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[HTTP://EXETERAREAGARDENCLUB.COM/](http://EXETERAREAGARDENCLUB.COM/)

*The Newsletter of the Exeter Area Garden Club*

*May/June 2013*

>>>> CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR PROMISE TREE UPDATES <<<<

PLEASE NOTE: JUNE LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2013

President's Message

Patti Elwell

Hello Gardeners,

I can hardly believe that a year has gone by since I became president of the club. It has been a whirlwind experience, and one I have truly enjoyed. The reason it has been so enjoyable is because of all of YOU. I know I have said it before but you all are amazing. I have come away from each meeting knowing someone a little better, learning something new about gardening and having shared some laughter....all the best things in life rolled into one!

I cannot end this year without giving credit to the incredible women on our energetic Board who work so hard to take our crazy ideas and turn them into reality. Our 15 different subcommittees are each headed by people who do much of the behind-the-scenes work so that when you show up to a meeting or event it seems to be effortless. I also want to give special thanks to those members who are not on a Board but volunteer to participate in activities and give of themselves by sharing something on our Promise Tree. I am grateful for everything that you do.

Here are just a few of the highlights of our 2012-2013 season:

- \* Summer meetings! Relaxed lunches at Pettingill Farm and the Stratham Hill Park
- \* Winning the NH Department of Agriculture Commissioner's Award for Excellence in Agricultural Promotion for our display at the 2012 Stratham Fair!
- \* Design classes, all beautiful creations and no two alike!
- \* The spider quiz... the turkey quiz... the animal tracks quiz... and, the popular Pot Swap (to perhaps be renamed the gardening swap, lest there be any confusion about what we are swapping?!)
- \* Learning how to preserve lemons, make newspaper pots, grow sprouts and seeing an amazing old gardening book collection!
- \* Fabulous food at every meeting from our amazing hostesses!

- \* Our new and improved website and getting emails so we know there is something new on our website!
- \* Javier!
- \* Fun at the yard sale and bake sales and making \$\$ besides!
- \* Wine and cheese party, a howling Halloween party, the cookie swap!
- \* Our fabulous new logo!

And still to come this year: New membership cards, which include some discounts to local business. If you know of another gardener who would like to join the club, please share a membership application with them. Be sure to save the date for our WEDNESDAY June 19th Luncheon & Plant Auction. This is always a special event with terrific plants, delicious food, raffle baskets, and fun. Don't miss it!

It will be hard to top a year like that, but I know we already have some new things in the works for the upcoming year so be sure to frequently check our website calendar for EAGC and local activities: <http://exeterareagardenclub.com/whats-happening/> The Promise Tree will be ongoing during the summer and you won't want to miss out on any interesting field trips or other fun activities. The website details available offerings. You'll also find information about the informal general meetings to be held in July and August, dates and locations to be determined. (An email will also be sent to all members with meeting details.) We will be doing more advertising during the summer and hope to see some new faces in the fall!

As we look forward to our year-end activities, we are already planning ahead to next year with our hostess schedule. Have you signed up to be a hostess for a general meeting? Every member should sign up to take a turn for one month during the year. The Hospitality Committee has made it a breeze – you get a step-by-step list of tasks, the supplies that need to be brought to the meeting, and our new super-duper coffee pot makes brewing easy! You work with four other members who will lighten the load and make the job fun. If you have any questions, contact JoAn or Sue or any of the many members who have already been hostesses.

As one year ends, another is beginning! I will be looking forward to a couple of relaxed summer meetings, and to another year laughing and learning with you.



~ Patti

### Civic Beautification

Nancy Jordan, Mel McGrail & Pat Szostak

Our May 8 scheduled day for clean-up at the bandstand was cancelled and will be combined with the general planting on May 24th. So, if any of you who have not already signed up were going to surprise us and help, come instead on the 24th. Thanks for understanding.

Nance Jordan

Did you know that the majority of a dragonfly's life is spent underwater as a nymph? This larval stage can last several months or up to four or five YEARS. The adult, winged insect stage that we recognize as a dragonfly lasts from several weeks up to five or six months depending on the species. Just enough time to eat, mature, mate and start the cycle all over again. Please visit our dragonfly and damselfly display at the May 16th General Meeting.

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Betsy, Linda, LuAnn, Barbara and Jill are excited about our upcoming Promise Tree event. We hope you can join us on July 25th at 2 pm for a BLUEBERRY SOCIAL. Come dressed for the occasion. Your outfit/accessories will be judged for "Best in Blue". There will be prizes, of course, and blueberry treats galore..... all for a mere \$10 donation to the garden club. Yummy, can't wait!

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Thanks to the generosity of the EAGC, we were able to fund a record fifteen mini-grants this year. The checks have been sent, the work has begun. If you have a chance this growing season, check out the gardens our garden club has funded. They include: The Danielle Harmon Garden at Stratham Hill Park, the park's window box at Exeter Hampton Coop, an educational herb garden at Kingston Community Library, a Zen-inspired garden on Route 33 in Stratham, a pollinator's garden at Newfields Elementary School, the Stratham Historical Society garden, a "Garden of Eatin'" at the entrance to Seacoast Family Promise, the Water Street Garden in Exeter, Kids' Park Island garden in Exeter, Herb garden at the Tuck Museum in Hampton, Knock-out roses for the traffic island at Routes 111 and 27, Center Street garden in Exeter, Swasey Parkway gardens in Exeter, a "splash of color" at the Exeter Senior Center and a garden in the front of the Exeter Housing Authority. Hooray for the Exeter Area Garden Club!

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And, finally, remember to bring your stamped coffee mug card to the June luncheon so you can participate in our fabulous (and not so fabulous) basket raffles.

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*News Bulletin, News Bulletin, News Bulletin, News Bulletin, News Bulletin. News Bulletin*  
— Hot off the Press—2013 Mini Grant Winners Announced:

**The Danielle Harmon garden at Stratham Hill Park**

**Park's window box at Exeter-Hampton Co-op**

**Educational Herb Garden at Kingston Community Library**

**Zen-inspired garden on Route 33 in Stratham**

**Pollinator's garden at Newfields Elementary School**

**A "Garden of Eatin'" at the entrance to Seacoast Family Promise**

**Water Street garden in Exeter**

**Stratham Historical Society building gardens**

**Kids' Park island garden in Exeter**

**Herb garden at the Tuck Museum in Hampton**

**Knock-out roses for the island garden on Routes 111 and 27**

**Center Street Circle garden in Exeter**

**Swasey Parkway gardens in Exeter**

**"A Splash of Color" at the Exeter Senior Center**

**A garden in front of the Exeter Housing Authority**

Horticulture

Terri Donsker

### **Let's Get Ready for the Plant Auction!**

Our June plant auction helps to raise money for all the good things we do throughout the year and we have fun doing it! Over the years we have been enjoying the auction we have found that healthy looking, well groomed plants, tagged with useful information are good sellers.

Recently Max posted to our website some useful tips for potting up divisions that I wrote last year. (Thanks for saving me some time!) To find those tips go to the May 3 entry under Garden Talk or under Garden Talk click on Gardening Tips.

So with those tips in the background let's fast forward to a few days before the auction. This is the time to prepare your labels. The general idea is to include the type of information you look for when buying plants. Typically this will include common and botanical name, height and spread, bloom color and time, sun or shade requirements and any special needs. If you can supply a picture, that is the frosting on the cupcake. The internet has made finding photos quite easy and plants catalogs are also a good source. I keep a file of my labels on my computer since chances are I will need them again.

I know it is a lot of work to pot and maintain plants for the auction so don't try to do masses of any one variety, especially if they are common plants. Focus your attention on plants you love because someone else is bound to love it too! Focus on what some gardeners call the "real doers" – plants that are reliable and make a solid contribution to a garden scheme.

It looks like watering will be a real time consumer this spring and in these dry conditions it is also a good idea to protect your transplants from too much sun (particularly in the afternoon) and the drying breezes. Don't hesitate to remove any damaged foliage and if the plant is getting very leggy you can in most cases cut it back. The idea is to remove sources of stress. And don't we wish someone would do that for us!

Becky Mitchell (SOS helpline 778-7979)

Hospitality

JoAn Walker & Susan Johnson

**Luncheon and Plant Auction – WEDNESDAY, June 19, 2012**

We will gather for a continental breakfast at 09:30 am at the Portsmouth Country Club. Following the breakfast will be our annual plant auction, lunch and the installation of new officers.

Help will be provided for those who need assistance carrying plants into the building. Plants can be brought for the auction starting at 08:30. And our great auctioneer, Becky Mitchell has agreed to auction again this year. Thank you, Becky!!!!

To ensure that we will have lunch starting no later than 12:00, it is preferred that we have larger plants for the actual auction. We will have an area for smaller plants, with price tags please, that will be open for purchase at any time.

Please make sure all plants are "prettied up" for show, roots in good order and properly labeled. A light drink is always appreciated to keep one's leaves upright and proud.

If you have a garden related piece of art, useful tools, or a SPECIAL vase or flower pot (NO cheap generic glass vases from that last rummage sale, please) or a basket of goodies, bring it for purchase. Please have all items labeled with a price tag.

Don't forget to "Bring your mug to Meetings" card, as there will be 2 items to be raffled off.

Please feel free to ask questions about a particular plant. Becky Mitchell and Terri Donsker will be circulating before the auction to give their expert advice.

**BUFFET at 12:00 PM**

Tabbouleh Salad

Watermelon, Avocado and Arugula Salad

Baked Salmon w/ cucumber dill sauce

Beef Medallions w/mushroom shallot sauce

Coffee, Tea, Soda

Coconut rice pilaf

Grilled vegetable medley

Rolls and butterRaspberry

Sorbet with Tuille Cap

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Please print this page and send with check

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**Annual Luncheon and Plant Auction**

09:30AM – 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, June 19, 2013

Portsmouth Country Club  
80 Country Club Lane  
Greenland, NH 03840

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

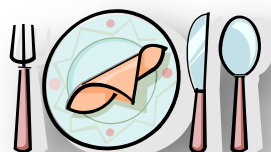
Please make checks out to Exeter Area Garden Club or EAGC.

Send checks or cash to:

Susan Johnson  
10 Juniper Ridge Road  
Exeter, NH 03833

Payment must be received by: June 10, 2013

Guest are welcome to the auction and luncheon. Bring a friend or two!



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One again we have been circulating signup lists for hostess/coordinators (particularly coordinators) for the general meetings. It continues to be difficult to fill all open spots. We thought a review 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.

Volunteer to be the Coordinator! Sign up to be a Crew Member! Everyone will thank you

## **Membership**

*Mimi Brett & Jann Bova*

It's time to renew your membership. Renewal Forms will be available at our general meeting on May 16, 2013, included in this newsletter and also on the website. Please fill out a form when renewing--we want to be sure all contact information is current--and choose which committee/s you would like to join. We hope to have all information ready for the Yearbook in June. May 16, 2013, is the deadline.

We are pleased to welcome a new Member:

Regan Zimmermann  
19 Mockingbird Lane  
Newmarket, NH 03857  
603-292-5450  
[rpzimmermann@me.com](mailto:rpzimmermann@me.com)



May 16, 2013

**Terri Donsker, EAGC Horticulture Chairman,- “Snake Dance with Sanseviearias”**

Hospitality Coordinator: Cindy Gardner

Terri Donsker, Lynda Broadbent, Rhonda Caron, Anne Campbell

Ways & Means

LuAnn Faber

The town of Exeter is celebrating its 375th anniversary this year, and EAGC is contributing to the festivities by designing, baking and selling our “Official EAGC 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookie Pop.”

The Ways & Means committee, along with other creative members, has held a taste-off to choose the official cookie recipe and shape.

Volunteer cookie dough-makers will be mixing up batches of dough in their homes. Then the baking & decorating group takes over, producing & packaging our flower-shaped cookie pops on Tuesday, May 14. We'll be premiering our cookie creations at the Seacoast Idol competition on May 19 at the Cooperative Middle School in Stratham.

All proceeds from the sale of cookies will go directly into our Mini-Grant fund and eventually used for beautification of public areas in our communities. This is a win-win-win endeavor: great exposure for EAGC, extra mini-grant funding, and our club's acknowledgement of Exeter's milestone anniversary.



If you haven't signed up to help out with this fundraiser, there are still opportunities. We'll be selling our cookies at future Exeter 375th events, including the July 20<sup>th</sup>, American Independence Festival. Contact LuAnn ([jimfaber@comcast.net](mailto:jimfaber@comcast.net); 772-5362) or any member of Ways and Means to volunteer your cookie-related skills.

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EAGC will again be participating in the **Stratham Yard Sale**, to be held on Saturday, Sept. 21. Hang on to your unwanted treasures for the summer - we'll be happy to take them off your hands next September!

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**PROMISE TREE**



Spring brought some nice additions to the Promise Tree. We had a beautiful terrarium, stenciled table-runner, a field trip to the Herb Pharmacy, great birdhouses for our feathered friends and beautiful



Lily-of-the-Valley is ready to be dug. Some wonderful activities are being planned, so stay tuned. You don't want to miss anything.

Thanks and Happy Spring,  
Dianna Thompson, Keeper of the Tree

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

<p>May 2 – October 31, 2013- Thursday 2:15 PM – 6 PM Farmer's Market Swasey Pkwy Exeter, NH</p>	<p>Seacoast Farmer's Market Also in Dover, Portsmouth, Durham on other days For More info see: <a href="http://www.seacoastgrowers.org">www.seacoastgrowers.org</a></p>
<p>June 1 – October 1, 2013-Tuesday Farmer's Market Rolling Green Nursery 64 Breakfast Hill Rd. Greenland, NH</p>	<p>Farmer's Market For other events offered by Rolling Green throughout summer, <a href="http://www.rollinggreennursery.com">see www.rollinggreennursery.com</a></p>
<p>May 11, 2013 –Saturday 7 AM – 1 PM at Great Bay Services 2061 Woodbury Ave. Newington, NH</p>	<p>Annual Herb Plant Sale held by NorthEast Seacoast Unit of the Herb Society of America</p>
<p>May 11, 2013 –Saturday 9 AM – 12 PM at Exeter Congregational Church Front St. Exeter, NH</p>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale All proceeds benefit Seacoast Family Promise</p>
<p>May 11 – 12, 2013- Begins 10 AM Saturday through 3 PM Sunday Fuller Gardens 10 Willow Ave North Hampton, NH</p>	<p>Fuller Gardens' Mothers' Day Sale</p>
<p>May 16, 2013- Thursday 9:30 AM at Stratham Community Church Doors open at 9 AM</p>	<p>Coffee &amp; General Meeting Program: Terri Donsker, EAGC Horticulture Chairman,- "Snake Dance with Sansevierias"</p>
<p>June 19, 2013, <b>Wednesday</b> 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM Portsmouth Country Club 80 Country Club Ln, Greenland, NH, 03840</p>	<p>Annual Luncheon and Plant Auction See details under <i>Hospitality</i></p>
<p>Please note: Churchill Gardens, Exeter and Wentworth Greenhouses, Rollinsford, NH Offer various notable events throughout spring and summer – too numerous to mention here. For more information see websites</p>	<p><a href="http://www.wentworthgreenhouses.com">www.wentworthgreenhouses.com</a> <a href="http://www.churchillsgardens.com/">www.churchillsgardens.com/</a></p>

This newsletter was edited by Hazel Reed-Goldstein. The next DIG THIS will be sent in early SEPTEMBER, 2013

**Membership Registration  
2013 -2014  
www.ExeterAreaGardenClub.com**

**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 2013-2014:** \_\_\_\_\_

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.