



BLACKSTONE VALLEY GARDENERS

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May 2006

Volume XII - No 5

MAY MEETING

THURSDAY May 11
7:00 PM at Lydia Taft House

Window Boxes
Rich LeClerc

Owner of New England Window Boxes demonstrates construction, placement, and styles of window boxes, made so as to protect your house.

THANK YOU

For April's Treats

Carol Bowen, Linda Brown & Kallie Spaulding
And to all who generously contributed to the bounty of wonderful treats, adding to the enjoyment of our meetings.

Looking Forward to May's Snacks

Fay Lavigne

Anyone else who can bring a treat to the meeting is encouraged to do so. All donations are welcome.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Kathleen McCarthy, 34 Carpenter Rd, Whitinsville MA 01588
508-234-8139

OUR GUEST

Liz Carron - We hope you enjoyed the meeting and will consider becoming a member. It's still a bargain at \$20.00 a year for great speakers, sharing of information and the friendship of fellow gardeners.

TREKS

Ann has 15 tickets for the Beacon Hill Tour (Thursday, May 18th) for those who paid her in advance. She knows there are others who have procured their own tickets. Please, everyone who wants to carpool, call or email Ann so she can make driving arrangements as soon as possible.

The June trek to western Massachusetts (Edith Wharton's The Mount and notable nurseries) will be the week of June 19th. All interested participants, please call or email (Ann Hanscom) ASAP to select the day of the week that works best for the most of us.

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS

We were approached by the Upton Men's Club and asked if we would be kind enough to help them with maintaining the six beautiful stone planters below the "Welcome to Upton" signs as you enter the town. This will not require any financial commitment from the Club, just some additional planting to replace evergreens which have died (from lack of care!), and general clipping, pruning and care during the year. We discussed this at the last Board Meeting and the reaction was positive - we have several members in Upton who are interested in helping, but we would welcome help from any members from other towns! If you are interested, please call Carolyn Voss or Linda Hamm.

TRI-RIVER CLEAN-UP

We had a successful clean-up day at Tri-River's garden with many enthusiastic BVGers - THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Ann will need further help to have the Garden looking it's best for June 3rd. Please call or email Ann H. if you can share some time.



RUSTIC WORKSHOP

The workshop with Frank Hamm has been cancelled due to insufficient entries.

PUBLIC PLANT SALE UPDATE

Plans for the public plant sale are moving along nicely! It will be held on June 3rd at River Bend Farm on Oak Street in Uxbridge (after a suggestion from one of our member's husbands!). That is the same day as the Canalfest, and we have a nice central spot to hold our sale! It will run from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm, but we will need to be there to set up earlier than that! Members will also be needed after the plant sale for about an hour (the more, the quicker) to clean up.

Many people have signed up to help with various activities and that is great! Thank you all. As you see, Barbara has set up Dig and Divide times and that will be fun and informative for everyone, please try to attend as many as possible. Kathy Trice has offered to organize the setting up, and we will need willing hands and trucks to load and move the plants in! We are also going to have a Silent Auction Table and will welcome some special items to display – large and special plants or shrubs, planters or other related gardening items! Put on your thinking caps and let Carolyn Voss know if you can donate something.

DIG & DIVIDES

Plants from your garden that you would like to donate to the June 3 BVG plant sale should be brought to one of the following sessions for potting and labeling. We will also be digging plants from the Tapestry Gardens field and gardens. Our goal is over 1000 plants - so we need your help!

Please come as often as you can, - bring your own gloves, pruners, etc.

Dates and times (call Barbara at 278-5004 if you have questions)

9-12 AM

Friday, May 5

Saturday, May 6

Wednesday, May 10

Thursday, May 11

Saturday, May 13

7-8 PM

Wednesday, May 3

Monday, May 8

Many hands make light work

WHAT! NO PICNIC????

Many BVGers have expressed disappointment that the annual picnic has not been planned for 2006, with the plant sale shifting to River Bend Farm; so the Hanscoms have very graciously decided to invite any BVGers who help in any way in making the plant sale a success, (when we are all in need of some relaxation) and their friends and family members, to bring their own picnics (no refreshments will be provided by BVG) and frisbees, etc., to Foxfire Farm after the plant sale is all cleaned up. They would love to have a late afternoon of food and friendship as usual, and this year there are even two new ponies for children to pat!

STUFF TO DO IN MAY

Go to as many dig and divide sessions as you can to help get BVG ready for our first REAL plant sale! Finish garden clean-up tasks; dig crowded perennials to bring to the dig & divide sessions at Barbara Hall's; sharpen garden edges; weed (as soon as you see Spring weeds - don't wait 'til they're so big they take over) and fluff soil while you're at it; scrub and set up bird baths; place decorative pots in the garden after frosty nights are finished. Pinch off baby peaches, leaving about six inches between those remaining, as soon as they are about the size of peas. Prune out about 1/4 of the oldest Forsythia stems, after they have finished flowering (likewise other spring flowering shrubs in their time), to maintain desired shrub size and rejuvenate flower budding for next year. This is the best time of year to plant any new trees, shrubs, or perennials, before the heat and drought of summer. Weed, seed, and feed lawns (with organic compost I hope) while spring rains keep soil moist. Plant veggies when the soil crumbles in your hand like chocolate cake, and remember, don't tread on your gardens when the soil is wet! Spread Milky Spore to feed on beetle grubs, and remember, if you use inorganic compound in hopes of killing those grubs, you will kill the Milky Spore nematodes but hardly make a dent in the grub population.

Anyone who has succeeded in foiling the deer or voles, please write an article for the next newsletter and tell us how you did it!

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