

the

COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB

of Cohasset, MA

www.CommunityGardenClubOfCohasset.org

2 0 1 4 F E B R U A R Y E D I T I O N

'Struth, January's nearly over and it's time to write to you all again through the February newsletter - February, that favourite month we all love so much. According to Joseph Wood Krutch, an American naturalist, writer and critic, "The most serious charge which can be brought against New England is not Puritanism but February." Anna Quindlen in her book, *One True Thing*, is even harsher. She believes that February is a suitable month for dying - "Everything around is dead, the trees black and frozen so that the appearance of green shoots two months hence seems preposterous, the ground hard and cold, the snow dirty, the winter hateful, hanging on too long." Even Shakespeare felt the same way having Don Pedro ask of Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* - "What's the matter? Your face looks like the month of February - full of frost, storms and cloudiness". What words would you use to describe February? Bare? Bleak? Cold? Grey? Gloomy? Frozen? Dreary? Harsh? Dead?

Clearly, none of these people were or are gardeners. When you stop and think about it, gardening is all about optimism - sometimes, or at least in my case, a triumph of hope over experience. February might be cold, bleak and dreary, but the shortest day has passed



and the days are getting longer. I'm much happier taking my lead from the poet Barbara Winkler, who said, "Every gardener knows that under the cover of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl; and the anticipation nurtures our dream". In the February garden, it is so much easier to see the scarlet of the male Cardinal as he forages and the Nuthatch hopping down the trunk of a tree. The vibrant red holly berries and the red twig dogwood are no longer obscured by neighbouring trees. Statues and urns leap forward into sharper focus. Moss gleams in the spaces between paving stones. The landscape in winter is simpler, less cluttered, but still colourful.

"How can those who do not garden, who have no lot in the great fraternity of those who watch the changing year as it affects the earth and its growth, how can they keep warm their hearts in winter?" - Mrs. Francis King in her book *Pages from a Garden Note-Book*.

Happy February, everyone, as you fly to warmer climates, or toast your toes in front of the fire and dream of digging days to come.

Linda

February - Encouraging Birds and Butterflies into Our Yards

25 February, Second Congregational Church; Coffee @ 9 a.m.; Meeting @ 9:45 a.m.

Lelia Stokes Weinstein is a landscape designer specializing in gardens that need little water, no chemicals and minimal maintenance. She believes gardens can provide a crucial corridor for wildlife.

Hostesses: Larson, Lincoln, Lombardy, Lualdi, Marten, Mascart, Massa, McCarthy, McGrath, M. McLaughlin

4 - Executive Board Meeting: Lightkeepers Cottage, 9:30 a.m. Hostesses: J. Carroll, C. Graham, D. Jenks

10 - Junior Gardeners: Deer Hill School Cafeteria, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. "Valentine Arrangement/ Books In Bloom Prep"

11 - Horticulture & Design: Lightkeepers Cottage, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. "A Rose Is A Rose," Eric Eisenhauer will share his knowledge of successful rose cultivation, including the right environment for your plants, proper care of the rose garden and tips on selecting a rose to suit your needs

12 - Garden Therapy: Golden Living Center, 2:00-3:00 p.m. "You Are My Valentine"

18 - Craft Workshop: Lightkeepers Cottage, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. "Flower Pot People"



Newsletter Editor Pat Cammett

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Announcements

♥ **GCFM** is sponsoring a presentation on floral design by Marie Francois Duprez at Regis College in Weston, MA, on Wednesday, **21 May**, at 10 a.m. There is limited seating. Tickets cost \$20 each. To purchase a ticket, send a check and stamped, self-addressed envelope to Helga Frezette, Box 853, Eastham, MA 02642.



Marie Francois has her 3rd degree from the French National Horticultural Society. She is also a floral art teacher and a national judge, and has published 5 books. Her passion for photography has led her to taking most of the pictures of her floral art for her website and books.

There are currently 10 members from CGCC who are going to the presentation. Contact Pat Cammett @ 781-223-3491 or pcamme@gmail.com if you would like to carpool.

♥ **2013 HOUSE TOUR FINANCIAL RESULTS**

Here is the news you have been waiting for and because of all of your hard work the news is great! We have a profit of \$19,149.27. We can be proud of ourselves. My thanks to each of you for your willingness to help whenever asked – and for doing everything with a smile.

Lee Drew

♥ **Spring Craft Workshops** This spring promises three super workshops brought to us by our very own talented club members. Judy Dickstein will present “Making Garden People” from flower pots, Tania McCann will teach us about “The Art of Ikebana”, and Patty Johnson will show us how to set our dining table for Easter and the coming of spring.

Please mark your calendars. We will have sign-up sheets at the general meetings.

Tuesday, Feb. 18	Judy's Flower Pot People
Tuesday, March 18	Tanya's Ikebana
Tuesday, April 15	Patty's Tablesapes

There may be a small fee for workshop supplies. All workshops will be held at the Lightkeepers at 9:30 a.m.
Barbara Canney

Junior Gardeners

On Monday, January 13th, Judy Dickstein presented a program called "Presents for the Birds" to the Junior Gardeners. 26 children created bird feeders using embroidery hoops, screens, pipe cleaners, and pie plates. Songbirds all over Cohasset are rejoicing this winter!



Chinese Chicken Salad

Serves 10-12



Patty J's
Recipe Corner

- 2 TBL olive oil
- 2 TBL sesame oil
- 3 boneless chicken breasts,
rinsed and patted dry
- 1 cup sliced almonds
- 1 jar sesame seeds
- 3 packages Ramon noodles,
any flavor (discard seasoning
packet)
- 1 package precut cabbage slaw
- 1 package broccoli slaw
- 6-8 green onions, sliced thin

Dressing:

- 1/4 cup sesame oil
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup seasoned rice vinegar
- 2 TBL sugar
- 3 T soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper

1. Sauté chicken in oil. Cool. Dice into small pieces. Set aside.
 2. Crush ramen noodles in bag with palm of hand.
 3. Spread noodles, sesame seeds, and almonds on large cookie sheet.
 4. Toast lightly in 450 oven approx. 3-5 min.
 5. Combine dressing ingredients, shake well.
 6. Toss just before serving.
 7. Serve on bed of red or curly lettuce. Garnish with grape bunch.
- **Options: Add grapes, pineapple or mandarin oranges.

Dressing:

- 4 T soy sauce
- 6 T rice vinegar
- 2 T sesame oil
- 4 T sugar
- 1 t dry or Dijon mustard
- 1/2 cup salad oil
- salt/pepper



1. In shaker, combine first 5 ingredients.
2. Add salad oil, shake well.
3. Season with salt & pepper to taste.



Horticulture & Design Workshop creations

Presented by Cynthia Chase



Conservation

Recently I attended a day-long symposium at Wellesley College entitled, "Managing Large-Scale Landscapes Sustainably". It was presented by the Ecological Landscaping Association (ELA). There were extremely knowledgeable speakers from the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, Charles River Watershed Association, Strawberry Banke Museum, Mass. Audubon, and groundskeepers from private residences.

Presenters discussed maintaining large-scale landscapes with environmentally friendly methods, but any of the principles can be applied to our own yards and the gardens we maintain. Specifically they discussed ways to maintain a lawn that included pest control, disease resistance and alternative mowing.

A newer frontier of using "Runoff as Resource" promoted going beyond the rain garden to deal with these more recent major rain events we've been experiencing. How can we deal with the runoff, how do we collect and reuse it in irrigation, for example, and how do we prevent erosion?

Finally, "Managing Semi-wild Landscapes" promoted identifying invasive plant threats and setting priorities on what to tackle and what to leave. Determine where bittersweet and poison ivy are located in a large landscape, such as at Mass Audubon Properties, make a list of target locations, and proceed when help is available.



This symposium was brought to my attention by the Federation's Landscape Design School that I have been attending the past three years.

We are often notified of programs like these to broaden our knowledge of landscaping. The programs are very interesting and informative. I urge garden club members to try to participate in these schools.

Find more information - go to www.gcfm.org, select Education, then Schools and Registration.
Barbara Canney



Invasive Plant

Garlic Mustard - *Alliaria petiolaria* (by Catherine Felton - GCFM)

Garlic mustard is a biennial flowering plant in the Mustard family, Brassicaceae. In the first year of growth, plants form clumps of round shaped, slightly wrinkled leaves, that when crushed smell like garlic. The next year plants flower in spring, producing cross shaped white flowers in dense clusters. As the flowering stems bloom they elongate into a spike-like shape. When blooming is complete, plants produce upright fruits that release seeds in mid-summer. Each plant can produce hundreds of successful seeds that compete with our native plants and can wreak havoc in our own gardens.

Plants are able to withstand New England cold winters and continue growing and then flower/seed in their second year. The seeds can live for up to five years, so it is very important to eradicate before seeds set.

If you recognize the first year plant form of this biennial it is easy to remove and dispose in your trash. DO NOT COMPOST.



First year plant

WATCH THIS SPACE:
BOOKS IN BLOOM IS COMING!!



We're starting to plot and plan a flower show at the Paul Pratt Library over the weekend of 28-30 March. This will be an opportunity for all of you flower arrangers, together with our Junior Gardeners, to strut your stuff and design a flower arrangement interpreting a book about the sea. Details are still being worked out but, fear not, the show is meant to be fun and a good time, rather than hard work. We'll keep you informed as our plans develop, but in the meantime if you are interested in taking part, either as a planner, an arranger or both, contact Judy Dickstein, Diane Benson or me.

Linda

"In winter's cold and sparkling snow,
The garden in my mind does grow.
I look outside to blinding white,
And see my tulips blooming bright.
And over there a sweet carnation,
Softly scents my imagination.

On this cold and freezing day,
The Russian sage does gently sway,
And miniature roses perfume the air,
I can see them blooming there.
Though days are short, my vision's clear.
And through the snow, the buds appear.

In my mind, clematis climbs,
And morning glories do entwine.
Woodland phlox and scarlet pinks,
Replace the frost, if I just blink.
My inner eye sees past the snow.
And in my mind, my garden grows."
- Cynthia Adams, "Winter Garden"

