



# West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • February, 2016

## ART IN BLOOM - HERE AND THERE!

Our March meeting will be a special joint venture with the Newburyport Horticultural Society featuring the Art in Bloom Road Show! The Museum of Fine Arts will send one of their most talented senior associates to tell us the behind the scenes story of this annual festival of art and flowers, including stunning images of recent floral interpretations of masterpieces in the MFA. Also enjoy a live design demonstration that will be raffled at the end of the evening. Note a different night and location: Tuesday, March 8th at the new Senior Community Center, 331 High St, Newburyport at 6:30 pm. Please plan to attend, further details will be in the March newsletter!

Then, mark your calendar for Art in Bloom April 30 – May 2, 2016 to celebrate 40 years of this exuberant spring festival at the MFA. This joyous rite of spring pairs fine art and floral design with offerings of free guided tours among MFA treasures, plus workshops, demonstrations, and lectures. Garden clubs and professional designers from across New England (such as Priscilla Styer of our own WNGC) create floral arrangements inspired by the MFA's works of art. Individual and group tickets go on sale February 25 at 10 am. For a complete listing of events and lectures visit [www.mfa.org/programs/series/art-bloom](http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/art-bloom)

## NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**Feb. 4, 2016, 6:45 pm**  
Town Offices Annex  
381 Main Street, W. N.

**Hosting the meeting**  
Chair Joan Tranfaglia  
Linda DeCoste,  
Gloria Kuran,  
Joan Quackenbos  
Tracy Peter  
Alison Scher

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

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

Michele Augeri is a young woman of many talents. She is an avid gardener and amateur naturalist who has been habitat gardening for over 20 years. As a librarian and compulsive reader/list maker, she has collected a large body of resources to help any novice gardener figure out how to begin the process of converting an existing landscape or starting a new "environmentally friendly" garden. Michele has a B.A. in Art History and a B.F.A. in Sculpture from the Massachusetts College of Art - where in addition to printmaking, she specialized in woodcarving, paper making, and sculptures made of found natural and re-purposed materials. She is currently the Reference and Cataloging Librarian at the Georgetown Peabody Library.



## Holiday Party Highlights

Thanks to the Holiday Party Committee, chaired by Kathy Krajleski, the annex was transformed into a glittering hall of holiday cheer. Tables displayed beautiful flower arrangements that members had made for the Cushing House. Jane Jeffers led a spirited trivia game and then governed the Yankee Swap. Amid laughter and fair play a whimsical moose, garden clippers and a fabulous homemade rum cake were of great interest and made the rounds. Committee members also included Jean Berkenbush, Cyndy Bourquard, Carrie Hometh, Mary Kemper, Kathy Mandeville and John Terry.



## LAST MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS Decking Many Halls!

Thank you to all those who made this Holiday season a little brighter and festive for so many! Numerous hands labored to make wreaths and arrangements at the December meeting. The results were shared at various locations in West Newbury and with some of our treasured members no longer able to come to club. More labor went into the fabulous decorations for the Cushing House which were also shared with club members at the our Holiday party. Among the highlights of the party were wonderful dishes to share, a fun yankee swap, and a trivia game that resulted in a donation being made to the winning team's charity of choice - the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The night ended with the Scher's car being packed with donations to be taken to the Pettengill House. Thank you to everyone who so generously gave of their time, talent, and effort this season!

## Winter Ideas

**Take Care of Those Houseplants!** Whether you grow philodendrons or orchids, cactus or hibiscus, remember they need help to get through the winter — even indoors.

With much lower light levels than they had during summer (even at the same window) they need less water and no food. For most house plants you can throw out the schedule and water only when the soil feels dry a couple of inches down. And do not feed them until spring. They cannot grow successfully until there's more light available. Cacti and succulents generally need no watering at all during the winter unless you see signs of wilting. Remember to give each plant a quarter turn every week—whether you are watering it or not—to keep it from leaning to the light. For more timely tips follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/westnewburygardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/westnewburygardenclub)

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board had a well deserved rest with no Board meetings in December and January.

### Member News

Dot Cavanaugh's neighbor is about to trim her Swedish Ivy house plant. If anyone would like cuttings, please let Dot know by calling 978-363-1295.

*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)*

Saturday, January 30th , 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Winter Botany**

Join us as we investigate the taxonomic characteristics of deciduous, evergreen, and some herbaceous plants in winter. Learn to use a dichotomous key and then identify a large inventory of twig and plant specimens. After lunch, we will head out into the Garden. Bring a bag lunch, a hand lens, and a copy of Fruit Key and Twig Key to Trees and Shrubs by William M. Harlow. Take home plant specimens.

Location: Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA

Instructor: William E. Kuriger \$80 (Member) / \$96 (Nonmember)

January 30th 1:00 p.m. **Photography Class with Sandy Thomas**

Join Sandy Thomas in the beauty of Churchill's greenhouse for instruction and guidance about shooting close on nature photos. Try your hand with the tropical colors and rich backgrounds of our indoor plants. Bring your own camera setup in with your cell phone camera for great photo fun. Registration, call 603-772-2685, ext 2.

Wednesday, February 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Wetland Shrubs in Winter**

Learn to identify wetland shrubs using branching patterns, bud and bark characteristics, habitat, persistent fruits, galls, and marcescent leaves. Garden in the Woods provides an excellent field site for study. We will begin with a short session indoors, then head into the Garden for a close look at almost twenty native New England shrubs that grow in and around wetlands. Bring a bag lunch and a hand lens if you have one, and dress for the weather.

Location: Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA Instructor: Roland "Boot" Boutwell Fee: \$53 (Member) / \$64 (Nonmember)

Faith Circle of Groveland Congregational Church in partnership with The Actors Company presents **J.T. Turner in Adventures of Benjamin Franklin** Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 2:00 pm at 4 King St., Groveland, MA Tickets \$10; \$5 children 10 & under: Call (978)-372-3463

Refreshments will be served following the one hour performance. "Printer, Scientist, Inventor, Author, Ambassador, Patriot.....Benjamin Franklin has been called "the First American". His rich and colorful life is recounted in this wonderful one-man show. Meet and listen as one of the world's greatest statesmen and authors tells a tale that weaves history and humor. Dr. Franklin recounts his life from his youth in Boston, through his days as a printer in Philadelphia, and then his years as an inventor, philanthropist and revolutionary."

**Boston Flower Show** Wednesday - Sunday, March 16-20, 2016

This year's theme is "Nurtured by Nature" 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. Tickets may be purchased online or at the show. More information can be found at: [www.bostonflowershow.com](http://www.bostonflowershow.com)

## Garden Planning

### Online Gardening Courses

January and February can be challenging months for gardeners. We've put away the holiday decorations. Perhaps taken a dusting brush and clippers to our sad-looking, sun-deprived house plants. The seed catalogs have started arriving, but it's too soon to think about peat pots and grow lights. Perhaps it's a good time to take advantage of an online gardening course? Typically these courses are self-paced, intended for adult learners, and can be viewed in the convenience of your own home. Here are just a few:

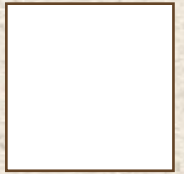
Australia's ACS Distance Education offers Landscape Design which was originally published in Your Backyard magazine and includes four lessons addressing the basic principles behind garden design, environmental studies and landscape planning. Cost : FREE. [www.acs.edu.au/free-courses/landscape-design/default.aspx](http://www.acs.edu.au/free-courses/landscape-design/default.aspx)

Oregon State University offers Master Gardener Online Short Course Series. These eight courses, based on the OSU Master Gardener curriculum, allow you to learn specific fundamentals of gardening. Cost: \$20/course. More info and to register: <https://pace.oregonstate.edu/catalog/master-gardener-online-short-course-series>

Universal Class offers Introduction to Gardening – Gardening 101. This eleven lesson accredited course covers all the basics of gardening, including instructor support. Cost: \$50 (or \$75 with CEU Certificate). More info and to register: <https://www.universalclass.com/i/course/learn-gardening-basics.htm>



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.

## CUSHING HOUSE DINNING ROOM

