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ExeterAreaGardenClub.org***

The Newsletter of the Exeter Area Garden Club

November/December 2012

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

Check our Website for answer to the Website question

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

President's Message

Patti Elwell

Hello Gardeners,

Last month I was shopping for some fall EAGC design class supplies at Tendercrop Farm in Newbury. It was a wonderful place with an amazing selection of dried flowers hanging from the large beams on the second floor. I was blissfully looking for plants for my arrangement when I saw IT: the nemesis of my yard and garden, Nut Sedge. This reviled grass grows more quickly than almost any other weed in my yard, with its light green leaves and feathery brown head seeming to appear almost overnight after I thought I had eradicated it the day before.

But there at Tendercrop, among the dried flowers and grasses, this Nut Sedge was not reviled. There, it was celebrated. It was celebrated as a plant that could add unique texture to my design creation. As I stood staring at that dreaded plant, I began to realize the importance of looking at my plants in a new way. I felt like the Grinch. I puzzled and puzzled 'til my puzzler was sore, then I thought of something I hadn't before; maybe, I thought, this Nut Sedge is a little bit more. Maybe this weed could have a place in my world of plants; maybe if I thought of it differently I could find a way to learn to live in peace with it, if not love it.

Back at home, I wandered around my yard, looking at many of my plants in a way I hadn't before. Maybe my silvery sage bush could be something more than a dried herb. It could be a lovely addition to a vase with flowers. My hot peppers won't be just added to my shrimp creole next year, but will be dried and used in next year's fall arrangement. And that dreaded nut sedge, maybe next year I will give it a little more respect! Look around your garden the next time you are walking and envision all your plants might do for you!

What a spectacular start we have had to our 40th year. Mel has developed a wonderful welcome packet for those guests who attend our meetings, providing them with an incentive to join our amazing club. The fall design class, with Donna and Connie explaining the "cluster technique", created some impressive arrangements. And, at the September meeting, EAGC members had an opportunity to get some hands-on training in the use of the website and had an opportunity to see the many exciting changes Max has implemented.

Our Promise Tree activities have added not only to our budget, but also have given us a chance to have fun together. A wonderful wine and cheese party was thrown by Anne C, Jann and Ruth; a delicious class in making Spring Rolls was offered by Max; and an impressive Halloween party was held at Susan's house complete with a fortune teller and spooky refreshments. Thanks to those of you who have put other items on the tree for sale. Holidays are coming so be on the lookout for impressive handmade crafts and foods.

It will be exciting to hear from our speaker in November who can show us all how to keep gardening in the winter months. We will not be having a general meeting in December, but hopefully many of you will be able to sign up for the holiday luncheon on Dec. 13. If I don't see you over the next months, I wish you joyful holidays with your family and friends. And remember: your garden is never so good as it will be next year.

~ Patti



We are pleased to welcome new Members:

Carol Powell, 420 Bennett Way, Newmarket, NH 03857
 Tel # H 603-292-6776 C 614-479-9777 capowell70@yahoo.com
 Carol has joined the Awards Committee.

Betsy C. Appleby, 57 Stratham Green, Stratham, NH 03885
 Tel # H 603-583-5382 C 860-604-6585 Betsyappl@yahoo.com
 Betsy has joined the Hospitality Committee.

Yearbook member corrections:

Ruth Dubenitz' correct email address is cowancom@comcast.net, not cowan_com@comcast.net.

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



The holiday workshop will be held at the Exeter Historical Society during the last week of November. We will be making topiary trees, (2) decorating wreaths (3) and filling urns (2). We are always looking for ornaments or decorations that would be appropriate for the wreaths, so please check your supplies and bring to the next mtg. I will collect them. Currently I am waiting a return call from Barbara for confirmation of the date. A sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting.

Thank you,
 Nance Jordan 778-8204

The Holiday Design Class will be held on Tuesday, December 18, from 2-4PM at the Exeter Senior Center. We will make a candlestick arrangement with fresh flowers and greens. The Design Committee will collect \$3-5 to purchase floral foam in a holder that attaches to a candlestick. Participants will purchase floral materials to match their décor. A sign-up sheet will be available at the November general meeting. Please join us to create a special holiday accent for your home.
 Connie & Donna

Wild Turkeys

The turkeys on the E&C committee, oops, I mean the members of the E&C committee, hope you will stop by our turkey table at the November general meeting and take our silly turkey quiz. Take the quiz, not written this time, and win a turkey chocolate. Yum!



Did you know that at one point there were no wild turkeys in New Hampshire? The experts now believe there are over 40,000 and that they are in every town in our state. If you have pictures or reports of wild turkeys in your backyard, bring them to the November general meeting to share with

Please take a moment to read the following letter from two mini-grant recipients who visited our general meeting in September:



October 21st 2012

Linda Gebhart & Betsy

Exeter Area Garden Club

What a wonderful welcoming group you are.

Linda and I enjoyed so much the October meeting from the welcome packet, the spider quiz, the wish tree, the pleasant mingling, baked treats, the mini grant display (of which we are both thankful recipients.) it was all just a special way to meet with a group that loves gardening.

We both thank you for our grants to plant the gardens in Hampton that have made many people more aware of how important a garden can be to show the health of a community.

Keep up the good work you do and know that you are appreciated

Karen Raynes
Linda Gebhart



The Christmas Luncheon is all planned for December 13th at 11:30 AM at Wentworth by the Sea. We have 30 people signed up and 2 on the waiting list. If anyone wants to be on the waiting list Please

send me an email:

Lynbob@comcast.net or call me at 772-6264. Thank you .

Lynda

☆ THE SECRET OF THE MISTLETOE

Oh, my! The festive Holiday Season is upon us!! With it come stories and traditions from all around the world: Beautiful traditions from foods to lighted candles, to stockings on the hearth to very special botanical accessories. Among these, Holly, Poinsettia and, the most romantic: the Mistletoe. How pretty are the berries. How welcoming. How the mandatory kiss under a garlanded sprig—usually suspended in a prominent place under which all guests must pass—results in a laugh and a toast.

The dear Mistletoe, however, has a darker side—a malevolent secret-- - for she is a parasite. Neither the mighty oak, nor the fragrant juniper is totally free from her tell-tale baskets suspended from their boughs. (The Indian word for the plant means "hanging basket".)

"Mistletoe is the common name for obligate (a parasite that cannot complete its life cycle without a host), , hemi-parasitic (doing some of its own photo-synthesis) plants in several families in the order Santalales . These plants grow attached to and penetrating within the branches of a tree or shrub by a structure called the haustorium, through which they absorb nutrients from the host plant."

But unless terribly infested, the host tree does not die, rather shares in the increase of bio-diversity on the planet:

" A study of mistletoe in junipers concluded that more juniper berries sprout in stands where mistletoe is present, as the mistletoe attracts berry-eating birds which also eat juniper berries. Such interactions lead to dramatic influences on diversity, as areas with greater mistletoe densities support higher diversities of animals. Thus, rather than being a pest, mistletoe can have a positive effect on biodiversity, providing high quality food and habitat for a broad range of animals in forests and woodlands worldwide.

"According to ancient Christmas custom, a man and a woman who meet under a hanging of mistletoe were obliged to kiss. The custom may be of Scandinavian origin. It was described in 1820 by American author Washington Irving in his "The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon":

'The mistletoe is still hung up in farm-houses and kitchens at Christmas, and the young men have the privilege of kissing the girls under it, plucking each time a berry from the bush. When the berries are all plucked the privilege ceases'

"*Viscum album* is used in Europe whereas *Phoradendron serotinum* is used in North America. According to custom, the mistletoe must not touch the ground between its cutting and its removal as the last of Christmas greens at Candlemas; it may remain hanging through the year, often to preserve the house from lightning or fire, until it is replaced the following Christmas Eve. The tradition has spread throughout the English-speaking world but is largely unknown in the rest of Europe. The word 'mistletoe' (Old English *mistiltan*) is of uncertain etymology; it may be related to German *Mist*, for dung and *Tang* for branch, since mistletoe can be spread in the feces of birds moving from tree to tree. However, Old English *mistel* was also used for basil. European mistletoe, *Viscum album*, figured prominently in Greek mythology, and is believed to be the 'Golden Bough' of Aeneas, ancestor of the Romans."

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So enjoy the traditions of the holiday season, now with more appreciation of that special, suspended seductress: the Mistletoe.

--Terri Donsker





Mistletoe in Silver Birch



Mistletoe in Lebanon

External links:

- [The Mistletoe Center](#)
- [About mistletoe](#)
- [Parasitic Plant Connection. See families Misodendraceae, Loranthaceae, Santalaceae, and Viscaceae](#)
- [Introduction to Parasitic Flowering Plants by Nickrent & Musselman](#)
- [Mistletoe phylogenetics; 2000 WIFDWK pdf by Nickrent](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Life Sciences 2001 pdf by Nickrent](#)
- [Phoradendron serotinum images at bioimages.vanderbilt.edu](#)
- [More Information](#)
- [Scientific Studies, Research and Clinical Trials on Mistletoe Treatment in Cancer](#)
- [Deck the halls with wild, wonderful mistletoe, West Virginia Department of Agriculture](#)

**Quoted text, links, photos and references taken from Wikipedia free encyclopedia external*

Programs

Ann Schieber

November 15, 2012

Ron Christi-"Growing Vegetables in Fall, Winter & Spring Extensions"

Hospitality Coordinator: Maxine Forward

Hazel Reed Goldstein, Rhonda Caron, Lyn Broadbent, Jann Bova

December 13, 2012

Holiday Luncheon at Wentworth By The Sea

Ways & Means

LuAnn Faber

The **Promise Tree** has had a fun fall.

Anne, Jann, and Ruth hosted a wonderful evening of wine and cheese at Anne's home in Exeter. They were ready for a crowd, and those of us in attendance enjoyed the scrumptious array of appetizers. It was very nice to have the company of a "few good men" to add interest to the evening. Thank you Anne, Jann and Ruth.



In addition, many members and a few husbands enjoyed a very funny Halloween Party at the Canada's. We had a pumpkin-carving contest, creative costume couture, great tasting and interesting looking food....a great time was had by all. Maxine, the Medium, gave positive readings, but Witch Melanie may have put a hex on the gardens of those not attending. Thank you, Susan, for hosting such a fun evening.

Another very enjoyable and tasty event was the Pumpkin Luncheon at Patti Elwell's house. Who knew

certainly try those recipes...a wonderful afternoon. Thank you Patti.

All members should be thinking about what they can offer or contribute on the Promise Tree. Remember that the holidays are fast approaching and we all will be shopping and needing gifts and party foods. Be thinking, be creative and have fun with it.

Dianna Thompson

Website

Maxine Forward

We're Catching On!



Well, it's been a couple of months now since the new site was rolled out. It seems to be gradually catching on. Several members and even a couple of non-members have said they really like it. I can check, using Google Analytics, to see how many visitors we get. For the month of October we had 241 visits, with 40% of those visits being new viewers. The counts do not include visits from the administrator (that would be me) for maintenance. We are now at the top of the list for Google Search if you type in "NH Garden Clubs"!

I want to give a shout out to Lynda Broadbent, Dorothy Williams, Rhonda Caron, Patti Elwell, Donna Wilson & Betsy Vershay for providing content for the website last month. Keep those comments and stories coming! I am still looking for contributors to join the team. Hope you had fun reading about all the spooky plants out there.

Why don't you share your favorite Thanksgiving recipes with us this month? Send them to me along with a picture (if you have one) and we'll get them published.

Pop Quiz: What 3 showy flowers are displayed during The Day of the Dead celebration (Nov.1) in Mexico?*

**Find the answer on our website*

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 15, 2012, Thursday 9:30 AM at Stratham Community Church Doors open at 9 AM	Coffee & General Meeting Program: Ron Christi-"Growing Vegetables iFall, Winter & Spring Extensions"
November & December, 2012, Every 1st & 3rd Saturday 10 AM – 2PM at Rolling Green Nursery, 64 Breakfast Hill Rd, Greenland, NH	Winter Farmers' Market with Local Agricultural Products RollingGreenNursery.com
November 17, 2012 – Wentworth Greenhouses 10 AM-2 PM at Wentworth Greenhouses, 141 Rollins Road, Rollinsford , NH	Winter Farmer's Market
December 1, 2012 – Wentworth Greenhouses 10 AM-2 PM at Wentworth Greenhouses, 141 Rollins Road, Rollinsford , NH	Winter Farmer's Market & Craft Market

December 8, 2012 10 AM-2 PM at Exeter High School 315 Epping Road, Exeter	Winter's Farmer's Market
December 13, 2012, Thursday 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM at Marriott Wentworth by the Sea 588 Wentworth Road, New Castle NH, 03854	Holiday Luncheon – Members Only
December 18, 2012, Tuesday 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Senior Center Exeter	Design Workshop Candlestick arrangement of fresh flowers and greens
December 22, 2012 - Wentworth Greenhouses 10 AM-2 PM at Wentworth Greenhouses, 141 Rollins Road, Rollinsford , NH	Winter's Farmer's Market & Craft Market

This newsletter was edited by Hazel Reed-Goldstein. The next DIG THIS will be sent in early January 2013
All submissions for that newsletter are due by January 5

***T**hanks for time to be together, turkey, talk, and tangy weather.
H for harvest stored away, home, and hearth, and holiday.
A for autumn's frosty art, and abundance in the heart.
N for neighbors and November, nice things, new things to remember.
K for kitchen, kettles' croon, kith and kin expected soon.
S for sizzles, sights, and sounds, and something special that about.*

*That spells **THANKS** for joy in living and a jolly good
Thanksgiving.*

- Aileen Fisher, All in a Word



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.