



# BLACKSTONE VALLEY GARDENERS

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October 2005

Volume XI - No 7

## OCTOBER MEETING

Thursday October 13  
Tri-River Family Health Center  
East Hartford Avenue, Uxbridge  
7:00 PM

**Rustic Trellises**  
Frank C. Hamm

A meeting shared with Sutton Garden Club. The trellis we learn to construct will be raffled to a lucky participant at the end of the evening

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS

When our scheduled speaker had to cancel at the last minute our dedicated members stepped in to fill the void. They were all wonderful and full of good ideas.

Leni Carroll and Mary Fedorczuk gave an informative and enlightening segment on dried flowers. They showed us what to use, (some of the samples surprised us) how to dry them and gave us some great ideas of ways to display them. Thank you, Leni and Mary.

Ann Hanscom took the floor to do a demonstration on flower arranging. She showed us tools to use, a variety of containers and some different greens and flowers that can enhance your work of art. She proceeded to create an arrangement while explaining some design basics.

Thank you Ann.

Sue Smith did the final segment showing us a variety of her beautiful heirloom tomatoes. Sue explained how to harvest and keep seeds for next years crop. We even got to sample those wonderful "Sweet Million" gems. She also gave some tips on how to store your harvest of veggies for winter consumption. As promised her Green Tomato Cake recipe.

Thank you Sue.

## MINUTES OF SEPT. BOARD MEETING

Minutes are posted on the website  
[www.bvgardeners.com](http://www.bvgardeners.com). Take a look.

## THANK YOU

**To our September bakers**

Brenda Rosborough, Sandra Rosborough and  
Louise Zygmuntowicz.

**And looking forward to October treats, thanks to**

Janice Cooper, Jackie Kollett and Carol Laffleur

## NEW MEMBERS

Our new members will have green dots on their badges. Let's all make an extra effort to welcome them to BVG.

## DON'T BE LEFT OUT

Don't miss out on the great programs and all the news and sharing of knowledge that comes with being a member of the Blackstone Valley Gardeners. If you haven't paid your dues please renew now. Regretfully this is the last newsletter to be sent until dues are paid. So come to the October meeting or send your \$20.00 check to:

Carol Bowen, PO Box 752, Upton, MA 01568



## Green Tomato Cake

From The Kitchen Of Sue Smith

½ Cup Butter	2 ½ Cups Flour
2 Cups Sugar	½ Cup Cocoa powder
3 eggs	2 ½ tsp baking soda
1 tsp Salt	1 Cup Chopped walnuts
1 tsp Cinnamon	2 tsp Orange extract
1 tsp Vanilla extract	
2 Cups Green tomatoes, finely chopped	

Cream butter and sugar, beat in eggs one at a time. Stir in tomatoes, nuts and flavorings.

Combine dry ingredients and add alternately with milk. Pour into greased and floured 10" tube pan. Bake at 350° for one hour or until done. Cool before turning onto serving plate.

To substitute carob for chocolate, increase butter to ¾ Cup. (This is the one carob desert I've tried that tastes like chocolate.)

## NEW MEMBER TEA

On September 1st, the Board held a tea for members who had joined the club during the past year or so. We thought it would be nice for them to meet us and get to know other newcomers to the club prior to the first meeting of the new season.

The tea was held at the lovely home of our vice-president, Linda Hamm. It was a beautiful summer afternoon and we sat out of her porch and enjoyed teas (the lavender tea was a great hit!), and assorted goodies - sandwiches, cookies, scones and chocolate cake! Linda gave a tour of her gardens, and we just relaxed and chatted! It was so pleasant that I believe Linda thought we were never going home!

Thank you, Linda, for offering your home and for all the preparations you made and trouble you went to. Thank everyone else on the Board for the delicious foodstuff, and thank you everyone who came for taking time out of busy schedules to be with us.

The impromptu September meeting was a great success and brought many positive comments! We look forward to a happy and successful year ahead, and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at each meeting.



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## OCTOBER TREK

Thursday, October 20th, to the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain (near Boston) Depart Foxfire Farm at 9:00 am weather permitting. Call or e-mail ahead for carpooling arrangements. Lunch details by group consensus. (Ann 508-278-3617, A\_J-Hanscom@msn.com)

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*He who sees things grow from the beginning will have the best view of them" - Aristotle*

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## STUFF TO DO IN OCTOBER

\* Plant bulbs. Take cuttings of tender plants (such as Coleus and Pelargoniums) to root under grow lights, or in a bright East window. Dig, trim, clean, and store bulbs of tuberous plants (like Dahlias) in a cool, dry place.

\* Transplant shrubs and trees while there's still time for roots to grow before freezing; water well for ten days and thereafter if natural rainfall is less than 1" per week. If you don't want to risk transplant now, root-prune plants in anticipation of moving them in the Spring.

\* Prune evergreens before mid-November for Greens Workshop; store slightly dampened, in punctured plastic trash bags in a cool, dark place (bulkhead, garage. etc.) before snow flies.

\* General rules of thumb for pruning: prune woody shrubs/trees while dormant (so you don't prompt new growth which has no time to "harden off" before damaging cold weather); prune Spring flowering plants after they flower (they make their blooms on the previous year's growth); leave branches on Summer or Fall flowering shrubs (they need the old growth branches for winter protection) until the end of Winter (Feb/Mar/Apr) as they will produce flowers on the current year's growth.

\* Mow lawns fairly low as the short days stifle growth, preferably with a mulching mower (Brownie Points for the health of the planet!), chopping fallen leaves along with grass clippings to feed the soil; or compost leaves and clippings, unless they contain pesticides (No Brownie points!).

\* Lightly clean flower beds (so as not to provide haven for undesirable critters like rodents), but leave some protection (mulch) to blanket the beds against extreme cold (best to mulch after hard freeze occurs). Leave spent stems and seed heads if you want plants to self-sew/if you like looking at them in the snow/if you want to allow plants (esp., grasses) to protect themselves in the cold and wet (Note: Nature doesn't remove stems until the new growth of Spring!)/or if you wish to provide next year's butterflies an over-wintering safe house.

**How tidy to be, that is the question.**

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