

# A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

April 25th through May 28, 2013



*Could it be spring?*

April 25



Our meeting, Art in Flowers, will be held at the Topsfield Library at 7 pm. Please note that this is a Thursday evening meeting. For those who will be providing flower designs for this show, and are interested in acquiring plant material from the Flower Market in Boston, please form a carpool if you can, and plan your departure for the market at about 9 am on Tuesday morning, April 23rd. If you would like to follow Artistic Co-Chair Rose Ann's car, please meet at her home no later than 8:45 am. For those with GPS, the address of the market is 540 Albany Street, Boston.

And here are some additional important details for our designers: once you have your plant material and containers in hand, Rose Ann is offering a voluntary workshop at her home on Wednesday, April 24th at 11 am to create your design for this event. Bring your container, plant material, and any other items you will need to create your design, and enjoy our usual garden club banter as your creative juices flow. Designs must be delivered to the Topsfield Library by 2 pm, Wednesday, April 24th. Designers must also include an index card, indicating the common names of all plant material used in their designs on one side of the card, with the name of the designer on the reverse of the card. Our designs will be on display until Saturday April 27th. Designers must pick up their designs and pedestals by 5 pm on Saturday. **\*\*Please note that those members who have borrowed pedestals or stands from Rose Ann for the show, must pick them up from the library and return them to her home. Please call Rose Ann to make these arrangements.**

April 26



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 in celebration with Joyce Bergsten and all the school children!

April 27 to 29



Art In Bloom will be held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. **Barbara Shade** will be representing our club in this special event at the museum this year, and Rose Ann Waite will be her assistant. Barbara will interpret in flowers Paul Gauguin's carved panels, entitled "War and Peace." This is a great opportunity to plan a trip to the museum with your friends to see this exclusive show and perhaps have a nice lunch together!

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

**May 14**

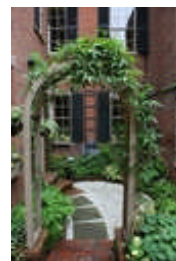
*The North Andover Garden club invites us to their program **“Tough Plants for Tough Places”** presented by landscape designer Adriana O’Sullivan at St. Michael’s Parish Hall, 190 Main Street, North Andover at 7 pm. Learn how to plant in the most difficult locations, whether it be in your garden or in public locations in our town! This meeting is free and open to all.*

**May 15**

*Attention Committee Chairs! All annual Committee Reports must be submitted to Secretary Rita Galvin by May 15th for inclusion in her Annual Report to be distributed at our Annual Banquet and Meeting in June.*

**May 16**

*The Beacon Hill Garden Club will present its exclusive, annual garden tour, **the Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill** from 9 am to 5 pm. See 12 private gardens at your own pace, with complimentary Tea and Boutique at the Church of the Advent. Tickets are \$35.00 in advance on line at [www.BeaconHillGardenClub.org](http://www.BeaconHillGardenClub.org), and \$40.00 at the door the day of the tour. For more information, please see the web site or call 617-227-4392.*



**May 19**



*The North Andover Garden Club invites us to their **Annual Plant Sale** at the Stevens Memorial Library Front Lawn, 345 Main Street, North Andover from 10 am to 2 pm. The sale will feature locally grown perennial plants from members’ gardens, annuals from Paisley’s in Boxford, and fresh produce from Gaouette Farm of North Andover.*

**May 21**

*Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Rose Ann Waite at 7 pm. Please note that this is a change of location for the meeting.*

**May 28**



*Our next regular membership meeting will be a day trip to the **Boston Public Garden**. Our guide will be Meg Muchenhaupt, who will tell us everything about **A City Green Space**. Please stay tuned for time of departure and further details about this exciting spring time meeting!*

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

## NOTES



*It's that time of year! Please be on the lookout for your dues envelope from Treasurer, Shirley Holt. Please return it with your check made to NMGC as soon as possible. Dues payment for regular members is \$30.00 and \$45.00 for associate members. Don't forget to include an additional \$8.00 if you wish to subscribe to the Mayflower Newsletter.*



*...And it is almost time for our **Annual Banquet and Meeting**. Please be sure to make a note of the date...**June 4, 2013 at 6 pm**. This year's event will again be held at the 1640 Hart House, Linebrook Road, Ipswich. And here's a sneak preview...we expect that individual dinner choices will be available rather than the buffet dinner we have had in recent years. Details will follow as they become available.*



amazon.com

*I don't know about you, but I do a great deal of buying from the Amazon.com web site. These days, you can find most anything you wish to purchase right there. But, did you know that the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts has a special agreement with Amazon such that a small contribution will automatically be made to the Federation if you access Amazon.com through the Federation's web site? If you are interested in this worthwhile venture, visit the Federation web site at [www.gcfm.org](http://www.gcfm.org) and you will find a link to Amazon.com right there. Happy shopping!*

*The Haverhill Garden Club advises that they are selling good quality rain barrels for \$70.00. Anyone interested in purchasing these may contact Diane Woodward at [dianeleewood@gmail.com](mailto:dianeleewood@gmail.com).*

*Now listen up everyone! Please take a moment to remember back to holiday time, and our club's beautiful display at the Topsfield Library featuring our members' Favorite Things. The display was greatly enjoyed by the public as they visited the library, but now it is time for those of you who have not claimed your favorite things to do so. Artistic Co-Chair, Rose Ann, has recovered member items left at the library, and would like you to claim them as soon as possible. **I think it would be a great idea, since she has threatened to sell these items at the Strawberry Festival if they remain unclaimed!!!***

*It is with great sadness that we heard about the devastating events at this year's Boston Marathon. Our hearts go out to all those injured, and the families of those who died. We thank all those who responded so selflessly and in such grand style.*

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





*And just a quick note that the **Strawberry Festival** will soon be here. As you know, this fun event is a very important fund raiser for our club. The date this year is June 8th. Details will be coming very soon from our very enthusiastic and talented coordinator, Tammy Glasser. Be thinking about items to contribute for sale, and please set aside some time to help set up, break down and work at our booth that day.*

*Also coming soon are the island and cemetery cleanup days, and the planting of the Memorial Garden at the Pine Grove Cemetery for the upcoming Memorial Day Observance in Topsfield. Hopefully, you can lend a hand for any or all of these club civic projects!*

*...Bits and pieces...*



*Our knowledgeable guides!*



*Creativity was certainly unleashed at our club meeting in March. Under the very capable guidance of artistic experts Rose Ann Waite and Georgia McHugh, members fashioned the Pot-et-Fleur designs you see pictured here!*



*Our busy bees!*



*...Green Thumb follows...*

## Green Thumb Corner

**A word to the wise...** it's been a long, hard, messy winter, and now it's time to go out for some cleanup and garden prep for our growing season, which is not far off. If you have been relatively sedentary this winter, you might want to tackle these activities gradually. It's a good idea, especially at first, to try to break up gardening work into segments with rest periods so that you don't



become too fatigued and prone to injury. That wouldn't be too much fun. Be sure to hydrate, and by all means use the right tools for the job. You will need to once again build up the muscle groups in your arms, legs and back so that gardening tasks can be done comfortably and without injury. You might want to start each session with a nice stretch. The good news is that digging, weeding and even carrying tools from the garage to the garden is hard work and burns calories. While bending and lifting works your muscles well, be careful with your back and your knees, especially if you have the occasional aches and pains of arthritis. Here's to a healthy gardening season to all of you!



*And now for the chores:*

Time to prune summer blooming and woody foliage plants like groundcover roses, butterfly bush, spirea, fall blooming clematis, lavender, rose of sharon, Russian sage, smokebush and snowball hydrangea. This will promote the growth of vigorous new wood!

Be sure to prune damaged or dead wood on trees and shrubs.

If you haven't already, cut down last year's perennial debris, such as ornamental grasses, peony stalks, sedum flower stalks, and coneflower stems.

If your forsythia and lilacs look tired and have branches that do not flower at all, this is a sign that they have become too "woody" and need to be rejuvenated. Cut the non-blooming branches just above ground level. It is good to do a bit of this rejuvenation each year so branches remain young!

This is a good time to tidy up the edging around your flowerbeds...a job I really don't like, but which makes things look so nice and groomed!

**And weed, weed, weed!** Begin with known "hot spots" in your garden to keep ahead of it all. Remember that pre-emergent products such as Preen do not kill weeds already growing!

Time now to divide your perennials, and maybe pot some up for our Strawberry Festival booth!

And last but most certainly not least, since we did see millions of winter moths clinging to our homes last December, it's time to watch for their offspring, which may now be traveling up your trees to devour the foliage. Check your maples, oak, apple, crabapple, ash, fringetree, cherry and blueberry. Keep an eye on buds as they open. Once the winter moth caterpillars are on the foliage...usually anytime now until late May or early June, they will be very treatable with BT, Spinosad products, and some chemicals only available to licensed commercial spraying companies. Please note that if you spray while buds are still expanding and opening, any new foliage that emerges after application will not be protected. Another application may be necessary. Be sure to follow directions on the label of your product carefully. If you are interested in learning all the "ins and outs" as we now know them about the winter moth invasion in our area, you might want to check out this Umass Extension web site:

<http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/winter-moth-identification-management>

My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view. ~H. Fred Dale