

# Clippings

## February 2017

NEWSLETTER FROM THE GARDEN CLUB OF HINGHAM

### ✧ *A Message from the President* ✧

Much February snow,  
A fine summer doth show

Dear Garden Club Members,

Happy New Year!

The days are growing longer and in spite of our winter white landscape, we in the gardening world know that spring will be upon us very quickly and we will wonder where all the time we thought we were going to spend planning another new garden or simply reading about, rather than doing, has come and gone once again. We will wonder, but we will be glad, for there are few days more beautiful than those of early spring with everything green and fresh and the weeds still at bay. We must though, before we consider spring, think over all we have accomplished and enjoyed this fall and winter.

Our social calendar started off with a festive evening for our fall social at the home of Pamela Collins and Drew Gaffney. They were most gracious hosts and the late hour of departing guests spoke to a successful evening.

Our annual Christmas lunch was held once again at the Lightkeeper's Cottage in Cohasset. Our hostess committee lead by Deirdre Anderson worked very hard to make this a lovely day. Our members provided delicious food and treats and I would be remiss to not mention the most generous contribution by our own Nancy Herde who offered her various settings of Christmas dishes, placemats and silver to dress the tables.

The wreath committee chaired by Carol Dunphy and myself along with Pam Collins as Director of Sales and 25 volunteers worked very hard to make this a successful fundraiser. A wonderful article by Martha Bewick which appeared in the Hingham Journal spurred sales. This year's wreath design proved to be extremely well received in the community with many planning to keep the wonderful wooden skate decoration for future use. We had sold our goal of 248 two weeks before Christmas and netted a respectable \$7,050.00.

We have also enjoyed having many of our activities documented in both stills and video by our own talented videographer Esther Zhong. If you haven't, please go to our Facebook Garden Club page for additional photos and video.

#### UPCOMING

#### EVENTS:

MAR 15: MEETING

APR 26: MEETING

MAY 17: MEETING

MAY 22-23: HORT.  
SHOW

MAY 25: FIELD TRIP

JUNE 3: PLANT  
SALE

JUNE 11: GARDEN  
TOUR

JUNE 14: ANNUAL  
MTG AND LUNCHEON

We have had January to rest and relax including a wonderful field trip to the Isabella Steward Gardner Museum where we were treated to a private tour. Most interestingly, we had the opportunity to visit the new exterior gardens (an unusually cooperative warm day) and hear about the concepts behind their development including the story of the meandering path laid in undulating alternate black brick and gray stone. The landscaper found his inspiration in a fabulous silvered baroque mirror hanging in the Tapestry Room. He wanted to recreate the same watery light patterns he saw reflected in the mirror. We also enjoyed a delightful lunch afterward in the newly designed restaurant. These trips are a wonderful way to enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship that our Club provides and I encourage everyone to sign up for future trips.

Now as this time of rest comes to an end, we look to the spring and even further to the events of early summer. We will once again participate in Art in Bloom (more on this in this edition), Arbor Day, and Earth Day. The Library will be doing a special event for Earth Day and our Club has made a donation to buy a collection of books on gardening, which will be on display. We will also have our wonderful Horticultural Show, please see Susan Zuger's article on this year's challenge. The very same week we have the opportunity to tour the elegant gardens of the Eleanor Cabot Estate in Dedham followed by a light repast of tea and scones. Thank you to our wonderful Chairs of these events, Ann Barres and Debra Flaherty. Our annual plants sale, chaired by Melissa McInnis and Ann Mitchelson will follow in early June and we will end this year with our major fundraiser, a Garden Tour of seven local gardens, most of which are owned by our members on Sunday, June 11th. All are encouraged and expected to take part in this most important event. It is this and all our fundraisers that enable us to continue our work in the community and support our civic projects.

Thank you all for your efforts that go into making this a special Club.

Elisa



## Holiday Wreaths



Many hands make light work! Thanks to the organization and hard work of Carol Dunphy, Elisa Fontanes, the Wreath Committee and many Club volunteers, the holiday wreath sale was a great success. The lovely wreath decorated homes and shops around town adding a note of holiday cheer. The Garden Club would like to acknowledge the merchants who are loyal supporters of this event:

*Absolutely Fit, Aisling Gallery, Alpaca Suri, Dr. Jeffrey Anderson, Atlantic Bagel, AZ Studio, Bare Cove Wine Annex, Best Buddy, Bloomy Rind, Brewed Awakenings, Carolann's, Child-Genovese Insurance, Classic Stone and Tile, Coffee Corner, Caldwell Banker, Crow Point Pizza, Designer Consigner, Essentials Day Spa, Fresh & Clean Dry-cleaning, Hennessy's, Hingham Center Health Mart, Hingham Chiropractic, Hingham Community Center, Hingham Journal, Joanna's House of Beauty, Kate's Table, KLOTH, Dr. Peter Kramers, La Petite Maison, Liberty Grill, Lido Juice, Nona's, RSVP Stationery, Sally Weston Assoc., SouthShore Bank, Sub Galley and Pizza, Suzanne's, Peel Pizza, Dr. Kevin Peruzzi, Salon Nouveau, Whitney Gordon, and Worldwide Travel*

# Annual Holiday Luncheon

Over 60 Garden Club members gathered on Wednesday December 14, 2016 to celebrate the Club's Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Lightkeeper's Cottage in Cohasset, MA. As usual, the ticket for admission was for each member to bring either an entree or dessert. Members were spoiled with an amazing feast that included everything from poached salmon to homemade cheesecake. Tables were decorated by volunteers highlighting the design and floral talent of our members. Sincere thanks to members Carolyn Clark, Jane Shute, Christina Farren, Dottie Manganaro, Meg Glazer, Mona Pohl, Lisa Patterson, Barbara Kardok, Alyce Nobis, Mary Yeager, Kathy Norman and Susan Zuger for sharing their talents and a very special thanks to member Nancy Herde who graciously shared her holiday china and linen collection.

- D. Anderson



## Visiting Gardeners



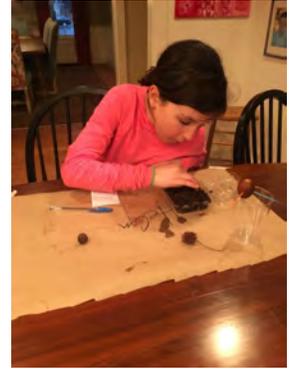
The Visiting Gardeners Committee spread some holiday cheer on December 6th to the residents of Bridges by Epoch in Hingham. With 20 arrangements there were plenty of red and white roses and lush pine and cedar for the residents to use. Many were happy to have fresh and fragrant flowers to decorate their rooms and centerpieces for their dining rooms as well. - Melissa Bednarski

### St Patrick and the Shamrock:

History tells us that St. Paul used this plant to illustrate the Holy Trinity. In earlier times the Celts believed it represented the three goddesses and its leaves were burned and sprinkled over fields to promote growth. Today's plants seen for sale in honour of St Patrick's Day are generally Oxalis, (wood sorrel) or Trifolium repens (white clover). It is the white clover that most botanists agree is probably the one used by St. Patrick. The word Shamrock comes from the Gaelic Seamrog or little clover.



# Junior Gardeners



“Why try to explain miracles to your kids when you can just have them plant a garden.” - Robert Brault



The first pictures show the kids showing off their paper bag cornucopias with a floral arrangement. The next set of pictures show working on planting seeds in egg carton “greenhouses”. We are comparing the germination rates between acorns and radish seeds. The final picture is one of floral arranging using recycled material. - Laura Spaziani

## Horticulture Committee

The Horticulture Committee had two more workshops this autumn. After making our kokedama moss ball planters in October, we met in November to decorate amaryllis bulbs with moss, dusty miller leaves and beads to transform them with natural gift wrapping for holiday gifts. This is an easy way to dress up an ordinary bulb for beautiful presentation.

For our December workshop we gathered bits of evergreens with fine foliage, twigs and moss to apply to off-cuts from the holiday tree sales yards. With a drill and a glue gun, beads and spangles, we transformed them into tiny tabletop trees of all sorts to use as decoration. Some of them decorated one of the tables at our holiday luncheon.



We have enlivened our winter with "tea and a garden lecture" each month, beginning in January with a tour of Highgrove in the Costwolds, led by British garden expert Alan Titchmarsh and HRH Prince Charles showing the development of the gardens there and the ecological solutions to logistical problems of dealing with the number of people that use it at one time. February began a three part series on the history of British garden style in the 17th century. The 18th and 19th century developments will fill March and April before we turn our attention to the Annual Horticulture Show at the Hingham Public Library in May.

We hope to inspire many more of our members to participate in the Horticultural Show. Having lots of entries makes for a beautiful show. Just go out in your garden and bring us beautiful flowering or foliage specimens, bring us your houseplants to show or enter the horticultural challenge by making a dish garden of your choice.

Susan Zuger  
Horticulture chair



*Last year's Hort Show*



*2017 Challenge: dish garden*

## Visit to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum January 25, 2017



*Masses of tropical and subtropical plants fill the Courtyard with many shades of green punctuated by bright color. Orchids abound, along with a variety of leaf textures and patterns: Norfolk Island pine, tree ferns, large fishtail palms, smaller fan and Areca palms, and ferns.*

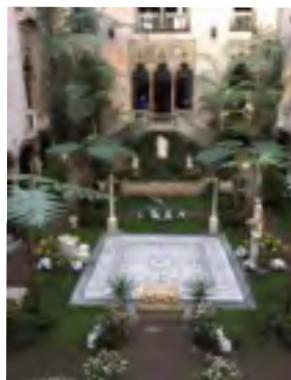
*-Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum  
Winter display*



On Wednesday January 25th, members of the Garden Club toured the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's gardens. Our very knowledgeable tour guide was JoAnn Robinson, Landscape Researcher for the Museum. The group toured and discussed three outside gardens, the Monks Garden, the Jordan Garden and the Lynch Garden.

Inside at the Atrium Garden JoAnn discussed the 8 different horticultural installations as well as the methods the staff utilizes to keep the plant materials healthy. Along the tour she incorporated Mrs. Gardner's habits, views and visions related to gardening and landscaping as art forms. The group enjoyed lunch at the Museum's Cafe G! Overall, it was a fun and informative trip!

- Debra Flaherty



## Upcoming Events

<b>Philadelphia Flower Show</b>	March 11-19
<b>Boston Flower and Garden Show</b>	March 22-26
<b>Earth Day</b>	April 22, 2017
<b>Art in Bloom at the MFA*</b>	April 29-May 1
<b>Garden Club Horticultural Show</b>	May 22-23
<b>Garden Club Plant Sale</b>	June 2
<b>Newport Flower Show</b>	June 23-25

\*Ann Michelson and Jane Shute will be representing the Garden Club of Hingham at this year's *Art in Bloom*. They will be introduced to their "object" at the orientation on February 27th at the MFA.

Last year Ann Michelson and Maura Graham represented the GCH. Their piece was an untitled Surrealist work by Cuban painter, Wilfredo Lam. Clearly they enjoyed the experience.



*"We encourage others to consider participating in Art in Bloom.  
It's nothing but fun!"*

# Arbor Day 2017

## Donation:

In Celebration of Arbor Day 2017, The Garden Club of Hingham will donate an *Acer rubrum* (Red Maple) tree to the Hingham Middle School.



Arbor Day Celebration Program to be held at the Hingham Middle School on Friday April 28 at 10:00am, National Arbor Day.

A Brief Program to include:

- Hingham Middle School Green Team/Advisors
- Reading of Arbor Day Proclamation-Hingham Selectman
- Actual tree planting activity: student involvement, DPW and Shade Tree Committee, The Garden Club



## Upcoming Field Trip



**May 25, 2017**

The Eleanor Cabot-Bradley Estate  
2468 Washington St., Canton, MA 02021  
Meet at 9 am Resurrection Church  
Private Tour at 10:00 am \$15



*Stroll through elegant gardens complementing a stately country house, then explore surrounding fields, pastures, and woodlands that echo the property's agricultural past. What may delight visitors most in the Italianate, latticed-walled garden that was a centerpiece of landscape architect Charles A. Platt's vision. The restrained formality of the garden is both supported and contrasted by exuberant plantings of rhododendron, azalea and dogwood. Other features include ponds, a camellia house and a variety of specimen trees.*

*Tea and scones will be served on the porch following the tour.*



## Things to do in the Garden:

### February:

Ornamental and shade trees may be pruned. It is often easier to see shape and problematic branches without leaf cover. This is also an important time to check for broken branches and other forms of storm damage.

If storing tubers, check for mice damage, rot or mildew.

Grape vines may be pruned at this time before the sap begins to flow.

Review seed catalogues and begin planning vegetables and annual flower choices. Remember all those choices will represent summer maintenance.

### March:

Begin to remove mulch from azaleas, rhododendrons and roses, but not until night temperatures are above 35 degrees. Tender perennials and bulbs should remain covered as protection from drying wind.

Start tuberous begonias in a soilless mix, laying the bulb at a slight angle to direct water away from its top which should be just above the soil layer. The plant will need to stay at at least 60 degrees. When they are 3" high begin to feed at half strength every two weeks. The plant can go in a shady spot outdoors in June.

Cauliflower, cabbage, kale and other root vegetable and brassicas can be started indoors eight weeks before the last **hard frost**,. These plants welcome cool spring temperatures.

All seeds benefit from an overnight soak in diluted manure tea or seaweed fertilizer. Water new seedling from underneath with warm water.

Sweet peas may also be planted in place, protect their new shoots from rabbits and deer.

Forcing of flowering branches always helps to bring spring into the home. The easiest method is simply to cut stems on a diagonal and add to a container filled with warm water and approximately a tablespoon of bleach to cut down bacterial growth. Place in indirect light. Staggered bloom may be controlled by misting the branches and keeping them wrapped in newspaper in a container of cool water until colour begins to show.

This is also a good time to have your soil tested in time for spring correction and additions.

Check with local extension agencies whether it is time to spray for Winter moth to prevent major damage especially to flowering cherries and other susceptible flowering trees

April:

The first application of lawn fertilizer should be applied. Many products are very high in nitrogen that gives a “fast green up”, but unduly forces excessive weak growth over a healthy long-term lawn. Try to use a more natural brand, which will provide longer-term benefits.

Re seed thin and sparse areas of lawn, adding a thin layer of compost will provide additional nutrients.

Time for the first feeding and pruning of hybrid tea roses: Cut out dead and darkened canes to a height of about 18 – 24”. Pruning at an out-facing bud will reduce the incidence of branch cross over and forms a better-shaped bush.

Climbing roses can have any dead canes removed and untoward stems trained. Horizontal tying will increase bloom.

Shrub roses can be pruned of dead wood or dramatically pruned to adjust height to desired size.

Most annual flower seeds may be started inside four weeks before the last frost date.



*“If thou of fortune to be bereft and in thy store there be but left, two loaves, sell one”  
and with the dole, buy hyacinths to feed thy soul.”*

Special thanks to the following for contributing photographs: Esther Zong, Susan Zuger, Laura Spaziani, and Melissa Bednarski

-Carolyn Clark (editor)