

DETAILS FINALIZED FOR 2012 GCFM CONVENTION

The Clubs of the Stroudwater District are finalizing the many details of the 2012 Garden Club Federation of Maine Convention to be held in Freeport on June 19-21. The District is pleased to be able to present the tentative schedule and Convention Registration Form in this issue of THE GARDENER'S VOICE.

The line-up of speakers is as interesting as it is diverse! Many of you may be familiar with our keynote speaker, Sydney Eddison of Newtown, CT. Sydney is a contributor to FINE GARDENING Magazine and has published seven books on gardening. The latest, *GARDENING FOR A LIFETIME: How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older*, was the recipient of the American Horticultural Society's 2011 Garden Book Award.

For our Convention, Sydney will show us a pictorial display of her award winning gardens which she has lovingly tended for five decades. She'll also give her insight on how she has coped with the reality of mixing a passion for gardening with the inevitable changes that come with growing older. Besides being a prolific author, she has also taught a class on color at the New York Botanical Garden and has taught drama for 20 years. She is the recipient of several awards, including the Connecticut Horticultural Society's Gustav A. L. Melquist Award (2002), the New England Wildflower Society's Kathryn S. Taylor Award (2005), The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut's Bronze Medal (2006) and most recently, the National Garden Club's Award of Excellence (2010). Her gardens have been featured in magazines and on television, including *Martha Stewart Living*.



Our three other speakers bring a wealth of knowledge to their topics as well. Harding Lee Smith, celebrity chef and owner of three of Portland's favorite restaurants (The Corner Room, The Grill Room, and the Front Room), will teach us how to use edible

flowers in meal preparation. His three restaurants have garnered many local awards including best new restaurant (2006, 2008 and 2009). Harding graduated from Boston University, and then went on to study at the West Coast campus of the Culinary Institute of America (Napa Valley). He also studied for a short time under Julia Child and did an apprenticeship in Venice, Italy before returning to the U.S. as a chef in several well-known restaurants in Maui. He moved back to Maine in 2005 to work at the upscale restaurant Back Bay Grill (Portland) before opening his first restaurant later that year.

Heather Poire, horticultural consultant and New England Marketing Manager for PROVEN WINNERS (North America) at Pleasant View Gardens, Loudon, NH, will help us carry out the Convention theme of *A PASSION FOR FLOWERS* by familiarizing attendees with both old and new plants being introduced by PROVEN WINNERS. Heather has a degree in Horticulture from the University of New Hampshire and is herself, an inspired gardener! Pleasant View Gardens is one of the founders of the PROVEN WINNERS line of plants – a half billion dollar business.

Rounding out our line-up of speakers is a lady many of us know from her business, Common Folk Herb Farm. Betsey-Ann Golan has recently appeared as a vendor at Fall Conference and the 2011 GCFM Convention in Castine. Her latest passion has been to become a certified food preservationist teaching classes in food preservation and dehydration in conjunction with the Maine Cooperative Extension Service. Her Wednesday morning demonstration will provide Convention attendees insight in working with a dehydrator and other ways to preserve food, flowers and herbs. She will also hand out many samples and recipes for you to take home and try yourself. The nominal fee of \$10 is required by the Extension Service to cover their costs in providing handouts for Betsey's demonstration.

Another highlight of the Convention will be the ever-popular garden tour. This year we are pleased to announce that the gardens of June LaCombe (Hawk Ridge Farm) in Pownal will be included in the tour. June is an artist and is well known in art circles for her work as a curator of many sculpture shows around New England. Making her gardens even more special -- June will be showing the work of 30 artists from around New England in her gardens during the time of our Convention. For a sneak peek of her gardens, pick up a copy of *THE INSPIRED GARDEN: Twenty-four Artists Share Their Vision* (DOWNEAST Books) and turn to page 50.

GCFM 2012 Convention

DETAILS FINALIZED FOR 2012 GCFM CONVENTION CONTINUED

For those of you planning to arrive early on Tuesday, June 19th, we've lined up special tours of both Pineland Farms in New Gloucester and Plainview Farm in North Yarmouth. Both venues are no more than 20 minutes from the Hilton Garden Inn, our home during the duration of the Convention. Pineland sits on more than 5000 acres of rolling farmland. Of special interest to Convention attendees is their one-acre garden which features an apple orchard, espaliered pear trees, a vegetable garden, lovely perennials and more than 6000 annuals meticulously maintained amongst a quarter mile of winding paved pathways. For those of you unfamiliar with Pineland, the farm is now the largest producer of cheese in the State of Maine! For those on the field trip, a nominal fee of \$5 will cover the cost of a cheese tasting. If the weather cooperates, the cheese will be offered in the garden. Our other featured field trip venue is Plainview Farm, just five miles from Pineland. Owners Steve and Donna Palmer have developed a spectacular display of 25 public gardens showcasing nearly 1000 species of plants. Their gardens are as much an arboretum as a nursery! You can explore everything from woodlands to sunny borders, or grasses to a large variety of hostas. The Palmers are predicting their peonies will be in full bloom for the Convention, something you won't want to miss! For those of you who like to shop, Plainview is known for their selection of perennials and gift items. Or, if you're in the mood for something other than gardens, we've arranged to get a block of tickets from one of our sponsors, the Maine State Music Theater, for the Tuesday afternoon matinee of their opening musical of the 2012 season, A CHORUS LINE!

As you can tell, there's a full slate of activities to enjoy at the 2012 Convention. Be sure to get your registration form in early as we expect the Convention to sell out!



Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, Maine

GCFM 81st Annual Convention Schedule

A PASSION FOR FLOWERS

June 19-21, 2012

Hilton Garden Inn

5 Park Street, Freeport, ME 04032

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2012

- 10:00 – 5:00 Registration at Hilton Garden Inn (**Old Town Hall Meeting Place**)
- 10:00 – 5:00 Vendor Market, Raffle & Silent Auction (**Old Town Hall Meeting Place**)
- 12:00 – 6:00 GCFM Sponsored and Individual Member Exhibits (**Monhegan Boardroom**)
- 11:00 – 5:00 Tour of Trial Gardens & Greenhouses, Plainview Farm, North Yarmouth, and Tour of Pineland Farms Garden with cheese tasting, New Gloucester (**Self transport. Specific time of guided tour at each venue will be announced. Fee covers cost of cheese tasting.) \$10**)
- 2:00 – 4:30 **A CHORUS LINE**, Matinee Performance, Maine State Music Theater Pickard Theater, Brunswick (**must have 20 people sign up for group rate**) **\$46.50**
- 11:30 – 5:00 On your own shopping in Freeport! Check Goodie Bag for specials offered by area stores. Goodie Bag also contains other information of sights to see in Freeport and surrounding area.
- 5:30 – 6:00 Pre Dinner Cocktails, cash bar (**Eagle Ballroom**)
- 6:00 – 8:00 Scholarship Dinner (**Eagle Ballroom**) **\$33** Choice of **Roast Pork** or **Sesame Salmon**. Special meal on request.
- 8:00 – 9:00 Informal Networking with GCFM Friends (**Pavilion Lounge – Lobby**)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2012

- 6:30 – 9:30 Breakfast on your own (see listing in your Goodie Bags), or Breakfast Buffet at **Great American Grill (Lobby –\$9.95 + tax/tip payable to Hotel)**
- 8:00 – 5:00 Registration (**Old Town Hall Meeting Place**)
- 8:00 – 5:00 Vendor Market, Raffle & Silent Auction (**Old Town Hall Meeting Place**)
- 8:00 – 6:00 GCFM Sponsored and Individual Member Exhibits (**Monhegan Boardroom**)
- 8:30 – 9:30 GCFM Board Meeting (**Jewel Ballroom**)
- 9:30 – 10:20 **Cooking With Edible Flowers**, Harding Smith, Owner and Chef, The Front Room, The Grill Room, and The Corner Room, Portland, ME (**Eagle Ballroom**)

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- 10:30 – 11:20 **Fulfilling Your Passion for Flowers – New and Old Favorites from PROVEN WINNERS**, Heather Poire, New England and New York Marketing Representative, PROVEN WINNERS, Pleasant View Gardens, Loudon, NH (**Eagle Ballroom**)
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Preserving and Dehydrating Bounty from the Garden**, A Hands on Demonstration by Betsey- Ann Golan, Certified Master Food Preserver, Common Folk Herb Farm, New Gloucester, ME (**Jewell Ballroom**) **Fee covers cost of Cooperative Extension material, recipes and more. \$10**
- 12:30 – 1:30 Lunch on your own (**See suggestions in your Goodie Bag!**)
- 1:30 – 4:30 Garden Tour of Public and Private Gardens **\$10 (Maps provided)**
- 5:15 – 6:00 President's Reception to Honor GCFM President Kathleen Marty (**Light Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar-- Outside Patio if weather permits & Entryway to Ballrooms**)
- 6:00 –9:00 Gala Banquet, **Broadway in Bloom (Eagle & Jewel Ballrooms \$34** Choice of **Stuffed Haddock** or **Rosemary Chicken Breast**. Special meal on request.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2012

- 6:30 – 9:30 Breakfast on your own, or, Buffet Breakfast at **Great American Grill (Lobby)**
- 8:00 – 9:00 Registration (**Old Town Hall Meeting Place**)
- 8:00 – 11:00 Vendor Market, Raffle & Silent Auction (**Old Town Hall Meeting Place**)
- 8:00 – 11:00 GCFM Sponsored and Individual Member Exhibits (**Monhegan Boardroom**)
- 9:00 – 10:30 GCFM Annual Business Meeting (**Jewell & Eagle Ballrooms**)
- 10:15 – 11:00 Book Signing, Sydney Eddison, *Gardening for a Lifetime* (**Outside Ballrooms**)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Check Out of Rooms, Finish Raffle Sales & Silent Auction Bids
- 11:00 – 2:30 Closing Luncheon and Award Presentations (**Jewell & Eagle Ballrooms**) **\$22** Choice of **Classic Cobb Salad** or **Chicken Caesar Salad**. Special meal on request.

*Keynote Speaker and Award Winning Author, Sydney Eddison. **The Passage of Time in the Garden**, Lecture and Power Point Presentation. (Sydney will sign books again immediately after the close of the luncheon.)*

- 2:30 Winners of Raffle & Silent Auction are posted.

CONVENTION ADJOURNS!

GCFM 2012 Convention

GCFM 81ST ANNUAL CONVENTION



A PASSION FOR FLOWERS

June 19-21, 2012

Hilton Garden Inn

5 Park Street

Freeport, ME 04032

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address (for registration confirmation) _____

Garden Club _____ District _____

Check all that apply:

GCFM State Life Member _____ NGC _____

Board Member _____ Elected Officer _____ Appointed Officer _____ Chairman

_____ Past President _____ Delegate _____ Club President _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL ACTIVITIES YOU WISH TO ATTEND. ALSO INDICATE YOUR CHOICE FOR ALL MEALS. AT THE END OF THE FORM, INDICATE THE TOTAL AMOUNT FOR ALL ACTIVITIES, MEALS AND REGISTRATION FEE.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the Hilton Garden Inn, 207-865-1433. Ask for **SPECIAL GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF MAINE CONVENTION RATE**. **Rates for Tuesday, June 19 and Wednesday, June 20 (\$129 + 7% tax)**. Limited number of rooms with two Queen beds are available. **Cut off date for reservations at convention rate is MAY 20!** Convention registrations will be accepted **BY MAIL ONLY**. **Any refunds, requested after the registration period has closed, will be made only under exceptional circumstances on a case by case basis.**

Send completed form and check to:

Nancy Atwell
Registrar, GCFM Convention 2012
21 Scott Dyer Road
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

GCFM 2012 Convention

GCFM 81st Annual Convention Registration

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2012

- Tour of Pineland Farms Garden w/Cheese Tasting and Tour of Plainview Farm Gardens \$10 _____
- Matinee Performance of **A CHORUS LINE** at Maine State Music Theater.
(# of tickets _____) \$46.50 _____
- Scholarship Dinner --
ROAST PORK _____ **SESAME SALMON** _____
SPECIAL MEAL _____ \$33 _____

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2012

- Presentation, Cooking With Edible Flowers No Charge
Please check to attend. _____
- Presentation, New and Old Favorites from **PROVEN WINNERS**
Please check to attend. _____ No Charge
- Demonstration, Preserving and Dehydrating Bounty from the Garden.
(Materials Fee) \$10 _____
- Garden Tour. (Fee to attend) \$10 _____
- Gala Banquet, **BROADWAY IN BLOOM.**
STUFFED HADDOCK _____
ROSEMARY CHICKEN BREAST _____
SPECIAL MEAL _____ \$34 _____

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2012

- Closing Luncheon with Author Sydney Eddison.
CLASSIC COBB SALAD _____
CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD _____
SPECIAL MEAL _____ \$22 _____

NOTE: For those meals that require a special diet, please indicate what your requirements are: Vegetarian, Gluten Free, etc.

EARLY REGISTRATION FEE (postmarked by May 19)

MEMBER \$30 _____
NON-MEMBER \$35 _____

LATE REGISTRATION FEE

(postmarked after May 19 but before May 31) \$45 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

(Check Made Payable to: GCFM Convention 2012) \$ _____