

Today, with so much wrong with the planet, with everyone discouraged and uneasy and some desperate, almost the only things that can dispel the gloom for me are the bright and fraudulent pictures in a seed catalogue and the glad cry that issues from a box of day-old chicks arriving on an April morning from the hatchery. Our 1975 orders went off in the mail three weeks ago. The seeds came to \$67, up from \$19. A baby chick this spring will cost me thirty-three cents, up five cents from the 1974 chick. Even so, there is hardly a better buy around: the seed, the exploded egg, the perennial promise that they hold.

E.B. White, Letter from the East, February 8, 1975

Dear Fellow Gardener:

The temperature jumps up, then plummets like a stone. On days where the snow and ice melt I watch robins pull worms like rubber bands from the ground and the air has a fresh tang and promise of spring. The days are getting longer, the sun stronger — we've turned the corner on winter.

As the crocus and daffodils stretch their shoots after a winter slumber, it's time to think about our upcoming Plant Sale on Saturday, May 13th. This is the Club's major effort to make money which enables us to support various worthwhile endeavors in the community, and is successful through our combined contributions of digging, potting, transportation, baking, labeling and pricing, time, energy and enthusiasm. It's a great way to connect with the community, see old friends and make new ones.

The proposed 2017-2018 budget, approved by the Executive Committee and the Board, is included in this newsletter for your review prior to its final vote at our April 18th meeting. If you have any questions regarding the budget, please call Jackie Berry, Ad Hoc Budget Chair, or Anne Krebsbach, Treasurer, for clarification. The operational budget reflects money raised from our dues and is used to pay for meeting expenses, speakers, etc. The nonoperational budget includes money from fundraisers such as the Plant Sale and the Festival of Greens. This money is returned to the community in the form of donations for plants, activities at the Plant Home, Oliver House, youth activities, scholarships, etc.

The Annual Meeting of the Medomak District is scheduled for Monday, May 1st at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Brunswick. The Topsham Garden Club is hosting this year's event, Sowing Seeds of Success. Heather McCargo, Executive Director of the Wild Seed Project will speak about "Going Native: Using Native Perennials, Shrubs and Trees", discussing a variety of recommended plants for the home landscape, easy methods for native seed sowing, and issues in the nursery trade with native plants and genetic diversity. If you wish to participate, please send a check payable to: Bath Garden

Club, for \$30 to Anne Krebsbach, who will submit the names of those registering and send one check to cover our Club. Reservations are due by April 10th. For more information contact Vicky Marr at 563-1993.

Don't forget the upcoming GCFM 86th Annual Convention, From the Forest to the Sea, sponsored by the Stroudwater District, June 19-21st, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport. The schedule of events and registration are posted on the GCFM website. This promises to be a series of fabulous events, garden tours and a chance to connect with other gardeners close to home.

As some of you know, Marty and I were privileged to be part of a photo shoot in our vegetable garden last August and October with Judy and Ernie Stallworth and Suzanne and Bill Bushnell. The article is in the April/May edition of DownEast Magazine, edited by Martha Stewart, which is available on newsstands now. Take a peak.





As I close my last newsletter as president, I want to thank each of you for your support, enthusiasm, dedication and countless contributions to the Bath Garden Club and making a positive impact in our community. I am grateful to have had the honor and pleasure to work with you and am awed daily of the good work and amazing results you have accomplished.

With warm regards,
Elizabeth

To be a gardener is to be an optimist.