



# Gardeners' Guild of Braintree

## March Newsletter 2016

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**Gardeners' Guild of Braintree**

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

**Contact:**

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Corresponding Secretary  
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***WE WANT YOUR INFORMATION!***

If you have events, news, stories or photos to share, please send them to [rmzahran@yahoo.com](mailto:rmzahran@yahoo.com).

**Deadline for the next e-newsletter is:  
March 16, 2016.**

### MEETING DETAILS

**Program:** *"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.

**Date:** March 7, 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:**

Karen Connelly and Diane Hanlon

**Hospitality**

**Hostesses:** Barbara Sullivan and Ann Tolan

**Bakers:** Claire Mulligan, Louise Quigley, Virginia Quinn

**Invocation:** Ann Toland

**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 just want to remind everyone that:

- (1) if you have suggested changes concerning the by-laws please be ready to discuss this at our March meeting. All proposed changes will be voted upon at the April meeting; and
- (2) if you are interested in serving in an Executive Board position, please let Donna Banville know. Everyone is welcome, and encouraged to serve in a Board position. All voting will take place at our April meeting.

We have been invited to participate Richmond Hardware's May 1 event, which will be taking place on Sunday, May 1, 2016 3:30 - 6:00 pm. We have participated in this event a couple of times now, and it is always interesting, fun and a great community outreach opportunity. If anyone has ideas about a 15 minute presentation that would be great - I was thinking of container gardens, of course all materials could be purchased from Richmonds! And then the containers can be raffled off. Anyway, if you have any ideas about a presentation please let me know, I'm all ears! Last year we did herb window boxes.

I have also been approached by John Haggerty, owner of Bin Ends wine, who is interested in having an event with the GGB at his Braintree location. I will keep you all posted on that one.

Interest has been expressed about organizing a trip to Cochato Nursery, if anyone would like to help organize please let me know. In the meantime stay tuned for details on this excursion.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the March meeting where Jeanie Gillis, President of the Cape Cod Hydrangea Society will present a program on *High on Hydrangeas*. She is a wonderful presenter and I am certain that this is a program everyone will really enjoy! As always, thanks to Joan for her great job as Program Chair.

We had quite a few guests attend our last meeting and some of them have inquired about joining the Club which is of course always our hope. So, if you have anyone you would like to bring with you, please, please do! This will be a wonderful program for a guest.

Stay well, stay warm, and be happy everyone!

Barbara



## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Nominating

As we begin to wrap up another successful season in the Guild, we must look forward to our next year together ... and beyond. Our club is so very lucky to have each and every one of you. We have so many wonderful, talented, insightful and caring people who come together, sharing our blood, sweat and tears to help our community become a better and more beautiful place.

In my journey with the Guild, I have had the pleasure to serve in many capacities, and this year, I am tasked with the incredible honor of putting together our Executive Board for next year. I have realized throughout this process that many people may not even realize what goes on behind-the-scenes to make the Guild run, and we couldn't do it without the dedication of those that serve on our Board. Everyone on the Board has a home life, family, work, other Town commitments, not to mention so many other things that I am sure I am not even thinking about! And even with all of their other "stuff" they still find a way to come together, to work together, to make the Guild great.

At this time, as I work to form the new Board, I would like to ask everyone to consider taking on a bit more of a role and consider a position on the Board. Our by-laws state that in order to "stand for the office of Second VP, a nominee must have served on the Executive Board for at least one year". The path is then from 2nd VP to 1st VP to President. All other positions - Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer or any other Standing Committee Chair positions - require nothing more than your willingness to be a part of the Board.

If you would like to learn more about an open position on the Board, or would like to discuss volunteering for a specific position, please contact me ([dbanville@beld.net](mailto:dbanville@beld.net) or 781-848-9357). Thank you!

## *Birthday Wishes*

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



**Steve Maccini**

**Ann Moore**

**Gail Rotondi**

## PLANT THERAPY

News from Plant Therapy

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

## QUOTE

“A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them.”

— **Liberty Hyde Bailey**

## FEATURED TOPIC: HISTORY OF THE BAYFRONT GARDENS

This past January I visited the Ringling Estate which included the Bayfront gardens which were as awe-inspiring as any work of art, The Ringling Bayfront Gardens are a living treasure.



Courting couples statuary watch over Mable's Rose Garden. The shade the majestic Banyan trees provide. The delight inspired by the whimsy of the Dwarf Garden. The echoes from the past where the Circus King finally rests in the Secret Garden. The cooling breezes that blow along the Bayfront Promenade and Millennium Tree Trail. This is a place of nature's making and man's design.

### **Mable's Rose Garden**

It is one of the loveliest, most fragrant spots on the Ringling estate and one of its very first works of art. Completed in 1913, the 27,225 square foot Rose Garden is Italian inspired, its circular design patterned after a wagon wheel, its pathways lined with garden sculptures of courting couples in pastoral scenes. But when the estate fell into disrepair in the late thirties and early forties, the garden was one of the victim's.

When restoration began, horticulturist Ron Mallory made it his personal mission to return the Rose Garden to its former glory. He recruited volunteers whose work revived the beds, earning the garden accreditation from the All-American Rose Selections in 2004 and recognition in 2006 as the most outstanding All-American Rose Selections Public Rose Garden in the nation.

While none of the original roses planted by Mable survive, many of the 1200 rose plants are of the same varieties she planted. Today, the garden consists of roses introduced between 1867 and 2002, among them Tree Roses, Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Grandifloras, miniature roses, shrubs and Old Garden Roses. Fittingly, a rose dedicated to Mable is also featured in the garden.

### **The Secret Garden**

Just north of Ca' d'Zan is Mable's Secret Garden, where she, John and his sister Ida Ringling North are buried. Mable created this garden with plants given to her by friends and neighbors during her winters at Ca' d'Zan. She enjoyed entertaining her guests by taking them on tours. Today, thanks in large part to the efforts of The Driftwood Circle of the Sarasota Garden Club, varieties of Bromeliads, Philliline Violets and Variegated Bougainvilleas thrive.

### **The Dwarf Garden**

Reminiscent of romantic 18th- and 19th-century German and Italian gardens, the Dwarf Garden is peopled with amusing stone statues that John Ringling had brought from Italy. Though modest and discreet, the statues serve as a symbolic link bonding the visual and performing arts celebrated at the Ringling.

Originally installed by the Museum's second director, Kenneth Donohue, the Dwarf Garden sat between the north wing of the Museum of Art and the free standing building that housed The Historic Asolo Theater from 1958 to 2004. When the Theater was later moved into the Visitor Pavilion, the Dwarf Garden was relocated next to the Visitor Pavilion, where it continues to delight visitors.

### **The Estate's Trees**

Mable envisioned an estate riot with exotic trees and plants and collected them with the same passion that her husband collected art. To wander the estate today is to wander through a 66-acre garden of trees, among them 14 Banyan, the largest collection in Florida; two Shaving Brush; one Tiger Claw; one Monkey Puzzle; two Ear, including the state champion, the largest in Florida; two Rainbow Eucalyptus; and six varieties of bamboo.

If your travels find you in Sarasota Florida these gardens are a must see!

## IN THE GARDEN: TROPICAL PLANS IN FLORIDA THAT ARE FIT FOR A NEW ENGLAND GARDEN

**I attended the Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition in Fort Lauderdale. What struck me as I walked the show floor was how important tropical plants are for the New England gardener.**

By Thomas Mickey

For The Patriot Ledger Posted Jan. 30, 2016



The orchid grower Silver Vase included this wall of orchids at the tropical plant trade show last week in Fort Lauderdale.

Tropical plants here in New England grow mainly as indoor plants or in the summer garden. Last week I attended the Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition in Fort Lauderdale, a trade show for the industry.

The show included over 400 growers, many from southern Florida, with about 16,000 attendees who were mainly garden center owners in search of plants.

What struck me as I walked the show floor was how important tropical plants are for the New England gardener.

As Chris Beyter, from Ball Horticultural in Illinois, said,

“Tropicals are popular today, especially orchids and succulents.”

It was thus no surprise that I saw many orchid varieties, including Jay Marrero’s, from Florida orchid grower Silver Vase.

He boasted, “We are creating a demand for orchids.”

The large exhibit for Silver Vase included a wall of orchids, about eight feet high and six feet wide, arranged in a pattern to display the various colors of the flower.

Orchids provide gardeners a challenge because many people over-water them.

If cared for correctly, the orchid flowers will bloom for three to five months.

A plant that I saw in several booths was the Cordyline, with its tall spiky red leaves. This plant will perform well in our summer gardens as long as it has a bit of shade.

Varieties of red Cordyline australis have thin leaves and are often used in containers.

Greg Mislaw from Rose of Sharon Nursery in Miami recommended that in the summer garden, New Englanders grow tropical fruit such as pineapple, coconut and banana.

The banana plant, for example, with its long green leaves, could become a background plant in a bed of perennials or annuals.

The dwarf Musa ‘Zebrina’ with leaves of burgundy and green proves an excellent banana in the summer for the New England garden.

Some of the growers at TPIE won awards for their exhibit. The awards highlight the importance of careful design in the choice of structure, plants and lighting.

The grower Fernando De Izaguirre from United Nursery, also in Florida, won an award for his exhibit based on the theme of the board game Monopoly. The many pots of his plants formed a border for the large game board.

De Izaguirre said, “The biggest seller for tropical plant growers is the Hibiscus.”

It is a popular tropical variety sold here in New England during the spring and summer.

Florida’s Excelsa Nurseries’ exhibit featured a border filled with many of its tropical plants in different sizes and colors close together, and in the center, a wooden bench with a clump of small green bananas at each end. The nursery won a top award for its originality.

Texas grower J. Berry Nurseries won first place honors for its exhibit, which included a backdrop of a city scene with a roof deck, featuring a border of blooming tropical Hibiscus plants. Tiny lights from the tall skyscrapers filled the summer night in this design.

What amazed me as I made my way around the show was the variety of tropical plants available to a New England gardener, either as a houseplant or a summer garden feature.

Even though it’s winter here, it is not too early to consider a tropical plant for the summer garden.

Who knows? It might also bring a bit of relief from the cold and snow. *Quincy master gardener*

*Thomas Mickey, author of the book “America’s Romance with the English Garden”, is professor emeritus at Bridgewater State University. You may reach him at [tmickey@americangardening.net](mailto:tmickey@americangardening.net).*

## ZONE 6 SEASONAL PLANTING TIPS FOR MARCH ~ submitted by Joan Hutcheon

- ❖ Take inventory of seed starting supplies.
- ❖ Shop early for seeds from catalogs – the early shopper gets the best choice of seed varieties.
- ❖ Use clean containers and sterile germination mix when starting seeds to avoid damping off.
- ❖ A heating mat is a good investment for starting seeds indoors.
- ❖ Start planning a pollinator garden: honeybees visit 2 million flowers to make 1 pound of honey.
- ❖ Force a winter bouquet from cut branches of forsythia, pussy willow, deutzia, wisteria or lilac. Bruise the cut ends and set in water. Spray frequently. Keep in a cool place until they bloom.
- ❖ Don’t forget the winter birds. Put out water, seeds and suet.
- ❖ Clean and sharpen pruning tools.
- ❖ House plants need more water and some fertilizer as they begin new growth.
- ❖ As soon as the soil is workable, plant peas, spinach and onion sets in the garden.
- ❖ Plan to test garden soil if growth has slowed down. Visit [soiltest.umass.edu](http://soiltest.umass.edu).
- ❖ Proper fruit tree pruning promotes good air circulation and strong limbs.
- ❖ Be careful when using free municipal yard-waste compost. It may contain weed seeds.
- ❖ At the end of the month, gradually remove winter mulch from perennial borders.
- ❖ The UMASS Extension Weed Herbarium can help identify lawn and garden weeds at [umassgreeninfo.org](http://umassgreeninfo.org)

*Sources: UMASS 2015 calendar and the Organic Gardening website*

The Plant Therapy Committee thanks all our Guild members for your interest in our monthly column and invites you to become a contributor to the Plant Therapy column. Please speak to Joan Hutcheon or Carolyn Mahoney if you are interested in contributing to the newsletter or if you’d like to join the Plant Therapy Committee.

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST BEYOND GGB

### **Restoring Nature's Relationships at Home, Talk by Doug Tallamy @ Cambridge Public Library - Free**

**Wednesday, March 02, 2016**

Presented by Grow Native Massachusetts

If we are to make our residential landscapes truly living ecosystems once again, we need to understand the specialized relationships that make plants and animals interdependent. Who better to take us on an in-depth journey into this fascinating and complex world than Doug Tallamy? He will give us detailed examples of these co-evolutionary relationships, showing us how they determine the stability and complexity of local food webs providing birds with insects and berries, dispersing bloodroot seeds, pollinating goldenrod, and much more. This knowledge equips us to knowingly select plants and to construct landscapes that restore nature's relationships at home.

Doug Tallamy is a Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Biology at the University of Delaware. His groundbreaking book, *Bringing Nature Home*, was published in 2007 and continues to have national impact; it was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers Association. In 2014, he co-authored *The Living Landscape* with Rick Darke. Doug's conservation work and science-based advocacy for native plants has earned him numerous awards.

**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](mailto:officemanager@grownativemass.org)

**Website:** <http://grownativemass.org/programs/eveningswithexperts>

**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](mailto:amoore@towerhillbg.org)

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



### **The Boston Flower & Garden Show**

**Wednesday, March 16 through Sunday, March 20, 2016**

The Boston Flower & Garden Show will return to the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston with the theme of "Nurtured by Nature". The care we put into our gardens comes back to us a thousand-fold. Well-designed landscapes rejuvenate by offering places to connect with nature and each other. Floral arrangements, houseplants and containers enliven and refresh our living spaces.

**Location:**

Seaport World Trade Center  
200 Seaport Blvd.  
Boston, MA 01505-0598

**Cost:** Adults \$20; Senior \$17; Children \$10

**Phone:** 800-258-8912

**Website:** <http://bostonflowershow.com>

**Needham's Art in Bloom 2016!****Small Preview of Exhibit**

**Friday, March 4, 2016**

**Location:**

Needham HS Lobby, Town Hall, & Center at The Heights (12:00 pm - 4:00 pm)

**Full Exhibit**

**Saturday, March 5, 2016**

**Location:**

Needham Public Library (9:00 am - 5:00 pm)

**Saturday, March 6, 2016**

**Location:**

Needham Public Library (1:00 pm - 4:00 pm)

Featuring 60+ displays of Needham High School creative student artwork with colorful floral interpretations by Beth Shalom Garden Club members with participants from Kalmia and Needham garden clubs too.

**Art in Bloom**

**Saturday, April 30, 2016 through Monday, May 2, 2016**

Once again, garden clubs and professional designers from across New England will create floral arrangements inspired by the MFA's magnificent works of art. Art in Bloom is open during regular Museum hours (10 am–4:45 pm) and is free with Museum admission; no reservations are required to see the floral arrangements and participate in many of the programs listed below. Tickets for ticketed events on sale February 25, 2016, at 10 am.

[Sneak Peek](http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/art-bloom) (<http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/art-bloom>)

**Friday, April 29 5-9:30 pm**

Get a sneak peek at the 51 freshly installed arrangements. Make an evening of it with a self-guided tour, or enjoy dinner or cocktails at one of the Museums restaurants.

[Celebrate Art in Bloom with Ikebana](http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/art-bloom) (<http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/art-bloom>)

Saturday, April 30, 3-4 pm in Alford Auditorium

Join floral designers from the three Ikebana Schools—Ikenobo, Sogetsu and Ohara—creating designs showcasing the design concepts of their particular school.

[Member Night](http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/art-bloom) (<http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/art-bloom>)

Saturday, May 1, 6-9 pm

A Members-only viewing of the MFA's 40th Art in Bloom with tours, entertainment, shopping and dining. Admission based on membership privileges.

[Art in Bloom Community Day](http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/art-bloom) (<http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/art-bloom>)

Sunday, May 1, 10 am–4 pm

Celebrate Art in Bloom with family-friendly programming and entertainment.

**Location:**

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Avenue of the Arts  
465 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02115

Most plant sales happen in May but two earlier events are in March and April:

## NEXT MEETING SNEAK PEEK: NATIVE PLANTS, WILDFLOWERS AND POLLINATORS

**April 4, 2016**

**Guest Speaker: Ellen Sousa, Turkey Hill Brook Farm**

Please join us for an evening of knowledge and inspiration as we welcome author, speaker and garden coach, Ellen Sousa of Turkey Hill Brook Farm in Spencer, MA. A life-long gardener and nature lover, Ellen comes to us with a wealth of information on habitat landscaping and earth-friendly gardening in the northeast with native plants and wildflowers. Ellen is a frequent presenter on natural landscaping at New England Wildflower Society, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Grow Native Massachusetts and Ecological Landscape Alliance. She is a contributor to many national and local magazines including *Beautiful Wildlife Garden* and *Native Plants & Wildlife Gardens* and her own *New England Habitat Gardening* blog. Ellen is also the author of “The Green Garden”, a practical, comprehensive and inspirational guidebook for New Englanders looking for earth friendly ways to green their landscapes. A book signing will follow Ellen’s presentation. This presentation is open to the public with a suggested donation to the Gardeners Guild of Braintree of \$1.00.