

West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter

Editor's Notes

Traditionally, the start of a new year signals a time to remember, reflect, set goals and plan. This is particularly true for us in the Northeast since our gardening is definitely cyclical. Take time now to imagine what will be.

Page 4: Member Stories

*This month features a story from Sharyn Dahn; thanks Sharyn! We'd like to feature **your story** in the next issue! See me, email me, or call...and thanks for sharing.*

Have suggestions/input for the newsletter? Share them with me anytime—in person or in writing at a meeting, by phone at 508-361-1442, or via email at: vahallman@comcast.net.

I look forward to hearing from you!

NOTE: The WNGC Board doesn't meet in December or January.

NOTE: Photos are taken by Virginia Hallman or are designated "free-to-use" per Google unless otherwise noted.

Ferry Lane Park photo this page: Kathy Mandeville.

February 1 Club Meeting, 6:45 Invasive Plants—Presenter: Nancy Pau



A common poster child for an invasive plant in our area is of course purple loosestrife which is both beautiful—and heartless when it comes to native flora and fauna. Member Nancy Pau is a wildlife biologist at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. She'll update us on the progress made in controlling these and

other intruders in our gardens, the Refuge, and the local landscape and woods in general. Come and learn what you can do (and refrain from doing) to promote native inhabitants in our area by identifying and discouraging problematic invasive plants.



Ferry Lane Park Enhancements

Though the West Newbury Board of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the planning and administration of Ferry Lane Park, club members have planted and maintained its gardens for over forty years. One garden features peonies from the former Cherry Hill

Nursery (a local nursery in existence from 1832 to 2000 and nationally known for its hybridized peonies).

The club's Ferry Lane Committee Chair Anne Jarzowski and member Sandi Preble brought recommendations to the Executive Board on how the park could be enhanced: (1) the town replace the West Newbury sign and its deteriorating wooden posts with granite, (2) the club purchase and plant hardy rose bushes to complement the existing peonies and add longer color, (3) an historic marker be added, and (4) two metal benches facing the peony garden and river be secured.

In November, The Board approved funding for the rose bushes and recommended that the other improvements be shared with the West Newbury Bicentennial Committee, as a collaboration would strengthen the likelihood of implementing these suggestions.

February 1st Meeting Hospitality Members:

Chair: Joan Tranfaglia
Elisa Grammar, Virginia
Hallman, Kathy Mandeville,
Pollyann Statom,
and Tracey Peter

Yearbook Updates

Cushing House— WNGC Christmas Decorations—2017

*Photos courtesy of Irene
Harnett*



Remembering Ellie Bragg

We were saddened to learn that Honorary member Ellie Bragg, who joined the club in 1970, had died. Thanks to Alison Scher for the following remembrance: *Ellie cared greatly for her community. When I was a toddler, she was one of the many volunteers that came three times a day to pattern (exercise) my body, which gave me the movement and independence I have today. Many years later she sponsored our membership into the WNGC. These are small examples of the many, many ways she served her family, her church, our club and the town of West Newbury. Her kindness and care for others will be greatly missed by many!* Visit the [WNGC website](#), select Monthly Newsletters, and open the May 2012 issue, p. 4 to view a photo of Ellie.



Upcoming Events of Interest

Kerry Ann Mendez January 25th 1-hour [Webinar](#) on practical tips for a great garden plus wonderful native plants. The \$9 fee covers unlimited access to webinar; notes; and a CEU form.

Lake Street Garden Center in Salem, NH, **February** Classes: Fairy Gardens; Valentine Floral Arrangement; Air Plant Wealth; Herb Garden; Interior Decorating with Houseplants.
[More Information](#)

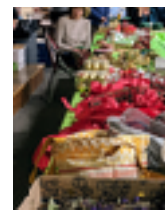
Connecticut Flower and Garden Show, Hartford CT
February 22-25, Connecticut Convention Center
Adults \$18; Seniors \$16
[More information](#)

14th Great Gardens and Landscaping Symposium, Woodstock, VT. Saturday, **April** 21 - Woodstock Inn and Resort; **Special Flower Gardening Class** on Friday, April 20 in the afternoon.
[More information](#)

Floral Arrangement Opportunity: Books in Bloom community fundraiser sponsored by the Newburyport Horticultural Club and the Newburyport Public Library, **April** 7. If interested in creating a floral arrangement for this event (no fee), call Karen Houston at 978-877-1237 or email her at kghou@comcast.net.

December’s Holiday Wreath Decorating Workshop

This was the first year we didn’t make wreaths but instead purchased them from our local Boy Scout troop. Using decorations and greens contributed by those attending, we completed not only wreaths for the community buildings but also over 15 floral arrangements for distribution to seniors living in local elder housing as well as to WNGC members who have been unable to attend meetings. Kudos to Jane Jeffers for planning the workshop and arranging for materials and deliveries.



December’s Holiday Party

The Annex was once again transformed into a winter wonderland thanks to co-chairs Carrie Crowley and Jeanne Pucci and their committee members. The lovely Christmas tree with its vintage decorations brought by Linda DeCoste lent charm and tradition to the festivities. Our Yankee Swap was enlivened by the antics of jolly “Elf” Carrie and helper “Elf” Jeanne. Many thanks to all for preparing and bringing the delicious food we all enjoyed. Thanks too to members for donating grocery and personal items to the Pettingill House annual Christmas drive. They’ve sent their thanks and sincere appreciation to the club.



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Inspirations...a space for members to share gardening experiences, successes, lessons learned, memories, favorite plants, field trips and more...

Story Contributed by Sharyn Dahn

Last year when Sharyn traveled to the Azores Islands on vacation, she was amazed at the many hydrangeas growing there and thought club members would be interested to learn about them. The following information is from an internet search.



A popular tourist destination, the Azores are a group of 9 islands of volcanic origin located in the North Atlantic some 800 miles off the coast of Portugal. The first settlers were Portuguese and arrived in 1439. The native flora and fauna has been extremely altered over time both by volcanic activity and by man. At one point, blue hydrangea macrophylla plants were introduced and planted on the islands to form natural property dividers and windbreaks. In early summer, they line many island roads, creating a beautiful attraction for both islanders and visitors. The island of Faial is often referred to as the “Blue

Island” due to its many blue hydrangeas. In 1926 Portuguese poet Raul Brandao wrote of the island’s hydrangeas “*The man that had the idea to border the road with these plants should have a statue...Their blue is the blue that adorns the Azores on lipid days...this is a blue that is even more blue.*” All though not native, the Azores hydrangeas grow very well in the light, humidity and heat and have not become invasive.