

Book on gardening art authored by Lenox Garden Club

By: Madeline F. Winter

Gardening is an art. It is also a science. But for most people, gardening is simply a source of deep satisfaction and delight.

"Aspects of Gardening in Berkshire County," a new book that made its appearance in shops, garden centers, museums and libraries in the county this week, and was published by the Lenox Garden Club, whose members delight in gardening here in the Berkshires.

All of the articles in the book were written by members of the Lenox Garden Club. Proceeds from its sale will benefit 11 different organizations, including Canoe Meadows, Berkshire Garden Center and Bartholomews Cobble. The price of the book is \$4.15 including tax.

Mrs. Clement M. Ogden, is the editor, assisted by Mrs. Benjamin Roeder and Mrs. McGuchin Laidlaw. Sketches are by Beverly Hallock. A lovely bouquet of daffodils in color, reproduced from a watercolor done by Kate Forbes, graces the cover of the ring-bound book.

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In the first article, "On Gardening," Helen Alsop says, "There are as many reasons for gardening as there are flowers and vegetables, but one thing is for sure - gardeners share a passionate urge to grow things. There is no substitute for professional advice; nevertheless we hope with this book to give a little boost to gardening in the Berkshires."

Another article by Mrs. Alsop on "A History of Gardening in Berkshire County" stirs the imagination about what life must have been like for early settlers. "If there is a motif to the history of gardening in the Berkshires," she says, "it is a circle: from wilderness to farm, from village life with its small gardens and woodlots on the mountain to the day of the big estates, and now back to small holdings."

Lisa Houston tells us that common myrtle is an ideal covering for a slope or under a tree, and Margaret R. Kellam writes about unusual plants she has grown. "Venture away from the familiar, experiment with the new and rare, try something different along with tried and true" she advises.

Amy Bess Miller relates her experiences in the peaceful pursuit of mushrooms. She says: "If you have never tasted a fresh wild mushroom, you have missed quite an experience. There is nothing like it."

Eleanor Hibbord advises how to store dahlias and glads over the winter months and writes about her success in growing orchids in a lean-to greenhouse attached to her kitchen.

Patti Barrett, who says "composting is the key to organic gardening" tells us how to make compost in a box in the cellar and in heavy duty plastic bags on the back porch. In another article Patti shares, easy recipes for green tomato relish and zucchini pickles.

ASPECTS OF GARDENING IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY



Herb fanciers, Emily Rose, Gertrude Burdsall and Barbara Judson write about how to grow them in the garden, cook with them and how to dry them. We tried Barbara Judson's recipe for fresh canape and found them delicious.

Other articles of interest, to name a few, are about rock and wall gardens, planting for birds, forcing bulbs, gardening under lights and arranging wildflowers.

The book also advises where to find help and information on gardening, recommends books and periodicals to read and also has a map for people who like to walk and look at growing things.

We found the book particularly interesting because it was written by people who live and garden in the Berkshires and who write from first hand experience about what to plant and how to care for the plants in our climate.

We agree with Helen Alsop who wrote "this is a book for the bedside table, not to be taken at a gulp but to be picked up now and again, for a fresh idea or a new angle on an old one."