

September Newsletter



September has been off to a perfect start: sunny, warm days with cool evenings! Not too hot, not too cold...Goldilocks weather.

I returned to Bristol after my summer on Cape Cod to find my backyard overrun with weeds and the crazily invasive autumn clematis that is engulfing everything in its path. A repairman referred to it as a Jumanji situation. Perfect description. You might recall that last fall I debated whether or not to get pumpkins (aka squirrel food). I got the pumpkins. The squirrels ate them. The squirrels “eliminated” them. Now I have a huge pumpkin vine spreading across the back lawn. Only we aren’t quite certain if it’s pumpkins or round bumpy squashes. Time will tell!



Our Garden Club held its annual fall luncheon last week at Blithewold. Our guest speaker, John Tschirch, started the afternoon off with a highly engaging and informative talk based on his latest book “America’s Eden: Newport Landscapes Through the Ages”. John is a writer, teacher, architectural historian and Photographer. He is also a delightful speaker!

The talk was followed by a lovely luncheon on the porch at the manor house. We were delighted to have Judy Gray, the president of the RIGC Federation, as our guest. Judy brings positivity and enthusiasm wherever she goes!



I'm going to take a moment here to remind members that while we are all having a lovely time attending meetings, hearing great lectures and going on fascinating field trips, there are a few rules that go with membership. Along with attending meetings, members are required to serve on committees, and to sign up as meeting hosts at least once every two years. Below are some opportunities to fulfill the committee requirements:

🌸 It is September and for the Garden Club, that means DAFFODILS! We expect the bulbs to be delivered by the end of the month, and Hope has been very busy lining up dates and locations for planting the bulbs and for selling bulbs. You can find the schedule on our website by going to Projects and clicking on Daffodils. Here are the important dates:

- Bulb sales: 10/5, in front of 99 State Street
- 10/12, MHF farmers market/vintage sale
- 10/19, MHF farmers market
- Bulb planting: 10/11 and TBD (check website!)

We need all hands on deck and bring friends! Please let Hope know how and when you can help. A bit of work now results in tremendous beauty in April.

🌸 We are still looking for someone to step up and take over Publicity from Diana! She will be more than happy to help with the transition. It's actually a pretty fun job: you post pretty pictures on social media, write up announcements for the local papers, and generally spread the word about our club and the fabulous things we do to enhance our wonderful town. Specific activities include collecting information re events (time, location, etc), drafting press releases to local papers and organizations such as Around Town Bristol, Bristol & Warren's Daily Dose, and maintaining the club's Facebook and Instagram accounts; it also includes maintaining the club's email account and distribution lists.

🌻 Mrs Perry's Garden: the fall clean up (putting the garden to bed for winter) is tentatively scheduled for October 29. Last year's cleanup had a great turnout and was immediately followed by a very fun tailgate party which is definitely going to happen again this year. Please attend!

🌻 Margie has volunteered to oversee our Volunteers Thank You soirée on Wednesday, November 6th at the Herreshoff. This event is to acknowledge the many men and women who have helped our club with various tasks throughout the year. Margie will be looking for as many members as possible to contribute canapés, etc. for this! The Herreshoff is letting us use the facility as a thank you for our help with their small garden.

I want to thank Carol G for, once again, providing an excellent Hort Report...which you can find on our website.

A huge thank you goes out to Linda S! Last winter, I was asked by the Seekonk Library if we could give a presentation there on Kokedama. Linda graciously accepted the challenge and last week she gave the presentation to a very appreciative audience; she reports that the people were lovely and the demonstration went well!

In addition to selling and planting bulbs, October's other date to remember is our next General Meeting on the 9th at 1:00; the meeting will take place at the Juniper Hill Cemetery, where Chris Fletcher, arborist and cemetery director, will give us a guided tour of the grounds. Dress appropriately!

Enjoy these beautiful final days of summer. I'm having a great time watching numerous varieties of bees stocking up on pollen from the hibiscus in my Jumanji yard. They get so laden down, I don't know how they manage to fly.

Gail

