completing a maintenance guide for the NBHS; in the spring we will espalier the pear and demonstrate proper pruning of the boxwood plantings in the garden to Historical Society caretakers and interested GCBB members.

Our two recent projects at the Buttonwood Park Zoo are still serving our committee's mission. The booklet we compiled concerning existing indigenous plants and our plantings along Buttonwood Brook within the Zoo remains available to visitors. We hope its contents will increase the public's awareness of the usefulness of these plants in home gardens in our area, many of which border sensitive wetlands, and encourage home landscape plantings. Our Garden for Butterflies continues to delight the thousands of children who visit the Zoo every year. Mother butterflies lay their eggs in the safety of barrel-halves planted at the ends of benches where other! mothers can rest while their energetic kids watch for caterpillars and for mature butterflies fluttering around the central garden seeking water and nectar. Inside the main classroom building, a magnifying camera has shown the brand new live butterfly breaking free of its chrysalis. The Zoo's website (bpzoo.org) gives updates on butterfly activity and lists plants suitable for our area which provide shelter and nectar, so our visitors can create a Habitat for Butterflies at home.

Our club was represented at the annual NAL Conference in Washington D.C. by Joan Underwood, who gave an oral report to our club on the conference and current conservation concerns that the group emphasized to members of Congress that they visited.

---Submitted by Susan Rothschild



Membership Committee

The committee in all its techno up-to-dateness has been meeting via e-mail and exchanging views on old policies and new potential members. By and large, those e-mails keep us in touch, but nothing beats the real thing and early this Fall we met at Tina's house to meet Margaret Forbush and were immediately unanimous in our decision that she should be a new provisional. All went according to the protocol and Margaret is our newest member. We are still beating the bushes for potential candidates that fit the criteria as proposed in the Membership section of our Bible. We are pretty full up right now but are always on the lookout for that down in the dirt candidate.

---Submitted by Fran Levin---

40 Years or Longer Award Recipients 2008

Gertrude Burr	40 years
Julia Fifield	65 years
Polly Howes	50 years
Betsy McBratney	40 years
Mary Plowden-Wardlaw	65 years
Jane Ryder	40 years
Anne Scott	50 years
Janet Steele	50 years



Woodland Walk Committee

More than 400 New Bedford fourth grade students toured Woodland Walk, Greenhouse and Community Gardens during last May's Woodland Walk. Over four days of glorious weather, more than 25 members acted as guides for the hour-long tours, explaining the life cycles of plants, pointing out wildflowers and ferns and dissecting tulips. This May the committee hopes to add a few more classes and to improve training and materials to more closely follow the state's Learning Standards. We'll meet again in April.



The correct dates for the 2011 Woodland Walk are: Monday, May 2 -- Training session at 9:30 and Tuesday, May 3 through Friday, May 6 -- Meet at 8:30; tours from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

-- submitted by Carolyn Willard



Plant Sale Committee

Plans are underway for the annual plant sale with a theme of "Color Your World." We shall have about 45 different annuals and close to 20 different varieties of tomatoes. We are considering a "Fall Table" for varieties which come into their own late summer. There will be some perennials contributed by members. May 14, is the big day 9-12 at St. Mary's.

--Submitted by Sally Truslow



Features

Adventures in Andalusia

By Susan McLaren
November 2010

My husband and I recently returned from a wonderful 3 week trip to Spain, touring the southern region of Andalusia first by bike and later by car. This is sunny Spain at its best the land of flamenco and bullfights, orange and olive trees, beaches along the Mediterranean, picturesque “pueblos blancos”, medieval white villages, perched on inland hilltops, and romantic cities with their unique blend of Christian, Jewish and Moorish cultures.

Our adventure started when we joined our VBT (Vermont Bike tours) group of 20 in Seville. Over the next week, we biked through the hilly Spanish countryside and

enjoyed

many fun

cultural experiences along the way.

These included sherry and olive oil tastings, lunches with local families at their cortijos (historic farms), cooking and Spanish lessons, flamenco at a local club, and more. We also toured the architectural wonders of Seville, Cordoba and Granada and enjoyed the Arab public baths, complete with Moroccan tea and a massage. When our bike trip ended in Granada, we rented a car and struck out on our own to continue exploring Andalusia.

Our lodgings were unique and special everywhere we stayed. One favorite hotel was Monasterio de San Francisco in Palma del Rio. As the name suggests, it was a Franciscan convent built in 1492, and a learning and cultural center in its day.

Franciscan monks from here founded American missions and introduced the famous orange groves of California. The monastery still has wonderful courtyards and a monastic dining room that evokes the one at Harry Potter’s Hogwarts School. Behind the monastery are extensive vegetable gardens – each

surrounded by a hedge of boxwood or myrtle, and 65 orange trees, some of which are 500 years old and still producing juice for hotel guests.



Sunny Andalusia, with its arid Mediterranean climate, is a plant lover's delight. In the countryside, there are miles and miles of rolling hills covered with olive trees; cork trees and orange groves are also abundant. Seville is famous for the orange trees that line its streets and dot its plazas and courtyards. The nearly ripe oranges of Seville looked enticing, but unfortunately aren't edible due to pollution. The cities and towns of Andalusia have gardens everywhere – large and small, public and private. Most have a Moorish flavor with a series of walled rooms, amazing tile work, curved archways, pools and fountains, and lush plantings. We toured two especially famous gardens – one in Seville and another in Granada.



The gardens of the royal palace of Seville (Jardines del Real Alcazar) adjoin a magnificent palace built in the 14th century for Pedro the Cruel, now the oldest palace in Europe still used as a royal residence. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella lived here at one time and received Columbus here on his return from America. The gardens are full of tropical flowers and cool fountains and a great oasis for tourists during the heat of summer. There's an intimate geometric Moorish garden, an 18th century English garden and a Poet's garden featuring two ponds. An elevated walkway along one side offers excellent views of all the gardens.

In Granada, the fabled Alhambra (red castle) is the greatest of Spain's Moorish palaces and one of

Europe's top tourist sights, attracting up to 8000 visitors per day. Just north of the Alhambra are the lush gardens of the sultan's summer palace and its main building, the Generalife (pronounced heh-neh-rah-lee-feh), not to be confused with an insurance company. Built in the 13th century, this palace and country estate was a cool retreat for the sultans and their harems. Originally the 75 acres of gardens contained orchards and pastures for domestic animals but have been much modified over the years. Highlights of today's gardens include the Court of the Water Channel with its long pool framed by flowerbeds, fountains and pavilions, the Sultana's Garden, a Christian Renaissance garden, a pathway lined with cypress trees, and much more. The flowers, herbs, water and aromas of the Generalife gardens are meant to be an earthly representation of the Koran's description of heaven.

Andalusia is a captivating and intriguing part of Spain with much to see and do. The best way to appreciate its rich beauty, history and tradition is to plan a visit and experience it for yourself.

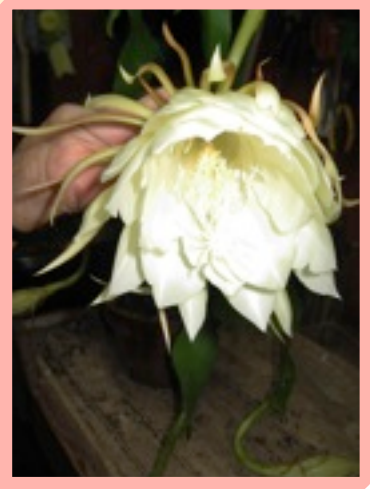


Nocturnal Wonder

photos and text by Carolyn Willard



One night in early September, Betsy and Greer McBratney invited me over to see their Night-Blooming Cereus. The plant had about four unopened blossoms. Over 20 minutes or so, the flower opened to its fullest. Within a few more hours it would close again and drop off. One of the strangest plants of the desert, the Night-blooming Cereus (sometimes called Queen of the Night or lunar flower) is a member of the cactus family that resembles nothing more than a dead bush most of the year. But for one night each year, its exquisitely scented flower opens as night falls, then closes forever with the first rays of the morning sun.



FLORABUNDA!

by Tina Read

Carolyn Willard and Nancy Watson attended a GCA Flower Arranging 101 Workshop last April. They agreed to pass on the information they learned to 10 willing arrangers last week. They provided a written information packet with ideas on conditioning flowers, a proper tool kit, and suggestions for 10 arrangements and how to make them work.

They also provided containers, oasis and a bucket of flowers for each. It was fun and everyone got over the "Fear of Flowers" and went home with a lovely arrangement. We are hoping to do this again as all who attended said they were interested in learning more.



The Mysteries of the Clivia Plant

by Mary Schubert

It seems that even the most astute house plant gardeners are mystified by this lovely plant. The foliage is magnificent, but where or where are those gorgeous blooms? Why do some gardeners seem to enjoy them when most of us cannot seem to coax this plant into showing its spectacular array in our garden rooms?

At a GCBB's plant sale several years ago, I bought a Clivia plant, full of the above mentioned foliage, which had belonged (and bloomed) to Kay Bullard. I was instructed to keep it fairly dry and in filtered light. As I tried to nurture and nudge my new prize, I became the butt of jest by my friends and family, who otherwise think me to have a decent green thumb.

Last Spring, in the 2010 GCA Annual Meeting Program Book, I was interested to read that the "secret" of the Clivia bloom was to cut an apple in half and place it in the pot. Amazing things would happen...No! I have now another "secret" to pass on. I have no proof that it will work, however it comes from the official Clivia website, by way of my librarian daughter in Seattle. She swears it works every year for her mother-in law in Williamstown. Now there lies a challenge!

Here we go: A Clivia plant is generally considered to be mature, and old enough to bloom, when it has produced 12 to 14 leaves. This can happen anytime between two years to five years of age. Mature plants grow leaves in sets of four, followed by the start of an inflorescence (flowering structure). If the plant is kept warm, kept carefully watered, and fed from time to time, it will continue this cycle indefinitely, without ever flowering (HaH!) The small flower buds produced after every fourth leaf can stay small and latent (inactive) forever. Eventually, the older latent inflorescences will disappear if the plant is not induced to flower.

So...here is the new secret: To induce a mature Clivia plant to flower, the growth cycle must be interrupted. It is usually advisable to stop watering the plant at this time. The plant must be exposed to cool temperatures for the equivalent of about 25 to 30 days and nights. The temperatures should be kept between 55 degrees and 34 degrees during this period. Do not expose the plant to freezing temperatures (32 degrees

or lower at any time. If warmer temperatures are unavoidable occasionally during this critical cooling time, the overall cooling time may have to be extended. Without adequate cooling, the latent flower structure will not be activated, and the plant will not bloom, no matter how mature and otherwise healthy it is. When you deem that the plant has had sufficient cooling, it will be time to increase the temperatures to the range of 65 to 75 degrees. Then watering can be resumed, cautiously at first. Excess water on the roots before the plant starts into active growth again can cause rot.

The Clivia web page recommends cautious feeding with a soluble plant food high in potassium be initiated at this time. When the plant starts to bloom, you will first see the new inflorescence as a tight cluster of buds deep down between the leaves to one side of the central growing point. It suggests turning the container in which your clivia is growing every day until the flowers start to open so that the new flower scape will not lean to one side.

The End: But if you try this new secret method, remember it was I who warned you that your Clivia plant has now become your "new best high maintenance friend." Good luck.



Events

Landscape Architecture with Doug Reed & Jam Jar Exchange



September found members gathering to hear landscape architect Doug Reed speak after collecting flora from their gardens for a “jam jar exchange.”

“This is the second year of our jam jar exchange, which gives us all an opportunity to show off our garden’s offerings, whether they be flowers, herbs, fruit or greenery,” said Tina Reed, explaining the idea was imported by the late Agnes Armstrong from the GCA Annual Meeting in Providence. “The idea is to share with other members, something from your garden. For the past two years members have exchanged everything from flowers, herbs, jam, salsa, tomatoes, pickles, and enjoyed sharing their gifts. “This is a wonderful way to remember one of our joyous and enthusiastic members. Thank you Agnes for a great idea which we will continue to share.”

The club welcomed Gail Janeczek as our latest Honorary Member of the GCBB, and accolades went to Kate Corkum for winning the GCA Zone Historic Preservation Award.

Mr. Reed’s talk was well received as he talked about the analysis of both the “objective and poetic realities of a site and its context” and how growth and change are factors embraced by the landscape architect. He founded the firm Reed Hilderbrand Landscape Architecture specializing in site design in 1993 and has built a reputation for excellence in design with award-winning projects throughout the United States and abroad. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University and the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and has taught at the University of Virginia, Louisiana State University and the Radcliffe Seminars in Landscape Design. He has lectured here and abroad at the American Center in Paris, France.





Provisional Luncheon

The Garden Club kicked off the new club year with a luncheon for provisional members, Susan McLaren and Kissy Russell, at the home of Tina Read. Other guests of honor were newly named active members, Laura Campbell, Linda Cornell, Susan Mead, Nan Sinton, Sally Truslow, Ruth Ann Walega, and Carolyn Willard.

Members of the executive committee in attendance were Gail Davidson, Tammy Beckman, Timmy Shapiro, Anne Almy, Mary Schubert and Tina. The membership committee was represented by Fran Levin and Sue Siegal.

Tina's lunch menu of vegetarian quiches, curried chicken salad, herbal greens salad, blueberry muffins, iced tea and lemonade was a visual as well as a culinary delight. A variety of cookies by Mary were offered for dessert. A lively discussion of the "Provisional Experience" ensued, which was informative for everyone, and resulted in some positive ideas for the future.

The Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. Fall Conference At Andover Country Club on October 26, 2010

Timmy Shapiro and Mary Schubert accepted the invitation to attend this meeting. It was quite an impressive gathering of more than 300 women, all Massachusetts gardeners. Massachusetts alone has 350 garden clubs in the federation.

The National Garden Club President, Renee Blaschke was introduced and spoke of her travels throughout the country visiting many of the member clubs. During the business meeting, The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay was presented with a citation honoring its 80th Anniversary year. Dracut Garden Club gave a presentation of their very successful Earth Day Project which involved their whole community. The Shrewsbury Garden Club talked about a Fragrant Garden, a work in progress, they are planning and planting in their town. The Garden Club of Amherst has taken on a tree project in their community, identifying all the trees planted through the years around the Emily Dickinson and Amherst College properties.

Marcia and Mark Wilson, with the "assistance" of five live owls, entertained and informed the group about the "Owls of the World." It was a busy morning, but a worthwhile day. Both women were impressed with the work of the Federation, an organization to which we pay dues and have taken a rather passive membership role.



Mini Zone 1 Meeting

At Tower Hill Botanic Garden on October 13, 2010



The Mini Zone Meeting was called to order by Beth Meyers, Zone 1 Chairman. After a welcome from Margot Paddock, Zone 1 Director, and approval of the minutes presented by Marguerite Borden, Zone 1 Vice Chairman, we were greeted by Joann Vieira, Tower Hill Horticulture Director.

Joann spoke of several of the new developments on the Tower Hill property, in particular the Kitty Ferguson pool and winter garden plantings which are just about complete. The vision is to have the heated pool and the turtle fountains operational all year round. She encouraged us all to return during the winter months to see what is possible to keep our gardens viable every month of the year.

Kathy Michie, president of the Worcester Garden Club, introduced Mark Digeronimo, Plant Protection and Quarantine Technician from the US Department of Agriculture. Mark brought us all up to date on the work that is being done in the Worcester area regarding the infestation of the Asian

Longhorned Beetle. He also made us aware of the signs we should be watching for in our own areas, as the beetle has been found in several other locations in Massachusetts. At the end of his presentation, Cacky Hodgson, of the Worcester club, announced that the Worcester club would be applying for the Founder's Fund Award to assist with their involvement in the eradication of this destructive beetle.



Arabella Dane, Chairman of Zone 1 Website, encouraged everyone to get more involved with the new website and demonstrated how to learn about other clubs activities and to communicate

what our club is doing. At present, the Home Page is highlighting the Zone 1 Meeting in New Bedford, hosted by the GCBB.

Round Table Discussions were then conducted in various rooms throughout the property by the Zone 1 Chairs in their particular disciplines. GCBB members who took part in these break-out meetings were: **Tammy Beckman** and **Winnie Phyfe**, Treasurers; Anne Webb and Joan Underwood, Conservation ; Tina Reed, Flower Show; **Carolyn Willard** and **Nan Sinton**, Garden History & Design; **Ruth Furman**, Horticulture; **Christel Phipps** and **Janet Sherwood**, Program; **Ruth Ann Walega**, Public Relation; **Mary Schubert**, President.

A box lunch was served. Delegates were encouraged to enjoy them in the surrounding gardens. It was the perfect opportunity to discover new planting ideas for our own personal landscapes, and share new ideas discussed at the various Round Tables.



“Putting your Gardens to Bed and Beyond.”

Rick Peckham returned by popular demand in October with an informative talk: “Putting your Gardens to Bed and Beyond.” Here are some tips he provided:

Objectives:

- ☀ To obtain and maintain a healthy garden that looks pleasing to the eye for the fall season.
- ☀ To decrease the amount of pre-work you’ll need to do for next gardening season (spring).
- ☀ To help your plants get through our tough winters.

Annuals The party is over but you can collect and save annual seeds for planting next Spring. Simply dry the seeds and keep them dry and warm until next May when you’re ready to sow.

- ☀ Suggestions: cleome, cosmos, marigold, nicotiana, migella, sunflower, zinnia.

Perennials As August approaches, begin cutting back spent growth all the way back to the ground. This forces new growth out of the root system, keeping your perennials looking lush.

- ☀ Examples: astilbe, bearded iris, beebalm, daylily, geranium, nepeta, yarrow.

As September & October arrive, you may move and divide some of your perennials. Those which are hardy in zones 5,4,& 3 are safe to move/divide. Zones 6 & 7 are best left for Spring.

- ☀ Examples for Fall Dividing: daylily, iris, peony, poppy, rudbeckia, yarrow.

Shrubs Fall moves in and shrubs begin to go dormant by way of making new buds on the tip growth. It is best to leave them alone at this time, unless....

- ☀ Growth through spring and summer was less than lush. If so, top dress with a mulch of composted manure about 2” thick.

- ☀ Poor planting location led to poor growth (e.g. Too much sun, too muc shade, too much wind, etc.) In this case move the shrub to the proper location and cut it back hard. This will stimulate new growth in Spring.



Winter Protection for Your Garden Beds

- ☀ “Wilt Pruf” used as an anti desiccant to keep moisture in frozen buds & leaves. Excellent for plants like heaths, heathers, helleborus, hollies, rhododendrons, and roses.
- ☀ Straw or Spruce Branches used as top dress. This will keep plants protected from cold while allowing air and moisture to pass through.
- ☀ Burlap Wraps used as a last resort for newly-planted evergreens and not-so-hardy shrubs & perennials. Use stakes to surround the plant, then wrap burlap around and staple it to stakes.

WaterFire Creator Speaks at Joint Session



Mid-October brought event artist Barnebe Evans of “WaterFire” fame to speak at a joint meeting of our club and Little Compton at the Sakonnet Golf Club. His presentation was fascinating as the famous event artist gave a show and tell of his transformation of Providence with this unique torch-lighting along the river combining elaborate ceremony with music inspired by every corner of the world.

Mr. Evans is an artist who works in many media including site-specific sculpture installations, photography, film, garden design, architectural projects, writing and conceptual works. He created WaterFire in its first version in 1994 in Providence as First Fire to celebrate the tenth anniversary of First Night

Providence. With hundreds of volunteers and the broad support of the community he established WaterFire as an on-going installation in 1997. Among numerous other projects Mr. Evans is known for his photography which is included in the permanent collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; the Bibliotheque Nation, Paris; the Musee'd'art et d'histoire, Fribourg, Switzerland and RISD's Museum of Art among others.

Greens Workshop

It's Not Easy Being Green

It's not that easy being green
 Having to spend each day the color of the leaves
 When I think it could be nicer being red, or yellow or gold
 Or something much more colorful like that
 It's not easy being green
 It seems you blend in with so many other ordinary things
 And people tend to pass you over 'cause you're
 Not standing out like flashy sparkles in the water
 Or stars in the sky
 But green's the color of Spring
 And green can be cool and friendly-like
 And green can be big like an ocean, or important
 Like a mountain, or tall like a tree
 When green is all there is to be
 It could make you wonder why, but why wonder why
 Wonder, I am green and it'll do fine, it's beautiful
 And I think it's what I want to be.
 --by Joe Raposo



Project Native: Growing Nature's Garden

by Laura McLean

The ideas sprouted ten years ago when a restless nature-loving 19-year-old wanted to replace invasive plants with natives. Raina Weber, visited the GCBB in November with a beautiful slide presentation tracing the development of the organization she founded "Project Native." The native plant nursery in the Berkshires began on a modest plot with 25 varieties of native perennials.

"It started from an aesthetic reason,' she said, describing inclination to "take the plants that grew in the wild and put them in gardens." This led to learning about the plants that grew in the region prior to European settlement. The first year, the group began collecting seeds of species "based on beauty."

"She defined invasives as "non-indigenous plants, introduced to an area intentionally or accidentally," explaining, "A single invasive specie can crowd out a community of native plants, because they evolved elsewhere, they have no natural checks and balances."



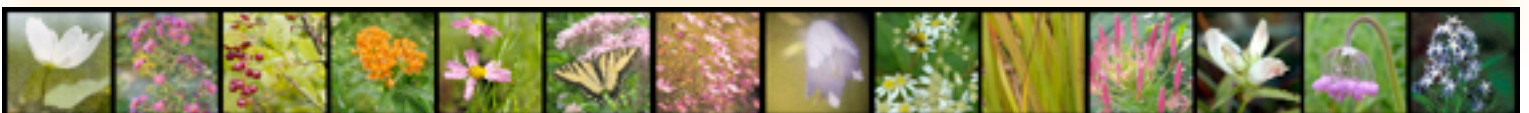
"Why do I love native plants? Natives require so little and give us so much."

-- Raina Weber.

The first plant sale in 2001 reaped \$20,000. This early success as well as involvement with outreach education program blossomed into a successful endeavor with a multiple offshoots that include botanical gardens, educational programs, a nursery and shop, landscaping and seed beds. Ms. Weber described trials and tribulations of seeing her dream through - a four foot snowstorm that caved in the greenhouse in 2003 was later met with support from the Nature Conservancy in securing a new home (Sunways Farm on Route 41 in Housatonic). "We went from 1/8 acre to 54 acres!"

Today there are more than 175 varieties of native plants growing in the nursery, including wildflowers, ferns, wetland species, blooming shrubs, grasses and small trees. A small, dedicated staff custom mixes soils and manages the plants organically.

Project Native is a grassroots community initiative that has been nurtured and guided by environmental professionals. Young people have been empowered to take the lead in becoming responsible stewards of local natural habitats. Project Native has become a region-wide environmental organization providing indigenous plants to nurseries, landscapers and homeowners who are interested not only in beautifying their own backyards, but also in restoring the wild habitat and diversity of the region. With lusciously informative photography Ms. Weber shared her success story with members leaving us much to consider as we make decision at the nursery.



Tips & Garden Wisdom

Cuttings Review : Soft Wood Cuttings :

- Take cuttings from the new soft tip growth from your plants.
- Cut just below the "node" where the leaves are attached. Where the leaves grow from so will the roots, therefore don't leave extra stem below node it will rot and cause cutting to fail.
- Use sterilized knife or scissors (spray in alcohol) to make cuts.
- Cut off the flower at top --don't pull off leaves it can tear stem as well and cutting will fail.
- Cut off all leaves except the top two (this is the growing end) and the cutting will then put its energy into making roots from the node on the "earth" end.
- If top leaves are too big they may be cut in half.
- Dust the lower node or nodes into "Rootone"* (hormone and disease retardant powder) tap off excess.
- Use "dibble" to poke hole in soil.
- Stick cutting in soil and firm up soil all around stem to ensure the whole stem is in contact with soil.
- Water in if soil needs it and mark with date and name of plant.

*Rootone: a rooting hormone put a small amount in paper cup (use sparingly) DO NOT RETURN UNUSED POWDER TO CONTAINER--it can be covered with plastic and used another time



Harvest Bisque

From Barbara J. Pease

(Based on a recipe from Pamela McKinstry's Nantucket Cookbook)

- ¼ cup butter
- ¾ c yellow onion, minced
- 4 oz. mushrooms, sliced
- 1 lb. carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1 lb. parsnips, peeled and sliced
- 1 apple, peeled and sliced
- 3 cups vegetable stock (Knorr cubed veggie stock is good)
- 6 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 ½ cups light cream
- ½ cup pure apple cider, unsweetened
- ¼ tsp. nutmeg
- Salt and black pepper, to taste

1. In a large skillet melt the butter and add the onions and mushrooms. Saute over medium heat until soft, about 10 minutes.

2. Put the carrots, parsnips, apple onions and mushrooms into a large pot and add the vegetable stock and thyme. Bring the contents to a boil then lower the heat to a simmer, cover the pot, and cook for 30 minutes or until the vegetables are soft. Add more stock if necessary to prevent burning.

3. Let the soup cool slightly and then remove and discard the woody stems of the thyme. Puree the soup until smooth in a food processor or blender.

4. Return the soup to the pot. Add the cream, cider and nutmeg. Reheat slowly until the soup is warm and then season to taste with salt and pepper.

5. Thin the bisque to the desired consistency with either cream or cider. The bisque should be fairly thick.



New Members

MARGARET FORBUSH

I was raised in upstate New York, and confess I had only passing interest in the gardens my mother tended. I spent my first working years in Manhattan, where I began my career in business, met my husband, Jim, earned my MBA, and worked for a number of years at Citibank.

My gardening career began when we made our move from Manhattan to Westchester county and purchased an old home with mature gardens. There I painfully learned Gardening Principle # 1: Wait one growing cycle before ripping out unknown plants. Jim and I were novices, and yanked a number of rather ordinary looking shrubs and plants before they had a chance to bloom. To this day, we have no idea what unusual, heirloom plants we may have destroyed. My career and two babies kept me busy, but I would plunk my son and daughter on the lawn next to me and try to squeeze in a few hours of gardening, my new favorite pastime.

In 1990, I was the trailing spouse when Jim took a new job and we moved to another old home, in Wellesley. I left the business world and became an active participant in the non-profit sector (PTO, Scouts, soccer, church, etc.). We had acquired a property that had been professionally landscaped and planted. Nevertheless, my life was ruled by Gardening Principle #2: A garden remains a work in progress. For 16 years, I tinkered and tweaked.

Jim and I are both retired, so when the children graduated from high school we were able to fulfill our wish to live in a coastal area. After some exploring, we moved to Dartmouth in 2006. The milder climate extends our ability to walk, bike, and of course, tame the yard. We reside in the first young home we have ever owned. Our lot had only foundation shrubs, some islands of trees and mulch, and a border of thickets. We have been planting, replanting, and wrestling with heavy clay soil. The plots look less and less like 4H club experiments and increasingly like gardens, as we find the proper niche for each plant. I enjoy gardening because every year presents new opportunities for growth, learning, and a little bit of whimsy.

Susan McLaren knows I enjoy gardening, and has found her experience with the GCBB to be rewarding. Through her, and an invitation from Tina, I have come to be the newest provisional member. What I may lack in gardening expertise, I make up in enthusiasm, flexible knees, and a strong back. I hope to put them to good use.



“Wielding twine and scissors, the girl hoisted the roses from the bucket and bundled them together. Before she hooded the blossoms with tissue paper, Walter leaned in quickly and touched his face to the petals. Plush and blousy, the roses smelled like a church prepared for a fancy wedding – potent, ecstatic, sacred – but they were a radiant orange, the color of torches, not of veils and modest lace gloves. Quite a different kind of vow.”

---from *The Whole World Over* by Julia Glass



In Memoriam

Memories of Agnes Armstrong

By Nonnie Hood

We knew we met a force for good as we discovered all she did for the GCBB, the RJD, the South Dartmouth community, her friends and her family.

Agnes Armstrong represented the true spirit of the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay. She was a willing, energetic and creative team builder. She was optimistic, adventuresome, and a lot of fun. Tina Read remembers Agnes as a congenial, spontaneous and generous friend, who brought new ideas to the club along with hilarity, especially in her enthusiastic pursuit of dancing.

“Organized and vibrant” were the attributes used to describe Agnes by Mary Schubert, who co-chaired the 2010 Zone 1 Hospitality and the RJD “Celebrate” kitchen duties with her. Her activities with the RJD brought similar memories to Blair Walker. Agnes gathered RJD members together to form a core group of active volunteers called “Friends of the RJD”. They made a difference.

Background information about Agnes were described by her son, Raymond Jr. It is not surprising that before we met this dynamic force, she had accomplished many feats. As a member of a large Czech family from Illinois, she had a “can do” history. Here are some of her pursuits: Horseback rider, who won many ribbons; speech and drama major in college; retail manager; wife, mother and homemaker; group organizer; tennis player; dancer; artist; gourmet cook; craft maker; money raiser; travel agent manager; gardener; walker; and world traveler.

In addition, when she moved to South Dartmouth with her husband, Ray, she also became a grandmother to Andrew and Charlie, a cookie maker, a vice president of the garden club; a guide for the Explorium, goodie provider, concession stand cook and more.

Are we glad we knew Agnes? Thank you, Agnes...from all the members of the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay!



Agnes, 3rd from left, flanked by fellow Plant Sale Committee Members, Leslie Bernert, Gail Davidson & Ellie Smith



Sheila Skelly Frothingham

By Joan Bullard

Sheila was born in England in 1927. As a young woman, she immigrated to the United States, where she worked for Kodak. She was married to William Frothingham in 1954. After the marriage they spent all their summers in Nonquit. Sheila joined the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay in 1993. She was an active member, working on the Wildflower Garden and Plant Sale Committees.

When her husband became ill in 2006, she resigned her membership so that she could devote her time to his care. This past year, she had a brief bout with cancer and died on July 12, 2010. She was a good friend and will be missed.

80 Years Strong - Onward With A Flourish!

2010 concluded with the club's annual Christmas gathering, where among the festivities there was a toast offered for the remembrance of achievements and the dedication that has made the club what it is. Several former presidents were lauded including Janet Steele, Betsy McBratney, Gertrude Burr, Celeste Penney, Peg Megowen, Anne Almy, Fran Levin, Ellen Christie and Tina Read who traveled from near and far to be with us.

Many of us were happy to contribute with an amazing array of yummy foods to enjoy, and accolades to our faithful bartenders, Bob Sterns, Dick Purdy, Leslie DeGroot, Clinton Levin, Allan Schubert, Dick Sherwood, Jim Dildine and Wayne Walega, who served our libations with good cheer. It was an illuminating evening in a beautifully decorated museum where members -- rather than donning aprons and garden gloves - put on the ritz!



"Having a greenhouse to propagate and cultivate plantings and friendships is a big reason why the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay is truly unique. We are also fortunate to have a membership made of people who say "Yes". They are open to change and are willing to lend a hand to make things work." --Mary Schubert

"The charter members were drawn together with a common purpose to promote interest in gardening through education about the design, the management and the culture of gardens...That is the constant. We are a bunch of optimists." --Nonnie Hood



"One of my early memories was of lugging bags of soil to the new greenhouse at the RJD for the growing tables. I remember my mother (Sue Underwood) and Edie Knowles vying for the 'title' of boxwood queen. They were the gurus back then." --Joan Underwood





“When I was a provisional, it twas as though you joined an English boarding school group..Provisionals only asked what they could do to help. No pants were worn to meetings!!! The obsession with caring for the gardens ourselves was all involving. There was no thought of asking an Alan Haskell or Jim Perry to give us a hand..it was down on the knees. We were assigned areas to clean all summer long. ” --Fran Levin

