

# A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

September 22nd through November 1, 2015



Our de-stressing and air purifying houseplant for the month is the Aloe Plant. Grow it in lots of sun.

*Welcome to our club's fifty-seventh year!*



September 22



*\$5.00 worth of scratch tickets gets you dinner!*

Back by popular demand, our club year will once again 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 at dinner and then enjoy a special Pressed Flower Demonstration by Jacqueline Harrington. As part of the demonstration, each of us will be able to do our own small project. I'm in, and hope you are too! Be sure to **RSVP** to Jane Cullinan if you will attend. Board members are requested to bring a bottle of wine!

Be aware that the price for admission to dinner is \$5.00 worth of Massachusetts Lottery Scratch Tickets, which Helen Gaffey will collect on your arrival. These scratch tickets will adorn Helen's special hat, to be raffled off by our club at the November Joint Meeting of the five local garden clubs. Helen's a very tough customer, so don't try to get dinner without bringing those lottery tickets!

**\*\*Thank you to our gracious hostesses for this meeting: Jane Cullinan, Barbara Shade and Joline Yeaton**

September 28



Horticulture Morning will be held at the Espousal Center, 554 Lexington Street, Waltham from 10 am to 12 pm. This month's program will be "Our Gardens' Best Friends," presented by Len Giddex. You will learn how native pollinators make our gardens as happy as they can be. This meeting is open to all club members and their guests. A donation of \$5.00 is requested at the door for members, and \$10.00 for guests.

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

October 2—12



The Topsfield Fair, together with the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, will present "New England Attributes," a Standard Flower Show, in the Flower Barn at the Fairgrounds. The show will highlight the many facets of our New England States. Our club will be represented with designs in this show by members **Rose Ann Waite** and **Mei Schuster**. Rose Ann's design will be in Class 3, Massachusetts from October 1-6 and Mei's design will be in the same class from October 7-12. Be sure to stop by for a look at their creations and those of all the other talented participants.

And, once again this year, the Georgia McHugh Award will be awarded to the novice designer (never won a blue ribbon) with the highest point score in the design division.

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](mailto:debra.falcinelli@gmail.com) if you are interested.

And still more Topsfield Fair fun can be had by participating in the creation of the fair parade float sponsored by the garden clubs of Topsfield, the Topsfield Agricultural Commission and local farms. Those of you who have never joined in don't know what you're missing! It's a blast to watch the creative juiced flow! Many hands are needed to construct the float and fashion the items which will adorn it. We will announce workshops as they are scheduled at Martha Morrison's beautiful barn at 217 Rowley Bridge Road in Topsfield. Stay tuned for more details!



Last year's Grand Prize winning float.

**\*\*And, while you are visiting the fair this year, don't miss out on viewing Co-President Mary's two pieces of art work, which can be seen on display in the Coolidge Building.**

October 20

Our next board meeting will be held at the home Rose Ann Waite at 10 am.

October 26



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 19th is \$55.00, which includes lunch. After October 19th, the cost is \$65.00. For more information, please contact Co-Presidents Mary and Helen, or see the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts web site at:

<http://gcfm.org/Meetings/FallConference.aspx>

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

November 1



*Surprise! Our fall fundraiser this year will be a repeat of the Chocolatefest our club held in 2011, which was lots of fun and a great success. Who wouldn't like everything chocolate??*

*This year's event will again be held at the Gould Barn , 1pm to 4pm. To make this event as successful as our last one was, we will need help from each and every one of you ! Bakers, come one, come all with your most decadent chocolate recipes in tow. Food Chair, Linda Mann will be looking for members to indicate on her sign-up sheet at our club's first meeting on September 22nd what they will contribute to this club effort. If you cannot attend our September meeting, Linda kindly requests that you send her an e-mail message with this information. Her address is mann15@comcast.net.*

*Also we will need plenty of help setting up, cleaning up, and in all the functions that make for a successful event. Details will follow soon. Please be ready jump in and do your part!*

## 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, in spite of her very busy schedule! Not many of us are aware of how much effort goes



into compiling all the information our book contains, and 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?

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





*We have heard that a few of our members or those dear to them have had some serious health issues over the summer, and we do wish them a speedy and complete recovery.*

*And we have also heard that a few of our members or those dear to them are recovering from recent surgeries. We send our best wishes for speedy recoveries to them as well!*

### *Saying goodbye to Betty Flagg, loyal garden club member, gardener extraordinaire, and friend.*



*Betty with Honorary Member, Linda Harvey, at our 2010 banquet.*

*From the first moment Betty joined New Meadows Garden Club in 1971, the club was never the same again! Betty charmed everyone with her love, enthusiasm, knowledge and extremely quick wit! There was no one quite like her. Betty was an avid gardener who inspired everyone around her to be the same. She and her dear husband Bill were many times a team when it came to garden club. They were truly dedicated to the care of the Veteran's Memorial Garden at the Pine Grove Cemetery, and the other public spaces*

*our club maintains. You could always count on them at our Strawberry Festival table, and also as hostesses at the Standard Flower Show in the Flower Barn during the Topsfield Fair. Their home was always open to us individually and as a group. Thankfully, during her lifetime, Betty was honored with awards from the Northern District of the GCFM for her garden club contributions. She was just a lovely person...truly one of a kind. She certainly will be missed by all who knew her.*

### *Remembering Betty*



*Betty at Art In Flowers at the Topsfield Library May 2011*



*Here's Betty at Pine Grove Cemetery doing what she liked best!*



*The club bestows Honorary Membership on Bill and Betty, June 2012*



*Raise your hand if you think Betty had a hand in this summer's spectacular display of the Night Blooming Cereus plant she gave Associate Member Heidi Parisi many years ago!*



*Betty front right at our club's 40th Anniversary celebration at the Gould Barn.*

*...continued on the next page...*

*...Bits and pieces...*



*A glorious May 2015 meeting at the Crane Estate*

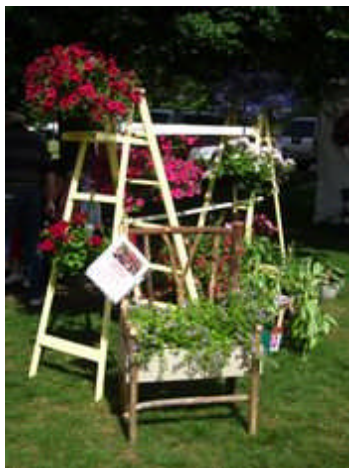


*Judy Donovan is honored with the club's President's Award at our June 2015 banquet.*

*Strawberry Festival  
June 13, 2015*



*Our setup on a glorious day!*



*The Crew!*

*Our Topsfield Civic Projects*



*Springtime at the Prospect Street Island*



*Pine Grove Cemetery Garden*



*Daylilies at Linebrook Road Island*

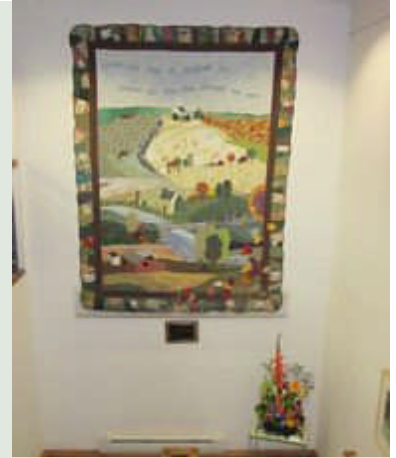
*...something interesting follows...*



*...something interesting...*

*As I was wandering around the Topsfield Town Library a few months ago, I came upon something that I found extremely interesting to the point that I thought I would share it with all of you as a tribute to our garden club's home town of Topsfield.*

*You will all recognize the quilt pictured here since it is one of the objects we traditionally choose for our flower show at the library, Art In Flowers. It hangs prominently in the stairway to the second floor. We tend to so often take things around us for granted, and I have to admit, this was the case for me regarding this beautiful quilt...until that day at the library.*



*Mei Schuster and Penny Rogers chose the Celebration Quilt for their design in our Art In Flowers show at the library in 2015*

*So, here begins the backstory. A group gathered on a winter day in 1997 to discuss ideas for quilt to celebrate Topsfield's 350th anniversary. The group naturally consisted of resident quilters, but also included a local artist, representatives from the art department*

*at Masconomet, the Topsfield Historical Society and the 350th committee. All felt blessed to live in such a beautiful town. A beautiful poem entitled "Fair Topsfield" written by Nehemiah Cleveland in 1875 became the inspiration for the quilt. A master pattern was created among the group. Those of you in our club who are quilters will appreciate that work on this quilt was slow and tedious because each piece of fabric had its own pattern piece, and putting them all together required careful color selection and precision sewing techniques. As it is described, the quilt is quilted, pieced and appliquéd by hand and machine. A close look at the quilt will reveal that pictures of Topsfield residents through history are included in the borders. The main focus of the design are the hills, so prominent in Nehemiah's poem. Here is Topsfield in the words of Nehemiah Cleveland in his poem "Fair Topsfield:"*

*Still are the hills of Topsfield fair,  
Her valleys rich in beauty rare  
As when my childish feet first trod  
Her varied ways and knew each sod!*

*Since then the world I've journeyed 'round  
And joyously my pulses bound  
As glistening spire and peaceful farms  
Smile from the hills' encircling arms*

*And though before my yearning eyes  
Regretfully the bright day dies  
Yet as the glow fades from the hills  
A calmer light the valley fills,*

*So sweet in memory shall abide  
The comfort of the eventide  
O early home forever dear  
Blessed the fate that brought me here!*

*...the Green Thumb follows...*

## Green Thumb Corner

*Okay, it is getting close to the end of September...I guess we had better talk about some of the outdoor gardening chores we should be seeing to at this time of year!*

*If you are pining for early blooms in your garden in spring, now is*

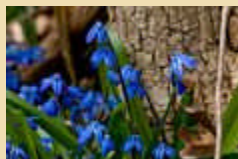
*the time to visit your garden center for some spring-blooming bulbs. Of course, we are familiar with tulips and daffodils. These are large bulbs, as you know. How about a different twist... small bulbs, or as some folks call them, minor bulbs. Think about it...since generally, bulbs should be planted three times as deep as they are tall, it is much easier to plant a smaller bulb than it is a large bulb. Unfortunately, it is sometimes difficult to find these little gems in stores, so mail ordering may be necessary. With this in mind, there is no time to waste!*

*Here are a few varieties you might want to look for. They are all hardy in our growing zone:*



*Here is **Glory of the Snow**, which comes in many different colors. I happen to be very partial to blue flowers, so that's the photo you get! These grow 4 to 6 inches tall, and are happiest when they are planted in full sun.*

*This one is **Winter Acronite** and is one of the earliest to flower, and may bloom through the snow, just as Snowdrops sometimes do. These bulbs like sun too and are deer resistant.*



*And, now, introducing **Siberian Squill**. These are one of the most shade tolerant of the bulbs, and they are also deer resistant. What more can we ask? They also come in white and grow 3 to 6 inches tall. They open a bit later than some of the other small bulbs.*

*And, check this one out! It is the **Checkered Lily**. The flowers are somewhat tulip shaped and hang facing downward. This one also grows in part shade, and likes moist soil. You can also get it in white, which is less common.*



*\*\*For a nice effect in your flower beds, or even in your lawn, take a handful of these little bulbs, throw them in the air, and plant them with a sharp trowel wherever they land! And a few tips on their culture: as you know, bulb foliage should be left to turn yellow on the plant, which sends energy into the plant for next year's blooms. Little (minor) bulbs will not look as messy as the large ones. But, do not bunch the foliage up with rubber bands, as some gardeners do, because this will prevent the leaf surfaces from exposure to the sun, cutting down on the photosynthesis needed to produce food for the bulb.*

*Some other chores for September include these:*

*Keep weeding, especially those weeds which produce seed at this time of year.*

*When your town allows outside watering, hydrate your lawn, gardens, new transplants and especially your evergreens until the first frost.*

*See you next time!*



*Happy little snowdrops*