

Academy Garden Club Thymes

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

SEPTEMBER 2016

Tuesday, September 13, 2016
Lenox Academy Building – 7:00 pm

Herb Potluck Dinner

*Please bring your recipes . . . and
don't forget your place settings!*

Refreshment Hostesses: *Everyone*
A-M – Appetizers
N-Z - Desserts



Dear Members,

Here we are with the end of the summer quickly approaching. Labor Day was always one of the signals. The goldenrod flowering was another one. This was time to seriously start thinking about new school clothes for everyone!

With climate change also fast approaching, one thing that I noticed was that the goldenrod bloomed earlier this year. There are many small changes that we, as gardeners, can take notice of.

It would be nice at our September Potluck if everyone brought some small change that they noticed in their 'neck of the woods'. We could compare notes and start keeping track of these things. Who but a garden club can monitor this?

Keep in mind that it has already been reported that this has been the hottest year since they started keeping records many years ago. And here we are with still quite a bit of the year to go!

Also, we cannot let this year go by without talking about the lack of rain! How has everyone made out? I hope you all have been able to water, water, water in order to save your favorite plants!

Lastly, the Apple Squeeze is also fast approaching, and we all know what that means!! There will be a sign-up sheet at the dinner. Please come prepared to donate some of your time to this event! As we all know, our profits from the event are what helps us to help others within our communities.

We plant at and take care of the monument, have scholarships in two area high schools, and have granted out funds at times. This could not happen on our dues alone!

Thank you all for being a part of The Academy Garden Club!

Warmly,

Anne Gannon
President



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Horticultural Notes

The September Garden

By Harriet Wetstone

Ahh, September, bitter sweet. We are tired of the heat, looking forward to going into the new season, but also so sad to see the end of summer signaled by those cooler nights and the first hints of fall color and streaks of yellow golden rod.

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Horticultural Notes – Harriet Wetstone

(continued)

I like to think of September as both a beginning and an ending, and an exciting time in the garden. Cooler nights and a little bit more rain encourage the September garden to be beautiful. And we can help! Religious deadheading, throughout the summer, and certainly now, can keep the garden tidy and encourage continued blooming.

Deadheading can also provide some control over those plants which would happily take over the earth as well as the rest of the garden; for example, some of the Cranesbill, Geraniums, or the Spirea, shrubs, and earlier in the season, Lady's Mantle.



September brings the beginning of mums and asters, but, best of all, Colchicum. White Flower Farm describes the magical appearance of Colchicums which “rise without warning and glisten in the sharp light of autumn”.

These bulbs throw a clump of broad, deer proof leaves in the spring, which are gone by mid-summer. They want full or part sun and prefer well drained soil that doesn't dry out in the summer.

My favorite is Colchicum Autumnale Alboplenum which has creamy white flowers up to 4 inches across with as many as 8 blooms on each plant. Odyssey Bulbs points out that although Colchicums common name is Autumn Crocus, Colchicums are from a different plant family: Colchicums are from the Liliaceae and croci are from the Iridaceae.



September is a wonderful time for nibbling in the vegetable garden. Some of the herbs, like parsley, welcome the cooler nights, as do broccoli, cabbage, kale (to name favorites in my garden).

And nibbling can continue into November! But, I've learned that you can also seed new plants in September. Hart Seeds has a Fall Planting Varieties Collection of seeds that can be planted late August into September which includes dill, cilantro, parsley, mustard, arugula, kale, cherry belle radishes and little finger carrots.

Resources:

White Flower Farm:
<http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/>

Odyssey Bulbs: <http://odysseybulbs.com/>

Hart Seeds: <http://hartseed.com/>