

March Newsletter



Spring is definitely just around the corner! The crocuses and snow drops are up, the hellebores are about to bloom, and one more sign of spring has shown up at my house: sugar ants in the kitchen. Every year, something gets left on the counter (this year, a teacup with residual sugar), and voila! teeny ants are suddenly all over the counter. A few bait traps were set out and all the ants were gone by the next day. Until next spring.

It has been a fairly quiet month as we wait for spring to officially arrive. Our plant sale committee has begun planting seedlings and making plans for our annual plant sale, to be held May 10, during the Mount Hope Farm Farmer's Market. Mark your calendars and start checking your gardens for plants that you can donate to the sale. This year, we are going to be extra cautious while transplanting: the Jumping Worm scourge is a real concern. Please check our website for a photo of a jumping worm and suggestions on eradication.

For a second year, there will be a Daffodil Society daffodil show at Blithewold. (Next year it will be held in Newport). Set up will be on April 14th, for the drop off of daffodil specimens and floral arrangements. The judging will take place on the 15th, with a preview party that evening. Admission to the party will be \$50, but BGC members will get a discounted price of \$40.

Big Reminder: membership dues are due by the April meeting! Guess what! You can now pay your dues online via our website. Dues paid online will be \$42, to cover the service fee we incur. Or you can pay \$40 if you pay by check or cash. (Check is preferred over cash).

Sheri S is busy with arrangements for the annual daffodil photography contest. Go through your photos, or snap some new shots and enter. If you have any school kids nearby, please encourage them to enter the youth division. Every year, we receive such beautiful entries; it's a pleasure to see them in the library windows.

At our general meeting on Wednesday the 12th, our guest speaker was Melonie Massa, the owner of Mermaids Baubles. Melonie shared her enthusiasm for Sailor's Valentines, along with the history of this beautiful craft. Melonie has taken the craft beyond the framed sailor's designs and she makes jewelry and other floral creations from shells: for her son's recent wedding, she made

him a seashell flower boutonniere! Melonie led us all in creating our own miniature Sailor's Valentines, and we were all delighted with our end products. We also enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Carol G and Pam D. Look for Carol's ham salad recipe in the Club Members' Recipe section on our website.



Our April meeting is not as listed in the yearbook. Change of topic and venue: we will meet at noon on April 9, at the library. Our guest speaker will be Barb Young, owner of The Big Little Garden, in New Hampshire. She will be presenting a beautiful slide show of the holistic gardens she designed for the Community Hospice House, in Merrimack, NH. Discussion will focus on how we blend original ornamental gardens with new naturalistic and native gardens. You won't want to miss this!

As we gear up to start our spring gardening, this is a good time to look over your gardening tools and see what needs repairing or replacing...or what you might be missing. At my house, garden trowels seem to enjoy playing hide and seek. New gardening gloves are always on my list and I always pick up a pair or two of very inexpensive ones that can go missing or get left out in the rain, but a few years ago my cousin gave me pair that I absolutely love by Foxgloves. They are thin enough to let your fingers grab the tiniest weed roots, but strong enough to go after the tough stuff. After five years, I think I'm due for a new pair! You can order them online, and they cost about \$20-25. If you have any favorite gardening items, let me know and we can share them in future newsletters

Kudos to Diana: she has just created a Donations page on our website! Please check it out, and bring it to the attention of your friends and family.

Robyn is busy organizing a “side trip” for anyone interested to visit the Kinney Azalea Gardens in Kingston on Friday, May 16th. The azaleas should be at their peak. Put it on your calendar and look for sign up reminders in the coming weeks.

As I write this, I’m looking forward to corned beef and cabbage on Monday. My youngest daughter is visiting: she has an uncanny ability to find four leaf clovers; I think I’ll challenge her to find one before she heads home. Meanwhile, Happy St Patrick’s Day to all, and may the road rise up to greet you!

Gail

