

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER
New Meadows Garden Club
Topsfield, Massachusetts
May 19th through June 30, 2011



Will summer ever arrive?

Welcome to new members Janet Hanson, Linda Mann and Marianne Strong!

May 25



Please join us at 10 am for our annual preparation of the Pine Grove Cemetery garden for Topsfield's Memorial Day ceremony. This year, we will be planting annuals to coordinate with the beautiful perennials we already have planted there, and we need your help! See you there, and don't forget your gardening gear. And, oh yes, the rain dates are Thursday or Friday. It won't rain, will it????

June 7

Our Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held 6 pm at the 1640 Hart House, 51 Linebrook Road, Ipswich. Dinner will be a buffet featuring all your favorites. Nat Anderson and Judy Connelly are happily accepting your reservations. Please make your checks in the amount of \$33.00 payable to New Meadows Garden Club and drop them in the mail to Nat by June 1st. Looking forward to seeing you there for a beautiful evening!

June 11



Tammy Glasser is all aglow and very excited that it is again Strawberry Festival time in the Town of Topsfield! Each of us has a chance to participate in this major event for our club, which will help fund the great programs it provides for our members and our community.

Here are some suggestions from Tammy for your contributions to our booth: *create a floral basket...when you are out and about collecting annuals and herbs for your own outdoor containers and gardens, buy three or four extras to put in a basket and dress up to entice festival goers! Or share pieces of some of your own perennials...transplant them into pots now so that they will look their best at our booth. Tammy has extra pots if you need them. As in past years, we will again have our Green Elephant Sale. Bring plant related items you no longer wish to hold on to that others may find to be just what they are looking for! Tammy says that these items need only be "remotely" plant related. And, this year we will be trying something new...an old jewelry sale. So, if you have some pieces you no longer wear, set them aside and bring them to our booth. No diamonds please...you hold onto those for yourself! And, as always, Tammy needs helping hands at the booth from setup time in the morning until it's time to pack up in the afternoon. Look for her sign-up sheet or contact her if you can help...and don't forget to wear your club aprons that day!*

...more on the following page...

June 16



Open Garden Day will be held from 10 am to 4 pm. The gardens are all local in the towns of Topsfield and Boxford and admission is free. We are invited to enjoy and share these gardeners' love, passion and craziness for gardening. Here is the list of open gardens:

Jack Armitage
72A High Street
Topsfield

John & Patricia O'Leary
27 Surrey Lane
Topsfield

Ellen Wack
175 Haverhill Road
Topsfield

Charlie Wilkinson
48 Pemberton Road
Topsfield

Darcy Fulton
13 Rowley Road
Topsfield

Mary MacDonald
Karl Ackerman
202 Haverhill Road
Topsfield

Rose Baker
10 Parsonage Lane
Topsfield

Charlotte Cloutier
16 Wilmor Road
Topsfield

Anna Plucinska
35 Lawrence Road
Boxford

Paula Guilbault
396 Ipswich Road
Boxford

Notes

More exciting news this month...our club has welcomed three new members! If I have counted correctly, that brings our club to 47 active and talented members.



****Reminder to all members: the club's fiscal year end is June 30th, so please forward all receipts for reimbursement and dues payments to Treasurer, Mary Connor, asap!**



***Our Sunshine Committee Chair, Helen Gaffey, just loves to send out beautiful cards, so please let her know of any member who needs a little sunshine from our club!*

...Bits and pieces...



Here are Susan Peterson, VP
Judy Donovan and Agnes
Salvatore creating their succulent
gardens at our April meeting!

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



Here, next to the tree our club planted for Arbor Day at the Steward School, are Grace and Dan Peabody of Eastgate Garden Design, President Rose Ann, Joyce Bergsten and Conservation Committee Chair, Nancy Emmons.



Rita Galvin with assistant Mary Connor represented our club with a beautiful design at Art In Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, at the end of April! Thanks so much ladies!



Here are Susan Peterson, VP Judy Donovan and Mary Leahy with their delightful design at our May meeting, Art in Flowers, at the Topsfield Library.



Spring cleanup time at the Prospect Street Island with Island Co-Chair, Claudette Poor, and helper, Jean Bilsbury. Many thanks to Roger Poor for all his help at the islands, too!

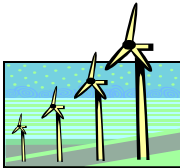
...more on the following...



And here is an excellent idea passed onto us by Barbara Shade for a beautiful way to send a wish to someone special to you. Send a Give-A-Tree card available through the Arbor Day Foundation. These beautiful cards bring America's National Forests back to life by planting a tree in honor of the recipient.

You'll give a gift to your special person which will last a lifetime. Cards can be purchased for all occasions at the website www.arborday.org/giveatree. You may also call 1-888-448-7337.

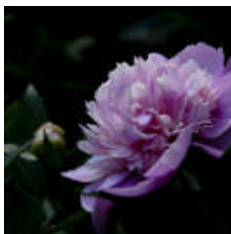
Green Thumb Corner



Since many of us are making plans for sprucing up our yards for the summer season (if it ever arrives), here are a few ideas from the *Ipswich Utilities Department* brought to our attention by Jean Hampton. These suggestions will put your landscape to work for you as you try to save on ever-increasing energy costs by making the right choices as to

what to plant. Adding shade in the right places can help with your heating and cooling costs. Deciduous trees planted on the south side of your home will block the sun in the summer, keeping it cooler, and allow the sun to shine through during the winter, creating some warmth. Also, shading your air conditioner will increase its efficiency by up to 10 percent, according to the US Department of Energy. Shrubs and groundcovers strategically placed next to your home will create cooling shade. And, the importance of selecting native plants for your gardens cannot be stressed enough! These plants are adapted to our climate, are drought tolerant and require minimal maintenance once established. All good points...thanks so much, Jean.

Do you love to grow herbs? Aren't they delightful in your favorite dishes? Nothing compares to the taste of fresh herbs. If cooking is your goal when growing herbs, be sure you do not fertilize them too much. The essential oils that provide flavor are more concentrated when herb plants are grown in soil with just enough fertilizer to keep them green. If you use too much, the plant will grow large sacrificing flavor. If you would like to harvest a large amount of herbs just plant more smaller plants!



Do you love to grow peonies as much as I do? I cannot grow very much outside successfully since our builder carted off all our good soil when our house was built, but I can surely grow these beauties, and even our local deer seem to pass them by. When this happens, I think that I have died and gone to heaven! Well, here are a few trivia facts about these wonderful plants...if you have grown peonies, you have undoubtedly noticed the ants that love them too. You'll see them scurrying around

the flower buds, but have no fear. Here's the low-down on the ants...they are there because of the nectar-like substance secreted by the peony. Chances are the ants have already been living in your garden, and were just drawn out of the soil to feast on the yummy nectar. If you were an ant, wouldn't you do the same? Some say that the ants actually help peonies bloom, but most experts disagree with this theory. So, just let them enjoy your peonies as much as you do! ...And here's a great tip. If you grow peonies you know that they seem to all be blooming at the same time, and there is no container big enough to display them all. You can actually try to extend their blooming time with cold, dry storage. Here's what to do: when the first crack of color appears on the hard green bud, cut the stem to about 16 inches, strip off most of the leaves, and wrap up to 10 stems in three layers of tissue paper. Mark the date on the outside and pop into the refrigerator. For up to three weeks, you can pull the stems out, cut an inch off the bottom of the stem and stand in fresh water to rehydrate. In about two days, the stems should be in full bloom.

Well, another beautiful garden club year is drawing to a close, and with that your Posy Picker Editor wishes you and yours the very best of what our summer season offers, and above all, please be safe.