



# The Garden Tour: June 17

This year's garden tour will be a **Grand Perambulation** of members' gardens for members and their guests. And what a tour!

We will meet at **8:15 at the Town Hall** to carpool.

1. **Marsha Cope's** house for a breakfast of pastry, coffee, tea, and juice overlooking the Merrimac River
2. On to Merrimack Town to see **Nancy Perkins'** fabulous multi-level gardens at Green Tree Farm
3. At **Chris MacMillan's** Cottage Garden Nursery you can also shop: 20% off!!
4. Over to Haverhill along the river to **Jane Jeffers'** old tavern home for Lunch in the garden: Finger sandwiches, chips, fruit, veggies, and lemonade
5. Back across the river to **Lisa Arnold's**

head-high riverside garden.

6. Down through the center of town to **Donna Greene's** house, and then on to
7. **Cyndy Bourquard's** 500,000 acres of gardens, fields, marsh, and woods
8. and lastly to **Virginia Hallman's** in Byfield to end our day with dessert and a beverage and one more wonderful garden.

About 40 people have signed up already, so it should be a great end-of-the-year meeting. We need a few more drivers, so at the June 1 meeting, it would be great if 2-3 more folks would sign up to chauffeur. Should we chip in a dollar for gas or sing?

The cost for breakfast, lunch, and dessert is \$6 (yes!) which we **really need to collect** at our meeting this week, as it will just be too insane to do it the morning of the Tour. Grab that piggy bank and a friend!

## June 1 Gardening with Paul Parent

Paul Parent has been a gardening personality in the New England area for 20 years, and with good reason. His talk tonight will range across a broad array of topics, most likely following our lead. So bring your gardening, growing, and design questions and dilemmas to get some of the best advice available. Not as good as our own "Peony" but still very worthwhile.

And where is that Peony, anyway?

Hospitality will be provided by Marie

Anderson, Irene Kent, Joan Quackenbos, Jeanne Pucci, Helen Kelso, and Sandy Taylor



### Inside this issue:

Gardening	<b>Container Planting</b>	2
Horticulture	<b>Curbside Gardening</b>	2
Member News	<b>Successful Sale</b>	3
Club/Federation News	<b>Bulb Sale</b>	3
In the Garden this Month	<b>June</b>	4

### And in the Worth A Try column:

"More and more I am coming to the conclusion that rain is a far more important consideration to a gardener than sun, and that one of the lesser advantages that a gardener gains in life is her thorough enjoyment of a rainy day."

— Margaret Waterfield 1907

# Gardening **Container Planting**

If you haven't yet done your pots, here are a few tips to make the season something different.

Try a pot or two of a tall fine grass like Pennisetum (pen-ih-SEE-tum) the fountain grass or Miscanthus (mis-CANTH-uss) the maiden grass, or silver grass. Set it in a spot where it will catch slanting late afternoon or morning sun, and where there is some air movement. The slightest breeze will stir the leaves, and the constant motion will give you the sense of a water fountain. Use a straight-sided pot, as the root mass will be so dense and wiry by the end of the summer you'll have a hard time knocking it out for the winter. If you get it into the ground by the end of September, it will winter over and become a permanent part of your landscape.

Rather than go for the old red-white-and-blue color scheme, or a pastel variation of it like pink-purple-white, experiment with some new colors and textures. Pair the gray-green of eucalyptus or fuzzy gray "licorice plant" with a deep purple like heliotrope, pale lavenders in several textures and shades, and trailing white lobelias.

Pot up some of the smashing new coleus, combining the deep-colored ones with either black or chartreuse potato vine. Pinch it back and feed it weekly, and it will go nuts.

Go for a cool green-and-white planter with yellowish-green foliage of different textures, double white impatiens, and trailing white Little daisy thing.

Get a big pot, add a trellis, and go crazy with black-eyed Susan vine.

Pot up a strawberry jar with all the culinary herbs you like. To make watering easier, wrap 4 bamboo stakes, cut to the height of the jar, with wire screen and stand it upright in the center of the pot, planting around it. When you water, pour water down the bamboo and screen waterway to get down through the whole pot without washing the dirt out of the holes in the jar.



# Horticulture **Curbside Gardens**

One of the challenges in creating a successful garden near the street is selecting the right plants. Color, size, and durability are all equally important. Pastel colors are too pale and washed out to make a statement from a distance, so choose a bold palette. Small, airy blossoms which capture the heart up close may be all but invisible to passers-by, so think big. And durability in a curbside garden means more than pest-free and hardy in Zone 6. Winter salt can destroy the best intentions in a single season. Here is a partial list of salt-tolerant plants to help you plan.

## **Perennials**

Asiatic Lily (Lilium)  
Asters New England and Belgian  
Autumn Joy Sedum  
Bee Balm (Monarda moe-NARD-a)  
Candytuft (Iberis eye-BEER-is)  
Columbine (Aquilegia ack-will-LEEJ-ya)

Canterbury Bells Campanula  
Tickseed (Coreopsis Core-ee-OPS-is)  
Daffodil  
Daylily (Hemerocallis an Irishman:  
Hemmer O'Callis)  
Foxglove (Digitalis dij-i-TAL-is))  
Gaillardia  
Groundcover Rose  
Hosta  
Lavender  
Martagon Lily  
Catmint (Nepeta NEPP-a-tah)  
Obedient Plant (Physostegia Fiss-o-  
STEEJ-ya))  
Phlox  
Ribbon Grass (Phalaris)  
Sages (Salvia SAL-vee-a)  
Coneflower (Rudbeckia Rood-BECK-  
ee-a)  
Scilla (SILL-a)  
Siberian Iris  
Lady's Mantle (Alchemilla mollis)

Coral Bells (Heuchera HEW-ker-a)  
Foam Flower (Tiarella tee-a-RELL-a)

## **Native Wildflowers**

Goldenrod  
Bergamot  
Jacob's Ladder  
Liatris lee-AHT-ris  
Yarrow

## **Shrubs and Trees**

Cotoneaster (ka-TONE-ee-aster)  
Forsythia  
Japanese Lilac  
Serviceberry  
Snowflake Mock Orange  
Star Magnolia  
Thornless Hawthorne  
Annabelle Hydrangea

## Members in the News

# Very Successful Plant Sale

The Plant Sale was a resounding success! Chairs Carole Ward and Gloria Kuran headed up a great team of committee chairs and worker bees, and we saw tons of wonderful innovations:

- The set-up was a brainstorm, gathering all the tables and booths in close proximity and fostering a real sense of excitement, punctuated by the colorful balloons.
- We had a great success with the Herb Farmacy's organic herb table, and virtually all of the plants on offer sold. Thanks, Diane Dobson!
- Gloria K's aprons were so popular we will definitely be getting more next year. They were a real help to our buyers in identifying who to turn to for help, and they made us feel special.
- The information booth for the local watershed was very well attended, and virtually all of the literature just disappeared.
- Cyndy Bourquard "just stopped by" the Arrowhead Farm when she was out collecting her donated plants, and walked away with TEN \$25 gift certificates, a fistful of \$5 coupons, and \$450 worth of donated plants. Wow!
- The creation of the well-named Breakdown Committee actually resulted in several bedraggled morning-long members being shooed away, as Carole said she had more help than she needed. That's a breakthrough!

- The weather was stupendous, with the first beautiful sunny day in living memory. Talk about pent-up demand!
- And the bottom line was a very respectable \$8218.75 gross, and \$5,911.24 net.

Thanks to everyone who made this year's sale day not only a success, but a lot of fun! Some of the overheard comments were:

"Oh, this looks so professional!"

"Look at that great information booth; what's that all about."

"Next year I want an apron with my name printed on it."

"Can we **buy** these aprons somewhere?"

"These plants are gorgeous!"

"Are these ALL organic herbs?!"

"I have too much food for the bake table!"

We did a great job of working together, getting a lot of fabulous plants into the hands of enthusiastic gardeners, and we made a tidy sum for the club. Thanks again to everyone!

It was a truly innovative sale!

## Club & Federation News

# Daffodil Sale Returns

As you can see, Priscilla Styer's granddaughter knows a great spring bulb when she sees one. Alivia says, "Buy this one. I LIKE it! It matches my outfit."

Following a unanimous vote at the May meeting, we will once again be running our spring-flowering bulb sale in September. Last year we offered 4 packages, including the apricot-cupped Chromacolor and ruffly Manly daffodils shown with Alivia. We also had the miniature narcissus Tête-à-Tête and a grape hyacinth mixture that knocked this writer's socks off when it came up this spring.

This is not only a great deal, but also a way to try something new, so please think of unusual favorites of yours or bulbs you have coveted in others' garden or in the catalogs.

We need a few good bulb-ers to meet twice this summer to make the selections and handle the paperwork. See Marsha. We can meet in her garden.





**WNGC**

**WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB**

30 Merrimac St  
Amesbury MA, 01913-4009

Phone: 978 388-2076  
E-mail: [bpgroup@verizon.net](mailto:bpgroup@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.WNGC.org](http://www.WNGC.org)

*Gardens for beauty, learning, and sharing*

*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](mailto:bpgroup@verizon.net), or at 30 Merrimac St, Amesbury MA, 01913.*

Extra

**Next Board Meeting**  
**May 11, 2006 7:00pm**

## In the Garden this Month **June**

### **Garden Highlights this Month**

Allium and lilies. Annuals and perennials. Climbers: climbing hydrangea, moonflower, morning glory. Early summer-flowering shrubs and trees.

### **Planting**

Plant container-grown trees and shrubs, groundcovers, annuals, cannas, gladiolus. Transplant roses, perennials. Divide late spring-blooming bulbs. Start annuals in flats to cover later-summer bare spots. Sow and transplant seedlings of war-season vegetables and herbs

### **Pruning**

Prune deciduous and evergreen hedges, spring-flowering trees and shrubs and wisteria after bloom is finished. Remove dead and diseased wood and water-sprouts from dogwoods. Pinch back your asters, chrysanthemums. Deadhead rhododendron, laurel, lilacs, perennials and annual herbs. Take softwood cuttings

to increase plant stock.

### **Fertilizing**

Fertilize acid-loving flowering evergreens after bloom is ended, and annuals container plants, and houseplants monthly.



### **Garden Maintenance**

Continue rose care program. Set stakes, poles and trellises. Train plants. Water and weed. Thin the vegetables. Place netting over berries to protect them from the birds. Be prepared to protect warm-season crops from late frosts in cold areas. Move tropical houseplants outdoors late in the month.

**Lawn Care:** Set the mower height at 2.5 to 3 inches, and water deeply in weeks with less than an inch of rain.