

Academy Garden Club Thymes

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

MAY 2019



*There is Pansies,
that's for thoughts*

*Thoughts are but dreams
till their effect be tried.*

Shakespeare

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Dear Ladies,

What a workshop...KK out did herself in her presentation and skillful artistry on flower design. All who joined in to design a flower arrangement were on their way to a beautiful masterpiece. Tjasa captured some of the artistry in her photos. It was a great hands-on program!

Our next meeting is May 14th at 6:00 PM at No. 6 Depot Roastery and Cafe, West Stockbridge. Lisa Landry partners with Flavio Lichtenthal as co-owners. Lisa will give us some interesting information on coffee with a brief snapshot into her fascinating life and how she arrived in West Stockbridge. Hope everyone will be there for this informative program.

At the May meeting, according to Article IV, Section 1, in the AGC Handbook, the Nominating Committee will present the new slate of officers for the membership to accept. Then at the June meeting a final presentation will take place and the

membership will vote on the new slate of officers. The new slate of officers will assume their new positions in September.

At the April meeting a Spring/Summer road trip was mentioned. Dianne Romeo suggested a trip to Hyde Park in June. We need to decide on a date in June. There will be a sign-up sheet at the May 14th meeting for all those interested. Dianne will give further information at that time.

This year the Lenox Historical Society and the Academy Garden Club will host its third Garden and Flower Show in August. Last year we had more visitors than the year before, a good sign. The Flower Show committee will be having a meeting in the near future. Anyone interested in being on the committee may contact Dianne Romeo.

Next meeting June 11, 2019, is at the Berkshire Botanical Gardens at 6:00 PM. Arrive a little earlier to view the beautiful flower beds. This meeting is where the membership brings a main dish to share and the designated Dessert Committee will bring dessert. In the June Thymes the names of those on the Dessert Committee will be listed. If you want to know who is on the Dessert Committee before then, you may refer to the AGC Handbook.

By the way, the AGC Handbook has everyone's phone numbers and emails; it is a good source of information too.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, May 14th, at No. 6 Depot Roastery and Café, West Stockbridge at 6:00 PM.

Sincerely,

Jan Chague, AGC President

"Every thing is good in its season."

-Italian proverb

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HORTICULTURAL COLUMN

By Harriet Wetstone

There are warnings about ticks everywhere this spring, and the importance of protecting our pets and ourselves from Lyme's Disease. Many thanks to Kathy DeVlyder for sharing this article from Entomology Today (<https://entomologytoday.org/2017/10/04/the-5-year-plan-manage-japanese-barberry-to-keep-tick-levels-low-reduce-lyme-risk/>).

The article, written in 2017, is about important research that linked Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), the decorative but horribly invasive shrub, to the proliferation of ticks, and underlines the importance of managing (hopefully eradicating) Japanese Barberry. Japanese Barberry can blanket the woods and create a humid microclimate conducive to tick proliferation.

The Gardening Know How website (<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/pests/insects/preventing-ticks-in-landscape.htm>) provides a more general look at controlling ticks in your garden, such as removing brush and debris at the perimeter of your garden which is where ticks are most likely, keeping woodpiles away from the house, pruning trees and shrubs to prevent dark, damp areas that attract ticks.

The Gardening Cook website also has an interesting article about trying to keep your garden tick free. And, again, it stresses good garden maintenance in order to avoid having dark overgrown moist areas. This article (<https://thegardeningcook.com/get-rid-of-ticks-in-your-yard/>) provides a list of ten plants that help to repel ticks, and not surprisingly, they are plants that deer are less attracted to: lavender, geranium, garlic, pennyroyal, rosemary, sage, beautyberry, citronella, eucalyptus, catnip, and mint. We talked about keeping deer away from your garden in last month's Hort Column, but I don't think we can over talk this!

Permethrin is the insecticide most often mentioned as protection against ticks. Permethrin and pyrethroid insecticides are a modified form of pyrethrum. Pyrethrum is the raw, natural form of this insecticide while permethrin and pyrethroids were created to substitute this strong natural insecticide and to be more stable. Permethrin and pyrethroids can still be deadly to bees, even in very small amounts. Therefore, it is recommended that you use them at night or as far from bees as possible. The main difference between these two insecticides is that permethrin is a synthetic while pyrethrum is a completely natural substance acquired from chrysanthemums (<https://insectcop.net/permethrin-insecticides>).



Pyrethrum Daisy or Chrysanthemum

This article, from the Life so Good Club website, <https://www.lifesogood.club/10-facts-of-lyme-disease-what-to-know-in-2019/10/>, is a very good up to date review of tick information. And lastly, did you know about the Lyme Alliance of the Berkshires (<https://rawlsmd.com/lyme-support/united-states/massachusetts/lyme-alliance-of-the-berkshires>)? Its mission is to increase community awareness about tick-borne diseases in Berkshire County and to provide an educational space where those diagnosed with Lyme and/or its associated diseases and their allies may discuss such issues in a non-judgmental environment.

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