



Survey Says...

Does the garden club teach you and entertain you? Does it delight and fascinate you?

Do you wish we had more of this and perhaps a tiny bit less of that?

Do you know what the Federation really does, and do you care about awards?

Do you like the way the club is run?

Are the cookies up to snuff?

We work hard at the plant sale and raise a lot of money from our efforts. Should we raise more funds? Do less work? Do more around town?

At our most recent meeting, the board decided that the best way to find out was to ask the entire membership what

they thought of the club right now.

It seems like a good time of the year for reflection, and if we decide to make some changes, we have time enough left in the year to implement them.

Please take five minutes to let us know what you think! **Complete the enclosed questionnaire**, then either fold it in half, staple it, and drop it in the mail, or bring it to the next meeting on November 3rd. We will publish the results in the December Newsletter, and then discuss them at the December meeting.

Thank you very much for taking the time to make your opinions and wishes known, and for helping to keep our **already fantastic club** on course.

November 3 "Decorating with Holiday Greens"

Betsy Williams will show us how to create wonderful table, wall and outdoor **decorations for the season** using the greens from **our own gardens** and yards. She will show us how to add fruits, nuts, and other natural and dried objects to make the arrangement personal and unique.

Betsy is from North Andover, Mass., and has trained as a designer in both England and the US. She is also a florist, the author of several published books, and a speaker on fairy folklore.

The arrangements **will be raffled** at the end of the demonstration, so bring your piggy-bank. Someone will be lucky!

As always, the meeting will be held at 6:45 in the 1910 Building Annex.

Hospitality will be provided by Elise Henrichs, Virginia Hallman, Gloria Kuran, and Karen Diaz, led by Susan Dogherty and Dianne Faulkner



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I have found, through years of practice, that people garden in order to make something grow; to interact with nature; to share, to find sanctuary, to heal, to honor the earth, to leave a mark. Through gardening, we feel whole as we make our personal work of art upon our land.

-Julie Messervy, The Inward Garden

Gardening **Divine Hosta Divisions**

A great fall gardening hint for dividing and replanting hostas:

1. Dig a hole using a bulb planter, in the location where you want to transplant and/or add the hosta.
2. Remove dried leaves from hosta and, where you can see the heads of new shoots, use the same bulb planter to cut a plug from the mother plant.
3. Fill in with dirt around the mother plant to protect the roots
4. Drop the plug of hosta into the same size hole in the new location, et voila, a perfect fit! Water it in well.



Conservation **False Bamboo**

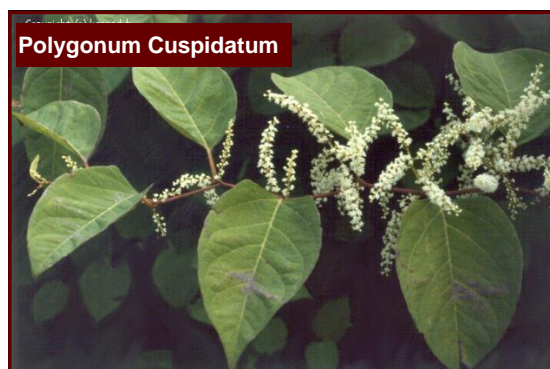
False Bamboo is horrifically invasive, apparently impossible to get rid of, and spreads by runner, seed, and stem segments as small as a quarter inch. It is also known as Japanese Knotweed and Mexican Bamboo. It has several botanical names as well, probably in an attempt to escape detection: *Polygonatum Cuspidatum*, *Fallopia Japonica*, *Pleuropteris Cuspidatus*. (Do not try to pronounce these names without adult supervision.)

This is a report from a gardener who has eradicated a large patch of False Bamboo, as reported on Dave's Garden website. It seems to offer hope.

Here is what you do: Mow, scythe, dig out and pull up all you can. remove all the sticks and roots you can to make the area as smooth as possible, to avoid poking holes in the landscape fabric. Next, lay porous landscaping / ground cloth over the whole area, tucking and folding the seams, and using lots of pins to hold it down. On top of that put down about 4-6" of topsoil and plant grass seed. The point is to suffocate and exhaust the

wretch. If new shoots appear, pull them up and keep pulling them. Over time, they get weaker and weaker.

Other people suggest that in place of the landscape fabric, use the same rubber membrane that roofers use on flat roofs. It is stronger, thicker, and comes in wide sheets. (You can also use it to control weeds under decks and patios, putting sand or gravel on top.)



Horticulture **Pruning Clematis**

Clematis fall into one of 3 pruning categories based on when they flower. As always, you don't want to cut off the part which is about to bear flowers.

Group 1 flowers early, so prune it as soon as the flowers fade, cutting the whole plant to within 1 ft. or so of the ground, except for very old stems which may not resprout. (Montana, Macropetala, Jacqueline du Pre)

Group 2 repeats, flowering more or less throughout the season on both new and older stems with the bulk of blooms in summer. Either cut back the whole plant drasti-

cally every few years just before growth begins with little or no pruning in the interval/ Or, divide the plant in half, and severely prune each half in alternate years. (Nelly Moser, Dr. Ruppel, Henryi, The President, Gen Sikorski)

Group 3 flowers late, from summer to early fall, towards the end of new shoots. Prune just before growth begins in spring, lopping all stems back to string buds to 1 ft. (Paniculata, Comtesse de Bouchaud, Perle d'Azur)

For a complete list of the groups see Lee Reich's "The Pruning Book" or www.taunton.com/finegardening

Members in the News **Topsfield Fair**

Our very own **Gloria Kuran** walked away with 10, yes, TEN, ribbons at this year's Topsfield Fair! She won **five blue ribbons**, in the Horticulture Competition, four for her zinnias and one for her cosmos. She also won five lesser ribbons for her fabulous vegetables. If you ask her about it, she'll say, "But I'm not a gardener!"

Priscilla Styer was at the Fair too, serving as a recorder for the judges in the competition. This is in no way connected...

On October 27th, **Maguy Thomson**, **Kathy Krajewski**, and Priscilla attended a workshop sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society on How to Exhibit in the Amateur Competitions at the New England Spring Flower Show. Yes, you **can** exhibit. The flower show is March 11-19 this year.

Priscilla has graciously agreed to act as the focal point for educating all of us about how to exhibit in both the Horticulture and Floral Arrangement judged shows, at shows in the region. She will explain what the categories are, where the shows are, and where to find out



Gloria Kuran with one of her five Blue Ribbons

what the rules are. So see her for info, and look for her talks at our regular meetings!

Club & Federation News **The Past and the Future**

Call for Historical Documents, etc.

We would like to see if we can collect, or at least locate, all the WNGC documents, awards, booklets, history, and general paraphernalia we have created over the past 70 years so we can put it in one place.

If you have any "stuff" would you please let me know, and we can see how and where to best store it. Thanks for your help!

2007 National Garden Clubs Convention

Massachusetts' own Barbara May will be inducted as the National Garden Clubs President at the 2007 NGC Convention in Boston, May of 2007. To raise funds for this major 5-day event, GCFMA is hosting "A Victorian Affair" Thursday, December 8, 2005 at the White Cliffs mansion in Northborough, 10:15 to 2:15. Program includes exhibits, lunch, Bill Graham, Arranger, and Bonni Dinneen, Fashion Designer. Call Diane Bullock for reservations (\$60) 207 361-1818

Floral Design **Upcoming Events**

Flower Show School

Do you want to become an accomplished exhibitor? Consider attending the GCFMA's Flower Show School held 25-27 April in Wellesley, MA.

NE Spring Flower Show Design Invitation

The WNGC has been invited to exhibit in the Club Competition Class Design Division One of the Amateur Competitions at the New England Spring Flower Show. Entry Days are Friday March 10, Tuesday March 14, and Friday March 17. This year, they are offering a

special Club Competition category, **Class 105 Simple Pleasures**, a vignette incorporating a fireplace mantle, staged in an area approximately 8' high by 8' wide by 6' deep. The vignette must include at least one floral design in an NGC recognized style, but the rest of the space is open for your creative expression.

If you are interested in participating, please let Marsha know as soon as possible, as the classes fill very quickly. It would be great to put together a group to enter!

<http://www.gardencentral.org/gcfm/nesfs/>



WNGC

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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, or at 30 Merrimac St, Amesbury MA, 01913.

Extra

Next Board Meeting
November 10, 2005

In the Garden this Month **November**

Garden Highlights this Month

Broadleaf and needle evergreens, lingering fall color of fruit, berries, seed heads and foliage.

Planting

Plant evergreens until mid-month, and deciduous plants, tulips, lily bulbs until ground freezes. Indoors, pot up hardy spring bulbs to force for winter bloom. Plant Tazetta (paperwhite) narcissus in pebbles and water. Add a shot of gin to the water. Groom house plants, checking frequently for insects and diseases.

Pruning

Finish pruning late summer- and fall-blooming shrubs. Limit pruning of spring-flowering trees and shrubs to removal of awkward, diseased, or damaged branches to preserve next spring's bloom buds. Prune raspberry canes, if you're mad enough to plant them! Trim ivy.

Fertilizing

Fertilize trees shrubs and vines when fully dormant. Spray anti-desiccant on broadleaf and newly-planted evergreens, and on rose canes to prevent moisture loss during the winter drought.

Garden Maintenance

Continue to rake and compost leaves. Finish cleaning up beds. Cut perennial stalks to 4" except for ornamental grasses, as they are good for winter interest. Begin spreading winter mulches, preparing winter plant protections.

Mow wildflower meadows.

Feed the birds.

Lawns: Fertilize after the first frost to promote root growth.

