

JUNE TEA BUDS

June is the first month of serious flowering in the perennial beds so the “buds” for this month’s party are Phlox and Cone Flowers. Information on both plants can be found below.

The table is set with an abundance of cut flowers, green print or flowered tea cups and saucers. The napkins are a fun springtime color of patterned green.

The photo shows a collection of old kerosene lanterns and lamps. They provide a topic of interest to all the ladies since they grew up living in the golden glow cast by these lanterns. Each participant will have a memory to share about a special lamp from their living room or small lantern used in the bedroom. These are wonderful memories and their sharing should be encouraged. A different item may be chosen as the topic of interest, of course, but I encourage the hostess to provide some physical items that will promote shared discussions.

The flowers themselves may spark conversations about flower gardens tended by your tea party participants. Keep in mind that many flowering plants of their days were brought home from the lakes, the woods, or the prairie. People didn't go to a nursery to buy plants they simply dug what nature made available. Ask them about their plant acquisition activities.

The menu for the day should epitomize spring with its early vegetables and beautiful flowers.

CHIVE BUTTER CUCUMBER SANDWICHES

Soften the butter to room temperature

Mix in a small amount of chives, to taste

Cut cumpers in thin slices and lay on a paper towel to absorb some of the moisture

Cut bread into floral shapes or use a scalloped cookie cutter. (frozen slices make a neater cut)

Spread bread with the chive butter and layer with thin slices of cucumber. Serve with Earl Gray tea.

CREAM CHEESE MARMALADE SANDWICHES

Soften one package of cream cheese to room temperature

Cut Rye bread with a floral shaped cookie cutter.

Mix the softened cream cheese with 4 T. orange marmalade and spread it on the rounds of bread.

Top with a second slice and serve

HONEY BANANA SANDWICHES

Cut whole wheat or Pumpernickel bread into small rounds, squares, or triangles.

Spread both halves with honey then fill with banana slices.

PHLOX

Phlox are a hardy perennial that grows in sun or part shade. They bloom mid-summer until late fall and come in many several bright colors; red, pink, blue, and white. There are over 70 species ranging from tall upright plants to low ground covering creeping Phlox. The beautiful clusters of star shaped flowers are loved by butterflies, humming birds, and people.

CONE FLOWERS

The cone flower's scientific name is "Echinacea", a name that is quite familiar to individuals who seek cold remedies. All parts of the plant are known to have immune boosting effects and Echinacea can be found as an ingredient in many cold remedies on the shelf.

The plant blooms from summer til fall and it does prefer the sunny spots in the garden. It grows 1 to 3 feet tall and comes in many beautiful colors; purple, green, red, orange, white, pink, and yellow. The brightness and sweet fragrance makes it attractive to birds.