



Board's Bulletins

Federated or Not?

This is the first in a series of occasional reports on the workings of the WNGC Board of Directors. The Board felt members might be interested in hearing about some of the discussions and decisions we work on. And we would love to hear whether or not you like it.

One of the questions the board has considered in the past few years is our relationship to the Garden Club Federation. At our September Board meeting, President Linda Schaeffer suggested that we take a look at the benefits we reap from our federated status, what the costs are, and how we might make a decision about staying or withdrawing. We realized quite quickly that if we felt withdrawing from the Federation was possi-

ble for us, the question should go before the entire membership for a full vote, before any such drastic action was taken. The plan at the end of the evening on September 13th was to discuss it further at our October BOD, identify some members to come and give us their viewpoints, and then decide to either remain with the Federation or put the possibility of withdrawing before the membership.

The October 11th discussion covered a wide range of pros and cons, and before we knew it, we had decided that the benefits clearly justified the cost. Our annual dues to the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts depends on

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November 1 Williamsburg Centerpiece

Priscilla Styer will lead a workshop to create a seasonal arrangement to grace any table. The theme will center on the long-standing symbol of hospitality, the pineapple. Using mixed greens, fruits, and nuts, your beautiful centerpiece will add a colorful, bountiful accent to your Thanksgiving festivities. **Please bring clippers, newspapers to cover the table, one small pineapple, three lemons, and two apples.** You can pay your **\$10** fee right at the door, to cover some of the cost of the materials. Priscilla will supply the container, oasis, mixed greens, nuts and berries and will demonstrate how to convert the piece into a traditional Christmas design.



Photo: Priscilla Styer

Hospitality will be provided by chairs **Joan Colby** and **Janet Gilchrist** with Marie Anderson, Lisa Arsenault, Helen Thumser, and Claire Flaherty.

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And in the Worth A Try column:

Success is not final,
failure is not fatal:
it is the courage to continue
that counts.

— Winston Churchill

Board Bulletins **The Federation Question, cont.**

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the number of active members in our club, and generally averages less than \$200. We incur some additional expense for our President to attend the 2 yearly Federation lunch meetings, but that totals less than \$100, since she doesn't eat much.

In return, members have access to Scholarships, instructional programs sponsored by the Federation, event notices, resource listings, and the fun of attending the 2 yearly lunches, which are entertaining and very sociable. The Club benefits by access to awards, grants, and the Presenters' Day (an exhibition of the myriad speakers who do the informative and entertaining programs for garden clubs like ours.

We have made use of these benefits more some years than others, and some of them, such as the scholarships, little if at all. We have not had an Awards Chair since Paula Howell moved to Oklahoma, and we could not remember the last grant we applied for. Many of the events slip by un-noticed, as the wealth of information overwhelms the president, most months.

So, having decided to stay, what to do to make it better?

- ✿ **Events** **Priscilla Styer** (now serving as a secretary to the GCFMa) has volunteered to set up an **Events Board**, displayed at our monthly meetings, where she will post the most interesting upcoming delights.
- ✿ **Grants** Applications for a **\$50,000 nationwide "Let's Go Native" Civic Development Grant** Program are due to the GCFMa by November 15th. This funds civic development projects up to \$1,000 each and requires matching funds from the club, which we can afford. (Donated labor is included in Matching Funds.) Suggested projects include planting at public buildings such as schools, libraries, parks, historic sites, gateways to the town, roadsides, and traffic islands. **If you have an idea** and an interest in pursuing such a grant, please **let Linda know immediately**. The application process is neither difficult nor lengthy.
- ✿ **Awards** **Marsha Cope** will investigate the process of applying for awards at the state and national level. She will make a presentation at an upcoming meeting, and ask for ideas, suggestions and, yes, help.

Club News **Daffodil Giveaway a Great Success**

The WNGC purchased 500 yellow narcissi "Fortune" and 500 mixed varieties of narcissi for a total of \$ 280.00. On Sat., Oct. 6, they were handed out to residents from the front of the Food Mart, in honor of the Club's 70th Anniversary.

The "Fortune" narcissi were found to have too many defective bulbs. K. Van Bourgundien Wholesale replaced them with a 100-count bag which arrived midweek, in time for distribution.

On Saturday, Ginger Selman brought bulbs and supplies to the Food Mart at 9:00 am. Jennifer Germain helped set up and distribute. Beautiful labels for each paper bag were donated by Bill Krajeski and printed out by Kathy.

At 10:00 am, Beth Chafe and Maguy Thomson arrived to assist. By 10:25, all 1000+ bulbs were gone.

Response was immediate and gratifying. People were delighted to take bulbs. Many wanted to give a donation, which was, of course, refused. They thanked our club over and over. Everyone that received bulbs was thrilled. It was wonderful PR for the Club. Unfortunately, a number of shoppers were disappointed to find all of the bulbs gone when they arrived.

The preferred bulbs were the mixed. We were somewhat surprised. By 10:00 am, Ginger and Jennifer had already

had to adjust by placing 12, 10 and then 8 bulbs per bag, with a one bag limit per person, due to the large number of people.

As bulb chairperson I would like to especially thank Ginger who took charge of bringing the bulbs and table to the Mart, Jennifer who helped man the table for an hour, and Beth who drove Maguy to the Mart and prevented her from making a public disgrace of herself in her nightgown. Their enthusiasm and fun attitude made the morning a joy.

Thanks also to Matthew, Beth's son and Max, the Golden Doodle who provided a great sideshow.

Respectfully submitted,

Maguy Thomson
(Miss Spring Bulb 2005, 2006, 2007)

Correction in October Newsletter:

The bulb giveaway to the townspeople was actually the idea, some years ago, of **Sue Berkenbush**, then club president. It was such a charming idea that the Bulb Committee decided to play it again for our 70th Anniversary. Thank you, Sue, for providing the inspiration to be generous.

Events

Newburyport Horticultural Society

Tues Nov 13 7pm (6:30: bus. mtg) \$5

Holiday Floral Arrangements by Joann of **Joann's Place** in Ipswich

Newburyport Library, State Street

Info: Floreen Maroncelli 978 463-9923

Merrimac Garden Club

Tues Nov 6 7 pm Free

Through the Looking Glass Maureen Wimmer shows how to save beautiful flower images on everyday glass

Merrimac Senior Center, 100 East Main St, Rte 110, Merrimac, MA

Info: Nancy Sinton 978 346-8607

Tower Hill Botanic Gardens

Open House Sun Nov 11 10-5pm Free

Holly Days Annual exhibit of lighted trees decorated with literary characters and themes.

Nov 23-Dec 30 10-5 Tue-Sun \$8, \$5/Sr
Thur's til 8pm w/ Snacks, Music & Shopping

11 French Drive, Boylston MA

Info: 508 869-6111



November's Hot Websites

[Woodland Shade Garden for landscapes abutting woodlands](http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_Water/forms/woodland.pdf)

http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_Water/forms/woodland.pdf

[Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts](http://gardencentral.org/gcfm)

<http://gardencentral.org/gcfm> Check out the **June 2008 Gardens on Tour**, which includes (to a limited number of participants) a special "Learning" tour of each garden on the regular tour, led by an expert, with demonstrations and lunch. Apply NOW!

Members in the News

Party, Party, Nancy Drew

Holiday Hostess Found!

Joan Tranfaglia has generously volunteered her lovely Colby Lane home as our venue for the December Holiday Party. She has lots of parking space and easy access to her open floor plan, and you can be sure it will be decorated to the nines. **Thank you, Joan!**



Call for 70th Anniversary Photos

Did you snap away madly at our wonderful 70th Anniversary Party? We are looking for photos to be included with an article for the local newspaper, so if you have some, please let **Linda Schaeffer** know.

The Case of the Missing Yearbooks

Pollyann Statom, also known as the "Mad Historian," needs just a few more yearbooks to complete our set for the archives. If you have a copy of any of the following years, she, and the club, would be deeply grateful if you could donate yours to the cause.

Missing years are: **1984-85, 1985-86, 2003-04, 2005-06.**



Ask Peony **November**, cont. from p.4

That's it. Come early spring, remove the soil or mulch and rinse off the stems. In spring, apply a slow release fertilizer like Osmocote to feed your roses all summer.

Dear Peony,

All of my spring flowering bulbs are not yet planted! In fact, I have yet to pick them up from the person who is holding them for me. Is there still time to play in the dirt with narcissi and anemone?

Late, As Usual

Dear Late,

I know who you are, and I still have your bulbs. See Me or Lose 'Em! Yes, there is still time to plant bulbs in fall until the ground freezes. You might pay for your tardiness, though, with chilly knees and cold, muddy fingers. And don't forget to go back and look at those photos you so foresightedly took last spring to remind you where you needed to add some! Good luck.

Peony



WNGC

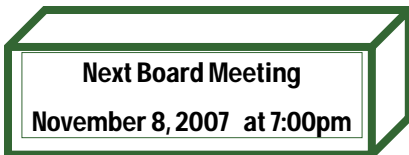
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*Gardens for beauty,
learning, and sharing*

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



Next Board Meeting

November 8, 2007 at 7:00pm



Ask Peony **November**

Dear Peony,

I know it seems weird to be giving a thought to roses at this time of the year, but since I saw the last October rose this week, I feel compelled to ask: should I be doing anything to those bushes before they go to sleep for the winter?

Rosie Outlook

Dear Rosie,

Glad you asked. Our many-petaled friends might appreciate this advice coming from Mike McGroarty's monthly newsletter: mike@shedhouse.com,

Peony



Getting Your Roses Ready for the Winter

1. You can do a little maintenance pruning now. Concentrate on the lower 12" to 18" of the plant. Remove any dead or diseased looking branches. Cut blackened canes all the way back to green wood.
2. Remove any branches that are growing toward the center of the plant. Then look for branches that are crossing and rubbing and remove the least desirable of the two. This opens up the plant and allows for good air circulation.
3. Don't do any fertilizing from now until spring.
4. Wait for a killing freeze where the temps go down to 28 degrees F. or below for several hours. That will put all of your plants into winter dormancy.
5. Cut your roses back to a height of about 12" to 18". This applies to all roses **except** some heirlooms and climbers that bloom on old wood. **Those should be pruned right after they flower.** If your flower buds are on soft new growth they should be cut back for the winter now.
6. Mound some loose soil, mulch or leaves up on the stems of your roses to protect them from the harsh winter winds.

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