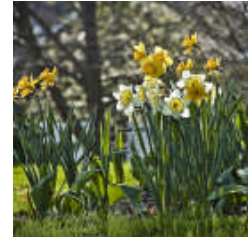


A POSY PICKER'S PAPER
New Meadows Garden Club
Topsfield, Massachusetts
March 22nd through April 26, 2011



Dare we dream?

Welcome to our new member, Donna Titel!

March 22



Our next regular meeting is our Conservation Meeting for this year, which will be held at 9:30 am at the Gould Barn, Topsfield. The program is "Honey Bees" featuring Randy Johnson from the Essex County Beekeepers Association. We will learn more about the current bee colony collapse disorder, and how we can help these important plant pollinators. This meeting is open to the public free of charge, so why not bring a friend or two?

March 28

Horticulture Morning will be held at the Espousal Center, 554 Lexington Street, North Waltham (off Route 95 Exit 27A Totten Pond Road) 10:00 am. The program will be "Succulent Plants in House and Garden," presented by Art Scarpa. There is a \$5.00 donation at the door. This meeting is open to any member of our club. Art Scarpa will also be our club's featured speaker at our April Horticulture Meeting.

April 14

The Northern District Annual Meeting will be held at the Andover Country Club. President Rose Ann and Vice President Judy will be attending and would be very happy if some of you decide to join them. More details are in your February Posy Picker. The registration deadline is April 7, 2011. Please contact Rose Ann if you are interested in attending.

April 19

Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Lorraine Erickson at 7 pm.

April 26

Our Horticulture Meeting will be held at the Gould Barn, Topsfield at 7 pm. The program will be A Demonstration and Workshop on Succulent Plants with Art Scarpa. Stay tuned for more information about this very special meeting from our Horticulture Co-Chairs, Gerrie Bunker and Jean Hampton.

...more on the following page...

Notes



It's almost time once again for Art In Bloom at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. This year, Rita Galvin will create a design to represent our club in this exciting annual event. Mary Connor will be assisting her. They have been assigned their art object, and are busy choosing a container, and the plant material they will be using. The dates are April 30th to May 2nd. Why not plan to spend a nice day in the city, take in this glorious show and have a nice lunch? Sounds good to me!



Spring is always a very busy time for our club, and this year is no exception. Here's another reminder that our Artistic Committee is planning a very special event for us and for our community at the Topsfield Library coming up on May 19th and entitled Art In Flowers. You will have a chance to try your hand at creating a floral arrangement to coordinate with one of the many beautiful works of art displayed at our library. The committee is circulating a sign up sheet, so look for it and jot your name down to participate in this fun event.



...And you might remember that there was an announcement in the January edition of the Posy Picker that Boston will host the World Flower Show from June 15th to 19th this year at the Seaport World Trade Center. Delegates from 30 countries will celebrate the art of floral design. Many helping hands will be needed in the background to make this event a great success. There is still time for you to be part of the team...just give Mary Huntoon a call at 978-468-7544 and let her know!

...more news on the next page...

For Tammy Glasser, our Strawberry Festival Chair, it's never too soon to start thinking about our fundraising booth at Topsfield's annual event. And so, she is reminding us...especially those in "downsizing mode"...to start collecting garden paraphernalia that the club could sell which you are ready to let go. You might also starting cooking up some ideas for plant baskets and other must-haves that will entice festival-goers to buy. Mark the day...Saturday, June 11th!



...Bits and pieces...



Here are Jean Bilsbury and your Posy editor keeping each other warm!

The weather wasn't too kind to the club this winter when it came time to remove the outdoor Christmas decorations from the Topsfield Library. We gave up on trying to outwait the snow and the extremely cold temperatures, and Rose Ann's husband, Harvey, her son Michael, and daughter-in-law Tina courageously helped us removed the wreaths and swags. Thanks so much to them for all their help, frozen fingers and all!



A day at the Boston Flower & Garden Show! Enjoying the smell of spring and all the shopping are BJ Boland, President Rose Ann, your Posy editor and Claudette Poor.

P.S. I didn't mean to wind up in both these photos. I will try to avoid this in the future!

...Green Thumb on the following page...

Green Thumb Corner

Just recently, there was a presentation in Boxford and an article in the Tri-Town Transcript, both addressing the concept of Co-existing with Coyotes. In the presentation given by Christine Schadler, a wild canid ecologist, it was pointed out that small



mammals such as chipmunks and squirrels, who inhabit the heavily wooded areas of Boxford, Topsfield and Georgetown, in addition to deer, are natural prey for coyotes. Many of us live in these areas and may not be aware of the coyotes' presence. This winter, with its continuous snow cover, proved to me that we are indeed in an area where these animals roam. The footprints left behind in the snow were unmistakable. The absolute proof came a couple of weeks ago, when my husband snapped the photo above in our backyard. That coyote looks like one of our pets...right at home!

I mention this here since I think information which appeared in the Tri-Town Transcript article bears repeating. If you happen to be confronted by a coyote, resist the instinct to run away from it. This would perhaps identify you as prey to the coyote. Instead, run at it, throwing sticks and rocks if you can, as Christine Schadler suggests. Also, raise your arms making yourself look "bigger than life" and make noise! Naturally afraid of humans, the coyote will usually retreat from threatening movements and sounds that are unfamiliar. Yelling or banging pots and pans are effective methods of temporarily removing the coyote from your area. So tuck this advice away somewhere in your memory so that, in the unlikely event you cross paths with a coyote, you know just what to do.



What cheer a *primrose plant* brings into our lives at this time of year. For me, it's like a ray of hope that spring will really come, instead of being just a figment of my imagination. These plants are available everywhere you go now...the supermarket, the garden center, the florist. To keep them blooming the longest possible, start right at the time of purchase. Pick a plant with lots of buds that are just beginning to open, rather

than one in full bloom. Once home, place your plant in bright, indirect light and cool temperatures, and be diligent about watering. These plants wilt quickly and should be kept consistently moist...don't drown them, though! Be sure to pinch the flowers as they fade. Since the primrose variety *Primula polyantha* is hardy to zone 4 (hurray), you can gradually get them used to being outside and plant them in a garden with moist, well-drained soil and partial shade. Primrose sold as potted plants such as *Primula malcoides* unfortunately are not hardy here, so you must enjoy these indoors and then pop them onto the compost pile after flowering.

You might remember that there were two featured articles in our *Posy Picker* about the severe threat to our landscape posed by the Winter Moth Caterpillar. If you would like to look back at the information in these articles, they were in the February 2010 and November 2010 editions.



This is a reminder that now is the time for action! You might remember that the application of horticultural oil sprays may be used to manage the eggs, which are now exposed on the bark of trees such as maples, oaks, apple, crabapple, ash, weeping cherry, fringe tree and blueberry. Proper timing of spraying is critical and should be done before leaves and flowers show signs of breaking dormancy. Wait until as close to bud break as possible, and make sure temperatures will be above 40 degrees for at least 24 hours. It is also recommended that you spray with BT once the leaves start to unravel. Hopefully, we can beat these monster defoliators at their own game!

"Spring is nature's way of saying Let's Party!"

...Robin Williams