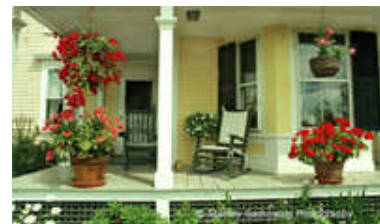


A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

May 22nd through June 30, 2012



*There is nothing like summer in
New England!*

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. If you haven't already, RSVP to Co-Chairs Gerrie Bunker or Jean Hampton as soon as possible!

Last month's edition outlined driving instructions to Pettengill Farm via Route I95. If you would prefer to travel on Route 1 North, here is the way from the Topsfield Fairgrounds: travel 12.3 miles on Route 1 North to the roundabout in Newburyport and take the 2nd exit to remain on Route 1. Drive another 1 1/2 mile over the bridge and take the first right onto 1st Street. Striper's Restaurant will be on the right. After 1/2 mile take the slight left onto March Road. March Road becomes Ferry Road. Continue for about 1 1/2 miles to the Farm on the right.

June 5



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, including yummy appetizers and a dessert table. 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 May 30th. Looking forward to seeing you there for a delightful dinner and the installation of our new officers.

June 7



***Open Garden Day** will be held from 10 am to 4 pm. The gardens are all local in the towns of Topsfield, Boxford and Ipswich, 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:*

Andy Turcotte
45 Washington Street
Topsfield

Jen Adams
170 Haverhill Road
Topsfield

Rose Hourez
55 Burning Bush Drive
Boxford

Heidi Lee
7 Rowley Road
Topsfield

Jim Ugone
16 Fox Run Road
Topsfield

Brian Gould
94 Topsfield Road
Topsfield

Darcy Fulton
13 Rowley Road
Topsfield

Paula Guilbault
396 Ipswich Road
Boxford

Kristen Blais
6 Hood Farm Road
Ipswich



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

June 9



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. Please deliver your baskets and plants to Tammy's home on Thursday or Friday, June 7th and 8th, or early Saturday morning to our booth on the Topsfield Green.*

And, 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.

Last but not least, as always, *Tammy needs helping hands at our Strawberry Festival 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!*



****June 19****

There will be a special luncheon meeting of the outgoing and incoming board members at the home of outgoing President, Rose Ann Waite at 12:30 pm. This is a special opportunity for a bit of socializing and for the outgoing officers and committee chairs to pass on their materials and tips to their successors.

****Reminder!!!** Please return your dues envelopes to Mary Connor as soon as possible so your name can be included on our membership list for next year.

****And another reminder!!!** Since The club's fiscal year end is June 30th, please forward all outstanding receipts for reimbursement to Treasurer, Mary Connor as soon as possible!

NOTES



Have a calendar handy? We have a date and place for our fundraiser this coming October, which will be our first ever **Fashion Show**...it will be held on October 21, 2012 at 2 pm at the Trinity Church Hall in Topsfield. Hurry and mark the date...this special event is not to be missed!

****Claudette Poor has advised us that she has a new cell phone number. Here it is: 978-880-2513. Please mark this down in your program book for future reference!****

...more on the following page...

We were very sad to hear about the death of former member, Mary Howlett, on May 15th. Mary was a Charter Member of our club and served as President from 1961 to 1962.

We extend our sincere sympathy to her family at this sad time.

As many of you know, our club has recently adopted a new tradition for remembering members who have sadly passed away. To honor these members, our club is now donating specially chosen books to the Topsfield Library in their name.

Recently, two books have been purchased and are now in circulation at the Library: the first book is entitled "Gardening for a Lifetime—How to Garden Wiser As You Grow Older" by Sydney Eddison, which honors Betty Kruck. The second book is entitled "Flowering Plants: A Pictorial Guide to the World's Flora" by Leon Gray, which honors Bea Shepard.

...Bits and pieces...



Sue Peterson and Joline Yeaton pack the car with their purchases!

A glorious trip to the Boston Flower Market



After the Flower Market we enjoy some pizza at the Prince Pizzeria!



Ready for more shopping!



Stefanie Mahr's exquisite design at Art In Bloom at the MFA.



A windy day at Steward School for the Arbor Day Celebration.



A job well done by the crew at the Pine Grove Cemetery Garden

...continued on the next page...



Club member, Jean Hampton, presents a check from our club for \$1000.00 to Norm Isler of the Topsfield Historical Society to be used to purchase a tree and garden plants for the newly constructed Parson Capen Caretaker's Cottage in memory of our past long-time member, Anne Mahen, who was a docent at the Parson Capen House. Also pictured is President Rose Ann and Ryan Burbank, assistant to Architect, Ben Nutter.

Green Thumb Corner



Ah...so many things to tell you, and so little space left! First some trivia passed onto us by Linda Harvey from a gardening magazine she was looking through recently: The question is "What's the difference between azaleas and rhododendrons...and the answer is the number of flower stamens! Usually azaleas have five and rhododendrons ten or more. Are yours somewhere in between? Then your plant is a hybrid of the two. Thanks so much, Linda.



Do you have any major landscaping projects, or even small projects like installing a mail box or planting shrubs in the planning stage for this summer? Even small, shallow excavation jobs can be a risk if you don't know where underground lines are buried. Remember to call **Dig Safe at 811 for every project! Electric, gas, oil, communications and sewer lines, as well as other lines, will be marked before you start. Their call center is open Monday through Friday 6 am to 6 pm. If you would like to know more, and also read up on our State law, go to www.digsafe.com**

Here's something I read recently and wasn't aware of, so I am passing it on to all of you. According to a recent study, 179 common garden products, such as hoses, garden gloves, kneeling pads and garden tools were found to contain high and even toxic levels of lead,



cadmium, bromine, chlorine, and BPA. Garden hoses are of particular concern. In addition to extremely high lead levels, some hoses contain other toxins banned from children's products. It has long been recommended that water from garden hoses not be used for drinking water. However, hoses are still used to water food plants and fill children's wading pools, which still presents some risks.

There are some things that can be done to minimize your exposure to undesirable compounds from hoses. When purchasing a new hose, choose one made from PVC-free natural rubber or polyurethane. Select ones labeled "drinking water safe" and "lead-free." It is a good idea not to leave hoses sitting in the sun, since heat can increase the leaching of toxins from the hose into the water. Also, let your hose run a few minutes before using it to water food crops or to use for children's activities. Of course, all of this may be moot, once the outside water bans are in force, but good to know anyway!



Love growing herbs? If you grow herbs for cooking, then here's a tip for you...do not fertilize your herb plants too much. The essential oils that provide flavor are more concentrated when herbs are grown in moderately rich soil with just enough fertilizer to keep them green. If you fertilize too much, your plant will grow large, but will have less flavor.

A gardening quickie...to prevent cross contamination, be sure to squirt rubbing alcohol onto scissors, knives and clippers after use on a sick plant.

...continued on the next page...

Here are two more Saturday morning seminars for June being offered by Northeast Nursery, Route 1 South in Peabody, to add to the list noted in our newsletter last month. They are free of charge, start at 10 am and run approximately one hour, rain or shine. Registration is preferred, but not required.

Water Gardening—Building and/or Maintaining a Pond	June 2, 2012
Rose Care and Selection	June 9, 2012



*Have you noticed that **poison ivy** is coming up everywhere and is extremely healthy this year? Even they must have been affected by our mild winter. Learning how to identify this plant is vital if you wish avoid the rash from coming into contact with the plant. Identification of the plant may be difficult because it can grow in three forms: as an erect woody shrub, a groundcover or a woody vine that will grow up trees. The leaves of poison ivy also vary. Though there are always three leaflets, the leaf margins may be*

toothed, incised, lobed or smooth. The size of the leaves can also vary, but the middle leaf is usually larger than the other two.

So, what to do if you suspect you have come in contact with poison ivy? Use soap and hot water immediately to wash the affected area, but don't take a hot bath or shower. If you don't have access to soap and water, put mud on the affected area and scrub vigorously. Repeat this process several times, using fresh mud each time. Then pat fresh mud onto the surface of your skin and let it dry. Another remedy I have tried with success is to immediately clean the affected area with rubbing alcohol.

So, when you are out and about, and trampling through the woods, remember that old saying: "Leaves of three, let it be!"

Another gardening quickie...to remove salt residue from crusty plant pots, and to also clean dirty tools, scrub with a mixture of 1/3 white vinegar, 1/3 rubbing alcohol and 1/3 water. I have found that worn-out toothbrushes make great tools for this task!

Another beautiful garden club year is drawing to a close, and with that your Posy Picker Editor once again wishes you and those special to you the very best of what our summer season offers, and above all, please be safe. See you in the Fall.



The End