



Make a Wreath and Decorate the Town!

Kathy Krajeski has settled her Santa hat firmly on her head, and is looking for accomplices, uh, elves, to help make a dozen or so wreaths. Rather than buy wreaths for the town's buildings this holiday season, it will be fun and sociable to get together and create them ourselves, using the same rings that we used last year.

So on Thursday November 29th (a week after Thanksgiving) come to the **Annex at 7:00 pm** with your high spirits, **clippers, gloves, and a bag of greens** (we won't ask where you got them) and settle in with your girlfriends to decorate the town, and enjoy one of the best things about belonging to the garden club: talking up a storm.



December 6 Holiday Designs



Bert Ford, owner of Ford Flower Company, on S. Broadway in Salem, NH, is well known in the New England area for his creativity and fine execution of design. He will bring flowers, greens and containers, and inspire all of us with designs to embellish our homes for the holiday season. Wouldn't it be great to go home with one of his designs? Bring your piggy bank for the raffle.

<http://www.fordflower.com>

Hospitality will be provided by chairs **Lisa Arnold & Karen Doliber** with Dot Cavanaugh, Mary Jarvis, Kathy Krajeski, and Rosemarie McCobb

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'Tis the gift to be simple,
'Tis the gift to be free,
"'Tis the gift to come down
where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves
in the place that is right,
It will be in the valley of love and delight.

—Shaker Elder Joseph Brackett Jr. 1848

Around Town **Enter the Decorating Contest**

As you might have seen in the November/December issue of Accent magazine, the Newburyport Garden Club is holding its second annual holiday decorating contest.

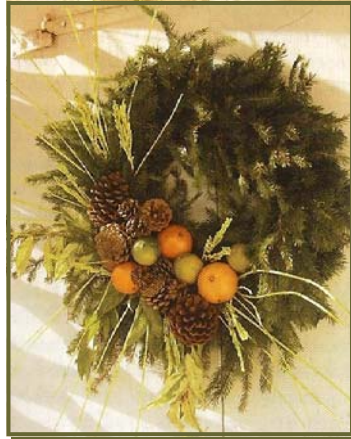
What is the contest? The four categories are:

- Tree Trimming
- Holiday Arrangement
- Garlands and Wreaths
- Holiday Decorations

What is the prize? There are 4 prizes, one in each category: a **basketful** of gift certificates to area restaurants.

Who can enter? The contest is open to residents of Amesbury, Byfield, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Salisbury, and West Newbury.

How do I enter? First, create an outstanding decoration. Or, you can create **four** of them, one for each category. Then, take a color photograph and print it, at least 4 x 6 inches. Get an application and a copy of



the rules from the Custom House Maritime Museum, Newburyport Chamber of Commerce, donating local restaurants, www.accentmagazine.com, or at the welcome table at our next meeting. The rules are simple (must be 18, no artificial material, winners must be available for an Accent photographer on December 19 & 20.) The list of donating restaurants includes virtually every restaurant in Newburyport and Amesbury.

Send the application and the 4 x 6 (minimum) color photograph with your info on the back, to the Newburyport Garden Club. Entries can be sent from Monday November 26 to December 16, and must be postmarked no later than December 15. The contest is free, with one entry per household in each category.

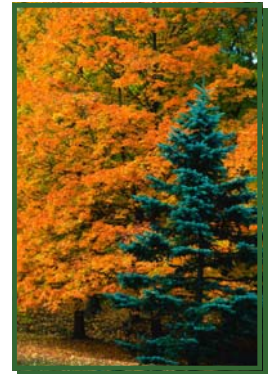
Last year's winning wreath (left) was created by our good friend **Floreen Maroncelli** of West Newbury, and both the winning tree and the winning holiday decoration were from Amesbury.

Winners will be posted on Accent's website on Friday, December 21.

Club News **Pentucket School Windfall**

The wonderful owners of Roger's Spring Hill Garden Center in Ward Hill presented the Pentucket School with a truckload of trees and shrubs for the campus. Over 70 plants were donated by Betty Rogers, a fond alumna of Pentucket to beautify various areas of the complex, as a way of expressing her appreciation for the school. In addition to the generous gift of plants, Spring Hill also supplied the services of landscape designer Susan Sexton, who tailored a planting plan for the sites at the school. The donations included blue spruce, river birch, holly, hydrangea and many other excellent shrubs. The school has purchased 3 yards

of black mulch to dress the gardens, and we had the luxury of a backhoe and operator who was exceptionally helpful as the day wore on and the volunteers got tired. Among those who helped dig, lug, and plant were **Joan Tranfaglia** and her husband, **Clover Nally**, **Gloria Kuran**, **Donna Greene**, **Dot Cavanaugh**, **Claire Flaherty**, **Linda Schaeffer**, and the organizer of it all **Dianne Faulkner**.



Club News **Plant Sale Date**

Jane Jeffers and **Joan Tranfaglia** have volunteered to chair our annual Plant Sale, to be held on Saturday, May 17th, at the Training Field. That Jane; she doesn't know when to quit!

As in past years, we will begin digging in April whenever the weather warms up enough to work outside, so we can get our divisions potted up and over their shock in time for the sale.

We will have our usual committees, and already a few chairs have signed up: Sun: **Rosemarie McCobb**, Shade: **Deb Zoltai**, and Donated: **Pollyann Statom**.

Mark your calendar and hope for better weather this year!

Nancy Perkins at the Espousal Center

Nancy did a program on Monday, November 5 on Organic Gardening at the Espousal Center at 554 Lexington Street in Waltham. This is part of a regular series of the Morning of Horticulture meetings from 10 to noon. The next programs will be on January 14 and February 25.

Events

Exeter, NH Tree Festival

Thurs **Nov 29 Town Hall & Downtown**
 Xmas Trees decorated by local businesses with shops' open house & hayrides, Santa visit. Trees auctioned to benefit Children's Fund, providing warm clothes & bedding.

Spencer-P-Little Open House

Fri-Sun **Nov 23-25 11-4pm**
 Start holiday shopping and take the special seasonal tour. Hot cider and apple crisp, with a great sale featuring books, unusual gifts, and collectors' items.

Festival of Wreaths Benefit

Sun **Dec 9** The area's top designers professionally deck the halls for Xmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa for inspiration and for raffles to benefit the Room to Dream Foundation for chronically ill children

Van Millwork Design Center, 65 Crawford St, Needham, MA Info: 781 444-8744

Gingerbread & Holiday House Tours at Strawberry Banke



Strawbery Banke will be decked in holiday splendor during the month of December. The **Holiday House Tours** run **weekdays in December, 10:00**

- 3:30. Tour five historic houses for widely varying décor, and the sight, sounds, and smells of holidays and winters past.

At the same time you can view local folks' gingerbread creations (above) which will be on display in Sherburne House during both the **Holiday House Tours** and the **Candlelight Stroll Evenings, December 1-2, 8-9, and 15-16.**

\$12 Adult, \$10 Kids 5-17, \$30 for entire family.

Info: www.strawberybanke.org

Members in the News

Party Plans & Party Photos

Holiday Party

Joan Tranfaglia will host our annual Holiday Party in her lovely home at 3 Colby Lane on Thursday, December 13 at 6:00 pm. Again this year, it will be a festive night to enjoy the company of our friends during this special season, and to share the warmth of the holidays. We will have our usual unruly Yankee swap, and if you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift in the \$12 range. Bring your favorite finger food to share.



Thank You, Virginia!





WNGC

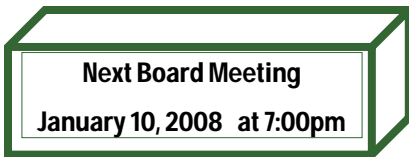
WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB

77 Coffin Way
West Newbury, MA 01985

Phone: 978 363-5251
E-mail: linda-schaeffer@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 President Linda Schaeffer at 978 363-5251 or at linda-schaeffer@verizon.net



Ask Peony December

Dear Peony,

I would like to protect my plants, especially small ones, during our winters. We get snow, it freezes and I don't know whether to use mulch or what. Save my wee ones!

Wintering in New England.

Dear Nor'easter,

Are you crazy? Sorry, I got carried away thinking of what's ahead. If you can't get smart and fly south, then this advice may work for you.

For plants that are hardy in your zone, the most important thing to stay healthy is lots of moisture. The cold winter winds dry out plants and then they die.

Protect small plants in beds, or in containers for the winter by covering them with WHITE plastic. No other color will work. If you can't find white

plastic, use clear plastic, then paint it white with latex paint with a little water added to make the

flow better. Make sure the paint is latex.

Your plants will still freeze under the white plastic, but they won't dry out. Make sure they are very well watered before you cover them. The freezing won't hurt them if they are.

And, if you are still afraid, then take them with you and head toward warmer climes. And, don't forget me.

Warmly Yours,

Peony

