

June Newsletter



Many of our Bristol Garden Club members grew up during the 60's and 70's. We created the term Flower Power... and we know how to use it. Don't mess with a bunch of gardeners in their 60's and 70's! Actually, don't mess with gardeners of any age!

We were collectively dismayed at the beginning of the month when we were told to dig up all the daffodil bulbs that we had so lovingly planted at the entrance to the Veteran's Home last fall, and which the residents and their visitors had been so delighted with in April. Evidently they look "messy" in May, a situation easily resolved by mid-June when companion plantings fill in. Sadly, someone in the administration office didn't like the daffodil foliage, so several of us showed up, dug them up, and took the bulbs away, but not without shrewdly making sure that the situation was covered by our local paper! Front page! We understand that their office has been flooded with calls from people who loved the daffodils. The bulbs have all been replanted in front of the stone wall bordering Mount Hope Farm, where they are greatly appreciated. Huge thanks go out to the club members and spouses, and to John Twomey who oversees the greenhouse at the Veterans Home, for all their assistance and a special thank you to Hope A for dealing with the entire situation! Flower Power at its best.



On a happier note, this past Wednesday our general meeting took place at Lavender Waves, a lavender farm in Wakefield. We had a tour of the lovely rows of different varieties of lavender as well as up close visits with the resident camels, llamas, alpacas and a variety of ducks and chickens. The Guinea Hens were particularly amusing, and the two white peacocks proved to be totally elusive. Linda S and Marsha P provided delicious treats to go along with our brown bag lunches, which we munched on in the gazebo while holding our meeting. It was a lovely way to spend a beautiful afternoon.



A note on birds: since April, my neighborhood has been hearing a bird call unfamiliar to anyone around us. I made a recording and brought it along to my husband's Cornell reunion, where I took it to the Cornell Ornithology Lab. Unfortunately, my recording had church bells interfering with the bird call and the Merlin App couldn't differentiate to determine what kind of bird it is! The staff keeps checking back with questions and requests for a better recording and now all my neighbors are involved in the mystery. Fingers are crossed that we get a good recording. I'll report back if and when we find out what this mystery bird is!

We are delighted to welcome a new member to the Garden Club! Agi Louria has had a lifelong love of gardening; she enjoys all aspects: establishing, planting, and maintaining existing gardens. She is very support of our club mission and is looking forward to the social enjoyment of meeting other members. Agi is really looking forward to helping to establish the sensory garden at the library. Agi's most recent club affiliation was with the Mendham (NJ) Garden Club. Mendham's loss is our gain!

I'd also like to shine a light on another one of our members: Laurel C has been quite busy! She has been teaching, on our behalf, an after-school program at Colt/Andrews. Each of the five sessions had the children planting a variety of flowers and edible plants from seeds and tubers, separating seeds/tubers and planting both in pots and in the ground: lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, potatoes, dahlias, violas, and snapdragons. (As a bonus, she learned why a snapdragon is called a snapdragon from kids who were only too happy to demonstrate!) The students also made journals to track what was growing, and to sketch

their plants... especially their first design, a “pot au fleur.” They also learned the fine art of cleaning up after “Time in the Garden With Laurel”!

Laurel also represented us at the Rhode Island Rose Society 25th Annual Rose Show and brought home a first place ribbon! The class was Modern Stretch Design, a design composed of two units of unequal size, joined by a prominent stretch component. The Class Name was Rodeo Rose, evocative of Laurel barrel racing when she was a kid (we’d all love to have seen that, Laurel!). The plant material consisted of Dublin Bay Climbing Roses and English Ivy. She received a blue ribbon for class and an Artist Award for show. Great job, Laurel!

And finally, Laurel is once again spearheading our entry in this year’s Newport Flower Show, Friday June 21-Sunday, June 23rd. The theme is “At Home”. The entry is for the Club Challenge Horticulture Division 1, Mixed Creative Planters Class 1 Mobile Planter. The mobile cart, to be installed on Wednesday the 20th between 1-4:00, consists of two 36” long planters within a cart on wheels, filled predominantly with either herbs or veggies. BGC has chosen to focus on herbs. Kathy T is assisting. Please call Laurel if you would like to participate! And be sure to put the Flower Show on your calendar; it is highly advised to purchase tickets well in advance; they sell out quickly!

Coming up this week! Tuesday night, June 18, 5-8, Pollinator Panel at MHF
“A community gathering and discussion about the importance of pollinators!”

Attendees will hear from speakers on the types of pollinators, their habitats, and how to create pollinator friendly yards. A variety of pollinator related vendors, plus 2Gals Cocktails!, will be there, and the panel discussion will begin at 6:15. I hope to see all of there! Please note: the BGC was instrumental in formulating this event. Admission is free, donations to MHF appreciated.

Finally, below is a photo of a cheery “Mandala” that my 11 year old granddaughter, Stella, surprised me with in the driveway. A little something you can do with the children in your life! Even better: they can sandwich them between two pieces of glass and frame them.

Happy June!

Gail

