



Gardeners' Guild of Braintree

December Newsletter 2015

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Gardeners' Guild of Braintree

<http://www.gardenersguildofbraintree.com/>

Contact:

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WE NEED YOUR INFORMATION!

If you have events, news, stories or photos to share, please send them to rmzahran@yahoo.com.

**Deadline for the next e-newsletter is:
December 16, 2015.**

MEETING DETAILS

Program: "Christmas Greenery Workshop"

Creative Potpourri members create House Tour masterpieces while Boutique members create wonderful fresh greens arrangement, wreaths and handcrafted items for sale at the Boutique. Janet and Rob Lawatsch of Studio One Twenty Three West will be joining us to offer their experience and talent with creating these items.

All members are asked to come to this meeting and bring the following:

- (1) A bag of greens.
- (2) Clippers and green florist wire.
- (3) A glue gun if you have one.

This is such a great meeting. All Guild members gather and put their incredible talents to use creating wonderful fresh greens arrangements.

Date: November 30, 2015

Time: 6:00 pm Gardener's Guild Business
6:30 pm Program

Location: Braintree Town Hall
One John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive
Braintree, MA 02184

Membership and Remembrance Hostesses:
Margaret Kelly and Virginia Quinn

Hospitality Hostesses:
All Members Bake

Invocation: Barbara Black

Hospitality Chair: Sarah Sciascia

GGB MEETING DATES

2015

- October 5** *Gardening is Murder*
- November 2** *Harvest Swag Workshop*
- November 30** *Christmas Greenery Workshop*
- December 6** *Boutique and Holiday House Tour*

Old Time Christmas Visits Contemporary Elegance and Charm

269 Peach Street



2016

- January 4** *Potluck and Brown Bag Grab Auction*
- February 1** *The Eyes See ... the Heart Anticipates*
- March 7** *High on Hydrangeas*
- April 4** *Native Plants, Wildflowers, and Pollinators*
- May 2** *Annual Spring Banquet*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi Everyone:

I'll do my best to keep this short. Thanks to our wonderful Joan for the awesome workshop with Janet and Rob. They were fabulous, as always. I hope you all enjoyed it, learned something, and love your creations!

With Thanksgiving only a short week away, preparing for the holiday, on top of cutting greens, putting together room decorations for the House Tour, preparing Town Hall for the Boutique, just to mention a few things, please remember to take a moment, and take a breath. As wonderful as the holidays are, we all know that they can be a bit anxiety provoking (ya think!). Everyone who attends the house and boutique marvel at how beautiful everything is, and how seamlessly we pull it off. We all know that there is nothing "seamless" about this event. There is an extraordinary amount of work, effort, creativity, incredible talent, and countless hours that make this fundraiser so successful. But we always pull it off, so no worries please, we are a team, and here to help each other, so please remember that. If you're feeling like you need some assistance, give a shout please. Before I let you all move on to the rest of the newsletter I would like to express my sincere thanks to my awesome Executive Board and Standing Committee Chairs for their continued commitment to the Gardener's Guild, and to the Town of Braintree. And last but certainly not least, thank you to our members, the unsung heroes of the group.

As stated below, Greens Workshop is on Monday, Nov. 30, 6:00, at Town Hall. All members are required to attend this very important workshop. Please make sure to bring the following items:

1. hand clippers;
2. spool or two of green wire;
3. scissors;
4. hot glue gun if you have one; and
5. a bag or two of fresh cut greens.

Please remember to store your greens in a cool place, either in your garage or on a porch or deck - this will keep them a little fresher.

Phew, good thing I'm keeping this short! lol! Hope you and your families all have a very happy, healthy Thanksgiving holiday!

From my heart,

Barbara

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Creative Potpourri

The Gardeners' Guild of Braintree is presenting "Old Time Christmas Visits Contemporary Elegance and Charm", its 40th annual house tour and boutique/craft fair, on December 6, 2015. This year's House Tour, will feature the newly built home of Heather and Peter Thompson at 269 Peach Street.

Creative Potpourri Co-Chairs: Carole Wilson and Lauren Crook

Ways & Means

The Gardeners' Guild of Braintree's Annual Holiday House Tour & Boutique will be celebrated on Sunday, December 6, 2015.

The hours of the Boutique are: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm to better line up with the House Tour hours of 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Many of our favorite vendors will be returning!

The Ways and Means committee will be meeting at Town Hall on Friday, December 4, 2015 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm to tape the floor and set up the tables.

As we have in the past, there will be musical performances by students from Arch Bishop Williams and Braintree High School. Please let me know if you have students, children or grandchildren who are in need of community service hours as the vendors could use the help unloading and loading their vehicles before and after the show. We open the hall to vendors on Sunday at 9:00 am and they should be out of the hall by 5:00 pm.

Kerri Eck, Karen Connelly, Diane Hanlon, Lisa Reid and Ginny Quinn

Hospitality

Reminder that **everyone** is expected to bake for the Boutique held on Sunday, December 6, 2015 at Town Hall. The Board of Health requires that all food be individually wrapped and labeled if they contain nuts. No dairy based items can be served such as cream puffs, etc., which are difficult to keep cold.

The refreshment tables will be set up on Saturday, December 5th for all to drop off your baked goods or early Sunday morning before the Boutique opens to the public.

We need help at the Boutique from everyone who signed up as Hostess this year or who is not working at the House. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Monday, November 30, 2015 meeting for anyone who can help with the refreshments at the Boutique. Please sign up for a one hour time slot if you can. If you are not at this meeting, I will be calling all this year's Hostesses to sign you up for a time slot. Thank you!!!

Sarah Sciascia, Hospitality Chair

House Tour Tickets

Tickets are \$16 in advance, \$20 at the door; entrance fee for the Boutique only is \$2. Tickets are still available to take on consignment at the November 30, 2015 meeting. If you are unable to sell them by Friday, December 4, 2015, please return them to me on Saturday. I will be at the house in the morning and Town Hall in the early afternoon. When you return money or tickets please include a written slip with your name and the amount of money collected and tickets returned (*for my memory!!* ☺) It is requested that you hand in your ticket sale money by Sunday, December 6, 2015. Tickets and money from local businesses will be collected Saturday afternoon. The plan is to print an additional 100 tickets; there is a great interest in the house; also, Heather and Peter Thompson know a lot of people (total 700).

Members should give their name at the entrance to the house and boutique for admission as we do not have membership cards this year.

Thank you for all your help with sales and promotion. I can be reached at 781-664-4153.

Sue Ghiloni, Ticket Chair

Publicity

We have been busy producing press releases about the Holiday House Tour and Boutique. These notices will appear in the Braintree Forum, Patriot Ledger, Braintree Advertiser, Braintree Patch, will appear on the GGB website and Facebook page.

Publicity Co-Chairs: Steph McLaughlin and Tina O'Brien

Greens Workshop

Just a reminder that Greens Workshop night is scheduled for Monday, November 30, 2015 at Town Hall, 6:00 pm. Please bring at least one bag of fresh cut greens, along with a pair of clippers and wire. If you happen to have a glue gun and wish to bring it along that would be helpful. Desired cuttings include all types of pine, arborvitae, juniper, evergreens, boxwood, and holly. There are just a few types of greens that we know hold up well and don't pose a threat to pets.

Please, NO HEMLOCK OR RHODODENDRON!!!!

All members of the Greens Committee should be at Town Hall on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 10:00 am to help set up greens to be sold at the Boutique. Greens members will also be at Town hall on Sunday, December 6, 2015 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Keeping that in mind, go forth and cut, cut, cut!!!! Have fun! And if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me or Lynda Mitchell.

*Barbara Black and Lynda Mitchell
Greens Chairs*

Birthday Wishes

A very "Happy Birthday" to our members who have special days in November:



Ruth Aucoin

Judy Caristi

Barbara Sullivan

Catherine Avellino

Claire Mulligan

Marie Walsh

PLANT THERAPY

News from Plant Therapy

Carolyn Mahoney, Plant Therapy Chairperson, and Joan Hutcheon will feature famous gardens in our monthly member newsletters. Carolyn and Joan will write about gardens in and outside the USA. For December we have a brief overview of local Botanical Gardens.

QUOTE

I don't think we'll ever know all there is to know about gardening,
and I'm just as glad there will always be some magic about it!

- Barbara Damrosch

FEATURED TOPIC: LOCAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

For the December newsletter, we feature three local botanical gardens that celebrate the holidays in special ways.

Heritage Museums and Gardens, Sandwich, MA “Gardens Aglow” (November 27 – December 27)



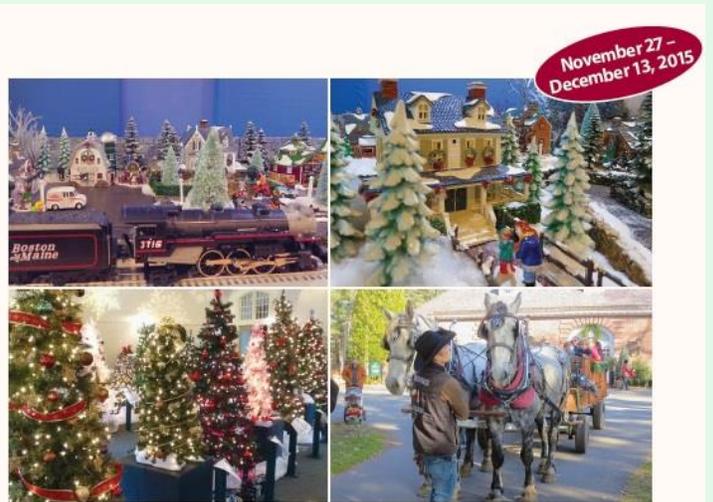
Heritage Museum and Gardens sparkle this holiday season with “Gardens Aglow”, featuring over nine miles of holiday lights throughout the gardens, a stunning model train exhibit in the Special Exhibitions Gallery with new features this year, and music and dance performance in the Automobile Gallery. St. Nick will hold court in the Model T. Other activities include holiday crafts, Hidden Hollow by moonlight, rides on the vintage carousel and marshmallow roasting over outdoor five pits. Stroll the gardens with family and friends and enjoy Heritage in a whole new light. Throughout Gardens Aglow, Heritage is hosting a toothpaste/toothbrush drive to benefit the Sandwich Food Pantry. Bring in new, unwrapped toothpaste and toothbrushes to the donation box located in

The Shop at Heritage. **New this year!** A selection of original Currier & Ives winter scenes lithographs will be on display in the Special Exhibitions Gallery. Saturday, December 5th ONLY: Chip Koser of South Cape Ice Sculptures will create a four block ice sculpture that he will be demonstrating live from 4:30 – 8:30 pm. Tickets are available on line at heritagemuseum.org and at the gate the day of the event. If tickets are purchased on-line, print I out and bring it with your to skip the lines. Friday, Saturdays and Sunday, **November 27 – December 27 from 4:30 – 8:30 pm (closed Christmas Day).**

More information: heritagemuseum.org

Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Elm Bank, Wellesley, MA “Festival of Trees and Snow Village” November 27 – December 13

Massachusetts Horticultural Society’s annual **Festival of Trees** showcases dozens of trees and **The Snow Village at Elm Bank** for children and adults to enjoy. The Festival of Trees, displayed in the Hunnewell Carriage House, offers beautifully decorated holiday trees that are donated and decorated by local business, garden clubs and individuals. Visitors “vote” with their raffle tickets, in hopes of being the tree winner at the end of the festival. Visitors can also enjoy the decorated buildings and grounds at Elm Bank with a stroll or a horse-drawn wagon ride. For the young at heart, there are Santa Visits and other activities. The Snow Village at Elm Bank is a wonderful addition to the holiday spirit of the Festival of Trees with enchanting displays of model trains winding through villages and vignettes, including Christmas in the City (Boston, of course!), Fenway Park and hundreds of decorated houses and lights. This amazing scenery in miniature is sure to get kids of all ages excited about the holiday season.



Friday – Sunday, November 27 through December 6 from 10 am to 8 pm
Wednesday – Thursday, December 2 through 10 from 4 pm to 8 pm
Friday – Saturday, December 11 and 12 10 am to 8 pm
Sunday, December 13 10 am to 6 pm

More information: masshort.org

**Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA
“Winter Reimagined” November 27, 2015 - January 3, 2016**



Tower Hill Botanic Gardens dazzle with its winter celebration of lights display **Winter Reimagined**. Marvel at glittering light displays indoors and out, with fifteen miles of lights, decorated trees, fire-pits, thousands of handcrafted ornaments, children’s activities, live music

and more. Discover Winter Reimagined and the joy of walking through the gardens while admiring the sparkling lights strung through Tower Hill’s distinguished collection of shrubs, trees and landscape features. Visitors are requested to plan extra time for admission and parking. During evening hours, when visitation is highest, carpooling is encouraged. Dressing warmly and wearing sturdy shoes for walks around the gardens is also recommended. Tower Hill’s interior spaces are accessible on foot and by wheelchair. These interior spaces include the Garden Shop, Twigs Café, the Library, the Milton Gallery and the Conservatories. Most of the light show can be accessed by those with limited mobility, though during inclement weather or when snow cover remains on the ground, certain outdoor pathways may become difficult to traverse. However, much of the lighting can be seen from indoor viewing spots, and the main paths around the gardens that host the most lights (the Lawn Garden, Entry Garden and Winter Garden) are cleared away after each snow.

November 27 – January 3

Wednesday – Saturday from 11 am to 9 pm

Sundays and Tuesdays from 11 am to 6 pm

Closed Mondays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day

More information: towerhillbg.org

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

Frequently Asked Questions

The deer are eating the leaves and buds off my plants. What’s the best way to deter them?

A tall fence seven to eight feet in height is by far the best deer deterrent, although installing one isn’t always feasible. Organic or chemical repellents can offer good results. Most repellants need to be reapplied regularly since they eventually lose their efficacy, or the deer learn to ignore them.

Are lady bugs good for my garden?

Yes. Lady bugs, also called lady beetles, prey on harmful insects like aphids that can damage your plants. However, there are lady bug look-alikes that eat plants, so take some time to observe their habits. Also, there’s no need to purchase lady bugs for your garden, since they don’t tend to stay put.

My roses have ugly black splotches on their leaves. What’s wrong with them?

Your roses are suffering from a fungus called black spot (*Diplocarpon rosae*). Clean up the infected area by removing and discarding damaged leaves on and around the plant. Avoid wetting the leaves when you water. Improving air circulation around your plants will also help. Treat your roses with a fungicide labeled for black spot, and consider replanting roses that are resistant to black spot.

When can I transplant peonies? Is it hard to divide them?

Peonies can be moved in early fall, and are easily divided. Simply cut off the top, dig up the clump, and shake off the soil. Use your hands to gently pull apart the clump into sections, making sure that each has three to five eyes, or buds. Replant each section so that its eyes are one to two inches below the ground. Mulch with leaves or straw for winter protection.

When can I cut back the foliage of daffodils and other hardy spring bulbs?

It's best to wait until the foliage has died back on its own (mid- to late June) since the bulbs need their foliage to replenish themselves and make flowers for next year.

When should I cut back my ornamental grasses?

Cut your ornamental grasses to within a few inches of the ground in March, before growth resumes. This way, you can enjoy their lovely, light-catching foliage throughout the winter, and help to encourage new growth come spring.

My mums were awfully leggy last year. How can I avoid that?

Pinching off the tips of the branches periodically throughout the spring and summer will encourage your mums to branch and to fill out, rather than to get tall and lanky. Stop pinching before August 1 so that the plants have time to set buds.

Doesn't goldenrod contribute to hay fever?

No. The showy flowers of goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) take the blame for causing hay fever, but it's actually ragweed (*Ambrosia* spp.), and its abundant pollen, that is the real culprit. Goldenrod is a lovely late-summer plant that attracts numerous butterflies and bees. Try it in your borders.

TIPS FOR DECEMBER

GENERAL GARDEN TIPS

- This is a good time to start pruning dead and dangerous limbs from trees. These should be burned in case they harbor insects and disease. Apply tree paint to the wounds made in sawing off limbs.
- Most plants and shrubs winter-kill because of alternate freezing and thawing, so it is a good idea to bank them up with snow.
- Look over the stored vegetables frequently and remove decaying specimens.
- To protect tender perennials from harsh winter weather, build a wooden box with no top or bottom. Place it over the plants after the ground has frozen and fill with leaves.
- Cover your compost pile to prevent rains and snows from leaching out nutrients.
- If iris foliage is hit with heavy frost, remove and destroy it to eliminate borer eggs.
- Check the "bones" of your garden or landscape for visual appeal. Hedges, stone walls, and pathways all contribute to the underlying structure. Make a note of what you will change in the spring.
- If you're in an area with snow, go out and gently shake the snow from evergreens after heavy snowfalls; frozen wood is brittle. Remove any broken limbs with a sharp saw.
- Make holiday wreaths from grapevines, greens, and dry seedpods.
- As houseplants are growing more slowly in December light, cut down on watering by half until active growth resumes. Hold off on fertilizing as well.
- Group houseplants near each other to form a support group to cope with the low humidity of most winter homes.
- After a heavy snowfall, go out and gently shake the snow from evergreens. Work carefully because the

frozen wood is brittle. Remove any broken limbs with a sharp saw.

- Prune any dead or weak branches now, so that they do not break under the snow or ice.
- Check your fruit and vegetables in storage; throw away any that are damaged or diseased.
- Group houseplants near each other to form a support group to cope with the low humidity of most winter homes.
- Apply a layer of winter mulch to protect your perennials after the first few freezes.
- Remember to remove any new fallen leaves from your lawn and gardens, as the leaves can block sunlight or encourage disease among your plants.
- If the weather is dry, occasionally water your lawn, shrubs, and small trees.
- To help reduce winter damage to your lawn, minimize traffic on the frozen grass.
- Make sure that mulch is pulled back from tree trunks so that mice don't hide and destroy the bark.
- Stop fertilizing and reduce your watering by half for houseplants until active growth resumes.
- Check your houseplants for any insects, especially spider mites. Wash off mites by setting in the shower to wash off.
- If your houseplants have a sticky substance on the leaves and aphids underneath, spray with soapy water or insecticidal soap.
- Use sand on icy walks instead of salt to avoid plant and grass damage.
- Move your houseplants away from icy windows to prevent any chilling.
- When watering your houseplants, avoid using cold water because it may shock the plants; use tepid water instead.
- Houseplants with large leaves benefit from being washed with a damp cloth to remove the dust.
- Save and inventory leftover seeds from your favorite plants for next spring; store them in airtight containers and keep them in a dry place.
- Bring in the evergreens for holiday decorations!
- Relax and dream about next year's garden!

NEXT MEETING SNEAK PEEK: POTLUCK AND BROWN BAG GRAB AUCTION

January 4, 2016

“Potluck and Brown Bag Grab Auction”

Please join us at the Gilbert Bean Museum for our annual Potluck and Brown Bag Auction for an evening of fun and camaraderie with friends and colleagues. In the past, this event has been emceed by the one and only, very talented Lucille Barton. Each GGB club member who attends the meeting should bring a gift (generally around \$5) in an individual brown bag; Lucille will use her wit and wonder to provide hints of what the object is. The bidding generally begins at a whopping .50¢ or slightly higher. GGB members then place bids to win said object, all eager to find out what it is. All proceeds will go to the GGB. Always an entertaining evening, don't let the cold January weather keep you away from attending this fun filled meeting.

CELEBRATION OF BRAINTREE IN WREATHS

December 4, 2015

Create a Wreath with a Braintree theme reflecting our town's history, your Braintree business or organization.

The Gardeners' Guild of Braintree will be participating with an entry featuring pictures of the past homes that have been decorated by the guild. See Barbara Black if you have any questions or would like to work on the wreath with her.



“Celebration of Braintree in Wreaths”

Create a Wreath

with a Braintree theme reflecting our town's history, your Braintree business or organization

Sign up as an individual, family, organization or business.

Easy As 1-2-3

1 Fill Out Application to participate, along with the Entry Fee, and mail it.

2 Pick up your wreath Friday, December 4 from 9-11am, or 6-8pm @ Braintree Historical Society

3 Then Drop off decorated wreaths Wednesday, December 9 8-10am or 6-8pm @ Braintree Historical Society

A 1st place prize of a wreath adorned with \$375.00 of gift cards from Braintree merchants will be awarded to the creator of the wreath that earns the most raffle tickets.

“Celebration of Braintree in Wreaths”

The public is invited to view and try their LUCK at winning their favorite wreath, while enjoying light refreshments and sounds of the holiday. Raffle Tickets are 10 Tickets for \$5 or 25 Tickets for \$10

Friday December 11, 6-9 pm & Saturday December 12, 10am-4pm

Join us at: Braintree Historical Society 31 Tenney Road Braintree, MA. 02184

\$37.50 entry fee includes the cost of the wreath Supply your own decorations and materials All wreaths will be raffled off to benefit Braintree Historical Society on December 12 at 4pm

(see us on Facebook or braintree375.org for inspiring ideas!)



★ ★ ★ Town of BRAintree, Massachusetts ★ ★ ★
375th Anniversary Celebration ~ A Community Collaboration

Mail application & entry fee by November 29th to:
375 Committee, Braintree Historical Society 31 Tenney Road Braintree, MA 02184

Name, Individual, Family Organization, Business _____

Contact Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Payment Information: Cash Check Credit Card Type: MC Visa Amex

Card Number _____ Expires _____ Signature _____

Security Code _____

