



Country Clippings

Easton Garden Club Newsletter

April 2004

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April 14 (Wednesday) 7:30pm Oakes Ames Memorial Hall

“Growing, Gathering and Using Everlastings”.....Nancy Perkins

A demonstration on arranging dried materials

Exhibits:

“Is it Spring Yet?”

An arrangement using native flowering branches (forced or otherwise)

Horticulture: *“Any Flower from your Garden”*

Topic: *“Perennials: Dividing and caring for them”*

Refreshments: Sharon O’Leary, Chair

Alma Ryan, Claudia Peters, Pat Conley, Stacy Naumes,
Nancy Josselyn

Table Arrangement: Amy Morse



Dates to Remember

April 24-27, 2004

Art in Bloom, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

April 25, 2004 (Sunday) 9:00 am

Guided tour of “Art in Bloom” – Gloria Freitas
(See details on page 2)

April 28, 2004 (Wednesday) 7:00 pm

Board meeting at the home of Sandy Medeiros

May 8, 2004 (Saturday) 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

EGC Plant Sale, Sheep Pasture



EGC News

Plant Sale: The annual EGC Spring Plant Sale at the NRT Sheep Pasture will be held on **Saturday, May 8, 2004**. This is a rain or shine event. We need every member to dig perennials out of their gardens for the sale. Anything such as ground covers, lilac shoots, vines, *hens and chicks*, common and unusual perennials will be happily accepted. You can dig your plants as soon as they are coming up and the ground is not too soggy. Please hold on to them until the day of the sale, and bring them directly to the Sheep Pasture. Please label your plants. Sometimes we can't identify a plant, so even a common name is helpful.

We will have the usual annual flower and vegetable six packs, and 10" hanging pots. There will also be a raffle and "white elephant" table this year. Volunteers are needed to help sale day from 6:30 am until 12:00 pm. **Members will only be permitted to purchase plants after the sale.** We will meet very early and collect the plants our members bring, make sure they are labeled, categorize them, and be sure they are priced. Any members who have garden (or little red) wagons, please bring them for use on the sale day. Please be sure to put your name on it, so it will be returned to you.

Please start potting up plants for the sale. If every member potted up 10 plants, we would have one thousand plants! Pot early, and water well. We want perky plants. Especially desirable are bleeding heart, columbine, astilbe, phlox, ferns, any shade lovers, lily of the valley, grasses, hostas, day lilies, and ground covers.

New England Spring Flower Show: This was another busy year for the Easton Garden Club at the New England Spring Flower Show. Our Club entry for the interpretation of "A Child's Perspective," a vignette depicting a section of a child's room, was awarded a red ribbon. "Andy's Tree Fort," a 1960s' era tree house, was the design theme. Sandy Medeiros was Chairperson of this event.

Also, entering individually, Gloria Freitas won three blue ribbons for her designs in the Open Design Classes of "A Forest Setting," "The Sculptor," and "Flirtatious Breezes." To view the award winning designs, visit our web site at www.eastongardenclub.org.

Dues are Due: Membership Chairperson Mary Beth Meyer is collecting dues and would like to remind everyone that all dues are due by May 30th for your name to be included in the EGC book. Please see Mary Beth at the next meeting, or forward a check to her by mail. Dues will be \$25.00 for active members, \$30.00 for associate members, and \$35.00 for patrons.

World War II Memorial: The Private George F. Schindler Post 2547, Veterans of Foreign Wars, is developing a long overdue Veterans Memorial Park to honor veterans from Easton who served in World War II. The EGC has purchased a brick, which will be embedded in a walkway leading to the centerpiece of Veterans Memorial Park. Veterans Memorial Park, which will be located at Mechanic and Pond Streets, will include an Honor Roll of World War II veterans from Easton. The memorial is expected to be dedicated in August 2004, depending on the pace of fundraising.

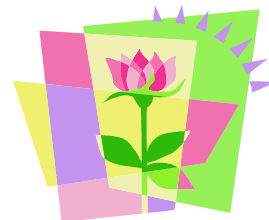
"Art in Bloom": The Museum of Fine Arts program "Art in Bloom" will take place on April 24th – 27th. This year Robin Kallfelz and Darya Cotter will be interpreting a painting by American artist, John Steuart Curry, called "Storm over Lake Otsego." Gloria Freitas will lead a group to view the "Art in Bloom" designs on **Sunday, April 25th. We will meet at the Village Shoppes plaza at 9:00am** and carpool, as parking is limited.

Welcome New Member: Please be sure to say hello to new member Jean Kent of North Easton.

Staging Committee: Any members interested in being on the Staging Committee at the New England Spring flower show next year please let Joyce Holster know. Dates for the show are March 12 through 20. Dates for staging work are primarily March 10 (Thursday before show opens), and March 15 (Tuesday). Plan to be available after dinner until very late. The most important times are from about 8 PM to midnight, or any time within that framework.

EGC 75th Anniversary: The EGC will be celebrating its 75th anniversary next year. In recognition of this milestone, we are planning a trip to the Philadelphia flower show. It will be in March of 2005. Any interested members please let Kay Fulcher know (KLFWAL@AOL.COM), so she can keep you informed of the how's and where's. More info will follow in the coming months.

Last call for recipes: This year's recipe book will be submitted to The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts for an award. Be sure that you will be published in this potentially award winning book! Please send in your recipes by e-mail or snail mail to maureen.curtin@comcast.net. Include recipes from regular meetings, board meetings, potluck supper, and the new members' tea.



Events in Our Area

Popular Hearty Plants from 1904 to 2004 – Carol Stocker Lecture

Monday, April 12, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

Sponsor: Friends of the Milton Library

Carol Stocker, the gardening columnist for the Boston Globe, will share suggestions for hearty plants that were popular in 1904 that are still popular today.

Free admission: Milton Senior Center, 10 Walnut St., Milton, MA, 617-698-5757

Native Plant Nurseries Open Garden in the Woods

Thurs., April 15, 2004 - Mon., Sept. 20, 2004

Daily 9-7 4/17-6/17, Tues.-Sun. 9-5 through 9/20

Sponsor: New England Wild Flower Society

The native plant nurseries open on April 15th at Garden in the Woods, in Framingham, and May 1st at Nasami Farm in Whately, Massachusetts. This year more than 575 nursery-propagated native wildflowers and woody plants are featured. View the availability list prepared by nursery director and author, Bill Cullina at www.newenglandwildflower.org.

Free for nursery, \$7 adults for Garden tour; Garden in the Woods, 180 Hemenway Road

Framingham MA 01701, 508-877-7630 x 3601

"Books in Bloom"

Saturday, April 17, 2004, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

A "Literary Flower Show" sponsored by the Y'se Gardeners of Marshfield

Come enjoy this annual flower show where talented designers will interpret their favorite books in flowers! There will be entertainment, light refreshments, a raffle and sale of gardening books.

Ventress Memorial Library, Marshfield, MA

Xeriscaping for the Home Garden

Saturday, April 17, 2004, 1-4pm

Sponsor: Tower Hill Botanic Garden

This class is based upon the "water-wise" principles and methods of Xeriscaping, an approach developed in Colorado in the 1980s for selecting and caring for water-efficient plants. The class will also deal with the planning and design of Xeriscapes. Val will show that you can have lush and beautiful plantings with Xeriscaping, discussing weed control, water-harvesting techniques (e.g. rain barrels), and cutting-edge developments in water-saving products.

Instructor Valerie Pierce of Foxfire Gardens, NH, often lectures on such topics as interior garden design and Xeriscaping. Members \$25; nonmembers \$29;

Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA, 01505, 508-869-6111x24, www.towerhillbg.org.

Planting and Transplanting: Demonstrated Techniques for Trees and Shrubs

Saturday, April 24, 2004, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Sponsor: The Arnold Arboretum

Establishing young trees and shrubs is an important spring gardening task. Learn planting and transplanting techniques that will give a new tree or shrub the best chance of survival. John DelRosso will cover transportation, planting-hole preparation, settling the plant in, finishing touches, and maintenance. Following the lecture, he will demonstrate useful techniques in the Dana Greenhouses nursery. Dress for the outdoors.

\$43, The Dana Greenhouses, The Arnold Arboretum, 1050 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain MA (617) 524-1718; www.arboretum.harvard.edu

Annual Plant Sale – Several Plant Societies & Organizations

Saturday, April 24, 2004, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sponsor: New England chapter, American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Participating will be the: Begonia, Gloxinia and Gesneriad Societies, Black Jungle Terrarium Supply, HortResources and Master Gardeners. Rare, unusual houseplants and choice perennials will be available for the novice, expert and connoisseur.

Free admission, wheelchair accessible

Univ. of Mass., Eastern Extension Ctr., 240 Beaver St. Waltham MA, 617-479-3680, thecopse@comcast.net

African Violet Show

Saturday, April 24, 2004, Noon-5pm - Sunday, April 25, 2004, 10am-5pm

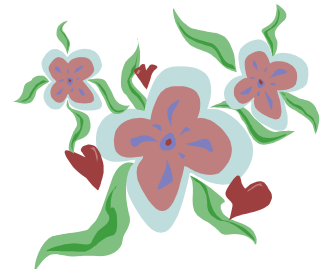
Sponsor: Bay State African Violet Society

The Bay State African Violet Society returns to Tower Hill for their annual African Violet show this spring. The judged show, themed "Back to the Future," will feature gorgeous displays of countless African Violets, including miniatures, trailers and variegated leaf forms. Tours of the show will be given both Saturday and Sunday and experts will be on hand to discuss your African Violet concerns.

Free with Tower Hill admission

Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston MA, 01505; (508) 869-6111x46, www.towerhillbg.org

Continued...



...More Events

28th "Art in Bloom" at Boston Museum of Fine Arts

Sunday, April 25, 2004 - Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Enjoy the 28th annual Art in Bloom. Three days of fine art and flowers with more than eighty floral displays by New England garden clubs and professional designers; international experts, lectures, luncheons, floral demonstrations, tours, fashion, garden shops, and more. This rite of spring, organized by the MFA Associates, is a major fundraising event that supports the Museum's educational and curatorial missions.

Museum of Fine Arts, Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA; 617-267-9300, www.mfa.org

Earth Day Festival

Sunday, April 25, 2004, 12:00noon-4:00pm

Sponsor: South Shore Natural Science Center

Join us for a full afternoon of earth-wise fun for the whole family! Environmental organizations and displays, children's games and crafts, nature walks, farm animals, Rainforest Reptiles, nature songs by Jackson Gillman, food and fun! In case of rain, all activities will be held under cover or indoors. \$5 adults/ \$3 children

South Shore Natural Science Center, 48 Jacobs Lane, Norwell MA 02061

781-659-2559x203, www.ssnsnc.org



Garden Gimmicks

Aromatherapy: Scents for the Soul -- Your nose knows! Sigmund Freud said, "The quickest way to trigger an emotional response is with scent." You can use scents throughout your home to enhance your mood, and keep yourself in balance.

- For invigoration, try a citrus smell
- To enhance your memory, use Rosemary
- Fight anxiety with a Cedar wood scent
- Boost your self esteem with Geranium
- Sleep like a baby with the scent of Lavender

Dividing Hosta

One of the superstars of the shade garden is hosta. It's the type of plant where there is no need to go out and buy several of the same plant because if you learn to divide properly, in a few years, you can have dozens. The best time to divide hosta is typically in the spring and fall. Start by digging around the outside of the plant. This is called the drip line. Start here because you want to try to get as much of the root ball as you possibly can. What you're going to do is probably divide it up into three or four different plants. There are many different methods to do this. You can take a sharp knife or a serrated knife, and cut through the crowns, right through the center of the root system. That will divide it up. With some types of hosta, you can jiggle it apart and untangle the roots that way. Before you plant the new plants, you may want to dust the roots with a rooting hormone that has a fungicide mixed in. This will help prevent crown rot.

Planting is the easy part. You must dig a hole, and leave a mound in the center. Then drape the roots over the mound and cover it up with soil, making sure that the soil line is one inch above the crown. That's all there is to it.

Spring Fever: Preparing For Your Early Season Garden

Before you can start planting, make sure the ground is at a temperature of about 60 degrees. To warm up the soil yourself, you can lay a sheet of thin black plastic out over the garden area. Over the course of a few days, take the temperature of the soil with a thermometer. The black plastic sheet will attract sun and warm up the soil. Once you're sure the soil in your garden is warm, you can begin to plant.

To start a young tomato, gently remove the plant from its container, carefully breaking up the roots. Next, dig two shallow holes in the area where you want your tomato plant. By placing the tomato plant in the first hole, then putting a small amount of fertilizer in the second hole, you can ensure that your plant gets the right amount of nourishment that it needs. Cover both holes with dirt and you're well on your way to a great summer salad.

Cloches, or plastic domes, can be used to protect young plants from the elements. Look for a cloche that has a vent on its top. You can also try making your own cloche by cutting the bottom off an old jug, then removing the cap and placing it over your plant. Make sure to put the cap on during cold nights!