



Buds & Blossoms

Newsletter of the Acton Garden Club

Spring 2008 Edition

President's Message

Greetings!

I hope 2008 has started off well for you. Didn't 2007 end on a fun note with that fabulous Holiday House Tour?! Many thanks to Janet Richards and her committee for all their hard work. It's time to focus on the Acton Garden Club's "new year". While our yearbook follows the September to August program year, our fiscal, election and community service year begins anew in April. This newsletter is full of information to help the garden club year start smoothly.

There are many opportunities to join in the fun. Community service is the place to start. It's a new season in the gardens. Aren't you just busting to know what the removal of invasive plants and trees will do to the gardens at Meeting House Hill?!

Is there a speaker you've heard who would be great for our club? Or a topic you'd like to learn more about at our general meetings? Tell Noreen Rowe or Jan Atkins. Horticulture Study Group has slots open for its program year – talk to Judy Dembsey. Is there a floral design type you'd like to learn more about? Mention it to Thelma Shoneman or Sandy Bonzagni. Suggestions for Junior Gardener programs can be directed to Pam Nelson.

This is the time of year to make next year our best one yet! Now is when we get everything in place for our 2008-2009 program year. Tell us what you want! 2009 is the Acton Garden Club's Diamond Jubilee (75th Anniversary) and we want it to be *spectacular!* It all starts with you!

Warm regards,

Maureen

P.S. Please be sure to read all the paperwork you need to fill out carefully. There is a new question asking if you work during the daytime. This is for the annual club survey. Including this question on the dues form gives the most accurate answer. If your status changes during the year, you can let me know.

Community Service Committees - Time to Sign-up!

Submitted by Joan Yatteau, Vice President

Each year during February and March, all active members sign up anew for one of the Club's five Community Service Committees so that rosters can be made up in time for the new service year beginning each April. This offers you the opportunity to choose to help beautify the town, get hands-on learning in the gardens cared for by the Acton Garden Club, or bring sunshine inside via the garden therapy program at Emerson Hospital.

You may sign up for the same committee you were on previously or for a new one, but **you must sign up each year**; you do not automatically stay on the committee you have been on. New members also sign up at this time.

If you have **special health issues or restrictions** – **please sign up early!** Committees are made up on a first-come/first-served basis, and 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:

You can sign up on clipboards that will be available at the February and March meetings. If you sign up on more than one clipboard – it will be assumed you would like to be on more than one committee! OR

You can call or email Joan Yatteau (978-264-9060 or jyatteau@hbs.edu). In your message, please give your first and second committee choices.

Remember – as an Active Member -- it is your responsibility to work at least four workdays each year on a Community Service Committee. Club Members are asked to volunteer for Civic Beautification summer watering on their own and other community service committees by signing up for specific dates later in the spring.

Horticulture Study Group

Submitted by Judy Dembsey, Chairman

Horticulture Study Group has an exciting program scheduled for this spring. In March, Fay Sargent will present the program *The Gardener's Color Wheel*. She will demonstrate with the color wheel how to plan your borders with outstanding plant color arrangements. Would you like to plant some interesting small shrubs in your garden and don't know where to begin? Come in April to the program that Laura Lindop and Susan Fuller will be presenting—*Small, Smaller and Smallest Shrubs in Borders*. In May, we hit the road and tour Glen Magna in Danvers. Bev Brownson has made arrangements for this inspiring tour. In June, we will be having a workshop creating *Decorative Leaves for the Home* which by the way will hold water. Judy Shuppert and Fran Portante have been experimenting with concrete and will instruct us.

Community Service Committees - Time to Sign-up!

(continued)

**We have five committees as outlined below.
Please see your Club yearbook for more information.**

1. Civic Beautification Committee

- Physical labor: planting, weeding, deadheading, watering
- Children allowed: Yes, non-ambulatory only; this is near busy roads.
- Work outside scheduled workday? Yes, for limited plantings; yes, for maintenance

2. Herb Garden at Acton Arboretum

- Physical labor: clean-up, planting, weeding, mulching, watering
- Children allowed? Yes
- Work outside scheduled workday? Yes

3. Wildflower Garden at Meeting House Hill (located at Main St. and Nagog Hill Road)

- Physical labor: raking, mulching, planting, weeding, deadheading, watering
- Children allowed? Yes
- Work outside scheduled workday: Yes

4. Daffodil Run at Meeting House Hill (located at Main St. and Nagog Hill Road)

- Physical labor: raking, mulching, planting, weeding, deadheading, watering
- Children allowed? Yes, non-ambulatory only; this is along Main St.
- Work outside scheduled workdays? Yes

5. Garden Therapy at Emerson Hospital

- Physical labor: Minimal
- Children allowed: NO
- Work outside scheduled workday? NO

Dues

Submitted by Maureen Christmas, President

Remember that dues were increased last year and a \$10 late fee imposed on dues not received by April 30. Please pay on time so we can avoid making reminder phone calls. This is a time consuming and uncomfortable activity. It also affects community service committees which typically start work in the spring. If for some reason, you will not be rejoining, please either call Maureen or indicate this on the dues form and return it. Remember, we do have a leave of absence policy to accommodate those who might temporarily need a break from participating in garden club activities.

Ways and Means I

Submitted by Stephanie Reid and Mike Svoboda

May 17, 2008 will be here soon. Committees are forming and planning ahead to make this year's Plant Sale a rewarding one. Thank you to all those who have already volunteered to be Committee Chairs. But there are a couple of Co-Chair positions available and we would like to get them filled before we start our planning sessions. CO-CHAIRS NEEDED: Diggers, Daylilies, Barn, and Holding Area

Plant Sale 2008

Advertising Chair: Julie Eacott
After Sales Donations: Sue Whitcomb
Annuals Co-chairs: Gail Wick and Janet Richards
Barn Co-chairs: Anne Becklean and
Cashiers Chair: Peggy Garrison
Clean-up Chair: Pat Kosicki
Daylilies Chair: Sydney Storment and
Diggers Co-chairs: Noreen Rowe and
Holding Area:
Publicity Chair: Joan Yatteau
Raffle Co-chairs: Judy Shuppert and Mary Lou McColl
Sales Co-chairs: Judy Dembsey and Sue Whitcomb
Set-up Co-chairs: Mary Beth Orfao and Celia Lionetta
Signage Chair: Sue Nordhausen
Treasurer: Mike Svoboda
Waterwise Gardening: Trudy Walther and Pat Cumings

There are some changes this year in an attempt to increase our profits. The Plant Sale is our biggest fund raiser and, with the competition from other sales and activities, we have decided to extend the Sale to 1PM. Mike is experimenting with tabs for easier labeling at the Barn and new pricing sheets to simplify the process for the cashiers. We are also creating a committee exclusively for the Holding Area. Raffle items are to be donated to the Club. The smaller items will be offered for sale at the Annual Meeting in April, with the remaining items and larger objects transported to the Plant Sale in May.

REQUESTS

We are looking to see if anyone has "Red Wagons" and/or small tent covers that we can borrow the day of the Sale. The small tent covers over the cashiers were very useful last year, and we would like to have a few to set up around the Common. We really need POTS! 6-8-10 inch size. There is less need for the larger size, but we will take some. If you have pots that you cannot move and/or clean, please call Stephanie Reid, 978-369-5990. Mike or I will come and get them.

Nominating Committee

Submitted by Sandra Bonzagni, Peggy Garrison, Laura Lindop

The Nominating Committee is hard at work asking members to consider taking a position on the board for the year April 2008 to March 2009. Please seriously consider our call. You will participate in the inner workings of the club and get to know your fellow gardeners more fully.

Ways and Means II

Submitted by Stephanie Reid and Mike Svoboda

Finally, PLANTS, PLANTS, PLANTS! Donated plants from our members' gardens, along with your knowledge and enthusiasm, are our best asset for profitability.

PLANT SALE INFORMATION FOR THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Plan to Pot Early (These do not like to be disturbed.)

Iris (German and pumila)

Lupinus

Malva

Peony

Plan to Pot Early and Force (In green house or cold frame)

Dahlia

Grasses

Plants to Pot Late

Myosotis (To hold back the bloom)

Generally pot larger rather than smaller particularly on plants that are not selling well.

Achillea—color (The pearl doesn't sell well.)

German Iris—Be specific, give color and variety.

Siberian Iris-- Be specific, give color and variety.

Shrubs

Our own potted shrubs sell better than larger purchased ones. Try to pot more of your own and pot them early.

Ground Covers

Pot in large pots or flats

Ferns—Pot large. Sold Well.

Podophyllum peltatum (Mayapple)—Pot Big

Hostas—Sold well except the all green variety

Thanks in advance for all your help, including signing up for Committees. We all are looking for a great (and profitable) day in May!

Plant Sale Raffle

Submitted by Mary Lou McColl and Judy Shuppert

The Plant Sale is fast approaching and we need your suggestions to make the Raffle bigger and better than ever. We will not be having the Boutique but will concentrate on obtaining wonderful donations for the raffle. Last year, Carol Stewart-Grinkis made and donated the whimsical chair-planter and Trudy Walther donated a bird bath. Is there some super thing that you would like to donate? Maybe you would like to combine with several friends to donate a load of mulch or compost to be raffled off. Maybe you have some ideas for business donors that we could contact. We are waiting to hear from you! Judy Shuppert 978-263-7554 Mary Lou McColl 978-369-1666

Floral Design

Submitted by Thelma Shoneman, Director Floral Concerns

Think Spring and come to Floral Design on March 18th!

We're going to have a "Surprise Party"! You will disguise a vase and create a spring arrangement perfect for Easter or all your early spring entertaining! Sign up at the March meeting or call Sandy Bonzagni. Don't forget your pruners or scissors, knife, and trash bag. All components will be provided. Contact Sandy Bonzagni or sign up at the March meeting. The meeting begins at 9:15 at St. Matthew's Church, 435 Central St., Acton

New England Spring Flower Show, *Rhapsody in Green*.

Plan to go to the New England Spring Flower Show – March 8-16!

Sandy Bonzagni, Susanne Fuller and Laura Lindop will represent the Acton Garden Club in the Club Competition on the first entry day. They will be designing a functional table for four; the class is entitled Endangered Habitat and they have chosen the Everglades – Mongrove Swamp as their theme. Then on the Second entry day, Laura Lindop and Maureen Christmas will have entries in Design Division I, ***Forces of Nature***. On the third entry day, Noreen Rowe and Carol Bull are entering Design Division II, ***Verdant Venues***. The Junior Gardener entries will be there the entire show. It is so exciting to have members of the Acton Club participating in all aspects of the show. As chairman of Design Division I, I will be there to admire all of the wonderful designs almost everyday so I hope to see you all there.

Awards

Submitted by Maureen Christmas, Chairman

It's a quiet time for awards. In December, books of evidence for last year's Horticulture Study Group series and for Junior Gardeners' programs were submitted for state awards. The website book of evidence (which won a state award in October) was updated for submission for a national award. By the time you read this, the publicity press book will have been submitted. Now we just wait hopefully for the postcard asking us to have a representative at the spring conference to accept our award(s)!

Holiday House Tour

December 11, 2007

Visit the Acton Garden Club Website for a virtual Holiday House Tour

www.actongardenclub.org



Tour Chairman Janet Richards



Seven lovely homes



Hostess Joan Gardner's whimsical holiday tree

Waterwise Gardening Committee

Submitted by Trudy Walther and Cathy Fochtman

Seven years ago a small group of the Acton Garden Club members formed a strong relationship with the Acton Water District, later joined by additional members. During that time, New England had a few extremely dry summers, leading to outdoor water use restrictions in Acton, which are still in effect.

THE GOALS OF THE GROUP ARE:

- √ Raise awareness among club members and the general population of Acton about water conservation methods for home and garden
- √ Provide information on drought tolerant plants, shrubs and trees.
- √ Investigate how global warming affects our native plants and how best to counter its effects, by compiling research that Universities have published, such as Cornell, University of Massachusetts and University of New Hampshire.

Places where we have reached out to the community are Acton's Earth Day, Acton Garden Club Plant Sale and Horticulture Study Group, Acton Water District, Acton Memorial Library, and New England Water Works Association, through demonstrations, pamphlets and lectures. We plan to man an educational table at Acton's Earth Day on May 3, 2008 at St. Matthew's Church on Central Street.

Environmental & Conservation Committee

Submitted by Jackie Amirhor and Ann Leary, Co-chairs

The ECC collects soda and soup tabs from members for the Shriners Hospital. This year they have begun collecting stamps to be used by Perkins Institute for the Blind. Ink jet cartridges and cell phones have been collected and recycled. The funds have been applied to our conservation program speaker's fees. The club is no longer being reimbursed for this project; consequently it is being discontinued. We will once again be participating in Acton's Earth Day celebration on May 3, 2008 at St. Matthew's Church on Central Street. The Acton Garden Club will have holly bushes for sale that day.

Garden Therapy

Submitted by Noreen Rowe, Chairman

The Garden Therapy Program at Emerson Hospital continues to bring a sense of joy and accomplishment to the patients on North V. Each week two of our members volunteer their time in assisting the patients to design a beautiful basket of fresh flowers. It is truly a wonderful feeling when the patient reacts so positively with their design which they bring back to their room or share with a friend or visiting relative. You know that we have provided a special moment in their lives when they respond with their appreciation and the staff comments on how they look forward to this activity and interaction.

Programs

Submitted by Noreen Rowe and Jan Atkins, Co-chairs

The Acton Garden Club has provided so many wonderful programs this year with some great ones to come. Be sure to join us for our annual luncheon in April and enjoy the lovely spring designs from Coldwater Creek to be modeled by our lovely members. In June, we will have Betty Call, who will wow us with her floral design demonstration with the history of wedding celebrations through her floral designs. Just a thought: search out a wedding veil, pictures or moments from your wedding day or perhaps a daughter's marriage. If you would like to share something, please let me (Noreen Rowe) know as we would like to have a special wedding table comprised of our membership's special day.



*Come and socialize with
new friends and old at the
Annual Meeting and Luncheon
April 1, 2008*

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 with
Fashion Show to follow

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

Savory Peach Breast of Chicken

seasoned and seared with a flavorful peach veloute, garnished with
raspberries and toasted almonds and gruyere thyme goat cheese potato cake

OR ~

Baked Native Haddock with seasoned bread crumbs

served with lemony whipped potatoes

Lunch includes Seasonal Shaker Salad, Roll Basket,
Chocolate Mousse in a chocolate cup, fresh berries and whipped cream,
Coffee and Tea

The last date to reserve your space and choice for this luncheon will be March 18, 2008

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

Gail Wick (978-635-0702) or gjwick@comcast.net

It's a great time...don't miss it!

Acton Garden Club

P.O. Box 2137

Acton, Massachusetts

01720

To help expedite the community services and hospitality committee sign-ups and streamline the collection of dues and annual luncheon reservations, we are asking that all active members kindly fill out this form and return it and your check for dues and luncheon to Karin Victor at the February or March meetings or mail to 10 Heather Hill Road, Acton. Associate members are also asked to give their check to Karin at either the February or March meetings or mail it to her at the above address.

Annual Dues

Name: _____

(Dues received after April 30th will be assessed a \$10 late fee)

Active, \$30.00: _____ Associate, \$40.00: _____ Senior Associate, \$35.00 _____ (70 or older)

(please check one)

Annual Luncheon

Name: _____

(Reservations are \$29.00 and are due by March 18th)

Choice of: (check one)

___ Savory Peach Breast of Chicken (seasoned and seared with a flavorful peach veloute, garnished with raspberries and toasted almonds and gruyere thyme goat cheese potato cake)

___ Baked Native Haddock (with seasoned bread crumbs served with lemony whipped potatoes) Lunch includes Seasonal Shaker Salad, Roll Basket, Chocolate Mousse in a chocolate cup, fresh berries and whipped cream, Coffee and Tea

___ Do you need a ride? ___ Are you willing to drive a group?

Community Services

Please Call or E-Mail Joan Yatteau (978-264-9060 or jyatteau@hbs.edu)

To sign-up with your top three choices of Community Services

As always, the committee rosters will be filled on a first come, first serve basis

Sign-up will also be available at the Monthly Meetings

GCFM Survey

Do you work during the day? Y / N Please Circle

Hospitality

All Active and Associate members serve on a Hospitality Committee for one monthly meeting. Board members will serve on the December and June Hospitality Committees.

Name: _____

___ September, 2008 ___ February, 2009 ___ July, 2009
___ October, 2008 ___ March, 2009 ___ August, 2009
___ November, 2008 ___ May, 2009

Please list your first, second and third preferences.

___ I do not have a preference. You may assign me to a month where you have a need.

___ I will serve as chief hostess for a regular monthly meeting.

Date Received: _____ rev. 2/08

Honor Mother Earth

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 3, 2008

10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

**St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
435 Central St., Acton, MA**

www.saint-matthews.org

Activities

Food

Music

Door Prizes

Animal Adventures of Bolton, MA



Show 12:30-1:30 PM



Come and celebrate our beautiful earth.

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church and the Town of Acton have organized an informative fun day for children and adults offering numerous vendors, crafts, presentations, exhibits, performances, environmental resources and children's activities.

Topics and products represented include:

Making your home energy efficient

Renewal Energy

Greenhouse Gas elimination

Hybrid cars

Environmental gardening

Financial tax benefits from home energy conservation

Recycling information/center

Water and Energy conservation

Healthy household/fitness products

Interactive animal and nature show

Community conservation initiatives

❖ *Sponsored by: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church & United Methodist Women's Faith Circle
Acton Citizens for Environmental Safety (ACES)*

Admission: *Free*, just like the air we breathe !

Please recycle this paper

GALA CELEBRATION!

**We are planning a celebration for our
Diamond Jubilee to be held in January 2009.**

Please complete this survey so we can plan a successful event.
We want your input!

Would you like:	Definitely yes	No	Maybe
Sit down buffet dinner, e.g., Westford Regency Inn, Maynard Elks			
Stand up event (limited seating) with appetizers and dessert buffet, e.g., Powers Gallery			
Sit down event with appetizers and dessert, e.g., Maynard Elks			
Use the club history sources to put on 1) skits or 2) a fashion show (men & women's clothing appropriate to the period) or 3) an ongoing computer generated slide show covering the club's beginning to the present day.			
An afternoon with music and gardening literary excerpts and hearty hors d'oeuvres			
Small band for background music			
Friday or Saturday evening			
Sunday afternoon (2-5pm) or evening (5 - 8pm)			
Would you attend?			
Would your spouse/partner attend?			

Any other ideas! _____

We anticipate the cost to be about \$75 per couple or \$37.50 per single.

(Higher if both dinner and dancing at the Westford Regency)

If you have any suggestions for a locale (we would prefer to stay local) or if you have an 'in' at an area site which would give us a reduced rate, please let Maureen Christmas or Maxine Bussell know.

Return this form to Maureen or Maxine by or at the March 4 general meeting.

Feel free to add any comments or suggestions on the back or to add comments in the boxes.