

March Newsletter



March is a funny month. The threat of snow still looms, but the cheery little crocuses beg to differ. And if the old adage is true about March coming in like a Lion, judging by the howling winds and the huge tree that came down in my neighbor's yard, we should expect a lovely April.

Some of you have heard me tell about my antique terrarium that looks like a Victorian greenhouse. I found it in a shop in Padanaram a few years ago and I had to have it. It came beautifully fitted out with lovely succulents and some decorative sea shells. I managed to keep them alive. For a while. True confession time: I truly do have some awesome gardens, both here and on Cape Cod, but when it comes to house plants, I'm pathetic. About a year ago, my daughters were visiting and I happened spy them huddled over the little greenhouse. One was saying to the other, "do you think mom knows they're all dead?" The first weekend of this month, the younger daughter was visiting. Off we went to Peckhams for succulents. It was like "millions of cats", but I finally winnowed it down to seven plants, and my sweet daughter planted them for me. Now I just have to keep them alive!



The Garden Club is bustling. Diana led our first plant sale planning session earlier this month and an impressive number of members are already actively tending to both plants and plant sale assignments. This is our biggest fundraiser, to be held on May 11 (9:30-1:00) at Mount Hope Farm. It will be a very busy Farmers Market that day as it will also feature Springfest and a Vintage Market. Big Crowds=Big Sales! We expect every club member to participate in some

way; provide plants, procure plants (from friends and neighbors?), help with floral arrangements, work at the sale...there's something for everyone to do! Contact Diana with any questions.

This past Wednesday, our guest speaker was a former BGC president, Julie Christina. After 13 years as a horticulturist at Blithewold, Julie "branched out" and opened her own floral design business, Christina Floral Co. At our meeting, Julie created three fabulous window boxes designed for early spring, and showed us how to plant them, care for them, and switch out plants as the seasons change. We all went home eager to fill our own planters and window boxes with plants we hadn't considered using before!



The American Daffodil Society Horticultural Show is fast approaching! There will be a preview party on Friday April 19th, 5:30-7:30, at Blithewold. There will be reduced price tickets for club members; get yours when they go on sale! The show will be open to the public on the 20th and 21st, entry is included with the Blithewold admission fee. Here are areas where you can help!

- We need several people to help set up the Horticulture Specimens in the barn (possibly Thursday the 18th)
- We need people on hand to help the Horticulture judges
- Several clerks are needed to work with design judges (please contact Vicki)
- Pam needs greeters to act as hosts for the Preview Event, and Linda may need help with the raffle
- The week of show, we will be putting daffodil art work (paintings, drawings) in the downtown shop windows. Some shops will be creating their own daffodil themed decor, and several restaurants will be offering daffodil themed drinks and food. You can be certain that I'll be stopping by The Cake Gallery for a daffodil decorated cupcake!
- Please contact me, Pam, Laurel or Sheri to see how you can help us decorate downtown.

We have New Projects in need of ring leaders! The Herreshoff has asked if we could design and plant the area at the corner of Hope and Burnside Street, around their sign. It's not a huge space, and they will fund the plantings, soil, etc. They would be responsible for maintaining the plantings.

Similarly, the Maher Center group home at the corner of Wood and Woodlawn needs attention, and they would appreciate our help. Both of these projects fall under our commitments toward civic beautification and service to our town. If you are interested in heading up either of these projects, please let me know. Details will be forthcoming.

Upcoming dates:

- April 4: RIFGC Flower Show
- April 8: BGC board meeting
- April 10: wicked Tulips Field Trip, noon. We will have a brief meeting at the library and then carpool to Wicked Tulips in Exeter.
- April 8: BGC will decorate the library windows
- April 8-12: windows downtown will get decorated for Daffodils Downtown
- April 19: Daffodil Show preview party at Blithewold
- April 20-21: Daffodil Show open to the public, free with your admission fee to Blithewold
- May 6: BGC board meeting
- May 8: Annual Spring Luncheon, location tbd
- May 10: Prep work and floral arranging for the plant sale. Location tbd.
- May 11: BGC Plant Sale at Mount Hope Farm.

Happy St Patrick's Day to everyone! And Happy Spring!

Gail

