



SNIPPETS

Spring 2012

President John Long 5494 9581	Hon. Secretary Glenys Hiley 5494 3924	Hon. Treasurer Jim Laundry 5499 9317	Editor Margaret Owens 5429 6789
Mailing Address: The Secretary P.O. Box 563 Maleny 4552		website www.malenygardenclub.org	

The Maleny Garden Club extends a warm invitation to all members and visitors to attend the monthly general meetings held on the last Tuesday of each month, as per program for the year.

President's Message:

Well, fellow gardeners, what do you make of the weather this last month or so? On the one hand our gardens are so very thirsty, on the other hand it has been so rewarding to be out in the garden, in very pleasant temperatures, catching up with garden tasks following all the rain of the previous months.

This morning I had the pleasure of attending this month's Sip'n'Snip at Harvey & Bette Weston's garden and they had clearly embraced the 'wet' and taken advantage of the 'dry', their garden was a mass of spring colour. About 50 members attended to admire their beautiful garden and Harvey & Bette were more than willing to offer 'snips' and cuttings to help other Garden Club members along. This is the essence of one of the aims of our Club "to further knowledge and enjoyment of horticulture". We also have to thank Harvey for his initiative and connection in acquiring the services of a 'compost/potting mix' expert who can supply us with excellent material at a reasonable price. This is, I am sure, a great benefit and appreciated by Club members.

Next month we have an extremely important occasion in the history of Maleny Garden Club, our 60th (diamond jubilee) celebration. As in the past (as in 40th & 50th) we intend to make this a day to remember and have invited fellow garden clubs to come along and celebrate with us as a Friendship Day. I also look forward to greeting as many Maleny Garden Club members

as possible on the day.

John Long

Quick Quiz:

1. Where did the Argyle knitting pattern come from?
2. What common garden shrub is the gardenia closely related to?
3. Which English Romantic poet wrote the poem 'To Autumn'?
4. Who is the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring?

For answers see back page.

The Pweor of the Human Mnid

Aoccdnrig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttae in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lterer by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

So it semes I ralely ddint drvesee thsoe lusoy grdas in Hgih Sohcol Enslgih

Contributed by Jill Rowland

Herb File

French Tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*)
French Tarragon is thought by most to be the superior flavour when compared to Russian Tarragon. True French Tarragon does not set seed, which makes it fairly difficult to obtain. Propagation is by cutting or root division in spring. Root division is by far the most successful if you already have a plant in the garden.

It is claimed the flavor of tarragon deteriorates if left in the same position for 2 to 3 years.

Select a sunny well drained area , avoid pampering, water if dry as it does not survive drought. Avoid fertilising with animal manure. The crushed leaves have a faint suspicion of anise. It has a subtle flavour which enhances rather than dominates a dish. Use to flavour fish, poultry and cheese dishes.

Tarragon vinegar is made by steeping the leaves in white vinegar for 3 to 4 weeks, turning the container every few days. Chopped and added to butter for a cheese or chicken sandwich, also in béarnaise and hollandaise sauces.

As Tarragon dies down in winter nurseries will have plants available in the spring and summer.

Pat Powell

For The Ladies;

An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have, the older she gets the more interested he is in her.

Agatha Christie

For You to Know;

Dragonflies have excellent eyesight due to their eye structure. They have 30,000 eye lenses providing a 360° field of vision.

Lavender oil which has long been used in the production of perfume is also used in aromatherapy. The scent has a calming effect which aids in relaxation and the reduction of anxiety. Lavender oil can also act as a mosquito repellent when worn as a perfume or added to skin lotions or hair products.

Better Homes and Garden. Sept 2008

Gourmet Life.

Most people know and enjoy caviar as fish eggs. But worms? Only in Samoa Palolo is an aquatic worm that lives in the tropical coral reefs of Samoa.

When viewed underwater, the worms resemble spaghetti and are affectionately known as the caviar of *the Pacific*.

Twice a year summoned by the waning moonlight, the palolo reef worm rises from the coral and goes through a mass spawning, a group romantic interlude by moonlight, releasing a tail that contains eggs and sperm.

Fetching a high price and regarded as a delicacy by the locals, Samoans will rise early and wait before dawn with their lanterns and nets to catch the worm spawn which floats on the surface. Some will eat it straight from the sea while others prefer it fried.

The palolo is so embedded in Samoan culture and culinary history that its short-lived annual appearance during the spawning is celebrated during the last quarter of the moon in October and/or November

Courier Mail 5/8/12



Spring Reading

Wild Garlic, Gooseberries and me By Denis Cotter

A garden/cook book with a difference. A recent donation to Maleny Garden Club library is this book with its witty collection of garden produce tales and delicious vegetarian recipes. Wild Garlic, Gooseberries and Me cajoles, informs and questions our relationship to the land and the vegetables we eat. Denis Cotter drags us into muddy fields and introduces us to the growers of the best produce imaginable. Through heartfelt and charming text he informs and amuses. Whether creating a restaurant masterpiece, he is a fine chef, or foraging in hedgerows and woods, Denis searches for a new connection between food, people and land – oh, and he also teaches you how to search for mushrooms, wild greens and sloes, how to cook asparagus and take on an artichoke with attitude.

Now available from Maleny Garden Club Library

Phone John & Andrea Long, 5499

9581

Dublin's Public Gardens

The first time I walked into St Stephen's Green it was like walking into a sparkling green fairy land. Early morning, the dew still spread like a shimmering, translucent net over acres of green. The shrubs and trees dipped low, seemingly with the weight of the heavy load of brilliant jewels caught by the sun in their myriads of sparkling facets. Through the broad expanse of glistening green a ribbon of shining water wove its gentle way under a gazebo, giving pause for the viewer to recover his breath and manage the almost physical assault of the beauty of it all.

Another time I sought refuge from the hustle and bustle of the nearby elegant walking street-Grafton

Str-to rest awhile. Now lunchtime, the magical early morning had given way to everyday practicalities; businessmen/lawyers dressed in their smart business suits, heads bent in serious conversation/discussion walked purposely along the gravel path; mothers pushed strollers while accompanying children clung to the sides; young women moved smartly along-taking a short turn in the gardens in their lunch hour...? Away from the energy of this cosmopolitan city, peace and tranquility reigned in this refuge reputedly donated to the city of Dublin by the Guinness family.

The Iveagh Garden is harder to find, tucked away somewhere around Parnell Square and behind a high vine-covered wall. Walking in through the narrow door is like walking into Aladdin's Cave; first a rustic grotto and cascade, then sunken formal panels of lawn with fountain centerpieces, wilderness woodlands, maze, rosarium, archery grounds and rockeries. Acres of green quiet in the middle of metropolis.

The Garden of Remembrance-up the top of O'Connell Str, opposite the elegant Hugh Lane Art Gallery and the Dublin Writer's Museum which exhibits the work of Ireland's celebrated writers and poets: Joyce, Shaw, Yeats, Wilde, Sheridan, Swift, Behan-no fewer than four Nobel Laureates for Literature-is a memorial to the memory of the flower of Ireland's youth: writers, lawyers, poets who gave their lives in the struggle for Ireland's freedom. Its a sunken garden, designed after the layout of other significant gardens of remembrance: long narrow water feature with shrine-type figures and sculptures at its head. It's hallowed ground of itself steeped in an aura of grief and deep respect.

Then there is Phoenix Park, "the largest walled garden in Europe", the stone wall surrounding it erected in 1662 by Lord Ormonde, Viceroy to Charles II, in order to enclose the pheasants and wild deer on his Royal Hunting Park but now open to the public. It is home to Ireland's President and the location of a statue of Wellington (not unlike Nelson's statue in London). Driving past the President's residence, the traveler can see and appreciate the welcoming message that the lighted candle in the window sends to all people returning to Ireland or of Irish descent

Unlike public gardens in France and perhaps elsewhere where people come out to relax and frolic away from the tight constraints of city/urbane life. Dublin's public gardens are places of quiet and almost reverence and reflection-and wonder.

Contributed by Kath Marshall

Garden Lovers Quotations

But the hot bed swarmed with grubs; and in spite of the warm layers of dead leaves under the painted frames and chalk smeared cloches nothing grew but spindly vegetation. The cuttings did not take; the grafts came unstuck, the sap stopped running in the layers, the trees got white rot in their roots; the seedlings were a desolation. The wind enjoyed blowing down the beanpoles. The strawberries were spoiled from too much manure, the tomatoes

from not enough pinching.

Elizabeth Jane Howard



September in the Garden

Encourage spring growth with a general garden fertiliser program.

Plant tough as can be lavender and rosemary bushes to fill out bare corners.

Get out and visit open gardens to gather ideas for your own plantings.

Clean gutters and clear mulch away from buildings in bushfire prone areas.

Fertilise and water daffodils and jonquils that have flowered; don't cut back foliage until it has completely died down.

Prune overgrown citrus trees to stimulate new growth. You may miss a year's fruit crop but the tree will return bushier and healthier. Lumps on branches are a sign of citrus gall wasp – prune and burn or put in plastic bags and bin.

Watch for silvery trails on citrus leaves which are caused by leaf minor. Spray with Pest Oil or Eco Oil.

Plant home grown spuds (seed potatoes are in nurseries now) Use a deep container, like a metal or plastic drum, so you can mound soil around the stem as it grows. Harvest after the plant has finishes flowering in about 110-130 days.

For a beautiful feature tree seek out a *Ginkgo bilboa*. This deciduous species has leaves like a giant maidenhair fern.

Better and Gardens September Issue.

The Invention of the Lawn Mower.

Before the invention of the lawn mower the closely-cut lawn was restricted to the wealthy—the scythe was the only tool available, and it took three skilled scythe men a day to cut an acre of turf. Behind them followed the women to brush and gather up the shorn grass.

The first push type lawn mower was invented by Edwin Budding a foreman working in a textile factory in Stroud England. The source of his inspiration came from the machines which trimmed the pile off the cloth produced in the factory where he was employed. Budding had the idea that the same principle could be applied to cutting a lawn if the mechanism could be mounted in a wheeled frame to make the blades rotate close to the lawn's surface.

His patent for the mower was granted in 1830 and the first factory-produced cylinder mowers were manufactured by Ransomes of Ipswich in 1832. For the first time cutting the grass became an unskilled and relatively speedy job. His work made the modern-day lawn possible, but he received very little financial reward and no honour for his invention.

Peter Owens

Roseraie de L'Hay Rose Garden Paris

For a rose-lover, a visit to Roseraie de L'Hay when it is in full bloom is like being transported to heaven. A Metro ride to the end of the line, followed by a local bus will take you to this rose garden, situated on the outskirts of Paris, some 12 km from the city centre.

Established in 1894 by rosarian Jules Gravereaux, it claims to be the first garden ever dedicated exclusively to roses. These days the garden has 13 separate collections which include 3,300 different species and varieties, wild and cultivated, ancient and modern, roses from all over the world, a total of 16,000 rose bushes!

The garden is at its peak from mid-May to mid-June - the time to go for optimal flowering. Seeing it as we did, on a perfect, warm, sunny day (one of the few of our trip), was an absolute delight. Radiating paths, flanked with roses, as well arbours, pillars, and tripods smothered in bloom provided scenes I can only dream about re-creating here in Maleny. However, there is a crimson-purple hybrid rugosa rose bred by Jules Gravereaux, named Roseraie de L'Hay, which now has found a place in my garden - a small reminder of my visit.

Other garden highlights from the UK section of our trip included visits to Wisley, the RHS garden in Surrey, Stourhead near Mere and Powis Castle in Wales. All wonderful - but that's another story.

Christine Crocker

Two Books to Enjoy

A Year in My Garden: Flowers, Food, Family and Friends by Jenny Ferguson was published in 2009 and tells the story of Jenny and her husband who move to the Southern Highlands of NSW, near Moss Vale, to a heritage-listed house with a heritage-listed garden which they extend and enhance into a truly magnificent property. Jenny is an enthralling writer, a passionate gardener, a trained chef and entertainer and a lover of all fine things. The illustrations of the garden in all seasons are stunning.

I can also highly recommend **Sunday's Garden: Growing Heide** by Lesley Harding and Kendrah Morgan, published 2012. In 1934 Sunday and John Reed purchased a 15 acre property in the Yarra Valley where their bohemian friends – poets, writers and especially painters, including Nolan, Boyd, Perceval – flocked to enjoy the hospitality and company of other artists. The planting of trees, an orchard and a vegetable garden became a passion. Their legacy is the Heide Museum of Modern Art and in the past decades the original gardens have been restored to their full glory. More than the story of the creation of a garden, it is of great interest also to the history of Australian art and culture. Beautifully illustrated. Both of these could books would make great additions to our library.

Carolyn

Willadsen

Editor's Note:

Many thanks to the following people who contributed to this Spring's edition of Snippets.;

Jill Rowland, Christine Crocker, Carolyn Willadsen, Peter Owens, Kath Marshall, Pat Powell, John and Andrea Long.

The next edition will be out at the end of November, so if you have travelled to foreign parts, visited a garden or been on one of the local bus trips kindly remember that we would love to hear about it even if your article is brief.

Quick Quiz Answers:

1. From clan Campbell in Argyle in Scotland.
2. Camellia
3. John Keats
4. Eastre

Better Homes and Garden, April 2010

The Club's Objectives are:

- *To further knowledge and enjoyment of horticulture.*
- *To raise awareness in the club and community of local environment and to encourage planting of local indigenous species.*
- *To enjoy social interaction between members of this and similar clubs.*

All contributions to: Margaret Owens

email: margaret.owens@bigpond.com

Disclaimer

Articles contributed to this newsletter are published as a service to members and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the club.