



Official Recognition for WNGC

Thanks to the efforts of Joan Tranfaglia and Dot Cavanaugh, three WNGC awards now hang on the left wall in the Town Office Building's lobby.

- LEFT—Presented to the WNGC on 9/1/11 by Massachusetts House of Representatives member Harriett Stanley congratulating the Club on its 75th anniversary.
- ABOVE RIGHT—Garden Club Federation of America Award presented on 5/10/67 "in recognition of distinguished service for its Herb Garden at the Historical Society."
- BELOW RIGHT—Town of West Newbury 1998 Community Service Award plaque in recognition of the Club's "many contributions to the citizens and Town of West Newbury."

2012 Climate Zone Map

The USDA's new map replaces its 1990 version and is accurate down to less than a mile. Improved accuracy combined with warming temperatures have moved some areas a full zone with most averaging ½ a zone warmer. West Newbury falls into Zone 6a (-10 to -5 F) on the new map. Search the new interactive map via zip code or state at: www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov

Our Club's Purpose

To encourage and cultivate an interest in gardening, to aid in the protection and conservation of natural resources, to encourage the study of horticulture and flower arranging, and to promote civic beauty.

From the Editor

Wow...for me, March burst with garden-related endeavors, both public—enjoying and photographing Tower Hill's annual Camilla Show and the Boston Flower Show—and personal—daily hours spent clearing suddenly awakening flower beds, followed by anxious hours of fretting over the potential effect of freezing temperatures. The seasonal weather has "stopped things cold," at this point, providing a much appreciated pause.

March was also the month when member Laura Bruck passed from us and the world. The flower event photos and the 4th page of this issue are also in remembrance of her.

Virginia Hallman

April Meeting

Irises in the Garden

April 5, 6:45 pm — 1910 Building Annex

If you're a bearded iris fan—or willing to consider becoming one, this meeting is for you. Linda Corapi, owner with her husband of Gardens Galore, a garden design service and Rocco Corapi Landscaping, Inc., a 3rd generation landscaping business in Stoneham, will present her popular 3-part slide show program featuring dozens of iris and other perennial garden favorites as gardens pass through the 3 main phases of our gardening season. Linda has found iris to possess multiple virtues that make it an outstanding plant to grow and enjoy. Learn more at www.gardensgalore.com. Hostesses for the meeting are Ellie Bragg and Kathy Krajcski (Chairs), Anne Burrill, Audrey Dimitry, Janet Gilchrist, Carol Hurn, Mary Jarvis, and Evelyn Thornton. *Need a ride to the meeting? Call Joan Tranfaglia, 978-510-1228.*



If you truly love Nature, you will find beauty everywhere

Vincent Van Gogh

Annual Events That Refresh the Spirit

Photographs by Virginia Hallman

I assume all Club members are familiar with Boston's premier March flower show and that most if not all of us have visited it and enjoyed its breath of spring. The more modest annual Camellia show at Tower Hill which precedes it, not so much. My Sunday visit there included a stroll in the two tropical plant conservatories—the Orangerie and Limonaia—as well as glimpses of the new Winter Garden in the courtyard. My time in the Limonaia was accompanied by drifts of enchanting live piano music. I hope the photos from these events inspire you to visit by offering a glimpse of the uplifting beauty enjoyed by those who do.



Every spring is the only spring a perpetual astonishment

Quotation by Ellis Peters from *The Spirit of Gardening* at www.gardendigest.com

Notes from the 3/8 Board Meeting

- Linda Schaeffer and Kathy Krajeski, co-chairs for our upcoming plant sale on Saturday, May 19 request all members to sign up for a committee at the April meeting. Contact either of them if you have or know of any gardens we can dig.

Please bring any spare medium-sized pots to the April meeting (4" square; 6"-8" round).

- The Nominating Committee seeks new Board Members. If you are interested in serving or in suggesting someone, contact Joan Tranfaglia.
- The March meeting, which was canceled due to icy roads, will become our June meeting.

MEMBER NEWS

- Congratulations to Priscilla Styer for another Blue Ribbon plus a special award at Boston's Flower Show, where she also served as the Chairperson of Clerks for the 3rd year.
- Members Pollyann Statom and Virginia Hallman will sing the Brahms Requiem May 5th and 6th in the Newburyport Choral Society's spring concert.

Blue Ribbon & Award Winner



Representing both WNGC and the Haverhill Garden Club, Priscilla Styer won both a blue ribbon *and* the Marie Hancock Cook Certificate of Merit for Achievement in Traditional Flower Arrangement for this entry in the "Wallflower" class. Unlike ribbons, which are given in every judged class, this merit award is given only once for the entire show. It goes to the blue ribbon winner in a traditional period class who received the highest number of points.

More Plant Sales

Merrimac Garden Club Plant Sale, Tuesday, May 8 at Cottage Gardens on 110.

Country Gardeners Georgetown Plant Sale, Saturday, May 12 from 9 am to 4 pm at 30 E. Main Street in Georgetown.

Mass Horticultural Society Herb & Heirloom Plant Sale, May 12 from 9 am to 1 pm at Elm Bank, 900 Washington St. (Rt. 16), Wellesley.

WNGC Scholarship Award

Do you know a student in good standing, residing in the towns of Groveland, Merrimac or West Newbury, who wishes to pursue Environmental Studies, Biology, Earth Sciences, Geology, Architecture or Landscape Design? The WNGC Scholarship Committee is now looking for applicants who meet our criteria. Applicants can be seniors applying to colleges as well as college students currently enrolled.

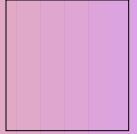
For students attending Pentucket Regional, applications are available at the Guidance Department. Others may contact Rosemarie McCobb at 978 363-1619. All applications must be postmarked by May 2, 2012.

Important Plant Sale Information

The Club's annual plant sale is a time when all members need to contribute both time and garden bounty to our only fundraiser. Doing the following will ensure you're part of the Club's success this year:

- Set aside time on **4/22-4/28** to help dig plants, and/or on **4/23-4/29** to help pot those dug the previous day.
- If you dig and pot your own plants, make sure they are of **good size and condition**. Be sure to **label** them (name and color). Deliver them **in advance** to the sun or shade locations.

Further details will be announced at the April meeting, or contact either Kathy Krajeski (978-363-5216) or Linda Schaeffer (978-363-5251).



Next **Board** Meeting:
April 12, 7:00 PM

At: *Town Office Building*
3rd floor Meeting Room

Next **Monthly** Meeting:
May 3, 6:00 PM
Jane Jeffer's Home
460 E. Broadway, Haverhill

Newsletter copy deadline:
18th of the month

Copies of past Newsletters are available online at www.wngc.org

Dear Peony

Dear Gardening Friends,

A few years ago at a garden club meeting, I saw a man of a certain age from another club. He wore shorts, sandals and bright yellow, woolly socks. No one past the age of 70 is shod with such impunity but an artist. I had to meet that interesting gardener because I knew he dared. I saw it in his socks. Indeed, he was a fascinating source of knowledge. He made arbors. He knew the Midwest because he had been born in Chicago on his mother's kitchen table. See what I mean? We talked roses. He ordered his roses from Wisconsin because they withstood cold, Northeast temperatures. The company sounded like the name of a psychologist.

Others have touted companies from Canada, the Northeastern states or anywhere else in the country. In my opinion, a company with a reputation for standing behind its products provides customer service to advise us, wherever we live.

Springtime is an awakening in our gardens. It is also a time for reflection. I am thinking of roses. I am planning to plant a new rose bush in our garden for a friend whom I loved and lost. The variety will be named "Laura".

Following is very helpful site besides the ones that you already know from various well-known companies.

Blessings to all gardeners, for they know how to grow. www.rosefile.com/RosePages/SupplyUSA.html

Questions for Dear Peony? Call 978-363-2610