

Buds & Blossoms



President's Message

As we begin a new year, I think of the past year, and look forward.

How different this winter has been from last winter. As I was planting my daffodil bulbs only a few days before Christmas, I noticed that some of my bulbs from previous years were up about 2 inches! And forsythia was in bloom nearby earlier in the month.

We had a very busy fall with all of our own club meetings and Federation meetings. A busy team of our members, Joan Gardner, Judy Rice, Susan Harrigan, Jill Groener, Janet Richards, Ann Leary, Judy Shuppert, Noreen Rowe, and Suzan Sullivan, led by Thelma Shoneman, created a terrific ensemble for Lady Acton (right), Fashioned by Nature at Tower Hill Botanic Garden. Maureen Christmas created a beautiful necklace from plant material, and also made a stunning fascinator and jewelry for a mannequin head at the show.



As we come out of our holiday period of club hibernation, the club is back in high gear. The Nominating Committee has already begun preparation for the election at the Annual Meeting in April. Please don't be shy or unduly modest about helping the club in one of the many leadership positions that make the club function so very well. All of you have special talents, and we need you. Remember: all the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today.

And speaking of flowers, our annual Plant Sale, on May 19th this year, requires all of us to serve. There are opportunities in set-up, clean-up, sales, cashier, and managing the holding pen, in addition to receiving and labeling plants at the Red House in the days before the sale. Of course, we also need everyone to donate as many plants as possible. The Plant Sale is our primary fundraiser, so give it your best! When Gena Manalan and Alan Cushing ask for volunteers, raise your hand – often. You'll learn a lot and get to know other members better, all while providing valuable service to the club.

Suzanne

NEWSLETTER OF
THE ACTON GARDEN CLUB
SPRING 2012 EDITION

2012-2013

Community Service Committees - Time to Sign-up!

Submitted by Pat Kosicki, Vice President

Being a member of the Acton Garden Club is a wonderful way to increase our knowledge of gardening and to make new friends and long-lasting friendships. One of the most important responsibilities of being an Active Member (a member for less than 15 consecutive years) is joining and working on one of our five Community Service Committees, participating in at least four work days each year. This is stated on page 6 of our current Yearbook under "Member Responsibilities" and also in the Club's Bylaws on page 59. The importance of such participation was also clearly spelled out in a letter that went out to the whole Club in early April 2011. Those who applied for and were given "Exempt Status" are not required to participate.

Sign-ups are done in February and March so that the committees can be made up in time for the new service year which begins in early April. You are welcome to sign up on the committee you were previously on or on a new committee, but you must sign up each year. You do not automatically stay on the committee you had been on. I personally find that I like to change committees every few years in order to work with a different group of members – a great way to get to better know people. Associate members who wish to participate on a Community Service Committee are very welcomed.

If you have special health issues or restrictions, be sure to sign up early to ensure that you get on the committee you would prefer. Each committee has a designated number of slots. Once a committee's roster has been filled, no other members will be accepted until each committee has gotten its requested number of members.

How to Sign Up:

The committee rosters will be filled on a first come, first served basis, and members must have fulfilled their Community Service obligations for the past year and paid dues for the coming year.

A clipboard for each Community Service Committee will be available at the February and March regular meetings. After the February meeting and once you have paid your dues, you can e-mail your committee preference to patkosicki@verizon.net. In your message, please give your first, second and third choices.

We currently have five Community Service Committees which are listed on the next page with a brief description of the type of work involved for each. There is also detailed information of each committee on pages 17-19 and 25-27 in our current Yearbook. If you sign up on more than one clipboard, it will be assumed that you would like to be on more than one committee.

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. You may also send it to me at Rheta Roeber, 2 Shady Lane, Acton, MA 01720. At the same time you pay dues you become eligible to sign up for the community service committee of your choice on a first come first serve basis. Please see the "Pink Form" in the paper copy of this newsletter and register soon!

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>	

New Policy on Fees

Submitted by Susanne Fuller, President

At the January meeting, the board approved a new policy regarding club activities that involve fees. Examples are floral design workshops and lunches for field trips. The new policy is shown below:

Those who wish to participate in a club event that requires a fee, such as for supplies at a Floral Design Workshop, or a lunch associated with a trip (Horticulture Study or other), must pay the fee in advance. In the case of Floral Design Workshops, the fee must be paid at least 10 days in advance.

In the case of a Floral Design Workshop, if a member has registered and paid but is unable to attend,

- if a cancellation notice is given at least 10 days in advance of the workshop, the member will receive a 100% refund
- if a cancellation notice is given less than 10 days in advance of the workshop, the member understands that no cash refund will be given and that he or she can arrange a mutually convenient day and time to pick up her/his materials
- otherwise, if no cancellation notice is given, making the member a 'no show' at the workshop, the member forfeits 100% of his or her fee, and any excess materials will be offered for sale to workshop attendees.

For other activities, money will be refunded to members who do not attend if, and only if, the club can change the arrangements (head count) with the vendor in time to avoid being charged for that member.

Lady Acton on Display at the Woolpack

Submitted by Susan Harrigan, Publicity and Thelma Shoneman, Floral Concerns



Lady Acton was on display at the Woolpack Yarn Shop after leaving Tower Hill. She received many compliments from the customers! Lady Acton's fascinator is designed using palm spathes and other pods from Hawaii. Her chemise is woven with bear grass. The shawl is decorated with Babies' Breath and the brooch, frog fasteners and earrings are pods and juniper sprayed gold. Her skirt is fashioned from Aspidistra leaves as is the bustle with details of lily grass trimmed with bouillon wire and gold fern "beads". Her stylish pumps are made of Lamb's Ear. Lady Acton won an Honorable Mention in the popular vote at Tower Hill. The committee members were: Joan Gardner, Judy Rice, Susan Harrigan, Janet Richards, Ann Leary, Judy Shuppert, Noreen Rowe, Suzan Sullivan, Jill Groener and Thelma Shoneman.

Ways and Means

Plant Sale Saturday, May 19, 2012

Submitted by Alan Cushing and Gena Manalan, Co-Chairs

Spring is right around the corner so we need to start planning our favorite fundraiser, the Annual Plant Sale. Thanks to all who signed up to chair the various committees; now we need to get the committees put together. Sign-up sheets will be available at the February and March meetings. If you are unable to attend that meeting and wish to sign-up for a Committee, please email or call the Plant Sale Committee Chairs (see Yearbook for member contact information).

Plant Sale 2012-Chairs and Co-Chairs

Advertising	Ann Leary	Jackie Amirhor	
After Sales Donations	Jill Groener	Sue Whitcomb	
Annuals Sales	Janet Richards	Judy Rice	Judy Shuppert
Red House	Joan Yatteau	Ann Sterling	
Cashier	Karin Victor		
Clean - up	Cathy Fochtman		
Daylilies	Joan Gardener		
Digger/Potters	Fran Hearn		
Holding Area	Gail Wick		
Publicity	Susan Harrigan		
Raffle	There is no need for a raffle this year		
Sales	Anne Becklean	Jean Lane	Fran Portante
Set-up	Joy Madden	Mike Svoboda	
Signage	Sue Nordhausen		
Treasurer	Rheta Roeber		
Garden Tips Table	Dorothy Marquis-Omer		

Participating in the Plant Sale is a membership requirement. So, find the committees you would like to work on and sign up early. Our most important resource is YOU...so please sign-up and join the fun!

Floral Concerns

Submitted by *Thelma Shoneman, Director*

January has been a very busy month for AGC floral designers.

Four members attended the GCFM Design Workshop at the Espousal Center on January 17th and learned techniques involved in making a design with a contemporary look. Laura Lindop co-chaired the workshop.

On January 24, the AGC floral design project was a festive “Mardi Gras” design. Participants did a great job clipping Sago Palms and manipulating Aspidistra foliage to create the design in purple, gold and green, the colors of Mardi Gras. See the photo at right for an example.



Eighteen members of the Club are registered for the GCGM sessions of Designing Principles, chaired by Thelma Shoneman.

On January 25 the audience was treated to a lecture by Maureen Christmas who demonstrated a creative Pot-et-fleur design and also a traditional design using plants and flowers. The Topiary design was demonstrated by Anne Elwell Reardon from the Hingham Garden Club. Acton club members took care of hospitality, registration, and raffle tickets.

FLORA IN WINTER

Congratulations to Maureen Christmas, Laura Lindop and Thelma Shoneman for their beautiful designs during Flora in Winter, January 26-29. Thelma interpreted art at the Worcester Art Museum.



Scenes at the Coronation of the Emperor Frederick III at Rome, by an unnamed Italian artist, was a grouping of three temperas on wood originally designed to decorate a chest.

Thelma said of the paintings, “I love the “motion and commotion” of the different events in the life of the Emperor. The rich colors and textures evoke an aura of royal importance. The buildings provide a background of strong architectural lines and depth in contrast to the busy figures in the foreground. All of these elements combined inspired me to tell the Em-

peror’s story with leaf manipulation (black Ti leaves with wire wrapped lily grass attached and red Flax) and flowers, white Chrysanthemums, Mokara orchids, Mango Calla Lilies, white Hypericum berries and gold Grevillea that reminded me of the curly hair-dos of the royal subjects.”

Floral Concerns (continued)

Laura and Maureen both exhibited designs at Tower Hill, interpreting the theme “*A Floral Feast.*”



“The local market in Sienna was my inspiration for this theme”, said Laura. There were boxes overflowing with local fruit, vegetables, flowers, cheeses and pasta almost spilling over into the cobble streets of the open marketplace, heavenly!”

A Floral Feast - from the tropics!

The bright, hot colors of the flowers and fruit of the trees in the Limonaia and the Orangerie contrasted against the cold palette of the New England winter inspired me to create a citrus based, tropical floral feast. The wired flexigrass imply cornucopias. The citrus are suspended in deco beads.

-Maureen



The next Floral Design Study Group is March 20th at St. Matthew’s Church at 9:15AM: Festive Table Displays – Part III *Simply Spring!* Be sure to sign up at the February and March meetings....the cost is \$20.00.

Gardening with Young People

Submitted by Laura Lindop, Committee Member

The Acton Garden Club stopped to “smell the roses” and celebrate an early Valentine’s Day with members of the Best Buddies Chapter at Acton Boxborough Regional High School on Tuesday, Feb. 8th. As part of the Garden Club’s Gardening with Young People Program, Ruth Schemel and Laura Lindop provided the flowers and containers for the 30 excited members of the Best Buddies Program. Each student created an individual arrangement of roses, tulips, chrysanthemums and daisies complete with a festive Valentine’s Day ribbon. Best Buddies is an international organization providing those with intellectual and cognitive disabilities opportunities to meet and socialize with same age peers without disabilities.



Conservation and Environmental Education

Submitted by Judy Dembsey, Chairperson

EVERY DAY NOISE CAN CREATE HEARING LOSS

According to the Archives of Internal Medicine, one in five Americans over the age of 12 has some form of hearing loss.

Leaf blowers can produce enough noise to destroy hearing over time. Decibel levels of 97 to 101 are loud enough to be dangerous as are the noise levels of lawn mowers, snow blowers, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, jet skis and power tools. Ackland Jones, audiologist at Mass Eye and Ear, recommends that people wear earplugs when using these devices.

“Damage from noise exposure is cumulative, which means that every rock concert you attended, driveway you cleared with a snow blower or power drill you handled have collectively killed off hair cells in the inner ear that sense sound and send messages to the brain. Music turned up too loud on an iPod is also a common cause of hearing loss – especially in teens.” Once these cells are damaged, there is no way to repair them, the result can be permanent hearing loss.

The best way to keep hearing intact is through prevention—turn down the volume when wearing ear buds. Wear earplugs or ear muffs designed to filter out noise whenever you are engaged in loud activities.

Adapted from an article in the G Section of the Boston Globe, November 21, 2011 by Deborah Kotz .

Yearbook

Submitted by Pat Kosicki, Vice President

All too quickly, the Yearbook Committee will be back in action working on the one for 2012-2013. A clipboard will be circulated at the next few meetings with the information that appeared in the Member Directory in the back of our current Yearbook. If your information is correct, please put a check to the left of your name. If any part is wrong, please correct it. If you have just recently joined the Club, and your name does not appear, just add your information on the very last page.

It is also time to update the pages indicating Service to the Town (see page 28 of the current Yearbook), State and GCFM (page 51) as well as the MA Master Gardeners list (page 54). Please e-mail me (patkosicki@verizon.net) with any changes to your status if you are already listed or to add your name if you are new in a position. Service to the Town means the Town of Acton and includes positions such as Council on Aging, Conservation Commission, etc. While volunteer work with organizations such as HGRM and PTO's is valuable to the community, we cannot include them in our listing.

Oktoberfest

Submitted by Susanne Fuller, President

Oktoberfest, under new management, was held on October 1, 2011, in dreary, drizzly weather. Despite the atmospheric conditions that dampened the crowd, our dedicated volunteers (Noreen Rowe, Pat Kosicki, Gena Manalan, Jean Lane, Peggy Garrison, Ruth Schemel, Trudy Walther, and I) stayed at our booth selling most of this year's daffodil bulbs. The remainder of the 1,000 we ordered were sold at the next club meeting on October 4th. Those who purchased the bulbs, Daffodil Cassata, will be delighted in the spring. Cassata is a very floriferous daffodil that's easy to force and perfect for the border. Its split cup is bright yellow when the flower opens, but turns to white after a couple of days. An interesting and attractive look for early spring. Here is a picture of what you can expect:



Come and socialize with new friends and old at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon April 3, 2012

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 light sundried tomato cream sauce, chef's seasonal vegetable and potato)

Baked Haddock (Fresh Haddock Filet Topped with Buttery Crust, Lemon and Fresh Parsley served with Chef's seasonal Vegetable and Confetti Rice Pilaf)

Portabella Mushroom Napoleon (Grilled Mushroom layered with goat cheese, spinach and roasted peppers surrounded by couscous)

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 20, 2012

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!