



Garden Tour on June 20th

This year's Members Only Garden Tour promises to be a smash hit! The tour is for WNGC members (and a few friends) and the **price of admission is a creative Box Lunch to swap** at our final garden.

We start the tour at **8:30 am, Saturday, June 20th in the rear parking lot of the Annex** to form our carpools. We **depart at 8:45 sharp** to visit the gardens at **Trish Robinson's** Byfield house for a **light breakfast** of coffee and pastries.

Those of us who attended the May meeting at Trish's house got a sneak preview of her fabulous gardens filled with beautiful specimen plantings. Trish inherited her garden, and welcomes any information and advice from her friends on her new-found treasures!

From Trish's we drive to the historic **Hills House** Gardens for an informational talk by Marie Scher on these period-specific

plantings. Then we head for **Jan Vynorius'** beautiful gardens on Stewart Street, to wander through her magnificently designed front garden, around through her beautiful trees, and on down the back lawn through the old orchard and waterside plantings of the lower pond.

Tearing ourselves away at last, we cross the river to **Marsha Cope's** for **lunch** in her garden rooms along the river and a great sit-down with your girlfriends. Once everyone is fed and rested, and ready to drift off, **Chris MacMillan's Cottage Gardens** on 110 in Haverhill is the last destination of the 2009 Tour. You can fulfill your garden inspirations for 10% off all plants.

Drinks and seating will be provided, so just bring your box lunch to swap. Word has it that some members have begun an informal competition to see whose "brown bag" will be the best tasting, and whose will be the best looking! Feel free to get creative: think beyond tuna sandwich! Make sure to **add a tag** with the contents.

June 4 2nd Annual Plant Swap

Bring a special plant from your garden. Jot down the name of the plant and what it likes for light and water. All the plants will be displayed and we will have time to talk about them. Then buff your knuckles on your sleeve for good luck, and pick a number from the basket for the drawing. Every Plant must go to a new home! If you bring in more than one plant, you get one ticket for each plant you bring. Such a deal!! And, you can

bring your extra garden tools and ornaments for giving away as well. This is a great way to end the Club Year!

Hospitality will be provided by chairs **Priscilla Styer and Joan Tranfaglia** with **Norma Graf, Nora O'Neil, and Jeanne Pucci.**



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A garden is evidence of faith.

It links us with all the misty figures of the past who also planted and were nourished by the fruits of their planting.

— Gladys Taber
Stillmeadow Sampler

In Memoriam **Julia Arsenault**

On Thursday, May 21st our youngest member, Julia Arsenault died at Boston Children's Hospital. Julia, 12, has been a cherished member of the Garden Club since 2007, and her freshness, sweet nature, and eagerness to help endeared her to everyone in the club. Our prayers and thoughts go out to her parents Lisa and Martin, and to her brother Yuri, as they struggle to cope with her loss. Every member of the club is shocked and grieved by Julia's untimely death.

Julia was born on Aug. 27, 1996 in Biysk, Siberia, Russia. She played basketball for both the Pentucket Middle School and the NH Rivals AAU teams. She was a color guard member of the Pentucket Regional Marching Band and the Spartans Drum and Bugle Corps. Julia was also a member of the Merrimac Garden Club.

A memorial service in celebration of Julia's life will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 166 High St., Newburyport at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 28. In lieu of flowers,

please send donations to the Julia Arsenault Memorial Fund, Georgetown Savings Bank, 2 East Main St., Georgetown, MA 01833. Donations will be used for charitable purposes benefiting Pentucket School District activities as well as other activities Julia was involved in. Funeral arrangements are by the Merton E. Roberts Jr. and Conte Funeral Home, 14 Pleasant St., Georgetown, MA 01833.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.contefuneralhomes.com.



Julia and Lisa at the indoor Plant Sale in 2007

Gardening **Garden Show on WNBP**

What do you get when you combine an Ipswich Garden Center, Newburyport radio station and a Yankee gardener? "The Corliss Garden Show with Deb Lambert," presented Sunday mornings, from 8-10 am, on WNBP, AM 1450. Yes, garden talk is alive and well and, starting on March 29th, local.

In uncertain times, folks take great comfort in hearth and home and, of course, in their gardens. Gardens provide sanctuary from the world's cares, as well as a place to grow one's own food. Always a popular topic, gardening is experiencing a phenomenal rise in popularity, once again. And here, on the North Shore, gardeners have long

preferred to remain loyal to local merchants and services. Which is why, adding a local radio component makes perfect sense.

Call in, on any given Sunday, and receive thorough, in-depth answers to your garden questions. Timely tips, product recommendations and general advice... all based on a shared concern for this North Shore environment. Garden conversation is not a lost art, as you'll discover Sunday mornings, from 8-10a, when you tune in to "The Corliss Garden Show with Deb Lambert" on WNBP, 1450 on your AM dial.

Club News **Plant Sale this Saturday**

Our Sale begins at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, rain or shine. **Please plan to be at the Training Field by 7:15** to help set up and get everything organized. The weather forecasts look promising, but if rain is predicted, we will move indoors at the old Town Hall as we did a couple of years ago. If this happens, we will need all the help we can get to prepare the Hall on Friday afternoon, so if there is any doubt, call your **committee chair, Joan Tranfaglia** at 978 510-1228 or **Kathy Krajeski** at 978 363-5216

We are having a **White Elephant Sale Table** this year, so hunt up any items you have that are in decent shape (new

or gently used) and put a price and your name on them for the table. This might be **tools, books, pots, or gardening accessories** which you no longer have a use for. Or perhaps, never had a use for! Set the price to make sure you don't have to take it home again! If you are bringing any plants directly from your house to the Training Field, make sure they are labeled and priced.

We still need Shade Plants!!

See you all at the Sale.

Events

Newburyport Horticultural Society

Saturday June 13 8:30 am **Annual Plant Sale** at Kelly School Playground

Info: Karen Hume 978-388-9660

Tower Hill Botanic Gardens

Jing Hua Dalia: "The poetry of a Chinese Watercolor Spring"

through June 14

Jing Hua uses traditional Chinese brush painting techniques to paint landscapes, birds and flowers, and figures in either detail or free style. Her watercolors move between classic and contemporary Chinese concepts.

11 French Drive, Boylston MA

Info: 508 869-6111

Federation Meeting

Massachusetts Chapter Annual Meeting
Wednesday June 3, at 2:30 pm and Thursday June 4 at 8:00 am

Westford Regency, 219 Littleton Road
Westford, MA 01886

WNGC Summer Safari To Be Announced

Wall Garden is Mounted!

Marsha Cope's demented experiment in wall gardening has been planted and hung on the sauna wall. For those unable to make the Garden Tour, here is the vertical herb garden



Club News and Member News Scholarship Awards

The Scholarship Committee met at the home of Rosemarie McCobb on May 6, 2009 to review the applications they received. After some deliberation, the Committee awarded \$1,500 to **Samantha L. Morrow**, 191 Crane Neck St., West Newbury, and \$1,500 to **Sarah K. Parker**, 153 Crane Neck St., West Newbury. Samantha will be studying Landscape Architecture, and Sarah, Environmental Studies. Both students rank in the top 10% of their class.



Marie Anderson, Liz Scheld, Pollyann Statom, Rosemarie McCobb, Lisa Arsenault.



Ask Peony June, cont. from p.4

buds early in their development. Cut off older blooms as they fade but do not cut back the foliage until after a hard freeze. The clippings should not be added to compost.

Dear Peony,

Feverfew, feverfew, feverfew. Sometimes, it is all I see in cracks of cement, corners of the garden and abandoned recesses of my gardening dreams. The name alone begs for answers: feverfew, what is it good for and why are there so many? What can you tell me, Peony, my old friend?

In a Fever With Many

Dear Feverish,

You are so right! Feverfew, also *Tanacetum parthenium* or *Chrysanthemum parthenium*, is a very prolific plant that multiplies so well, it only needs to be planted in a garden once. An excellent filler for arrangements and bouquets, the 1/2" daisy-like flowers with the golden center resemble camomille in scent and appearance. A multitude of historical and presentday medicinal uses for feverfew is equally astounding and occasionally rather amusing.

A few medicinal applications for feverfew are: fevers, headaches, migraine headaches, stomach aches, toothaches, insect bites, infertility, and problems with menstruation and with labor during childbirth, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, allergies, asthma, tinnitus (ringing or roaring sounds in the ears), dizziness, nausea, and vomiting, colitis, menstrual problems and muscle tension. Of course, there is also the pain of toothache or neuralgia.

Should you be nervous or feel melancholic, take it as a general tonic. Did I mention that it stimulates the flow of gastric juices and improves circulation, increases fluidity of lung and bronchial tube mucus and stimulates appetite?

Feverfew tea may be made by several methods. Put about one teaspoonful of dried feverfew leaves in 5 to 8 ounces of boiling water for 5 to 10 minutes. Strained, this tea may be consumed as often as desired. Or, a tea can be made by pouring one pint of boiling water over 1oz. of dried flowers. Cooled, a half teacup several times each day may be taken.

Whether for vases, fever or fleas, feverfew makes a sweet little plant in the garden and surely provides interesting reading, sipping or food for thought.



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*

Board Meeting at Town Offices

June 11, 2009 at 7:00pm



Ask Peony June

Dear Peony,

I enjoy your readers' questions, and I adore your bloom, dear Peony. Oh, how I love the new varieties in the catalogues! I want to start a new peony bed on our property. Can you give me some basics?

Panting for Peonies in PA

Dear Peony PAnter,

How do we communicate our innermost beauty? Poets do it with words, lovers through sighs, and Peonies show it with their eyes. One rule above all others for the new peony gardener: don't plant too deeply. The pink/white eyes of the tuber don't like to be underground. Below is a useful guide.

The Eyes of Peony Are Upon You,

Peony

Growing and Caring for Peonies

These beautiful, often heavenly scented, old-fashioned perennials will embellish your garden for many years. They grow in much of the US except in growing zones 9-10 and higher, but they do require a period of dormancy. An added bonus to these incredible blooms is that deer

won't eat them.

Plant peonies in late summer to early fall, at least six weeks before the ground freezes in your zone. Choose the location carefully. Once they are established, peony plants do not like to be disturbed. Plant them where they will receive at least 6-8 hours of full sunlight daily during the growing season. Peonies won't grow well in wet soil or clay, but a raised bed will avoid these problems.

To plant tubers, dig a hole about 15 inches deep and wide enough to comfortably accommodate the roots. Be careful! Don't plant the tubers too deeply. The tops of the pointed, red budding shoots should be an inch or two above the soil surface. Space plants about three feet apart.

Peonies will bloom starting from one to three years after they are planted, depending on variety. Stake them as heavy blooms tend to flop over, especially after a rain. An easy method of staking peonies is to set four stakes in the ground around the plant, then lace heavy twine back and forth from stake to stake to form a twine grid for the stems to grow through. You can also buy metal supports for peonies at garden centers.

If you want your peony to produce larger blossoms, leave only one large, round bud on each stem, pinching off the smaller