



West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • April, 2016

GETTING CREATIVE ABOUT GETTING PLANTS FOR OUR MAY 21ST PLANT SALE

The May plant sale is the major fundraising activity of our garden club. These funds make possible our community beautification projects, our speakers, donations to local charities, and our scholarships.

Perhaps your home garden doesn't need dividing this year, or maybe you live in a condominium now, and don't HAVE a garden to dig. How can you contribute to the donated plants to sell so that the club can profit fully?

- Approach neighbors who may have gardens with plants in need of dividing.
- Approach gardening friends and neighbors who may be thinking of selling their houses and would be willing to donate plants before the house is on the market.
- Purchase summer bulbs or tubers and start them growing NOW in pots. Many garden catalogs offer tuberous begonia, dahlias, special oriental or Asiatic lilies, and gladioli that are summer-growing. These require some special techniques for starting, but are far less costly than plants that are about to bloom. ORDER ASAP for best selections and prices.
- Purchase bare-root plants by mail-order, and pot these. Again, instructions should be closely followed. For bare-root tips visit [www.oregonlive.com/hg/index.ssf/2015/01/how to succeed with bare root.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/hg/index.ssf/2015/01/how_to_succeed_with_bare_root.html) (continued p. 2)

NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

April 7, 2016, 6:45 pm
1910 Building Annex, W. N.

Hosting the meeting

Chair: Donna Greene
Hope Cole, Gail Dinaro,
Dianne Faulkner,
Carol Hurn, Clover Nally,
Helen Thumser

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

Pruning Techniques and Tools with Jen Kettell

Jen is a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist and an ISA Certified Arborist®. For over a decade she worked as a horticulturist at the Arnold Arboretum, the oldest public arboretum in the United States. After spending her week caring for its amazing collection, Jen taught homeowners and professionals how to prune, guided snowshoe tours, and promoted the use of vines in every garden. Now she shares her passion for teaching horticulture through classes, workshops, and lectures through Horticulture Education and Consulting.

www.wngc.org



Make Way for Hummingbirds

Who isn't excited about seeing hummingbirds in their yard? They are amazing little birds!

Although there are over 300 hummingbird species, the only one typically seen east of the Mississippi River is the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. They spend the Winter in Mexico and Central America. Males migrate back into the US first, usually in early May, followed by the females about three weeks later. After a very brief courtship, the pair split up – the female aggressively defending her feeding territory. Nests are about the size of a walnut, and made from spiderwebs, lichen and plant down.

Native flowering plants that attract hummingbirds include: Monarda (bee balm), Trumpet Honeysuckle, Lobelia and Cardinal Flower. Long-blooming annuals also provide food for hummers: Fuchsia, Spider Flowers (Cleome), Petunias, Impatiens, Flowering Tobacco (Nicotiana) and Snapdragon.

You can also provide food with a hummingbird feeder and home-made nectar. To track the 2016 migration of Ruby-throated Humming birds, visit: <http://hummingbirds.net/map.html>



LAST MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

Art in Bloom Road Show



We met with the Newburyport Horticultural Society in Newburyport. Peggy Luderer and Carolyn Ellis of the Museum of Fine Arts Roadshow presented an interesting slide show of pairings of fine art and floral designs from prior Art in Bloom events. Carolyn's hands on design while sharing arranging tips was truly enjoyable.

Here is the finished design to interpret Kawase Hasui's *Yuki Falls at Shiobara*

Plant Sale May 21, 2016

(continued from page 1) Bare-root are much less expensive than potted plants, and typically have a larger root system. ORDER ASAP for best selections and prices. Local source: NH State Forest Nursery www.nhnursery.com/

Do you have other ideas? Contact one of the Plant Sale Chairs: Gail Dinaro, Barbara Butler or Donna Green.

A special thanks, also, to Jane Jeffers who makes available her garden shed for the potting of many dug plants!

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met March 10th and reviewed plans for the Plant sale and the 80th Year celebration. Anne Jarzobski, Anne Burrill and Evelyn Thorton have graciously volunteered to help with planning the 80th celebration. There was also discussion about making the community more aware that we are seeking gardens to dig or divide for the sale.

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, please tell one of the Board members.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

(Green Titles below are hot web links)

40th Annual Spring Festival of Art and Floral Design

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston April 30, 2016 – May 2, 2016

Once again, garden clubs (including our own Priscilla Styer) and professional designers from across New England will create floral arrangements inspired by the MFA's magnificent works of art. [Art in Bloom](#) is open during regular Museum hours (10 am–4:45 pm) and is free with MFA admission; no reservations are required to see the floral arrangements and participate in many of the programs. Free Programs included with Admission:

Art in Bloom Tours: Tour arrangements through the galleries 10 am–3 pm.

Designing with Flowers Noon–3 pm Continuous demonstrations of flower arranging for your home. **MFA Outdoor Walking Tour** 1–2 pm

Discover the MFA's architecture, outdoor sculpture, and neighboring gardens. **Special Tours:** If 10 or more of our garden club members (and friends) are interested in going together, we can receive a private tour, add a lecture, and consider adding an elegant tea !!! Contact Marie Scher and/or sign up at the April meeting.

As members of the WNGC, we are also members of the GCFM. Their quarterly publication, *The Mayflower* has articles and information of interest which can be accessed at: <http://gcfm.org/Mayflower.aspx>

Read this entire article on-line [Save An Heirloom Plant](#)

By: Maureen T. O'Brien in the Winter 2016 *Mayflower*, pp. 9-12

Heirloom plants appeared in American gardens in the past. They populated our grandmother's gardens; others were specimens in historic landscapes. They are reliable, disease resistant, fragrant and underused. Heirlooms are not necessarily better than the new plants filling our garden centers and catalogs. Rather they provide a link to our past and the foundation for our future in horticulture. Heirlooms add variety to our gardens. Unlike many of today's engineered hybrids, heirlooms are fragrant, fertile and hardy. They may be tall, quirky and colorful with precious blooms and foliage, and several are deer resistant.

Many heirloom ornamental plants are in danger of being lost forever, not through natural extinction but by human intervention. Just as there are fashions in clothes and furnishings, there are fashions in plants. Plants go in and out of style. Why should we care? Heirloom plants maintain our planet's biodiversity and document our history. Once lost, that plant's DNA is gone forever. Is there room for both new plants and heirlooms? Yes, but keeping the old varieties available is up to the public. We need to purchase heirloom plants, share them and grow them. This year, plan to preserve American Heirloom Plants. All plants listed are hardy to our zone and are available online at specialized nurseries and at Weston Nurseries, especially if ordered in the early spring. (Continued page 4)

Garden Planning

Cut branches for forcing flowers indoors such as Forsythia, flowering cherry, eastern redbud or pussy willow. In fact almost any spring bloomer can be forced. Put them in warm water (100°) as soon as they are cut, add floral preservative and move them into a warm house. If you keep the water clean (change weekly) you should start having flowers in two weeks and can keep getting flowers until they are blooming outdoors.

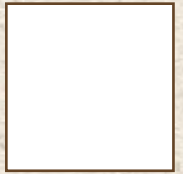
Indoors, start seeds for your vegetable garden, especially cabbage, lettuce, parsley, onions and leeks to plant out in the garden in April.

Outdoors, if and when your soil is workable, sow seeds of "cool weather crops" such as peas, spinach, radishes, and Swiss chard.

It will soon be time to fertilize lawns and apply grub control products (when the Forsythia blossom drops.) Also, do not mow your lawn until the grass has grown to at least three inches. Your grass was weakened by the winter and needs to send food to its roots before cutting. Lawns that weren't limed in the fall should be limed now. (You have had a soil test lately, haven't you? Google "UMass Soil test".) Once you lime, no fertilizer should be applied for three weeks because the lime will reduce the amount of nitrogen available to the grass if lime and fertilizer are put on at the same time. Luckily, now is a great time for liming and later in April will be the right time to fertilize.



West Newbury Garden Club
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Visit our website
www.wngc.org

Facebook
www.facebook.com/westnewburygardenclub

PRESERVING HEIRLOOM PLANTS

Read this entire article on-line [Save An Heirloom Plant](#) by Maureen T. O'Brien in the Winter 2016 Mayflower, pp. 9-12 for the description, year introduced and a picture of each plant.

Blue False Indigo – Baptisia Australis – (Bartram, Philadelphia 1787) A native perennial, it has violet-blue spikes of pea-like flowers, 12 - 24 in. long. Foliage is attractive after blooming. Fruit is a bluish-black pod 1 in. long with stems that turn a silvery gray and break off from the roots when seeds mature. Cherokees, other Indian tribes and early colonists used it as a blue dye. Roots were used in medicinal ways.

Culture: Bloom time is June to July. It needs full sun to light shade and well drained soil. It is tough, grows to 3-4 feet in both height and width. It does not transplant well, so care should be taken in its placement. It is low maintenance and attracts butterflies & bees. Once established, it is drought resistant and seldom has insect or disease problems. Deer ignore it.

Sweet Pepper Bush – Clethra alnifolia
(John Bartram, Philadelphia 1751)

Gas Plant – Dictamnus albus
(John Custis, ca. 1741)

Maltese Cross
(Goldwaite & Moore, Philadelphia 1796)

Moss Rose – Rosa centifolia cristata
(Winter, New York 1844)

Mock Orange – Philadelphus coronarius
(Prince, New York, 1771)

Peony 'Festiva Maxima' – Paeonia lactifolia
(Hovey, Boston 1852)

Snowberry – Symphoricarpos albus
(John Bartram, Philadelphia 1807)