

Academy Garden Club Thymes

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY GARDEN CLUB OF LENOX

NOVEMBER 2018

Meeting November 13, 2018 at 4:00 pm
Refreshment Hostesses: Lois Hill,
Jane Whalen, Bobbie Ann Salinetti



***Say not that flowers will quickly fade,
their beauty soon has passed away,
while they have been, for me, they made
bright wreaths for many a distant day.***

By Fanny Robinson 1802-1872

The Country Flowers of a Victorian Lady

Dear Ladies,

Our first guest speaker of the year, Chris Ferraro, gave a very enthusiastic talk on keeping deer out of our gardens. She suggested plantings that deer do not like, such as bleeding hearts, bottlebrush buckeye, black snakeroot, ornamental onion, yarrow, and bluebeard to name a few.

Another deterrent is fencing and wrapping plants. Repellants can be used especially those that taste and smell yucky. Chris recommended a spray using putrescent egg solids works best. Follow label directions when using.

The November 13th workshop will give us a chance to create a beautiful boxwood tree...just in time for the holidays. Liz Celli will guide us through the process of tree construction with her charm and humor. You will need to bring clippers, ornaments, and a container to bring home your creation. This workshop will cost \$10 for the boxwood.

If you missed the emails or phone calls explaining the workshop and want to join in the fun, just let me know. There will be a few extra bases and boxwood for you to use.

Remember that this November meeting starts at 4 PM at the Academy. We are experimenting with this time change to see if we will continue it in the future.

A big thank you to Theresa Michney and Nancy Crosson for their Fall Apple Theme in the Lenox Post Office Window! A cheery display! If you did not see it, you have until the end of November. For the months December, January and February, Mary Ann Coakley, Joan Hajduk, Lois Hill and Sandy Merlino will create a new display. Waiting to see what their theme will be!

December will be our Christmas Party at Ventfort Hall starting at 6 PM. Of course, it is listed in the handbook. More information on the Christmas Party will be in the next Thymes newsletter. One thing to think about, do we want to have wine at the party or something else? Cocktails??? It seems very little is consumed and many bottles are brought back to Nejaimes. We can discuss it at the November meeting.

In the AGC Handbook in November at the bottom of the page it states, "Spring Flower Shows TBA". The thought was to give you advance notice of flower shows to write on your calendar for future reference.

By the time next February rolls around you might want some beautiful color and earthy smells to perk up the senses. Here are a few shows: February 21-24, 2019 www.CTFlowershow.com in Hartford, CT; March 13-17, 2019 <http://Bostonflowershow.com> in Boston, MA; March 28-31, 2019 westernmasshomeshow.com Eastern States Expo, West Springfield, MA

The Academy Garden Club had a banner that was used at the Apple Squeeze; however this year we did not have it. The last time it was used was Apple Squeeze 2017.

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If anyone knows where it was stored, please let the club know. It is a mystery! Can we solve it?

Talking about lost items, did anyone lose their small spatula at the September *Meet and Greet*? I will bring it to the next meeting.

See you Tuesday, November 13th at 4 PM at the Academy.

Sincerely,

Jan Chague
AGC President

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HORTICULTURAL COLUMN

By Harriet Wetstone

I have just been lucky enough to visit The Hanging Gardens of Marqueyssac in the Dordogne in the southwest of France. This garden was begun in 1861 and was 30 years in the making. I was mesmerized! This garden, which contains a seemingly endless labyrinth of 150,000 boxwood plants pruned into geometric shapes, was built on chalky cliffs overlooking the entire Dordogne Valley.



The views are totally amazing! Wild boxwood has always grown everywhere in the French countryside; however, very sadly, the Boxwood blight has made serious inroads. One sees endless dead boxwood along the road sides. But not a sign of it, at least so far, at Marqueyssac.

There are many exciting boxwood topiary gardens all over the world. The world's oldest topiary garden, which dates back to 1694 and is still in existence, is Levens Hall in Cumbria, England. It features more than 100 pieces of topiary laid out by Guillaume Beaumont who was gardener to King James the Second. Boxwood edgings for flower beds and for outlining wonderful shapes are a staple of formal European Gardens.



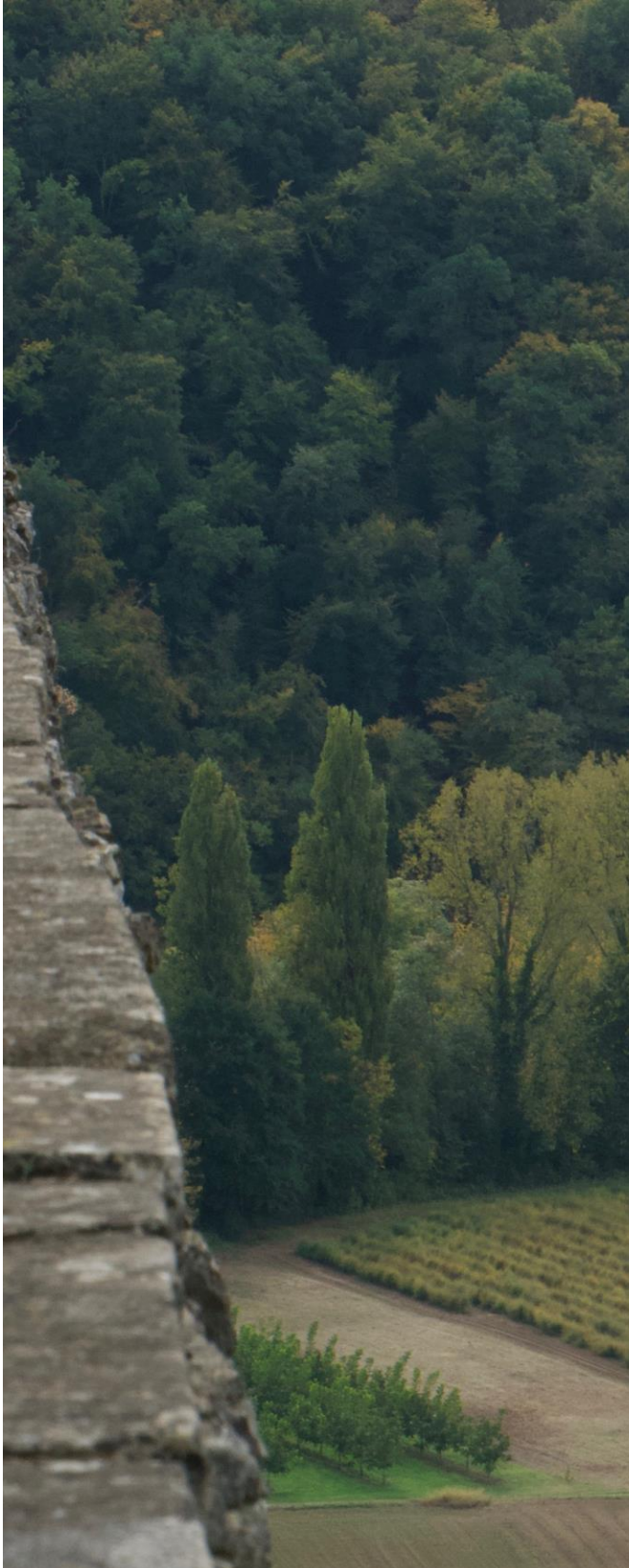
Boxwood has been known forever according to the American Boxwood Society. It is recognized as "man's oldest garden ornamental." Ancient Egyptians used boxwoods as early as 4000 B C. Boxwood frequently appears in classical Roman literature. Pliny the Elder wrote a treatise about boxwood in which he described different cultivars and where they grew as natives. Boxwood was introduced to North America from Europe in the mid 1600s and soon became very popular for formal gardens and hedges.

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Buxus sempervirens (American boxwood), or common boxwood, can grow as tall as 15 to 20 feet. Its wood and roots are said to be excellent for carving. *Buxus sempervirens suffruticosa* (English boxwood) is very dwarf and is used for edging and for pruning into shape. *Buxus microphylla* (Japanese or Korean boxwood) rarely grows more than three feet and is more disease resistant. This is just the tip of the iceberg, however. The American Boxwood Society, which has its headquarters at the State Arboretum of Virginia, has a memorial garden containing 150 boxwood cultivars. The website of the American Boxwood Society provides access to a wealth of information about boxwood and features books and guides including "Boxwood, An Illustrated Encyclopedia" and the Boxwood Bulletin.

Nowadays, everyone is worried about the boxwood blight which is not only in France. It has been spreading in this country since 2011, and has been detected in at least 22 states. According to a PennState Extension article (January 2017), sanitation and disinfection are two critical components of disease control programs with experimentation in using or not using mulching. The use of fungicides, biological control, heat therapy, and breeding of disease resistant varieties are all being explored.

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