



The Brandon Garden Club Newsletter

President Deanne's Message

Tonight is one of my favorite evenings but then everyone knows I enjoy eating.

I'm looking forward to Cal's second half on the Birds of Manitoba---who knew birds could be this interesting! What can we get him to talk about next year?

Xmas party tickets go on sale tonight, purchase them as soon as

possible. Gwen is already planning another fun party with lots of laughter and silliness.

November is the election of the executive and directors so if you feel you can contribute in some capacity then your nomination will be appreciated.

We will give you an update on the convention plans

which include a budget that had to be set to cover entertainment and decorating. The M.H.A. allows \$ 250.00 for this, but it is very difficult to stay with in that limit. Gwen and I will talk about this to-night - if you have questions don't hesitate to come and talk to us.

THIS MONTH

Annual Potluck Dinner Tonight

In keeping with Club tradition, tonight will feature our fall potluck, hope everyone is hungry.

Photo Competition

Don't forget to get your entries for the Club's Annual Photo Competition in as soon as possible and no later than October 31. Pass entries to

Tena Kilmury. Winners will be announced at the November meeting.

Guest Speaker Cal Cuthbert

From Ducks Unlimited, Cal will tell us how to attract birds for the winter and tell us about their habitats.

Contest Best fall arrangement made in a real pumpkin.



NOVEMBER 21st MEETING

Hands On – Arrangement in a Pot Bring your creative minds, we get to design an arrangement of our own. Bring a pair of pruning shears and gloves.

Photo Show Entries for the Club's Photo competition will be displayed and winners announced. This has always been a fine show not to be missed.

Election of Club Officers for 2012/2013

The election for officers takes place at every November meeting and now is the time to consider what you might be able to do for the Club as a committee member or on the executive. Please make every effort to attend this meeting.



DECEMBER 4th MEETING

Christmas Party

It's that time of year again! The Club's annual Christmas party will be held on Wednesday December 4th, 6 PM at the Seniors for Seniors Complex. This is always lots of fun – really try to

attend if possible. Tickets go on sale at tonight's meeting. Cost for this event will be a very reasonable \$20.00 per person. Guests are very welcome. See Gwen Beam. There will be no other club meeting in December.

Dainty Exchange



115th Annual MHA CONVENTION JANUARY 17, 18, 19, 2013

Mark your calendars for a great event.

OUT OF AFRICA

SOKOL HALL will be transformed into the African Desert. We will host the MHA Convention over this weekend and expect up to 150 guests to attend—let's make this a one of a kind convention!



Halloween Horticulture by Lisa Halvorsen

What would Halloween be without pumpkins for jack-o-lanterns and decorations? Although this is the plant most often associated with Halloween today, it may surprise you to know that in the past other fruits and vegetables had strong connections to this holiday.

In England and Ireland, Halloween lanterns were originally carved out of turnips and large beets. Faces of demons were cut into the vegeta-

bles then a glowing coal was placed inside. People carried these lanterns around the village or left them burning on doorsteps to frighten away evil spirits.

When the Irish immigrants arrived in America, they found pumpkins abundant and much easier to carve than turnips. And thus, the tradition of turning pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns began.

The custom of decorating with apples, pumpkins, cornstalks, and autumn leaves has its origin in an ancient Druid autumn festival called

Samhain (pronounced SAH-win). The festival celebrated the end of summer and a successful harvest.

Today apples also are used in a popular Halloween party game 'bobbing for apples' and are often given out to treat-or-treaters. But during the Victorian era, the apple was more than just an edible treat. It played a significant role in determining a young girl's future. By slipping an apple under her pillow on Halloween eve, she was sure to dream of her sweetheart.

Apples also were used to foretell the identity of the man she was to marry. At midnight on Halloween, a girl would stand in front of a mirror and brush her hair three times while eating an apple. The image of her future husband would appear in the mirror over her shoulder.

Once she saw his face, she peeled an apple in a single strip. She tossed the peel over her left shoulder using her right hand. The peel would form the first initial of his name. A popular rhyme at the time

went as follows:

*"If your future hubby's name you
wish to know,
Over your left shoulder an apple
peel throw.
It will wriggle and coil, and you will
see
The first initial of who it will be.
For the witches plot, and the hexes
scheme
On the mystic night of Halloween."*

Another way to learn about one's future spouse was to visit the cabbage patch on Halloween. Both young men and women followed this ritual, rushing into the garden to pick the first cabbage they saw. If the cabbage had a short stalk, the spouse would be short, a long stalk, the spouse would be tall. Dirt on the leaves meant the one who picked the plant would marry rich.

If a young maiden couldn't choose between two suitors, on Halloween night she took a pair of hazelnuts, and giving each for one of her beaux, she then tossed them in the fire. The nut that burned the brightest or popped the loudest indicated which man was to be hers. In England, this night became known as Nutcrack Night.

Throughout the years, other plants and herbs also were associated with this holiday. In Mediterranean countries, prior to the fourteenth century, rosemary was placed

over the cradle of babies to protect them, not just on Halloween, but year round. It was often burned with juniper and thyme as a means of cleansing a room of witches and bad spirits.

Rue was hung from doorways and windows to ward off evil spirits and prevent them from entering the house.

Salvia, which is also known as meadow sage, was considered a symbol of immortality. When planted on graves in cemeteries, this perennial was believed to give the dead "eternal life."





We're on the Web

CLUB INFORMATION

The Brandon Garden Club meets at 7PM on the third Wednesday of each month except July and August at the Seniors for Seniors Complex at 311 Park Avenue East, Brandon.

New members always welcome. Annual membership is \$20 single / \$30 couple. Non-members are welcome to attend meetings to take advantage of the Club's horticulture program me at a cost

of \$5.00 per meeting.

For more information on club



affairs contact the club secretary, Nancy Lytle at 727-8912 or e-mail thebrandongardenclub@mymts.net .

The club newsletter is published free for members and is distributed at monthly meetings. Contact the editor, Shannon Brichon at 727-3581 for email or postal delivery.