



Gardeners' Guild of Braintree

November Newsletter 2014

NOVEMBER MEETING DETAILS

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

Contact:

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WE NEED YOUR INFORMATION!

If you have events, news, stories or photos to wish to share, please forward these rmzahran@yahoo.com.

Deadline for the next e-newsletter is November 21, 2014.

Program: "Bow Making Demonstration and Workshop" – Would you like to learn to make your own holiday bows? Or, perhaps you could use a refresher? You can put a personal touch on your wreaths, packages and centerpieces by making your own bows. Bow making can be simple or intricate. It is creative and fun and really easy. Come learn how to make a perfect bow from our very own talented Guild members in preparation for the Greenery Workshop on December 1, 2014. As an added bonus, we will have a demonstration on making a swag for the holidays. Please bring scissors. Ribbon will be supplied. If members have extra ribbon that they are not using, please bring it to this workshop in preparation for the Greenery Workshop. Please join us for a night of camaraderie and fun!



Date: November 3, 2014

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

Place: Masonic Hall
403 Washington Street
Braintree, MA 02184

Hostesses: Barbara Black & Etta Forti - Sarah Sciascia

Bakers: Catherine Avellino, Etta Forti, Tina O'Brien, Lisa Reid, Gail Ritz, Sarah Sciascia

GARDNER'S GUILD OF BRAINREE MEETING DATES

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

2014

- October 6** *Floral Design*
- November 3** *Bow Making
Demonstration and
Workshop*
- December 1** *Christmas Greenery
Workshop*
- December 7** *Boutique and Holiday
House Tour*

2015

- January 5** *Potluck and Brown Bag
Grab Auction*
- February 2** *The Eyes See ... The
Heart Anticipates*
- March 2** *Herbal Gardening for
Kitchen and Health*
- April 6** *Dividing and
Transplanting
Perennials*
- May 4** *Annual Spring Banquet*

Hi everyone,

I am very excited to tell you that we have two new members, Pat Jenkins and Ruth Aucoin, to whom I wish to I extend a warm welcome, with special thanks to their sponsors, Carole Wilson and Linda Cozzens. I also want to thank Bob Accardi at the *Braintree Forum* for his great write-up and for the great front page billing. As my husband said, the GGB made it "above the fold." Nice! If it hasn't hit already, our Book donation article will make the paper soon as well. Thanks to our awesome Publicity Committee (Karen Joyce, Steph McLaughlin and Tina O'Brien) – you guys are doing a great job, and your hard work is having huge payoffs for the club, which is receiving lots of positive feedback; all very exciting. I also want to thank Joan Hutcheon for the great program, Thelma Shoneman was wonderful. What an interesting and evocative presentation - thanks Joan!

As you can see, everything is in full swing now with the House Tour and the Boutique. I would ask that all members please be on the lookout for pertinent information in the Newsletters, emails and meetings, from the Chairpersons of the House, Boutique, Tickets and Hospitality. Should you have any questions, please contact the appropriate Chairperson. For those who have not seen these houses, they are beautiful old Braintree homes, across the street from each other. This is our biggest fundraiser, so please put on your fundraising hat, and sell as many tickets to friends, family, co-workers, or anyone you think might be interested in seeing these beautiful homes and getting some holiday shopping done at the boutique. Two for the price of one!

A personal insight - My husband asked me last night "who is buying the Halloween candy, you or me?" My response: "Let's not buy it now. It's way too early, and I'll end up eating it all before Halloween, then we'll have to buy more, and I'll end up eating all of the 'day after Halloween leftovers'." My husband then said, "But honey, Halloween is in a few days!" to which I replied "Time is racing by ... holy moly ... okay, you get the candy, but please don't let me see it!" This is my dragged out way of saying that time

is flying by at lightning speed. Thanksgiving will be here in a minute, with the house tour and boutique on its heels, not to mention everything else that the holidays bring. The season, wonderful as it is, is rife with stress and stressful situations, not to mention my own pre-season personal stress of having to resist all of that Halloween candy! That being said, I have a great stress buster ~ take just a moment each day, if you don't do so already, and be grateful for something in your day. A close friend reminded me of this recently. She happens to be grateful for her glass of OJ (it's a long story). It really doesn't have to be something big, you can be grateful for the bright red leaf on the ground that catches your eye, a little bird you notice when walking your dog, the way the sky looks when you're on your way home from the supermarket Find your glass of OJ, I promise it will make your day better.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our November 3 workshop!

Go GGB!

Barbara

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Creative Potpourri (*Co-Chairs: Maggi Johnson and Chris McIntyre*)

With both walk throughs behind us, budgets worked through and money distributed to room chairs, everyone is planning, preparing and shopping! Before you know it, the time to start gathering greens will be here! If anyone has questions or budget concerns, please contact Maggi or Christine. We are looking forward to "Christmas By The River".

Christmas By The River Houses

23 Vine Street



28 Vine Street



House Tour Tickets

Christmas By The River House Tour tickets will be available at the November 3, 2014 meeting for those who wish to purchase or take tickets on consignment. As always, you may return unsold tickets. You can reach Sue at 781-848-7282 if you will not be at the meeting but would like tickets.

Tickets are \$16 in advance, \$20 at the door

Garden Guild members: with regards to the Christmas by the River House Tour entrance -- remember to pick up a membership card at the November 3rd meeting or the December 1st Greens Workshop for your complimentary admission.

Sue Ghiloni, Ticket Chairperson

BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

Gail Burns

Marcia Flaherty

Suzanne Ghiloni

Diane Hanlon

Margaret Kelley

Annette Sarnessian

Also, Happy Birthday to Judy Concannon who celebrated a birthday in September.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House - Studio One Twenty Three West – Sunday, November 2, 2014 from 12 - 4:00 pm

Please join Janet and Rob Lawatsch in celebration of the newly expanded home of **Studio One Twenty Three West** at their Open House at 652 West Street, Braintree. You will be inspired by how Janet and Rob have transformed this location into the most darling floral design studio and workshop space imaginable with personal furnishings and floral arrangements galore. Please join us for this special event.

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Thanksgiving Centerpiece Workshop – Tuesday, November 25, 2014 from 7 - 9 pm

We are pleased to offer a Thanksgiving Centerpiece Workshop at the new location of **Studio One Twenty Three West** at 652 West Street in Braintree. This will be a custom evening workshop for members only. Studio owner, Janet Lawatsch, will host this workshop and provide instruction on making our very own Thanksgiving centerpiece. Seasonal floral materials that are available at the Flower Market at the time of the workshop will be provided. Although it is impossible to specifically state or guarantee what plant materials will be available at the time of the workshop, some options may include: rove mums, hypericum berries, seeded eucalyptus, Asiatic lilies, gourds and other seasonal flowers. The cost of the workshop is \$20.00. Space is limited to a maximum of 30 members with a November 15th deadline to sign up. Please mail your check **payable to Studio One Twenty Three West** to Joan Hutcheon, 84 Hollis Avenue, Braintree, MA. Your confirmation will be emailed or called into you upon receipt of your check. Please bring your own container (approximate size of 12 inches long by 8 inches wide or 12 inches round and about 4-8 inches tall), scissors and an apron. Please contact Joan Hutcheon at jhutcheon@yahoo.com if any questions.

PLANT THERAPY

Plant Therapy ~ To stimulate knowledge and the love of gardening

Submitted by the Plant Therapy Committee ~ November, 2014

“The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.” ~ Gertrude Jekyll

Herb's Corner ~ New Twist on Plant Therapy by Carolyn Mahoney

Each month the Plant Therapy committee will feature an article on herbs. It may be about the herb's culinary, medicinal, aromatic, ornamental, craft and/or cosmetic uses. Since Thanksgiving is right around the corner, this article will feature 5 seasonal herbs and their culinary uses. Thanksgiving is a perfect time to practice using herbs. Believe it or not, it is a practice, and the more you do it the easier it becomes. Explore these common and uncommon herbs to offer guests the chance to experience new flavors.

Rosemary

Rosemary is one of the most commonly used autumn and winter herbs. To remove the pine-like needles from the stem, hold the herb at the very top and pull leaves downward. Finely chop and combine with butter, and then rub onto turkey or chicken or add whole sprigs inside the cavity of the bird.

- ❖ Tip: Excess rosemary makes a wonderful addition to autumn floral arrangements. Your guests will feel like it's a holiday the moment they walk in the door.

Thyme

Thyme pairs well with poultry and/or lemon. This lemony herb makes a wonderful addition to baked goods. Toss crushed thyme into the dry ingredients of your favorite piecrust recipe or include it in the toppings of crumbles and cobblers.

- ❖ Tip: Whole sprigs of thyme work well as swizzle sticks in festive drinks like warm cider.

Sage

Sage is another popular autumn herb. The slightly fuzzy, aromatic leaves are warm and savory, which complements the sweeter side of pork roast, bacon-studded dishes, browned butter and dried herbs like nutmeg and cinnamon.

- ❖ Tip: Pair rosemary and sage together to create a fragrant and flavorful ode to the season.

Fennel and Fennel Pollen

Fennel has an herbaceous, licorice scent with strong flavor. It works well in hearty salads, stuffing and dry rubs. The bulb is lighter in flavor than the pollen, which has a more pungent, woody aroma and taste.

Winter Savory

This herb is not only easy to grow but incredibly versatile, working well in lighter meat dishes such as roast, stew, poultry and stuffing. Its flowers are white and add charm to floral arrangements, too.

Herb Storage

Most herbs need to be kept dry and warm. Wash immediately after coming home from the market and allow them to fully air dry before chopping or storing. Wrap in paper towels and place in plastic bags to ensure a longer shelf life.

Ask a Master Gardener

Q: Please offer tips for forcing Paper White Narcissus bulbs for the holiday season.

A: Forcing Paper Whites for the holidays couldn't be easier or more rewarding:

What you'll need:

- ❖ Purchase large, firm bulbs from your local nursery
- ❖ Use a container without drainage holes: a traditional bulb pan, glass bowl, clay pot or vase – anything that will support the plants tall stems
- ❖ Use clean pebbles about ½ inch in diameter

How to:

- ❖ Fill the container with pebbles to within an inch of the rim. Add water until it is just below the top of the pebbles.
- ❖ Set the bulbs on the surface of the pebbles so they almost touch. Add more pebbles, covering the bottom third of the bulbs. Make sure the bulbs themselves are not touching the water, or they may mold and rot.
- ❖ Maintain the water level as described above and leave the bulbs in a cool location with little or no light which will encourage root growth.
- ❖ After a week or two, tug gently on the bulbs to test for root development. Once they feel rooted, move them to a bright spot without direct sunlight.
- ❖ They should bloom in 3-5 weeks.



Tips:

- ❖ Keep in 65 degree temperatures or they will become leggy and flop over.
- ❖ If they grow too tall, try a decorative plant ring or circle of stakes and twine.
- ❖ For special holiday appeal, use decorative containers and instead of using plain pebbles, substitute colored stones or marbles.
- ❖ Water your perennials & flowering shrubs in the fall; they will thank you for it this winter.

Source: The National Gardening Association

Zone 6 Seasonal Planting Tips for November

- ❖ Set up a windbreak to protect shrubs exposed to strong winter winds.
- ❖ Use pinecones to make birdfeeders; spread them with peanut butter and roll in sunflower seeds.
- ❖ Hang onto potted mums for next year. Store in the garage, water twice during winter, cut back in spring.
- ❖ Secure climbing roses from winter winds.
- ❖ Finish cleanup – gather leaves for the compost or for winter mulch on beds.
- ❖ Finish planting spring-blooming bulbs.
- ❖ Mulch crops you want to overwinter with a thick layer of straw.
- ❖ Don't cut back ornamental grasses; they add beauty to the landscape and provide shelter for overwintering beneficial's and wildlife

Sources: UMASS 2014 calendar and the Organic Gardening website

DECEMBER MEETING: CHRISTMAS GREENERY WORKSHOP

Braintree Town Hall Auditorium: Creative Potpourri members create House Tour masterpieces while Boutique members create wonderful fresh greens arrangements, wreaths and handcrafted items for sale at the Boutique.