



Nursery Discount Program

Once upon a time, during her unceasing peregrinations, Nancy Perkins discovered a garden club whose members received a discount at local nurseries, and she thought it would be a good idea if we did, too. The Board agreed, so Sandi Preble, Priscilla Styer, Dianne Faulkner, and Marsha Cope, set about creating the WNGC Nursery Discount Program.

The team created a list of nurseries to visit, starting with the larger ones, and set out early in the day, armed only with water and pleading looks on noble brows. By the end of the day, they had signed up two retailers, **Beach Plum Farms** in Salisbury and **Laschi Brothers** in Methuen, and gotten a "please come back" from three more.

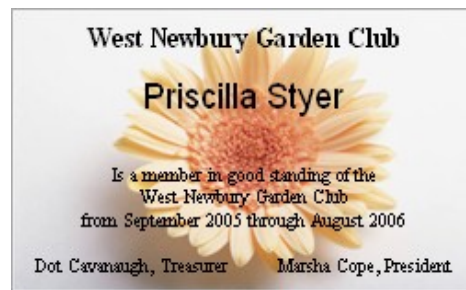
Strengthened by Hodgie's frappes, they persevered, and signed up one more, **Roger's Spring Hill** in Ward Hill.

The search continues, and Dianne has enrolled **Ould Towne Gardens** in New-

bury, with Nancy and Priscilla adding **Newton Greenhouse** in Newton, NH.

Members in "good standing" (dues paid) will receive a Discount Card honored at participating retailers. Look for full details in the new year-book: a complete list with addresses, directions, specialties, open hours, and discount amounts and items.

New cards will be handed out at our first meeting on September 8th.



Priscilla's Discount Card, already somewhat tattered...

September 8 at 6:00 pm "Herbs" The **Second** Thursday, this Month!

Our Kickoff Meeting will be held once again at Nancy Perkins' Green Tree Farm in Merrimac, and Rita Wollmering of the Herb Farmacy in Salisbury will be there to educate and entertain us with a talk on herbs.

This will be a "Potluck Dinner" so **please bring an appetizer, main course, salad, or dessert to share.**

Nancy's farm is at 6 Brush Hill Road in Merrimac, off Harriman. Our meeting starts at 6:00.

As always, dues are due, Yearbooks will be ready and waiting, and we'll have time to catch up on the summer's adventures.

It will be great to see everyone again!

Inside this issue:

Gardening Fall Bulb Sale	2
Conservation The Color Purple	2
Horticulture Peonies	2
Members in the News Local Heroines	3
Club News New Newsletter	3
Flower Arranging The Topsfield Fair	3
In the Garden this Month September	4

Worthwhile Web Sites

- Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts <http://www.gcfm.org/>
- 2005 New England Flower Show Arrangements, including our entry! <http://www.gcfm.org/scrapbook2/>
- National Garden Clubs Click **Education** for some wonderful programs! <http://www.gardenclub.org/>

Gardening **Fall Bulb Sale**

Maguy's brainchild comes to fruition this fall as we offer four selections of truly outstanding spring-blooming bulbs for sale at very discounted prices to our members, first, and afterward, to the public. Three Narcissus and a Muscari Mixture will be packed in bags of 10 and labeled with a gorgeous photograph and planting instructions.

Look for the order sheet at the September meeting so you can place your order early, before we run out. Any bulbs not sold by the end of the meeting will be offered to the public at a slightly higher price, as we would like to raise some funds, as well give a great volume discount to our members.

If you cannot make the meeting, don't worry, just ask a friend to sign you up, or let Marsha Cope know by phone what you would like to order. You can also mark your heart's desire on the attached flyer, enclose a check and mail it to Marsha. (Her phone and address are on the past page of this newsletter.)

Our bulbs will arrive the last week of September, and we need some volunteers to fill the bags and attach the labels in time for distribution at our meeting on October 6th.

We also need people to sit outside the West Newbury Food Mart to sell the remaining bulbs. We will have a date and time for this at the September meeting, and will recruit our sellers and baggers then. May I suggest a disguise?



Muscari Mixture

Conservation **The Color Purple**

As lovely as it is, you wouldn't want it in your garden, or taking over a bird-filled meadow.

As of 1997, three insect species from Europe have been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use as biological control of Purple Loosestrife.

These plant-eating insects include a root-mining weevil and two leaf-feeding beetles. The beetles have been released experimentally in natural areas in 16 northern states, from Oregon to New York. Although these beetles occasionally feed on native plant species, their po-

tential impact to non-target species is considered low. They are very effective as a control in several areas so far.

Two flower-feeding beetles are still under investigation.

Small infestations may be pulled by hand, preferably before seed set.



Horticulture **Peonies**

Peonies are very hardy, long-lived plants with a very forgiving temperament. They require only full sun and a neutral well-drained soil. They have no natural enemies and seem immune to the cold.

Early fall is the time to divide your peonies, either for propagation or to separate large overcrowded clumps.

Using a strong spade or digging fork, circle the plant, lifting a little bit as you go. Large clumps may need to be divided in place: insert your spade or fork into the clump.



Sink another spade or fork back to back with the first, and work the handles back and forth to separate the roots. Take your time, lifting gently and working in small increments.

Once the plant is divided, set in a well prepared hole with the "eyes" no more than 2 inches deep. Water deeply. Peonies like full sun, in an average to rich soil, well drained. Don't be discouraged if they sulk. They *will* get over it.

Members in the News **Local Heroines**

As you know, one of the qualifications for membership in the garden club is **“a willingness to share in the work of the Club and serve on a committee.”** We all work hard and have full lives, but some of our members go above and beyond the call of duty.

Seven of our members have volunteered to work not only on one, but **two** committees: **Ellie Bragg, Joan Colby, Dianne Faulkner, Elise Henrichs, Linda Jackson, Kathy Krajeski, and Ginger Selman.**

Are these people **fabulous** or what?

Four people have actually volunteered for **three** committees (or 2 committees and a seat on the Executive Board with monthly meetings): **Linda DeCoste, Rosemarie McCobb, Sandi Preble, and Marie Scher. Definitely awesome!**



And two lovely, dedicated, talented, demented people qualify for the Truly-Out-of-Control Award; **Maguy Thomson** and **Dot Cavanaugh** have volunteered for **four** jobs each!

Do these people sleep?

A heart felt **thank you** to all these wonderful, generous women who make so much happen for the good of us all!

...two qualify for the Truly-Out-of-Control Award: Maguy Thomson and Dot Cavanaugh!

Club and Federation News **New Newsletter**

Welcome to the all-new WNGC Newsletter! The design is based on seven topics, listed in the table of contents on page 1, plus a “lead story.”

Please send along any suggestions about the format, the contents, the color scheme, anything at all.

It may take a couple of tries to get

the web version in a form which everyone can see, so let me know how that works, too. My email address is on page 4.

If there is anything you would like to see in the way of news items, or articles, please suggest them, as these pages should be a

Please submit your ideas for articles, news about members, or “Questions for Peony.”

reflection of what the members want to see in their newsletter. I am perfectly capable of babbling about anything!

Better yet, if you would like to submit an article, or the rough outline for one, on a topic near and dear to your heart, grab your pen!

Flower Arranging **At the Topsfield Fair**

The Topsfield Fair and the Garden Club Federation of Mass (GCFM) are sponsoring a standard Flower Show called “A Lil’ Bit O’ Country” on October 1st through the 10th.

Based on Country Music themes, there are six classes of competition: *South of the Border, I Don’t know Where I’m Bound, Behind Closed Doors, Hey, Good Lookin’, Grand Old Opry, and That’s How Much I Love You.*

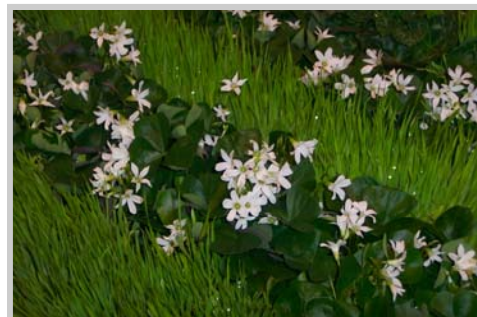
Entry days and times are

- Thursday Sept 29 from 3-5 pm
- Monday Oct 3 from 7-9 am
- Friday Oct 7 from 7-9 am

An exhibitors’ Meeting will be held in the Flower Barn on Thursday, Sept 8 at 10 am.

Contact Sandy Sears
Entry Chairman at 978 774-9145
or Sears725@aol.com to enter.

For more information, visit <http://www.gcfm.org/topsfieldfair/>





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

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.

Next Board Meeting
September 15, 2005

In the Garden this Month **September**

Garden Highlights this Month

Bulbs: Autumn Crocus, Colchicum, Hardy Cyclamen, Dahlias

Climbers: Autumn Clematis, Fleece Vine, Goldflame Honeysuckle

Shrubs: Althea, Butterfly Bush, Heather, Rose

Perennials: Ornamental Grasses, Perovskia, Asters, Sedum, Chrysanthemums

Planting

Plant and transplant broadleaf and needle evergreen trees and shrubs, ground covers, meadows, new perennials. Divide established clumps. Plant container-grown asters, chrysanthemums. Pot up herbs for indoor use, and tender perennials to winter-over in the cold frame. Begin planting spring bulbs. Sow cool-season greens.

Pruning

Root prune wisteria that is reluctant to bloom and any plants to be transplanted in the spring. Take perennial cuttings to root and over-winter in the cold frame. Take annual cuttings to root as houseplants.

Fertilizing

Fertilize annuals, container plants, house plants. Feed your peonies.

Garden Maintenance

Begin Fall cleanup. Prepare beds for fall and spring planting. Edge beds and mulch for weed and moisture control. Continue to water trees and shrubs until the ground freezes. Protect plants from early frost. Begin moving house plants indoors. Continue rose care program. Complete any major work on your lawn and apply broadleaf weed control, if you are so inclined.

