

Sutton Garden Club News

June 2011

website : 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).

We braved the cold and rain to learn from expert pruner Joseph Biagioni (Arbor Alliance). His tools are bypass blade and curved orchard saw. He does not recommend anvil type cutters because they compress the wood. He stressed the importance of removing dead wood immediately because the rot can travel to the center of the tree.

His five basic steps are:

1. Cut close (to the nearest intersection)
2. Remove all dead wood
3. Remove broken and rubbing branches
4. Remove suckers and water sprouts
5. Prune for size and shape



Thank you to Cindy Cardone for providing delicious refreshments for the May program and to Marie Bastone for supplying beverages and condiments that evening and throughout the year.

2011 Calendar of Events for SGC

- o June: World Association of Flower Arrangers (WAFA) trip to Boston; members are encouraged to attend this fabulous event
- o June 14: Bemis Birdbath Workshop
- o August Annual Picnic and Auction

Grafton Historic Homes and Gardens Tour

Visit nine of Grafton's beautiful homes and gardens

Sunday, June 12, 2011
noon-5pm

Tour begins at the Grafton Common



Advanced ticket: **\$15**

On sale at Perreault Nursery and Grafton Country Store
Day of the Tour: **\$20**

Presented by

The Grafton Garden Club and the Grafton Historical Society

Tower Hill Botanic Garden

11 French Drive · Boylston, MA 01505
Tel: 508.869.6111

25th Annual Plant Sale
Saturday, June 4, 2010

MEMBERS Gain FREE Early 9am Admission!

Only Tower Hill Members are admitted from 9am-11am, the general public is admitted at 11am. Join on-the-spot and instantly gain early admission; plus Members receive a 10% discount on all THBG plant purchases!

Tower Hill's annual plant sale features rare and unusual plants of all kinds-- woody trees and shrubs, groundcovers, perennials, annuals, natives, vegetables, Cary Award plants, tender subtropicals, and more. This year, the sale will also feature specialty nurseries and purveyors of garden ornaments and accessories. Harvey's Farm of Westborough, Mass will give away 100 plants during the 9-11am Members' Only sale with any THBG Plant Purchase of \$50 or more, first come first serve, while supplies last.

Cost: FREE to Members; \$5 per carload for non-members

Building a Raised Bed (part 1 of 2)

Submitted by D. Rafferty-her friend Bonnie was featured on this blog
<http://safe-fertilizer-reviews.com/blog/2010/07/an-interview-with-a-raised-bed-gardener/>

When and why did you first start gardening?

My first exposure to gardening was as my grandfather's "apprentice". Growing up, I lived next door to my grandfather who was an avid gardener and, as a little girl, I spent many hours watching him care for his gardens. I remember helping him plant the seeds in his basement in the spring and setting them under the grow lights. We'd check them daily and raise the lights as the plants grew.

In our area, Memorial Day was the time to plant. The anticipation of planting day was felt weeks before. When the "frost free" day finally arrived, he would show me how to plant the seeds and set in the seedling after hardening them off. He would always put a paper ring around the tomatoes to protect them from the [cutworms](#).



He would have me weed (my least favorite garden chore!) for him. And he would pay me 10 cents a piece for every "cabbage moth" I could catch.....I didn't make a whole lot of money, they are not easy to catch in flight! I think it was his way of getting me out from under foot! And as the summer months progressed, he would ask me to sit with him in lawn chairs just outside the gardens edge to "watch the garden grow" with him. The memory of how good the

vegetables tasted, still warm from the sun, has always driven my desire to grow my own.

I have been gardening with perennials for many years but it wasn't till 2003, that my husband and I decided to try our luck with a vegetable garden. We started off small the first few years and slowly expanded our garden to about 30 ft by 40 ft. We wanted fresh, organic produce rather than the tasteless produce that's found in most grocery stores today. We also added a flock of laying hens to our family 4 years ago. You can't imagine how nice it is to wake up in the morning, walk over to the garden, pick some fresh veggies, gather a few eggs and make an omelet.....it doesn't get any better! A true slice of Heaven on earth.

Why did you decide to use raised beds to garden?



I've wanted to build raised beds for years. My first exposure to them was back in the 70's. A good friend built some and convinced me that it was the way to go.

It had been difficult to keep up with the weeding (even with mulching between the rows) in our large garden. And I have to admit that for several years, the weeds won!

We also had a few years of squash bug and cucumber beetle infestations. Very frustrating and disappointing!



After struggling with gardening in a big open plot for a few years, it became clear to me that it was time to build some beds. It took some convincing on the part of my husband. He loves his rototiller and was reluctant to give up the spring ritual.

In March of this year, we constructed 10 boxes. We put down landscaping screen between the rows and topped it off with about 3 inches of pea stone. No more tracking garden mud into the house! Now that the beds are complete and the garden is thriving, he's a raised bed convert!

What is your top piece of advice for any new gardener using raised beds?

I would suggest a few things. When constructing the beds, make sure you leave enough space between them to maneuver a small wheel barrel and make sure that they are not too wide. Ours are 4 feet wide allowing us to reach the middle from both sides. Make sure the soil you use to fill your beds has plenty of organic matter.

When we constructed our beds, we attached a piece of 1 inch pvc piping to the inside of the box every couple of feet equally on either side. Then we insert a length of ½ pvc pipe from one side to the other forming arches all along the length of the box. It can be used to drape plastic or shade cloth to form a row cover. It worked like a charm this spring as we were able to protect our tomatoes from a couple of killing frosts!



2010 Plant Sale

Thank you to the members who help out with the Plant Sale. Your willingness to spend several hours ensures that we can support our community and educational activities.

Scholarships

This year our garden club is awarding three \$500.00 scholarship to graduating Sutton High School seniors for a total of \$1,500

Jehan Dolbashian: She pursues a large variety of hobbies and activities. She is a member of the National Honor Society, volleyball team, photography club. She participated in educational tours through Spain and Costa Rica gaining an understanding of different cultures. She fundraises for Girl Scouts, Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, Senior Center. She was a model in the SCT 2010 Victorian Tea. Jehan also plays the piano. She will further her education with a major in environmental studies at the University of Vermont.

Alanna McLaughlin: She has a passion for music that started in the third grade with violin lessons. She was accepted in the Worcester Youth Symphony Orchestra and played first violin in concert venues like Mechanics Hall. Alanna is a member of the Future Teachers of America and volunteers in an elementary classroom weekly. As a member of Venture Crew, she organized food drives for the Sutton Food Pantry. This year, her AP Environmental class interested her so greatly she decided to major in Environmental Science. Her choices for college are University of Vermont and UMass Amherst.

Gabe Winant: Gabe's letter starts out saying he is a determined individual who takes a lot of pride in a job well done. He competes in a sport each season: cross-country, indoor track and ski club. He is also a member of the concert band, performing public concerts and marching band. His areas of interest are Environmental Science and Biology. He plans to attend either Plymouth State or UMass.

Please frequent these businesses as they are generous supporters of the Sutton Garden Club Plant Sale and our community activities.



95 Brigham Hill Road • Grafton, Massachusetts • (508) 839-0527

John Mapel is a professionally trained propagator, horticulturist and garden designer. In season, they feature hard to find exotic plants, annuals, perennials, herbs and 60+ cultivars of your favorite tomatoes! Mapel Plants is closed for the season, but you can visit them at the Grafton Farmers' Market on Grafton Common every Thursday 2pm-6:30pm from July 8 to October 21.



21 Grace Ave • Sutton, MA • (508) 865-5999

Windle Landscaping is your neighborhood stop when you want to beautify your property. They build patios, walkways and walls and expertly plant trees/shrubs. Also, they offer loam/mulch delivery.

Windle Landscaping does complete property maintenance from spring to fall cleanups as well as snow removal. Chris Windle has been a strong supporter of bandstand planting and silent auction.

**Field Trip June 14 Tuesday 6:00pm
Sand Cast Workshop at Bemis Farm Nursery in Spencer**



Please join the Sutton Garden Club on a trip to Bemis Farm Nursery for a workshop given by Tina. We will be making a concrete birdbath out of a giant leaf or collage of smaller leaves, and return when dried to paint and water seal it. Wear old clothes and bring gloves.

Tina is a wonderful teacher and we look forward to creating another masterpiece with her. You may also choose to come early to browse Bemis Nursery's wonderful selection of plants, flowers, trees, shrubs and beautiful glazed pottery. You may view their full offerings and this project at

www.bemisfarmsnursery.com

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RSVP by June 3, 2011 (at least 10 participants are needed for the workshop; maximum number of participants limit applies so send in form ASAP)

Please mail form to:
Janet Whittier
Sutton Garden Club
693 Central Turnpike
Sutton, MA 01590

Any questions, please call
Minna 508-581-9545

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

Make check payable to: Sutton Garden Club.

I am an SGC member - \$13 check

I am not an SGC member - \$25 check

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



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

We Shall Keep the Faith

by Moina Michael, November 1918

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

