



West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • March, 2016

WNGC PLANT SALE IS MAY 21, 2016!

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.

ALL garden club members are expected to work on at least one plant sale committee. Members who attended the February meeting have already signed up for a committee(s) of their choice. The Board of Directors is getting an early start on the plant sale this year. As we will not be meeting in our own building for the March meeting, President Marie Scher requests that everyone who has not signed up do so before the March meeting. If you have not already done so, please email Marie Scher at marie.scher@comcast.net with your choice of committee(s).

The Plant Sale committees are Digging, Potting, Sun, Shade, Knapps, Set-up and Clean-up. Descriptions for each of these committees can be found in our club manual, Page 15, at the following link: www.wngc.org/manual.pdf

Also, please spread the word around to local realtors and civic groups to be on the lookout for gardens we can dig at. And by the way, the digging committee will be happy to come to your house, as well, if you need help. Just ask!

NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March 8, 2016, 6:30 pm

Senior Community Center,
331 High St, Newburyport

Hosting the meeting

Chair Elise Henrichs
Sue Dougherty
Barbara Haack
Carol Hurn
Pollyann Statom
Marie Scher

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

Art In Bloom Road Show

(Note: Tuesday, March 8, in Newburyport)

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. (There is a \$10.00 guest fee for this event if you are not a member of either the NHS or WNGC.)

www.wngc.org



Scholarship Applications

Each year, our Garden Club provides scholarships to local students from the proceeds of our Annual Plant Sale. We are now accepting applications for 2016 scholarships. Please help spread the word on this great opportunity! To be eligible, the student needs to:

- Be attending college in the 2016-2017 academic year. (Seniors in High School or college students.)
- Reside in West Newbury, Groveland, or Merrimac
- 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,
postmarked by April 22.
A Scholarship Application Form
An essay from the candidates describing his/her motivation for pursuing a career in the environment
Three letters of recommendation
A school transcript.

If you have any questions, please email Nancy Pau at nancy_pau@yahoo.com

LAST MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

Growing Native in New England

A Beginner's Guide to Cultivating Biodiversity in Your Garden. Michele Augeri, an avid gardener and amateur naturalist from Newbury, gave a compelling presentation on why we need to choose plant species native to our area. "Native plants" are those that have been growing regionally for perhaps thousands of years, and are best adapted for our climate, soil and other conditions, and most perfectly support local insects, birds and animals. Michele described the difference in her own property when she sought out native plants – less watering, maintenance, far more birds feeding and nesting, and more pollinating insects.

Michele highly recommends the books: *Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Backyards* by Stein (1993) and *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* by Tallamy (2011).

Do You Keep A Journal?

This is the month to start a gardening journal. March is a great month for reflection. Your journal doesn't have to be formal. You just need something where you can write down what is happening in the garden, the things you like and those you want to change. A hardbound journal, your on-line 'diary' or the old Staples wire-bound notebook you just found cleaning out a closet will work. It doesn't matter where or how you do it, just do it. If you have nothing else to say, note the weather. If you write every day this week, you'll do it every day this month and every day this year. Next winter you will not have to wrack your brain to remember the name of that variety of heirloom rose you saw and loved, or the new zucchini everyone loved or why you will never plant mint again.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met February 11th and discussed items for the plant sale, potential ideas for the 80th Celebration and ways to generate ideas for other fundraising ventures.

Welcome A New Member: Mary Kuck

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)

"The Joy of Herbs" with Rita Wollmering of The HERB FARMacy on Tuesday, March 1st, 7pm at the Merrimac Senior Center. (Merrimac Garden Club) Please join us to learn about the wonderful world of herbs – organic growing conditions, harvesting techniques and preserving your herbal bounty (such as vinegars, oils, honeys, cleaning products and so much more). We will make three herbal mixtures that you will take home. Public is welcome. \$10.00 material fee for non-members. Please call Sue at 978-346-8097 or email susansisson@yahoo.com by February 26 to reserve your place.

Webinar: Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden

Wednesday, March 2nd 6:30-7:15pm

There is no need to sacrifice beauty, order, or variety in order to attract pollinators to your garden. Join Dan Jaffe to learn about beautiful, low-maintenance plants that thrive in any environment and attract our flying, pollinating friends. Program Code: HORW200 Instructor: Dan Jaffe Fee: \$5 (NEWFS Member) / \$8 (Non-member) Online Registration at <http://www.newfs.org/learn/our-programs/webinar-attracting-pollinators-to-your-garden>

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

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

Lessons from New England's Public Gardens

Thursday, March 24th 10:30-2pm

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts presents this program featuring speaker Suzanne Mahler.

Location: Espousal Center Waltham, MA COST: \$15 including a light lunch. Space is limited. Info: <http://gcfm.org/>

Garden Planning

Native Plants for Massachusetts

Check out a very helpful website entitled Grow Native Massachusetts, found at www.grownativemass.org/whatarenativeplants, sponsored by a non-profit group by that name. The site includes information about native plant species, programs and events, places to buy native plants, articles and much more! Membership includes a newsletter.

Other helpful sites include: US Department of Agriculture's Native Wildflowers found at: www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/NativePlantMaterials/NativeGardening/index.shtml

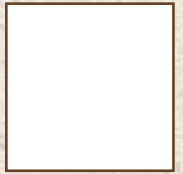
Wild Ones – Native Plants, Natural Landscapes www.wildones.org/learn/native-plants-natural-landscaping/

NH State Forest Nursery, with an on-line catalog of seedlings www.nhnursery.com/

And, don't forget... As members of the West Newbury Garden Club, 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>



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



Visit our website
www.wngc.org

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www.facebook.com/westnewburygardenclub

LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Flower Garden Basics – March 31st 6:30-7:30 G.A.R. Library, West Newbury

Prompted by the most basic questions from some folks who have come to our Plant Sale, Kathy Mandeville offered to put together a short presentation for area folks thinking about starting a flower garden. “We take so much of what we’ve learned about growing flowers for granted. We know the difference between annuals and perennials. We consider plant zones, sun requirements, soil conditions when we choose

plants. But unless you’ve grown up with a garden fairy in your family or have read books – you can easily become overwhelmed and discouraged.” Kathy also wants to promote the West Newbury Garden Club (WNGC) as a gathering place for new as well as experienced gardeners. “I’m going to give a brief presentation on flowering gardening basics, then have a few WNGC members share a bit about how they started gardening, what they’ve learned, mistakes they’ve made, and favorite garden flowers. It would be great to start a mentoring program between experienced and new gardeners in town.”

Kathy welcomes WNGC members to this session as well as new gardeners. If you would like to participate in the presentation, please contact Kathy at: kmandeville2@comcast.net or 978-510-1159. Reserve a seat on-line at www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=GARML&curapp=events

