



Country Clippings

Easton Garden Club Newsletter

March 2003

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March 12 (Wednesday) 7:30pm Oakes Ames Memorial Hall

***“Starting a Perennial Bed”*.....Paula McNeil
(from Country Gardens)**

Exhibits: *“Over the Rainbow”*
Novice: Emerald City
Intermediate: Yellow Brick Road

Horticulture: *“Any Interesting Foliage Plant”*

Topic: *“Care of Roses”*

Refreshments: Leslie Mullen, Marilyn Falzone,
Linda Hallamore, Mary Spellman, Agnes Gaudet

Table Arrangement: Judy Tyler



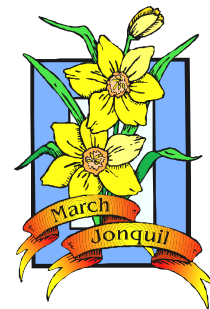
Dates to Remember

March 15, 2003 (Saturday) 9:00am
Clean out Main Street window boxes

March 15-23, 2003
New England Spring Flower Show, Boston.
(Our EGC entry, “Doorway to Paradise” runs 3/18-3/20.)

March 26, 2003 (Wednesday) 9:00am (meet @ Village Shoppes
7:45am)
Annual South Shore District Meeting, Pembroke Country Club

March 26, 2003 (Wednesday) 7:00pm
Board Meeting at the home of Kay Fulcher





EGC News



Main Street Window Boxes: The Main Street window boxes need to be cleaned out of all the winter greens that have turned brown in our warm weather. Please give us a hand – the more people helping, the quicker we'll get it done. We will meet **Saturday morning, March 15th at 9:00 am.** Please bring trash bags.

South Shore District Meeting: EGC members attending the South Shore District's annual meeting who wish to carpool, will meet at the Village Shoppes Plaza at Washington St. and Main St. on Wednesday, March 26th at 7:45 am. **If you do not plan to carpool please let Nancy know, so that we do not wait for you at the Village Shoppes. Nancy can be reached on her mobile phone that day @ (508) 942-9564.** The meeting is a luncheon and lecture at the Pembroke Country Club. Members who would like to attend, but have not already signed up, should mail a check payable to "GCFMA" to Cheryl Collins, 1112 School Street, Mansfield, MA 02048 by Friday, March 14, 2003. Please mark on your check your preference for lunch of chicken or fish.

Plant Sale: The Plant Sale will be upon us soon, **Saturday May 17th (the week after Mother's Day) from 8:30 - 12:00.** People can drop potted, watered plants off Friday afternoon and before 8:30 Saturday morning. We want to make this our best ever plant sale! We already have about 25 potted peonies sunken in and ready to be sold, along with potted up lilacs and forsythias. It would be ideal for everyone who will dig plants from their gardens to do so at least 4 days before the plant sale. Pot up your plants, place them in a partly shady area, and water them at least once a day. We would like to keep our reputation up by selling only plants of good quality that are not wilted. We will be looking for a temporary plant sale committee to provide help for both set up, and the sale itself. So please think about volunteering, and about what plants you'll be able to dig for us (if the snow ever melts).

Summer Garden Tour Message from Joyce: I am sorry that I created a bit of a misunderstanding. When we were starting to plan the Garden Tour last fall, we spoke with a bunch of people and asked that they commit to a particular garden. As plans have evolved, we will now be "staffing" two shifts of hostesses at each property. Please sign up for where you want to hostess, with the understanding that if you are needed elsewhere, you may be asked to change. If you can be the co-chair at a particular garden, circle your name to make this known. If you can work the full day, sign up for the AM and PM shifts. Sign up sheets will be at each meeting until the Tour. We are hoping to have 100% participation, and will be asking those that may not be able to hostess to bake instead. I am looking for 5-8 simple, inexpensive cookie and brownie/bar recipes to pass out and ask that people bake those particular items. We will be offering those recipes for sale for \$2.00 and money from that booklet will be donated to NRT.

New Dues Schedule: There will be a few changes to the dues and membership categories for the 2003-2004 year. **All members will receive a mailing regarding the changes and new dues.** In addition to current member benefits, all members will receive the bi-monthly GCFMA publication "The Mayflower" with their membership. Membership dues are collected by Mary Beth Meyer, and must be paid by May 30th.

Garden Gimmicks

Primrose

When spring arrives, one of the showiest plants in the garden is the primrose. This perennial has over 400 varieties available. It's one of the first to bloom and the best part is that primrose can grow indoors and outdoors.

Botanically, they're called "primula," aptly named because they are the first flowers to grace our gardens with their colorful blooms early spring. Primroses are the perfect perennials for borders because they grow in clumps that eventually spread. They grow best in zones 3-8, and prefer rich, organic, well-drained soil.

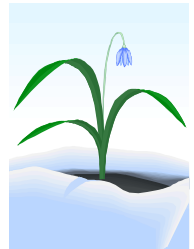
Primroses look best when planted in clusters. The flower heads come in all different shapes, sizes and colors. The one common trait they have is a rosette of leaves at the base. Check out fairy primrose – it's "fairy" fragrant!

If you prefer larger blooms, check out primrose obicanica, which is considered a self-seeding annual. There is also a wide variety of vigorous new hybrids. These have bright yellow centers surrounded by vibrant-colored petals. All of these will grow indoors in the winter too. Just provide a brightly lit room with temperatures in the mid 60's and lots of humidity. You can increase the humidity by setting the plant on a tray of pebbles and misting the leaves. When the weather warms up, you can slowly move the plant outdoors.

And if you want to grow them outdoors, just sure to give them a cool, moist location with dappled sunlight. Keep them well watered, give them a feeding every once in awhile and they will give you blooms for a couple of weeks.

Courtesy
"Rebeccasgarden.com"

Events in Our Area



New England Spring Flower Show
March 15-23, 2003
Bayside Exposition and Executive Conference Center, Boston

"The Garden Journey"

The theme of the 2003 New England Spring Flower Show is "The Garden Journey". At this year's show, exhibitors will depict the magical voyages that occur in our gardens. Whether it's the garden's offering of vicarious travels to other eras or lands, the rewarding "before and after" of the patiently-tended space, or more literally, a captivating metamorphosis from one end of the garden to another, a true gardener enjoys the journey as much as the destination!

Public Show Hours:

Saturday, Mar 15, 10:00 AM to 9:30 PM; Sunday, Mar 16, 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM*
Monday, Mar 17—Saturday, Mar 22 10:00 AM to 9:30 PM; Sunday, Mar 23, 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM*

*Note early closing these evenings

Ticket Prices:

Gate Weekend Admission \$18; Gate Weekdays Admission \$16
Gate Senior Admission (weekdays only) \$14; Gate Child Admission (4-12) \$7
Advance Weekend Admission \$18; Advance Weekday Admission \$15
Advance Senior Admission (weekdays only) \$14; Advance Child Admission (4-12) \$7