



what's
growing SEPT 2014
on?

newsletter of
The Lenox Garden Club
Number 003 Volume 2014-2016

IT'S ALL ABOUT TOADS

HORT SHORTS

Toads in the Garden

WHAT'S COOKING?

Toad in the Hole (Midwest Style)

FAVORITE GARDENS

Yale University's Marsh Botanic Garden

THE INSIDE STORY

TOADS...A Gardener's Best Friend

what's growin' on?

newsletter of
The Lenox Garden Club
P.O. Box 552
Lenox, MA 01240
www.lenoxgardenclub.net



65 Active members - 14 Associate members
3 Provisional members
1 Honorary member

Member of



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA

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Stony Brook Garden Club / Zone IV

VICKIE SALTONSTALL

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TANNY (CONSTANCE) CLARK

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Garden Club of Mt. Desert

On the Cover

AMERICAN TOAD
Bufo americanus



The American toad is a common species of toad found throughout the eastern United States and Canada. It is divided into three subspecies—the eastern American toad, the dwarf American toad, and the rare Hudson Bay toad

The Lenox Garden Club NEWSletter....what's growin' on?

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Nancy Miller
Projects Review

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Mary Copeland
Visiting Gardens



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Hello LGC Members



In the Zone

The Garden Club of America is a prime example of the whole exceeding the sum of its parts. There is power here, ladies!! The 200 unique, autonomous clubs that comprise the GCA are located throughout the country in 12 administrative and geographical zones. Some are enormous (requiring air travel to a meeting) and some compact (like New England).

Each Zone is represented at the executive level by a director. The directors ratify executive decisions on behalf of the zones and are responsible for the zone reps. Each zone is led by a zone chairman representing the presidents of all the clubs in the zone.

The yearly zone meetings comprise the engine that produces the considerable power and light of the GCA. They are forums for shared ideas and objectives and an opportunity for education and the broadening of horizons.

The strength of this network is clear in the positive legislation that has been endorsed by the GCA, the successful conservation across the country, the enhanced beauty of the American landscape and the joy of participation for every individual member.

It sure isn't your grandmother's garden club.

All the best,
Ginger

OUR NEXT MEETING

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DATE: September 10

TOPIC: Art in the Garden

Speaker: Barb May

TIME: 10:00 AM

The Home of Barb May

85 Pine Grove Dr.

Richmond

Hostess Comm: TOWL, Zutter,

Sandstrom, Martens

RSVP to Head Hostess at

gogo05@fairpoint.net



EXECUTIVE MEETING

August 27th, 2014

3:30 PM

Home of

Margot Towl

MEETING DESCRIPTION

Want to create your own cement leaf or small birdbath for your garden? Join us for a hands-on (yes, bring your gloves) workshop. Please bring along any decorative stones, tiles or pottery chunks you might want to use to embellish your own creation. We'll mix concrete to perfection so that this work of art will last outside for many years. We need to know how many supplies to have on hand so please be sure to rsvp a week before the meeting. NOTE: The concrete takes a couple of weeks to be hard enough to travel so please remember you'll need to pick up your finished creation at a later date.

*Experience is the hardest teacher.
She gives the test first and the lesson afterwards.*

The Lenox Garden Club NEWSletter....what's growin' on?

The Lenox Garden Club NEWSletter....what's growin' on?



The Lenox Garden Club
Membership meeting
Wednesday, August 6, 2014

President Ginger Schwartz welcomed the members (about 30 of them) to the meeting on the terrace at The Mount at 9:45 am. Refreshments were offered at 9:30 by Carol White's hostess committee.

The minutes of the last meeting on July 9 were approved as published in the newsletter. A motion to approve a donation of \$2000 to The Mount for the emergency repairs of the garden was seconded and approved. Susan Wissler, executive director of The Mount expressed thanks for this gift and others from LGC.

Berkshire GC has invited us to two meetings: on Wednesday, Aug 13 a trip to designer and BGC member Maria Stella's house, a platinum LEED design; and on September 17, a presentation about the Kinder Morgan proposal for a gas pipeline through the Berkshires. Ginger will send more information about both meetings.

Archivist Debby Smith presented a history of the LGC's projects at Mount, including the application many years ago for a Founders Fund award for the restoration of the Red Garden, to Susan Wissler.

For the Community Participation committee, Susan Dana presented an overview of an exit strategy for LGC to turn maintenance of Lilac Park planting beds, maintaining the integrity of the planting design, to the town of Lenox. Before that, the club will use capital from the endowment for major pruning and clean up. The income from the endowment will be turned over to the town to be used for maintenance. LGC will review the town's work to be sure the design is maintained. The next step is to make a thorough list of work to be done, so we can talk to landscapers and know how much money will be needed.

Laura Walton was introduced and told about the damage and restoration of the garden which she and her crew have carried out. She led us on a tour of the garden, where we were astonished at the lush growth, wonderful colors and plant materials in spite of the catastrophe wrought by raging flood waters in June. She and her crew had done an amazing restoration to the property, and we were very impressed.

Several members stayed to enjoy lunch on the terrace, although the meeting was adjourned about 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Dana, for Recording Secretary Margot Towl.



GCA Zone I NEWS

<http://www.zone1gca.org/>

THE EMERALD ASH BORER has been found at the Arnold Arboretum.

More information from these websites
is available at:

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/07/30/emerald-ash-borer-threat-trees-found-arnold-arboretum/Nd2iwFsg5kPAqENa40dX6I/story.html>

<http://massforestalliance.org/eab/>

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/01/science/earth/ash-forests-after-emerald-ash-borers-destroy-them.html?_r=1

The EMERALD ASH BORER is spreading in Massachusetts

A beetle that can quickly kill ash trees has been found at the Arnold Arboretum, state park and agriculture officials said Wednesday, arriving in Boston just two years after it was first spotted in Massachusetts, in the Berkshires.

Staff at the arboretum saw the emerald ash borer, a small, metallic-green beetle native to Asia, in a treetop trap on July 16, and confirmed its identity two days later.

The discovery was expected, and state officials said the ash borer is probably burrowing into trees across the state. The invasive insect cannot cover much ground on its own, but Ken Gooch, forest health program director for the Department of Conservation and Recreation, said the movement of firewood expedites the



beetle's spread across the state and country. "People are what is moving this insect so fast," Gooch said. "The insect wouldn't move so fast on its own."

His agency and the Department of Agricultural Resources said they will strengthen enforcement of a ban that restricts the transport of wood in and out of Berkshire and Essex counties, the two places where the insect had previously been found.

"It's a concern for us and a concern in terms of our state forests," said Gooch. "We're asking people not to move any ash products — don't move it anywhere in the state. Buy firewood local, burn it local."

Massachusetts has about 45 million ash trees, or about 3 percent of its total tree population. The ash borer was first seen in the United States in Michigan in 2002, and has since destroyed millions of ash trees across 23 states. The estimated cost of treating, removing, and replacing trees runs into the billions of dollars. The insect cannot be eradicated because of its prevalence, so officials are focused on slowing its spread. The state has numerous purple panel traps in the tops of ash trees to catch the beetles. An intern at the arboretum identified the beetle while collecting traps with head arborists, said Andrew Gapinski, the arboretum's manager of horticulture.



HORTICULTURE SHORTS

Toads In The Garden and How To Attract Them

By Heather Rhoades

All information is from:

<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/beneficial/how-to-attract-toads.htm>

Attracting toads is the dream of many gardeners. Having toads in the garden is very beneficial as they naturally prey on insects, slugs and snails, up to 10,000 in a single summer. Having a resident toad keeps the pest population down and reduces the need for harsh pesticides or labor intensive natural controls. Let's take a look at how to attract toads to your garden.

HOW TO ATTRACT TOADS

Attracting toads to your garden mostly involves creating the right kind of habitat for toads. If you keep this in mind, you will have no problem getting a toad to take up residence.

Cover from predators – Toads are a tasty meal for many animals. Snakes, birds and the occasional house pet will kill and eat toads. Provide plenty of foliage and slightly elevated areas where toads can stay safe.

MOIST COVER – Toads are amphibians. This means that they live on both land and in the water and need moisture to survive. While toads are not as closely tied to the water as frogs are, they still need a moist place to live.

Toads make homes under boards, porches, loose rocks and roots of trees. You can provide moist hiding spots for toads to encourage them to stay. You can even turn a desirable place for a toad to live into a garden decoration by making a garden toad house.

ELIMINATE PESTICIDES & CHEMICALS – If you are using pesticides or other chemical in your garden, chances are it is too toxic to have toads in the garden. Toads are very sensitive chemicals and even small amounts can be damaging to their health.

WATER – Toads may not live in water, but they need water to reproduce. A small pond or ditch that stays filled with water for at least a significant part of the year will not only help with attracting toads, but will help with ensuring future generations of toads.

Making your garden more toad friendly is all you need to do when looking at how to attract toads. Having a toad in the garden is a natural blessing to a gardener.



CONSERVATION corner

september 2014

getting to know the natives

The following info and photo from :
http://tcf.bh.cornell.edu/imgs/jdelaet/r/Trilliaceae_Trillium_sessile_32296.htm

Trillium sessile **TOADSHADE**

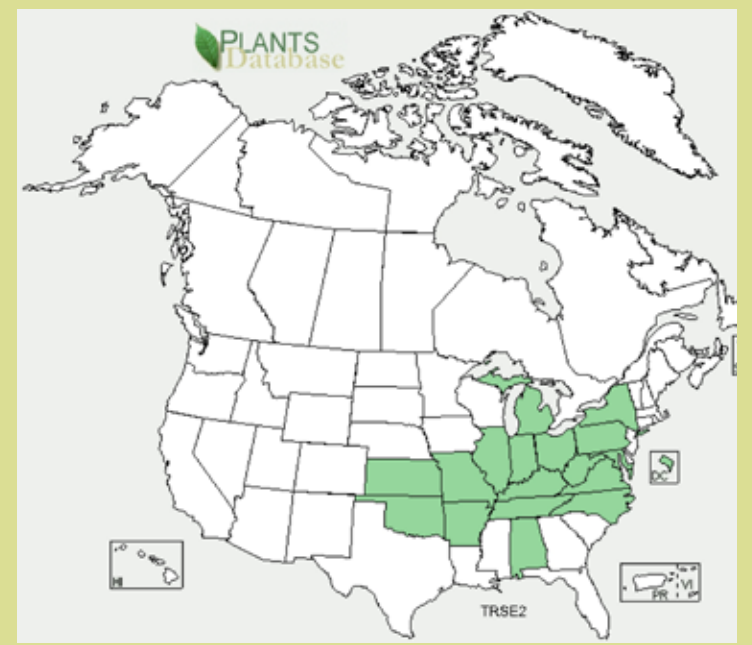
By Larry Stritch

All information is from the following website:
http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/trillium_sessile.shtml

Toadshade is an herbaceous, long-lived, woodland perennial wildflower with a broad distribution the central United States, from eastern Kansas and Oklahoma through the upper south and lower Midwest to New York and south to North Carolina.

“Trillium” is from the Latin “tri” referring to the flower parts occurring in threes, and “lilium” from the Latin “liliaceous” referring to the funnel-shaped flower. “Sessile” is from the Latin “sessil”, for sessile, stalkless, which refers to the flower having no pedicel.

Trillium sessile has a short, thick rhizome from which a sheath (cataphyll) enclosed scape (stalk of the inflorescence) emerges from the ground to 10 to 30 cm tall with a single, sessile, terminal flower. Leaves (actually bracts) are three, green, often mottled, sessile, oval, rounded, apiculate, base rounded and sessile, 4 to 10 cm long , 2 to 8 cm wide. Flowers are erect, sessile; petals three, dark maroon, brownish-maroon, green, yellow, bronze, erect to inwardly recurved, oblanceolate to oblong, 1.5 to 4 cm long. Sepals are three, green, occasionally streaked with maroon to a dark, greenish maroon, spreading, 1.5 to 4 cm long. The fruit is a dark greenish-purple, six-sided berry.



Trillium sessile flowers from early to late spring, depending on latitude. The species occurs in a range of habitats in rich deciduous woodlands often calcareous, floodplains and riverbanks; occasionally found in higher elevation dry, calcareous woods.

- Kingdom Plantae – Plants
- Subkingdom Tracheobionta – Vascular plants
- Superdivision Spermatophyta – Seed plants
- Division Magnoliophyta – Flowering plants
- Class Liliopsida – Monocotyledons
- Subclass Liliidae
- Order Liliales
- Family Liliaceae – Lily family
- Genus Trillium L. – trillium
- Species Trillium sessile L. – toadshade

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED STATUS:
This plant is listed by the U.S. federal government or a state. Common names are from state and federal lists.

| | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| State | | |
| Michigan | Toadshade | Threatened |
| New York | Toadshade | Endangered |

september 2014



Petal Pushers

FLORAL DESIGN HINTS & HOW TO'S from L.G.C. FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

BOTANICAL ARTS AIR DRYING & PLANT LIST

With the fall season soon approaching, I always begin to think about drying flowers... especially air drying. This is easy and inexpensive, increases garden possibilities, and brings into the home a little remembrance from the growing season.

Choose flowers that are at almost at their peak bloom...after the flowers are harvested and hung for air drying, they continue to open. Of course flowers for drying may be collected anytime during the normal growing season. Cut your flowers early in the morning just as the dew is off the leaves. Avoid damaged and insect eaten specimens. Wrap several like stems together with a rubber band and suspend bunches for drying in a dark, warm place. Attics well and flowers dry quickly. Once fully dry, remove and place into air tight storage containers until you are ready to begin your botanical arts projects or perhaps a wreath or floral design.

Plant List (a short list of suitable plants for Air Drying) Experiment...It's fun!

FROM THE GARDEN

Astilbe
Bee Balm - Monarda
Blue Salvia - Salvia
Black Eye Susan - Rudbeckia
Cockscomb - Celosia
Cone Flower - Echinacea
Delphinium - Delphium
Globe Amaranth - Gomphrena
Lambs Ear - Stachys
Larkspur - Delphium
Liatrus - Liatrus
Lotus - Nelumbo
Ornamental Grasses
Roses - Rosa
Goldenrod - Solidago
Statice - Limonium
Strawflowers - Helichrysum
Yarrow - Achillea

IN THE WILD*

Cattails and foliage - Typha
Dock - Rumex
Milkweed - Asclepias
Mullen - Verbascum
Poppy Seed Heads - Papaver
Queen Anne's Lace - Daucus
Black Eye Susan - Rudbeckia
Teasel - Dipsacus
Thistle - Onopordum

*When gathering in the wild, be aware of invasive species and plants on the endangered/threatened list from your state.

Peony Tales ...Long Live the Peonies

Lenox GC Member, Mary Copeland

Flower committee co-chairs for the Lenox Club June 26 Sesquicentennial I gala, Jeannene Booher and I agreed: peonies and Ladies' Mantle, surrounding candle-lit lanterns, would be perfect. Stuffed in oasis rings, they would be easy to arrange, beautiful to see, fragrant to smell and cast a lovely pink glow.

Following a long winter and late spring, we hoped for a late harvest. Even though we both have plentiful bushes, however, we could not be sure to have enough blooms to meet our goal of 350-400 peonies. On the Internet, we learned about cold, peony bud preservation. Many web sites dealt with the subject. See "preserved peonies/refrigeration" Google Search.

Needing such volume, we were reluctant to depend entirely on either a late season or an experimental preservation plan, so we did both. Fortunately, Jeannene (and her neighbors) live high in the Otis hills, where many flowers bloom a little later. Our insurance policy was the refrigerated preservation of early cut buds, the supply supplemented by Lenox Club members Margaret Poutasse, Ingrid Taylor (also members of Berkshire Garden Club) and Jane Whitney, Jamie Berg and Cindy Berger.

Beginning June 10, committee members cut buds that were golf ball size and starting to soften (sometimes called the marshmallow stage). The buds, on stems long and short, were wrapped in paper towels, then placed in plastics bags. Bag ends were twisted shut and tightly secured with rubber bands. (Some used recycled newspaper bags for this purpose). The bags of wrapped peonies were laid on their sides in various refrigerators. Two weeks later (and two days before the event), they were removed from refrigeration, allowing them to open slightly, before being placed in the peony rings one day before the event.

Crisis number 1: some of the buds had been cut while still too hard or too small, and didn't open.

Crisis number 2: summer's worst storm was forecast to bring high winds and torrential rains, a day before Jeannene was scheduled to cut her and her neighbors' bushes. There was nothing to be done about the buds that hadn't opened (or so we thought), but in the late afternoon, just ahead of the storm, Jeannene cut every remaining peony in Otis, masses of them.

Fortunately, the Lenox Club had enough refrigerated storage; so that all the rings and additional bouquets could be kept cool an extra day. We thought they were lovely (as shown the night of the event.)

What we didn't foresee, when we arrived at the club three weeks later, was two of the original rings, removed that day from cold storage, decorating side tables! The gift keeps on giving. I took home all the buds that appeared to be cut too soon, re-wrapped, re-bagged them and laid then on their sides in a spare refrigerator. In mid-August I took out a bag a week, and I'm still enjoying peony bouquets.



what's cookin' today?

Toad in the Hole (Midwestern Style)

Photo & Recipe from:

<http://myretrokitchen.blogspot.com/2012/07/toad-in-hole-midwestern-style.html>

by Amie Kanengeiser

Ingredients:

2 slices bread per person

2 Eggs per person

Butter

Salt & Pepper to taste

Fresh Chives to garnish

Instructions:

"I know that Toad in a Hole means something completely different to people over in Europe where this recipe consists of sausages cooked in Yorkshire Pudding." this is Midwestern style.

Using a shot glass or a small biscuit cutter, cut a hole in the center of each slice of bread. Butter both sides of bread as you would for a grilled cheese sandwich. Be sure to butter the circles you just removed from the breads, they are great dippers for the runny eggs!

Place the bread into a nonstick pan and "grill" at medium low heat until just golden. Flip bread and very carefully break the egg into the hole. The yoke should fill it nicely. Season each egg with salt and fresh ground pepper to taste. Allow to cook until you get the eggs to your preferred doneness. I like to lightly cover my pan with foil to set the yoke just a bit more. If you don't like a runny egg at all, just leave the foil on the pan to your perfection. Carefully remove the Egg's in a Hole to each person's plate, garnish and enjoy! Serve along side some fresh fruit and crispy bacon.



our favorite public gardens

Yale University Marsh Botanic Gardens

106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA

TOURING THE GARDEN

<http://marshbotanicalgarden.yale.edu/>

WHERE TO START

After entering the garden from Mansfield Street, look for the internal signs directing you to the office and Greenhouse #1. We ask that visitors sign in, to track our visitation. Restrooms are available in the office complex associated with greenhouse #1.

WHAT TO SEE

There are four greenhouses connected to the office area, each of which is designated as a component of Greenhouse #1. You will find research plants, some tropical plant collections, the Desert Collection, the Carnivorous Plant Collection and other interesting displays. In areas near the greenhouses, you will find our Contemplation Garden with koi pond, flower cutting and display gardens and more. A diagram of the greenhouses and adjacent gardens is available at the sign in point.

Greenhouses #2 and #3 house more of our tropical plant collections, including many tropical fruits and other useful or iconic plants, including the chocolate tree (*Theobroma cacao*) and the coffee tree (*Coffea arabica*). The Orchid Collection is housed in the second bay of Greenhouse #2. Spaces are tight in these old greenhouses, so wheelchair accessibility is very limited. Please watch your step in all of our greenhouses, as the floors can be slippery at times.

Outdoor gardens include perennial beds, shrub borders, scale-leaf evergreen collections, a pinetum, wildflower plantings, native bog garden and much more. Of course these are very seasonal in interest but there is always something interesting outdoors for the curious and thoughtful gardener to enjoy

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

This collection focuses on plants that have evolved to garner their nutrition from their modified leaves. Representing many geographic regions including Connecticut and the East Coast of temperate North America to Borneo and Sumatra, the display highlights a variety of tactics that plants use to trap the nutrients in flies and other insects.

PARKING

Parking is available on Mansfield Street, and also in several internal garden spaces. For large groups (more than six), please call ahead. Wednesday's are street cleaning days for New Haven in our sector, so parking is very limited. Mansfield Street is closed for parking on that day every week.

september 2014

september 2014

the

inside

story

Get rid of Insects in the Garden with TOADS

Toads can help you get rid of insects in the garden:

They eat 100 insects each night!

By Mary B. Bowling

The following information is from:

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/get-rid-of-insects-in-the-garden-zmaz83jaznet.aspx#axzz37UDSoCNM>



A Gardeners Best Friend...

The dog may be “man’s best friend”... but if that person is a gardener, his or her most treasured ally is likely to be the humble toad! Warty-skinned, dumpy, and lethargic, the jewel-eyed toad is a prodigious consumer of just about anything that moves and will fit in its mouth. Although most of its prey falls into the category we label “pests” (toads love cutworms!), some of the toad’s diet does consist of such beneficial creatures as bees, ladybugs, and lacewings. This is unfortunate, but it’s surely forgivable for a little animal that can snap up nearly 100 insects every single night... a total of nearly 10,000 bugs over a three month growing season! Beetles of every description, caterpillars, flies, larvae, moths, and wireworms are all fair game for this insectivore. (It likes slugs and snails, too.)

The Lenox Garden Club NEWSletter....what’s growin’ on?

The amount that an individual toad may consume in a single feeding is astonishing. One toad was observed to eat 86 houseflies ...another ate 65 gypsy moth larvae... while still another swallowed 37 adult tent caterpillars!

It’s pretty obvious, then, that a biological bug control of such talent and efficiency should not be ignored. Indeed, the savvy modern gardener would do well to cultivate this little amphibian’s acquaintance. Use Toads to Get Rid of Insects in the Garden — No Matter Where you Live. Eighteen species of true toads live in this country, with at least a few kinds to be found in every state in the union (yes, even in Alaska!). They’re particularly abundant in the eastern and Gulf states and the Mississippi Valley region...but in truth, they fill many different environmental niches and can be found in every sort of habitat from high mountains to rain forests to coastal plains to deserts.

Although similar, toads and frogs are easily distinguished. Mature toads are dry, bumpy skinned, brownish, plump, deliberate in their movements, and look rather pompous. They hop — slowly — and may puff themselves up to discourage unwelcome attention. Frogs, on the other hand, are moist and smooth-skinned, greenish, slender, a bit dandified in appearance, and alert. They leap, often with a total disregard for the consequences... and usually try to escape rather than bluff would-be captors.

Toad’s eggs are laid in shallow water that is slow moving or still. They’re deposited in long, coiling tubes of jelly, each of which contains a single row of small, black ova. (Frog eggs are also black, but are laid in clusters, with each embryo encased in its own round capsule of jelly.) Tadpoles will emerge in 3 to 12 days.

In 50 to 65 days — usually around late June or July — the babies will develop into tiny toadlets that look like smooth-skinned miniature adults. The youngsters crawl onto land and hide in nearby vegetation for a few days. Then, with the first rain shower or cloudy, humid day, they migrate — sometimes in droves! — to the fields and gardens. Those animals that survive grow quickly, shedding their skins every few weeks...and reach adult size in about a year.

Once on land, toads require a cool, damp place to live. Unless you have an unusually wet plot, you’ll need to add a small pond of sorts so that your garden guardian will be healthy and contented. An old dishpan buried to the rim will serve quite well when filled with water and given several fist-sized rocks that protrude above the surface. Toads are territorial and are loners by nature, so if you want more than one hopper in your garden you should set up several small, scattered puddles rather than one large pool. Beyond that, you’ll need some good-sized rocks, broken flowerpots, or a length of log next to each little pond to provide shade and an attractive place for the animal to burrow.

Read more: <http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/get-rid-of-insects-in-the-garden-zmaz83jaznet.aspx#ixzz37k2rkujG>

The Friendly Amphibian

Toads usually live in a small area and return to a favorite spot each evening to feed. It may come as a surprise to you that they are the most intelligent of the amphibians, but it’s true: They can be taught to come out of hiding when called and to accept food from humans. In fact, if feeding is done on a regular schedule, many toads even anticipate their dinner! (They eat only moving prey, so proffered delicacies should be waved in front of them on the end of a twig.) Furthermore, the bug hunters respond to the “soft touch”. Once accustomed to gentle handling, a toad will settle serenely in your opened palm, often stretching out one hind leg at a time to have it stroked and scratched.

No one’s yet determined the toad’s life expectancy in the wild, but these little amphibians have been known to live in captivity for more than 30 years. With so much offered for so little effort, don’t wait to get a toad for your garden: Hop to it!

Read more: <http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/get-rid-of-insects-in-the-garden-zmaz83jaznet.aspx#ixzz37k3CZ6Fb>

messages



lgc accessorize booth

Ladies, now is the time to “rise”, to sort, to gather and deliver your gently used handbags, scarves, hats and belts to the next Membership Meeting or to Linda O’Connell’s front porch at 9 Larrywaug Crossing in Stockbridge. If you prefer pick up please call Margot at 518 392 3830. You needn’t “shine” until the Harvest Festival in October when we will need volunteers to sell all of our wonderful accessories to raise funds for the BBG.

lgc horticulture committee

While you were slumbering in your hammock on these beautiful summer days, the LGC Hort. Com has been busy little bees selecting just the right plant for the 2016 Plant Exchange. And we think we came up with the perfect pleaser to delight all our pollinators, especially the Monarch Butterfly. Can’t guess? Well, it is the humble native Asclepiadaceae - The Milkweed Family. We chose this plant for three reasons-- we thought it was an interesting plant and would be a challenge to propagate. And most important it would help the Monarch Butterfly.

The migratory monarchs lay their eggs exclusively on various species of milkweed. They are struggling because of habitat loss, land development and herbicide use. Monarchs have lost 50% of that habitat in the past few years. I don’t know about you but, I haven’t seen a monarch in my garden this summer -- how sad is that? So, I suggest that our new slogan be ---- “Plant a milkweed, Save a monarch!!” The Hort. Com is busy little bees making slogan banners as you read this !! HA! What a team?!?

We will definitely be having a propagation workshop on this plant. And if you are looking for a fun activity to do with your grandchildren --- take them out exploring for milkweed pods!
Happy hunting!
Paula Gimblette

Zone I Plant Exchange
 The Lenox Garden Club
 September 2016
 Propagation Project:
Asclepiadaceae

To Zone I Clubs,
The Lenox Garden Club, your host of the September 2016
Zone I Annual Meeting in Lenox, MA has selected the
Asclepiadaceae family for the 2016 Plant Exchange.
Special emphasis in this family will be on
Common Milkweed and plants that are
vital to Monarch Butterflies.
It is hoped that you will think
about including members of the
Asclepiadaceae in
any propagation
workshops at
your club.

messages

Collecting Milkweed Seeds

Info from:

<http://monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs/milkweed/seed-collecting-processing#how>

HOW YOU CAN HELP MONARCH WATCH

- 1) Collect the pods, process (clean) the seeds and send them to us.* Make your own seed separator.
- 2) Collect the pods, dry them and send them* to us at Monarch Watch
University of Kansas
2021 Constant Ave
Lawrence, KS 66047

*Request shipping label if needed.

GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTION

- What to collect: milkweed species targeted for your region. Do not collect seeds of rare or endangered milkweeds.
 - When to collect: ripe pods split upon touch and the seeds should be brown or "browning up." Do not collect pods in which the seeds are white, cream colored or pale.
 - How to collect: Be sure to obtain permission before collecting on private property or federal, state or county properties.
 - Be safe. Wear bright clothes near roads. Do not collect along busy highways. Wear gloves. See Precautions below.
 - **LABEL** a separate, sealed container for the seeds of each milkweed species.
 - If you do not process the seeds, please contain the pods or seeds so that they will remain in the container when opened and not fly about our offices.
 - How much? Collect as much as you can. Quantities less than one ounce of processed seed are only needed for rare species. Many pounds of milkweed seeds are needed for seed mixes used in roadside or landscape restoration. Two to four onion bags of pods will yield about one pound of seeds.
 - Genetic diversity: Incorporate as much diversity as you can into your sampling of pods. You can do this by collecting your pods from more than one site.
- A. syriaca (common milkweed) forms genetically identical clones through underground rhizomes. To obtain a fair representation of the genetic diversity of this species, the pods can be collected from a number of clones scattered over several sites.

An Enduring Relationship The Lenox Garden Club & Edith Wharton's The Mount



*Foxhollow Girls Private School owns The Mount. Miss Aileen Farrell, Headmistress and Miss Meigs Fowler are members of The Lenox Garden Club living on the grounds, and host many garden club meetings there. 195? - 1972

*Meeting of The Lenox Garden Club, Berkshire Garden Club with Lester Collins, Architect and EWR Board member to discuss removal of transformer in courtyard. June, 1983

*Removal of transformer from courtyard, Fall, 1983

*First proposal by The Lenox Garden Club, seconded by the Berkshire Garden Club to restore Red Garden for the Garden Club of America for Founders Fund Award rejected but encouraged to reapply, 1988

*The Lenox Garden Club hosts "Red Garden Day", Slide lecture, luncheon, and tour of the Mount to aid in the restoration of Edith Wharton's Red Garden, June 1988

*The Lenox Garden Club's proposal is one of three finalists and runner-up of \$2500 Garden Club of America Founders Fund Award for restoration of the Red Garden at Edith Wharton's "The Mount", 1989

*The Lenox Garden Club presents "A Touch of Red", a flower show in honor of the work that both the Lenox and Berkshire Garden Club have accomplished towards restoring the Red Garden. Hosted by the Berkshire Garden Club during the Garden Club of America Zone 1 Regional Meeting, June 1989

*Regional meeting of Garden Club of America Garden History & Design at the Mount, 2006

*The Lenox Garden Club gives grant to The Mount: \$4000 for the restoration of the rock garden, 2012

*The Lenox Garden gives \$2000 to The Mount to help defray costs to rebuild the Red Garden after monumental flooding and washout of paths and flower borders, August 2014
Debbie Smith,
Archives

gca news & messages

Nominate a Plant The GCA Plant of the Year: The Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal

History and Goals

The Freeman Medal, the only award GCA gives to a plant, acknowledges the cultivation and use of native plants.

In 1995, the Medal was given to GCA in memory of Montine McDaniel Freeman by her family. This annual award may be given to a tree, shrub, ground cover, vine or perennial that is under-utilized but worthy of preservation, propagation and promotion. The medal is awarded to an herbaceous plant in the even years, and to a tree or shrub in the odd years. As vines may fall into either category, please consult the GCA Horticulture Committee with any questions: horticulture@gcamerica.org

The goals of the Freeman Medal are to:

- draw attention to select native plants and their cultivars
- encourage their use in the landscape
- make them familiar to the gardener
- make more available in nurseries

Each year a plant will be selected from the nominations by the Plant of the Year Selection Committee. The Committee is comprised of a Chairman, plus 3 to 5 leading and nationally renowned horticulturists and experts in the nursery trade. The award is presented at the GCA Annual Meeting to the group or individual nominating the plant. In the case of cultivars, the award will be presented to the originator of the cultivar.

In complex cases, such as those where a cultivar was found in the garden of one person, propagated and named by another, marketed by a third party, and /or nominated for the award by a fourth party, the Freeman Medal will be awarded, when possible, to the person most closely connected to the recognition of the plant's superiority. Certificates will be sent to all others. In the case of species, the medal will be presented to the individual or group nominating the plant.

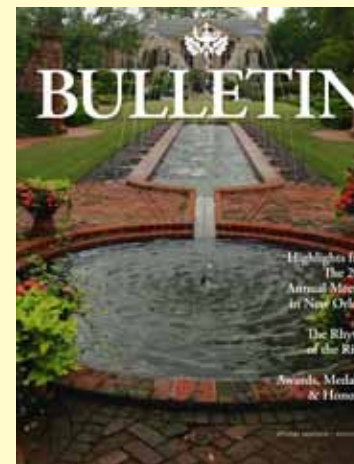
The Nomination Process

- Contact horticulture@gcamerica.org before beginning the nomination process.
 - o This is to ensure that your plant is not already being considered.
 - o If there are multiple nominations, the one received first will take precedence.
- Nominations will be accepted between March 1st and December 1st in the year preceding the award presentation.
 - Completed portfolios (including nomination form and photos) should be submitted by December 1st of the year preceding the Annual Meeting when the medal is to be awarded.
 - Incomplete portfolios will not be considered.
 - One medal will be awarded each year.
 - Non-winning plants may be submitted for 3 successive years (following the alternate year system). However, another person can nominate the same plant – i.e., a Proposer does not “own” the nomination rights to a particular plant, even if he/she has nominated it before.
- Plants that have received an Honorable Mention may not be re-nominated for the Freeman Award.
 - A nominated plant must:
 - o be an outstanding or unusual species or cultivar of a North American native plant (in the case of a hybrid, at least one-half of the plant's parentage must be native to North America)
 - o display attributes that enhance the landscape, are attractive to wildlife, and/or are effective environmental plants, e.g. those that control erosion
 - o not be readily available for landscape use in at least one major portion of the country, but must be in propagation for commercial distribution

If you have any questions about the process or would like to receive a Nomination Form, contact: horticulture@gcamerica.org



GCA Publications



GCA BULLETIN

[https://www.gcamerica.org/_uploads/filemanager/publicationsresource/Bulletin%20—%20Annual%20Meeting%202014%20issue%20—%20web%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.gcamerica.org/_uploads/filemanager/publicationsresource/Bulletin%20—%20Annual%20Meeting%202014%20issue%20—%20web%20(1).pdf)

THE REAL DIRT

https://www.gcamerica.org/_uploads/filemanager/publicationsresource/TRD-31Summer2014.pdf



GCA FOCUS

https://www.gcamerica.org/_uploads/filemanager/publication-resource/Summer%202014%20Focus%20final.pdf

GCA BY DESIGN

available by subscription:
Contact: Roberta DuBeshter
robertadubes@gmail.com
Subscription: \$30.00/year





Edith Wharton's - The Mount

2 Plunkett St, Lenox, MA 01240

LGC Membership Meeting - August 6, 2014

Photos ©2014 Barb May



september 2014

september 2014



GCA Scholarships

MARY T. CAROTHERS SUMMER ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP

Established 2005

Purpose

To encourage studies and careers in the environmental field, with the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience beyond the regular course of study.

History

In 1998 the family and friends of Mary Trainer Carothers established a scholarship fund as a fitting memorial to the well-loved member of the Noanett Garden Club (MA), "Bootsie", as she was known. Her love for gardening and the environment extended to local and state horticultural and conservation associations. Fully funded in June, 2005.

Provisions

Provides financial assistance to college students who wish to pursue summer studies doing field work, research, or classroom work in the environmental field. The scholarship encourages young men and women who are interested in furthering their studies and careers in the field of ecology and offers an opportunity to gain knowledge and experience beyond the regular course of study. Work may award academic credit but should be in addition to required courses.

Eligibility

Provides financial aid toward a summer course in environmental studies for college students following their freshman, sophomore, or junior year.

Financial award

Funds one student annually for summer study at \$2000. (Award amounts were increased from \$1500 in 2007.)

Application deadline

Applications must be received at Garden Club of America Headquarters in New York by February 10 preceding the summer of study.

Selection

Selection by members of the GCA Scholarship Committee.

Fund

The Mary T. Carothers Summer Environmental Studies Scholarship Fund is managed by the GCA.

Contact

The Garden Club of America, 14 East 60th Street, New York, NY 10022. Phone: (212) 753-8369, Fax: (212) 753-0134. Website: www.gcamerica.org

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day
- 9 Full Moon
- 10 LGC Meeting
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 23 Autumnal Equinox
- 24 New Moon

Common Toadflax
Linaria vulgaris

Cheerfulness smooths the
road of life

september 2014

september 2014

TOAD LILIES

<http://www.weekendgardener.net/garden-plants/tricyrtis-toad-lily-031003.htm>

If you're not familiar with Tricyrtis also known somewhat unfairly as the Toad Lily, this is a plant you'll want in your garden. This perennial plant is so easy to grow it's not even funny. It's very frost-hardy, and it's tough enough to grow in Zones 4 to 9 which means it can easily grow outdoors in the toughest winter climates. To give you an idea of how tough it is, it's a native plant from Nepal to the Philippines.

AVAILABILITY

It grows by rhizomes which are normally available from spring through summer and it flowers from summer through fall.

STUNNING FLOWERS

The very thick, waxy, and orchidlike flowers add a bit of the tropics to any garden, and are very attractive in their colorings and shapes which range from star, bell, or funnel-shaped set amidst dark green and attractive foliage.

GROWING REQUIREMENTS

Toad lilies like rich, well composted, moist soil and as long as they get part shade and are kept moist, they can grow in almost any climate. Tricyrtis are great grown with hostas and ferns underneath trees in a woodland setting.

GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS

Toad lilies grow to be 2 to 3 feet (.61 to 1 m) tall and as wide, so they are a good size for containers or smaller garden areas. Tricyrtis also make great cut flowers so you can have orchidlike flowers in floral arrangements which lends a bit of the exotic to your other more ordinary cut flowers.

PLANTING AND CARE

When you buy Tricyrtis rhizomes they are like a Lily of the Valley in that you want to plant the pip side up and about three inches (7.5 cm) deep and keep them well watered through their first summer. Once they are established, they are tough and will grow and flower for you for years and years.

SEVERAL VARIETIES AVAILABLE

As Tricyrtis plants gain in popularity, all kinds of great new varieties are being developed with flowers ranging from delicate pink, maroon, purple, yellow, and white, some of which include:

Raspberry, Moonlight Treasure, Imperial Banner, Seiryu, Taipei Silk.

So if you want something truly exotic looking in your yard, and something that looks tough to grow but in reality is as simple as planting it, then give Tricyrtis a chance to perform for you and dazzle friends and family with your gardening skill!

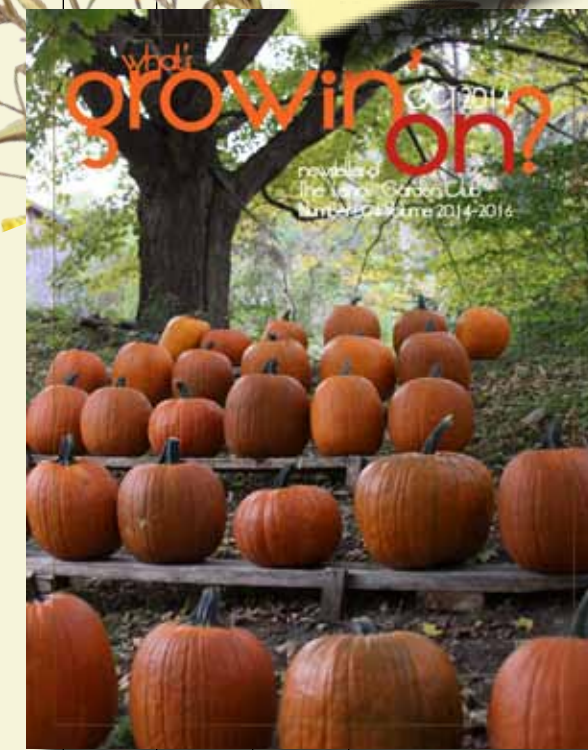


september 2014

what's growin' on?



ON THE DRAWING BOARD FOR OCTOBER



To Submit an Article

Be sure to email your stories and photo submissions by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming LGC NEWSletter, what's growin' on?

Need something posted on the LGC website? Or have a question regarding the GCA website?

Email: maryellenjobrien@hotmail.com

september 2014

what's growin' on?

newsletter of
The Lenox Garden Club
P.O. Box 552
Lenox, MA 01240
www.lenoxgardenclub.net



TO: Members of The Lenox Garden Club

Whether you travel NEAR or FAR

Your LGC NEWSletter is always available at:

www.lenoxgardenclub.net

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS GARDEN CRITTER?



Red Underwing Moth

Red Underwings fly in August and September, predominantly in areas of light woodlands, or where there are plenty of hedgerows - so may well be seen in town parks and gardens.

These large moths are well camouflaged when at rest (especially on tree bark), but when flying they have striking red flashes under their wings.