
THE FAIRFIELD GARDEN CLUB



Issue #4

April 24, 2020

VIRTUAL SEEDS OF WISDOM: TIPS AND QUIPS

Hello to all,

Welcome to our 4th issue of Tips and Quips. Barbara calls this our Arbor Day edition. Next Friday on May Day, in a small return to the old days, I am going to send out the May Newsletter. But keep the Tips and Quips coming. Our members are enjoying the diversion and utilizing many of the ideas and offerings.

From Barbara Geddes Wooten:

WHEN I AM AMONG THE TREES

by Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.
I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.
And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."



Photo by Barbara Geddes Wooten taken in Charlottesville on a Visiting Gardens tour in 2018.

From Allison Dalton: I found this little video to be just wonderful.... mostly for children but a nice reminder about how to look at our world.

<https://tv.apple.com/us/movie/here-we-are-notes-for-living-on-planet-earth/umc.cmc.1j55m7c1krge4yhia6x4u5o48>

From Ann Franzen: If you care to take a nice ride - off the grid - the Apple Barn in Easton is open. They have fruit and cheeses and crackers and baked goods and pasta and Rao's and organic zucchini and onions and avocados and select items - even some off-brand toilet tissue rolls. Pansies, and lettuce plants, and veggie plants, too. Worth a trip for a step back in time. And they also have many New England-style gift items, and preserves, and junk.

If you want to continue your outing, there is a special place in Redding for all to see. An amazing daffodil field. Past Spinning Wheel inn in Redding on Black Rock Turnpike - continue to the 4-way stop, turn left onto Cross Highway, Redding and go down the hill about a mile. On your left is a little daffodil-yellow house with an amazing field. You can bring the kids to frolic in the field. Quite amazing.



Photo by Ann Franzen

From Barbara Geddes Wooten: If you like the Westport Farmers' Market, you can order on-line and reserve a time for pick-up or delivery. Each Thursday at Gilbertie's Herb Garden from 10:00 – 2:00. Go to westportfarmersmarket.com for more information and to sign up for a time slot. There is no day-of shopping.



Good News ---- Gilbertie's is open during the market and starting on March 18th they are open 7 days a week. In addition to regular walk-in shopping, they are offering curbside pay and pickup as well as offering free delivery services (in Westport) for orders over \$100 now thru 4/30/2020.



From Barbara Geddes Wooten: Arbor Day and Earth Day are in the same week every April. The Arbor Day Foundation says it best:

Trees provide the very necessities of life itself. They clean our air, protect our drinking water, create healthy communities, and feed the human soul.

This week was to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2020 (1970-2020). This Saturday, we originally intended to plant our 27 trees at Seaside Park (now postponed) to celebrate a century plus of our celebrating Arbor Day on the last Friday in April or “whenever the climate allowed tree planting.”

Some mix up the two great markers. Some celebrate them together. Their histories are quite distinct. Their purposes are equally lofty.

Arbor Day in the globe began in Spain as early as 1594 but memorialized in 1807. There, a cleric expanded the concept of trees for “health, hygiene, decoration, nature, environment, and customs” and made it a festival. Arbor Day in America has a large handful of creators. Nebraskans wanted to call it “Sylvan Day” at first, but changed the name to include both forest and fruit trees to “Arbor.” The State planted 1,000,000 trees in commemoration. With influence from Gifford Pinchot and Israel McCreight, Theodore Roosevelt finally established the day in 1907 in an “Arbor Day Proclamation to the School Children of the United States.” It was about the importance of trees and the science of forestry.

Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin proposed the first Earth Day fifty years ago. This was and is about environmental stewardship in the broadest sense. There were many virtual events this year.

How to celebrate while we are in seclusion?

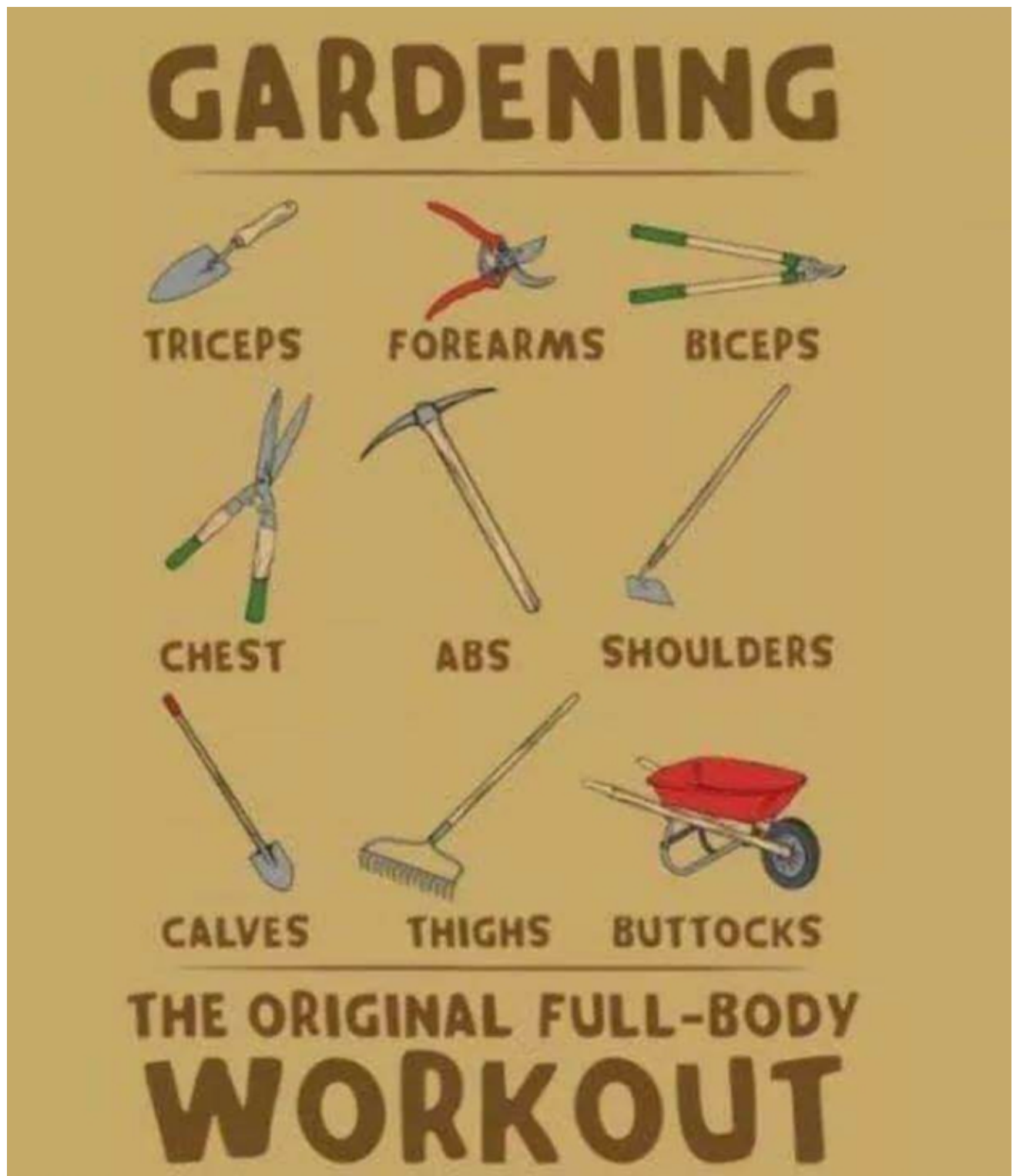
J. Sterling Morton, Founder of the first Arbor Day in America, 1872, wrote this:

“The cultivation of flowers and trees is the cultivation of the good, the beautiful and the ennobling.”

Next year, Arbor Day 2021, we hope to finally plant trees in Seaside Park and elsewhere. This year, plant a seed in your kitchen window.



From Judy Urquhart:



From Nan Nelson and Whitney Vose: Hi, Everyone. As you might imagine, planning for Ogden this season has been a challenge. After considering our options, we have decided to follow through with planning for garden work on the premise that it is easier to cancel plans than to scurry around at the last minute.

If you have not already signed up to work in the gardens this season, we are asking that you do so now by going to the Ogden page on the website and following the link to SignUp Genius. Our goal is to make sure we have teams through mid-July. At this point, we are keeping the groups to about five people in case we are still doing social distancing. If we need to cancel, due to continuing virus concerns, we will; BUT we want to be ready for productivity if we can move forward. Thank you so much for your help and support.



From Peggy Moore: Saw this cute article on growing a 'Popcorn' garden while on the Brooklyn Botanical Garden Website. I think the kids will love it.

https://www.bbg.org/news/grow_a_popcorn_grass_garden_project



You can also go to the website and stroll through the cherry blossoms via a video.

https://www.bbg.org/news/stroll_through_the_japanese_garden_in_bloom_video



From Rutgers University Home Gardeners School:

I thought you might be interested in the Rutgers University Home Gardeners School *@Home Edition* course called [Composting and Good Soils](#). It is a 1-hour online class to be held on Wednesday, May 13 at 1p.m. We plan to host more of these home gardening webinars in the coming months. If interested, please [join our email list](#) (just select Home Gardeners School as your area of interest).

From Gabrielle Guise:

In a Chaotic Season, Where to Begin Your Spring Cleanup?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/21/realestate/in-a-chaotic-season-where-to-begin-your-spring-cleanup.html?referringSource=articleShare>

From Penny Ross:



“April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.”

— T.S. Eliot, The Waste Land



Trilliums in my rock garden after April 21 hail and thunderstorm.

Comment on my hailstorm video, made by an Instagram friend from somewhere else:

“What the hail?”

From Whitney Vose:

History repeats itself. Came across this poem
written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Pandemic.

This is Timeless....

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.



From Simin Allison: Springtime.



From Judy Urquhart: I was out for a walk today, and I caught the Bargas family (including the dog!) in the act of their “clean-up day”! They had quite a haul!!



From Patty Carpenter:



From Jeanne Reed: 'Woman by a Window' is my favorite Matisse in the Columbus Art Museum's collection. Henriette Darricarrère, a dancer and musician in Nice, posed for Matisse from 1920 until her marriage seven years later. He painted several versions of this composition, in which Henriette looks out towards the Baie des Anges in Nice.

The patterns and colors, the strong verticals and horizontals, the theme of contemplation and meditation: stillness as a form of action - centered as a verb. The woman in repose - how to be your best when everything is the worst - all seem particularly apt for us now, 100 years after Matisse painted her.

