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ExeterAreaGardenClub.org

The Newsletter of the Exeter Area Garden Club

September/October 2011

>>>> **Have you shopped our Promise Tree?** <<<<
You might be surprised at what you find hanging on its branches!
Details in *Ways & Means* section below...

President's Message

LuAnn Faber

Hello Gardeners,

Well, here we are ... it's fall again. From a gardening standpoint, I can't say I'm sad to say goodbye to summer. I've been fighting the valiant fight against powdery mildew, all manner of fungi, split tomatoes, and potted plants variously drowning or parched, depending on the month. But most aggravating of all, I lost my battle with "The Woodchuck That Cannot Be Trapped". He's probably out there now as I type, nibbling on the rudbeckia and kohlrabi that heroically keep re-growing despite his consistent munching. I can only hope he packs his bags, moves to Florida for the winter, and decides to stay.

Fortunately, as a member of this terrific garden club, I'll be able to tap all my fellow gardeners for advice, remedies, and, hopefully, sympathy. That's what I enjoy most about belonging to a garden club – the fellowship. Next week, I'll go to Becky Mitchell's workshop to find out what I *should* have done this summer to improve my gardening results. And throughout the year, I'll take advantage of our Programs – picking up new techniques (I can't wait to hear "Dr. Tomato" in April!) and learning about new aspects of gardening.

Look over this newsletter (and our website) for the news and information our contributors have shared with us this fall. I'm sure you'll find something to pique your interest and I look forward to discussing it with you at our next meeting!

- LuAnn



Our new Yearbooks are in! If you weren't able to attend the September General Meeting, be sure to pick up your copy at the next meeting or contact Yearbook Editor, Dianna Thompson, to make alternate arrangements.

Membership

Susan Canada & Mimi Brett

Welcome to these New Members:

Maxine Forward, 31 Butterfield Lane, Stratham 03885 778-7023 maxine.forward@gmail.com

Norma McGarr, 137 Court Street, Exeter 03833 772-7162 no email given

Pamela Murray, 16 Muirfield Road, Stratham 03885 778-1403 maz.murray@yahoo.com

We're happy you've joined EAGC and look forward to getting to know you better!

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Susan and Mimi have made new name tags for our members. Please let them know if there are any corrections to be made. Also, there are some members who still have not paid their dues for the year (\$25). Dues can be paid at the General Meeting or mailed to Susan or Mimi.

Programs

Ann Schieber & Mary-Jo Chadwick

Our speaker for our October 20th Program "*Designing Continuously Blooming Perennial Gardens*" is Lee Schneller Sligh from South Thomaston, Maine. Lee will be presenting the simple system she devised for designing gardens that bloom continuously as illustrated in her best-selling book, *The Ever-Blooming Flower Garden: A Blueprint for Continuous Color*, which was released by Storey Publishing in March, 2009.

Lee is a Master Gardener volunteer and has designed over 200 gardens in Maine. She earned degrees in Asian History and Chinese Language and Literature, and spent ten years as a Japanese technical translator before starting her gardening business, Lee Schneller Fine Gardens, in 1995.

Horticulture

Becky Mitchell & Terri Donsker

GARDEN WORKSHOP

The Horticulture Committee invites you to sign up for a perennial gardening workshop with Becky Mitchell and Terri Donsker on Thursday, Sept. 22, 9:30-Noon (rain date Sept. 29). It will be held at Becky's garden, 200 Portsmouth Ave., Stratham.

Please let Becky know if you plan to attend (778-7979 or rufusrulesok@hotmail.com). Attendance will be limited to 15 gardeners.

There will be plenty of time for questions and for sharing triumphs and tribulations. Becky will demonstrate digging, dividing and transplanting of peonies, iris, daylilies and maybe more depending on time and the state of her garden. We can also talk about fall garden goals (let's not call them chores!) and winter preparation.

TENDER CARE FOR TENDER PLANTS

Now is the time to tend to any annuals or tender perennials that you intend to bring indoors for the winter. For instance, I plant my rosemary and scented geraniums out in the garden for the summer. Before the end of September I will take some cuttings to start some new plants and then pot the mother plant, beginning the process of conditioning it for indoor life. At night shelter the plants from any potential frost, and during the day place the pots out of direct sun so that the plants get used to lower light levels. Rosemary can take slightly below freezing temperatures, and the cold may help the plant to flower later in the winter. Be sure to keep up with watering but stop feeding.

If you have used any hardy perennials or shrubs in your outdoor containers (such as hostas, sedums or dwarf evergreens) now is a good time to plant them in some good soil. Those slightly stressed plants would probably also appreciate a robe of cozy mulch after the ground has frozen.

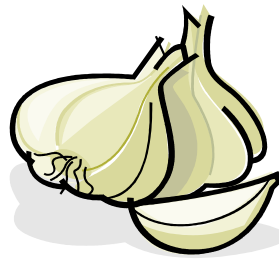
Becky Mitchell

Herbs

Lynda Broadbent & Patti Elwell

The Herb Committee is looking forward to meeting old and new committee members at the first club meeting. We had great response to our herb education displays last year so we are planning on continuing to provide you with more tasty information on new herbs and spices this coming year! Of course we will also be planning our annual holiday luncheon, and at least one herb field trip. Until we see you again, remember this:

“Tomatoes and oregano make it Italian;
Wine and tarragon make it French.
Sour cream makes it Russian;
Lemon and cinnamon make it Greek.
Soy sauce makes it Chinese;
Garlic makes it good.”
~Alice May Brock



Ways & Means

Dianna Thompson

\$\$ Promise Tree Project \$\$

The Ways and Means project for this club year is the Promise Tree.

Each club member will make a promise, determine a monetary value, write it on a leaf and hang it on the tree.

Club members will then “shop” the tree at each monthly meeting, deciding on what you may enjoy or need, and make your purchases.

Linda Sadlock will record promises, shoppers and prices. Price is paid at time of purchase and funds go into the treasury.

This will be fun, creative, helpful and interactive.

*Except during the nine months
before he draws his first breath,
no man manages his affairs
as well as a tree does.*
~George Bernard Shaw



Environment & Conservation

Betsy Vershay & Jill Compton

Beautification Mini-Grant Update

The Environment and Conservation Committee visited the Mini-Grant recipient gardens on August 23rd, a little later in the summer than we had originally intended. This proved better timing for some gardens than others. Nevertheless, we were thrilled to see how our grants had been spent. I hope you have an opportunity to view the Mini-Grant poster at our September or October meeting. If possible, why not visit some of the gardens yourself? A list of the recipient locations will be posted at the meetings.

Seacoast School of Technology Scholarship

Last June, Elizabeth Murphy, of Exeter, was awarded EAGC's \$1,000 scholarship designated for a student or graduate of SST's Plant Sciences program. Elizabeth is going into her second year at The Thompson School at UNH, majoring in Ornamental Horticulture. She sent this note of gratitude to EAGC:

Dear Ms. Faber,

Thank you so much for the scholarship that the Club awarded me. I really appreciate it and I thank you for choosing me as the recipient. I am extremely grateful for the financial aid that I have been given because it will help me in achieving my goal of working in the horticulture industry. I know that this scholarship will be a big help with helping me pay for school. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Murphy

We also received a letter from Margaret E. Callahan, Principal of SST, thanking us for the “strong commitment our organization has made to the Seacoast School of Technology.”

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The 1st annual Exeter River Clean-Up is being held on Sat., October 1, from 10 to noon. This cleanup effort is sponsored by the Brentwood Conservation Commission, Exeter Conservation Commission, Great Bay Trout Unlimited, Exeter Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee and the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire. Volunteers will be picking up cans, bottles, worm containers and other trash at Crawley Falls, Haigh Road, Rowell Road West, Pickpocket Dam, Powder Mill Road/Route 111 and other locations.

Volunteers are needed. It’s not a glamorous task but it’s necessary, since the river is a water source for many of us. There is a reward: volunteers are invited to come back to the Brentwood Recreation Center for a BBQ from 11:30am to noon. As an additional thank you, each participant will receive a reusable grocery bag. See Calendar of Events below for contact info.

Website

Patti Elwell

The Exeter Area Garden Club website continues to grow and become more of a reference for current members and great resource for attracting new members! The website has all of the new programs for the upcoming year listed and our list of members has been updated. Watch for more details about our new “Promise Tree” fundraiser to appear as well.

Don’t forget to check the special members-only pages for programs, recipes, meeting minutes, members list and more that is not available to the general public. To access the members only pages, you need to have a special username and password that is only available to EAGC members. If you have not yet received the username and password, or if you need a quick lesson on using the website, please contact Patti Elwell at 778-1659 or pmelwell@comcast.net.

Items of Interest

UNH Cooperative Extension is offering a workshop on Sept. 24, from 9:30 to 12:30 on “closing up your garden.” It’s entitled *Put your Garden to Bed for the Winter . . . Assess Your Success . . . Plan for Next Year*. The workshop is \$15 per family and will be held at the Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Auburn Way, Auburn. To register, (which is required) contact Ron Christie at 603-679-5616 or ron.christie@unh.edu.

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The Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is looking for help in creating and caring for an educational community garden on the shores of Great Bay at Chapman's Landing in Stratham. They're in the early stages of developing a backyard wildlife gardening demonstration area. The project will begin with "Public Work Parties" to clear the space of weeds & invasives. If weed-pulling is not your preferred entertainment, check the website anyway. There will be designs to be chosen, planting parties, watering needed, tours to be given, and so much more as they develop what is hoped to become a treasured community resource. See contact info in the Calendar of Events below for more information.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- September 15, 9:30 a.m. General Meeting at Stratham Community Church.
- September 24, 9:20-12:30 *Put your Garden to Bed for the Winter . . . Assess Your Success . . . Plan for Next Year.* UNH Cooperative Extension Workshop in Auburn. Contact Ron Christie at 603-679-5616 or ron.christie@unh.edu.
- September 24 Public Work Party at Chapman's Landing, Stratham, to help establish a Community Garden on the Squamscott River. Contact Shannon O'Brien at 778-0015 or Shannon.obrien@wildlife.nh.gov.
- October 1, 10-noon 1st Annual Exeter River Clean-Up, followed by BBQ. Call Rob Wofchuck, 244-8562, or email robwof@gmail.com for info.
- October 12 2nd Public Work Party at Chapman's Landing. See above entry for contact info.
- October 20, 9:30 a.m. General Meeting at Stratham Community Church. Lee Schneller on *Designing Continuously Blooming Perennial Gardens*.
- October 24 Design Workshop at the Exeter Senior Center. Sign up with Donna Wilson or Connie Gilmore.

*"Youth is like spring, an over-praised season more remarkable
for biting winds than genial breezes.
Autumn is the mellower season,
and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits."
-Samuel Butler*



This newsletter was edited by LuAnn Faber. The next DIG THIS will be sent in early November, 2011.
All submissions for that newsletter are due by November 7.