

# DIG THIS!

ExeterAreaGardenClub.com



The Newsletter of the Exeter Area Garden Club

January/February 2013

>>> Check our website for Promise Tree Updates <<<<<

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

President's Message

Patti Elwell

Hello Gardeners,

*My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view. H. Fred Ale*

Oh the joy of getting seed catalogs! Mine started arriving in early December. I resisted the temptation to curl up in a chair with a cup of cocoa and spend hours poring over each one. Instead, I put each brightly colored catalog that arrived in the mail every day in a large drawer so that none would be lost to accidental recycling, and ignored my husband's comments that we were soon going to have to build an extension onto the house to hold them all... I plowed forward with the wrapping and baking and decorating demands of the season, knowing that once the excitement of the holidays past, I could revel in each one.

Now that the tree is down and the decorations once again relegated to the basement, I have opened the drawer and begun to dream of what my garden could be next year. Each year I incorporate at least one or two new types of flowers or vegetables that I have not tried before. Sometimes they are successful, other times they are complete failures. Last year one of my successful new plantings was watermelon radish. If you are looking for something simple to amaze and impress your non-gardening friends, this is it. It is a very large round white radish with a green inner ring and a bright pink center. When you slice it, it looks like a watermelon. It is not extremely spicy, takes much longer to grow than your average radish but oh, the compliments you get when you serve it!

For years the only catalog I ever received was from Burpee and as a novice gardener, I was perfectly happy with that. Then one year a new seed catalog arrived. It was as if someone had handed me a new chapter in a book I had read over and over. It occurred to me that if this other seed catalog existed, maybe there were others out there. And to Google I went searching for new catalogs and getting on every seed catalog mailing list. I have been hooked ever since and see no reason to give up this happy obsession.

The seed catalogs I receive from all over the country offer some of the same standards, but they also offer different plants and, lucky me, I get to sit with my cup of cocoa and look at each one to see what looks tempting. I think I have learned as much from my seed catalogs as I have from any gardening books since I have found that many include detailed growing information. As my gardening knowledge has increased, I am choosing more of the open grown varieties in order to experiment with saving my own seeds. This year I am looking at trying out Chinese Green Luobo radishes, Cha-Cha chives and Lazy Housewife Green Beans. Let us know what you are trying new this year!!



*"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues."*

*Hal Borland*

We had a wonderful holiday season full of fun activities from the club and the Promise Tree. I hope you had a chance to attend some of them. The overwhelming response we have had to our luncheon the past two years has us looking now for a different venue that can accommodate many more people. We do not want to have people left out of this wonderful event next year! Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to put together all of these activities; you will find photos posted on the website. The Board is working hard to put together new programs and materials that we hope all of our members will enjoy in the upcoming year.

Wishing you all a wonderful garden in 2013! ~ Patti

### Corresponding Secretary's Reminder

Florence Whicher

If anyone knows of a member who is ill or just not feeling well, etc. Please be sure to let me know so that I may send out a card from the membership.

Please let me know by email at [hfpinewood@yahoo.com](mailto:hfpinewood@yahoo.com).

### Design

Donna Wilson & Connie Gilmore

There are 2 design classes scheduled for spring 2013:

- Wed. Mar. 27: fresh flower "cake" centerpiece, just in time for Easter
- Wed. May 8: wall pocket basket of spring florals for your front door

Both classes will be held at the Exeter Senior Center from 2-4PM.

Look for our sign-up sheets and examples of class projects at the general meetings.



The Design Committee will collect \$3.00 - \$5.00 per person to purchase basic supplies. Participants will bring floral materials to match their décor. Check the EAGC website for additional information.

Please join us to create a design that you will be proud of!

Connie & Donna

### Environment & Conservation

Betsy Vershay & Jill Compton

In January, the Environment and Conservation Committee will be offering a display on animal tracks entitled "Who's been in your yard?" We may have a quiz!



In February, we will address late winter pruning which promotes faster regrowth in the spring. There are some useful websites which may be of help when we get that winter thaw and you can reach your trees and shrubs. Check out: [pallensmith.com](http://pallensmith.com), [gardenandhearth.com](http://gardenandhearth.com), [millernurseries.com](http://millernurseries.com), or [almanac.com](http://almanac.com) and search for winter pruning.

Remember also that mini-grants are coming up. We have been allotted \$1000 for 2013. If you know of a garden that could use a grant, please apply or encourage others to apply. The grant application is on our website, [exeterareagardenclub.com](http://exeterareagardenclub.com), and need to be printed up and sent by April 1, 2013.

**Yearbook member corrections:**

Florence Whicher's email address has been changed: [hfpinewood@yahoo.com](mailto:hfpinewood@yahoo.com)

Hazel Reed-Goldstein's email address has been changed: [hreedgoldstein2@hotmail.com](mailto:hreedgoldstein2@hotmail.com)

As always, there is a blank membership form at the end of this newsletter for recruiting your family and friends!

**January 17, 2013**

**Joan O'Connor-"Vermiculture-Composting with Worms Year Round"**

Hospitality Coordinator: Pat Szostak

Connie Gilmore, Mimi Brett, Susan Canada, Donna Wilson

**February 21, 2013**

**Jean Stefanik-"Orchids All Around Us"**

Hospitality Coordinator: JoAn Walker

LuAnn Faber, Nancy Peterson, Becky Mitchell, Jill Compton



Well, it's officially winter, and the website has a new look for the season. There were a couple of cookie events in December, so two new cookie recipes have been added. Check them out: Spice Cutouts from the Sprinkle Party and Chocolate Bliss Cookies from the Cookie Swap! It is nice to hear folks are using the website to find recipes. The Anise Cookie recipe that was there was used for the cookie swap. Outstanding!

Also new on the website, by request, is a Pinterest Button for you Pinterest freaks! I'm looking at you Mel! Start pinning those posts to show the world what a cool site we have! I know I have. Keep your ideas and requests coming!

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

<b>January 13, 20, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013- Sundays</b> <b>1 PM at Churchill Garden Center</b>	<b>Indoor Container and Terrarium Gardening</b>
<b>January 17, 2013, Thursday</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> <b>Doors open at 9 AM</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; General Meeting</b> <b>Program:</b> <b>Joan O'Connor-"Vermiculture-Composting with Worms Year Round"</b>
<b>January 19, 2013-Saturday</b> <b>1 PM at Churchill Garden Center</b>	<b>Growing Orchids</b>
<b>January &amp; February , Every 1st &amp; 3rd Saturday</b> <b>10 AM – 2PM at Rolling Green Nursery,</b> <b>64 Breakfast Hill Rd, Greenland, NH</b>	<b>Winter Farmers' Market with Local Agricultural Products</b>  <b>RollingGreenNursery.com</b>
<b>February 21,2013 Thursday</b> <b>9:30 AM at Stratham Community Church</b> <b>Doors open at 9 AM</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; General Meeting</b> <b>Program:</b> <b>Jean Stefanik-"Orchids All Around Us"</b>
<b>February 23, 2013 – Wentworth Greenhouses</b> <b>10 AM-2 PM at Wentworth Greenhouses,</b> <b>141 Rollins Road, Rollinsford , NH</b>	<b>Winter Farmer's Market &amp; Craft Market</b>

This newsletter was edited by Hazel Reed-Goldstein. The next DIG THIS will be sent in early March 2013  
 All submissions for that newsletter are due by March 4

*"Nature has undoubtedly mastered the art of winter gardening and even the most experienced gardener can learn from the unrestrained beauty around them."*  
 - Vincent A. Simeone



**Exeter Area Garden Club**  
**Membership Registration**  
**2012 – 2013**  
**www.ExeterAreaGardenClub.org**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Spouse:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing/Seasonal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Most correspondence occurs via email; please let us know if you do not have email access.)

**Member Since:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Office or Committee/s** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Levels: Single \$25** \_\_\_\_ **Couple \$30** \_\_\_\_ **Associate \$20** \_\_\_\_

**Membership Responsibilities:** All members are encouraged to attend monthly meetings and to assist the Hospitality Committee with refreshments. Members are required to join at least one committee and/or hold an office. Please see complete committee descriptions on the reverse.

There are currently openings in the following Committees: Awards, Herbs, Civic Beautification, Environment & Conservation, Membership and Ways & Means.

**Committee Choice/s for 2012-2013:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions, please contact Membership Co-Chairs:

or Mimi Brett (770-3405) or Jann Bova (397-5354)

Please make checks out to Exeter Area Garden Club and mail with your registration form to: Mimi Brett, 16 Parkman Brook Lane, Stratham, NH 03885, or bring to our meeting.