



NORTHERN EXPOSURE

New England Region Newsletter

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Connecticut – Maine – Massachusetts - New Hampshire- Rhode Island -
Vermont

April 2012

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Has spring really “sprung”? It is really difficult to say, although according to the calendar it has officially arrived and I, for one, am cautiously optimistic that it is here to stay. Some of my bulbs are sprouting skyward and I have seen a plethora of robins around lately so we can only hope. . .

Since my last “message” I have traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, along with my fellow Regional Directors and the National Garden Club Officers, where I attended the 2012 NGC Winter Executive Board Meeting (January 26-28). As a group, under NGC President Shirley Nicolai’s tutelage, we covered a wide range of issues, acted on official recommendations from the membership, etc. We worked diligently for a day and a half, hardly seeing the light of day in order to get everything done that needed to be done and were rewarded with a half-day off to “see the sights” of Albuquerque. It was a wonderful experience and I am definitely finding my way back to New Mexico! The Garden Club Federation of New Mexico could not have been more welcoming and gracious with all five districts contributing to our comfort and well-being in some way; we felt very welcome and appreciated. Recently, I was the guest of the Portsmouth, Rhode Island Garden Club that had kindly invited me to attend their March meeting to enjoy their program on native trees and I most certainly did! They are a great group of ladies and it was a beautiful day to be in “Little Rhody.” My March 16th visit to the Boston Flower and Garden Show was most enjoyable, as always, and I was delighted to meet a number of you as I toured the exposition. Congratulations to all of the designers on their wondrous floral creations!

I am looking forward with great expectation to the upcoming 2012 National Garden Club Convention being held in Buffalo, New York, May 18-19. As a member of the NGC Executive Board, I will be traveling a little early for our pre-convention Executive Board meetings and will be joined by your state presidents and other NER Board members on

Director's Message – continued

the 17th. All of you, with guests, are invited to attend the National Convention and it is not too late to register. Please let me know if you need more information as I would love to have you experience it! This year's convention includes a national flower show - the first since the year 2000 - and I am pleased to say that New England will be well represented. How exciting! Also exciting is that my New England travel plans are beginning to firm up for the next several months and I am looking forward to attending your state conventions and events as well some local club meetings, as my schedule allows. There is still plenty of time to send me an invitation to your state and/or club events - an e-mail will do and I will be happy to attend, barring any scheduling conflicts. This is a very important part of the Director's role - reaching out to the membership and learning as much as possible about each state organization, the individual garden clubs they are comprised of and the dedicated members that make them so successful in fulfilling our mutual mission with National Garden Clubs, Inc., in part, *"to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility. . ."*

Please keep up the good work, keep the lines of communication open and do enjoy what promises to be a wonderful New England spring! It is just about time for us "dirt gardeners" to shine!

Joyce

Joyce A. Kimball
New England Region Director, 2011-2013



Northern Exposure Deadlines

This is a transition year for the NER newsletter. Not only do we have a new name but we are trying to become a quarterly publication. We are trying to reach NER members the first week of January, April, July and October of each year. With that in mind we have tentatively set our deadlines (for information to be received by the NER newsletter editor) as March 23 for April, June 23 for July, September 23 for October and December 23 for the January 2013 edition. If this time frame presents a problem for anyone, please let me know. Thanks for your help with our deadlines. Please let me know if there is something you'd like included in Northern Exposure.

Nancy Atwell
NER Newsletter Editor
atwelln@aol.com



National Garden Week June 3 -9- 2012

Plan now for your club's, district's, or state's celebration of National Garden Week, June 3 -9, 2012. Some ways to celebrate might be:

A display of gardening books at your local library

A hands-on workshop sponsored by your club, district or state at a nursery on selecting flowers and shrubs for a garden

Beautify a blighted area in your community

Plan a day of trash pickup along roadsides

Sponsor a garden tour offering a variety of gardens

Offer gardening help to members in your community who are not able to garden any longer or who need help with maintenance.

Have every member plant a tree in his/her own garden. Plant a tree in a public area in your town.

Write a letter to the Editor of your local paper announcing National Garden Week. NGC has a proclamation which you could use.

Plan a special meeting open to the public on a garden topic during the week.

The NGC website, www.gardenclubs.org also gives you the poster and a proclamation which you can download as well as some ideas of ways to celebrate. You may order the National Garden Week posters from Member Services. The posters come in packet of 50 and you only pay for postage.

If you do a project, take plenty of pictures. You may apply for an award. Three pages is all you need: first page is the application; second page is the summary of the project and the third page features the pictures.

Linda Frinsko
NER National Garden Week Chairman



Elizabeth Park Rose Garden:

Historic and Public Garden Focus



Photos reprinted with permission of Friends of Elizabeth Park

And she was fair as is the rose in May.

– [Geoffrey Chaucer](#)

With spring upon us, rose-lovers and growers eagerly anticipate visiting some of New England's outstanding rose gardens as well. Take a break from your spring garden chores this June and stroll through the world-famous rose garden at West Hartford, Connecticut's Elizabeth Park, the oldest municipally-operated rose garden in the country. It is a two and a half-acre garden which has about 800 varieties of stunning roses that total 15,000 plants. This garden is one of 23 All-America Rose test sites nationwide and therefore, contains some of the best-tended and most unusual roses to be found; this test site evaluates new introductions before they become available to the public.

Set in an open field within the 102-acre park, the rose garden is the centerpiece of Elizabeth Park, once owned by industrialist and statesman, Charles Pond, whose career included being the Director of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad,

Hartford Hospital and the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company. He was also Treasurer of the State of Connecticut, and when he passed away, he willed his estate to the city, with the stipulation that it be developed as a horticultural public park and that it be named for his late wife, Elizabeth. Theodore Wirth, the park's first superintendent, designed the garden area, focusing first on creating a rose garden, because, in his words, "It would please the people."



The garden's design is a traditional radial scheme on a large scale, with multiple beds of hybrid teas extending outward like the rays of the sun. Rambling roses cover arched walkways in the garden and the beds are filled with roses of every hue. In the center, a gazebo is surrounded by a rambler. Across a park road, noted horticulturist Fred McGourty designed a perennial garden in a similar design, including an intimate space, the Heritage Rose Garden, devoted to historic varieties of roses, their intense perfume conjuring memories of our grandmothers' gardens in the days before over-hybridizing and pesticides.

This horticultural gem celebrated its Centennial in 2004, and to mark the occasion, the Elizabeth Park Centennial rose was introduced, a pale pink hybrid tea, with a raspberry picotee edge. John Mattia of Orange, CT, a founding member of the Connecticut Rose Society, a master rosarian and Horticultural Judge, hybridized this rose which is described as seeming to be always in bloom.



The garden hosts a popular Rose Week in mid-June and, if visitors intend to have lunch at Pond House in the park, reservations are essential. Do visit with a friend, to share this breath-taking treasure for, in the words of Oliver Wendell "friendship is the breathing rose, with sweets in every fold." For more information, see www.elizabethpark.org or call 860-231-9443.



Other New England Rose Gardens of Merit

Stanley Park

400 Western Avenue, Westfield, MA. Telephone: (413) 568-9312,
www.stanleypark.org

Stanley Park was the recipient of the American Wildflower Society Display Garden Winner of the A.A.R.S. "Outstanding Public Rose Garden" Award. Over 50 varieties of roses and 2,500 rose bushes grace this garden.

The Bellamy-Ferriday Garden

9 Main St. North, Bethlehem, CT. Telephone: (860) 266-7596, www.ctlandmarks.org

While not grand in size or exotic plants, this garden, with its ambiance and striking color combinations, will inspire both the novice and experienced gardener. A formal garden with a rose collection, this intimate space is one of several gardens included in Connecticut's Historic Gardens Day, June 24, 2012.

Fuller Gardens, North Hampton, NH

10 Willow Avenue, North Hampton, NH (603) 964-5414, www.fullergardens.org

Fuller Garden's seaside location is ideal for roses, and two spectacular rose gardens are found, along with a pretty Japanese garden, profuse perennial beds and exotic plantings. Some 1500 rose bushes of every type are featured in an exceptionally well-designed garden. A side garden with radial beds includes an array of hybrid teas, while the Front Garden, a sunken rose garden, also includes classic floribundas. This is an official All-America Rose Display Garden for New Hampshire.

Rosecliff

548 Bellevue Avenue Newport, RI (401) 847-1000 www.newportmansions.org

This Newport mansion, designed by Stanford White and completed in 1902, was modeled after the Grand Trianon, the garden retreat of French kings at Versailles. Theresa and Hermann Oelrichs purchased the property from the estate of historian and diplomat George Bancroft. An amateur horticulturist, it was Bancroft who developed the American Beauty Rose. Despite strong ocean winds, protected terraces on both sides allow for a lovely display of climbing roses, and the setting is spectacular. Scenes from several films have been shot on location at Rosecliff, including *The Great Gatsby*, *True Lies*, *Amistad* and *27 Dresses*. The not-to-be-missed Newport Flower Show will be held here on June 24-26, 2012, with this year's theme being "Salsa."

Elizabeth Park Rose Garden – continued

For additional display rose gardens in your state or where you might be visiting, see: www.rose.org click on Enjoying Roses and then on Public Gardens. You can search for public rose gardens in various states.

Sandi Tinyk
NER Historical/Memorial/Public Gardens Chairman

CONTROLLING WINTER MOTHS

Around Thanksgiving, many Massachusetts members may have noticed whitish, small moths fluttering around their outdoor porch lights and windows. Those were Winter Moths and have been a pest in coastal Massachusetts for about ten years, and now have made their way to the Merrimac Valley. The Andover's, Boxford & Topsfield are most affected.

This article will offer you options for controlling Winter Moth Infestations. It is up to you to choose the method that is best for you. As always, the timing of your actions is crucial to effectiveness.

When you live in a town that has funding to spray the town's trees, such as Wellesley (street trees), Winchester (Town Common, downtown area and town cemetery) and Andover (small newly planted trees on Main Street) you are bucking the norm and are extremely lucky. However, it is always up to the individual homeowner to take care of the trees on their own property. These towns all used a new product called *Conserve* made by Dow Chemical (active ingredient Spinosad, a synthetic insecticide with the benefit of a biological pest control organism, which must be ingested by larvae) and found it most effective. Town spraying takes place around 4 a.m., before sunrise, in the early spring when the larvae have just hatched into caterpillars (inch worms), which devour the leaves especially on your maples, crabapples, cherries and ashes.

The tree companies I contacted in my area, all have spray programs and you would be smart to contact one if you have large trees that were adversely affected (defoliated) last year and choose the method you would like them to use.

Bartlett Tree prefers to use biological controls, but found at this time that those options are not effective. Using an IPM approach to tree care, Bartlett recommends using a product with active ingredients – Conserve (Spinosad), Bifenthrin (synthetic pyrethroid insecticide, highly toxic to fish) or Pyrethrin (natural organic compound – neurotoxin)

Boston Tree Preservation recommends Conserve. He has sprayed for the Town of Winchester and finds this product effective and safe. For those that want totally organic, this company uses Neem, an herbal substance.

Mayer Tree notes that the University of Massachusetts is breeding and releasing a parasitic fly to help control the problem on a larger scale, but it is difficult and lengthy process. The most reliable control is to hire a professional, licensed Tree Company. The company suggests that gardeners take fall action: that is the time of year when the female moth is flightless and must walk up the tree to lay eggs. Apply a barrier on susceptible trees by creating a solid, impenetrable barrier encircling the tree (duct tape



Controlling Winter Moths - continued

with a sticky substance on the tape to trap the moths). This will not be the answer to all your problems but can have some impact. Don't forget to remove this barrier in the spring.

There are many other qualified applicators in all parts of New England. Trees are an extremely valuable asset to your property. Protect them by using the most environmentally friendly product that will still do the job you need – you have choices.

Leslie Frost

member of FACT (Friends of Andover Community Trees)
and former President, Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts
"Be Aware, Be Involved, Be Educated"

New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. President's Report

Members of the NHFGC are eagerly looking forward to spring. Having had no real winter, spring will be welcomed with open arms. We are in the planning stages of our 79th Annual Meeting. This year we will meet at The Common Man Inn & Spa in Plymouth, New Hampshire. The clubs of District I are working hard to make it a wonderful get-together for all. National Garden Clubs President Shirley Nicolai will be joining us for this meeting. The New Hampshire Federation's own Judges Council is preparing a program to go along with the theme "Palettes of Spring." The program will feature floral designs by members of Judges Council and there will be an explanation of each design by the designer.



I will be working with our District II Director, Audrey Kincaid, to once again team with the Swift Water Girl Council and the troops of the Green and White Mountains to present a one day program to help scouts toward earning their National Garden Club patch.

There will be three Standard Flower Shows in 2012: Old Homestead Garden Club, Atkinson Garden Club and Hooksett Garden clubs are working very diligently preparing for their shows.

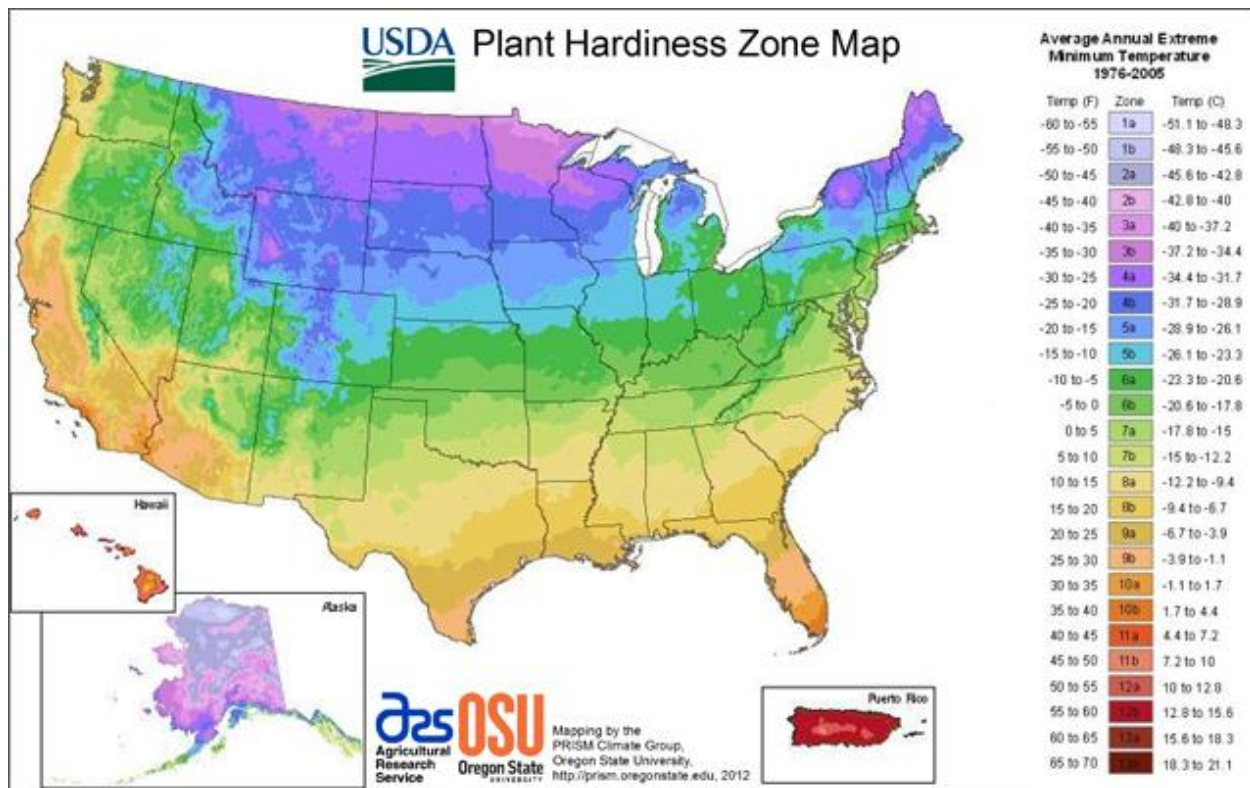
Virginia M. Urdi
President, New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



New USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map

The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree F zones.

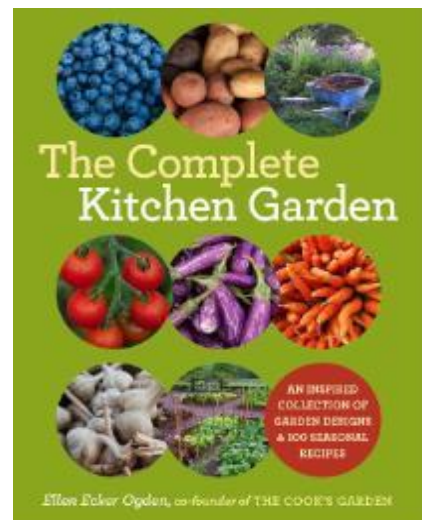
For the first time, the map is available as an interactive GIS-based map, for which a broadband Internet connection is recommended, and as static images for those with slower Internet access. Users may also simply type in a ZIP Code and find the hardiness zone for that area. The web site is: <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/> No posters of the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map have been printed. But state, regional, and national images of the map can be downloaded and printed in a variety of sizes and resolutions.



The Complete Kitchen Garden

Ellen Ecker Ogden

Stewart, Tabor, & Chang \$24.95



Here is another gem...just meant for New Englanders.

Written by the co-founder of "The Cook's Garden" seed catalog, this volume helps you design your garden and provides recipes for you to enjoy your harvest!

The section on "Getting Started" is complete...tools you need, choosing seeds, soil enhancement, etc. A real primer!

The "Kitchen Gardens" section has a choice of gardens for everyone: salad lovers, children's, herbs, patios, etc. All have artistic planting plans, tips for growing, and then . . . the wonderful recipes: appetizers, soups, entrees and desserts.

The sketches of the garden plans give you specific instructions on planting, and the beautiful illustrations demonstrate the results of your labor.

The varied choices of plant material may encourage you to experiment. How about tomatillos or walking onions?

Completing all you "need to know" is information on stocking your pantry, as well as a bit on canning.

This is a fun book . . . educational, beautiful, and oh! those recipes . . . over 100 in all!!

Anne Tiffany

NER Book Review Chairman

P O Box 420 Hancock Rd., Williamstown, MA 01267-0489

annetiffany@peoplepc.com



Changes in the NER Awards Information

NER Director Joyce Kimball has requested that we inform all of you about the following proposed changes in the NER Awards information. These changes are proposed for two purposes. First, this will bring the NER Awards requirements into compliance with the current NGC Award requirements for length and composition of the Books of Evidence and how these are to be submitted. Second, we are proposing adding an additional category to the Flower Show Awards for States, Judges' Councils and Districts that hold Flower Shows. This will recognize more types of Flowers Shows in the New England Region. The proposed changes are listed here. They will be voted on at the New England Regional breakfast at the NGC Convention in Buffalo. Please take the time to review the proposed changes before the NGC Convention.

Regional Awards General Rules #7 - change "September/October issue of The National Gardener..." to "Fall issue of The National Gardener." New rule would then read "SEND BOOKS OF EVIDENCE TO: New England Regional Awards Chairman, postmarked on or before September 1st. Refer to NGC Awards Rules (Fall issue of The National Gardener in odd-numbered years). See NGC Awards <http://gardenclub.org/AwardsList.aspx> NGC new rules for books of evidence requires no more than 3 pages, no binders or page protectors. Applications may be sent electronically."

Regional Awards General Rule # 8 - add "Yearbook" after Press Book.
"Exception: Publicity Pressbooks, Yearbooks, Speech and Essay Contest and Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster winners are to be sent directly to Regional representative."

NER Award #12 The Mary Louise Marks Smith Flower Show Schedule Award - Instead of listing the Scale of Points which is from the current Flower Show School Handbook, use the phrase "Scale of Points in accordance with the current Flower Show School Handbook." Also, add two categories: "A. Member clubs, eligible for the Monetary Award" and "B. District, Judges' Council or State eligible for a Certificate of Merit."

NER Award #15 The Virginia Kenney/Maureen Colton Award - Add two categories: "A. Member clubs, eligible for the Monetary Award" and "B. District, Judges' Council or State eligible for a Certificate of Merit."

NER Award # 16 The Nancy H. Atwell Trophy - change from "No more than 6 pages (12 surfaces)" to "No more than 3 pages, single sided."

NER Award #17 The Jeanne-Marie Parkes Award - Add two categories: "A. Member clubs, eligible for the Plaque" and "B. District, Judges' Council or State eligible for a Certificate of Merit."

NER Award #21 The Maureen Colton Award - Add two categories: "A. Member clubs, eligible for the Monetary Award" and "B. District, Judges' Council or State eligible for a Certificate of Merit."

Changes in the NER Awards Information - continued

NER Award #22 The Pamela C. Hebert Garden of Youth Award - In the Section named 'Record', change "6 pages (12 surfaces)" to "3 pages, single-sided"

The new wording would read: "Application not to exceed 3 pages, single sided

Table of Contents not needed, Number of club members and children who participated, Letter of Appreciation, publicity and financial summary"

Vera Bowen and Diane McMillen

NER Awards Co-Chairmen

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs President's Report

Greetings from the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs! Having just completed another successful Standard Flower Show at the RI Flower & Garden Show, we are all taking a "collective deep breath." Our theme, "Through the Eyes of a Child," provided a fun platform for Vera Bowen's imaginative schedule. Creative staging included a whimsical Ferris wheel on which our youth hort succulent entries rotated, a teddy bear, train and four playground animals headed to our prison garden/playground. 179 horticulture entries made a colorful display. The big winner for design, Cathy Moore, created a beautiful design in the class "When I grow up I want to be ...". Please check our website, www.rigardenclubs.org for more photos.





But, I can't move away from the show without thanking so many folks! All of the RIFGC members who gave of their time and talent to create the show, everyone who entered a design or a horticulture specimen and judges from throughout the region. Thanks so much for your support!

Our next event is our annual awards meeting and luncheon on April 26th at Twin Rivers Conference Center in Lincoln RI. The day begins at 10 a.m. with the awards meeting, followed by shopping, networking and a cocktail hour, then the luncheon. The luncheon program is "Dance and Design" where a ballroom couple will entertain us with a dance and a designer will show us her interpretation of the dance in design as we work our way through a variety of ballroom dances. Please contact Priscilla DiMarco, phd64@verizon.net, if you would like to attend. We now all look forward to spring and all of the opportunities it brings us to work in our gardens.

Judy Hager
President, Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

Recycling- Small Steps with Big Results

It is always helpful to be reminded about the impact of recycling. It seems not too long ago we did not use that word, but we did however "recycle" in many ways and did use so much less. Packaging had not become such a huge industry. Many of us, of a certain age, recall the days that we did not drink soda, except occasionally as a treat. I can't remember so many beverage cans and we certainly did not pay for water in bottles.

But enough of "memory lane." Writing about recycling for our NER members is like preaching to the choir. The important thing is to take any information and enthusiasm about this issue to our clubs and beyond them, to the community. With this in mind many interesting facts can be found online.

Recycling – continued



Did you know that a used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can, in as little as 90 days after collection, re-melting, rolling manufacturing and distribution? More aluminum goes into beverage cans than any other product. We use over 80,000,000 aluminum soda cans every year. A thrown away aluminum can will still be a can 500 years from now.

Recycling one ton of aluminum saves 37 barrels of oil. It takes 4 tons of ore to produce one ton of aluminum.

Other types of aluminum, such as siding, gutters, car components, storm window frames and lawn furniture can also be recycled.

I am always pleased to see that more and more people at my health club use attractive reusable water bottles. Americans use 2,500,000 plastic bottles every hour. Most of them are thrown away. So is their money.

There is so much more to learn about recycling other types of plastic, steel, glass, paper, and more. Google recycling and pass the information on.

Maria Nahom
NER Recycling Chairman

Energy Conservation

Think you're doing all you can to give the environment a break and make your home and community a little healthier for your family and others? Or do you want to go green but not sure where to start?

Here is a list of ideas you could implement in your home and community:

Carry reusable bags anytime you shop. This certainly helps the environment as the plastic bags are not recyclable with other plastic materials at your landfill. Some grocery stores have bins for them.

Plants in your home help improve air quality and outdoors have bee-loving plants (sunflowers, geraniums, pumpkins, blackberries, rosemary, sage and honeysuckle). Also plant a shade tree by your home.

Take shorter showers and install low-flow shower heads.

Repair leaky toilets, which can waste 200 gallons of water a day.

Skip bottled water, use filtered tap water. In Massachusetts most of the communities want to implement a Bottle Bill, but it's stuck with three committees in the state as they don't think it's important enough to make those plastic bottles for deposit only. Both the consumer and the state would benefit by this. Also crush the plastic bottles as they take up a lot of room in the trash truck and those trucks have to make extra trips to the Recycling Center.

Use your microwave or the toaster oven to cook small meals to save energy.

Energy Conservation – continued

Scrape rather than rinse dishes before they are placed in the dishwasher. Stack your dishwasher correctly and maximize the space so you don't have to use it every day.

Plant native flowers and shrubs that need less fertilizer, pesticides and water. It's best to plant perennials and only use annuals as fillers in your gardens. Take your auto to a carwash rather than washing it in the driveway. Have a clothing swap party.

Meredith Chase
NER Energy Chairman

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont President's Report

While Vermont has not slept under its usual blanket of deep snow this winter, many of our members have spent the months since my last report in warmer climes. Just as the snow is melting under the sunny warm days of March, many of them are now planning their treks back to the Green Mountain State to begin, with those of us who stayed put, the spring rituals of planning, raking, pruning, seeding, and testing and amending soils.

While the worst ravages of last fall's Tropical Storm Irene have been attended to, many communities are still in the process of planning for replanting and beautifying their public spaces. Some of our clubs have already volunteered to help members who lost their gardens, and many perennials will be split and transplanted in May and June. Some clubs will be applying for funding from National Garden Clubs Natural Disaster Fund to replant devastated areas in their communities. I have challenged all of our clubs to plant an Irene garden either in their own community or in another community that was badly damaged. For those in areas of the state not adversely affected by Tropical Storm Irene, I have asked them to work towards meeting the goals of our President's Projects. Some clubs will do both. I am humbled and honored to know such dedicated members!

In addition, two clubs are initiating plans to install new Blue Star Memorials in their communities. Two clubs are planning Small Standard Flower Shows this summer, and numerous garden tours and field trips will take place across the state. Our Spring Meeting will be held in early April, and our Annual Meeting with National Garden Club President



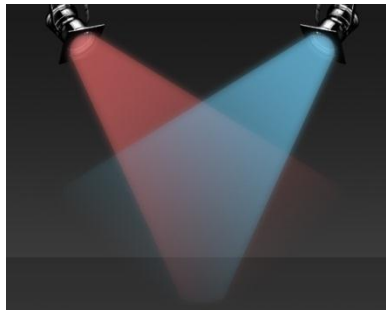
Vermont President's Report - continued

Shirley Nicolai in attendance will take place on June 10. Updating of our website www.vermontfgcv.com continues.

The Vermont Federation currently has seventeen clubs, and we hope to add to that number this year. At the same time clubs are being asked to recruit new members to increase our overall numbers. Young active members can make quite an impact on any club. We are all looking forward to an early spring and a glorious summer filled with warm sunny days and beautiful flowers, and we invite all members in the New England Region to come and visit us in Vermont.

Gay Gaston
President, Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

Power of Water
Spotlight on
CWN Members/Partners
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Clean Water Network Board Member Organization



National Garden Clubs, Inc. is headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, and is a not-for-profit educational group. Their 50 State Garden Clubs and the National Capital Area have a combined membership of 198,595. The National Garden Clubs focuses on educating and promoting issues relating to gardening, landscape design, horticulture and other issues relating to the environment.



This terrific organization is involved in a number of wide ranging water quality programs. The NGC helps promote rain gardens which allow not only for the watering of plants, but also help purify water before it enters storm drains. Their 2011-2013 President Project is titled "Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems". Through this project they are striving to "identify and address critical water issues." Maintaining clean water in aquatic ecosystems is vital to the group. Their website provides more information on all their projects and can be

found at www.gardenclub.org/Home.aspx

One of the most active state chapters is the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. (FFGC). They host events such as flower shows, luncheons, home tours and garden tours. They are committed to educational efforts and to protecting aquatic ecosystems, reducing both point and nonpoint sources of water pollution, and helping promote clean water by improving their effectiveness. One of their leaders is Marion Hilliard, who serves on the Board of the Clean Water Network. Marion was a recipient of the 2009 National Clean Water Champions Award from the Clean Water Network, for her tremendous work across the country. She has inspired many of us with her dedication and passion to protect our nation's waters!



Under Marion's leadership the FFGC has produced numerous clean water position papers on critical issues including state numeric nutrient standards. FFGC adopted the following Clean Water Position Statement on September 16, 2010, which stated, "The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, is committed to ensuring the availability of water resources that are safe for consumption, recreation, irrigation and sanitation without endangering essential ecosystems." The Federation also "supports all efforts to reauthorize, strengthen and fully enforce the Clean Water Act." The FFGC supported and adopted the National Garden Clubs (NGC) Water Conservation Platform on September 2008.

For more information about FFGC's great work click on their website at www.ffgc.org.

As part of the Power of Water Campaign, CWN is regularly spotlighting the great grassroots clean water work being conducted across the country, in our news bulletins. If you have something innovative or news worthy you want to share, have reached an important milestone or are celebrating an important anniversary, by all means tell us! Please email Briana at Briana@cleanwaternet.org

“Digging For Opportunities to Promote and Preserve” Garden Club Federation of Maine President’s Report

It certainly is beginning to look like spring. Weather and ground conditions do vary depending on where one lives in Maine. Some of us already have those delightful “shoots” starting to show above the cold ground while others are still waiting for the snow to completely melt. Wherever we are each of us is ready to return to working the soil in our gardens that we so love. As our flowers for this year begin to bloom I think of a favorite quote: “Flowers are Sunshine, Food and Medicine to the Soul” by Luther Burbank. I’m sure each of you has a favorite quote that expresses your love of gardening.

GCFM will be holding our annual June Convention “A Passion for Flowers”, June 19 – 21 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, Me. The convention will include several greenhouse and private garden tours, workshops on Cooking with Edible Flowers, Fulfilling Your Passion for Flowers with new and old favorites from Proven Winners and Preserving and Dehydrating Bounty from the Garden (a hands-on demonstration).

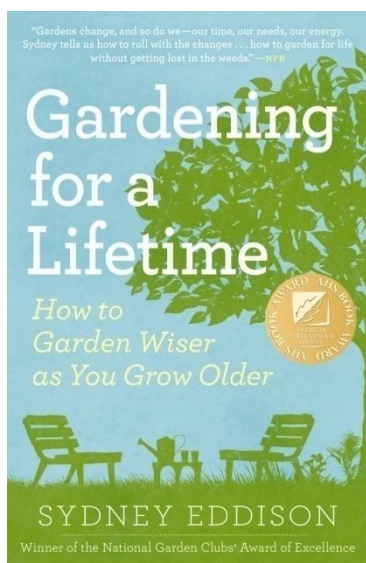
Wednesday evening will be the gala banquet “Broadway in Bloom,” an event not to be missed. As you enter the banquet room you will see costumes from Broadway Shows such as “Hello Dolly” and the spectacular flower designs to highlight those costumes. Attendees are encouraged to bring their cameras to “click” these marvelous flower designs.

Tuesday evening, June 19th, will be our annual Scholarship Dinner that will announce the Scholarship recipients for the 2012-2013 year. Our guest speaker for the evening, Irene Barber, is a young landscape designer and horticulturalist living and working in the Topsham, Maine, area. She also is a



member of the Topsham Garden Club and a past scholarship recipient from a Maine garden club. Irene will be speaking on “Sustainable Landscape Gardens.” Irene has put her education to good use while working for Cosmic Stone and Garden and coordinating a summer horticultural therapy program for people of all abilities at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.

On Thursday, June 21st, we will hold our annual meeting followed by lunch with our keynote speaker Sydney Eddison of Newtown, Connecticut. A book signing of her latest book “Gardening for a Lifetime” will be held prior to lunch. Sydney has published seven books on gardening and is



contributor to Fine Gardening Magazine. Her program is one not to be missed.

Please check the GCFM web site (www.maineclub.org) under Special Events for the 2012 Convention Registration form. Please contact me for more information. The registration deadline is May 19th and if you are staying at the Hilton Garden Inn be sure to ask for the special convention hotel rate. And, YES, there will be time to shop in downtown Freeport!

The annual GCFM Fall Conference will be moving back to the Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine. This year's date is Wednesday, October 31st, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 a.m. Even though it is Halloween, we promise that there will be no gremlins or goblins on site. Our theme will be "Floral Design with a Purpose." There will be two designers, one presenting floral design for a season, and one, floral design to complement artwork. On hand will be vendors and, of course, our raffle with all kinds of special gifts.

Projects, programs and special events continue under the hard work of all our garden club members. It should be a very busy and productive summer. I wish everyone a very wonderful growing season.

Kathleen Marty
President, Garden Club Federation of Maine

SMOKEY BEAR'S SLOGAN: WHAT'S in a NAME?

The goal and theme of the Smokey Bear campaign was adjusted in the last decade, from "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires" to "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires." The purpose is to respond to the criticism, and to distinguish 'bad' intentional or accidental wildfires from the needs of sustainable forests via natural 'good' fire ecology.

"Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires" vs. "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires"

The Science of Fire Ecology

The Smokey Bear campaign has been criticized by wildfire policy experts in cases where decades of fire suppression and the indigenous fire ecology was not taken into consideration, helping create forests unnaturally dense with fuel.

Fire ecology is concerned with the processes linking the natural incidence of fire in an ecosystem and the ecological effects of this fire. Many ecosystems, such as the North American prairie and chaparral ecosystems, and the South African savanna have evolved with fire as a natural and necessary contributor to habitat vitality and renewal. Many plant species in naturally fire-affected environments require fire to

Smokey – continued

germinate. Fire suppression can lead to the build-up of inflammable debris and the creation of less frequent but much larger and destructive wildfires. Periodic low-intensity wildfires are an integral component of certain ecosystems that evolved to depend on “natural fires” for vitality, rejuvenation, and regeneration. Examples are **Chaparral and Closed-cone Pine Forest**



Chaparral is a shrub land or heath land plant community found primarily in California, the northern portion of Baja and Mexico. It is shaped by a Mediterranean-like climate (mild, wet winters and hot dry summers) and wildfire, featuring summer drought-tolerant plants with hard sclerophyllous evergreen leaves, as contrasted with the associated soft-leaved, drought deciduous, scrub community of Coastal sage scrub, found below the chaparral biome. Chaparral covers 5% of the state of California, and associated Mediterranean scrub and an additional 3.5% and closed-cone pine forest habitats.

Closed-cone Pine Forest is a plant community of coastal California and several offshore islands. It consists of stands of Bishop Pines, Monterey Pines, and others which rely on fire or strong heat to open their cones and release the seeds. Wildfires also play a role in the preservation of pine barrens, which are well adapted to small ground fires and rely on periodic fires to remove competing species. When a brushland, woodland, or forested area is not impacted by fire for a long period of time, large quantities of flammable leaves, branches and other organic matter tend to accumulate on the forest floor and above in brush thickets. When a forest fire eventually does occur in such an area where a natural cycle period has been suppressed, the increased amount of fuel present creates a crown fire, which destroys all vegetation and affects surface soil chemistry. Frequent small, natural ground fires prevent the accumulation of fuel and allow large, slow-growing vegetation (e.g. trees) to survive. There is increasing use of controlled burns directed by skilled firefighters, and allowing wild land fires not causing human harm or threat to burn out.

Controlled or prescribed burning, also known as **hazard reduction burning** or **swailing** is a technique sometimes used in forest management, farming, prairie restoration or greenhouse gas abatement. Fire is a natural part of both forest and grassland ecology and controlled fire can be a tool for foresters. Hazard reduction or controlled burning is conducted during the cooler months to reduce fuel buildup and decrease the likelihood of serious hotter fires. Controlled burning stimulates the germination of some desirable forest trees, thus renewing the forest. Some cones, such as sequoia and serotinous require heat from fire to open cones to disperse seeds. In industrialized countries, controlled burning is usually overseen by fire control authorities

Smokey – continued

for regulations and permits. The party responsible must delineate the intended time and place. Obtaining a permit may not limit liability if the fire burns out of control.

Bonni Dinneen
NER Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chairman

**In Memoriam
Joseph Michael Dinneen
Fire Safety Engineer**

July 6, 1953 - January 23, 2012

***Director's note:** Joe Dinneen served as NER Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chairman for two administrations, from 2009 until his recent death. He will be remembered for his many accomplishments and his great dedication to the New England Region organization. Joe's devoted and loving wife Bonni has graciously agreed to complete Joe's 2011-2013 term as NER Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chairman in Joe's memory.*

During his life time Joe was a consummate promoter of fire safety and a supporter of controlled or prescribed burning and fire ecology. He was an active member of The National Fire Protection Association; New Hampshire Signalmen Association; International Association of Arson Investigators; Fire Protection Association of Massachusetts; and The Society of Fire Protection Engineers. He fostered many friendships and acquaintances with the Lowell and Boston City Fire Department personnel. Further, he enjoyed his association with the National Garden Clubs (NGC), organization. Co-President and founder of Curbs & Cobblestones Garden Club in Lowell. He was the New England Regional Chair of the annual NGC Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest promoting fire safety in the local elementary schools and had a passionate regard to continually educate and dispense knowledge in the field of fire safety. Joe never failed of give the gift of a fire extinguisher to any bridal shower couple or as a wedding gift!

2011 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Results

I am happy to report that the Federation State Winners that advanced to Regional competition were:

Vermont: Grade 1: Ainsley Meyer, Newfane Garden Club - Newfane, VT
New Hampshire: Grade 2: Jennifer Kulick, Goffstown Garden Club - Goffstown, NH
Maine: Grade 3: Camille Michaud, Bar Harbor Garden Club - Bar Harbor, ME
Massachusetts: Grade 4: Brooke Murphy, North Reading GC - No. Reading, MA
Maine: Grade 5: Grace Rodick, Bar Harbor Garden Club - Bar Harbor, ME

2011 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Results - continued

The winning posters were submitted to Elaine Dates NGC SB/WO Chair to enter National competition in May. Congratulations to all.

A Special Thank You to the

The Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Poster Contest State Chairs

Massachusetts: Kathi Gariepy kgariepy@comcast.net
1077 Pleasant St., Attleboro, MA 02703 508- 226-5447

Maine: Margot Haetel phaetel@roadrunner.com
P.O. Box 1431, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

New Hampshire: Fran M. Doucette
180 Benz Rd., Bristol, NH 03222

Rhode Island: Rochelle Kieron rckieron@msn.com
22 Cul De Sac Way, Portsmouth, RI 02871

Vermont: Nini Crane ninicranevt@comcast.net
911 Dorset St., Apt 45, South Burlington, VT 05403

[Connecticut did not participate in the 2012 SB/WO Poster Contest]

Bonni L. Dinneen
NER Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chairman



Blue Star Program

In the current issue of The National Gardener, an article references the “Blue Star Memorials On Facebook.” The article describes the history of the Blue Star Program and how it is now on popular new communication vehicle Facebook. Although Blue Star is a committee chair position in all National Garden Club State organizations, many NGC members are still unaware of its meaning.

Here’s a little history:

It is noteworthy that after the program was adopted in 1946, seven states led by little Rhode Island had joined the Blue Star Memorial Highway system. By 1949, 33 of then 41 state garden clubs had established routes and more than 16,000 miles of dedicated highways in the US. The object was that after official approval of a site, garden clubs would purchase markers and planting materials. Highway Departments would plant and

Blue Star Program - continued

maintain the area. This was the first program undertaken by garden clubs on a national scale.

The name Blue Star came from the blue star in the service flag hung in the windows of homes and businesses to honor service men and women. Also known as the "service flag" the blue color stands for hope and pride. After a lapse between WWI and WWII, the flag reappeared again during the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the Iraq War and the War on Terror. The flag symbol's purpose is to honor all war veterans as well as all men and women currently in all the US armed services.

Today there are three alternative choices for Blue Star Memorials. The first is the **Highway Marker** permitted on highways and highway rest areas. The second is the **Memorial Marker** permitted on grounds of a National Cemetery, Veteran Administration Medical Center and any other appropriate civic location approved by the NGC Blue Star Chairman. The first two choices include the inscription "A tribute to the Armed Forces that have defended the United States of America."

A third choice is the **By-Way Marker/Plaque** permitted in parks, historical sites, and other civic locations. This By-Way inscription reads "A tribute to the Armed Forces of America."

As of May 1, 2012 through May 2014, both the Highway and Memorial Marker are priced at \$1,350. The By-Way Plaques are \$450. Pricing includes a 7' post and delivery. Refurbishing is \$800 per marker and the posts for installing is \$325. In addition NGC has an award for landscaping with regard to Blue Star Memorial installations. The award is #29 Blue Star Memorial Landscaping and can be awarded for A. - A single member garden club, B. - Group or member clubs councils, districts, etc., C. - State Garden Club - small, medium and large club.

Currently, Tiverton Garden Club in Rhode Island is awaiting delivery of their Blue Star By-Way Marker. Tiverton GC president, Leonora Graves, received approval from her town to install a Blue Star Bi Way marker near Grinnell Beach on Main Road in Tiverton.

The plan is to place the Blue Star memorial marker across from a Dough-boy monument (from the Civil War era) to 'honor all armed forces who served our country past, present, and future'

The Blue Star By-Way marker will be put on a temporary stand until some construction takes place on a pier and walkway near the beach. When construction is completed, a stone or boulder will be placed on the spot where the marker will be permanently placed. Finally, the marker will be mounted on the boulder. What a wonderful way to remember our own service members. Thank you, Leonora, with the assistance of Candace Morgenstern for pursuing and accomplishing this great honor.

Lynne Merrill
NER Blue Star Chairman
233 Third Beach Rd.
Middletown, RI 02842
lynnemerrill3@gmail.com

REPORT OF THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

Spring has arrived early in Connecticut, and we are experiencing unusual temperatures in the seventies, forcing hellebores, daffodils, and other lesser bulbs into bloom. Forsythia, magnolias, and crabapples have exploded with color a month earlier than normal! These warm temperatures followed an unusually mild winter.

Connecticut's state Standard Flower Show, "The Fabulous Fifties" (part of the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show) was held in Hartford, February 23-26. The milder winter weather boosted horticulture entries to almost 300 this year. The show drew thousands of people who raved about the retro theme that featured 19 design classes with titles such as "I Love Lucy," "Leave It to Beaver," "Let's Do the Twist," and "Blue Moon." The staging focal point was a juke box blaring Fifties tunes, a dance floor, and (live) Swing dancers. Horticulture challenge classes for judges and clubs showcased pink plants, a tribute to the national "Plant It Pink" project honoring breast cancer awareness. Connecticut judges forced a pink amaryllis called *Susan*, and clubs were given seeds of *Amaranthus globosa* 'Bicolor Rose' to grow. Only one person was successful with the seeds, and she entered a plant in flower. A breast cancer survivor herself, this was a meaningful challenge for the exhibitor.



The Judges Challenge Class: *Hippeastrum* 'Susan' – Susan Amayllis, at the State Flower Show, "The Fabulous Fifties" in Hartford, CT February 23-26, 2012.

The Connecticut Federation is hosting two NGC schools soon: **Landscape Design Study School, Course II** takes place at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven **March 27, 28, and 30**. **Environmental Study School, Course I** takes place at the same venue on April 3-5. Both schools are very popular, attracting garden club members, public attendees, and out-of-state students as well. Connecticut holds all four NGC-sponsored schools each year. **Gardening Study School** will be held in September, and **Flower Show School** in October.

The Eighty-third Annual Meeting of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. will be held **April 18** at the Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, Connecticut. Brenda Bingham from New Jersey will be the featured design speaker. We will extend a warm welcome to our special guest, Joyce Kimball, Director of the New England Region.

Ronnie Schoelzel
President, The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.

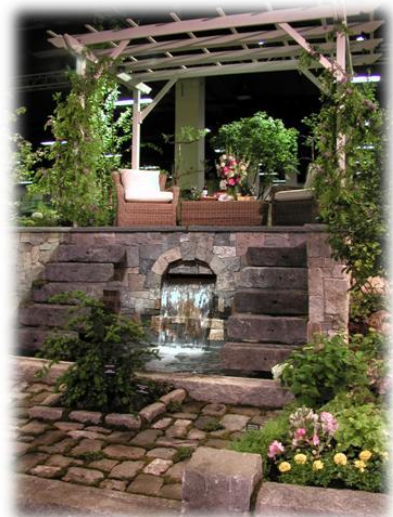
Landscape Design Council Awards Presented at Boston Flower & Garden Show

The Landscape Design Council (LDC) of Massachusetts presented three awards at the 2012 Boston Flower & Garden Show March 13. Winners of the awards are Ahronian Landscape & Design and Medway Garden Center, which entered a joint exhibit, and Garden Design School USA, which won two LDC awards.

The LDC panel of judges was made up of LDC board members Mary Bowen Nokes, Joyce Bakshi and Frances Y. J. Wheeler, while Tinka Zeitvogel served as clerk.

A Woodland Retreat Up on the Roof

"Up on the Roof," the winning exhibit by Garden Design School USA, evoked a woodland feel on an urban rooftop and won the LDC's Emily Seaber Parcher Award which is given for excellence in landscape design of a naturalistic garden of less than 1,000 square feet. The exhibit also won Landscape Design Award I, which is presented by the LDC for excellence in landscape design of a professional garden exhibit. The judging panel



Council Awards Presented at Boston - continued

commented on the well-balanced design that incorporated the River Street Metal Finishing building façade into the garden and the way the scene is enhanced with suitable outdoor furniture and small water gardens in containers, with spring metal sculptures that resemble silvery Cyperus plants.

A Choice Spot to Spend the Summer Solstice

Landscape Design Award II is given to a Boston Flower & Garden Show exhibitor for the effective use of garden ornaments, water features, specimen trees or topiary in creating good design. The centerpiece of "Summer Solstice in the Promontory," the winning exhibit created by the team of Ahronian Landscape & Design and Medway Garden Center, was a rectangular stone wall. A sheet of water flowed from the center of the wall with stone beams jutting from either side to serve as steps to the seating area above.

Terese D'Urso
NER Landscape Design Chairman



NER 2012 Calendar

National and Regional Events

May 16-19 – National Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention, Buffalo, New York

October 14 – 15 - 78th New England Region Annual Meeting, Providence
Marriott, 1 Orms St., Providence, Rhode Island



NER 2012 Calendar – continued

October 15 - 17, 2012 - 45th New England Region Symposium, Providence Marriott, 1 Orms St., Providence, Rhode Island

Conventions, State Meetings

April 26 – RIFGC Annual Awards Meeting & Luncheon, program "Dance and Design," Twin Rivers Casino, Lincoln,

Rhode Island, 10 a.m.

May 31 – RIFGC Life Member Luncheon, Rhode Island Country Club, Barrington, Rhode Island

June 19-21 – GCFM Annual Convention Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, Maine, for more information contact Kathleen Marty, President, 207-633-7349, kjmarty1@roadrunner.com

October 31 – GCFM 2012 Fall Conference at the Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine, for more information contact Kathleen Marty, President, 207-633-7349, kjmarty1@roadrunner.com

Environmental Studies School

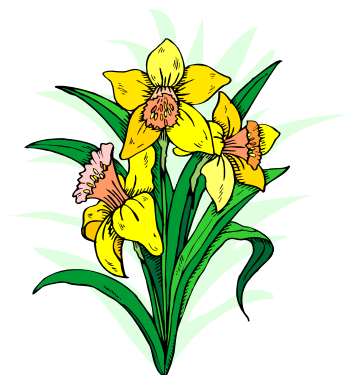
October 27-28 - in the Parkman Room, Massachusetts Horticulture Society at Elm Bank, 900 Washington St. Wellesley, Massachusetts. Bonnie Rosenthal, is the new chairman. Contact her: 9 Journey's End Ln., Lexington, MA 02421, 781-862-1517 or 973-557-6186, brosenthal@yahoo.com for information. The registration form will be on the GCFM web site later.

Gardening Study School

April 12-14 – Gardening Study School Course III in Boylston, Massachusetts. For information contact Caroline Nijenberg 781-862-4465 or carolinen@rcn.com

Landscape Design Study School

March 27, 28 and 30 – Landscape Design School, Course II at Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, Connecticut. For information contact Leslie Martino 203-389-4434 or lcmartino@yahoo.com



NER 2012 Calendar – continued

November 1, 2 and 3 – Landscape Design School, Course III, Series 14 takes place at the Massachusetts Horticulture Society at Elm Bank, 900 Washington St. Wellesley, Massachusetts. Required reading is in the course textbook Stewards of the Land: A Survey of Landscape Architecture and Design in America and in *The National Gardener*, the official publication of National Garden Clubs, Inc. For a subscription, please contact Lillian N. Cohen (781) 721-2888; e-mail lilandbud@verizon.net. For more information, please contact Jane E. O'Sullivan, 84 Old Meeting House Lane, Norwell, MA 02061-1436; (781) 659-4423, jeosullivan@comcast.net The registration form will be on the GCFM web site later.

Special Programs

June 3-9 - NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

*** * * NER 2013 Calendar * * ***