



West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • May, 2015

WNGC PLANT SALE

Our Annual Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday May 30th.

As decided last year, this year's Plant Sale will again be planned for outside on the Training Field, but we will display plants on tables, instead of on the ground. Besides signs announcing the event, the major visibility of the Training Field attracts passers-by, and we learned last year that the tables make for easier viewing and selection.

The May Plant Sale is our club's biggest fund raiser of the year. The more perennials that can be contributed by members, the fewer plants we need to purchase. Day lilies abound, but we've learned that only hybrids really sell. Members who did not sign up for a committee yet are asked to do so at the May meeting. We need "all hands on deck" before, during, and after the sale. Start digging and potting now that the ground has finally warmed up, and check with friends, family and neighbors about contributing plants. Members will help dig! Just contact Jane Jeffers at 978-372-6549. Remember, funds go toward beautifying West Newbury landmarks, scholarship awards and supporting Club activities, as well as providing a wonderful opportunity for area gardeners to purchase prime plants.

NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

May 7, 2015, 6:00 pm

Town Offices Annex
381 Main Street, W. N.

Hosting the meeting

Chair: Dot Cavanaugh
Jean Berkenbush
Marie Scher
Barbara Butler
Marilyn Kent
Ginger Selman

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

ANNUAL MEETING AND POT LUCK DINNER

Thursday, May 7th at 6:00 pm

Please bring an appetizer, main dish or dessert to share. We'll elect our 2015-16 Officers and Board of Directors, review final details of the May 30th plant sale, and enjoy looking ahead together to summer's gardening adventures.

www.wngc.org



Garden Tools Needed

Do You Have Garden Tools and Seeds to Donate?

The Dare Pregnant and Parenting Teens program in Newburyport is a residential program for ten teenage girls and their babies and toddlers. Some of the girls would really like to do some gardening and spruce up the outside space this spring. Unfortunately, they do not have much of a budget for things like seeds/plants, planters, and garden tools.

Any extra gardening supplies you are no longer using would be very welcome at their program, as well as any extra plants. The support would help these young women build feelings of accomplishment and make the program feel more like a home. Donations are tax-deductible, and any donated items could be dropped off or picked up.

BRING DONATIONS TO THE MAY 7th Garden Club Meeting, or call Mareth at 978-465-3834.

May Garden Tips

Divide chrysanthemums after new foliage appears. Lift the entire clump and discard the center. Replant small divisions.

Look at your spring bulbs to note any gaps. Take a picture or draw one. Put in markers to indicate where additional bulbs should be planted in the fall.

Rabbits don't like garlic. Plant some to keep the nibblers away.

Mix coffee grounds into the soil around geraniums. They are a good soil conditioner.

LAST MEETING'S HIGHLIGHTS

Clematis: Queen of the Vines

Cheryl Monroe of Garden in the Burrow loves clematis! Her enthusiasm was contagious as she presented information to us on the varieties of clematis, their colors, flower sizes, heights and preferred growing conditions. "This plant offers so many cultivars that I can have one in bloom (sometimes many) from May right through to October." Surprising to many of us, some clematis varieties do quite well in containers. In addition to helpful pointers on pruning clematis vines, Cheryl distributed a handout with recommendations on planting, favorite cultivars, plant sources and helpful publications. Cheryl's website is packed with useful, humorous, well researched information on not only clematis, but gardening in general. Find her at: <http://www.gardenintheburrow.com/>

Hosting the April meeting was: Chair Rosemarie McCobb, and Committee Members Barbara Berkenbush, Virginia Hallman, Carol Hurn, Clover Nally and Pollyann Statom.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met on April 9th. Officer Nominees for 2015-16 include Marie Scher for President and Deb Whitaker for Recording Secretary. Board members are in the process of reviewing the draft of an Operation Manual for the Club. This manual will help to facilitate Club activities by including brief descriptions of officer and committee descriptions, tasks and timetables. The Board voted to skip BOD meetings in the month of January, and communicate via email as needed. Jane and Kathy Mandeville will assist Joan Tranfaglia with next year's Program Committee, and welcome other members who would like to be involved. Board members recommended a number of minor By-Law changes that better reflect the current club procedures. President Jane Jeffers and Board member Kathy Krajeski will chair the May 30th plant sale.

Discussion was held on the details of a raffle. The raffle prize (donated by Lisa Arnold) will be a round trip excursion ticket from Portland, Maine to Nova Scotia aboard the Nova Star Ferry. Jane will provide further information, and tickets for members to sell, at the May 7th meeting.



ITEMS OF INTEREST

(Green titles below are hot web links)

Kitchen Garden Design

Saturday, May 2nd 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Tower Hill Botanic Garden Boylston, MA

Ellen Ecker Ogden, author of "The Complete Kitchen Garden", and co-founder of the Cook's Garden seed catalog will guide you to think about a five-year plan, and inspire you to think about fresh ways to grow an edible garden that is both productive and beautiful. You will learn about the four square organic gardening rotation system to build healthy soil, and we'll discuss ways that you can add your own personality to your garden design.

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 on the day of the tour.

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 Party Sunday, June 7, 2015 4:00 pm-7:00 pm

The Museum of Old Newbury. Please join us in the Cushing House Garden for Champagne, Hors d'oeuvres, and Music.

Tickets: \$35/person or \$60/pair. Please RSVP by May 25

Purchase tickets at www.NewburyHistory.org or by check, mailed to : 98 High Street Newburyport, MA 01950

Don't forget the Annual Garden Tour *Visions of Paradise* June 13 & 14
Enjoy extended early-bird Garden Tour pricing with purchase of Garden Party tickets. \$20 up to June 14 (normally \$25)

Museum of Old Newbury * 98 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 *
info@NewburyHistory.org * 978-462-2681.

Consider planting a tree for each child born. At each birthday, note the child's height and the tree height and keep comparing these as each child grows. This can be a lovely way to keep your child excited about how things grow. *Read more ideas for kids on the back page.*

Field Trip Planned

REMINDER: May 21st Field Trip to Rolling Green Nursery
Greenland, NH 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
<http://rollinggreennursery.com/>
Sign-up at the May 7th Meeting.

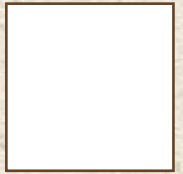
Rolling Green Nursery is a nine-acre grower/retailer garden center committed to raising healthy and vigorous plant material and providing horticultural advice. From annuals and perennials to flowering shrubs and ornamental trees, to extensive native selections, they provide quality plants that enhance landscapes with color, texture and beauty. They also carry earth-friendly plant care products, organic fertilizers, containers, gardening tools, and gifts. We will carpool from the Annex at 9:30. We'll tour and shop. Then, based on the preference of those who sign up, we will either bring lunch and picnic at tables at the nursery, or drive to Petey's Summer-time Restaurant in Rye, NH www.petey's.com/index.html

Great reasons to go...

1. Buy some plants or flats that can be potted/donated to the May 30th Plant Sale
2. Enjoy the company of fellow garden club members
3. Enjoy the beauty of this nursery's plants, bushes and trees
4. Have some of the best seafood and chowder New England has to offer.



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.

ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO GARDEN

- 1. Make it fun.** Whenever planning anything, work out the fun angle, to keep your children's interest engaged.
- 2. Kit out your kids.** A big part of the fun is having the right tools made just for kids, in their size, and in wonderful colors. Gardening gloves for kids come in great colors and each child should have a pair of their own. Buy a pretty watering can which suits the child's size and strength.
- 3. Choose plants that are easy to grow.** Some good starter choices include: Sunflowers, Radishes, Squash, Tomatoes (from seedlings), Lettuces, Peas and beans, Sweet peas, poppies, alyssum, marigolds, pansies or nasturtiums.
- 4. Show your children the basics** of planting seeds and seedlings in the ground. Do the hard work for them first, like tilling, and give them the joy of planting, watering and waiting for their little plants to sprout.
- 5. Include wildlife** in your child's gardening experience. Add a birdbath or bird feeder. Tell children which animals should not be attracted to your garden! Help them to understand the beneficial role of animals in gardening, as well as pest problems.
- 6. Show children how to grow plants from cuttings.** This will amaze them endlessly, to see how you can take a cutting and get a new plant. Try plants that take easily to begin with, such as succulents, begonias, and bromeliads.
- 7. Make things for the garden.** Get crafty with the kids and recycle, repurpose and remake things that can serve as decorations or tools in the garden.
- 8. Decorate the garden** with your kids' art and craft efforts and let them help decide on placement.
- 9. Kids love computers,** have them download a suitable gardening app or two, or research about their garden and its plants online. Have older kids search for harder garden projects, like making a sundial, building a chicken coop or rigging up a solar power warming pad.
- 10. Keep gardening even when the season changes.** Bring the garden indoors for winter, so that your kids can still enjoy the benefits of growing plants. Good choices include a small herb garden, a windowsill planter, a terrarium built in an unwanted fish tank, or a window box. *Read this complete article at www.wikihow.com/Teach-Kids-to-Garden*