

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER
New Meadows Garden Club
Topsfield, Massachusetts
March 26th through April 24, 2018

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



Clivia plants treat us to exquisite blooms in February and March, while most other plants are sleeping!



Lady Charlotte Florentia Clive, pictured at left in a 1839 portrait purchased by Queen Victoria in 1870, was born into a plant-loving family, and, following in her family's footsteps, became a very avid plant lover herself. She was the first person in England to grow Clivia plants, which are native to South Africa, and bring them into bloom. For this reason, botanist John Lindley named these beautiful plants in her honor. Lady Charlotte was a friend of King George IV, and as such was appointed governess to his niece and heiress presumptive, Princess Victoria of Kent, who later became the beloved Queen Victoria. Since Lady Charlotte didn't last too long in this role, we remember her more for her love of Clivia plants! For a few tips on Clivia culture, be sure to check out this month's Green Thumb Corner!

March 26



Our next regular membership meeting will be held at the Topsfield Town Library at 6:30 PM. Please note that this a Monday evening meeting. Our guest speaker will be Suzanne Mahler, who will present a very special program entitled "Gardening in the Shade." Considering that we live in an area blessed with so many trees, this is a program not to be missed! Guests are welcome, and a \$5.00 donation is requested.

Our hostesses for the evening are Janet Hanson and Linda Mann, who is very kindly stepping in for Marsha Stevens at this meeting.

April 3



***Grow Spring! EXPO** workshop will be held at the home of Mary Connor at 1:30 pm. We will be filling ceramic and children's rain boots with spring flowers as a fundraiser at our table at the EXPO. We will also be gathering some other spring items. Please let Sandy Whelan know whether you are available to lend a hand at the workshop!*

April 7



The Topsfield Garden Club will sponsor its Annual Grow Spring! EXPO from 10 am to 3 pm. As of March 12th, almost 80 vendors and exhibitors, along with food trucks, crafters, and a host of other participants have signed up to come together to celebrate agriculture, horticulture, conservation, preservation and our relationship to the land. Once again this year, the event will take place in three historic buildings and surrounding outside areas adjacent to the Topsfield Town Common...the Emerson Center, the Gould Barn and The Commons. Admission is free.

*****Our club will be an exhibitor once again this year. Please mark your calendars for this exciting event, and be ready to lend a hand at our table.***

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

April 17

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

April 24



As many of you who have already experienced all that makes *Pettengill Farm* special, our next regular membership meeting, which will be held there, is an event not to be missed! The program will be about Container Gardening, as it was when we last met there in 2012. There will be a demonstration, and an opportunity to either create your own container at your own expense, or just purchase plants for later use. It's your choice. *Stay tuned for more details!*

Our hostesses for this meeting are Donna Ryan and Cheryl Connors

April 25



The Northern District Annual Meeting will be held at the Tewksbury Country Club, 1880 Main Street, Tewksbury. ► Please note that this meeting will not be held at the Tyngsboro Country Club, as previously thought! The morning program will take us on a visual tour through some beautiful historical gardens, with Master Gardener, Julia Danforth and Local Historian, Michael Lally. After lunch there are two afternoon programs. The first will feature Martha Morrison and Leslie Voss of the Topsfield Garden Club, who will give us a look *“Behind the Scenes at the Topsfield Fair from a member’s*

view.” The second will feature Deb Taverna of the Chelmsford Garden Club, who will showcase an exciting and successful fundraiser, *“Smoking Hot Kitchen ’n Counter Tour.”* The cost is \$44.00 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 for registration is April 11, 2018.

P.S. Award’s Chair, Barbara Shade reports that she has submitted an application for a State Award for one of our members, so there is hope that there may even be more excitement that day!

April 27



Arbor Day will be held at the Steward School, 261 Perkins Row, Topsfield at 9:15 am. It's best to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the ceremony so that you have time to check in at the office. 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.

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

April 28 - 30

Art in Bloom will be held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. We are please that our participating designer this year will be Barbara Shade. Her assistant is Rose Ann Waite...a very capable team indeed. They have attended the Exhibitor's Meeting and have been assigned the museum's object, which they will interpret with a floral design. Normally, we all would have a sneak peek at the object, but this year details are scarce since our team has decided to keep the object a mystery. So, there are no photos, and no details about the history of the object itself to share with you right now. What to do? Plan a nice day at the event to view the object, and Barbara's interpretation in flowers!

...Bits and pieces...

*Our February 2018 Meeting
A stroll through some very special English Gardens
with Glenn Holt*



...Green Thumb follows...

Green Thumb Corner

I vaguely remember writing about the Clivia plant for our newsletter's Green Thumb Corner several years ago, when I was very much younger! Since February and March are the months that Clivia naturally blooms, I thought it might be a nice idea to highlight this beautiful plant once again, especially for those of you who weren't members of our club back then. The image to the right is actually one of my Clivia plants as it looked this morning.



The Clivia plant is also known as the "Winter Lily" because it blooms in winter! These plants are just spectacular when in bloom, but are relatively uncommon among houseplants. At one time, only the wealthy owned them, but these days they are available in many garden centers. If you are interested in getting one for yourself, it is better to purchase a plant that is already in bloom. While young plants can be less expensive, it can take from two to five years for a Clivia to bloom for the first time. Best to buy a plant that you know is already at blooming age. You will need some space for your Clivia, since they can grow about 2-3 feet tall and their flower stalks can be as high as 20 inches tall. They come in a wide range of colors these days, even though the old varieties had mostly orange or yellow flowers.

So, here are a few growing tips to make your Clivia plant a happy plant: since Clivia's active growing period is from early spring to early fall, an east or south facing window is the perfect place for it at this time, with temperatures around 70 to 75 degrees, water one to two times a week and provide an application of slow-release fertilizer. It is possible to summer your Clivia plant outside...just make sure you find a protected spot with indirect light for your plant after the last freeze in spring. Don't forget the fertilizer...either a water soluble 20-20-20 or a slow-release fertilizer. Clivia blooms better when pot bound, so repotting will not be on your list too often. That said, it is a good idea to add a bit of fresh soil to the top surface each year. And, remember to bring your plant inside before the first freeze in the fall.

Now, here's where things get really interesting! You want your plant to bloom again, right? One thing to remember is that, for regular blooming, your plant will need a resting period of about 6 to 8 weeks during winter. To enjoy a blooming plant come February or March, here's what to do: starting October 1st, find a place for your "sweetie" in your home where the temperatures will hover around 50 degrees. This may be tough for some of you. A partially heated sun-porch or the north wall in a cool basement is ideal. If this cold treatment is not provided, the plant may not bloom until late summer. It's important to withhold water during this period. In mid-January, bring your plant back to the place you set aside for it in your home during the spring and summer, give it a thorough soaking with water, and soon you may see new leaves growing. Keep an eye on the center of the plant's evergreen foliage. Flower buds should begin to show about two weeks after you bring your plant to a warmer location and have resumed a watering schedule. And the cycle begins anew. ♥

...Northern District Annual Meeting details follow...



Members and friends are cordially invited to join us for

THE NORTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

at

Tewksbury Country Club

1880 Main Street

Tewksbury, MA 01876

(978)-640-0033

<https://www.tewksburycc.com>

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Business Meeting: 9:30 a.m.

Program 10:00 a.m.

Buffet Lunch 12:00

Program 1:00

Adjourn: 3:00 p.m.

\$44.00 per person (Breakfast, Lunch, Programs)

Opportunity Drawing and Boutique vendor shopping available

Morning Guest Speakers: Master Gardener Julia Danforth and Local Historian Michael Lally. Join us for a visual tour through their beautiful historical gardens focusing on both art and history. Explore an amazing display of colors and beauty. Learn about customs and traditions and listen to engaging anecdotes.

Afternoon Guest Speaker (1): Leslie Voss and Martha Morrison President Topsfield Garden Club will explain "Behind the Scenes at Topsfield Fair from a members view".

Afternoon Guest Speaker (2) Deb Taverna of the Chelmsford Garden Club will showcase Smoking Hot Kitchen 'n Counter Tour. Learn how they planned this exciting and successful fundraiser.

All Clubs, except the two Clubs bringing centerpieces for this event, should bring one desirable 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.

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

NORTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

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

\$44.00 Checks made payable to GCFM, Inc.
with a notation in the memo line stating Northern District

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Garden Club: _____

Continental Breakfast with freshly brewed coffee and tea

Buffet Lunch: List food allergies. _____

Buffet Entrée Chicken Piccata and Baked Haddock

Both served with Salad, Rolls, Roasted Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Member | <input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> National Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest (Non-member) |

RSVP no later than April 11, 2018 to:

Laurie Peloquin, 12 Kenney Road, Middleton, MA 01929
lpeloquin@comcast.net