



Mass Gardens on Tour

Puzzling over a unique Mother's Day gift, a friend's birthday? How about a gift of gardens? How about entry to some of the most beautiful gardens in the Boston area? Or, better yet, a morning in one of those gardens, led by an expert, with just two dozen other visitors? So consider tickets to the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts' Mass Gardens on Tour 2008. The tour will offer a wonderful assortment of gardens for viewing over four days – June 6-9, and add a new, exciting twist: the Learning Tours. There will be 21 Learning Tours over four days. Each tour, limited to 25 visitors, focuses on one

garden and one topic.

In 2008, for the first time, participants will have the opportunity to visit gardens in small groups to better understand how great gardens are designed, how historic gardens are preserved, and how to create floral designs using the flowers from your own home garden. Each tour will be led by an expert in the field. Each Learning Tour is a unique event, limited to 25 participants.

Learning Tour registration is on a first-come-first-served basis; tickets are \$45. To reserve your place on a

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February 7 Trees in the Landscape

In "The Value and Beauty of Trees in the Landscape" Ann Bennett from SavATree will focus on the benefits of trees within a landscape and how to help maintain them for the long term. She will talk about the placement of trees, their aesthetics and multi-seasonal beauty, and how to use them for shade, borders and screens. She'll tell us how to keep trees healthy and vibrant, and protect them from insects and disease, drawing on her 26 years in the Green Industry.

Ann Bennett, from SavATree, has a degree in Arboriculture and is certified as an Arborist, and has an in-depth knowledge of trees and shrubs as well as insects, diseases, and conditions that affect plant health.

Ann will provide suggestions to maintain and enhance the health of our outdoor treasures.

Hospitality will be provided by chairs **Marilyn Kent and Priscilla Styer** with Carol Hurn, Chris MacMillan, Terry Ritzel, and Joan Quackenbos



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And in

Awards: Consider Nominating a Member

Three Awards are presented annually to Northern District Garden Club Members at the Northern District Annual Meeting held in April.

THE PAULINE JENSEN AWARD

A Silver Tray is awarded to an individual who has done outstanding work as a Member of a Federated Club in the Northern District.

THE KATHERINE SUOZZO AWARD

A Silver Bowl is given to a Garden Club Member who has contributed outstanding expertise in the field of Horticulture within her Club or Community as a Member of a Federated Club in the Northern District.

THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

A Tray is given to a Garden Club Member for an outstanding lifetime commitment to her Garden Club. She is the backbone of her Club, the Leader, Teacher, Supporter and Friend; the "Go-To" Lady.

Nomination letters should be no longer than 2 pages and signed by the club president. Letters of nomination may be posted or emailed and must be received by the Awards Chairman by March 10, 2008.

A member can be nominated for either the Pauline Jensen Award or the Katherine Suozzo Awards as well as the Lifetime Achievement Award. Members may be nominated more than once (i.e. 2006, 2007, and 2008 etc.) but may not be nominated for the same award a second time.

Please send in those Nomination letters and, should you have any questions, feel free to contact Bonni Asbjornson, Northern District Awards Chairman 57 Sleigh Road, Chelmsford, Ma. 01824 (978) 692-8684 - asbjornson@comcast.net

In Memoriam

Bea Downey, whom long-standing members will remember fondly, passed away in January. Bea was made an honorary member in 1960, and was very active in our club for many years.

Mass Gardens on Tour, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

tour, call 781-237-0336.

When calling to reserve a space for a Learning Tour, you must identify the tour by number as well as by description. After you receive your confirmation, your check must be received within seven days.

All tours are 9:30 to 11:30 and a complimentary continental breakfast, coffee and tea will be offered at each site.

The Northeast Tours are:

Designing Your Own Dream Garden Tour #11 Sunday, 6/8/08 Tour #16 Monday, 6/9/08 Rowley

Landscape Tour with Hilarie Holdsworth Tour #12 Sun-

day, 6/8/08 Tour #17 Monday, 6/9/08 Gloucester

Floral Designs from the Garden with Elaine DiGiovanni Tour #13 Sunday, 6/8/08 Tour #18 Monday, 6/9/08 Ipswich

Floral Designs from the Garden with Mary Huntoon Tour #14 Sunday, 6/8/08 Tour #19 Monday, 6/9/08 Manchester

Designing and Building a Railroad Garden Tour #15 Sunday, 6/8/08 Tour #20 Sunday, 6/8/08 Beverly

Historic Preservation at Glen Magna Tour #21 Monday, 6/9/08 Danvers

Check the Welcome Table for more information, or go to <http://gardencentral.org/gcfm>

Club News Greeting Cards and 2 Missing Yearbooks

With the holidays nearing an end, you may have cards that you want to recycle. There is a ranch in Nevada between Las Vegas and Hoover Dam for orphaned children, which has a program that uses cards of any kind to make new cards and products. The children make the new cards, and money raised from the sale of them goes to the children for further education and for some spending money. You tear the front off your cards and mail in just the fronts. Recycle the backs with your paper. They do not take family photo

cards. Mail the card fronts to: St. Jude's Ranch for Children, 100 St. Jude's St., Boulder City, Nevada 99005-1618.

Plea for Missing Yearbooks for the Archives

*Dear Members, Thanks to everyone who has helped out, we have an almost-complete set of yearbooks for the Club History, but we still are searching for 1984-85, and 1985-86. Someone **must** have them somewhere. Always the proverbial optimist! —Pollyann*

Events

Newburyport Horticultural Society

Tues Feb 12 7pm (6:30: bus. mtg) \$5

Newburyport Library, State Street

Info: Floreen Maroncelli 978 463-9923

Merrimac Garden Club

Tues February 5th 7pm Free

Everlasting Flowers How many times have you had a blossom in your yard that you wished you could save forever? Learn how to create your own pressed flowers at home in this workshop.

44 West Main Street Rte 110, Merrimac, MA

Info: Nancy Sinton 978 346-8607



Tower Hill & Worcester Art Museum

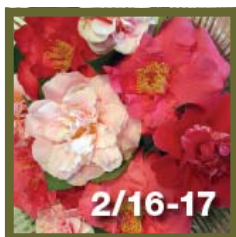
January 24-27 10 to 5 \$10, \$7 Seniors

Flora in Winter, a 4 day floral exhibition at Tower Hill Botanic Gardens and the Worcester Art Museum. You may contact Nancy Jeppson at the museum 508-799-4406 x3025 or Alix Turner @ Tower Hill Botanic Garden 508-869-6111 x146

<http://www.towerhillbg.org/thwebspec-ev.html>

Tower Hill Botanical Garden

Sat, Sun Feb 16-17,
10 - 5 \$10, \$7 Srs
Annual Camellia Show



Federation News Schools

Northern District Annual Meeting and Luncheon

April 14, 2008

Haverhill Country Club

9:00 am - 3:00 p.m.

Nurture the Earth ~ Plant Natives

Morning Speaker: Cathy Felton

NGC Horticultural Chair

Robin Murphy, Floral Designer

Presents Luncheon Program

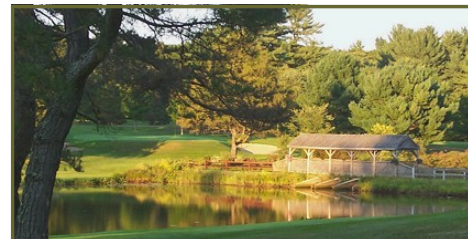
"Quilts in Bloom."

\$38.00 includes morning coffee, lunch and programs. Please make checks payable to Northern District -GCFMA

Registrar Pat Ratay 6 Brook Meadow Lane, Georgetown, MA 01833: pat-tay25@aol.com

Guests Welcome RSVP March 31, 2008

raffles.. vendors ..floral designs.. hospitality.. awards.. Camaraderie



Scholarship Planning for Next Fall

Flower Show School, Taunton, September 23-25, 2008

Landscape Design School, Regis College, October 23-25, 2008.

Environmental Studies in Hull, MA November 1 & 2, 2008

Gardening Study April 2, 3 & 4, 2009. (The 2008 scholarship was awarded last year because the school is held before either the annual Federation or District meeting.)

Pick up an application at the Welcome Table at our February 7 meeting!



Ask Peony February, cont. from p.4

What is the most common mistake when growing orchids?

Overwatering. Even when following our guidelines, always check the planting medium before watering. It should be somewhat dry; if you're unsure, wait. Orchids tolerate underwatering considerably better than overwatering.

How often should I repot my orchid?

Repot every two years, generally in spring or summer or whenever the blooming period has ended. Many orchids are planted in bark, which decomposes quickly. Once it breaks down, it acts like a sponge holding moisture.

Why didn't my orchid rebloom?

If your plant is healthy but not reblooming, it probably needs more light. Few orchids can tolerate really direct light or really low light. If your orchid fails to rebloom, try moving it to a different window.



WNGC

WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB

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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 President Linda Schaeffer at 978 363-5251 or at linda-schaeffer@verizon.net

Next Board Meeting

February 14, 2008 at 7:00pm



Ask Peony February

Dear Peony,

Is there an easy houseplant that could be blooming right now?

In Need of Bloomies- NOW!

Dear Flower Child,

As a matter of fact, an article from HGTV recommends the Moth Orchid (Phalaenopsis). Check out different varieties and their needs. Have fun!

The Uncommonly Lovely,

Peony

Here is something from the site <http://www.hgtv.com/>:

Winter-blooming orchids, once the pricey hobby of only the most dedicated plant lover, may seem like the last houseplant you'd be able to grow with ease. Not true, for while they have a diva reputation, many winter-blooming orchid varieties are no trouble to grow at home..



Light: bright, indirect light all day, or direct afternoon sun only

Temperature: 70-80 degrees (day), 55-65 degrees (night)

Humidity: High. Place potted plant on a saucer filled with pebbles and water.

Watering: Keep potting mix moist during growing and bloom season.

Feeding: Fertilize with high-nitrogen fertilizer 30-10-10 once a month for the first six months after bloom. Apply half-strength fertilizer every third watering in growing season.

Quick Answers to Common Orchid Questions

How do I make my moth orchid rebloom?

No other orchid is as easy to coax into a second bloom. After the flowers have dropped off the stem, find the third node from the bottom of the plant, and clip above that point with clean, sharp pruners. The node is the knuckle-like bump that appear on the stem. The plant will rebloom from this point with smaller yet equally chic flowers.