

# Academy Garden Club Thymes

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

APRIL 2015

**Tuesday, April 14, 7 pm**

Academy Building

**Artistic Flower Arranging**

*Presented by Margaret Poutasse*

*Refreshment hostesses*

*Pat Archey, Grace Gwara, Dianne Romeo*

Hi Everyone,

A neighbor this week told me that spring had finally arrived. When I asked him why, his answer was that he could hear my rooster crowing again. This meant that I had flung open the barn door to let the ladies outside again. I'm not sure I'd use this to gauge the seasons but I'll take anything this year.

The snow is finally melting and a little green can be seen through the mud, which is a great change for all of us. It's time to start those seeds and watch your babies grow. I've been hovering over my seed trays for a few weeks.

Our April meeting will address the creative side in each of us and all you artists will enjoy this program.

One last item to mention is that on April 11th the Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association is hosting their annual workshop event at Lenox High. If you still have not signed up you can contact Marilyn Wiley at [marilynwiley8@gmail.com](mailto:marilynwiley8@gmail.com).

See you soon,  
Dianne

## Horticultural Corner

Some tips and tricks from Paul James, host of *Gardening by the Yard*:

To remove the salt deposits that form on clay pots, combine equal parts white vinegar, rubbing alcohol and water in a spray bottle. Apply the mixture to the pot and scrub with a plastic brush. Let the pot dry before you plant anything in it.

To prevent accumulating dirt under your fingernails while you work in the garden, draw your fingernails across a bar of soap and you'll effectively seal the undersides of your nails so dirt can't collect beneath them. Then, after you've finished in the garden, use a nailbrush to remove the soap and your nails will be sparkling clean.

To prevent the line on your string trimmer from jamming or breaking, treat with a spray vegetable oil before installing it in the trimmer.

Turn a long-handled tool into a measuring stick! Lay a long-handled garden tool on the ground, and next to it place a tape measure. Using a permanent marker, write inch and foot marks on the handle. When you need to space plants a certain distance apart (from just an inch to several feet) you'll already have a measuring device in your hand.

To have garden twine handy when you need it, just stick a ball of twine in a small clay pot, pull the end of the twine through the drainage hole, and set the pot upside down in the garden. Do that, and you'll never go looking for twine again.

Little clay pots make great cloches for protecting young plants from sudden, overnight frosts and freezes.