

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

September 25th through October 31, 2012



Welcome to Fall!

Welcome to our new members Joyce Chunias, Lorraine Crosson, Elaine Hegan, Mei Schuster and Shirley Sciora!

September 25



Once again, our garden club year will start with an Old Fashioned Ham and Bean Supper. This could become a nice tradition! Don't be late for dinner at 6:00 pm at the Gould Barn, Topsfield! Also invited to the festivities is Neal Sanders, author of the popular book "A Murder in the Garden Club." And, as if that's not enough, artist Lynne Schulte, whose illustration graces the front cover of the book, will also be joining us. Looking forward to seeing you there!

September 27

And, again this year, our club will be hosting a Hospitality Table from 3:00 to 5:00 pm on the first entry day of the Topsfield Fair Flower Show in the Flower Barn at the Fairgrounds. If you would like to help set up that day, or would like to contribute drinks or baked goods, please contact Rose Ann Waite or President Judy.

**September 28 -
October 8**

The Topsfield Fair, together with the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, will present "Food is Best with Flowers," a Standard Flower Show, in the Flower Barn at the Fairgrounds.



Memories...

Be sure to stop by and see all the prize winning designs, including those of Rose Ann Waite and Georgia McHugh, which we will be able to view from September 28 through October 1st. In addition, Rose Ann will enter another design which we will be able to view from October 5th through October 8th.

And, if you have never served as a host for this special flower show, here's your chance. A few two hour shifts are still available for you and a buddy, and in return you will receive free entry to the fair and free parking. Please contact Deb Falcinelli at debra.falcinelli@gmail.com if you are interested.

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October 1



Horticulture Morning will be held at 10:00 am at MHS Elm Bank, 900 Washington Street, Wellesley. The program will feature C. L. Fornari, who will present the program "Saving Summer: Over-Wintering Tender Perennials and Tropical Plants." The donation is \$5.00 at the door. This meeting is open to all members and guests.

October 2

The Andover Garden Club has invited our members to attend their meeting at 10:00 am at the South Church, 41 Central Street, Andover, MA. They are excited to announce that Tony Todesco will be presenting his program "What's New in Design." A \$10.00 donation is requested.

October 16

Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Linde Martin at 9:30 am. If you need driving directions, please contact Linde.

October 16

The North Andover Garden Club has invited our members to attend their program "Compost: The Sweet Smell of Success" presented by Julie McIntosh Shapiro of the Harvard University Herbaria. This meeting will be held at St. Michael's Church Parish Hall, 196 Main Street, North Andover at 7:00 pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

*October
(date to be scheduled)*

*Please stay tuned for details about our regular meeting.
You will receive information very soon.*

October 25

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Fall Conference will be held at the Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury Street, Andover, MA 01810. Our officers will be attending and invite you to join them. For more information, please contact President Judy.

NOTES



Our Horticulture Committee will soon be looking for extra hands for fall cleanup at the Pine Grove Cemetery, and the Prospect Street and Linebrook Islands. Please watch for their sign up sheets, and get your gloves and clippers ready!



...more on the following page...

Jean's corner



And, once again this year, a big thank you goes to *Jean Bilsbury*, who has done a splendid job putting together our new yearbook. Not many of us are aware of how much effort goes into compiling all the information it contains

and bringing it so beautifully into our hands at our first meeting of the year. Thank you so much, Jean...what would we do without you?

Jean Bilsbury, last year's Artistic Chair, reports that she has several Christmas trees left at her home from our club's holiday display at the Topsfield Library. She would love to get them back to their rightful owners. So, if yours is among them, please give Jean a call. The trees are probably pretty lonely for you by now!



And, thanks to *Jean Bilsbury*, our club **aprons and totes** are once again available for purchase! Aprons are \$18.00 and the totes are \$15.00. Jean will have some for purchase at our September meeting. If you are interested in purchasing either of these after our meeting, please contact Judy Connelly.

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We are happy to announce that Barbara Shade has graciously volunteered to represent our club with one of her special designs at Art In Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She will be assisted by Rose Ann Waite. It is always an honor for our club to be invited to participate in this very well received event at the Museum. The dates will be April 27th through April 29, 2013. Barbara is a veteran of this event as is her assistant, Rose Ann. This is a not-to-be-missed event, so make a note of the dates, and plan a nice day in the city to take in the show.

...Bits and pieces...



Jean Hampton, President Judy, Mary Dalton and Linda Harvey at our May Pettengill Farm meeting.



A beautiful day, fantastic food and great conversation at our joint board meeting in June.



Barbara Shade presents our new honorary members, Bill and Betty Flagg

Our Annual Meeting June 2012



Past President Rose Ann Waite passes the gavel to newly installed President Judy Donovan.



Putting the finishing touches on our Strawberry Festival booth. Thank goodness for the sunshine.

Strawberry Festival June 2012



It's the end of a perfect day for Strawberry Festival Chair Tammy Glasser and Claudette Poor!

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Green Thumb Corner



Like it or not, fall is here. If you have let your houseplants “vacation” outside this summer, it is time to start thinking about moving them back inside for the winter. Most plants we grow as houseplants originate in the tropics, so nighttime temperatures in the 40’s and 50’s may be too cold for them, even though the days are still warm. Since conditions differ widely between outside and inside your home, it is best to gradually introduce your plants to the indoors. Sudden changes in humidity, light and temperature can be traumatic to your plants, which may result in dieback, wilting and even death.

Start the process by cleaning your windows, both inside and out, to allow as much light as possible to get to your plants over the winter. Make sure you have a supply of potting soil and containers in case some of your plants need repotting. Also, if you would like to increase the humidity around your plants, have some trays or saucers filled with gravel ready to put your pots on. Be sure to keep the gravel moist.

Since houseplants growing outdoors can become infested with insects, spiders and other pests or develop diseases, now it’s time to carefully inspect them. If you can, it is a good idea to treat your plants, if they need it, before bringing them inside. If you discover minor infestations, washing plants carefully may help. You may use houseplant insecticides available at garden centers for more serious infestations. If a plant is very seriously infested, it might be a good idea to discard it rather than risk exposing your healthy plants. And, be sure to check the outside of your pots for signs of unwanted inhabitants! Soaking the pot in a tub of lukewarm water for about 15 minutes will force insects out of the soil. If earthworms or other insects have burrowed into the soil, you might want to repot the plants, placing a piece of wire screening over the drainage hole to keep them out next year.

In the warm indoor environment, insects that manage to come indoors on your plants, in spite of your efforts, may thrive and multiply. So, if possible, it is a good idea to keep these plants separate from other indoor plants for several weeks. This will allow you to keep an eye on them, and keep any potential problems from spreading to your other plants.

To help prevent shock to your plants, expose them to reduced light gradually when you bring them inside. At first, try to place your plants in your home where they will get light similar to what they were receiving outdoors. If they have been in bright light outside, and you move them to much lower light indoors, expect some leaves to fall. New ones should grow as the plant adapts to the lower light.

Remember that plants growing indoors aren’t subject to the drying winds and warm temperatures they have had all summer long. Growth will slow down with the reduced light. Don’t overwater! Let the surface of the soil get dry to the touch before watering. Water your succulents less often...when the soil is dry for several days. Also, be careful about fertilizing now. If you fertilize your plants too much when they aren’t actively growing, a buildup of fertilizer salts in the soil will result, which could damage your plants’ roots. Be sure to follow directions on your fertilizer containers for dormant feeding.

And, what about taking cuttings from annual flowers such as begonias, geraniums and coleus? These root easily in water or soil, and can provide plants for your garden next year. For rooting in soil, just take cuttings about three to four inches long. Remove the bottom leaves, and place the cut end into a mix of perlite and peat moss in a small pot. Dipping the end in rooting hormone prior to planting encourages faster rooting. Keep the soil moist, but not wet. Repot the plants when they outgrow their current pots.

How do you know you are a Master Gardener?

There is a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.

You would rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothing store.

You prefer gardening to watching television.

You plan vacation trips to arboretums and public parks.

Dirt under your fingernails and calloused palms are matters of pride.