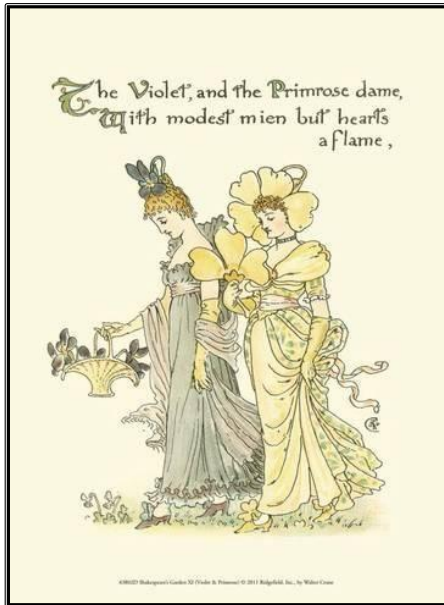


Academy Garden Club Thymes

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

APRIL 2019



There is always gladness in the sight of the first pale yellow primrose after a long winter. In *The Two Noble Kinsmen* it is called:

***Primrose, first-born child of Ver,
Merry spring-time's harbinger.***

"Ver" is an old name for spring, associated with the French word *vert* which means green.

* * * *

Dear Ladies,

Another great meeting learning about herbal teas with Iris Bass! Iris had a variety of dried herb combinations for herbal tea remedies. She had different herbs and recipes to mix our own tea blend. Once we mixed the different herbs there were fine corked bottles to put our concoctions in and take home.

There was some discussion at the last meeting about having permission to have two garden planters in front of the Academy building. After calling Town Hall, Gwen Miller said we do not need approval of the HDC (Historical District Committee). The by-laws were changed,

and the front of buildings in the HDC can now be enhanced with plants. Now the plan is to find two garden planters that will compliment the entrance to the Academy building. The Academy committee is Harriet Wetstone, Colette Lemanski, Anne Gannon and Jan Chague. More to come.

Another Civic Project being overseen by Theresa Michney, Sarah Hatch, Kathy DeVydler and Mary Ann Coakley is the New Lenox Fire Station. Stay tuned for updates.

The Monument Committee has already ordered the plants and waiting for planting in May. The committee is Jan Chague, Bobbie Salinetti, Kathy De Vydler and Dianne Romeo. Let's hope the weather is good so the Monument can be ready for the Memorial Day Parade.

Anne Gannon and Theresa Michney are still collecting recipes for the AGC Cookbook. Bring in your favorite recipes at our next meeting on April 9th.

The Nominating Committee is busy looking for a Vice President and Secretary for the September 2019 through June 2020 term.

The Program Committee has been busy laying out the programs starting in September 2019 through June 2020. By planning this winter, the committee has programs for the new period. The new Vice President won't need to worry about setting up programs in June and July, which has been done in the past. This way, in the winter of 2020, the new VP can work with the Program Committee for the next September 2020 through June 2021 period. The Program Committee felt this change would help the new VP acclimate to the role and not be scrambling for programs in June and July to start in September 2019.

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APRIL 2019

PAGE TWO

Refreshment Hostesses for the April meeting are Kathy DeVydler and Patricia Neri. The Hospitality Committee, Mary Ann Coakley and Sandy Merlino, will prepare coffee, tea, etcetera.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 9th, at 7:00 PM at the Academy. Our guest speaker is KK Zutter from the Berkshire Botanical Gardens. KK is asking the AGC members to bring in a bouquet of store-bought flowers, a 6" diameter vessel such as a vase, teapot, bowl, pitcher, etc., and flower cutters. All members need to let Harriet Wetstone know if they will be participating at the workshop or just observing. Please email Harriet at hswetstone@gmail.com or call her at 413.637.0144.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next AGC meeting on Tuesday April 9th.

Sincerely,

Jan Chague
AGC President

* * *

HORTICULTURAL COLUMN

By Harriet Wetstone

One night, late last fall, I drove into my garage and was shocked to have my headlights catch a tawny haunch shrinking off into a dark corner. It had to be a mirage. I closed the garage door and went to bed. And woke up remembering the bumps and thumps I had been hearing the day before.

I opened the garage door, made coffee, and then inspected my garage. It was littered with things knocked off the shelves, and with small round deer scat everywhere. I have a woodland garden that has a multitude of hostas and, so far, I have never had a problem with deer. So with spring rolling in, I am now super focused on protecting my garden from deer!

The consensus of garden gurus seems to be that to protect your garden against deer you must plant deer resistant plant material. For a deer resistant substitute "not a favorite," deer will eat anything if hungry enough. "Not favorite" includes plants with sharp thorns, fuzzy plants, and plants with strong scents. So I am hot on the trail of what I can add to my garden in hopes that the poor little fawn that got stuck in my garage doesn't decide to bring his sisters and his cousins and his aunts to picnic on my hosta.

I was delighted to find that three of my favorite things to grow are among prime deer resistant plants: alliums, some of the Cranesbill



Allium Purple Sensation

geraniums, and plants in the mint family. I love alliums, from the huge purple Allium Giganteum, which grows taller than a good size toddler - to Allium Hollandic, which is also known as Persian onion or Dutch garlic, which comes in a heavenly shade of deep purple - to garden variety chives and spring onions, which are so very useful in the kitchen.

Clearly deer (and rabbits) have uneducated palates, as they dislike garlic and onions. When I had rabbits feasting on the young tender shoots of my newly planted red twigged dogwood shrubs, Diane Romeo gave me a basketful of old garlic bulbs to under plant the dogwoods. The bulbs all sprouted, and the rabbits have left the shrubs alone ever since.

Speaking of garden variety chives, they tend to spread, which for me is a good thing because of the critter protection they offer.

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APRIL 2019

PAGE THREE

It is said that the most deer repellent of the Cranesbills is Rozanne. She is gorgeous, a purply blue, very fragrant, especially underfoot, and a good enough spreader to be a wonderful ground cover. I learned a lot about Cranesbills from Robert Herman at a Berkshire Botanical Garden lecture. The name Cranesbills comes from the flowers' resemblance to a cranes bill when not quite open. They want sun to partial shade, but don't like it hot and dry. They prefer loamy soil with just above or below neutral ph. They are pest and disease resistant, and they benefit from dead heading or even being sheared down after blooming. The blooms will keep coming.



Cranesbills Rozanne

* * *



Mountain Mint

We all know about being careful with mint, which given a chance will take over the world as well as your garden, but short toothed Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*) is more mannered than that. It is an edge-of-woodland plant, liking cool and moist (although quite drought tolerant when established), is wonderfully scented, and generally left alone by deer.

Thanks to www.motherearthliving.com,
www.almanac.com;
<https://njaes.rutgers.edu>; www.rhs.org.

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