

**A POSY PICKER'S PAPER**  
**New Meadows Garden Club**  
**Topsfield, Massachusetts**  
*April 24th through May 22, 2012*



*April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.  
- William Shakespeare*



**April 24**



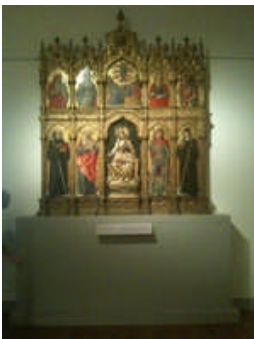
*Our next regular meeting will be a special trip into the Boston Flower Exchange, followed by lunch and our business meeting at the Prince Pizzeria, Route 1 South. There is no charge for those attending. By now you must have signed up to go, and are assigned to a carpool to get around. If you have any further questions regarding this fun trip, please contact Judy Donovan. See you there!*

**April 27**



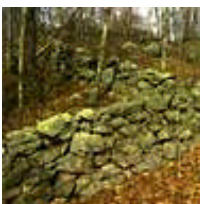
*Our club will participate in the Arbor Day Observance at the Steward School in Topsfield at 9:00 am. All club members are invited to attend. Come see the tree our club has funded this year, which will be planted on the school grounds, celebrate the day, and sing along with Joyce Bergsten and all the school children!*

**April 28-30**



*Art in Bloom will be held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. As mentioned last month, this year we are thrilled that member Stefanie Mahr will be representing our club with a design in this exciting annual event at the Museum. Last year's designer, Rita Galvin is assisting. Stefanie's design will coordinate 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." Members are encouraged to ride into Boston together and take in the show...maybe have some lunch too!*

**May 4**



*Members of our club have been invited to a program entitled "Middleton's Stone Walls" being presented by Robert M. Thorson, renowned author of "Stone by Stone," "Exploring Stone Walls: A Field Guide to New England Stone Walls," and "Stone Wall Secrets." This event will be held at the Flint Public Library, Middleton, One South Main Street (Rte 114) at 7 pm.*

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

May 12



***It's plant sale time!** Why not make the rounds at two close by: The Country Gardeners of Georgetown are holding their plant sale from 9 am to 1 pm at 30 E. Main Street, Georgetown. And the Boxford Village Garden Club will hold their plant sale from 9 am to 2 pm at 2 Elm Street, Boxford. Here's your chance to pick up out-of-the-ordinary plants that you know will grow in our area!*

**An important reminder for all Committee Chairs!!! Annual Reports are due to Secretary Mary Dalton no later than May 15, 2012.**

May 15

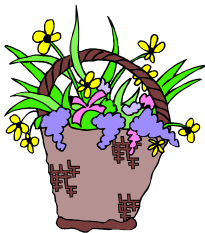
*Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Judy Donovan at 9:30 am.*

May 17



*The Beacon Hill Garden Club presents its 83rd Annual Tour of the **Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill** 9 am to 5 pm, rain or shine. Tickets are \$30.00 in advance and \$40.00 the day of the tour. Advance tickets must be purchased by May 8, 2012. For more information about this exciting event e-mail: [info@BeaconHillGardenClub.org](mailto:info@BeaconHillGardenClub.org) or leave a voice mail at 617-227-4392.*

May 22



*Our next regular meeting will be held at Pettengill Farm, 45 Ferry Road, Salisbury and will feature a demonstration and hands-on workshop "Design a Perennial Patio Planter." For those of you who would like to put together a 14 inch patio container with (3) plants, the cost will be \$35.00. For those a little more ambitious and with a little more room, a 20 inch patio container with (5) plants can be made for \$45.00. Please bring your check payable to Pettengill Farm with you that evening. Not interested in planting a container? That's okay...you may come for the demonstration only. And, since the meeting will be at 5:30 pm, bring a sandwich to keep up your energy and keep your creative juices flowing. Beverages and dessert will be provided by our hostess committee.*

*Okay, listen up those of you who have never experienced Pettengill Farm...here are MapQuest driving instructions from the Topsfield Common: Take Route 97 North toward Haverhill for 2.8 miles to I-95 North. Travel 11.8 miles to Exit 58A MA-110E toward Salisbury. Travel 2.3 miles. Route 110 becomes Pleasant Street. Travel an additional .3 mile and turn right onto Ferry Road. The Farm will be an additional .4 mile at #45 on the left.*

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

## NOTES



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

*Our Annual Banquet and Meeting will be held at the 1640 Hart House on June 5, 2012. More details will follow soon!*

*Our club is planning an exciting fundraiser to be held in October 2012. We will be presenting a Fashion Show...a first for our club. More details will follow soon!*



And, here's your chance to own a rare and much-sought after "Oney Bench," artfully handmade by none other than Oney Shade. It is our lucky day...we have two originals being offered for sale this year. One can be yours for a \$100.00 donation to our well-deserving club. Be the next lucky member to own one of these exclusive, one-of-a-kind plant benches.



Imagine impressing visitors to your home with your bench, decorated for each season. Call Barbara Shade today with your order for one of these benches pictured at bottom left. Don't wait... they'll go fast!

***\*\*Treasurer, Mary Connor, will be distributing our dues envelopes very soon. Watch for them, and return them as soon as possible to Mary with your dues payment, and Mayflower Magazine subscription \$, if you wish to receive it.***



*The Topsfield Strawberry Festival is June 9th this year, and is an important fundraising opportunity for our club. Let's hope for better weather than last year's rainy day! Each member is requested to donate a basket filled with tempting plants for our booth. And, don't forget about our "Green Elephant" Table...your opportunity to get those garden related items you no longer use or need out of your house and into someone else's...donate them! Chair Tammy will be in touch with more details very soon.*

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



*...Bits and pieces...*



*Jean Anderson telling us all about Scented Geraniums at our March 2012 meeting.*



*The beauty of Prospect Street Island in the spring.*



*And, who could this be behind that big hat? None other than Helen Gaffey. And what kind of gardening book is that?*

***The Northern District Annual Meeting April 18, 2012***  
***The recipient of the Pauline Jensen Award is Sandy Duffy!***



*Barbara Shade accepts the Pauline Jensen award for Sandy Duffy, who is out- of- town.*



*Our group at the Northern District Meeting with Sandy Duffy's award.*



*Sandy Duffy with her well-earned Pauline Jensen Award.*

**Green Thumb Corner**

*Yearning to add to your wealth of gardening knowledge? Why not take in some of the Saturday morning seminars being held at Northeast Nursery, located on Route 1 South in Peabody? They are free starting at 10 am and run approximately one hour, rain or shine. Registration is preferred, but not required. Here is a list of some that will take place in April and May:*

**Damminix Tick Tubes/Controlling Ticks**  
**Fruit Trees & Small Fruits: Care & Maintenance**  
**Gardening Basics**  
**Children's Mother's Day: Pot a Plant for Mom**  
**Vegetables, Herbs & Container Gardening**  
**Landscape Planning & Design**

**April 28th**  
**April 28th**  
**May 5th**  
**May 12th and 13th**  
**May 19th**  
**May 26th**

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



*Just a reminder if you wrapped any trunks of young trees last Fall to guard against winter frost cracking or sunscald. It is now time to remove that protection. If you leave this in place, the wrap can trap heat and moisture, causing injury to the tree bark.*

And, now a word about the **“Forsythia Clock.”** When the forsythia have finished blooming, it is your signal to do the following in your garden:

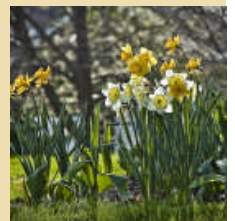
- 1) Apply a pre-emergent herbicide such as Preen to flower beds, since the soil is now warm enough for weed growth.
- 2) Apply a crabgrass preventer to lawns if you had a problem last year.
- 3) Rake back mulch from around roses and discard.
- 4) Prune your roses and apply a balanced fertilizer.



*If you grow lilies, now is the time to keep an eye out for the **red lily leaf beetle** adults, which winter in the soil and are now emerging around the new shoots of your lilies. Check your plants regularly and handpick the slow-moving beetles before they have a*

*chance to lay their eggs. If you prefer, you can also spray the foliage of your lilies with a product containing Neem. Be advised that the beetles will drop from the plants when disturbed, so you might want to place an old sheet below your plant before you start your hunt. It will then be easier to see and squash these critters after they drop. If you work at this now, you can prevent an infestation of the slimy, ugly larvae later in the season, and enjoy the beauty of your plants. One word of caution, though...last year I did all of this, and the local deer herd came by and ate my beautiful lilies when I wasn't looking! This year I will be armed with deer spray as well.*

And, if you decide to cut some flowering bulbs from your garden, make sure you keep your **daffodils** separated from the others. Daffodil stems secrete a fluid that can drastically reduce the life of other cut flowers placed in the same vase. But, after your daffodils have been in a vase by themselves for a few days, they can safely be put together with other flowers.



***A word about deer ticks...**this year, with the unusually mild winter we have had, ticks carrying Lyme disease are active earlier in the season than usual. Be sure to check yourself carefully for ticks several times a day when you are working outside, especially if you are working in bushy areas, and carrying around raked*

*leaves, etc. Once you are finished for the day, unless you will launder your clothes, toss them into the dryer for ten minutes to kill any ticks hitching a ride.*

**Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity.**

**...Lindley Karstens**