

Spring Cleanup

We had a great winter for plants: lots of snow cover producing lots of spring moisture, and not too much deep cold accompanied by wind. Not so hot for us gardeners, but good for the gardens. We should see a lot of bloom this season, barring an extreme New England spring. Here are three simple spring chores to get you and your garden going. Time estimates do not include the time spent on "Oh, wow, look at THAT!" digressions.

SPRAYING - Takes about a *half hour*

Horticultural oil mixed with water is a mechanical insecticide, coating and smothering scale, aphids, spider mites, sawfly larvae, and other pests

which need air to survive. If you have fungus or rust infections on your fruit trees, use the sulfur-added oil. Mix according to the instructions, as too strong a mixture can harm the plant, then apply just before bud break, in mid to late March. Apply liberally; you must coat the tree or shrub thoroughly, including the undersides. Personally, I find it a lot of fun to use the trombone sprayer, so get into it and have a ball. Spray roses, fruit trees and shrubs, euonymus, etc.

FEEDING - Takes about *an hour*

Spring feeding takes little time and is one of the most important ways to have a spectacular display through-

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April 2 A Taste of Holland

Just when we really need a shot of spring beauty! This slide-illustrated program by landscape designer, lecturer, and Dutchwoman Adriana O'Sullivan, gives us a unique look at some of Holland's public and private gardens. We'll see spring-flowering bulbs at Keukenhof, the 2002 Floriade, and a 1500's medicinal garden. We'll visit the picturesque town of Delft and view samples of Dutch history, architecture, art ...and of course, windmills.

Hospitality will be provided by chairs

Ellie Bragg & Anne Jarzobski, in cahoots with Ann Burrill, Audrey Dimitry, Marie Scher, and Evelyn Thornton



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"Let us take hold of hands,
And race along the sidewalks,
And dodge the traffic in crowded streets.
Let us whir with the golden spoke-wheels
Of the sun.
For tomorrow Winter drops into the
waste-basket"

from *Winter's Turning*
by Amy Lowell

Gardening **Spring Cleanup**, cont'd. from p.1

out the summer and fall. It creates healthy plants with better disease- and pest-resistance, reducing the need for harsh pesticides, and enabling plants to withstand stresses such as drought. Aged cow manure, poultry manure, compost, and Rosetone are all great sources of nutrients, safe for your plants, and eco-friendly. Containers do best with time-release food like Osmocote, or weekly feedings.

FALL PLANNING - *Takes about an hour*

Once the spring bulbs are in bloom, look at the dis-

play with a critical eye and your bulb catalog in hand. Decide what spots need filling in and what colors would look best. Sketch out your garden's bare spots and write in the color, height, and bloom time you need. Easier still, take photos and mark them up. Try photographing in the early morning or late afternoon, or on an overcast day for the most realistic colors. If you have a digital camera, print them on regular paper as large as you can; this makes it easier to add your planning notes. Store the plan with your catalogs so you know where to find it in the fall.

Club **The World-Famous Plant Sale**

Our annual fund raiser is kicking off as the sun climbs higher and the ground warms up. And, yes, the Club needs you! **Everyone must sign up** to serve on at least one committee. Contact **Joan Tranfaglia** (510-1228, tranfaglia3@verizon.net) or **Kathy Krajeski** (363-5216, kaykraj@verizon.net) to fill one of the vacant chairs (see the [blue ones](#) in the list below.)

Set-up: **Joan Tranfaglia** **Shade:** **Claire Flaherty**
Sun: **Gail Dinaro** **Digging:** **Vacant** **Bake:** **Vacant**
Herb: **Linda Jackson and Ginger Selman**
Knapp's: **Liz Scheld and Laura Bruck**
Children's: **Vacant** **Choice:** **Vacant** **Donated:**
Pollyann Statom **Breakdown:** **Kathy Krajeski**

Set-up takes place Friday night around 6:00 pm as we set up our banners and tents. **Digging** (known as the Mad Diggers) is for the able-bodied folks who like to go into someone else's yard to divide and pot plants. **Sun, Donated, Shade, Herb, Choice,** and **Knapp's** involve helping buyers make selections, giving advice, and keeping the pots organized as the sale progresses. The **Children's Table** includes face

painting, potting up seeds to take home, and any other activities you might think of. The **Bake** table sells members' baked goods. The **Breakdown team**, arriving at the end of the morning, takes down and stores the banners, tables, and tents, and moves the unsold plants to the end of the field.

What do you need to do for the Plant Sale this month? The most important task is digging plants in your garden. Even the newest garden will have some vigorous growers ready for division, and dividing your perennials is the best thing you can do to keep the little guys healthy and blooming. With a **Sale date of May 30** this year, you should have all your plants dug and **in their pots by May 10th**, to give them plenty of time to recover, so they will look their best on Sale Day. Nothing is worse than hauling plants home again because they are too droopy for the sale. Also, we can ask a higher price for a robust, attractive plant. So **April is Digging Month**, and if you need help, just sign up at the next meeting and we will dispatch the Mad Diggers to your door.

Board Notes **Considering our Meetings...**

The format of our monthly meetings has evolved over the past 5 or 6 years, with some of our traditional practices dropping out of use, and new ones being adopted. In discussions at the last two Board meetings, President **Linda Schaeffer** and the Board decided that the end of the year is a perfect time to re-consider the needs and wishes of our members, to see if our current format is working for everyone, and to talk about what we might like to change for the

upcoming year. Our next meeting is our last "regular format" meeting, since May is our Annual Meeting, and June is our Plant Swap. At our April meeting, Linda will lead a discussion asking what club-related information you would like to have included in the meetings, and soliciting suggestions for the structure of meetings (business before or after the presentation, opening readings, treasurer's report, etc.) Bring your thoughts!!

Events

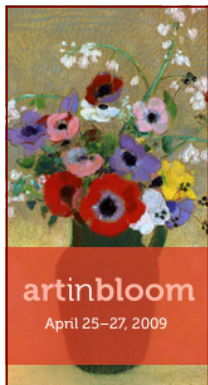
Newburyport Horticultural Society

Tues April 14 7pm Dividing Perennials with Lisa LeBlanc

(6:30: business meeting) \$5

Newburyport Library, State Street

Info: Karen Hume 978-388-9660



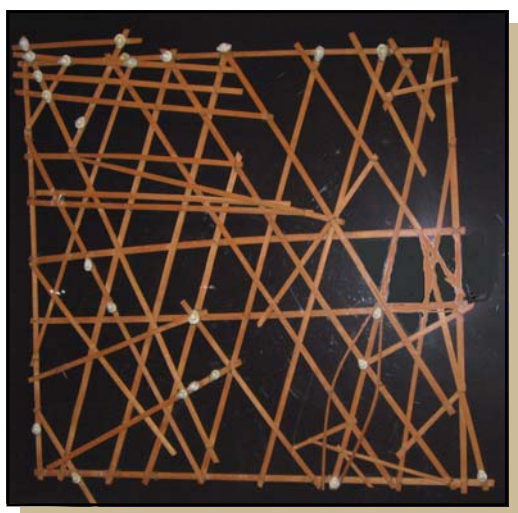
Museum of Fine Arts

Art in Bloom April 24-27 Friday thru Monday 10:00 to 4:45

Free w/ museum admission. 465 Huntington Ave, Boston

Arranger **Priscilla Styer** will once again put it all

out there for the public to marvel over as she and assistants **Kathy Krajeski** and **Marsha Cope** unearth the emotional and artistic content in this Pacific Ocean Sailing Chart (or *rebbilith*, shown below) used to teach Marshall Islands outrigger canoeists the local currents and wave patterns. The second challenge is to re-create that meaning in a floral arrangement in harmony and in scale with the 26"x29" bamboo, twine, and cowry shell work.



Club News 2009 Officers & Directors

Nominees for Officers and Directors for Next Year

Our Annual Meeting is coming up on May 7, and with it comes the election of Officers and Directors for the subsequent year. The following members have generously accepted nominations to serve as Officers or Directors in 2009-2010:

President: **Linda Schaeffer** (third term)

1st Vice President: **Kathy Krajeski** (third term)

2nd Vice President: **Joan Tranfaglia** (third term)

Treasurer: **Dot Cavanaugh** (ongoing)

Recording Secretary: **Jane Jeffers** (ongoing)

Corresponding Secretary: **Linda Jackson** (moving from Director)

Directors: **Virginia Hallman, Liz Scheld, Karen Doliber, a yet-to-be-named fourth** (all new this year)

Departing with our heartfelt gratitude and enduring respect are Corresponding Secretary **Rosemarie McCobb**, who has done a marvelous job over the past 7 years, and **Gloria Kuran, Clover Nally, and Marsha Cope**, dedicated Directors, all of whom are looking forward to regaining one Thursday evening a month!

Need a Ride to the Meeting? Call the Tire-Busters!

Ellie Bragg had a brainstorm: match up riders and drivers so no one ever has to miss a meeting for lack of transportation. Carpooling is fun and thrifty, but if you are unsure who to call, or want to avoid imposing, have we got a deal for you! At our April and May meetings we'll have a sign up sheet for members who are willing to give a member a ride, on an occasional or on a regular basis. We will publish the list of drivers, phone numbers, and their "coverage areas" in our next year-book. That way, you will always know who to call: Tire-busters!

Ask Peony April, ... from p.4



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Prospective planters that have too many gaps in them, such as a wire egg basket, can be lined with moss before adding soil.

Look around your house for interesting objects that can be used as planters for small plants next spring. Flea markets and garage sales are also good places to find treasure that can be converted to planters. And, should you run out of old, broken-down things, please contact Peony: 978-363-2610.

Your Bloomin' Friend,

Peony



WNGC



WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB

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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

Board Meeting at Town Offices

April 9, 2009 at 7:00pm



Ask Peony April

*Dear Peony,
Every year, I get carried away. I bring home so many plants from garden centers and then have a terrible time finding a place in the garden. Some are annuals that I need for color until the perennials come to life. What ideas do you have?
Plant Crazy*

Dear Crazy,
Your affliction has touched my heart. But you are listening to too many neatniks; you can never have too many plants. There's always one more plant in the garden center that begs to come home with you, as well it should.

If you're out of space in your flowerbeds and all of your flowerpots are already occupied, think outside the pot. Common household items can easily be converted into planters with a little imagination and a drainage hole or two.

Just about any old shoe can be a home for small

plants, even baby shoes. Baby shoes are particularly cute when planted with hens n' chicks or some thyme. Don't toss out worn hiking boots. Just drill a couple holes in the soles and fill the boots with potting mix. Leather boots will last for years in their new life as planters. Two old shoes overflowing with flowers by your steps are charming.

A child's wagon can be a planter for several plants; or fill the basket on an old bicycle with trailing plants and park it in the midst of a flowerbed.

Old wheelbarrows, wooden crates, washtubs, and baskets make great planters too. Something from a favorite hobby or a collection can serve as a planter, too. Are you a cook? Use worn-out pans for culinary herbs. Attention medical staff, STAT! An old bedpan might make a humorous planter and a conversation piece in your garden. In fact, a dear member of WNGC bought one at our yearly sale and, yes, Gloria Arthur proudly displayed it in her garden.

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