



August 2023 Newsletter

Ah, yes, the Dog Days of Summer are here...complete with weather that changes by the hour. Sunny and breezy one minute, pouring the next...with a tornado warning thrown in for a bit of unwanted excitement. We received the following lovely letter from Pam Bishop, regarding the gift presented to her at our May meeting:

Dear friends,

What a lovely surprise! Thank you all so much for the beautiful photo collage of Mrs. Perry's Garden. Know that I will absolutely cherish it.

These images will conjure innumerable wonderful memories for me of time well spent with you, my incomparable friends from the Bristol Garden Club. Beyond this thoughtful gift, I am especially thankful for the unparalleled gifts of your affection, friendship, and support while I've lived in Bristol. What a blessing you all are! It has been a privilege and a joy to have been with you these years.

I'll miss you so much!

With appreciation,

Pam

We all wish Pam the very best in her new home...she's only an email away, so she can definitely expect many of us to continue asking her for advice on our gardens and plants!

I was unable to attend our tour this month of the Roger Williams Botanical Garden, but the feedback I have received has been glowing reports on the

beauty, serenity, and information. The consensus among the attendees is that they want to go back in the wintertime; we don't have a formal meeting in January, so that might be an ideal time to round up a little side trip for a day in the tropics close to home!

A bit of gardening advice from Carol Glanville: now is the ideal time to separate and move around your bearded irises! It should ideally be done before the end of September. Looking ahead, when you separate your irises please consider putting some of them into containers for next spring's Plant Sale! And be sure to label them for color.

Rick Anderson is researching pollinator gardens; having a section of Mrs. Perry's devoted to pollinators is a great idea! If you would like to participate with that, let him know.

We are actively exploring creating a Garden Club Cookbook. Response to the idea has been very enthusiastic, and now we just need recipes. Here is how we all can help: when you host a meeting or attend a meeting that you bring a dish to (holiday lunch, etc.), please get the recipe to me. Please also send recipes that you have used in the past; for example, Pam Delaney has gone through her files and found the recipes for the "cooking with herbs" presentation from several years ago. I would LOVE to hear from members who would like to be on a cookbook committee...I would especially love to hear from someone who would like to chair the committee!

Coming up: the September meeting is Tea at Blithewold, with Dan Christina giving a talk on Dahlias! It is going to be lovely! Invitations have been sent to all of you (if you did not get one, let me know!) and the final date to RSVP is September 1st. Please send your check to the PO Box.

Daffodil Bulbs: if you wish to preorder, please print out and use the form that was sent out by Hope Avery. We will be selling bulbs to the public at a few locations beginning in September. Dates will be sent out to you. Carol Glanville has afforded us a unique opportunity.

On September 30th, our club will be hosting a mini Brimfieldesque flea market in the parking lot of her family's business, Westfall, at 15 Broadcommon. Vendors will pay \$25 to set up their tent/wares and those proceeds will go to the Garden Club! If you, or you and a friend(s) want a space to sell yard sale items, this is a great opportunity. We will be setting up our tent to sell daffodil bulbs; if you are available to help, we would appreciate it.



Last weekend was the Black Ships Festival, hosted by the Japan-America Society of Rhode Island, celebrating the mission of RI's Commodore Perry, which resulted in the 1854 Treaty of Peace and Amity. It is also a celebration of our friendship with Japan. It was our privilege to participate in this annual event, held here in Bristol at Independence Park.

We sold kokedamas and vintage teacups, courtesy of Margie, planted with coleus; we also sold our decoupaged shells. We made \$204! Carol G and Kathy did Ikebana demos which visitors enjoyed very much; thank you, Carol and Kathy! They used their own garden flowers like dahlias, hosta flowers and sunflowers and nice greens. Perhaps next year we should consider selling the arrangements.

Margie also displayed her Kimono collection, making for a very inviting and colorful booth. Our club participants really enjoyed the day and definitely made a great impression!

Thanks go out to Maggie Rezendes for being the point person for this, and to Margie McLaughlin for her gracious contributions. Also thanks to Linda Sheehan and Kathy Thomas for their Ikebana demonstrations and to Carol Glanville, Marie Brennan-Chasin, Hope Avery, Mary Fran Snow, Laurel Curtis,

Carol Botelho and Karen Aveson for all their help....plus a shout out to the "voluntolds", Steve, Jon and Al!

I cannot believe summer is coming to an end. My grandchildren are only here for a few more precious days. They are cramming in all the sailing, swimming, crafting and camaraderie that they can. It is going to be far too quiet next week!

Enjoy your end of summer plans...I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Tea at Blithewold!

Gail