



# BLACKSTONE VALLEY GARDENERS

[www.bvgardeners.com](http://www.bvgardeners.com)

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January 2008

Volume XII - No 16

## January Meeting

Thursday, Jan 10

Sutton Senior Center  
19 Hough Road, Sutton MA  
7:00 PM

### "Caring for Trees and Shrubs"

Arborist and "tree value adjuster," Ed Palmer comes back to enlighten us on more than just pruning.

## 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

## Thank you for December Munchies:

Leni Carroll, Marion Desmond, Pat Stellato,  
Carolyn Voss & Donna Sanford

## January Bakers:

Linda Brown, Maria Masmanian & Pat Stellato

*Don't forget!* ☺

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS WELCOME

Please feel free to bring your friends and family to any of the meetings and treks. They are always welcome. And, of course, if they would like to join BVG, we'd be delighted to have them.

Welcome New Member: Renate Milgroom of Uxbridge.

### Meeting Format

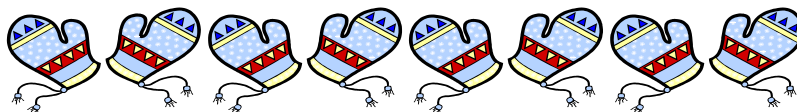
- Please sign in. The member book will be set up at the front table.
- There will be two raffles each month. A free one with donated prizes, and a paid one, with nifty prizes. If you would like to donate a prize, please contact Linda Hamm or Carolyn Voss.
- BVG gear will be available for sale.



## JANUARY TREK

There will be no formal trek this month.

If you have any suggestions for one, please contact Ann Hanscom: 508-278-3617 or [A\\_J\\_Hanscom@msn.com](mailto:A_J_Hanscom@msn.com).



## January Activities

### • Tower Hill Winter Programs

\$25 for members, \$30 for non-members: Four Seasons Gardening, Sun, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 3P; Irrigation in the Home Garden, Sat, Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 – 12N; Developing Ideas for the Home Landscape, Sun, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 3P.

There are also botanical art and illustration classes. [www.towerhill.org](http://www.towerhill.org).

### • Tower Hill Winter Film Series

Screening of the popular PBS series Gardens of the World hosted by Audrey Hepburn; Sundays, Dec 30<sup>th</sup> – Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>; 1 – 1:30, free with regular admission. [www.towerhill.org](http://www.towerhill.org)

## INTERESTED IN A BVG POSITION?

These positions are still open:

### Web Maintenance

Joyce Grant has relocated and will not be able to continue as *BVG Webmaster*. We are still seeking a creative BVG-er to take over web maintenance. Let Linda or Jackie know if you are interested.

### Civic Beautification

Bridget Bennett-Lewis just announced that she will be vacating the Civic Beautification position. We are seeking a member to take on this role as well. Let Linda or Jackie know if you are interested.



## CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION NEWS

Every year Blackstone Valley Gardeners likes to recognize individuals and businesses that enhance our communities by beautifying their spaces. It can be as simple as window boxes or complex as islands. We rely on you all to bring places in your town to our attention so we can thank them for their efforts. Please email Linda Hamm with any suggestions for recognition.: [lindahamm@aol.com](mailto:lindahamm@aol.com)



For announcements, special events & Sunshine, email our corresponding secretary: Joan O'Brien, at [joanob@charter.net](mailto:joanob@charter.net).

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N. UXBRIDGE, MA 01538

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## WINTER WONDERLAND

Winter means snow in many areas of North America... *and were we ever reminded of that in December!* The weight of snow on the branches can damage trees and shrubs. Should you shake it off or leave it alone? Here's what *Garden Gate* magazine recommends: If the trees are laden with ice and heavy, wet snow – leave them alone and let Mother Nature take its course. The branches are extremely brittle when encased in ice and covered with heavy snow; you'll likely do more harm than good if you try to remove it. If the snow is dry, light and fluffy, feel free to tap off with the bristles of a broom.

And the season reminds us that soon it will be a good time to give our trees a check-up: late winter and early spring are the best times to prune trees. Look for problems now so you can plan to have them taken care of. I'm sure Mr. Palmer will have lots of tips for us at the January meeting.

The winter also brings out the deer, so beautiful to watch....but, that gets me thinking of all of the plants they enjoyed munching in my garden last spring and summer. Aargh! While there's no such thing as a deer-proof plant, there are definitely ones that deer don't crave. Generally, they shun plants with fuzzy foliage or ones with lemon, sage or spicy flavors. Some examples include: allium, colchicum (autumn crocus), narcissus, muscari (grape hyacinth), nepeta (catmint), digitalis (foxglove), veronica, forget-me-not, butterfly bush, clematis and honeysuckle.



### WANTED: Your Input

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