

St. Mary's garden club

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Spring 2018 Newsletter

A Message from the President

Ah, March, she is a fickle one. Just as we start to see bits of green emerge from the soil, we get buried in heavy snow. No wonder that so many choose this month to take a vacation somewhere warm! I cope, not just with looking forward to spring, but by beginning this year's seed-starting adventure. As I age, I find that this part of gardening is becoming the most rewarding for me. Every week for the next two months I have a plan for which seeds to start, and I know that I've got more than I'll ever have room for. There's anticipation, frustration, and most of all, lots of fun. So devour your garden catalogs, dream away, and watch the birds return. Spring is on its way!

- Marianne Dodge

Art in Bloom at the Portland Museum of Art, February 14-18, 2018

Art in Bloom was a real success for the Portland Museum of Art and a boost in public awareness for local garden clubs. To quote the club's contact at the Museum: "*WOW, what an opening! We've had more than 400*



visitors so far today, which is 2x more than a regular Wednesday. There has been a HUGE outpouring of excitement and compliments on your work. Many members of the Board of

Trustees and director of the PMA, Mark Bessire, attended the first tour this morning, and were just thrilled."



Sabrina with *Blue Savannah* by Dalov Ipcar

Many thanks to Sabrina Warner, who did a masterful job of designing, and to Lucy Ellis, for being the point person interacting with the Museum and going multiple times with Sabrina to the Boston flower market.

Photo on page 1: *A Midsummers Night's Dream* by Tim Rollins, interpreted by Harmon's.



Rose Mist Seaform with White Lip Wraps
by Dale Chihuly (piece in rear, center)
interpreted by Longfellow Garden Club

- Marianne Dodge



Pine and Moon by David Driscoll
interpreted by Gorham Garden Club

Plant Sale

Our Plant Sale is late this year. We had too many conflicts on the 3rd Saturday of May. The sale will be June 2nd, with set up day on June 1st.

Any member who is not available on both of these days is invited to drop off plants or supplies at my house on Knight Street, any time after May 15th. I will make arrangements to get them to the Church on set-up day. I will also be holding a pre-sale again this year on May 31st, from 1pm until 6pm in my yard for anyone who is not able to attend the sale on June 2nd.

I still need members with sunny/south facing windows to foster plants we have purchased for the sale. The Coral Bells will arrive the 1st week in April and the Helleborus the week of May 14th. E-mail me if you can



Weatherbeaten by Winslow Homer
interpreted by Dodge the Florist

help. I also need one more digger and 2 more pricers

This is my favorite fund raiser, so if I get a little too excited, just tell me to calm down. This is our only fund raiser this year, so I hope everyone will participate.

- Mary Oliver
Plant Sale Chair

Creating Year-Round Energy Cakes for Our Backyard Birds

Providing feathered wildlife with healthy nutritional options is easy and fun. All it takes is some gelatin and a variety of grains, nuts, seeds, and dried fruit you have kicking around the house. Here are some cake ingredients that are good for birds: oatmeal, blueberries, peanuts, peanut butter, cranberries, raisins or sunflower seeds.

Here's how to put it all together: in one cup cold water add one tablespoon gelatin (powered from packets is fine) and let stand for 1 minute. Add one cup boiling water and stir. Place a mixture of the cake ingredients in 2 small bowls or small plastic trays. Pour the gelatin over the ingredients. Place the containers in the fridge for a few hours. Pull them out when firm and remove from molds. You can place the bird food cake in a tray bird feeder or suet feeder.

Happy bird watching.

- Layne Gregory

Cocoa Chiffon Cake

Ingredients

1 ½ cups sifted cake flour
½ cup sugar
¼ cup cocoa
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
7 egg yolks
½ cup vegetable oil
¾ cup water
1 teaspoon vanilla
7 egg whites
½ teaspoon cream of tartar
1 cup sugar

Instructions

Sift flour, ½ cup sugar, cocoa, baking soda, and salt into small bowl. Add egg yolks, oil, water, and vanilla. Beat at low speed until well blended. Beat at medium speed until smooth, about 2 minutes. Wash Beaters thoroughly.

Beat egg whites until foamy; add cream of tartar and beat until soft peaks form. Add 1 cup sugar gradually, beating well after each addition. Fold in egg yolk mixture. Pour batter into ungreased 10-inch tube pan. Bake in 325-degree oven for 55 minutes. Increase temperature to 350 degrees and bake an additional 10 minutes. Invert pan and cool.

- Sylvia Seger

Streusel Topped Cherry Cake

Ingredients

Cake

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 can (22 ounces) cherry pie filling

Streusel Topping

- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup flour
- 2 tablespoons butter
- dash of cinnamon

Instructions

Cream butter: add sugar, creaming until light and fluffy. Add eggs; beat thoroughly. Sift flour with baking powder and salt; add to creamed mixture. Blend well (batter will be heavy). Spread ¾ of batter in buttered 13 by 9 ½ inch baking pan. Spread gently with pie filling. Drop spoonfulls of remaining batter over cherries; spread evenly with spatula. Swirl batter. Prepare topping by combining sugar, flour, and cinnamon; cut in butter with fork or pastry blender until crumbly. Sprinkle evenly over cake. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until done. Cool. Serve warm or cold.

- Sylvia Seger

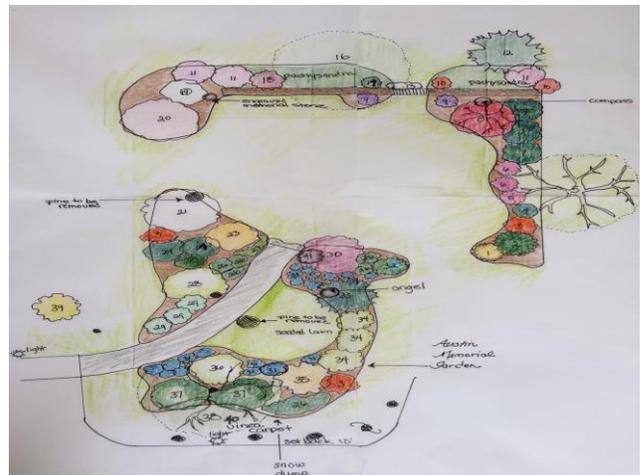
Getting Rid of Brown Tail Moth Nests

You can safely get rid of brown tail moth nests in the very early spring, when the moths do not make you itchy. Maine's Bureau of Forestry shows you how in the short video accessible through this link (scroll to the bottom of the page after clicking on the link).

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/browntail_moth_info.htm

- Joanne McKee

Garden Design Committee Update



Caring for St. Mary's Garden is one of the major commitments SMGC members have. Some of us find the garden a bittersweet pleasure. We really want it to be beautiful and welcoming for friends of all ages. Recently, with the loss of shady trees, the

exposure to strong sun has overpowered some of our favorite plants. Maintenance challenges have increased as the habitat changed.

Invasive weeds have overcome some areas of the garden and overly enthusiastic perennials have pushed out less vigorous neighbors in other areas.

The SMGC board decided that the purpose and value of the garden was becoming compromised and proposed that a Design Committee identify the problems of the garden and develop a solution. The committee discussed issues that need improvement and developed a landscape plan that solved major concerns. The plan:

- Provides the Rectory deck with more privacy
- Screens the view of the Rectory garage from the Chapel and the garden
- Uses the views from the Chapel and the Church to identify focal points
- Provides handicapped access
- Identifies potential uses of the garden and provides areas for gatherings to take place
- Relocates the Austin Garden to "attach" it to the Norton Garden
- Reduces maintenance
- Creates a plan and complete plant list to ensure garden character over multiple years
- Develops a budget for construction
- Compiles a plant Wish List with pricing for plant donors

We hope that all members of SMGC and St. Mary's congregation will consider this garden theirs and will help by donating plants to honor friends or family members. All donors and the names of those being celebrated will be noted on plaques located throughout the garden.

We welcome your comments and suggestions and will be reviewing the plans at our April 9 meeting.

- Garden Design Committee:
Margaret Curran, Elaine Elliott,
Sabrina Warner, Susan Parish
Carter, Norma Jean Brilliant
Lucy Ellis, Donna Wilhelm, & Jan
Wentling

SMGC Members Enjoy These Blogs

Charlie Nardoizzi

<https://www.diginvt.com/blog/gardening-thoughts-from-charlie-nardoizzi/>

Multiple contributors

<http://gardenrant.com>

Food in Jars

<http://foodinjars.com/>

Yvonne Horn

<http://www.thetravelinggardener.com/?ZENMODE=away>

Sarah Raven

<https://www.sarahraven.com/articles>

Lavender & Leeks

<http://www.lavenderandleeks.co.uk/journal/>

Gardenista

<https://www.gardenista.com/>

Cold Climate Gardening

<http://www.coldclimategardening.com/blog/>

Dishing Up the Dirt

<http://dishingupthedirt.com/farm/>

Arena Botanicals

<https://www.avenabotanicals.com/blogs/news>

Force Abbey (UK)

<https://www.fordeabbey.co.uk/blog-news/>

Floret

<http://www.floretflowers.com/blog/>

A Way to Garden

<https://awaytogarden.com/>

Nitty Gritty Dirt Man

<https://nittygrittydirtman.com/>

Clare Monica Day

<http://www.claremonicaday.com/journal/2017/4>

Tomanek Farms

<http://tomanekfarms.com/home/blog/>

Down to Earth Digs

<https://downtoearthdigs.com/>

Winter/Spring Calendar		
Date	Time	Event
Apr. 9	10:00a	SMGC Board Meeting
Apr. 9	11:00a	Monthly Program & Meeting: "Supermarket Hacks in Floral Design"
Apr. 18		Stroudwater District Annual Meeting Purpoodock Club, Cape Elizabeth
Apr. 20	9:30a	Workshop: "Leaf Designs"
Apr. 24	2:30p	Garden Work Day, Lois Murphy Kindness Garden
May 14	9:00a	Opening the Gardens St. Mary's & Blue Star Memorial
May 14	11:00a	Monthly Program & Meeting: "Organic Pest Control"
May 15	2:30p	Garden Work Day, Lois Murphy Kindness Garden
May 19- 20		Field Trip: Trade Secrets Garden Tour and Rare Plant & Garden Antique Sale Sharon, CT
June 1	9:00a	Plant Sale Set-Up
June 2	9:00a	Plant Sale
June 4	11:00a	Annual Meeting: "Gardening with Kids" Saltwater Grill
June 5	10:00a	SMGC Board Meeting
June 5	2:30p	Garden Work Day, Lois Murphy Kindness Garden
June 11	9:00a	Field Trip: Stevens-Coolidge Place North Andover, MA
June 25	10:00a	Garden Gaze

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.