

Academy Garden Club Thymes

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY GARDEN CLUB OF LENOX

MARCH 2017

Saturday, March 25

HUDSON VALLEY FLOWER SHOW

Meet at the Academy Building at 9:00 AM

This will be an all-day event!

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Capital District
GARDEN & FLOWER SHOW
MARCH 24-26, 2017 • HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dear Members,

We owe a BIG Thank You to Dianne Romeo for making the arrangements for our dinner at Frankie's. This has become a much 'looked forward to' yearly event. As usual, the food was great, but the company even better.

It has been reported that our scholarship applications have gone out. One school even called looking for theirs! This is another way that we serve our community and support the 'crop' of young gardeners. And who knows, maybe some of these 'sprouts' will join our club someday and keep it going!

This month we have collectively decided on attending the Hudson Valley Garden Show. This will be a fun day. But we do need folks to drive. I have not heard from anyone yet as to your desire to drive - or even if you plan on attending.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP! That way we can coordinate the drivers and the passengers.

We will meet at The Academy Building at 9:00 AM on March 25. In this way drivers won't be going all over for pick-ups, and we will be able to have a head count. The struggle will be coming home with the same number we left with!

So, RSVP and let me know if you plan on attending/driving. We will be going out to lunch. Keep this in mind for your budget. Wear good walking shoes! **Time:** 9:00 AM 'till we come home!

I am looking forward to this fun event!

Warmly,

Anne

Anne Gannon
President

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Horticultural Column by *Harriet Wetstone*

Last month I started off by talking about the fun of suspending the root ends or the tops of vegetables in water and watching them sprout a lovely little miniature garden. Lots of fun, but only enough produce for fairies and elves!

Now with spring on the horizon we need to start thinking about serious gardening, and for that you need seeds. I bet some of us have our seed catalogs and maybe even our seeds ordered. In searching for new seed catalogs, I became addicted. So, I looked into the history of seed catalogues. Here is a little of what I discovered.

First, long ago, there were "herbals", which were compendiums of plants created in order to disseminate information about herbal medicine and botany, and as a source of plant classification. Supposedly the oldest of these is from the first Yellow Emperor of China written in 200 BC!

And second, starting in the late 16th century when it became fashionable for the wealthy to assemble large collections of exotic plants, there were "florilegia" which were collections of drawings and

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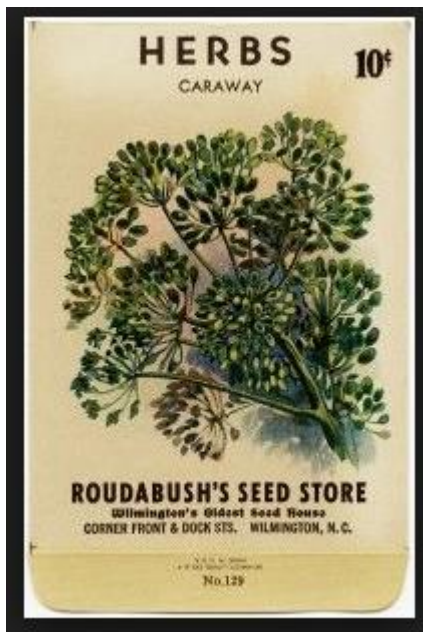
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Horticultural Column by *Harriet Wetstone*-cont'd.

descriptions of ornamental plants. The oldest surviving European plant catalogue is the 1612 Florilegium, written by a Dutch merchant of bulbs and plants. The Hortus Floridus was published in 1614 and it was the first actual catalogue of plants for sale.

The oldest American seed business (no catalogue yet) began in the 18th century in 1768. Boston Globe readers were offered 56 different vegetable and herb seeds plus, for the frivolous, one flower, the carnation. Over the years, seed and plant catalogs evolved from the early utilitarian single-page, single-spaced lists to gorgeous catalogs with hand drawn images and then to color lithography and photography.



Liberty Hyde Bailey was an American horticulturist who wrote over sixty five books and edited The Cyclopedia of American Agriculture. Bailey began collecting seed catalogs after joining Cornell University in 1888. He used them as a way of recording new crop varieties and of changing trends in horticulture.

One of the major issues regarding seeds today is that industrialized agriculture has enormously reduced the number of seed varieties being grown in service of mass production, shelf life, transportability, etc. Happily there has been a burgeoning of heirloom seed companies that are nurturing and protecting the seed varieties that have been handed down from generation to generation.

Thanks to Oregon State Library, Cornell Library, Wikipedia, and New Medicine Timeline.
