

# Clippings

July 2017

NEWSLETTER FROM THE GARDEN CLUB OF HINGHAM

## ✧ *A Message from the President* ✧

Dear Club members,

Our Club had an action-packed spring this year! The celebration of Arbor Day started the season with the planting of October Glory Maple Trees at the Middle School. Members of the Middle School Green Team participated along with town officials. The Club's annual donation of a tree to the town for Arbor Day is one of the many contributions we make to beautify our town.

Ann Mitchelson and Jane Shute did a fabulous job representing our club at Art in Bloom at the MFA. More details and photos are included in the issue.

The Membership chairs, Carol Huse and Christina Farren, and Past President Elisa Fontanes, hosted an informational Tea for prospective new members and their sponsors at Elisa's home in May. Committee Chairs were on hand to help describe the activities of the Club. I am happy to say that six new members are joining us for the upcoming year.

Our Horticulture Show, themed "Spring Happens," took place in May. In preparation for a new category, our horticultural expert, Susan Zuger, demonstrated at the April meeting how to make a pot-et-fleur. I'll admit, though I have attended our Horticulture shows, I had previously been too intimidated to participate. This year I took the plunge and submitted entries in several categories, including the pot-et-fleur design, cacti and succulent container, among others. It was quite exciting to receive blue ribbons for my Japanese Maple leaf entries! If you have not attended this event or participated, I encourage you to do so. It is a fun and educational event.

A group of us braved the chilly and rainy weather on a late May day to visit the Bradley Estate in Canton. More about this trip also appears in this issue. Our busy lives present challenges to finding time for everything we want to do but our Field Trips are always worth the effort!

Ann Mitchelson and Mellissa McInnis co-chaired another successful Plant Sale the first weekend in June. This year we had an impressive array of plant material, both dug from members' gardens and purchased wholesale. The line of customers waiting to get in at 9 am is an indicator of the value of the sale to our community. This yearly event is an important contributor to the Club's funds and the success reflects the work of the entire club membership.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPT. 20

Monthly meeting

Hort Committee

12:30 pm

SEPT. 21

Field Trip to

Newport RI

followed by lunch

The very next weekend after the Plant Sale we held our Garden Tour Fundraiser, themed "Garden Inspirations." After some especially weather-challenged weeks leading up to the tour (so much rain!), we had a beautifully sunny day and the gardens were spectacular. Past President Elisa Fontanes' full report is in the issue.

We wrapped up the spring with our Annual Luncheon and Meeting held at the Lightkeepers Cottage. Outgoing President Elisa Fontanes delivered a heartfelt speech to end her term and as incoming President, I thanked Elisa on behalf of the Club for her dedicated service. After such a busy spring, it was wonderful to enjoy a catered luncheon and easy conversation.

I hope you enjoy the summer,

Joyce Mandel



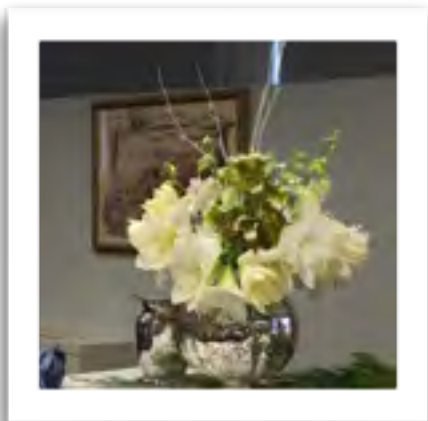
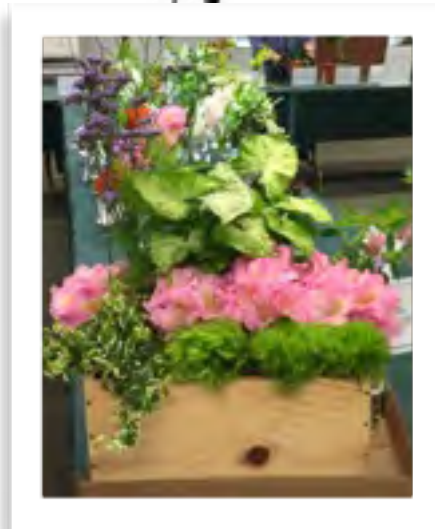
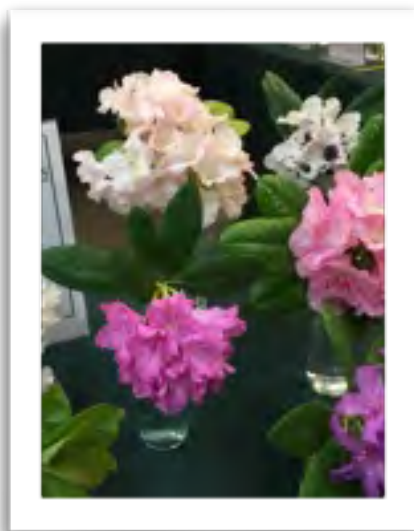
### **Art in Bloom 2017**



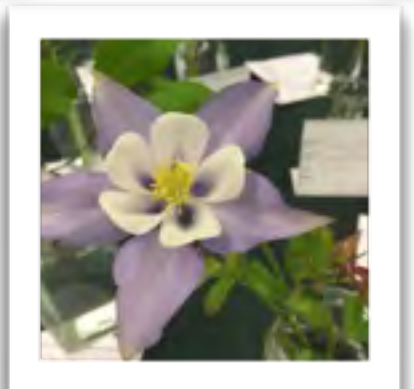
The Museum of Fine Arts invites about 50 garden clubs from MA to participate in Art in Bloom where each club sends 2 members to interpret an object of art in a floral arrangement. The MFA committee selects the art and assigns one to each club. We receive our assignment at the end of Feb. so have plenty of time to decide how to proceed. The Head and Chest of a Lion, 5th century Asian art from India was our challenge this year. The face was our inspiration as well as the pink colors that were used. A little whimsy in the mustache proved a big hit with the viewers. This project is a lot of fun to do.

-Ann Michelson

This years designers Ann Michelson  
and Jane Shute



The **Annual Horticulture Show** organized by the Horticulture Committee on May 22nd and 23rd filled the Whiton Room at the Hingham Public Library with flowers, foliage, and dish gardens. The committee members were on hand to welcome entries from our garden club members on Monday morning and help identify any plants or botanical names on the entry forms. The volunteer judges from other garden clubs gave their time and expertise, noting useful comments and awarding ribbons in every category. There was a steady stream of visitors to the show from the general public visiting the library. It is always a bright spot at the end of Spring and beginning of Summer. We are making the plans for the show in 2018 and want to encourage more of our members to participate and go into their gardens and cut entries. It is so easy and many entries make a lavish and beautiful show.



Susan Zuger  
Horticulture Chair



**June 3**  
**Hingham Common**



# Garden Tour



Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> was this year's Garden Tour. We featured eight gardens, of varying sizes and styles, ranging from a courtyard secret, ocean views, river views, formal ones with sun and shade, and even a koi pond. The public response was very positive which is a wonderful outcome for our Garden Club's reputation and future tour fundraisers. The tour was scheduled for a Sunday as after much discussion of parental/children sports schedules, Sat. and weekday activities it was determined that a Sunday probably represented the most free time. We did notice one interesting result, a large number of male attendees. As luck would have it, one of our gardens also featured an interesting garage with a lift and other mechanical wonders that provided an additional perk for our male guests.



One always hopes for beautiful weather and it certainly cooperated. There had been many anxious thoughts and concerns leading up to the day; the spring weather and even into late May had not been overly promising. Ironically, the strange weather patterns actually produced the interesting result of a multitude of plants being in bloom at the same time, albeit out of sync of their usual bloom times. Peonies were magnificent, alliums stood tall, roses and asiatic lilies bloomed along side and hostas and groundcovers were lush from all the rains. All in all we could not have asked for a better outcome.



Our final net profit was approximately \$4600.00. We were able to keep expenses at a minimum as the Library generously did all of our ticket printing, baked goods were supplied by our members and Charles Schwab kindly provided cold beverages all very much appreciated by our guests.

Elisa Fontanes  
Chair, Garden Tour 2017



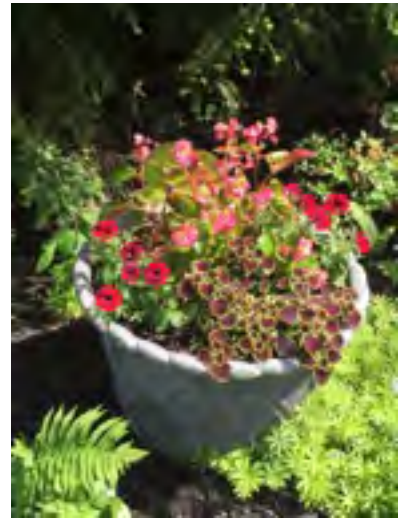


The difference between success and failure is a great team...





... and  
gorgeous  
gardens!



## Visiting Gardeners



On May 18, our Garden Club visited Queen Anne Nursing Home in Hingham. We had a large group of 18 and together made arrangement of white roses, hot pink sweet william, blue iris and vibrant green button poms. They were arranged in bright flower pots in various spring colors. The residents were so appreciative and enjoyed their time with our committee, laughing and engaged in conversation. At the end of our time, we were presented with a certificate of appreciation for our contributions to Queen Anne Nursing Home.- Melissa Bednarski





## Field Trip to the Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate



On May 25th members of the Garden Club braved the rain and toured the Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate in Canton currently owned by the Trustees of Reservation. The 90 acre estate encompasses a majestic home designed by Charles Platt, elegant gardens, woodlands, and fields. The very knowledgeable horticulturalist led the tour through the prized Italianate garden where the Garden Club's own Maura Graham's work as a master gardener can be seen!! We also walked the woodland garden filled with mountain laurel and rhododendron. The old cutting flower garden was discussed as well as plans for a vegetable garden and farm stand! The formal tea in the elegant dining room was a perfect way to end the tour! - Debra Flaherty





**Annual Meeting and Luncheon  
June 14  
Lighthouse Keeper's House**



Deirdre Anderson and the Hospitality Committee hosted the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on June 14, 2017 at the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage in Cohasset. Members enjoyed assorted sandwiches, several salads, and mini desserts catered by Whole Foods. Susan Zuger's horticultural inspirations from the Garden Tour were on display and several were available, along with other floral arrangements made by committee members, in the opportunity drawing.

-Joyce Mandel



## **Mid-Summer Gardening Tips**

There comes a time in mid-summer when we realize that the garden is looking a little tired, said a University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator.

"But there are some things that can be done to perk up the garden so we can enjoy it for the whole season," said Sharon Yiesla.

Mid-summer can be a good time to see where the 'blank' spots are in the garden and fill these in with new perennials.

"Planting at this time will require extra care, due to the heat and dryness of summer, but it can be done successfully," she said. "Be sure that adequate water is supplied to summer plantings. Plants are often on sale and still in good condition at the retail outlets, so there may be a good selection of plants available."

It is essential to keep plants watered consistently during the heat of summer. On average, plants need one inch of water per week and this may need to be stepped up to one inch every five days during the heat of summer.

"Watering is the most important maintenance item, so don't skimp on it," Yiesla said. "As you water, avoid wetting foliage as this can lead to disease problems."

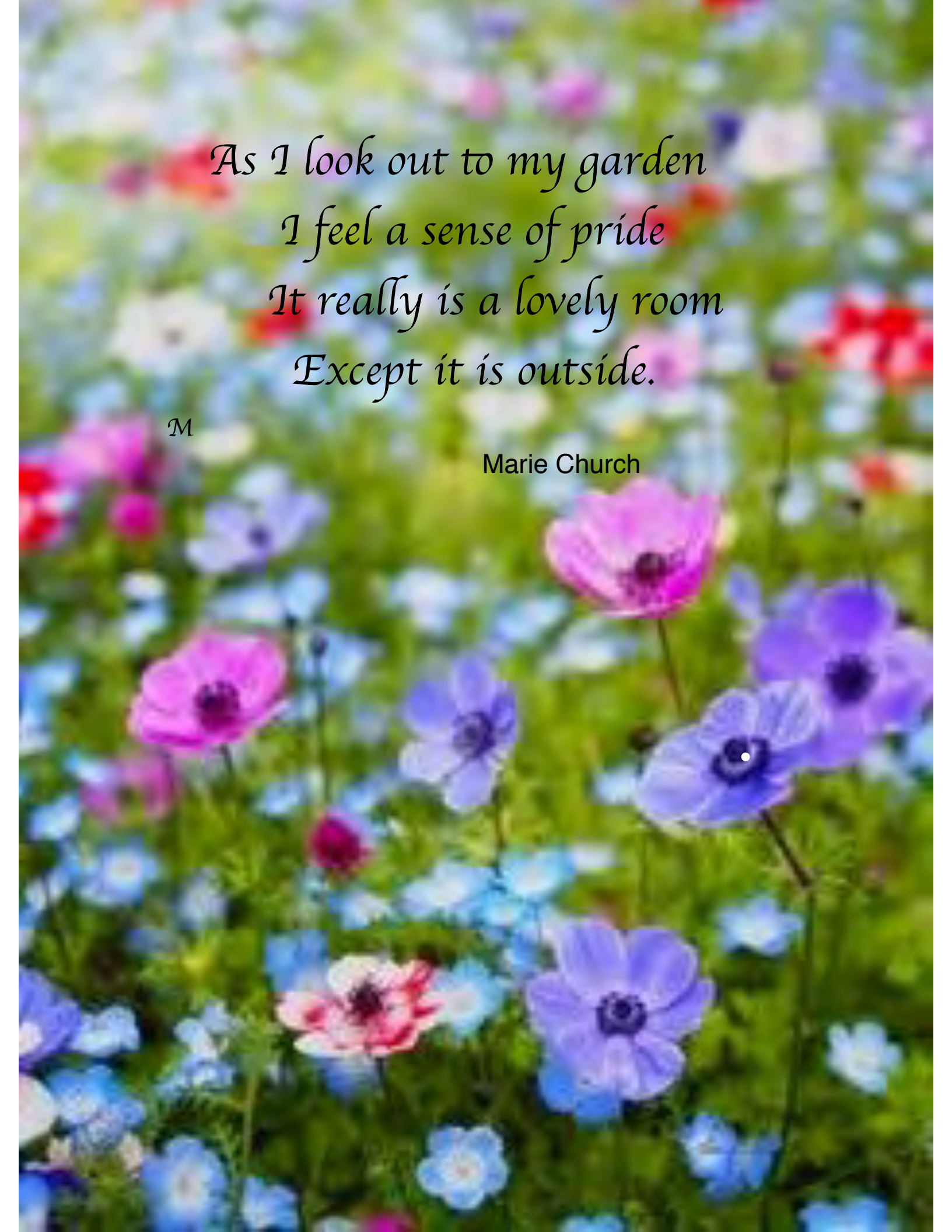
If you did not mulch in spring, consider doing it now. A two to three inch layer of mulch can reduce weed problems, conserve moisture, give the garden a better look, and reduce erosion.

"Many gardeners automatically reach for the fertilizer when their garden looks tired, but that may not always be a good idea," she cautioned. "Do your plants need it right now?"

"Plants under drought stress need water, not fertilizer. If water is lacking, fertilizer won't help. Vegetable gardens and annual beds that are really producing may benefit from fertilizer, but perennials and woody plants usually don't need it mid-summer."

Some plants start to look tattered or tired in midsummer and may need to be rejuvenated. Try pruning them back to encourage new growth. Be sure to supply water to plants that have been pruned back, to help encourage the production of new leaves. Some perennials may even flower a second time.

Deadhead annuals to produce more flowers. Removing the old flower before it sets seeds will encourage continual bloom. Deadhead perennials to prevent seed production and strengthen the plant. Harvest vegetables regularly to keep the plants bearing.



*As I look out to my garden  
I feel a sense of pride  
It really is a lovely room  
Except it is outside.*

M

Marie Church

A new season begins!

The first meeting is on September 20, and the topic is "*Le Jardin Blanc*." Also, the very next day we will be going on a field trip to Newport, RI for a private tour of The Blue Garden. The tour is free but we will also be going out to lunch with the Director of the Garden and the landscape historian who wrote a book about the restoration of the garden and there will be a charge for that. The tour starts at 11, we will meet at 9. Parking is limited to 8 cars.

-Joyce Mandel

Many thanks to Club members who submitted photographs and narratives.

-Carolyn Clark (editor)