



Country Clippings

Easton Garden Club Newsletter

April 2010

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April 8th (Thursday) **7:30pm**
Covenant Congregational Church
“Spring”...Maureen Christmas
*Please join us at this special meeting where
we welcome our new members.*

Exhibits: “Ah, Spring at Last”
An arrangement using some flowering branches

Horticulture: “Any Specimen Grown by the Exhibitor”

Topic: “Planting an Ever-Blooming Garden”- Joyce Holster

Refreshments: Kim Bertram, Judi Bruno, Rosemary Sinesi, Lisa Yorra

Table Arrangement: Suzanne Zaff

Dates to Remember

April 22, 2010 (Thursday) 7:00 pm
Board meeting at the home of Ann Trettis

April 24-26, 2010
Art in Bloom, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
This year's designers Carolyn Lynch and Judi Bruno

May 8, 2010 (Saturday) 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
EGC Plant Sale, Yardley-Wood Rink, Rain or Shine

PLANT SALE PLANS



EGC PLANT SALE IS SCHEDULED FOR Saturday, 5/8/10 at Yardley Rink.

Lots to do: Priority for club is to offer a good assortment of plants. Hosta's (any variety), ferns, lilies, iris, all flowering perennials. We are hoping to have more digging this year please. NOTE: No Invasive plants please!!!!

Cathy Estey will bring pots and label sticks for each attendee to take home with them at this month's meeting. Plants can be dropped off at Cathy Estey's house (**194 Lincoln St.-in yard-there will be an EGC sign**) or Cathy can pick plants up from you at any time and will care for them until sale day. See detail 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. ALL plants will be labeled and priced the Friday 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 ideas. 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- 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.

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), 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. PLEASE LABEL COLOR IF KNOWN.

GARDEN THEME GIFT BASKETS for Plant Sale- We have been working on the gift baskets and could still use the items listed below or anything you feel would be appropriate. These will be finished up a couple weeks before the sale so donations will be needed sooner rather than later. Please bring what you can to April meeting.

Needed: Seeds, gardener's soaps or lotions, misters, garden ornaments, gardening tools, bulbs, note cards with flowers, anything garden related is good. Would love an Urn to fill and raffle.

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

Possible Gift Basket themes in the works are: Butterfly/Hummingbird Gardening, House Plant, Yard Gardening, Bird Lovers, Tea Lovers, Ladybugs, Floral Designers Gift Basket.

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!!! Please bring what you can to April meeting or place in back of clubhouse of easier and Cathy can pick up.

OTHER: PLANT SALE DAY: Need help to set up in the morning and clean up at the end of day, need a person or two to assist cashiering (Vivian), need a person or two to stand by raffle items and sell tickets.



WINTER MOTHS

(from Leslie Mullen and Nancy Cohenno)

It is predicted that the winter moth caterpillars may be quite prevalent this spring. This means that there will be much defoliation damage to untreated trees and other plants.

Do you remember seeing the light brown moths flying around in November? Well, the moths mated and deposited eggs on bark, in bark crevices, under bark scales, on lichen or elsewhere. In March, just prior to hatching, these eggs turn a bright blue and then a very dark blue-black before hatching. Eggs hatch when temperatures average around 55 degrees. It is believed that egg hatch in Massachusetts occurs when 20 - 50 growing degree days (base 50) have accumulated, which can be anywhere from late March into early to mid April, depending on the year. This means that egg hatch occurs just at, or right before, bud break of most of the host plants. Some of the newly hatched larvae crawl up the tree trunks and produce a silken strand of silk, which makes them buoyant. After hatching, the larvae wriggle between bud scales of newly swelling buds of such hosts as: maples, oaks, ash, apples, crabapples, blueberry, cherries, etc. and begin feeding.

Caterpillars feed on both flower and foliar buds. Once a bud has been devoured from within, the caterpillar will migrate to other buds and repeat the process. After the leaf buds open, the small caterpillars can be found within the tight clusters of new leaves during the day. During cool springs, if weather hinders leaf expansion, the winter moth caterpillar can cause high levels of injury to these leaves. At maturity, the caterpillars will be approximately one inch long, whereupon they drop to the soil for pupation. Pupation occurs from late May into early June.

Winter moth caterpillars are pale green with a faint white longitudinal stripe running down both sides of the body. They are "loopers" or "inchworms" and have just two pairs of prolegs.

Management: *Bacillus thuringiensis* Kurstaki (B.t. (kurstaki), which is a bacterium and specific to caterpillars of butterflies and moths, works very well on the younger larvae of this moth while they are feeding in the buds. Bear in mind, if foliage is treated with B.t. while it is expanding from the bud, then the newly emerging foliage will not have B.t. on it. B.t. has to be ingested by the caterpillar to be effective. It is best to apply B.t. for winter moth soon after the foliage has opened completely and the caterpillars are relatively young.

Spinosad, which is available to licensed pesticide applicators as well as homeowners, is another biorational compound that works well against winter moth. Two of the homeowner products are labeled as "Bulls Eye Bio-Insecticide" and "Monteray Garden Insect Spray". Spinosad is highly toxic to honey bees so great care should be taken to protect them during application. An example would be to NOT spray for winter moth

when crabapples, or other flowering trees are in bloom and bees are foraging. Once an application of Spinosad has dried, the threat to bees drops significantly.

Chemical insecticides. Many compounds, such as Carbaryl (e.g. Sevin) and Malathion are labeled for winter moths when they are exposed. Many of the Pyrethroids are also labeled for caterpillars on deciduous plants. In general, these chemical products tend to be much harsher on the beneficial organisms and should be used thoughtfully. These products are toxic to bees.

Trees that have been heavily defoliated by the winter moth caterpillars will be severely stressed. Trees must put out a second flush of growth in order to survive. Water is critical for trees at that time. Supplemental watering of trees will be necessary throughout the 2010 growing season, if a drought or little rainfall occurs naturally. Fertilizer application is not recommended for trees that have been defoliated.

Events in Our Area

Art in Bloom 2010

Celebrate spring at this annual festival of fine art and fresh flowers on April 24-26! See the MFA's galleries transformed by fifty extraordinary arrangements inspired by magnificent works of art, from Asian sculptures to world-renowned European paintings.

Family Day on Saturday, April 24, features tours, performances, and activities for children.

Sunday evening, April 25, there will be a special members-only viewing of the festival with guided tours, shopping, and dining.

On April 26, the Museum throws open its doors to the greater Boston community for a free Monday evening Open House featuring entertainment, flowers, and art. Other events from Saturday through Monday include free guided tours, an elegant tea with music on Sunday afternoon, and enticing shopping at the Garden Gallery.

<http://www.mfashop.com/artinbloom.html>