



# BLACKSTONE VALLEY GARDENERS

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January 2010

Volume XII - No 33

## January Meeting

Thursday, January 14th  
BV United Methodist Church  
61 Linwood Ave, Whitinsville, MA  
7:00PM

### "Darwinian Gardening: The Fit Survive"

Dr. Phil Robakiewicz

Dry, sandy berms... storm drain run-off... shady woods... wet meadows. These are some of the habitats with which New England gardeners deal. Add to that unpredictable winters, summer droughts or deluges, late and early frosts, and it's a wonder that we can grow anything at all! Dr. Phil Robakiewicz, an ecologist and life-long gardener, will discuss his approach to dealing with many of these challenges in the context of a busy life. His approach is a very simple one: don't fight what you have, adapt to it.

## MEETING PLACE

Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church  
61 Linwood Ave, Whitinsville, MA



## A Note from the President....

*A very happy new year to each of you!*

The December meeting was festive and a lot of fun. Henry outdid himself with that beautiful large arrangement and the ice cream cones were unique and fun. I hope the meeting got you in the holiday mood and that you spent much wonderful time with family and friends during the winter holidays.

A warm welcome to our most recent new member: Eleanor Bernat of Upton.

We are starting the new year with a practical topic of discussion, but, "Dr. Phil" also has a passion for heirloom as well as unusual, rare plants. And, he loves to garden...so prepare to be educated, informed and also *entertained!*

Regards, *Jackie Bean*

## January Munchies:

Linda Brown, Marion Desmond and Bunny Lyman.

Thanks for December's munchies: Judy Collins, Cissy Henderson, Renate Milgroom, Sandy Rosborough, Donna Sanford and Louise Zyguntowicz.

## Tower Hill Botanic Gardens: Selected January – February Events

See next page for details



- 1 - Flora in Winter: Earth's Gifts – Environment / Nature Exhibit
- 2 - Winter Growers for Home and Greenhouse
- 3 - Introduction to Hydroponics

*Remember: BVG donated Tower Hill (free) admission passes to Northbridge, Upton & Uxbridge libraries!*



## **1 - Flora in Winter: Earth's Gifts – Environment / Nature Exhibit**

Thursday, January 28, 2010 - Sunday, January 31, 2010  
10:00 AM-5:00 PM

### **Stoddard Education and Visitors Center**

Celebrate this annual floral extravaganza, in collaboration with the Worcester Art Museum, Flora in Winter at Tower Hill this year will explore "Earth's Gifts." Comprised of the four basic elements of Fire, Water, Earth, and Air, mother earth provides everything we need to survive on this planet. As the quotation above Tower Hill's reception desk reads: "Plants provide all the air we breathe, and all the food we eat." Come see how talented floral arrangers from central Mass. interpret this theme through the universal and sensual language of flowers. A visually stunning treat awaits you.  
**Cost: Included with Admission: \$10 Adults, \$7 Seniors & \$5 Youth; free to Members**

## **2 - Winter Growers for Home and Greenhouse**

Saturday, January 30, 2010  
11:00 AM-12:30 PM

### **Farmhouse Meeting Room**

Over the years, Art Scarpa (of the Cactus and Succulent Society) has assembled a collection of plants that extend the growing season to year round. They include camellias, clivias, tropical and hardy bulbs, jasmines, cyclamens, primroses, Living Stones from South Africa and many more. He will also give tips on how to fill a bright but cold breezeway, balcony or deck with living plants for winter interest and color.  
**Cost: Members \$20; Non-members \$22**

## **3 - Introduction to Hydroponics**

Saturday, February 6, 2010  
10:00 AM-11:00 AM

### **Farmhouse Meeting Room**

After last year's excessive rain and crop failures caused by the pathogen late blight, it makes sense to grow vegetables in a more controlled environment. This class will cover the basics of growing vegetables using hydroponics, which is simply growing plants in a non-soil medium. This can be a very simple and effective way to grow vegetables which can yield amazing results. We will cover the different growing mediums available, why pH is important in hydroponics, the difference between fertilizers for soil and hydroponics, and lighting. We will conclude with a Q&A discussion on how to put all this information together and have success growing plants hydroponically. Instructor: Tom Dzaugis, Green Path Garden Supply, Northboro, MA.  
**Cost: Members \$6; Non-members \$8**

## **BLACKSTONE VALLEY GARDNERS**

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