

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER
New Meadows Garden Club
Topsfield, Massachusetts
April 26th through May 19, 2011



...And soon the magnolias...

Welcome to our new members, Agnes Salvatore and Sandy Whelan!

April 26



Our next regular meeting will be our horticulture meeting to be held at the Gould Barn, Topsfield at 7 pm. The program will be A Demonstration and Workshop on Succulent Plants with Art Scarpa. This promises to be a fun meeting as we all create our own tropical succulent garden, similar to the ones pictured here...so simple to take care of once you have placed it in its special place in your home.

Members are requested to contact Gerrie Bunker in advance if you expect to attend, and your cost of \$22.00, which covers the beautiful 10 inch container, soil, and five beautiful tropical succulent plants is payable at the meeting. You might want to bring a light pair of gardening gloves so your beautifully manicured nails will not be in tatters after all the fun!

April 30 - May 2

Art in Bloom will be held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. As many of you know, our club has participated in this very special event for many years. *This year, Rita Galvin will represent our club with a design, with assistant, Mary Connor. Word has it that a few groups in the club are thinking about spending a nice day out and about in Boston, taking in the show. Ask around if you would like to join them.*

May 2



Our club will participate in the Arbor Day Observance at the Steward School in Topsfield at 9:30 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, and celebrate and sing along with Joyce Bergsten and all the school children!

May 17

Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Liz Henkel at 7 pm. Please note that this is a change in location originally planned.

May 19



Our meeting, Art in Flowers, will be held at the Topsfield Library at 7 pm. Please note that this is a Thursday evening meeting. Members will create designs to coordinate with the stunning art collection at the library. There is still time to volunteer a design, so if you would like to do so, please contact Artistic Co-Chairs Jean Bilsbury and Pam Garfield. For those who are participating, there is a planned trip to the flower market in Boston for materials, and an opportunity to join other participants at Rose Ann's home to create your design prior to the meeting! Hope to see you there.

****Reminder to Committee Chairs...Annual Reports will soon be due to Secretary, Mary Dalton. Stay tuned!**

...more on the following page...

Notes



Exciting news...our club has welcomed two new members this month! If I have counted correctly, that brings our club to 44 active and talented members.

...And, if you haven't marked your calendars yet, do it right now...our Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held on June 7, 2011, 6 pm at the 1640 Hart House, 51 Linebrook Road, Ipswich. Dinner will be a buffet filled with all our favorites. Nat Anderson and Judy Connelly will have more details soon, and be looking to sign you up!



And here's something else coming soon...the Strawberry Festival. This annual event is not only a fun day for the Town of Topsfield, but a very important fund raising opportunity for our club. Save the date...June 11th...jot it down right now! Time to start thinking about must-haves for our booth that day...baskets of plants, garden items for the Green Elephant table...you know the drill, I'm sure. Please set some time aside to work at our booth, too...we always have a ball together! You will be hearing from Tammy soon, as she starts coordinating our event...be ready.

Here's a wonderful project those of us who attended the Northern District Annual Meeting last week learned about being sponsored by our sister Garden Club Federation in Delaware, and we thought you might like to hear about it. Delaware is the home of the nation's only stateside military mortuary, which is located at the Dover Air Force Base. It is here that the families of fallen soldiers from all branches of service receive the remains of their loved ones. This spring, the Delaware Federation will plant a memorial outdoor garden at Dover for the exclusive use by the families, which will provide a space that is peaceful and private. This garden will not be open to the public. If you would like more information, or would like to make a fully tax deductible donation toward this project, the website is memorialgarden-dover.org or call 302-468-1900.

...And here is some information passed onto us from Judy Donovan about some great spring events being sponsored by the Ipswich River Watershed Association. These events are local, so not too much driving is involved. Among many activities, there are canoe trips, a Native Plant & Rain Garden Tour & Compost Tea Workshop, and a lecture entitled Greenscapes 101, which will teach you how to make your yard environmentally friendly. For more information on these and other great programs, check out the website <http://ipswichriver.org>. Click on "make a difference" and then on "event calendars." You may also call 978-412-8200.

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

*And now, introducing our newest Northern District Award winner...
Betty Flagg!*



At the Northern District Annual meeting on April 24th, here is our dear member, Betty Flagg, receiving the Katherine Suozzo Award for her outstanding contributions in the field of horticulture within our club and the community. Incoming Northern District Director, Bonnie Asbjornson, made the presentation to Betty, assisted by District Registrar, Judy Blackburn. Betty was chosen from among many candidates, and is so deserving of this honor. Many thanks to Barbara Shade for preparing the application to the Northern District for the award. Be sure to check out the nice article about this exciting event for Betty in this week's Tri-Town Transcript!

...Bits and pieces...



Here are Randy Johnson from the Essex County Beekeepers, and Conservation Co-Chair Liz Henkel at our very informative meeting in March on Honey Bees.



President Rose Ann poses with her exquisite design, which she created for the afternoon Artistic Program at the Northern District Annual Meeting at the Andover Country Club on April 14, 2011. One can safely say that it was the best there!



Our happy garden club group at the Northern District Annual Meeting on April 14, 2011.

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

Green Thumb Corner

Here is yet another article addressing the winter moth...the fourth for the Posy Picker! We are now at the period in time when the feeding caterpillars, if the eggs have been deposited on our trees during the winter months, will start defoliating their host trees. Look for this soon on maples, oaks, cherries, ash, crabapple, apple and blueberry. The caterpillars can also drop to the ground into your flower beds where they may feed on your perennials.

I have been doing ongoing research on how best to control these pests in their various stages, and received what I consider the best information from Northeast Nursery, which I am passing on to you here for your reference:



Male winter moth



Feeding caterpillar

Life Phase	Season	Control Options
Egg	Late Fall / Winter	Apply dormant oil spray to suffocate the eggs.
Newly hatched caterpillars	Late March / Early April	Apply Bacillus thuringiensis or BT
Feeding caterpillars	Late May / Early June	BT can still be applied only if not applied earlier*.

**Spinosad, Sevin and Neem are also effective. Spinosad is derived from a naturally occurring soil dwelling bacterium that was collected from an abandoned rum distillery on a Caribbean island in 1982. This unique bacterium was defined as a new species when it was discovered and it has never been found in nature anywhere else in the world. Since being discovered, Spinosad has become a leading pesticide used by agriculture world wide in the production of organic produce. Today, thanks to Captain Jack's DEADBUG Brew®, Spinosad is available to the homeowner.*

Winter Moth Pupae and Adult Winter Moths	Pupate immediately after feeding, moths emerge around Thanksgiving	At this stage, the moths are no threat to plant life, and there are no control options available.
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I hope that this information is useful to you. It will be a program I intend to follow. I am also certain that, if you have any questions about these procedures, the personnel at Northeast Nursery would be helpful.



Early to mid-spring is the perfect time to divide midsummer to fall blooming perennials, such as aster, bee balm and hosta, among many others. Discard dead or weak sections from the centers of the plants, and share leftover sections with friends, or bring to our booth at the Strawberry Festival!

Ever wish you had a place to go to find out what's wrong with your plant, or help identify an insect wandering around your home or garden, or even whether something growing in your garden is a plant or a weed? Well, through the National Gardening Association, I have learned about a great online resource set up by the University of Minnesota Extension Service. Even though the University is not located in our area, the information contained here can be of great value to us in this area. It is a problem-solving diagnostic tool, which not only addresses the identification and control of insects and weeds, but gives you help identifying and dealing with problems in many different categories from vegetables, trees and shrubs to annuals and perennials. Jot down this web address for future reference: www.extension.umn.edu/gardeninfo.



...And one last thing...something I learned during one of my trips to the tropics. We know that trees of temperate regions like ours do their growing in the spring and summer, and stay dormant in winter. This spurt of growth, followed by a rest period shows as growth rings in the wood of the trunk, each one being one year's growth. We can determine how old a tree is by counting these rings. Growth rings will be broad if it has been a good growth year, and narrow if it hasn't. In the tropics, however, trees grow all year round. The wood of the trunk grows evenly, with no spurts of growth, and therefore, no rings. How about that? With that said, I will be back next month!