

Art in Bloom 2014



Lynn Fordham—Creative and Colorful



Martha Emerson—another beauty from Martha



Sheela Venkatesh – First time designer



Tracy Firth—Pot et Fleur

Our 10th annual Art in Bloom was held April 4-5, 2014, at the historic George H. Morse House in South Norwood. The exhibit displayed artwork created by 30 Norwood and Walpole High School students along with interpretative floral designs by club members. Over 350 guests - friends, students, family, NEGC members, and garden club members from surrounding towns - attended the exhibit. We were delighted with the visitors' comments and praise for this outstanding, collaborative event. Wonderful refreshments were provided for student artists, families and visitors. Please see p. 4 for the rest of the story about related events and about the artists and designers.

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Norwood Evening Garden Club's Unsung Hero for 2014 - Donna Lane

Donna Lane, a founding member of the Norwood Evening Garden Club, was presented with the "Unsung Hero" award at the GCFM's Metro annual luncheon. Donna keeps our club "front and center" in many ways. Her incomparable publicity articles chronicle the club's history in our highly-awarded Press Books. She chairs both the Newport Flower Show and our prize-winning exhibits in the Boston Flower Show, chairs the scholarship committee, co-chairs our Art in Bloom, oversees our web site and is always the first to say, "I'll take care of that."



Thank you, Donna, for all the work you do to ensure our club's success. You're our hero!

NEGC Exhibit at the Boston Flower & Garden Show



Boston Flower Show Committee members Rita Russo, Donna Lane (hidden), Maureen O'Brien, Wendy Wilhelm, Tracy Firth and Lorraine Devine pose in front of their exhibit. The Large Bay Window Exhibit received a score of 85 from the judges, who thought the exhibit had an interesting collection of plants from different parts of the world, but that the collection would be a challenge to maintain due to differing cultural needs. Comments from visitors to the flower show were extremely positive. It was a lovely exhibit!

Clarification

The by-laws of the Norwood Evening Garden Club state that our objective is "To encourage interest in all phases of home gardening and to promote sound horticultural practices, civic beauty, and the conservation of natural resources." Increasingly, the global consensus is that we should care for the environment by abstaining from the use of harmful substances in our gardening, by using benign and beneficial organic methods whenever possible, and by promoting the health of ecosystems both within and outside of our gardens.

Our presenters speak from their professional viewpoints and may reflect current industry practice. The position of the NEGC, however, is that our mission "to promote sound horticultural practices" is best understood as an informed, organic-leaning approach. We do not endorse (or forbid) using synthetic chemicals as pesticides or fertilizers and we encourage all members to join us in educating ourselves about the consequences of our choices.

In Memoriam



*Nancy M. (Gribben)Rando
June 6, 1939-February 17, 2014*

The sun has set on our Sunshine Lady. Nancy Rando, beloved long-time member of the Norwood Evening Garden Club, passed away on February 17. Nancy was very faithful in her duties, sending cards and flowers to those who were ill or had a family bereavement. She always had a smile and a kind word. She attended meetings and was an active contributor to the Board of Directors. She will be sorely missed. A flowering shrub will be given as a remembrance in Nancy's memory. She will also be remembered in the 2013-2014 GCFM Memory Book.

Art in Bloom 2014 *(continued from front page)*

by Nancy Costa

Ten eager garden club members attended an “Art in Bloom Warm-up Workshop” on March 19, led by Donna Lane. During the two-hour workshop we were encouraged to express the personal feelings, ideas and individual choices that the sample of student artwork inspired in us and we discussed elements of principle and design, including space, line, color, texture, contrast, etc. We went to work, all the while asking questions and sharing; though we were all looking at the same work of art and were all using the same selection of flowers, each finished design was unique. At the end of the evening, participants and leader critiqued each design. We went home with confident smiles, new skills, and beautiful floral arrangements.

Earlier in the month, members carpoled to Needham’s Art in Bloom, presented by the Beth Shalom Garden Club. All agreed that the art and floral designs were stunning. This inspired us to create and share colorful and beautiful designs for our club’s exhibit in April.

Norwood Evening Garden Club designers included Martha Emerson, Barbara Coughlin, Judith Howard, Shirley Booth, Kathleen Pellegrini, Lorraine Devine, Donna Lane, Penni Jenkins, Mel Dawson, Lynn Fordham, Julie Stenson, Lynne Riley, Nancy Costa, Wendy Wilhelm, Rita Russo, Vivien Bouffard, Tracy Firth, Susan Cosman, Julie Costello, Barbara Hopcroft, Ann Marie Bielenin, Ana Puzey, Sheela Venkatesh, Jim Schulz, and Lois Walsh. Quite a number of first-time designers participated this year and surely have inspired other club members to dust off a container and participate next year!

Thank you to our talented, 30 high school artists. Norwood High School student artists included: Victoria French, Saloonee Adhikari, Samantha Kelley, Nancy Sangani, Angel Dwyer, Allyson Drummey, Shannon Flaherty, Suzeanna Francios, Shannon Geary, Tessa Ryan, Hadi Loji, Christian Samuels, Ashlee Cedrone, Francia Pierre-Louis and Sandine Jabbour. Walpole High School artists included: Julie Taylor, Alyssa DiCenzo, Nell Gordon, Caralyn Cianci, Casey Ganshirt, Sabrina DiMartino, Emma Lockhead, Andie Painten, Rachel Harris, Jen Sullivan, Montana Gulbrand, Ashley Waldron, Hannah Miller and Olivia Pratt. Thank you to Laurie Mead-McGrory, Visual Arts Department Chair, Norwood Public Schools, Sandy Allison, Art Department Chair, Walpole Public Schools, Dale Day, Chairman of the George H. Morse House Committee, and Art in Bloom 2014 Co-chairs, Nancy Costa and Donna Lane.

MASSACHUSETTS MASTER GARDENERS HELPLINE

All gardeners should have this email address in their contact list.
Is it in yours?

mghelpline@masshort.org

Bill Graham Entertains at February Meeting



Bill Graham, floral designer and owner of Beautiful Things, a flower and gift shop in Salem, Mass., inspired and entertained us at our February meeting. His creations were all lovely, but especially striking was how he effortlessly created them from the back, without ever once turning the arrangement for a front view himself! It seemed impossible, yet we were seeing it with our own eyes, laughing the whole time at his outrageous anecdotes and dry humor. It was a most enjoyable evening and many lucky members went home with a lovely design raffled off at the conclusion of the evening. Kudos to our Speakers Committee for the great choices they have given us this year.

Nancy Costa Enters Floral Design Competition

By Lorraine Devine

“Competition is fun,” exclaims Nancy Costa, speaking from personal experience after entering the floral design competition at the Boston Flower and Garden Show.

Nancy’s great adventure began last fall, when she attended GCFM floral design classes at Elm Bank in Wellesley. For six weeks she studied different styles of arranging, including traditional, dried, mini and creative. On the last night of classes, each participant was given 60 minutes to design an arrangement. Nancy had selected the Mardi Gras theme a few weeks prior and had had time to plan and practice at home. Using the colors green, purple and gold, she made a creative design to be critiqued by teachers, classmates and members of Mass Hort.

The exercise of making the final arrangement during the class was a valuable experience. “Working out of my comfort zone develops confidence,” says Nancy. So, she decided to employ her new skills and compete in Design Division II (for amateurs) at the Boston Flower and Garden Show, where the theme was "Romance in the Garden." Her floral design would be in the class called, “I Do, I Do – Reprise. A design for the altar as our couple renews their wedding vows.”



Nancy arrived at the Seaport World Trade Center before 6 a.m. with her flowers and all her supplies, and she got right to work. Her arrangement needed to be completed before the 8 a.m. judging. Scores are based on the design (elements and principles), artistic concept

(continued on next page)

Pests on Ice

By Lorraine Devine (information drawn from a 3/9/2014 article in *The Boston Globe* written by Darryl Fears)

This winter has been a real killer – for bugs!

Up to 80 percent of emerald ash borers died when January temperatures dipped below minus 20 degrees in St. Paul, Minnesota. Other destructive pests that are dropping dead across the country include: the hemlock woolly adelgid, the corn earworm, the citrus-destroying cottony cushion scale and the gypsy moth.



These pests migrated here from all over the world and thrived in our recent relatively warm winters. Now, however, the polar vortex has stopped them dead in their tracks. Researchers in the Appalachians of West Virginia and Maryland found hemlock woolly adelgids whose straw-like mouths were stuck to the pine needles from which they suck sap.

Unfortunately, invasive bugs almost never go extinct. This winter's blow to the pests is just a reprieve for us. Mike Raupp, professor of entomology at the University of Maryland, calls it "a little correction" that thinned their ranks and probably will slow them down when warm weather returns.

Nancy Costa (continued from previous page)

(selection/organization), expression (interpretation of class) and distinction (marked superiority). The judges also leave two comments. The first comment explains what worked in the arrangement, and the second comment explains how to improve the design. Nancy agreed with the judges comments: "Lovely display of color. Pussy willows were too small in proportion to protea in front of it." Still, Nancy took third place and won a yellow ribbon. "You learn by reading all of the comments and suggestions that judges leave for every design. Then, it is not so much a competition, but a learning experience."

Nancy has always been interested in floral design and often looks through design books borrowed from the Club and the public library. She did the arrangements for her niece's bridal shower, and she likes to make centerpieces and have floral arrangements in the house all the time. "Practice, practice, practice!" she says. "Designing in oasis is more challenging than in a vase of water."

Nancy plans to enter the Boston Flower and Garden Show competition again next year, and she hopes to do better. Having seen her designs at our recent Art in Bloom, we have no doubt that she is our rising star. Congratulations, Nancy, from all of us in the Norwood Evening Garden Club.

Workshop Corner

The Garden Club Federation of MA provides educational programs for members, which includes us as members of Norwood Evening Garden Club. These BACK TO BASICS programs are scheduled at 10 am, so they may not meet everyone's schedule, but if you can go, they are excellent value for the money. Nancy Costa received the 2013 version as a birthday gift and plans to attend next year's series. She recommends the class for anyone interested in learning more about basic principles in floral design.

2014 BACK TO BASICS: DESIGNING PRINCIPLES IN FLORAL DESIGN

Join us for a series of interactive programs with distinguished Massachusetts designers demonstrating how to create designs.

Monday, October 6, 2014
Monday, November 3, 2014
Monday, March 23, 2015
Time: 10:00 am –12:00 Noon

The Espousal Center
554 Lexington Street,
Waltham, MA 02452

Total Fee: \$30.00 for all 3 sessions.

Make check payable to: GCFM, Inc.

Please mail check & registration to: Diane Bullock,
456 Shore Rd., Cape Neddick, ME 03902

Registration form on GCFM website, Education page

<http://gcfm.org/Education/Workshops/BacktoBasics.aspx>

Deadline: September 26, 2014

Butterfly Fans!

This intriguing picture of monarchs feasting on a plate of oranges was on Pinterest. Did you know you can draw butterflies to your yard simply by putting out juice or sliced oranges and watermelon? They also like pears, peaches, persimmons, and figs, the riper the better. You can even freeze those overripe bananas and take them out one at a time for a special treat. A plant saucer suspended on a plant hanger makes a great feeder. It should be off the ground to discourage ants from coming to the feast.



Have you considered leaving your fall garden standing through the winter? Otherwise you could be carting off next year's potential butterflies as you tidy up. Many of our butterflies pass the winter in our gardens not as adult butterflies, but as an egg on a plant, a caterpillar in a curled-up leaf or down in the leaf litter, or a chrysalis attached to a plant stem in a sheltered spot. Not all butterflies migrate!

Hummingbirds arrive in May, so get those feeders out! The flowers are late this year and the hummers could use a little extra help. Mix 1 cup of sugar with 4 cups of water. No coloring is needed. Store extra solution in the refrigerator.