



West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • March, 2015

WILL SPRING EVER COME?

Amid multiple snow storms, howling winds, frigid temperatures, and FEET of snow, it's hard to fathom that the first day of spring is March 20th. The spring equinox marks nearly 12 hours of sunlight each day, and with daylight savings set to begin March 8th, it may actually feel like we're moving in the right direction. What can gardeners do in March?

Buy cut flowers - Bring home daffodils and tulips from your local grocer. The flowers will remind us of what flowers look and smell like.

Start seedlings indoors - Plants to consider in early March are coleus, dahlia, heliotrope, petunias, black-eyed Susan, snapdragons, verbena, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and head lettuce. At mid-month, you may start cleome, dianthus, hollyhock, African marigold, nicotiana, ornamental pepper, strawflower, sweet alyssum, edible peppers and eggplants.

Force spring-blossoming branches - Plantings to consider include azalea, beautybush, crab apple, flowering quince, forsythia, magnolia, pussy willow, redbud, rhododendron, serviceberry, spirea, witch hazel, and fruit trees such as cherries, pears and apples. Look for branches with swollen buds. Clip branches at an angle, and soak frozen branches in warm water before placing in containers. Low light is best for the first few weeks, change the water every few days. When the buds start opening, move into a sunnier location.

NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March. 5, 2015, 6:45 pm

Town Offices Annex
381 Main Street, W. N.

Hosting the meeting

Chair: Elise Henrichs
Nora O'Neil
Nancy Pau
Alison Scher

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

America's Romance with the English Garden: How it All Began

Master Gardener and author, Thomas Mickey, will talk about how the advertising revolution in the 1880s led to the proliferation of beautiful seed and nursery catalogs across America, displaying middle-class homes surrounded by sprawling lawns, lush plants and the latest garden accessories. He is professor emeritus of communication studies at Bridgewater State University. He has a degree from Harvard University's Landscape Institute, and has been a garden columnist for the Brockton Enterprise, Quincy Patriot Ledger and Seacoast Media.

www.wngc.org



Growing Ginger Indoors

Ginger is perfect to grow indoors. Ginger takes 10 months to mature so grow in a pot indoors and put it outside in the summertime. Purchase ginger from a garden center or seed catalog. Ginger purchased from your local grocery store can be used but may be sprayed with a growth inhibitor. Plant a plump root with tight skin, not shriveled and old. It should have several eye buds on it (bumps that look like potato eyes). Unlike most other houseplants, ginger loves shallow, wide pots. The roots grow horizontally so be sure the pot you choose will accommodate its growth. Small pieces of ginger can be harvested 3-4 months after growth begins. Pull aside soil at the edges of the pot to find some rhizomes beneath the surface. Cut the needed amount off a finger at the edge of the pot and then return the soil.



1. To start, soak the ginger root overnight in warm water to get it ready for planting.
2. Fill your pot with very rich but well draining potting soil.
3. Stick the ginger root with the eye bud pointing up in the soil and cover it with 1-2 inches of soil. Water it well.
4. Place the ginger in a spot that stays warm and doesn't get too much bright sunlight.
5. Keep soil moist, water lightly.
6. Ginger is a slow grower. After a few weeks you should see some shoots popping up out of the soil. Continue to water regularly and keep it warm.

Read the entire article at <http://www.healthy-holistic-living.com/grow-endless-supply-ginger-indoors.html>

LAST MEETING'S HIGHLIGHTS A Hint of Spring Workshop



*Elise Henrichs
photo*

Our own cherished and award winning designer, Priscilla Styer, led us in a simple and spirit lifting arrangement that teased of the Spring to come - eventually. Thank you Priscilla for trudging to Boston for the flowers and making the evening fun and effortless for all!



Don't Miss This Local Event

Growing Native in New England: A Beginner's Guide to Cultivating Biodiversity in Your Garden

Thursday, March 19, 2015 6:30-7:30pm
G.A.R. Memorial Library, West Newbury, MA

Integrate your inner gardener with your inner naturalist! Presenter, Michele Augeri, is an avid gardener and amateur naturalist who has been habitat gardening for over 20 years. This program will introduce you to the many aspects of creating a landscape which nurtures both its human and non-human inhabitants with native plants. For further information, call 978-363-1105 or sbabb@mvlc.org.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met on February 13th. Board members were pleased with the turn-out for the flower arranging workshop, despite winter conditions. There was some discussion about scheduling February and March meetings during the daytime and/or Saturday as some club members are hesitant to venture out at night. The Town will no longer provide chair set-up for Town Annex events. Linda Schaeffer will be in touch with hospitality Chairs about this, and Board members offered to help with chair set-up as needed. The Board was reminded that members of the Newburyport Horticultural Society have been invited to join us for our March meeting presentation.

Please note: Tracy Peter's email address is: tracyapeter@yahoo.com

ITEMS OF INTEREST

(Green titles below are hot web links)

Container Gardening for All Occasions

Monday, March 2, 2015 10:00 am - noon

Tower Hill Espousal Center, 554 Lexington St., Waltham, MA
Joann Vieira, Horticulture Director at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, will share her secrets on making container gardens. Members of GCFM and guests welcome. Donation \$5/ \$10 (guests) at the door.
Further Information: Call the GCFM: 781-237-0336.

Orchids 101 Saturday, March 7, 2015 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Featuring Norm Selander-Carrier, President of the NH Orchid Society
Lake Street Garden Center 37 Lake Street in Salem, NH. Program is free, but you must pre-register at: www.lakestreet.com/register/ or call (603)893-5858.

Boston Flower Show Wednesday - Sunday, March 11-15, 2015

This year's theme is "Season of Enchantment" and will again feature garden designers, floral arrangers, photographers and amateur horticulturalists as well as top garden writers, industry experts, local chefs and a marketplace. Daily admission is \$20, and \$17 for seniors.

Information can be found at: <http://www.bostonflowershow.com>

Build Your Own Cold Frame Saturday, March 28, 2015 10 am-noon

Putnam Building, Elm Bank, 900 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA
Build your own cold frame with the instruction of Mass Hort Trustee and Mass Master Gardener Education Coordinator Gretel Anspach. Cold frames, hot beds and hoop houses are great season extenders, allowing vegetables to be planted 2-4 weeks earlier than unprotected plants as well as extending the growing season in the fall. The cold frame's footprint is 2' x 4', and slopes from 24" at the back to 16" at the front. It disassembles for easy transportation and storage. All tools will be supplied, and no experience with woodworking is needed.
Further information at: www.masshort.org/

88th Annual Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill Annual Tour

Thursday, May 21, 2015 Boston, MA 9:00 am-5:00 pm Rain or Shine
Self-guided tour through twelve private gardens. Advance tickets at \$10 savings are available online at: www.beaconhillgardenclub.org or
Tour Day tickets \$45.

GCFM Historic Gardens Conference and Tour

Thursday, May 28, 2015 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

St. Bridget Church Parish Center Hall, Lexington, MA

The featured speakers are from Old Sturbridge Village and Historic New England. Lecture will be followed by lunch and tour of four (4) gardens in Lexington, MA. Program registration form can be found at: gcfm.org. Registration of \$37.50 includes lunch.

For further info contact: Winnie Fitzpatrick at rfitzpa24@aol.com or call 508-457-6246. REGISTER EARLY! Note: Jane Jeffers will be going and is interested in carpooling.

Garden Thoughts

Delightful Reads

The gardening sections found at bookstores and libraries abound with gardening "how to" books, including books on growing vegetables, annuals, perennials, organics, orchids, low maintenance gardens, to name a few. However, as many of us have found, there are gardening books that don't focus so much on "how" to garden as "why" we garden, and what gardens and gardening do for our lives. These books are perhaps best described as "garden literature".

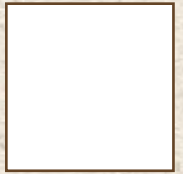
Some of our favorites are:

- *Cultivating Delight: A Natural History of My Garden*, by Dianne Ackerman (2002).
- *The Gardener's Year*, by Karel and Josef Capek (2002)
- *In My Garden*, by Christopher Lloyd (1994)
- *Gardening for a Lifetime – How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older*, by Sydney Eddison (2010)
- *Why We Garden – Cultivating a Sense of Place*, by Jim Nollman (1994)

Think ahead to what you can donate to our May Plant sale. The success of the plant sale is based largely on the number of perennials donated by members. Check with neighbors now to see if they would like to have their perennials divided and donated in the Spring. Proceeds from the plant sale support our community gardens and scholarship.



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.

WNGC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As many of you already know, each year, our Garden Club provides scholarships to local students from the proceeds of our Annual Plant Sale. Last year, two deserving seniors from Pentucket High School each received \$1,000 towards their college education. This year, Nancy Pau has taken over the role of Chair of the Scholarship Committee from Rosemarie McCobb. Rosemarie has been chairing the Committee for the past eight years, and has done an incredible job.

We are now accepting application for this year's scholarship. Please help spread the word on this great opportunity from our Club.

To be eligible, the student needs to:

- Be attending college in the 2015-2016 academic year. They can be seniors in High School or existing college students.
- Reside in the Pentucket District
- Intend to pursue a "Green" major, such as Environmental Studies, Biology, Earth Sciences, Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Design, Botany, Horticulture, or any related major which pertains to our environment.
- Demonstrate good academic standing through grades, SAT scores, or other academic criteria.
- Demonstrate community service for others through extracurricular activities or volunteering.

To apply, send the following to West Newbury Garden Club: PO Box 11, West Newbury, MA 01985. Applications must be postmarked by April 20, 2015.

- A common Application Form
- An essay describing his/her motivation for pursuing a career in the environment
- Three letters of recommendation
- A school transcript

