

CAPE COD HYDRANGEA SOCIETY

Winter 2014
SNOWY!



SNOWY OWL

Photo by Betsey Godley



SNOWY HYDRANGEAS

Photo by Joan Harrison

Message from the President

Happy New Year 2014!!! I hope everyone is well and that you are enjoying winter wherever you are. As CCHS members still on the Cape know, we are really having some extreme temperature swings. This may cause some bud damage on the hydrangeas. A positive note on the cold winter is that experts are saying that the polar vortex may have killed off a good percentage of insect larvae that affect landscape trees and shrubs.

One of the great parts of CCHS membership is the talent of our members. One such member is Betsey Godley, co-chair of the CCHS Display Garden. In addition to being co-chair she is an avid birder and an accomplished photographer. The photo above is her photo of one of the many Snowy Owls spotted on the Cape this winter. She took this photo at Sandy Neck.

At the CCHS Board meeting a discussion was held in regards to staying in touch and seeing each other in winter. This paired well with what I want to do as President. One of my goals is to continue the great educational sessions hosted by my predecessors. To that point I will be hosting a mini session, Hydrangeas 101, on February 22nd at 10:00am at my office in Chatham. I will do a short presentation highlighting the differences between the families of hydrangeas. If you want to learn about macrophyllas, paniculatas, quercifolias, and serratas then plan on joining me. You must email me at jgillis@parterregarden.com to RSVP and get directions. I will plan a follow up in the CCHS Display Garden some beautiful morning in the summer to actually see real examples. I also plan to have sessions on pruning, tools and sharpening, propagation, drying and anything else you want to know.

Enjoy the rest of this great winter reading!

Thanks,

Jeanie Gillis

Mal's Corner



As I type this winter 2014 segment of 'Mal's Corner', daughter Carol and I are on the steamship from Nantucket to Hyannis with our first major moving load of our home via a 26' foot U-Haul truck. Late January - early February is definitely not a choice time of year for moving house weather-wise but the time has come for us to get on with the next phase of our lives.

The farm has been sold (property only) and we are purchasing a lovely location in Yarmouth Port. And we are very pleased and excited about our relocation as the 'Farm' will live on! But there will be some significant changes in our operation; traditional retail, garden design & planting, and garden tours will cease. Web sales - mail order - will be retained along with my lecturing and garden consultation services which continue to expand nicely. And my new roles with the CCHS, Heritage, and Hydrangeas 2015 Conference will keep my 'hydrangea love' strong and growing.

Plant Relocation

I addressed this important subject in the fall edition and here's some additional commentary. As part of our relocation project we removed and repotted many of our choice hydrangea varieties as they will become our new 'mother plants' in Yarmouth Port. While much of this important work was done in late August through early November, some 'R&R' work carried over to early December and yes, even into this month of January. Last week's winter thaw gave us a final stretch of frost-free conditions necessary for this chore. I expect a high rate of success as these deciduous plants were completely dormant. I will report full details when we're together at our spring meeting in May.

Winter Pruning

Just a quick reminder on pruning now. We do get some nice days this time of year as was the case last week. If you didn't get a chance to address your paniculatas or arborescens in the fall, you can do it now. Watch the weather forecast; pick a decent sunny day that the winds are tolerable, dress warmly and carry an extra pair of gloves inside your outer jacket for switching off when your fingers get too cold. You can also address your larger macrophyllas too - especially the 'biggeys' that haven't had an interior purging in a few years as you can see into the plant's base more easily now. Just concentrate on removing the old canes showing exfoliating (peeling) bark, remembering to sever the canes as close to the ground as possible.



If you really want to make a super job of it, drag out your portable shop-vac, attach the crevice device on the end of the hose, and reach down into the plant's base to extract all the debris so as to totally expose the base. It's quite revealing and allows you to really cut those old canes right to the nubs.

CCHS Pruning in 2014

Later this week, a select team of CCHS and Heritage pruners will be addressing the exceptional paniculata 'Limelight' row at the entrance to Heritage. These plants have grown profusely and need to be judiciously pruned to maintain good plant size and form to insure the superb blooming we've seen and must maintain for this particularly critical location. CCHS will also be scheduling a paniculata pruning workshop at Heritage open to all members around the middle of February. Be on the look-out for a select e-mail notice in the next week or two.

Pick a nice day and get out in your garden for a little special pruning. It's a great break from being house-bound in winter. And your hands won't get very dirty either. All our best,

Mary Kay & Mal Condon

Nancy Larned's Open House

December 12, 2013

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Pat Vigliorolo sporting a Santa hat and a necklace of sparkling lights.

On a sunny and chilly day in December, 23 members enjoyed a social time at Nancy's house in Yarmouth Port. They feasted on appetizers and desserts along with wine and soft drinks and brought an amazing collection of goods to donate to the Food Pantry in Harwich. Nancy said, "Just as an example – 3 huge boxes of diapers, 11 large boxes of diapers, 5 huge boxes of detergent, 12 jars of peanut butter, bottles of shampoo, 12 tubes of toothpaste and many cans of chicken, tuna, soup etc." Nancy noted that the hydrangea society also gave the Food Pantry a check in the amount of \$200.



Didi McKimney and Mary Kay Condon



Rita Drogo

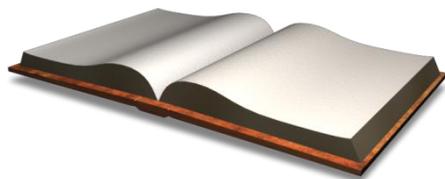


Elizabeth Payne and Joan Brazeau

CCHS COOKBOOK

It was reported that Joan Brazeau's mint chocolate chip brownies and Nancy Larned's buffalo chicken dip were a big hit at Nancy's open house. Wouldn't it be wonderful if those recipes were included in the Cape Cod Hydrangea Society cookbook? (Hint, hint!)

We already know we have a lot of cooking talent in our club. We thought it would be fun to share our recipes, and stories about our recipes, as another fun way to get to know each other better. We're hoping that everyone shares at least one recipe, but you are not, by any means, limited to one! Recipes should be personal favorites (for any reason). They do NOT have to be original. (As this is not a fundraising project, we don't have to be concerned with copyright issues.) For your recipe to be included, please send it to Joan Harrison by March 1, 2014.



Please include the following information:

Name of recipe, list of ingredients, preparation steps.

(Don't skimp on directions. It's better to have too much information than too little.)

Why the recipe is important to you.

(Connection with certain people, favorite holidays, special request by a family member, funny stories connected with its preparation, etc. The stories will make sharing the recipes even better by adding the human interest element!)

How to submit the recipe(s):

- Email is preferred as then I just have to cut and paste. Send to joanofma@hotmail.com.
- Snail mail is okay for those of you without computer access. Send to Joan Harrison, 811 Carpenter Town Lane, Cary, NC 27519

We also ask that you tell everyone what your favorite hydrangea variety is, and why. This will offer an additional learning opportunity to hydrangea society members. Include pictures if possible. Your name will be attached to the recipe(s) and there will be a list of contributors at the back of the book. For those who don't cook, why not tell us your favorite take-out place on the Cape and what you order there. (This is my favorite style of meal preparation, what I call "slaving over a hot steering wheel".) I am an excellent fetcher of good food. ☺ The main thing here is for all of us to share food ideas with each other.

Questions? Feel free to email me (joanofma@hotmail.com) or call 508-468-7869. I'm hoping for 100% participation! And the sooner the better! -Joan Harrison



2014 Boston Flower & Garden Show

Presents This Year's Theme: "*Romance in the Garden*"
March 12-16 at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston

The Boston Flower & Garden Show kicks off spring in New England March 12-16, 2014 at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston. This year's theme, "Romance in the Garden" will inspire attendees to "flirt with dirt" in order to create beautifully landscaped gardens. This extravagant five-day event features over 20 garden displays created by professional landscape designers and, nurseries that incorporate plants, materials and techniques representing romance, beauty and love in gardens and outdoor spaces.

As part of the flower show, this year's Florist Invitational is "takin' it to the streets" – the Bike Lane, that is, with an exhibit called "Tour de Romance" using bicycles as container, canvas, and inspiration. Professional florists are invited to participate.

(Editor's note: Didn't they pick *exactly* the right flower to illustrate a beautiful display?)

Joan Harrison will be speaking at the flower show on Sunday, March 16th at 3:30pm on the subject of "Heavenly Hydrangeas for the Home Garden". Her book will be available for sale in the show's bookstore.

New Hydrangea Varieties for 2014



The Proven Winners website states that hydrangeas are the most googled plant which is one reason they urge retailers to stock them. This is a great way to introduce their new varieties for the upcoming growing season. Are we surprised that people are interested in beautiful hydrangeas? NO! *Hydrangea paniculata*, 'Fire Light' (left) is described as having upright panicles packed with florets that transform from pure white to pomegranate pink. They say its thick, sturdy stems present well in the container as well as the garden.

Two new introductions of Let's Dance, a collection that blooms on both new and old wood, add to the strong color options for this plant.

Rhapsody Blue is a mophead hydrangea with a bloom color that is easily shifted from pink to blue.



LET'S DANCE® Rhapsody Blue
Hydrangea macrophylla 'ES14' USPPAF CanPBRAF



Diva! has huge lacecap blooms that range in color from baby blue to soft pink.

LET'S DANCE® **Diva!** *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'SMHMLDD' USPPAF CanPBRAF



Hydrangea serrata is extremely bud-hardy. It is a true rebloomer, and Tiny Tuff Stuff is a perfect example. Nothing stops this plant from reblooming. Each year it produces abundant lacecap flowers comprised of doubled sepals. While Tiny Tuff Stuff leans to blue, the color can range from blue to pink to white – all soft, delicate shades perfect for refined gardens.

-Proven Winners

TINY TUFF STUFF™ *Hydrangea serrata* 'MAKD' USPPAF CanPBRAF



Our oakleaf hydrangea, or *quercifolia*, has two distinguishing characteristics, its impressive flower panicles and its unique foliage shape. **Gatsby's Gal**, **Gatsby's Star**, and **Gatsby's Moon** are three of the varieties of *H. quercifolia* from Proven Winners in 2014. All three are compact growers that boast showy white flowers.

-Proven Winners

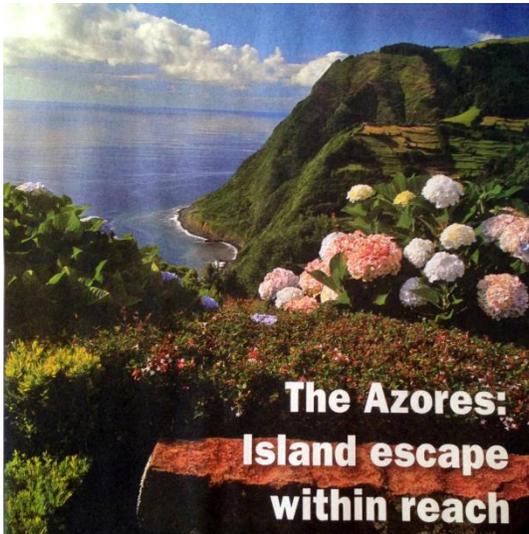
GATSBY'S STAR™ *Hydrangea quercifolia* '***' USPPAF CanPBRAF

Hydrangeas= "most Googled plant"

Curious as to how Proven Winners determined hydrangeas are the most Googled plant, your newsletter editor contacted them for further information. Here is the response.

"Tim Wood, our new product development manager here at Proven Winners ColorChoice Shrubs, discovered that by using Google Trends (now called Google Zeitgeist)...and limiting the results to just the Home & Garden category.

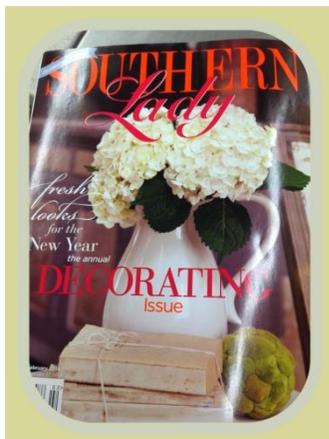
Roses actually trend a little bit higher, but since we cannot separate out horticultural inquiries from cut flowers, fragrance, searches for the color "rose" and home décor inquiries, which are all likely to be much higher for roses than hydrangeas, we interpret the hydrangea results to be more relevant to gardening. Further, it is the term that brings the most traffic to the Proven Winners website as per Proven Winners director of marketing, Marshall Dirks." -Stacey Hirvela



The December issue of AAA Magazine featured The Azores on its cover. This served as a reminder to your newsletter editor that it's a must-visit place someday. One of the islands, Faial, is called "The Blue Island" because it is covered with blue hydrangeas that grow wild all over the place.



Anyone else have hydrangea-related travel suggestions? It's always nice to have a bucket list!



Southern Lady magazine started the new year off right by featuring the perfect flower on its cover!

Editor's note: I didn't even know this magazine existed until I spotted it while standing in a supermarket checkout line down here in North Carolina. I wonder what people thought of me as I snapped pictures with my iPhone!

-Joan Harrison





During the holiday season visitors to Heritage Gardens were treated to a display of beautifully decorated Christmas trees.

These two trees, filled with our favorite flower, were the Cape Cod Hydrangea Society's contribution.

Thank you to Donna Laemmler, who decorated the trees and Joan Brazeau, the designer.

Great job! Very impressive!



AGWAY
Hydrangea macrophylla Pistachio
PISTACHIO HYDRANGEA
 Compact new reblooming hydrangea
 Each double floret on these 5 in Mophead blossoms is variably trimmed in scarlets and pistachio with a blue eye
 Mature: 3-4'
 Exposure: Full or part sun



An interesting hydrangea variety spotted at Agway in Dennis last summer. Has anyone planted this one in your garden? Did you like how it performed? Please let us know!
 Photos by Joan Harrison



Photo by Joan Harrison

At this time of year it's nice to remember winter can't last forever.
The photo above was taken in the front garden of the Marshside Restaurant last summer.

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