

**A POSY PICKER'S PAPER**  
**New Meadows Garden Club**  
**Topsfield, Massachusetts**  
**April 30th through May 28, 2015**



*The violet is the herb for April, and is believed to prevent headache and dizziness if worn as a garland on the head!*

*Welcome to our newest member, Penny Rogers!*

**April 29**



*Georgia McHugh*

*The Northern District annual Meeting will be held at the Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury Street, Andover. As mentioned in our March 2015 newsletter, the Georgia E. McHugh Mentor Award, established and sponsored by our club, will be awarded to a worthy recipient for the first time at this meeting. We are excited to also announce that Georgia's son, Robert McHugh, and her daughter, Leslie Moorhead, will be in attendance for the presentation. Hopefully, you have sent in your completed registration form and will be there with us.*

**April 30**



*Nat Anderson and  
Judy Connelly 2013*

*Our meeting, Art In Flowers will be held at the Topsfield Town Library at 6:30 pm. This year's event is dedicated to the memory of our dear member, mentor and friend, Georgia McHugh. Many thanks to the members who have graciously volunteered to create designs to coordinate with the stunning art collection at the library. Artistic Co-Chair, Rose Ann, requests that all designs be placed at the library by 3 pm, Thursday, April 30th, and removed on Saturday, May 2nd, before 5 pm.*

***\*\*Designers are invited to create their entries at a workshop at Rose Ann's home starting at 10 am on Thursday, April 30th.***

**May 1**



*Jane Cullinan 2013*

***\*\*\*And, new this year, the Topsfield Town Library will hold a special reception for the public on May 1st from 5 pm to 7 pm to spotlight our show. Members are requested to contribute light refreshments for this event. Please deliver them to the library either Thursday evening at our meeting, or by 5 pm on Friday. In addition, members who have created designs for the show are encouraged to attend the library reception, if possible.***

**May 15**

***\*\*\*Attention all Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs! All annual Committee Reports must be submitted to Secretary Joline Yeaton by May 15th for inclusion in her Annual Report to be distributed at our Annual Banquet and Meeting in June.***

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

May 16



*The Boxford Village Garden Club will hold its Annual Plant Sale at 2 Elm Street, East Boxford from 9 am to 2 pm. Over six hundred plants, many from Boxford gardens, will be on sale as well as herbs and annuals.*

May 19



August 2014

*Spring is here (hopefully) and Horticulture Co-Chair, Jane Cullinan, is looking for volunteers to plant the memorial garden at the Pine Grove Cemetery. We'll be all set to go at 10 am on the 19th, with a rain date May 20th. Jane usually brings some yummy treats, so look for her sign up sheet the first week in May!*

*\*\*In addition, be on the look-out for Jane's sign-up sheet for summer maintenance of the garden.*

May 19

*Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Judy Donovan at 6:30 pm.*

May 21



*Artistic Co-Chair, Rose Ann Waite will hold a special design workshop at her home from 10 am to 12 pm. The Northeast District of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, which oversees the planning of the Flower Show at the Topsfield Fair each year, will choose the type of design the participants will be asked to bring to the workshop. This will be a great opportunity for members who would like to learn more about designing with flowers to learn from the experts. Please contact Rose Ann if you would like to attend or have any questions about the workshop.*

May 21



*The Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill Annual Tour will be sponsored once again this year by the Beacon Hill Garden Club. The tour will feature 12 private gardens, with complimentary tea and refreshments at the Church of the Advent. For ticket information, go to [www.BeaconHillGardenClub.org](http://www.BeaconHillGardenClub.org).*

May 28



*Our regular meeting promises to be one not to be missed at the Crane Estate, 290 Argilla Road, Ipswich, starting at 10 am. This is our horticulture meeting for this year and will feature a house and garden tour. We are told that refreshments will be available on the grounds for a small fee. More details will follow soon. Since we will need a headcount, please contact Program Chair, Shirley Holt, or Horticulture Chair, Jane Cullinan, by May 1st if you are planning to attend.*

*\*\*Hostesses for this meeting are Sandy Whelan, Pat Gagnon, Ann Moorman and Sue Peterson.*

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

## NOTES



And here are a couple of "housekeeping items" to keep in mind as our garden club year draws to a close:

**\*\*Membership Chair, Janet Hanson**, will soon be looking for you to renew your membership in our club with your dues payment for next year. Look for these renewals in your Postal Service mailbox soon. Please update the requested information and return these to Janet as soon as possible so that your name will be included on our membership list for next year.

Janet reminds us that the Mayflower Newsletter is now available free on-line through the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts website at <http://gcfm.org/Mayflower.aspx>. If you would like to continue receiving a printed copy, renew directly with the GCFM using the following form:

If you currently subscribe to the print edition, you can continue subscribing for a cost of \$8.00 per year AND you will also have access to the "e" edition. Contact [gcfm@verizon.net](mailto:gcfm@verizon.net) if you have any questions.

### **MAYFLOWER SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

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**MOVING? PLEASE NOTIFY CIRCULATION EDITOR 4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE**

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Please include old Mayflower mailing label.

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**\*\*And another "housekeeping item" from Treasurer, Mary Leahy!** She is now looking for any receipts members may have, which are eligible for reimbursement by the club. She needs these very soon, so she can close her books at the end of our garden club year! So please get them to her as soon as possible.

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

The Annual Meeting of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at the Framingham Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, 1657 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA 01701. All members are welcome to attend. A registration form is available on the GCFM web site: <http://gcfm.org/Meetings/AnnualMeeting.aspx> The cost is \$55.00 prior to May 15th and \$75.00 after May 15th.

♥*Save the date #1!* Spring is here and Island Beds and Library Urns Chair, Claudette Poor, reminds us that it will soon be time for our spring clean up of the Linebrook and Prospect Street island beds. Please stay tuned for her “call to action” and save some time and energy to lend a hand ! She is looking at sometime during the week of May 4th!

♥*Save the date #2!* Time flies when you’re having fun, and even if you’re not! This garden club year has just flown by and our Annual Banquet and Meeting is close at hand. Our special event will once again be held at The Hardcover Restaurant, 15A Newbury Street, Danvers on June 9, 2015, 6 pm. Be on the look-out for more details from Hospitality Co-Chairs Sandy Whelan and Agnes Salvatore.

♥*Save the date #3!* And last, but certainly not least, please mark your calendar for Strawberry Festival Day in Topsfield, which this year will be June 13, 2015. This is our most important fundraiser of the year and is a team effort for the entire club. We are currently looking for a member(s) to coordinate our effort. Claudette Poor has kindly put together a complete set of guidelines for volunteers for this position. Please contact our Co-Presidents Mary Connor and Helen Gaffey if you would like to perform this service for our club. More details will follow soon!



### *...Bits and pieces...*



*Some of the brave souls who attended!*

The Arbor Day Celebration was held at the Steward School on April 17th this year. For our newer members who may not know, our club contributes funds for the tree that is planted on the school grounds each year. As you can see from the raincoats and boots, the weather was a bit of a challenge this year, and as it turned out, after the difficult winter we have just “endured,” the grounds weren’t ready for the actual tree planting. This will be done soon, and then we will know the place it is planted and the variety of tree. Stay tuned!

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



## *Art in Bloom, The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*



*Art In Bloom, an exclusive annual event at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, was held this weekend. According to our club's history, painstakingly put together by our Historian, Barbara Shade, our club has participated in this event every year except for one since its inception in 1984. This year, our club was represented with a magnificent design created by Margo Maione, assisted by Mei Schuster, last year's designer. Margo's object assigned by the museum was a bust depicting the Greek God, Dionysos, pictured at left.*

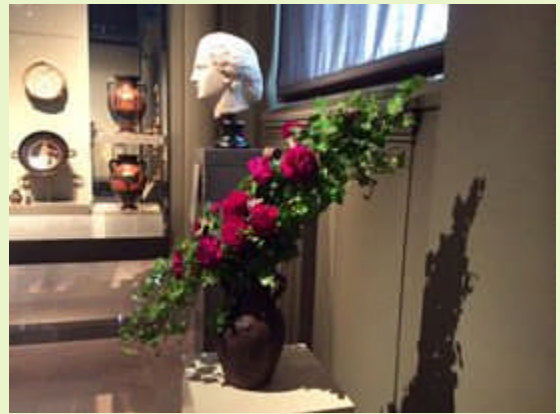
*When asked by the museum what features of the object her design expresses, Margo replied that her design "conveys the historic element of Dionysos who was the great Olympian god of wine, vegetation, pleasure and festivity. He has a headband that was often emulated by guests at the symposia with ivy to ward off headaches from too much to drink."*

*And, when asked her feelings about the container and plant material she chose for her design, Margo replied "The container, a double handled 'urn,' was chosen to resemble one type of serving vessel used in symposia. The plant material used represents the ivy and grapes that embodies the 'god of wine' and a hint of the cheetah symbolizes the thought that Dionysos often rode this animal."*

*Thank you, Margo, for so thoughtfully, beautifully and effectively representing our club this year!*



*Here's Margo creating her design!*



*Margo and assistant Mei complete their work!*

*... Green Thumb on the next page...*

## Green Thumb Corner

*Has this snowy, extremely cold winter given you confidence that the deer ticks we now share our environment with did not survive? Guess again! Researchers say that ticks are in fact susceptible to cold, and February was our coldest month on record. But, since we had the most*



*snow we ever had in a winter, a nice cozy insulating blanket was provided for these undesirables, and so this tick season has the potential to be a bad one. Now they are awake and looking for blood to feast on. They'll gladly take yours, if you let them! What might change this outlook is a dry spell later in the spring or summer, which could kill them off.*

*As we all know, the consequences of a deer tick bite can be quite serious. Lyme disease is no laughing matter, as some of our members can attest to. So, since we are hopefully on the threshold of nicer weather and will probably be spending more time outdoors, let's review some information which might come in handy to protect us from infection. First of all, we need to know that Massachusetts is among the states with the highest incidence rates for Lyme disease. And in Massachusetts the areas with the highest number of cases is on Cape Cod, southeastern parts of the state, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, areas north of Boston (that's us!), around the Quabbin Reservoir and in the Connecticut River Valley in western Massachusetts. Sounds like most of the state to me!*

*Currently, there is no vaccine to protect against Lyme disease. So we must instead do things to avoid ticks and also check ourselves for ticks once a day if we've been out. Unfortunately, even on a sunny and warm day, we should think about covering up if we expect to be in risky environments, such as in our gardens and woods...hats, long sleeves and pants with socks pulled up over the bottoms. Sounds like a drag, doesn't it? Take it from me, it is! Keeping your grass cut short and clearing brush around your home can reduce the number of ticks in your environment. Another important point here is that, even in built environments like parks, playgrounds, and in cities, there is risk of picking up a tick. You cannot let your guard down...do your tick check daily.*

*Some folks use repellents that contain DEET and permethrin to help reduce the risk of a deer tick bite. I am one of those, but I do use these sprays very carefully, and pretty much only on my clothes. DEET should not be used on infants, and products containing more than 10 percent DEET should not be used on children. Sprays containing more than 30 percent DEET shouldn't be used on anyone. Be sure to follow the instructions on the packaging carefully. Regarding Permethrin products, these are not designed to be sprayed on skin. Clothing should be treated with these and allowed to dry in a well-ventilated area before wearing. Showering soon after being outdoors is also recommended.*

*And now some words about your daily tick check and what to do if you discover one of those critters! Okay, here we go...favorite places ticks like to hide on your body include the back of your knees, between your toes, the groin, armpits, your neck, along your hairline and behind your ears. I found one behind my ear just last year! If you come across a tick, use fine point tweezers to grip the mouth-parts of the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull straight outward with gentle and steady pressure. Try not to twist or squeeze the tick. After the tick is removed, wash the skin and hands thoroughly with soap and water. If some of the mouth-parts of the tick remain in the skin, just leave them because they will be expelled on their own. You might do more harm than good trying to get them out. It might be a good idea to pop your tick into a small jar of alcohol for safe keeping in case it becomes necessary for your doctor to identify it.*

*And a few last words...ticks transmit infection only after they have attached and taken a blood meal from their new host. The deer tick that transmits Lyme disease must feed for more than 36 hours on the host before transmission of virus occurs. And, a tick that has not attached and is not full of blood has not passed on any infection. Here's hoping you all win the "tick wars!"*

*"Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."*

*....Marcel Proust...*