



The Plant Sale is Coming...

One of my favorite childhood books featured an Arthur-Rackham-like image of some seriously listless imps, and asked the question, "What do hobgoblins do when it isn't Halloween?" I'm not sure I ever answered it (though my Mother had some ideas) but I do know what gardeners do when it isn't spring: They Plan Things.

Carole Ward and Gloria Kuran are already launching the World Famous West Newbury Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, held on May 20th this year.

Fourteen heroic individuals have already signed up as chairs for the various committees, leaving two in need of chairs: Donated Plants and Herbs. If you would like to chair ei-

ther of these, please call Gloria (388-4830) or Carole (462-1023) to sign up.

There are also three new Committees this year :



Choice:

Unusual or very desirable plants showcased on a special table

Set-up and **Break-down** (Don't you love those names?): 2 special teams to gather tables, banners, etc. and

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February 2 "Design Ideas for Your Garden"

Winter is a great time to analyze the "bones" of your garden, to see its proportions, sightlines, focal points, and pathways. So grab a piece of paper, take a look out at that snowy landscape, and do a quick sketch of what you see. What would you like to change? What little problem has vexed you, lo these many months?

Laura Eisener is an experienced landscape designer who is ready to answer those questions, and who

brings her extensive practical knowledge to bear as she helps solve our garden design challenges. She will also show us the real thing in slides (which will show green plants with actual blooming flowers on them. Remember?)

6:45 in the 1910 Building Annex

Hostesses for the evening are Tracy Peter and Carol Hurn, ably abetted by Pollyann Statom, Jennifer Germain, Lynne Johnson, and Terry Ritzel.

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February at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum:

In bloom: Jasmine Trees, Lady Slipper and Cattleya Orchids, Azaleas

Check out the Landscape Visions Lecture Series at www.gardnermuseum.org

Gardening Books **The Inward Garden**

Julie Messervy guides you through the steps of creating a personal garden, one based on your own memories and desires. You begin by remembering your favorite childhood places—a treetop fort, a cozy hideaway, a private daydreaming vantage— and recollecting the landscapes you have traveled to and loved. These are your “inward garden,” a garden of imagination, waiting to be composed in the natural world.

You then walk through your backyard, analyzing the site, soil, light and landforms. Step by step, you learn the practical techniques for altering and optimizing the landscape.

The book is a celebration of the artistic process, teaching us to trust our individual creativity, listening to our aesthetic impulses, experimenting, and designing with our hearts.

This is a lush, thought-provoking book which has forever changed the way I think of gardens and the landscapes around me.

Rosemary Verey urges all gardeners and garden designers to read this book.

The Inward Garden by Julie Moir Messervy

Little, Brown and Co 1995 ISBN 0-316-56792-2

Horticulture **Stunning Amaryllis**

Nothing chases the winter blahs like the fireworks display of an Amaryllis in full bloom, and there are hundreds of varieties to go wild over.

Forcing Amaryllis

Here are some hot tips:

Buy the biggest, firmest bulbs you can find in the fall.

Pot them up in a free-draining soil mix in a tall pot whose diameter is 2 inches larger than the diameter of the bulb. They like being a little crowded, so try potting two or three of the same variety in a rectangular planter.

Water very lightly at first until the first green appears.

To speed up sprouting, apply gentle bottom heat by putting the pot on top of the refrigerator or some other warm device. I suggest taking to pot down to water it.

Competitive Bulb Forcing

This year several of our members got together to shop for their amaryllis bulbs, and it would appear from the photo at the right that Kathy Krajeski has won the **2005 Bigger-Than-Your-Head Amaryllis Contest** hands down. She assures me that there is no trick photography at work here, though there has been some muttering about strange fertilizers from her co-growers. And

did you notice the way she seems to be leaning away from the flower in the photo?

Perhaps next year we should search out the WNGC 's most unnaturally large Amaryllis to be featured in the February issue. What is the best cultivar for size? Apple Blossom? Red Pearl?

Should we have a miniature class for the *least* successful?

Something to look forward to next year. Start your research now!



Club and Federation News **Flower Shows**

“Welcome Home” is the theme for the **New England Spring Flower Show** running March 11-19 at the Bay-side Expo Center in Boston. Carol Hurn will be organizing our personal excursion again this year, slated for a weekday (To Be Announced) trip departing at 3:00 pm from the parking lot behind the Annex and returning at 9:00 pm. Grab your sister, your friends, your Mom and get on the bus!

The **Central Massachusetts Flower Show** “Glorious Garden Escapes” will be at the Worcester DCU Arena (formerly the Centrum) from Thursday February 23 to Monday Feb 27. Features a number of activities for the kids. Tickets: \$12 Thu and Fri, \$14 Sat and Sun. www.centralmaflowershow.com



Rhode Island Flower Show Feb 23 to 26 (Thursday 10am-9pm through Sunday 10am-6pm) “A Floral Symphony” Info 401 272 0980 Tix: 401 253 0246 Advance tickets \$13. www.flowershow.com RI Convention Center in Providence

Connecticut Flower and Garden Show Feb 23 to 26. 18 landscaped gardens on the theme “Zen and Now” with hourly seminars included in the \$12 admission fee. Connecticut Expo Center in Hartford. www.ctflowershow.com

Philadelphia Flower Show March 5-12

Check out www.ppplants.com/flowershow/index.html for more Shows.

The Plant Sale is Coming...

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set up the Training Field the day before, and another team to remove and store the gear at the end of the Sale.

The Chairs are:

Sun: Jane Jeffers and Kathy Krajeski

Shade: Deb Zoltai and Donna Greene

Choice: Laurel Mackay

Digging: Maguy Thomson (Scheduling) and Priscilla Styer (The Dirty Work)

Knapps: Liz Scheld and her Band of Reknown

Banners: Lisa “Splash!” Arnold

Cashiers: Dot “Dollars” Cavanaugh

Children’s: Maguy Thomson & The Face Painters

Food: Ellie Bragg, Anne Burrill, and Marilyn Kent

Set-up: Jennifer Germain

Break-down: Carole Ward and Gloria Kuran

Herbs: *open*

Donateds: *open*

Town Liaison: Laurel Mackay

Publicity: Jane Jeffers, Gloria Kuran, Deb Zoltai

Gloria and Carole will have sign-up sheets at the February meeting, as well as more information about the tables and the sale.

Let’s have fun this year and get some of our wonderful plants into the hands of our fellow gardeners!



WNGC

WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB

30 Merrimac St
Amesbury MA, 01913-4009

Phone: 978 388-2076
E-mail: bpgroup@verizon.net
Website: www.WNGC.org

Gardens for beauty, learning, and sharing

Next Board Meeting
February 9, 2006

The West Newbury Garden Club was founded in 1936 to encourage and cultivate an interest in gardening, to aid in protecting and conserving our natural resources, to further the study of horticulture and flower arranging, and to promote civic beauty. For more information, please contact Marsha Cope at 978 388 2076, at bpgroup@verizon.net, or at 30 Merrimac St, Amesbury MA, 01913.

Marie Anderson
7 Pleasant Street
Merrimac, MA 01860

In the Garden this Month **February**

Garden Highlights this Month

Bulbs: aconite, snow crocus, snowdrops. Perennials: hellebore. Shrubs: Chinese witch hazel, heath, winter honeysuckle, winter jasmine, wintersweet.

Planting—Indoors

Sow slow-growing annuals, vegetables, perennials indoors in flats. Take geranium cuttings to plant out in May and June. Check the house plants frequently for insects and diseases, groom and fertilize if they're showing signs of growth. Turn in the window for even development.

Pruning

Continue dormant pruning of trees, summer- and fall- blooming shrubs, berry bushes, grapevines. "Renewal prune" overgrown shrubs. Limb up multi-stemmed shrubs to expose handsome bark and stems. Save bloom buds by limiting pruning of spring-blooming trees and shrubs to the removal of suckers and growth damaged by ice and snow.

Fertilizing

Re-apply anti-desiccants to broadleaf and newly planted needle evergreens if temperature is above 40 degrees

Garden Maintenance

Loosen winter mulches matted by snow.
Check winter plant protection, stakes, and ties.
Clean, sharpen, oil tools.
Inventory supplies.
Order flower and vegetable seeds, perennials, bare-root trees and shrubs for April planting.
Feed the birds.

