

The LEAFLET

Club News for the Members of the Martha Washington Garden Club

November 2020



Birch Box Make It ZOOM Class

Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 pm

Cost: \$25

We will provide the container, oasis, assorted greens, pinecones and ribbons for each person. You may add your own greens, pods or festive decor to the arrangement.

All the items will be available for pickup at Donna Myers' home at 516 Heritage Oak Drive, Yardley, PA on Tuesday, Dec. 8th. Please feel free to call Donna at 267-307-37632 to arrange a specific time.

Checks should be made out to the "Martha Washington Garden Club" and mailed to Donna at the above address. When you pick up your items, Donna will give you the ZOOM class information including passcode.

Any questions reach out to Donna at myersdj@verizon.net.

Holiday Luncheon Cancelled

Due to the complications with COVID-19, the holiday luncheon plans have been cancelled.

But we want to thank Rita Clark for all her hard work on the holiday party planning.



Thanks to Cindy Singh for this gorgeous photo of a bee on a pansy. What impressive wing structure!



Photo: Bill Cullina, The F. Otto Haas Executive Director

Blue star (*Amsonia hubrichtii*) is a feathery, soft-textured, needle-like 3-season perennial: blue bloom in spring, green foliage all summer, and turns striking yellow in fall. Mass together as shown in this picture from Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania.

Delicate, willow-like foliage is topped with beautiful, pale powder-blue star-shaped flowers in spring.



— FIND US —

On Facebook: [Martha Washington Garden Club Bucks County](#)
Website: www.marthawashingtongardenclub.org

October Little Show Entries “Garden of Good and Evil”

Thanks to all of the members who submitted entries in October’s Little Show.



Jackie Quinn Palmer



Jeremy Parry



Lynn Lee



Betsy Jurey



Barbara Heisler



Lynn Holl



Arlene Gordon

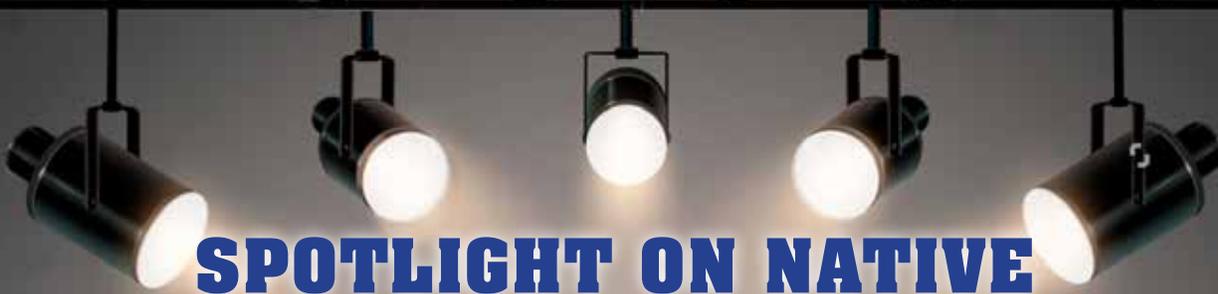
Upcoming Little Shows:

NOVEMBER: “A Time for Gathering”—A Traditional design suitable for a dining room table or sideboard. Designer’s choice of plant material. Entries must be emailed **by November 23rd**.

DECEMBER: “A Present”—A creative design with an emphasis on gift giving. Design may be on top of a gift box, basket or bag, or incorporate a gift box within the design. Designer’s choice of plant material. Floral tubes or floral foam may be used. Accessories permitted. Entries must be emailed to **by December 21st**.

All Little Show digital entries get emailed to **Barbara Heisler, heisler@gmail.com**





SPOTLIGHT ON NATIVE

Looking to add a pop of color in your Fall landscape?
Common Witch Hazel might be your answer.

Native to the woodland under-story of the eastern United States, the common witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) is hardy in USDA Zones 3-8. Its spice-scented yellow flowers begin blooming in October and November, and some cultivars bloom into March. The common witch hazel is the only Pennsylvania shrub or tree to bloom in late autumn. Often classified as a shrub because of its multiple stems, it can grow 15-20 (rarely 30) feet in height with a spreading vase shape. It is best used as a small tree in the landscape, sited in partial shade near a home or in a shrub border.



Witch hazels are perfect for a modest-sized garden and their tree-like habit allows for underplanting of choice groundcovers, bulbs and shade-loving perennials. Be sure to site them where you can enjoy their flowers from inside a warm house or up close in a part of the garden where you can appreciate their subtle beauty. Whether used as a

specimen or grouped for effect, low-maintenance witch hazels are a delight in the fall and winter landscape and a promise that spring will come again.

Reprinted from Penn State Extension Service

AMARYLLIS: Tips from the University of Maryland Extension

This beautiful plant is an all time favorite holiday season plant that can be encouraged to bloom at other times of the year too. The bloom is a spectacular flower six inches across with two to four blossoms produced on tall sturdy stems. Each flower can last two weeks, sometimes longer. Bloom colors can range from red, yellow, pink and white. There are many hybrids bred for larger more colorful blossoms. The amaryllis commonly sold is correctly called Hippeastrum. But the plant is most often referred to by its common name which is amaryllis. Hippeastrum is native to South America. They can grow to about 24 inches tall and when properly cared for may live for several years.

- Plant bulbs in containers that drain well and are about an inch larger than the diameter of the widest part of the bulb. They bloom better when slightly potbound. Use soilless potting mixture for houseplants and pack the potting media around the bulb.
- Plant bulbs pointy-side up and allow about 1/3rd of the bulb to be exposed above the soil.
- After planting the bulb place in a sunny window. They need bright light (some direct light), during their active growth period. Rotate the plant slightly each time you water so that the stalk grows straight. Typical room temperatures are needed for growth.
- After planting the bulb begin to water sparingly to keep the potting mixture barely moist. When you see about 2-3 inches of growth increase watering to keep the soil moist, but not too wet. Flower stalks usually emerge first but it is not unusual for the leaves to do so.

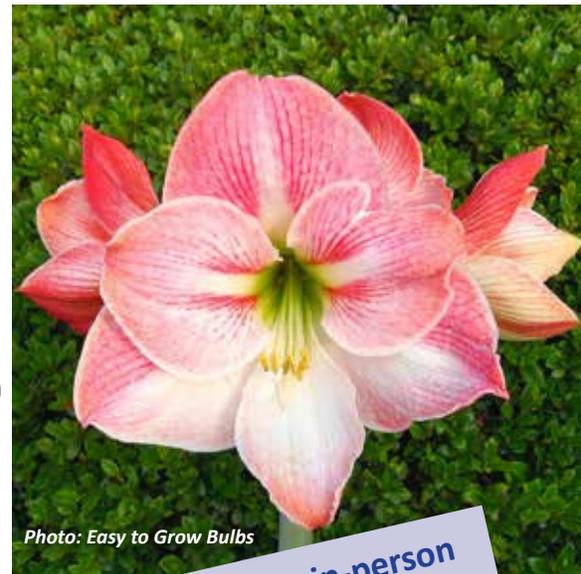


Photo: Easy to Grow Bulbs

There will be no in-person
January meeting, but the
Board is working on an
agenda for a possible ZOOM
meeting. Stay tuned for
more information on this!

Pot Up Some Bulbs and Dream of Spring

In fall, gardeners settle bulbs under a blanket of soil and wait for spring to watch them flaunt their beauty.

"It's easy to create a stunning display that bursts into bloom in the spring or early summer," said Heather Stoven, an Oregon State University Extension horticulturist. "But bulbs don't have to be in the ground to be effective. A pot works just as well."

In fact, bulbs often do better in pots than in the ground because pots provide better drainage, critical for their long-term survival. Also, gophers and other underground creatures will be foiled since they can't find their juicy favorites, especially tulips.

Don't be afraid to pack a pot full of bulbs, Stoven said. Plant bulbs at different, overlapping levels. You can easily put 20 to 30 bulbs, sometimes even more, into a pot that is 14 to 20 inches across. Use bulbs of many different sizes for an interesting display and longer seasonal appeal.

"Although you can put each kind of bulb in a different pot, mixing them up provides an extravagant display," she said.

For longest bloom, look first for crocus. Tulips of all kinds work well. Some of Stoven's favorites are the "species tulips" and their cultivars. Species tulips, often available in garden centers, are sometimes shorter than the taller bedding tulips and tend to come back year after year unlike the larger, more familiar tulips that fade away after the first couple of years.

Narcissus and daffodils also are stellar pot bulbs. Choose both early and later blooming varieties for continued bloom. The taller alliums also work well, but shorter alliums can sometimes take over. "I avoid grape hyacinth, which also tends to dominate," Stoven said.

Branch out a bit, Stoven advises, and try brodiaea, hyacinths, fritillaria, dwarf iris or other bulbs. Dwarf iris, like tulips, often do better in pots than in the ground because of their high drainage requirements.

Plant bulbs with their tips pointing upward and, generally, follow directions for planting depth on the package. Use regular planting or potting soil, recently purchased if possible. "If you reuse older planting mix, be sure to add bulb fertilizer, and be advised of the risk of potential carry-over of plant diseases, which can affect the health of your new bulbs," Stoven advised.



"Fill the container a little more than halfway full of soil, then add a layer of large bulbs such as narcissus (daffodil). Leave only a little space between them; about half an inch is OK. Add more soil and plant the next larger bulb, such as tulip. Repeat adding soil and bulbs alternately, placing the smallest bulbs like crocus at the top, covered with another inch of soil. Water well and place in a protected spot out of the rain."

It is best to leave the pot outside so that the bulbs get a cold period, which stimulates growth and flowering. Be sure to bring the pot inside temporarily when temperatures dip below about 28-30 degrees overnight. Bigger pots are safer than smaller ones because it takes longer for the soil mass to freeze all the way through.

Once green spikes of foliage begin to poke through the soil make sure the plants get plenty of light. A good time to add fertilizer is when plants are blooming; preferably a slow-release type.

After the flowers have bloomed, leave the foliage to die back on its own. Then remove the bulbs and plant them in the garden in the fall, or simply leave them in the pot for the next year. The bulbs will remain dormant and need water only when the autumn cycle begins anew.



Rerinted from an article by Kym Pokorny
kym.pokorny@oregonstate.edu