

Buds & Blossoms

Fall 2010 Edition



President's Message

falling leaves hide the path so quietly
-- John Bailey, "Autumn," a haiku year

Dear Gardening Friends,



As trees put on their autumn dress, September and October have been full of Acton Garden Club service and participation. With our Community Service Committees in full gear, teams of members are putting the three Town gardens we care for to bed, adding autumn color to Town barrels and troughs, soon to be augmented with holiday greens, and starting up Garden Therapy at Emerson after the summer hiatus.

In tribute to the important work done by the Acton's Looking Good Contest committee over the summer, we had a wonderful turnout of business owners and managers proudly accepting their award plaques at our September meeting. There's clearly a lot of enthusiasm and friendly competition in the business community regarding our landscape award contest.

September began our new 'program year' with a slide show plus the "Making of an 'Art in Bloom' Arrangement". Lots of members attended the Sept. Horticulture Study Group for the unique opportunity to tour the interesting home garden of Mr. John Trexler, the Executive Director of Tower Hill Botanic Garden. In Oct. the Hort. Study Group got a primer in simple ways to make preparing your spring vegetable garden easier, presented by two club members.

To enhance the "blooming of Acton" come next spring, the Club's chosen daffodil sold at Oktoberfest was *Narcissus* 'Tahiti' (in bags of 10 bulbs each). The number of bulbs we've offered for sale the last few years has steadily increased, from 500 to 700 to 1000 bulbs sold this year. Some customers were even asking for more of last year's bulb selection, the fragrant *N.* 'Actaea'.

In the Club's ongoing effort to promote Lyme disease education, club members took the educational display developed for the Club's June 2010 flower show on the road to Acton-Boxboro Farmers' Market, Acton Day at NARA Park and Oktoberfest events. A lot of people concerned about deer ticks and Lyme disease stopped by and were glad for the chance to learn more.



October was filled with Federation flower shows at Topsfield Fair and Tower Hill Botanic Garden, and with our own Floral Design Study Group. Members learned more about floral design by both seeing and doing. The variety of opportunities are possible only through the energy, creativity, and dedication of committee heads and club members alike as we all work toward the Club's goals of growing, learning, and serving in the Community. Invite a friend to the Club, try something new, share your experience, and let's get . . . *growing the future, together.*



Jan

Newsletter of the
Acton Garden Club



Floral Design

Submitted by Thelma Shoneman, Director of Floral Concerns



Many members of the AGC have taken advantage of the Fall 2010 opportunities offered in Floral design. Twenty-four members created gorgeous arrangements (right) at the October 19th workshop entitled “Fun with Foliages”. In the series, New Trends and Techniques, Uglu dashes were used to manipulate flax, galax and aspidistra foliages in the trendy designs. Visit the AGC web-site to see lots of photos of this workshop.

On January 18th, Maureen Christmas will present the next design, *Candlelight and Roses* in the New Trend and Technique series. The sign-up for this fun design will be passed at both the November and December meetings since there is no regular meeting in January. If you happen to miss these sign-ups and wish to attend, please notify Pam Nelson. Cost for all components is \$20.00.

Congratulations are in order for the six AGC members that entered the Standard Flower Show, *New England Journey* at Tower Hill on October 22, 2010. Joan Gardner won first place in ‘The China Trade’ class, Thelma Shoneman won 1st place and Designers Choice in ‘Gift from the Sea’, Maureen Christmas won 1st place and the Table Artistry Award for ‘Tailgate Party’, Joan Yatteau won 3rd place for ‘The Maine Woods’. Janet Richards and Susan Harrigan entered decorated Shaker boxes in the Artistic Crafts division and won 3rd and HM places respectively. Laura Lindop and Maureen Christmas entered the Flower Show at the Topsfield Fair, too. October was a very busy month in the “Floral Design” arena! Photos will be on the AGC web-site.

More than a dozen AGC members attended the “Designing Principles” workshop on Oct. 13 at the Espousal Center in Waltham. Thelma Shoneman demonstrated how to create Hanging Designs I and II. Kathleen Coyle created a beautiful underwater design. This was the first meeting in a series of 3 very informative sessions on floral design techniques.

It is very rewarding to see so many Acton members participating not only in club activities but taking advantage of the many educational opportunities in floral design offered by the Federation.

Horticulture Study Group Announcements

Submitted by Mike Svoboda, Horticulture Chair

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP MEETINGS

November 9 – “Four-Season Perennial Gardening”

Great opportunity for conversation, questions, answers and monthly “to-do” list for the garden

December – No Horticulture Study Group meeting this month

January 11 - “Annual Planning Meeting and Gardening Book/Magazine Swap”.

Share your ideas for next year’s programs. If you wish to have your ideas included and won’t be at the meeting, please contact me.

February 8 - “Rocks, Rocks, and Rocks”

A study of a rock garden, a rockery, and a wall garden

March 8 - Birds, Bees and Butterflies

A study of bird and butterfly gardens; we will answer your questions on the Birds and the bees

Horticulture Study Group is open to all garden club members. Come join us to learn new gardening ideas.

Oktoberfest Bulb Sale

Submitted by Susanne Fuller, Vice-President

Oktoberfest 2010, took place on October 2nd, a beautiful warm fall day.

The Acton Garden Club sold daffodil bulbs, as it has for the past several years. This year’s selection was Daffodil Tahiti. It has fully double flowers of soft yellow accented by tufts of coppery orange. The large blooms stand like torches on strong stems. It blooms in early to mid-spring.

This year we ordered 1,000 bulbs, 300 more than were ordered for 2009, and twice as many as we ordered in 2008. We maintained the same price, i.e. 10 bulbs for \$7.00, but some helpful members managed to sell a lot of bags for \$10.00, a happy mistake.

We sold whatever bulbs were left after Oktoberfest at our general meeting the following Tuesday.

Seven club members helped sell bulbs at Oktoberfest.

Board of Directors

Submitted by Janet Richards, Chair

The Directors (Laura Lindop, Janet Richards and Dorothy Robbins) have had a busy year overseeing scholarships and grants as well as financial concerns and bylaws. Only one policy is being presented to the Executive Board at the October meeting to be reviewed and voted upon. All recommendations from the Directors must be approved by the Acton Garden Club Board before implementation.

Acton Arboretum Herb Garden

Submitted by Sydney Storment, Co-Chair



The committee spent 6 workdays (about 85 man-hours) maintaining the garden this year. The herb garden has plantings of both perennial and annual herbs. Every spring the annuals are planted during the spring workdays and then removed at the fall workdays. Spring is the time for raking away winter debris, replacing the perennials as needed, pruning, and mulching for the summer. We also dig plants for the annual plant sale.

This summer there was a water ban in Acton, so the garden suffered some from lack of water. However it was still beautiful as many herbs like hot, dry weather. In the fall we rake up the leaves, remove the annuals, cut back the perennials, prune as needed and do a general cleanup around the perimeter. During the workdays we had a chance to enjoy each other's company, and on the last workday we had a small celebration with some seasonal refreshments and said good-bye to the garden for the winter season. The chairs want to especially thank all the committee members that participated in the workdays.



Over the winter the committee will consider ideas for re-invigorating the garden next year. We are thinking of adding some more color interest, and also of ideas for a focal point for the garden. Any suggestions from the club will be welcome.

Nominating Committee

Submitted by Janet Richards, Chair

At the November 2nd monthly meeting the Nominating Committee (Maureen Christmas, Janet Richards and Gail Wick) will be placing membership surveys as well as job descriptions of Board positions on every chair and would greatly appreciate if all members would fill this out and return at the end of the meeting. This information is extremely helpful in filling the Board positions for 2011 - 2012.

The Board openings for the following year are:

- ◆ Vice President
- ◆ Auditor
- ◆ Historian
- ◆ Director
- ◆ Communications
- ◆ Hospitality
- ◆ Membership
- ◆ Program
- ◆ Technical Liaison
- ◆ Raffle
- ◆ Civic Beautification
- ◆ Herb Garden

Opportunities for Learning & Growing – 'The Federation and Beyond'

Submitted by Joan Yatteau, President

One goal of the Acton Garden Club is to provide opportunities for learning in the areas of horticulture, floral design, and environmental issues. To that end, we provide members with informative speakers and programs, regularly stage Club flower shows, maintain a commitment to community service, and encourage participation in programs sponsored by the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts (GCFM), the state organization we often refer to as 'the Federation'.

Founded in 1934, the Acton Garden Club has been a member of the Federation since 1946. Being a federated club opens up to our members a tremendous variety of opportunities for learning, and many of our members participate in Federation events and activities. Our members are also fortunate to have regular member-led programs in the Club's Horticulture Study Group and Floral Design Study Group.



Every two years, the Central North & Central South Districts of the Federation put on a flower show, including horticultural specimens, artistic crafts, and educational displays, judged by teams of nationally accredited flower-show judges. This year six Club members entered floral designs in 'New England Journey', a Standard Flower Show staged by Central North (the Club's home district) and Central South District at Tower Hill Botanic Garden.

*Joan Gardner's blue ribbon 'China Trade' entry
in 'New England Journey'.*

The Club also has many members that participate in schools accredited by National Garden Clubs, Inc., (NGC) and run by the Federation. Each school, such as Gardening Study School, Landscape Design Study School, Flower Show School, and Environmental Studies School, is a series of four courses. Each school offers a course one time during the year.

There is a textbook and/or other required reading. Each course is usually two days of lectures followed by an exam. A subscription (\$6.50/yr) to *The National Gardener*, the bimonthly bulletin of National Garden Clubs, Inc., is required. NGC is the national organization of federated garden clubs. AGC is a member of the NGC New England Region. If you'd like to learn more about participating in one of the many learning opportunities available to AGC members, we're always happy to answer questions.

The Club's supporting memberships in several other organizations, such as Massachusetts Horticultural Society, New England Wildflower Society, and others, make course discounts and/or admission passes available. See page 22 of your yearbook for a more complete description of your membership privileges.



Come to the Holiday Greens Workshop!

Submitted by Joan Gardner, Co-Chair

It will be held December 7th at St. Matthew's Church, and once again Thelma Shoneman will lead us in the workshop. Coffee will be served at 9AM, followed by the business meeting at 9:45AM and the program at 10:30AM. A light lunch will be served at noon.

Checks are made out to the Acton Garden Club for \$5. Bring your pruners, a selection of greens, any apples (fresh or faux) and ornaments to use in your design. Snowflakes and dried sponge mushrooms can be ordered for an additional \$5 per project. Samples of the project choices will be at the November meeting:

- ⇒ Mailbox garland
- ⇒ Centerpiece with sparkle
- ⇒ Door swag in one of three designs-
 - * Snowflake
 - * Grapevine, apple & mushroom (right)
 - * Traditional greens and ribbons



Civic Beautification

Submitted by Sue Nordhausen and Jean Lane, Co-Chairs

Civic Beautification certainly had a wonderful group of dedicated members to do all the watering of our 32 barrels, 2 troughs and the Town Hall oval. It was a tremendous amount of work during the total water ban and our efforts were well rewarded with beautiful blooms all summer. We have received many compliments regarding the troughs and the oval. Thank you all for your efforts and to Gay Rose for sending out the reminders for the watering schedule.



Fall is here and we have planted the mums and kale in time for Oktoberfest. The barrels with the impatiens were left as they were still blooming beautifully and the winter greens will be planted in November. A work party is scheduled for the end of October to cut greens for the winter barrels and troughs. This will be done using the expertise of Sue Whitcomb at the Arboretum and other areas. The placing of these will be done in November by the Civic Beautification on two different days, this is to give the members that can't make one day the option of helping the other day.

We can then hang up our garden tools and wait for pansy time in the Spring!



Programs

Submitted by Susan Harrigan, Co-Chair

This year we started a week late, but with a wonderful program “Art in Bloom” from the Museum of Fine Arts. We did see some of the wonderful interpretations of pieces of art through the years, including some by our own, Thelma Shoneman. Then we had an arrangement done before our very eyes.

In October we traveled through the year with plants, shrubs and trees with a lovely presentation by Laura Bibler.

In November the program will feature ‘Garden Ornaments’, a slide illustrated lecture by Ashley Rooney who is also the author of ‘Pots, Pergolas, Pedestals’.



*Come to the
Holiday Greens Workshop!*

December 7th at St. Matthew’s Church. It’s a fun way to get into a festive mood. See details inside the newsletter. We hope to see you there!