



BLACKSTONE VALLEY GARDENERS

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November 2005

Volume XI - No 8

NOVEMBER MEETING

Thursday November 10

* Lydia Taft House

Quaker Highway, Uxbridge

* 7:00 PM

Historic Garden Restoration

Christie Higginbottom
Old Sturbridge Village

Learn about the connections between architecture, style, and "the necessities" in the garden, as influenced by the era in which they occur.

IMPORTANT MEETING PLACE CHANGE

The membership has spoken and we listened. The consensus is to return the meetings to the Lydia Taft House, Quaker Highway, Uxbridge. Parking is available on the premises, or at the adjoining Uxbridge Post Office

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes are posted on the website
www.bvgardeners.com. Take a look.

ALL BOARD MEMBERS: PLEASE ATTEND OUR MEETING NOVEMBER 3RD AT TRI-RIVER, 7 PM, TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR JUNE'S FUND RAISER. EVERYONE'S IDEAS ARE IMPORTANT

THANK YOU FOR OCTOBER TREATS

Janice Cooper, Jackie Kollett, Carol LaFleur and for doing double duty on behalf of both BVG & Sutton Garden Club Linda Worthington

Looking forward to November nibbles, thanks to

Linda Brown, Patty Deveau, Barbara Griffiths & Faye Lavigne

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jackie Bean, 174 Wolf Hill Rd, Northbridge 01534-508-234-0602
Doreen Condry, 10 Riverbend Rd, Upton 01568-508-529-6716
Pennie Putnam Linder, 33 Country Farm Rd, Sutton 01590-508-868-6151
Midge Wyman, 8 Concord Lane, Uxbridge 01569-508-779-0014

MESSAGE FROM PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR – ANN HANSCOM

Apologies to all those distressed by the chaos resulting from the fact that the speaker ignored his directions and came here by way of Springfield! I have made arrangements with Frank Hamm to provide a Rustic Garden Structures workshop at Foxfire Farm on Saturday, May 13, 2006, from 10:00 am. to 2:00 p.m. All members' names from both BVG and Sutton Garden Club will be entered into a raffle for his finished garden trellis to be awarded on that date. Any member from either club may come and watch the workshop to make up for the way-too-hurried demo at last month's meeting. Members (and friends/spouses/relatives), wishing to make a structure themselves on that day, can choose to make a 2-dimensional trellis (for beginner carpenters), or a bench (for those who already have carpentry experience). His fee for the day is \$475.00 for a maximum of 25 participants (excluding auditors), (with \$20 additional for those making the bench as he provides the finished wood for the seat). If we require a minimum of 20 participants, that makes the cost per person \$23.75, and each participant above that up to 25 will reduce the per person cost accordingly. Participants will bring their own (if they have them) measuring tape, pruning saw, gloves, pruners/loppers, all-weather clothing, and power drills (we do have electricity in the barn if you don't have portable, and sharing can be arranged if need be). Frank provides screws and bits. I hope this assuages any chagrin resulting from October's meeting debacle! Please indicate interest a.s.a.p., and I will look for commitment by way of pre-payment by the first of March.

Call Ann at 508-278-3617 or email at A_J_Hanscom@msn.com

SWEET PUMPKIN DIP

Recipe from Carol LaFleur

1 Can Pumpkin Pie Filling 8 oz. Cream Cheese
½ Box Confectioners Sugar Cinnamon & Nutmeg to Taste
Soften cream cheese, blend ingredients together, chill. Serve in scooped out pumpkin with gingersnap cookies.

Addendum October's recipe Green Tomato Cake: ½ cup of milk

NOVEMBER TREK

Wednesday, November 16 to Russo's in Watertown, MA and the nearby Asian Markets. Carpool from Ann Hanscom's; 9:15 AM; reserve a seat 508-278-3617

GREENS WORKSHOP

On Thursday, December 8th, we will be holding our annual greens workshop and we know that is something everyone looks forward to! It will be held, as usual, at the Congregational Church hall, which is in the back of the Uxbridge Common, and will start at 7:30 p.m. If you would like some guidance on where to begin, Ann Hanscom will hold a short workshop at 7:00 p.m!

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE CONTRIBUTE WHAT GREENS YOU CAN! Cut conifer (needle bearing) greens for the workshop early in November (before snow gets in the way!). Place in big trash bags, sprinkle lightly with water so they don't dry up in storage, poke holes in the bag bottoms so there's not enough water in the bag to stagnate, and store in a cool, dry place (i.e., garage, bulkhead, barn, shed) where you can get to them at workshop time. Broadleaf evergreens will fare best if you place them in buckets of water (store where it doesn't get below freezing), so they don't shrivel up. Adding glycerin to the water (10:1) keeps them really spiffy! Do pick: Chamaecyparous, Arbor Vitae, Microbiota, soft-needled Junipers, Juniperus virginiana (Eastern Red Cedar - the best green for your base material), White Pine, Fir, Thujopsis; especially the varieties having yellow, blue, or bronze hues. Don't pick: Juniperus communis (common juniper - too prickly), spruces with too-sharp needles, hemlock or yew (the needles fall off in the house). Do pick: broadleaf evergreens such as Meservae hollies, Ilex glabra, Leucothoe, Andromeda, Laurel (if not full of Black Spot), Boxwood. Evergreen azalea, and small-leaved Rhodies (large-leaf Rhodies are too big to use in arrangements, but are O.K. for swags), which will flower in the house! If you find interesting seedpods or flower heads, spray paint them gold or white for an interesting accent. Most fruits or berries fall off when brought indoors, but work if hung outside (and the birds like them). Many spring-blooming shrubs can be forced to bloom if cut close to Solstice and kept in water in a cool room.

GREENS WORKSHOP CONT.

Indicate on the sign-up sheet if you can contribute any of the aforementioned material.

There will be a sign up sheet at the November meeting for members to help with greens cutting and collection on Thursday morning, November 17, 9:30 AM at Ann Hanscom's. Its fun and educational so please try to give an hour or so of your time to help.

We will provide containers, oasis, candles, ribbons, and ornaments, but if you would like to bring your own container, that is encouraged. Guests are welcome @ \$5.00

STUFF TO DO IN NOVEMBER

Finish any bulb planting or transplanting. Gather pinecones for free fire starter. Any leftover potted plants you don't have time to plant can be over-wintered by sinking them in a sheltered hollow and covering them with a loose-textured mulch. Save any wind-fallen pine boughs to blanket perennial beds during the coldest months. Start cuttings of annuals and tender perennials under grow lights for next summer's pots and beds. Don't despair at the weather! Autumn flooding means safe winter quarters for turtles and fish, etc., and means good skating in the coming cold months. Finish stacking the firewood, gather your garden books (or travel catalogues!) and begin hibernating!

FLORA IN WINTER – FEBRUARY

The Worcester Art Museum has confirmed that the Blackstone Valley Gardeners will have a space in the Museum for a floral design for Flora in Winter in February. I will plan some design workshops for members wishing to learn about designing with flowers, in preparation for this event. If you wish to be involved in this project:

Call Ann at 508-278-3617 or email at
A_J_Hanscom@msn.com

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