



Feb. 2007



Acton Garden Club



Spring Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DEAR ACTON GARDEN CLUB FRIENDS,

OUR CLUB IS ENTERING ITS 73RD YEAR OF MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY AND WE CERTAINLY CONFIRMED THAT WITH OUR SPECTACULAR FLOWER SHOW! HOPE YOU SAW THELMA, MAUREEN & NANCY ON LOCAL T.V! HOW CAN YOU ASSIST? BY SIGNING UP FOR THIS YEAR'S COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEES; THEY ARE ALL REWARDING, BE IT GARDEN THERAPY, CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION, OR AN HISTORIC GARDEN.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WILL BE OFFERING LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ON THE BOARD. WAYS & MEANS ARE REMINDING US TO RESERVE MAY 19TH FOR THE ACTON GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE SO SIGN UP, OFTEN!

MAY I ALSO MAKE A GENTLE REMINDER OF OUR DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE THIS YEAR. THE DIRECTORS SPENT MANY HOURS RESEARCHING WITH OTHER CLUBS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT NORTH ABOUT CHARGES AND BELIEVE THAT THE RECOMMENDED INCREASE IS VERY FAIR.

WHEN WE ALL SHARE AND PARTICIPATE IN KEEPING OUR CLUB A SUCCESS, IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE AWARDS WE RECEIVE BUT THE FRIENDSHIPS WE MAKE ALONG THE WAY.

LOVE & LAUGHTER,

Laura

LAURA LINDOP

UPPER PHOTO: THE JUNIOR GARDENERS PAINTED CLEAR IVY-BOWL VASES IN COLORFUL OIL PAINTS AND PLANTED A PAPERWHITE NESTLED IN RIVER PEBBLES. LOWER PHOTO: 10 CHILDREN AND 5 ADULTS ATTENDED THE JANUARY WORKSHOP.

WAYS AND MEANS

SUBMITTED BY STEPHANIE REID AND SUSAN NORDHAUSEN

The Holiday Raffle in December was an unexpected success! The donated Centerpiece, Door Swag and Table Tree Decoration were very beautiful and creative. Every member did their part to sell and/or buy tickets. There were even a few of you who canvassed your neighborhoods and friends. The Raffle netted over \$750.00. This will cover our continuing rent at St. Matthew's Church, which was our goal. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event!

Our next, and actually our biggest annual fund raiser of the year, the Spring Plant Sale, is now only a few months away. That's a scary thought isn't it!! Seems like we just had it. Anyway, the new date was deemed a success and so, once again, it will be on the Saturday after Mother's Day, May 19th. We are sure you all remember, one of the roles or requirements of an active member is to support this endeavor, with your time, as well as your patronage!!

Happily, all the committees have a chairperson, as of the December meeting. Many thanks to the following who agreed to assume a leadership role: Advertising Chair, Julie Eacott; After Sale Donations, Sue Whitcomb; Annuals Co-Chairs, Gail Wick and Janet Richards; Barn Co-Chairs, Jan Atkins and Claudette Duhamel; Cashiers Chair, Peggy Garrison; Clean-up Chair, Ann Shaw; Container Gardening, Cathy Fochtman; Daylilies Chair, Sydney Storment and Liz Kintigh; Digger Co-chairs, Gena Manalan and Noreen Row; Information, Lynn Bruce; Publicity Chair, Joan Yatteau; Raffle Chairs, Judy Shuppert and Mary Lou Mc Call; Sales Chair, Trudy Walther and Judy Dembsey; Set-up Co-Chairs, Mary Beth Orfao, Sue Bricker and Celia Lionetta; Signs Chair, Sue Nordhausen; Treasurer Chair, Mike Svoboda.

It is now time for all members to choose a committee that will benefit the club the most (and will fit into your schedule!) This might not be an old familiar choice, but rather one that could generate more income for the club, if enthusiastically supported. Such committees as the annuals, container gardening and diggers come to mind. Please take advantage of the sign-up sheets at the February and March meetings. Looking forward to working with all of you, as we once again raise money to support our yearly programs.

PLANT SALE RAFFLE

SUBMITTED BY JUDY SHUPPERT AND MARY LOU MCCOLL

Please contact Mary Lou McColl or Judy Shuppert with any suggestions for raffle items for the Plant Sale and/or a raffle in the fall closer to the holidays. Also, if you would like to donate any item that would be appropriate for a raffle item we would love to hear about it.

Last year at the Plant Sale we raffled 2 trees donated by Kennedy's Garden Center, as well as a bird bath and potted garden container donated by members. At the Holiday Workshop we picked winners for four greens arrangements. The two raffles brought in over \$1,200 which helped fund our ongoing projects.

Mary Lou McColl - 978-369-1666 - DestinationServices@yahoo.com

Judy Shuppert - 978-263-7554 - rscjks@juno.com

JUNIOR GARDENERS

SUBMITTED BY PAM NELSON

With the September and October floral design workshops under their belts, the Junior Gardeners ventured into the areas of community service and horticulture.

In November, the Junior Gardeners gathered at the Life Care Center in Acton to bring some pre-Thanksgiving Day cheer to more than 30 of the center's residents. Each resident was given their own vase with a selection of fresh flowers and greens while the Junior Gardeners, along with their parents or grandparents, assisted the residents in creating beautiful floral arrangements to be placed in the resident's bedrooms.

In January, the Junior Gardeners with their parents or grandparents gathered for a workshop on spring bulb forcing. It was a popular workshop with 10 children and 5 Acton Garden Club members in attendance. The AGC members described the lifecycle of a flower bulb, when and how to plant spring-flowering bulbs, and discussed some of the different methods employed to force a flower bulb. The children were then shown an example of narcissus "paperwhite" bulbs that had been forced a few weeks prior and closely examined how the bulbs had developed roots and flower buds.

Each child received a clear, "ivy-bowl" vase and was instructed on the proper use of oil-based, paint markers. The children proceeded to hand paint their vases with their names and various artwork. Their concentration was amazing as they worked together sharing paint colors and ideas. Some vases displayed beautiful rainbows



and flowers while others included art of the Patriot's logo, the state of Massachusetts and even Niagara Falls! Once the painting portion of the workshop was completed, the children then placed a cupful of river pebbles into their vases and selected a paperwhite bulb to nestle among the stones. The project was followed by delicious snacks, conversation and warming by the fireplace! While the bulbs will eventually bloom and fade away, the kids have a uniquely-created vase that they can keep and use forever!

The Junior Gardeners program is open to the children and grandchildren of members. Meetings include sessions in garden therapy, horticulture, floral design, conservation, and civic beautification. For more information, contact Pam Nelson at nelson.pamela@verizon.net or 978-266-0464.

COMMUNITY SERVICE - TIME TO SIGN-UP!

SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN CHRISTMAS

The composition of the community service committees changes each April offering members the opportunity to learn about the different gardens the Acton Garden Club takes care of, help beautify the town, and bring sunshine inside via the garden therapy program. You may sign up for the same committee you were on previously or a new one each year. **You must sign-up each year.** You do not automatically stay on the committee you are currently on. New members also sign up at this time.

If you have **special health issues or restrictions** – **please sign-up early!** Committees are made on a first-come/first-served basis. It is not really fair to ask someone who signed up early to switch to another committee because you waited to sign-up.

How to sign-up:

1. You can sign-up on the clipboards that will be at the February and March meetings. If you sign up on more than on clipboard – it will be assumed you would like to be on more than one committee! OR
2. You can call or e-mail Maureen Christmas (978-263-0009 or mchristmas@comcast.net). If you leave a message, please leave your first and second choices.

As was announced at the December 2006 meeting, we have discontinued our participation with the garden therapy program at Life Care Center. We now have five committees as outlined below.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Physical labor</u>	<u>Children allowed?</u>	<u>Work outside scheduled workday?</u>
Civic Beautification	planting, weeding	Yes, non-ambulatory this is near busy roads	Yes for limited plantings Yes for maintenance
Acton Arboretum Herb Garden	clean-up, planting weeding, mulching	Yes	Yes
Wildflower Garden at MMH	raking, mulching, planting, weeding	Yes	Yes
Daffodil Run At MMH	raking, mulching planting, weeding	Yes, this is near road non-ambulatory	Yes
Garden Therapy @ Emerson Hosp.	Minimal	NO	NO

Remember – as an Active Member - it is your responsibility to work at least four workdays each year on a Community Service Committee.

Meeting House Hill – Wildflower Garden will require a larger committee as now the garden is twice the size that it was! The plan is to divide the 16 workers into two groups. Groups will go every other time. This will allow more work to be done without overburdening the committee. This year it is anticipated that the tasks will concentrate more on maintenance and less on digging. There will be tasks such as deadheading which won't be as physically taxing. Wouldn't you like to be part of this exciting rebirth of a garden?!

MARCH FLORAL DESIGN

SUBMITTED BY SANDY BONZAGNI

The floral design group will be attending the New England Flower Show at the Bayside Exposition Center on Tues. March 20 at 12 noon for a critique of the arrangements with Thelma Shoneman. Sandy Bonzagni will order group tickets. We need a minimum of 20 people. You do not have to attend as a group to qualify for group rates so other people may order tickets and attend separately on any day. Tickets are good for weekdays or weekends. Tickets are non-refundable. The dates of the show are March 17-25. The price is \$15.50, a 25% savings over non-group rates for adults. The handling charge is 50 cents. The last date to order is March 6, our regular meeting day. Please pay with cash or check made out to Sandra Bonzagni.

NOMINATING

SUBMITTED BY SANDY BONZAGNI

The Nominating Committee, Sandy Bonzagni and Peggy Garrison, would like to say thank you to all the Acton Garden Club members who have so generously agreed to be a member of the Board next year. If you could not commit to a position this year, please consider doing so in the future. And please continue to seek new members. It is the diversity of talent that makes our club soar.

AWARDS

SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN CHRISTMAS

The Acton Garden Club has submitted many books of evidence for consideration for awards. Our September 2006 Flower Show, *Floral Notes*, generated a DVD and three books of evidence, one of which will be submitted in July for a regional award. The Junior Gardeners' Arbor Day Tree Planting program was submitted for a junior award. The three editions of the Acton Garden Club 2006 newsletter and the color booklet, *Using Water Wisely in Acton*, printed in cooperation with the Acton Water District, were submitted for publication awards. Results of the Awards committee will be announced at the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts June meeting.

PHOTOGRAPHER

SUBMITTED BY SALLY PATRICK

If members have any photos from the past year that they would like to have included in the annual Club photo albums, they should get them to me as soon as possible. Thank you!

NEW BABY

SUBMITTED BY PAT KOSICKI AND LAURA LINDOP

Luz O'Connor had a little girl, Sophia Helen O'Connor, on Jan 26th 2007. She weighed 6lbs 6oz and was 18" long! Mum & Sophia are doing well!

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM, FLORA IN WINTER

SUBMITTED BY THELMA SHONEMAN

The first photo is my interpretation of a ceramic plate, Rhages ware from Persia – 1100 to 1299. I used a metal frame and created the irregular shapes on the plate with Harry Lauder's Walking Stick and emulated the primitive figures in the design with the cymbidium orchids! I used earthtones in keeping with the colors and pottery clay.



The second photos were of the Challenge Class that I participated in on Friday afternoon. We had been sent a photo of the mosaic, *Floor Mosaic of the Drinking Contest of Dionysos and Herakles*. When we arrived at the museum, the committee presented us with the container and plant material

and this is what happened!!! The only preconceived idea I had was "squares" and so I stapled my flax into "squares" and started from there! So the single image is mine...all four are shown as they turned out!!! Sort of like Floral Design that we do each time!!!! It was fun.



MEMORIAL SERVICE

SUBMITTED BY CATHY FOCHTMAN

A memorial service is being planned to take place in June at Meeting House Hill for Jane Olesin. Date and time are to be determined, and will be announced in the near future.

YEARBOOK

SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN CHRISTMAS

It's time to start thinking about yearbook updates. Clipboards will be circulating during the next few meetings. Please check that your information is accurate on the membership roster. If it is okay – put your initials, if it is wrong - please correct it, if you anticipate a change – put a C. It is also time to update pages indicating service to the town, state, GCFM. Please e-mail Maureen Christmas (mchristmas@comcast.net) with any change in your status if you are already listed or to add your name if you are new at a position. Service to the town means the Town of Acton and includes only government positions i.e. Council on Aging, Conservation Commission. While volunteer work with organizations such as PTO's and Household Recycling Ministry are valuable to the community, we can't include them in this listing.

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

SUBMITTED BY JUDY DEMBSEY

The Horticulture Study Group topic on Tuesday, March 13 has been changed from “Woodland Perennials” to the annual “Planning Meeting and Gardening Book and Magazine Swap”. The meeting location has also changed, and will take place at 9:15 am at Suzanne Fuller’s home, with refreshments provided by Fay Sargent. Come discuss ideas for horticulture topics to explore and field trips that the group could arrange for the September 2007—June 2008 Horticulture Study meetings. Bring Gardening books and magazines to swap with other members. All are welcome.

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION

SUBMITTED BY BEVERLY SHOREY AND CELIA LIONETTA



Top photo: Doris Prendiville plants vibrant pansies in West Acton.

Left Photo: Cathy Fochtman and Joan Gardner drill a new barrel to allow water drainage.

Right Photo: Joan Gardner brightens Merchants' Row with color.



ACTON GARDEN CLUB
Summary of BYLAW CHANGES
Approved and Voted on at the Regular Meeting - December 4, 2006

At the regular meeting held December 4, 2006 the Directors presented the following Bylaw changes for a vote. Each was voted on favorably. Bylaw changes will take effect immediately:

1. Article IV.-Membership

Section 7d.

After two years of Active membership, a leave-of-absence may be requested annually in writing to the membership chairman. Leave-of-absence is defined as a temporary inability to fulfill membership requirements due to health, job or other extenuating circumstances and is granted subject to board approval. Leave-of-absences will be reviewed annually by the board with a three year maximum. A member on leave-of-absence will be required: to pay active membership dues; not be required to fulfill obligations stated in Article IV, Sections 7a & 7c; will not be able to attend Horticulture Study Group and Floral Design Workshops; and will not be credited with consecutive year attendance towards Associate Membership qualifications.

2. Article IV.-Membership

Section 8.

To change to Associate status after serving fifteen consecutive years, an active member in good standing will submit a written request to the membership chairman who will then present the member's petition to the Executive Board for approval. Associate members will be solicited for fund-raising events, which may include the purchase of tickets, and will be required to serve on the hospitality committee.

3. Article IV.-Membership

Section 9.

To change from Associate to Senior Associate status, a member must be age seventy years or more. The member will submit a written request to the membership chairman who will then present it to the Executive Board for Approval. Senior Associate members will be solicited for fund-raising events, which may include the purchase of tickets, and may be required to serve on the hospitality committee.

(Section 1. Senior Associate becomes new c and old c. becomes d.)

4. Article 5-Dues (Effective for the 2007-2008 dues)

Section 1.

The annual dues for Active members and those on leave-of-absence shall be \$30.00, payable before or at the Annual Meeting. Dues received after April 30th will be assessed a \$10.00 late fee.

Section 2.

The annual dues for Associate member shall be \$40.00, payable at or before the Annual Meeting. Dues received after April 30th will be assessed a \$10.00 late fee.

Section 3.

The annual dues for Senior Associate member (70 years or more) shall be \$35.00, payable at or before the Annual Meeting. Dues received after April 30th will be assessed a \$10.00 late fee

5. ARTICLE XI – Committees (Housekeeping Bylaw Change)

Section 1

The last sentence should read: The committee shall perform such duties as are designated in Article VII - Section 2, ARTICLE VIII - excluding Sections 4, 5, and 6 and ARTICLE XI – excluding B, C, Sections 3, 6, 7, and 9.

HONORING DEAN CHARTER, WHO LET FREEDOM RING

SUBMITTED BY CATHY FOCHTMAN

The Acton Garden Club is very pleased to announce a special Service Award. A Certificate of Merit sponsored by the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts is awarded to individuals, organizations or institutions that are not garden club members for some special contribution toward the advancement of the work of garden clubs. The Acton Garden Club has successfully recommended this be given to Mr. Dean Charter, Tree Warden and Director of Municipal Properties for the Town of Acton for his dedication and service to the community and the many ways he helps the Acton Garden Club carry out its mission of education and community service. He was awarded this Certificate of Merit at the September 12, 2006 meeting of the Acton Garden Club. Mr. Charter has been instrumental in supporting the Acton Garden Club's landscape maintenance of Meeting House Hill (Nagog Hill Rd. and Main St.), which contains a large woodland wildflower garden and Daffodil Run, the landscaped slope along Main St. He supports the Civic Beautification program at Town Hall, West Acton, Hayward Rd., Fire Stations, Libraries and at the Public Safety Building. The Acton Garden Club, with Mr. Charter's input, was one of eight garden clubs in the state to receive a "Let Freedom Ring" grant. National Garden Clubs, Inc. established this grant program under the sponsorship of the Principal Financial Group Foundation, Inc. to boost civic development across the nation and to honor military service veterans. The funds received were matched by the Acton Garden Club and we proudly presented to Mr. Charter a check for \$800 in the spring of 2006 to benefit the Acton Public Safety Building landscaping. Mr. Charter utilized these funds to implement the plan outlined in the grant, purchasing a 'Winter King' Hawthorne tree which was planted to the right of the entrance driveway and many shrubs which were added to the front and rear of the building. The "Let Freedom Ring" award in the photo above is now framed and on display in the atrium of the Acton Public Safety Building.



Dean Charter, Town of Acton Municipal Properties Director, accepted a "Let Freedom Ring" civic development grant from Laura Lindop, Acton Garden Club President, to landscape the Acton Public Safety Building. He also received a Letter of Commendation from the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts for supporting the work of the Acton Garden Club. The 'Winter Kink' Hawthorne tree is behind them, facing Main St.

ART IN BLOOM

SUBMITTED BY SALLY PATRICK

Art in Bloom takes place Saturday, April 21 - Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Visit the museum website at www.mfa.org and select "Special Events" on the Calendar page for more information or call 617-267-9300.

Art in Bloom Special Events: <http://www.mfa.org/calendar/sub.asp?key=12&subkey=3409>

Presentations and Master Classes are listed below:

- April 22 Winston Flowers, Boston
 - April 23 Life3, Sweden, The Netherlands & Belgium
 - April 23 Special Evening Presentation - Andrew Anderson, Ilex Designs, Boston
 - April 24 Remco van Vliet, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
-
- April 21 Opening Celebration
 - April 23 Museum Open House - Free to the public after 5 PM
 - April 24 Garden Club Day

ACTON EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

SUBMITTED BY JULIE EACOTT

The Acton Garden Club will be offering tree seedlings for sale at Earth Day.
Here are the event details:

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2007 RAIN OR SHINE
10AM TO 3PM
ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
435 CENTRAL STREET
ACTON, MA
P:978-263-2822
E:SMUMC@VERIZON.NET
WWW.SAINT-MATTHEWS.ORG

COME AND CELEBRATE OUR BEAUTIFUL EARTH.
ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND THE TOWN OF ACTON RECREATION DEPT.
HAVE ORGANIZED AN INFORMATIVE FUN DAY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS OFFERING NUMEROUS
VENDORS, CRAFTS, PRESENTATIONS, EXHIBITS, PERFORMANCES, AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES.

TOPICS AND PRODUCTS REPRESENTED INCLUDE:

MAKING YOUR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT ~ RECYCLING INFORMATION/CENTER
RENEWAL ENERGY ~ WATER AND ENERGY CONSERVATION
GREENHOUSE GAS ELIMINATION ~ HEALTHY HOUSEHOLD/FITNESS PRODUCTS
HYBRID CARS ~ INTERACTIVE ANIMAL AND NATURE SHOW
FINANCIAL TAX BENEFITS FROM HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION
ENVIRONMENTAL GARDENING ~ COMMUNITY CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

ADMISSION: FREE, LIKE THE AIR WE BREATHE

FLORA IN WINTER

SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN CHRISTMAS

The Acton Garden Club was well represented at Flora in Winter this year. Flora in Winter is a joint effort between the Worcester Art Museum and Tower Hill Botanic Garden. Designers interpreted either a piece of art at the museum or something of their selection relating to the theme at the Tower Hill location. At the museum, Thelma Shoneman interpreted an ancient



plate which had an intricate design. She used a round hoop, placed in the upright position, and placed orchids and Harry Lauder's Walking Stick to represent the plate's design. It was an exquisite interpretation. She also participated in a challenge class where four designers were given the same plant material and container and asked to interpret a mosaic. The four results



were quite different. At the Tower Hill location, the Club had two exhibits. The theme this year was Cole Porter - "Anything Goes". Laura Lindop interpreted the song "Night and Day" with a 360 degree arrangement that had gorgeous fresh plant material on one half and artistically arranged dried plant material on the other. Cathy Fochtman and Joan Yatteau collaborated on "Satin and Silk". They chose an extraordinary iridescent container and selected



flowers in tints of pink for their arrangement. Their design was staged on a pink tablecloth against a pristine pink background with delicate bows at the top resulting in a visually elegant presentation. Maureen Christmas was a co-chair of the event at the Tower Hill location.





COME AND SOCIALIZE WITH
NEW FRIENDS AND OLD AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 3, 2007

AT THE SHAKER HILLS GOLF CLUB, 146 SHAKER ROAD, HARVARD, MA

The business meeting will begin at 10:00 am with a friendship hour and lunch to follow.

We will dine on a **choice** of:

Mediterranean Chicken, artichoke hearts, roasted tomatoes and roasted shallots,
topped with a lemony garlic dill veloute, served with mushroom risotto
OR Oven Roasted Artichoke Crusted Fillet of Salmon with herb d'Provence
beurre blanc and wild rice pilaf. Lunch includes Tossed Shaker Salad,
Assorted Bread Basket, Strawberry Shortcake Dessert, Coffee and Tea.

The last date to reserve your space for this luncheon will be March 13, 2006.

If you have any questions, or have dietary restrictions, please contact:

Maxine Bussell, (929-9741), maxinebussell@aol.com

IT'S A GREAT TIME...DON'T MISS IT!

Acton Garden Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 2137

Acton, Massachusetts

01720