

The Perennial



2016-2017

Issue 3: November

Website:
ArlingtonGarden.org

It's that time of year when we put our gardens to bed. Consider leaving seed heads on flowers like Purple Coneflower and Brown-eyed Susan which can provide winter interest for us and food for birds like goldfinches, chickadees, cardinals, nuthatches, sparrows, and towhees.

December's Program: December 14 at 10:30
St. John's Episcopal Church, 74 Pleasant St., Arlington, MA



Our December Meeting looks to be a lot of fun. The board has planned a special event; a live auction; and a poetry reading by Miriam Levine, garden club member and Arlington Poet Laureate. Be prepared to put on your thinking cap and be sure to bring your checkbook!

Nancy and Carol will need to know if you will be attending, so that they can order enough food for the attendees.



Trip to Flax Farm Cranberry Bog – Emily Snyder

Under the direction of tour organizer, Emily Forshay-Crowley, five Club members visited Flax Pond Farm in Carver MA on a sunny October day. The farm, a dry harvest cranberry farm which sells its fresh fruit to Ocean Spray Cranberries, the cranberry growers' cooperative. Most cranberries (98%) are used to produce such well known products as cranberry juice, juice blends and frozen cranberries.



Our tour guide was Flax Pond Farm's owner, Jack Angley. As we stood next to a bog covered in green vines dotted with dark red berries, Jack ably answered our many questions. One aspect the group was hoping to see was a harvest. However, Jack told us that his *dry* bogs were too *wet*. Due to fear of frost the night before, at midnight Jack had been out sprinkling his bogs to avert danger to the berries at critical harvest time. Fortunately, there wasn't a frost, but neither was there a dry harvest for us to watch.

Having learned more about the crop, we headed into the shop, a sturdy old wooden structure "where we really make our money," Jack had told us. Inside, family members busily attended to customers and also demonstrated an antique cranberry separating machine, once turned by hand, where cranberries "bounce" down and out the other side. Cranberries' hollow cavities mean that fresh fruit always bounces.



While shopping, we sampled cranberry tea whose aroma wafted throughout the store, and where old photographs of the farm dotted the walls. Our paper bags laden with cranberry soap, tea and, of course, fresh berries, we headed home.

Wreath Making – Juliette Avots and Carol Nahigian

On Saturday, November 26, members can gather at Carol's house for a wreath making workshop. Although the wreaths will be used to decorate the Jason Russell House, you will come away with the skills to make your own wreath. Please bring clippers, greens, natural adornments like berries or rose hips and gloves. Forms and wire will be provided.

Senior Center Project – Joanne Morel and Kathy Morello

Plans are underway for the garden at the Maple Street entrance to the Senior Center. Sally Naish will offer a series of design programs, starting on Wednesday, November 16 at 9:30 at the Senior Center. The group will complete an inventory of the site and the neighborhood to assist in planning the design. Future design and planning dates will be decided at the meeting. For more information, contact Kathy Morello.

Town Hall Gardens – Patsy Kraemer



The final work day for the Town Hall Garden was held October 31. Each week for twenty weeks this past spring, summer, and fall, between four and twelve volunteers worked at the Robbins Memorial Garden.



Huge amounts of invasive Bittersweet, Porcelain Berry and Multiflora Rose were removed. In addition, volunteers pruned up many shrubs and trees. At least 300 hours have been provided this year by the Arlington Garden Club and the Master Gardeners working toward bringing back the gardens to their former glory.

Fundraising Poll Results – Patsy Kraemer

The results are in for the poll taken at our October meeting. The plant sale had the most positive responses and we will continue to hold this in the spring. The second most votes went to a garden and/or house tour and plans are underway for an event to be held in late September or early October. We still need chairpersons for both these events.

Books in Bloom Planning – Patsy Kraemer and Sally Naish

The first meeting for Books in Bloom will be held Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 9:00 am in the Reading Room of the Robbins Library. The Library is closed on Thursday mornings so you will need to enter by going down the ramp to the right of the front stairs and then head up to the first floor and the reading room.

Garden Therapy – Robin Watkins and Barbara Neenan

On November 7, the Garden Therapy committee visited the Park Avenue Health Center for a craft, snack and sing along. Each resident decorated a flower pot with leaf stickers and filled the pot with bright autumn leaves and flowers. Afterwards residents enjoyed cinnamon apple cake and coffee or juice. Kathy Reeder played the piano for the sing along, adding some new songs to our repertoire, and Carol Nahigian led everyone in singing. Irene McKinnon created the autumn craft project, and Beverly Miller baked the delicious apple cake. Charleen Donahue, Janet Clarke, Barbara Neenan and Robin Watkins helped residents with their craft projects.

Environmental Corner – Mary Stack

Global warming is affecting oceans and our weather. Over 70 per cent of the earth is covered by oceans. Although the average ocean temperature increased by only .18 degrees F since the 1800's, this small change has had wide ranging effects.

Rising sea levels are one result of global warming. When sea temperatures increase, the volume of water increases causing higher sea levels. Melting ice caps and glaciers are adding water to oceans. Higher sea levels are causing increased coastal flooding and loss of wetlands.

The increased amount of CO₂ in the air is causing increased acidification of the oceans. Sea water absorbs carbon. This carbon is transformed into carbonic acid adding to the acidity of ocean water. High levels of acid can affect shellfish and crustaceans by interfering with shell formation.

Warmer seas can also affect weather patterns. Scientists believe higher sea temperatures will cause more frequent and stronger storms. This will lead to more coastal erosion and wetlands damage

The Garden at Whittemore Robbins House



This native shrub, *Fothergilla major*, was chosen by Sally Naish for its multi-season interest. The color is spectacular. What a wonderful substitute for the very invasive “Burning Bush.”

Programs of Interest

Belmont Garden Club will be holding a Holiday House Tour on December 3 from 11:00 to 4:00. There will be five homes decorated by members of the club. Tickets are available at Champions Sporting Goods in Belmont Center or by calling 617 484-4889 and are \$35.00 before December 2 or \$40.00 the day of the event.

Lexington Field and Garden Club will be holding their “Home for the Holidays, A Lexington House Tour of Seasonal Decor” on Sunday, December 11, from 1:00 to 5:00. Advance tickets are \$30.00 at www.lexgardenclub.org or day of tickets are \$35.00 beginning at 12:00 at The Church of Our Redeemer, Lexington. There will be a holiday boutique and light refreshments available.

Welcome to New(*) and Returning Members

*Nancy Lowe
*Celia Wcislo
*Jessica Lane
Ruth Yannetti
Mary Ellen Loud