

At Christmas I no more desire a rose  
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth,  
But like of each thing that in season grows.  
— William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

2016 is drawing to a close and 2017 is on the horizon. January is named after the Latin word for door since January is the gateway of the year. The month is conventionally thought of as being named after Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions in Roman mythology. This is an appropriate time to look back on our accomplishments since the last Newsletter in October and to look forward to a new year. Change sweeps over the garden with the winter winds as December brings hard winter to our gardens; but if you're like me, your gardening downtime ends about as soon as the flip to a new calendar and as we start to peruse the first of the seed catalogues that arrive in the mail in January.

We started the holiday season in November with our Holiday Greens workshop which provided arrangements for Meals-on-Wheels recipients. I want to extend a thank-you to all who participated in creating 110 arrangements which Clara Ross and I delivered to the Senior Spectrum in Brunswick to bring cheer to those less mobile.

Joan Toy, Barbara Richards and their committee put on the Club's first Festival of Greens December 9, 10 and 11 at the Winter Street Center. Details are provided elsewhere in the Newsletter, but it was a beautiful, successful endeavor and I want to thank all those who so generously gave their time and effort to make this such a success.

We celebrated the holiday season with our annual Holiday Coffee held on December 13th at Susan Gillies' beautiful home. \$645 was raised for the Bath Area Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity! Lucky Kay Kavanagh had the winning ticket for the \$100 gift certificate for Springer's Jewelers.

We are entering into our second year of a three-year partnership between the Bath Garden Club and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, which is designed to promote Master Garden Volunteer involvement in the greater Bath community. This continues to be an enormously exciting endeavor in which to become involved and we are in the process of researching new projects.

The Bath Garden Club website has been approved by the Board and plans are underway for the Ad Hoc Committee to begin work on this in January.

The New Year is quickly approaching and we have much to look forward to:

- Applications for the Master Gardener Volunteer class of 2017 close January 15, 2017. For more information, please contact Lynne Holland (207-353-5550 or 1-800-287-1458).
- Ryan Parker, Environmental Policy Outreach Coordinator at the Natural Resources Council of Maine, will be presenting “Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument - What Come Next?” at our next meeting on Tuesday, January 17th.
- Work begins in January for the upcoming year’s programs and activities. Please consider contacting Leah Zartarian or Joan Toy, Program Committee Co-Chairs, if you have suggestions.
- *For Committee Chairs:* The Budget Committee will develop the budget for the upcoming budget year in early February. Now is the time to review your committee’s plans and estimate funding required to meet your goals. Budget requests should be submitted to me no later than February 1st.
- Mark your calendar: The GCFM convention, “From the Forest to the Sea” will be held in Freeport June 19-21, hosted by the Stroudwater District Club and promises to be packed with fascinating programs.

This is the time to think of winter as nature’s prelude to the next garden, a time to browse seed catalogues and plant what you will grow as we look forward to our upcoming Club programs and calendar. I hope that you share my excitement for the Bath Garden Club as we continue to explore new opportunities.

With my warmest wishes for a happy holiday season and a wonderful year in 2017,

Elizabeth

If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?  
 – Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)