

Spring



Buds & Blossoms

*Newsletter of the Acton Garden Club
Spring 2010 Edition*

President's Message

Is it Spring yet???

Best wishes to all for the New Year!

Although, at this writing, our gardens lay blanketed in snow, it is the gardener in us who is dreaming of spring. The seed and plant catalogs are pouring in and whetting our appetites for a new year of gardening.

Now is the time to focus on the Acton Garden Club's 'new year' as well. Our fiscal year, elections, and community services committees all begin again in April. (Our program year begins in September.) Everyone signs-up each year, so you can choose a new community service committee or sign-up for the same one. Meet new people, learn something new, join in the fun and *grow the future* of the Club. Yes, it's that important!

The Acton Garden Club, fondly dubbed the "Action Garden Club" by some, is truly hands-on, and the "action" is purpose-driven. This is never more evident than in the tremendous job done by our five community services committees, helping beautify the Town with civic plantings, bringing smiles and sunshine inside with garden therapy at Emerson, and serving the community and learning at the same time under the guidance of experienced gardeners in the three public gardens, Herb, Wildflower, and Daffodil Run, originally initiated and now cared for by the Club. You'll find plenty of information in this newsletter about our community service activities, about what we do and how to sign up.

The wonderful celebrations of our 75th Anniversary year are behind us, but they have given us numerous opportunities to experience and reflect on what makes being part of this Club so special. Sometimes we see ourselves best through the eyes of another. I will read the Westford Garden Club's thank-you note to us for our 'Holiday Magic' program at the February meeting .

With the New Year, let each one of us rededicate ourselves to a commitment to community service, a vital part of the life of the Club.

Warmest regards,

P.S. Please be sure to **read** and **fill out** all the paperwork (enclosed) relating to your member commitments in the New Year.

2010-2011

Community Service Committees - Time to Sign-up!

Submitted by Susanne Fuller, Vice President

It's time to sign up for the Community Service Committee of your choice. The Bylaws of the Acton Garden Club (aka the **Action** Garden Club) say that one of our Purposes is to maintain plantings at public buildings, monuments, and roadsides. Currently, we have five Community Service committees; they are listed below along with a brief description of the type of work involved for each.

According to Section 7a of the bylaws, all active members (including board members) are required to contribute at least 4 work sessions on one of the 5 Community Service Committees each year. Assume 2 hours per work session or about 8 hours per year. This modest effort from each member makes a world of difference for our community. For many members, the opportunity to contribute to the beautification of the town was the reason to join the Acton Garden Club. As veteran members know, working on a Community Service Committee is a wonderful way to get to know other members and learn about many facets of gardening and floral design in an informal setting.

The Community Service requirement for active members is in addition to our requirements to serve on the Hospitality Committee and support all fund raising activities. Remember the Acton Garden Club is an all-volunteer organization.

You may sign up for the same committee you have been on or sign up for a different 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 and want to serve on a particular committee – please sign-up early!** Committees are made up on a first-come/first-served basis, and it's not really fair to ask someone who signed up early to switch to another committee because you waited to sign-up.

Two ways to sign-up:

Committee clipboards 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!

AFTER the February regular meeting, you may e-mail Susanne Fuller at rellufs@verizon.net with subject line: AGC community service 2010-11. Please give your first and second committee choices.

So sign up for Community Service; it is not just a good idea, it's what we DO.

Dues Reminder

Submitted by Gena Manalan, Treasurer

Dues for the coming year are due by April 1, 2010. Dues are \$30.00 for active members, \$40.00 for associate members, and \$35.00 for senior associate members. We will have a table set up at the February and March general meeting.

Community Service Committees - Time to Sign-up!

(continued)

**Our five Community Service committees as described below.
Please see your Club yearbook for more information.**

<p>1. Civic Beautification Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical labor: planting, weeding, deadheading, watering• Children allowed: Yes, non-ambulatory only; sites are near busy roads. <p>Can committee work be performed outside scheduled workday? Yes, for limited plantings; yes, for maintenance</p>	
<p>2. Herb Garden at Acton Arboretum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical labor: clean-up, planting, weeding, mulching, watering• Children allowed? Yes <p>Can committee work be performed outside scheduled workday? Yes</p>	
<p>3. Wildflower Garden at Meeting House Hill (corner of Main Street and Nagog Hill Road)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical labor: raking, mulching, planting, weeding, deadheading, watering• Children allowed? Yes <p>Can committee work be performed outside scheduled workday? Yes</p>	
<p>4. Daffodil Run at Meeting House Hill (corner of Main Street and Nagog Hill Road – along Main Street)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical labor: raking, mulching, planting, weeding, deadheading, watering• Children allowed? Yes, non-ambulatory only. <p>This is along Main St.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can committee work be performed outside scheduled workday? Yes	
<p>5. Garden Therapy at Emerson Hospital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical labor: Minimal• Children allowed: NO <p>Can committee work be performed outside scheduled workday? NO</p>	

Civic Beautification Committee

Submitted by Susan Nordhausen and Jean Lane, Co-Chairpersons

The Civic Beautification Committee is having a well deserved rest after a very busy spring, summer, fall and winter season!! The 32 barrels, 2 horse troughs, Town Hall oval and planters have been fun and quite a challenge to keep attractively full and healthy looking. Our year really starts in the Spring with the pansies and forsythia, moves quickly into the summer plantings of impatient, begonia, vinca, and petunias (to name just a few varieties!), and after a lengthy summer, changes to chrysanthemums, and kale, and then quickly gets ready for the winter with the evergreens.



Now as the days are getting longer, we are already planning and thinking ahead to Spring. The fun project this Spring will be the oval in front of the Acton Town which was raised last Fall after all the existing perennials were lifted and then replaced at the new ground level. This garden which was established as a 50th anniversary gift to the town, and now has been revamped for our 75th anniversary, is one of our "crowning jewels" centered right in front of the town hall. We hope to keep this as a bright and welcoming attraction. Also, around the middle of the summer the last of the collapsing barrels were replaced all around town which should also help with the health of the plantings.



With many thanks to the hard working committee members, it was another successful year, and Jean and I would like to thank each and every one of you: Ann Leary, Bev. Shorey, Carole Ward, Gay Rose, Joan Gardner, Mike Svoboda, Pam Nelson, Pat Kosicki, Peggy Garrison, Phyllis Mc Donough, Sharon Gruet, Stephanie Reid, Susan Harri- gan, and Thelma Shoneman.



Caring Committee

Submitted by Beverly Brownson, Chairperson

This has been an eventful Newsletter quarter for us. It has been a sad time for us with the deaths of Shirley Towle, Martin Alvarez and Dorothy Shamel. There also have been times of smiles as we visit those members who are recovering from falls and surgeries along with many cards of encouragement. Recently Judy Shuppert has fallen and severely broken both of her ankles. The right ankle needed a plate and screws on one side and a screw on the other side. The left ankle has a hairline fracture and she's in a walking boot on that one. She's home and feeling well, but rather incapacitated.

We're so happy to report that Jan Atkins, Sue Diguette, Gay Rose, Doris Prendiville and Virginia Hahn have recovered remarkably well and hope to see all of them soon. It's been a pleasure to send 22 cards, place 18 phone calls and visit 7 times accompanied 6 times with flowering plants.

Ways and Means

Plant Sale May 15, 2010

Submitted by Mike Svoboda and Gail Wick

It's hard to believe it, but Spring will be here soon and we need to begin forming Committees for our favorite fundraiser, the Annual Plant Sale. Many of you have already graciously offered to chair Committees. Thanks to all of you in advance. We are still looking for a Co-Chair for Set-Up. Sign-up sheets will be available at the February 2nd meeting. If you are unable to attend that meeting and wish to sign-up for a Committee, please email the Chair of the Committee.

Plant Sale 2009

Advertising Chair: Ann Leary & Jackie Amirhor
After Sales Donations: Sue Whitcomb
Annuals Co-Chairs: Janet Richards, Judy Shuppert, Judy Rice
Little Red House Co-Chairs: Joan Yatteau and Susanne Fuller
Cashiers Chair: Peggy Garrison
Clean-up Chair: Stephanie Reid
Daylilies Chair: Bev Shorey
Diggers/Potters: Cathy Fochtman
Holding Area Co-Chairs: Suzan Sullivan and Linda Chance
Publicity Chair: Fran Portante
Raffle Co-Chairs: Susan Harrigan/Joan Gardner
Sales Co-Chairs: Judy Dembsey/Sue Whitcomb
Set-up Co-Chairs: Celia Lionetta
Signage Chair: Sue Nordhausen
Treasurer: Gena Manalan
Waterwise Gardening: Alan Cushing

The Plant Sale is expected to run pretty much a last year. The use of the Little Red House made storing the record number of perennials and transporting them the day of the sale, more convenient. We will continue to fine tune things and welcome any ideas/input. Our most important resource is our members...so please sign-up for a committee and join the fun!

Program Committee

Submitted by Susan Harrigan and Joan Gardner, Co-Chairpersons

After our winter break, we can look forward to programs about roses and window boxes. Doesn't that make you feel warmer? On Feb. 2 at the Town Hall we will hear David Cannistraro, a Master Rosarian from the American Rose Society talk about "Easy Growing Roses". In March Rita Wollmering, Founder, grower and manager of The Herb Farmacy will talk about "Window Boxes: The Herb Farmacy". And in April, we have our Annual Meeting, this year at the Wedgewood Pines Country Club in Stow. Many thanks to members of our program committee and the hospitality committee who always manage to do a great job.

Floral Design/Flower Show

Submitted by Thelma Shoneman, Chairperson, and Sally Patrick, Design Entries

Acton Garden Club Flower Show

June 14-15, 2010

Acton Memorial Library

Plans are well under way for the spring flower show, “**All About Town – Celebrating Acton’s 275th Anniversary**”. What a celebration of flowers it will be! Maureen Christmas and Judy Dembsey and committee have written a terrific schedule inspiring designers and gardeners to enter the show. A few class titles are *Farmlands*, *Industrial Revolution* and *Town Heroes*. Horticulture titles celebrate the *Acton Arboretum*, *Meeting House Hill*, and *Daffodil Run*.

This show schedule includes a section on Artistic Crafts entitled “*What’s old is new again.*” In the Youth section there will be terrariums, fresh flower designs and artistic crafts. The education exhibits will highlight club projects such as the period garden at the West Acton Library, Meeting House Hill, Herb Garden and Lyme Disease.

DESIGN ENTRIES NEEDED! SIGN UP NOW with Sally Patrick!

“All About Town” will be open to the public on Monday, June 14 and Tuesday the 15th. Entries will be placed on Sunday, June 13th from 2-4:30 PM. The library is a wonderful setting for the show, and like our last show, the designs will be on the second floor. There is a wide range of design types to choose from including creative, traditional, Federal, parallel and a breakfast tray. Sign up for your favorite or try something new. What will make the flower show a success is your participation. Clip boards for signing up will be passed at the next meeting or Design signups can be sent directly to SalPatrick@aol.com.

ARTISTIC CRAFTS ENTRIES NEEDED! SIGN UP NOW with Thelma Shoneman!

Class 1 “Victorian Times” calls for a Necklace reflective of the Victorian Period.
Class 2 “Roaring 20’s” calls for a Brooch of dried plant material reflective of the Art Deco period.
Class 3 “Celebration” calls for an ornament commemorating any event significant to the Town of Acton. These crafts are all made of dried plant material so they can be made well in advance and placed on Sunday the 13th. This allows for exhibitors to sign up for one or more of these classes and also a design class. Call Thelma with any questions and sign up or e-mail to enter: tshoneman@verizon.net.



Following the Floral design workshop theme of “Getting Flower Show Ready” Maureen Christmas demonstrated how to create a floral design “in the manner of “the Federal Period in preparation for the class, *Dwellings*, in the upcoming flower show that calls for that type of traditional design.

Horticulture Study Group

Submitted by Judy Dembsey, Chairperson

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP MEETINGS

March 9 – “Creating Topiaries”

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

April 13 – Dividing and Staking Plants

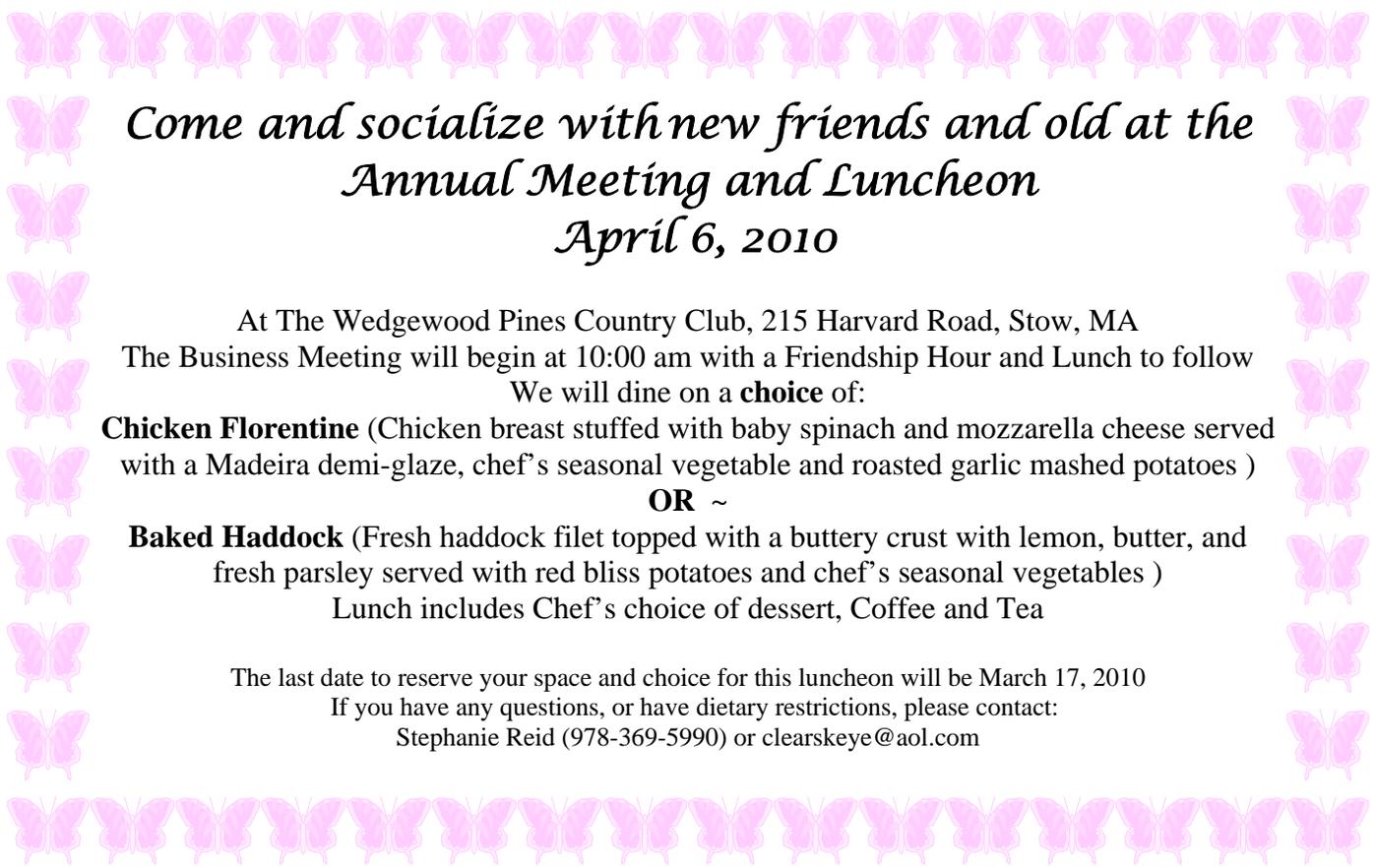
Learn why and how we divide and stake plants.

May 18 – Preparing Specimens for our Flower Show **IMPORTANT MEETING**

Let's make the horticulture division of the flower show SHINE. Club members have submitted over 200 specimens in past shows and have earned many award ribbons. Reading the flower show schedule is confusing and can be intimidating. Therefore, be sure to come to this meeting and you will be given instructions on how to cut, carry, and display your plant specimens. Hostas have not been in a show since 2002. Learn how to cut and pack the leaves. Ask questions! We often hear, from a member who has not participated, "I had a flower as nice as the one displayed. I should have brought it." Remove anxiety and come to this meeting. Be a participant.

June 8 – Tour of Jan Sack's and Marty Schaffer's Iris Garden

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



Come and socialize with new friends and old at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon April 6, 2010

At The Wedgewood Pines Country Club, 215 Harvard Road, Stow, 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:

Chicken Florentine (Chicken breast stuffed with baby spinach and mozzarella cheese served with a Madeira demi-glaze, chef's seasonal vegetable and roasted garlic mashed potatoes)

OR ~

Baked Haddock (Fresh haddock filet topped with a buttery crust with lemon, butter, and fresh parsley served with red bliss potatoes and chef's seasonal vegetables)

Lunch includes Chef's choice of dessert, Coffee and Tea

The last date to reserve your space and choice for this luncheon will be March 17, 2010

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

Stephanie Reid (978-369-5990) or clearskeye@aol.com