



Gardeners' Guild of Braintree

February Newsletter 2016

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Gardeners' Guild of Braintree

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

Contact:

Regina Zahran
Corresponding Secretary
rmzahran@yahoo.com

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:
February 16, 2016.**

MEETING DETAILS

Program: **Guest Speaker: Sue Ellen DuBrava, Cochato Nursery and Display Gardens**

Come explore the creation of Cochato Gardens to discover shade gardening, what lies beyond the meandering paths and how to create pathways and passages through your own garden, creating a garden that is truly your own. Cochato Nursery and Display Gardens in Holbrook specializes in hostas, shade plants, wildflowers, dwarf and unusual species for all gardens. This presentation is open to the public with a suggested donation to the Gardeners Guild of Braintree of \$1.00.

Date: February 1, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm Gardener's Guild Business
7:30 pm Program

Place: Masonic Hall
403 Washington Street
Braintree, MA 02184

Membership and Remembrance Hostesses:

Donna Banville and Sue Ghiloni

Hospitality

Hostesses: Nina Egan and Lauren Crook

Bakers: Christine McIntyre, Ann Moore, Carol Morley

Invocation: Joan Hutcheon

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:

We had lots of fun at our January Brown Bag meeting, held at the Bean Museum. We raised a few dollars, and shared many, many laughs, thanks to our very witty and amusing Emcee, Lucille. Gail, Joan and Regina did a great job putting together a CD of the holiday house, boutique and greens, with beautiful holiday music, which I believe can be viewed on the GGB website - putting the CD together is no easy task, it takes hours and hours of work, lots and lots of patience - my very special thanks to you all. And thanks to Chris McIntyre for the use of the Bean.

By-Laws Update: As you may be aware, last October the Executive Board appointed an ad hoc By-laws Committee to review the GGB by-laws. The review has been completed, and the Committee will soon be ready to bring a few suggested amendments to the general membership for their review and discussion, hopefully at our February meeting. FYI, we will not vote on the proposed changes until the April meeting.

We have a great program planned for our upcoming February meeting, please remember that this is a great opportunity to invite guests.

As always, thank you all so much ladies and gentleman for all of your hard work, talent and commitment to the GGB! Spring will spring soon enough, and so far mother nature has been quite kind to us - lets hope she continues to do so as we head into our most wintery months.

Be well, stay warm and see you at the February meeting!!! Bundle up, shake off the winter blahs, and come, it's a great program!

Barbara



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Publicity

Press releases were sent to the regular media outlets regarding the February meeting: Braintree Forum, Patriot Ledger, Braintree Advertiser, Braintree Patch.

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

Birthday Wishes

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



Joan Hutcheon

Carole Wilson

Erin Wilson

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 our January piece, we have a brief overview of the Santa Fe Botanical Garden of New Mexico.

QUOTE

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.

— **Marcus Tullius Cicero**

FEATURED TOPIC: INSERT ARTICLE

Artists' Gardens

In his book entitled, "Artists' Gardens", author Bill Laws observes that "artists' gardens are places of both creation and inspiration, often the most personal reflection of an artist's mind and works". The author explores the "close links between the artist, their works and their garden". Bill Laws offers insight into how artists shape their gardens and how gardens shape the artist. Two such artists from the Impressionism period are Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Claude Monet.



Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919)

Some artists paint what they see. Others paint what they feel. 'I know I can't paint nature, but I enjoy struggling with it,' Pierre-Auguste Renoir once confided. Renoir's garden, Les Collettes, lies on the Riviera between Cannes and the Italian border in a village named Gagnes-sur-Mer with views of the Mediterranean Sea. The informal gardens of roses, lavender, bearded irises, dahlias, palms, cypresses and umbrella pines, bathed in the translucent light of the Mediterranean Sea, inspired Renoir to complete over 500 paintings during his iridescent period. Every day, Renoir picked a rose from his garden for his daily vignette to paint as an exercise before working on a more in depth piece.

Claude Monet (1840-1926)

Monet is considered the most famous gardener of the French Impressionism movement. Monet's art was rooted in his garden at Giverny, a rural village in northern France along the River Seine, a place that inspired hundreds of his paintings. The landscape was his studio. Monet created a surging sea of blooms and blossoms from his house to his garden, with a rose covered terrace, to his famous water garden. Monet had a life-long devotion to floral



subjects. Tulips and irises were the backbone of Monet's garden filling many of his garden scenes. Monet created the classic artists' garden where the artist's eye and the imagined canvas dictate the arrangement of every flower. Monet declared, 'what I need most are flowers, always flowers'.

These are just two of the many artists and their gardens featured in the book, "Artists' Gardens" highlighting how artists' gardens often have a tale to tell about the artists themselves.

Source: Laws, Bill, *Artists' Gardens*, Vermont: Trafalgar Square Publishing, 1999 Print

HOW TO STYLE, AND CARE FOR, INDOOR PLANTS

There is no such thing as a no-maintenance plant. Here are some of the lessons about bringing the outdoors in.

The responsibility of having an indoor plant will fall somewhere between looking after your pet and spring cleaning your apartment. An indoor plant should require less attention than a goldfish, but more attention than polishing your dining table. If you want a healthy indoor plant, be prepared to pay attention to it at least once a week.



The Natal Mahogany tree (*Trichila dregeana*) is one of the toughest indoor trees. They can tolerate many lighting conditions but will do best in bright, indirect light with moist soil. An array of succulents in terra cotta pots also take full advantage of the sunny location on windowsills.

Sunlight!

The amount of sunlight a plant requires will vary, but even the hardiest species will need some access to light in order to survive long-term. If you're living in a basement apartment with no windows, or prefer to keep your curtains drawn all day, an interior plant may not be for you.

Keep it consistent.

This is a Philodendron; see how it stretches toward the light wherever it lives.

Plants will be thankful for a regular care schedule. In most cases a drink once per week will do it, but when the seasons change outdoors your indoor plant needs will also change. When your AC blasts in August and your heat fires up in November, remember that changes in temperature will also affect the plants in your life. Move your plants away from direct gusts of air and keep an eye out for any signs of stress like wilting leaves or dry soil.

Indoor plants typically need more water in the winter to compensate for the drying effect heating systems can have. If your home is particularly dry, your plant will benefit from an occasional misting of its foliage.





Another great plant is the Monstera (*Monstera deliciosa*). You could try to hang it from the ceiling as a living sculpture. It can react by putting out aerial roots, which mimics how it would grow in nature from the trunks and canopies of rainforest trees.

Let it grow.

As a plant matures, it will develop its own character. A newly purchased plant from a nursery will be nearly perfect in its form, but as it adjusts to its new environment, you might see it meander towards a window or put out unexpected new growth. Watch as your plants develop

a unique shape — as they age, they get so much more interesting. Work with the character the plant presents.

This specimen of New Zealand Laurel (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) came from a nursery on the West Coast. In the wild, this small, ornamental tree would have both a fruit and a flower, but it can be great for the sculptural qualities of its foliage and branches.

Form over flowers.

When selecting indoor plants, look at the quality of the foliage, not the potential to flower. Flowers on any indoor plant will be fleeting, but foliage is forever. If you're more interested in floral display, nothing beats a bunch of cut flowers.

Have fun.

A lot of people find plants a little overwhelming. But if you select something appropriate for your location, it is a great opportunity to bring some life to your interior. Use an interesting pot or place the plants in an unexpected way.

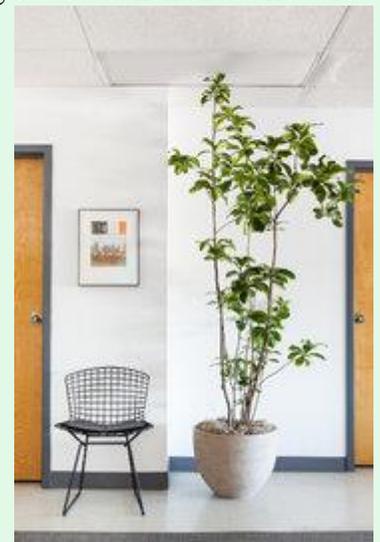
Plants don't always have to sit on the floor or a table. Try something different: Pothos (*Epipremnum aureum*), a Staghorn fern (*Platycerium bifurcatum*), a Bird's-Nest fern (*Asplenium nidus*) and a Club fern (*Pteris cretica*) hang in handmade ceramic pots and brighten an otherwise ordinary space.

To get you started, here's a list of hardy indoor plants:

Philodendron Congo (*Philodendron "Congo"*)

Monstera (*Monstera deliciosa*)

Natal Mahogany (*Trichila dregeana*)



Pothos (*Epipremnum aureum*)

Club fern (*Pteris cretica*)

Staghorn Fern (*Platycerium bifurcatum*)

Bird's-nest Fern (*Asplenium nidus*)

GREAT INDOOR PLANTS

Great Indoor Plants

Houseplants bring a little bit of nature indoors. They make our indoor environment more hospitable and even help maintain air quality. Houseplants can provide these and other benefits to our indoor environment, but to be effective they need to actually grow and thrive. And the trickiest part of growing healthy houseplants is choosing the right plant

for the growing conditions your house has to offer.

Considerations When Choosing Houseplants

Light

Before choosing a houseplant, closely evaluate the light, humidity, and temperature of the area where the new plant will be grown. Realistically evaluate the amount of light the new plant will receive (plants requiring high light levels, but placed in low light is one of the most frequently encountered plant problems.) Indoor light levels can either be high, with direct sunlight hitting the plant for part of the day; medium, with bright light but no direct sun; or low.

Humidity

Also keep in mind that some plants, like ferns, Rex begonias, Prayer Plant and Calathea to name a few, require high humidity to grow well. Indoor humidity levels are usually lower than those in a greenhouse, in fact during winter when furnaces are running, indoor air can be as dry as desert air. Considering that most houseplants are actually tropical plants adapted to rainforest or riverside humidity levels makes it easy to see why growing some plants indoors can be such a challenge.

Plants requiring high humidity are best placed in bathrooms or kitchens; rooms normally more humid than the majority of the house. Or use a cloche, a tall, bell-shaped, glass covering that can be placed over certain plants to maintain a higher level of humidity around the leaves.

There are houseplants that will grow under almost every combination of growing conditions in the house, so choosing the right plant for the intended location is the key to success.

One plant that has earned a suitable name as a durable houseplant is Cast Iron Plant, *Aspidistra elatior*. It was a very popular plant during the Victoria era, enduring cold, dimly lit rooms and the fumes from burning coal. This plant does well under medium to very low light conditions and medium to cool temperatures. In fact, practically the only way to kill this plant is through overwatering or by placing it in a high temperature location, which makes the plant susceptible to spidermite invasion. Cast Iron Plant has dark green, broadly sword-shaped, leathery leaves and reaches a height of 3'. A slow growing plant, yet one that thrives on neglect and makes a nice green accent for a dark corner.



Calathea roseopicta, is a very attractive small houseplant with dark burgundy-green leaves, having silvery markings on the upper surface and rosy-purple on the underside. The leaves are large and round, up to 8" across and the mature height of the plant is 8-12". The plant requires bright light, but no direct sun, cool 60-70 degree temperatures and extra humidity, especially if the room temperatures are warmer than 70 degrees. Water the plant generously in summer, but allow it to dry out more in winter.

Bird's Nest Fern, *Asplenium nidus*, a member of the spleenwort family is an easy and interesting houseplant. The 12-18" long, light green, wavy leaves are sword-like with a brown midrib on the underside. The plant requires medium light and normal room temperatures with extra humidity. Water frequently during the summer months, but keep the soil barely moist during winter. It is much easier to grow than Boston fern, but with a very different look.





Balfour Aralia, *Polyscias balfouriana*, is sometimes called Dinnerplate Aralia because of the large, 1.5" wide, round leaflets. Older plants develop woody stems to support the delicate, attractive foliage. The plant requires bright light and temperatures no lower than 60 degrees, especially in winter. Mature plants can be 3-4' in height. Water thoroughly and allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings. An interesting relative is *Polyscias fruticosa*, or Ming Aralia. Very similar to balfour aralia, but with lacy, fern-like foliage.

Dracaena reflexa, is an attractive, reliable houseplant for medium to low light. The dark green, 3-4" long, sword-like leaves are produced on woody stems resulting in a bushy, 3-4' plant. Easy to grow under most home conditions, reflexa is has clean, uncluttered lines for a nice, large accent houseplant. Several other species of *Dracena* can also be grown indoors including *D. deremensis* 'Warneckii' with green and white streaked leaves, and *D. marginata* with 12-15" long, slender leaves on woody trunks. Both are very easy to grow indoors.



Chinese Evergreen, *Aglaonema modestum*, is another easy houseplant to grow. This small, bushy plant with sword-shape, variegated leaves normally grows to 2' in height. It grows best under medium light and temperatures, but will tolerate low light. Many cultivars are available with different leaf colors, including silvery-green leaves and dark, forest green leaves. A great plant for any indoor gardener.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST BEYOND GGB

Winter in Bloom: Month of Flowers

The Tower Hill event is called "Winter Bloom" and runs from February 5 - 28 with lots of great programs including author Page Dickey speaking on 'Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration - 25 Years of the Garden Conservancy'. Her talk and book signing is on Sunday, February 21st.

Tower Hill comes to life in February with spectacular floral arrangements, plant and flower-inspired activities, concerts, author events, demos and much more.

Friday, February 5 - Sunday, February 7

Flower Show: Professional Designers

Friday, February 12 - Sunday, February 14

Flower Show: Individual Designers & Garden Clubs

Friday, February 19 - Sunday, February 21

Flower Show: Artists & Makers

Saturday, February 27 - Sunday, February 28

187th Annual Camellia Show

Location:

11 French Drive
P.O. Box 598
Boylston, MA 01505-0598

Sponsor(s): Tower Hill

Cost: Adults \$12

Phone: 508-869-6111, x131

Email: Alexandra Moore at amoore@towerhillbg.org

Website: <http://www.towerhillbg.org/index.php/visit/signature-events/winter-in-bloom/>



Native Plant Gardens: Learning By Example, Talk by Carolyn Summers @ Cambridge Public Library - Free

Wednesday, February 03, 2016

Presented by Grow Native Massachusetts

Landscaping with native plants is becoming the rule rather than the exception, but good examples can be hard to find. Come for a visual tour of some truly instructive native plant gardens, large and small, public and private. A diversity of styles, ranging from formal to naturalistic, will illustrate the usage of native plants in both residential and public landscapes. Our tour will travel from Sara Stein's Garden in Pound Ridge, NY, to the New World Garden designed by Larry Weaner, to the High Line in NYC, and include many others along the way. Accompanied by design and how-to tips, this talk will be valuable for everyone from novice gardeners to seasoned professionals.

Carolyn Summers is author of *Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East* and an adjunct professor at Go Native U, a joint project of Westchester Community College and The Native Plant Center. She and her husband recently opened their country home, Flying Trillium Gardens and Preserve, for public tours and to showcase the importance of native plants to all landscapes.

Location:

Cambridge Public Library
449 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138

Sponsor(s): Grow Native Massachusetts

Time(s): 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Cost: Free

Phone: 781-790-8921

Email: officemanager@grownativemass.org

Website: <http://gownativemass.org/programs/eveningswithexperts>



Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy - Lexington Field and Garden Club - Free Lecture

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Stuart Shillaber, Superintendent of Horticulture, and Anthony Ruggiero, Horticulture Foreman, will present a slide show introducing us to the history, challenges and beauty of this mile and a half of the Rose Kennedy Greenway in the midst of Boston. This is the only organically-maintained public park in Boston at this time.

Please join us just after 10 AM on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, where there is ample free parking and wheelchair accessibility. Bring a friend or neighbor.

View website below for additional information and a membership application.

Location:

Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library
33 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02421

Sponsor(s): Lexington Field and Garden Club

Time(s): 10 am

Cost: Free and Open to Public

Email: LFGC024@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.LexGardenClub.org>



Creating Your Own Garden Style: Berkshire Botanical Garden's Winter Lecture

Saturday, February 13, 2016

A brief event description:

Anna Pavord, best-selling author of *The Tulip* and recipient of the Royal Horticultural Society's prestigious Gold

Veitch Medal, will be speaking on Creating Your Own Garden Style, at Monument Mountain Regional High School in Great Barrington.

Gardening embraces different and distinctive styles, and determining one's own style of gardening is a personal choice that merits great consideration.

Anna Pavord provides a fresh perspective on garden design, and she will explain what garden style is and how to create a garden of one's own and also share images of distinctive gardens.

Proceeds from the Winter Lecture benefit the organization.

Location:

Monument Mountain
Regional High School
600 Stockbridge Rd
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Sponsor(s): Berkshire Botanical Garden

Time(s): 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Cost: Members \$50; Nonmembers \$60

Phone: 413-298-3926

Email: info@berkshirebotanical.org

Website: <http://www.berkshirebotanical.org/>



History on Tap Presented by Heritage Museums & Gardens - Free Program

Monday, February 22, 2016

Grab yourself a drink and enjoy some fascinating and fun conversation with Heritage Museums & Gardens curator Jennifer Madden, who will bring an interesting object from the museum's collection to share. Check out a piece of the past that most museum visitors don't have the opportunity to see, and join in the discussion!

Participation is free and there are no reservations required.

Food and drink purchases are each guest's responsibility.

Location:

Monday, February 22, 5-6 pm
Tomatoes Italian Grille and Bar
280 Route 130, Sandwich
Wednesday, March 30, 5-6 pm
The Pilot House, 14 Gallo Road, Sandwich 02563

Sponsor(s): Heritage Museums & Gardens

Time(s): 5 pm-6 pm

Cost: Free

Phone: 508-888-3300 x175

Fax: 508-888-9535

Email: jraynor@heritagemuseums.org

Website: <http://heritagemuseumsandgardens.org/history-on-tap/>



The Bulb Show - Berkshire Botanical Garden - Free Admission

Monday, February 29, 2016 - Friday, March 18, 2016

Come and get inspired for spring with the Bulb Show housed in the restored Fitzpatrick Greenhouse. It is also an ideal opportunity to order bulbs as part of the Garden's annual Bulb Sale for planting the following fall.

Location:

Berkshire Botanical Garden
5 West Stockbridge Road

Stockbridge, MA 01262

Sponsor(s): Berkshire Botanical Garden

Time(s): 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Cost: Free

Phone: 413-298-3926

Email: info@berkshirebotanical.org

Website: <http://www.berkshirebotanical.org/>

NEXT MEETING SNEAK PEEK: HIGH ON HYDRANGEAS

March 7, 2016

“High on Hydrangeas”

Guest Speaker: Jeanie Gillis, President of the Cape Cod Hydrangea Society

We are very excited to welcome Jeanie Gillis, President of the Cape Cod Hydrangea Society, to enlighten us on all things Hydrangeas. Jeanie is passionate about plants, especially hydrangeas. Jeanie served as Horticulturist at Heritage Museums & Gardens for 34 years. She lectures, teaches, judges and consults. She is a recipient of many awards in horticulture, including the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Silver Medal. Find out how they can enhance your landscape and why hydrangeas are so popular. Jeanie Gillis will teach you everything you need to know about these fabulous plants and how to grow beautiful hydrangeas. Come share her passion for hydrangeas. Be sure to bring your questions. This presentation is open to the public with a suggested donation to the Gardener's Guild of Braintree of \$1.00.