



The Grapevine



T O P S F I E L D G A R D E N C L U B

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Don't miss the annual luncheon news and sign-up form inside. What a wonderful treat!
- Updated website now online at tritowngarden-clubs.org

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2011 is the Topsfield Garden Club's eighty-fifth birthday! The club was organized in 1926 and joined the Federation in 1928. We have come a long way from our beginnings and can be truly proud of the continuity and continued vitality of the club.

The coming year promises to be a busy and rewarding one. In addition to the activities described in this Newsletter, we will be overhauling the triangle. This prominent location at one of the entrances to the Historic District deserves our best effort.

The Tri-Town Transcript is featuring the garden clubs this year, so we have the opportunity to publicize all of the good

things that we do and explore ways of serving the community through print and on-line media.



It is especially exciting that we will be welcoming a number of new members this year. We look forward to getting to know each other and embarking on many adventures together. Of great importance, we will be

hosting the Tri-Town Garden Club Annual Meeting in November. Plans are already under way to make this a memorable event - birthday cake and all!

We are already starting to plan for the fall program and have many ideas to discuss at our upcoming meetings. From a special exhibit at the Library to a Tomato Festival, the creative juices are flowing!

Many thanks to all who have helped organize the spring program and to all who have volunteered to participate in one or another of the activities.

The snow will melt and we'll be ready to go!

ARBOR DAY PROGRAM

The Annual Arbor Day Program for the Fourth Grade will be held at Proctor School at 2 pm on a day TBA in April.

Dan Peabody of the Tree Planning Committee will give a talk on the importance of trees and will be joined by his Committee in distributing tree seedlings to

the students. Generations of children have planted their seedlings that are now adult trees throughout town.

As is our custom, the Topsfield Garden Club will sponsor the Arbor Day poster contest for Fourth Grade students. We need "judges" to review the

students' submissions. All participating students will receive a certificate and winners will be awarded ribbons.

Martha Morrison and Kindra Clineff will be on hand to represent the Topsfield Garden Club. Anyone else who would like to join us is welcome.

D A Y L I L I E S

The botanical name for the Daylily is Hemerocallis, Greek for "beautiful for a day". Each flower only opens for one day to be succeeded by the next day's blossom.

Daylily species were originally found in Manchuria, Mongolia, Northern India as well as throughout China, Japan and Korea. Their natural habitat ranges from swamps to mountains up to 10,000 feet.

Daylilies were originally

thought to be in the Lily family because of the appearance of their blooms. Instead, the daylily is related to Orchids, Hostas and even Grasses.

The Daylily is one of the most hybridized of all garden plants with over 60,000 registered cultivars and more arriving annually.

The ubiquitous orange Tawny Daylily or Roadside Daylily was brought to America from

England in the 17th century.

It is so abundant that it is often considered a native wildflower and so vigorous that it is classified in some areas (including Massachusetts) as an invasive species.

On March 9th at 9:30 AM at the Gould Barn, Susan Stowe will speak with us about her daylily farm in Topsfield and her adventures in growing this remarkable and delightful plant.



Daylilies come in endless varieties

T R I - T O W N T R A N S C R I P T

“The Tri-Town Transcript will be running monthly features on the Tri-Town garden clubs.”

The Tri-Town Transcript will be running monthly features on the Tri-Town garden clubs. Each club will have an introductory column to be followed by garden-related stories.

The Topsfield Garden Club signed up for the first story that appeared on January 28, 2011, first in the print edition and then a few days later online. We provided the infor-

mation that appeared and the wonderful photo of our float in the Topsfield Fair Parade.

Our next regular article will appear in October, and an additional feature article on the Topsfield Garden Club's 85th birthday will appear sometime this year.

We are also brain-storming how best to bring back the

“Garden Guru’s” concept in today’s world of journalism. (Many will remember that the clubs contributed monthly columns on gardening tips and seasonal advice to the *Village Reporter*.) Stay tuned for more information about this developing idea.

Please pass on any information you think should be included in our articles.

V A L E N T I N E ’ S D A Y A R R A N G E M E N T S

What typifies Valentine’s Day better than a colorful floral arrangement? Please join us at Nancy Kipp’s home on February 9th for a meeting and workshop to make Valentine’s Day bouquets for the Meals-on-Wheels program.

There are many legends concerning Valentine’s Day flow-

ers. For instance, the red rose, popular from as early as the 17th century, is said to have been the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of Love and Beauty.

In the language of flowers – floriography—the red rose symbolizes eternal love and passion. Other flowers of

various colors also have special meanings and a gift of flowers can convey a particular - sometimes secret - message to the recipient.

Though we don’t use “floriography” in our arrangements, our flowers send a friendly greeting to Topsfield’s shut-ins.



Flowers speak volumes on Valentine’s Day



ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND MEETING

May 4, 2011

11:00 AM

Glen Magna Farms
Danvers

Our annual meeting and luncheon will be held at the historic Glen Magna Farms in Danvers. We will have a guided tour of the estate and gardens. Described "as near to heaven as one can be in this world," the landscape includes formal gardens with perennials, annuals, shrubbery and an arboretum. The Old Fashioned Garden includes a reproduction of the original Gazebo designed by Francis Peabody in 1840. Major features are the Derby Summer House, a National Historic Landmark, and the Rose Garden with its hundreds of heirloom roses. Classical statuary, fountains, sweeping lawns and winding pathways enhance the exquisitely restored and manicured grounds.

Luncheon will be a Turkey or Ham or Veggie Roll-up. It will include chips, a cookie and a soft drink or water. The cost will be \$20.00 (this includes lunch & tour). YOU MUST HAVE A RESERVATION!

Your check will be your reservation and must be in by APRIL 25th. Please fill out the form below and return it with your checks for lunch and dues to Mary Quill, 33 Winsor Lane, Topsfield, MA 01983.

Many thanks to Alice Blausner and Peggy Isler for co-chairing this event!



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

My Choice of luncheon roll-up is:

Turkey Ham Veggie

Please return this form with your checks for lunch and dues to:

Mary Quill
33 Winsor Lane
Topsfield, MA 01983

Enclosed is my check for \$20 for Lunch. Enclosed are my dues of \$30

LIBRARY ARRANGEMENTS



For many years the garden clubs of Topsfield provided floral arrangements to beautify the circulation desk of the Library. This tradition has languished of late, and, once again, we would like to try to revive it.

The arrangements do not have to be elaborate. A flowering plant, a basket with some flowers, a small arrangement of blooms are all perfect for the limited space at the desk. Arrangements should be taken to the Library on Monday morning and picked up on Saturday. The staff will care for the flowers.

We need to figure out how to make this program work again. Perhaps we would be more likely to remember if we had "partners" who could share the activity.

We will be discussing this matter at one of our next meetings, so please give it some

thought. We will have sign-up sheets available. If enough people sign up, we can re-institute this tradition.

The patrons and the staff really enjoy our lovely flowers and have missed them.



PAPERLESS COMMUNICATION

We have all been encouraged by every institution with which we do business and organization to which we belong to sign up for "Paperless Billing," e-mail alerts and all sorts of other electronic communications. Many people have transitioned entirely to the digital world. Others receive mail in both their physical and virtual mailboxes. Yet others prefer only paper in hand.

E-mail and website communications save significant amounts of money for the Club and allow for "instant" communication. They are also environmentally friendly because of the paper they save! But they are not very effective

if they are viewed as a forerunner to a paper notice that will "seal the deal."

Between the website and our e-mail notification system, we have the capability to send everything electronically. The Bylaws, this newsletter and past newsletters are already on-line.

At the same time, we recognize that some members do not use electronic media or really like to receive their materials in the mail.

So, we need members to let us know whether they want to go "paperless" or not. If you choose the "paperless"

option, you will need to download what you would like to keep or refer to the website for information, news and notices. If you choose not to go "paperless," you will receive both electronic and paper communications.

Please let us know your choice below. It's on the back of the luncheon reservation form, so we'll collect your responses in that way. If you do not plan to attend the luncheon, please send in the form below to Mary Quill who will be collecting this information.

✂

Yes, I want to go paperless

No, I still want to receive paper communications

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

A G R I C U L T U R A L H E R I T A G E P R O G R A M

The Agricultural Heritage program at Proctor School will take place this year on a Friday in June. One of our multi-organizational activities, this program is sponsored by the Topsfield Garden Club, the Topsfield Agricultural Commission, the Topsfield Historical Society and the Essex Agricultural Society.

Speakers representing one or more of the various groups will talk with the students about Topsfield's agricultural heritage .then and now.. Special attention is paid to Topsfield.s working

farms and the value of preserving agricultural land as open space.. Part of the program presents the benefits of buying and eating locally grown foods.

Students receive a tomato plant, a package of sunflower seeds, an historic map of Topsfield and information about entering the Topsfield Fair.

We hope to combine this program with a student garden project that Sabina is developing through the Agricultural Commission.



P L A N T S A L E & S T R A W B E R R Y F E S T I V A L

The Spring Plant Sale, new last year, will take place on May 14th and 21st, hopefully at the Farmers' Market on Route 1. Contributions from members' gardens will help to augment our stock. The time is just right to divide our plants that are often too mature by the time of the Strawberry Festival.

The Strawberry Festival is our biggest fund-raiser of the year.

The gorgeous hanging plants are our hallmark item. Smaller container plants have become very popular at our table. There will be workshops between June 8th and 10th to plant containers with annuals, herbs and vegetables.

In addition, we will have other items and literature about our club and its activities.

The Strawberry Festival is always a wonderful event as we get to socialize while raising money for our annual operating costs.

We need everyone's help for this event! So, please sign up when the sign-up sheet goes around.

"We need everyone's help for this event!"

G A R D E N M A R K E R S

Do you forget what you planted where? Kindra's spoon garden markers are both functional and elegant - antique spoons engraved with plant names to keep our gardens properly in order.

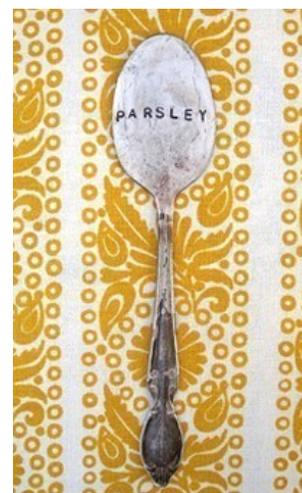
On April 13th we will learn how to make these markers. The technique can be used to turn spoons into other sorts of

markers as well. If you have spare spoons that you would like to use, please bring them to the meeting. An expedition to Todd Farm might be in order before we get together!

We might also make some of these to sell at the Strawberry Festival. They are most unusual and very attractive.

At the April meeting, we will

also make little Easter arrangements for Meals-on-Wheels.



Spoon garden markers make your garden truly unique!

2011 SPRING PROGRAM

FEBRUARY

2nd - 6:30 PM - Wine and cheese party and ribbon flowers at the Gould Barn.

9th - 9:30 AM - Valentine arrangements for Meals on Wheels workshop at the home of Nancy Kipp.

MARCH

9th - 9:30 AM Lecture by Susan Stowe on Day Lillies at the Gould Barn.

APRIL

13th - 9:30 - Garden marker workshop and Easter bouquets for Meals-on-Wheels.

20th - 9:30 AM - Triangle clean-up

Arbor Day Program at Proctor School - Date and Time TBA.
Judging of poster contest.

MAY

4th - Annual Luncheon at Glen Magna.

11th - Triangle clean-up and planting.

14th and **21st** - Spring Plant Sales at the Farmers' Market.

JUNE

Agricultural Program at Proctor School Date and Time TBA.

8th - 10th - Strawberry Festival Workshops and preparations for Agricultural Program.

11th - Strawberry Festival