



# St. Mary's garden club



Fall 2017 Newsletter

We're trying a little something different in our meetings this year. According to the survey taken of active members last winter, most people would like more time to socialize. To accomplish this, we will experiment with having our meetings alternate between normal length and abbreviated length, starting with a longer meeting in September. Critical information and announcements will still be included in the short meeting, but we will utilize email and particularly, the newsletter, to a greater extent. So please be sure to stay current with SMGC news by reading the newsletter each quarter.

- Marianne Dodge

## A Message from the President

Welcome back, everyone, after what has been a better gardening summer than the previous year. We've still suffered from a mid-summer rain deficit, but I haven't had to water the way I did last year. My summer highlights include NOT seeing a single Japanese beetle and SEEING more Painted Lady butterflies than I have ever seen. As I write this, there are dozens visiting my anise hyssop and Echinacea.

We have a great line-up of speakers, workshops and field trips this coming year. This is an off year for the Great Gardener Series so we only have to put our energies toward a successful Plant Sale. I'm really looking forward to a fun, informative year.

## Announcements

Our first meeting of the new club year will be held on September 11. The program is "Great Gardens of England and Wales". We will vicariously join Carolyn Davis and Marianne Dodge for their beautiful trip to the gardens of England and Wales with Charlie Nardozi. Highclere Castle is a highlight for all the diehard Downton Abby fans among us! The public is welcome: \$5.00.

Fall is a perfect time to test your garden or yard soil and prepare your soil for the 2018 gardening season. The Horticulture Committee will provide an overview of soil

testing kits at our September meeting and have a soil kit for each member to take home.

Show off this year's flower garden gems! Bring a flower arrangement featuring home grown garden flowers to the September Meeting.

Winter vegetable recipes - Members who would like to share a favorite winter vegetable recipe are asked to bring in a dish for sampling during Hospitality time at our October meeting. This will not be for lunch but just for a taste. Please send Jamie Morin ([jamiemorin13@outlook.com](mailto:jamiemorin13@outlook.com)) a copy of the recipe for your dish (or bring a copy to the meeting). The Horticulture committee will compile the recipes and distribute them to club members.



We will have bulbs for these two beautiful amaryllis for sale at the October meeting. The cost per bulb is \$5 for the white and \$8 for red. Please bring cash or check for payment.

On November 15 the Horticulture and Flower Design Committees are co-sponsoring a Wreath, Swag and Greens Workshop. Members bring greens and the committees will provide wires, decorations, and ribbons.

There will be a sign-up sheet for this workshop at the September meeting.

## Plant Sale Update

I want to thank all the members that worked so hard on our plant sale in May. Your hard work really paid off as we had the best plant sale ever.

Gross sales	\$4,649.71
Expenses	837.22
Net	\$3,812.49

But that is not all that we accomplished that day! We also made the following donations with inventory left over after the sale:

- Left over plants to the Unitarian Universalist Church, Portland (estimated value \$300.00+)

*Thanks to Anna Noyes Benoit*

- Vegetable seedlings to Hope House, Portland (estimated value \$100.00)

*Thanks to Katy Gannon Janelle*

- Ceramic and metal plant pots to Goodwill

*Thanks to Donna Wilhelm*

- Gardening books to the Falmouth Library

*Thanks to Val Babcock*

**All in all, it was a huge success! Thank you.**

Marianne Dodge and I have a really nice problem to have regarding next year's

plant sale. We have too many divided plants to over-winter in our yards and would like to offer them to the members at the September membership meeting. If you are interested in purchasing plants for your garden, we will be offering them at very reasonable prices. We will have iris, black eyed Susan, hosta, and others. The income from this mini-sale will go toward the 2018 plant sale. I will also have the garden gloves with me.

- Mary Oliver

## Contests for Kids

Do you have children in Maine schools or are you involved with scouting or other youth groups? The National Garden Club sponsors contests every year for youth of all ages, and there are not a lot of kids entering these contests. The kids that do enter have a good chance at winning an award.

For children in grades 1-5 there is the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. There is a poetry contest open to students in kindergarten through ninth grade. A sculpture contest using recyclable, reused and reduced materials is open for children in 4th-8th grades. An essay contest is open to all high school students.

Information, themes and forms for all these contests are available on the National Garden Club website. All of these contests

are time sensitive, as the winners on the local level will move on to the regional level, and, hopefully, beyond.

Submissions will be due to Ann Vanosdal, the GCFM Youth Activities Coordinator, at [annvan@fairpoint.net](mailto:annvan@fairpoint.net), no later than January 15, 2018.

## Want to get rid of moles? Use beneficial nematodes for grub control.

Moles eat grubs that are in your lawns and gardens. To get rid of the moles you must get rid of the grubs. One way to do this organically is to use nematodes.



Nematodes are microscopic non-segmented worms which occur naturally in soils all over the world. Beneficial nematodes attack only soil-dwelling insects and leave plants alone. Beneficial nematodes and the bacteria they spread are not known to be harmful to humans, animals, plants, earthworms and other non-targeted organisms but they do aggressively pursue insects like grubs. In field

studies, they have been shown to be as much as 96% effective against Japanese beetle grubs.

Although many species of beneficial nematodes are available, *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* (Hb) are most effective against Japanese beetles, European chafer and other grubs that are lawn pests. Hb nematodes work better because they are cruiser nematodes that burrow down in the soil searching for deep soil-dwelling pests. They also have a special “tooth” that help them get into the grub.

The best time to apply Hb nematodes is mid to late August. They are shipped in the juvenile stage and can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 2-3 weeks and are applied on an overcast day, preferably at dusk. The package is very small, 4”square at the most, and contain about 1 million nematodes. A handheld sprayer or hose-end sprayer is used to spread them. Directions are included when the package is purchased.

Nematodes are available locally at O’Donnell’s Nursery, Skillin’s Greenhouses, Fedco Seeds and online at [online at gardeners.com](http://gardeners.com).

-Joanne McKee

Fall Calendar		
Date	Time	Event
Sept. 11	11:00a	Monthly Program & Meeting: “Great Gardens of England and Wales”
Sept. 12	2:30 – 3:45p	Garden Work Day, Lois Murphy Kindness Garden Falmouth Middle School
Oct. 16	9:00 – 11:00a	Closing the Gardens Gardens at St. Mary’s Church and the Blue Star Memorial
Oct. 16	10:30 a	Tool Sharpening by Wicked Sharp
Oct. 16	11:00a	Monthly Program & Meeting: “Summer Shrubs and More”
Oct. 17	2:30 – 3:45p	Garden Work Day, Lois Murphy Kindness Garden Falmouth Middle School
Oct. 30 – Nov. 2		New England Region Annual Meeting
Nov. 2 - 3		Landscape Design School
Nov. 6	10:00a	Board Meeting
Nov. 13	9:00 – 10:30a	Workshop - Floral Design: “Pressed Flowers”
Nov. 13	11:00a	Monthly Program & Meeting: “Floral Arrangements”
Nov. 14		GCFM Fall Conference Augusta, Maine
Nov. 15	9:00 – 11:00a	Workshop: Floral Design - “Holiday Greens”
Dec. 11	9:30 – 11:00a	Workshop: “Creating Centerpieces”
Dec. 11	11:00a	Monthly Program & Meeting: “History of America’s Garden Clubs”
Dec. 11	12:00p	Holiday Gathering and Reception with Silver Service

**Please refer to the Yearbook for additional information on all of the programs and events. All events take place at St. Mary’s Parish House unless otherwise specified.**