

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT 2013-2014
PERENNIAL PLANTERS GARDEN CLUB

Frances Trafton, Jane O'Farrell, co-chairs

September 11, 2013 10:30 am Four Club Luncheon hosted by the Little Compton Garden Club, held at the Sakonnet Golf Club there. Lunch with speaker Nan Simpson whose topic, "The Essence of the Garden: What Makes a Garden Memorable" was enhanced by a local garden tour.

Tuesday, October 8, 10 am Conservation Chair and photographer, Jill Brody, led a small group of intrepid photographers on a clinic outdoors, followed by hot soup at her Providence home.

Tuesday, October 22, 10 am Cynthia Mason sheltered the group under her carport, as the trial run of making hypertufa containers were made in preparation for the Zone II Meeting in May. A materials fee covered expenses. [Hypertufa pots for the Zone Meeting were subsequently made in batches & cured under the superb guidance of Horticulture Chair, Kathleen Leddy].

Tuesday, November 12, 3 pm Lynne Merrill of the Newport Garden Club, created five very different lovely arrangements, providing helpful commentary and taking questions as she worked. These arrangements were then raffled to the assembled group, and funds raised were sufficient to pay Lynn's fee.

Tuesday, December 10 Greens Workshop, 2-4 pm. This event was planned to take place at the Tockwotten Home, providing an activity for Tockwotten residents as we assembled greens for area nursing homes and the women's shelter. However, a contagious bug at Tockwotten dictated a change in plans, as the elderly residents there were advised to keep to themselves until the virus had run its course. Central Congregational Church came to the rescue and we were able to set up tables to make the greens baskets, producing approximately 45, leaving some at Central, and delivering the rest. As always, a very popular meeting.

Wednesday, January 15, 5:30 pm at the home of Frances Trafton. Members brought delicious light refreshments, which were enjoyed as we heard a presentation by Mary Blue of Farmacy Herbs on herbal teas and tinctures, including remedies for various ailments. Her shop at 28 Cemetery Street, off North Main Street, across from North Burial Ground, is open for visitors; go to www.farmacyherbs.com for hours of operation. Following her talk, Dotsy Davison chaired the remainder of the meeting to discuss the Zone II Meeting that Perennial Planters will host in Providence on May 20-21, 2014.

Wednesday, February 19, 6 pm: President's Dinner at the Hope Club with Eric Chivian, MD as speaker. Dr. Chivian is the founder and past director of the Program on Biodiversity & Human Health at Harvard University, and currently founder and director of Program to Save the Natural World. He addressed the issue of species extinction due to climate change, and the potential losses to humans as a result. Members and guests included board members of the Conservation Law Foundation. Funds in excess of \$2000 were raised to support Perennial Planters' registration and travel to Zone and National GCA meetings. Thanks to Judy Taft for her assistance with securing our speaker, who generously did not charge us a fee.

Thursday, March 13, 5:30 pm: Movie Night! *Vanishing of the Bees* was shown at the home of President Robin Gross, and popcorn enjoyed by all!

Wednesday, April 2, 5:30-7 pm "Handicraft in Bloom" at the Handicraft Club, Providence. Works of art in different media were volunteered by Handicraft Club artists, and five were selected to be paired with teams from Perennial Planters to create a complimentary flower arrangement. This show brought members of both clubs together for the reception on April 2, with food and beverages, and good

conversation. Thanks to Fraser Gilbane, member of both clubs, for coordination of this fun event. Expenses were shared equally. Thanks to the RI Federated GC for their loan of the pedestals, delivered and returned by Handicraft Club (and South County GC) member, Janice Panoff.

May 6 Field Trip to Robin Hollow Farm, Saunderstown, RI. Polly Hutchison welcomed our group to her farm where she grows flowers sold at RI farmers' markets and creates arrangements for weddings and other events, including the Zone II meeting in May. Through careful use of greenhouses, the growing "seasons" of flowers are extended, to provide the flowers folks request for their events. As the only commercial grower of flowers in RI, Polly would welcome some competition in order to be less busy. Look for their flowers at your farmer's market this summer! Despite it's being a week before their plant sale, Polly was glad to sell us both annuals and perennials to take home to our own gardens.

May 20-21, Zone II Meeting at the Hope Club, Providence. Many registrants enjoyed a garden tour along Benefit Street, led by RI Historical Society guides on Tuesday afternoon, followed by dinner in the homes of Perennial Planter members in groups of up to 20! With the theme of local-local-local, the entrée and dessert from Chez Pascal featured meat from Pat's Pastured (RI) with local vegetables and fruits. Hostess pairs offered hors d'oeuvres, salad and bread, and served local wine provided by the meeting budget. All made for a tasty LOCAL evening. Thanks to the many Planters who pitched in to make this happen!

June 3, 11 am, Kathleen Leddy will welcome Perennial Planters for our Annual Meeting at her home in Seekonk (44 Prospect Street) with potluck lunch to follow. The invitation sent via our Constant Contact, has asked members to RSVP indicating their intended dish to share.

Next year's programs include a September meeting in Little Compton, with members bringing something from their gardens to share, from flowers to melons, a return to St. Mary's Home for Children for the Christmas Greens Workshop, a workshop with Rick Peckham to make sedum frames or planters, and a movie night with spouses and pot luck supper! Watch for your pink pages in early September.

Respectfully submitted, Frances Trafton, Program Committee Co-Chair
May 19, 2014