

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



When I was a child growing up in a Boston suburb, February was always an exciting month. January was behind us, the ground hog was an intriguing creature, there was February vacation and SO MUCH SNOW! We'd sled and ski and skate and make snow forts all day, only going inside to defrost our hands, have some hot chocolate with marshmallow fluff, and then go out again until the sun went down. It was a neighborhood full of kids with big dogs that were our guardians. And there was Valentine's Day! We'd spend hours upon hours making valentines for our classmates and family members, and in my house we would especially look forward to little pink heart shaped cakes that my grandmother would make every year...even sending them to me when I was in college.

This week, we have finally had some snow! The heavy wet kind, perfect for making snowmen and forts...Will we be getting any more snow? Will there be a snow day? Will my crazy crocus flowers still blossom after this snow melts?

The Garden Club board members were busy throughout January, preparing for the months ahead.

- The plant sale committee has been formed and will meet in early March.
- The website magicians have been working overtime, making great progress, and they continue to add polish to the various categories. Please be sure to check it out and feel free to offer suggestions!
- At the library: we are partnering with the library to create a sensory garden...things to see, hear, touch, smell. Again, ideas are welcome!
- We have created a Pollinator Pathway committee, under Rick's leadership. This is a project we can all easily be part of. We will be adding a Pollinator Pathway section under Projects on the website, where you will be able to see what it is, how our club is involved, and how you can participate. Look for that in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, a few of us met via zoom, during last week's snow, with Brenda and Katie from Mount

Hope Farm to introduce them to the Pollinator Pathway and to discuss how the farm can be part of this. They were enthusiastic and eager to be involved.

Sadly, we are mourning the loss of our dear member, Maureen Curry. I think that an email I received from Pam Bishop expresses our thoughts beautifully. Pam wrote, “Maureen was a treasured friend and an inspiring woman who faced aging with determination, optimism and bravery. Intelligent and witty, she was also humble and unassuming. Maureen approached life with passion and caring. I’ll greatly miss her warm affection and generosity of spirit”.

Last week, we had the privilege of having Craig Hotchkiss of the Rhode Island Tree Council as our guest speaker. He discussed our native trees and their care, as well as telling us about Champion Trees in Rhode Island. It was very informative and Craig is an enthusiastic speaker!



Looking forward, so much is happening! Our big event is the American Daffodil Society Flower Show, April 19-21. We are cosponsoring the event with Blithewold; there will be a preview party on Friday, the 19th, from 5:00-7:00, with cocktails in the visitor’s center followed by hors d’oeuvres in the mansion. There will be entertainment by students from The Ballet Center. It promises to be a lovely evening.

Leading up to the Daffodil Show, we are attempting to inundate the downtown with Daffodil artwork and Daffodil inspired windows. If you are artistically inclined, we are looking for paintings and drawings featuring daffodils! Contact me! Some of these pieces of daffodil art will be going into the library windows...and following the show, those same windows will feature the results of this year’s Daffodil Photography Contest. Details on rules and dates will be posted in March. Building off of this event, there will be a “Sip and Paint Night” at MHF on April 12th, led by Joanne Murrman. Participation is limited to 20. Also, throughout April, Paul at the Cake Gallery will be selling cupcakes decorated to look like daffodils! Please stop by and pick some up as special treats for someone you love...and for yourself, because who deserves a treat more

than you? We just need to convince the 1,000's of daffs that we've planted to hold off on blooming until April. The outlook for that is pretty sketchy!

We have a few new members! Here is a "spot light" on them:

Bethany Francis: "I am passionate about gardening. One of my main hobbies over the past seven years has been growing my own fruits, vegetables, and herbs in my backyard raised gardens and hydroponically. I also keep many different varieties of houseplants and in recent years I have become increasingly interested in flowers and landscaping as well as I explore backyard beekeeping. I am always interested in sharing and expanding my knowledge and connecting with others who share this passion and I would love to be involved in any projects that promote gardening within our community".

Bethany is particularly interested in working on the daffodil project, plant propagation, and the plant sale.

Laura Thomas: "I want to gain more knowledge regarding New England plants/trees/pruning/care and planting". Her special interest is in visiting local gardens. Laura owns the Bristol Ferry Lighthouse! She's excited to meet everyone and has enjoyed our annual plant sale and seeing the daffodils blossoming in the spring.

Terri Hubbard: "I see this as an opportunity to be part of an organization whose focus is the beautification of Bristol. I know I'll also enjoy meeting new people and working together on projects".

We are delighted to have these three enthusiastic new members.

Our next meeting will be March 13, at 1:00 in the library. Julie Christina, a former GC president and extremely talented florist and landscape designer, will be talking to us about designing flower boxes for our properties. I'll take all the advice and ideas I can get for my window boxes. This will be terrific; don't miss out!

Last but not least, February is also an ideal time to clip some forsythia branches, bring them inside and force them. I have a vase full that I clipped yesterday and I can't wait to see those yellow blossoms!

Gail

