

Buds & Blossoms

Newsletter of the Acton Garden Club



Fall 2009 Edition

President's Message

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf's a flower.
-- Albert Camus

Dear Gardening Friends,

Time has flown since we received new yearbooks full of an impressive array of learning opportunities and activities. Programs got off to a great start in September with floral designer Julie Lapham tipping her hat to our presidents. In October, Paul Split cooked up a savory luncheon seasoned with humor and easy ways to use fresh herbs in the kitchen.

Hort Study Group began with two hugely popular programs, Yoga for Gardeners and a visit to the intriguing Dam House. In October's Floral Design study group, we got "flower show ready" creating a plaque design using collected and dried plant material. In January and March, come join the fun and get "flower-show ready" by trying other design types before our June flower show.

Club members also participated in two community events, first Acton Day by creating and selling floral designs in unique containers and then Oktoberfest selling out *Narcissus* 'Actaea' bulbs in record time. In a penultimate 75th event, naturalist Peter Alden's slide-lecture on Invasive Plants Eating Acton helped many people understand damage being done by bittersweet and other invasive plants in our native ecosystems.

And now, as the holiday season approaches, Garden Therapy is well underway as other Community Service Committees put gardens to bed and collect greens for barrels and troughs around town. On November 10th we present our last 75th event, "Holiday Magic – Floral Designs that Transition from November to December Holidays." It will be a design treat to share with family, friends and neighbors.

These many activities and opportunities simply could not happen without the creativity, energy, and dedication of committee heads and members alike as we fulfill Club goals by growing, learning and serving in the community. Invite a gardening friend to a Club meeting, and be...

Growing the Future Together,

Floral Design Study Group

Submitted by *Thelma Shoneman, Director of Floral Concerns*



A spectacular flower show is in the making.....coming on June 14, 15, 2010! All About Town - Celebrating Acton's 275th Anniversary will be staged in the Acton Memorial Library. By the time you are reading this, you probably have read the exciting schedule. The floral design program in January will feature the Federal period design, Class 4, in the schedule. Maureen Christmas will demonstrate this design after which we will create an arrangement in "in the manner of" the Federal Period. Sign up for this fun and informative workshop at the December meeting. Don't miss it!

January 19, 2010

St. Matthew's Church, 435 Central Street

All components will be provided. Cost will be \$20.00.

Bring your tool box.

The first program in the Getting Flower Show Ready series was great fun and a creative success! The plaques designed by the members were spectacular. The plant material collected, and dried for the project was terrific. Congratulations to all! Below are a couple of examples!



Susanne Fuller with her plaque featuring hydrangea, teasel and cones.



Plaque by Linda Chance featuring dried roses, bark, hydrangea and algae.

On November 18, 2009 the Holly Days committee will decorate a 7 1/2 foot holiday tree at Tower Hill. The theme of the tree is Carnival de Quebec. Ornaments are being made from dried allium blooms, locust pods, grasses, Queen Ann's Lace, Golden rain tree pods and more! There will be an ice palace, birch bark canoes and the "Bonhomme de Neige" under the tree. Plan to visit Tower Hill Holly Days exhibit in December to see the festive tree designed by Sue Whitcomb, Joan Yatteau, Celia Lionetta, Noreen Rowe, Sandy Bonzagni, Suzan Sullivan and Thelma Shoneman.



Oktoberfest Bulb Sale

Submitted by Susanne Fuller, Vice-President

Due to rain on the originally scheduled date, Oktoberfest 2009, took place on October 10, a week later. This is the first time there was a rain date for the festival.

The Acton Garden Club sold daffodil bulbs, as it has for the past several years. This year's selection was Actaea, which has sweetly scented, snow-white flowers with broadly overlapping petals and a flat eye of yellow with bright red rim. Actaea is one of the last daffodils to flower and one of the best for naturalizing.

We ordered 700 bulbs, a big increase from the 500 that we have ordered in the past. However, we maintained the same price, i.e. 10 bulbs for \$7.00.

Our plan was to sell whatever bulbs were left after Oktoberfest at our general meeting the following Tuesday. But because Oktoberfest was delayed a week, we sold bulbs at the general meeting first, and then sold the remaining bulbs at Oktoberfest. We sold most of the bulbs at the meeting and the rest at Oktoberfest.

Five club members helped sell bulbs at Oktoberfest.



Sign-up for Community Services Committees Begins in February

Submitted by Susanne Fuller, Chair of Community Services Committees

If you're a new member, you may not know that EACH YEAR all active members must sign-up to serve on a community services committee, even if you want to remain on the same committee you have been on this year. The Club's annual sign-up period for all five of our Community Services Committees will begin in February.

You'll receive complete details in February both through email and newsletter about how to sign up. Clipboards will be available at meetings. Committee signups are on a first-come-first-served basis. If you have physical limitations and there is a particular committee you want, **PLAN TO SIGN UP EARLY.**

Our Community Services Committees are: Garden Therapy at Emerson Hospital, Herb Garden at Acton Arboretum, Civic Beautification, Wildflower Garden at Meeting House Hill and Daffodil Run Garden at Meeting House Hill. Descriptions of Club community service activities begin on page 14 of the 2009-2010 year book. More detailed info about the committees themselves begins on page 23. If you have questions, please email me at rellufs@verizon.net or call 978-897-8397.

www.ActonGardenClub.org and Publicity Press Book Receive Awards

Submitted by Joan Yatteau, President

Maureen Christmas, Susanne Fuller, Laura Lindop, Thelma Shoneman, and Joan Yatteau were all present at the afternoon Luncheon, Awards Ceremony and Floral Design program at the Federation Fall Conference held at the Andover Country Club on October 27, 2009. There the Club received the Barbra D. May Website Award (a Certificate of Merit) in recognition of the wonderful work Technical Liaison Karin Victor does updating our site with the latest activities and information about the Club. This award is given at the Fall Conference to a club for a website maintained by that club.

The Club also received the National Garden Club, Inc., New England Regional Award, a 2nd Place in the Large Club Category, for the Publicity Press Book, 2008-2009, compiled and assembled by Susanne Fuller, Publicity Chair during that time. They have each done such wonderful jobs documenting the many activities of the Club in two very different but voluminous ways. Thank you both for presenting the Club to others so positively in such clear and well organized formats. Congratulations!



Linda Jean Smith (right), President of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, presents one of two awards won by the Acton Garden Club to President Joan Yatteau at the Federation Fall Conference in Andover, MA, on October 27, 2009.

Horticulture Study Group Announcements

Submitted by Judy Dembsey, Horticulture Chair



HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP MEETINGS

November 10- “Using Stone in the Garden”

See how stone provides ornamental aspects to your landscape.

December – There is no Horticulture Group meeting

January 12 – “Annual Planning Meeting and Gardening Book/Magazine Swap”.

Come socialize and share your ideas for next year’s programs. If you wish to have your ideas included in the meeting handout, please contact me. This is your program, designed by all of you.

February 9 – “Gardening Hints and Horrors”

Along with the program presenters, bring your gardening hints and share those unfortunate gardening disasters.

March 9 – “Creating Topiaries”

Have you wondered how those marvelous topiaries are created? Come join us for this demonstration.

Horticulture Study Group is open to all garden club members who like to “dig in the dirt”.

Caring Committee

Submitted by Beverly Brownson, Chair

The Acton Garden Club has not only talented, people interested in the community and people with mutual interests, but they care for one another as well. When one of the members is not able to attend activities for various health issues we try to be an encouragement by sending cards, visits, gifts of plants and other appropriate gifts and attending Memorial Services. Since the Spring Newsletter there have been nineteen cards sent, thirteen calls made, nine hospitals visits and gifts given and recently have attended the Memorial Service for Shirley Towle. When these health issues occur, the goal of the club is that a member be aware that he/she has not been forgotten.



Nominating Committee
Submitted by Laura Lindop, Chair



Your Nominating Committee, Laura Lindop, Maureen Christmas, and Janet Richards, have begun to plan and gather information for the 2009-2010 calendar year. It is our job to provide a slate of officers and committee chairs upon which you will vote at the Annual Meeting in April. When we contact you, please do consider joining the Board. It takes many hands to continue to be such a vibrant organization.

Please refer to the pink forms in this newsletter for further information. (if you have an email address, the Membership Survey is being sent to you via email).

Holiday Magic:
Floral Designs that Transform from November to
December Holidays
Submitted by Joan Yatteau, President



Floral designs presented by award-winning Acton Garden Club designers on Tuesday evening, November 10, 2009, at St. Matthew's Church, 435 Central Street, Acton, MA. There will be light refreshments at 7PM and the program will begin at 7:30PM. The designs will be raffled off at the end of the program.

It's **free and open to the public** as a Club 75th Anniversary gift to the community. This is the last scheduled 75th celebratory event. Plan to come, bring friends and family. It will be a treat, so I hope to you there!

A Reminder from Our Directors

Submitted by Peggy Garrison, Janet Richards, and Dorothy Robbins

ACTON GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS MAY NOT USE, FOR ANY REASON, OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST (E-MAIL, PHONE NUMBER OR ADDRESS), TO FURTHER THEIR OWN PERSONAL, BUSINESS, OR POLITICAL AGENDAS, NOR CAN ACTON GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS BE USED AS A FORUM TO PROMOTE THESE SAME OBJECTIVES.

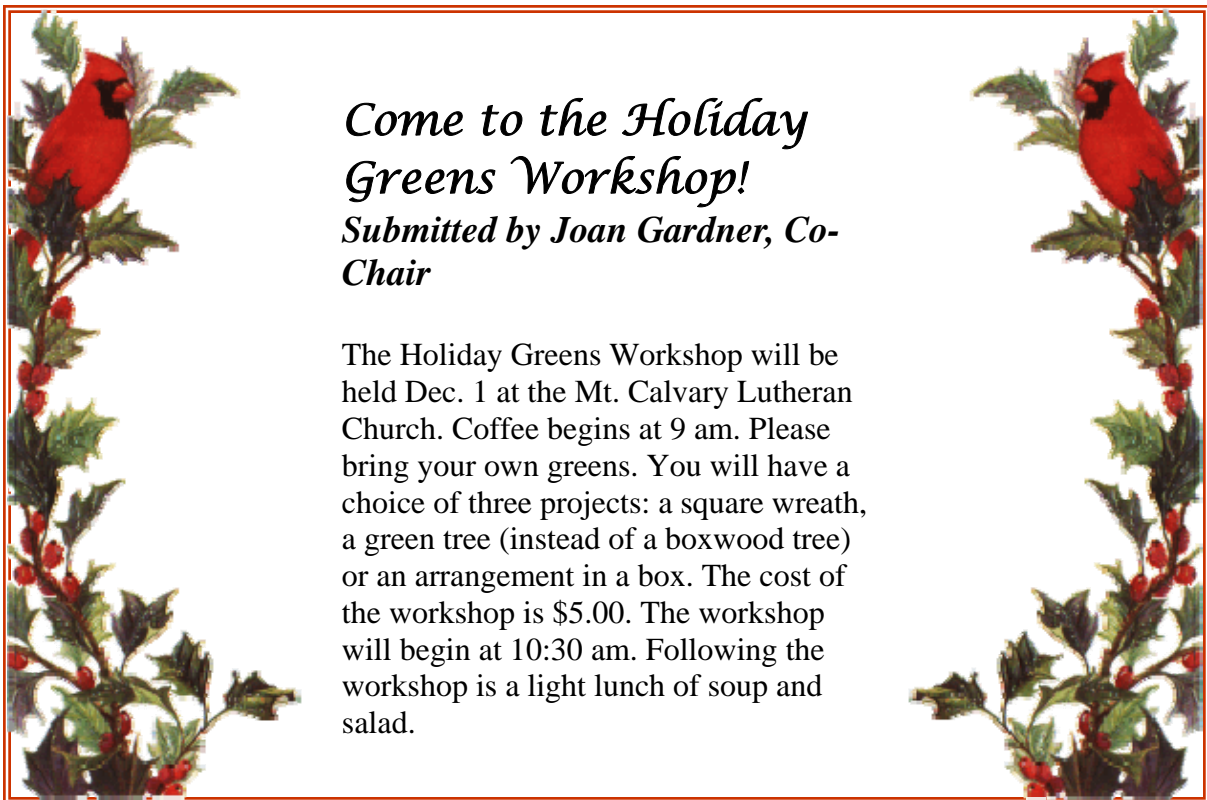


Programs

Submitted by Susan Harrigan, Co-Chair

Our fall programs have been well received and we look forward to more exciting winter ones. In September, Julie Lapham, National Garden Club accredited Master Judge, started our season off with her presentation: "Hats off to our Presidents". Everyone was amazed at her ability to create while the fire alarm sounded continually. Lapham continues to teach, but not dictate, making one feel they can replicate her arrangements anytime. Designs were taken home by lucky winners and extra flowers were given to all.

October brought Paul Split, Chef and Horticultural lecturer, with a demonstration of how to make a delicate, delicious strawberry vinaigrette and herb butter using all of those herbs in your garden. He was fun, enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Following the demonstration, we were all treated to a fantastic pasta luncheon and thoroughly enjoyed our feast and new home at the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. The room seemed to come alive with talk and laughter and best of all no tables or chairs had to be lifted by our members!



*Come to the Holiday
Greens Workshop!*
*Submitted by Joan Gardner, Co-
Chair*

The Holiday Greens Workshop will be held Dec. 1 at the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. Coffee begins at 9 am. Please bring your own greens. You will have a choice of three projects: a square wreath, a green tree (instead of a boxwood tree) or an arrangement in a box. The cost of the workshop is \$5.00. The workshop will begin at 10:30 am. Following the workshop is a light lunch of soup and salad.