



#### **Pots and Trays**

The Plant Sale Digging and Potting Committee could use additional pots (quart size or bigger), and trays for the sale. Please contact Deb Whitaker [dlwhit6767@yahoo.com](mailto:dlwhit6767@yahoo.com) or call 978-270-8590.

# West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • April, 2017

## PLANT SALE MAY 20, 2017

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.

Perhaps your home garden doesn't need dividing this year, or maybe you live in a condominium now, and don't HAVE a garden to dig. How can you contribute to the donated plants we're able to sell so that the club can profit fully?

- Start some annuals that are natives to our area.
- Approach neighbors who may have gardens with plants in need of dividing.
- Approach gardening friends and neighbors who may be thinking of selling their houses and would be willing to donate plants before the house is listed.
- Purchase summer bulbs or tubers and start them growing NOW in pots. Many garden catalogues offer tuberous begonia, dahlias, special oriental or Asiatic lilies, and gladioli that are summer-growing. These require some special techniques for starting, but are far less costly than plants that are about to bloom. ORDER ASAP for best selections and prices.
- Purchase bare-root plants by mail-order, and pot these. [How to grow Bare Roots](#)
- Bare-root plants are much less expensive than potted plants, and typically have a larger root system. ORDER ASAP for best selections and prices. Local source: NH State Forest Nursery <http://www.nhnursery.com/>

Have other ideas? Contact Donna Greene [dkgreene75@gmail.com](mailto:dkgreene75@gmail.com) 978-363-1329.

## NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**April 6, 2017, 6:45 pm**

Town Offices Annex  
381 Main Street, W. N.

Hosting the meeting:  
Chair ~ Lynn Boyd  
Jean Berkenbush  
Kathy Krajeski  
Nancy Pau  
Pollyann Statom  
John Terry

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

### Hydrangeas

Talented WNGC member Jane Jeffers, in addition to growing Hydrangeas, attended a three-day workshop on Hydrangeas at the Heritage Museum and Gardens in Cape Cod last summer. Jane will present a program about the history, varieties, care, and propagation of these beautiful plants.

**Don't forget!** WNGC members Lori Boudrow and Elisha Colstad are participants in April's Art in Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

All the best, Lori and Elisha. We appreciate the work and creativity you will put into this project, and are proud that you will be representing our club!

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

## Digging Deeper

Black Walnut Trees - Beautiful, But....

Black Walnut trees are native to the northeastern United States. They can grow more than 50 feet high, are valued as a shade tree, produce nutritious nuts and their wood is useful as it is slow to decay, but they are typically not a favorite of gardeners. This is because black walnut trees have a secret weapon that give them a significant growing advantage. They secrete a substance that inhibits the growth of other plants near them. This biological mechanism is called allelopathy and the secretion is called **juglone**.



According to a 2015 Virginia Cooperative Extension publication, "juglone is exuded from all parts of the walnut tree, and can affect other plants either through root contact, leakage or decay in the soil, falling and decaying leaves, or when rain leaches and drips juglone from leaves and branches onto plants below. Plants located beneath the canopy of walnut trees are most at risk because juglone from the roots and fallen leaves accumulates there." Black walnut trees are not the only allelopathic plants, but they release juglone in particularly large amounts, and the toxin can remain in the soil for years. If you have a black walnut (or there had been one on your property), the toxin can be reduced by removing fallen leaves and increasing organic matter that can assist the breakdown of the toxin. [Read more on the web](#)

## LAST MONTH'S MEETING

### Ticks and Mosquitoes and Germs. Oh My!

WNGC President, Kathy Mandeville, gave an overview on mosquitoes and ticks found in our area, their life cycles, the diseases they may carry, and how gardeners and all residents need to take precautions to prevent bites. The Town of West Newbury's Health Department is actively involved in controlling mosquitoes of concern through their participation in the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Water Management District. Their website contains very helpful information for residents: [www.nemosquito.org](http://www.nemosquito.org) The State of Massachusetts also has helpful information on prevention and control of mosquitoes and ticks.

## GARDENER TRAINING PROGRAMS

### 2017 Master Gardener Training Course

This is an intensive 9-month training program to certify you as a master gardener and prepare you for volunteering in the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association. The Master Gardener Training course (MGT) consists of fourteen classroom and lab modules, including soil science, botany, entomology, plant pathology, pruning and propagation. Courses are conducted by both academic and industry professionals.

The 2017 course will be offered at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Education Building, at Elm Bank, in Wellesley, MA and at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. Students can choose the location that better suits their needs when registering. A few seats remain in both locations. For more information and to register [click here](#).

### Home Horticultural Series

A ten-week evening class taught by Master Gardeners that will provide a high-level overview to all the topics covered by the MG training class in a more compact format. The goal is to give the home gardener a comprehensive introduction to horticulture that will allow them to garden more effectively and give them a foundation for enhancing their knowledge and skills. Homework, testing and volunteering are not required. Topics to be covered include: Nomenclature, Soil, Botany, Vegetable Culture, Perennial Culture, Intro to Landscape Design, Turf Culture, Weed Ecology, Diseases & Pests, and Woody Plants & Pruning. The class will be held at The Trustees of Reservations' Bradley Estate, 2468 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021. The course will run on Tuesdays from 3/28/17 - 05/30/17. Class times are 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Cost is \$250 with payment due upon registration.

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board met on March 9th and reviewed drafts of a new club membership brochure, application and promotional card prepared by the Publicity Committee. Board members will be sending detailed comments to Alison in the next few weeks. Kathy Mandeville shared updates on the Art in the Garden Tour, and an upcoming meeting organized by member Jane Jeffers with Newburyport and Newbury garden club presidents to explore a potential 2018 collaborative program featuring nationally known speaker, Gordon Hayward.

# ITEMS OF INTEREST

*(Green titles below are hot web links)*

**Books in Bloom** Newburyport Library and Newburyport Horticultural Society Saturday, April 8 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM  
Newburyport Public Library

Come support the Newburyport Horticultural Society in their annual fund raiser. Funds are used for scholarships and to help beautify the community. Over 35 floral arrangements reflecting the theme of a book will be on display. Refreshments will be served. Cost: \$25.00

**Art in Bloom** April 29 – May 1 Boston Museum of Fine Arts  
Enjoy art from across the MFA's collection paired with floral interpretation. More information at [www.mfa.org/artinbloom](http://www.mfa.org/artinbloom)  
(G.A.R. Library has 2 passes (each day) for the MFA, with a \$10 co-pay)

**GCFM Northern District Annual Meeting** April 10, 2017 from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM at the Danversport Yacht Club  
AM session: Sea Level Rise – The Plum Island Story  
PM session: A Whole Bunch Flower Market  
Cost: \$40 See Kathy Mandeville if interested.

## **Lake Street Garden Center courses offered in April:**

April 9 Build an **Easter Basket with Spring bulbs**. 10:00 AM  
Fee for materials used.

April 15 **Easter Egg Hunt**. Free. 1:00 PM Green Team

April 22 **New tree and shrub varieties**. 10 AM. Free

Where: Lake Street Garden Center, 37 Lake Street, Salem, NH  
Registration: Call 603-893-5858 or stop in

## **Nunan's Florist and Greenhouses courses offered in April:**

Thursday, April 6 6:00 PM **Flower Therapy** Come have fun and create a beautiful fresh flower arrangement. We will supply the flowers and guidance and you supply the creativity. The fee for this class is \$35.00.

### Sunday, April 8 **Spring Containers**

There is nothing that says spring more than Pansies, Flowering Bulbs and Spring Magic. Bring your own container or select one of ours as we plant a beautiful container for your doorstep for springtime. Pay for only plant material and container. if purchased.

### Sat. April 15 11AM **Spring Easter Basket for Kids**

We will plant Pansies and other spring plants into a wicker basket to make a living Easter Basket that can be given as a gift or kept for your Easter Table. The fee for this class is \$15.00

### **Spring Open House** April 22 and 23

Registration required for all classes: Call 978-352-8172 or [info@nunans.com](mailto:info@nunans.com)

## *Updates and Details*

### **Welcome to Our New Members!**

**Irene Harnett**

**Elisa Colstad** has a new email address

*If you know of any members who have special events going on in their lives, please tell one of the Board members.*

### **WNGC Newsletter and Yearbook Editor(s) Needed**

Alison Scher, current editor for the WNGC newsletter, will be stepping down from this role as of the June, 2017 edition. Currently Kathy Mandeville, Virginia Hallman, Jane Jeffers and Jeanne Pucci contribute articles and events to the newsletter. If you would like to help with layout please contact Alison to learn more at [mrcwebmaster@comcast.net](mailto:mrcwebmaster@comcast.net) or 603-642-6021.

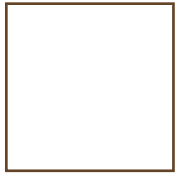
Alison Scher and Marie Scher currently prepare our annual club Yearbook. This is done with MS Publisher. Much of the content is carried from one year to the next, with the exception of updating membership and adding program information. Please let Alison know if you are interested in taking over this responsibility.

### **2016-17 Newsletter Team**

Contributors: Kathy Mandeville, Virginia Hallman, Jeanne Pucci and Jane Jeffers. Layout: Alison Scher



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Visit our website  
[www.wngc.org](http://www.wngc.org)

Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/westnewburygardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/westnewburygardenclub)

## CARING FOR SPRING BULBS

This spring's record-setting temperatures, limited snow cover and see-saw extremes may require extra care for early awakening spring bulbs as the season progresses. Crocus, squill, snowdrops, hyacinths, and some daffodils are generally resistant to cold and snow while tulips and lilies are easily damaged.

The longer the temperature remains at 29° or below, the greater the danger of damage to emerging foliage, buds or blossoms in increasing order. Risks are bigger for plants in low lying areas that warm slowly or that grow in open, unsheltered locations. Strong, cold and dry winds provide a serious threat since loss of moisture is the main factor in plant damage. On the other hand, an insulating snow cover can provide protection from howling winds and sudden temperature changes.

The best solution is early prevention. A 4 to 6 inch layer of organic mulch applied in fall after the ground freezes is recommended. Mulched leaves, clean straw (no seeds/weeds) and pine needle branches all work well. Otherwise, timely awareness, vigilance and action on our part is required to prevent and/or reduce plant damage. The key is timely covering of plants when threatened and timely uncovering afterwards. Overturned empty pots, bed sheets, burlap, and landscape cloth are suggested options. Avoid plastics. If snow is expected, include supports to prevent crushing. Securely anchor all covering(s). Leave somewhat damaged foliage on to provide continuing bulb nourishment.

*Virginia Hallman*



*Crocus buds wilted by high winds and temperatures in the low teens.*