

# Penobscot District Newsletter

Issue #9 Spring 2011



*Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow!*

## DISTRICT DIRECTOR PAT SNYDER, 2009-2011

Your District Director represents the seven Penobscot District clubs as your delegate on the Garden Club Federation of Maine (GCFM) Executive Committee. It is therefore helpful for her to have input from the clubs on GCFM issues, in addition to her being a conduit for information coming back to the clubs. Your club's representatives on the Penobscot District Board of Directors are essential to us all being able to coordinate our efforts for local activities and for the state organization.

As I leave my term, I want to express how grateful I am for all the support given to the District from the outgoing Board of Directors. Their attendance and input at our planning meetings (just two meetings per year), plus all they did for our district programs and activities were immensely helpful.

Kudos to district officers Carol Arnold (Veazie), Pam Newcomb (Sebasticook), and Margaret Wendel (Sebasticook); to club presidents Sandra Leonard and Laura Cushing (Bangor), Barbara Patterson (Brewer), Anne Bennett (Hampden), Joyce McDuffie (Milo), Jan Enos (Orrington), Carleen Harriman (Sebasticook), and Carol Arnold (Veazie); and to all other board members Sandra Doughty and Susan Poole (Bangor), Carol Smith, Susan Xirinachs and Ann Gallant (Brewer), Judy Luro and Pat Kerfoot (Hampden), Lois Trask (Milo), Barbara Joy and Melody Joliat (Orrington), Lisa Colburn and Barb Brown Dalton (Veazie).

## DISTRICT OFFICERS – 2011 - 2013

District Officers were elected and installed at the Spring District Meeting May 5, 2011. After the GCFM Convention, Carol Arnold ([gaafam@aol.com](mailto:gaafam@aol.com)) from Veazie Garden Club will become District Director; Pam Newcomb ([newcombpam@gmail.com](mailto:newcombpam@gmail.com)) from Sebasticook Garden Club will be Assistant Director; Anne Bennett ([sabennett@roadrunner.com](mailto:sabennett@roadrunner.com)) from Hampden Garden Club will be Secretary; Pat Snyder ([dorine38@aol.com](mailto:dorine38@aol.com)) of Orrington Garden Club will be Treasurer and Carol J. Smith ([luvs2garden2@aol.com](mailto:luvs2garden2@aol.com)) of Brewer Garden & Bird Club will fill the new position of Assistant Treasurer. Our District also elects two delegates to serve on the Garden Club Federation of Maine (GCFM) Nominating Committee for 2011- 2013. The two delegates elected are Susan Xirinachs and Carol J. Smith.

## MEET YOUR NEW DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Carol Arnold has been President of the Veazie Garden Club the past four years and will start her third term this spring! When I first asked Carol for a bio back in the spring of 2008, she said she is a reluctant president. She'd rather be working in the soil! She has a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Michigan and was a teacher for many years. Carol is married, has 4 grown children and 2 grandkids. She moved to Maine 14 years ago from CT where they lived on a rock outcropping and she grew myrtle everywhere. She was so excited to work in her Maine yard, with all its sunshine and space until they hit their first shovel full of roots and rocks! After all the years, the trees have grown and she's back in the shade with lots of hostas - and lots of rocks. Good thing she loves rocks! Carol enjoys learning about growing plants and graduation from both the Gardening Study School and Landscape Design School when they were offered in Maine. Her gardens reflect her artistic talent, as do her designs at flower shows.

### GCFM OFFICERS 2011 – 2013

Elected GCFM Officers will be installed at the Spring Convention this June in Castine. They are Kathleen Marty, President; Cyndy Bush, First Vice President; Kathleen Filtranti, Second Vice President; Judy Stallworth, Recording Secretary; Judith Tarbox, Treasurer and Cindi Kimball, Assistant Treasurer.

### MEET GCFM PRESIDENT-ELECT

Many of you already met Kathleen Marty at our Spring District Meeting. She is from Medomak District and lives in Trevett, Maine with her husband Keith, where they have lived since 2004. Both are natives of Ohio but have lived several places including Virginia, Florida, New Hampshire and for 6 years they lived onboard a 37 foot sailboat!

Since joining the Boothbay Region Garden Club in May 2005, she has served as Membership Chair, Publicity Chair, Awards Chair, Co-Chair of the Festival of Trees, First Vice President and President for three years.

A love of gardening and the desire to become involved in a community organization is one reason she joined her garden club. When not working on garden club projects or in her gardens, Kathleen can be found on the golf course.

### PENOBSCOT DISTRICT FALL MEETING

Veazie Garden Club hosted a fantastic meeting on Saturday, October 2, 2010 at the Veazie School. Thirty-eight members attended the meeting where Garden Club Federation of Maine President Becky Linney was the special guest. Past District Director Carol J. Smith was presented with the District Award of Honor for her ongoing dedication to our District's activities. The luncheon was delicious; the whimsical centerpieces were created in squash and gourds. Club Member, Lisa Colburn presented an exciting program on "Wow Plants" that she has come across during her research for her book, "The Maine Garden Journal." Everyone went home with a few wow plant bulbs of their own. Several members have reported their wow bulbs are growing nicely!

### PENOBSCOT DISTRICT SPRING MEETING

Bangor Garden Club has done a fine job of re-grouping! Several of their members came together with a wonderful meeting at the Muddy Rudder May 5, 2011. Forty-nine members attended the meeting where GCFM President Elect Kathleen Marty was a special guest. Kathleen presented our District's GCFM Youth Awards. The Brewer Garden & Bird Club received a letter of appreciation for their active involvement with youth in their area. The first place winner in our State for the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl contest was a 4th grader from Hampden, Mary Batsie, sponsored by Hampden Garden Club. Her theme for Smokey Bear was "Recycle - Reuse - Reduce -- Lend a Hand, Care for the Land. She will be recognized by the school at their awards assembly. The Hampden Garden Club awards their local winner each year with a \$50 savings bond. Judy Luro of the Hampden Club has headed up this project for many years.

Bangor Garden Club Member, Sandra Leonard introduced the speaker, Joshua Torrance, Executive Director of Woodlawn Museum & Estate. Sandra is also President of the Woodlawn Museum board. Joshua took us on a wonderful journey of the life of Colonel John Black and the families that lived in The Black House, as well as the changes to the landscape over the years.

Each club provided a centerpiece for Bangor's centerpiece competition. Carol Smith of Brewer won the \$100 gift card to Sprague's. Each member attending the meeting went home with a package of zinnia seeds. There were many policy changes voted on at this meeting, as well as the elimination of the Fall District Meeting and the addition of the nondiscrimination and dissolution clauses to our Policies.

### PENOBSCOT DISTRICT FALL MEETING ELIMINATED

At our spring meeting, the membership voted to no longer hold a Fall District Meeting. Two meetings a year are not mandatory according to GCFM bylaws. Two of the reasons cited were, expense to hosting clubs and low attendance to meetings. We get a very small percentage of our District membership to attend a District Meeting. You are all invited to attend the next Spring District Meeting hosted by Brewer Garden & Bird Club, May 3, 2012. Details will follow!

### DISTRICT AWARDS

Our District has two awards that may be awarded each year. The Lifetime Service Award recognizes an individual for ongoing service and leadership. The Award of Honor recognizes the efforts of an individual or club in our District. These awards were previously awarded at the Fall District Meeting. New guidelines will be forthcoming from the Awards Committee as to timeline for submitting nominations, so that these awards may now be given at the Spring District Meeting.

### AWARD OF HONOR

A \$50 donation to the GCFM Scholarship Fund will be made in the winner's honor, either to purchase a GCFM State Life Membership, or for an honorarium if the winner is already a State Life Member.

Carol J. Smith received the award in the Fall of 2010. The award reads in part that Carol "embodies all the qualities of leadership and commitment of service to the garden clubs of this District, as well as the Garden Club Federation of Maine. She has been Chairman of the Federation's annual convention, President of the Brewer Garden & Bird Club for two terms and a co-President for one and Newsletter Editor for both GCFM and Penobscot District. She worked on every District Flower Show since 2000, is currently Flower Show Chairman for our District and served as District Director 2007-2009."

*"Thank you so much! I am truly honored to receive this award and it has been my pleasure working with the wonderful ladies in our District on whatever project we are doing." Carol Smith*

Lisa Colburn received the award this past May. Lisa is a person that has made outstanding contributions to our District. She served as Chairman of the GCFM Nominating Committee this past term, was a past District Treasurer, has presented programs to the District and the clubs and was past chairman of National Gardening Study School for GCFM. She is in hopes that her book, "The Maine Garden Journal" will be published this fall. You can learn more at <http://mainegardenjournal.com> and follow her on her blog at <http://mainegardenjournal.wordpress.com/>

*"I was ever so pleased to be designated as the recipient of the District Award of Honor! It's too bad that I was not able to attend the meeting. Alas, it was a pleasure to be with my son and daughter-in-law when she received her Ph.D at UNC Chapel Hill." Lisa Colburn*

### GCFM FALL CONFERENCE 2010

"Gardens In Motion", the 79<sup>th</sup> GCFM Fall Conference, was held October 27 at the Ramada in Lewiston. There were three workshops to choose from in the morning: Fine Garden Art by Jill Nooney, [www.finegarden.com](http://www.finegarden.com); Traveling Floral Designs with Flower Show Judges, Sandra Leonard and Sally Mowbray and the Effects of Climate Change on New England Flora & Fauna with Elizabeth 'Libby' Ellwood, Boston University PH.D candidate. In the afternoon, Rosalind Creasy did a fantastic program on "Edible Landscaping". Those attending were also able to purchase her new book and have it autographed.

ART IN BLOOM. by Carol J. Smith, Flower Show Chairman

After the Standard Flower Show, “Books & Blooms” last June at the Bangor Public Library, it was decided our District would not hold a Standard Flower Show this year, but would find a way to do something for our members who have that need to create, as well as the public who loves to see those creations. We decided to ask Bangor’s Garden Show if there was anything we might be able to provide that would be beneficial to their show. That is when ‘Art In Bloom’ was born.

Pam Newcomb of Sebecook Garden Club and also a member of The Arts Alliance arranged for the Alliance members to be a part of this collaboration. We asked our club members to create arrangements that complemented and interpreted their artwork. It was a good way for first timers to try their hand at a design where there are few rules opposed to a Standard Flower Show where there are many. Of the 19 designers who created the 37 floral arrangements, 16 were from our District.

Winners of the People’s Choice Awards for floral design were 1st place, Nancy Grimes, Garden Fairies #11, 2nd place, Kathy Clegg, Sunset Jewels #23 and 3rd place, Pam Newcomb, Lonesome Fairies.

I sincerely thank Pam Newcomb, Sally Mowbray and everyone that helped by entering a design or volunteered to hostess for an hour or more. We could not have done this show without you!

It is important to remember what an opportunity we have been given to promote our garden clubs through Bangor’s Garden Show. We all pledge to promote education, and flower shows are a wonderful and fun way to do just that. We cannot continue holding flower shows without members’ participation!

GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

- May 27-30 National Garden Clubs Convention, Washington, D.C.
- May 28 Sebecook Plant Sale at Bud’s in Newport ([sebecookgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:sebecookgardenclub@gmail.com))
- June 4 Brewer Garden & Bird Club annual plant sale, Historical Society, Wilson St., Brewer 9 a.m.
- June 4 Hampden Daylily Sale, Harmony Hall, 24 Kennebec Rd., Hampden 9 a.m. – noon
- June 16 Bus trip to Boston’s World Association of Flower Arrangers International Flower Show  
call Carol 990-5949 FMI
- June 21-23 GCFM Convention, Maine Maritime Academy, Castine
- June 14-26 Newport, RI Flower Show
- June 25 Hampden Garden Club Art Show, Harmony Hall FMI call 862-3467
- July 8 Waldo County General Hospital’s Garden Walk. Seven private gardens in Belfast. Tickets \$15, FMI 930-6739 or email [sgordon@wcegh.org](mailto:sgordon@wcegh.org)
- July 15 Bus trip to Kingsbrae Garden, St. Andrews New Brunswick. VERY FEW SEATS LEFT!  
Must have valid passport to attend. Call Carol 990-5949 FMI
- July 16 Private Gardens of Kennebunks Garden Tour, 10 – 6, to benefit Child Abuse Prevention Council. \$15 before July 1, \$20 after. FMI call 989-5975 or email [events@kidsfreetogrow.org](mailto:events@kidsfreetogrow.org)
- July 21 Camden Garden Club House & Garden Tour 9:30 – 4. Advance tickets \$25. 236-8690 or email [info@camdengardenclub.com](mailto:info@camdengardenclub.com)
- October 17-18 New England Regional Convention, Chelmsford, MA
- October 26 GCFM Fall Conference, Ramada Convention Center, Lewiston

### DISTRICT CAMBERSHIP

The District Campership is awarded alphabetically to a club each year. This year's recipient of the \$350.00 was Brewer Garden & Bird Club. They plan to use this money to help send a Girl Scout to a summer camp. Clubs can find available nature oriented camps by contacting the Audubon, Scouts, 4-H or YMCA.

### BIRDING TIP

Fields Pond Audubon Center suggests using onion or vegetable netting bags and filling them with pet hair, dryer lint and string. Hang them from your birdfeeders or a tree branch and watch the birds help themselves to nesting material.

### THE GOOD, BAD & UGLY OF SHADE GARDENING (taken from provenwinners.com)

Most gardeners envision a beautiful and colorful garden in the sun, crammed with a multitude of colors that are bright and bold. There are also a wide variety of plants that fit the bill. But when faced with another kind of garden, one that is more challenging, more subtle than exuberant, most people would approach it with at least a bit of trepidation, if not fear and loathing. It's not that a shade garden is less than beautiful than a bold sun garden, but rather a different kind of elegant beauty. It is best to embrace shade gardening for what it can give you. During the steamy summer, a shade garden can be a refuge from the heat. Just looking at a shade garden is relaxing and cool.

Not all shade is created equal. There is good shade (bright and dappled) and there is bad shade (dark with a lot of tree roots (and ugly shade (the dark side of a wall with shallow tree roots). Good shade can be quite fun to work with, bad shade can often be turned into good shade and the ugly? It isn't all that prevalent. Plus there are strategies to make even these deep shade environments look nice.

Remember that all plants need at least some sun. Shade is defined as an area that receives less than 4 hours of direct sun a day. Full shade plants prefer morning or late afternoon sun and will do outstanding in dappled shade conditions.

Good shade can be defined as an area that gets morning and/or late afternoon sun, dappled shade all day or areas that are bright but not sunny.

Bad shade could also be called dense shade and can be defined as areas that get no direct sunlight but still receive reasonable light, are too dark to be considered dappled shade and/or have complicating factors such as surface tree roots that make gardening difficult. Bad shade means that it can be difficult to establish a lush garden under these conditions. One type of garden that works well in dense shade is a woodland garden. Typically these gardens will rely largely on shrubs and foliage plants.

Ugly shade are areas in your landscape that are not only shaded, but are dark and these are the most difficult types of shade in which to garden. If the areas get no direct sun, not even dappled sunlight because of a wall or fence or trees, opting for a more open type of fence or trimming trees can make some difference.

There is a rather limited plant palette available for these areas. You could transform it into a water feature or seating area. Or use garden art, statuary, outdoor furniture or containers to add color. Despite the limited plant palette, a dark corner can be turned into an asset for your garden with creativity and persistence.

Check the label of plants to see what type of shade they can tolerate and embrace what shade can bring to your garden!



### IN MEMORIAM

Three members that passed away last year were remembered at our Spring District meeting:

Jean Keef, Bangor Garden Club

Dolores Cross, Brewer Garden & Bird Club

Betty Millner, Hampden Garden Club

### REMINDERS FOR CLUB TREASURERS

The deadline for sending your District dues and campership money is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please make checks out to GCFM Penobscot District and send to Treasurer, Pat Snyder, P.O. Box 530, Stockton Springs, ME 04981. Dues are \$.25 per member and each club's campership share is \$50.00.

### FALL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The next issue of our Penobscot District Newsletter this fall will have information about the new term ahead. Each club will have held their Annual Meeting, installed new officers and we will bring this information to you, as well as more about October's GCFM Fall Conference. We will also have GCFM, NER and National Garden Club President's themes and projects.

Hope to see you at the GCFM Annual Convention, "Honor Our Past, Sustain Our Future" hosted by St. Croix District at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine June 21-22, 2011!

If you have any content you would like in the next issue, please contact me! Enjoy the summer!

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