

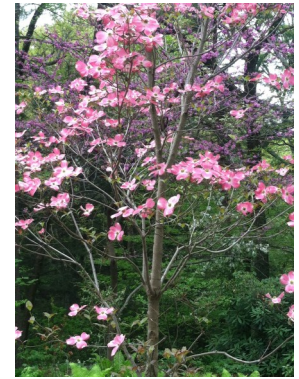
June, 2013

# Sunflower Times

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## DGC visits Garden in the Woods



In place of our May meeting, a field trip to Garden in the Woods took place on May 11th. Sixteen members attended, toured the garden and learned about our native New England wildflowers.

Left: If only it were this easy to get rid of invasive species!



## Upcoming Events:

- July 10th, Pot Luck Supper/Garden Meeting, Juanita Pare's Garden, 6:00-8:30 PM
- August 14th, Guest Speaker: Owner of the Butterfly Place, 7:00-9:00 PM, Dracut Public Library
- Coming in September...Old Home Day, Books 'n Blooms Floral Arrangements

## Yard \$ale Fundraiser...CA\$H for our TRA\$H!!



Our 4th annual Yard Sale, one of our major fundraisers, was held on May 18th at Donna Vallois's house. Members cleaned out their closets, basements, attics, and garages. Our able "sales team" then turned trash into treasure...We raised \$467 for the Dracut Garden Club! Thank you to Laurel Chisholm for pulling this together and for all who helped out with donation and sales time!



# Annual Plant Sale: Our Treasury Grows



On a beautiful, sunny (and very warm) Saturday, June 1st, Dracut Garden Club held our 4th Annual Plant Sale. Thanks to our members, we had a wide variety of perennials, annuals, vegetables and herbs to sell, as well as some potted plants. In addition, 3 of our members recycled some glass containers from our Yard Sale, making terrariums that we raffled off. The event, chaired by Laurel Chisolm, was a huge success and added \$500 to our treasury! Thanks to all who donated plants and to those who braved the scorching heat to help our customers select the perfect additions to their gardens.



## Ready... Set... Plant!

Uncle Mike

Mahoney's:

## Top 12 Perennials

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <b>Geranium</b> 'Rosanne'                | 7) <b>Brunnera</b> 'Jack Frost'                |
| 2) <b>Scabiosa</b> 'Blue Mist', 'Pink Mist' | 8) <b>Achillea</b> (lots of choices)           |
| 3) <b>Echinacea</b> (lots of choices)       | 9) <b>Rudbeckia</b> 'Goldsturm'                |
| 4) <b>Daylily</b> (lots of choices)         | 10) <b>Campanula</b> 'Birch Hybrid'            |
| 5) <b>Salvia</b> 'May Night', 'Blue Hills'  | 11) <b>Phlox</b> , <i>paniculata</i> hybrids   |
| 6) <b>Leucanthemum</b> 'Becky' and others   | 12) <b>Astilbe</b> , hybrids (great for Hills) |

Submitted by Gail M./ Taken from Mahoney's Garden Center  
Inspirations magazine.

## Three Unnecessary Expenses

Submitted by Georgia C./ Taken from AARP Magazine



1. **ATM Fees:** Americans spend \$7 billion a year getting their own money out of cash machines.

**Savings:** \$60 per household



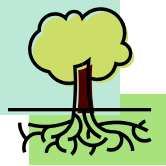
2. **Bottled Water:** We each drink almost 30 gallons (or 222 half-liter bottles) of bottled water every year.

**Savings:** \$190 per household

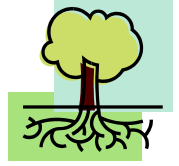


3. **Motor Oil:** Still changing your oil every 3,000 miles? Today's cars safely go 7,500 miles or more between changes.

**Savings:** \$500 after 100,000 miles



## Trees are Talking...Are We Listening?



As we still have Earth Day - Celebrate the Earth still fresh in our minds, I thought this article was an interesting read. It was written by Elizabeth Terp, a contributor to The Record Enterprise, published in the April 11, 2013 edition (a local NH newspaper). One more reason the organizers for Arbor Day around the country hope you planted the seedlings that were handed out that day! I hope you find the below article as informative as I did. Enjoy...Donna Vallois

\*\*\*

Have you ever wondered "What Plants Talk About?" if that sounds like too far out a question, check out the video by that title on pbs.org and enjoy a fascinating surprise? I was amazed to hear that we only see a third of the forest above the ground. Below is a mind-blowing family network of roots and fungi working together in the two-thirds of the forest that is underground.

We know that trees absorb carbon dioxide and the bigger the tree, the more it absorbs.

The surprise for me was seeing and hearing about the network of fungi that coat all the roots and are part of a huge underground internet for fungus and tree families. And carbon is sucked down deep into their roots to be stored. Mother trees then send the bulk of the carbon as food to their young sprouts. Fungi cover the roots and bring in organic nutrients to the trees while the trees feed carbs to the fungi -- symbiosis at its finest.

Because trees are capable of sucking up massive amounts of carbon dioxide, the more trees we have, the better our chances to decrease global warming. Energy problems invariably bring us to the realization that trees are key to our survival and cannot be exploited. Trees provide us with oxygen, heat, furniture, paper, tools, shade and habitat for birds, squirrels,

tree frogs and other members of the wildlife family. They also serve as holding tanks for water reserves and keep the land around them alive.

I just gave Jared Diamond's book, Collapse, another read. I hope to understand the pattern that caused so many civilizations to collapse. I hope to learn something to enlighten us lest we end up another collapsed civilization. In all of the collapsed civilizations, deforestation was a factor or the major factor. In this information age, we are the first civilization to have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes.

Here's the pattern that historically puts deforestation in motion: there was always a competitive streak among chiefs, priests, and rulers to outdo each other. Easter Island rival chiefs tried to do so with bigger and bigger statues. They cut down forests to provide the necessary staging to move

the statues once completed. The last thing they did was to destroy each other's statues. Having already destroyed their trees, they also destroyed wild life, water supply and soil, which led to starvation and cannibalism.

We have a big medical system, big food companies, big agricultural conglomerates, big pharmacy, and big energy competitors. Their precedence threatens our trees, water and soil. Finding out what worked and what didn't work in other cultures can help us make better choices for our future.

Significantly, Japan has 73 percent of its land mass under forest management. Perhaps this has allowed the Japanese to recover from such devastating catastrophes.

As we reset our priorities this month, Earth Day can have special significance for us if we plant a tree as a symbol of our commitment to make saving our forests a top priority to keep each other well.

—Elizabeth Terp, The Record Enterprise

## New Civic Development Project: Central Fire Station



Dracut Garden Club has added a new civic development project to our roster: the Central Fire Station. Club members planted geraniums along the path to the front door and around the monument. Planters were created and placed between the engine bays. All this beautification was completed in time for the Memorial Day parade and celebration, much to the delight of the fire chief and central station fire fighters.



L to R: Gail M., Donna V., Juanita P., Mary Ellen M., and Diane D.



## Art in Bloom at Museum of Fine Arts

As always, it's a challenge when we are assigned an Asian piece of art. This year we had a framed set of five Japanese woodblock prints. They were very colorful visions of ladies of the pleasure quarter parading down the main street in their new finery on New Year's Day. Laurel and I made a container by gluing red bamboo onto a plastic window box since we had a large pedestal that would hold the arrangement. We chose yellow spider mums to represent their headpieces and added red glads

and red spider orchids to mirror the reds in the prints. We added pine, bamboo, and flowering quince as symbols of the New Year in Japan.

The arrangement was well received by both museum people and the general public. If you did not get to see it at the MFA, I hope you had a chance to view it at the Dracut Public Library. It was there for a week or so, but sadly looked a little droopy by the end. As we all know, fresh flowers don't last forever.

—Mary Jo Baur



### Earth Day

*by Maere*

Earth day, Earth day,  
Earth day  
With trees and flowers and animals,  
I think every day should be Earth Day !

Animals, animals, animals, they're  
friendly and sweet.

Oh how much I love animals.

O Earth day, oh Earth day.  
How much you're my favorite day.  
Earth my home, how much I can't say.

Oh Earth, oh Earth,  
Animals, Animals,  
Earth day is my favorite day!

### Earth Day

*by Josephine*

Yay, its earth day!  
With the plants in the soil  
and the vegetables boil  
I love Earth day so much

The earthworms play  
In the soil all day  
in the dirt, sand, soil  
where the ants say hey

The sweet deer  
run in the field  
like they don't need a shield  
how much the animals play

Oh earth day  
I love you so much.,  
At the end of the day  
I say "Oh earth you do so much !!!

The poems at the right  
were written by two  
Brownies whose troop  
helped us out at  
CTE...Future Dracut  
Garden Club Members?



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Zones 4-11

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Mahoney's Garden Centers in Tewksbury and Chelmsford carry Drift®

### **Refreshing Summer Drink...**

#### **Basil Vodka Gimlets (Makes 6 drinks)**

##### **Ingredients:**

- 1 cup basil lemon syrup (recipe follows)
- 3/4 cup vodka
- 3/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup ice cubes

##### **Preparation:**

Stir together all ingredients into a pitcher until cold, then strain into 8-12 oz. glasses half filled with ice. For extra glam and aroma, tuck a sprig of lemon basil and several strips of lemon zest in each drink.

#### **Basil Lemon Syrup:**

(Makes about 5 cups)

- 4 cups of fresh basil sprigs
- 4 cups water
- 2 cups sugar
- 9 (4x1 inch) strips lemon zest

Bring all ingredients to a boil in a medium saucepan, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Let stand at room temperature, covered, 1 hour, then transfer into an airtight container and chill 'til cold, about 1 hour. Strain syrup through a sieve into a bowl, pressing hard, then discarding solids.



## **Memorial Day Planting**

In addition to our plantings at the Central Fire Station (see page 3) Dracut Garden Club honored Dracut veterans with other plantings throughout our town.





## Dracut Garden Club



Kathy Gauthier  
Creative Design Editor

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# From Our Gardens...With Love!

I would like to begin a new feature in our newsletter to provide a forum for members to share photos of their gardens, flowers, vegetables, trees, backyard visitors, etc. So, I guess I'll start us off...

Forget Me Nots



From Kathy Gauthier's Garden

My Oriental Poppies put on quite a show every year. I wait in excited anticipation for the buds to appear and the first blossom to open.



## It's Cherry Blossom Time



After the business portion of our June Meeting, Laurel C. led us in an art project. Using various sizes of soda bottles we dipped the bottoms in paint and printed the designs onto our "canvas" to create cherry blossoms on our own handpainted branch.

