

March 2014
Issue 20



Monthly
Newsletter

President's Monthly Message

Board Officers:

Co -Presidents - Jina Kessler &
Merylyn Mezitt
Vice Presidents - Diane
McCauley & Leslie Chodnowsky
Treasurer - Deb Cappadona
Secretaries - Ann Hogaboom

Greetings, gardeners, from the green Grenadines. Ruth and I visited Andromeda Botanical Gardens in Barbados, a 6-acre magical display of tropical flora lovingly collected by a true horticulturist on her own private piece of paradise. Ms Iris Bannochie began the garden in 1954 around her home on a hill overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The garden was opened to the public in the 1970s and is now owned by the Barbados National Trust. It's a must tour for gardeners visiting the beautiful island of Barbados.

Merylyn

It's been a trying winter all along the Eastern seaboard and throughout much of the country. Ruth is fearful she may have lost many plants in her South Carolina gardens. In a few weeks we will see how many of our own plants survived. While we wait for the gardening season to begin we can plan, design, order and start seeds, and visit the wonderful indoor gardens available to us at Tower Hill, the Lyman Estate, or a local garden center. Don't forget the Boston Flower and Garden Show at the Seaport World Trade Center, March 12 -16. Look for the Hopkinton Garden Club's entry on Wednesday, March 12 through Thursday, March 13.

We have invited our State President, Marisa McCoy, and our District Director, Joan Schofield, to our next meeting on March 18th. Joan has already said that she is coming and we are waiting to hear from Marisa. We hope as many of you as possible will attend to meet them and show your support for our Club and the Federation.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at our Welcome Spring dinner at the Oregon Club on March 21st. This is the rescheduled date of our Holiday get-together. The food will be delicious and the company can't be beat! A great way to unwind after a busy week and to kick off our Spring activities! If you would like to carpool, give us a call or email and we can arrange a ride.

Merylyn and Jina

Our Mailing Address:
Hopkinton Garden Club
P.O. Box 61
Hopkinton, MA 01748



Events March - May 2014

- March 18th** Meeting 6.30pm
Speaker 7.30pm
Hopkinton Historical Society, 168
Hayden Rowe, Hopkinton.
Speaker - Colleen Plimton as "Beatrix
Farrand"
- March 21st** Welcome Spring Dinner
6pm Oregon Club, Ashland
- April 8th** Hypertufa Planter Workshop
2.30pm at Joan's House (70 Old Elm
Way, Hopkinton) - see details on page 3
newsletter
- April 12th** Joint program with Ashland Garden club
Ashland Public Library
10am - Noon (*please note this is a
Saturday*)
Speaker: Suzanne Mahler, "Perennial
Color" Spring Thru Fall.
- April 15th** Tower Hill Tour and Lunch 10am - 1pm
- May 20th** Annual Meeting and Spring Social
6 - 9pm. Venue TBD

Horticultural Tip

Potted Up Bulbs

If you attended the workshop or just potted up some spring flowering bulbs on your own, you might want to check on them now. They may surprise you and you will find that they have already started to make their way into the world. Put them in front of a sunny window and water as needed. If you never got the bulbs planted but have kept them cool/cold try planting them now and see what happens

Upcoming Events

Plant Sale May 17th 2014

Hello happy gardeners! We are starting to gear up for our annual plant sale on May 17th. We have started a committee list and are looking for volunteers to chair or just help. We need diggers, vendor pick up, plant pricing, watering at Constance's once the plants are delivered, cashiers, membership table, set up and clean up. Also we had some donations for raffling which worked out very nicely and that would be great to do it again. Well, here's hoping Mother Nature will send some warmth our way and get our plants to wake up and thrive. Any suggestions are welcome. Two plus months to go!

Ann and Ann Marie



Hypertufa Planter Workshop

Leslie Chodnowsky

The club will be holding a Hypertufa Planter Workshop with Debra Pope of Pope's Pots on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 3:30 pm at Joan's house. The workshop was discussed and presented at our past two club general meetings. Currently, we have nine people signed up for a maximum of 10 participants. Cost is approximately \$45 per person. If enough people are interested, we could possibly hold a second workshop sometime in the near future. If you are interested, please attend the next general meeting to sign up.

Exactly what is it? Hypertufa (pronounced hyper-toofa) is the term used for a type of artificial stone. It was first created in the mid 19th century by mixing sand, peat, various volcanic aggregates and cement. It's relatively lightweight compared to stone or concrete and no matter how cold the winter temps may be, if properly cured, is freeze proof. Hypertufa was concocted as a substitute for the natural volcanic rock called Tufa which is no longer readily available. Hypertufa is a composite material that looks like cement but that is lightweight and suitable for planting.

For more information on Debra Pope, see her blog: <http://popespots.blogspot.com> or the website: <http://www.bluefoxfarm.com/>



Boston Flower Show

"That's Amore!" is the theme of the GCFM design division of a standard flower show at the 2014 Boston Flower and Garden Show, and WE are entering the club competition, Division I, Class 106, "Love Story" with a functional table for 4 for a wedding celebration. Henry, Joan, Deborah, Maureen S., Tee, Kathy and Merylyn have put their collective romantic heads together and come up with what they hope will be a prize-winning entry. They can't disclose any details presently, so please attend the Flower Show Wednesday or Thursday March 12-13 and see their interpretation of true romance.

Andrea is also participating in Division II, "I Do, I Do" Class 205, "And Baby Makes Three": a small design - not to exceed 8" in any direction - staged on a pedestal. This will be Andrea's 4th year of exhibiting at the Flower Show. Andrea says of her arrangement, "It is small and challenging...." Last year she won 2nd place and the Design Interpretation Award of the Day. We wish her luck this year. Her entry can be seen on Friday through Sunday.

Henry will be entering Division 11, Class 204, "The Honeymoon", an underwater design. Henry has entered the Boston Flower Show many times and has won numerous awards. His advice to garden club members is to try it and don't fret. It doesn't matter if you win. The point is to have fun and be creative. Henry's arrangement will also be on view Friday through Sunday.

The 2014 Boston Flower and Garden Show welcomes spring at the Seaport World Trade Center, March 12 - 16. Hours and admission can be found at www.bostonflowershow.com/welcome/hours-tickets/



Horticultural Tip

Now is a good time to check your houseplants. From out of the blue, those pesky aphids can appear on the new growth of many plants. One method of treatment is to give them a good blast of water in the sink or tub. Another method is to treat them using a spray bottle filled with equal parts of water, rubbing alcohol and a few drops of dish washing liquid. This is also a good solution to spray on your potting soil to kill the larvae of fungus gnats. See this website, <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05584.html> for detailed information on fungus gnats.

Hopkinton's 300th Anniversary

Members agreed at our last meeting that the club should participate in some way. If anyone has an idea, please contact Merylyn or Jina. We are open to suggestions.

Deadline for June
Newsletter is Friday 23rd
May 2014

Yoga in the Library



Sally-Ann Stukuls will be running in the Marathon raising funds for the library expansion. She is the same "Yoga in the Garden" instructor we have had these past 3 summers. Her classes will be held on Tuesday evenings in the library from 6-7:00pm. The cost is \$15 (because it is a fund raiser) per session and will be the same format as the summer yoga classes. It will run for the next 6 Tuesdays and you can drop in any Tuesday that works for your schedule. Take 1, 3 or all 6 classes.

Please contact Sally for more info if you would like to attend at sstukuls@hopkinton.k12.ma.us

