

## 2008 Public Garden Tour & Plant Sale Information

Date: Saturday, June 21, 2008 – Rain or Shine

Time: 9A – 3P

Ticket Price: \$15 in advance; may be a premium charged on the day of the event

Chairing the Event: Cissy Henderson & Pat Stellato

There will be 8 private gardens on the tour, each with their own unique features, including:

- a woodland garden
- a Japanese garden
- ponds and other water features
- a variety of stone work – terraces, patios, parterres
- specimen plantings
- herbs and organic gardening methods
- a myriad of flowers, shrubs and trees

We anticipate that the homeowners will be there to guide you and chat with you as you tour their property (three of the homes are BVG members!). You'll hear first hand about how they evolved their properties over the years, their trials, tribulations and successes. I'm sure you'll hear unique tips on how to make a garden grow, and all about their favorite plants (everyone has one!).

And, at one home, there will be plants available for sale and refreshments served.

**We hope you'll participate to the fullest. We think it will be a wonderful day – *rain or shine!***

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A bit about BVG fund raising events, in general.....

As you know, other than member dues, BVG holds a single large fundraising event each year. In both 2006 and 2007, the event was a large, public (and successful) plant sale. In 2008, the fund raising event will be a public garden tour – and it will be held in Upton this year.

Based upon research that Cissy Henderson conducted, we know that many other garden clubs put on a successful garden tour as their large fund raiser – and for some, it is an annual event! We are confident that our initial tour will be successful as well! But, that means we need your involvement – from potting up a few of your favorite plants from your own gardens -- to selling tickets to the event -- to volunteering at the event – to buying a ticket and participating on the tour. Everyone's help and support is needed to make this initial public tour a success so that we have the model for future successful garden tours in other Blackstone Valley communities.

(Note: see next page for specific needs)

## Specific needs for the 2008 garden tour in Upton....

### Volunteer Duties

#### 1. Prior to Event, we need to make preparations for the plant sale:

- Need volunteers to dig & divide at Tri-River, Foxfire Farm and possibly Tapestry Gardens
- Request members to donate 3 - 5 perennials from their own garden
  - Plants to be potted up and dropped off 10 – 14 days prior to event
- Request members to sell 5 tickets (or as many as they can) in advance.
  - It is a great time to spend with your mother, grandmother, favorite aunt, favorite gardener, friends, husband, etc. – *so, selling tickets should be the easy part!*
  - Ticket Sales will be limited – at the moment, we're thinking 150.
  - We're asking members to sell tickets in advance of opening the sale to the public so that we insure that our members -- and their friends and family -- get top priority.
    - We'll bring tickets to the April meeting – these will be available to you to purchase for yourselves and whomever you may have already enticed to join you on the tour.
      - You can also take away tickets to sell during the month of April – up until the May meeting.
      - We ask that you to return either checks or the unsold tickets at the May meeting.
    - After the May meeting, we'll have a tally of tickets sold and can gauge what we need to sell publicly.... If we're close to the goal of 150, we'll consider expanding ticket sales.
  - Then, in mid-May: the event will be publicly advertised – again, advanced sales will be preferred.

#### 2. Day of Event, our needs focus on the garden tour:

- Tour Hostesses at each location
  - 3 hour shifts –9A – noon; noon – 3P
    - Allows tour hostesses to participate in tour and sale
  - Duties include: taking tickets, providing program, monitoring activities, clean-up
  - 1 hostess per home if owner or representative is present; 2 if owner is not present
- Plant Sale volunteers
  - Same shifts as hostesses
  - Duties include: a plant knowledgeable volunteer, cashiers, helpers
- Volunteers on the day of the event – either at a tour site or at the plant sale – do not need to purchase a ticket.
  - In return for your time, you can tour for free!
- At the April meeting, we'll put out sign up sheets for all volunteer duties. Once compiled, we'll put out a schedule of assignments.

We're really excited about this event..... and, we hope you are, too!