

Academy Garden Club Thymes

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

MAY 2018

Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 7:00 PM

Lenox Academy Building

Program: *Wildflower Lecture*

Speaker: Joseph G. Strauch, author of *Wildflowers of the Berkshire and Taconic Hills*

Refreshments Hostesses:

Anne Gannon, Colette Lemanski, and Pat Neri

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Dear Members,

This month our meeting will be on local wildflowers. It is always nice to have a talk given by an expert in the local fauna. While it is nice to know about ALL the wildflowers everywhere, it is much more fun to know what to be on the lookout for in our own backyard. Spring is the perfect time of year to have this talk; the woods are waking up, and almost every week something new is in bloom and waiting to be noticed. However, as nice as it is to think they are noticed by *us*, that is actually not the case! Everything that comes into bloom is waiting to be noticed by its specific pollinator, another interesting topic to be explored.

If you are interested in the local wildflowers, Bartholomew's Cobble, located at 105 Weatogue Road in Sheffield, always has a wonderful selection of spring ephemeral flowers. The Cobble has been protected for many years, so the wildflower display is generally very beautiful. It is a good idea to call ahead to make sure there are plenty of flowers showing their blooms: 413-229-8600.

I say all this while wondering whatever happened to spring. It seems quite late in the year to be this cold and snowy. Then I remember that in 2016, Mother's Day had snow flurries! Flurries are not so bad because in looking into this further I discovered that on May 8, 1977, a Mother's Day

storm dropped 10-20 inches of snow across the state. And don't forget May 10, 1945, when 10 inches were dropped!

So - **Happy Spring**, whenever it comes!



For those of you with grandchildren, or those of you who are anything like me and just love baby animals, visit

Baby Animals at **Hancock Shaker Village**
April 14-May 6 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

This is a pleasant way to spend an afternoon. There is a lovely shop and a nice lunch cafe right on the property.

And please do not forget our own Club Spring Tours:

Lilacland, Pelham, Ma
May date to be announced
For a preview- [Facebook.com/LILACLAND/](https://www.facebook.com/LILACLAND/)

Elizabeth Park Conservancy, Hartford, CT:
Wednesday, June 20, 2018 - tour the gardens and lunch at the café.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone on May, 8th!

Warmly,

Anne

President
Academy Garden Club of Lenox

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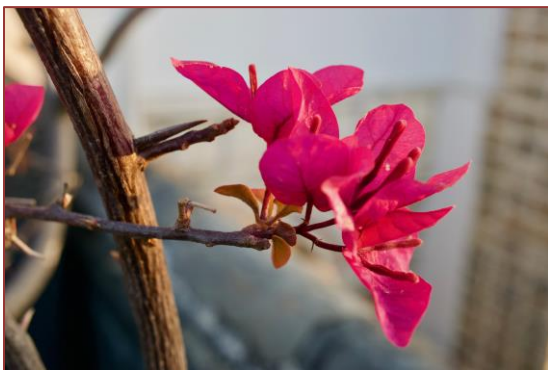
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HORTICULTURAL COLUMN

By Harriet Wetstone



As I write this I am still coming down from the high of my trip to Yunnan, China. Yunnan, home to a multitude of ethnic minority groups, is the most southwest province of China and very mountainous. The thinner the mountain air, the stronger the sunshine, it is said, and the brighter the colors and the more intense the flavors of the fruits and vegetables.



I was enchanted by the people who were often in native dress, fabulously embroidered, but always in bright colors. People always returned a smile with a smile. But should you smile and say - yinyi ni hao- or "hello", there would be grins and handshakes and sometimes hugs.



But at the end of the day, what I really was totally drunk on, was color - the color of the clothes, the market places, the flowers. The colors were so vibrant! Yet the walls and doors of the buildings were incredibly soft pastels, pale terra cotta, soft yellow, and gentle worn pinks. And, of course, there was the intensely of the blue skies.



Plum blossoms, in intense pink and cloud-like white, were everywhere - in town and in the woods. Bougainvillea, either fuchsia or purple, was also everywhere. In the courtyards of the buildings there were Camillea trees, most often red. The Chinese fringe flower (Loropetalum) was the most common shrub, which has fuchsia flowers against dark leaves. And the azaleas, also everywhere, were heavenly.



**So this time,
there are fewer words and more pictures!**

