

Academy Garden Club Thymes

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

OCTOBER 2016

Tuesday, October 11, 2016- 7:00 pm
Lenox Academy Building

Program:

Fall Wreath Workshop Cost: \$5.00

Wreaths and some materials will be provided. Please bring your own decorations to personalize your fall wreath. Suggestions: milkweed pods, pine cones, berries, acorns

Presenters:

Bobbi Ann Salinetti and Caroline Kessman

Refreshments:

Anne Marie Bell, Mary Ann Coakley, and Sandy Merlino



Hello Fellow Gardeners,

Happy Fall to everyone! This is always a wonderful time of year, crisp days, bright skies, and, for me, beautiful clear evenings for gazing at the stars. Take some time and enjoy the beautiful autumn days and check out those night skies. Both October and November bring with them wonderful meteor showers to enjoy!

This year I am writing the newsletter a bit early. The Apple Squeeze has not happened yet. At the time of our meeting I will have the information we are all curious to know - What Sold and what the Profit is!!

Speaking of our next meeting, we will make Autumn Wreaths for our homes. We will supply the wreaths, a few decorations and some florist staples to help attach items.

Here are a few things **YOU** need to bring: clippers, a glue gun if you have one, and a few items you have collected to personalize your wreaths.

Fall is a bounty of natural decorations waiting to be plucked! There are pine cones, acorns, many

seed heads, milkweed pods (open or closed and sprayed shut). Michael's craft store always has a nice supply to look through.

This will be a fun workshop and everyone will be going home with something lovely!

Looking forward to seeing your creations,

Anne

Anne Gannon
President



Horticultural Column by Harriet Wetstone

October: A Rake's Progress, Or Not

One of the surprises of my new life in Lenox is that my garden is not one of perennial borders and lawn, but a woodland garden without a blade of grass in sight.

And one of the things I have come to appreciate is the value of leaves, left in place, as a natural mulch. Not to rake? Who knew! Instead, rejoice in the piles of mineral rich organic material that trees graciously shed just for you!

Leaves supply essential nutrients like nitrogen, potassium, magnesium and manganese, and more. Leaves release those nutrients much quicker when they get chopped up, or shredded and the easiest way to do that is by going over them with a lawn mower.

But there is also encouragement to let them just be, perhaps not on lawns, but certainly in beds and under trees where nothing else grows.

And not only do leaves provide excellent mulch, the National Wildlife Federation encourages people to leave their leaves because of their importance as habitat for all kinds of critters. Butterflies, salamanders, chipmunks, earthworms and other creatures live in, lay eggs in or eat from leaves.

So in my woodland garden, I enjoy a bit of raking, keeping the paths clean and neat, and doing some rake fluffing in the more open beds, but mostly I enjoy wandering through the garden, enjoying the colors and textures of the fallen leaves.

###