

Horticulture Report

Annual Events 2013-2014

Kathleen Leddy, Chair

June 2013

Mum Standards

As part of participation in a Connecticut flower Show, four club members grew mum standards through the summer. All were successful and the best specimen was selected and entered in the flower show.

September/October 2013

Gavel Challenge

As PP is hosting the Zone II meeting we selected the native shrub, pinxterbloom azalea and distributed over 3500 seed to 20 clubs. A handout describing the plant and its growing conditions was designed and accompanied the mailing. The germination rate was not highly rated and so we sent more seeds than is typical. The handout was posted on the PP website.

October 2013

Hypertufa Workshop

Our Club held a workshop to create hypertufa pots at the October monthly meeting. This was led by Kathleen Leddy and had about 12 attendees. As a result of our fun and success, the decision was made to make 100 small quart size pots through the winter for gifts at the Zone II meeting in May. These were made by PP members during four sessions in Kathleen's heated garage.

December 2013-January 2014

Gavel Challenge

Due to the unsuccessful germination of the pinxterbloom azalea we selected another native flowering perennial to grow for the May Gavel Challenge. *Lobeila cardinalis* seeds were distributed to 20 clubs and a handout describing the plant and its growth habits was designed and mailed. This handout was also posted on the PP website.

April 2014

Seeds

Taking advantage of a Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener program at URI, we ordered hundreds of packets of free flower and vegetable seeds for our members and for distribution in the gift bags for our Zone II meeting attendees.

May 2014

Milkweed Project

As part of the national GCA mission to enhance habitat and an environment to support the monarch butterfly we ordered about 1000 Milkweed seeds to germinate. These include an assortment of Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed and Butterfly Weed. While the Common milkweed is a food source to the caterpillars, the other plants provide nectar and pollination for the monarch butterfly. We are currently cooperating with the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center to germinate these seeds in their greenhouses. While we have several ideas and options, planting locations have not yet been decided as we are quite unsure of germination success.