



Buds & Blossoms

Newsletter of the Acton Garden Club

President's Message

Summer 2008 Edition

Happy Summer Acton Garden Club Members!

This letter is full of news about all the great activities members have been up to since February. Flora in Winter, the New England Spring Flower Show, Art in Bloom, the Plant Sale, and the GCFM Spring meeting to name a few!

The future offers many possibilities with all the new programs and activities listed in the yearbook. Check the GCFM website to stay up-to-date with registrations for many programs. Three of the four schools (Flower Show School, Landscape Design and Environmental School) offered by National Garden Clubs through the state federation meet in the fall. I recommend you sign up early so you can get the appropriate books in time. There are many fabulous opportunities coming up. Can't wait to do them with you!

Happy reading and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Maureen

Horticulture Study Group

Submitted by Judy Dembsey, Chairman

About 25 members met at NARA Park to play in the sand. It was a beautiful day on June 17 and everyone had a great time casting some leaves for the Horticulture Workshop entitled, "Decorative Leaves for the Home". We used large leaves, such as hosta and ligularia. We made a mound of sand, covered with it with plastic, then added a leaf and applied quick set cement on top. After letting the cement dry for 3 hours, we turned over our cement creations and we had a leaf shape that can be used as a decorative leaf or a bird bath in the garden.



Working on the sand castings.



The finished leaves.

Awards

Submitted by Maureen Christmas, Chairman

The Acton Garden Club was the recipient of numerous awards at the GCFM Annual Meeting held in May. It received a commendation from National Garden Clubs, Inc. for our website designed and maintained by Karin Victor as well as a Certificate of Appreciation Award for submitting a book of evidence.



Thelma Shoneman receiving her award from GCFM President, Celeste Wilson.

Maureen Christmas receiving her Environmental Scholarship from GCFM President, Celeste Wilson.



Maureen Christmas attended the Massachusetts Horticulture Awards banquet to accept the Gold Medal for Design Division I at the NESFS on Thelma's behalf. As you can see, she brought Thelma with her.

Floral Design

Submitted by *Thelma Shoneman, Director Floral Concerns*

ART IN BLOOM was a festive rite of spring at the Museum of Fine Arts. Thelma Shoneman, Arranger and Sandy Bonzagni, Assistant represented the Acton Garden Club by doing an interpretive design in the African Gallery. The object interpreted was a Man's Ceremonial Skirt from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kuba Kingdom, Bushong Subgroup. Kuba men wove rectangular raffia panels which women then embellished and pieced together. In their floral interpretation, they featured woven foliage, using dark brown Ti leaves combined with raffia colored strip palm fronds plus a wheat stem for texture. The red costas and bromeliad flowers suggested the faded red color and shapes in the border of the skirt. Yellow sunflowers and celosia were selected for both texture and the yellow color in the pattern. The twig garland added rhythm; the rectangular basket made of grasses was chosen for the shape and texture and to convey the feeling of the skirt.



In May, Hitomi Gilliam inspired over 500 garden club ladies and friends at the Ruth Wallack lecture at Regis College. She created over a dozen spectacular designs! Maureen Christmas and I attended the Master Class and were thrilled to spend the day designing with Hitomi. We will be sharing some of the techniques we learned with all of you during Floral Design in the fall.



Bartram's Travels, (Judge's Challenge Class). Maureen Christmas, 1st place, The Corinne Clarke Reynolds Trophy and The Preservation Society of Newport County Design Award.

The Newport Flower Show, Explore! Botanical Passions was held at Rosecliff Mansion in Newport, RI from June 27 – 29. **CONGRATULATIONS** to Maureen Christmas on winning a blue ribbon and *The Preservation Society of Newport County Design Award for the winner of the Challenge Class entitled, Bartram's Travels*. She was also awarded the prestigious *Corinne Clarke Reynolds Trophy* for the best interpretation of a selected Design Class. Thelma Shoneman won 3rd place for her cascade design in a class entitled, "Plant Hunter's Paradise. Don't miss the Barnstable Fair Flower Show, *The Wonderful World of Color*, July 18 – 26 and the Marshfield Fair, August 15-24. Plan to enter the Topsfield Fair Flower Show, *Discover your Roots*, October 3- 13. You have all received the schedule via e-mail. Keep in mind the Tower Hill Show, November 7-9. We should all enter horticulture!

This year floral design will focus on learning some new techniques and while doing it we will "fill a floral tool box" This summer while you are bargain shopping look for a box that will work for all your floral tools. A tackle box is ideal! Enjoy your summer and keep designing.

New England Flower Show

Submitted by Maureen Christmas, Accredited Flower Show Judge



Laura Lindop -

A Design for the French Rococo Period - ***Second Place***
Design Division I - Class 101- Zephyr Wind - A design in the French Rococo manner, 1715-1774, the era of Louis XV.
Staged on a pedestal 36"H x 14" in diameter.

Maureen Christmas -

Creative Plaque - Meteor Storm - ***First Place***
Design Division I - Class 106 A/BNatural Phenomena: Class 106 A - Meteor Storm - A Creative Plaque on a board 30" in diameter.



Maureen Christmas -

Dynamic Balance inspired by the Meteor Storm - ***Second Place***

Design Division I - Class 106 A/BNatural Phenomena:
Class 106 B - A design inspired by Class 106 A staged on a pedestal 36" high by 14" square.

New England Flower Show, continued



Laura Lindop, Sandy Bonzagni and Susanne Fuller with input from Thelma Shoneman and Maureen Christmas
"A Functional Table"
Club Competition Winner!

Design Division I - Class 102 - Endangered Habitat - A Functional Table for four staged on a table 30"H x 48" in diameter. Each Club names a different habitat.



Noreen Rowe and Carol Bull - Third Place

Design Division II - Jamaica Pond Park - A creative design stage in a niche measuring 18"H x 30"W x 18"D.



Thelma Shoneman, Design Division I Chairman, with the amethyst geode presented to her as part of her thank you gift.



Laura Lindop - First Place

Design Division II - Jamaica Pond Park - A creative design stage in a niche measuring 18"H x 30"W x 18"D.

Teacher Grant

Submitted by Maureen Christmas, President

The Acton Garden Club awarded three grants to local elementary school teachers. Two teachers from Douglas School and one from Merriam School were the happy recipients. At the Douglas School, the AGC is funding two separate projects. The first will be done by Mrs. Kay's kindergarten class. With parental assistance, a trellis and planters will be installed and the children will plant flowers to attract the birds and butterflies outside their classroom window. This will help to camouflage the modular unit they currently see when they look outside. Mrs. Sharp's fifth grade class will be planting containers for four season interest on a deck and railing overlooking a popular entrance to the school. At the Merriam School, Maryann Brandt and three fifth grade classes are working together to clean up an area filled with invasive plant material. There are plans down the road for a Zen Garden.

Grant information and applications are sent via e-mail in October to all Acton and Acton-Boxborough teachers. The deadline is January 31 with March 1 notification.



Sue Bricker, Teacher Grant Chairman (right) and Maureen Christmas, President Acton Garden Club, present Douglas School teacher, Debbi Kay, with a check to enhance the area outside her classroom with plants to attract birds and butterflies.



Sue Bricker, Teacher Grant Chairperson (on right) and Maureen Christmas, President Acton Garden Club present Mary Ann Brandt and her fifth grade class with a check. The funds will be used for supplies to clear an area of invasive plants.



Sue Bricker, Teacher Grant Chairman (left) and Maureen Christmas, President Acton Garden Club present Maura Sharp and her fifth graders with a check to be used to enhance an outdoor entrance with containers planted for four season interest.

Junior Gardeners

Submitted by Pam Nelson, Chairman

This spring, the Junior Gardeners gathered at Winston Flowers in Concord Center for a “behind the scenes” tour and hands-on floral demonstration. Our tour guide, Winston’s sales manager, was very knowledgeable and has been in the floral business for 33 years. We learned interesting facts about Winston’s floral procurement process – in particular, details about the tulips from Holland’s fields and the roses from South America. The children even got to tour the 37-degree walk-in cooler! Winston’s sales manager taught the children how to assemble their own spring bouquet incorporating ruscus, hyacinths, tulips, and roses – all tied with raffia and wrapped in bright-colored tissue. What a treat for both the AGC adults and children alike!



The Junior Gardener’s program is open to the children and grandchildren of members. Meetings include sessions in garden therapy, horticulture, floral design, conservation, and civic beautification. For more information, contact Pam Nelson at nelson.pamela@verizon.net or 978-266-0464.

Ways and Means: Head for TEN!

Submitted by Stephanie Reid and Mike Svoboda

Plants, Plants, Plants are what make our AGC Sale such a success. The quality and quantity that we can offer is exceptional. Here is what each of you can do to prepare for next year’s sale:

- Save your plastic pots: 6-8-10 inch size.
- Be looking at your gardens during this season to see what could be divided and potted next spring.
- Make notes about these plants, or place markers in the ground to remind yourself of the plant and the color that could be contributed.
- Think about what will sell in May. Plants that are in flower are always especially eye catching after the winter.
- Have a goal to supply at least 10 potted plants to the sale. Planning ahead will make this a lot easier in the spring. The pots can be all the same plant or a collection from your garden.

We really should have more plants from more people in the Club. At present, a few members are carrying a lion’s share of the load. Preparation needs to begin now. We sold nearly EVERY plant in the sale this year, and every indication is that we could have sold many, many more. Thanks to all who contributed, and thank you in advance for next year!



Newly painted wagons hold colorful flowers at the Annual Plant Sale.