



# West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • September, 2015

## SUMMER GARDEN TRIPS AND TRIUMPHS

Barbara Merrill visited the Asticou Azalea Garden and Thuya Garden on Mount Desert Island in Northeast Harbor, ME in July, and commented that both were spectacular. "Great landscaping in the Azalea Garden and incredible blooms in the Thuya Garden." Additionally, she visited the **Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens** in Boothbay, ME. 270 acres of outstanding, award winning gardens. The gardens were opened in 2007. "This is our third visit and we have enjoyed watching the gardens mature. These gardens are very well planned and maintained - a must see for anyone interested in horticulture." A new plant that Barbara tried this summer is *Penstemon* Marble Riding Hood. It requires full sun, grows about 18" tall and has a lovely salmon/pink spired bloom in summer. Hardy in zones 5 - 8. "It has been easy so far but I will watch to see how well it gets through the winter."

Jane Pucci and Kathy Mandeville visited **Sedgwick Gardens at Long Hill** in Beverly, MA. A Trustee of reservations property, the gardens feature plantings started as early as 1916 and enhanced in 1937 with and rare species of trees and shrubs – many from Asia. The gardens are laid out in a series of separate garden "rooms" surrounding the handsome, Federal-style, brick house. Each "room" is distinct in its own way, accented by ornaments and statuary. "Our enjoyable morning exploring the gardens was complemented by an equally enjoyable lunch at the **Wenham Tea House** located nearby."

## NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, September 10th at  
6:00 pm (note date and time)

***Wine and Cheese Tasting at  
Zorvino Winery***  
***226 Main Street, Sandown, NH***  
***[www.zorvino.com/](http://www.zorvino.com/)***

5:15 pm Car pool leaving from  
1910 Building Annex  
381 Main Street, W. Newbury, MA

RSVP is required (to Linda Schaeffer) and please indicate with your reply whether you will be carpooling (if you need a ride or can drive) or will meet the group there.

### ***Opening Meeting at Zorvino Vineyards and Winery***

Welcome back for our first meeting of the year! Come and enjoy an informal time to catch up with friends and meet new members. Consider a light dinner before you come, as only cheese and crackers will be offered with the wine. For those interested, bottles of wine from the vineyard will be available for purchase.

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

*Special Thanks to Joan Tranfaglia:* In the Spring, Joan learned that she had won a raffle prize of a wine and cheese tasting for 20 at a winery in Southern NH. Joan shared the news at the May WNGC Board meeting, and offered this as a fun opportunity for garden club members. The Board welcomed the idea, and voted to pay for the additional costs so that all interested members could join in. Thank you for sharing Joan!

## Gardens Near and Far

Here are the destinations mentioned in this newsletter and links to some of the destinations mentioned by the Scher's in June.

- Asticou Azalea Garden and Thuya Garden on Mount Desert Island in Northeast Harbor, ME  
[www.gardenpreserve.org](http://www.gardenpreserve.org).
- Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, ME  
[www.mainegardens.org](http://www.mainegardens.org).
- Heritage Museums and Gardens in Sandwich, MA  
[heritagemuseumsandgardens.org](http://heritagemuseumsandgardens.org)
- Sedgwick Gardens at Long Hill in Beverly, MA . [www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/northeast-ma/long-hill.html](http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/northeast-ma/long-hill.html)
- Wenham Tea House [www.wenhamteahouse.com/](http://www.wenhamteahouse.com/)
- Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH  
<http://bedrockgardens.org/>
- Tower Hill Botanical Gardens  
[www.towerhillbg.org/](http://www.towerhillbg.org/)
- Stevens-Coolidge Place, North Andover, MA [www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/north-shore/stevens-coolidge-place.html](http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/north-shore/stevens-coolidge-place.html)
- Rose Parade [www.tournamentofroses.com/official-packages](http://www.tournamentofroses.com/official-packages)
- Huntington Museum and Gardens [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org)
- Keukenhof (Netherlands)  
[www.keukenhof.nl/en/](http://www.keukenhof.nl/en/)
- Ottawa Tulip Festival <http://tulipfestival.ca>
- Mosaiculture [www.mosaiculturesinternationales.ca/en/](http://www.mosaiculturesinternationales.ca/en/) (suggest you like them on FB to see when the next expo will be in North America)

## More Trips and Triumphs

Jane Jeffers attended a 3-day course on hydrangeas this summer at the **Heritage Museums and Gardens** in Sandwich, MA . The course consisted of 2 days of seminars and then a garden tour of hydrangea gardens at the Cape. Jane wrote, "it was a terrific experience. I was considered a hydrangea 'enthusiast', while many of the other attendees were professional breeders and hybridizers. The course covered everything from the history of hydrangeas to the latest and greatest species and cultivars. Michael Dirr, well known as the guru on hydrangeas and author of the book, *Hydrangeas for American Gardens*, gave an overview of remontant or reblooming cultivars, and Mel Condon, a former hydrangea grower from Martha's Vineyard provided guidance on how and when to prune hydrangeas and how to protect macrophyllas from our harsh New England winters.

Although the Heritage Gardens are most well known for their rhododendrons, with the assistance of the Cape Cod Hydrangea Society, they are putting in hydrangea gardens with cultivars from the most common species. In addition to the rhodies and hydrangea, there is a large daylily garden as well as other gardens filled with spring and summer perennials. For antique car enthusiasts, the museum houses the private collection of Josiah K. Lilly, III's antique automobiles including a 1931 Duesenberg Model J Derham Tourster owned by Gary Cooper, a 1935 Ford Phaeton, a rare 1927 LaSalle, and a 1909 White Steam Car Model M owned by President Taft."



Hydrangeas at Heritage Gardens

Kathy Mandeville visited **Bedrock Gardens** in Lee, NH in July. As written on their website, "the garden started humbly, but has become a 20-acre destination garden on a 37-acre piece of land. It is designed as a garden journey and takes roughly 1.5 to 2 hours to walk. It is notable for its plants, landscape design, hardscape and sculpture." (Open limited times.)

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met on August 13th. The Board welcomed New President, Marie Scher and new Recording Secretary, Deb Whitaker, and thanks given to Jane Jeffers, Past President. Details of the September meeting were discussed. The gathering will be held at the Zorvino Winery in Sandown, NH. Members will be mailed a written invitation with details, including carpooling from the 1910 Building at 5:15pm. Jane Jeffers distributed copies of an Operations Manual for WNGC. Written with input from the Board, the Operations Manual will provide very helpful descriptions of club activities, officer and committee roles, and annual tasks. Linda Schaeffer gave an update on club memberships. The date for the 2016 Plant Sale was confirmed as May 21st, a week before Memorial Day weekend. The Board supported Kathy Mandeville's proposal that WNGC host an April workshop for new flower gardeners in the community. Membership dues will be collected and yearbooks distributed at the September meeting.

# ITEMS OF INTEREST

(Titles below are hot web links)

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

Several workshops are being offered in September. They include Weekend Gardening Series: Choosing the Right Plant, Native New England Shrubs, Weekend Gardening Series: Planting, Field Identification Techniques, Native Plants in Urban Design . Visit [www.newfs.org](http://www.newfs.org) for further information.

**Mass Horticultural Society** Elm Bank Reservation Wellesley, MA  
617-933-4900

Several workshops are being offered in September at Mass Hort. They include: Fundamentals of Landscape Design, Northeast Region Perennial Plant Association Symposium, Introduction to Italianate Gardens, Fundamentals of Landscape Design, Ginkgo: The Tree that Time Forgot, Fundamentals of Landscape Design, Culture of the Gardens in the Italian Renaissance, and Beginning Floral Design. Visit <https://www.masshort.org/Events/> for further information.

**Tower Hill Botanical Garden** Boylston, MA 508-869-6111  
Sunday Afternoon Garden Tours Sundays, September 6th - 27th  
2:00 PM-3:30 PM Enjoy a docent-led tour of the summer gardens.  
Cost: Included with admission. Visit [www.towerhillbg.org/](http://www.towerhillbg.org/)

Welcome New and Returning Members

**Willie Hayduk**

**Audrey Tarr**

**Helena Dion**

**Margo Pullman**

**Personal information removed for this on-line version.**

## Meet Our New President

Although Marie Scher lives over the border, her ties to our community are strong and varied. She moved to West Newbury in 1962 and taught in the Pentucket District, primarily sixth grade at the Donaghue School in Merrimac, until 2005. Upon retiring she became a Master Gardener in NH and has volunteered several summers in the Children's Garden at Strawberry Banke Museum. She is an avid traveler and loves visiting gardens around the world such as Keukenhof in the Netherlands. Marie and daughter Alison joined the club in 1993 and continue to enjoy serving with friends and keeping ties to West Newbury.

## Garden Planning

### Pot Up Your Perennials This Fall

Reminding members that the more perennials we provide for the May Plant Sale, the more funds generated to be used to support our club activities and scholarship. Pot those young seedlings and divided plants this Fall. We can find locations to over-winter pots if needed.

### Using Milk, to Keep Deer Away?

Sandy Preble came across an article in one of her gardening magazines that proposed using milk as a deer deterrent. Though we were unable to find any academic articles with evidence supporting this practice, several popular web sites weighed in on the strategy. Most suggested various combinations of egg, garlic and milk or yogurt mixed into a gallon of water and sprayed on plants every few days. Some suggested adding some cooking oil or dish soap or hot sauce. The smell of the rotting egg and milk is supposed to be offensive to deer. One would think to gardeners, as well.

If you love hummingbirds, Kathy notes an annual recommended by Knapp's - *Vermillionaire* or Large Firecracker Plant from Proven Winners™ " It has done extremely well in containers on my hot, sunny deck, tolerated dry conditions well, and we have hummingbirds visiting at least twice a day"



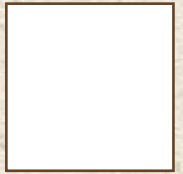
*Vermillionaire*

### Member News

**Virginia Hallman fell in June, had surgery on both legs and is now home after spending much of the summer in rehab. Welcome home, Virginia!**



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.

## SUMMER SAFARI: STEVENS - COOLIDGE PLACE

In June several members went to the Stevens - Coolidge Place in North Andover. Although many of us had visited these gardens before none of us had been inside the home - a rare treat indeed! The Stevens-Coolidge Place is a signature example of an estate designed in "The Country Place" style. The house is filled with art and furniture from around the world. Strongly influenced by French design themes, a walled rose garden, greenhouse, serpentine brick wall and potager garden (or French vegetable garden) remain today. Typical of *The Country Place Era*, the fields, orchard, and woodlands remained part of the



Dot Cavanaugh enjoying the gardens

working estate and served as a pastoral backdrop to the formal gardens. Visitors today can enjoy this peaceful outdoor "hidden gem."

They can also tour the Main House where Chinese porcelain and other Asian artifacts mingle with American furniture and American and European decorative arts. The entry hall mural was painted by Spanish artist Joseph Remidas. A dramatic split staircase, delft-tiled dining-room fireplace and tavern ballroom are also on display.

Much time was spent in the perennial gardens. They were designed by Louisa Bancroft Stevens, and still remain much as they were first designed. One of the plants that captivated everyone's attention was the *Crambe*. It has large collard like leaves and abundant white flowers. Next we visited the beautiful Italian-style Rose garden which was started in 1926. The estate has many very old trees but two were very significant. The Great Ash, which is a white ash, most likely inspired Coolidge to name the farm Ashdale. The other tree is the European larch near the entrance to the house.

After the garden visit we had a wonderful relaxing lunch together at **Jamie's** in Andover.