



# BLACKSTONE VALLEY GARDENERS

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November 2008

Volume XII - No 24

## November Meeting

Thursday, November 13th  
Sutton Senior Center  
19 Hough Road, Sutton, MA  
7:00PM

### "A Walk in Monet's Garden"

For over 40 years Claude Monet lived and worked at Giverny, a small town northwest of Paris. The gardens he created at his home there from 1883 until his death in 1926 are closely woven into the fabric of his paintings. A visit to Giverny is a feast for all of the senses. Join Barbara Hall, one of the founders of BVG, for a "Walk in Monet's Garden", a collection of scenes from the five acre garden that has been lovingly restored to reflect Monet's passions for art and gardening.

### 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

### November Munchies:

Faye Lavigne, Nancy Lucier & Jean Verrier  
*Don't forget! ☺*

## Welcome New Members

Susan Darnell & Suzanne Kane

## Thank you for October Munchies:

Carol Bowen, Marion Desmond & Patty Deveau

## Fall Clean Up at Tri-River

The clean up on the 18<sup>th</sup> went very well – and the weather was in our favor -- many thanks to everyone who participated.

## Feed the Birds

When the winter settles in, many birds search for hibernating insects, seeds, berries and nuts to fill out their diet. You can help by hanging a suet feeder. You'll find pre-made suet cakes at the store or try making your own (recipes attached). Making suet is simple, and you may find that you enjoy whipping up a gourmet meal for your feathered friends. Recipes and instructions are attached.

## December Meeting – Update

As mentioned last month, the December meeting will be a workshop for members who would like to decorate a wreath for a public location in their community or for themselves. We have 28 members signed up so far, and could take a few more – please let Linda Hamm know of your interest at the November meeting. Wreaths made for community locations will be free; there will be a \$15 fee for wreaths made for your personal use.

## Blackstone Valley Gardeners Logo Gear

We'll have our custom made logo items available for sale at this month's meeting  
*They make really great gifts!*

Visors.....\$15	Baseball Caps.....\$15
Aprons.....\$15	Canvass Bags.....\$17
Polo Shirts.....\$19 (Available in Navy or Butter)	

## A Gardener's Diary...

This is the month to bed down the garden for winter. There are a number of tasks to do before the end of the month ... the most important thing is to protect your perennials and evergreens. Here is your check list for November:

- Secure all climbing and vining plants to their supports to avoid whipping by winter winds, which can severely damage the plants.
- Clean up leaves and other plant debris from all planting beds.
- Dig up dahlias for winter storage. Place tubers in crates or cardboard boxes lined with newspaper. Store in a cool, dry place with temperatures of 40-50°F.
- Deep-water evergreens to hydrate them for winter. For additional protection, especially from cold, drying west winds, erect a wind screen or wrap the plant in burlap.
- Drain hoses and put them away so they don't freeze and burst. Clean and oil your garden tools for winter storage.
- Start feeding the birds and other small creatures that may not be able to find food due to snow on the ground or other causes over the winter



### **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

## A Bit of History on the Monet Gardens

(to further whet your appetite for Barbara's presentation)

There are two parts in Monet's garden in Giverny: a flower garden called Clos Normand in front of the house and a Japanese inspired water garden on the other side of the road. The two parts of Monet's garden contrast and complement one another.

**Clos Normand** is a garden full of perspectives, symmetries and colors. The land is divided into flowerbeds where flower clumps of different heights create volume. Fruit and ornamental trees dominate the climbing roses, the long-stemmed hollyhocks and the colored banks of annuals. Monet mixed the simplest flowers with many rare varieties. The central alley is covered over by iron arches on which climbing roses grow. Claude Monet did not like organized nor constrained gardens. He married flowers according to their colors and let them to grow freely.

**The water garden** was developed ten years after his arrival at Giverny, when Monet bought the piece of land neighboring his property. It was crossed by a small brook, which is a tributary of the Seine River. Monet first had a small pond dug, even though his peasant neighbors were opposed: they were afraid that his strange plants would poison the water. Later, the pond would be enlarged to its present day size. The water garden is inspired by the Japanese gardens that Monet knew from the prints he collected avidly and is full of asymmetries and curves. Here, you will find the famous Japanese bridge covered with wisteria, weeping willows, a bamboo wood and above all the famous nymphaeas which bloom all summer long.

Never before had a painter so shaped his subjects in nature before painting them. Monet would find his inspiration in this water garden for more than twenty years.

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