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ExeterAreaGardenClub.org***

The Newsletter of the Exeter Area Garden Club

September/October 2012

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

http://www.exeterareagardenclub.org/Promise_Tree.html***

**Please Note: First meeting for the 2012-2013 Season is Thursday, September 20, 2012.

***See "Website" for New EAGC Website address

President's Message

Patti Elwell

Hello Gardeners,

I am honored to have been elected the new President of the Exeter Area Garden Club. LuAnn set the bar very high with her leadership over the past two years, spending hours learning how to create a new website for the club and working with the Board to bring members so many new programs and activities. I am looking forward to working with our new VP, Mel McGrail and the rest of the Board to keep the club vibrant and growing!

This year the EAGC celebrates four decades of gardening. It is fitting then that our 2012 year began with the New Hampshire Association of Fairs and Expos giving the club the Department of Agriculture Commissioner's Award for Excellence in Agricultural Promotion that EAGC received for its display at the 2012 Stratham Fair. At each of the New Hampshire Fairs one display is selected that best promotes agriculture and New Hampshire's rural lifestyle and heritage. Our display consisted of posters and information that was presented by various committees at our regular meetings – a tribute to the excitement and knowledge that our members bring to our club.

Summer meetings returned to the club in July and August. The meetings were relaxed and members had an opportunity to share their gardening joys, heartbreaks and questions with each other. Our meeting in July with a delicious locally catered lunch was held at Pettingill Farm in Salisbury, MA. This farm is a little hidden treasure in the area with a wonderful variety of plants! Our August meeting was held in the pavilion at Stratham Hill Park and members shared a dish from their garden or locally grown produce. As Max pointed out, our club has a fine appreciation of the culinary arts!

Thanks to all of you who have taken time out of your summer to spend some time on maintenance of the Exeter Bandstand and Stratham Veteran's Garden, to the Environment and Conservation committee for checking on our mini-grants, to Hazel for putting together a new yearbook and to Terri for taking our photos for the yearbook, to Ann for putting together a wonderful program of speakers for the new year and to Max who has spent many hours this summer working on developing and improving our website. And thank you to all of the other unsung heroes of our club who work behind the scenes of the club to help make it fun and productive for us all!

Please do not forget that this is a new year for the Promise Tree! Dianna has leaves ready to go on the tree so be thinking about what new item you can offer to help with this fundraising effort. Each member needs to offer only one item or activity in the year (but of course we will accept more!). And then there are our gardens! What a wonderful sunny summer we have had! That brought along with it challenges to watering, new and interesting bugs that we have not before encountered and a chance to maybe try out a new plant or two. As in life, the more you garden, it seems the more you realize just how little you know!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the meetings!

~ Patti

We are happy to announce the EAGC award winners!

The Residential award will go to Jean and Charlie Tucker of Exeter for a very bountiful vegetable garden and the Civic Beautification award will go to the Gendron and Remick Funeral Home in Hampton for spectacular gardens

Civic Beautification

Nancy Jordan, Mel McGrail & Pat Szostak

This week we will be disassembling the boxes on the upper level of the bandstand and will remove the coleus and sweet potato vine with the fall cleanup the first or second week of October. It has been a challenging summer with the extreme heat but thanks to all the members the bandstand was quietly beautiful. Thank you all.

Our committee is composed of seasoned and new members and include Abbie-Jane Anderson, Rhonda Caron, Jill Flanders, Helen Gallant, Becky Mitchell, Connie Papale, Nancy Peterson, Dianna Thompson, Donna Wilson, Rita Russell, Polly Jones, and chairs, Nance Jordan, Mel McGrail and Pat Szostak. I'm sure you will find satisfaction and laughter working with this group. Welcome.

Design

Donna Wilson & Connie Gilmore

There are 4 design classes scheduled for 2012-2013.

Wed. Oct. 24, 2012: fall garden box with dried and silk floral

Tues. Dec. 18, 2012: candlestick arrangement of fresh flowers and greens

Wed. Mar. 27, 2012: fresh flower "cake" centerpiece

Wed. May 8, 2013: wall pocket basket of spring floral for your front door



All classes will be held at the Exeter Senior Center from 2-4PM. Look for our sign-up sheets and examples of each project at the general meetings.

The Design Committee will collect \$3.00 per person to buy floral foam. Participants will need to bring a container and buy floral materials to match their décor. The Design Committee will provide a list of suggested materials and where to buy them.

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

Donna and Connie

Environment & Conservation

Betsy Vershay & Jill Compton

Happy autumn and harvest season from the Environment & Conservation committee! What a lovely long summer season we've had here in New Hampshire. Just a few reminders to start our meeting season: we will once again be punching "coffee cards" for everyone who brings her/his own mug to the general meetings. There will be a fabulous raffle at the June luncheon for those who participate. And, don't forget, there are tote bags embellished with our logo available for \$12 each. Let Betsy or Jill know if you need one. We are also looking for one or two members to join our committee as we have lost the most excellent Barbara Kenny to Herbs. We already miss you Barbara!

A committee of three visited the mini-grant award winners' gardens in early August. We loved what we saw! Linda Gebhart greeted us with a smile at Hampton Bicentennial Park and even had a plant for each of us. Karen Raynes had pictures and a nice note at each of her 2 gardens. The three Stratham gardens were visited as well. We're anxious to see the Danielle Harmon garden again in September. Please take a look at the 2012 Mini-Grant poster at the September general meeting.

At the October meeting, in keeping with the Halloween festivities, we will be presenting information on our common local spiders. How many of you fear their spooky presence in the garden or the dark, cobwebby corners of your home? Well,



be at ease. If you happen upon the rare Black Widow, be assured she is human and not arachnid. Black Widow and Brown Recluse spiders are not native to NH and their rare past appearances have been because they've hitched a ride up north. With over 40,000 species of spiders worldwide, 3,400 species in North America and approximately 350 species native to New Hampshire, we could have one heck of a quiz. Stop and take a look at the October meeting.



Horticulture
Donsker

Terri

Clematis Pruning

Every clematis vine benefits from judicious pruning. But many people are so unsure about the proper time to prune their clematis that they avoid it altogether, and the vine becomes an unattractive, tangled mass of brittle, easily-damaged growth

Be reassured that incorrect pruning will not bring about the early demise of your beautiful bloomer. In fact, there are times--such as when you are training a newly-planted clematis, rejuvenating an old one, or removing stems affected by disease--that beg for a little tough love with the clippers. Even if you do prune clematis too much or at the wrong time, the worst case scenario is that it will not bloom until the next year.

Most gardeners have heard that timing of clematis pruning depends on whether the vine is categorized as part of group 1, 2 or 3 (the groups are also sometimes labeled as A, B and C). So how do you know what kind you have? Many of the clematis sold at nurseries today have the group number displayed right on the plant tag



Group 1 clematis bloom the earliest, between April and June, depending on your zone. These clematis blooms on old growth—all their flower buds were produced in the last season. Prune these early bloomers very lightly in early spring, moving top down to the highest pair of buds, removing only dead or damaged stems. Any other pruning should be done immediately following blooming, so the vine will have plenty of growing time to produce new buds for the next season. Avoid cutting back the woody stems of any vine in Group 1

Group 2 clematis are large-flowered hybrids which produce a heavy display in June on old wood, then a second bloom (with smaller flowers) later in the summer on new growth. These vines require more early spring pruning than Group 1, but since the majority of the bloom is on old wood, you don't want to trim away too much. Start at the top, prune back one stem at a time to a healthy bud. If the vine has become tangled and requires a hard cutting back, the best time to do this is after the first flush of bloom, so the vine still has time to put on growth before the end of the season. Some varieties bloom on old and new wood simultaneously, meaning that they are in bloom almost continuously. It's always hard to trim away a plant that is blooming, but in the long run you will be rewarded with more flowers on a healthier plant

Group 3-These summer or fall bloomers are smaller-flowered and bloom on new growth only, so you will want to prune them hard in early spring, removing all the old growth. Group 3 clematis are the easiest to prune, because although you cut away more of the plant, there is little decision-making necessary. Just be sure you leave two sets of healthy buds on each stem, about 12 to 30 inches above the ground. These vines start their new growth close to where last year's growth ended. Left unpruned, they will develop long, twiggy stems at the base. If your goal is to have the clematis bloom on a support far above the ground, you might actually want to encourage this.

If you do not know which group your clematis variety falls into, you can look it up. FineGardening.com provides a useful list of some of the most popular varieties and their pruning groups.

If you are still not sure which variety you have, observe its flower size and blooming habits. Does it bloom early in the season, producing large flowers on brown, woody growth? Then it's probably in the Group 1 category. If it doesn't begin blooming until June, and often produces a second crop of smaller flowers late in the season, it's likely Group 2. And if it has smaller flowers which appear on green stems in summer or fall, it's most likely Group 3.

Training Young Clematis

Anxious though you may be to see your newly planted clematis bloom for the first time, some patience is required, since these vines need a strong root system to support luxuriant growth. Prune a young clematis back to 18 to 24 inches in its first season, no matter which group it falls in. Doing so encourages branching and will improve the vine's appearance and flower production in the future.

Rejuvenating an Old Clematis

If you have clematis so overgrown and tangled that it is no longer blooming and you don't even know where to start pruning, you can rejuvenate it by cutting it almost back to the ground in very early spring. Within a year's time, you will once again be rewarded with bountiful blooms. After pruning clematis will put on growth quickly, so be sure to keep it watered and fertilized even when it's not blooming.

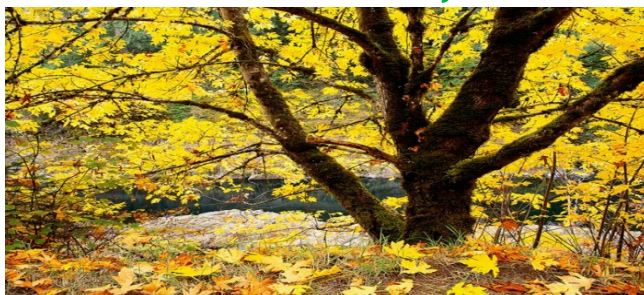
*Editor's note: This article has been adapted from Gwen Bruno's article published on: www.davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/2833/
Sources of information for Gwen's article are cited as: University of Illinois Extension, Ohio State University Extension*

Clematis Pruning Tips

- Avoid pruning your clematis late in the season if you live in an area with cold winters.
- You can deadhead early blooming varieties to encourage a second bloom, but you will miss the seed heads which you can enjoy right into winter.
- Always make your cuts just above the fat buds.
- Dispose of clematis clippings in the trash rather than your compost pile, and keep fallen leaves raked up to discourage fungal disease.

Spades take up leaves
No better than spoons,
And bags full of leaves
Are light as balloons.
I make a great noise
Of rustling all day
Like rabbit and deer
Running away.

Robert Frost, Gathering Leaves



It has been increasingly difficult each year to enlist hostess/coordinators for the general meetings. We thought a detailed explanation of duties would be helpful in recruiting for future hostess/coordinators and team members.

Coordinators **are not** responsible for everything. The Coordinator brings the gear to the meeting and works with the crew to organize everything for the day. The Crew helps with all the set up and brings decor & food. With everyone chipping in, the set-up gets done lickety split! The list of crew members for every month is in the yearbook, which comes out each September, and on the new EAGC website. Additionally, each newsletter will list the appropriate hostess/coordinator and crew for the current and following month. Please see under "Programs".

Any questions can be addressed to JoAn Walker or Sue Johnson who are the Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs.

Here's a detailed explanation of how it all works:

Coordinator Responsibilities

1. Work with the crew to decide on a theme and who is providing a table cloth & centerpiece, cups & napkins and most importantly, the goodies! This can be done by email, phone or meeting.
2. Check the gear and see if anything needs to be restocked. The Hospitality Committee often checks as well, but just to be sure, take a look.
3. Bring the gear the morning of the meeting at 8:30 and open the church hall. The gear consists of a box which houses the coffee pot & instructions, a blue bag which houses the tea pot, coffee, sugar, tea, Splenda, stirrers, fake cream, hot chocolate and an orange bag which has plates, a table cloth, napkins and the like. **The key to the church is in a little brown envelop in the outside pocket of the blue bag.**
4. After the meeting, see that the next Coordinator gets all the gear for the upcoming month.

Crew Member Responsibilities

1. If you cannot make a meeting that you have volunteered to crew for, get a replacement for yourself and let the Coordinator know.
2. Help come up with a fun theme idea.
3. Show up at 8:30 on meeting day to set up the hall.
4. Bring your food item, centerpiece, etc.
5. Help set up the hall on meeting day. This includes making coffee, setting the table and setting up chairs for the meeting.
6. Help break down the hall by putting everything back in order and helping with the kitchen clean up after the presentation.
7. Expense receipts can be submitted to the treasurer for reimbursement.

Sign up to be a Crew Member!

Volunteer to be the Coordinator!

Everyone will thank you

We are pleased to welcome new Members:

Polly Jones, 120 Mary Batchelder Rd, Hampton, NH 03842
Tel. # 819-9325 p-woggs@hotmail.com

Polly has joined the Civic Beautification committee.

Linda Van DeCar, 23 Pine Road, North Hampton, NH 03862
Tel #379-2246 H 548-5549 C Lvandecar14@comcast.net
Linda has joined Environment & Conservation and Herbs committees.

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

September 20, 2012**Potluck Brunch**

Hospitality Coordinator: Sue Johnson

Crew: Patti Elwell, Linda Sadlock, Betsy Vershay, Barbara Kenny

**October 18, 2012****Ginny Shannon- "A Wonderful Herbalist"**

Hospitality Coordinator: Abbe Jane Anderson

Crew: Mary Jo Chadwick, Florence Whicher, Joyce Marshall, Sue Bowman

Ways & Means

LuAnn Faber

We decided last spring, as a club, not to pursue a large fundraiser this season. In order to fund our programs and activities and the club's community projects, I'll be organizing a few small-scale fundraising endeavors, such as the very successful Yard Sale that we participated in last spring. I'm investigating some possible projects, so watch this space for information. And if you have any money-raising suggestions, please let me know.

Fortunately for all of us, Dianna Thompson will be maintaining the Promise Tree, which has been a great source of funding, but mostly a lot of fun for those who've participated. Be sure to check this space in each DIG THIS for updates of Promise Tree offerings.



The Promise Tree did not have many visits over the summer but interest is picking up for fall.

We have some new offerings:

1. Mastering the art of Chinese Spring Rolls-- offered by Maxine Forward
Learn the recipe, technique, have goods to taste and take home.
Monday, October 1, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM 5 spots open, \$10.00 per person
2. Learn to play on the Website--offered by Maxine Forward
One on One for one hour--\$5.00
3. Seacoast Rep Theater --2 tickets -- offered by Barbara Kenny
Thursday, October 11, --- 7:30 PM-- \$25.00
4. Wine and Cheese at Anne Campbell's home at 111 High Street, Exeter ...
Friday, September 28, -- 5:00 PM--\$10
Hostesses: Anne Campbell, Jann Bova, Ruth Dubenitz
Sign-up sheet will be at next meeting

As the club begins a new year of meetings and activities, please be thinking of what you might want to offer for your "Promise" on the tree.

Also review promises you may have on the tree; do you want to keep your leaf on or remove it?

We have a very creative club and I know the ideas this year will be great!

Enjoy the remaining wonderful days of summer and see you at the first meeting.

Dianna Thompson

Fortunately for all of us, Dianna Thompson will be maintaining the Promise Tree, which has been a great source of funding, but mostly a lot of fun for those who've participated. Be sure to check this space in each DIG THIS for updates of Promise Tree offerings.

Our Very Own Online Magazine!



It's finally here! The new Website will be officially unveiled this September. It is an interactive site that any member, regardless of computer savvy level, can enjoy. There are fun and informative articles to read, book reviews, a monthly calendar, club information, wonderful pictures, recipes and more. And to sweeten the pot, members can add comments to the articles and/or write articles of their own. Let loose your inner photojournalist and dig in!

Join me, LuAnn and Patti as part of the team. It is a great opportunity to learn about computing and magazine publishing while having fun doing it. All be revealed at the September meeting. The Promise Tree will be offering one-on-one website "lessons" as well. Suggestions and ideas are always welcome!

For the month of October, the website will be celebrating the silly season with Halloween related stories and articles. Please give us your garden related Halloween stories and pictures that we can publish. Or if you dare, you can do it yourself!

**Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to
it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the
earth seeking the successive autumns.
~George Eliot**



Calendar of Upcoming Events

<p>September 20, 2012, Thursday 9:30 AM at Stratham Community Church Doors open at 9 AM</p>	<p>Coffee & General Meeting with Potluck Brunch</p>
<p>September –October, 2012 Events every Saturday 9am – 1pm at Wentworth Greenhouses, Rollinsford Note: all listed events require no preregistration or cost For details and other event info: http://www.wentworthgreenhouses.com/events.html</p>	<p>Summer Farmers' Market 09/22--11:00 AM Flower Arranging Workshop 10/06--10:00 AM Terrarium Workshop 10/13--10:00AM Wreath Workshop 10/20--11:00AM Flower Arranging Workshop -</p>
<p>September –October, 2012 Events at Churchill's Gardens, Exeter Note: all listed events require no preregistration or cost For details and other event info: http://www.churchillsgardens.com/events/164/</p>	<p>Events' Calendar 09/23--1:00 PM-- Roses--What to do in Fall 09/23 -2:00 PM - Terrariums with Nancy 09/30--1:00 PM-- Planting Bulbs for Spring Beauty 10/13--1:00 PM -Pruning with Brett 10/14--1:00 PM—Putting your Garden to Bed</p>
<p>October 18, 2012, Thursday 9:30 AM at Stratham Community Church Doors open at 9 AM</p>	<p>Coffee & General Meeting Program: Ginny Shannon- "A Wonderful Herbalist"</p>
<p>October 24, 2012, Wednesday 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Senior Center Exeter</p>	<p>Design Workshop Fall garden box with dried and silk floral- See "Design" Article above</p>
<p>Note: There are more gardening educational offerings by UNH Extension. Please see our website for more information and links</p>	

This newsletter was edited by Hazel Reed-Goldstein. The next DIG THIS will be sent in early November, 2012. All submissions for that newsletter are due by November 5

**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 Brettv (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.