



# West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • October, 2014

## INVASIVE PLANTS IN OUR GARDENS

According to Mass Audubon, “invasive plants are one of the greatest threats to the nature of Massachusetts because they out-compete, displace, or kill native species. These non-native species, many introduced to Massachusetts accidentally others on purpose for garden or landscape use, thrive and proliferate here.” There are sixty-six (66) plants identified as invasive in Massachusetts, and many organizations are working to reduce and eliminate these nuisance plants. Some of Massachusetts’ most familiar invasive plants include Oriental Bittersweet, Purple Loosestrife, Norway Maple, Japanese Knotwood, Japanese Honeysuckle and Multiflora Roses.

For example, Black swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*) and pale swallow-wort (*Cynanchum rossicum*) can grow up to 8 feet long by late summer. Black swallow-wort has small purplish flowers, while pale swallow-wort has pinkish flowers. Both have long green pods and produce wind-borne seeds. They are part of the Milkweed Family (*Asclepias*), but unlike Common Milkweed, are not useful as food to Monarch Butterflies. Most resources recommend collecting and destroying the seed pods before they open, cutting the vines and removing from the area. (Continued p.2 for lists and resources.)

## NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Oct. 2, 2014, 6:45 pm  
Town Offices Annex  
381 Main Street, W. N.

Hosting the meeting  
Chair Joan Tranfaglia  
Anne Burrill  
Ellie Bragg  
Anne Jarzobski  
Evelyn Thornton

Need a ride to the meeting?  
Call Linda Schaeffer at  
978-363-5251

Holiday Inspirations -To get in the mood for a creative year, Linda Zukas, Annuals Manager from Churchills in Exeter will give us some great ideas for decorating for the coming Holidays. Along with a degree in horticulture from UNH, Linda brings her creativity and know-how to achieve an award winning annuals department at Churchill’s. She has been part of the Churchill’s team for 23 years. In addition to her department responsibilities, Linda holds seminars, talks and takes part in many developmental programs.

If you’ve not already done so, remember to bring your \$25 check for your annual membership.

[www.wngc.org](http://www.wngc.org)



## Basil Downey Mildew

Knapp's Greenhouses report some customers bringing in basil plants with yellow leaves, leaf backs displaying soot-like discoloration, and black spots on the leaves themselves. Under the right weather conditions basil downy mildew can spread rapidly and result in complete yield loss. Although *Peronospora belbahrii*, the pathogen that causes basil downy mildew, cannot survive harsh winters, it can be reintroduced on infected seed or transplants or by windblown spores. If you suspect you have Basil Downey Mildew, dispose of the plants, and do not compost. For further information, go to: <https://extension.umass.edu/vegetable/articles/downy-mildew-basil>



## Invasive Plants Resources

### Mass Audubon

[www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants](http://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants)

**Invasive Plant Atlas of New England** [www.eddmaps.org/ipane/](http://www.eddmaps.org/ipane/)

**NH Guide to Upland Invasive Native Species** [http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000988\\_Rep1134.pdf](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000988_Rep1134.pdf)

## LAST MEETING'S HIGHLIGHTS

### Welcome to the New Year!

Club members were greeted at the door by Membership Chair, Linda Schaeffer and Treasurer, Dot Cavanaugh. Club President, Jane Jeffers, welcomed all, and introduced the Board of Directors. Acknowledgment and applause was directed to Alison Scher for another beautiful Year Book, and Virginia Hallman was again thanked for her many years as Newsletter Editor.

The Pot Luck Supper never disappoints, as members enjoyed wonderful appetizers, salads, side dishes, entrées and desserts. The lanterns and Fall mums added a festive feel to the event. Following the meal, an overview of the Club's website was provided. The site includes the history of the Club, membership information, copies of past Newsletters, descriptions of the Club's community gardens, and many gardening-related resources of information. Members are encouraged to visit the site, and to contribute events and further resources.

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on September 11th. A Welcome Gathering for New Members was held on September 7th at Donna Greene's home.

Results of a **Field Trip Survey** completed by club members at the September 3rd meeting. Of surveys received, members indicated an equal preference for the proposed field trips venues, a split between those preferring weekday and weekend dates, and a strong preference for events under \$25. Based on the feedback, **members are asked to save the following dates:** **Thursday, May 21, 2015** Rolling Green Nurseries, Stratham, NH **Saturday, June 20, 2015** Steven-Coolidge House and Gardens, North Andover, MA. Both events will be followed by lunch.

**Possible Poster Project for Elementary School Children – Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl.** The due date for entries is January 21st. If you are interested in helping to coordinate this club project to help kids learn about preventing wildfires and basic environmental conservation, please contact Jane Jeffers.

### Club Records, Photos and Materials

Board members discussed how the Club's historic records and materials could be best archived. Any club members who have experience and interest in scanning documents for an electronic record should speak with one of the Board members.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

# Fall Conference & More!

### September 25 Hosta: A Collector's Journey

GCFM Horticultural Morning. Learn about growing hosta and other shade perennials from Joan Butler, Horticulturist at Weston Nurseries; and Jana Milbocker, from Enchanted Gardens (a landscape design firm). South Church, Andover at 10am  
GCFM Members (\$5) and Guests (\$10). Pay at the door. (Jane Jeffers might be going, and would welcome carpooling.)

**October – April** Register now for Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts (GCFM) Courses listed in the WNGC yearbook.

For additional information and registration, go to:  
<http://gcfm.org/Education/SchoolsandRegistration.aspx>

### October 3rd-13th Topsfield Fair

Garden Club Volunteers needed to host the Flower Show Exhibit, in exchange for two (2) free admission tickets!

More Information: [www.topsfieldfair.org/ehflower.php](http://www.topsfieldfair.org/ehflower.php)  
Contact Jane Jeffers if you are interested.

**October, 4th American Begonia Society's** Sharon Rosenzweig will speak on growing, propagating and using begonias. – Churchill's in Exeter, NH at 1:00 pm  
Free, RSVP requested by calling: 603-772-2685 ext.5

**October 28th Fall Conference** - Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts (GCFM) Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center, Framingham, MA 01701

Cost: \$55 before October 15th,  
\$65 after October 15th

Program: Choice of four (4) morning workshops.  
Afternoon design demonstration and awards. For registration and further information: <http://gcfm.org/Meetings/FallConference.aspx>

Early Fall is the time to divide your peonies, either for propagation or to separate large overcrowded clumps. Using a strong spade or digging fork, circle the plant, lifting a little bit as you go. Large clumps may need to be divided in place: insert your spade or fork into the clump. Sink another spade or fork back to back with the first, and work the handles back and forth to separate the roots. Once the plant is divided, set in a well prepared hole with the "eyes" no more than 2 inches deep. Water deeply. Peonies like full sun, in an average to rich soil, well drained.

Plant and transplant needle evergreens, and deciduous trees and shrubs after leaf fall.

Plant early spring bulbs.  
Divide perennials.  
Lift and store tender bulbs.  
Pot up hardy spring bulbs for forcing.

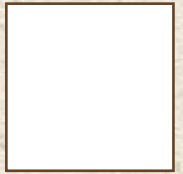
### Our Club's Purpose

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.

Updates: Jeanne Pucci's correct email address is the following: [jpucci1@gmail.com](mailto:jpucci1@gmail.com)



West Newbury Garden Club  
P. O. Box 11  
West Newbury, MA 01985



Visit our website TODAY!  
[www.wngc.org](http://www.wngc.org)

You will find links to upcoming events and gardening resources as well as copies of newsletters, the club's history, and much more.

## BECOME A MASTER GARDENER

Have you thought about becoming a certified Master Gardener? The Massachusetts Horticultural Society Education Center at Elm Bank, Wellesley will be offering the 14-week course in 2015. The course consists of thirteen classroom and lab modules, including soil science, botany, entomology, plant pathology, pruning and propagation. Courses are conducted by both academic and industry professionals.

The 2015 MGT course will be begin in April 2015 and run through October 2015.

Classroom training will be held in the spring and fall, while hands-on training will be required throughout the growing season (with the bulk of hands-on work to be completed during the summer). Spring class sessions will be held over seven Thursdays, beginning April 9th (and excluding April 23th) thru May 28th, from 9am-3pm. The second session will be held over seven Thursdays, from 9-3pm, beginning on September 17th thru October 29th. Both sessions are required for all students.

Applications should be completed before December 30th, 2014.

For additional information, go to: <http://massmastergardeners.org/become-a-master-gardener/master-gardener-training-course-2013/>

