



# Buds & Blossoms

*Newsletter of the Acton Garden Club*

*Summer 2010 Edition*

## President's Message

*Dirty hands, iced tea, garden fragrances thick in the air,  
and a blanket of color before me, who could ask for more?*

~ Bev Adams

Dear Garden Club Friends,

It has certainly been a challenging summer in the garden – first the flood, then the blast furnace. I hope you've had a chance to get away, beat the heat, and enjoy family and friends.

Our summer newsletter gives us the chance to look back and savor the Club's many activities since our last newsletter. We also look forward. September begins our new program year and is just around the corner, so be sure to get your new yearbook so you too can relish the wonderful offerings in the year ahead.

Every year the Club Yearbook gets better and better. This year it's truly gorgeous and full of great garden club events and activities. Kudos to Susanne Fuller and the entire Yearbook Committee! If you weren't able to attend our August Regular Meeting at Tower Hill, there is a yearbook with your name on it in the pink plastic box on my porch. Yearbooks not picked up in a reasonable amount of time will be delivered or mailed.

When you sit down with your yearbook, be sure to have your calendar handy so you can jot down regular monthly meeting dates and programs, the fun array of our Horticulture Study Group's and Floral Design Study Group's programs, and Federation programs and events. The Club's calendar of events also appears on our website at [www.ActonGardenClub.org](http://www.ActonGardenClub.org).

Our September regular meeting is always the second Tuesday in September. This year that's September 14<sup>th</sup>, when we kick off the year with a real blockbuster program, the 'Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Road Show' at the Town Hall. Bring a friend. We'll start with coffee at 9 am honoring our past presidents, followed by our awards presentation for our 'Acton's Looking Good' contest winners and our business meeting. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best wishes,

# *Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Awards 2010*

*Submitted by Joan Yatteau, President*

In a fitting tribute to the spectacular celebratory 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 'Holiday Magic' floral design program, the Club received the Patricia C. Michaud Award and was presented with a lovely silver vase (right) in recognition of this outstanding design program. The Awards Committee also thought it was great that the program was open to the public. Congratulations and thanks to Thelma Shoneman, design guru extraordinaire, and to Maureen Christmas, Laura Lindop, Sally Patrick, and Karen Maines, all five of whom lent their creative talents to demonstrating floral designs for our homes that could be transformed from fall motifs to winter celebrations.



The Club also received the Federation's Helen Friedberg Certificate of Merit for the member-led Horticulture presentation on Waterwise Gardening and the use of rain gardens. Congratulations to Fran Portante for this timely and informative presentation.

We received the Barbara D. May Certificate of Merit Website Award for a website maintained by the Club. Congratulations to Karin Victor for the great work she does documenting the activities of the Club in a form that is accessible to so many, both members of the Club and the public.

We also received a 1<sup>st</sup> among Large Clubs from the Federation (State) and 1<sup>st</sup> among Large Clubs in the New England Region (National) for our Publicity Press Book. Congratulations and thanks go to Fran Portante for her work writing up and submitting articles for publicity then clipping them and assembling the press book. Thanks also to all who sent her clippings about the Club's activities and had a hand in those activities.

Congratulations and hats off to all who did the wonderful work that garnered these awards!

## *Yearbook*

*Submitted by Susanne Fuller, Vice-President*

Thanks to a great committee, the Acton Garden Club Yearbook for 2010 – 2011 is the best ever. It has color photographs on not only the front cover, but also the inside of both front and back covers. Another change this year is the spiral binding that allows the book to open flat and even fold back flat. In recognition of the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town of Acton, our Yearbook includes interesting tidbits from the archives of the Acton Historical Society.

Many thanks to the Yearbook committee for their content contributions and editing. Special thanks Judy Shuppert for another marvelous job creating the layout, including many photos, and to Karin Victor for laminating the covers.

Yearbook Committee: Jackie Amirhor, Kathy Burke, Joan Gardner, Peggy Garrison, Virginia Hahn, Phyllis McDonough, Judy Rice, Janet Richards, Judy Shuppert, and Karin Victor

The Yearbooks were distributed at the August meeting. Members who were not at that meeting can claim their books from Joan Yatteau's porch. A limited number of additional books are available for purchase at \$7 each. Contact Susanne Fuller if you want one.

## Club Awards Two Teacher Grants

*Submitted by Joan Yatteau, President*

In May Sue Bricker, Chair of the Teacher Grants Committee, and I had the happy task of awarding two teacher grants, one to Douglas Elementary School, the other to Gates Elementary School. Both projects aim to help students learn about plant life cycles, nature, and weather and foster more cohesive school communities.

Douglas School received a grant to support second-grade teacher Anne Littlefield's proposal to enhance the on-going Douglas School Community Garden Project. The grant will support the purchase of gardening tools for the children and soaker hoses to be added to the rain barrel collection system already at work in the garden.

The Gates School's "American Heritage Garden" project was developed by fifth-grade teachers, Monty Grob and Becky Acheson, and third-grade teacher, Sheryl Kokkinos. The goal of the project was to help make the colonial America curriculum come alive for the children and draw parallels with students' lives today by planting and growing herbs, flowers, and vegetables valued by English ancestors as new arrivals in America as well as those prized by many Chinese and East Indian students and their families who've joined the Gates community in recent years. The grant supports the purchase of seed, planting supplies, and materials to develop the garden.



Gates School children's 'picket portraits' around their American Heritage Garden project.

## Oktoberfest

*Submitted by Susanne Fuller, Vice-President*

The Acton Garden Club will be selling daffodils again at the West Acton Oktoberfest on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> . 10 am – 4 pm. The rain date is October 9<sup>th</sup> . Mark your calendar and come to buy daffodils and have some fun at the festival. We will accept 6 volunteers to sell the daffodils. Sign up will be at the September meeting.

Over the years, the club has sold a delightful variety of daffodils. If you bought each year's offering, you have a fabulous spring garden of daffodils. Continue (or begin) the tradition this year.

The daffodil we will sell this year is Tahiti, 14 inches high, blooms in early to mid-spring.

### 2010 Tahiti



Fully double flowers of soft yellow accented by tufts of coppery orange. These large blooms stand like torches on strong stems. Many commercial bulb growers in Holland consider Tahiti their favorite daffodil.

Tahiti is the most successful double daffodil in recent decades. Tahiti produces a healthy and vigorous plant with amazingly long-lasting flowers that are not susceptible to blasting (buds form but do not open), a problem that some doubles suffer from. An excellent variety for the landscape or as a border plant.

# Floral Design

Submitted by *Thelma Shoneman, Director of Floral Concerns*

**The Newport Flower Show, June 25-27, Safari, Flora and Fauna**, celebrated the flora and fauna of Africa in grand style at Rosecliff in Newport, RI. Congratulations to Laura Lindop, a first time Newport Exhibitor on her blue ribbon winning design “Migration of the Wildebeest”. She also won the Corinne Clarke Reynolds Trophy for the best interpretation of an exhibit in the Design classes. Maureen Christmas won third place for her design “High and Mighty” as well as many ribbons in the horticulture division of the show. Thelma Shoneman won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for her design “Avian Delights” entered in the challenge class. Thelma also served as a consultant to some design classes and judged horticulture. In July Maureen Christmas and Thelma Shoneman were invited to judge the Barnstable Fair designs and horticulture and Thelma entered a design in the Topiary class.

Laura Lindop, designer, *Migration of the Wildebeest*, a parallel design. Blue ribbon winner and The Corinne Clarke Reynolds Trophy.



Thelma Shoneman, designer, *Avian Delights*, the challenge class, 2<sup>nd</sup> place award.



Maureen Christmas, designer, *High and Mighty*, an expressive design, 3<sup>rd</sup> award.

# *Civic Beautification*

*Submitted by Sue Nordhausen and Jean Lane, Co-Chairs*

Very hot, and very dry! This kind of sums up the weather conditions the end of June and most of July in Acton!! All together, it has proven to be quite a challenging summer to keep the Civic Beautification plantings around town looking beautiful. So this year we would like to start right off by thanking all the members who signed up to help water. This actually involved about half of the club, as the plantings are quite extensive, and as you all know these plants are quite an investment! We realize this has been rather a daunting task, with the water bans and the necessity for hand held containers, but you all managed to “rise to the occasion”, and things are looking good!! Many thanks again.



In addition to the 30 barrels around town, we also make a special effort to beautify the two horse troughs and the oval garden in front of the town hall. Of the two troughs the West Acton one is a little easier as it has more pleasing proportions, and the earth is a bit deeper. The Center Trough is more of a challenge and actually not very “pretty” on it’s own, so we tried to train the vines to grow over the top and up the sign pole which is stuck in the top!! It’s working, and we wait to see how high they will climb!!

The color scheme in West Acton this summer, varied from the last two summer’s of yellow and purple, but is also another complimentary color scheme, this year combining the orange the tuberous begonias, with blue, as seen in the browelia and blue scaevola, and blue alyssum. This was off- set with the dark colors of the silk stocking coleus and the large dark leaves of the Canna Lilies. And in the Center Trough we once again played up the club flower with the pink --- petunias and million bells, along white New Guinea Impatiens and dark Canna Lilies. Both troughs also have the light green, as well as the dark red, sweet potato vines.

The oval garden in front of the Town Hall , is particularly rewarding to work in now that it is at it’s new height. Most of the perennials that had to be lifted and replanted last fall did survive and are coming along well. Also, the seven shrubs that were planted this Spring to replace the old azaleas, from the original garden of 25 years ago, are all healthy. And a happy surprise was that when Dean Charter relocated the commemorative stone marker he not only moved it to the designated spot, but he raised it, so it is no longer hidden among the plants.

The comments we have received from the townsfolk have been numerous and very gratifying. Some have even seen us working and pulled over to tell us how nice the town plantings look.



Susan Harrigan and Doris Prendiville beautify West Acton.

## *Civic Beautification (continued)*

Special thanks to all the committee who contributed their time and efforts with planting, mulching, and taking on three watering "slots". These would include Civic Beautification members: Joan Gardner, Susan Harrigan, Ann Leary, Pat Kosiki, Claudette Duhamel, Thelma Shoneman, Doris Prendiville, Stephanie Reid, Pam Nelson, Celia Lionetta, Sam Wasfy, Phyllis McDonough, Peggy Garrison, Cathy Fochtman, Matthew Howes, Nancy Gerhardt and Gay Rose. Along with so many of you who helped with the summer watering.



## *Website Updated*

*Submitted by Karin Victor, Technical Liaison*

The website has been updated with the new yearbook's information and there are a few links that I would like to highlight on the Club's website. On the main page of our website you will find a link to a virtual pictorial tour of our recent Flower Show, *All About Town – Celebrating Acton's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*. This page also features a quick link to information about Lyme Disease. This page contains links to many resources for additional information.

At the top of the main page you will find a link to "Archives" this is the place you will find anything that has been added to the website in prior years. Back issues of the newsletter, pictures of various designs that Club members have entered in the area, pictures from past flower shows, garden and house tours etc. There is a lot of information and can be a great resource. I hope you enjoy exploring the site.

## *Ways and Means: Head for TEN!*

*Submitted by Mike Svoboda and Gail Wick*

The Spring rains have created a bloom of huge plants that are in a tussle for your yard!

Are your perennials crowding each other like weekday commuters on the Red Line? Have they grown so much in height and width that you can no longer see over them or the ground between? Are these colossal plants floppy, entwining and leaning, creating a dense fortress like flowerbed? Are these predators moving out of their allotted space and trying to invade your lawn, other flowerbeds, and obliterating the walkways? Frankly, and let's be honest with ourselves, are they out of control?

Now is the time to think ahead about handling these bullies. Mark those perennials that are out of control, making a note of their size, color, bloom time. This will assist you next Spring when it is time to divide them for our Annual Plant Sale. There were 2400 plants dug & potted for the 2010 Plant Sale. Let's try to top that number for next Spring. You will be happy with the results and your plants will be happy to be civilized.

**Two perennials which were in demand in 2010, were Echinacea (coneflower) and variegated Heucheras (coral bells). If these are growing rampant in your garden, please consider dividing them next Spring.**

## *Horticulture Study Group*

### *Submitted by Joan Yatteau, President*

Horticulture Study Group's June 8th, 2010 tour of Jan Sacks & Marty Shafer's Iris Garden in Carlisle, MA. Jan & Marty are both breeders and growers, and sellers of many beautiful and newly introduced irises of all types. Our visit to their garden was like balm for the soul. Simply beautiful. For photos of their offerings go to Joe Pye Weed's Garden at [www.jpwflowers.com](http://www.jpwflowers.com).



## *All About Town- Celebrates Acton's 275th Anniversary*

*Submitted by Thelma Shoneman, Chairman*

Hundreds of people came to see the Standard Flower Show, *All About Town*- Celebrating Acton's 275th Anniversary presented by the Acton Garden Club at the Acton Memorial Library on June 14 and 15, 2010. The stunning exhibits were staged throughout the library.

*All About Town* consisted of three divisions; Division I Horticulture, Division II – Design, and Division III – Special Exhibits which included Education, Artistic Craft and Youth sections. The judges, as well as visitors, had many favorable comments about the show.

Guests visiting the Horticulture Division – “Acton Grows” were treated to 300 entries in 7 sections including an invitational class in which the public could exhibit a flowering houseplant. The purpose of the hort division is to stimulate interest in gardening by educating the public about plants they can grow in town. Twenty- seven members participated and one non-member. The winner of the Horticulture Excellence Award in this division was Maureen Christmas for her container grown plant, *Sempervivum braunii* (shown at right) for which she also won the Grower's Choice Award.



## *All About Town (continued)*

Other top award winners were: Susan Diguette, winner of the Arboreal Award for her *Cornus kousa*, 'Haskell's Pink' (below left) Sue Whitcomb, winner of the Arboreal Award for her *Rhododendron*, 'Tangerine Glow' (below right), Linda Chance won an Award of Merit for her honeysuckle vine, *Lonicera brownii* 'Dropmore Scarlet', Sue Whitcomb won an Award of Merit for her *Iris prismatica*, Sandra Bonzagni won an Award of Merit for an *Aruncus dioicus*, Goatsbeard, and an Award of Merit for a *Hosta*, 'Tokudama Flavocircinalus', was awarded to Thelma Shoneman.



The Design Division, "Acton – Past to Present" carried out the anniversary theme with creative arrangements of fresh flowers and plant material in six classes: Farmlands, Dwellings, A Moment in Time, Time to Relax, Town Heroes and Industrial Revolution. The designs were judged according to National Garden Club standards.

The first place winners of each class in the Design Division were Linda Chance for her Farmlands exhibit, Joan Gardner for her design in the manner of the Federal period, Joan Yatteau for her plaque of dried plant material, Noreen Rowe for her breakfast tray, Maureen Christmas for her parallel design honoring Amy Sweeney as a Town Hero (below left), and Joan Yatteau for her design depicting a pencil factory, an early Acton industry (below right). Maureen Christmas and Joan Yatteau were each awarded a Designer's Choice Award and Joan Yatteau won the Award of Design Excellence.



## *All About Town (continued)*

The Education Award was given to an excellent exhibit entitled “Living with Wildlife” (below). Vital information instructing gardeners how to cope with wildlife and Lyme disease was included in a creative exhibit designed by Sandra Bonzagni and Joan Yatteau. Other wonderful entries provided the public with information on the Period Garden at the West Acton Citizen’s Library done by Maureen Christmas, the Historical significance and current plantings at Meeting House Hill by Mary Beth Orfao and Carol Stewart-Grinkis and the Herb Garden at the Acton Arboretum designed by Sydney Storment and Judy Shuppert.



The Garden Club was thrilled to have 16 children ages 4-12 participate in the Artistic Craft section of the Youth Section. The class was entitled “Quilting Bee”. Each of the children made a square from dried plant material and seeds. They were displayed with key cards on boards suggesting an appliquéd quilt. Blue ribbon winners were Abigail Shoneman, 5 years old, Joseph Dye, 8 years old, Abigail Mueller, 8 years old and Olivia Drake, 11 years old.



## All About Town (continued)



There were Youth Exhibits in Horticulture, “*Continuing to Grow*”. “Little Sprouts” was a class for terrariums. 8 children planted terrariums and nurtured them until entry day. A blue ribbon and Junior Achievement Award was won by Sean Nelson for his terrarium with a prehistoric theme. Natalie Nelson, age 10 won 1<sup>st</sup> place and the Junior Achievement award for the 8-12 year old class. In the fresh flower design classes there were 7 entries. The theme was “Off to School we go”. The youth were required to create a design in a lunch box, bandana or sack. Blaise Dudziak won 1<sup>st</sup> place and the Junior Achievement Award for his arrangement of garden



flowers in a bandana (left). Justin Dudziak won 1<sup>st</sup> place and the Junior Achievement Award for his arrangement in a lunch bucket (right).

Another special exhibit was entered by the Occupational Development Program at ABRHS. The 12 students in the program each made a quilt square from dried plant material which were entered in the class called “Friendship Quilt”. With help from the teacher and a garden club member the entries were created and entered in the show to be judged in the Sponsored Group section of the schedule. All were awarded ribbons.



In Division III, “*Then and Now*” members of the Acton Garden Club entered Artistic Crafts creating beautiful designs from dried plant material. The “jewelry” was made from material such as broccoli seeds, peas, eucalyptus seeds, peppercorns and many other tiny components. Class 1 called for a necklace reflective of Victorian Times. Susan Nordhausen won 1<sup>st</sup> place and the Artistic Craft Award for her design (below left). Class 2, Roaring 20’s, brooches reflective of the Art Deco period were entered. Joan Yatteau won 1<sup>st</sup> place. In the Celebration class, Laura Lindop took 1<sup>st</sup> place for her ornament celebrating the 5 villages of Acton (below right).



## *All About Town (continued)*

### **Congratulations to “ALL ABOUT TOWN” Flower Show Award Winners!**

**In Division I Horticulture award winners:** Anne Becklean, Sandra Bonzagni, Beverly Brownson, Linda Chance, Dia Chigas, Maureen Christmas, Nikki Davis, Judy Dembsey, Sue Diguette, Claudette Duhamel, Julie Eacott, Cathy Fochtman, Susanne Fuller, Nancy Kingman, Anne Leary, Laura Lindop, Phyllis McDonough, Pam Nelson, Fran Portante, Stephanie Reid, Janet Richards, Sidney Storment, Thelma Shoneman, Karin Victor, Sue Whitcomb, Joan Yatteau and Helen Sheth, non-garden club member- Acton town resident.

**In Division II Design:** Linda Chance, Dia Chigas, Julie Eacott, Sally Patrick, Joan Gardner, Sue Whitcomb, Pam Rentschler, Janet Richards, Joan Yatteau, Laura Lindop, Susanne Fuller, Noreen Rowe, Carol Bull, Susan Harrigan, Karen Maines, Cathy Fochtman, Maureen Christmas, Sue Nordhausen, Sandy Bonzagni, and Gena Manalan.

#### **In Division III –Special Exhibits:**

**Section 1 : Artistic Crafts:** Pam Rentschler, Sue Nordhausen, Judy Shuppert, Maureen Christmas, Noreen Rowe, Janet Richards, Anne Leary, Joan Yatteau, Laura Linda Lindop, Suzan Sullivan, Jackie Amirhor, Sue Diguette

**Section 2: Educational:** Maureen Christmas, MaryBeth Orfao, Carol Stewart- Grinkis, Judy Shuppert, Sidney Storment, Sandy Bonzagni and Joan Yatteau

#### **Section 3: Youth:**

**Horticulture:** Sean Nelson, Natalie Nelson, Cherry Jia, Natalie Armstrong, Aiyana Green, Mitsuko Koyama, Emma Kearney, Tina Coleman

**Design:** Sean Nelson, Justin Dudziak, Natalie Nelson, Paul Nelson, Amy Dudziak, Blaise Dudziak, Emily Victor

**Artistic Crafts:** Abigail Shoneman, Colin Brunette, Samantha LaGrasse, Quincy Shoneman, Abigail LaGrasse, Shannon Dye, Caitlin Brunette, Joseph Dye, Juliet Gildehaus, Abigail Mueller, Olivia Mueller, Madeline Mueller, Alec Zaccardo, Otto Zaccardo, Megan Dye, Olivia Drake.

#### **Section 4: Sponsored Group (Members of the Occupational Development Program at ABRHS):**

Bianca Renelique, Christine Chang, Chris Cameron, Brandon Shuley, Vinny Zanco, Ben Bosbach, Sarah Campbell, Margaret Conway, Henry Dukes, Beth Wirch, Thomas Kipps, Vietta Peterson.

**Thanks to everyone for exhibiting! You are the reason *All About Town* was a Spectacular Show!**

***More photos of the exhibits can be found on the Acton Garden Club website. [www.actongardenclub.org](http://www.actongardenclub.org).***

