

THE BUZZ

GARDEN CLUB OF INVERNESS NEWSLETTER

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January 2021

BUZZY LINKS

It's a great time of year to follow the websites of your favorite nurseries. These are packed with information on planting, materials, and sales, but also a source for landscape calendars and dazzling photos. Most have easy to navigate websites and e-newsletters you can subscribe to. It's time to investigate! In **Country-Sideflowershop.com's** newsletter, Marcy reports that changing up what you offer in your feeder might draw some unexpected visitors. "The beautiful snow-fall brought a new feathered friend to my feeder! It was an exciting time as we usually only spot "new to us" birds in Spring.



This Winter we have been experimenting with different seed, suet and **meal worms** and to my surprise, attracted this Spotted Towhee!"

UPCOMING

- Jan 12-22 Acrylic Lessons 1,2,3 by Shirley Forpe on YouTube
- Jan 21 General Meeting/Program
- Feb 2 Greeting Card Design Class
- Feb 4 Board Meeting 9:30
- Feb 5 The BUZZ submissions due
- Feb 18 General Meeting

GCI Resolve

by Nancy Kaye

Friends, January is the month of beginnings. It's a do-over if you're like me and you transfer your to-do list to the next calendar. Some people get organized, try to break bad habits, or start good ones. They clean, repair and redecorate. Gardeners and gardener wannabes pour over seed catalogues and plot their strategy for the growing season. For some, it's a let down after the holidays—a time to cocoon in an afghan and catch up on one's reading—until the vernal equinox. Whatever category you fall into, we hope you will find, in these pages, ideas to inspire, entertain, educate, and distract you until spring replenishes our energy. Sooner than you think, we'll be working and gathering outside again. Until a brighter day, with your support and participation, we resolve to keep this garden club thrumming. Please don't miss the coming special events and programs that have been so thoughtfully and energetically planned for you.

Holiday Giving, a Hit with GCI

If you needed a feel-good story this holiday season, you didn't have to go farther than the All Saints church parking lot on December 6. Our members pulled up in droves with gift bags for our St. Joe's buddies and donations for the Palatine Township Food Pantry. Our hearts were warmed by some beautiful sunshine and the outpouring of generosity. You've got to love a club where the members set aside their own troubles to give to those in great need. Masked and separated, we still were able to sneak in a chat with friends we haven't seen in months. It took two vehicles to transfer the gaily-wrapped parcels to St. Joe's where they were gratefully received. Another two trunks full of food and paper goods went across the street to the Pantry. Well done, GCI!

Garden Therapy

On January 6, Mary Rubino's tribe of crafters came through with two dozen Winter Cheer arrangements. We couldn't help but smile as the fun and furry pieces poured in. Mary and husband Frank delivered the crafts to the very appreciative St. Joseph's.

Palatine Township Food Pantry Drive

Thank you to all who continue to support our monthly collections for the Food Pantry. Your generosity has made a difference to those who have been struggling to make ends meet. Currently, there is urgent need for: manual can openers, kitchen utensils, disposable plates, cups, flatware, ice scrapers, razors or shavers, shaving cream/gel, detergent, dish soap, paper towels, tissue, toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, and hand soap. The next drop off will be at All Saints parking lot, 11 a.m. on February 4. Thanks again for your participation.



So much food!



Myra and Gaby at St. Joe's



How Does Your Garden Grow?

By Kathy Zweidinger

January Tips

(Nancy Kaye sitting in for Kathy because I owe her a month off.)

Are you finding some wrinkled buds or nibbles off your jade plants, succulents and orchids? Our brown marmorated stink bugs are sap suckers that favor these juicy plants. They are not munching but perforating leaves and flower buds with their needle-like mouth parts. They don't usually feed in winter but may become lively enough to target one of your favorites. Look on the undersides of your plants. Pick off the bugs and scrape off any eggs. A spritz of dish soap or mint oil and water may deter them. Dryer sheets rubbed on the plant containers may also help. Easy tricks and information can be found on this site:

Happydihome.com



THE **BUZZ**

PLEASE SEND IDEAS,
PHOTOS, POETRY, AND
MATERIAL TO
NCKAYEDA@YAHOO.COM

YOU CAN ALSO SEND
PHOTOS BY TEXT TO:
612-382-0898

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME
WITH ANY TEXTS

Reflections/Nancy Stacy

Retiring from the business world can be daunting – my days were not what I thought they would be (grandchildren in school so no babysitting, lunches not always healthy, doing laps around the community center get lonely). I was volunteering at church and one day Mary Rubino casually mentioned that I might want to consider joining the Inverness Garden Club. I said I would think about it, which I did for about six months. When I went to my first meeting, I was so taken in by the members' warmth and friendliness. Diane Garcea was president, and I remember Terry Pagliuzza approached me about joining. I wrote my check that morning. That winter, I was asked if I wanted to be on the Board. The position was Corresponding Secretary. I did that for two years and have been Recording Secretary for the past two years.

I always had an interest in gardening, but not to the extent I do now. Since downsizing and moving

to a townhouse, there are challenges that I am learning to conquer in the garden, i.e., too much shade, tree roots to work around, plus underground utilities. The Garden Club has inspired me to work out ways to bring color and interest and add to the beauty of the wetlands behind our home.



Sausage Tortellini Soup

from Nancy Stacy

1 ½ lb mild Italian sausage
1 large onion roughly chopped
2 garlic cloves, chopped
6 cups beef stock
1 ½ cups red wine
1 cup water
3 large carrots, sliced
4 plum tomatoes, chopped
1 tsp. dried oregano
1 tsp. dried basil
1 – 8oz. can tomato sauce
2 medium sized zucchini quartered and sliced
3 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley
2 medium sized pablano chilies seeded and roughly chopped or 1 green pepper
Tortellini (see note)
Grated parmesan cheese

If sausage comes in casing, remove casing. Brown the sausage in a large Dutch oven. Remove and drain, reserving 2 Tbsp drippings in the Dutch oven. Saute onion until tender. Add garlic for last 2 minutes. Add beef stock, water, wine, carrots and tomatoes, basil, oregano, tomato sauce and sausage. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer uncovered 30 minutes. Stir in zucchini, parsley and peppers.

Simmer covered an additional 35-40 minutes.

This makes about 4 meals for 2 people. Serve with grated fresh parmesan.

Note: I cook enough of the tortellini prior to each dinner so the tortellini is al dente and not mushy. If serving the entire soup at one time, cook the tortellini when you add parsley and chilies.

This is one soup I keep in the freezer year-round. It is so healthy and so yummy with toasted garlic bread and a glass of red wine. *Bon Appetite!*



Touring the Gardens of Southern England

Immediately following the business portion of our Zoom General Meeting at 10:00 a.m. **January 21**, we are delighted to offer a program by avid travelers Brock and Ruth Ann Seney.

A gardener since childhood, Ruth Ann became a Master Gardener upon

retirement. Brock, a hobby photographer, has taken classes at the Chicago Botanic Garden. They have combined their passions to create and present various "tours."

They will take us to the Chelsea Garden Show, Hever Castle, Hampton Court Palace, Leeds Castle, and the Kew Gardens among other

famous landscapes.

Zoom invitations for the meeting and program will be emailed soon.

Resolve to join us for this special treat. Do not hesitate to contact Pam MacGillivray or Nancy Kaye with any Zoom concerns.



Churchill's Chartwell

Beating the Blahs: Mantels in Transition... by Shirley Putman

As the last of the Christmas decorations are wrapped and tucked away we all have a moment when we look around and wonder how in the world we're going to make the house look more festive until spring. A few members have sent pictures of their mantels to offer inspiration for the transitional months of January and February.

Some have gone with a decidedly winter look, while others have managed to add some sophisticated sparkle. Others have

kept a bit of the holiday while adding other elements to the mix, and some have fallen back on the tried-and-true return to a cozy home décor.

Whatever you decide, give your creative side free rein and try something new this year. Everyone has collections that might look wonderful displayed on a mantel, or Christmas blooms that would add greenery we're all missing this time of year. So until the Valentines and bunnies can make their entrance, enjoy a new look for the winter.

Or Trees!

from Eileen Kohne

Punxsutawney Phil/
ValentineTree



"All other Xmas came down but I plan to keep my living room tree up until things around us get better. Theme will change accordingly!"



Above: Sally Hard's Crystal Collection

Upper middle: Barb Cole's Rustic Winter

Lower: Shirley Putman's Asian Inspired

Lower right: Beth Woldman's Wintry Mix



Special Events



Oh What a Night!

On December 4, Garden Club members were treated to an excellent virtual live performance by jazz pianist Steve Sandner and his very talented saxophonist. Many took the opportunity to dine, wine, and get cozy while a satisfying repertoire played and the two musicians told stories about their life in the arts. We can't thank VP Special Events Denise Tumbarello enough for arranging a magical and enjoyable evening.

Learn Something New

Acrylics With Shirley Forpe

Shirley Forpe, the artist that lead our watercolor class last year is back to basics with acrylic painting. Shirley has filmed three YouTube video classes to take us through some acrylic fundamentals. The videos will remain available on YouTube through January 22. Go to YouTube and enter Acrylic Lesson with Shirley Forpe: Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3. Then send us some pics of your paintings!

Card Design With Susan Erickson

Make a creative set of eight floral notecards. Susan will prepare kits for each participant. Drop off your check to Susan and pick up your kit the week of January 18th. Everything you need, except scissors, will be included in the kit. There is a limit of nine. Register for this class by emailing Susan no later than Friday, January 22 at susanericksoncm@yahoo.com. You are not officially in this class until you give Susan your class payment. Participants will get together on Zoom to assemble the cards. Join us for a relaxing morning of cardmaking fun.

Save the Date for Some Upcoming Fun

Mark your calendars. On March 11, at 7 p.m., Special Events will be presenting a wine seminar. Different than a tasting, this Zoom class will explore the mysteries of taste when it comes to wine. Look for details next month.

Curling up With Some GCI Reads

from Shirley Putman

Now that the winter months have arrived, maybe there is more time for hibernating with a good book. Several members have shared titles they've enjoyed throughout the pandemic, so perhaps you'll find one or two that will appeal to you.

World of Wonders by Aimee Nezhukumatathil: a non-fiction collection of essays about the natural world and how its inhabitants can teach, support, and inspire us. A small volume that you can pick up again and again.

Resistance Women by Jennifer Chiaverini: inspired by actual events, this historical saga is the story of ordinary people determined to resist the rise of evil, sacrificing their own lives and liberty to fight injustice and defend the oppressed.

Perhaps a good mystery is what you're looking for, and luckily some authors have a series of titles to explore if you like their first one. Several people recommended any of the Baldacci books, while others found Louise Penney's Inspector Gamache series, starting with **Still Life**, a guaranteed enjoyable way to escape cabin fever. Maude Dobbs Mysteries by Jacqueline Winspear (there are 15!) will surely satisfy anyone eager to track clues and solve crimes.

The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey is a debut novel that was a finalist for the Pulitzer, a UK National Book Award winner, and a New York Times bestseller. While perhaps not for everyone's reading tastes, it is a wonderful example of magical realism set in Alaska.

The Heirloom Garden by Viola Shipman is a novel dealing with issues that resonate today while including delightful illustrations and detailed descriptions of flowers and their meanings. This novel should appeal to the gardener in all of us.

So, until your seed catalogs arrive, reach for that next book and be sure to share one you found amusing, diverting, or a real page-turner.

