



Barrie Garden Club Newsletter

Cuttings

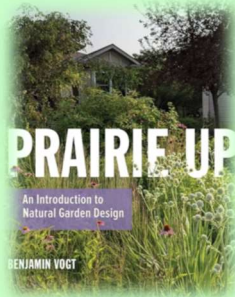
March & April 2024

Look for us at: www.barriggardenclub.ca



Written by Kimberly Sturge

MARCH 5TH BGC MEETING @ 7PM ON ZOOM



BENJAMIN VOGT – PRAIRIE UP CONNECTING TO NATURE WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Benjamin Vogt is an author and garden designer who lives in Nebraska.

He is the author of three books - *A New Garden Ethic: Cultivating Defiant Compassion for an Uncertain Future*; ***Prairie Up: An Introduction to Natural Garden Design***; and *Afterimage: Poems*.

Benjamin has an M.F.A. (Ohio State) and Ph.D. (Nebraska) in English and has taught over fifty college classes for which he's received multiple awards.

He owns Monarch Gardens LLC, a prairie-inspired garden design firm that works with clients in Nebraska and throughout the Midwest. His landscapes have been featured in *The American Gardeners*, *Dwell*, *Fine Gardening*, *Garden Design*, *The Guardian*, *Midwest Living*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. For over 5 years Benjamin wrote an award-winning garden column for Houzz (nearly 3 million readers) and has contributed words and photographs to several books.

For some of Benjamin's garden design work, online classes, workshops, pocket guides, snarky shirts, and newsletter, please link to:

<http://monarchgard.com>

APRIL 9TH 2024 – IN-PERSON 7PM AT THE ANAF CLUB 52 MORROW RD BARRIE



AGM & SPEAKER: KRISTIN MARTIN

20 THINGS WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT OUR BACKYARD BIRDS

Kristen Martyn is a Birder, Master Naturalist, Tour Leader, photographer and Bird Feeding Specialist. Her strong passion for the natural world, led her to pursue a BSc. in Zoology and complete a post-graduate course in Ecotourism and Adventure Tourism Management. Kristen is the owner of Wild Birds Unlimited Barrie and Wild Birds Unlimited Newmarket, two backyard bird feeding and nature shops. Kristen greatly enjoys teaching people about our natural world.

Reach out to Kristen and her wonderful staff with any "bird" questions at:

wbsubbarrie@gmail.com





Barrie

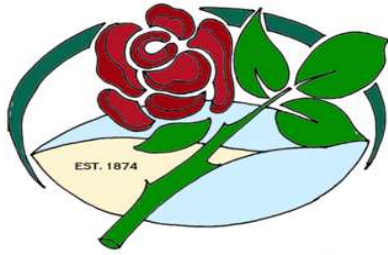
SAVE THESE DATES!

*You are invited to attend the
150th Anniversary Celebration
of the Barrie Garden Club
Sunday, June 23rd 2024*

1:00pm - 4:00pm

*At the Dorian Parker Center (and the Arboretum)
in Sunnidale Park, Barrie, Ontario*

More details to follow



Garden Club



2024 D16 AGM

SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2024

AT THE CREEMORE LEGION

(THIS WILL BE AN ALL-DAY MEETING AND YOUR D16 BOARD IS PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES ON A VARIETY OF ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA)

Some high points of the D16 Spring AGM:

- The Creemore Legion Hall will hold the meeting - easy parking and all on one level
- Registration reduced to **\$40 per person** includes refreshments, speakers, prizes and flower show. **** Barrie Garden Club Members - If you plan on attending you will need to pay this to Carolyn at our April Meeting****
- **Refreshments** - coffee/tea and muffin on arrival, fruit tray and coffee/tea at morning break, buffet lunch choices - 2 soups - a vegetarian vegetable soup and a cream soup, assorted sandwich choice such as salmon, egg salad and ham and cheese (for dietary restrictions attendees must identify in advance) and dessert squares
- **Outstanding Guest Speakers:** TBA
- **District 16 Flower Show** - for information to participate please contact Joan at jnabarrie@yahoo.ca
- **Other Garden related vendors**
- **Huronia Rose Society** will decorate the tables with their Miniature Roses and have extras for sale - **Kim Sturge can pick up your Rose orders at the AGM and get them to you in Barrie if you don't attend!! Please email her at kmsturge@gmail.com to make arrangements!**

Huronia Rose Society

Annual Miniflora Rose Sale
Ontario grown

**\$13.00 each
or 2/\$25.00 in
6" pots (tax
included)**

**Pre-Order Now (last
day to pre-order is
April 9th) and Pick up
at the D16 AGM on
Saturday, April 20th
Email Michelle Lynch at
lynchfam@sympatico.ca**



Fahara



Isabel



Alicante



Silvia



Honora



Nova



Order Now!

*******The Huronia Rose Society also has their **potted garden roses** up on their website for May 2024 pick-up! Please visit them at www.huroniarose.com to see what's available and to order!*******



BLOOMING BOULEVARDS

"We couldn't BEE more delighted to present this year's online workshops!"

Not only are they chock full of great information, they are FREE and available online. Sign up now, and when the time comes grab a cup of tea, log on and tune in!

Using native plants in your garden is all the BUZZ. Why? Because native plants create gorgeous, habitat-rich, pollinator-friendly spaces to support the ecosystem. If you have thought about replacing part of your lawn with something a little more friendly to the environment, you have come to the right place.

Head over to our website and register today:

<https://www.bloomingboulevards.org/book-online>

Workshop: Low Maintenance Native Boulevard Gardens

Feb 10, 2024 - 10-11 am on Zoom

Learn how to replace high maintenance turf with a drought-proof, salt resistant, no-mow boulevard garden! All you need to know about plant selection, design, installation and care in this comprehensive workshop.

Pre-registration on our website is required.

**Blooming Boulevards**
Connecting neighbourhoods to nature
www.bloomingboulevards.org

Workshop: Design Your Own Native Pollinator Garden

March 9, 2024 - 10-11 am on Zoom

Learn the best ways to provide food and shelter for native pollinators, while delighting with textures, shapes and colours. You will learn to assess site conditions and create a beautiful garden design that meets pollinator, plant and your own needs. The challenges of tough sites such as boulevards and balconies will be addressed and design templates made available.

Pre-registration on our website is required.

**Blooming Boulevards**
Connecting neighbourhoods to nature
www.bloomingboulevards.org

Workshop: Goodbye Lawn!

March 23, 2024 - 10-11 am on Zoom

Looking to get rid of your high-maintenance lawn? Replacing existing lawns with native plants is a great way to save water, time and energy PLUS provide much-needed habitat and food for local wildlife. We will dive into the benefits of replacing turf with locally grown native plants and leave you with practical tool to transform your lawn into an easy-care, pollinator-friendly space where native plants thrive.

Pre-registration on our website is required.

**Blooming Boulevards**
Connecting neighbourhoods to nature
www.bloomingboulevards.org

Workshop: Wildflower All-Stars for Sun or Shade

April 6, 2024 - 10-11 am on Zoom

Go beyond Black-eyed Susan - discover the amazing variety of shapes and colours of our local native flowers and grasses. These easy-to-grow beauties are beloved by pollinators. The focus will be on species indigenous to Ontario and Eastern North American ecoregions. Learn which plants work best for your sunny or shady site, and use this info to plan your garden.

Pre-registration on our website is required.

**Blooming Boulevards**
Connecting neighbourhoods to nature
www.bloomingboulevards.org

If you do plan on planting your Boulevard in the City of Barrie - don't forget to go on-line at <https://www.barrie.ca/BoulevardGardenPolicy.pdf#:~:text=All%20boulevard%20gardens%20sh all%20be,not%20permitted%20to%20plant%20trees>

To register and find out their rules and regulations!



Upcoming BGC Meeting Dates

(note** There has been some changes in our regular Meeting dates)

March 5, 2024 - Zoom - Benjamin Vogt

*April 9, 2024 - AGM - Kristen Martin

May 7, 2024 - Laura Thomas

*June 23rd, 2024 - 150th Anniversary Celebration

at Sunnidale Park Dorion Centre

July 23rd, 2024 - Tour of Julia Dimakos Garden

August - no meeting

*September 10th, 2024 - Joan Neiman-Agapas

October 1st, 2024 - David Hawke

November 5th 2024 - Awards Night and Potluck *Meeting starts at 6:30pm

December 3rd 2024 - Make and Take - Molly Shannon - Holiday Succulent Pot



Creemore Horticultural Society
Presents An Outing to
WHISTLING GARDENS
Wednesday, May 29th
7:45 am to 5:00 pm

Coach Bus with Washroom
Catered Lunch
Private Guided Group Tour
Musical Fountain Show
22 Acres of Botanical Gardens
Cost \$100.00

Members & Guests Welcome
\$100 non-refundable but transferable
Please confirm and pay by April 9th

Contact Joanne Rachfalowski
joannerachfalowski@gmail.com
705-717-9843

Pay by e-transfer to treasurer.creemorehort@gmail.com
Cash or Cheque to Creemore Horticultural Society



For many of our Barrie Garden Club 2024 events and community endeavours we will be needing your help! Sign-up Clipboards will be circulated at each of our in-person meetings! Please join us to help out with:

The 150th Anniversary Celebration
Our Community Garden Plot in Shear Park
Fort Willow Pioneer Heirloom Garden
MTO Highway#26 Clean-up
Library Roof Top Garden
Or on our BGC Executive!



Top 30 Keystone Plant Genera for Butterfly and Moth Caterpillar

Genus	Common Plant Name	# of Caterpillar Species that use this as a Host Plant
Quercus	oak	445
Prunus	almond, apricot, cherry, peach, plum	409
Salix	willow	397
Betula	birch	385
Populus	aspen cottonwood poplar	337
Malus	apple	285
Acer	maple	276
Vaccinium	blueberry, cranberry, deerberry	276
Alnus	alder	245
Pinus	pine	235
Carya	hickory	206
Ulmus	elm	187
Picea	spruce	144
Crataegus	hawthorn	156
Rubus	blackberry, raspberry	153
Tilia	basswood	146
Fraxinus	ash	133
Juglans	walnut	125
Corylus	hazel	124
Solidago	goldenrod	120
Fagus	beech	122
Castanea	chestnut	121
Abies	fir	116
Rosa	rose	111
Cornus	dogwood	116
Larix	larch	113
Amelanchier	serviceberry	113
Viburnum	viburnum	102
Tsuga	hemlock	110
Symphotrichum	aster	108



Top 30 Native Host Plants for Pollen Specialist Bees

Genus	Common Plant Name	# of Pollen Specialist Bee Species Relying on this Plant
Helianthus	sunflower	22
Solidago	goldenrod	22
Rudbeckia	Black-eyed Susan	17
Grindelia	gumweed	16
Symphotrichum	aster	16
Salix	willow	12
Coreopsis	tickseed	9
Bidens	beggartick	7
Cirsium	thistle	7
Verbesina	wingstem	7
Euthamia	goldentop	6
Silphium	rosinweed	6
Vaccinium	blueberry, cranberry, deerberry	6
Erigeron	fleabane	5
Ratibida	prairie coneflower	5
Vernonia	ironweed	5
Cornus	dogwood	4
Heterotheca	goldenaster	4
Physalis	groundcherry	4
Astragalus	milkvetch	3
Dalea	prairie clover	3
Echinacea	coneflower	3
Lotus	bird's foot trefoil, deervetch	3
Lysimachia	loosestrife	3
Eurybia	aster	2
Gaillardia	blanketflower	2
Heliopsis	heliopsis	2
Hieracium	hawkweed	2
Kalmia	laurel	2
Lupinus	lupin	2

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT....

Doug Tallamy talked about having "keystone plants" in your garden to support pollinators! Here is a chart from the National Wildlife Federation

<https://www.nwf.org> that makes it easy to find out what you might want to put in your yard and what pollinators these amazing plants support! Doug and Benjamin Vogt's thinking go hand in hand and this chart will make selecting some new plants for your garden this year quite easy!

I have also included a few of Doug's slides from his presentation below!





As property owners or volunteers, each of us has the power - and the responsibility - to fix landscapes like this.



Oaks support 557 species of caterpillars in the mid-Atlantic and over 950 species nationwide

If insects were to disappear...

- 1) Most flowering plants would go extinct
- 2) That would change the physical structure and energy flow of most terrestrial habitats
- 3) which would cause the rapid collapse of the food webs that support amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals
- 4) The biosphere would rot due to the loss of insect decomposers
- 5) Humanity would be doomed!



The good news is that we *can* save our insects, our birds, and nature itself ...but we'll have to change the way we landscape to do it!



For most birds, caterpillars are not optional!



To rear one clutch, they must catch
6,240 to 9,120
caterpillars!

When insects decline, birds decline!

Most caterpillars are host plant specialists.....

so we have to add the plants on which caterpillars have specialized!



They specialize on only a few types of plants!
Most insects that eat plants can develop and reproduce only on the plants with which they share an evolutionary history.



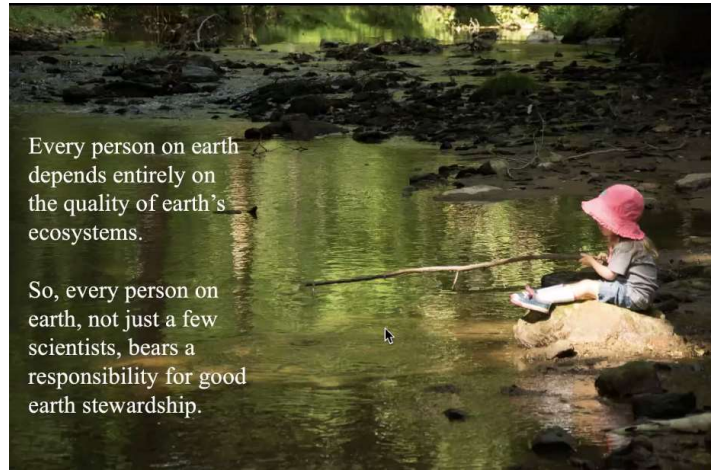
(Forister et al. 2014)

"HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK® (co- founded by Doug Tallamy) IS A GRASSROOTS CALL-TO-ACTION TO REGENERATE BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION BY PLANTING NATIVE PLANTS AND CREATING NEW ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS."

By catalyzing a collective effort of individual homeowners, property owners, land managers, farmers, and anyone with some soil to plant in, this is a call-to-action to start a new **HABITAT®** by planting native plants and removing the detrimental invasive plants. **It is the largest cooperative conservation project ever conceived or attempted.**

To learn more and get yourself on the National Park Map please go to:

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>



Mission

To regenerate biodiversity by motivating millions of people to plant natives, remove invasives, and reshape their relationship with nature

What are we asking?

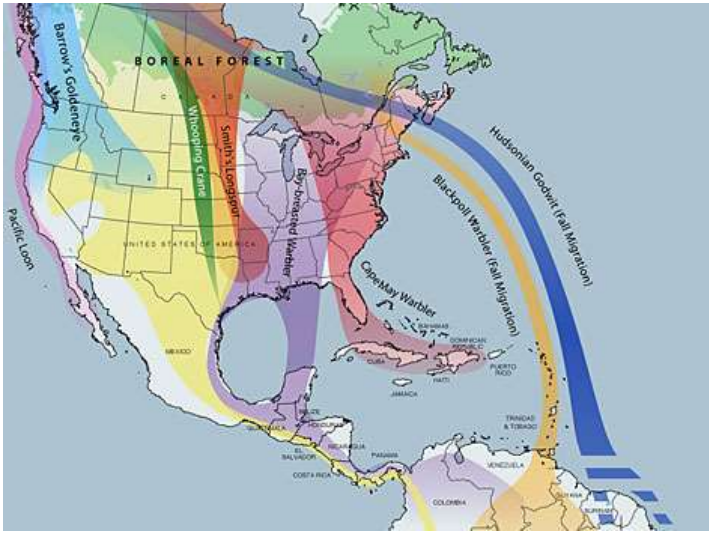
- 1) Reduce the area in lawn
- 2) Plant more natives
- 3) Remove invasives
- 4) Protect natural areas of their property



Signs like these can be purchased on line at places like Amazon.ca

AND SPEAKING OF POLLINATORS...

Our upcoming speaker in April, **Kristen Martin** has shared with us some great advice on bird migration and what to anticipate this spring:



It seems we are in for an early Spring this year. Birds take their cue for migration, nesting etc. from Mother Nature, as such we anticipate these activities will begin a little earlier this year. Don't delay on getting those nest boxes out (we've had reports of chickadees already inspecting boxes) and keep an eye on the temperatures when thinking about putting out your hummingbird and oriole feeders. We've already begun seeing reports of Baltimore Orioles in the southern US which means they've left their wintering grounds and are enroute back to Ontario for the breeding season. Wild Birds Unlimited Barrie has a great selection of nesting boxes and accessories as well as hummingbird and oriole feeders and foods.

Need some advice on what to offer in your yard? Stop in and speak to one of their Certified Bird Feeding Experts

who are always happy to assist. And don't forget to check out their selection of native plants in May, perfect for creating habitat and attracting birds to your yard!

For more information on Bird Migration also checkout:

<https://birdcanada.com/birds-of-canada/bird-migration/>

<https://explorer.audubon.org>

<https://flap.org/bird-migration/>

2024 TRENDS IN GARDEN DESIGN

From: <https://www.gardendesign.com>

Here are a few trends that are being embraced by garden communities and gardeners around the world this year! Are you on board?

Enhancing Your Garden with "Edimentals"

A term coined by writer Stephen Barstow of Norway, "edimentals" are plants that are both edible and ornamental, therefore serving more than one function in the garden. Edimentals are typically plants that live for more than one year and include perennials, shrubs, and even trees. Using edimentals is a fantastic way to incorporate design elements such as color, texture, and form within a traditional vegetable garden.

Exploring Naturalistic Planting & the New Perennial Movement

This way of gardening is slightly wilder - neither manicured nor neglected - but one that takes its cue from nature. It's a garden filled with drifts of plants and grasses (relying heavily on native plants) that appear to have naturally re-seeded themselves in place, though in reality are carefully placed and chosen. The emphasis isn't on showcasing orderly plant collections but on a diversity of plants that blend with surrounding nature, welcoming wildlife and pollinators. Here is a link to find more pollinator plant ideas - <https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/>



Preserving Every Drop with Eco-Friendly Rain Gardens

With drought a regular occurrence in many regions, rain gardens have soared in popularity as a method to slow down the flow of rainwater and irrigation, keeping every last drop of precious water on site and out of the street's storm drains.

Capturing wasted water is just one of the benefits of a rain garden. Minimizing roof and driveway pollutants from rain runoff is another, as the roots of the plants slowly filter the water.

Plants used in rain gardens need to handle "feast or famine" amounts of water and include many natives, grasses, and sedges with their long, deep root structures.

Learning to "Love" Bugs (Even Those That Munch!)

Love, may be exaggerated a little, but more people are at least **tolerating** bugs in their gardens. With insect biodiversity at a crisis level and a growing understanding that all living things are ultimately connected, it makes sense that the Royal Horticulture Society recently de-classified slugs and snails as pests and gardeners are now researching and incorporating plants that are caterpillar and bug friendly too. They are also more conscientious (and creative) about getting rid of pests organically too. A great resource for this can be found at:

<https://www.gardendesign.com/pests-diseases/>

For example: Build a "mosquito bucket" with water and kill the larvae in the bucket with Mosquito Dunks or buy a fan to use in the areas where you sit outside. This will keep mosquitoes at bay!

(Picture from Doug Tallamy's Presentation)

Mosquitos are best controlled in the larval stage



Mosquito dunk



Embracing Gravel Gardens for Low-Maintenance Beauty

With temperatures trending hotter and drier than ever before, gardeners are re-evaluating their plant choices, planting methods, and dependency on water to create thriving gardens.

Gravel gardens tick all the boxes of a sustainable, low-water garden. A Gravel Garden is a low-water, low-maintenance garden

bed primarily consisting of gravel instead of soil, with carefully chosen plants throughout. Gravel of a uniform size (ranging from pea gravel down to 1/4 inch) is evenly spread over the existing ground to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. The root-ball base of a 3 to 4.5 inch potted plant is then placed near the top of the ground and surrounded with gravel. Placing the root-ball base on top of the soil encourages the roots to grow deep and down, resulting in a much hardier plant that can withstand drought.

Other trends include:

Rediscovering the Beauty & Biodiversity of Stumpery Gardens - A Victorian trend re-imagined, stumpery is a shady garden that features strategically placed stumps, logs, and unusual pieces of wood as the focal points.

Preserving Our Gardens in Creative Ways - Using pressed and dried flowers creatively in a meaningful way to enjoy the "garden" for years to come.

Beyond Dining: Creating Unique Outdoor Spaces - using outside spaces devoted to other aspects of everyday living

Adapting & Growing with a Changing Climate - With weather rapidly becoming hotter/colder/wetter/drier than ever before, we are forced to re-evaluate the garden's role in our lives. We have to find a balance between the desire to create an aesthetically stunning garden and a garden that won't harm the environment.

Cultivating Garden Knowledge at Home - Joining webinars and zoom meetings available on line to learn more about your garden!



“Getting Ready for Spring” Recipes

Perfect for Easter or any of your Spring Celebrations!

From: <https://www.delish.com>

Cheesy Bacon-Asparagus Casserole

BY [MAKINZE GORE](#)

YIELDS: 6 servings PREP TIME: 15 mins TOTAL TIME: 1 hr 10 mins

Ingredients:

- 6 strips bacon, cut into 1" pieces
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup shredded white cheddar, divided
- 1 cup shredded Gruyère, divided
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 bunch asparagus, ends trimmed
- 1 cup crushed Ritz Crackers



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In a large skillet over medium heat, cook bacon until crispy, 10 minutes. Remove from pan with a slotted spoon and drain on a paper towel-lined plate. Drain all but a 1/4 cup of grease from pan.
2. To same skillet, add garlic and cook until fragrant, 1 minute. Add flour and stir until golden, 2 minutes. Slowly pour in milk and cream, whisking until smooth. Let simmer until thickened, 5 minutes. Add 1/2 cup each of cheddar and Gruyère and stir until melted.
3. Add bacon back to sauce and season with salt and pepper and a pinch of red pepper flakes.
4. Place asparagus in a 9"-x-13" baking pan and pour sauce over, then top with remaining 1/2 cup of each cheese and crushed Ritz Crackers.
5. Cover with foil and bake until asparagus is tender, 20 minutes. Remove foil and bake until cheese is melty, 10 minutes more.

Frozen Peach Bellinis – Perfect for Brunch!

From: <https://damndelicious.net/2015/05/29/frozen-peach-bellini/>

YIELD: 8 SERVINGS

PREP: 5 MINUTES

TOTAL: 5 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 cups frozen peach slices
- 1 cup mango nectar
- 1 (750-mL) bottle Prosecco, chilled

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Combine peach slices and mango nectar in blender until smooth.
2. Pour peach mixture into champagne flutes until half full. Fill glasses with Prosecco.
3. Serve immediately, garnished with peach slices, if desired.



Carrot Cake Dip

BY [JUNE XIE](#)

YIELDS: 8 servings PREP TIME: 10 mins TOTAL TIME: 1 hr

Ingredients:

- 2 **tbsp.** butter
- 1 **tsp.** ground cinnamon
- 2 cups packed shredded carrots
- 1/4 cup packed dark brown sugar
- Kosher salt
- 1/3 cup golden raisins
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice
- 1 **tsp.** rum (optional)
- 1 (8-oz.) block cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 **tsp.** pure vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup chopped toasted pecans
- 2 **tbsp.** toasted sweetened coconut flakes, for garnish (optional)
- Graham crackers & sliced apples for serving



Directions:

1. In a medium skillet over medium heat, melt butter. Add cinnamon, carrots, brown sugar, and a pinch of salt. Cook, stirring frequently, until carrots are lightly caramelized, about 8 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and let cool completely.
2. Return skillet to medium heat and add raisins, pineapple juice, and rum, if using. Bring to a simmer and let cook until juice is absorbed, about 8 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool completely.
3. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth and fluffy. Add heavy cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla and continue beating until light and fluffy.
4. Fold in cooled carrot and raisin mixtures, and pecans. Cover and refrigerate until chilled, about 30 minutes.
5. Garnish with coconut, if using, and serve with graham crackers and sliced apples.

