

June 2012

# Ashland Garden Club



Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

## 20th Anniversary Garden Tour - Coming on July 14th

Five beautiful and interesting gardens from past tours will be revisited on this very special 20th anniversary tour. Each garden will include something extra of interest including artists, jewelers, beekeepers, and gardening advice. You may also like to visit three suggested "bonus" tour stops. A delicious homemade luncheon, which is included in the ticket price, will be provided by garden club members and served at the Ashland Public Library.



Tickets are \$18.00 in advance, purchased by mail using the order form on our flyer and payable by check, or from our website with a credit card using PayPal. We will also be selling tickets at the Ashland Farmer's Market on June 16th. Tickets may be purchased on the day of the tour for \$20.00 at the garden club's tent across from the Library at Montenegro Square from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm.

## Summer Plantings Around Town

Watch for summer flowers to replace the spring pansies around town in containers that the garden club maintains. A variety of planting arrangements will appear in containers at the Post Office, Police Station, Town Hall, the Fountain at Montenegro Square, and on traffic islands at Main & Pleasant Street, Pond & Eliot Street, and Rte. 135 locations near the Fountain



Street bridge and Cherry Street. Also check out the Winter Street island, Mill Pond Planters, Public Library and Warren School courtyards - all maintained by garden club members.

Thank you to the Family Pet Hospital and the Ashland Animal Hospital for their annual sponsorships of some of our sites! If you have a business and would like to sponsor a site, please contact us. We will acknowledge your generosity on our website and add a link to your business!

## Visit Us at the Farmer's Market

Look for our Blue canopied tent at the Ashland Farmer's Market on **Saturday, June 16th**. We will be there with information about our garden club and membership opportunities. Discounted tickets will be on sale for our 20th Anniversary Garden Tour on July 14th. It will be beautiful!



Club members with **green thumbs**, including Master Gardeners, will be available to answer all your gardening questions!

We will also be distributing important public awareness information about the Asian Long-Horned Beetle that is destroying trees across the country. Worcester has already lost over 30,000 trees due to this terrible infestation! Metrowest gardeners need to be alerted to the signs and know who to contact immediately if you suspect that a tree has been attacked.

## Clock Tower and Memorial Renovations

During April and May, groups of garden club members were hard at work removing all the old overgrown perennials and lots of weeds from the Clock Tower and the Memorial in downtown Ashland; then an abundant amount of compost was dug in to amend the soil, new plants were added, and both areas were mulched.



Memorial

At the Memorial, in addition to the existing Sedum Autumn Joy and daylilies that were replanted, new ground cover sedums were added and annuals of red and white impatiens filled in the flower beds. It was all done just in time for the Town's annual Memorial Day services.

At the Clock Tower, beautiful red Knock Out roses were planted in addition to phlox, sedums, Nepeta (cat mint), Moonbeam coreopsis and lime green chamaecyparis shrubs. Profusion zinnias were added for an extra pop of annual color.

The projects are still ongoing and more perennials will be planted, annual flowers will change with the seasons, and spring flowering bulbs will be planted in the fall.

This civic project has been made possible in part by a grant from the Boston Athletic Association and the Ashland Board of Selectmen.



Clock Tower

## Container Gardening

Now is the time to think about planting outdoor containers of flowers, herbs and vegetables. Whether you don't have a lot of space in your garden bed or you want to have your plants near you when you are outdoors, here are a few tips for planting containers.

Be sure and select containers that are a good size. Do not crowd your plants' roots into the container you have selected! Your plants will need room for their roots to grow. Select a soil mix that will drain well but is high in moisture holding ingredients such as peat moss. Porous containers such as terra cotta, wood and baskets lined with sphagnum moss or coca fiber will allow the roots to breathe, keeping the roots cooler and providing oxygen for the roots. It is very important that the containers have drainage holes.

Moisture and nutrients are needed to produce good growth! Two products that will help are a slow release fertilizer, such as Osmocote, and polymer crystals, such as Soil Moist, which increase the water holding capacity of your containers. When planting your containers, add Soil Moist just before placing your plants in the container so that the Soil Moist is at root level. Follow directions on the Osmocote package for the recommended amount for the size of your container. In addition, give your plants a dose of water-soluble fertilizer, such as Miracle Gro, at every watering.

*Libby Moore is a Master Gardener with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and a member of the Ashland Garden Club. She can be reached at [Libby-Moor@aol.com](mailto:Libby-Moor@aol.com).*



## Plant Sale on Saturday, May 12th Was a Success!

Every year on the Saturday before Mother's Day the Ashland Garden Club holds a plant sale at Montenegro Square across from the Library. In addition to the wide variety of perennials from our members' gardens, potted arrangements were created for Mother's Day gifts and this year some great garden gloves were offered for sale.



The garden club would like to thank our many wonderful "friends" who donated additional perennials from their own private gardens. All were welcome additions to the plant selections provided by our club members.

The plant sale is the garden club's major fundraiser of the year. Proceeds fund plantings in our garden spots around town and help defray the cost of educational events. This year was our most successful plant sale ever! So we offer a very hearty *Thank You!* to everyone who came to the plant sale and bought plants, arrangements and garden gloves. Happy gardening!

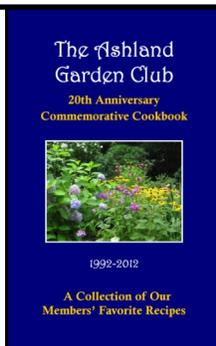
## The Ashland Garden Club's 20th Anniversary Cookbook

The Ashland Garden Club has some wonderful cooks, as people who have come to our garden tour luncheons, workshops, open houses and other garden club events have often remarked.

By popular request, and in commemoration of the Ashland Garden Club's 20th anniversary this year, members have created a cookbook that is filled with over 100 of our delicious recipes.

We are currently in the last stages of editing and plan to have the cookbooks published and ready for sale at our Garden Tour on July 14th. Order forms will be available at the club's booth at the Ashland Farmer's Market on June 16th, and they will soon be available for purchase through our website at [AshlandGardenClub.org](http://AshlandGardenClub.org).

Don't forget that our July garden tour includes a luncheon where you can taste some of our recipes in person!



## Recipe Corner:

### *Dale's Lemon Rice*

- 1 1/2 cups raw rice (20 minute rice)
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1/4 cup dry vermouth
- 2 1/4 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 3/4 tsp salt
- Pinch of pepper
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- 2 Tbsp fresh minced parsley

Combine rice, butter, vermouth, stock, salt & pepper in a casserole. Baked covered for 40 minutes at 325 F.

Add lemon zest and parsley just before serving.

Serves 8-10.



## Newsletter—June 2012

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### We're on the Web

[www.AshlandGardenClub.org](http://www.AshlandGardenClub.org)

### Club Officers:

Diane Roberts, President  
Lois Bennett, Vice President  
Gretchen Bravacos, Treasurer  
Karen Saia, Secretary

Member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

## Who We Are

The Ashland Garden Club was founded in 1992 by a small group of dedicated residents committed to beautifying our town. We are a flexible group with different ranges of gardening experience from beginners to master gardeners. We are connected not only by our interests in plants and gardening, but also by our wish to engage in civic planting projects, and expand our knowledge of horticulture through sharing of information and sponsoring educational programs.

## How You Can Become Involved

### We Welcome You To Join Us!

Please feel free to attend a meeting. There are many ways to get involved. Some members work in teams or as individuals on a town planting project. Others help at our events, maintain our website, obtain speakers for our programs and handle publicity.

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at the Ashland Public Library (lower level meeting room) at 10:00 a.m. Interested gardeners and those who would like to learn more are welcome to attend. No experience is necessary.

### What We Do

We beautify the town by designing, planting, and maintaining

planters and garden sites around town.

We provide speakers who are experts in the field of horticulture for educational events and workshops during the year to benefit our members and the community.

We hold a yearly plant sale the Saturday of Mother's Day Weekend, providing healthy plant divisions from our own perennial gardens in addition to gift arrangements for Mother's Day.

We host an annual garden tour or other event to celebrate our gardens.

We participate in town events such as Ashland Day, Earth Day and the Farmer's Market.



## Public Spots That We Maintain

Rte.135/Cherry St. Planters  
Rte.135/Fountain St, Planters  
Pleasant Street Planters  
Cherry Street Planter  
Fountain at Montenegro Square  
Clock Tower at Montenegro Sq.  
Memorial at Montenegro Square  
Pond/Eliot Street Planter  
Winter Street Island  
Mill Pond Park Planters  
Warren School Courtyards  
Ashland Post Office  
Ashland Police Station  
Ashland Public Library  
Ashland Town Hall