**CALENDAR**

**Tuesday Dec 5.** Board Mtg. 9:15am & Boxwood Workshop 10:00-12:00pm. Mary Petrini’s home, 32 Pegan Lane, Dover.

**Tuesday Dec 12.** Noanett Holiday Cocktail Party 6:30pm. Debby Kennedy’s home, 65 Wilsondale St., Dover. Members, spouses & significant others.

**Tuesday Jan 2.** Board Mtg. 9:15am at Carrie’s home.


**Thursday Jan 25.** Potluck Supper at Caroline Blake’s home to watch AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH.

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**DECEMBER/ JANUARY 2007**

www.noanettgardenclub.org

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We have started our year with two excellent programs about conservation from the Trustees of Reservations and the Conservation Law Foundation. This month we will be talking about preservation with a wonderful program on The Mount, Edith Wharton’s Estate in Lenox, MA. This is a remarkable garden because Edith Wharton herself designed it with later work by Beatrix Farrand. Talk about a talented woman (actually—they were both pretty amazing women)! Next month something completely different, but I hope enjoyable for all of you—Art Scarpa, founder of the MA Chapter of the Cactus and Succulent Society will be bringing in some of his beautiful babies and giving us a talk about them. As you know, Noanett is featuring succulents and other xerophytes in our Small Bay Window display at the New England Spring Flower Show in March. Anne-Marie Woodhouse and I thought you might enjoy seeing some truly magnificent specimens grown by a real expert and enthusiast. Many thanks to Jane Murphy and Kristi Perry for arranging such a terrific program schedule this year. Our Visiting Garden Chairs, Mimi Gregory and Isabelle Loring, are busy planning the winter and spring season so please take advantage of the opportunities they provide to visit some of the most wonderful places in New England. Our Conservation Chairs, Karen Pierce and Caroline Whitney, have arranged what should be a very stimulating evening viewing and discussing Al Gore’s movie “An Inconvenient Truth” hosted by Caroline Blake. Please plan to attend.

I want to thank our Ways and Means Chair, Becky Hamlin, and Debby Kennedy for running a wonderful Boxwood Workshop and Holiday Party. Thank you especially to Mary Petrini for the use of her garage and to Debby for running the Boxwood Workshop and hosting the party. We are most fortunate to have such generous members!

A very Happy and Healthy New Year to one and all.

Carrie
Please join us for an interesting lecture on the restoration of The Mount, Edith Wharton’s summer estate in the Berkshires. Betsy Anderson, Garden Historian at The Mount, will lead us through the restoration of this magnificent, 100 year old landscape. Edith Wharton was one of America’s most celebrated authors. She wrote over forty books in forty years, becoming the first woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, for *The Age of Innocence* in 1921. The Mount was not only a writer’s retreat for Wharton, but also a place for her to express her innovative ideas on architecture and landscape design.

Guests are welcome.

In June, we hope to take a trip out to the Berkshires to tour The Mount.

Looking ahead ……..FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Don’t miss Art’s Traveling Cactus and Succulent Show!

Art Scarpa is our guest speaker at the membership meeting on Monday, February 12, 2007 at the Dover Church. Art will share his passion and knowledge of these fascinating plants from the arid areas of the world and from many climate extremes – from northern Canada to southern Argentina, the Caribbean, tropical Asia, the frigid north of Japan and his favorite habitat, South Africa. He will bring along many plants to show and pass around during his lecture. Guests are welcome.
SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

There are many scholarship opportunities available through the GCA. The GCA website has a complete list of all of the scholarships, the applications and deadlines. Following is a brief overview of the opportunities available to apply for: horticulture, conservation including rare and endangered flora, botany, the study of native bird habitat, medicinal botany, coastal wetlands, tropical ornamental horticulture and garden history and design.

This past year has been an active one for Zone 1. Last year Noanett's applicant for the Elizabeth Abernathy Hull award was selected. This award recognizes a worthy contributor to early environmental education and was given to Bonnie Drexler, the Program Coordinator in charge of children's education for the NEWFS.

In addition to that, the Mary T. Carothers Summer Environmental Studies Scholarship had its first recipient last summer. This scholarship (in Bootsie Carothers name from Noanett) provides financial aid to college students who wish to pursue summer studies doing field work, research or classroom work in the environmental field. The contributions from many Noanett members were greatly appreciated.

Please do get in touch with me if you have suggestions of applicants for any of these scholarships. Most of the deadlines are after the first of the year.

Ginna Parker

ADMISSION NEWS

-It's time to start thinking about admissions again. Please bring your friends, old and new, to one of our membership meetings and one of our activities to try us on for size. Let them meet us in a business like environment at a membership meeting and in a smaller, more hands-on environment such as a Horticulture workshop or a Visiting Gardens tour. Noanett offers so much in so many different ways that there truly is something for everyone. We are looking for a few energetic, hardworking women who want to learn more about horticulture, flower arranging, and conservation. Sponsors will need to advise the Admission's Chair, Jane Cheever, at 1-781-329-0077 by January 1st. A coffee for candidates and their proposers will be held in February in order to meet the Board. All supporting letters must be submitted to the Jane Cheever by February 15. It's easier than you think.
This film is a pertinent, provoking discussion by a person who has been deeply concerned about our environment for many years before and when he was the Vice President of the United States.

You are invited to come to a potluck supper at Caroline Blake’s house, 15 Strawberry Hill Street Dover on Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 6:30 pm. Guests, husbands, significant others are invited.

Please contact Karen Pierce or Caroline Whitney, if you wish to come or have questions to ask.

http://www.aninconvenienttruth.co.uk/
By far the most terrifying film you will ever see.
WHITING BOWL RESULTS:

Thank you to all who entered the Whiting Bowl competition at the November 13th meeting. The GCA judges were impressed by the many and varied interpretations of Noanett's "Art in Bloom".

Results for the Novice class - Helen Sears, by John Singer Sargent:

First: Anisia Gifford
Second: Carrie Waterman
Honorable Mention: Susan Hunt
Honorable Mention: Sigrid Levis Thorne

Results for the Experienced class - In the Loge, by Mary Cassatt

First: Sheilah Hollings
Second: Dorsey Cabot
Third: Caroline Whitney
Honorable Mention: Cory Edwards
Honorable Mention: Nona Haffenreffer

Visit our website at http://www.noanettgardenclub.org
Express your inner artist by entering the next Whiting Bowl exhibit! Arrangements to be judged by the membership.

Novice: *Garrowby Hill* by David Hockney (at the MFA)

Create a mass arrangement* using fresh plant material to be viewed from three sides. Size not to exceed 20" high by 24" wide.

Experienced: *Grand Canal, Venice* by Claude Monet (at the MFA)

Create a mass arrangement* using fresh plant material to be viewed from three sides. Size not to exceed 24" high by 20" wide.

*Mass Arrangement: A profusion of flowers of various forms and sizes arranged in an oval, triangular, or fan shaped design. A closed silhouette, more solids than voids.
IMPORTANT COLUMNBINE INFORMATION FOR THIS YEAR

The Columnbine will be published six times this year, with issues for September, October/November, December/January, February/March, April and May/June. **Deadlines for each issue will be on the 15th of the month before the upcoming issue** - i.e., August 15 for the September issue, September 15 for October/November, November 15 for December/January, January 15 for February/March, March 15 for April, and April 15 for May/June. **Please email your submissions to me at brooke-cabot@hotmail.com by the 15th. Many thanks. Brooke Cabot**

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**Stay in touch with Joanne Bovey!** Her telephone number and email address are (912) 598-1615 and boveyj@bellsouth.net.

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**And on the following pages....**

**This Green Life**

**Sheryl Eisenberg**, a long-time advisor to NRDC, posts a new *This Green Life* every month. Sheryl makes her home in Tribeca (NYC), where -- along with her children, Sophie and Gabby, and husband, Peter -- she tries to put her environmental principles into practice. No fooling.
I can still remember virtually every gift I received in childhood, not because the gifts were so special, but because they were so few. Though I was a comfortable child of the post-war boom, the times were thrifty compared to today. I never had more than a few dolls, stuffed animals, board games, crayons, records, books, a bike and a sled. And that was enough, more than enough, yet not so much more that I didn't appreciate each and every item -- and enjoy it to the end of its useful life, or my childhood, whichever came first.

What middle class American child can say the same today? Our kids are so inundated with playthings, they need bins and chests and extra closets to store them all. And we adults are equally awash in our grown-up toys.

Nevertheless, this holiday season, we will rush to the stores, actual and virtual, to buy more for our kids and each other. What gives?

That the shopping frenzy is inconsistent with the spiritual and communal essence of the holidays is an old subject. I recently came across a reference to it in Howard's End, a wonderful story from 1910 that takes place in England, from which I gathered that not only isn't commercialization of the holidays new, it's not even uniquely American. The only point worth noting in 2006 is that the situation is worse than ever, and not just because we are increasingly out of touch with the meaning of the holidays (of all faiths). Our heedless extravagance has environmental costs that are steep and growing.

The world's population is currently using 25 percent more resources each year than the earth can generate in that time, according to the latest Living Planet Report by the World Wildlife Fund. And that figure is projected to rise to 200 percent in the next 50 years if we don't change course.

Do you wonder how it's possible to consume more than the earth produces? We manage it by living off our capital -- the resources that it's taken tens or hundreds or, in the case of fossil fuels, millions of years to accumulate. And you know what happens when you live off your capital.

Though by no means the only offenders, Americans are among the worst (#2 on the list, after the United Arab Emirates). Our average per capita "ecological footprint" is over four times bigger than the earth can afford. While our seasonal lavishness isn't the only reason, it does contribute largely to the problem.

But enough of this grinchiness. No one wants to give up on the holidays or the sense of abundance that the season bestows. The only question is how to be generous without bankrupting the earth. Here are some thoughts.

**Give things people need and can use**, rather than products plucked from the shelves simply because they look good.

**Choose gifts made of sustainable materials** -- bamboo rather than wood, hemp, organic cotton and wool, fleece made from recycled soda bottles, post-consumer recycled paper, natural cosmetics and organic, fair-trade chocolates and coffees.

**Buy locally made products**, as the energy used to transport goods to the stores is one of the huge, hidden environmental costs of the holidays.

**Look for used things with a provenance**. Old books and maps, retro clothing, antique jewelry and the like are one-of-a-kind gifts that collectors and aficionados will appreciate.

**Give things that reduce energy usage**, such as commuter bicycles, solar-powered products, battery rechargers and carbon offsets.
Avoid excessively packaged products. The packaging wastes resources without adding value and, if made from plastic, can release toxins after being discarded.

Give tickets for concerts, shows, museums, sporting events, outdoor activities or parks.

Give a party rather than presents -- and tell your guests that the party's gift-free.

Give of yourself. Promise a shift of babysitting or dog-walking or a service that uses your special talents or skills, such as a webpage, a bridge lesson or home improvement help.

Swap contributions. Set up a registry listing your favorite non-profits at whatgoesaround.org and suggest to your friends that they register, too, so you can give to their causes while they give to yours.

Most important, remember that the greatest gift of the season is the holidays themselves. It's the one time of year when society permits you -- indeed, encourages you -- to escape from the daily hurly-burly and experience the meaning and poetry of life. Don't miss the chance.

-- Sheryl Eisenberg

A quarter of a year to shop? According to a National Retail Federation survey, more than one-fifth of holiday shoppers begin looking for gifts before the end of September. Many retailers take advantage of the longer shopping season to wring more purchases out of you by phasing in the hot items to keep you coming back and buying throughout the period.

Surprise! Fabric gift sacks are an attractive alternative to wrapping paper -- and much more durable and convenient to use. This particular sack has wrapped countless gifts in my family over the years. Wrapping paper, though not as sturdy, can also be reused. If you do have to buy new paper, look for a brand that's 100 percent post-consumer recycled.

Do cards differently. Accompany your gifts with small, 100-percent post-consumer recycled gift tags, rather than full-fledged cards, and try sending season's greetings electronically this year.

The beauty of vintage jewelry. This old George Jensen ring was a gift from my husband. Not only is it one of my favorite pieces, it didn't cost the planet any new resources to make.

Entertain sustainably. At your holiday party, serve organic foods on real dishes. If you simply can't handle the clean-up, two second-best disposable options are Bambu Veneerware, made of 100 percent organic, biodegradable bamboo, and Preserve Tableware, made of 100 percent recycled plastic.