

2016-2017 Annual Report of the Bath Garden Club



Sowing Seeds for Success

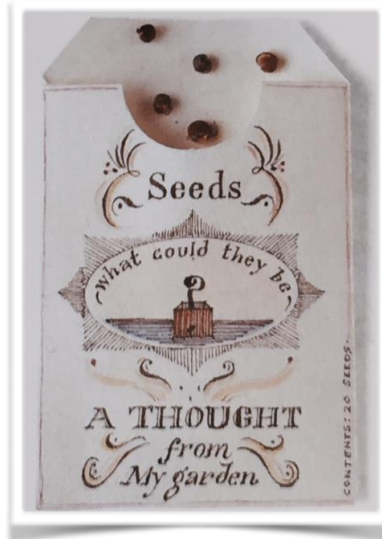
List the plants grown successfully and the ones that failed. Good records are invaluable for preparing for next year's garden.

After looking over our previous year, I am amazed how quickly the time has gone. Keeping a 10-year Gardener's Journal to which I refer for schedules, weather, varieties of birds in the garden, plants that thrived and those that didn't, and timetables for starting seeds is an invaluable resource. So too, I look back on the previous year and take stock of our accomplishments as well as areas for improvement.

The Bath Garden Club made over \$8,500 at our annual Plant Sale last May. This is part of our nonoperational budget; the funds raised are returned to the community in the form of youth activities, donations for plants, activities at the Plant Home, Oliver House, scholarships, etc.

This event was followed in quick succession by our Annual Meeting at the Maine Maritime Museum and the 85th Annual GCFM Convention in Bar Harbor in June 2016. Our Club was honored to receive the following awards:

- Club of Distinction Award for club accomplishments in all areas of gardening.
- Club Activities Award
- First Place Award for our 2015 Yearbook.
- Kathleen Marty Civic Development Award.



- Certificate of Participation for Outstanding Work with School Gardening Projects.
- Certificate of Recognition in support of the Gloria Bryson Burrill Tree Award.
- Certificate of Recognition for Supporting and Contributing to Habitat for Humanity.

Our Youth Activities Committee worked with pre-schoolers to plant marigolds, viewed the Children's Garden and enjoyed a garden party; and worked with first graders to pot marigolds while discussing plant structure, soil, plant food, water and sunshine. They also planted sunflower seeds whose plants were used in the fall by teachers for various projects.

The Club's Campership/Scholarship funds, dispersed annually to financially support children's experiences with gardening and the environment, were awarded to RSU 1 for their apple orchard (\$500). The Committee will meet in late April 2017 to allocate additional funds for disbursement to the LOCAL Garden (part of the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust), Merrymeeting Audubon Society and Pine Tree Camps.

We started the holiday season in November with our popular Holiday Greens workshop which provided 110 arrangements distributed through the Meals-on-Wheels program. Our first annual Festival of Greens event was held December 9, 10 and 11 at the Winter Street Center in Bath. It was a spectacular and successful endeavor that brought in over \$3,400 that will help add to our funds which are returned to the community.

Development of our website, BathGardenClub.org, began in January and is a work in progress, with a Facebook link to videos of Bath Garden Club demonstrations. These videos allow those interested, and members unable to attend such a meeting, to benefit *in absentia*. We will also list our programs, committees, projects and other noteworthy items on the site.



Our Conservation Committee was awarded a \$500 grant from the Merrymeeting Bay Trust to fund signage identifying various plants and features along the Thorne Head Trail.

We are adding a second evening meeting this year to reach out to interested individuals whose schedules may not allow them to participate in our activities during the day.

As we move into Spring, we are again offering our members an annual choice of committee assignments at renewal, if they wish. We have already begun planning our annual Plant Sale on May 13th at the Library Park in Bath. This event, our major fundraiser, has historically provided over 2,000 perennials, annuals and herbs. We continue our partnership with Sagadahoc Preservation, Inc. providing fresh flower arrangements on June 17th for the annual house tour; and this year we will provide the flower arrangements for the celebration of the completion of the new landscaping and reflecting pool for the *Spirit of the Sea*, the world-class iconic sculpture by William Zorach on June 25th in the Library Park.

We are delighted to welcome four new members to the Bath Garden Club this year.

*In early spring some seeds we sow
and with what hope we watch them grow
and waiting's filled with much surprise,
we see each verdant shoot arise*