



Sproutings

Chatham Garden Club

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November, 2022

"Autumn is Springtime in Reverse" - Terri Guillemets



What's Happening in November?

[Links are underlined in blue](#)

Nov 5th: [Chatham Chowder Fest](#) 4-8 pm VFW George Ryder Road

Nov 6th: Daylight Saving Time ends - Turn your clocks back!

Nov 8th: CGC Board Meeting 1:00 Chatham Comm.Center - small conference room

Nov 11th: Veterans Day Observance: 11am - 12pm WWI Memorial @ Chatham Community Center

Nov 15th: General Meeting 12:30/1:00 Presentation: Sonny Gada - see below

Fall Decorations Workshop: 10:30 - 12:00 \$35.00. Checks payable to Sonny Gada.

Reserve by **Nov, 7th** Email: [Linda Halvorsen](#) Limit of 15. **Bring a container & oasis.**

Program at meeting: Sonny will present a tribute to Fall decorations - see more in our handbook under November program or on our [website](#).

November 22nd: Atwood House annual Bake Sale - see website link below for pre-orders for pies: [Atwood House Historic Bake Sale](#)

Nov. 24th: Chatham's Annual Turkey Trot - Run/walk: [Chatham's Annual Turkey Trot](#)

Nov. 25th - Dec. 23rd: [Gardens Aglow](#) - Heritage Gardens, Sandwich



A time for giving thanks and giving to others:

Chatham Food Pantry collection: Please bring any of the following to our November 15th general meeting and it will be delivered to our local Food Pantry: The following are six of the items recommended that they give to their clients each week: **Granola Bars (8 or 10 pack); Canned Fruit - regular size; Ground Regular Coffee; Cereal (regular size - not large size); Instant Oatmeal - Variety pack; Tuna fish - solid white only please.** Please check the expiration dates on all donations!



Cranberry Muffins A recipe for the season from Pat O'Reilly

2 cups flour	½ cup sugar	3 tsps baking powder
½ tsp salt	¼ cup margarine	1 cup milk
1 egg, beaten	2 cups cranberries	4 TBL orange peel
4 TBL cinnamon-sugar*		Optional:
*(3TBL sugar/1 TBL cinnamon)		½ cups chopped walnuts

Chop cranberries and mix with cinnamon-sugar, then add orange peel and optional nuts. Set aside. Blend together remaining ingredients, mixing well. Add cranberry mixture. Pour into well greased muffin tins or use paper liners. Bake at 425 for 25 minutes.

Field Trip to Newport Flower Festival:

LET'S GO OVER THE BRIDGE! From Jo-anne Sheehan:

Many of us have had our curiosity tapped by the TV series The Gilded Age, the age of Robber Barons, growth of unions, and the Opulent Cottages of Newport. In June 2023, we will have the opportunity to visit Newport's Marble House when the annual Newport Garden Festival will be in full swing. Bellevue Avenue's Marble House will come alive both indoor and outdoors. Gardeners of New England will create gardens for the summer of 2023; vendors will fill boutiques with nouveau items of the season;

chefs will provide a variety of foods and drinks at the lunch bar.

The Festival ticket price, which will be set at the beginning of 2023, is estimated to be \$35. Filling a 55 passenger Cape Destination bus will cost each person \$35. The total estimated cost per person is \$70. The Board will meet in November to discuss a possible subsidy to offset the cost of the bus. Please contact Jo-anne Sheehan, joasheehan@gmail.com, by November 4th if you are interested. Twenty-eight members have already shown interest.

Just an aside, my former classmates and I who lived in Ochre Court in 1964, read *Murder at Ochre Court* by Alyssa Maxwell. We all remembered the elevator, the art, and the Pinkerton's.



Link to: [Holiday Luncheon Invitation](#)

Entree selection and check for \$50.00 pp due by November 15th



Hydrangea Festival Garden Tour: The Hydrangea Festival is now a stand-alone committee. Edie Hamilton and Donna are going to co-chair it for 2023.

We would like to form a committee to meet sometime in January. If you are interested in being a part of our club's major fundraiser, please email [Edie Hamilton](#) or [Donna Maiocca](#).



Plant Sale 2023: At this time, we have no chair or co-chairs. If you would like to see this fundraiser continue, please consider stepping forward to volunteer to head up another major fundraiser! Email: [Donna Maiocca](#).



Jo-anne Sheehan writes:

Reminisce about Thanksgivings of your past. Now, take a minute to list three things you recall. _____

Three memories I hold are a dining room table perfectly set with china, crystal, and a centerpiece of greens and chrysanthemums celebrating fall, a football game played by competitors sporting their team colors, and big white chrysanthemums worn by the cheerleaders signifying pride as the season of games ends. (*see above for Jo-anne's chrysanthemum from North Attleboro High School*).

New Englanders invariably celebrate fall with their bounty of pumpkins, straw-stuffed scarecrows, and late fall chrysanthemums, gracing front yards and porches. The treasures of the earth and our spirit are on full display. Friendship, happiness and security give us a moment to pat ourselves on the back for another growing season well done, even with less water than we would have liked. In reflection, I am reminded of a short story by Truman Capote that I read years ago and most recently yesterday, *The Thanksgiving Gift*.

Capote writes of moments that are suddenly here and suddenly gone, using the life cycle of a chrysanthemum for demonstration purposes. As Buddy and his friend Miss Sook prepare their home for holiday guests, a home of loosely related folks living through the 1930's Depression in Alabama, they pick flowers to decorate the Thanksgiving table. Miss Sook educates young Buddy about "Chrysanthemums: some as big as a baby's head. Bundles of curled penny-colored leaves with flickering lavender underhues. Buddy listens to Miss Sook, 'Chrysanthemums,' [Miss Sook] commented as we moved through our garden stalking flower-show blossoms with decapitating shears, 'are like lions. Kingly characters. I always expect them to spring. To turn on me with a growl and a roar.' Miss Sook continues her education of Buddy when she directs him to pick up her cuttings and 'lug the growling gorgeous roaring lions into the house and cage them in tacky vases.'"

If Capote leaves you wondering whether Miss Sook liked mums, feared them, or appreciated their strength, well, I'm still thinking about it and have been since first I read his novella, *A Christmas Memory*, *One Christmas* and *a Thanksgiving Gift*. My thought...the "gorgeous growl of roaring lions might just come from within." What do you think?



The Fish Pier needs greens for our giant pots for the winter season!
If you have some to spare, please email [Midge Nash](#) or [Donna Maiocca](#)

Garden Club members working hard all four seasons at Town Hall!



Town Hall window boxes dressed up for autumn thanks to Bette Hahner & Ellen Healy

Fall or Spring Clean up? By Donna Maiocca

Are you like me and reading conflicting advice on leaving your gardens alone for the winter? It certainly would save us a lot of work! Traditionally we have been taught to cut all of our perennials back and remove the dead plant matter and leave our gardens neat and tidy!

The argument to wait on cleaning up your perennial gardens are many: To the **beneficial insects** that overwinter in dead plant material and include bees and butterflies which are some of our precious pollinators! It is also said that avoiding fall cleanup of dead material helps protect our ecosystem and helps promote the growth of microbes in our soil. Some of the taller perennials give us **winter interest**, such as tall grasses and plants with seed pods. Even leaving sedum over the winter months adds some beauty to our gardens - especially with a light covering of snow. If your Joe Pye weed survived this drought, they may also provide some tall winter interest. Another **benefit to wildlife** is with plants that have seed heads - they provide food for our birds that stay with us over the winter and also provide some of these birds with protection, such as echinacea and black-eyed susans. Leaving your perennials uncut for the winter also reduces **winter cold damage** and provides some insulation to the crown of the plant, helping it survive the colder months. In addition, the uncut perennials help collect snow, which we know is nature's insulator of plants.

Plants that should be cut back are hosta, tall phlox, bee balm. Some of these plants can retain infections such as powdery mildew which may carry over to next season. Unremoved hosta leaves can harbor slug eggs in the winter months that will hatch in the Spring/Summer and get a jump on destroying next year's hosta leaves. Hostas left on the ground can create a dense mat over the ground which can deform or prevent new spring growth. I have read to cut hosta stems to about two inches from the ground to protect the crown during the winter, but my short stalks seem to melt away in the winter months from the cold.

Don't compost any of the plants listed above - put them in the trash. Plants that have blackened such as peonies, daylilies, brunnera, speedwell should be cut back as they aren't attractive and offer little or any winter interest.

Plants such as yarrow, shasta daisy and globe thistle grow basal leaves late in the season so their stalks should be cut down. Leave at least two inches on any plants that are late bloomers, such as balloon flower, butterfly weed, rose mallow so you don't accidentally dig them up when you find a plant in the spring at a garden center you can't resist!

I have read that for the perennials you do cut back to wait until after several hard frosts to give the plants more time for the roots to reclaim some energy from the dying plant, keeping it stronger for its re-emergence in the spring.

Read on for a link and article from the Xerces Society website:

[Leave the Leaves from Xerces Society](#)

On the other side of the fence, cleaning up your perennials beds in the fall saves a lot of work in the spring! Your choice!

October First Celebration Pictures

What a wonderful way to spend a rainy evening! Thanks to many, especially Bette Hahner, Madonna Hitchcock, and Marilyn Sink who led the night. All who attended were treated to a delicious and festive Oktoberfest celebration complete with an entertaining accordion player! *Gute Arbeit!*



Frauleins Shelly & Cece



Chef Madonna & Shelly



Chef Bette & Assistant Chef, Kit



Beautiful tables - new member Deb Tepper



Gene Sink, Shelly & Asst. Chef Ellen



Members of the Ways and Means committee responsible for our “*wunderbar*” October First Celebration:
Ellen, Madonna, Shelly, Kit, Cece & Bette



Bartender Tony Murphy (Cece's husband); Bartenders Tony & Kevin Curtis; accordion player Charlie Gruszka; Nancy Boughton & Shelly doing the German jig

Answers to our “Younger” members pictures in last month's Sproutings: Jo-anne Sheehan & ballerina Madonna! Did you guess correctly?

Please put on your writing hat and send me articles for Sproutings! Email me at

maioccadonna@gmail.com if you can contribute to our monthly newsletter. Any garden-related/environmental article is welcome. And please send me pictures of your gardens! Look for future authors: Madonna Hitchcock, Barb Cotnam & Nancy Boughton.

Floral Designers wanted! We are looking for talented members to lead a workshop(s) on floral design. Please email our Horticulture chair, Mary Ellen Sobol. Email Link: mesobol@hotmail.com if you are able to help us with this effort.

Soil 101: (From Garden Design magazine)

Did you know that one of the best things you can do for your spring garden is test and amend the soil in fall? It's important not to overlook how your soil impacts the ultimate success (or failure) of your garden. Learn the ground rules for preparing your soil and lay the foundation for a beautiful landscape.

Amend with Organic Matter

Any type of soil can be improved by the addition of organic matter. Here are three common amendments:

- Composted yard waste
- Manure
- Fallen leaves - chopped or shredded

In sandy soils, organic matter improves water-holding capacity and the retention of nutrients. In clay soils, it loosens up the minerals that become sticky when the soil is wet and hard when the soil is dry. And in all soils, it provides a rich supply of slow-release nutrients for your plants as well as food for beneficial soil organisms. Over time, a well-amended soil will provide most of the nutrients your plants need, reducing fertilizer requirements.

Don't forget to gather some **seaweed** from our nearby beaches! While the weather is still on the warmer side, when you go to walk a beach - bring some large rubbish bags and a small hand rake. Spread the seaweed over your perennial gardens - you don't have to rinse off the salt - minimal amounts in what you will gather and I like the little shells! Your gardens will thank you come next Spring!



Hellebores that bloom in November "Christmas rose"

Tough and easy to grow, hellebores are hardy in zones 4-9. **Christmas rose** hellebores (helleborus) are pure white varieties that start blooming late November through January and beyond. They thrive in your shaded garden and you can plant until ground freezes. Some of mine are in bloom when the Hellebore Lenten roses start showing their colors!

We encourage you all to go to our website often - Beth Taylor has maintained it for years, and now Catherine Gryska has taken it over - all of our programs, Sproutings, applications, town garden & committee descriptions, resources, and lots more information are contained in it! Link: [Chatham Garden Club - Home](#)

Start thinking..... Fourth of July Parade! We have the go-ahead from the Board to continue to pursue the possibility of entering our own Garden Club float in Chatham's annual Fourth of July parade to celebrate our 55th birthday! Katherine Touafek has agreed to head up this proposed committee, so please email her if you are interested in being a part of this fun celebration! Email: [Katherine Touafek](#)
See below for our parades from the past.



July 4th, 2012

We will have our 55th Birthday in 2023 !



Recognize anyone here? I do!

From the Wequassett Garden Tour in September



New members Cynthia Silbert, Deb Tepper & Marina Selby



Our beautiful October centerpiece - Madonna Hitchcock