

The Perennial



2014-2015
Issue 5: January

Website:
ArlingtonGarden.org

This is a great time of year to explore seed and nursery catalogs to remind us of the joy our gardens will bring us this spring. Given the weather predictions for this week, thoughts of spring will be welcome.

Upcoming Programs:

Evening Meeting – January 29
Masonic Temple

A Journey through Peru and the Galapagos

Trish Webb, AGC member will share her slides as she guides us on an Amazon canopy walk to see bryophytes, village gardens, Lima city gardens, vegetation and market produce. We will see flowers, plants, birds, iguanas and turtles of the Galapagos.



Daytime meeting – February 11
St. John's Episcopal Church

Sharing Gardening Information – Do you have a favorite tool, catalog, website, garden to visit, book, or anything else you love about gardening? Beginner gardener or expert, come to our February meeting and share your expertise, passion and favorites. We'll break into small random groups with a leader who'll report out to the membership. What a great opportunity to learn from each other!



Civic Development:

The Spy Pond Rain Garden needs a team leader. The garden offers an opportunity to educate visitors to the area to the benefit of rain gardens. If you would like more information please contact Emily Snyder at ells.ells@verizon.net



Books in Bloom

Friday, February 27, 7:00–9:00 pm
Robbins Library

We're looking forward to this elegant and delightful evening fundraiser. Tickets are \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door. They are available at the Robbins Library circulation desk or through Patsy Kraemer (781 858-8629) or patsy@patsykraemer.com.

There will be 20 floral displayers representing *Books in Bloom*!

Garden Club members are needed to help with the following:

*Baking 3 dozen cookies of the small delicate variety (no brownies!). Members should let Carol Nahigian or Donna McGowan know if they can help with cookies.

*Staffing the party on the 27th, including greeters at the door, sellers of tickets at the door, staffing of the “will call” table at the door, cocktail waitressing at the event (collecting glassware, napkins, watching supplies on the refreshment tables) for two shifts of one hour each and clean up after the event. Please let Patsy Kraemer or Sally Naish know, if you are available.

EcoFest – EnergyWise: Sparking Local Solutions

EcoFest is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Town Hall. This year's theme is *Energy* – how we make it, use it, measure it and conserve it. Admission is free. Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager and Audrey Schulman of Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) are the featured speakers. There will be free compost, discounted rain barrels and composters, raffles, refreshments, electric/hybrid vehicles, and many vendors related to the theme. Please let Patsy Kraemer know, if you can help out at this event.

Invasives Alert

From Mary Stack

This month our focus is on Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), a member of the grape family. It is also called Amur Peppervine. It was originally cultivated as a landscape plant and is now a vigorous invader of open and wooded habitats where it shades out native shrubs and young trees. As it spreads, it climbs over and blankets existing plants and weakens and kills them by blocking sunlight. It can grow up to 15 feet in a single growing season. The berries range in color from pink to purple to aqua often at the same time on a single plant. Seeds are often disbursed by birds. When removing it from the landscape, it is important to do so before the berries appear to avoid spreading.

Porcelainberry has become densely established in the Town Hall gardens where it is covering several shrubs near the Town Hall and will need aggressive removal and long-term follow up to fully eradicate it.

If you are growing this in your home garden, consider removing it and replacing with American Wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) or Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*).



Porcelain-
berry



Virginia Creeper



American Wisteria



Trumpet Honeysuckle

Tower Hill Botanical Gardens – Club Membership

From Nancie Richardson

We now have a garden club membership with Tower Hill which offers a variety of opportunities valid through December 31, 2015. It includes two membership cards which are each good for free admission for 2 people. You may borrow one or both of the cards to go with up to 3 friends.

*Cards are available from Nancie. Call her at 781-646-5952 or email her at nanjsr@aol.com to arrange to pick up the card(s).

*Cards MUST be returned to Nancie after your visit to Tower Hill.

*Cards are also valid for a 10% discount in their gift shop.

*Tower Hill offers many special events all year. Check them out at www.towerhillbg.org

There are additional benefits of discounts at over 30 nurseries in Massachusetts and free admission to botanical gardens throughout the United States. There is a listing of the Massachusetts facilities on our web site, arlingtongarden.org. For information on botanical gardens in other states, please contact Nancie. Again, to take advantage of these discounts and admissions you must show the Arlington Garden Club Tower Hill membership. Hope you will take advantage of this throughout the year.

Thanks to Emily Forshay-Crowley for arranging our Tower Hill membership. Hope you will enjoy this benefit throughout the year.

Middlesex Conservation District 2015 Spring Plant Sale

The district offers garden supplies, trees and shrubs, perennials, fruits and vegetables and groundcovers at very competitive prices. The focus for this year's sale is on plants for native pollinators. To request a plant list (no images) you can call 978 692-9395, or you can see/download the list of plants for sale [here](#). The deadline for ordering is March 31st with pick-up on April 24th and 25th in Westford.

Purchase of plants helps support and solve natural resource concerns within all the cities and towns in Middlesex County. Their programs are listed on the [website](#).

Programs of Interest:

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts is offering the following programs:

“Containers Galore” with Joanne Veiera of Tower Hill Botanic Garden on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 10:00am at the Espousal Retreat Center, 554 Lexington St., Waltham, MA \$5.00 members, \$10.00 for guests.

“Planning for Civic Projects and Choosing the Right Plants” will be presented on Thursday, March 26, 2015 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The speaker will be Warren P. Leach, landscape designer. This is an ideal workshop for anyone who is responsible for container plantings. Registration is \$15.00 and forms are available [online](#).

