

# A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

## New Meadows Garden Club

### Topsfield, Massachusetts

*March 28th through April 27, 2017*

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



*The Daffodil, also known as Jonquil, Narcissus and Paperwhite, is our flower for March. Narcissus is a Greek name honoring a beautiful youth, who became so entranced with his own reflection that he pined away, prompting the Gods to turn him into this flower.*

*In Ancient Rome, daffodils were prized for their sap, which was thought to have healing properties. There are some that believe that a natural compound found in daffodil bulbs may be useful in treating brain cancer. How curious it is that all parts of the daffodil are toxic to humans and animals. Regarding our gardens, this is a good thing since deer and rodents instinctively stay away. Daffodils are even toxic to other flowers. If you wish to mix daffodils in a container with other flowers, it's a good idea to first soak them in water for 24 hours, which eliminates their trouble-making sap. Be sure not to cut the stems after this treatment, since that will trigger another release of the toxic sap! And, always remember to present daffodils in a bunch, which represents good fortune. It is believed that presenting a single bloom foretells bad luck!*

#### March 28



*Our regular membership meeting will be held at the Gould Barn at 6:30 pm. This is our annual Horticulture Meeting and will feature Norman Russell, who will present his program "Raised Bed Gardening-Waking up the Garden."*

*Our hostesses will be: Linda Flynn and Claudette Poor.*

#### April 10



*The Northern District Annual Meeting will be held at the Danversport Yacht Club, 161 Elliott Street, Danvers. The morning speaker will be Bill Sargent, who will tell us all about the sea level rise on Plum Island. After a nice lunch, the owners of A Whole Bunch Flower Market in Burlington will demonstrate the art of floral design. The cost is \$40.00 for breakfast, lunch, programs, drawings and boutique vendors! This is always an opportunity for us to spend a nice day together. Registration is required, and a form is included at the end of this issue of our newsletter for your convenience. The deadline is April 3, 2017.*



*Psst...I'll let you in on a secret...word has it that someone in our club will be honored at this meeting, so this is not to be missed! Mail your registration in today!*

#### April 18

*Our next board meeting will be held at the Topsfield Town Library Meeting Room at 10 am.*

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

April 27



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 Grade 3.

April 27



Rose Ann Waite's design  
Art In Flowers 2015

Our meeting, Art in Flowers, will be held at the Topsfield Library at 6:30 pm. Please note that this is a Thursday evening meeting. Twelve of our members will create very special designs to coordinate with the stunning art collection at the library, and these will remain on display until Saturday April 29th. This is an exclusive event planned by our Artistic Committee every two years, and is our club's gift to the community. Mark your calendars and plan to be there to see the beauty our designers will create.

► Northern District Director, Donna Vallois will be joining us as our special guest of the evening.

► Hostesses: Gerrie Bunker and Pat Gagnon

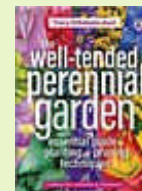
► And, once again this year, the Topsfield Town Library is planning a special reception for the public late Friday afternoon and evening, April 28th, to spotlight our show. The festivities will be held 5 pm to 8 pm in the Meeting Room with light refreshments, and the library will remain open so the public can view its spectacular art collection together with our Art In Flowers designs. Wouldn't this be a perfect opportunity to share this special event with a friend or two? Mark your calendars!

## NOTES



Almost a year ago now, our very first "spouse" Honorary Member, Bill Flagg, passed away. He and his dear wife, Betty, were avid gardeners both at home for their own pleasure and also in the public spaces our club maintains. As many of you know, in fond memory of members we have lost, our club donates books to the Topsfield Town Library. Bill's book is now in circulation at the library and is entitled "The Well-Tended Perennial Garden" by Tracy DiSabato-Aust.

It is a spectacular book with beautiful photos, and the library is very pleased to own it and so, apparently, is the public. We are told that the book was taken out almost as soon as it hit the shelf! Take a look at it the next time you're in the library. You might want to take it out as well!



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

*...Bits and pieces...*

*Rita Galvin's Design Workshop March 6, 2017*



*Busy at work.*



*Still busy at work.*



*The designers with their teacher and their masterpieces!*

*Topsfield Garden Club's Grow Spring! EXPO March 18, 2017*



*Our workers and table at the EXPO*



*Rose Ann Waite's flower design for our table.*



*Barbara Shade with her Monarch Butterfly display*

*...Green Thumb follows...*



## Green Thumb Corner

Here's a question for you...what is the definition of the word "Floriography?" We, as garden club members, should definitely have an answer to this one. To be honest, I didn't when I encountered the word recently. The image to the right should provide you with a huge hint! The dictionary defines Floriography as "communication through the use of flowers"



Many of you may be more familiar with the phrase "the language of flowers." Floriography is just that. Down through the ages, people have given special meanings to flowers. There are written records confirming that meanings were assigned to certain flowers in the ancient Egyptian, Roman, Greek and Chinese cultures. But it was during Queen Victoria's reign in England that the practice of Floriography became extremely popular.

Some believe that it is entirely possible to have a conversation with another person through the exchange of flowers, provided that both people know what they mean. This was particularly useful during Victorian times since it was not considered appropriate to display or talk about feelings and emotions. And so, flowers were many times used to deliver messages that were so secret or unconventional that they couldn't be spoken aloud. This worked as long as those present weren't also familiar with the language of flowers! Although not all books on the subject agreed on the meanings of flowers themselves, the people of that era were generally able to understand the messages being sent through the types of flowers used, their condition and how they were presented. For example, in addition to the meanings of the flowers themselves, if flowers were presented upside-down, it meant that the flowers represented the opposite of their traditional meanings. If flowers were given to someone using the right hand, they were used to answer "yes" to a question. If they were given using the left hand, the answer being conveyed was "no!"

At the height of its popularity, the language of flowers could be easily expressed with nosegays, also known as tussie-mussies or posy bouquets. These were small handheld and fragrant bouquets, often wrapped in lace doilies. Often, they included a combination of fragrant herbs, each with its own meaning, and a single central flower. They were sometimes carried at nose level to block out some of the unpleasant odors common during Victorian times! If one of these bouquets was received from a suitor, if his lady held it at heart level, happiness and acceptance was the meaning. If the bouquet was held pointing downward, the news was bad, since this was a sign of rejection. The bridal bouquets of today are considered modern examples of these Victorian bouquets!

Although Floriography pretty much vanished around the end of World War I, flowers still have special meanings and can still be used to send special messages, even in our modern world of sterile, electronic communication!

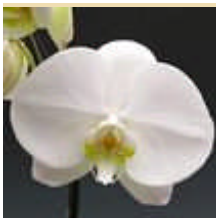


The language of flowers came full circle from Victorian England to the present day at the wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton in 2011. Kate's wedding bouquet was all white in royal tradition. Lily-of-the-valley was chosen to represent return of happiness; Sweet William for gallantry; Hyacinth for constancy of love; Ivy for fidelity, marriage, wedded love and friendship; Myrtle, which is the emblem of marriage and love. An interesting sidelight is that the stem of Myrtle was taken from a plant started from a nosegay given to Queen Victoria by Prince Albert's Grandmother.

Down through the history of the language of flowers, nearly every flower had multiple meanings, which were listed in hundreds of floral dictionaries. But a consensus of meaning for common flowers has developed. There are several books available on the subject and web sites to look at too. If you're interested, one such site providing meanings for a large number of flowers is the following:

<http://www.languageofflowers.com/flowermeaning.htm#anchorc>

...more on the next page...



*For those of you who I might have successfully introduced to “Orchid Parenthood,” here are some tips for the month of March: be careful that the increased light this month doesn’t heat up the place your orchid calls home too much. If this is the case, you may want to provide some shade for your plant. More daylight and warmth at this time of year will encourage increased growth. You might see new roots sprouting! Now you can resume a regular fertilizing schedule. And if you have cattleya, moth or oncidium orchids, they should be starting to bloom!*

*And finally, with the arrival of spring (the calendar says so, if not the weather), Barbara Shade shares the following interesting statistics, with some help from The Boston Globe Magazine!*



<i>Number of frost-free growing days in New England</i>	<i>120 to 180</i>
<i>Calories likely burned in an hour of weeding and cultivating a garden</i>	<i>238</i>
<i>Average hours a week gardeners spend digging and planting</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Estimated spending by US households on growing vegetables, fruits, herbs and berries in 2015</i>	<i>\$3.6 Billion</i>
<i>Percentage of New England households that grew flowers in their gardens in 2015</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Percentage of Boston-area homeowners who garden</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Estimated spending by US households on growing flowers in 2015</i>	<i>\$2.7 Billion</i>
<i>Types of vegetables recommended for planting in March in the Boston area (includes broccoli, carrots, cauliflower and radishes)</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Types of popular New England natives for spring planting (includes Foamflower, New England Aster, Serviceberry, Blueberry, Trumpet Honeysuckle, Creeping Juniper)</i>	<i>6</i>

*Weather is a great metaphor for life...sometimes it’s good, sometimes it’s bad, and there’s nothing much you can do about it but carry an umbrella.  
...Terri Guillemets...*

*...Northern District Annual Meeting Registration Form follows...*



*You are cordially invited to join us for*

*THE NORTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017*

*at*

*DANVERSPORT YACHT CLUB, LLC  
161 Elliott Street  
Danvers, MA 01923  
(978)-774-8622  
www.danversport.com*


*Registration: 8:30 a.m.  
Business Meeting: 9:00 a.m.  
Program 10:00 a.m.  
Adjourn: 2:30 p.m.*

*\$40.00 per person (Breakfast, Lunch, Programs, Opportunity Drawing  
and Boutique vendors)*

*Morning guest speaker: Bill Sargent, Sea Level Rise; The Plum Island Story. During the winter of 2012-2013 close to a third of the houses on Plum Island's southern primary dune were lost or damaged and the island sustained the most concentrated area of damage in all of New England. Responses to the damage set a precedent in the ongoing debate about homeowner's rights and environmental policy in the new area of sea level rise and more frequent and powerful storms. Bill is a consultant for NOVA science series on PBS and the author of 20 books about science in the environment. His most recent books have dealt with the effects of sea level rise in places like New Orleans, Florida and on Cape Cod.*

*Afternoon guest speaker: John & Shannon, Owners, A Whole Bunch Flower Market, Burlington, MA will be demonstrating the art of floral design and creating arrangements which will be donated to our Opportunity Drawing. A Whole Bunch is a European style flower market, featuring full-sized and over-sized bunches that are delivered direct from farms and growers, never held in coolers. They work with farms and growers to ensure the best fresh cut quality, so their flowers really last.*

*All Clubs, except the two Club's bringing centerpieces for this event, should bring one plant or plant-related item valued at approximately \$25 (no books please) for the Opportunity Drawing.*



*Mail the Registration Form (below) to confirm your attendance or you can scan and email.*

*VERY IMPORTANT - ONE REGISTRATION FORM REQUIRED FOR EACH MEMBER ATTENDING. DO NOT COMBINE.*

*R.S.V.P. no later than April 3, 2017 to:*

*Laurie Peloquin, 12 Kenney Rd., Middleton, MA 01949  
Lpeloquin97@gmail.com*

*Checks made payable to GCFM, Inc. with a notation in the memo line stating Northern District*

*Name:*

*Address:*

*Telephone:*

*Email:*

*Club:*

*Lunch Choice: (Please choose one). List food allergies.*

*Boneless Breast of Chicken  
homemade bread stuffing  
supreme sauce*

*Seafood Trio (scallops, shrimp & scrod)  
cracker crumb topping*

*Both served with Roasted Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables*

*Please circle all that apply:*

*Club Member, State Life Member, National Life Member, Club President,  
State Board Member, National Board Member, State Officer, Regional  
Board Member, Former State President, Guest (Non-member)*