



Next Meeting – May 2nd - 6:30 pm - Annex Building

Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner



Our annual meeting and potluck dinner will take place on May 2nd. Dues will be collected, \$30 along with monies for the June painting program, \$25. As a club, we will vote on our slate of officers, (see below), review plant sale details, and share some of our favorite foods.

For the potluck dinner, all members with last names starting with letters H-Z are asked to bring a main dish, side, or salad. Each dish should serve approximately 8-10 people. The salads can be a variety including leafy green, pasta, or grains. The board and May hospitality will provide appetizers and dessert. **Anyone whose last name starts with H-Z is expected to participate.** If for any reason you cannot attend, please notify Anne Sanchez-Felix by Sunday April 28th, and arrange to drop off a dish for the evening. Please provide serving utensils with your dish. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

Proposed Slate of Officers 2024/25:

President - Lori Boudrow
1st VP - Maureen Harris
2nd VP - Anne Sanchez-Felix
Treasurer - Claudia Woods-Estin
Recording Secretary - Karen Clagett
Corresponding Secretary - Dianna Fogel
Director/Co-Programming - Chris Gerzon
Director - Carrie Hometh
Director - Irene Harnett**
Director - KC Swallow**
****Denotes new officers**

*Members are asked to bring 2
Checks: \$30 for Annual dues and
\$25 for the June Painting program.
The club will pay \$5 per member to
offset the \$30 cost of the June
program.*

Annual Plant and Bake Sale by Carrie Hometh



The May meeting will feature a slide show by Carrie Hometh highlighting details of the May 18th Plant & Bake Sale. This event requires a great deal of coordination and participation, and the club is grateful for everyone's help. Carrie will distribute wooden plant sticks for marking your plants and members are asked to use common language versus Latin names. Please use a Sharpie and include any pertinent details about each plant. Lawn signs will also be available to place on properties that have a good amount of car traffic or pedestrians. Members are asked to remove the signs after the sale and bring them to the town hall vault or June 6th meeting.

Our popular **Bake Sale** will be back again this year, thanks to Maureen Harris! It will be located ON the Training Field, adjacent to where customers will be loading their plants and held under a tent. She will also have coffee for the members to enjoy.

Members are asked to:

- Prepare baked items.
- Bring on something disposable, wrapped in plastic or foil, labeled with the name of food item and any common allergens that may be in the food i.e., nuts, peanut butter. Gluten-free options are welcome as well as dog and horse treats.
- **Please bring to Maureen Harris' home on Friday, May 17th between 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.**
- If members need help digging or potting plants, please email Helena Dion no later than May 1st.

Memorial Day Parade by Maureen Harris



If you haven't joined us for the West Newbury Memorial Day parade, you're in for a treat! West Newbury native, Bert Knowles, will drive us on his flatbed "float" along the parade route. Ride the float or walk the route while bringing joy to the many parade goers. We'll supply Garden Club aprons and festive garden hats! This year's parade will take place on Monday, May 27th. Members are asked to arrive by 9AM to help decorate the float, followed by the parade at 10AM. The meeting location is the WN Food Mart and Learning Center Parking Lots located on Main Street. Members are asked to park in the Haverhill Bank parking lot.

Garden Committee Spotlight: Ferry Lane Park - By Alexis Katkevich



Ferry Lane Park, located near the Rocks Village Bridge at the well-traversed junction of Bridge St. and Church St., has held horticultural significance in West Newbury for almost 70 years, according to garden chair Kathy Mandeville. Kathy, chair since 2019, cares for the garden with dedicated WNGC members Jean Berkenbush, Susan Dougherty, Anne Jarzowski, Kathleen Mason, Mary Moody, Tracy Peter, and Stephen Swallow.

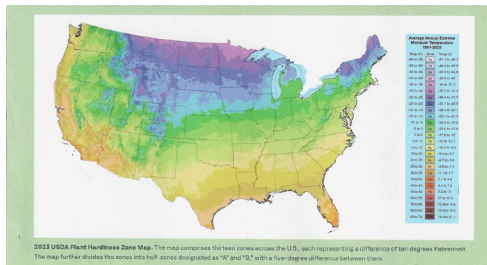
The committee has a collection of documents and notebooks that go back many years, and Kathy says it was the WNGC who recommended in 1955 that the town of West Newbury purchase the land that is now Ferry Lane Park. The name commemorates the ferry that once operated before the bridge was built. The town has since been responsible for the land, but in 1974, the club received permission to remove the tangled overgrowth with help (including from Boy Scouts and town residents). Native trees were kept in place as the renovation was part of an “environmental improvement project” which “won several national and state environmental awards,” according to Kathy.

Kathy wrote an article in June 2022 for the WNGC newsletter regarding the garden's recent revitalization. Decade-old Thurlow peonies had gone dormant in 2019, but with soil amendment, help from the town, and devoted committee members, the peonies began to revitalize, and many new additions, including pollinator-friendly flowers and native species, were established. These included native Echinacea and Eastern Red Bud, Silver Mound Artemisia, Allium Ornamental Onions, Shasta Daisy, Siberian Cypress, and native Red-Twig Dogwood, which together provide a seasonally shifting and dynamic landscape. No current plans are in place other than to help the garden thrive in its revitalized state.

While there is no source of water on-site, which is an ongoing challenge for the committee, the engaged members who continue the garden's legacy seem up to any challenge. Kathy shares that the true specialness of the garden lies in the committee members, who “have lovingly cared for this place” for generations. This includes former chair Anne Jarzowski, one of the longest-serving members of the committee who helped ferry the garden to its delightful state today.

Kathy, who finds joy and pride in the garden, is humbled by the responsibility and appreciates the “importance of coordination and sharing tasks and good ideas” when it comes to a successful garden. She says the “WNGC and the generations of its Ferry Lane Park Committee have provided the leadership, advocacy, and care for this special plot of land and its garden.” We look forward to watching how the garden grows into the future.

Notes from a Novice Gardener - By Andrea Caswell



Late last year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a new Plant Hardiness Zone Map. This newer map offers the first significant update to the Plant Hardiness Zones since 2012. In that span of just over a decade, half of the country has shifted to warmer zones. The new map used 30-year averages of the lowest annual winter temperatures to determine current plant hardiness zones. Those averages showed a temperature shift ranging from 0-5 degrees Fahrenheit. Our little neck of the woods, here in West Newbury, is currently listed as 6b. In the past, was West Newbury in 6a, or even 5b? My records don't

go back that far. Every gardener knows that, from a practical standpoint, these zones are approximations in any given year. Some of you may have had plants that weren't supposed to do well in 5b, but they thrived. Or conversely, plants that should've been just fine here, but they froze to death. Part of the reason is that plants do not read the USDA maps. More often, they're content to do their own thing.

What might this changing climate mean for our gardens? While warmer grow-zones may offer new possibilities for plantings, there are also some risks:

- Insects that typically die in winter months could survive year-round, making heat and drought-stressed plants their target during the summer months.
- For fruit trees requiring a series of cold days each winter to properly flower for optimal fruit-bearing, warmer temperatures could negatively impact the overall harvest.
- An increase in the spread of invasive plants, stressing native plants and wildlife and reducing biodiversity.

For now, the USDA has indicated there's no need to change the plants in your garden. The Department said, "What has thrived in your yard will most likely continue to thrive." There are some interesting interactive features on the new map, which can be found on the USDA's website at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>

This column was adapted from an article, "Warmer Temperatures Lead to Shifts in Hardiness Zones," accessed on savatree.com

Daffodils Around Town - By Chris Gerzon

Last fall, a group of club members planted daffodil bulbs around town that were gifted by long time member Barbara Haack. She wanted to share her bounty with the town she and her husband love. Barbara has been growing her collection of bulbs for many years around her yard which blooms every Spring in a brilliant yellow display. You probably have already noticed them as you pass her house on Main Street on the way to Pentucket High School., on the right.

The club supplemented Barbara's bulb with some purchased ones which we then planted at various places: the Training Field (pictured below), the entrance to Mill Pond, Farm Lane adjacent to Pentucket High School and the Hills House. Next time you are driving around town, see if you spot those daffodils now that you know they are an everlasting gift of generosity from a fellow gardener.



Native Plants — By Christine Gerzon & Jane Jeffers

A few more native plants Native Committee chairs, Carol Decker and Linda Schaeffer bought Bagley Pond Nursery for our annual plant sale!



Hairy Beardtongue

Height 1.5 feet

Spread 1 foot

A versatile native for garden and landscape, this diminutive penstemon is very tough and adaptable to a range of well-drained soils, in full sun and partial shade. Hairy Beardtongue is low growing with woolly stems that are sometimes reddish in color. In early summer, airy clusters of delicate tubular flowers appear on the top half of the plant in various shades of lavender. The blooms attract a range of pollinators as well as hummingbirds.



Culver's Root

Height 4-7 feet

Spread 2-4 feet

Full Sun to Part Sun

Makes a strong statement in the garden. The tall unbranched stems are surrounded with whorls of deep green leaves and topped with elegant spires of white flowers, blooming for several weeks in midsummer. Bees love this popular plant! Mature plants can reach heights of six feet and form a large clump with multiple stems.



Foamflower

Height 1 feet

Spread 2 feet

Partial to Full Shade

One of the showiest spring wildflowers In the shade garden, the starry white flower spikes are often accented with a tinge of pink. The handsome lobed foliage stays attractive all summer and turns hues of red and bronze in the fall. The dense foliage hugs the ground and flower spikes rarely exceed one foot. Foamflower is not an aggressive grower, and it will form a nice groundcover in time.



New England Aster

Height 2-3 feet

Spread 3-4 feet

Partial to Full Sun

This late blooming beauty with its purple petals and yellow centers provides an important fall nectar source for pollinators. Plant at the back of a garden border where shorter plants can cover lower leaves as they naturally begin to dry up when the plant blooms.

Notes from the Board

Reimbursement Policy- As we head into the high season with the plant sale and garden expenses, please follow these guidelines for reimbursement to ensure we are compliant with tax filing:

1. Provide your name & address.
 2. Provide an original receipt OR printed copy circling the specific expense or circle the expense if receipt includes items other than garden club.
 3. Indicate the purpose of the purchase (i.e., soil, plant sale, Training Field flowers).
-

Welcome New Member!

Maryellen Russo

Contact us!

WNGC Newsletter Editor
Alison Reyes

Contributing Columnists:
Andrea Caswell, WNGC Member
Alexis Katkevich, WNGC Member
Chris Gerzon, WNGC Member

Facebook
Chris Gerzon

WNGC President/Website
Lori Boudrow

West Newbury Garden Club
P.O Box 11 West Newbury, MA 01985
Email: mrcwebmaster@comcast.net

WNGC Privacy Statement

We respect the privacy of our members. Membership information in the Yearbook and/or in the Newsletter is for WNGC use only. Member Contact information is not to be released or used except within and for WNGC communication, and never for commercial purposes.

WNGC is a member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. Read their quarterly newsletter *Mayflower* for articles, announcements, events and workshops.

Stay Connected to WNGC

Note: WNGC Board meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at Board members' homes.
Please contact Lori Boudrow if you wish to attend.