



BLACKSTONE VALLEY GARDENERS

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Add to your "FAVORITES" list

April 2009

Volume XII - No 28

April Meeting

Thursday, April 9th

Sutton Senior Center

19 Hough Road, Sutton, MA

6:30PM – *Note the early start time!*

"Annual Meeting & Potluck Supper"

Enjoy a fabulous potluck feast, as Maria Masmanian shares her thoughts on the Master Gardener program. There will be a raffle with many wonderful gardening related items.

MEETING PLACE

**Sutton Senior Center
19 Hough Road, Sutton MA**

From Rte 146 take exit 5 (Main Street Sutton & Northbridge)

Go west, the first left is Hough Road.

There are signs on Route 146 for Sutton Senior Center

April Potluck Volunteers:

Thanks in advance for your delicious contributions

Thanks for March Munchies:

Leni Barbara Griffiths, Renate Milgroom & Penny Nelson

APRIL POTLUCK & ANNUAL MEETING

The potluck is shaping up to be as wonderful as our prior years' events. Your donations to the raffle table are welcome. We have some nice items but there is room for plenty more. Jackie Bean is coordinating -- she'd like to have your items donations ahead of time in order to plan for space, etc. Please call on 508-234-0602 or email her at jpbwork@yahoo.com. Raffle tickets will sell for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 that evening.

Please note that we have an early start time! It will be a full evening, starting with supper (YUM!) and socializing, then our own Maria Masmanian speak to us about her Master Gardener experiences. And, lastly, the new board will be announced.



MAY TREK

There is an "Open Studio and Tea Tasting" at the Sunny Windows Antique Barn in Southboro, MA on Sunday, May 3rd. Some BVG-ers have signed up, and there is still time: the sign up sheet will again be out at the April meeting.

If you have suggestions for a trek, or if you've been somewhere terrific that you'd like to share in the newsletter, please contact Cindy Kosciak: 508-234-6570 or dkos@charter.net. Also, if you don't have email but want to hear about upcoming treks that are planned outside of the newsletter schedule, please call Cindy to leave your contact information and shell keep you posted of any plans.



Please make your \$20 check payable to the:
Blackstone Valley Gardeners

DUES ARE DUE

Return this form along with your check to:

Val Kara

10 Riverbend Road

Upton, MA 01568

Name _____ Phone _____

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Do you want your newsletter emailed Yes ___ No ___

Do you want to receive email notices Yes ___ No ___

A Gardener's Diary...

April is the month when your perennials will pop up and start to leaf out in earnest. There is much excitement...and much to do...forsythias will bloom, the lawn will green up, hellebores, apple trees will be ready to bloom. So, here's a check list to help you get organized:

- Wake up your roses around the middle of the month. Remove winter protection, fertilize, prune, and water
- Now that the ground has thawed it is a good time to get a soil test, and also to get your beds edged.
- All spring bulbs should be up and growing now; some are even in bloom. When you see the flower stalk emerging from the foliage, it's time to fertilize. Use a complete fertilizer such as 20-20-20 or a special bulb formulation that is available from most garden centers.
- Seed, re-seed, or over-seed your lawn during the first week of the month. (Then you will have to wait until after the seed has germinated before applying a crabgrass pre-emergent.)
- Till soil as needed for new beds and renovations and prepare the vegetable garden.
- Fertilize all perennials.
- Transplant shrubs, trees, and divided plants before they leaf out.
- Cut back ornamental grasses.



WANTED: Your Input

Share your interesting gardening experiences right here!
Email patricia.a.stellato@verizon.com or snail mail to 56 West River St, Upton, MA 01568

A Special Note

River's Edge Nursery & Garden Shop in Framingham will open for the season on April 3rd. Many of you know owner Jen Porter from her wonderful workshop on container gardening!

Now for Something a Little Different....

Spring is upon us, and we'll soon be going out to work in the garden. Perhaps, you are dreading the onset of stiff and achy muscles after a winter of taking it easy (except for Ann who has been tossing hay bales around for her horses!), so, here is a little incentive:

You can potentially burn 300 – 600 calories per hour, depending upon your intensity, while gardening! Here's a list of what the average sized person can burn in 30 minutes.

Raking	162
Bagging debris	162
Planting trees	182
Weeding	182
Digging, spading, tilling	202
General Gardening	202

What a great way to get into shape for the summer. Remember to start slow, and always stretch before, during and after gardening.

A Community Service Opportunity

Calling all gardeners - with a desire to dig & divide in your own gardens to donate perennials to a worthy cause in the Blackstone Valley: Daggett Farm in Pawtucket, RI, a program of *The Arc of Blackstone Valley*, a non-profit corporation committed to supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Your donations of hosta, daylilies, iris and other perennials would be much appreciated. More information will be provided at the April meeting.

Thanks in advance for your support!

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**PO BOX 686
UPTON, MA 01568**



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