



Country Clippings

Easton Garden Club Newsletter

April 2009

Editor: Robin Kallfelz
e-mail: robin@eastongardenclub.org

M
E
E
T
I
N
G



April 16 (Thursday) 7:30pm

***** Please Note: This is a change of date *****

Covenant Congregational Church

“Flower Arranging in a Vase” ...Gloria Freitas-Steidinger

A flower arranging workshop

- Exhibits:** “Easter Morn?”
An arrangement in a candlestick
 (“O’aptors” available from Leslie Mullen)
- Horticulture:** “Any Specimen Grown by the Exhibitor”
- Topic:** “Sowing Seeds Indoors” - Marcia Connors
- Refreshments:** Marcia Connors, Sharon O’Leary, Diane Shannon,
Rosemary Sinesi

Table Arrangement: Suzanne Zaff

April Meeting Raffle Basket: This month we will do an “Early Spring Gardening” theme for the raffle basket.

Dates to Remember

April 23, 2009 (Thursday) 7:00 pm
Board meeting at the home of Ann Trettis

April 25, 2009 (Saturday) 8:00 am
Meet at Washington Plaza to carpool to “Proven Winners” Seminar

April 25-27, 2009
Art in Bloom, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
(Date and time of EGC tour to be announced by email)

May 9, 2009 (Saturday) 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
EGC Plant Sale, Yardley-Wood Rink, Rain or Shine

EGC News

April Program:

Gloria Freitas will be demonstrating how to arrange flowers in a vase. She will also answer questions and give ideas and suggestions on a vase that you are not sure what to do with. In other words, if you have a problem vase, bring it along and she will advise you.

NOW.....things YOU will need for this workshop...

1. A vase that is not taller than 9", or wider at the opening than 4".
2. Please remember to bring clippers to cut your flowers for arranging.
3. Please purchase 3 bouquets of flowers, all the same variety, if you can. You can purchase them at a grocery store, usually 3 for \$10, or an equivalent bouquet of flowers that will fill your vase. If you are going to purchase flowers from Costco or BJ's, one bouquet should be fine. If you have any questions, please e-mail me or call. I would rather answer your questions before the workshop, so we all can make a beautiful arrangement. Contrary to Gloria's training, my philosophy for this workshop is more flowers are better to arrange, than not enough. You can always bring your extra flowers home and do another arrangement. Please make sure your bouquet has some greens in it, for arranging.

The EGC will provide clear vases for those who don't have the right size. We will also provide glass beads to fill the bottom of your vases.

Hope to see you all on Thursday, April 16, in the gymnasium at the Covenant Church. Remember, any questions, please call or e-mail me.

Kay Fulcher, Program Chair
508-238-2636

Plant Sale:

EGC Plant Sale: Saturday, May 9th at Yardley-Wood Rink 9 AM – 12 PM

Lots to do: The priority for the club is to offer a good assortment of plants.

Hostas (any variety), ferns, lilies, iris, flowering perennials. We are hoping to have more digging this year, please. Cathy Estey will bring pots and label sticks for each member to take home with them at this month's meeting.

Plants can be dropped off at Cathy Estey's house or Cathy can pick plants up from you at any time and will care for them until sale day, or you can bring the day of the sale. See details below on plant digging. Lastly, if you have some plants for the taking but are unable to dig, we can make arrangements to dig them up for you. Our preference is to have the plants labeled and priced PRIOR to plant sale morning, but of course we will take all items when offered. Feel free to e-mail or call Cathy and make arrangements for any of the above at www.cathy.estey@talbots.com or 508-989-0270.

DIGGING - Here are some easy ways to get ready for our plant sale: Plan to dig a certain number of plants by taking a walk through your yard. See what is coming up and what needs thinning or dividing. Peonies and irises can be divided very early in the season. See what you have that is in demand too. Ferns, hosta, and unusual plants are always in high demand. An assembly line approach can be done in easy steps. First clean your pots in a tub of bleach water and dish detergent and rinse. I like to use crumpled newspaper for the bottom quarter of the pot to help keep the plants moist. If you use leaves or other yard material check for bad bugs such as the Asian Longhorned beetle. Do not use infested material for potting. You can use soil from your yard or buy a bag of potting soil. Line up clean pots with newspaper in the bottom then soil. Dig your plants, plant in the pot, water, and keep in dappled shade outdoors. Plants should be dug at least a week before the sale, or even longer is better, as long as they are kept watered. If you are digging shoots of lilac, forsythia, kerria, leucothoe, or any other easily rooted shrub, dust the roots with rooting hormone and tap the excess off, then plant. It is easy to misjudge the size of the pot needed for these shrubs because a sometimes the thin root can be very long. Encourage root growth also by snipping off a few inches from the top of the plant. Ground covers and spring ephemerals can be dug as soon as the ground can be dug.

If preferred, members are also welcome to purchase an annual or perennial from the local garden center to be re-sold at sale.

LABELING YOUR PLANTS AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS - A nice idea another club did was to have a photo for each plant. Sources can be internet, catalogues (look through these before throwing out), or seed packages. Information for labeling could be Name (common and/or botanical), annual or perennial, sun or shade, height & width expectations, color, watering needs. If you don't know, we can do our best to fill in missing information.

GARDEN THEME GIFT BASKETS for Plant Sale - We will be putting together a few themed baskets to have as raffle items for the plant sale. We are asking members to donate, if possible, an item to go along with the following themes:

Gardening- gloves, seeds, clippers, gardeners soaps or lotions, misters, garden ornaments, gardening tools, bulbs, note cards with flowers, etc.

Birds- birdhouses, suet, suet cages, bird books, bird food (small packages preferred), etc.

We will need these preferably at the April meeting so we can have time to arrange and package them for sale day. Please help, these could be cute!!

PLANT SALE ADVERTISING - We are hoping to have a few new signs around town and will have some flyers distributed in the local downtown business. The flyer for the plant sale will be distributed to the EGC membership via e-mail during April. Please forward e-mail or print out to anyone you can think

of to distribute. Pass out to neighbors, friends, relatives, work, community bulletin boards, etc.

PLANT SALE Supplies needed: pots, pots, pots!!! Old mini blinds to cut up in strips for pricing, plant trays.

Arbor Day - Earth Day

In keeping with the April celebrations of National Arbor Day and Earth Day, the EGC has allocated up to \$250 for the purchase of a tree to be planted at the Easton Middle School (old EJHS building). This is a continuation of our project from last year to landscape the building now that the construction project is complete. Conservation chairperson, Darya Cotter, will announce the date and time of this planting ceremony at the April meeting.

New Column: EGC Happenings

It has been suggested to me that the EGC general membership might be interested in knowing the details of some of the events and meetings attended by our members. Members will email me their submission, and I will add them to our monthly newsletter.

From Kay Fulcher, First Vice President :

Judi Bruno and I recently attended a President's Day morning at The Community Garden Club of Duxbury. Many clubs in the South Shore District have President's Day or Night, and invite other Garden Clubs in the District. The EGC usually has President's Night at Stonehill College in November.

The presentation "Spring Fling" was done by a well-known demonstrator, Mary Huntoon. She used a variety of spring flowers in her various arrangements. I was pleased to know many of her containers came from Home Goods, TJ Maxx, Marshalls etc., some of my favorite stores for finding "treasures." It was delightful to see "spring," when there was still snow and ice on the ground.

There was also a Horticulture talk regarding the damage the Deer are doing to many of our plants. A suggestion I did not hear before was to install some lights that come on when triggered by movement. Although a good idea, some members were concerned that if the Deer become used to the lights, then they will start eating again. We all concluded we must learn to work with the animal population that lives around us, whatever works. Good advice if you can do it. I feel about squirrels like many feel about Deer, and as they are emptying my bird feeders, it is hard to feel the "love."

From Leslie Mullen, President: Later in the month Cindy Lemish and Sandy Medeiros also attended a President's event given by the Weymouth Garden Club and the speaker that day was Betsy Williams.

From Nancy Cohenno, Second VP: Joyce Holster and I spent about three hours Saturday March 28th pruning and cleaning up the Town Hall island on Elm Street so take a look next time you are out and about.

Events in Our Area

Outdoor Living: An All-Day Seminar with P. Allen Smith and Proven Winners

Saturday, April 25, 2009

A one-day get-away filled with information, inspiration, and free goodies.

Learn from **The Today Show's** P. Allen Smith and other experts about creative color use, container design, easy-to-grow plants and much more.

A great group outing or wonderful gift even non-gardeners will enjoy. Includes continental breakfast, lunch, beverages, and plenty of snacks.

Limited number of seats. Registration is on a first-come basis.

Contact: Register online (see Proven Winners Web site below), or call 877-865-5818.

For information about Christina's, visit www.christinasfunctions.com or call 508-668-7200.

Location:

Christina's Function Facility
2 Washington Street, Route 1
Foxboro , MA 02035

Sponsor: Proven Winners

Time(s): 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cost: \$45 per person

Phone: 877-865-5818

http://www.provenwinners.com/ce_main.cfm?pwMainPage

Art in Bloom 2009

Celebrate spring at this annual festival of fine art and fresh flowers! See the MFA's galleries transformed by fifty extraordinary arrangements inspired by magnificent works of art--from Asian sculptures to world-renowned European paintings.

The Museum opens its doors with free general admission for all to enjoy Art in Bloom on Monday, April 27, from 5 to 9 pm. During the open house, free admission to the special exhibition "Venice" is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

<http://www.mfa.org/calendar/sub.asp?key=12&subkey=7705>