



# West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • October, 2015

## PROPER WINTER HYDRANGEA CARE ENSURES A SPECTACULAR SUMMER BLOOM

For many of us, our *Endless Summer* never really began this year. Now that summer is coming to an end it may be prudent to discuss why, especially because some experts are calling for a repeat of last winter. Lakeview Nurseries offers advice to prepare Hydrangea for the winter. "After a severely cold winter, Hydrangeas may not bloom because the cold kills the stems and the flower buds down to the ground. Winter damaged plants usually come up in the spring from the ground with beautiful leaves, but no flowers.

The easiest way to help protect your Hydrangea from a cold, long Central Massachusetts winter is to mulch it in like you would a rose bush. A weed-free mulching hay is the best type of mulch to use, but bark mulches like pine and hemlock will also do the trick. The quickest way to get the job done is to buy a Rose Cone, a pyramid shaped device with an open top, place it over the Hydrangea bush and fill the cone with weed-free mulching hay. I usually wait until we've had several hard frosts to knock most of the foliage off the plant, but do it before the ground has frozen solid. Instead of purchasing a Rose Cone, you could make a similar device out of chicken wire or wood. It's important to leave the top open so air and moisture can still get in and circulate. The Rose Cone and mulch should be removed in early spring." Read their complete article at <http://lakeviewnurseries.com/why-wont-my-hydrangea-bloom/>. Here is another in-depth resource at [http://www.hydrangea.com/Winter\\_Care.php](http://www.hydrangea.com/Winter_Care.php)

## NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**October 1, 2015, 6:45 pm**

Town Offices Annex  
381 Main Street, W. N.

**Hosting the meeting  
Chair: Sandi Preble**

Anne Burrill, Ellie Bragg,  
Anne Jarzowski, Jerusha  
Ryan, Evelyn Thornton

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

### **All About Succulents**

Melissa Pace, Master Gardener from Plainville, Massachusetts, will present an interesting program on the variety and uses of succulents in our indoor and outdoor gardens. Melissa is an award-winning horticulturalist who competes in numerous garden and flower shows, from the Philadelphia Flower Show to the Bolton Fair. By trade, Melissa is an artist and art teacher and holds a Masters degree from Bridgewater University.

Yearbooks will be available and dues of \$25.00 will be collected.

[www.wngc.org](http://www.wngc.org)



## About The GCFM, Inc.

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. (GCFM), [www.gcfm.org](http://www.gcfm.org) was founded in 1927 and incorporated in 1949. One hundred and eighty-four (184) garden clubs, including our club, belong to this organization, representing 11,765 club members. GCFM's mission is "dedicated to assisting member clubs with education and appreciation of Horticulture, Landscape and Floral Design, Gardening, and Environmental concerns". The Federation is divided into nine (9) regional districts. The West Newbury Garden Club (WNGC) belongs to the Northern District along with twenty-one (21) other clubs. One of the main objectives of GCFM is "to coordinate the interests of garden clubs of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to bring them into closer relations of mutual helpfulness by association, conferences and correspondence."

Through membership in this state organization the Club benefits from tax and insurance umbrellas and WNGC members benefit by being able to attend GCFM sponsored conferences and other events, as well as having access to the organization's quarterly newsletter, *Mayflower*, which can be accessed at [www.gcfm.org/mayflower](http://www.gcfm.org/mayflower)

### GCFM, Inc. Call To Fall Conference

Club Presidents, Garden Club Members and Guests  
Please Join President Betty Sanders  
"Growing Together"

Monday, October 26, 2015  
Framingham Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, 1657 Worcester Rd., Framingham, MA 01701

For more information and registration speak to Marie Scher or visit <http://gcfm.org/Meetings/FallConference.aspx>

# LAST MEETING'S HIGHLIGHTS

## Opening Meeting

Wine and Cheese Tasting  
Zorvino Winery, Sandown, NH

"Over the river and through the woods" traveled thirty-three garden club members and two guests to the first meeting of the 2015-16 program year. Club officers greeted members with warm welcomes and fresh-off-the-press club yearbooks. Club President, Marie Scher, introduced new club members. After an opportunity to chat among ourselves and partake of cheese and crackers, we were ushered into a barn-like room for a presentation on wines, and the anticipated tastings. The entertaining and knowledgeable hostess gave an overview of winemaking, types of wines and the history of this winery, created in 2006. Grapes are grown on the property, and these as well as grapes from Tuscany, Chile and Northern California are used to produce a number of red and white wine varieties. They also produce fruit wines using locally grown fruits and berries. Many grape and fruit wines were presented for tasting. Many members toured the production site and purchased bottles to bring home. A successful evening and start to the year!

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met on September 17th. Members remarked on the great turn-out for the Wine and Cheese Tasting event held on September 10th at Zorvino Vineyards, and the positive comments received from all with whom they spoke. President Marie Scher shared a listing of upcoming events being sponsored by the Federation of Garden Clubs. A decision was made to post the newly created WNGC Operational Manual on the club's website. This will give members a good reference to officer roles and helpful descriptions of various club committees and activities.

### Welcome New Members

Anne Sanchez Felix

Lori Boudrow

### Member News

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)

**Garden in the Woods** 180 Hemenway Road Framingham, MA  
508-877-7630

Several workshops are being offered in October. They include Identifying Trees by Their Bark and Weekend Gardening Series: Pruning Visit website for further information.

**Tower Hill Botanical Garden** Boylston, MA 508.869.6111

Several programs are offered in October. They include: The Rock Garden, Native Tree ID Walk, It's All About the Soil, Autumn Leaves: Botanical Painting in Watercolor and Woody Plants of Fall Interest. Enjoy docent-led Sunday Afternoon Garden Tours from 2-3:30pm. Cost: Included with admission. **View complete course listings**. Weekends of October 3rd -4th and 10th -12th think about visiting Fall Food Fest Weekend at Tower Hill featuring Heirloom Orchard Tours and Apple Tastings, Cooking Demos, Local Beer and Cider Samplings and Unique Kids Activities and More. Also opening this Autumn, *A Garden Within Reach*. A universally accessible space for peace, beauty, and learning, featuring signature Tower Hill plantings, innovative moveable planters and other elements which represent solutions for mobility-challenged gardeners.

**Boston Flower and Garden Show 2016**

The 2016 show will be entitled "Nurtured by Nature" and will be held Wednesday, March 16th through Sunday, March 20th at the Seaport World Trade Center. The theme for Design Division is "Nature Inspires..."

## Gardening Among Kids

Club President, Marie Scher, taught school for many years, and is very interested in exploring ways that our club might help promote gardening among school children. She plans to attend the GCFM sponsored workshop on November 5th from 10:00 am – noon entitled: "GROWING GARDENERS: CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND GARDENS".

The workshop is being led by JOHN FORTI, Director of Horticulture, Massachusetts Horticultural Society. John was formerly at Strawberry Banke Museum. "He's an excellent speaker", says Marie, "and passionate about getting kids excited about gardening." John will share plans, ideas and ways we can all use to teach our children to be enthusiastic gardeners. Let Marie know if you would like to be involved and attend the workshop.

CONTACTS: Chairman: Betsy Williams 978-470-0911,  
betsy@betsywilliams.com South Church, 41 Central St., Andover, MA  
Cost: Members of GCFM, guests welcome. Donation \$5/ \$10 at the door.

## Garden Planning

### Planting Spring Bulbs this Fall

- Plant when the soil cools below 60
- Provide good drainage or they will rot.
- Dig a hole three times as deep as the bulb is wide.
- To naturalize, remove a neat patch of sod, plant the bulbs, water and replace the sod.
- Planning: Keep in mind bulb foliage should be allowed to mature and die back in the Spring to promote blooms next year.
- Discourage critters from digging and eating the bulbs faster than you plant them: include a moth ball or broken sea shells with the bulb booster in the hole.
- Cover new bulbs with chicken wire to discourage animals from digging and eating them.
- Mark your new plantings so you can find them in the spring when cleaning debris away.
- Remember, Daffodils are critter and deer resistant!

Divide hosta clumps before leaves die back for nicely rounded plants next year.

Last chance to divide perennials and establish new roots.

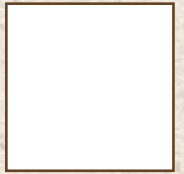
Cut back perennials to 4" after a killing frost. Don't leave rotting stems and foliage that invite disease.

### Perennials for the 2016 Plant Sale

Reminding members that the more perennials we provide for the May Plant Sale, the more funds generated that can be used to support our club activities. Pot those young seedlings and divided plants this Fall. We can find locations to over-winter pots if you don't have the space. For those perennials that you are wintering in the ground, mark them with stakes NOW, so you can find them easily in the Spring, and write down the colors before memories fade.



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.

## USING MULCH TO PROTECT FROM WINTER COLD

Putting down winter mulch is important as the ground may thaw and freeze if there is inadequate snow cover. This exposes plant roots to winter kill. To mulch, use any organic material that hasn't been treated with an herbicide. A good mulch blocks sunshine, but allows good air circulation. Rain should reach the soil through it. Hay, straw, pine needles and evergreen boughs from Christmas trees are good mulching materials. If you use leaves, don't let them get packed down. Spread your mulch wide. Roots extend at least as far as the foliage.

Shredded leaves make excellent mulch. Rake the leaves into a low pile. Run over them several times with the lawn mower.

Salt marsh hay is a fine winter mulch, but it is only sold for a few months in the fall. Buy it when it's available.

Don't put down a thick winter mulch until the ground freezes. If your mulch is more than 2" deep, field mice will nest there. Turn over any mulch after a frost to chase away uninvited guests.

When you mulch, leave 6" of bare ground around stems and trunks so they will harden for the winter.

Mulch the strawberry bed with pine needles. Wait until the ground is hardened from frost, and all growth has stopped.

Mulch azaleas, laurels, and rhododendrons .

Top dress trees and shrubs with a "no nitrogen" fertilizer. In the fall, apply fertilizer to stimulate root growth and strengthen the shrub. The roots will continue to grow until the soil freezes.

