

# Out in the Garden

Rockport Garden Club, September 2020



## Garden Diary: The Spring Garden

When invited to write about *The Spring Garden* my thoughts turned to the diverse opportunities for incorporating bulbs of all sizes, heights, shapes and colors to enhance your garden's bloom from February 'til June and especially to help the bees in their foraging. In the Northeast, we wait patiently for the first glimpses of new life and color in our garden as do the bees.

Planting an early spring garden is extremely beneficial to the bees who depend on the very early blossoms of snowdrops, crocus, and chinodoxa which are all excellent sources for their nectar and pollen. When planting for the bees it is recommended to plant en masse to make it easier on the bees to source the much needed pollen and nectar and save their precious energy as spring emerges.

Bulbs are easy to care for and any gardener can experience wonderful success with a few basic guidelines. Fall is the best time for planting and 14-16 weeks of cold are generally required for best blooms. Your site must be well drained for ongoing repeat bloom and enriched with compost. Be sure to dig deeply and mix lots of compost in well. Narcissus require the most depth at 6-8 inches. Following the depth guidelines with each variety and layering works well as you plant. The best bulbs for very early spring are short, medium or tall snowdrops/ *Galanthus* and winter aconite/*Eranthus*. Both will bloom in February followed by crocus/ *Tommasinianus*, the variety less favored by squirrels, and Siberian squill/*Scilla* the color of provencal blue which mixes in a stunning display with daffodils. Glory of the



Snow/chinodoxa works well mixed in the front border and is very hardy in our region.

Mid spring anenomes, grape hyacinth/ muscari and, for wetter areas, the lovely frittalaria/meleagris together with camassia/camassia leischtnli.

Mid to later spring, choosing different cultivators of the most popular daffodils and tulips can give you almost two more full months of bloom. Daffodils, a staple of the spring garden that

were planted in England, have repeated blooming for close to 100 hundred years in the Lake District. I know of the poet's narcissus variety in Rockport that has bloomed continuously well over 60 years now and is a favourite. It is extremely similar to the 'Cheerfulness' Daffodil. The 'Sir Winston Churchill Daffodil is another variety I recommend! Resembling a small gardenia, these creamy white flowers also produce the same wonderful fragrance and with a double center accented with vibrant orange that bloom later extending your springtime garden. The notable and reliable King Alfred is the most common and earliest bloomer. Cheerfulness, Ice Follies, and Salome all are excellent for naturalizing.



For early June and continuing summer blossoms, allium bulbs are easy and stunning. A favorite is the award winning purple sensation allium. There are many other rewarding alliums to consider that will bloom into the fall.



Bulbs are an easy and rewarding addition in a garden and naturalized in meadows. Sprinkle a slow release fertilizer on the bulbs for your second year to encourage repeat bloom and enjoy the beauty that bulbs will provide year after year.

—Submitted by Peggy Coonley

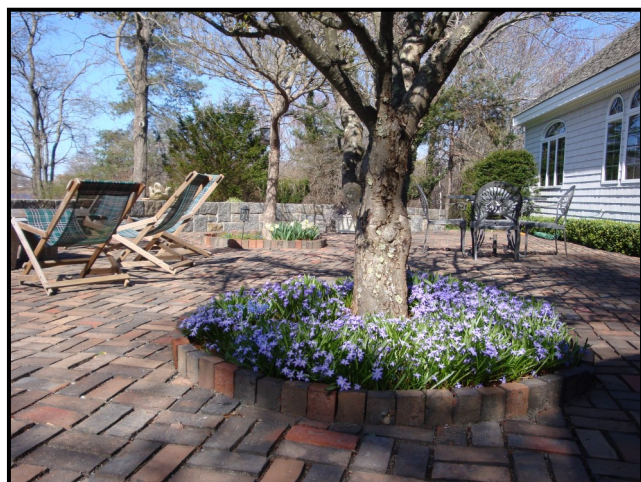
# Out in the Garden, page 2

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## The Garden Cart: Glory-of-the-Snow

Few gardening efforts are as rewarding as Glory-of-the-Snow (*Chionodoxa*.) Just when you have had enough of winter these beautiful blue gems poke through the snow foretelling the colorful spring to come.



Plant the bulbs in well-drained soil 3 inches deep and 3 inches apart in autumn. Chose a sunny area with enough undisturbed space to allow the “Glory” to spread over years, creating a carpet of blue. Their grass like leaves will grow to 3 inches, while their flower stalk will grow to about 6 inches.

Be prepared for the birds transplanting these “glories” at will. They’re also great for rock gardens and around the base of a tree.

—Submitted by Joni Lane

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*"The Snow-drop, Winter's timid child,  
Awakes to life, bedew'd with tears. Amid the bare  
and chilling gloom, A beauteous gem appears! "*

- Mary Darby Robinson



## Garden Reminders: What to do in your Garden this Month



## Garden Clippings:

### Great Sources for Bulbs:

John Scheepers Bulbs:

[www.johnscheepers.com/](http://www.johnscheepers.com/)

Wholesale Division of Scheepers (large orders):

[www.vanenglen.com](http://www.vanenglen.com)

Brent and Becky's Bulbs:

[www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com](http://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com)

Old House Gardens Heirloom Bulbs:

[www.oldhousegardens.com](http://www.oldhousegardens.com)

## What's Happening

### ZOOM Meeting

Monday, September 14

6:30-9:00 PM

Speaker:

Mary Ellen Lepionka  
*"Algonquian Foodways  
and Medicinal Plants"*

### First Day of Fall

September 22