

## Maribel's Garden Patch

The September meeting brought many good reviews! The positive feedback was in regard to the conducting of business, the green tips with Heidi, the program arranged by Dianne, the speaker, Linda Corapi, the demeanor of the attendees (attentive and interactive), and of course the delicious treats prepared by the hostesses.

With one meeting under my belt I feel confident, that because we, as a TEAM, wanted everything to work out great for the club, future meetings will be a breeze. As they say, "ain't no mountain high enough" if team work is involved.

I would like to thank those who have already signed-up for the various activities; and to those who had missed the opportunity to do so, please do not hesitate to let me know if you are interested in a particular one.

Thank you also goes to those who unselfishly devote their time and effort to keep the Washington Street traffic island, the City Hall window boxes and gardens, the Essex Pedestrian Mall gardens, the Emmerton gardens, the Brookhouse gardens among others beautiful.

Keep up the good work!

Maribel Steadman  
SGC President

## Get a Head Start on Winter Blooms Preparing Bulbs for Forcing

by Pam Jendrysik

When you are bulb shopping buy extra bulbs and save some for forcing in January and February. Bulbs for forcing should be on the large size. Hyacinth, Crocus and Tulip can be forced after spending three months in a cold temperature.

Use a container a little deeper than the height of the bulb. Add a layer of garden soil, leave 3" between the soil and the rim. Place the bulbs, at least three or four per pot, and fill the pot with soil. The bulb tips should be even with the rim of the pot and but barely exposed. Water and put to bed. Mark your calendar as to when to retrieve them.

Bulbs need at least fourteen weeks of temperatures around 40 degrees. A bulkhead stairway or a cool cellar work well. (Placing pots in an old aluminum pan with gravel will keep them from freezing to the stairs.)

A special note about Tulips: "Early" single or double bulbs are the best choice. Tulips must be planted with the growing tip up, they also have one curved side and a flat side. Place the flat side closest to the side of the pot. The large leaves formed will drape nicely over the sides of the pot.



## BLOOMS! 2010

At the Boston Flower & Garden Show, Wednesday, March 24 to Sunday March 28, 2010. Held at the Seaport World Trade Center, Boston, MA 02210

Design Division 2 –  
Open Classes: *SENSE  
AND SENSIBILITY*



## Treasurer's Green Report

Our opening meeting in September welcomed our 7 new members along with 9 guests. Coming soon is our annual fund raiser, the Christmas Boutique. Sign up with a chairperson for the workshop and to be part of the sales team. Your participation is key to the success of this event!

Meg McMahan, Treasurer



Q. I just cut these from my garden, and aside from the stunning blue color, does anyone know why I only got one bloom that color?  
—Anna Geraghty

A. Hydrangeas change colors when adjusting to a new environment; the change in the intensity of a color is due to the heredity of a particular variety, weather conditions, health of the plant and acidity/alkalinity of the

soil. To obtain a blue hydrangea, aluminum (aluminum sulfate) must be present in the soil. If pink is your choice, use fertilizer with high levels of phosphorus. Generally, an acidic or low pH will induce blueness, whereas a higher or alkaline pH will make the flowers pink.

In this case, the plant's heredity might be at play. The hydrangea's "true color" might be blue and you bought it for its lime green color (or vice versa) and because of certain environmental conditions, it's giving you a show of colors.



## Yesterday's Gardens



by Gail Sados, SGC Historian

As some of us look forward with anticipation, while others with trepidation, the upcoming Halloween season in Salem, I thought we could look back at some Halloween traditions. According to Wikipedia, a skeleton on a window sill represented the departed. Originating in Europe, these lanterns were first carved from a turnip or rutabaga as they believed the head was the most important part of the body. The Celts used the head of the vegetable to frighten off the embodiment of Welsh, Irish and British myths and superstitions.

The name jack-o'-lantern can be traced back to the Irish legend of Stingy Jack, a greedy, gambling, hard-drinking old farmer. He tricked the devil into climbing a tree and trapped him by carving a cross in the tree trunk. In revenge, the devil placed a curse on Jack, condemning him to forever wander the earth at night with the only light of a candle inside of a hollowed turnip.

The carving of pumpkins began in North America where pumpkins were available and much larger than turnips. The custom preceded the Great Famine period of Irish immigration and was originally connected to harvest time. It was not associated with Halloween until the mid to late 19th century. Trick or Treat!

### The SGC GRAPEVINE Staff

Editor-In-Chief: Maribel Steadman  
Graphic Designer/Senior Editor: Adele Maestranzi  
Contributing Editors: Pam Jendrysik, Heidi Milman, Gail Sados and Meg McMahon



## Good to be GREEN

by Heidi Milman

### 3 R'S-REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE

**REDUCE**-If you are planning to buy a new washing machine consider purchasing a front loading machine. They do cost a little more initially. However, they use considerably less water and the energy to heat the water. This will save water and energy, which will then reduce waste water, and air pollution.

**REUSE**-Instead of tossing those chipped coffee mugs use them to root cuttings from your houseplants. The plants will hide the chips and they add a little color to your window sills.

**RECYCLE**-Remember don't throw out those old clothes. Donate them to local charities. There are donation bins in many locations. There are also many local organizations that accept used clothing.