

November Newsletter



It's autumn in New England! And the frost is definitely on the pumpkins. I didn't intend to plant any pumpkins, but the squirrels and/or their groundhog ringleader had other ideas last fall, and the seeds that they ate...and eliminated...resulted in pumpkins taking over a corner of my backyard. All the leaves and stems froze last night, so now I have some not quite ripe pumpkins on my kitchen counter. Gardening is full of surprises!

The past few weeks have been busy ones for our club. Our Daffodil Project is almost wrapped up for the year, and we should all take great pride in our endeavors. In particular, Hope has estimated that 95% of our members were actively involved, either in planting, selling, or promoting. Additionally, several spouses and or other family members made significant contributions to the cause.

We also had considerable help from the Department of Public Works, the Master Gardeners, and the Bristol Brownies. Hope delivered handwritten notes, and bulbs, to city council members Diane Williams and Melissa Cordeiro to thank them for their support of our club. Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone for their participation! The April results will be worth the effort when over 7,000 new daffodils brighten our days.

The rainkeep at Mrs. Perry's Garden has been emptied and capped for the winter, and at the library Levesque Tree Works pruned the trees and removed some old and overcrowded trees and shrubs. This provides an excellent opportunity to create child friendly gardens next spring. Again, many thanks to Mary Fran and Hope for the wonderful job they have done overseeing these gardens. And here's a shout out to Maggie for the delightful planters in front of the library! Be sure to notice them the next time you pass by.

Our November meeting featured Connie Ganley, the public manager of Blithewold. Connie instructed us on how to make herbal teas for different purposes. I believe most of us were torn between a desire for the tea to help us sleep, or the tea that enhances our mental awareness! Both teas were quite delicious.

We also enjoyed a beautiful autumnal arrangement and fabulous treats all created and provided by Laurel!

Here are the tea recipes:

Brain Balm: 2 parts Lemon Balm
1 part Peppermint
1 part Rosemary

Floral Tea: 2 parts Chamomile
1 part Lavender flowers
1 part Rosebuds whole/ground

Use 1-2 tablespoons per 8 ounce cup and one for the pot.



Coming up:

This Friday, the 17th, we will be creating pumpkin centerpieces (10-12:00) at the Bristol Highlands Community Center on Mulberry Rd. Please let Maggie know if you can join us!

Saturday the 18th we will be selling the centerpieces at the MHF Farmers Market. Again, please let Maggie know if you can help.

December! Unbelievably, it's right around the corner! Our annual holiday luncheon will be at Jan Archibald's home; Wednesday, the 13th, at noon. The address is 10 Stonegate Rd, Warren, parking is limited so please carpool from the bank Newport parking lot off of Gooding.

Please bring:

a holiday dish to share

\$5 to defray party costs

\$5 donation for women's shelter.

RSVP to Bonnie Evans by 12/4

And speaking of Bonnie: She has done a wonderful job as chair of hostessing, but now needs to step down for personal reasons. Everything is set through June except for the May luncheon. We are looking for someone to step forward and take on her role! Please volunteer; you will have helpers!

Also coming up in December: we will once again be making Holiday Tabletop Trees. Trees will be assembled at the Highlands Community Center on Friday, December 15th, and they will be sold on Saturday the 16th at the MHF farmers market to be held at PIVOTAL brewery at Unity Park. We will be outside, so look for us there! Contact Linda if you can help with either making or selling the trees. Don't know how to make a tree? No problem, we will teach you! It's fun!

Sees Candies! We have a fundraising opportunity through Sees Candies...easy peasy. Just order chocolates, give them as gifts (or hide them in a cupboard to secretly snack on, I'm not judging) and we get a percentage of the profit for our Daffodil Project.

Just search yum or yumraising on your computer for the link! And share it with your friends and family.

Looking far ahead: put the Daffodil Society Horticultural Show on your calendar. We are presenting this jointly with Blithewold. Preview party will be Friday, April 19th, and the show will be open to the public the 20-21st. More details in the coming months.

The new website should be up and running within the next few days. I will send details as soon as it's 100% ready! Meanwhile, a huge round of applause to Kathy and Rick for all of their hard work, and a big thank you to Diana and Mary Fran for their advice.

Thanksgiving is next week!!!! Here are a few ideas for those of you entertaining (or being entertained by) children:

- Sugar Cone Cornucopia: fill sugar cones with M&M's, goldfish crackers, nuts and mini pretzels
- Mason Jar lights: glue dot the leaves onto mason jars, add a bow, put a tea light inside; place one at each place setting.
- Pine Cone Turkeys: cut feathers out of colored paper, stick into cone. Glue googly eyes onto an acorn, glue to cone; add pipe cleaner feet to bottom.
- Paper Bag Turkey: shape brown grocery bag into "turkey" shape. Make two "turkey legs" out of brown lunch size bags, add white "frills" to ends of legs. Glue gun legs to Turkey. Cut open the center of the Turkey and fill with popcorn...and serve!



Here's wishing all of you a lovely Thanksgiving, filled with laughter and great food. Safe travels to you and your families wherever you spend the holiday!

Gail

