

West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • March, 2017



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WHAT IS A DICHOTOMOUS KEY???

How often do you come across a plant on a nature walk and you just can't identify it? The New England Wild Flower Society has a website to help you reach a conclusion! A dichotomous key presents a set of paired choices that describe various plant characteristics. To identify a plant, you choose the description that best matches the plant you are trying to identify. This leads you to another pair of choices. This process of making selections, choosing characteristics that best match your plant from a series of paired options, eventually narrows down to an individual species.

The [Go Botany Dichotomous Key](#) covers all 3,500 species, subspecies, and varieties of native and naturalized plants in New England, and is designed for experienced botanists and common folk like us! There's also a *Plant Share* component to track interesting species and a way to *Ask A Botanist*.

While the questions are technical and specific, hundreds of botanical terms are defined and clearly illustrated. The key is based on New England Wild Flower Society's *Flora Novae Angliae: A Manual for the Identification of Native and Naturalized Higher Vascular Plants of New England* (Haines, 2011). Please visit The New England Wild Flower Society site at <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/simple/> for more information.

NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March 2, 2017, 6:45 pm

Town Offices Annex
381 Main Street, W. N.

Hosting the meeting
**Chairs Elise Henrichs and
Rosemarie McCobb**

Carol Hurn
Nora O'Neil
Tracy Peters
Alison Scher

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

Ticks and Mosquitos and Germs. Oh My!

Our very own Master Gardener, Kathy Mandeville, MSN, MPH, will give an overview of insect-borne illnesses that are becoming more common in our area and ways we can reduce our risk for contracting associated diseases.

Committee Sign-up sheets for the May 20th Plant Sale will be available. Detailed information about specific committee tasks is in our manual at www.wngc.org/manual.pdf (pages 19-22.)

www.wngc.org

Scholarships

Each year, our Garden Club provides scholarships to local students from the proceeds of our Annual Plant Sale. Last year, three deserving students each received \$500 towards college expenses. We are now accepting applications for this year's scholarship, and are looking for candidates. Please help spread the word on this great opportunity!

To be eligible, the student must:

Be attending college in the 2017-2018 academic year. They can be seniors in High School or existing college students.

Reside in the towns of West Newbury, Groveland, or Merrimac.

Intend to pursue a "Green" major, such as Environmental Studies, Biology, Earth Sciences, Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Design, Botany, Horticulture, or any related major pertaining to our environment.

Demonstrate good academic standing through grades, SAT scores, or other academic criteria.

Demonstrate community service for others through extracurricular activities or volunteering.

To apply, send the following to West Newbury Garden Club: PO Box 11, West Newbury, MA 01985.

Applications must be postmarked or emailed to Nancy by April 7.

A WNGC Scholarship Application Form, an essay, three letters of recommendation and school transcript.

All scholarship information and the application is [available on our website](#) this year. For any questions, ask a member of the committee, or Nancy Pau at nancy_pau@yahoo.com

Scholarship Committee: Cyndy Bourquard
Virginia Hallman, Pollyann Statom, Jeanne Pucci, and John Terry

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Effects of Local Caterpillar Destruction

Tim Lamprey, owner of Harbor Garden Center in Salisbury, presented information on gypsy moths, winter moths and tent caterpillars. Gypsy moth and winter moth caterpillars were particularly noticeable and destructive last year. Though many trees suffered, he advised that we not be tempted to cut down the trees unless we know they are dead. Fertilizing in the Spring may help new leaves develop as the caterpillars reappear. Winter moth caterpillars climb up trees but the larvae also blow in the wind in the spring and move between trees. Horticultural oil spray, applied in the late winter or early spring to kill the eggs, is far more effective than using sticky tree bands.

NORTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The Northern District Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. This year's venue is the Danversport Yacht Club in Danvers, MA. The morning speaker will be Bill Sargent who is a consultant for the NOVA science series on PBS and author of 20 books about the environment. Bill's presentation is entitled: **Sea Level Rise; The Plum Island Story**. The afternoon program will be a floral designer who owns **A Whole Bunch Flower Market** in Burlington, MA. A fresh new twist on the freshest flowers delivered daily... The cost will remain \$40 per person. Invitation and registration form will be available after March 1st.

A JULY GARDEN TOUR IN MAINE

Pettingill Nursery is sponsoring a DownEast Maine Garden Tour from Tuesday, July 18 to Friday, July 21. Includes an overnight in Boothbay Harbor after a visit to Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and then proceed to Bar Harbor for a visit to Acadia National Park. In Northeast Harbor the tour will include the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden, the Thuya Garden, and the Azalea Garden. An evening sunset cruise aboard a four masted schooner completes the visit to Bar Harbor. On the return, the tour stops in Portland for a visit to the Longfellow Garden.

For more information stop in at Pettingill's in Salisbury, or contact Susan Schumacher at 978-372-8080 or email to groupsinc@comcast.net.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board met on February 16th. The Board reviewed options for a WNGC logo that could be used on all publications. In keeping with part of our mission to conserve natural resources, a decision was made to donate \$100 to [Essex County Greenbelt](#), and to assure that some of each year's presentations focus on such topics as native species and bee conservation. The Board also voted to increase the total scholarship amount to \$3,000 this year. WNGC members will be invited to participate in workshops this Spring to create garden crafts that can be sold at the May 20th plant sale.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

(Green titles below are hot web links)

Boston Flower and Garden Show

March 22 - 26th Seaport World Trade Center, 200 Seaport Ave, Boston, MA Theme: Super Heroes of the Garden

Lake Street Garden Center courses offered in March

Sun March 5th: Desert Dish Garden 10:10 AM

Sat March 11th: Seed Starting (Free lecture) 10:00 AM

Sat March 11th: Green Team, Nature Mobile 1:00 PM \$6.00

Sat March 25th: Pruning (Free lecture) 10:00 AM. Dress for outdoor demonstration weather permitting.

Where: Lake Street Garden Center, 37 Lake Street, Salem, NH

Registration: Call 603-893-5858 or stop in the store.

Nunan's Florist and Greenhouses courses offered in March

Sat. March 4th at 1:00 PM. Decorating a Spring Wreath.

Cost is \$45.00 or more, depending on your choice of decorations.

Sunday March 12th at 1:00 PM. Fairy Gardens for Adults. Cost is dependent on selection of items used.

Weds. March 15th 6pm Let's Celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Make a Green Mug of Beer Arrangement and Corsage and Boutonniere to wear to your party. Cost is \$25.00.

Sat. March 25th 1PM Monet's Garden Arrangement Make a beautiful fresh flower arrangement full of spring colors that looks like a garden.

Cost is \$35.00. Nunan's Florist and Greenhouses, 269 Central Street, Georgetown, MA Registration: 978-352-8172 or info@nunans.com

Tower Hill Botanical Garden

March 4: 188th Annual Camelia Show with talk on Camelias Past and Present from 2:00 - 3:00 PM

March 4/5th: Winter in Bloom. Floral arrangements from designers and amateurs in honor of the Worcester County Horticultural Society

March 5 & 12: Camelias in Bloom - bring your watercolors or other medium and enjoy a class on painting camelias

March 11: Vegetable Gardening from 2:00 - 3:00 PM

March 18: Mosses, Daffodils and Topiary Trees 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

March 25: Rock Gardening -Reimagining a classic style 11 AM - 1 PM

March 25: Plants, Pollinators and How to Support Them 1:30 - 2:30 PM

This is only a partial listing of classes and events at Tower Hill. Please see towerhillbg.org for more information.

Updates and Details

Welcome to Our New Members!

Anne Fitzgerald

Dorothy Fanaras

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](#) or [Alison Scher](#) if you have an interest in helping or have any questions.

Yearbook

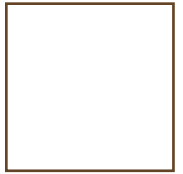
If you have an interest in preparing the Yearbook or contributing fresh ideas for it please contact Kathy Mandeville or Alison Scher.

2016-17 Newsletter Team

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



West Newbury Garden Club
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Visit our website
www.wngc.org

Facebook
www.facebook.com/westnewburygardenclub

A BOSTON HORTICULTURAL TREASURE

Did you know that Cambridge, MA is home to an amazing 175-acre combination national historic landmark, arboretum and botanical garden, Audubon migratory bird stopover area, wildlife conservatory, and outdoor sculpture museum? If so, then you have most likely enjoyed visiting the **Mt. Auburn Cemetery**, the final resting place for notable Bostonians and many others.

Beautifully preserved and maintained as well as frequently visited by the general public as well as mourner and historians, it was consecrated in 1831 as America's first rural cemetery. From its beginning, its design and intent was to provide the peacefulness of natural beauty not only to its inhabitants and those who mourn them but also for the enjoyment of the general public. As such, it was an inspiration for creating public parks. Formed by glacier, the original shape of the land was preserved as a feature upon which was laid a soothing weave of gently curving footpaths that rise and fall. Roads for driving are of similar design. (Newburyport's Oak Hill cemetery (1842) also features the rural garden cemetery design.)

Mt. Auburn is home to a worldwide collection of more than 9,400 trees and shrubs, 3 ponds and a dell plus numerous landscape floral plantings. It's Azalea collection features unique colors and lovely specimens. It offers many programs and events throughout the year for all age groups. Becoming a "Friends" member provides access to even more. To learn more- including what blooms when- visit Mt. Auburn's website: mountauburn.org.

Virginia Hallman

