



Easton Garden Club January 2012 Newsletter

Dates to Remember:

January 16th, 6:30 p.m. -

EGC Board Meeting

At the Center for Non Profit Management - 16 Belmont Street, Brockton Around the back of the building in the Brockton Room.

January 18th, 9:45 a.m.

Blooms Exhibitor's Meeting
Snow Date: 1/19/2012
Location: Elm Bank, Wellesley

March 14th - 18th 2012

Boston Flower & Garden Show
Location: Seaport World Trade Center
Visit masshort.org for more information

April 12th - 14th 2012

Holliston GC, presents "Art in Bloom"
Art in Bloom at the Holliston Public Library is a free event. Visit hollistongardenclub.org for more information.

The Easton Garden Club is a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc., South Shore District.



Thursday, January 12th - Meeting

6:30 p.m. Social Time
7:00 p.m. Meeting Start

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Program: You are invited to a Royal Tea Party!

Kindly wear a "Royal Hat" to this event where we will serve tea, of course, and delicious sandwiches and confections. Be creative, be whimsical! There will be prizes in several categories. Come and socialize you're your fellow royalty!

Location: Covenant Congregational Church – Upstairs

DESIGN EXHIBITS: "A Spot of Tea"

A "Small" Design in a teacup (not to exceed 8" in any direction overall)

HORTICULTURE EXHIBIT: Any specimen grown by the exhibitor

REFRESHMENTS: Claudette Dailey, Bobbi Ruggiero-Hickey, Joyce Russo, Clorinda Hoffman

TABLE ARRANGEMENTS: Robin Kallfelz

EASTON FOOD PANTRY: – The EGC continues to support the Easton Food Pantry with donations. Please bring non perishable items or checks made out the Easton Food Pantry to the meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

President – Kay Fulcher

1st V.P. – Jeanne Ebert

2nd V.P. – Sharon O’Leary

Treasurer – Vivian Bissett

Corresponding Secretary – Ann Trettis

Recording Secretary – Leslie Mullen

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation- Virginia Harte

Design Consultant – Gloria Freitas-Steidenger

Exhibits and Web – Robin Kallfelz

Garden Therapy – Helen Hazard

Garden Walks – Cindy Lemish

Historian – Judi Bruno

Horticulture – Joyce Holster

Hospitality – Mary Beth Meyer

Hospitality Co-Chair – Karen Ewing

Membership – Karen Ewing

Newsletter – Debby Johnson

Nominating – Executive Board

Program – Jeanne Ebert

Publicity – Dierdre Broderick Ames

Village Improvement – Nancy Cohenno

Ways & Means – Cathy Estey, Darya Cotter & Debby Johnson

We’re on the Web!

Visit us at:

EastonGardenClub.Org

WINTER STORM DAMAGE

It has been a most unusual season for the gardens so far - warm temperatures both day and night have encouraged bulbs and flowering shrubs to bud. I actually have dandelions in bloom. Ideally when planning our gardens we keep our plants 45’ from power lines. Easily damaged trees such as poplar, maples, and birch should also be away from buildings. The better you match the full grown size of the shrub or tree to a location, the less maintenance pruning is needed. There are many smaller cultivars to use for smaller areas. Of course, we didn’t always plant like this.

Now that the leaves are off the trees, look at them both close and from afar for damage and to see if pruning is needed for shaping. It is best to prune damaged branches right away to lessen impact of disease infestation. Dormancy occurs with temperatures below 40 degrees. Pruning during dormancy does not increase growth as it does in the spring. The current thought on using wound dressings is, don’t.

Antidessicants or antitranspirants are used on broadleaved evergreen shrub such as rhododendrons to lessen water loss. The ideal way to use them is to make sure your shrubs have been watered first. When the day is overcast and above freezing, spray it on the leaves. Read the label- these products are not used on blue spruce or other blue, waxy laves. They should be re-applied in early February, again on an overcast day, above freezing. Postpone use if it is really windy.

If less than ½ to 1/3 of the shrub or tree roots are lifted out of the ground, you can replant and stake it. Treat this one special- water and root stimulating hormone can be used. If it is deciduous, consider pruning the top to lessen the work the roots will need to do to push food and water along. If evergreen, remember the leaves are still feeding the plant, so take care of damage or pruning for shape if needed.

Placing forms over or wrapping a shrub needs to be done after it gets cold. Otherwise it will keep the plant warm enough to continue growing. Of course keeping shrubs away from under eaves can lessen the need for this.

It is a great time to use a cover crop on perennial and garden beds. Seaweed can be used as is, no hosing down needed. Fresh manure can be used directly also. By the time spring comes it will be aged well enough. Leaves can be mown to shred for use. Keep mulch away from bark so the animals don’t snuggle in.

Winter moths (*Operophtera brumata*) are now in the adult moth stage (around Thanksgiving). Only the male flies- the females have begun to climb into the trees to breed until June. Dormant oil is used in late fall and winter and is best done by a professional. Sticky tape can be used around tree bark to catch the climbing females but is minimally effective. When the light green caterpillars come out in early spring and begin feeding there is little one can do without a professional. Beware that chemicals used to kill them are not selective about who gets killed. The best prevention is keeping your plants growing and healthy and choosing native plants that are already successful surviving winter.

Joyce Holster





MAINTAINING GARDENING TOOLS

Many gardeners have done their fall cleaning by removing annual garden plants and dead foliage on perennials. However, a gardener's cleaning chores are not over until the tools are cleaned, sharpened and put away for winter so that they are ready the moment spring arrives. Fortunately, this last garden chore isn't weather dependent -- it can be done anytime indoors.

Garden tools will last for many seasons if they are maintained properly. Clean, sharp blades on spades, shovels, hoes, and shears will make garden work much easier. Although tools should be cleaned after every use, most gardeners are busy and usually just return them to the shed or garage. By the end of the season, tools don't work as well, which makes pruning and digging more difficult.

Fortunately, neglected tools can often be rejuvenated. The first step is to remove caked on soil from hoes, shovels and spades. It may be necessary to use a forceful spray of water, a stiff brush, and soapy water. When most of the residue is gone, go over the blade with steel wool to create a clean, smooth and shiny surface. Rub naval jelly on the metal surfaces to remove rust spots.

Sharpen the edges of garden tools, such as hoes, shovels, and spades, using a sharpening stone or a #10 mill file. Hold the file at a slight angle over the original beveled edge, which is the top or front side of shovels and spades. In a sweeping motion from one side to the other, push the file along the edge in a one-way stroke away from the blade. After the edge has been sharpened, turn the tool over and lightly file the back the blade to remove the thin "burr" that formed when the front side was filed.

After the blades have been cleaned and sharpened, wipe or spray them with a petroleum-based lubricant and rust-inhibitor, such as WD-40.

Wooden handles on tools also need attention to prevent them from drying out and cracking. Remove soils residue and wipe the handles with a soft cloth moistened with boiled linseed oil.

Soil and sap accumulated on pruning equipment along with frequent use results in dull blades on pruning equipment. Remove dried sap with turpentine and use a flexible, abrasive emery cloth to remove residue from tight places.

Many pruning tools are designed so they can be taken apart to sharpen the blades. Sharpen the cutting blades on shears with a ceramic stone held at a slight angle and pushed across the edge, away from the blade. Turn the blade over and gently file off the burr. After sharpening, reassemble the shears and coat the metal parts with an aerosol lubricant to reduce friction between moving parts and prevent rust.

Keeping garden tools clean and sharp extends their life span and improves their performance. Get your tools in shape so the next garden season doesn't "spring" up and catch you unprepared.

Virginia Harte