To all my dear fellow Garden Club members,
This has been quite a rough year dealing with the pandemic, but through it all, our incredible garden club has found ways to carry on so many of its community services. In spring, window boxes were planted and placed at local municipal buildings. Vertical gardens were created for residents of St. Andrews to enjoy. Throughout the spring, summer and fall, our beautiful armillary, monument and butterfly gardens were planted, weeded, pruned, watered and put to bed. And we got to enjoy these gardens close up as we gathered there for board meetings and membership meetings. So many of you showed up with your lawn chairs, sun hats and masks! Troupers, all of you!! And now holiday wreaths have been decorated and distributed, tray favors assembled and delivered and trees for deserving families distributed as well. Our Blue Star memorial wreath was placed and veterans thanked for their service. Even with the cancellation of our two major fundraisers, we have still been able to continue our college student scholarship support, thanks to years of prudent financial management. In fact, despite everything, you have come through successfully, just as you always do. You always find a way to get it done. I am so, so proud and thankful to be a part of this incredible club. I am also hoping that the newly approved vaccines for this terrible virus mark the turning point towards a safer and healthier
year ahead, and that we will be able to resume our indoor activities as we await the warmth of spring. Unfortunately, at this moment, with St. Columba's still closed, we will have to cancel our February potluck luncheon (board meeting TBD). All members will be notified of any additional upcoming changes in meetings.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season and a healthy new year ahead!

Linda Bonin, President

The Boothbay Region Garden Club laid the Blue Star Memorial marker on November 10, 2020.

2021 DATES TO REMEMBER

PLEASE NOTE CANCELLATIONS:
Feb 10 Pot Luck General Meeting Cancelled

SAVE THE DATES:
4/1 GCFM Award Deadline

2021 DATES TO REMEMBER:
1/5 11:00 Garden Therapy St Andrews Village
    NO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN JANUARY
2/2 11:00 Garden Therapy St Andrews Village
2/10 10:30 Board Meeting St Andrews Village Arts and Crafts Room (TBD)
2/10 12:00 General Meeting CANCELLED
3/2 11:00 Garden Therapy St Andrews Village
3/10 12:00 General Meeting St Columba’s Church
COMMITTEE AND PROJECT UPDATES

AWARDS and HOSPITALITY

AWARDS
Well, it just seems like the awards for this club never stop coming in! One day this fall I received a message from Kathleen Marty to meet her at the armillary garden for a surprise. Turns out our first place GCFM awards for Civic Development and Garden Therapy qualified us to submit applications in those categories to the New England Garden Clubs. Kathleen took care of the submissions and we won first place in all of New England for both: the Sears Civic Beautification Award and the Mary Stone Garden Therapy Award. Congratulations to all of you who participated in any way in those important club activities!!

Linda Bonin
Awards Chair

HOSPITALITY
When we are able to meet in person once again at our General Meetings, please check your Yearbook (2020-2021) for the TEA COMMITTEE'S assignments to see if your name is there.

If you are unable to serve at your assigned meeting, please find a substitute or change with someone from another month. Then notify that month's Tea Chair (or Abbie Shaw or Susan Stapleton) of the changes. Thanks!
The CIVIC DEVELOPMENT committee does not have much planned to do this winter, but has been very active recently.

**WREATH DISTRIBUTION**

We would like to thank all the members who helped distribute the Christmas wreaths around the community. It was great to see the wreaths appearing all around the town!

**BLUE STAR MEMORIAL WREATH**

And members of the BRG Club laid a wreath at Blue Star memorial marker, Nov. 10th.

**CHRISTMAS TREE DISTRIBUTION**

This year we continued a wonderful tradition that our garden club has supported for many years..... giving Christmas trees with all the trimmings to families in need.  I spoke to over fifty families and delivered Christmas trees, lights, decorations and tree stands as needed to forty families-from Edgecomb to every corner of the Boothbay peninsula.  This program doesn’t continue without the help of many folks. Kathleen Marty is our after-Christmas shopper for discounted trees, lights, decoration and tree stands for next year. Debbie Graves looks throughout the year for items we might use that come to the Rotary Barn.

This year, Laura Zajdel and her sewing elves at St Andrews Auxiliary gave home-made Christmas stockings and a basket of candies to include with some of our trees. We were also fortunate this year that several of our members signed up to purchase artificial trees as our supply had been depleted last year.  Many thanks to Jane Homer, Linda Bonin, Vanda Yonge, Jo Moser, Gloria Wakefield, Bobbi Medal, Judy Milinowski, Susan Stapleton, Jane Schaefer and Sandy Abernathy for those trees. We had home-made ornaments made by local children and donated ornaments from garden club members. Many thanks to Jane Lunt and Carol Zalucky for providing family names for us to contact.  And finally, we have wonderful support from Bud Brown and his family. They deliver the 30 live trees (this year) at a reduced price to us on our hill to help in our delivery process.

And a special thank you to my husband who has graciously participated in this very special program all these years. It has been a joy for us and we thank all of you for this opportunity to spread a bit of happiness to others. Merry Christmas!

Linda Redman on behalf of the Civic Development Committee
CHRISTMAS TREE THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Linda Hedman & Rochester Garden Club,

We want to very sincerely thank you for the tree, hares & deer! It's a wonderful holiday gift.
We are very thrilled with your gift of the tree in beautiful, snowy setting. Many Christmas wishes. Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

When hands reach out in friendship, hearts are touched with joy.

Thank you so very much for the perfect tree. It's perfect for the fireplace! Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Dear Mrs. Redman & Garden Club

My family and I thank you very much for our Christmas tree. We also thank you for the beautiful handmade Christmas stockings. They love them. We appreciate your kindness. Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,
Garden Therapy did provide 20 kits for the trees and Jerie Finney, Activities Director of the Gregory Wing, worked with individual residents in their rooms to put them together. She reported it was “a bright spot” in their day. Meals on Wheels was provided with 36 trees to go out with the meals in mid December.

Unless rules change, the Garden Therapy planning team will provide an activity for the residents each month and Jerie will carry them out....more pictures to come in the next newsletter.

And here's a note from Irene Gerny about an inter-club response to the COVID shutdown at St. Andrews Village.

"What to do??? Well, it all started with holly clippings from my garden, too many. Many conversations later, trying to get some Christmas cheer to the dear residents on the hill, it all came together!

It just so happens that there is a huge tree which could be mistaken for a Christmas tree and it's directly in view of most of the residents' rooms. The next step was speaking with Jerie Phinney, who suggested putting lights on THAT tree. Bingo, let's get the St. Andrew’s Auxiliary in on this. Off we go, both Clubs in agreement, birdhouses donated by Vanda Yonge of BRGC and paint and ornaments appeared at the Gerny’s.

Both Clubs contributed to the FUN in fundraising, working hand in hand and waiting to see the lights go up ....

Two clubs, much cooperation, many smiles delivered."
MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is 111. We have recently lost two of our members, Diedre Amplo, a member since 2009, recently passed away. Pat Waldman, a former member who was active in the club since 1976 also passed in December. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the Spring! Stay safe this winter.

Alice Schambra and Sandy Abernathy

YOUTH EDUCATION

Our youth pollinator garden at the Southport Memorial Library continues to thrive under the faithful and consistent care of Sandra Seifert. The photo here shows the garden in early June, just after she and I gave it its annual dressing of mulch. The perennials are flourishing and next year we may actually need to divide some of them. They continue to attract and nurture butterflies and bees, and it's nice to know the youth who helped plant the garden can see how successful it has become.

I am anxious to get back to working with our local youth as soon as health and safety regulations permit!

Linda Bonin, Youth Education Chair
OCTOBER MEETING

Once again, Mother Nature came through with pleasant weather so we could hold both board and membership meetings outside in the Armillary Garden. Also once again, one of our members stepped in to make an outdoor presentation for us. This time, Linda Redman adapted her COVIDly canceled April program to a magnificent demonstration of how to put our gardens to bed for the winter. We learned about the value of using the right tools for the job, how to separate perennials, good mulching techniques, and so much more! An incredibly comprehensive program, which was no surprise, considering the speaker!

And Sandy Leonard was kind enough to, once again, judge the flower arrangements for the Flowers for Fun-Medium "Quality Quantities suitable for a centerpiece" entries.
RECENT EVENTS

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Our Club wins ‘Pink Your Ride’ decorating contest

Every year for the last 13 years, the Boothbay Region Garden Club participates in what is normally a walk for breast cancer awareness. This year, due to COVID-19, the event, held in Damariscotta on Saturday, Oct. 17 became a car parade with vehicles and participants sporting their best pink!

Abbie Shaw, Vanda Yonge, Shelly Maher and Gloria Howard came out on top in the decorated car competition and took their fun and laughter all the way back to Boothbay Harbor to share their enthusiasm.

Team leader, Brigitte Smith, along with Irene Gerny and Melissa Thornton also represented the Garden Club with additional vehicles in the parade.

Neither wind and rain nor pandemic constraints could dampen the celebration of this worthwhile annual fundraiser. Numerous individual donors contributed to the BRGC team effort to support the American Cancer Society in the fight against breast cancer.

Thank you all for your support,
Brigitte Smith, Team Leader
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS NEWSLETTER, THE BOOTHBAY REGION GARDEN CLUB TRUMPET, IS LINKED TO THE BOOTHBAY REGION GARDEN CLUB WEBSITE... AND THE BOOTHBAY REGION GARDEN CLUB WEBSITE LINKS TO THIS NEWSLETTER!!
SO YOU HAVE EASY ACCESS TO CLUB INFORMATION AND THE LATEST SCHEDULE CHANGES IN TWO DIFFERENT PLACES. ENJOY!

With fewer meetings and events taking place during the pandemic, Melissa Thornton, Newsletter Editor, realized, once again, that the Newsletter needed an infusion of spirit-lifting items that would interest the Garden Club members and keep us all feeling connected. So she asked the Board and general membership for items of interest in these categories:

1) best gardening gift; 2) classes you're taking for mental health during the pandemic; 3) great holiday movies; 4) projects you're taking on to be productive and stay 'sane'; 5) best holiday gifts; 6) favorite holiday recipes; 7) early spring gardening plans, or 8) anything else you think the membership would like to hear.

As a continuation of our GETTING TO KNOW YOU theme, here are some of these shared items. Please consider sharing similar items yourself...for our April newsletter. Thanks!

Jane Lunt shares information about newsletters that she regularly receives about gardening: "I have a source of gardening information that perhaps not everyone knows about. It comes to my inbox, perhaps weekly, from Margaret Roach, a New York Times writer and author, who writes A Way to Garden. It's a delightful mix of interviews, gardening tips, her personal gardening experiences, book recommendations and so much more. Oh, and it's free! I also love getting Ned Friedman's posts from Arnold Arboretum with beautiful photography and fascinating observations about trees and plants in their collection."
GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Favorite HOLIDAY EVENTS

The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens Aglow was mentioned by many Garden Club members, as well as the light displays we enjoyed on our drives around the peninsula during Harbor Lights.

The Portland Ballet Nutcracker was beautifully done and widely enjoyed. Gloria Wakefield added the right hand picture with this note: "If you look closely, yes, that's me as a sugar plum fairy in my 3rd grade performance."
As Gloria Wakefield missed our Festival of Trees activities, she decorated her presents with a touch of Nature’s Gifts from her yard & happily mailed bits of Maine to friends & family.

Blue herons are Mark and Linda Bonin's special bird (they even have them carved into their wedding rings!) and Mark gave her this garden heron as a gift.

And Pat McMurry wants us all to know that her family has a terrific fruit cake recipe that they have been making for years. Knowing all the jokes about fruit cakes, she decided not to bother to share the recipe. However, if any one would like to have the recipe, she will be happy to give it to them. It’s really quite easy to make.
Gloria Wakefield is excitedly awaiting & expecting great things from her new Wild Seeds Native Plant Garden.

Here are some photos from Linda Bonin's gardens this summer-some goat cheese she made this summer, seasoned with fresh tarragon from the garden, and mozzarella she made, alongside a Big Mama Roma tomato and some basil they grew. The top photo is the outdoor part of their chicken coop which Linda built a few years ago. "I thought it would be nice for them to have their own flower garden out front. They do seem to enjoy it but their enjoyment consists of trying to peck through the chicken wire to eat the blooms."
Croton plants (right picture) are happy houseplants livening up the indoors during winter months and adding to mental and physical health.

According to the Old Farmers Almanac “Flowers of the Month”, ”carnations are the official January flower. Carnations are a perennial herb native to the Mediterranean region. Their formal name, dianthus, comes from Greek for “heavenly flower” and are said to be primarily a symbol of love.

February's official flower is the violet. Also known as pansies or hearts ease, violets are usually, but not always, flowering perennial plants.

The official flower for March is the daffodil and it's smaller European-native sibling, the jonquil. Because they are one of the first flowers to return at the start of spring, daffodils are said to represent rebirth and new beginnings. Other popular meanings include faithfulness and honesty, because they never fail to return, year after year, even after the harshest of winters.
Linda Bonin worked on rock wall gardens last summer to keep sane.

Melissa Thornton worked on organizing her libraries, especially her gardening library, to keep sane.

BEFORE

AFTER

Many thanks to everyone who shared their 'Getting to Know You' items!!
UPCOMING EVENTS

HERE'S AN EVENT THAT IS NOT CANCELLED FOR NEXT YEAR!!

DAFFODILS WILL BLOOM WHERE THE CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PLANTED THEM LAST YEAR...at the Southport and Boothbay Town Halls.

THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER...IT'S TIME TO DREAM OF BLOSSOMS TO COME.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!