



West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • May, 2016

PLANT SALE IS FAST APPROACHING MAY 21ST!

If you have not begun to pot the plants you are donating, this is the week to do it to give them enough time to look their best by the day of the sale. We are hoping that all members who have a garden will donate at least 10 potted plants. If you don't have a garden at present, consider purchasing a flat or two of flowers and potting them up for the Sale as your contribution. This is our only fund raiser for the year, and we depend on all members to contribute. A few suggestions:

- * Use pots that are an appropriate size for the plant. This also makes it easier for us to price them correctly.
- * Keep pots watered until you deliver them to either the Shade or Sun committee. (Linda Schaeffer for Shade and Lynn Boyd for Sun plants.)
- * Label your pots with the name of plant and whether it needs shade or sun.
- * If able, print a picture of the plant, It really does help sell the plant, especially to new gardeners. If you are donating a number of plants of the same variety, only one picture is necessary. Attaching the picture to a stick is an added help. The website, whiteflower-farm.com has most of the plant pictures you will need.
- * Wiping down the outside of the pots is appreciated.
- * All members are requested to bake an item for everyone's favorite spot - the Bake Table. We are probably our own best customers, so make something delicious!
- * If you have a wagon or cart that we can use for the day, please bring it with you. It makes transporting purchased plants to buyers vehicles so much easier.

If you have any questions or concerns please call or email either Barbara Butler, Gail DiNaro or Donna Greene. Thank you!

NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

May 5, 2016, 6:00 pm

Town Offices Annex
381 Main Street, W. N.

Hosting the meeting

Chair: Dot Cavanaugh
Barbara Butler
Marilyn Kent
Nora O'Neil
Jeanne Pucci
Deb Whitaker

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

ANNUAL MEETING AND POT LUCK DINNER

Thursday, May 5th 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 plant sale, and enjoy looking ahead together to summer's gardening adventures.

www.wngc.org



Planting for Pollinators

On April 12th, the Rockingham County Master Gardeners presented a program at the Hampton Free Library in Hampton, Falls, NH. The presentation covered the importance of native bees and other pollinating insects, important native flowers and plants, and links to several new resources with many practical suggestions for gardeners and property owners.

Explore the following:

Planting for Pollinators in Northern New England https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource005603_Rep7826.jpg
This colorful brochure provides practical information on starting a meadow garden, with specific recommendations on wildflowers for our area, as well as when they bloom.

Native Bees of New England <http://www.nativebeesofnewengland.com/>
This site's mission is to provide information about the bees present in New England including diversity, ecology, flower preference, and flower ecology in order to increase understanding and awareness of pollinators and the services they provide.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service <http://plants.usda.gov/> A site packed with information about plants – common and scientific names, photos, whether introduced or Native, preferred growing conditions – an amazing site!

Further information on gardening can be obtained from the University of NH Cooperative Extension office:

By phone: Monday-Friday
9am-2pm 877.398.4769
By email: answer@unh.edu

LAST MEETING'S HIGHLIGHTS

Pruning Techniques and Tools

Talk about someone who could take the terror out of pruning! Jen Kettell's presentation on pruning techniques was lively, simple, informative, and confidence-inspiring. As a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist and an ISA Certified Arborist® with over a decade of experience as a horticulturist at the Arnold Arboretum, Jen provided clear guidance on basic principles of where, when, what, and how to prune. She also shared recommendations for buying and using pruning shears and saws. Many of her recommendations are on her website at <http://jenkettell.com> Her presentation and handouts are available for our club use at <http://jenkettell.com/westnewbury> (password: shrubs!)

Board Meeting Highlights

The WNGC Board of Directors met on April 14th. President Marie Scher presented the Nominating Committee's slate of board members for the 2016-17 year. Two members from the West Newbury Cultural Council (WNCC) came to the meeting to see if there would be interest in a joint Garden Tour and Art Show for June 2017. The Board enthusiastically agreed that this could be a great collaboration, and voted to pursue this idea. We will be seeking members interested in helping to plan this joint WNGC/WNCC event. Other discussion focused on publicity for the May Plant Sale.

As outlined in our By-Laws, the WNGC President appoints a Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of Board of Director nominees for the upcoming year. This year's Nominating Committee members were Elise Henrichs and Susan Dougherty. "There shall be four (4) Directors, each serving a minimum of two (2) years, with the intent of electing two (2) new members annually. The President shall automatically become a Director". (Article V, Section 1.e) Officers for the coming year are elected by the membership at the May Annual Meeting. Per the bylaws the Board voted to extend the terms of the 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents beyond the three year limit. Stepping down from the Board will be Sandy Preble and Jane Jeffers. Thank you both for the time, wisdom and energy you've shared with this Board and Club.

Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors for 2016-17

President	Kathy Mandeville
First Vice-President	Joan Tranfaglia
Second Vice-President	Linda Schaeffer
Treasurer	Donna Greene
Recording Secretary	Deb Whitaker
Corresponding Secretary	Kathy Krajieski
Director	Marie Scher
Director	Lynn Boyd (new)
Director	Dot Cavanaugh
Director	Peg Duchemin (new)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

(Green titles below are hot web links)

April 30-May 2 40th **Art in Bloom!** Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Priscillia Styer has an entry for the WNGC!

May 3-4 **Daffodil Show**, Tower Hill Botanical Gardens Boylston, MA,
Free with Tower Hill admission.

May 14th **Grow Native Plant Sale** UMass Waltham Field Station
240 Beaver Street Waltham, MA 9am – 4pm More information Free

May 21st West Newbury Garden Club **Plant and Bake Sale**
Don't even THINK about being somewhere else!

Pettengill Farms, Salisbury, MA Info and Reservations (978) 462-3675

April 30 Showcase Day	1am-2pm	
May 3 Gardening Facts with Tim Lamprey	6-8pm	\$15
May 7 Succulent Planter	9:30-11:30 am	\$15
May 10 Make Your Own Home and Bath Products	6-8 pm	\$50
May 12 Annual Window Box	6-8 pm	\$35
May 14 Perennial Container or Window Box	9:30-11:30 am	\$15
May 19 Learning to Garden with Perennials	6-8 pm	\$35
May 26 Magnificent Container	6-8 pm	\$15

Churchill's Gardens, Exeter, NH Reservations: (603)772-2685 x 2

May 7 Learn about Ground Cover	1pm
May 8 Spring Container Class	1pm
May 14 Perennial Garden Design and Care	1pm
May 21 Growing Herbs	1pm
May 28 All About Hydrangea	1pm

Lake Street Garden Center, Salem, NH Call (603) 893-5858

May 14 Edible Landscaping	10 - 11:30am	Register
May 15 Paul Parent Live Broadcast	6:00am - 10:00am	
Paul Parent Meet and Q&A	10:00am -2:00pm	
May 21 Green Team Kids - Bees: What's The Buzz	1:00pm	Register



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>

Garden Planning

Ready to use Northeast Pollinator Plants? There are many places that make all the right choices for you! www.northeastpollinators.com has a wide selection for sale, example:

Pollinator Garden Collection for Sun to Part Sun, Dry to Moist \$ 94.50

21 plants for a 84 s.f. garden, 42 plants for a 168 s.f. garden, 63 plants for a 252 s.f. garden, 84 plants for a 336 s.f. garden

Includes 10 well-behaved, long-lasting species of native wildflowers and 1 native grass species selected to provide constant and overlapping flowering for our valued pollinators in a sun-part sun, dry-moist garden.

Species to include:

Early Flowering: Penstemon digitalis (Beardtongue), Geranium maculatum (Cranesbill), Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower), Baptisia australis (Blue Wild Indigo).

Mid-Season Flowering: Veronicastrum virginicum (Culver's Root), Agastache foeniculum (Anise Hyssop), Monarda fistulosa (Wild Bergamot), Helenium autumnale (Sneeze-weed).

Late Flowering: Symphiotrichum novae-angliae (New England Aster), Vernonia noveboracensis (New York Ironweed).

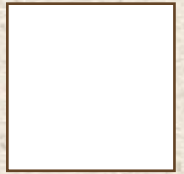
Native Grass: Andropogon gerardii (Big Bluestem).



West Newbury Garden Club

P. O. Box 11

West Newbury, MA 01985



Visit our website

www.wngc.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/westnewburygardenclub

UNUSUAL EDIBLE FLOWERS

Before you harvest a bunch of flowers for the dinner table, it's important to remember that some flowers are poisonous. Make sure you've made a positive identification of each variety you're using. Avoid flowers that may have been sprayed with pesticides or other chemicals, so either grow your own organic flowers, or harvest them from a location you're sure about. All flowers should be shaken and washed in cold water prior to use, as they may have insects. Pick your edible flowers in the morning, when they have the highest water content. Keep them on some dampened paper towel inside a sealed container in the refrigerator for up to a week. You can revive wilted flowers by floating them in some ice water for a few minutes. Prepare them for eating just before serving in order to prevent further wilting. Remove the stamens and styles from flowers before eating. Pollen can cause allergic reactions when eaten by some people, and it may overwhelm the otherwise delicate flavor of the petals. The exception here is the Violas, including Johnny-Jump-Ups and pansies, as well as scarlet runner beans, honeysuckle and clover. The flowers of these varieties can be enjoyed whole, and will probably be more flavourful this way. For a comprehensive list and more from this article go to <https://www.westcoastseeds.com/articles-and-instructions/flower-talk/list-of-edible-flowers/> Here are some examples:

Begonia – both tuberous (*Begonia x tuberhybrida*) and wax (*B. x semperflorens-cultorum*) begonias have edible flowers with a slightly bitter to sharp citrus flavor. Tuberous begonia flowers contain oxalic acid, so should be avoided by people suffering from kidney stones, gout, or rheumatism.

Dame's Rocket – The petals of this tall relative of mustard (*Hesperis matronalis*) are pink, lavender, or white, and always come in fours. Perennial Phlox looks similar, and also has edible flowers, but always have five petals. The petals (and the immature leaves) of Dame's Rocket are worth adding to salads, but have a mild bitter flavour.

Dianthus – Look for the large-flowered carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus*), and cut the sweet tasting petals away from the bitter white base of each flower. The bright red and pink petals have a mild clove flavor and are great for desserts or salads.

Sunflower – unopened sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) buds can be steamed or sautéed in butter and served whole. They have an artichoke-like flavour. Alternately, the petals can be pulled from the edge of the opened flower and added to soups and salads. Their flavor is somewhat bitter.