

West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • February, 2017



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BUMBLE BEE - AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has placed our once very familiar Bumble Bee on the Endangered Species List! According to the January 10th news release, abundance of the **Rusty Patched Bumble Bee** has plummeted by 87%, leaving small, scattered populations in 13 states (including Massachusetts) and one province. Causes of the decline in rusty patched bumble bee populations are believed to be loss of habitat; disease and parasites; use of pesticides that directly or indirectly kill the bees; climate change, which can affect the availability of the flowers they depend on; and extremely small population size. Most likely, a combination of these factors has caused the decline. The bee gathers pollen and nectar from a variety of flowering plants. It emerges in early spring and is one of the last bumble bee species to go into hibernation in the fall. Because it is active so long, it needs a constant supply of flowers blooming from April through September.

As gardeners and a community resource for West Newbury, we should be promoting flower gardening, including flowering trees and shrubs, and recommending a mix of blooms from early spring through fall. Native plants are especially beneficial. Additionally, bumble bees and many other pollinators (bees, moths and butterflies) need a safe place to build their nests and overwinter.

NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Feb 2, 2017, 6:45 pm

Town Offices Annex
381 Main Street, W. N.

Hosting the meeting
Chair Carrie Crowley
Barbara Berkenbush
Linda DeCoste
Mary Kuck
Tracy Peter
Anne Sanchez-Felix

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

Protecting Our Trees

Tim Lamprey is not a stranger to gardeners in the greater Newburyport area. He's the owner of Harbor Garden Center on Route 1 in Salisbury now beginning its 35th year as a resource for plants, garden products and good advice. Additionally, he publishes a weekly Saturday column in the Newburyport Daily News on gardening related topics. His articles are also available on the store's website: <http://harborgardencenter.com>

Tim will be talking with us about varieties of trees, their care and maintenance.

www.wngc.org

Museum of Old Newbury (Cushing House) Decorations

For the last few years, The Newburyport Garden Club, the Newbury Garden Club, and our own Club have been invited to decorate downstairs rooms of the historic Cushing House with holiday cheer. Our club was proud to do so once again this year. Club members joining in the fun were Lynn Boyd, Jane Jeffers, Sharon Dahn, Gail Dinaro, Elise Henrichs, Kathy Krajieski, Barbara Merrill and Jeanne Pucci.

The theme was Victorian and they used 50 pink roses as the main flower on the mantel, the tree and in the arrangements. They also used alstroemeria in the arrangements and added a bit of whimsy with a Victorian gentleman decked out for a stroll with scarf and top hat. Vessels for arrangements were sleighs and decorated lanterns adorned the piano.



Pictures continued on page four.

WINTER GARDENING *Dividing and Repotting African Violets*

The holiday decorations are once again boxed, errant tree needles vacuumed, and houseplants, temporarily moved from their window locations, regain their window perches. That African violet so long neglected gets a good luck, and what... there are now four plants? Time to divide!

Unlike many perennials whose offspring can simply be "pulled apart at the roots", African violets need to be sliced at the juncture of the new plant. The African Violet Society of America recommends the following:

- Have ready a sharp knife, dampened African violet soil mix, and pots
- Remove violets from the pot, and trim bottom leaves leaving about 10 leaves
- About 2" down the stem, gently scrape off leaf stumps and hardened tissue
- Amputate the stem from the roots about 2" below the bottom leaves
- Set the plant into the dampened soil mix
- Place the plant(s) in plastic bags or covered plastic containers to control for heat and humidity while roots re-grow
- Set in a bright location, without watering, for about a month



New leaves indicate a thriving plant, and one that can be gradually released from cover. Consider bringing your newly established African Violet to the March or April garden club meeting to exchange with others.

WNGC MEMBERS AT ART IN BLOOM

WNGC members Lori Boudrow and Elisha Colstad have been confirmed as participants in April's Art in Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. They will attend the orientation in late February to see the objects they will interpret and to learn the procedures put in place for Art in Bloom participation. On April 28th, the designers will be expected to arrive by 6:30 am to set up their displays and then return each morning by 7:00 am to water and refresh their floral designs.

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!

FROM OUR FACEBOOK HINTS

Looking to dress up a low-light area of your home? Try any plant that can tolerate low-light sun and brighten homes with their beauty and interest. Calathea and anthurium both have bright flowers that add long-lasting color before fading. Another low light treasure are peace lilies (spathiphyllum) a plant with glossy foliage, long-lasting white 'flowers' and the ability to remove indoor toxins such as benzene and trichloroethylene from the air. You don't need to be an expert to grow these plants that are forgiving of occasionally drying out and a reminder that winter will be replaced by spring.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

(Green titles below are hot web links)

February 4 - March 5 Winter in Bloom - Five Weekends of Flowers

Tower Hill Botanical Garden, Boylston, MA

As New England braces for some of the coldest days of the winter, Tower Hill Botanic Garden will be hosting Winter In Bloom: Five Weekends of Flowers. Last winter, more visitors than ever discovered there is no better place in February to escape the cold weather and to be inspired than Tower Hill. Throughout the month – with activities planned each Saturday, and Sunday of February – expert guest speakers, hands-on workshops, flower shows, displays by leading floral designers, and activities geared to all ages. www.towerhillbg.org

Tuesday, February 24 To Bee or Not to BEE – Pollinators and How We Can Help Them Survive

Nunan's Garden Center, Georgetown. Program begins at 6:30 p.m. (For those who wish to shop in Nunan's gardening products store, you can come at 6:00 p.m. and receive 20% discount on anything you buy through the generosity of Steve Flynn, Nunan's owner! Shopping after the program as well!!!) ADMISSION: \$5.00 per person except for members of the Haverhill and Groveland Garden Clubs. Sponsored by Haverhill and Groveland Garden Clubs.

Saturday, Feb. 18 9:00 AM to Noon Gardening Design Class

Where: Nunan's Nursery, Georgetown, MA Cost: \$49.00 pp
Speaker: Kerry Ann Mendez, reknown garden speaker and author
Description: Kerry Ann will speak about designing a high impact, low maintenance flower garden using perennials, flowering shrubs and annuals. (This course will also be offered March 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 at Russell's Garden Center in Wayland.) Details at www.pyours.com.

Webinar: Inspired Garden Design Lessons from Magnificent Gardens in England, Canada, and US

Thursday, January 26 at 2:00 PM On-line webinar Cost: \$7.00
Presenter: Kerry Ann Mendez, reknown garden speaker and author
Description: This is an on-line lecture featuring world famous gardens. The presentation will embrace many elements of great design including the use of focal points, plant material, garden rooms, repetition, color, texture, scale and much more. Registration: www.pyours.com
You do not need to be present for these live webinars. All pre-registered participants will receive a link for the lecture following the presentation so you can watch and listen to it at your convenience.

Lake Street Garden Center Courses offered in February:

February 4 - Fairy Gardens 10:00 AM
February 12 - Tulip Arranging 10:00 AM
February 18 - Make a Kokedama 10:00 AM
February 26 - Herb Windowsill Garden (fee for herbs) 10:00 AM
Where: Lake Street Garden Center, 37 Lake Street, Salem, NH
Registration: Call 603-893-5858 or stop in to the store.

Updates and Details

GCFM College Scholarships

As WNGC members know, our club offers scholarships for local students "pursuing a major in environmental sciences". The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts (GFCM) also offers college and graduate school scholarships for students majoring in: horticulture, floriculture, Landscape design, conservation, forestry and a number of other pursuits. Applications are due March 1st.

Visit www.gcfm.org for details.

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

Looking For Fresh Ideas

Newsletter

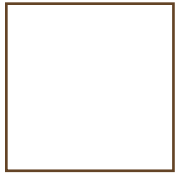
Alison Scher will be stepping down as Newsletter Editor in June, as such, we will need a new layout person. A team helps with the content and others care for the distribution. Your choice of design and publishing software. Please contact [Kathy Mandeville](mailto:Kathy.Mandeville@wngc.org) or [Alison Scher](mailto:Alison.Scher@wngc.org) if you have an interest in helping or have any questions.

Yearbook

If you have an interest in preparing the Yearbook or contributing fresh ideas for it please contact Kathy Mandeville or Alison Scher.

2016-17 Newsletter Team

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



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www.wngc.org

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www.facebook.com/westnewburygardenclub

2016 CUSHING HOUSE DECORATIONS

