



The Bridge

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Covered Bridges Garden Club Newsletter



June/July 2011

Marsha Phillips

President

Marijke Dollois

2nd Vice President
(Membership)

Kathy Ross

Treasurer

Jaye Secor

Corresponding
Secretary

Lauri Ellis

Ways and Means

Charlotte Rosshandler

Editor, The Bridge

Committees

Civic Beautification

- Barrels
- Library Garden
- School Garden
- Village Green

Hospitality

Programming

Publicity

Ways & Means

Yearbook

If you wish to participate on any of these committees or with the Newsletter, please email us or contact Marsha Phillips at 326-3111. We welcome your help!

Next Meeting

Annual meeting

and

Plant Swap



Sunday, June 26th, 2011

Pot Luck Lunch at Marsha Phillips

Noon

just in case, bring a chair

(across from the Montgomery Rec Center)

**DON'T FORGET
BARREL PLANTING SUNDAY, MAY 29
meet at 10 AM
BEAVER MEADOWS GREENHOUSE**

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Many thanks to those of you who came to the weeding party on the Village Green. We got the Green weeded and mulched so it looks to be in pretty good shape for awhile. Anytime you are inclined to stop by and pull weeds for 10 or 15 minutes please do! Soon you will be seeing some activity around the big stump. The grant Carol McGregor applied for has been awarded so she will be setting up a schedule to get the stump out and the new tree in. We have also had some discussion about trying to come up with a plan for the current gardens to make them less labor intensive. The current idea is to replace the perennials with shrubbery, and working our way around the

We all know that Spring, is a time watching the trees bud out and along, tulips and daffodils are past, eating fresh asparagus for dinner. is your CBGC renewal letter. They We look forward to receiving your encourage others to join. If you to receive our membership letter will also be a Year Book this year. to work with Marijke to put it is another reason to get your current



starting with one garden this year green.

of renewal. I have so enjoyed blossom. My gardens are coming peonies are growing fast, and I'm Another sign of spring, of course, went out in the mail last week. renewals and would ask you to know of anyone that would like please let Marijke know. There Mary Carol Mankin has offered together and get it printed. This information back ASAP.

As you know I plan to step down as President this year. I intend to stay active within the club, it is time, however to have someone else at the helm. If no one volunteers to take on the short term commitment of leading the club for the coming year, we will be without a President as of June 18th. If you are even considering filling this need for our club, please give me a call and I can tell you more about it, and let you know about all of the support that I and the Board will give you. Kitten Ellison has agreed to come on the board and will consider the position in a year. Kitten is a past president of the garden club in Bermuda. Thank you Kitten

Don't forget ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 26

Thinking spring,

Marsha

things and stuff



Put soap under your nails before gardening for an easy cleanup.

Originally we had planned to hold the Annual meeting on June 18th then realized that this was Father's Day weekend. Because many of our members had other plans we thought it prudent to change the date. Look forward to seeing everyone. If you are splitting up any of your flowers please pot up one or two and bring them to the plant swap. Also remember to pot up things thru the summer for the plant sale at Harvest Fest.

Marsha

Get summer clothes ready. Go outside to read and draw.



Tool School Ken Secor



On Saturday, April 23rd, Ken Secor shared ways to take care of landscape tools including electric and hand tools; we laughed and learned a lot.... Such as, don't forget to wear long pants when you are weed-whacking and remember that dawn detergent dissolves grease! The men who were present loved the copious details about machines and their maintenance and returned for the second half of the tool school, after our lunch-break. An amazing luncheon spread surprised us, which the twelve members enjoyed. It was a fabulous way to spend a rainy Saturday in mud season and hopefully, no one lost a finger or toe?

submitted by Jaye Secor & Charlotte, Corresponding Secretary

Charlie Nardozzi Presentation

On May 14 the CBGC sponsored a presentation by Charlie Nardozzi on Edible Landscapes. There were between 40 and 50 people in attendance and we all went home inspired.

Charlie was funny and informative. He discussed the different options we have depending on our space and interest. The Power Point presentation helped put things into perspective and we all were amazed at some of the things that have been developed that can survive in Zone 3. He covered edible trees, edible shrubs, edible vines, and ornamental vegetables. I have a copy of the handout if anyone is interested. You can contact me at 326-3111 or thru e-mail and I will send it to you.



Charlie recommended purchasing your trees, shrubs, etc from a local nursery that is actual growing them on site. This helps to guarantee that they will survive in your climate. Elmore Roots was one nursery that he suggested.

Some of the benefits of edible landscapes....feeding your family for less, environmentally sound, and less lawn to mow! You could even create a nice berry bush hedge between you and your neighbor, with or without thorns, depending on your relationship. Intermingling edibles with your flowers also works well.

Charlie ended his presentation by answering question from the audience. He also had his book available "Vegetable Gardening for Dummies" which many of the audience purchased and had signed by the author.

submitted by Marsha Phillips

CHRISTA'S CORNER



One single lavender Crocus
in full bloom
where I did not plant it,
bent as if in sorrow,
over a broken Mourning Dove's egg,
tells me about the little busy
creatures
share my space.

Nests of quarter sized
purple edged valerian leaves,
bright red noses of Peonies
poking through the muddy soil,
Snow Bells dancing
to the rhythm of a gentle breeze,
Daffodil buds, topping firm stems,
gathered like spears
of a green-suited band of warriors.

Details seldom noticed
by anyone who is in a hurry.
The colors of early spring
are something that beg my eyes
attention.

It stays hidden under dry leaves
and scattered branches
until a swipe of my rake reveals it.

note: Because of the unusual amount of rain this spring, which is known to cause powdery mildew. (grayish) and all kinds of fungus, it is a good idea to spray our flowers, vegetables and houseplants, with a mixture of 1 Tbs. baking soda mixed well in 1-gallon of water.

CHRISTA

Why do you garden?

(I am asking this question to our gardeners - This was Christa's reply. [Be thinking about why YOU garden....](#) Charlotte)

"When I feel the earth on my hands I feel connected, like a blood transfusion - it is life giving, a connection with something that I can't see or feel, but I know it. I feel and smell an energy in the earth.... even when I'm tired, I'm still able to bend down and sense what is connecting me to eternity. It is a fundamental belonging, a belonging to something that we came from. .

We have no roots, we have feet that aren't in the ground - we sway above it searching for the place where we really belong. It is the seed that creates the roots and those roots give me connection to the earth. Then I touch the earth and know where I really belong."

Christa Chevalier

Local School Garden Clubs

We, avid CBGC gardeners, are always hopeful that our strong gardening tradition will continue in Vermont. If the creative school and community gardening programs have anything to say about that, the local kids will definitely develop a passion for the earth and growing *things*. Montgomery Elementary (Wendy Howard), Richford Elementary (Annette Goyne), Richford Summer Day Camp (Finola Cournane and Karen Cangelosi), Berkshire Elementary (Sally Pelkey), Hazen's Notch Summer Camp (Rolf Anderson) each provide our local kids with a variety of creative green opportunities. Last week I visited the *Green Sprouts* at Montgomery Elementary and was very impressed to see the various activities they are doing with the children. Most of the adults organizing these programs are volunteers. I asked one of the newer and young volunteers, Elliot Cluba, to share his thoughts about gardening with the kids, in our newsletter: *Charlotte*

Montgomery Elementary: volunteer, Elliot Cluba's Thoughts

My experience outside of my hometown of Montgomery has allowed me to be a witness to the social world we live in, and its impact on our lives as a whole. During this time away, I gained much interest in gardening, and in the identification of the natural world. I would like to help to create a bridge between the two, in the hearts and minds of the children in the next generation.



Elliot with some of the Garden Sprouts

Somewhere in history, we disconnected ourselves from our natural environment. It is the connection with the rhythms of our surroundings that will allow for lasting sustainability. Cultivating an awareness of *mother nature's* cycles, from season to season, builds grounded confidence for us and especially our children as they journey out into a world struggling for order.

From trees and plants, to insects and microbial life, from wild and domesticated animals, to a clean water source, it is the subtle communication with these parts of life, simple recognition and honor, that may help re-set our original intention of building a beautiful world, and a culture where each link on the chain is considered vital to the next.

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An apple tree will produce food required to nourish life, meanwhile there is a whole social network that is in communication for the fruit to finally ripen, from the soil to the sun and everywhere in between. Developing each individual's personal relationship with this pattern is crucial, so that we can each play our role in the inevitable cycle of life and death, recognizing necessary from unnecessary. A simple garden is the perfect place for us, particularly the developing child mind, to receive these subtle social skills that no words can teach. It is for these reasons that I'm participating in the *Garden Sprout* after school gardening program at MES, interested in sharing my curiosity and appreciation of the natural world with the children by creating a fun space for them to explore their own gardening and outdoor interests.

Submitted by **Elliot Cluba**



tasting herbs & various greens



Wendy and Tiffany

CBGC GARDENER'S GARDENS: ANNETTE GOYNE



I need to garden to satisfy my soul. When I garden I feel close to many loves: my mom, nature, beauty, and the need to nurture something. My Mom was the master gardener in my life. Her sister and father loved to garden too. They were Dutch after all, so loving gardening must, to some degree, come with our genes!

Whether it's an innate or nurtured desire, gardening is a passion which lets me be at once creative, attuned to nature, a plotter, a planner, and a student. I love to witness the miracle of seeds unfurling into leaves and buds swelling into flowers, the harvest of an assortment of fruit, vegetables, or bouquets, which add a tangible richness to our family's life. I love having an excuse to feel the dirt, feel a connection to the earth, smell the fresh air, get some exercise while doing something productive, and best of all: forget about everything else. It's perfect therapy!

Gardening gives me a sense of accomplishment. While tending my garden I appreciate the beauty of nature as well as the humbling reality that it is more powerful than my best efforts. Gardening offers me the opportunity to learn more with each passing season. There is a lot to know about gardening and it varies with your location and the plants you choose, with what you do, when, and with what the weather and the bugs do.

Gardening is a year-long endeavor and obsession for me! Spring is filled with the rewards of last fall's efforts: daffodils & tulips welcoming me when I come home from work, a vegetable garden ready to plant in and rhubarb ready for harvesting. Home-grown seedlings are hardening off and will be harvested in mid-summer.

continued: Gardener, Annette Goyne

July, for me, is berry month! I'll be picking red and black currant and blueberries daily, freezing bagfuls for a handful in my oatmeal all winter. August and September are over-growing with fresh produce, but I'm already thinking about how to extend the season. I'm tending late cabbage-family crops and lettuce planted in July. And then it's back to planting tulips and tidying beds again!

Seeing the process of plants from seed to blossom or fruit is a personal pleasure for me. My mom first showed me how much fun this is and now I'm enjoying passing that excitement on to others. Through the *Richford After-School Program*, a few 5th and 6th graders and I have enjoyed starting all kinds of seedlings and planting flowers around the high school. Their enthusiasm is obvious and it's been an honor to share the knowledge I've gained from my mom and others with this next generation of gardeners!

My mother helped me become familiar with a lot of plants and how they grow, but the real joy she passed on to me was the feeling of excitement and pleasure I get when I learn something new and when my efforts produce something worthwhile. And that brings me to why I love our garden club so much! I learn from all the other members and from the great programs throughout the year. We learn, we share, and we enjoy each other's beautiful gardens. It doesn't get much simpler or better than that.

submitted by Annette Goyne

Please take note. There has been a change in the items listed on the raffle tickets that came with your membership renewal.

2011 CBGC Raffle Items

Original Art Piece donated by Sandra Beaty

Original framed photo donated by Lennie Christopher

Customized carved wood 911 sign donated by Dan Malloy (value \$300)

Handmade Birdhouse donated by Lutz Saborowski

TBA (Working on a metal garden sculpture)

We are so blessed to have such talented people willing to help us out each year. Additional raffle tickets are available. Call me and I will be sure you get them.

Marsha

Good news!

We got the grant from Preservation Trust for one Maple tree for the Village Green, replacing the one we lost. After meeting with Preservation Trust, it was recommended that we plant only one tree. The second tree would have ultimately interfered with power lines. Work is scheduled to begin at **11 am Sunday, May 29th**; the St. Onges are donating their time and machinery to remove the stump and dig the hole. The tree is being purchased from Green Mountain Landscaping and they will take care of planting and staking the tree. Bates Farm and Home in Enosburg is donating topsoil, mulch and grass seed. This is a matching grant so the donations of time and materials is making this all possible. After the *Barrel Planting* Sunday morning, please stop at the Village Green to help with the stump *excavation clean-up*. there is no date yet, for the tree planting, but when it happens we will need your help again. As your work hours count for the matching of the grant, we need CBGC bodies to show up to do our part in the grant-matching. We'll let you know the planting day by email.

Thanks, Marsha



Covered Bridges Garden Club
P.O. Box 18
Montgomery Center, VT 05471

address:

featured flower's symbols:

Daisy: gentleness ; Lupin: imagination ; Peony: bashfulness ; Rose: charm

up-coming meetings

Sunday, May 29 - Barrel Planting 10 a Beaver Meadow Greenhouse

Sunday June 26 - Annual Meeting & Plant Swap at Marsha's Home

Planting of the new 'grant' tree on The Village Green - date to be announced by email.

A rose bouquet is a special treat which, when cared for, will delight you with its long-lasting blooms. A daily change of water and fresh cuts on the stems will reward you with an extra week of color. Snip the stems at an angle, taking care not to crush the ends and put them into hot water if they need reviving.

The strength of a rose bush is in its leaves; cut as few as possible - it takes six healthy leaves to produce enough food to make a bloom. Cut above a five-leaf cluster, which is where the next flowering will come.