

## April Newsletter



Was T S Elliot correct? Is April the cruelest month? It is appropriately the month we usher in with April Fool's Day. There is much speculation as to the origins of April Fool's Day, some maintaining that it began as a result of one of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, some saying it was because New Years was moved from April to January in the Middle Ages; I personally think it's because April has a tricky habit of luring us in to thinking spring has arrived, only to toss a few more weeks of winter cold at us. And that is cruel! But it is also the month when we are given the hope of good things to come as spring flowers force their way out of the earth and brighten our days.

Here in Bristol, April has become Daffodil Month. Between decorating the library windows and the former Dunkin' Donuts windows and the Daffodil Show at Blithewold, I have been seeing daffodils in my sleep! Our trip to Wicked Tulips was a welcome change of floral display. We went there on a very gray and chilly Wednesday, but the tulips were breathtaking and worth the drive. My bouquet certainly brought sunshine into my home.



Daffodils Downtown! A few of us got the wacky idea to promote the Daffodil Show by asking downtown merchants to feature Daffodil art, by local artists, in their windows. That was further expanded to asking a few restaurants to promote Daffodil themed drinks or dishes! The positive response was wonderful. Every owner that we were able to contact embraced the idea enthusiastically, and now there are lovely paintings and other Daffodil decorations throughout our downtown area. We "learned by doing" and next year we hope to include even more businesses and artists. Thanks to Pam D, Bonnie E, Laurel C, and our good friends Jane Lavender and Joanne Murrman, who all provided hours of work and an abundance of eager optimism! Thanks also to Christy Nadalin for the terrific front page article in the Phoenix!



The Daffodil Show! We partnered with Blithewold to host the American Daffodil Society's Daffodil Show, April 19-21st. Many hours of planning and many volunteers managed to hold a highly successful event! On Friday, the 19th, Daffodil specimens and floral arrangements were set up and then judged prior to the festive preview party held that evening. A signature cocktail, open bar, passed hors d'oeuvres, delightful raffle prizes, and beautiful flowers: all made for a magical evening. Special thanks go to the evening's entertainment: three dancers from the Ballet center, under the direction of Garance Nienhuis. Absolutely charming.

We are especially proud of the contributions from our club. Design awards were given to Jean Hogan, Mary Millard, Karen Kestenberg, Linda Sheehan, Pam Delaney, Vicki Iannuccillo, Sheri St Germaine, Carol Glanville, Laurel Curtis, Vera Bowen, Maggie Rezendes, and myself. Additionally, Hope Avery and I won awards for Daffodil specimens... Hope received a blue ribbon! Personally, I had never done a judged arrangement of this kind before and I found it to be both fun and educational; I learned a lot from the judges comments!



New members! Please join me in welcoming two new members to the Garden Club:

Kathleen Howe is eager to be part of a group that cares about its community as well as the environment. Her interests include native gardening and public spaces; how to garden without the use of pesticides and insecticides; and learning more about native species.

Dodie Tschirch has had a lifelong interest in gardening and enjoys interacting with people who share that interest. Aside from social interaction, her interests include education on gardening techniques and understanding plants, trees, grasses, and general conservation.

Here are a few suggestions for garden related films/programs/sites that might be of interest to you:

The Rose Maker, a film available on Amazon Prime

Trees and Other Entanglements, on HBO

The Man Who Planted Trees, available on YouTube

Garden Fit, a series on PBS that features yoga set in a changing variety of beautiful gardens, now in its second season

This website: [enchantedgardendesign.com](http://enchantedgardendesign.com) A blog with all sorts of suggestions for gardens to visit, etc. You could spend hours going down this rabbit hole!

May 8 is our annual Garden Club Luncheon, this year at The Lobster Pot. Please get your check for \$38 to Carol Botelho, PO Box 484, Bristol, as soon as possible.

DUES! Are now due. Please send your check for \$40 to Carol B: again, to the above PO Box.

Upcoming: THE PLANT SALE! SATURDAY, MAY 11, 9:00-12:30, MHF

It's almost here!

This is our "all hands on deck" event! We expect everyone to contribute in some way, shape, or form. Our primary need: plants. Separate and pot up your garden or house plants. Be brave and ask your friends, neighbors, relatives if they have specimens that need dividing! Remind them that the sale proceeds benefit our community.

We also need people to help set up beforehand, deliver the plants, tag the plants, make the bouquets; we need people to pick up boxes for customers to put the plants in for the ride to their new homes. We also need several people to help sell the plants! Please let Diana know how you will be contributing.

What a busy month! I'm taking a bit of a breather, typing this up from Tulsa, and spending the weekend in Santa Fe, and then it's back to Rhode Island to gear up for our many May activities. Spring is speeding along, take time to enjoy it!

Gail Burmeister



