



Fall Newsletter

Nov 2005



Acton Garden Club



Dear Acton Garden Club Friends,

“Seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness” wrote Keats in his ‘Ode to Autumn’ and how fitting that first line is in describing the New England Fall! As a Club, the Fall is one of our busiest times with work days, meetings, horticulture, floral design programs, civic beautification and garden therapy. The list goes on but we should take time to appreciate the spectacular season whether it be from your kitchen window, car window or while taking a stroll!

While on the subject of seasons, both our summer gatherings were very well attended. The Bonsai lecture tour was most informative and enjoyable; then we were treated to a tour of Maureen Ruetzger’s charming garden and barn, the latter containing a grand piano and a steeple clock!

Returning to Fall, we took a table at The Oktoberfest selling ‘Pink Charm’ daffodil bulbs. The ‘team’ that day raised significant monies for local charities. We had three members participating at The Topsfield Fair, either entering or judging in floral design. There were also two members who attended the GCFM Awards Workshop at the Espousal Center. Later in the month, seven members attended The Federation Fall Conference in Mansfield, Mass. We returned with a Regional Publicity Pressbook Award, for 3rd Place, Large Club!

Garden Therapy, Horticulture Study group and Floral Design are off and running. The Program committee should be commended for organizing such wonderful September and October regular meetings. Our Junior Gardeners planted 500 bulbs this month to further beautify our Town. Tulips were planted on ‘Daffodil Run’ and many of the shrubs and trees were pruned. The Civic Beautification committee has, as always, filled the Town barrels to the brim with various colors of assorted plant materials bringing many compliments to The Club’s ‘team’!

Before the Winter season is on us and while you are putting your garden to bed, remember to make note of the plants in your garden that you wish to divide and donate to the Plant Sale next year. Also remember to keep checking our award winning web-site for regular announcements and up-dates.

Many thanks to all of our “team” members who make the mission of our Club both educational and industrious.

Make special memories with your families and friends over the Holiday Season.

Laura

Laura Lindop

Upper photo: Laura Lindop accepts awards from Federation Past President Leslie Frost
Lower photo: 13 State, National and Regional awards won in 2005 by Acton Garden Club

Directors Report

contributed by: Virginia Hahn, Judy Dembsey and Karin Victor

Over the summer and early fall the newly activated Directors held several meetings and countless e-mail consultations in conjunction with their mandated responsibility to "mediate organization issues and set policy". Accomplished was a tightening of the criteria for the Teachers Grant award, and a broadening of the time frame for the dissemination of the application information, the date by which the completed applications must be returned to the Club, and the date of the awarding of the Grant. This was done to help ensure that our grant funds, encouraging environmental education in the Acton schools, would produce projects of the highest quality.

Also, guidelines were established for the Caring Committee chairperson (see Caring Committee article); and the Policy Log (guiding principles or procedures for members as they act in their Club roles) was separated from the Board Minutes, and will be maintained by the Directors.

Future Directors meetings will consider the procedures and timing for the work of the Scholarship Committee, the matter of member's responsibilities in their work- designated committees, and a review of the Club's financial situation.

Save Non-Hardy Bulbs

contributed by: Judy Dembsey

Save non-hardy bulbs such as tuberous begonias, dahlias, gladioli, calla lilies and elephant ears for next year. Soon after the first frost has blackened the tops, cut back the foliage to six inches and lift the roots with a garden fork. Dry the tubers in the sun for several days, then store them in a dry location such as your basement with temperature in the 40-60 degree range for the winter. Dust with sulfur to prevent disease problems. Dahlia tubers should be stored in a single layer in a shallow box and misted monthly. Store canna roots with some soil attached in a plastic crate that has holes on all sides. Potted begonias can be stored in their pots. Cut all the foliage and brush the soil from tuberous begonias and gladioli. Begonia tubers can be stored in boxes of plastic peanuts, shredded paper, peat moss or sawdust. Hang gladioli bulbs in nylon stockings. Most tender bulbs can be divided in April and started in a dark location in pots to give them a head start before they are planted outdoors in May.

Adapted from The Boston Globe's Gardener's Week

Save Floral Cards for Decoupage Workshops

contributed by: Stephanie Reid

Please save your floral greeting cards! Stephanie Reid is collecting them at the December Meeting for the upcoming Ways and Means "Decoupage on Flower Pots" workshops.

Ways and Means

contributed by: Sue Nordhausen and Julie Dion-Soberg

It's time to start "crafting" for the Plant Sale Boutique and workshops are being set up for Wednesday mornings in January. The project will be "Decoupage on Flower Pots" and other related garden equipment. If you would like to come, learn a new craft, and enjoy the fellowship of your fellow club members, please sign up on the clip board which will start circulating at the November meeting, but will also be available at the December workshop meeting. If you miss the sign-up, please call Sue Nordhausen (978-283-7215).

Awards, Awards, Awards!!!

contributed by: Maureen Christmas

You may know that the Acton Garden Club received many awards at the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Annual Conference held in May 2005. You may not be aware of some of the facts behind those awards. This is the first in a series of articles to give you information about the award process.

The awards process starts with a book of evidence (BoE). The book of evidence consists of six, double-sided pages and is much easier to put together when you look at the criteria listed for the award before you do your project. In many cases, photos taken during the project or before and after photos are needed. Deciding to go for an award after you've completed your project makes it more difficult to create a BoE. Generally, you need a statement of purpose, project summary, publicity reports, financial reports, facts on member participation, community involvement, and letters of appreciation. When initially planning any activity or a program, it would be worthwhile to see if your project fits into an award category. Maureen Christmas is the new Awards chairman for the Club and is very willing to help you make sure you get everything you need and to help compile the book of evidence for your project.

Once compiled, the book of evidence is submitted by the garden club to the State Awards Committee. This committee has a huge task evaluating all the BoE's making sure they meet the criteria as outlined in the Presidents' Handbook. The criteria is also on-line at the Garden Club Federation of MA website www.gcfm.org. The State Awards Committee selects one book of evidence in each category to receive the state award. Junior Gardeners, Garden Therapy, Conservation and Flower Shows are examples of award categories. Each award category is divided by club size. The Acton Garden Club is in the large club category of over 99 members. The State Committee then forwards only the top award recipients onto the Regional Award Committee and the National Awards Committee. At the National level, these BoE's are then compared to all the top award winners from all the other states. To win a National award is to be the best of the best. It is a really big deal. ***The Acton Garden Club won three national awards, a national grant and a national third place in addition to four State Awards at the May 2005 meeting.*** WOW! Details on these awards will be elaborated on in future newsletters.

Nominating

contributed by: Sally Patrick, Jane Olesin, and Sandy Bonzagni

The Nominating Committee will begin in January to create the new slate of committee chairman, who serve as board members for the new fiscal year, beginning April 4, 2006. All members, please complete and mail the ***pink Membership Interest Survey*** that is attached to this newsletter. Whenever possible, the Nominating Committee will match committee assignments to your interests, and would like to introduce newer members to a co-chairing position with an experienced member. Committee chairs have been given copies of their job descriptions to review for updating. Please contact Sally to indicate if any changes or additions to the job description are necessary, so that she may update our files and keep our information current. Contact her via phone (978-263-1746) or email salpatrick@aol.com if no changes are needed; you can return the edited copy of the job description to her by the next board meeting on November 29th at Joanne Moss's home.

www.ActonGardenClub.org

contributed by: Karin Victor

Have you checked out the Club's Website recently? The site is updated continuously with the newest pictures of Club activities and new information.

- √ If you didn't get a chance to participate in the West Acton Oktoberfest you can see pictures of the table manned by Laura Lindop, Jane Olesin, Lorraine Plimpton, Susanne Fuller and Judy Shuppert.
- √ Wondered what the Junior Gardeners were up to lately? Check out the photos of the recent daffodil planting at the Acton Arboretum.
- √ Curious about Floral Design's "Autumn in Japan"? See the beautiful designs created with the influences of designer Kaye Vosburgh and Thelma Shoneman.

All of the above can be found under the "What's New in the Club?" section found on the main page of the website. If you click on the Calendar of Events you will find what has happened so far and what will happen next, along with photographs creating a pictorial history of the Club. Keep checking, you never know what you will find. If you have photos or information that you would like to see added, please e-mail – Karin@thevictors.us

January Floral Design Study Group

contributed by Wendy Tarson

"Winter in the Netherlands" is the theme for Floral Design on January 17, 2006. We will meet at 9:15 am at St. Matthew's Church, 435 Central St., Acton. We'll be making a colorful fan-shaped design with a European flair inspired by Aad VanUffelen, a featured speaker at Art in Bloom 2005. Sign up at the December meeting or call Wendy Tarson (978-897-8458). Cost is \$20; all components will be provided. Bring pruners, scissors, and a trash bag.

New Plantings on Meetinghouse Hill

Daffodil Run

contributed by: Sydney Storment and Joan Yatteau

Sedum 'Autumn Joy' and the Seven Sons Tree (*Heptacodium miconioides*) are fall bloomers you may have seen on Daffodil Run. In addition, this year, we've planted purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) as another fall bloomer and three plants each of October daphne (*Sedum sieboldii*) and myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) in the upper end of the garden to provide some season-long interest up-close for passers-by on the sidewalk.

October daphne is a lovely, low-growing, deciduous perennial with whorls of three rounded, glaucous, blue-green leaves edged in purple that has pink flowers in autumn. The low-growing euphorbia has an interesting form. It's an evergreen perennial with low arched stems covered in spirals of pointed, succulent, blue-gray leaves and has bright greenish yellow flower-like inflorescences in spring.

Fifty tulip bulbs were also added for additional spring color. Ten bulbs each of the following five varieties were planted this fall:

'Sweetheart' Emperor tulip (lemon yellow, ivory-white edge, mid-April bloom)

'Purple Prince' single early tulip (lilac-purple with beet-red interior, mid-April bloom)

'Synaeda Blue' Triumph tulip (glowing rose-pink with a lilac sheen, brilliant white edge, April/May bloom)

'Salmon Impression' Impression tulip (salmon-apricot with warm pink glow, paler marble pink edges, April/May bloom)

'Grand Style' single early tulip (cherry red, mid-April bloom)

The dedicated Daffodil Run committee has worked hard this fall weeding the embankment, cutting back daylily scapes and foliage, and raking leaves in three work parties. Dean Charter and his crews continue to help with on-going maintenance involving tree removal and poison ivy control. This winter they'll remove the Russian olive that is shading and crowding out viburnum at the upper end of the garden. Many thanks go to our committee and the Town for helping keep Daffodil Run beautiful.

Program Committee

contributed by: Jan Atkins and Sally Patrick

The Program Committee will meet in January to begin to plan the programs that will start next September. If you have heard a great speaker or have an idea for a program that would interest our club, please contact us with your idea.

Jan - (978- 263-6831) or janatkins@110.net or Sally - (978-263-1746) or salpatrick@aol.com.

Membership

contributed by: Janet Richerds

The Acton Garden Club is pleased to welcome three new members: Kelly Ryder, Reshma Singh, and Gail Wick; and one returning member: Barbie Clark. An informational New Member Coffee took place on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at the home of Janet Richards.

Caring Committee

contributed by: Pat Kosicki

Just a reminder! Please let me know of any AGC member who should receive a card, plant, visit or phone call. Your input is and will be very appreciated.

Pat Kosicki (978-263-2812) or patkosicki@verizon.net. Thank you!

The Board of the AGC approved the following guidelines to be administered by the Caring Committee chairperson effective September 8, 2005:

Caring Committee Guidelines

The Caring Committee is to be guided by the following rules in each situation.

I. *Death*

- A. Member – Up to \$50. Make a donation to a charity or non-profit organization in their name.
- B. Spouse or child of member – Up to \$25. Make a donation to a charity or non-profit organization in their name.
- C. Parent or sibling of a member – Send a card.

II. *Serious Illness or Surgeries*

- A. Member – Up to \$20. Take or have delivered* a plant or floral arrangement.
- B. Spouse of member – Send a card.

III. *Birth*

- A. Child of member-- Up to \$20. Take or have delivered* a plant or floral arrangement.

IV. *Wedding*

- A. Member – Up to \$20. Take or have delivered* a plant or floral arrangement.

V. *Cards*

Cards may be sent at any time at the discretion of the Caring Committee Chairperson, i.e. a long term illness.

** delivery charges are included in the \$20 allocation.*

YEARBOOK CHANGES
(changes are highlighted in **BOLD**)

Make Note of These Meeting Changes:

- ◇ January 10 Horticulture Study Group Meeting
is now at **Joan Yatteau's home**
- ◇ February 14 Horticulture Study Group Meeting
is now at **Maureen Christmas's home**
- ◇ February 28 Board Meeting
is now at **Laura Lindop's home**
- ◇ April 11 Horticulture Study Group Meeting
is now at **Bev Brownson's home**



Have a change to your name, address or email?

Contact
Cathy Fochtman
(978-263-5806)
fochtman@verizon.net



There's No Place Like...
Home for the Holidays



December 6, 2005 at St. Matthew's Church, 435 Central Street, Acton

Welcome your family and friends in for the holidays with a beautiful mixed green door swag, an 8" candle ring on your dining room table, or small candle bobeches of greens on your mantle. Cost will be \$5.00 per project base.

Bring your own greens, knife, pruners and a trash bag. Trims will be available for purchase. If you missed the sign-up at the November meeting, give Wendy Tarson a call at (978-897-8458) or email Wendy at wendy.tarson@verizon.net and she will add your name to the list.

Coffee begins at 9:00 am...Supplies will be available before the meeting...Lunch will be served.

It's a Great Time...Don't Miss It!

Acton Garden Club

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01720