

CAPE COD HYDRANGEA SOCIETY

Spring 2014

Message from the President



Happy Spring 2014!!! As I write this the sun is shining, the birds are singing and the air is getting warmer, so it really does seem like spring. I hope everyone is well and that you all are looking forward to great 2014 season with the CCHS.

So how are the hydrangeas doing? If you have been out in your garden you are probably seeing the same things that I am seeing. Lots of dead wood! In some gardens I find buds, but in many gardens the buds are still dormant and hibernating. So my advice is to be patient and wait until your garden warms up a bit more. It is easier to do your pruning when the buds are visible. If you need

Pruning Instructions then be sure to join CCHS Vice President and the King of Hydrangeas Mal Condon for a morning of pruning at Heritage Museums & Gardens on Friday April 25 at 10:00. Please RSVP to me jgillis@parterregarden.com if you would like to be a part of this instructional and practical pruning session.

My goal this year is to be really organized. To that point, at the next board meeting we will set the dates for the year and share at CCHS Spring meeting on May 10. This will be an easy job for me because the board members have already done most of the work! We already have dates for Lunch Bunch, Weeding in the CCHS Garden at Heritage Museums & Gardens, Hydrangeas 101, Hydrangea Pruning, Hydrangea Crafting and Drying and Hydrangea Propagating. Doesn't this all sound exciting? I know I am psyched. I can't wait to see everyone at the May meeting.

See you all then, if not sooner!

-Jeanie Gillis



Spring is coming!

The photo at left was taken by Joan Harrison at a garden center in North Carolina where spring arrives about a month ahead of Cape Cod.

And not a moment too soon!

Yay, Spring!



Mal's Corner

Greetings from Australia! I arrived in Sydney last Saturday, April 5 and have been traveling with good friend and outstanding horticulturist Don Schofield through southwestern New South Wales and into the neighboring state of Victoria visiting hydrangea gardeners along the way. We are in the northern suburbs of Melbourne now and have a busy hydrangea day planned. Aussie gardeners are a keen lot and like New Zealand, the older gardens usually contain some great old macrophylla varieties that have ceased to exist in their original source locations in Britain and Western Europe. And some of them are truly superb but lost favor to the ever increasing number of new introductions.

Given the climate in this part of the world, cold-hardiness is a non-issue. Virtually every macrophylla will prosper here - providing the plant can be grown largely in some level of shade to shield the plant and blooms from the sometime oppressive heat and brutal ultra-violet impact of the sun. Extended dry spells can challenge as well but clever remedies are developed to sustain good growth and flowering under these adverse condition - grape trellises over hydrangea beds, green shade cloth atop fashionable pergolas, misting set-ups to provide evaporative cooling during the most severe part of the day, etc.

For the same varieties we grow in New England, Aussie and New Zealand plants tend to stretch - become taller - due to the greater shade conditions. Bloom density under this shade is somewhat less too. Plants growing in more 'open' conditions under more sun flower much better but the UV rays can burn the blooms, even the darker pigmented varieties. Next Saturday and Sunday, April 12 & 13, I'll be sharing these comparisons in lectures at the Collectors' Plant Fair in Clarendon, NSW - about a 75 minute drive north of Sydney - www.collectorsplantfair.com - if you're interested. The event promises to be a great learning experience. Don't miss the CCHS Spring Meeting as I will be presenting 'Hydrangeas in Australia & New Zealand' with lots of great photos and details about home gardens and what the cut-flower growers are doing.

CCHS Pruning at Heritage

I arrive home to Yarmouth Port (yeah, that's 'home' now) on April 17 and will 'hit the road running'. Lots doing for sure including our big pruning day at Heritage on Friday, April 25. It will be the beginning of a busy growing year in the Hydrangea Collection as we get ready for the Hydrangeas 2015 convention next July.

The Collection continues to expand in plant numbers and physical size. Overall growth has been excellent and last fall's expansion / relocation areas will be developing quickly too. So our pruning efforts will do much to establish good plant size and form to insure the superb blooming we've seen and must maintain. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there.

In the meantime, get out in your garden for the most important pruning time of the year. Your hydrangeas deserve it and so do you - especially after this winter's cold and snow. And your hands won't get very dirty either. All our best,

Mary Kay & Mal Condon
April 8, 2014 Melbourne, AUS

**CAPE COD HYDRANGEA SOCIETY'S ANNUAL
HYDRANGEA SALE**

3-YR PLANTS FROM CUTTINGS

TAKEN AT THE CCHS DISPLAY GARDEN
at
HERITAGE MUSEUMS & GARDENS



SATURDAY
MAY 10 9:30am – Noon
Harwich Community Center
100 Oak Street
Harwich

PLANT SALE DETAILS

The following 3-year plants were propagated by CCHS members and nurtured by Tom and Judy Bartha. The cuttings were taken from hydrangeas in the CCHS garden at Heritage Museums and Gardens in Sandwich **and will be sold** before and after our first general meeting on May 10. First come first sold. Because of the severe winter conditions, not all have survived so quantities are not guaranteed.

ANNABELLE: 4x5' arborescens, lime-turning-to-white-to-green, large globe flower head may need staking, tolerates sun, blooms on new wood



BODENSEE: 5x5' macrophylla, afternoon shade.



BOUQUET ROSE: 4x4' macrophylla petals float on long pedicels, oversize flower heads, easily changed from blue to pink, takes some sun.



GRAYSWOOD: taller serrata at 5x5', blooms turn crimson in fall, late bloomer (July-frost).



HEINRICH SEIDEL: 5x5' macrophylla, maybe full sun, crowded flowerhead in fall looks frilly, protect in our area.



INTERMEDIA: 4x3' serrata, tinges of red and burgundy all season, sun.



NIKKO BLUE: 6x6 macrophylla, clear sky blue, loves shade will take sun, water often.



PAINTER'S PALETTE: 4-5' round lacecap, pink/white/green flowers, takes part sun.



PARZIFAL: Low wide macrophylla, rosy pink, rich magenta, clear blue simultaneously throughout the summer followed by antique rose and purple in autumn. , petals have "pinked" edges, needs light shade.



PREZIOSA: 3-4' serrata with smaller flower heads that resist drooping, full or part sun



SOUVENIR du PRESIDENT PAUL DOUMER: 3-5' rounded macrophylla, red to purple, velvety flowers, part shade



TOKYO DELIGHT: 3-6' macrophylla lacecap with compact rounded smallish but showy blooms July-August, flowers with a frilled edge overlap to almost cover the shrub.



TOVELIT: 4x4 compact pink to deep purple macrophylla, ideal for patios and small gardens, morning sun with afternoon shade.



VEITCHII: 5x5 macrophylla lacecap, light shade no direct sun, very hardy in a woodland garden.



WHITE WAVE: 5x5' macrophylla lacecap, reliably showy with dark green leaves, light shade only.



Speaker – May Meeting
MAL CONDON
“Hydrangeas in Australia & New Zealand”

Photos!
Home Gardens!
Cut Flower Trade!

CCHS 2014 CALENDAR SAVE THE DATES!

April 25 Friday 10am
Pruning with Mal at Heritage Museums & Gardens

May 10 Saturday 10am
Spring Meeting Harwich Community Center

Late May
Weeding at Heritage Museums & Gardens- Every other Thursday

June 17 Tuesday
Lunch Bunch

June 25 Wednesday 10am
Hydrangea 101 Joan Brazeau at Heritage Museums & Gardens

July 8 Tuesday
Lunch Bunch

July TBA
Garden Visit Osterville

July TBA
CCHA Member Day at Heritage Museums & Gardens

July 19 Saturday 10am
Propagation Demo Tom & Judy Bartha at their home

July 22 Tuesday
Lunch Bunch

August 12 Tuesday
Lunch Bunch

August 21 Thursday
Birthday/Pot Luck at Kingsway

September 9 Tuesday 10am
Hydrangea Crafting Joan Harrison at Heritage Museums & Gardens (Rain date September 10)

September 11 Thursday 5:15pm
Hydrangea Happy Hour West Dennis Beach

September 27 Saturday 10am
Fall Meeting Harwich Community Center

October 1 Wednesday
Annual Dinner

PLEASE NOTE

NEW FORMAT FOR MEETINGS:
Speaker FIRST
Break
Business Meeting



Scene from the Boston Flower Show, March 16, 2014

Photo by Joan Harrison

BOSTON FLOWER SHOW REPORT

Interest in hydrangeas remains strong! About 150 people attended Joan Harrison's presentation on "Heavenly Hydrangeas for the Home Garden". The Q&A session after the program was extended to 45 minutes because of audience interest and the fact that this was the last presentation on the last day, so the group didn't have to make way for another presenter. Flowers, such as in the garden scene above, seemed to satisfy a deep need in attendees after the long winter!

HAPPY SPRING!

Cape Cod Hydrangea Society
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