

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

September 23rd through October 23, 2014



The Aster is our flower of the month.

A very warm welcome to our new member Mary Landry!



September 23

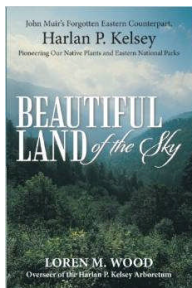


\$5.00 worth of scratch tickets gets you dinner!

Our garden club year will begin with a Welcome Back Pasta Dinner! Bring your appetite, but don't be late. The fun starts at 6:30 pm at the Gould Barn, Topsfield! There will be an opportunity to socialize with your fellow members and enjoy a fun program "cooked up" by our Vice President and Program Chair, Shirley Holt.

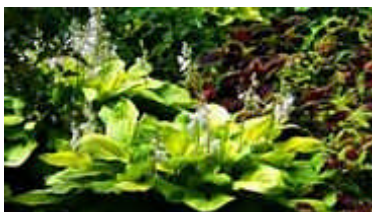
The price for admission to the dinner will be \$5.00 worth of Massachusetts Lottery Scratch Tickets, which Helen Gaffey will collect on your arrival. These scratch tickets will adorn two Scratch Ticket Trees to be raffled off by our club at the November Joint Meeting of the five local garden clubs. Helen's a tough customer, so don't arrive without your tickets! I am told that these tickets can be purchased at Gil's Grocery in the center of Topsfield, among other places that you may be more familiar with than I!

September 28



The Kelsey Arboretum Trails & Sales Event will be held from 2 pm to 4:30 pm. The Arboretum is a little gem located at 18 Kelsey Road, Boxford, and named for Harlan P. Kelsey, an early 20th century landscape architect, nurseryman and conservationist. At 3 pm there will be a "walk about" with Harlan P. Kelsey's biographer, Loren Wood. Mr. Wood read over 50,000 original documents for his book "Beautiful Land of the Sky" which will be sold and signed by the author at this event.

September 29



Horticulture Morning will be held at the South Church, 41 Central Street Andover at 10 am. The program will feature Joan Butler and Jana Milbocker, who will present their program "Hosta: A Collector's Journey." The donation is \$5.00 at the door. This meeting is open to all members and guests.

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

October 3– 13



The Topsfield Fair, together with the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, will present "The Joy of Color," a Standard Flower Show, in the Flower Barn at the Fairgrounds. The schedule for this

*year's show was written by our dear member, Georgia McHugh, before her passing. Be sure to stop by and see all the prize winning designs, including those of **Rose Ann Waite and Margo Maione**, who will both be entering designs on October 8th, the second entry date.*

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

And still more Topsfield Fair fun can be had by participating in the creation of the float representing the Topsfield and New Meadows Garden Clubs and the Topsfield Agricultural Commission for the Fair Parade. Many hands are needed to construct the float and fashion the items which decorate it. Workshops will be planned very soon at Martha Morrison's beautiful barn at 217 Rowley Bridge Road in Topsfield. The first of these will tentatively be on Wednesday, September 24th. Stay tuned for details.



Last year's prize winning float.

October 21

Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Mary Connor at 6:30 pm.

October 23



*Again this year, our October fundraiser will be held at the **Pretty Poppy**, that neat boutique located at 3 Pleasant Street, Newburyport. You will remember from last year that the Pretty Poppy features women's jewelry and accessories, with something for everyone, and known for its **"wallet friendly sweet sparkles."** The store will be sharing 20 percent of its proceeds for the day with our club to benefit our programs and civic projects. So, mark your calendars, call your family and friends, and take a ride to Newburyport that day. Treat yourselves...you've been behaving yourselves, haven't you? Or perhaps do some holiday shopping...it's never too early to start, you know. And our club will be providing a hospitality table for the day. Our hostesses are **Rita Galvin, Rose Ann Waite and Judy Connelly**. Please stay tuned for additional details...we will be needing your help with the table during this event. The store hours are 10 am to 6 pm on Thursdays, but will be open until 7 pm for our event. If you would like to peek at the excitement in store for us, check out the Pretty Poppy's website at <http://prettypoppystore.com>.*

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

October 28



The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Fall Conference will be held at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center, 1657 Worcester Road, Framingham. Our officers are planning to attend and invite you to join them. Registration before October 15th is \$55.00, which includes lunch. After October 15th, the cost is \$65.00. For more information, please contact Presidents Mary and Helen, or see page 18 in your e-Mayflower at <http://gcfm.org/> for information and a registration form.

NOTES



Our Horticulture Committee would like to express their great appreciation for all the help they received during the summer season from members who volunteered to "primp" the Memorial Garden at the Pine Grove Cemetery, and the Prospect Street and Linebrook Road Islands. These gardens looked magnificent all summer! The committee will soon be looking for your help once again for fall cleanup at these gardens. Please watch for their sign up sheets, and get your gloves and clippers ready!

And, once again this year, a big thank you goes to **Jean Bilsbury**, who has done another splendid job as our Program Book Publisher. Not many of us are aware of how much effort goes into compiling all the information it



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



And good news...there are still four club aprons and two club totes available for those who would like to have them. They can be purchased from Librarian and Properties Chair, Lorraine Erickson. The cost for the aprons is \$18.00 and the cost of the totes is \$15.00.



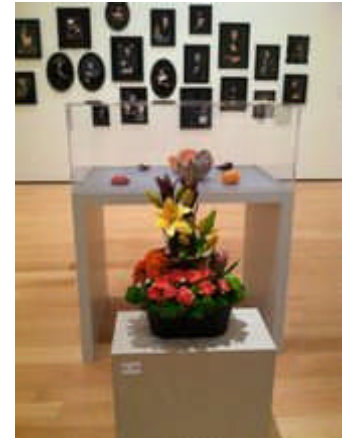
...more on the following page...



As many of you are aware, books are donated to the Topsfield Library by our club in honor of members who have passed away. We are pleased to announce that the book our club purchased in memory of our dear member, Georgia McHugh, is now in general circulation at the library. The title is "Bringing Nature Home" by Ngoc Minh Ngo and Nicolette Owen. A bookplate is included in this beautiful book designating this memorial tribute to Georgia.

Art In Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts

It's that time of year again! The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston will soon be looking for designers to participate in their very special event, Art In Bloom. The dates are April 24th through April 27, 2015. According to our club history compiled by Historian, Barbara Shade, garden clubs have been invited to participate in this event since 1984. Our club has been represented every year in this event except for one.



Here is Mei with her design.

Last year, Mei Schuster represented our club with a design in this exclusive event, carrying on our club's tradition. A first-time designer, Mei created an expert interpretation of Daniela Edburg's "Parasites and Perishables." If you would like to try your hand at this exciting experience, please contact Co-Presidents Mary and Helen as soon as possible. The show is not judged, and an assistant will be provided from our many club members who have participated in this special event at the MFA in the past.



*Many of our members shared in a beautiful goodbye to Georgia McHugh at the Willowdale Estate
June 28, 2014*



...continued on the next page...

...Bits and pieces...



Carol Decker guides members at our May 2014 meeting at the Ipswich Wildlife Sanctuary.



Jane Cullinan receives the President's Award for Outstanding Service at our Annual Meeting June 10, 2014.



Fun making terrariums for the Strawberry Festival

*Strawberry Festival
June 14, 2014*



Our mighty Strawberry Festival leader, Claudette Poor.



The Strawberry Festival Crew.



The Prospect Street Memorial Island

Our Civic Projects August 2014



Pine Grove Cemetery Garden



Linebrook Road Island

...the Green Thumb follows...

Green Thumb Corner

*Okay, you know that there is always something new in the garden. Today I'd like to talk about something that was new in mine this past summer... **Magnolia Scale.** I have both Star Magnolia and Saucer Magnolia which*



*we planted almost 30 years ago now. The Saucer Magnolia is having a bit of a problem because the trees around it have grown, and it now gets very little, if any, sun during the summer. The Star Magnolia is in a better spot and rewards the care we give it with spectacular blossoms each spring. This tree is very near one of the urns I plant with annuals each year. One day, when I was out deadheading the annuals in this urn, I could hear a din of bees coming from the Star Magnolia. I went over and did a bit of checking, and, to my surprise, I saw on the tree's branches what you see in the photo above. What could this be??? **What would I do without my computer?** I hightailed it into the house, sat down behind my screen and "Googled." After a bit of research, I confirmed that the tree in fact was infested with Magnolia Scale, the largest scale insect in the United States. The "white bumps" on the branches are the mature insects, which is a bit confusing because they do not move. Once the maturing scale insect inserts its mouth into the branch, it spends its entire life in the same place. As they feed on the tree, the scale insects excrete a sticky substance called honeydew, which drips onto the leaves and anything planted underneath. The bees, ants and also flies, love it and consume it because it is sweet...like giving candy to a baby! To make matters worse, sooty mold fungus often grows on the honeydew, which is pretty unattractive.*

So, what to do??? Magnolia Scale needs to be controlled, not only because of the mess it creates, but also because branches that are severely infested can die, as well as the entire tree. Eradication is a complicated affair, however. Adult scale insects are covered with a waxy covering making them quite impervious to insecticide. But there is a narrow window when young nymphs (baby insects) are susceptible because they are mobile.

So, the first step is to apply a horticultural oil spray just before the tree puts out its leaves in spring. This will suffocate the over-wintering nymphs from the previous year. (There is only one generation a year, thank goodness.) They are hard to see unless you know what you are looking for, even with a magnifying glass. They appear as small, gray dots on the smaller twigs.

The timing of the second step is critical because once the eggs of any scale insects you have left on the tree over the summer hatch, they become very vulnerable to insecticide applications. The crawling stage of these young scale insects is in August through October, depending on temperature and moisture in the area. To be sure they are crawling, you have to check. Remember that they are quite small, so get your magnifying glass and look for small, moving reddish specks. It might be a good idea to start checking for movement in July because you don't want to miss your window of opportunity.

Sevin, Horticultural Oil, BioNeem, or insecticidal soap are some of the products which can be used in this second step to spray the tree.

Bayer Advanced Garden Tree & Shrub Insect Control is another product which is effective against Magnolia Scale, but is applied as a soil drench rather than sprayed onto the tree. It is done once a year in early spring so that it has time to be absorbed by the roots and move through the tree's vascular system. Local garden centers carry this product. Be sure to follow the directions on the label.

****September gardening tip...there have been several nights this past week during which the temperatures have dipped down into the 40's. It's time to start thinking about bringing your winter houseplants back inside, if you haven't already. Make sure to check your plants for pests! Rinsing the plants' leaves and soaking the pots in water for 15 minutes should keep you from transporting pests into your home as well!**

Yesterday is not ours to recover but tomorrow is ours to win or lose.

...Lyndon B. Johnson...