

# A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

March 22nd through May 1, 2016



The Spring or Vernal Equinox was March 20th this year. On that day, the daytime hours and nighttime hours are of almost equal duration in most time zones in the world. Welcome spring!

The objectives of the New Meadows Garden Club shall be to foster knowledge of home gardening, decorative arrangements and an interest in civic projects.

March 22



The Wardian Case

Our regular membership meeting will be held at the Gould Barn at 6:30 pm and is our Horticulture Meeting for this year. Our special speaker will be Sean Ward, who grew up working in a greenhouse for his Dad and Grandfather, continuing a 250 year history of horticulture in his family. Some of you may know Sean...he owns the Peirce Farm at Witch Hill in Topsfield, a new beautiful event venue in town. It is Dr. Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward, an ancestor of Sean's, who experimented with what became known as the "Wardian Case," which allowed plants to thrive in glass cases in places where they would have difficulty surviving at all. This ultimately led to the use of terrariums and inspired the creation of the aquarium. Sean will be telling us about his famous ancestor, and will also share with us his personal experimentation with the Wardian Case.

**\*\*Hostesses:** Linda Flynn, Ann Moorman and Susan Peterson

April 12



The North Andover Garden Club will present a program "Design your own Kitchen Garden" with Betsy Grecoe. Participants will learn how to draw and design a modern potager, now known as a kitchen garden, based on historical designs and modern uses. They will create a drawn plan for their own garden based on their kitchen needs and garden area. This program will begin with digital images and an explanation of kitchen gardens and plants. The program will then shift to a workshop format as participants will use materials and information to design their gardens. Each participant will leave with a drawing to create their own kitchen garden. This event will be held at 7 pm at St. Michael's Church, 196 Main Street, North Andover. Admission is free and open to the public.

April 19

Our next board meeting will be held at home of Sandy Whelan at 10 am.

April 25



Horticulture Morning will be held at Tower Hill Botanical Garden, Boylston, from 10 am to 12 pm. "Naturescape Your Yard" is the program for the morning, and will be presented by Karen Bussolini, who is a widely-published garden photographer, speaker and writer. Attendees will learn how to landscape with Mother Nature, the gardeners' best friend. The donation for members is \$5.00 at the door, and \$10.00 for their guests.

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

April 29



Arbor Day will be held at the Steward School, 261 Perkins Row, Topsfield at 9:15 am. As our club does each year, a tree will be donated and planted on the school grounds. You are invited to join in the celebration of this rite of spring with the children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade.

April 30 to May 2

Art In Bloom will be held at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.

May 1



Jane will create a design to coordinate with "Two Faiths" by American Artist, Lois Mailou Jones.

Our Artistic Meeting for this year will feature a bus trip to Art In Bloom at the Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. As many of you know, our club has participated in this very special event at the museum every year except for one since 1984. (Thank you so much to Barbara Shade for documenting our participation in this event in the history she so painstakingly put together for our club!) This year, Jane Cullinan will represent our club with a design, assisted by Rose Ann Waite. Our bus trip this year is very appropriate since it will give us the perfect opportunity to see Jane's creation, as well as all the others in this spectacular show. The bus will leave the parking lot at Emerson Center (and the Gould Barn) at 10 am sharp and return there at 3 pm. The cost for those who wish to take advantage of the bus trip rather than driving in is \$10.00, payable to Shirley Holt at our March 22nd meeting at the Gould Barn, or to Rose Ann Waite after that meeting. There are 20 seats on the bus, which will be available on a first-come first-serve basis. So that you can make the most of your time at the museum, why not bring a snack with you to enjoy on the bus before our arrival and perhaps a bagged lunch and a drink for the trip home! Of course, having lunch at the museum is always an option too!

## NOTES



► **Save the date #1!** The Northern District Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at the Andover Country Club from 9 AM to 2 PM. An exciting day is planned for us with an environmental flair. The keynote speaker will be Marty Jessel, who will speak on the important topic of "Protecting Pollinators." Following lunch, the afternoon program will feature Shirley Smith, who will tell us about Ava Anderson quality products for the home and body, which are made without harmful chemicals. More details will follow as they become available, so mark your calendars!

► **Save the date #2!** The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at the Holiday Inn, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough. It's not often that this meeting is held so close to home, so here's your chance to attend without making hotel reservations! Details will follow as they become available.

Membership Chair, Janet Hanson has announced that our Membership Renewals will soon be in our Postal Service mailboxes \*\*Please note that, effective for next year, our club's board has increased our annual dues payments. Dues for Active Members will be \$35.00, and those for Associate Members will be \$52.50. Please return your renewals with your dues payments as soon as possible.

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

*Just a head's-up that incoming President, Shirley Holt, is looking for members to graciously volunteer for available committee chair positions for the next two years. As good members, think about how you would like to contribute your time to making our club the best it can be and be ready when Shirley calls.*

► *Here's a reminder from Awards and Scholarship Chair, Barbara Shade, that our club maintains a Scholarship Fund to help pay for Federation and Audubon courses, conservation and horticulture courses and seminars, and other approved member-suggested courses. If you are interested in taking advantage of this benefit of membership in our club, please refer to the club By-Laws Article XII (page 7) for further details or contact Barbara with any questions you might have.*



*Librarian and Properties Chair, Lorraine Erickson, reports that there are still (4) **club aprons** available for sale at \$18.00 each and (3) **club totes** at \$15.00 each. Please contact Lorraine if you are interested in purchasing either one of these items from the club.*



*...Bits and pieces...*



*Here we are at our meeting in February enjoying our bagged lunches and each other!*



*VP and Program Chair, Shirley Holt, introduces our guest speaker, Linda Sessa, who showed us "How to Use Herbs for Health and Beauty."*

*...more on the next page...*



► And, in the spirit of last month's meeting, here's a recipe I came across to make your own Essential Oil Cleanser, which can be used on quartz, marble and granite counters! It's also fabulous on appliances, bathroom sinks, window sills (but not glass), and tables and baseboards, where it will gently remove dirt and grease, and will even kill germs:

*In a 16 ounce spray bottle pour 3/4 cup water, 1 squirt dish soap, 1/4 cup rubbing alcohol, and 5 to 10 drops of essential oil...lemon, orange or peppermint work well. Shake well and you're ready to go. Spray to your heart's content, but have a micro-fiber cloth ready to wipe as you go!*

*Grow Spring! Expo returns to Topsfield March 19, 2016*

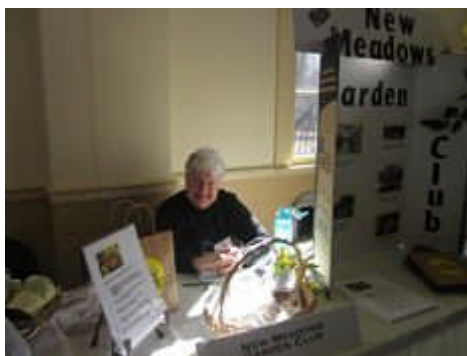
*With over 620 in attendance, a good time was had by all!*



*Business is brisk!*



*Federation President Betty Sanders visits our table.*



*Barbara Shade at the ready to distribute Milkweed seeds*



*The antique tractor display!*



*Shirley, Rose Ann & their hubbies enjoy lunch  
In the barn!*

*...the Green Thumb Corner follows...*

## Green Thumb Corner

### *A Garden Fit For A Queen*

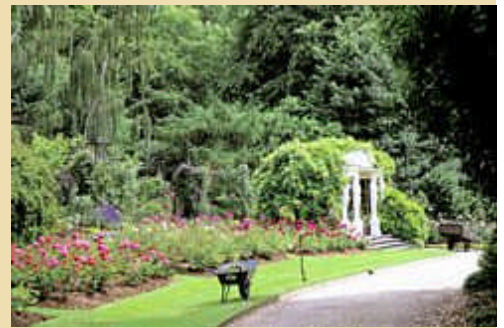
*Many if not all of you know of the beauty and splendor of Buckingham Palace in London, the house England's Queen Elizabeth calls home. Unless I miss my guess, many of you have actually had the pleasure of seeing the palace in person. However, did you know that in the Queen's backyard there is a magnificent garden occupying approximately 40 acres? I doubt many of you have seen it since, unlike the nearby*



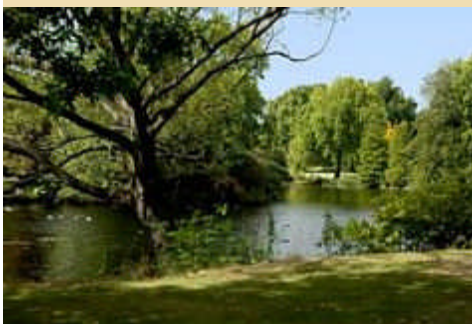
*Royal Parks of London, this garden is not usually open to the public, except in August and September when visitors have access to part of the garden, which forms the exit from the palace at the end of a palace tour. But, during the summer months, for special folks such as those who hold public positions, or are of national interest in some way, the garden is the setting for **Royal garden parties** held by the Queen. Her first such gathering was in 2002. The guests enjoy tea and sandwiches in large tents erected in the garden. Then, as the National Anthem is played by a military band, the Queen and her family emerge from the Bow Room of the castle and slowly make their way to their own private tea tent. It must truly be right*

*up there in life experiences to be invited to one of these gatherings!*

*The garden itself is environmentally friendly and is maintained by approximately eight full-time gardeners, with two or three part-timers. There are a number of initiatives to ensure that the gardens look their best while encouraging wildlife and plant life to thrive without detrimental effects on the environment. The use of pesticides is kept to a minimum and eventually will be phased out completely. Grass cuttings,*



*twigs, branches and soiled straw from the stables in the Royal Mews are recycled into compost on site. This is used to prepare new flower beds, protecting plants from heat and cold, suppressing weeds, and keeping the plants hydrated. Tree stumps are not removed, but are left to rot away, which provides a perfect environment for insects to lay their eggs. Dead trees are also left, providing natural habitats for birds. Large pieces of wood are stacked in piles, which provide habitats for beetles, spiders and a fine collection of fungi and exotic mushrooms. Eighty-three species of birds and 2 1/2 thousand insects call the Queen's gardens home.*



*Grasses are left long in about 10 percent of the garden area, which allows wildflowers to reproduce and sustain themselves without interference. A little less than a mile of ground around the edge of a lake made in the garden in 1828 is cut every four years, allowing flora and fauna to prosper without interruption. And more native plants are continuously being added. The Queen's gardeners even use biodegradable diesel, lubricants and oils in their lawn mowers and other pieces of machinery! And, this I really like...the Queen insists that only a mixture of garlic powder and water be used in her rose gardens to control pests!*

*...continued on the next page...*



*And, now the bees! In the spring of 2009, at the request of the palace, two honey bee hives were introduced to the garden. It was hoped that this would help conserve bees following the decline in the pollinators' numbers. The hives were located on an island in the garden's lake. The island is covered with wildflowers, grasses and fallen logs. This is a beautiful, secluded place for the hives, not accessible to the public at any time. Just perfect! The hives are looked after by a beekeeper*



*from the London Beekeepers Association together with a specially trained Royal Gardener. Two more hives were added in 2010, and, since the Queen just loves honey, it is used in the palace kitchen, and a jar was even given to the Pope!*



*There is even a harvest from this extraordinary garden. In 2009, Queen Elizabeth revived a tradition from the past by planting a new organic vegetable garden. Her vegetable plot is called the **Yard Red**, and includes onions, leeks, sweet corn, carrots and strawberries, all of which will find their way to the Royal table. No chemicals are used, the Royal gardeners availing themselves of liquid seaweed fertilizer and garlic based concoctions to control insects. See the photo at the left as the Queen oversees the garden work and thanks her staff!*

*And the only collection of Mulberry Trees in England is in the Queen's garden. There are 30 different species, and the berries are harvested and used in the palace kitchen. At Christmas time, Mistletoe and Holly are happily harvested and brought into the palace, adding to the glorious decorations of the season. A garden of utility as well as beauty!*

*It is said that Queen Elizabeth has done more than any other monarch to preserve the character of the garden as a refuge for wildlife and an oasis for beauty in the heart of Europe's largest city. It sounds to me as if the garden is in very good hands!*

*And now some additional tidbits about the garden...*

*First, the story about the flamingos...once upon a time there was a beautiful flock of flamingos, which lived near the lake in Queen Elizabeth's magnificent garden. Alas, there was a cold snap, the lake froze, and not having access to the water for shelter, I am sad to say, the flamingos were killed by a fox. This happened back in 1996. It was decided that the flamingos would not be replaced, rightfully so, until the fox was caught. I tried to determine for you whether this in fact was accomplished and the flamingos replaced, but unfortunately, I came up empty. And so goes the story of the flamingos.*

*And, next the Mulberry trees...so here's how that story goes...in 1608, King James I decided to plant a Mulberry Garden on about four acres of wasteland in an attempt to take control of the silk-making business from the French. Unfortunately, the scheme didn't work. It is not quite clear why, but it is often said that the trees that were planted were black mulberries. Unfortunately, silkworms normally feed on the leaves of the white mulberry. Drat! Foiled again. Do you think that the French had anything to do with this? No original trees from this collection exist now. The palace garden is currently graced with a new collection enthusiastically approved by the Queen and planted in the early part of this century.♣*

*"Every flower is a soul blossoming in nature"  
...Gérard de Nerval*