



Volume 9, Issue 1  
September 2011

## Letter from the President

### **OFFICERS:2011-2013**

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**Civic Beautification**

*Dottie Miller*

*Gerie Schumann*

**Conservation & Birds**

*Nancy Hipp*

**Design Workshops**

*Beth Savage*

*Jeanne Sidoli*

**Historian**

*Helen Baird*

Dear Hard Working Garden Clubbers,

All your gardens and barrels have sparkled this summer—what a wonderful difference they make for our town! Thank you for all the time and hard work you spent on them.

This year I hope that, in addition to the work, our club will offer lots of fun and enjoyment for our members. Someone said to me over the summer that she was afraid the club “is all about money”. It makes me sad to think that anyone feels that way, and I am going to work hard to make sure that this myth is dispelled. Alma Davis and Pat Hirtle are planning our September 13th tea. Judie Palleschi has a wonderful array of interesting programs for you, and is already planning a lovely Holiday Lunch (not for profit) for members. Diane DiGennaro has a (not for profit) bulb sale planned for you at our October meeting. As we are ourselves a non-profit, I have decided to downplay charitable giving at our meetings so that no one feels she MUST have something to contribute in order to attend a meeting.

Please let me know how you think we can make membership in this club more enjoyable. I truly welcome suggestions. Hope to see you at the September meeting.

*Diane Schoenfelder, President*

## Civic Beautification

Thanks to all of you who toiled throughout the summer to tend Harwich’s parks and gardens as well as your own! Please know that fellow residents and members, visitors and grateful town officials take notice and appreciate your efforts. This year it was tough keeping up with the growth of shrubs and weeds which took off during ideal spring conditions. And we hope the one inch plus of rain at critical times helped relieve some of the watering pressures.

A few fall ideas include: shop the nursery sales for drought resistant perennials and shrubs to fill in areas that are sparse. Also, as you observe properties about town, notice plants with fall interest/color and put them on your must-have lists for planting in the spring. Replace the failed varieties and go for low maintenance as well as year-round interest. By all means, spring for some splashy new bulbs. Bulbs are so

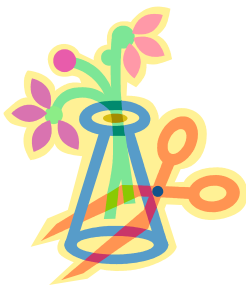
*Civic Beautification continued.....*

important on Cape because our annuals get a late start, as you know!

Civic Beautification Awards will be announced at the September meeting. There were five nominees in the business category and eight for a residence. We asked for volunteers to drive by the various locations and report back their first, second and third choices. We also put a piece in The Oracle requesting nominations from readers. Stay tuned!

*Dottie Miller, Geri Schumann, Chairpersons*

## Design Workshops



Our Design workshops will be held at the home of Beth Savage, 28 Ginger Plum Lane, West Harwich. With each workshop you will be designing exciting festive holiday arrangements for your table. All workshops will be limited to 15 people and must be prepaid.

The first sign up sheet will be available at the October 4th meeting.

October 27th —10:00 a.m.—Please bring a hollowed out sugar pumpkin-Cost \$15.00

November 18th—10:00 a.m.—Thanksgiving table swag—Cost \$20.00

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

*Beth Savage, Jeanne Sidoli, Chairpersons*



**September 13—12:15 p.m. Tea**

***Dahlias, Definitely Dahlias***

Ginny Ballou  
Owner, Mrs. Blossom's Flower Co.  
Dahlia Enthusiast & Teacher

**October 4 —1:00 p.m. Meeting**

***Bulbs and Companion Plants***

Laura D. Eisener  
Landscape Designer

**November 1—1:00 p.m. meeting**

***Hollies Around the World***

Bill Cannon, Brewster's "Holly Man"

## Horticultural Sweepstakes Gets Tweaked

Our horticultural sweepstakes program is undergoing a facelift. We will not be having the usual sweepstakes programs in September or April. We will, however, be up and running for our January and June entries. Stay tuned for more information as we tweak the process to be user friendly. Feel free to contact Diane DiGennaro if you have suggestions or insights into what you'd like the sweepstakes to become. ([riodd@comcast.net](mailto:riodd@comcast.net)). Our goal is to have more member participation and more member education. We appreciate your patience.



*DianeDiGennaro, Chairperson*

## Calling All Gardeners



Many folks have requested that we again offer the Open Garden Tours. The Horticulture Committee would be happy to orchestrate this, but we need your help. Sharon Oudemool will be spearheading the campaign to find gardeners to graciously open their spaces for others to enjoy. We are not looking for polished, designer landscaped perfect specimens. We are looking for dynamic, evolving gardens that are pleasing to the eye. Maybe you have a shade garden that you enjoy or a butterfly garden that you are proud of? Maybe you have a fabulous selection of sedums, grasses or hostas? We hope to add Master Gardeners in some of the gardens. They will make small presentations on the main feature(s) of the gardens. Please contact **Sharon at [oudemool@gmail.com](mailto:oudemool@gmail.com)** if you would like your garden to be considered or you can recommend a fellow gardener.

## Way and Means

Make sure you stop by and see what we have for gift giving items for yourself or others....We have wonderful leaf scoops, adjustable rakes and of course, plenty of garden gloves as well. We will have aprons for purchase at our meeting on September 13th.

*Carol Aimone, Joan Frederici, Chairpersons*

<b>Holiday</b>
<i>Christmas Lights</i>
<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>Judie Palleschi</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>

## Membership

*"If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies." Author unknown*

Our new year begins with many changes.

Grace Waystack is a new Life Time member. Congratulations Grace!

**New Associate members:** Joan Delaney, Carol Donohue, Pearl Fournier, Elizabeth Groves, Ann Haley, Nelle Huettig, Gwen Kelley, Rose-Marie Maloney, Mary McKeivitt, Elizabeth Naughton, Barbara Roessner, Patricia Rogers and Barbara Smith.

**Resignations:** Juell Buckwold, Mary Ann Cantella, Susan Granai, Cori McKnight, Eunice Maloney, Berry Mensing, Dusty Morris, Marilyn Stiles, Margaret Zaks, Audrey Osborn ( active members); Nina Profant and Judy Tierney ( associate members).



## New Members

Helena Lee Nossal - [hpnossal@aol.com](mailto:hpnossal@aol.com), 508-432-2117, Civic Beautification, telephone com.

Jane Martin - [janeemartin@comcast.net](mailto:janeemartin@comcast.net), 508-430-1257, Design, Conservation.

Aline Folding - [alinefolding@verizon.net](mailto:alinefolding@verizon.net). 508-430-4580, Civic Beautification, Conservation.

Joan Hudson - [Joanhudson@comcast.net](mailto:Joanhudson@comcast.net) 508-430-2738 Civic Beautification, Library  
Please welcome these members and include them in their areas of interest.

**Change** in membership committee:

A special thank you to Sue Hart for all her hard work as past membership chairman. New committee members include: Ginny O'Halloran, Estelle Beriau, and Nancy Jones. I'm happy to have Rosie Landis and Amy Natiello continue with this committee.

Please **help us** by **signing in** each month and by wearing your **name tag**.

Please see me for an application if you know anyone interested in joining our club.

*Susan Pleines, Chairperson*

## Garden Club Trivia

1. What former garden club member has conservation land named for her?
2. What bird nests within view of the Wychmere Overlook?
3. Which Mom/member (both mother and daughter are members) helped establish the Victorian garden at Brooks Academy in 1995?

Did you know that since 1999 the club has adopted 13 more town parks? Did you know that what we call Exchange Park is actually the entire pocket park on the corner of routes 124 and 39, the site of the Exchange Building which was demolished in 1964? The garden which we tend is actually Doane Memorial Garden, established in 1973 by CC Tech horticultural students in memory of Stephen, the young son of past

president (1940-1942) Mrs. Howard Doane.. To avoid confusion with Doane Park in Harwich Port, we now refer to this location as Exchange Park.

Do you have trivia questions you'd like to submit. Our historian, Helen Baird would be interested. Please e-mail her at [baird22@aol.com](mailto:baird22@aol.com). *Answers to trivia questions found on page 6*

## ***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,

I have admired my neighbor's dahlias for years. I finally got up the courage to ask her how she grows them and she told me that it was a secret that only real gardeners could know. How should I respond?

*Signed, Green with Envy*

Dear Envy,

Let me assure you that the vast majority of dahlia gardeners are giving of their time and their dahlias to all. Apparently, however, there are those few who have let their dahlia success go to their head. Can you blame them, really? Have you seen those Dinnerplate dahlias? It's not really difficult to grow dahlias, my dear. Here are her "secrets"...

Dahlias bloom best in full sun. They prefer sandy, well-drained soil. They must be planted each spring and should be cut back and removed each fall.

Tubers should be planted after the danger of frost and soil temperatures reach 58-60 degrees. Avoid planting in wet soil, since tubers are susceptible to rot. Dig a 12" x 12" hole. Add compost, bone meal and Dolomite lime to the removed soil. Fill the hole halfway with this mixture. Place a tuber horizontally in the bottom of the hole with the "eye" pointing up. Cover with 2" of soil and water well once. When sprout emerges, gradually add more soil until the hole is entirely filled. Stake now to avoid disturbing the growth. Stand back and be prepared to be wowed by these magnificent blossoms.

Blooms are heavy feeders, so feed monthly with a water soluble nitrogen fertilizer beginning a month before the plant blooms. Stop a month before frost is due.

After a frost, cut stems back to 6". Leave them for a week to produce new sprout "eyes" on the tubers. Dig a circle around the stub using a garden fork and carefully lift the clump out. Gently spray with a hose to remove dirt. Dry for a day in a cool dry place. Using a sharp, clean knife separate tubers. Only tubers with "eyes" need to be saved. Place these in a bed of sawdust or vermiculite in a box of cardboard or wood. Store in a dry place where temps will remain at 40 degrees. Begin the process again.

As for your neighbor, take the high road. Cut her a beautiful bouquet of your eye-popping dahlia blossoms and deliver them with your thanks for her inspirational words. (You may privately smirk all the way home.)

Yours for a more beautiful world,

*Gertie Gardener*



**Heads Up for the September Meeting:** Don't let your eyes glaze over when you see that this is about the proposed by-laws changes! But don't forget that you will be asked to vote on these changes. Two of the changes (an anti-discrimination clause and a plan for closing the financial books should our club close) are required for acceptance into the Federation of Garden Clubs--so a yes vote on these indicates that you look favorably on joining the Federation. If you have any questions about this, ask one of our officers or a board member. You might need to learn that it will be more difficult and more expensive to incorporate and seek non-profit status directly from the IRS--and we really do need to become a non-profit group. Some people are fearful that federation membership will place requirements on us. This is simply not true, and you are welcome to read a copy of the federation by-laws so that you can convince yourself of this fact: the only requirement placed on a garden club by the federation is that dues (\$3.50) be paid for each member. And the cost of the dues is considerably less than forming a non-profit corporation would cost. There are many benefits from joining the federation.

A third proposal asks that the term of office for vice president and president be changed from two years to one year each. This would make it more likely that a vice president would be willing to move into the presidency. As it works now, to have smooth succession requires a four year commitment by the candidate. Not many members are willing to do that. The fourth proposal asks that you approve something that has become common even though it is "against" our current by-laws which specify that the board MUST meet the Wednesday before the club's regular meeting. Eliminating this by-law will give the officers and board freedom to meet when it is convenient for them.

*Diane Schoenfelder, President*

## THINK SPRING



"Decorate Harwich with Daffodils!" The Garden Club of Harwich will again be selling daffodil bulbs!! This year, we are pleased to announce that we will be getting our daffodils from the same vendor as Heritage Museums and Gardens! We have selected a big, strong, early daffodil in the King Arthur style. The Gigantic Star is a beautiful yellow daffodil with a large trumpet that grows 20 inches tall. The bulbs are 16+ cm in size! These are premium bulbs and are packaged 25 to a bag. The price is \$22.50 per bag. We are willing to split bags selling a dozen bulbs for \$12. Or you may buy single bulbs, suitable for forcing, for \$1.50 per bulb.

Help will be needed in organizing sales to the general public in October. Sign up sheets will be available at the September meeting. Please offer two hours of your time to help with this endeavor.

We hope to have Garden Club member orders ready for distribution at the October meeting. However, this will depend upon the vendor. If necessary, an email will be distributed with information regarding how and when the bulbs will be available.

We realize this is a new direction for our sale. We are very excited to be offering premium bulbs. Did you see the daffodils at Brooks Pak last year? Gorgeous! So, please give this sale your support. Let's "Decorate Harwich with Daffodils!"

*Contact person for "Decorate Harwich with Daffodils" is Pattie Tworek.*

*Answers to Garden Club Trivia: 1.. Isabel Smith; 2. Osprey; 3. Mary Dillon (daughter, Beth Savage)*



# *The Garden Club of Harwich*

*Invites You to*

*A Fall Luncheon and Cards/Game Day*

*Allen Harbor Yacht Club*

*Thursday, October 13, 2011*

*Cash Bar 11:30*

*Luncheon Served 12:15*

*Donation \$25.00*

*Please Bring Your Own Cards or Game*

*Raffle Tickets will be Sold at the Luncheon*

*Please return form and donation as soon as possible to:  
Margaret Otis, 5 Eldridge Pond Road, Harwich, MA 02645*

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*Please make checks payable to: Garden Club of Harwich*

*NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_*

*Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

*# Luncheon Only \_\_\_\_\_ # Luncheon & Cards \_\_\_\_\_*

*Player #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Player #2 \_\_\_\_\_*

*Player #3 \_\_\_\_\_ Player #4 \_\_\_\_\_*

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



## Calendar of events

September 13, 2011  
12:15 p.m.

Tea  
**Dahlias, Definitely Dahlias**  
Ginny Ballou  
Owner, Mrs. Blossom's Flower Co.,  
Dahlia Enthusiast & Teacher

October 4, 2011  
1:00 p.m.

Meeting  
**Bulbs and Companion Plants**  
Laura D. Eisener  
Landscape Designer

October 13, 2011  
11:30 a.m.

**Fall Luncheon and Cards/Game Day**  
Allen Harbor Yacht Club

November 1, 2011  
1:00 p.m.

Meeting  
**Hollies Around the World**  
Bill Cannon  
Brewster's "Holly Man"