

THE
ENTERTAINING TALES
OF TABBY, PRissy & PEACHES®

GREEN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Presents



A LATE SPRING

*BUS & WALKING TOUR OF
THE GARDENS OF GREEN VALLEY*

Friday, May 22 & Saturday, May 23

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Bus Tours of beautifully flowering areas and walking tours of specialty gardens
- Tours start at five various locations
- *Brunch, Lunch and Tea will be served at the starting and ending locations.

Tickets \$25

A PEACHES AND
TABBY TALE FOR MAY

The Green Valley Garden Club had come up empty last year when they tried to plan this year's garden tour event. Being a small town, they had done tours of just about every house they could and other people did not want to put their houses on tour. So they decided they would break with tradition for the next couple of years and do things in a different way. This year they would have a

late spring tour of area gardens only. And next year they would have an autumn garden tour when everything would be replete with autumn colors and mums and pumpkins and more.

So last spring, with their usual zeal for a new project, the ladies of the Green Valley Garden Club set forth to plan a new event. They decided that the whole town would be on display. Everyone's yards would be replete with flowering plants. For those unable to get out and weed and plant in their yards, various school groups, youth groups and service organizations would be willing to help weed and plant. The tours would be both by bus and walking. Five of the area churches had said their parking lots could be used for

the bus tours to start and end in. The Garden Club had said that it would be wonderful if the churches could also serve brunch, lunch and afternoon tea. Grandmother Tabby was put in charge of coordinating the churches providing the food. Tabby sighed when they nominated her for this job. Every now and again she got a little weary of doing the job of peacemaker but she decided she would just put a smile on her face and do it with a happy heart. She did choose to make some decisions ahead of time and get the Garden Club to approve them so she could go to the women's groups in the churches with a plan already in place. Since this would be a fund raiser for their various churches, she felt confident that they would all go along. She decided that everyone should offer the same foods at the same prices. She presented the idea to the Garden Club Board and they all agreed this is what should be done. She then went to each church group individually and presented her plan and they were all enthused to be able to participate and have a fund raiser. She knew there would probably be much said about who had the best muffins for sale or the best stew or salad or chocolate cake and who sold the most food but she hoped that she could just ignore that. She would ask the police department and the volunteers who would help them with directing traffic to try to evenly send those going on the tour to the various church lots.

The tours would start in different places as they left the five churches so that there would not be too many people in any one place.

The area garden centers and nurseries had decided that they would have open houses and drawings and free prizes on these days. Peaches would coordinate this effort since Green Valley Kitchen would also be offering specials on the days of the tour.

The garden club would have an heirloom flower and herb sale. Garden Club members would decide on a location or locations for this and run the booths. And the Quilt Club would make a floral quilt to be raffled off. Samantha Squirrel said that she would be responsible to see that this was done.

Mayor Tobias Whiskers said that he would see that everything in the city was spruced up and that he would ask the merchants to participate by putting flowers in their flower boxes and containers in front of their stores.

There was much excitement about changing things for the coming year and the next many months were spent making plans for gardens and yards and events.

At the end of April and beginning of May everyone was out planting flowers like mad. White wicker furniture was put on front porches. Yard swings and benches were repainted for front yards. Garden statuary was selling like crazy at the local stores. Decorative fences were being built and a couple of people added wishing wells to their front yards.

Grover Groundhog had consulted his charts and proclaimed that the dates of the tour would be sunny and bright with a nice cooling breeze.

The day of the tour arrived. The ladies of the Garden Club were very apprehensive as they had never done anything like this before. Food was to be served at the churches starting with brunch at 8 a.m. since the tours would start at 10 and they hoped some people would get there early. Lunch would be served from 11:30 to 2:30 and tea and dessert would be served from 2:30 to six.

At 8:30 the parking lots began filling up with cars, both from the local residents and the surrounding towns. Many people came early to buy some breakfast and be among the first to get on the buses.

At 9:45 the first buses were loaded and ready to go. They pulled out of the parking lots and headed into various areas of the town. Guides were on board to point out to the guests various flowers and landscaping details. As they were slowly driven past the houses with the beautiful plantings and yard details, everyone was taking pictures and making notes of things they wanted to do to their own yards.

The buses stopped at various homes so the guests could tour some particularly beautiful backyard gardens. Parsley Bunny's house had a huge herb garden in the back. Parsley gave a small talk on her herbs. Everyone raved over it. However, a couple of ladies were overheard making snide comments. Another yard that they toured had a very large cutting garden. The Beaver family had many little elf houses in their yard partly hidden by the flowers and bushes and they had also set up a train track with a train that was running around between

the little houses. Another yard had a beautiful fish pond and another a little waterfall and stream with a small watermill. The tour took about two hours and everyone was delighted with the food being offered and being able to see so many beautiful yards and neighborhoods. Mayor Tobias Whiskers declared the event a success -- and very good for the town coffers. And the Garden Club made even more money than they had anticipated. Many of the people said they were going to come back on Saturday and take the tour again. The church ladies decided that they would have to make even more food for the Saturday crowd.

At the end of Saturday everyone was very tired but they all decided that sometimes doing something different from the normal way of doing things is a good thing. And they were all looking forward to planning for next year's autumn garden tour.



GRANDMOTHER TABBY'S ETIQUETTE TIP #22

When you are viewing someone's creative accomplishments in their home or yard always be complimentary when in the presence of others.

You never know who might hear you –
it could be someone's husband or sister or daughter.



*Coming up in the June issue of **Entertaining Tales:***
Prissy attends a very formal wedding in the city.
Peaches attends a very casual wedding in a garden.