



Garden Club of Darien

Gardenclubofdarien.org



Monthly Newsletter

October 2012

Volume 4, Issue 2

From the President



Dear Friends,

Major kudos to Sheryl (Program) and Hospitality for an opening meeting that blew our socks off! Ruth Loiseau was entertaining, fun, and taught us how to do eight stunning arrangements in under an hour and a half...I think I have a little work to do. Our October program should be equally entertaining with Hollis Bauer's botanical art jewelry presentation.

Major congratulations to Debbie and Lisa and our hard-working Flower Show (FS) Committee, whose draft FS schedule won high praise from Zone II FS rep Beth Montgelas. And a round of applause for Pam, Debby McLean, and Gigi for their excellent Yearbook, Newsletter, and Board Meeting Notes, respectively.

As you will see under Herb Garden, Charly and Susan and our creative committee have planned a very special evening on October 18th at the Historical Society. I'll say no more but I can't wait! Read on and see.

And a plug for the folks at Headquarters -- please log on to the GCA website to stay in touch with all that's happening in this our Centennial year (1,200 from Zone II haven't yet logged on - 68 from GCD, oops!). All you have to do is log on with your "tempcode" (available from me), follow simple instructions (on page 2 of our Yearbook) to establish your own passcode, and you are set to log on automatically forever after. The amount of interesting reading, news, and information on the site enriches our experience as GCA members.

Sorry to have to miss our October 10 Membership Meeting, but I will be representing us at the Zone II Annual Meeting in Newport -- a command performance. Another command performance will be for our club chairmen who will meet with other club chairs at the Zone II meeting in Old Lyme at the Florence Griswold museum on October 22.

Happy Fall Planting,
Janet



October Membership Meeting (note date, time and format)

Hollis Bauer, a member of the Garden Club of Trenton and an award winning Botanical jewelry artist will share her collection of Botanical jewelry and give an overview of how to design, collect and treat materials to fabricate a piece of Botanical jewelry.

Her demonstration will be followed by a workshop for 20 participants to hone this new and exciting craft. This will be a FUN and relaxed way to try our creative minds at a very new and cutting edge venue for GCA. This will also be great practice for our flower show in October 2013, which has a Botanical Art/Jewelry division.

Please contact Sheryl Lincoln, chelin@optonline.net to reserve your spot for the workshop.

GCD Calendar

Monday, October 1st

Board meeting at the home of Debbie Murray, 100 Stephen Mather Road, 8:45 coffee, 9:00 meeting (note change of location)

Wednesday, October 10th

Membership meeting, Scout cabin, 9:00 coffee, 9:30 meeting. Workshop to follow meeting from 10-11:30 am.

Monday, November 5th

Board meeting at the home of Gwynne Tibbetts, 18 Sherry Lane, 8:45 coffee, 9:00 meeting

Tuesday, November 15th

Membership meeting, DCA, 9:30 coffee, 10:00 meeting

Wednesday-Friday, October 2nd-4th, 2013-Bird Song

GCD Flower Show at the DCA

GCA Events

Wednesday-Thursday, October 10th-11th

Zone II Annual Meeting and Flower Show, hosted by Newport Garden Club

Monday, October 22nd

Zone II Rep Meeting
Florence Griswold Museum
Old Lyme, 9:30 am



Flower Arranging

Gwynne Tibbetts and Kate Kane



We are off to a “beautiful” start to our new year with 10 entries in the (joint with Horticulture) Coffee Can competition. The judges were impressed with both our club’s showing and the glorious display of talent in the growing, foraging and arranging of roses, dahlias, zinnias, berries, leaves and grasses. Due to a few entries being shared we divided the competition into two classes. The judges’ comments focused on color contrast, “texture creating an enlivening rhythm”, rich color palette, balance and contrast of texture and color.

The judges loved all of the entries; however, some were not able to be considered because they exceeded the allotted dimensions. Another interesting observation was some arrangements were “not in proportion with the container”. Both things to think about for the future.

For October there will be no flower arranging competition. But get ready for November when we will have the Thanksgiving workshop and the in-club “Birds of a Feather” competition.

The Coffee Can winners were:

Shared Garden Class:

1st: Susie Brewer/Janice Shand



Individual Class:

1st: Frances Wilson



3rd: Betsy Hester



2nd: Joan Barksdale



3rd: Gwynne Tibbetts

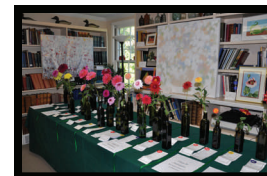


Horticulture

Carol Caulfield and Bridget Rudner



We had a wonderful turnout for our Dahlia competition. The judges were very impressed with all the entries. Congratulations to our winners:



Class I-Large

| | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1st | ‘Freemonts Memory’ | Lois Baylis |
| 2nd | ‘Sunny’ | Carol Caulfield |

Class II- Medium

| | | |
|-----|------------------|-------------------|
| 1st | ‘Brushstrokes’ | Lois Baylis |
| 1st | ‘Dad’s Favorite’ | Lois Baylis |
| 1st | ‘Tyler James’ | Debby McLean |
| 2nd | ‘Hissy Fitz’ | Debbie Bussey |
| 2nd | ‘Extase’ | Angela Lineberger |
| 2nd | ‘Dark Magic’ | Joan Barksdale |

Class II-Coral Gypsy

| | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 1st | Debby McLean |
| 2nd | Bridget Rudner |
| 3rd | Betsy Hester |
| HM | Carol Caulfield |

Class III-Miniature

| | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1st | ‘Crichton Honey’ | Debbie Bussey |
| 1st | ‘Crichton Honey’ | Carol Caulfield |
| 1st | ‘Groovy’ | Lois Baylis |
| 1st | ‘Rebecca’ (see pg 6) | Joan Barksdale |
| 2nd | ‘Lauren Michelle’ | Debby McLean |
| 3rd | ‘Lauren Michelle’ | Robin Steinman |
| 3rd | ‘Bashful’ | Lois Baylis |
| 3rd | ‘Gonzo Grape’ | Irene Miltmore |

Class III-Matilda Huston

| | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 2nd | Debby McLean |
| 2nd | Debbie Bussey |
| 2nd | Carol Caulfield |

Class IV- Pompom

| | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|
| 2nd | ‘Sugar Daddy’ | Debbie Bussey |
| 2nd | ‘Kasasagi’ | Lois Baylis |

Class V- Other

| | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|
| 1st | ‘Heartthrob’ | Debby McLean |
| 1st | ‘Heartthrob’ | Lois Baylis |



Horticulture (con't)

Horticulture Challenge Class for Birdsong

The Horticulture Challenge Class for our fall flower show will be open to all entrants. We will be growing Japanese Bishop single tubers in 18" terracotta pots. We are placing a club order for the tubers and will have them available for you in the spring of 2013. If you haven't already placed an order with us and would like to just email the quantities you desire to Carol at caulfieldct@optonline.net.



Japanese Bishop (Peony Type) Dahlia #503. Award winner introduced in 1960. The 3" dark orange red flowers contrast strikingly with very dark, almost black foliage making each 3 1/2" plant a beautiful picture plant. Small tubers. From Swan Island Dahlias each tuber is \$4.95 plus S&H.

Upcoming Shows and Competitions

We encourage you to enter all the shows below.

October 10-11: GCA Zone II Flower Show: "Walk on the Fall Side"

Newport Garden Club host Classes include cut specimens, branches, berries and par.

October 12-13: GCA Zone I Flower Show: "Shall We Dance"

Rusticus Garden Club, John Jay Homestead, Katonah, NY

Upcoming workshops:

November 28 Terrarium Workshop at the Darien Historical Society with Debbie Bussey. Limited to 16. Provisionals only Friday, November 30th. \$40 cost includes 7" diameter x 10.25" high bell jar with terracotta saucer, three plants, and moss. Bring your own decorative accessories. Create a wonderful indoor garden for yourself or for a gift!

Zone Conferences:

GCA 2012 Shirley Meniece Horticulture Conference October 22-24, 2012 in Austin, Texas. Bridget Rudner will be attending.

Zone II Hort Rep meeting October 29, 2012 at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme. Carol Caulfield will be attending.

Update on Bird House Gourds

Thanks to all who are growing gourds for Birdsong. Gourds are ready for harvesting when their stems dry out and turn brown. Detailed instructions on how to harvest and cure gourds are on the website. There will be a workshop in the spring to make your gourds into bird houses.

Time to start shopping for bulbs

One thing to keep in mind as we go shopping for bulbs is our Daffodil competition on April 9, 2013!! Maybe you saw a great daffodil at our competition or another competition that you would like to try growing. Don't forget to keep a record of what you planted, this makes it much easier to identify them for the shows.

Herb Garden



Charly Armstrong and Susan Massamillo

To all Garden Club of Darien members:

The Herb Garden Committee is hosting a special **LADIES NIGHT OUT** on Thursday, October 18th from 7:00-9:00pm at The Darien Historical Society for a special viewing of our newly opened Costume Exhibit: **"Stepping Out -The Jazz Age"** featuring evening dresses from 1920-1929, with a special presentation from our Curator, Babs White.



Drinks and refreshments served.

RSVP to Susan Massamillo massdesigns@aol.com



Herb Garden (con't)

For those members lucky enough to have in their gardens the basil topiary that Sal Gilbertie gave away at his seminar, you can take woody stem clippings, put them in water to root and in about 2 weeks you should have small plants to grow on your windowsill or pass around to friends for their indoor herb gardens!

Culinary Herbs: In From the Cold

See the GCD website to view John Scheepers recent e-newsletter regarding tips for bringing in your garden herbs before the frost, which herbs to freeze (with instructions), recipes for herbed butters, drying tips etc.

The November newsletter will begin featuring tried-and-true, herb-related recipes from members, beginning with BASIL and a pesto recipe with an insider's tip! Please email Susan Massamillo at smassdesigns@aol.com with your recipes.

Photography

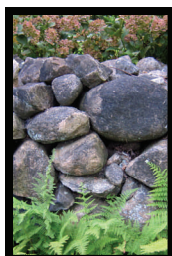


Danielle Granath and Tracy Drrippé

Amy led a wonderful judging workshop for us at the Zone II Photography challenge. Congratulations to Irene Miltmore for her 2nd in the class "Fences and Stone Walls" and a 3rd in the class "Coastlines". And congratulations to Amy for her "high second" in the Reflections class at the Little Compton, RI GCA show. We have so much talent in our club it's a joy to see these photographs.



Irene Miltmore
2nd in "Fences and Stone Walls"



Irene Miltmore 3rd in "Coastlines"



Amy Cholnoky High 2nd in Reflections

We will have another Photography outing on **Friday, November 30** in the morning at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for their presentation of "The First major exhibition Devoted to History of Manipulated Photography Before the Digital Age" Please email me for more information and to sign up. We hope you can join us to see this exciting show. <http://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-museum/press-room/exhibitions/2012/faking-it>

We are looking forward to our first exhibition of the year "Your Favorite Summer Photograph" at our October meeting. See the September newsletter for details.

Our November competition "Tree Tales" has one more spot. Color photographs should be single matted and not exceed 11"x14". The size, shape, color and surface finish of the overmat and the photograph are to be decided by the exhibitor. Photographs should be delivered to me no later than the night before the November meeting or they will not be accepted for the competition. Please email me with any questions. Thank you. danielle515@gmail.com

Conservation



Margaret Smith and Gigi Garnett

Spotlight Weed Beach "Native of the Month"

Northern Bayberry (*Myrica Pensylvanica*)

Besides being an excellent and very adaptable landscape plant, the fruit of this shrub is beautiful as well as very useful. The mature berries are covered with a pale blue, lavender or grayish-white color and are very aromatic. Look closely on your walks and you will see them glowing now into late fall.

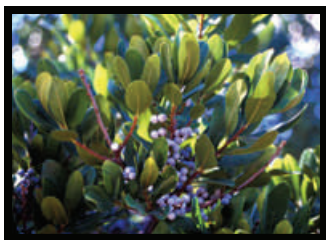
This tough native plant grows in coastal sand flats and tidal marshes from Maine to North Carolina. It is adaptable to a range of difficult landscape conditions including poor, sterile, sandy soils and heavy clay soils. Bayberry grows in full sun to part shade and is not at all fussy about soil as long as it is well-



Conservation (con't)

drained. These shrubs thrive in poor soils where other plants would stumble, because they are nitrogen fixers serving to actually improve the soil as they grow. Bayberry is hardy to zone 2, has an upright growth habit and does best with a slightly acid PH. Its mature size will vary with soil conditions but an average height 8 feet by 8 feet can be expected. Minimal pruning will control it well. It is a deciduous to semi-evergreen plant and the leaves can be up to 4 inches long with a lustrous dark green color. A unique quality of the leaf is that it is aromatic when brushed or crushed. Even the slightest contact with the plant produces the pleasant aroma. The leaves are retained well into the fall.

Bayberry easily withstands coastal salt spray, in fact, the salt tolerance of bayberry shrubs extends beyond sea salt: use them in roadside plantings where other bushes might die from being tainted by all the road salt that the snowplows push onto your landscape!



Northern Bayberry (*Myrica Pensylvanica*)

The flowers on the plant are small and white or green in color. Flowering is in late March or early April before the new leaves emerge. The fruit has considerable ornamental value and while bayberry shrubs are delightful during the summer and autumn, they may be most valued for the novelty their gray berries afford to the winter landscape. Bayberry fruit is actually a "drupe" which is botanically equal to a cherry, peach or plum. The fruit ripens in September and may remain on the stems of the plants until the following spring unless completely gobbled by the birds, to name a few, tree swallows, eastern meadowlarks, red bellied woodpeckers and gray catbirds.

As a landscape plant, Bayberry is excellent for massing, borders or combining with broadleaf evergreens. An added advantage is that Bayberry has no serious insect or disease problems and deer don't eat it! In fact, its fragrance may actually repel them. Two or more plants are required for berry set as Bayberry is dioecious (comes as male or female).

GCD Flower Show

Debbie Bussey and Lisa Brickman

SAVE THE DATE- October 2-4, 2013 GCD FLOWER SHOW - "Birdsong"!

Thank you all for attending our September 18th All Committee Flower Show Meeting. It has been a very productive summer based on our positive feedback from our zone II flower show rep, Beth Montgelas: "I think you knocked it out of the park with this schedule. It is innovative and very creative." We are 'on track' and we are hoping to submit the schedule to GCA by December 1st. A great many thanks to everyone for all of your wonderful efforts! Minutes will be sent out shortly; our next meeting will be in November.

Our **Birdsong Children's & Education Exhibit** will be Fairy Houses, and this October 6th through November 6th the **Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, CT** will be holding a **Wee Faerie Village exhibition**. The grounds and gardens of the Museum will have over 30 artists transforming the Museum's eleven acres into a magical land featuring faerie dwellings. The Museum will be open seven days a week for this outdoor exhibition. Monday - Saturday, 10-5 and Sunday, 11am-5pm. Florence Griswold Museum, 96 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT. Phone: 860-434-5542. Why not plan a fun fall field trip? The Old Lyme Inn across the street from the Museum re-opened in April 2012, serving lunch Tuesday – Sunday 11am-5pm. www.oldlymeinn.com. The Bee & Thistle Inn, next door to the Museum, serves an afternoon "High Tea" Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 12 noon – 3:00pm (reservations required) www.beeandthistleinn.com

Several have asked how the proceeds from our Flower Show will be allocated. We are gathering information on Darien's needs for civic projects. If you have any ideas, please send them to us at GCDFlowershow@gmail.com. We will present all suggestions to our Board for discussion and approval and would like to receive your input.

Please reach out to us or your committee in the interim if you have questions or concerns.

Bird Song Preview Party Invitation List

We are developing a mailing list for the Preview party. **Every member is required to submit at least 5 names** (Mr. and Mrs.) and addresses for the mailing list. These should be non-GCD members who you believe would support the flower show by attending the event and/or making a financial contribution. Please either mail or email your names to Debbie Murray, 100 Stephen Mather Road or gcdbirdsong@gmail.com as soon as possible. Please include your name and email address with your list.



Pleasure Through Plants

Susan Doelp and Audrey Cadwallader

October Greetings Pleasure Through Plants Volunteers!

Our first two sessions of the 2012-13 season are on **October 3rd** so get your clippers ready! All details of our Schedule and Roster and reimbursement form can be found on the GCD website under Pleasure Through Plants, so please be sure to check for your assigned dates. Also, make sure and confirm with the Events Director at each location a week or more in advance to get final head counts for your supply purchasing.

Have fun!



Provisionals

Emily D'Andrea

The provisionals got off to a great start with a flower arranging workshop! They learned how to make a bridal bouquet with the most glorious color scheme, and then took them home to enjoy. The below photo includes (L. to R.): Betsy Becker, Helen Ong, Jamie Rubin, Danielle Leinroth, Janice Shand and Sandy Noble (missing were Angela Lineberger and Leslie Sandison). This is a most talented group of women, and we are lucky to have them!



November Newsletter Deadline
Monday, October 29

Email to NEW address

gcdnewsletter@gmail.com

Yearbook

Pam VanHoven Clark

Please note the following changes/corrections in your Directory:

Lesley Sandison's email is sandison@optonline.net and her address is 15 Seagate Road.

Patty Young is an Associate member.

Betsy Cole would like to add: 10 Longwood Drive #260, Westwood, MA 02090, (781) 407-0024

Please continue to email me any changes/corrections at pamelavanhovenclark@gmail.com. Thank you.

Membership

Tink Neubert and Pat Van den Broek

Please give thought to possible candidates for membership in next year's Provisional class.

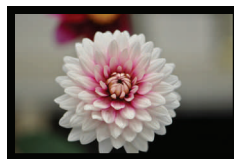
Remember that the deadline for a proposing letter for a new member is December 1.

Included in that letter should be the names of a seconder and two members who will write supporting letters which are due by March 1.

Letters should be sent to Pat Van den Broek.

Also, please bring your candidate to general meetings to introduce her to as many members of the Membership Committee and Board as possible.

Thank you to Kate Kane for the stunning September tea table arrangement.



Joan Barksdale's 1st place miniature
Dahlia 'Rebecca'

