

March 2012

Ashland Garden Club



Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Plant Sale Scheduled for Saturday, May 12th

Every year on the Saturday before Mother's Day the Ashland Garden Club holds a plant sale from 9:00 am to Noon at Montenegro Square across from the Ashland Public Library. Large healthy plant divisions from our members' gardens are offered for sale at prices that the local garden centers can't beat.



In addition to the wide variety of perennials that are offered, members create potted and basket arrangements of flowering spring annuals and herbs which can make perfect Mother's Day gifts.

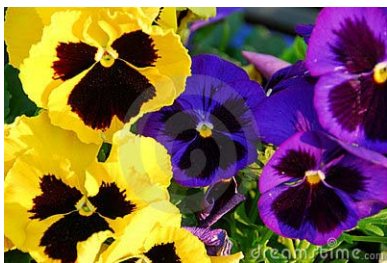
The plant sale is the garden club's major fundraiser of the year. Proceeds help to fund our garden spots around town and defray the cost of educational events. Come early for the best selections!

Mark Your Calendars!

The Ashland Garden Club's [20th Anniversary Garden Tour](#) is scheduled for [Saturday, July 14th](#). Selected gardens from our past tours will be revisited on this special anniversary tour, and included will be a delicious home made luncheon provided by garden club members at the Ashland Public Library. You can order tickets by mail using the order form on our flyer that will be sent out in June, or purchase them from our website with a credit card using PayPal. Also look for us at the exciting new Ashland Farmer's Market that opens on Saturdays in June.



Spring Plantings Around Town



Watch for spring flowers to be popping up around town in the containers that the garden club maintains. Bright pansies and other cool-weather annuals will be placed in containers at the Post Office, Police Station, Town Hall, Montenegro Square Fountain, Pleasant Street, Pond/Eliot Street, and in two locations on Rte 135.

We will have the town looking good for Patriot's/Marathon Day, April 16th.

February 4th Winter Gardening Workshop

The Garden Club hosted a free event at the Ashland Public Library that was attended by over 60 people, including many from other garden clubs.

Light morning refreshments were served, including coffee, tea, fruit and home baked goods made by garden club members.

Our first speaker was Kathi Gariepy, past chairman of the Master Gardener Advisory Board, past president of the Attleboro Garden Club,

past chair of the Garden Club Federation of Mass. and a landscape design consultant. Kathi's program was on planting and forcing bulbs.



Our second speaker was Dr. Paul Steen, a retired engineer and internist, and an instructor at Tower Hill on tropical plants, home/hobby greenhouses and shade gardening.

Dr. Steen's program was on the

care of houseplants and covered important topics such as light, temperature, watering and pest control.

Both talks were very interesting and informative.

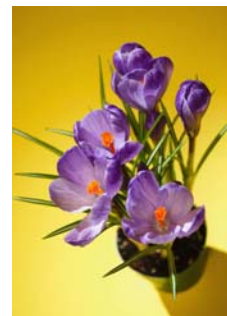
Guests and garden members alike learned something new and it was a very pleasant way to spend a winter morning.



After Care for Forced Spring Bulbs

It's that time of the year when we are all anxious for spring to come into full flower! All of us go to the supermarket and indulge ourselves with any sign of spring...a small pot of daffodil bulbs, crocuses, muscari or an aromatic pot of hyacinths...just a little something to get over the hump of winter into spring.

We enjoy our precious flowers and then what do we do with them when they are finished blooming? After the bulbs have finished blooming, don't throw them away! Cut off the old flower stalks. You want all the bulb energy to go into next year's bulb, not seed production. Keep the pots in direct sun light preferably in a cool room and keep the foliage growing for as long as possible so the bulb can get nourished. Water the bulbs when dry and fertilize them with a water-soluble fertilizer. The foliage will begin to wilt and turn brown. Don't cut the wilting foliage off until it is completely dried and brown.



When you are outside in late April and early May, select a place in your garden that has full sun and could use a little color in early spring. Plant your bulbs the way you would plant any annual or perennial. Water them and in the next spring or two after the bulbs have gotten back to the natural rhythm of a regular outdoor environment, you will have daffodils, crocuses, muscari or hyacinths in that spot!

Libby Moore is a Master Gardener with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and a member of the Ashland Garden Club. She can be reached at LibbyMoor@aol.com.

Clock Tower and Memorial Makeovers



Thanks in part to a generous grant from the Boston Athletic Association and support from the Ashland Board of Selectmen, the garden club will be renovating the Clock Tower and the Memorial, both located on Main Street near the public parking lot across from the Library.

Overgrown shrubs on the sidewalk side of the Clock Tower are being removed by the DPW and then garden club members, with the assistance of some volunteer Ashland high school teens, will dig out and save some of the existing perennials. After amending the soil, the garden bed will be replanted with flowering shrubs, perennials and some annuals for a pop of color. Please watch as the project progresses.

The Memorial will also have fresh new plantings and will be looking great for the Town of Ashland's Memorial Day services that take place there each year in honor and memory of our veterans.

Coming Soon...The Ashland Garden Club's 20th Anniversary Cookbook

If you've attended any of the garden club's Garden Tours, Spring Symposiums or Winter Workshops, you've probably tasted some of our member's delicious salads and baked goods. In honor of our 20th anniversary in 2012, members are at work creating a cookbook that will contain many of our favorite recipes, including many of the ones that were served at our events.

We hope to have the books published and ready for sale at the Ashland Farmer's Market which opens in June and at our Garden Tour in July. Copies will also be available for purchase through our website. We'll let you know when it's time to order your copy!



Recipe: Roasted Asparagus

If it's springtime, then it's time for local asparagus to be in season. Here's a quick and easy way to enjoy the tender spears.



Snap off the tough woody ends of each spear. Wash & dry thoroughly. Place spears on a large pan and drizzle with olive oil. Mince 1-2 cloves of garlic and sprinkle over asparagus. Sprinkle with any herb of your choice, such as rosemary, thyme or oregano. Add salt & pepper to taste. Toss to coat each spear with the oil, garlic, herb and seasonings. Place in a 400 degree oven and toss 2-3 times while roasting until spears begin to brown. Add a squeeze of lemon juice and serve.

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We're on the Web

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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 10:00 am at the Ashland Public Library (lower level meeting room.) 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