



Newsletter of
the Acton Garden Club
Spring 2011 Edition

Buds & Blossoms

President's Message

There is nothing in the world more beautiful than the forest clothed to its very hollows in snow. It is the still ecstasy of nature, wherein every spray, every blade of grass, every spire of reed, every intricacy of twig, is clad with radiance.

-- William Sharp

Best wishes for the New Year!

Although snowstorm after snowstorm makes it seem as though spring will never come, the gardener in us, mindful of the changing seasons, is sharpening tools and laying the groundwork for a new gardening year.

So, too, is the Acton Garden Club preparing for a new year of service to our community. Our fiscal year, elections, and community service committees begin anew in April. Signup is already underway for our five community service committees – so vital to the work of the Club – whether bringing sunshine indoors through Garden Therapy at Emerson, helping tend a public garden that's linked to both the history of the Town and the Club, or beautifying the Town's public buildings and spaces with plantings and seasonal containers.

The multipurpose 'pink planning form' is available *everywhere*, coming by email, available at meetings and in our newsletter. This form makes it convenient for us to pay our 2011-2012 dues, sign-up for annual luncheon, rank our preferences for a community service committee, and indicate a preferred month or months when we could be available to help with hospitality for one of our regular monthly meetings. Perhaps you've heard a speaker you think the Club would enjoy; let the Program Chair know.

Plant Sale chairs are gearing up for our annual fundraiser on Saturday, May 14th. There are many ways to help both prior to and during the sale (for example, receiving donated plants at the Red House during the days before the sale, or cashiering and helping in the holding area during the sale. Try something new, and contribute to an effort involving the entire Club.

Our Club's goals can only be achieved through members' interest and dedication to helping each other. It has been a pleasure serving as your President these past two years, and I look forward to growing into new ways to be involved in the Club.

Growing the future,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jan".

2011-2012

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 2011-12. Please give your first, second and third committee choices.

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

Dues Reminder

Submitted by Rheta Roeber, Treasurer

Dues for the coming year are due by April 1, 2011. 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. Please see the "Pink Form" in paper copy of this newsletter.

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. This is along Main St.• 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

Mid-winter. A time of rest for all our gardens and also for the Civic Beautification Committee!

Many thanks to the winter greens work committees for the fantastic job they did to make all the planters so attractive for the winter. The new idea of having a cutting committee prune at the Arboretum, and at the same time forage some great greenery worked out extremely well. These greens plus many choice specimens donated by our members gave the arranging committees lots to work with. The various colors of green, the berries and the purchased miniature Alberta Spruce all worked together to create very attractive containers. And once again the kale from the fall was left in for added color and lasted well until covered with snow. Our goal of having plants that will bridge the seasons, rather than removing everything from the containers and planting all anew has been a big success. This process maintains height in the planters as well as being a bit more economical.



Also, our two year project to bring the oval garden back to it's intended prominence and once again grace the front entranceway of the Town Hall has been extremely rewarding. We are sure you have all been following it's progress both in the past newsletters as well as when you pass by. And the idea to occasionally break our committee into three parts: W. Acton, Acton Center and the Center Oval, has proved successful to ensure the oval receives the care it needs.

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, Gay Rose, Joan Gardner, Pam Nelson, Pat Kosicki, Peggy Garrison, Phyllis Mc Donough, Stephanie Reid, Susan Harrigan, Thelma Shoneman, Cathy Fochtman, Nancy Gerhardt, Doris Prendiville, Sam Wasfy and Claudette DuHamel.

And so, after the pansies are in, my three years of co-chairing this wonderful committee are over. Thank you all for this opportunity. I have really enjoyed this committee as well as working with two great co-chairs; first, Celia Lionetta, and the last two years with Jean Lane.

And now, both Jean and I look forward to bringing the committee, and the planters, back to life in the Spring.

Ways and Means

Plant Sale Saturday, May 14, 2011

Submitted by Alan Cushing and Gena Manalan, Co-Chairs

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 the Holding Area. Sign-up sheets will be available at the February 1st meeting. If you are unable to attend that meeting and wish to sign-up for a Committee, please email the Plant Sale Committee Chair (see list next page).

Ways and Means (continued)

Plant Sale Saturday, May 14, 2011

Plant Sale 2011

Advertising Co-Chairs: Ann Leary and Jackie Amirhor
After Sales Donations: Sue Whitcomb
Annuals Co-Chairs: Janet Richards and Judy Rice
Little Red House Co-Chairs: Joan Yatteau and Linda Chance
Cashiers Chair: Kathy Burke
Clean-up Chair: Bob Johnson
Daylilies Chair: Joan Gardner
Diggers/Potters: Cathy Fochtman
Holding Area Co-Chairs: Suzan Sullivan and _____
Publicity Chair: Fran Portante
Raffle Co-Chairs: Carol Stewart-Grinkus and Mimi Flanary
Sales Co-Chairs: Judy Dembsey and Sue Whitcomb
Set-up Co-Chairs: Celia Lionetta, Joy Madden, Mike Svoboda
Signage Chair: Sue Nordhausen
Treasurer: Rheta Roeber
Waterwise Gardening: Fran Hearn

The Plant Sale is expected to run pretty much as 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!

Floral Concerns

Submitted by Thelma Shoneman, Chairperson

Despite Old Man Winter's attempt to cancel the January Floral Design workshop, many members were able to attend the "snow-date" session! Maureen Christmas demonstrated to participants how to create a trendy centerpiece using 2 frosted containers, faux candles, roses, lirioppe, hypericum berries, orchids, and carnations. The results were gorgeous! A special thank you to Maureen and Pam Nelson for making the snow date arrangements. We thank St. Matthew's, too, for allowing us to reschedule.



Maureen Christmas demonstrating the "Candlelight and Roses" Design.



Finished designs by AGC members.

Floral Concerns (continued)

FLORA IN WINTER

Three Acton Garden Club members participated in Flora in Winter , January 27-30 this year. A storm was predicted for entry day, January 27th so Laura Lindop, Maureen Christmas and Thelma Shoneman all made their arrangements the day before so they would be ready for opening day and the Flora Euphoria preview party.

At the Worcester Art Museum, Thelma Shoneman interpreted the painting, **Looking East from Denny Hill** by Ralph Earl in the American Gallery(see below). She attempted to “ paint a floral tapestry of green tints, tones and textures. To capture the tapestry feeling, she selected foliage and flowers for shape, texture and color. Then she organized them using design techniques of mounding, terracing and foliage manipulation. Some plant material used was curly willow, Trachelium, Hypericum berries, Aspidistra, roses, Grevillea, carnations, Galax leaves, and Chrysanthemums.



At Tower Hill the Theme was “A Moment in Time”! Maureen Christmas chose Art Deco as her moment and created this stunning design. This is Maureen’s Statement of Intent:

Art Deco with a Twist!

I have always been drawn to the style of the 1920’s and 1930’s. The term ‘Art Deco’ defining that ‘moment’ in time came into popularity in the 1960’s. Finding its origins in Paris, it embraced stylized geometric shapes, man-made objects and was seen as elegant, modern and glamorous. My intent with this design is to give the feeling of an Art Deco arrangement while incorporating modern design techniques.



Floral Concerns (continued)

Laura Lindop selected her “Moment in Time” as the moment she arrived in Bermuda, newly married, to stay there for 3 years! She writes:



‘Island Time’ “ In the Spring of 1982 the leisurely drive from Bermuda’s airport in St. David’s parish to my new home above Horseshoe Bay on the spectacular South Shore will always stay in my memory. It was the contrast between the gray hues of a long, cold, damp Scottish winter to the eye popping hibiscus and the pastel painted houses with their gleaming white roofs peeking out from behind dense hedges of Bougainvillea that inspired my floral ‘Moment in Time’.

Mark your calendars for upcoming Floral Design events!!

March 16 – 20, 2011 “With Flying Colors” Blooms Flower Show at the 2011 Boston Flower and Garden Show, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston. Acton Garden Club enters on Friday, March 18th. Maureen Christmas is chairman of the show.

March 22, 2011- Floral Design Study Group - “Trendy Topiaries”

April 30- May 2, 2011 – Art In Bloom, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

June 15-19, 2100 World Association of Flower Arrangers 10th World Flower Show
“This Glorious Earth”, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston

Acton Arboretum Herb Garden

Submitted by Sydney Storment and Carole Ward, Co-Chairs

Have you ever wanted an herb garden but didn't know how to start? Herb gardens were one of the mainstays of life in earlier times. They provided culinary ingredients that made food taste better, were the family's medicine cabinet, and the cosmetic drawer for the household's ladies. They also provided fragrance around and in the home. With the advent of all the new and beautiful varieties of plants that have been developed in the recent past, we often forget how beautiful, fragrant, and useful herb gardens can be.

Thankfully, Acton has a beautiful example of an old time herb garden, maintained by the Acton Garden Club. Visit here frequently and enjoy the progression of color and form throughout the seasons. The herbs are grouped according to their old use- with beds for fragrance, tea, medicinal, and culinary use. The plants are all labeled with botanical and common names for easy identification.



The club developed the garden in 1989 in conjunction with the Arboretum planning committee. It was built on an old foundation that existed when the land was purchased in 1976 by the town of Acton as the future site of the Acton Arboretum. The foundation is attributed to a house built by John Craigin in 1738. The original Craigin house was moved to So. Acton in 1774 by a subsequent owner, and a storage shed was erected in the 20th century using a part of the old foundation. The shed burned down in the 1960's.

To construct the herb garden the foundation was excavated and the stone walls around the foundation were restored. The brick walkways were planned by Eric Duhamel as his Eagle Scout project and installed by him along with other scouts and friends. Several Acton Garden Club members developed the planting plan, amended the soil, purchased the herbs, and planted them in the garden. Many members also contributed herbs from their own gardens. Take a look at the old newspaper clipping that shows Eric building the walkways, and the pictures of the garden then and now.

Today the garden is mature and the species of herbs planted there has evolved, but always with the original idea of the garden in mind. The Herb Garden committee spends many hours maintaining, improving, and preserving the beauty of the garden for all visitors to enjoy.

Come and visit the garden in 2011. The committee is planning a couple of events to show off the beauty of an herb garden and help you to create one of your own. We hope to have a demonstration of herb selection, care, and drying as well as some treats made from those very same herbs!



Horticulture Study Group

Submitted by Mike Svoboda, Chairperson

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP MEETINGS

March 8 – “Birds, Bees and Butterflies” A study of bird and butterfly gardens.

April 12 – Patio and Deck Gardens.

May 17 – Hypertula Container Workshop

June 14 – Visit to Carol Stewart-Grinkus Garden in Sterling
Leave from Acton Center Fire Station at 9:15AM
Note: this meeting was missed in the yearbook

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 5, 2011

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 Piccata (Medallions of chicken with capers and mushrooms in a white wine sauce)

Baked North Atlantic Salmon (Salmon filet garnished with mango pineapple salsa)

Vegetarian (Roasted vegetables with pasta)

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 16, 2011

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

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

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