



The Grapevine

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The *Grapevine* will now appear as a newsletter in the Fall and Spring and as a year-end special edition.
- We are still exploring the merger of the Garden Clubs as we all review our activities and goals.
- Yearbooks will be available at the November meeting.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Alice's Triangle Proposal	2
Pomander Workshop	2
Garden Therapy	2
Native Plant Garden Design	3
Holiday Activities	3
Yard and Plant Sale	3
2008-2009 Program	4

FALL SEASON BEGINS

As we put our gardens to bed for the winter, we can look forward to the upcoming year of Garden Club programs and events. This year promises to be filled with interesting and enjoyable activities centering on conservation, education, floral arranging, crafts and civic projects.

Our year has already begun with two very successful activities. Teaming up with New Meadows Garden Club and the Topsfield Agricultural Commission, we created a first-prize-winning float for the Topsfield Fair Parade. This is our fifth year in the parade and we have won a first place award three times and second place twice! A series of workshops and the efforts of Dan Philpot and Peter Mulholland turned a

tractor and hay wagon into a pirate ship, complete with sail and rigging, flowers, a treasure map and chests, all crewed by the Guinee, Mulholland, Parisi, Magner, Smeczyński and Aftandilian buccaneer youngsters.

The Topsfield Garden Club is the local sponsor of the National Garden Clubs' 2009 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest for children in grades 1-5. On October 17th, we joined the Topsfield Fire Department and the State Department of Conservation and Recreation at Steward School for an assembly about preventing forest fires. Smokey Bear made an appearance to the delight of the children. At Proctor School, the information has been given to

the Art teacher. Fliers explaining the contest were distributed at both schools, so we hope to see some creative entries.

Collaborating with other community groups leads to innovative and productive activities that further our efforts in education and conservation.

The program for the year appears in this newsletter. We hope that you will join us for some or all of the activities. We have also had some excellent suggestions from members and some requests for help. As you read about these, please give some thought as to how you will vote or whether you can spare some time. Our continued vitality depends on all of us.

JOINT MEETING NOVEMBER 15TH

The Annual Joint Meeting of the Tri-Town Garden Clubs will be hosted by the Village Gardeners on Monday, November 17th, at 7:00 PM at the Emerson Center, East Common Street, Topsfield. The speaker will be Barry Dole of "Flowers by Steve" who will be doing a

talk on Holiday Arrangements. Parking is available in the Emerson Center Parking lot. This is a time to spend an enjoyable evening with friends from all the clubs. For our table this year, we would like to have baked goods for sale along with our note cards and prints.

Members who would like to provide cakes, cookies or other baked goods should let Ellen Guinee (978-887-3670) know what she plans to bring. This is one of our annual fundraisers, so we hope everyone can participate.

ALICE'S TRIANGLE PROPOSAL

Our triangle is in need of help. Rose Hubbard maintained it lovingly for many years, and it was a wonderful credit to our Club. No one or even two people in the Club can do what she did, and it does not look very tidy all the time. We have wrestled for a while as to how to manage this highly visible community gardening project, and, fortunately, Alice Blauser has done the necessary research

and leg-work to solve our problem.

The Topsfield Main Street Foundation has beautified the downtown area with planters. These are planted with seasonal plants for three seasons and decorated with greens for the holidays by Terry Dwinell through the Main Street's Planter Sponsorship Program. We can sponsor a planter to be placed at the triangle for

\$250 a year. To see how the planter would look, we have given one a home for the remainder of the year. It has already been sponsored, so we do not have to pay anything now. In the meantime, Nunan's is developing a plan to plant the triangle with flowering shrubs so there will be seasonal color at the triangle.

We will vote on this matter at our December meeting.



Triangle in bloom

POMANDER WORKSHOP

*"The warm fruit
and spice
fragrance of
these balls is
perfect for the
holidays."*

Our November meeting will be a workshop at Chris Smerczynski's home on November 12th at 9:30 AM. We will be making pomander balls (painlessly!). The warm fruit and spice fragrance of these balls is perfect for the holidays.

Pomanders were very popular from the 15th to 17th centuries. From the French *pomme*

d'ambre, "apple of amber," the pomander was made of perfumes, such as ambergris, musk or civit. Pomanders were worn or carried in a little container to ward off infection or bad smells, both most common in the Middle Ages. The containers were usually perforated and made of gold or silver. Some could hold more than one perfume.

In our modern age, we enjoy the delightful fragrance for its own sake and the pomander for decoration. If you have a favorite ribbon to add, please bring it to the workshop.



GARDEN THERAPY

Another of our traditional activities is in need of a leader. For many years the Topsfield Garden Club has visited the Cedar Glen Nursing Home in Danvers on the third Wednesday of the month. We take cookies or other baked goods, visit with the residents, and provide music, thanks to Bill Flagg. In the Spring, we plant annuals in the garden to brighten the view. We

have members who are willing to bake or participate in visits, but we need someone to coordinate this activity.

We know from staff and the residents, themselves, that we make a difference. Let's not let this activity fail. If you are able to help out, please call Martha Morrison at 978-887-6273.

On the other hand, if we decide that

we can no longer continue the visits to Cedar Glen, perhaps there is another way in which we can brighten a shut-in's day. The Council on Aging is always willing to coordinate with groups who would like to serve Topsfield's seniors. We might explore alternative ways to offer Garden Therapy. Please bring your thoughts on this matter to the November meeting.

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN DESIGN

The South Main Street beautification project, a multi-year effort to improve the frontage between Maple Street and Route 1, has begun. A number of groups, including various town boards and departments, the Main Street Foundation, the Boy Scouts, and others, are involved in one way or another. Poison ivy and dead trees will be removed and new trees planted, if necessary. The stone walls will be reset and a walking path installed on the south side of South Main Street

between Maple Street and Salem Road. The goals are to restore this entryway to Topsfield's village area to its former more attractive appearance and to provide a safe walking area for all.

The Conservation Commission has already approved the project. Included in the Order of Conditions is permission to install plants in front of the walls to add seasonal color. Native species should be considered for this road-side area, not only because

they are historically appropriate but also because they have the best chance for survival without becoming invasive.

A plan is needed for this planting area. We have been asked if we could help develop a concept, including types and numbers of plants. If anyone would like to work on this project, please contact Martha Morrison at 978-8887-6273. Surely, with all of our gardening experience, we can make some helpful suggestions.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Maureen Flanagan has graciously offered her home again this year for our annual Christmas party. We will have a brief meeting, a greens workshop, a gift exchange and lunch. Gifts should not exceed \$10.

For the workshop, please bring your favorite container. We will have oasis and a selection of greens and decorations so

you can create a holiday arrangement. We will be learning about them at the Joint Meeting, after all!

We will also be decorating Town Hall and the triangle before the Holiday Walk on December 6th in coordination with the other groups who decorate buildings around the Common area.

The Main Street Foundation will sponsor the Doors of Topsfield contest again this year. Garden Club members are encouraged to show their talent by decorating their doors in the holiday spirit. Our own Kindra Clineff has won "Best in Town" for the past three years!

"We will have a brief meeting, a greens workshop, a gift exchange and lunch."

YARD AND PLANT SALE

Thinking of Spring already! At the Annual Luncheon the Club decided to hold a yard sale at Mary Quill's house in September, and a committee was organized. Over the summer, conflicts in schedules prevented the group from meeting. The yard sale is now scheduled for the Spring, so save your attic treasures. At

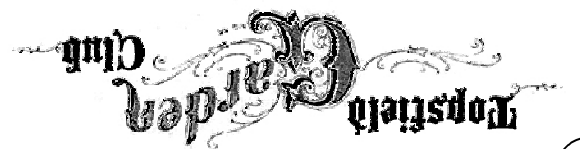
the same time, we will sell perennials. The time will be right for dividing our own plants and people coming to the yard sale will be getting out into the garden themselves. All of the plants that are too mature to move at Strawberry Festival time will be perfect in the early Spring.

The original committee will be

working on organizing the yard sale, and members can take plants when they take their things. If you have questions or would like to help out with this project, call Jan Megyesy at 978-887-6599.



Kindra's "Best in Town" holiday door decoration.



217 Rowley Bridge Road
Topsfield, MA 01983

2008-2009 PROGRAM

September

- 17th - Organizational Meeting
- 29th - Float Workshop

October

- 1st and 3rd - Float Workshops
- 8th - Field trip to the Topsfield Fair
Flower and Vegetable Barns
- 29th - Triangle Clean-up

November

- 12th - General Meeting and Workshop.
"Making Pomanders for the Holidays." 9:30 AM at the home of
Chris Smerczynski. .
- 17th - Joint Meeting of the Tri-Town
Garden Clubs. 7 PM at the Emerson
Center. Speaker, Barry Dole
of Flowers by Steve.

December

- 3rd - Annual Christmas Party, Greens
Workshop and brief meeting.
10:30 AM at the home of Maureen
Flanagan. Please bring a gift
not to exceed \$10.

January No meeting scheduled.

February

- 11th - Meeting and Talk on "A Year in
the Bee Yard" 9:30 AM at the
home of Kindra Clineff.

March

- 11th - Meeting and Birdhouse Gourd
Workshop . 9:30 AM at the Gould
Barn.
- 27th - Joint meeting with New Meadows
Garden Club. Program about
orchids. 7 PM at the Gould Barn.

April

- 8th - Lecture and workshop on Spring
Floral Décor by Platinum Posies.
9:30 AM Gould Barn.
- Arbor Day Presentation at Proctor
School - Date and Time TBA
- Art in Bloom at the Town Library.

May

- 6th - Yard Sale preparation workshop.
- 13th - Annual Luncheon
- 20th - Triangle Clean-up.
- 23rd - Yard and Plant Sale.

June

- Agricultural Presentation at Proctor
School - Date and Time TBA
- 13th - Strawberry Festival