



West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • December, 2014

HOLIDAY PARTY ~ WINE & CHEESE

Annual Holiday Party – Wine and Cheese Tasting
Thursday, December 11th at 6:00 pm
1910 Building Annex

Traditionally, our annual holiday party is a potluck dinner. This year, the Board has decided to “liven things up a bit”. Wolf Meadow Farm in Amesbury will bring some of their Italian artisan cheeses, wine will be provided, and we’ll have a short presentation and tasting on pairing wine and cheese, followed by finger foods. So come and enjoy!

Please bring a finger food or dessert to share. Please also remember to:

- bring canned goods for our annual donation to the Pettengill House Pantry. (Please assure that donated goods have not exceeded their expiration dates!) A listing of preferred foods and supplies can be found at: www.pettengillhouse.org/resources/pdf/mostNeededItems.pdf
- bring a gift for the Yankee Swap, if you’d like to participate

Party Chair is Linda Schaeffer, with assistance from Linda DeCoste, Carrie Hometh, Mary Kemper, Kathy Mandeville and Geraldine Vanderhoff.

NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Dec. 4, 2014, 6:45 pm

Town Offices Annex
381 Main Street, W. N.

Hosting the meeting

Chair Susan Dougherty
Peg Duchemin
Barbara Haack
Nancy Pau
Barbara Warne

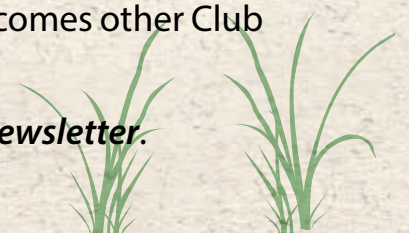
Need a ride to the meeting?
Call Linda Schaeffer at
978-363-5251

Holiday Wreath Workshop

Time for our annual gathering to make wreaths for the Town Public Buildings. Please remember to bring a variety of evergreen boughs and berry branches, apron, gloves snippers, scissors and plant wire. If you would like to make an arrangement for home, bring some decorations and bows.

Leftover greens and decorations will be shared with the West Newbury Senior Center. Garden Club member, Cyndy Bourquard, will help Seniors make their own wreathes and decorations on December 5th. Cyndy welcomes other Club members who would like to help out.

Please take note, no January meeting or newsletter.



Wintering Over Rosemary

Many of us enjoy including rosemary in our summer herb plantings. Rosemary is fragrant, a great herb for cooking, and a distinctive plant. Though it grows wild and vigorously near the Mediterranean Sea, it often takes a nose-dive when we bring it indoors during our New England Winters. Experienced gardeners recommend that rosemary be kept in a consistently cool and brightly-lit location. Also, watering once a week just to dampen, not soak the soil, and allowing for good drainage.



White Bean Dip with Rosemary

2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
2 teaspoons minced fresh rosemary
2 teaspoons minced fresh sage
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
2 garlic cloves, chopped
1 (19-ounce) can cannellini beans
rinsed and drained
4 pitas, each cut into 6 wedges

Combine first 7 ingredients in a food processor; process until smooth. Serve with pita wedges.

LAST MEETING'S HIGHLIGHTS Closing the Garden

Jean Anderson of Garden Sense in Wakefield presented tips on closing our gardens for the winter. She recommended using a lawn mower to chop leaves, and using these leaves as a mulch for perennial gardens. She discouraged over-tilling vegetable gardens, as this brings weed seeds to the surface. Jean brought several plants for sale.

See page four for additional recommendations on Winter Protection. For additional information, go to:
www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/trees-shrubs/protecting-from-winter-damage/ and
http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000860_Rep906.pdf

Board Meeting Highlights

Establishing Guidelines

The Board is in the process of compiling a Club Notebook. The notebook will contain responsibilities and tasks of officers and committees, as well as details of annual events. Additionally, the Board discussed ways of making meetings more fun and interactive, and proposed a wine and cheese evening for the December 11th Annual Holiday Party.

Member News

A special "Happy Birthday" to Nancy Perkins on her 89th birthday. All the best of health and happiness!

Norma Graf is recovering from a fall. Get well wishes can be sent to her home address.

We're always interested in keeping our members informed and included. If you know of any members who have special events going on in their lives,

Updates: Kathy Krajeski's new email address is the following:
Kathy@nemcvt.net

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Winter & Spring!

Cushing House at Christmas

Friday through Monday,
December 5th-8th, 10 - 4:00 pm
Cushing House
98 High St., Newburyport
Come visit a local treasure and enjoy the holiday festivity. WNGC joins garden clubs from Newbury and Newburyport in bringing holiday decorations to this local historic home.

Margaret Cushing, was the last of the Cushing family to live here and passed away at the age of one hundred in the same house in which she was born. A woman of remarkable grace, charm, and intellect, she began hosting many of her Uncle Caleb's diplomatic colleagues at the house when she was still in her teens. Later in her life, Margaret became somewhat of an unintentional preservationist. Having grown up in a time without the modern amenities we are accustomed to today – indoor plumbing, modern kitchens and baths, etc. – Margaret saw no need to “upgrade” the Cushing House to include these things we depend on today – she could live perfectly well without them. She was content not to replace the 1870's Wilton wall-to-wall carpeting, gas light fixtures or the 19th century wallpaper, let alone the faux-marbled floor, faux-grained doors or other hardware or interior features. It is because of this that we are so fortunate to have such an intact and well-preserved building to display the history of the Newburys to the public.

<http://newburyhist.org>

Shrubs in Winter

Saturday, December 6, 10 - 2:30
Even without leaves, many shrubs are still recognizable in late fall and winter. This field study will focus on macro-characteristics such as branch patterns, growth habits, bark, persistent fruit, galls, and habitats to identify more than 20 native New England shrubs. We will also discuss the natural history of the shrubs we see. The program begins in the classroom and then heads out into the field. We will look for species such as witchhazel, high-bush blueberry, and, of course, winterberry. Bring a lunch and a hand lens. Dress warmly and wear appropriate footwear—Garden trails are not plowed when it snows.

Location: Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA
Program Code: BOT3312
Instructor: Roland Boutwell
Fee: \$60 (Member) or \$72 (Nonmember)
Limit: 15 Registration:
<https://46858.blackbaudhosting.com/46858/fw14-bot3312-Shrubs-in-Winter>

Boston Flower and Garden Show

Wednesday through Sunday,
March 11th-15th
It's not too early to plan a visit. More details can be found at:
www.bostonflowershow.com/

Now is the time

It's never too early to start planning a garden destination vacation for 2015. Whether you actually plan a trip or just dream of trips, exploring various destinations on line can get us through the long, dark Winter. A great site to explore is www.gardenvisit.com. Here you will find information on US and international garden tours, a garden finder, and the history and theory behind garden design and landscape architecture in the US, Europe and Asia. The site also includes advice of planning a garden-destination trip.

For local interest visit <http://www.discovernewengland.org/new-england-activities/gardens/>



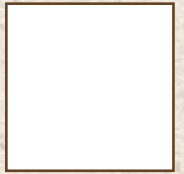
Keukenhof Gardens, Holland

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.



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



Visit our website TODAY!
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.

WINTER PROTECTION FOR EVERGREENS

Many outdoor trees and shrubs are at risk of damage during our Winter months. Very cold temperatures can challenge plantings, but also heavy snow, wind, freezing rain, salt, rodents, mammals and winter sun.

Sun scald is a particular concern with newly planted trees or bushes, as well as thin-skinned bushes. Bark that is exposed to winter sun experiences plunging drops in temperature with cloud cover. The repeated activation and freeze can injure the living bark.



Injury can be prevented by wrapping the trunk with burlap, then removing it in the Spring after the last frost. This strategy can also be helpful in preventing winter discoloration on hemlocks, yews and arborvitae.

Providing trees and bushes with extra water in the Fall, before the ground freezes, as well as adding extra mulch, helps to prevent dehydration – another major reason for losing trees and bushes over the Winter. To prevent leaf die off on rhododendrons and holly, some gardeners use anti-desiccant sprays. These products are intended to slow down moisture loss with a spray wax applied several times during the Winter. There is some research to suggest that these sprays are ineffective.

Rodents and deer can be discouraged from feeding by wrapping bark with wire or using spray deterrents. However, as most experienced gardeners know – if they're hungry, and your yard has food – there's not much you can do!