



Newsletter

Editor: Karen Cord Taylor

SPRING 2014

President's Letter

Dear BHGC members,

This will be my last letter to you as club president, so I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you what an honor and delight it has been to lead this august organization over the past two years. Thanks to all for your dedication, especially to the members of our hard-working board of directors who commit so much time and energy into making this club vibrant and successful.

This winter's weather has been exceptionally challenging, so it is with great anticipation that we look to spring and our upcoming



President Sharon Malt and provisional member Dola Stenberg planted daffodils last fall in the Back Bay as part of Diane Valle's effort to plant 100,000 daffodils along the route of the Boston Marathon. The daffodils will bloom the week of the marathon. They will memorialize and honor the bombing victims, but will also serve as a sign of rebirth of the marathon, not as tragedy, but of the unflagging human spirit.

activities which started with our participation in the Boston Flower & Garden Show in March (see story), and will continue with our display at Art In Bloom on April 26-28, civic planting days in April and May, and of course our tour on May 15th. We will finish up the year at our annual meeting in Nahant on June 4.

Serving as president has given me an opportunity to get to know so many of you better and to share experiences I will remember for a lifetime. I've enjoyed the camaraderie, the laughs, as well as participating in the never-ending quest for knowledge that gardening and caring for the environment brings to us individually and as a club. Thanks for your encouragement and support.

Sharon Malt, President

Garden club members lobby Mass. elected officials to support conservation and clean energy goals

Leslie Adam and Diana Coldren from the Beacon Hill Garden Club joined several hundred other garden club members from around the country at the annual three-day Conservation/National Affairs and Legislation meeting in Washington D. C., sponsored by the Garden Club of America.



At the GCA's National Affairs and Legislation meeting in Washington, Chestnut Hill Garden Club members Michele Hanss and Carolyn Thayer-Ross joined BHGC representatives Diana Coldren and Leslie Adam in meeting Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, who supports the policies the GCA promotes.

The themes of the meeting were climate change and the importance of resiliency, alternative energy and supporting the new EPA regulations limiting existing plant emissions, due out this June.

More than 20 speakers presented such topics as the die-back of helpful insects due to toxic chemicals like Roundup, which kills milkweed, the primary food source of monarch butterflies. Speakers also pointed out that February was the 336th consecutive month of above-average global temperatures, a point that United States citizens, buried under the Polar Vortex, might have missed. Another speaker lamented the poor condition of the national Mall between the Capitol and the Washington Monument due to lack of Congressional funding. But he was hopeful that private money would bring back some of its glory.

GCA President Katie Heins urged garden clubs to contribute to the Save the Redwoods initiative, which is still underfunded by about \$100,000. The BHGC has donated to this cause in the past and will continue to do so.

Leslie and Diana met with local congressmen and senators or their staffs to present GCA position papers on clean air, clean water, climate change, the national park system, alternative energy, the preservation of native plants and national public lands. and environmentally responsible transportation.

Senator Elizabeth Warren seemed especially familiar with GCA's goals and the gardening world in general. Leslie and Diana urged her to continue her valuable support for the EPA and conservation matters. They were mindful that some GCA members from other states would not have such a welcome reception as they did.

BHGC wins ribbons, sells books at the Boston Flower & Garden Show

Sharon Malt & Jeanne Burlingame, Show Coordinators



Sandra Gilpatrick's sweet table arrangement received an honorable mention at the recent Boston Flower & Garden Show.

Sandra Gilpatrick and Betsy Madsen entered floral designs in Mass. Horticultural Society's flower show. Sandra's maiden voyage in flower design competition awarded her an honorable mention for her table display, and Betsy won third prize for her entry. Congratulations to them, and thanks to all who participated in the show!

Beacon Hill Garden Club was literally front and center at the Boston Flower & Garden Show at the Seaport World Trade Center from March 12-16. Hosted by landscape design firm, Zen Associates, our club set up a table display of tour and book materials at Zen's prime location at the entrance to the show.

Twenty-one members, one husband and volunteer Donna Petro represented the club, informing the thousands of attendees about the upcoming Hidden Gardens Tour and promoting our new book. We even sold some tickets and books in the process.

The Boston Globe reported the following in its March 12th Style section, "Zen Associates of Woburn has worked with the philanthropic Beacon Hill Garden Club to create a garden that will promote the club's nationally famous garden tour, Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill, held this year on May 15...and the club's fifth book, *The Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill: Creating Green Spaces in Urban Places*, with commentary and photography from Peter Vanderwarker and Thomas Lingner."



Jeanne Burlingame (left) and Karen Fischer staffed the garden club's table at the Boston Flower & Garden Show on the first day of the show. Attendees bought advance tickets to the tour, and we sold about two cartons of books.

Members prepare for the holidays at the Greens Workshop



Once again Lisa Meaders organized a holiday workshop complete with an assortment of greenery and dried flowers to help members decorate their homes for the holidays. From the left, Sandra Gilpatrick, Sonja Yates and Betsy McMeel combined twigs, greens and fresh lilies for a fragrant variation on a typical holiday arrangement.

A NOTE FROM ELSIE:

Civic Planting Co-Chair Elsie Herrmann

We joined the Beacon Hill Garden Club because we enjoy gardening and take pride in making Beacon Hill and Boston a lovely place to make our home. We agreed therefore to participate in two shifts of gardening during the year—a shift being all of two hours. We can be with friends and work on a liberal schedule—outside in good weather or inside making festive decorations for the holidays. We have enjoyed receiving new members into our club and look forward to more newcomers interested in gardening.

As we were

Frances Minturn Howard lived at 46 Mount Vernon Street for many years. As a long-time garden club member and literary figure, she was a member of the committee responsible for the first *Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill* book in 1959 and the author of the 1972 edition.

She was an award-winning poet and author of a small book of prose, *Beacon Hill: Hub of the Universe*, an account of how this young New York woman learned local customs and grew to appreciate her neighbors' eccentricities after marrying Thomas Clark Howard and moving to his home town. Thomas Howard was the uncle of Mary Fran Townsend's husband Tom.

Mrs. Howard died in 1995 at age 90. Here is one of her poems. Perhaps it will get us in a springtime mood.

City April by Frances Minturn Howard

*This is what April means to me; the gnarled hand of a tree
Writing a new line of green on the wall;
Lilacs clouding the sidewalk, young turtles for sale in the windows;
A flower-merchant walking by a wagonload of tulips
Pulled by a pale white horse;
And under the window an old man in a rain-colored cap,
Grinding away at a handorgan,
Playing a last-year's love song,
Inscribing the figure of spring on the circled air.*

Published in 1953 in Sleep Without Armor by E.P. Dutton