

# Sutton Garden Club News

*Apr 2011*

website : [suttongardenclub.com](http://suttongardenclub.com)



If you would like to save the club money, time and become more eco-friendly, please let me know if you would like to receive the newsletter via email only ([mrannikko@yahoo.com](mailto:mrannikko@yahoo.com)).

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Victorian Tea

Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 pm

Location : Dudley Gendron, 156 Boston Road, Sutton, MA



Music and Merriment will be this year's Victorian theme. Special presentations by Art Martin, Historian and Dance Captain OSV Dancers and Susan de Guardiola, Music and Dance Historian and Dance Educator.

You are sure to enjoy fine food, entertainment and company. Seating is limited so please fill out form in newsletter.

### April is the time to:

- Rake leaves off of beds before plants start to come up
- Direct sow peas and lettuce seeds
- When chrysanthemums show signs of life, dig up and divide large plants
- Prune winter damaged shrubs and tree branches
- Hang in there because May is coming soon

## 2011 Calendar of Events for SGC

April 19: Victorian Tea

May 14: Plant Sale at Sutton Common

May 17: Prune Your Garden Beautiful

June: World Association of Flower Arrangers Competitions

August: Picnic location TBD

### *Annual Plant Sale on the Sutton Common Saturday, May 14 9am to 12pm (Rain or Shine)*

The Plant Sale is our major fundraiser and is needed to support activities and community projects. Your help is needed to make this event a success. You have been caring for those perennials year after year and now is your chance share their beauty. It may even inspire a novice to start a garden and begin enjoying a new hobby.

#### Silent Auction

The silent auction brings in nearly the same amount as the plant sale. This year we are looking for volunteers to visit businesses for donations. We hope to have various people stopping by the businesses so that the list is more manageable.

#### Members Basket

We are asking for each member to donate a gardening item for the Silent Auction.

#### Bake Table

We are also looking for your expertise in the kitchen by donating a baked good. Pies, cakes, breads are very popular (brownies have not been a big seller).

#### Crafters

Crafters add interest and complement our plant sale.

For questions, please contact  
mrannikko@yahoo.com.

## Waters Farm Sale of Annual Plants and Bake Sale

Waters Farm is offering a selection of annual plants in flats, hanging baskets, geraniums, tomatoes, peppers, and herbs for sale.

Use the order form at [www.watersfarm.com](http://www.watersfarm.com) to send in your prepaid orders by May 1, 2011. Your orders will arrive for pick up at the Darling Barn at Waters Farm on May 21, 2011 between 9:00 am and 11:00. The 4-H will be doing a community garden again and would appreciate vegetable donations. When you pick up your pre-ordered plants, stop by the Bake Sale.

## Volunteers Needed for Victorian Tea

The Victorian Tea scheduled for April 19. The Victorian Tea Committee is looking for volunteers to help with food, decorating, set up, break down and other group activities that will make the evening a wonderful event.

## College Scholarship \$\$\$

The club will award at least one \$500 scholarship. All graduating students who are residents of Sutton and from other towns who are related to Sutton Garden Club member are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to students who intend to pursue studies in plant sciences and related fields. Applications for scholarships are available by emailing [jawhit@verizon.net](mailto:jawhit@verizon.net). The application Deadline is April 15.

## “Dividing Perennials Guide”



### **WHEN**

It is best to divide perennials on cloudy days. A hot sunny day can cause the plants to dry out. Divide your plants at least 2 weeks in advance of the Plant Sale (3 or more weeks is even better!); this will give the plants a chance to adjust to life in a pot.

### **HOW**

If possible, water plants thoroughly a day to two before you divide (or divide after it rains). Use a spading or garden fork to dig down on all four sides of the plant, at least 4 to 6 inches away from the plant. Pry underneath with your fork (or shovel) and lift up the entire clump. Shake or hose off loose soil and remove dead leaves stems and roots. This will help loosen tangled root balls and make it easier to see where the clump can be easily separated.

Plants with fibrous root systems can simply be cut into pieces with a sharp tool (garden scissors or knife). For perennials with rhizomes or tubers (e.g. iris and daylilies), you may need to use two garden forks back-to-back in the plant center, or a sharp spade to pry the pieces apart. Plants with a very tough, vigorous root system (e.g. ornamental grasses) may have to be divided with a shovel, saw, or ax.

Be sure to obtain an ample sample of roots. Place the division into a pot; fill with potting soil or compost and gently press down against the root systems to eliminate air pockets. Water thoroughly. Even sun loving plants will do better after potting if kept in a bright spot, but out of direct sun.

### **LABELING**

Please label plants with as much information as possible including as possible: name (common and Latin, if you know it); whether it prefers sun or shade; height; bloom time; color; and anything else you know about it. The Internet is a great resource for color photos and plant information. Print out the plant information, place in a Ziploc bag (in case of rain) and securely attach to the pot. Unfortunately last year, we had to discard plants that had no labels on them. Even if you can only indicate sun/shade or blooming information, it would give us something to go by for pricing.

### **A BONUS!**

Dividing perennials not only helps control their size but also serves to rejuvenate those plants that have become over-crowded, have yellowing or dead centers, or have become infested with weeds. So when you go out and choose what plants to divide this year, you are giving yourself a gift of a renewed and healthier plant, in addition to helping the Garden Club with a donation to the Plant sale!

### **DROP OFF**

Drop off your divisions to the left side of Ann McDevitt's home at 130 Singletary Ave, Sutton, MA. For directions, please call 508-917-8421.



*The 3rd Annual  
Sutton Garden Club  
VICTORIAN TEA PARTY*

*Tuesday Evening APRIL 19th, 2011*

*7:00 P.M.*

*DUDLEY GENDRON LEGION POST  
BOSTON ROAD  
SUTTON, MA*

*Come enjoy a spot of tea  
A cup for you and a cup for me  
With fine food and company!  
Music and merriment will draw you in...  
Promptly at seven -we will begin!*

*Please plan to wear your favorite hat!*

\$12.00 for Sutton Garden Club Members  
\$15.00 for Non-Members

*Seating is limited please order Tickets early -*  
For more information call 508 865 9854 or 508 865 2417

.TO PURCHASE TICKETS SEND THE FOLLOWING FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:  
SUTTON GARDEN CLUB C/O JANET WHITTIER 693 CENTRAL TPKE. SUTTON, MA 01590.  
*Proceeds Benefit Local Projects and Scholarships*

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**Sutton Garden Club Victorian Tea**  
**Tickets**

***April 19, 2011 (Please RSVP by April 11<sup>th</sup>)***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member Tickets @ \$12.00 # \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member Tickets @\$15.00 # \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## *It's time to renew your membership in the Sutton Garden Club*



*Sign up for another year of  
interesting and educational speakers and hands-on-projects  
helping and planning community beautification  
annual plant sale  
and.....the friendship of people who speak the Language of Flowers*

Please provide the following information for our membership and program booklet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Preference( please check one)



**E-mail**



**USPS**

OFFICERS ( Please circle position of interest)

President      Vice President      Steering Committee  
Secretary- Treasurer -      Membership - Newsletter - Publicity

All members are encouraged to serve on one or more committees.  
Please check any of the following items of interest to you



Bandstand - Planting - watering

Bandstand - winter decorate

Plant Sale

Programs / Events



Refreshments

Scholarship

Victorian Tea



*Please list below any skills you might like to offer our club: i.e. Gardening expertise, computer skills, writing ability, event organizing, etc.*

Dues are paid in April and May ( for the coming year) to give the committee time to assemble our book for August distribution.

Dues: \$20.00 Individual, \$30.00 Family - Checks payable to Sutton Garden Club

Mail entire page to : Janet Whittier, 693 Central Turnpike, Sutton, Ma 01590



**The World Association of Flower Arrangers (WAFA) 2011 is coming to America and SGC will be there!**

The show theme, 'This Glorious Earth,' embraces both the worldwide scope and the celebratory nature of the event. This is the first time that the United States has hosted the show, which probably won't return to the States in this generation.



SGC member Ann McDevitt has the honorary opportunity to assist Grand Master Alison Bradley (editor of Fusion Flowers magazine) backstage.

Schedule on Sunday June 19:  
8:45 am Leave Sutton

10 am – 1:30 pm Seaport Conference Centre: See 600 competition pieces from all over the world , plus vendors . Restaurant will be open for lunch, snacks (or bring your own).

2-4:30 pm The Wang Theatre: 5 Grand Master Flower Arrangers from Germany, Scotland, France, Spain and Holland. This is a once in a life time chance to see the best in the world, demonstrate on stage what can be achieved with fresh plant material. You won't believe your eyes.

The Sutton Garden Club will travel by limousine to Boston. Seating in the Limo is limited to 10 people so do not delay and send in your payment. Cost is \$135 which includes transportation, show and demonstration entry fee.

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Sutton Garden Club WAFA Tickets June 19, 2011

RSVP by April 20th - SUTTON GARDEN CLUB C/O JANET WHITTIER 693 CENTRAL TPKE.  
SUTTON, MA 01590.

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Tickets @ \$135 #\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

## Espalier in Your Backyard By Erica Frew (Part 1 of 2)

Espalier is the art of training of woody stemmed trees, shrubs, or vines to a flat plane. Grapes trained in vineyards have demonstrated for hundreds of years the benefits this technique yields in both space savings and fruit yield. In the mid-1600s Father Legendre of Hanonville France noticed that fruit trees planted nearest to the monastery walls were spared from the bud-killing last frosts of the season. As he began to run out of space near the walls he started to shear the trees and discovered this pruning had a positive effect of causing the plants to produce more fruit.

<http://www.vegetablegardener.com/tag/espalier/tag/apples>



Fruit trees, one of the most popular types of plant material trained in this method, are generally espaliered against a wall, space, building, or in some cases as a free-standing screen or hedge. Often associated with more formal landscapes of old European estates, espalier is in fact an easy way for the modern backyard gardener to have room in a small yard to care for and maintain attractive fruit trees.

Make sure you are purchasing trees that are compatible with our climate zone 5 and that you know if they are self-fertilizing or require another specific tree nearby for

pollination. Mature espaliered fruit trees require a strong support, especially when laden with their mature crop. Know the general guidelines for fertilizing, watering, and disease / pest control for the trees you are considering. <http://eatdrinkbetter.com/2009/06/21/you-can-grow-an-espalier-fruit-tree>



The simplest fruit tree to espalier is the apple due to the pliable nature of its young branches. Most apple trees require 6-8 hours of sun during the growing season and good soil drainage. Ideally you want to grow on a south-facing or west-facing support. Starting with one-year-old "whips" is best, several catalog companies specialize in fruit trees with wide selections that can be purchased at the whip-stage. Miller Nurseries in New York, Starks Brothers in Missouri, and Grandpas Orchard in Michigan all have great apple tree selections in

their online catalogs. [http://www.hhnursery.com/fruit\\_trees/index.php?catid=1&treeid=35](http://www.hhnursery.com/fruit_trees/index.php?catid=1&treeid=35)

Apple trees for espalier should be dwarf varieties, essentially grafted onto dwarfing rootstocks. The most common are the Malling (M) rootstocks, developed at the Malling research station in England, or the Cornell-Geneva (CG) Rootstocks created at the Geneva Research station in New York. Apple varieties should be spur-bearing (as opposed to tip bearing), which refers to trees that produce apples on small thorn or spur-shaped branches off of main branches.

*This article continues in May's newsletter.*



Sutton Garden Club  
c/o Whittier  
693 Central Turnpike  
Sutton, MA 01590

April 2011 newsletter

White Flower Farm, Litchfield CT [www.whiteflowerfarm.com](http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com) Submitted by Liz Bradley



You know the name, White Flower Farm. You see their perennials sold at almost every garden center you go to. Healthy and vibrant plants. Awesome survival rates. We went to the actual Farm where the plants are grown and get shipped from. It's about a 2 hour ride (yes, only crazy gardeners travel this far for gardening) to western Connecticut in Litchfield, almost as picturesque as Sutton ☺! Their display gardens are fabulous. All the plants are so strong, requiring almost no staking, colorful, healthy, and many for sale at the store. You'll enjoy strolling through the grounds. Don't miss the "moon" garden in the back of the property near the "home". All the plants are shades of white.

They have one green house devoted entirely to tuberous begonias. They are advertised as from "world-famous English nursery, Blackmore and Langdon". I'm not sure how important the name is.....all I can say is that they deserve to come from royalty. The blooms were perfect. Both the plant and its blooms were so big and colorful – pinks, peaches, whites, reds, multicolor. There were lots of different varieties. Some were for sale, too. I've never seen anything like it. We couldn't choose a favorite. I wish I had taken some photos to put in the newsletter, but I did find one on their website – trust me, you'll be extremely awed when you see them in person.