

July 2023 Garden Club Newsletter



Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer...

Hi, fellow gardeners,

Although we don't have a meeting during July, that doesn't mean that our club is idle. Far from it!

This July brought about our first entry in the Bristol Fourth of July parade since 1934! Many many thanks go out to Laurel Curtis, who spent months doing the prep work for this, including filling out all the forms, ordering and collecting all the materials we would need, tracking down a vehicle and flatbed, and getting plants on loan. And she managed to stay fairly sane in the process! Many thanks as well to her dedicated committee, who put it all together. Very special thanks go to Bob Glanville, who provided the amazing workspace for us to build our float; he also helped greatly with the construction involved! Very special thanks also to Paul Burmeister for building the float's "garden shed" and "planters". He might regret his recent retirement!

Barbara Curtis and Hope Avery get the Good Sports award for being on the float during the parade, and managing to smile while the rain poured down on them! Fortunately it didn't rain the whole time!

I will admit that we were disappointed not to win a major award for our float...but WE know it was amazing.

Hats off to the committee: Laurel Curtis, Hope Avery, Robyn Borges, Vera Bowen, Gail Burmeister, Barbara Curtis, Pam Delaney, Carol Glanville, Jean Hogan, Bonnie Pacheco, Linda Sheehan, and Kathy Thomas.



I thought it would be nice to give you all a bit of an overview of all that we did for the community this past year, June 2022-May 2023:

June 2022:

- We received a Third Place ribbon for our entry in the Newport Flower Show's Garden Club Challenge
- We participated in the Japan America Black Ships Festival, demonstrating Ikebana and Kokedama

September and October:

- Sales of daffodil bulbs at a variety of venues took place

October:

- 7,000 bulbs were donated/sold/planted throughout town. Special attention: with the help of the DPW, 500 of the bulbs were planted in the median just after crossing the Mount Hope bridge. In April, it looked spectacular!

November:

- We made 20+ pumpkin centerpieces for Thanksgiving, and sold them at the MHF farmer's market the weekend before thanksgiving.
- We decorated Marjorie Van Wickle's bedroom at Blithewold for the holiday season.

December:

- We created 20 Boxwood Trees, which we sold at the Holiday Farmers Market, held at Pivotal Brewery. We also sold many decoupaged seashells that had been made by our members.

April:

- We all enjoyed the fruits of our labors when thousands of daffodils lined the streets of Bristol!
- We also held our now annual daffodil photography contest. The results were beautifully displayed in the library window for the town to enjoy.

May:

- Our biggest event of the year! The Plant Sale...Diana Campbell did a magnificent job chairing this event, getting everyone involved and bringing about fantastic results. We sold almost 100 house plants, 180 outdoor plants, 40 floral arrangements, and gifts

including kokedamas, shells, and terrariums. We made over \$2000! Equally important, member participation was extremely high.

- We participated in the town's observation of Arbor Day, which involved the planting of two trees in Mrs Perry's Garden.
- We gave out two grants this year: one to Camp Wetu for educational purposes, and one to the High School Garden Club.

Throughout the year, and most especially during the summer months, we give our time and gardening talents to Mrs Perry's Garden and to the Library property. Hats off to Maggie Rezendes for the beautiful planters in front of the library, which she changes with the seasons! And a special thank you to Mary Fran Snow and Hope Avery for overseeing the gardens in the back. It has become a tranquil oasis that many people in town are discovering and enjoying.

This past year, with a grant from the library, much research took place and a very solid chess table with two seats was ordered for the library garden. It has arrived and was just put into place on July 5th! If you haven't seen it yet, stop by soon!

As you can see, we aren't just a group of people sitting around sipping tea. Or coffee. Or wine. We get things done, we do it well, and we have fun in the process. And as I said earlier, we don't quit for the summer. Hope and Mary Fran have been finalizing this year's bulb order, we are participating in the Black Ships festival in August (please contact Maggie Rezendes if you can help that day), and we are working away on this year's Yearbook. If you haven't paid your dues, please send in your check asap.

A couple of requests from me: first, I'd love it if someone would head up a cookbook committee... and for some of you to volunteer to be on that committee, and for ALL of you to contribute recipes. Second, we are working on improving the website. If you have any expertise in that area, PLEASE contact me.

I'm living up to Nat King Cole's lyrics here on the Cape: it's hazy, I'm lazy, and everyone around me is crazy. But in a good way! And my gardens are really going crazy, especially the dahlias. Offer stands: come by for a visit!

Gail

