



Northern District Lunch

Happy New Year to All!

Mark your Calendar for the Federation's Northern District Annual Meeting and Luncheon: **Unearth the Possibilities**, hosted by **Bonni L. Dinneen**, District Director

The luncheon has been well-attended in past years, and is a great time to grab a day with a gardening friend and join the festivities. If we can get 10 or more people from the West Newbury GC, we can reserve our own table, which is always a hoot, since we have so many "humorists!"

This year the Luncheon is on **Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tewksbury Country Club**, Rte 38, Main Street Tewksbury, MA.

Kathy Krajewski will navigate. The cost is \$40 per person, and includes a dinner

selection of Baked Chicken or Haddock, with a Vegetarian meal upon request.

Registration is at 8:00 AM. With coffee and Pastry served, and a 9:00 AM start to our Northern District Annual Meeting. The agenda includes: the Parade of Presidents, Awards, and Scholarships, Raffles, Sociability hour and Shopping!

Morning Programs

Virtually Yours!

Premier of 2009 NGC Virtual Gardening Study School

We will be the FIRST club in Country to view the NGC cutting edge program, so plan to attend and join the experience!

A Rose by Any Other Name! a slide presentation by noted Rosarian, Irwin Ehrenreich

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February 5 Hostas in the Snow

Hosta gardener Robin Lebuff shows us photographs of many different varieties of hostas and explains how to care for them. Bring you enthusiasm for and questions about these great garden plants. Which varieties grow best in a sunny spot? When is the best time to feed, and what is the best fertilizer to use? How long can or should the flower stems be left on the plant? What are the do's and don'ts for dividing hostas? Come for a very informative evening! Brave the weather! Before you lose your mind to winter!

Hospitality will be provided by chair **Linda Schaeffer** with **Judy Durant, Carol Hurn, Marilyn Kent, Chris MacMillan and Terry Ritzel**



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All through the long winter, I dream of my garden. On the first day of spring, I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth. I can feel its energy, and my spirits soar.

— Helen Hayes

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Luncheon Program

David O. Stillings, 2006 NGC Florida Convention Annual Banquet Guest Presenter presents

Jagged Paths It will hold you spellbound! This will be followed by the installation of Incoming District Director Joyce Bakshi, of the Andover Garden Club for her term 2009-2011. You will remember Joyce wonderfully entertaining and lively slide presentation on the gardens and culture of India.

Kathy Krajeski will navigate.

FYI: Because of the quality of the programs offered, the New England Region Presidents, and some NER Board

and NGC Board members have shown an interest and will be attending. Our seating is limited, so it will be a first-come first-served reservation. Please do not delay in purchasing your tickets for this luncheon.

Deadline for tickets March 20, 2009, and we will have a **sign-up sheet at the February and March meetings**, so call you best buddies and mark the date. We will carpool from the Lot behind the Annex. The lunch is open to all Garden Club members and their guests. Don't forget, **Kathy Krajeski** will navigate.

First request basis, limited seating. No refunds.

Please contact: Pat Rattay Registrar, at pat-tay25@aol.com for more information.

Federation **Scholarships and Awards**

The Board of Directors is looking for one or two members who would be interested in forming an Awards Committee for next year. This is a great idea for someone who would like to make a big contribution to the Garden Club without "throwing her back out."

These awards come from the Federation, and there are over 90 awards and 12 scholarships, at the Northern District, Massachusetts, and National level. Check out their web site at <http://gardencentral.org/gcfm/awardinfo/> for tons of info on both the Awards and numerous scholarships for gardeners, teachers, and students.

Are you a persuasive, compelling writer? Do you appreciate your fellow club members? Do you yearn for accolades and recognition for our club? If so, talk with Linda Schaeffer or any Board member for more information.

And **try your hand** with these three upcoming awards which will be presented at the Northern District Lunch on April 15th. Last year, there were very few submissions for these great ways to recognize the women who work so hard!

NORTHERN DISTRICT AWARDS

Three awards are presented annually to Northern District Garden Club Members at the Northern District Annual Meeting, held April 15th at the Tewksbury Country Club.

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 SOUZZO 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, 2009.**

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 after receiving the award.

Please send in those Nomination letters and feel free to contact Bonni should you have any questions.

BONNI ASBJORNSON, NORTHERN DISTRICT AWARDS CHAIRMAN

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Holiday Party!

Club News and Member News

Holiday Wreath-Making



They came, they snipped, they stuffed. Twenty hardy souls trekked to the Annex on a Monday night to wield their clippers and express their artistic sides, and created ten beautiful wreaths which are brightening a very snowy winter in West Newbury.



Hospitality Team members **Linda DeCoste**, **Laura Bruck**, Hostess **Claire Flaherty**, **Cyndy Bourquard**, and **Helen Thumser** (photographer)



Ask Peony February cont. from p.4

hundreds of eggs in the soil of your potted plants. They particularly like damp soil that is rich in organic matter. The eggs hatch in 4-6 days and for about two weeks the larvae feed on plant roots and root hairs in the soil. This can weaken the plants, causing leaves to suddenly wilt or turn yellow. Plants may drop their leaves in severe infestations.

If you see fungus gnats flying around your plants, you can be sure there are also larvae feeding on the roots. To monitor the fungus gnat population, use yellow sticky traps placed horizontally near the plants. Yellow sticky traps are available at many garden centers. You can also place inch-long pieces of raw potato on the soil surface. If fungus gnat larvae are in the soil, they will migrate to the potato within four hours to begin feeding. Look for the thread-like, white and shiny larva with black heads under and on the potato piece.

Once you know your plants have fungus gnats, the adults can be killed with any insecticide spray labeled for gnats or flying insects. Treating the larvae in the soil is another matter. A soil drench is most effective in killing the larvae. There are organic products available specifically for killing fungus gnat larvae, including a form of Bt (*Bacillus Thuringiensis* Berliner var. *israelensis*). Gnatrol is the brand name of one form of Bt for fungus gnats. There are also parasitic nematodes that attack fungus gnat larvae, although this is more useful for large-scale plantings. Neem oil is also effective against fungus gnats.

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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



Board Meeting at Town Offices
February 12, 2009 at 7:00pm



Ask Peony February

Dear Peony,

This spring we're buying a small greenhouse. I'd like to propagate some of my houseplants as well as start vegetables and flowers from seed. But, last year I had a problem with fungus gnats. I threw out the offending plants and do not want that problem again. Can you tell me what, where, how and why me?

Nathalie

Dear Gnathalie,

Drat that gnat! Luckily, I happened to receive a great article on this subject from the following gardening newsletter. Hope it helps to answer some of your interrogatives. And, once again, your favorite garden supply store will be your best friend.

Infestedly Yours,

Peony

How to Deal
With Fungus
Gnats, by Mike
McGroarty

Fungus gnats are tiny flying insects that can be a problem for houseplants and

greenhouse plants. Fungus gnats are not just annoying as they fly around your plants, they can also do some serious damage to your plants.

Fungus gnats are mosquito-like insects, about an eighth of an inch long with one pair of transparent wings. The adults will scatter and fly about when the host plant is disturbed, often the first sign of an infestation.

The fungus gnat larvae do the most damage. The adults live about a week, but during that time they lay

