



70th Anniversary Bash!

This year's September meeting was definitely an affair to remember! We walked through an entryway of greenery into a fairyland of white lights and tinkling fountains. We were feted and praised by politicians and presidents, our every smile recorded in film, photos, and reporter's notes. We ate and drank, mingled with our fellow members and met the potentates of our neighboring town's garden clubs.

Our delight and astonishment continued as we saw that our dowdy old Annex had been magically transformed with bright, sparkling new windows and new paint. We all felt a bit like Cinderella seeing the pumpkin turned into a beautiful car-

riage. We wandered, a little starry-eyed, taking in the table settings, studying the wonderful historical displays, remembering our old friends, and exclaiming at what a miracle had been wrought.

More than a few of us found ourselves wishing we had put on something a little dressier, perhaps gotten out the sequins and sapphires!

We would all like to kiss the 70th Anniversary Committee members for an absolutely unforgettable, smashing end to our 70th year as a Club. I am certain the shades of all our past members were there that night, cheering us on, and celebrating right along with us. **Bravo!!**

October 4 Composting

A talk entitled **Easy Composting for Healthy Landscapes**. Ann McGovern from the Mass Department of Environmental Protection will speak to us on why to compost and the different ways of doing it. Ann has many years with the Department and her vast knowledge of composting has brought her to the position of Consumer Waste Reduction Coordinator. She will also offer tips on how to fertilize organically, espe-

cially important as we consider our proximity to our waterways.

<http://mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/composti.htm>

Hospitality will be provided by Marsha Cope (chair), Donna Greene, Jane Jeffers, Heidi Tucker, and Deb Zoltai



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We are stardust,
We are golden,
and we've got to get our
selves back to the garden.

—Joni Mitchell

From the President **Nurturing Nature**

Dear Members,

We are living in a changing world, literally. Our environment is on everyone's mind these days, and concerns loom large and small for all of us. As gardeners, we care more than most people about our immediate vicinity, the gardens and plantings we plan and tend so thoughtfully, and the earth's creatures that visit there.

Questions come at us from left and right: Where are we headed with these changes? What can I do as an individual to take care of the earth, to preserve and protect our beautiful, amazing planet? What is my role in our community? How can I help?

I would like to explore these questions, and ask the members of our wonderful club to consider how we as a group can address these challenges, not only in

our own backyards, but in West Newbury. This month's program is a first step in that direction as we learn how to make our gardens self-supporting, recycling and re-using the products of our gardens. I would invite you to join in re-identifying our goals and purpose, revalidating our charter, perhaps making some changes to reflect our changing world.

Researching our options, sharing information, locating resources (like composting bins) and engaging the community in our programs can reap rewards for us and our children.

I am so excited about all the opportunities stretching out before us, and am honored to have the chance to lead the Garden Club into new fields.

— *Linda Schaeffer*

The Earth News **Spring Bulb Giveaway**



To help celebrate the Garden Club's longevity, we are launching a Spring Bulb Beautification Giveaway in West Newbury.

The brainchild of Maguy Thomson, 1000 daffodils will be given away to townspeople who agree to plant them in their front yards to share

with passersby. Working with Linda Schaeffer, the Board, and the Bulb Committee, Maguy has ordered 500 of the daffodil mixture shown above, as well as 500 of the stately "Fortune" shown at the right. Fortune is a long-lasting vigorous grower that dates from 1917, and blooms in April at a height of 18-20".

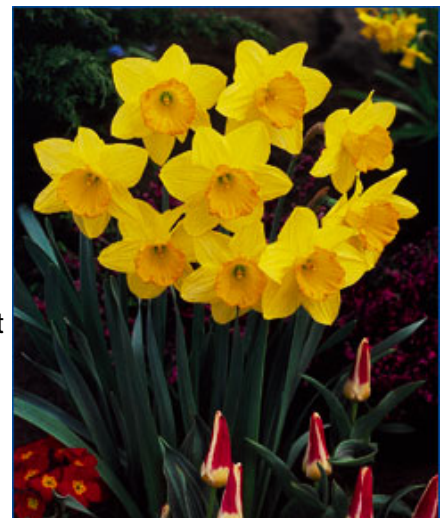
How does it work? Each household (**members included!**) may take up to 25 bulbs of her/his choice, and must agree to plant them in her front yard. Bulbs will be distributed to West Newbury residents at the Food Mart on Saturday October 6, beginning at 9 in the morning. If there are any left over, we will schedule another session one weekday late afternoon to

catch the commuters stopping in for supper items. **Please check your calendar, as we need volunteers** to sit and explain the program, and possibly gain some new members for the Club.

If the program is a success, we will repeat it in future years.

On another note, bulbs ordered as part of our regular **Fall Bulb Sale** are available now for pickup at Maguy's house at 124 Main St; look for the big yellow house on the corner of Barberry Lane. Maguy's phone is 978

363-2610. Any orders not picked up before the October meeting can be picked up at the meeting. If you cannot make it to the meeting, please let Maguy know, so we don't keep taking the bulbs on a tour of West Newbury! Many thanks.



Events

Topsfield Fair

Fri **Sep 28** - Mon **Oct 8** 10 am - 10pm
\$10 wkdays \$12 Wkends Parking \$7-8

Senior Day: Mon Oct 1 \$7 admission

More Info: <http://www.topsfieldfair.org>

Marblehead Garden Club

Wed **Oct 10** 10 am -1pm \$10 donation

Fun with Table Designs by Marisa McCoy

First Church in Swampscott,
40 Monument Ave, Swampscott

More Info: 781 639-8224 Abby Lavoie

Sea Spray Garden Club

Mon **Oct 15** 7 pm

Natural Decoration Inspired by Grinling Gibbons, Master Wood Carver

Presented by Joann DeWitt

East Parish United Methodist Church,
8 Lafayette Rd, Salisbury

More Info: 978 388 4848 Claudette

Garden Club Federation Meeting

Fall Conference "A Garden Party" \$45
Register prior to October 5

Thu **Oct 18** 2-8:30 and Fri **Oct 19** 8-2:30
Burlington Marriott, 1 Mall Rd, Burlington

More Info: <http://gardencentral.org/gcfm/>

October's Hot Websites

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

[http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/Concord MA_Water/forms/woodland.pdf](http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/Concord_MA_Water/forms/woodland.pdf)

[Rain Catching Garden](http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/Concord_MA_Water/forms/raincatchinggarden.pdf)

[http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/Concord MA_Water/forms/raincatchinggarden.pdf](http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/Concord_MA_Water/forms/raincatchinggarden.pdf)

[Wildlife Attracting Landscape](http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/Concord_MA_Water/forms/wildlife.pdf)

[http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/Concord MA_Water/forms/wildlife.pdf](http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/Concord_MA_Water/forms/wildlife.pdf)

Members in the News

Featured Artist Exhibit

One of the displays that members at our 70th celebration gala enjoyed was an exhibit of flower photographs by WNGC member Virginia Hallman. Everyone is invited to her *Secret Beauty of Flowers* featured artist exhibit at the Newburyport Art Association (NAA), 65 Water Street in downtown Newburyport. The show will run from

October 4 -10, and the gallery hours are Monday to Saturday 11-5 and Sunday 1-5.



Over 50 uniquely beautiful digital flower photographs are featured. Exhibit items include professionally

framed photographs, sleeved archival prints, hand-crafted note cards, and prints reproduced on ceramic tile.

The exhibit is open to the public and all items will be for sale. Mark your calendar to join Virginia at her **reception on Friday evening, October 5, 7-9 p.m.** at the NAA's Hills gallery. Learn more about Virginia's photography and the exhibit at the Calendar link, www.newburyportart.org.

Club News

Cottage Gardens 10% Off !!

As you may know, member Christine MacMillan, always so generous to the club, is the proud owner of Cottage Gardens on Route 110 right over the Rocks Village Bridge. Christine's prices are already excellent, and with a 10% discount on all her plants, you cannot beat them. She always has a great selection of very desirable perennials and annuals. Her trees and shrubs are both gorgeous and unusual and, like all her stock, very healthy. She also has a **wonderful selection of great fall mums** right now.

Fall is a great time to plant perennials and shrubs, as the sun is not so strong that it will stress the upper plant, and the rainfall is plentiful after the summer's dryness. With most of the growing activity taking place below ground, the time between now and the first frost is more than sufficient for the roots to become well established.

Just drive over the Rocks Village Bridge, bear right at the fork and go under 495 to Route 110. Take a left on Rte 110, and Cottage Gardens is about a quarter mile down on your left. Christine is **open 7 days a week, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.**





WNGC

WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB

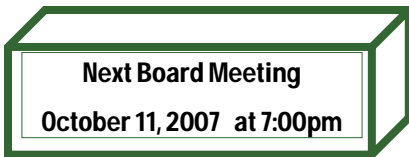
77 Coffin Way
West Newbury, MA 01985

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

Marie Anderson
7 Pleasant Street
Merrimac, MA 01860



Ask Peony **October**

Dear Gardening Friends,

A friend and I were comparing the relative bad breath of our pets, dog vs. cat, if you will. Naturally, the conversation turned to our gardens. And, this is why I can positively announce that fall is the best time to plant garlic.

Garlic cloves may be planted in well-drained soil from about the time of the first frost up until November. It is harvested in the summer after the bottom half of the leaves have begun to turn brown.

To plant garlic now, break apart the bulbs into individual cloves. To grow larger garlic bulbs, plant only the largest cloves. Plant the cloves about two inches deep and four to six inches apart in rich soil. The roots will start to grow over winter, but you won't see any top growth until spring. Give your garlic a blanket of mulch to protect the bulbs from heaving out of the soil over winter and to help keep down weeds.

Young garlic can be mistaken for grass when it begins to sprout, but a quick pinch of the leaves will release their aroma and eliminate any mistakes when weeding the patch. And do discourage Kitty and Fido from dig-

ging. Although one taste will suffice, it won't help the atmosphere as they snuggle against you.

Dear Peony,

A group of us wish to travel here and abroad in the next couple of years. We absolutely adore gardens and wonder if you know of an internet site that can assist in making plans? Money and time are of no object, so do your best to be interesting. — Green and Blooming

Dear 'Bloomin,'

Try the following site: <http://www.gardenvisit.com/h/hotels.htm>. There, you will find lists of public gardens all over the world such as Tivoli, Villa Lante, even Dow Gardens in Midland, MI (where Peony tied the knot), garden hotels, reviews of the Chelsea Flower Show and "Places to Live With Good Gardens". There is also a "Garden History" CD, real estate to rent or buy, garden tours and holidays.

When you decide on an itinerary, call. The suitcase is packed. Fellow gardeners, if you don't have a computer or the internet, get a friend who does. This site is worth it!

Yours in shovelfuls,
— Peony