



Volume 9, Issue 2  
December 2011

## Letter from the President

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**Chamber of Commerce**

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**Civic Beautification**

*Dottie Miller*

*Gerie Schumann*

**Conservation & Birds**

*Nancy Hipp*

**Design Workshops**

*Beth Savage*

*Jeanne Sidoli*

**Historian**

*Helen Baird*

Dear Garden Club Members,

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as President for members who are so willing to volunteer their valuable time throughout the year. Members' participation and involvement in the numerous activities and events is essential to the growth of the club. Therefore, it is my desire for us to continue to work together for the beautification of Harwich.

Now that the holiday season is upon us, it gives us an opportunity to individually be creative with artistic endeavors, decorations and arrangements for the community to enjoy. The Christmas Boutique and Holiday Luncheon would not be a success without the enthusiastic hard work from each of you. A great big thank you in advance for a job well done.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas, a holiday season filled with peace and joy and a happy, healthy New Year.

*Judie Palleschi, President*

## Civic Beautification

At this time of year, the Civic Beautification Garden and Park Committees are doing fall clean-up, bulb planting and planning for next season's projects. All 19 committees should be very proud of all the good work that has been done over the past seasons. The Committee Chairs met on October 12th to discuss challenges and share ideas. The meeting was very productive and resulted in a few constructive developments:

- For members interested in helping with watering next summer, Gerie & Dottie will pass around a sign-up sheet to the general membership that will ask volunteers to note a particular garden nearest to them they could help water. The lists will be forwarded to Garden Committee Chairs who will develop a watering schedule for their own gardens.
- Garden Chairs will develop a list of heavy work assistance needed from the town departments for their garden as soon as possible – the list should include work that will be needed in the coming year to better coordinate GCOH/BC requests with

*Civic Beautification continued.....*

ongoing scheduled town projects.

- Garden Chairs will develop an inventory list of GCOH tools, hoses, vests and other supplies as well as their storage locations for Garden Chairs to access.
- All agreed that the general membership of the Garden Club should be asked to take part throughout the year noticing attractive properties worthy of beautification awards. Summer is not the only time when home owners plan for a special display which contributes to the beautification of the Harwich. Everyone will be encouraged to keep an eye out from now on and e-mail Gerie and Dottie with addresses of noteworthy gardens.

*Please make the following additions and corrections in your yearbook:*

Add: Barbara Brown-Street to general CB list on page 5.

Helena Nossal & Priscilla Whittemore to Exchange Park.

Change: Co-chairs of Brooks Fountain to Sue Hart & Helen Duarte

Delete: Berry Mensing from Millenium Park & Exit 10; Joan Bittrich & Mary Ann Cantella from Exit 10.

Thank you for your work this year. We are looking forward to our responsibilities in 2012!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

*Dottie Miller, Geri Schumann, Chairpersons*



## Horticultural Sweepstakes

The Horticulture Committee cordially invites, implores, encourages and oh, alright, we're BEGGING you to please participate in the Horticultural Sweepstakes at our January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. We will be exhibiting in the class of HOUSEPLANTS. Please bring a specimen for African violet, fern, cactus / succulent or other houseplant. Note the Sweepstake's guidelines on page 12 of our membership booklet.

*Diane DiGennaro, Chairperson*



## Design Workshops

December 16th—10:00 a.m.—Christmas table arrangement—Cost \$20.00

*Beth Savage, Jeanne Sidoli, Chairpersons*

## Horticulture

*"Dear Gertie Gardener" is an advice column brought to you by the Horticulture Committee. Having problems with gardening etiquette? Struggling with a horticultural dilemma? Need more info on a plant? Send your gardening questions to: [riodd@comcast.net](mailto:riodd@comcast.net).*



Dear Gertie Gardener,

My best friend wins every single horticultural sweepstakes in our garden club. I don't know how she does it! Her house is a mess, she's always covered with mud, she can't even find her nametag for the meetings, but when it comes to plants, hers are beautiful. We're having a Horticultural Sweepstakes in January and we'll be judging African violets, among other things. How can I prep my violets to be fabulous so that I might finally have a shot at being a winner? Signed,

Tired of Second Best

Dear Tired,

Sigh... your friend seems to realize what you might have missed. Life is not a contest. It sounds like she stays present and enjoys her gardens for the sheer pleasure they bring her. Flowers respond to this particular zeitgeist. Let's see what you might do to amp up the wattage of your violets, but remember, it must be for the joy of seeing them bloom- not to win the award. Violets know when you have ulterior motives, so follow these guidelines with a pure heart J

**Light** Violets like moderate to bright, indirect, indoor lighting. Too little light causes leaves to yellow. Too much light causes brown spots. The best results are to put them in windows where they receive light most of the day, but it is indirect. Adjusting blinds or using a sheer curtain to filter bright light works well.

**Water** Allow soil to dry out before watering to encourage blooming. Water from the bottom using tepid water for less than 30 minutes each time. Don't use soft water. Let chlorinated water sit overnight before using. Don't let leaves get wet.

**Humidity** Strive for 50-60% humidity. You might group violets together. This increases their humidity. You could also use a self watering device or put them on a tray of gravel and water.

**Temperature** Violets like it as close to 70 degrees as possible. Don't allow it to drop below 60 or above 80. Cool temps leave plants vulnerable to crown rot. Plants will stop flowering in cool temps.

**Fertilize** Use a fertilizer especially for violets. It should have approximately equal amounts of nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), and potassium (K). It should not contain urea nitrogen which is cheaper, but causes root burn. Make sure that it is a water soluble fertilizer.

**Soil** Violets like loose, well draining soil, high in organic matter. Buy soil especially formulated for violets.

**Tips** Pinch off spent flowers to encourage blossoming. Don't get too fancy with your pots. Violets seem to prefer the cheap green plastic pots in which they come.

So there you have it my dear. Follow these guidelines and you'll surely no longer be "second best." (Were you ever REALLY?)

Yours for a more beautiful world,

Gertie Gardener



THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARWICH

POTLUCK LUNCHEON

JANUARY 3, 2012

12:00 NOON

PROGRAM: WHAT TO DO WITH A GROCERY STORE BOUQUET

PRISCILLA STYER - FLORAL DESIGNER

A through G

Bring Dessert for 8 people

H through Mc

Bring Quiche for 8 people

Mi through Z

Bring Salad for 8 people

Quiche can be homemade, store bought or semi-homemade.

Please bring one 9" or one 9"x12" quiche.

Please bring your own plate and silverware.

The garden club will provide cups and napkins.

Each member may invite one (1) guest. Deadline for reservations: December 15th

Please mail or call:

Pat Hirtle

11 Farmedge Lane

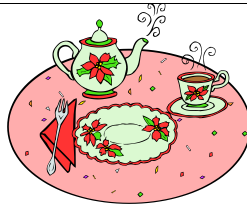
508-432-4116 or [bobpathirtle@comcast.net](mailto:bobpathirtle@comcast.net)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Will Bring: \_\_\_\_\_

## Tea Committee



Again we have begun planning for our January Pot Luck Luncheon. There is a flyer enclosed within this newsletter for use to sign up.

Remember, we must have your reservation by December 15, 2011. The menu will consist of Quiche, Salad, and Dessert again this year. Many thanks to all those who made such appealing and appetizing sandwiches and desserts for the September Tea. Our Tea Committee was so helpful in preparing and presenting the treats. Special thanks to Anne Watson for her lovely floral arrangement as well as arranging the tea tables so beautifully. In February, our Hostess and Flower Arranger will be Helen Baird and Joan Frederici, respectively. All members are expected to take turns bringing food for the teas.

We have a large attendance, so you may be called upon to help twice a year.

**REMINDER:** Teas are for Members only!

*Alma Davis, Pat Hirtle, Chairpersons*

## Membership

***“There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.” Mark Twain***

We would like to see more members get involved in projects, or become more actively involved in the Garden Club. Your time, opinions, and contributions are appreciated. Also, **remember** to wear your name tags and **sign in** each month. Please contact me for an application if you know anyone interested in joining our club.

*Susan Pleines, Membership Chairman*



## New Members

**Trish Peterson** - Tel. # 804-516-2423 trishatp411@yahoo.com

Interested in: conservation and birds, design, and horticulture

**Bonnie Reimann** - Tel. #860-597-0188

Interested in membership and hospitality, telephone committee

**Priscilla Whittemore** Tel. #508-432-3157 longroadhome@hotmail.com

Interested in Civic Beautification and fund raising

Please note change of e-mail address:

**Carol Donohoe** [pauldonohoe36@comcast.net](mailto:pauldonohoe36@comcast.net)

<b>Holiday</b>
<b>Christmas Lights</b>
<b>Doane Park</b>
<i>Irene Mitchell</i>
<b>Town Pole Wreaths</b>
<i>Karen Helliwell</i>
<b>Public Building</b>
<b>Wreaths</b>
<i>Linda Felice</i>
<i>Aline Glifort</i>
<b>Horticulture</b>
<i>Diane DiGennaro</i>
<b>Library</b>
<i>Cathy Dillon</i>
<b>Membership</b>
<i>Susan Pleines</i>
<b>Program</b>
<i>Karen Helliwell</i>
<b>Properties</b>
<i>Carole Powers</i>
<i>Elaine Sampson</i>
<b>Publicity/Newsletter</b>
<i>Carolyn O'Leary</i>
<i>Peg Erdlen</i>
<b>Scholarship</b>
<i>Shirley Knowles</i>
<i>Jackie Leach</i>
<b>Tea</b>
<i>Alma Davis</i>
<i>Pat Hirtle</i>
<b>Telephone</b>
<i>Bernadette Snowdon</i>
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>
<i>Carol Aimone</i>
<i>Joan Frederici</i>
<b>Daffodil Bulb Sale</b>
<i>Patti Tworek</i>
<b>Bridge Luncheon</b>
<i>Amy Brady</i>
<b>Fund Raising</b>
<i>Carol Aimone</i>
<i>Joan Frederici</i>
<b>Plant Sale</b>
<i>Sally Cohen</i>
<i>Diane DiGennaro</i>
<b>Meeting Raffles</b>
<i>Cathy Dillon</i>
<b>Year Book</b>
<i>Laurel Ferry</i>

The Garden Club of Harwich  
P. O. Box 301  
Harwich Port, MA 02646



## Calendar of events

**December 13, 2011**

11:30 a.m.

**Holiday Luncheon**

Wequassett Resort

**January 3, 2012**

12:00 p.m.

Horticulture Sweepstakes

**Program**

**Pot Luck Luncheon**

Class I House Plants: African Violet, Fern, Cactus or Succulent

**“What to do with a Grocery Store Bouquet”**

Priscilla Styer, Floral Designer

**February 7, 2012**

**Program**

**Tea**

**“Gardening for the Spirit”**

Cheryl Collins

Photographer, Lecturer & Gardener

**March 6, 2012**

1:00 p.m.

**Program**

**“Fascinating World of Hummingbirds”**

Susan Finnegan, Master Bander

Nationally certified by the North American Banding Council