

LG Clippings

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LINCOLN GARDEN CLUB, vol. X X I I I

WINTER 2011

Upcoming Meeting Programs

The upcoming winter and spring programs promise to both educate and delight. John Forti of Strawberry Banke will introduce us to the fascinating history of herbalism, followed by a trip to Portsmouth later in the spring to see these gardens come alive. We'll also learn how Kristen Desouza planned and constructed a modern-day garden using native edible plants right in our own neighborhood at the New England Wild Flower Society's Garden in the Woods. Bill Graham will dazzle us with a series of inventive floral arrangements, complementing a mannequin in a "little black dress" variously accessorized. At our open-to-the-public meeting in April, all feeders of birds come to have your world challenged! Naturalist Peter Alden will raise some startling concerns about this practice many of us enjoy. Ever wonder whether Emerson or Thoreau fed birds? Our culminating program will be the annual spring meeting and luncheon at the Codman Carriage House, following the new "tradition" of an AGAPE (a garden as presently existing) Tour of several Lincoln gardens.



FEBRUARY 7, 2011 9:30 AM Bemis Hall JOHN FORTI, curator of Historic Landscapes at Strawberry Banke, will offer an illustrated talk on The Herbalist's Garden. A nationally recognized garden historian, herbalist, and museum curator, John will explore the roots of herbalism, traditional herbal crafts, and the meaning of the old adage that "the cook is half a physician."

John has brought international recognition to the living history museum at Strawberry Banke by creating an award-winning Victorian Hothouse exhibit, Community Garden and Seed-to-Table programs, and a slow Food Convivium. The Club will visit Strawberry Banke in the spring. Please do not park in the First Parish parking lot due to nursery school needs.

MARCH 7, 2011 9:30 AM Bemis Hall BILL GRAHAM, one of New England's top floral designers, will present The Little Black Dress. In this unique program inspired by a Coco Chanel retrospective at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, Graham takes the stage with a mannequin dressed in a little black dress. Using the mannequin as a canvas for eight different looks and occasions- which may range from business attire to black-tie ensemble- he then creates eight complementary floral arrangements. Bill owns Beautiful Things, a flower and gift shop in Salem, Massachusetts, and is a longtime member of the prestigious American Institute of Floral Designers, the American Academy of Floriculture, and the Professional Floral Commentators Institute. This promises to be a memorable program with flair!!

Please do not park in the First Parish parking lot due to nursery school needs.

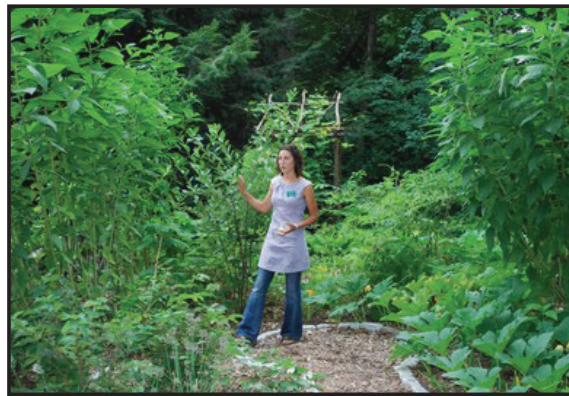


APRIL 4, 2011 7:00 PM Bemis Hall Open to the Public PETER ALDEN, world renowned naturalist, lecturer, ecotourism guide and author of 15 books, will discuss To Feed or not to Feed... (birds). While acknowledging the pleasure most of us derive from feeding birds, Peter raises some red flags. Among his concerns are unsanitary feeders that help spread disease and parasites; possible invasive seeds in commercial seed mixes; birds that have changed their winter ranges and/or diminished consumption of overwintering spiders and insects consequent to all this free food. Is there a moral or ecological reason we should be

doing this?

Peter, a Concord native, has led nature tours to more than 100 countries and is the author of books on North American, Latin American, and African wildlife. Along with Ed Wilson, "the father of biodiversity", Peter created the world's first true "Biodiversity Day" event at Walden Pond. Come prepared to learn and to laugh- Peter is also a first-class entertainer!

MAY 2, 2011 9:30 AM Thoreau Institute KRISTEN DESOUSA, senior horticulturist and plant records coordinator at the New England Wildflower Society, will describe the Design and Installation of an Edible



Native Plant Garden she recently constructed at the Garden in the Woods. Using all native plants, Kristin will weave together design approaches, horticultural techniques, and culinary uses. With over 20,000 species of edible plants in the world, fewer than 20 species now

provide over 90% of our food. Kristin challenges us to think about plants for the future.

Kristin Desouza is a Horticulturist at Garden in the Woods. She has a degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Kristin has interned at the Arnold Arboretum, worked for New York City's Central Park and most recently was awarded the Garden Club of America's Martin McLaren Scholarship working through the UK in a variety of gardens including Royal Botanic Garden Kew and Edinburgh. Due to limited parking at the Institute, we encourage carpooling with garden club members.

June 6, 10:00 AM AGAPE (a garden as presently existing) Garden Tour Details to be announced.

12: noon Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Codman Carriage House

The President's Message

First a few things you need to know:

- In case of snow, our meetings are cancelled if Lincoln Schools are closed. We will try to reschedule.
- For morning meetings at Bemis, the Church has asked us not to park in the church lot because it interferes with parents picking up and dropping off students. You may park at the Library or on the street. Think about carpooling.
- Our web site is a terrific resource with dates for events, library and other clipboards, messages about snow days and rescheduling, and great blogs on our Conservation and Environment topics. The site is www.LincolnGardenClub.org, and the password to the members only section is "sunflower" with a beautiful picture of a sunflower on the page to remind you. Check it out often.

On New Years Day 2011, I am filled with gratitude for the work so many of you did this fall for fellow garden club members and the community.

Station Park has become a model for the sustainable landscaping education initiatives of our Conservation and Environment committee. Read about it in our website and blogs. Also our pruning workshop for the town led by Jonathan Bransfield was well attended.

It was wonderful to tour the mature plantings at the Hunnewell estate, but Nick Capasso's tour of the DeCordova Sculpture Park made me appreciate what we have in Lincoln even more. If you missed Robin Wilkerson's talk on Native All Stars, contact me or another garden club friend for her list of plants, especially if you are looking for shrubs or increasing the birds and butterflies in your garden.



The dozens of members who made arrangements and food for our holiday meeting created a very special event. Pierce House has never looked better with beautiful and completely different arrangements to inspire. Check them out on the photo gallery of our web site. The food was delicious and plentiful, and there was lots of time to visit with old and new friends, including so many past presidents. Thank you all.



Mission for Cheer has brought the club many letters of appreciation for the creative work of a big crew of volunteers. Be a part of the next Mission for Cheer on March 30.



Looking forward, we have a great line up of General Meetings, workshops and tours described elsewhere. Two things you can all do to support the club and its work are to support our fundraiser, Young Artists in Bloom on April 10, and continue encouraging people interested in gardening and the environment to join the club.

Above, Susan Mohn and Angela Kadlec and Susan Ludden created these fabulous decorations for our December meeting at the Pierce House.

*Past Presidents, in the top row: Jennie Greeson, Enid Winchell, Laura Eschenroeder, Mary Newman, Gayle Mayfield
Bottom Row: Mark Miller, Beth Ries, Phoebe McCarthy, Susan Harding*



Nick Capasso, Senior Curator at DeCordova, telling club members how to place sculpture during our tour.

Young Artists in Bloom - Sunday, April 10, 211

With no Plant Sale this year, we are planning a benefit flower show Sunday, April 10 at Pierce House. The board has chosen this format because of the good will it creates in the community in addition to the money it will raise. For a new twist, the arrangements will be inspired by art work of the Lincoln Elementary School students, thanks to the support of art teacher, Colleen Pierce, who has done a similar project when she was a teacher in Weston..

From 1:30 – 4:30 the show of art and floral arrangements will be open to the public at \$10 per ticket or \$20 per family. In addition to the twenty works of art by students paired with an arrangement, will be a "slide show" of other art by students. The student artists will be honored, and there will be refreshments and an activity for children.

From 5 to 6:30 will be a private viewing of the show for sponsors, honoring the arrangers. This champagne reception will be the main fundraising part of the event. There will be two levels of sponsors (admitting two people): \$50 and \$100. The Committee hopes members will consider supporting the event at a sponsor level.

A committee of people have already done a lot of planning for this event, but they need your help.

General Coordination - Gabrielle Brenninkmeyer and Janet Ganson

Art Work - Nicolette Beerel; Judy Pistorio; Susan Ludden

Invitation and Poster Design – Susanah Howland

Publicity –Sue Ludden

Private Viewing Invitations – Rhoda Taschioglou
Ticketmaster – Agnes Wiggins

- We need names of people and local businesses we should invite to our private reception. Send your ideas to Rhoda.
- We need help with food donations and servers for the public show and private reception.
- There are still 10 slots for arrangers. It is a good challenge to arrange for a piece of art, but there are no rules, no judging, and even the work of someone new to arranging will be appreciated.
- There will be sign up sheets at the next general meetings or you can call Janet or Gabrielle.

Succulent Wreath Workshop



Hartwell School Pod B - Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Linda MacNeil and Wini Blacklow will lead a workshop to make 12 inch succulent wreaths on Wednesday, March 23rd at 10:00 AM. They suggest wearing old cloths. Making the wreaths will require getting hands wet and dirty. The wreath is made by wrapping sheet moss around a wire frame and potting soil (like making a burrito). Plants are inserted into the soil. The wreath should lie flat for several weeks until the plants are anchored well. The wreath can hang or continue to lie flat inside or out in the warm weather but taken indoors during the winter. The cost for the workshop will range from \$40-50. (Succulents are very expensive) If you have sedum and hens and chickens to donate they will be most welcome and will lower the overall cost. Call or e-mail Linda MacNeil or e-mail Wini Blacklow if you have any succulents in your garden to use in the wreaths. Sign-up at the February meeting or online using our Evite. Any questions, call Linda at 0837.

Conservation and Environment Committee Spring Focus: Sustainable Gardening

Committee members had a busy fall working on the composting bins at Station Park, publicizing the October 17th Pruning Workshop, participating at the October 24th Green Forum, and contributing to the Composting Blog on the new website. (Take a look if you are thinking about composting or have tips to pass on!)

We are beginning to plan for the springtime launch of the Sustainable Gardening initiative. Plans include an emphasis on Station Park as a model, participation at the town-wide Green Forum in March, and the production and distribution of information to all Lincoln residents via the web. We also hope to enter the Environmental Action Contest sponsored by the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts (GCFM). Please go to the website and begin to take as many actions as you can. We will discuss this at the February 7 meeting. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Lynne Smith (781-259-33302, Lynne@Smith.net).

Horticultural Trip to Strawberry Banke, Portsmouth, NH

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

As a follow-up to our February 7th meeting when John Forti, Curator of Historic Gardens and Landscapes at Strawberry Banke Museum, will speak about The Herbalist's Garden, Wini Blacklow and Linda MacNeil will lead a trip to Strawberry Banke where you will enjoy a 60-90 minute guided tour of the historical gardens. Following a question and answer period, there will be time to further explore the grounds including a self-guided tour of the buildings. We will complete the morning with a brown bag luncheon on the grounds. Just so you know, there are no indoor facilities for eating so if it's a dreary, wet day, we may have to eat in the car! We'll carpool from the Pierce House leaving promptly at 8:30 am. and should return by 3 pm. Look for a clipboard and Evite starting in March. Have questions, call Linda at 0837.

From the website: Strawberry Banke Museum offers a rare opportunity to experience garden history in an original waterfront neighborhood. The Museum preserves nearly four centuries of original gardens and was recently recognized by Garden Design Magazine as one of four sites in the world teaching about change over time in the landscape. These gardens bring new life to the ground where generations of immigrants helped to create the unfolding story of America.

Through research and restoration, the Historic Landscapes Department accurately preserves both garden design elements and period-appropriate plant selections. Our living collections are based on surviving specimens, archaeological research, seed and pollen analysis, oral histories and other primary sources. From this evidence we have restored, recreated or rehabilitated the gardens left to us by past inhabitants of this layered landscape.

The heirloom seeds we preserve and cultivate are an important part of our mission to leave a cultural legacy for future generations. Since heirloom seeds are open pollinated, their progeny will faithfully exhibit the traits of the original plant. This enables gardeners to preserve seeds from the most productive and flavorful produce or the plants best adapted to the region's soil and climate. When gardeners use heirloom plants today, they revive the ideals and tastes of those who carefully stewarded them through generations. Using the uniquely expressive qualities of these plants, the Historic Landscapes Department accurately recreates and shares the beauty and usefulness of gardens of the past.

Organic gardening is another cornerstone of the historic landscapes program at Strawberry Banke. Since many of the Museum's gardens predate the current use of agricultural chemicals, we use organic methods of fertilizing, composting, and pest control. We work to foster the values of preservation while caring for the environment and teaching from historic plants. The gardens at Strawberry Banke will inspire any gardener who seeks to learn from the past to create a more sustainable future.

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Offerings

Your membership in Lincoln Garden Club makes you eligible for following courses. See your Mayflower or call Janet Ganson for more information.

Monday February 28 10am Waltham , The Pollinator Garden, Kim Smith

Monday March 28, 10am Waltham, Succulent Plants in House and Garden, Art Scapa

April 7-9, all day, Tower Hill, Gardening Study



Help From Utilities at Morningside Park

The oak in front of the stonewall along the north side of Morningside Park, just north of Route 2 on Bedford Road still stands with all branches intact. Luck prevailed the day that NStar Electric was about to severely trim its branches away from the utility wires. Town officials were alerted, and the cutting was halted, thanks to advanced planning. Five years ago, Ken Bassett, Lincoln's Tree Warden and a LGC family member, had heard about a program where the electric company would inspect trees and, at no community expense, trim branches that had the potential to fall on their wires, especially during storms. So he arranged for a meeting with the arborist, Dave Whalen (the park's abutter) and Jane Herlacher (LGC liaison with the town). Afterwards Ken recommended that the trees on either side of that special oak be removed to enhance its shape. The tree beautifully complements the other oak which is surrounded by the park's little garden along Bedford Road. Dave and Jane agreed, and now the three of them will try again to negotiate with NStar regarding appropriate tree work at Morningside Park.



Verizon is installing fiber-optic cable in the northern area of Lincoln, and it has a manhole amongst the laurels in the park. When we asked if they could raise the top of that manhole to the level of the mulch, they readily agreed to do it right away, without disturbing the nearby plants. So when they needed access to it this summer, only the mulch was moved with no damage done to the laurels.

The new contractors for the town have maintained the park well. They mowed properly, edged carefully and cleared seasonal debris regularly from the lawn and under the shrubs. When asked to remove extra leaf accumulation after their usual fall clean up, it was promptly and thoroughly completed. With the park looking so good, it attracts adults who sit on the granite benches and take a few minutes to sun themselves in the wintertime, children who sell refreshments to walkers and bicyclists in the summertime, and folks who park their scooters, bikes and toys at the rack by the rhododendrons year-round!

Clippings

The Lincoln Garden Club
P O Box 385
Lincoln, MA 01773

Flower Shows

January 26 – 30, Flora in Winter, Tower Hill and Worcester Art Museum

February 24 - Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show, Providence. Call Lincoln Council on Aging to join their bus trip.

March 15 – 20, With Flying Colors, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston

June 15 – 19, WAFA Flower Show, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston

Other

March 26 9:30 – 12 Sustainable Landscaping, Ed Coykendall, Virginia Thurston Healing Garden. Details at www.HealingGarden.net.

June 7 10 -12 New England Wildflower Society tour of Virginia Thurston Gardens (led by Janet Ganson) and talk on Horticultural Therapy. Sign up information at www.newfs.org.



Next Meeting
Bemis Hall
Feb. 7, 2011
9:30 AM