

NEWS

of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

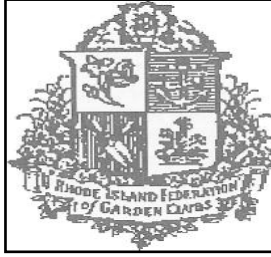
Member National Garden Clubs, Inc.

March/April/May

President Reports Issue



President's



Message

It's coming... the Vernal Equinox, with all the promise of warmer days, gorgeous shrubs and plants in full bloom, and outdoor activities. Before we contemplate sunny days ahead, it is appropriate to recognize the events and people who made our historically cold and snowy winter not only bearable, but fulfilling for us all. Thanks to Cathy Moore's organizational skills, we celebrated with our annual holiday luncheon, with a delicious menu, beautiful music and a chance to enjoy fellowship with our many Federation friends. It was also an opportunity to see and purchase our first 12-month garden calendar, and thanks are extended to Vera Bowen for overseeing the printing and distribution of it. Although it was difficult, we enjoyed the opportunity to select the photos which eventually made their way into the 2014 project; proceeds have been applied to our Habitat for Humanity budget to replenish our funds for purchasing the trees and shrubs which will be planted at future locations. Please remember to bring your calendar or I-Phone with you throughout the year to capture the beauty of other RI gardens, especially your own and clubs' community projects, for consideration in next year's calendar.

With Sue Redden at the helm, our annual standard flower show, It's All About Time, a bright star of the Rhode Island Flower and Garden Show, couldn't have been anything but magnificent. Her leadership, guidance, hard work and good humor resulted in a show beyond compare, and we are so grateful for her willingness to take on this vast responsibility. That said, Sue would be the first to acknowledge that no event of this magnitude is the work of just one person, and our heartfelt thanks go out to all of the show chairmen, staging volunteers, designers, plant-owners, and hospitality workers who helped, some into the wee hours, during the work-filled days leading up to the show and throughout its run. And, congratulations to all who entered horticulture and floral designs and, of course, the award winners!

That and the fact that they bloom from January to March are undoubtedly the reasons that the snowdrop has achieved such extreme popularity, and people who seriously collect them are known as galantophiles. Candlemas Day, also known as the Feast of the Purification, is a Christian Feast kept on February 2nd to commemorate the purification of the Virgin after the birth of Christ. On this day in the UK, in Lady Chapels the image of the Virgin Mary is often taken down and snowdrops spread in its place.

In southern Portugal and Spain, this same period is characterized by flowering almond trees, announcing the new season of flowers, and festivals are held to celebrate this beautiful natural phenomenon.

There is even a mountain biking tour that follows the Almond Tree route! There is a legend that says that the almond trees appeared in Portugal before it was a kingdom in its own right, in the time of the Moors. The young King Ibn- Almundimwoudl wanted to please his Nordic princess, who missed the snow of her own country, so he ordered the planting of almond trees. When the almond trees are in blossom they spread a carpet of snow-like blooms on the horizon which announces the beginning of spring.

We have had our own carpet of snow, and it's the real thing! However, it affords us the time to consider our summer gardens, to make the right choices for the well-being of our environment, and to follow through with ways to educate our young people. For our birds, bees and butterflies, consider planting more echinacea, a favorite of our wildlife, especially when we hold back our deadheading hand so that birds, especially goldfinch, can enjoy the seeds; and plant milkweed, a necessity for the monarch butterfly, whose numbers have rapidly decreased.

Please make every effort to attend our 2014 annual meeting in April. Co-chairmen De Feldman and Emily Reade have worked diligently to assemble an outstanding program of floral design and fashion, as well as a lovely luncheon and availability of exciting vendors. Importantly, this is the event at which clubs and individuals are honored for their exemplary efforts, creativity, and support, and we hope many of you will be there to applaud their achievements. We will have very special guests, including National Garden Club President Linda Nelson, New England Regional Director Maria Nahom and several presidents of the other New England federations. Let's aim for a huge welcome for our special guests and to once again enjoy the joys of garden club membership.

Fondly,

Sandi

Sandi Tinyk, RIFGC President



Galanthus

Over the Garden Gate



It's almost here, Spring that is!

Every time I think we are finally welcoming spring, another snowstorm or icy cold weather front arrives and I am disappointed! But then I think about how nice each warm day will be and how close we are to them coming and I get over my disappointment.

What a beautiful flower show Sue and her team put together. It was so enjoyable to wander through it! Congratulations to all!

Reminders for the NEWS – deadlines for content:

June, July, August – Awards Issue due by May 1

Also, please note:

- Please use Calibri 11 font – it is called the green font because it takes less ink to print it (which helps those who still print the NEWS)
- Please, please send everything electronically to me at jhager@cox.net

Enjoy spring when it finally comes!

Judy

Calendar of Events

March 27, 2014 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30, Roger Williams Casino

April 2, 2014 - Design Study, Beginner & Advanced

April 24, 2014 – RIFGC Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon, Twin Rivers Conference Center

April 30-May 3, 2014 – NGC Annual Convention, Norman, Oklahoma

June 5, 2014 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30, Roger Williams Casino

Sept. 25, 2014 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30, Roger Williams Casino

Oct. 9, 2014 – Education Day

Oct. 23, 2014 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30, Roger Williams Casino

Dec. 4, 2014 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30 AND Holiday Lucheon, Roger Williams Casino

Jan. 22, 2015 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30, Roger Williams Casino

March 26, 2015 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30, Roger Williams Casino

April 23, 2015 – RIFGC Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon and Installation of Officers, location TBD

Flower Show Schools

Congratulations to Marj DeAngelis (Rehoboth Garden Club) who passed the schedule exam and is now eligible to take the *Handbook* exam in April. Congratulations too, to Barbara Blossom (Bristol Garden Club) who attended and passed Course I Flower Show school in Canton, Ohio. Priscilla DiMarco, Janice Panoff, Vicki Iannuccillo, Cathy Moore, Vera Bowen, Marj DeAngelis and I attended the New England Region Symposium, in Westbrook, CT in October. Priscilla and Janice audited and their 'Good Standing' date is now December 31, 2016. Vicki, Vera and Cathy took the exams for credit. Massachusetts is beginning another series of Flower Show Schools, October 8, 9, & 10, 2014 at the Double Tree/Hilton in Milford, MA. Barbara May and Cathy Felton are the instructors for Course I. More information to follow. Club Presidents, please let me know if you have any candidates for this series of schools.

FLOWER SHOWS & GARDEN TOURS

There are several flower shows coming up next year:

February 20-23 RIFGC Standard Flower Show – *It's All About Time*

May 8 Hameho (In House) Small Standard Flower Show.

June 7 Quononoquott, Garden Tour

June 11 - Barrington, Small-Standard Flower Show and Garden Tour.

June 14 & 15 Sogkonate Garden Club, Small-Standard Flower Show

Please let me know if your club is planning a show or garden tour.

Sue Redden, RIFGC Flower Show Schools Chairman

sueredden@verizon.net





**Thursday, April 24, 2014
10:00 A.M.**

**Rhode Island Federation
of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**Annual Meeting,
Awards Presentation & Luncheon**

at

Twin River Conference Center
100 Twin River Road, Lincoln, Rhode Island

FLORA AND FASHION

Enjoy a beautiful parade of fashions
modeled by our own garden club members
with designs by:

**Chico's,
White House/Black Market
& Soma**

\$35.00

**Tickets will be available at the RIFGC meetings.
Darcy Scott – 401-245-3976 darcy@fullchannel.net**

---tickets may be returned for refund until April 10, 2014---

President's Reports

Barrington Garden Club

President: Blakely Szosz

Theme: Building Bridges

Membership: 147 total- 68 active 62 associate and 17 past presidents, and 3 honorary

It's fair to say we have had an ambitious and exciting agenda throughout my term with the theme of 'Building Bridges'. Bringing groups and individuals together to support our community, learn, and inspire while having a great time is nothing new for garden clubs. BGC has focused more than ever on our accessibility, communication, and outreach with our newsletter, blog and Facebook page. Our programs have answered requests for a schedule that focuses on both design and the environment- a balance that fits perfectly with the work combined with play ethic.

One of our favorite programs to date was a licensed raptor rehabilitator out of Massachusetts, Julie Collier of Wing Masters. She brought six live birds to share with us, most of which we had never seen (think Golden Eagle!). Even our most seasoned environmentalists were blown away with her presentation.

Looking forward we strive to remain current and relevant within our community with continued programming that is inspiring, informative and most importantly fun!

Cindy Wood Garden Club

Co-Presidents: Joni Plunkett and MarnieSandham

On a beautiful Fall day in 2013 the Cindy-Wood GC went to Swan Point. We felt so welcome, as the horticulturist met us and provided coffee and dessert for us in the room provided for a short business meeting. With a choice of touring the greenhouse or the grounds, we chose the grounds. As we walked around this absolutely lovely spot by the water, trees and plants

were pointed out and the history of Swan Point was revealed. The tour proved to be fascinating with important characters from RI's past discussed.

What better way to celebrate winter than to have a tea tasting which included healthful South Korean porridge called “juk” made from healthy grains and spices. AeRhee Lee, an East Greenwich resident, is a practicing pharmacist and researcher in Eastern medicine who believes in the importance of maintaining a healthful balance (yin and yang). She brought her teas and “Kitchen Medicine” for all to sample and told us about Eastern integrative medicine. It is a very interesting, holistic approach to living a balanced life. She has authored three books: [Healing Foods from Asia](#), [Healing Tea from Asia](#) and [Healthful Drinks from Asia](#) which she brought for us to peruse while sampling her delicious “juk” and tea. Her website is <http://www.healingfoodstogo.com/>.

Our Club continues to maintain our core membership (24) by soliciting members at various other organizations (New Neighbors, Friends of the Library, The Historic Preservation Society) and also at the Summer Strolls on Main Street. We support gardens at the Varnum House and the Old Gaol. Our plant sale enables contributions to the EG and Davisville libraries, the Nature Conservancy, The Audubon Society, Save the Bay and the EG Social Service Holiday Meal Program. Our meetings are open and we'd enjoy your company.

Edgewood Garden Club

President: Judy Hager

Theme: 80th Anniversary Celebration

67 active Members, 3 Associate Member, 6 Honorary Members

EGC celebrated its 80 anniversary with a garden tour and standard flower show. The garden tour featured 8 beautiful member gardens plus a children's playground and Stillhouse Cove (both EGC ongoing club projects). The member-only standard flower show featured beautiful designs from our members. All of our active members participated in the preparation and “show day” activities. While it took much preparation, we all enjoyed the end result of our labors.

Gardener's of Westerly

President: Cathy Moore

This past year the Gardeners of Westerly decided to have a plant sale. Every year Westerly has a Garden Market Fair in late May at Wilcox Park. We sold plants that were split from our gardens. Along with these we sold birdhouses, painted clay pots, and painted glass vases. We did the painting over two or three meetings and found that many of our ladies are quite talented. Also in our booth we created a poster about the Gardeners or Westerly and had post cards to hand out to people who showed interest in joining a garden club. We had successful sales and great camaraderie with our members.

Gentian Garden Club

Co-Presidents: Jackie Marro and Alyce Pedder

Theme : Learning From Our Landscape

Active Members: 43

The first meeting in September featured a Power Point Presentation on "Growing Herbs in Our Landscapes" by club member Jackie Marro. Debbie Tillinghast, nutritionist, incredible cook and Gentian member, demonstrated "Cooking With Herbs From Our Landscape" and members got to sample everything. What a treat!

Members are now encouraged to come early to meetings to browse in the library, view a craft display related to the night's topic and socialize. The club holds 4 Design Workshops each year that are lead by Gentian members. The club is exploring more community outreach venues.

This year the club assisted an Eagle Scout in completing his badge and helped with the maintenance of another scout's completed memorial garden that is located near the club's wildflower garden.

Mimi Cook applied for and received a grant from the Scituate Arts Festival. The money was used to commission the building of a bird house that is a replica of the historic church in the community commons. The bird house was installed in the Wildflower Garden in September.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS FARMS GARDEN CLUB

President: Marcy Tyrrell

Theme: Always Remember the Beauty of the Garden for there is Peace

Active Members: 27

The year has offered much activity and positive changes. Three newmembers have joined our club and have been enjoying our programs. In September we toured Tranquil Lake Nursery in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. Thissame month, our club arranged centerpieces for the Governor Francis Farms' 75th reunion party held at Rhode Island Yacht Club. It was a fun filled evening for all.

October provided us with a glorious day to tour Blithewold Gardens and Mansion on the water in Bristol. As a group, we completed our annual fall planting of mums around our neighborhood rotaries and entrances. In November, a demonstration was enjoyed by all at Morris Farms in Warwick. Each member went home with a wreath to welcome the holiday season.

Our annual Christmas party was held at Warwick Country Club. Good food and a yankee swap put us in the spirit. The new year found us swapping books and eating homemade soups at our annual business meeting in Jan. All eyes are on March as we await a lecture entitled "Photography in the Garden". April will bring a tour of RISDI. In May, our Junior Garden Club will help the fifth graders at John Brown Francis School make a Mother's Day project to take home. The installation of our officers will be held in May at Chianti's restaurant. June will end the year with a hands on herb project held at a members home. As a new president, I am proud of each member's contribution to our club and the positive impact it makes on our neighborhood.

Hameho Garden Club, Barrington, RI

President: Priscilla DiMarco

Theme: "Focus on Flowers"

26 Active Members 7 Life Members

Flowers are an integral part of *Hameho Garden Club*, and a source of enjoyment for our members. This year, we focused our programs, member workshops, demonstrations, field trips, and activities on garden flowers and flowers easily accessible in our area. Many of our member flower arranging

workshops and demonstrations are open to the public and are led by club members and former Hameho Presidents. Hameho members work in Barrington planting daffodil bulbs in town, care for two memorial gardens and a triangle garden at a busy intersection, help seniors arrange flowers, bring bouquets from our gardens to the Senior Center for others to enjoy, and make and deliver May Baskets which include small pots of flowering plants. Hameho Members annually contribute food and children's clothing as a club donation to Tap-In. We expanded our horizons with a member sharing her tour of the Ancient Kingdoms of Southeast Asia and Bali. Hameho members will learn of the spring flora of RI's East Bay at the Audubon Education Center in a program given by an ecologist and conservationist. We conclude our club year with an In-Club judged Flower Show in a member's home, a visit to Kinney Azalea Gardens, and a garden party meeting in a member's yard, where each Hameho member will bring her "star" flowers to adorn the tables.

Jamestown Garden Club

President: Judy Knight

Theme: The Way to a Man 's (Lady 's) Heart is.....

For our first meeting of the year we had planted bowls of herbs, thirteen different ones and this topic was continued in our July meeting. Chef Chris Cays joined us to demonstrate how to dress up simple ingredients to create a delicious lunch. Board members had prepared chicken, mixed green salad and pasta and Chris delighted us with information and kitchen stories as he chopped, ground, seasoned and tossed. He even found ways to enhance strawberries. Everyone agreed that they had learned a lot and felt inspired to try some of his suggestions.

Plum Beach Garden Club

President: Nancy Harrington

Theme: Birds Bees & Butterflies

43 Active Members, 1 Associative Member

In September of 2013, PBGC held a fundraiser at the Dunes Club in Narragansett, attended by 240 people. Why write about a fundraiser?

Working in small groups to make raffle items tapped into the creative talents of our members. The skill in planning such an event became apparent due to the ability of both individuals and small groups of Plum Beach Garden Club members. This event provided us with an opportunity to share with the public the many gardens we have installed and maintain in our community. Under the leadership of our Ways and Means Chair, Kathy Asher, the event was a great success. The most important benefit to our club was the camaraderie that resulted in all of our members working toward a common goal. While we raised money for our gardens, the feeling of a shared accomplishment was priceless.

“Coming together is a beginning;
Keeping together is progress;
Working together is success.”

Henry Ford

Seaside Garden Club

President: Jean Wood

Just thought I would pass on one of our traditions that we revived this year. The Seaside GC (Newport) met at our usual Fenner Hall meeting place on Dec. 11. This was in addition to our usual December meeting which was held on December 4th. We all came with Christmas motif coffee mugs and armfuls of greens from our gardens and the gardens of our friends and neighbors. About 80% of our membership attended and by the end of the evening we had created and decorated over 150 small arrangements. These were packed in boxes and delivered to every nursing home on Aquidneck Island that very same evening. We have since received several heartwarming notes from these nursing homes praising our efforts to brighten the spirits of their patients and staff. It was a wonderful heartwarming evening.

Sogkonate Garden Club, Little Compton RI

President: Sue Talbot

42 Active Members, 3 Provisional Members, 17 Associate Members, 3

Honorary Members

WILD MUSHROOMS 101: THE DELICIOUS AND THE DEADLY was the title of one of our favorite programs of 2013. If you have ever been tempted to pick those luscious-looking mushrooms in your yard, but unwilling to risk your life for a unique gourmet experience, this program is for you. Our speaker, Joe Metzen, of the Audubon Society of RI, has attended countless classes and workshops, and participated in many forays and "bioblitzes" in the past 10 years. He introduced us to the wonderful world of fungi, allaying fears as he talked about four "Easy Edibles" and the larger category of fungi to avoid. He began the program using power point with terrific photos. He kept us on our toes testing us on how well we absorbed information, asking "Would you eat this one?" He ended the program by having us surround a table replete with mushrooms to look at and hold. This program was open to the public and very well received by the crowd that attended.

Tiverton Garden Club

Co Presidents- Jan Bailey-Bruch & Sharon Culberson

Theme for 2013: 80 years-- Revisiting our Past

Total Voting Members—65

Our program for 2013 reflected the time spent with members during morning teas, sitting together recalling our favorite garden club programs and activities. Our program was planned from the shared ideas. Our luncheon featured special "Senior Moments" from some of our long time members. One meeting included member flower arrangements "just for fun" that was part of a program from the past.

Our project for the year was to work with a local naturalist to revitalize the Town Farm Garden. The non-native plantings were taken out and the beginning of a more natural, natives planting was started, to be continued in 2014. We visited Robin Hollow Farms to learn how local flowers are grown for the markets, a demonstration/lecture on sustainable trees for our area, and a demonstration on holiday table scaping. The season ended with our annual making of wreaths for the town buildings.

Flower Show Schools

Both Massachusetts and Connecticut are beginning a new series of Flower Show Schools for prospective judges and anyone interested in learning: September 10-12 in Derby, CT and October 8-10 in Milford, MA. Please announce these schools to your membership and let me know if anyone is interested in attending. We need new judges in RI; however anyone may attend just to learn.

Flower Shows and Garden Tours

There are several shows and tours coming up this year:

May 3 & 4	Portsmouth Garden Club	Flower Show
May 8	Hameho Garden Club Flower Show (in house)	Small-Standard
June 7	Quononoquott Garden Club	Garden Tour
June 11	Barrington Garden Club Small-Standard Flower Show	Garden Tour &
June 14 & 15	Sogkonate Garden Club Flower Show	Small-Standard

Please let me know if your club is planning a flower show or garden tour in the near future, so that we can avoid having more than one important event on the same day.

Sue Redden
Flower Show Schools Chairman
Flower Shows Chairman
sueredden@verizon.net

Flower Show

The 2014 RIFGC Standard Flower Show –*It's All About Time*, is over! From all accounts this was a wonderful show and I am so grateful for the support I received from our federation members who were there from start to finish. Of the **twenty-seven** clubs that make up our federation **twenty-four** participated in some way. They chaired committees, helped 'man' the

Comfort Suite, painted, cleaned and generally prepared the staging for the show, worked on computers, hosted, sold raffle tickets, judged, exhibited, clerked, created signage, 'passed' exhibits, and more! It was a great effort to create a memorable show. The schedule is, of course, 'the law of the show' and Cathy Moore did an amazing job of tying it in with the overall show theme, *Vintage Gardens*, and she added some interesting information about each title throughout the schedule. So we were off to a good start! We had a lot to contend with this year, mainly the dust from the mulch, I can't tell you how many times we cleaned the tops of the pedestals. This dust was everywhere!! The weather was difficult too, especially on the Horticulture entry day, but that did not put people off from coming in with their plants or cut branches. We had **one hundred and ninety-eight** entries. Wow!! We only just got it sorted and ready in time for judging!! The designs were amazing, especially as we had **thirteen** novices, most of whom attended the Beginners' Design Workshops. The Artistic Crafts were fabulous too. The patience and hours of work that go into those exhibits are mind boggling. The three Educational Exhibits were interesting and informative. Over **seventy** people filled out a form for those interested in joining a garden club. The **ninety-three** clocks in the Youth Section were much admired by the public, and it was nice to see so many of these young people at the show. There were **fifteen** needled evergreen branches in Youth Horticulture.

This year too, we invited four designers to create a special design to be placed beside a rare antique car on the fifth floor. We are most grateful to those talented ladies. Our raffle also hit a 'high,' thanks to Bernie Larivee, the best ticket seller in RI!

We were grateful, too, for the help we received from the Convention Center employees who hung the cables for the rings, prepared the lighting, and cleaned the floor each day. Many thanks to Chuck Carberry, the garden designer for the RI Spring Flower and Garden Show, who was such a help to me. To Chuck's brother Steve, for allowing two of his men, who have worked with us for several years, to help us again. We could not have done this show without them.

I have chaired several flower shows over the years, but this one was special as it involved our whole federation. I got to meet and know many of you. It was such a pleasure to see the show evolve in just a few days, although much work took place beforehand in preparation for the show.

Many thanks to all of you who worked on *It's All About Time*; you made a difference. Your support and encouragement was much appreciated and made it possible for us to present a beautiful show of which we can be proud.

Fondly,

Sue

Sue Redden

Chairman, 2014 RIFGC Flower Show.

HAPPENINGS

Beginner Design Study

Wed. - April 2 2014: Do-it-yourself using one of three designs (Hogarth Curve, Reflective Design or Parallel Design @ WH Fire House, Watch Hill, RI Please bring your own container, clippers, paper towels and a trash bag. Contact Cathy Moore or Bernie Larivee to sign up.

Western Cranston Garden Club - Open Meeting, April 8th, 7:00 pm

"Cooking With Our State Flower"

Maria Thresher, who assists in Culinary Arts at the Career and Technical Center at Cranston West High School will share her expertise and recipes from yard to table using violets, our state flower. We can all look forward to seeing, hearing, smelling and tasting during her demonstration with this edible flower. \$5 donation

Shepherd of the Valley Church
604 Seven Mile Road
Hope, RI 02831

Angle Tree Garden Club

We will be hosting our "JUST COOK - Cooking from the garden" spring event and fund raiser, featuring lecturer and horticultural consultant Paul F. Spliton Saturday, April 12, 2014.

Barrington Garden Club

Welcomes Paul Split, Horticultural Consultant, to teach us about Container Gardening- Wet & Dry. Tuesday, April 15th at 12 Noon.
Barrington Library Auditorium. Guest Fee 5\$

Cindy-Wood Garden Club

Plant sale on Saturday, May 10, 2014 from 9am to 12noon at the American Legion Post #15 on Post Road (Rt.1), East Greenwich, RI 02818

Rehoboth Garden Club

Annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 10 from 10 am to 1 pm. There will be perennials, annuals, and herbs available for sale. The proceeds from this plant sale are used to fund our scholarship fund. Come by early, the rare plants will sell quickly.

Save the Date! Be sure to attend the June 5 RIFGC meeting and hear a presentation by John Mitchell, author of An Eden of Sorts followed by an optional boxed lunch in the rose garden. Details to follow!

Hameho's Ways & Means Chairman is offering the raffle for a five weekday get-a-way to a Cape Cod cottage in the Hyannis area to any member of RIFGC. Tickets are \$10 each, 3 for \$25 and will be available until June 10th. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Aleta at 245-6721.

Energy Conservation and Tips for Your Garden

Gardening is more than just planting seeds and applying water. For many enthusiasts, gardening is a way of life. However, have you ever thought that you can actually make your garden energy efficient. Furthermore, it is not as complicated as you might think, and you can save money and preserve the environment—a win-win situation! Consider the following:

- Plant trees to provide shade, which in turn reduces cooling costs. Well-placed trees and shrubs can also help cut air-conditioning costs. Trees, shrubs, ground covers, and grass affect solar radiation more than structural devices, such as awnings. This is because plants transpire (release water vapor from leaves) during the day, which serves an evaporative cooling function. Deciduous plants drop their leaves in winter and have the advantage of allowing sun to reach buildings in the winter for warmth, yet providing shade during the summer.

- Plant or build windbreaks to prevent heat loss. Winter winds increase the rate of air exchange between the interior and exterior of a house, lowering the house's interior temperature and thereby increasing the heating demand. The goal of a windbreak is to reduce wind speed.
- Create wall sheltering by using shrubbery or vines to create a windbreak directly against a wall. Shrubs next to a house can also reduce wind speed. Dense evergreen shrubs planted about 5 feet from a house will create an area of dead-air space. This dead air space decreases heat loss from the house walls.
- Heat islands occur on the surface and in the atmosphere. On a hot, sunny summer day, the sun can heat dry, exposed surfaces, such as roofs and pavement, to temperatures 50–90°F hotter than the air, while shaded or moist surfaces remain close to air temperatures. Reduce the heat island effect with pervious paving, shade, and minimizing paved areas.
- Ask yourself why am I lighting this area and for how long do I need to light the area. When lighting is not necessary, turn off the lights. Use site lighting with full cut off fixtures, light level or motion sensors, and high efficiency fixtures.

Proper use of trees, shrubs, vines, and man-made structures can modify the climate around your home to reduce heat gains in summer and heat losses in winter. Consider the energy conservation benefits of integrating a well designed garden into an energy efficient home system:

- A well-positioned tree can save up to 25% of your home's energy for heating and cooling
- A tree-shaded yard can be up to 6 degrees cooler than a sunny yard
- A shaded lawn can be up to 25 degrees cooler than sunny pavement
- Shading your home's roof can increase the energy efficiency of your air conditioner by more than 10%
- A single shade tree equals the cooling power of 15 air conditioners
- Three house-shading trees can lower your air conditioning bill by nearly half
- Windbreaks can cut winter heating bills by 10%-30%

A well planned garden can help you to reduce energy costs and improve your quality of life while taking care of the environment. The following

references will provide you with additional ideas for you to use your garden as a means of conserving energy.

The following references may be helpful to you as you plan a garden that will also be helpful in energy conservation:

<http://www.resnet.us/library/energy-conservation-tips-for-your-garden>

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-712/426-712.html>

<http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/peak-oil-landscape-design>

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/07225.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/heatisld/about/index.htm>

<http://gardening-for.me/?keyword=ideas%20for%20garden%20design>

http://www.bhg.com/gardening/design/nature-lovers/welcome-to-plan-a-garden/?ordersrc=msn4gardenplanner_app&s_kwcid=TC-934-6234680417-bb-657127494

Sharon Gainey, Conservation Chair

FOR THE LOVE OF BIRDS

Though it has been entertaining to watch the backyard birds flit around on the snow, my mind is elsewhere. I'm thinking--"SPRING" in all its glorious rebirth. Our recent well-attended RI Flower and Garden Show has pushed the envelope in that direction. Now the New England weather just needs to cooperate. Winter here in our area has afforded us many opportunities to bird watch right outside our doors, but thoughts of spring are in our hearts and minds now.

Did you know that having bird feeders, water and birdhouses also improves our environment? Birds in the wild love to eat insects, and enjoy feeders. The good news is once they are in the habit of eating there, the birds spend time on the ground, in trees and bushes eating insects. So they are a positive source of improving the environment. For example, a woodpecker loves to eat suet but will then climb up a tree nearby and eat any bugs he sees. No pesticides or fertilizers needed.

Another way that bird feeding helps improve the environment is to give back to the birds a place to come when their previous habitat is destroyed.

Redevelopment of forests (even locally) have affected bird habitats. Finally this positive link to improving our environment can be contagious. By that I mean, if a neighbor sees your bird feeding stations, before you know it, he may also put up a feeder. That happened to me.

Birds offer opportunities for watching them for their interesting behavior and their beauty. They also help our environment. But what should we feed them? There are many varieties of seeds that different birds like or don't. For some birds, suet is the top choice, especially woodpeckers. And of course, hummingbirds like a sweet nectar.

Feeding birds ranges from economical to very expensive. Here is what I've chosen, though I'm never shy to try something new or different. I use a mixed seed, which may include cracked corn, white millet, safflower seeds and sunflower seeds. Try a brand to determine likes and dislikes based on how fast the feeder empties. Then try another until your birds seem to like what you feed them. Specialty bird stores sell the "Cadillac" of seeds that they feel are the best but they are very expensive. Bargain seeds could contain small sticks and other less desirable seeds (milo, wheat, oats and rye seed). Tack and feed stores sell seeds separately in barrels that you can mix and match.

Some birds eat all types and seem content. Leastways they empty the feeders quick enough. I personally do not buy any mixed seed with peanuts because they attract squirrels. Squirrels are cute on the ground but not on my feeders! Black oil seed and striped sun flower seed seem to be the seed of choice among professionals. I stopped buying sunflower seeds because they seemed to attract grackles, which are personally not my favorite bird. They push the little birds away and stay at the feeder for long periods of time until the feeder is empty. Some birds enjoy fruit on feeders made for that purpose. Finally, thistle seed is a good one for attracting finches and sometimes orioles. Be sure to remember the water.

Have fun with spring in so many ways; bird feeding, gardening, flower shows, plant sales and all that spring has to offer. Always be thinking of how to improve our environment and if you desire, enjoy feeding backyard birds.

Until next time---Jan Marcello, Birds Chairman



Save the Date!

*The final federation meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, June 5 at the casino at Roger Williams Park. There is no board meeting in May. We are delighted to invite all members to hear our special speaker, John Mitchell, author of *An Eden of Sorts*, as he talks about making choices to transform his Massachusetts garden to a welcoming environment for wildlife and supporting his commitment to biodiversity. Our board meeting and an optional lunch will both be held in the park's rose garden following his presentation. Rain location will be the Botanical Center. Stay tuned for more details on our celebration of spring!*



Arbor Day.....2014

Trees are our partners in life. They give us and animals life through their by-product of oxygen. In addition we receive food, shelter, furniture, clothing, fuel, medicine, paper, shade and homes for many birds and animals. We appreciate their beauty and receive many other gifts which we cannot do without. There are approximately 1,000 species of trees in the United States alone. The official tree of our state is the Red Maple.

Arbor Day is a day set apart for planting trees and shrubs. This special day originated in the state of Nebraska on April 10th, 1872. Other states recognized the value of tree planting and also began celebrating Arbor Day. We celebrated the first Arbor Day in Rhode Island in the year 1887. This year our state will officially celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 25th.

Just like we need trees to live in our world, they need us for carbon dioxide, for planting and caring, and for the planning of future generations to come. Please consider planting a tree this Arbor Day. You may want to plant one in memory of someone, in celebration of a special occasion or for years of beautification to your surroundings and our world. The tree will tell a story and add to your memories throughout the years as you appreciate watching its growth.

If you personally are not interested in planting a tree, you may want to consider becoming a member of the Arbor Day Foundation. Membership is a payment of ten dollars or a donation of your choosing. If interested the foundation would send you ten free trees of your choice from a selection of trees to plant or to share with others. You may choose not to receive any trees. Your dues would be used to support the tree-planting mission across the country and around the world. Contributions would also be used for educational programs connecting children with the wonders of nature. Through the foundation, you may also request Give-A-Tree cards to notify people of trees planted in their honor in one of our National Forests, State Parks or other public land in our country where trees are desperately needed. Your gift will make a lasting difference.

Contact information: Arbor Day Foundation, Member services, 211 N. 12th St., Lincoln, NE 68508-1497. arborday.org arborday.org/giveatree 1-888-448-7337

Thanks for all your efforts! You do make a big difference in our world! Paula Munko, Chairman, Trees & Arbor Day

Horticulture

Hello gardeners;

I am very excited spring will arrive very shortly! Our daylight in the East increases daily, the frigid weather is mostly behind us, the snow drops, crocuses and daffodils are starting to emerge and the birds begin to sing louder. These are a few of the signs of spring we have been waiting with anticipation as gardeners.

The winter months have given us time to reflect on our gardens, window boxes and/or planters of last year and how we can improve and embellish the gardens this year by planting something new or choosing different vegetables or flowers.

Please remember there is still an issue with downy mildew for the impatiens plant. This is a fast-spreading disease and has prompted many garden centers to cut back on supplies or forgo selling the plants altogether. The spores of the disease-causing organism are easily spread by wind or continuous rains and they live in the soil on infected plant debris for as long as five years. This disease entered the United States in 2010.

Because of this downy mildew disease last year a local farmer recommended I try the summer-flowering vinca; (*Catharanthus*). The color range of vinca now includes pink, deep rose, red, scarlet, white with red eye, lavender blue with white eye, peach, apricot, orchid, raspberry, burgundy, and many other shades. Unlike the impatiens, the vinca flower does well in full sun however, performs best in partial sun and is somewhat drought tolerant. As an added feature the vinca does not have to be deadheaded.

Embrace this new spring season and all the wonders of nature as our New England and Midwest regions begin to thaw after our frigid winter. Enjoy this inspiring season of spring.

Linda Alves; Horticulture Chairwoman

Vineyard Herbs Teas and Apothecary LLC

Salve- Making Workshop

Learn the fun and rewarding art of making herbal oils and salves and explore the edible and medicinal plants of Martha's Vineyard.

June 17, 2014 from 1 – 3 pm - \$45

Soulful Apothecary™ 2-Day or Week Long Retreat

Learn the "old ways" of herbal healing, crafting pleasurable and nourishing healing foods and tasty treats that soothe the soul and mend the body.

June 19th 10 – 4 pm and June 20th from 10 - 3 pm – or –

August 17th from 10 – 4 pm and August 18th from 10 – 3pm - \$175

July 14-18, 2014 from 10 – 4pm with some evening programs - \$475

Individual classes in “Stress & The Nervous System” - \$85 and “Honey & Elixers” - \$135.

Community Herbalist Certification Course

This 3-week training is a 330-hour intensive studying botany, pharmacology, physiology, plant ID and harvesting, herbal remedy processing and written coursework.

Intensive can be taken in one 3-week setting or split into a spring session and a fall session. Session 1: June 23-July 1, Session 2: July 2-11 OR September 17-21

Early-bird Tuition (until March 1 2014): \$2575. Normal Tuition (due by June 11): \$299

Registration deadline: June 1

Healing the skin and Herbal First Aid Workshop

A hands-on learning seminar about naturally healing acute wounds and chronic skin issues. **June 26, 2014 from 9 – 3 pm – time may change. - \$75**

Memory and Cognitive Thought

We'll delve into the edible and medicinal herbs that assist our brain function.

July 7, 2014 from 9 – 3 pm – time may change. \$85

Tea Blending Class

A hands-on class to learn the enjoyable art of selecting and blending herbs for pleasurable and medicinal teas.

July 24, 2014 from 1 – 3 pm

Intro to Herbal Medicine 1-Week Immersion

This includes herbal medicine for the digestion, women's health, cardiovascular health, healing for the skin, herbal first aid, herbs for the respiratory system and more.

July 28-Aug 1: 10 to 3 pm some evening programs. - \$625 Individual day classes - \$125.

Women's Herbal Immersion

Come together with other women in this life-changing herbal immersion-- we'll gather with stories, ceremony, and an in-depth education about keeping women's health natural, sacred and positive.

August 7 – 10, 2014: 10 am to 3 pm - \$325. Individual day classes \$85.

Girls Empowered Camp

Girls will explore self-confidence and team-building through fun activities centered around nature. A full week of day camp for girls ages 11-15.

August 25 – August 29, 2014 from 9 am to 3 pm with a sleepover Thursday night.\$325

Visit www.vineyardherbs.com for more information. Class fee includes all material and ingredients. Please bring a potluck dish to share for lunch. Kristina West(508) 687-9600

Four Seasons In Bloom

A Small Standard Flower Show

Presented by
Sogkonate Garden Club



Saturday, June 14, 2014

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, June 15, 2014

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Little Compton Community Center

43 Commons

Little Compton, R.I.

Admission Free

Member:

R.I. Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

New England Region

National Garden Clubs, Inc.



*2014 Floral Forays with Barrington Garden Club
& Barrington Community School*

Philadelphia Flower Show & Duke Farms

March 6-7

The 2014 official theme of this year's largest indoor flower show in the world is "ARTiculture: The Art of Great Garden Design," reflecting how exquisite landscapes, gardens and floral arrangements have inspired artists from the Old Masters to the Impressionists. This overnight visit also includes a visit to Doris Duke's Duke Farms, and much more!

Art in Bloom

April 28

One of the most celebrated events in Boston each spring is this grand celebration at the Museum of Fine Arts. The museum's galleries will be transformed with the glorious joining of floral design and art as members of 60 garden clubs and professional designers interpret works of art throughout the museum's entire collection.

Gardens to our North: Sedgwick Gardens at Long Hills and Glen Magna Gardens

Wednesday, May 28

This garden journey features two of the most beautiful gardens on the North Shore. Glen Magna Farms, typifying the golden age of American gardens, with a rose garden of old-fashioned roses arranged in a radial pattern, tiled pools filled with lilies, perennial borders, and an Italian-style garden and one of the most impressive weeping beech trees in the world. Sedgwick Gardens,

renowned for its series of separate garden “rooms” with ornaments and statuary, surround the handsome, Federal-style, house.

Gardens of Ireland and WFA 2014

June 12-20, 2014

From the scenic west coast’s Ring of Kerry and Muckross House to the Wicklow Mountains, elegant Powerscourt, the Helen Dillon Garden, Dublin’s National Botanic Garden and much more, we’ll visit a number of horticultural treasures. Each day is filled with beautiful gardens, castles, dramatic views, and historic sites, as well as delicious cuisine. The tour is enhanced by a full day attending the World Association of Flower Arrangers 2014 show in Dublin. Also available will be a Northern Ireland Garden Extension June 20-23. Limited to 15 participants. A complete day-by-day itinerary is available; call Sandi at Barrington Community School, 245-0432, to be mailed a copy or more information on trips & tours!

Barrington In Bloom:

Beyond the Garden Gate

A Tour of 8 Private Gardens

and Small Standard Flower Show "*Gifts From the Garden*"

presented by

Barrington Garden Club

St John's Episcopal Church

191 County Rd in Barrington, RI Town Center

Wednesday, June 11th, 2014

10:00 am-5:00 pm

ADVANCED TICKETS \$25

DAY OF TOUR \$30

For advance tickets, call 474-1217

Rain or Shine!

