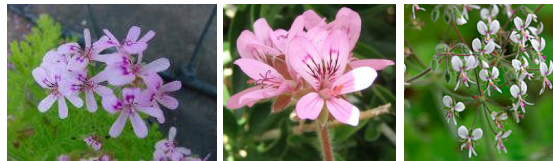


A POSY PICKER'S PAPER
New Meadows Garden Club
Topsfield, Massachusetts
March 27th through April 24, 2012



*What did you think of last week's
summer weather...too hot or just right?*

March 27



Our next regular meeting will be held at the Topsfield Library at 7 pm. Our program will feature Jean Anderson, who will present her program "Scented Geraniums Are Not Geraniums." Hope to see you there, and please be prepared to cast your vote for the proposed Bylaw Amendment sent to you last month.

April 10

The North Andover and Methuen Garden Clubs have invited our members to join them at their meeting at the First United Methodist Church, Peters Street, North Andover at 7 pm. The program is "Native Plants for your Garden" which will be presented by Scott Lafleur, Horticulture Director and Curator of the Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA. We will learn which perennial plants and grasses will help support indigenous butterflies, birds and animals, which, in fact, will be easier to grow and maintain since they are native plants. This meeting is open to the public.

April 17

Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Lorraine Erickson at 9:30 am.

April 18

The Northern District Annual Meeting will be held at the Danversport Yacht Club. It promises to be a day filled with two interesting programs, boutique shopping, a fabulous lunch, and a beautiful floral presentation, among other events. Vice President, Judy Donovan, expects to attend, and would welcome any members who would like to join her. The cost for the whole day is \$40.00, and registration must be completed by April 2nd. President Rose Ann has forwarded by e-mail a registration form, if you need one. If you need another sent, please contact Rose Ann.

...more news on the following page...

April 24



Our next regular meeting will be a special trip into the Boston Flower Exchange, followed by lunch at the Prince Pizzeria, Route 1 South. There is no charge for those attending, but we will need a definite head count of those going and drivers to get us around. Please be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet and more details from Judy Donovan very soon. Preliminary plans have us departing for Boston at 9 am.



NOTES



Have a calendar handy? Here are a few dates to mark down!



April 27

Our club will participate in the Arbor Day Observance at the Steward School in Topsfield at 9:15 am. All club members are invited to attend. Come see the tree our club has funded this year, which will be planted on the school grounds, celebrate the day, and sing along with Joyce Bergsten and all the school children!

April 28-30



Art in Bloom will be held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. This year we are thrilled that member Stefani Mahr will be representing our club with a design in this exciting annual event at the Museum. Last year's designer, Rita Galvin, will assist. Stefani advises us that she will coordinate her design with the beautiful wood carved altar by Italian Artist Bartolomeo Vivarini picture here and entitled "Virgin and the Dead Christ with the Ascension and Saints, 1485." Be sure to set aside a day to take in this spectacular event at the Museum.

...more on the following page...

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT...With the term of office of President Rose Ann Waite and her fellow officers drawing to a close, our Nominating Committee presents the following Slate of Officers for our garden club years 2012—2014:

President	Judy Donovan
Co-Vice Presidents	Mary Conner, Helen Gaffey
Secretary	Rita Galvin
Treasurer	Shirley Holt

Election of the club's officers will take place at our April 24, 2012 regular meeting, with installation at our Annual Meeting on June 5, 2012.

And now some surprising and disappointing news passed on to us by Linda Harvey. This is a copy of a letter sent to newsletter recipients of the Newbury Perennial Gardens & Nursery:

Dear Friends and Loyal Customers,

I regret to announce that we are closing Newbury Perennial Gardens & Nursery. After 35 years of sharing the excitement of Spring and the arrival of new and unique plants each year with all of our gardening friends, it is time to smell, rather than unload, the roses.

Heather and I appreciate the great friendships we have made over the years and wish each of you continued gardening success.

Although we will not be opening this season, we have planned a Garden Sale of our remaining inventory on Saturday & Sunday, May 19th and 20th. Join us for light refreshments and the opportunity to add some interesting selections to your garden beds.

Thank-you
Richard Simkins

This special place will surely be missed.

Remembering Katie

Katie Peterson was only a member of our club for two short years, but what a beautiful gift her presence was to all of us. Her willingness to learn, and help wherever needed was inspiring, and her contagious and irresistible smile and joyous optimism will remain a sweet memory always. Our sincerely sympathies go to all of her loved ones, but especially to her dear husband Dave and her beautiful daughter, Amanda.



Katie with Helen Gaffey at our Annual Meeting June 2, 2010



There's Katie second from the right helping at the garden at Pine Grove Cemetery May 13, 2010



Katie with President Rose Ann at our September 27, 2011 meeting.

...continued on the next page...

BITS AND PIECES



Great progress is being made with construction of the Caretaker's Cottage at the Parson Capon House. Soon it will be time to make plans for the garden!



Admiring the art work with our knowledgeable Museum guide.



Sandy Duffy and Carol Westhaver waiting for their ride!

Our trip to the Peabody Essex Museum



Nat Anderson tends to lunch at Stefani Mahr's place.

Green Thumb Corner

The Winter Moth revised...there is much talk about the winter moth these days, especially since we are on the threshold of what we expect to be another spring of heavy feeding by these thugs on our maples, oaks, apple and crabapples, ash, fringetree and weeping cherry trees, as well as other trees, shrubs and even perennials. I have addressed this subject recently, but thought it worth bringing up yet again.

An article about this very subject appears on page 23 in the Spring copy of the Mayflower Magazine, to which some of you subscribe through our club. For those of you who will not be able to read this article written by Leslie Frost, here is a quick summary: Winter Moths have been a pest in coastal Massachusetts for about 10 years, and are now in the Merrimack Valley, most notably in Andover, Topsfield and Boxford. Absent a spraying program in these towns, protection of trees is left to the homeowner. If you have large host trees, it is recommended that you contact a tree company to spray. Towns which spray, and also tree companies such as Bartlett Tree and Boston Tree Preservation, use a product called *Conserve* made by Dow Chemical, whose active ingredient is Spinosad. Spinosad is a synthetic insecticide with the benefit of a biological pest control organism, which must be ingested by the moth larvae. U Mass Extension additionally recommends spraying with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT), which is available to the homeowner at garden centers. I just purchase some at Home Depot. Obviously, these are courses of action for this time of year.

There is also reference to action in the fall of the year, which involves applying barriers on susceptible trees by creating a solid, impenetrable barrier encircling the tree. According to Leslie Frost, this is not the complete answer. The U Mass Extension tends to agree with this.

So, now's the time to keep an eye on your trees and plants, and good luck fighting this war!

"Life is a big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can"

...Danny Kaye, American Actor