

OVER 130 YEARS OF MAKING LEXINGTON MORE BEAUTIFUL

Lexington Field & Garden Club



My Dear Fellow Members,

I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year! Thanks to the efforts of Ann Webster, Sue Bush and their dedicated team, we had another successful Greens Sale. My deepest thanks to all of you who helped in any way. We made about the same as last year, nearly \$4500. When we began the Greens Sale three years ago, the idea was to give members the opportunity to have fun using our decorative skills at a non-gardening time of year. The wonderful profit was far better than expected and has helped us to keep dues at their present rate.

Now it might seem that we have a very large bank account, but a club as large as ours is expensive to run and many of our reserve funds cannot be used for operating expenses. The funds we have in reserve that come from donations and Garden Tour profits are what help to pay for monthly meeting programs, community projects like the traffic islands, Arbor Day, town gardens and parks, as well our annual Althea Phillips Scholarship award. These core Club activities are essential to our charter as a community-focused garden club, and are the reason this Club was founded.

Our operating budget which is based on what it costs to run the Club, was set at just over \$15,000 for 2009-2010. Yearly dues bring in \$7000, covering less than half that amount. Adding the \$6500 profit from the Plant Sale last May, we still do not meet the budget. Included in this budget is the \$2000 per year that we donate to the Museum. The actual rental fee would be over \$6000, which would add another \$4000 to our operating costs. So you can see, we now rely on the money we raise from *all* our fundraising events, and that is why I am such a bug about member participation.

Having the Greens Sale profit prevents us from relying on just the Plant Sale and the Garden Tour to meet our financial needs. They take a great deal of planning and effort that can easily be undermined by bad weather, a bad economy, or a lack of participation. We obviously can't control the weather or the economy, but I am seeing that we also cannot count on member participation. Basically, about one third of our membership is active. I know there are many reasons for this, and many of them are good reasons. However, we cannot expect the people who have always taken up the slack to continue to be able to do so. And, I do not expect those members who have already done more than their share over the years to continue to do as much. We are fortunate enough to have them as a resource of history and knowledge.

General Meeting

January 13th,
9:30 AM

Refreshments

10:00: Meeting
10:30 Program

"The Sustainable Landscape"

with

Marie Stella
Landscape
Historian and Designer
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Now the reason I have made participation such a huge focus of my presidency is two-fold. First and foremost, active, happy members ensure a healthy organization, which means a *lasting* organization. Secondly, if the Museum was suddenly not available to us, or we needed to pay the full amount of \$6000., we would have to increase dues significantly. And where else in town would we be able to hold meetings for over 300 members? Of course, we could also consider changing the dues so that active members pay less and "supporting" members pay more. But I think that sort of defeats the idea of why people decide to join a club.

I am very pleased and grateful to our new members who have responded so favorably to the suggested service requirements we implemented this September. We saw many of you at the Greens Sale, and many have joined the ranks of traffic islanders and Emery Park workers. I am counting on you to be the driving force of our Club's future.

I really can't say this enough- you can be assured that all of us who are active in the Club get as much out of it as we give. This is one of the friendliest organizations you will find, and that fellowship is an important part of what we accomplish when we work together on all these events. Blessings to all of you in the New Year.

Kate Kathleen.Gill@verizon.net

Focus on Morning Study Group

Morning Study Group was founded in 1934. It is the oldest of the Club's five sub-groups. MSG meets eight times a year, on the second Tuesday of each month, September through April. The meetings are varied in content throughout the year. Programs include presentations on horticulture, civic endeavors, "hands-on" workshops, socials and at least one trip a year.

Since 1962, MSG members have designed, planted & maintained an herb garden at the Hancock-Clarke House -- both at the current location of the house, and previously, at its location across the street. MSG members also maintain & care for the Shelby Saylor Memorial apple trees which are planted on the grounds of the House.

In addition, each summer MSG works in conjunction with Guy and Elaine Doran (formerly of Doran's Garden Center) to maintain the plantings at the Minute Man Statue. MSG members also participate in the activities of the "big club" such as the Greens Sale, the Plant Sale, maintenance of Emery Park, Art-A-Blooming, and maintenance of the plants at the National Heritage Museum.

Requirements for membership include: being a member in good standing with the Lexington Field and Garden Club, attendance of at least four MSG meetings throughout the year, payment of dues, and participation in at least one on-going project of MSG. Meetings are mostly in members' homes. For this reason, the membership is limited to 40 regular members.

Prospective members must attend at least two meetings as the guest of a regular member and then complete an application and be sponsored by two MSG members.

The sponsors then submit letters of recommendation for the prospective member. If membership is full at the time, the candidate will go on a waiting list and will be accepted into MSG by board approval in order of application. Please call Sally Scott if you are interested in joining the Morning Study sub-group.



"The Sustainable Landscape"

Our program for January features Marie Stella, a landscape historian and designer with graduate certificates in Landscape Design and Landscape Design History from Harvard University. Her firm, *Kirin Farm Landscape Design* specializes in environmental landscapes, thematic gardens and finding initiatives to foster the preservation of open space.

She lectures frequently and leads local and foreign garden history tours. Marie teaches in the graduate program at The Landscape Institute, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, and is currently an adjunct faculty instructor in landscape design at The New York Botanical Garden and Tower Hill Botanical Garden. Her design projects include an environmental New York City park, "El Jardin Del Paraiso," a teaching herb garden at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and a master plan study for the new regional headquarters of the American Red Cross in Worcester, MA. She is a Gold Medal winner at the New England Flower Show.

Gardening Study School

Save some time for Course I, Series 9 of the Gardening Study School program to be held at Tower Hill, April 1 - 3, 2010. (April 1 and 2, 8am - 4pm and April 3, 8am - noon).

We will have great speakers once again: Dr. Judith Sumner on Botany, Paul Rogers on Soil, Laura Eisener on House Plants, John Trexler, Executive Director of Tower Hill, on Plant Propagation and Marie Stella on Sustainable, Eco-wise Planning and Planting.

These are all very timely topics for gardeners - experienced and non-experienced. Several members of LF&GC are enrolled in or have completed the program and highly recommend it.

Credit is given to those who take the exam. Take four courses and the exams and you can become a member of the Gardening Consultants Council. You can also just take the courses for the fun of it.

The fee is \$110 for members, \$100 for refreshers and \$140 for non-members. Lunch each day includes a sandwich or salad, beverage and a cookie. Choices are made when you sign up.

Required reading: *Living with Plants*, available from Davie McNamara (781)344-9472.

Recommended reading: *American Household Botany*, by Dr. Judith Sumner which is available at the Tower Hill Gift Shop.

For information or a flyer contact: Caroline Nijenberg, CoChairman of the Gardening Study School, 781-862-4465 or carolinen@rcn.com. You can print out a registration form from the GCFM website (www.gardencentral.org/gcfm) (click on schools).



Our Deepest Sympathy

We offer our deepest sympathy to fellow member and past President, Joan Farr, in the loss of her husband Dick. Dick was a very active member whose help was invaluable at Plant Sale time. Please keep Joan and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Yearbook Corrections & Additions

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Please be sure that your information in the Yearbook is correct. Contact Mei Shei with any changes or edits.

What's Going On ?

Events and Happening to Mark On Your Calendar

Jan. 12th, Tuesday, "Chinese Garden Tour" presented by our member Lynette Tsiang , North Parish Church, North Andover 7:00-9:00 PM

Jan. 13th, Wednesday, "The Sustainable Landscape" with Marie Stella. 9:30 AM. Reading Garden Club members will be joining us for our meeting and program at the Museum of Our National Heritage.

Jan.27th, Wednesday, Designing Principles II, 10:00 AM, Espousal Center, Waltham, snow date is Jan.28th.



**Please Welcome Reading Garden Club
Members To January's Meeting**

We are most happy to welcome members of the Reading Garden Club to our January meeting and program. Please do your best to meet and greet them before and after.



Lexington Field and Garden Club
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