

**A POSY PICKER'S PAPER**  
**New Meadows Garden Club**  
**Topsfield, Massachusetts**  
**May 28th through June 30, 2013**



*The grandeur of the Weeping  
Cherry at the Prospect Street Island*

***Congratulations to our newest Honorary Member,  
Linda Harvey!***

**May 28**



***Our next regular membership meeting will be a day trip to the Boston Public Garden. Our guide for this walking tour will be Meg Muckenhaupt, who will tell us everything about A City Green Space. Our adventure will take place rain or shine, so if the weather looks "iffy", tuck an umbrella in your bag.***

***Drivers are all set and we will all meet at the Prince Pizzeria, 517 Broadway (Rte 1 South), Saugus at 9:30 am for carpooling. Members who aren't driving to Boston are permitted to leave their cars in the parking lot at the restaurant. Parking for those members driving into Boston is available in the garage under the Boston Common.***

***The tour will begin at 10:30 near the statue of George Washington near Arlington and Newbury Streets. Our tour director will be holding a sign to round us all up! The tour will last about an hour and a half.***

***There are no formal plans for lunch, but perhaps you would like to get bite to eat at the Prince Pizzeria on our return. If you have any questions, or haven't as yet responded regarding your attendance, please contact Mary Dalton or Mary Leahy ASAP.***

**June 4**



***Our Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held at 6 pm at the 1640 Hart House, Linebrook Road, Ipswich. Hospitality and Membership Co-Chair, Joline Yeaton, assures us that "this event is a fun evening with good food, good drinks and good cheer!" Meal choices are Roast Prime Rib of Beef \$44.00, Dijon Crusted Breast of Chicken \$34.00, Loin of Pork \$34.00 and Baked Haddock \$35.00.***

***Your check made out to New Meadows Garden Club is due to Joline,  
43 Batchelder Road, Boxford, MA 01921 by May 28th.  
Do it now...don't be left out in the cold!***



People with lawns have mow fun.

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

June 8



Fairy Garden

Tammy Glasser was glowing when she was speaking at our board meeting this week about the upcoming Strawberry Festival. It will soon be time to take out the tent, tables and our club banner in preparation for this major fundraising event for our club. Proceeds from this annual event help pay for our community service projects as well as the great programs the club provides for its members.

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.

New this year, Tammy has suggested that members might be interested in creating "fairy dish gardens" to sell at our booth. Past President Rose Ann has already made a few of these precious miniature gardens!

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.

*\*\*Please deliver your items for sale to our booth on the Topsfield Green first thing Saturday morning. We will be busy setting up a couple of hours before the start time for the event, which is 10 am.*

**Last but not least, as always, Tammy needs all our 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!**

*P.S. For those of you pining for one of Oney Shade's special handcrafted plant benches, he has made another, which will be filled with plants and for sale at our booth!*

June 8

The Groveland Garden Club will present a garden tour "Beyond the Garden Gate" from 10 am to 4 pm, rain or shine. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance and can be purchased at Nunan's, or \$15.00 the day of the tour. For more information, call 978-290-3774.

June 14



Open Garden Day 2013 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:

Alison Hardy  
7 River Rd., Topsfield

Gail & Roy Baessler  
220 Haverhill Rd., Topsfield

Darcy Fulton  
13 Rowley Rd., Topsfield

Cyndi Walsh  
19 Townsend Farm Rd., Boxford

Mary MacDonald  
Karl Ackerman  
202 Haverhill Rd., Topsfield

Ellen & Howard Wack  
175 Haverhill Rd., Topsfield

Gene Szalia & Jeff Ostrer  
145 Georgetown Rd., Boxford

...more on the following page...

## NOTES



*Our club has designated the Prospect Island garden a “Memory Garden.” Thanks to the dedicated effort of Island Beds and Library Urns Chair, Claudette Poor, the beautiful Barre granite marker pictured here now rests at the foot of our magnificent Weeping Cherry tree on the island. In Claudette’s words “we have been saddened by the loss of many dear members over the years. Some, if not all, gave their time and loving attention to this garden...Hopefully, when you see the stone, you’ll pause to remember those fellow gardeners who are no longer with us.”*

***Help needed!** Horticulture Chair, Jane Cullinan is looking for helping hands during the summer months to tend the Veteran’s Memorial Garden at the **Pine Grove Cemetery**. And, both Judy Connelly and Gerrie Bunker are also requesting summer help at the **Prospect Street** and **Linebrook Road islands**. Please answer their call for this important gift from our club to our community.*

*It’s that time of year! Dues envelopes have been distributed by Treasurer, Shirley Holt, and payment should be made to her as soon as possible. Also, don’t forget to submit any receipts for reimbursement to Shirley promptly since June 30th, the club’s fiscal year end, is right around the corner.*

*...Bits and pieces...*

*So, many photos, so little space!*



*Art In Flowers designers busy at work at Rose Ann’s home!*

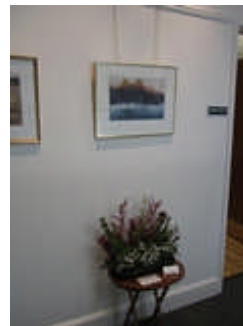
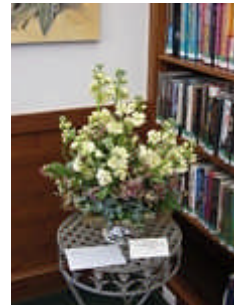
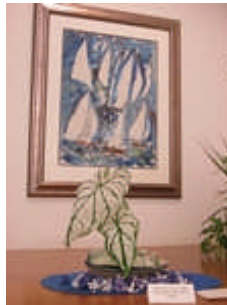


*...more on the following page...*





*Topsfield Library Art In Flowers  
April 2013*



*Barbara Shade, designer, with  
assistant Rose Ann Waite at  
Art In Bloom at Boston's  
Museum of Fine Arts.*



*There's Horticulture Co-chair Jane  
Cullinan putting the finishing touches  
on the Pine Grove Cemetery Garden!*



*President Judy dedicates the Arbor  
Day tree at the Steward School.*

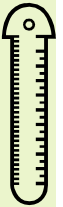
*...Green Thumb follows...*

## Green Thumb Corner

*With all the wet weather we've had this past week, maybe it would be a good idea to talk about precipitation a bit...*...did you know that most plants need an inch of water per week? How can you be sure your gardens are getting enough? Weather reports sometimes have little to do with what



actually falls in our backyard. For this reason it is a good idea to invest in a simple rain gauge. It doesn't have to be too high tech...just a clear tube with graduations marked on the side. They are available for not too many \$\$ at your local hardware stores, garden centers and on-line. Looking for a place to put it is very important, though. Make sure your gauge has nothing overhead. If Mother Nature does not provide the inch you need in a week's time, you might think about helping along from your own water supply. Don't forget to empty the gauge each week so you can keep track!



*...and when it rains, this yucky garden creature comes to dinner...the slug...ugh!!!*

Aesthetically, there is nothing redeeming about these guys. Problem is, they can wreak havoc in your garden. Young slugs can eat 30 to 40 times their weight every day! Their parents chew holes in leaves and leave slime trails everywhere. What to do? Slugs love places that are dark and damp. We've got lots of those right now, don't you think? In places where you tend to see slugs, (they love my hosta garden) try placing a board over damp ground, which provides a hiding place for them during the day. Check under the board each morning, and destroy any slugs that have gathered. If that doesn't sound appealing, how about treating them to some beer? Slugs love it so much that if you set the top edges of a dish of your favorite brew (hopefully, it's *Ipswich Ale*) at ground level and cover it loosely with a board so they can still get easily inside, they can't resist. An empty tuna can will do nice for this. End of the story is that they drown in too much of a good thing. Then you can empty the can and start over. Or, you can try my Mom's remedy...sprinkle them with table salt.



*Not cute!*

That does them in instantaneously. I use this tactic. Or, if you just can't stand killing living things, you can try physical barriers. Slugs will not cross rough surfaces. Sprinkle ashes or barriers made for this purpose around the perimeter of your garden. You will have to maintain the barrier in the event anything sweeps it away. Good luck, fellow gardeners.

*...and when a period of wet weather is followed by rather warm temperatures, which is currently in our forecast, mulched areas in your garden may erupt into something pretty disgusting to look at...slime mold.* There are no miracle cures here. Mulch is made from shredded wood and bark. Over time, microscopic bacteria and fungi cause this material to decay. Slime mold commonly grows on



decaying wood. Chemicals do not kill or eliminate it. While it causes no harm to plants or animals, it is definite very unsightly. What to do? You can leave it alone to finish its cycle of decay. You can also take steps to help keep it from forming. To do this, toss or rake your mulch every few days during periods of high humidity, after rainfall or watering. This will let air into the mulch and let it dry. Not only might this prevent slime mold from forming, but it might stop it in its early stages, if it has already started to grow. If you must remove it because you can't stand looking at it, do it very carefully. Underneath the mold there may be spores that will spread if it is disturbed. Cover and scoop the mold with a plastic garbage bag. Push the sides of the bag underneath the mold and the mulch to which it is attached, and scoop it into the bag. Either dump this on your compost pile or close the bag and place in the trash. Of course another course of action is to make a pet of your slime mold...some people do. If you are interested, here's a link to show you how:

<http://waystospendtime.blogspot.com/2012/07/pet-slime-mold.html>

*...more Green Thumb follows...*



*And now, the chores! There are plenty at this time of year:*

Deciduous shrubs such as Forsythias, Weigela and Spirea should be pruned back once they have finished blooming, by cutting back a third of the oldest canes to the ground and another third to a third of their height. Got that?

Work lime into the soil around Hydrangeas to produce pink flowers or Aluminum Sulphate to produce blue flowers.

You can keep your pines and other conifers more compact by pinching off the new growth candles. Other evergreens can be sheared or pruned at this time. Also, trim your hedges.

After your Lilacs finish their bloom, remove suckers and dead blooms. It is also a good time to fertilize with an all-purpose formula.

Time to fertilize your shrubs and trees. Use a fertilizer formulated for acid tolerant plants on azaleas, rhododendrons, and camellias immediately after they have finished flowering. This formula can also be used on junipers. An all-purpose formula should be used on roses, deciduous shrubs and trees. Be sure to water the fertilizer in thoroughly after application.

Dead head developing seed pods from your Rhododendrons and Azaleas to improve next year's bloom. You must be very careful when you do this that you don't damage next year's buds, which may be hidden below the pod you are removing.

Remove spent stalks from your spring flowering bulbs, and the foliage too, but only when it has died back naturally.

Stake tall flower plants to keep them upright in the wind and rain. Peonies are good candidates for this chore!

Keep an eye on your roses so that mildew, aphids, black-spot and other insects and diseases don't take them over. There are good rose sprays available for these ailments. Use them at the first sign of trouble. Also, fertilize your roses each month during the summer.

Don't forget or blow off deadheading your annuals and perennials. This will encourage continued blooming on your annuals, and on some perennials. Pinch back fall blooming plants.

When our weather gets hot and dry, don't forget to water your container plants daily, especially if they are in full sun.

Move your houseplants outside to a shady and protected spot. Be sure to keep an eye on them for insects or disease, and spray if necessary to keep them healthy. Don't forget that they probably need more water than they did inside. Don't forget to fertilize them either! They will love being outside.

If you use them, change the water in your bird baths regularly to keep the water clean for your feathered friends, and also discourage breeding of mosquitoes.

Keep those weeds pulled so they won't go to seed and spread.

And, in spite of what sounds like a lot of work, enjoy your time outside...our season is short.

*And, a final word...another garden club year comes to a close. For many of you this means "Garden Club summer vacation." Your officers and board members, however, will work throughout the summer, planning an exciting garden club year to come for all of us. As they go through this process, please be there to enthusiastically help, should they ask. Only together can we make our club the best it can be.*

*Best wishes for a beautiful, peaceful and safe summer!*

