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Newsletter of the Exeter Area Garden Club
November/December 2013

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

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

Please Note: November Joint Meeting with Rye Driftwood Club will be **Tuesday, November 19, 2013**

President's Message

Patti Elwell

Hello Gardeners!

This time of year there is little left in the vegetable beds to harvest: a few sprigs of spinach and kale, some carrots and parsnips still to be pulled and some hardy rosemary. No more colorful flowers are in bloom, and all of the bright leaves have fallen from the trees. Until I became a member of the EAGC, I thought that spring was for planting and summer for growing and fall was simply time for putting away hoses and raking leaves. Today I think back to many of the EAGC speakers we have had who have shown me the error of my ways!

Over the years I have learned that fall is just as important of a time for gardening as any other, and what I do now can make all of the difference in how my garden does the next year. I know that the reason I was getting so many volunteer tomato plants is that the tomato seeds from my spent plant can merely thrive in the heat of the composter. By the same token that the late blight that got some of the tomato plants might also survive the compost process leaving me to contaminate my beds with my compost. I have learned that fall is not only the time to plant tulip and daffodil bulbs, but also to plant garlic bulbs that will be ready to harvest the following July. I know now that if I cover my kale and spinach that are making the last hurrah in veggies of the fall, they will be the first edibles in my garden in the spring treating me with the most amazing flavors.

While I can be tempted to skip some of the chores of garden clean-up and cover-up in the fall, I know that the work I do now will mean that these tasks are out of the way in spring when I am busiest with new plants and reopening activities. Although it feels like a sad time to see the plants die back, winter is a crucial season for perennials and fruit bearing trees since going into dormancy is important to their growth. A nice layer of composted mulch in the fall will not only help suppress those spring weeds, but will also keep the frozen ground a more consistent temperature for sleeping plants and protect them from a confusing winter thaw. I think it is a time when gardeners also "go into dormancy," enjoying the opportunity to curl up under their own blanket and regenerate energy for the coming year!

But oh, it can be difficult to find enough time in the garden in the fall. With so many exciting and fun club and community activities, there are not always enough hours in the week! I hope you have had, and will have, a chance to participate in the happenings of the club and Promise Tree events. In October we had a wonderful witches' tea at Max's home, filled with all sorts of spooky tricks and treats, and are now watching her wayward Jackalope via the website as he travels throughout the land! We also had a chance to create an amazing herb wreath with the design committee and paint a watercolor sunflower in a class conducted by new member Linda Gebhart.

In November we will have our program with Rye featuring Roger Swain, and in December, we will be in full holiday spirit with Mary Jo's cookie swap and our annual holiday luncheon and Yankee swap. Be sure to read the website email for updates, and find us on Facebook for lots of extra tidbits of gardening and community information!

Already I received my first seed catalog of the 2014 gardening season and soon I, like you, will be planning my new garden. Looking forward to celebrating the end of one year and the beginning of another with you all! Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy and weed-free new year!

~ Patti

Aside from the Garden of Eden, man's great temptation took place when he first received his seed catalogue.

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet (born 2/6/1807)

Civic Beautification

Nance Jordan & Melanie McGrail

The Civic Beautification committee is now into its winter mode.

Mel has readied the Stratham Veterans Garden for Veterans' Day and Exeter has set the wheels in motion for decorating the Historical Society. The later will happen on Monday, December 2nd at 9:30 am. Members have already signed up but if you are interested please let me know.

~Thanks, Nance 778-8204

Design

Connie Gilmore & Linda Broadbent

Holiday Arrangement Workshop

The Design Committee will be hosting a Holiday Arrangement Workshop on Wednesday, December 11 from 2-4 p.m. at the Exeter Senior Center.

Each December we try to make an arrangement that will remain fresh throughout the holidays. This year we will make an arrangement of evergreens and flowers that is a finished design all by itself. Here is what you need for the workshop:

1. Get at least 3 kinds of evergreens – broadleaf, textured, varied shades of green (no hemlock) and some kind of berries.
2. Choose your container.
3. Get 3 or 5 large flowers to add to the greens (6 or 7 if it is to be seen from all sides). These can be replaced easily, if necessary, to keep fresh for the holidays. Optionally you could use silk or dried flowers, real or “near real” fruit or vegetables, in the live green arrangement-- anything you can imagine!
4. You can avoid having to pay fees when you arrive by bringing your own oasis.



~Connie Gilmore

Be sure to sign up by calling Connie at 772-4804!

IT SOUNDS LIKE A PERSONAL PROBLEM. I HAVE WORMS.

This is a rather slow time for the Environment and Conservation Committee. You know, joint meeting with Rye in November and Christmas Luncheon in December. So I just thought I'd catch you up on my worms. Seriously, several people have asked.



It all seemed like an excellent idea; buy the worms and garbage will be a thing of the past. The speaker, Joan O'Connor, was entertaining and enthusiastic and it all sounded so simple. So I paid the \$25, and brought the little red wigglers home. Next, the bin which needed a hole cut in the top and a piece of cloth to let in some air. Then the peat moss, which is terribly fly away and takes a ton of water to moisten, and some strips of newspaper, also moistened. Put it all together, add some garbage (but far less than you imagine) and six months later you have a huge mess on your deck when it's 95 degrees and you're sweating buckets and your husband is yelling at you and you can't separate the goop from the worms and you're afraid they'll all die in the heat and then you find you actually don't care if they do die and you have a wheelbarrow full of semi-dissolved dirt and table scraps that you're randomly throwing on every houseplant and flower and vegetable in your garden. Then the remaining worms that are actually still managing to wriggle are put back into the bin and it all starts over. **NOW THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS – MY CHRISTMAS CACTUSES ARE ALL BLOOMING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS.** So let's all be thankful



this Thanksgiving season for worms and worm POOP and our wonderful garden club.

Please bring your coffee mugs to our general meetings and let's all do our part to save the environment.

~ Jill

Herbs

Lynda Broadbent & Barbara Kenney

The Herb Group is preparing for their festive **Holiday Luncheon**, to be held at the Wentworth by the Sea Country Club on Thursday, December 19th at Noon. If you want to attend, please send your \$30 check to Susan Canada by November 21st.

It is suggested that each attendee is asked to bring a \$10 wrapped gift for a gift exchange.



Membership

Mimi Brett & Jann Bova

We are delighted to welcome the following 6 new members:

Paula Francese (Peter)
181 High St., Exeter, NH 03833
603-778-1726
NHNONNI@gmail.com
Horticulture Committee

Pat Navin (Chuck)
32 Mill Rd., Hampton, NH 03842-2237
H 929-6315 C 591-1930
navin32@comcast.net
Herbs Committee

Ann Hohenberger (Marv)
34 Prentiss Way, Exeter, NH 03833
804-815-5008
ann.h@me.com
Environment & Conservation Committee

Linda Gebhart
4 Bailey Ave. Hampton, NH 03842
929-3850
johnlgebhart@aol.com
Program Committee

Betsy Appleby
57 Stratham Green, Stratham, NH 03885
H 583-5382 C 860-604-6585
betsyappl@yahoo.com
Hospitality Committee

Halcyon Springer
178 Sandown Rd., Danville, NH 03819-3006
603-347-1963
hspringer12@myfairpoint.net
Publicity Committee

Please add the above new members to your yearbook and, make the following changes as well:

Nance Jordan- nancejordan@live.com
Ruth Dubenitz- janice.cowan@comcast.net

Jann Bova- Cell # 397-8035

Programs

Ann Schieber

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Special joint meeting with Rye Driftwood Garden Club

Roger Swain, host of PBS Victory Garden and author of five gardening books, will speak about "The Kitchen: Food & Flowers from the Home Garden," at the joint meeting of the EAGC and the Rye Driftwood Garden Club which will begin at 10 AM at the Rye Congregational Church.

Hospitality Coordinator: Terri Donsker

Hospitality Team: Jill Flanders, Helen Gallant, Hazel Reed-Goldstein, Sonny Rochells, Linda Sadlock, JoAn Walker, Regan Zimmerman

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Holiday Luncheon at Wentworth by the Sea Country Club

Ways & Means

LuAnn Faber

PROMISE TREE

The Promise Tree is off to a great start with fun activities enjoyed by many. There have been lunches, a witchy party, painting class, several Mah-Jongg classes that have been great fun, and there is a Cookie Swap coming up on Tues., December 10th—something for everyone.

We have sold items right off the table such as cookies, a terrarium, scarves and other hand-made items.

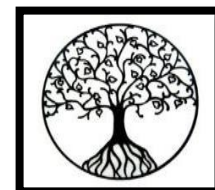
Check the web site for a complete list.

Please be thinking about what you want to add on your leaf.

Every member should contribute something to do their share. We all benefit.

It's a wonderful way to get to know each other better and share enjoyable time together.

Watch for sign-up sheets at the meetings... the Cookie Swap sheet will be there...and check the web site.



~Dianna Thompson

Calendar of Upcoming Events

<p>November 17, 2013—Sunday at 1 PM – 2 PM Churchill's Gardens 12 Hampton Rd. Exeter, NH</p>	<p>Learn to make holiday gift baskets in only 15 minutes. Several types of plant-filled baskets will be demonstrated by our own member, Denis Landis. Cookies and recipes will be handed out. Reservations Required 772-2685, ext. 5</p>
<p>November 19, 2013--Tuesday, 10 AM-Noon Joint Meeting with Rye Driftwood Garden Club Rye Congregational Church 580 Washington Rd., Rye, NH</p>	<p>Coffee and Special Joint Meeting Program: Roger Swain, "The Kitchen Garden: Food and Flowers from the Home Garden"</p>
<p>December 2, 2013—Monday, 9:30 AM Exeter Historical Society 47 Front St, Exeter, NH</p>	<p>Holiday decorating of Exeter Historical Society See "Civic Beautification" above Call Nance Jordan to assist</p>
<p>December 10, 2013—Monday 11 AM – 1 PM Home of Mary-Jo Chadwick 42 Alexis Lane, Hampton Falls, NH</p>	<p>Famous Promise Tree Cookie Swap Requires only \$10 and 5 dozen cookies</p>
<p>December 11, 2013—Wednesday 2 PM – 4 PM Exeter Senior Center 32 Court St., Exeter, NH</p>	<p>Holiday Arrangement Workshop See above under "Design"</p>
<p>December 19, 2013, Thursday, Noon to 3 PM Wentworth by the Sea Country Club 60 Wentworth Rd, Rye, NH</p>	<p>Holiday Luncheon and Gift Swap</p>
<p>Please note: Churchill Gardens, Exeter, Rolling Green Nursery in Greenland and Wentworth Greenhouses, Rollinsford, NH offer various notable events throughout fall. For more information see websites.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> www.wentworthgreenhouses.com www.churchillsgardens.com/ see www.rollinggreennursery.com www.seacoastgrowers.org </p>

This newsletter was edited by Hazel Reed-Goldstein. The next DIG THIS will be sent in early January, 2014

The Garden Hose
In the gray evening
I see a long green serpent
With its tail in the dabbias.
It lies in loops across the grass
And drinks softly at the faucet.
I can hear it swallow.

—Beatrice Janosco

**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.