

## July Newsletter



It's hard to believe that the famous Bristol Fourth of July is already behind us! Why does summer fly by so quickly? Our Garden Club members are, no doubt, very busy tending to their own gardens, as well as Mrs. Perry's Garden and the library garden; while we don't have a July meeting, we do manage to keep in touch with one another!

Like last July, I'm going to give a little review of what we have done this past year:

Last July, we did a lot of scrambling to find a flatbed, and then put together a fabulous float for the big parade. It was a huge undertaking, but we were delighted with our end product! We also added a chess table and two seats for it to the library garden. It's quite pleasing to walk by and see it being used.

In August, we once again participated in the Black Ships Festival that recognizes America's friendship with Japan. We gave ikebana and kokedama demonstrations, and Margie displayed her kimono collection.

September kicked off the fall season with our annual Garden Club Tea at Blithewold. A new adventure was our participation in a "craft and flea market" at Westfall. The weather wasn't very cooperative, but it was a grand idea. Also in September, some of our members cleaned up and replanted the garden area in front of the Post Office!

In October, we went into bulb sale and planting mode! We kicked off the month by planting 1,200 bulbs at the Veteran's Home on Metacom. Bulb sales took place at MHF and on State Street. 10,000 bulbs were planted throughout town.

November found us, once more, creating 25 pumpkin centerpieces that were sold at the MHF farmers market the weekend before Thanksgiving. They were fabulous and sold quickly.

We made about 25 tabletop trees in December, which were sold at the MHF Holiday Market held at Pivotal. As always, we had fun making them and took pleasure in seeing them being purchased by happy customers. Additionally, Carol G made a boxwood tree for the East Bay Food Pantry fundraiser. A talented group decorated Marjorie's bedroom at Blithewold, and an exuberant group of our members did the outdoor greenery decor at Linden Place.

In January, we participated in launching plans for a sensory garden at the library, and Rick A began researching pollinator gardens and how we can be part of this movement.

February was a behind the scenes month for planning a Downtown Daffodils experience to tie in with the Daffodil Show we would be cohosting with Blithewold in April.

March found our Plant Sale committee working on their strategies, and other members kept busy canvassing local merchants to enlist participation in the Downtown Daffodils project.

April was crazy busy! We decorated the library windows with daffodil paintings by local artists, transformed the former Dunkin' Donuts window into a daffodil themed vignette, and arranged with numerous merchants to have daffodil art work on display in their windows. The Daffodil Show, with its preview night party, was a resounding success and many of our members went home with awards for their specimens and arrangements. Also in April, we "unveiled" a new logo, and a new banner!

May might have been a good time to take a rest, but no! we had our best plant sale ever. Diana C did a magnificent job organizing the sale and best of all, I believe every club member found a way to take part in the sale.

June, we met with a major disappointment. The admin at the Veteran's Home decided that the daffodils greenery looked messy and "had to go". (This did not go over well with the residents of the home, or the residents of Bristol). We dug up the bulbs and they have been replanted along the MHF wall bordering Metacom, where they were gratefully received. On a more positive note: we helped to initiate an informative panel on pollinators at MHF, and our entry at the Newport Flower Show took home third place.

This July, the Herreshoff Marine Museum asked if we could "refresh" the small garden that surrounds their sign. We wanted to get the garden done before the 4th of July parade; Laura T and I thought we'd have great fun picking out new plants. When we arrived on the morning of the 2nd, we noted that there were already many lovely plants on the museum property, they just weren't placed very well! So rather than having the fun of picking out plants, we "dug in" and dug up existing plants and moved them all around. Kind of a floral Hokey Pokey. Ornamental grasses that had gone crazy were removed and put out for anyone who wanted them (all were taken), day lilies were switched with Montauk daisies that were growing on other parts of the property, and chrysanthemums were rearranged. We then filled in with red vincas, and the results were far more orderly and welcoming. But it was a hard days work! Many, many thanks go to Laura, my husband Paul, and our teenage helper, Julien. Thank you also to Kathy T who stops and waters the garden while on her morning walks!

As you can see, we've had a busy year! I think it was also a year filled with fun, information, social interaction and a lot of enthusiasm. And So Many Daffodils!

I'm back on Cape Cod, after a very rainy trip to PEI and Nova Scotia. When I packed for the trip, it was 95 degrees in Bristol. I wasn't expecting it to be 45 degrees in Canada! Had to buy a fleece! The scenery was beautiful, even in the rain. Now, I'm dealing with humidity that sets off

the smoke alarms and winds that prevent the use of patio umbrellas! But my gardens are looking pretty good, and the invitation stands: if you are on the Cape, stop by! Text me for directions.

Also happening across Cape Cod this month: the Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival. There are many events taking place in many Cape towns throughout the month, with a variety of charges per event. Search Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival for details.

Looking for a cute gift for young children? I recently gave my 4 year old grandson a kaleidoscope kit that you put together easily and then the top is attached magnetically so it can go on and off quickly and you fill it with petals, etc, from your garden. We had great fun picking out tiny buds and leaves and then watching them change kaleidoscopically! I ordered it on Amazon:



Coming up in August: our meeting will be held on August 14, 1:00, at the Bristol Highlands Community House, 68 Mulberry St, Bristol. Artist Mary James of Saltwater Studio & Design Center, will be giving a presentation and demonstration. She uses live seaweed to create unique artwork. Sounds fascinating!

Also in August, the Black Ships festival takes place on the 17th. Our club will have a tent set up, and we will once again be demonstrating ikebana and kokedama. If you'd like to participate, contact Maggie Rezendes.

Stay cool, and stay dry... unless you're swimming...

Gail

