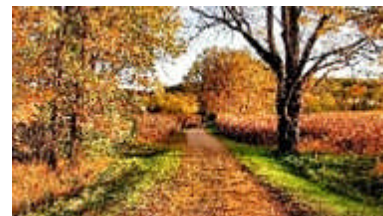


A POSY PICKER'S PAPER
New Meadows Garden Club
Topsfield, Massachusetts
October 23rd to December 11, 2012



The colors of fall.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

October 23



Our Craft Workshop and Picnic will be held at the Gould Barn from 10 am to 2 pm. There will be a selection of craft projects in which you will be able to participate. No previous experience is required! The finished products will grace our fundraising table at the November joint meeting of the five area garden clubs. While most supplies will be provided, please bring your scissors, wire, glue gun if you have one, donated fall and Christmas ribbons, artificial flowers, leaves and small ornaments on picks or not. Don't forget to bring your picnic lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided by the hostess committee. See you there.

November 13

The North Andover Garden Club and the Village Garden Club of Andover have invited us to attend their program "Holiday Arrangements from your Yard" presented by Master Gardener Betty Sanders. This event will be held at the St. Michael's Parish Hall, 196 Main Street, North Andover at 7 pm.

November 14



The Annual Joint Meeting of the five area garden clubs will be held at the Emerson Center, 9 East Common Street, Topsfield at 7 pm. The Middleton Garden Club has planned a special evening for us featuring Courtney Reid, Head Designer at Nunan's, who will present her program "From Mantels to Doors." Enjoy the program, the fellowship with members of the other clubs, and the always special fundraising tables.

November 25



*Topsfield Library
December 2011*

Our club will decorate the Topsfield Library for the holidays. This year's theme will be "These are a few of my Favorite Things." Artistic Co-Chairs Rose Ann Waite and Jean Bilsbury are hoping that you will share some of your favorite holiday things for our display this year. They will also be looking for helping hands to dress up the library, inside and out. Please be on the lookout for further details.

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

December 4

Our next board meeting will be held at 9:30 am at the home of Judy Donovan.

December 11

Our Holiday Social and gift exchange will be held at the Gould Barn at 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for further details.



NOTES



Topsfield Fair News

Once again this year our club collaborated with the Topsfield Garden Club, Topsfield Agricultural Commission and other organizations in the town to produce a prize winning float for the Annual Topsfield Fair Parade. This year's entry won first prize as the **Best Agricultural Float**. Threatening rain once again this year couldn't dampen our spirit!



*Our club was also very well represented in the Standard Flower Show, "Food is Best with Flowers" sponsored by the Topsfield Fair and The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts in the Flower Barn. Below are a few peeks at the prize winning designs of our members **Georgia McHugh** and **Rose Ann Waite**.*



Here on the first entry date on the left is Georgia McHugh with her second prize design in Class 3, "Picnic". On the right is Rose Ann Waite with her first prize design in Class 2, "Challenge."

...more on the following page...



Here on the third entry date on the left is Rose Ann Waite's third prize design in Class 5, "Color". On the right is Georgia McHugh's first prize design in Class 3, "Picnic." Georgia also received the distinguished Table Artistry Award for the perfection of this design.



And here is a pie specially created by Donna Ryan for the Fair!



Our Horticulture Committee has been busy planning fall cleanup work at the cemetery garden, and the Prospect Street and Linebrook Road traffic islands. The Prospect Street Island has been completed thanks to the efforts of Judy Connelly, Nancy Emmons, President Judy and Linde Martin. Jane Cullinan and Linda Mann are completing their plans for the cemetery garden cleanup and may be

asking for helping hands soon to complete their task. And Gerrie Bunker is planning the cleanup of the Linebrook Road Island on Friday, October 26th at 10 am. If you can help with this, bring your clippers, rakes and gloves.

As most of you know, each year our club provides the main desk at the Topsfield Library with weekly flower arrangements or plants during the months of January, February and March. Artistic Co-Chairs Rose Ann Waite and Jean Bilsbury will soon be looking for volunteers to participate in this special service to our community. Please be ready to sign up!

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And, here's some information for those of you who find yourselves in a position to make purchases on behalf of our club. As you know, New Meadows Garden Club is a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization. The club is also a tax exempt organization, which means that purchases the club makes are exempt from sales tax. As such, the proper procedure when a member makes club purchases is to



provide vendors with a form which certifies that the club is tax exempt and provides our club's tax exempt number. Staples, Nunan's and a few other vendors already have this form on file. If a member expects to make a significant purchase on behalf of the club, these forms should be secured in advance from our treasurer, Shirley Holt, or from our 501(c)3 Administrator, Linde Martin.

...Bits and pieces...



Author and "Principal Undergardener" Neal Sanders addresses our club at our September meeting at the Gould Barn.



Nancy Emmons and Honorary Member, Barbara Crowe, enjoy a moment at our September meeting.



Here is our dear late member Katie Peterson's daughter, Amanda. Her grandmother reports that she is "full of personality and energy just like her Mommy!"

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Green Thumb Corner

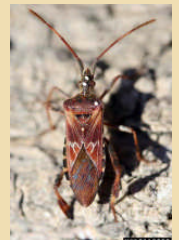


You have all probably heard the science behind the beautiful colors of fall, but here's just what you have been waiting for...a quick review. Leaves are a tree's food making factory. This food is produced in numerous leaf cells containing chlorophyll, giving the leaf its green color. Along with the green pigment are yellow to orange pigments, which, in summer are masked by great amounts of green pigment. In fall, due to changes in temperature and length of daylight hours, leaves stop producing food for the tree, causing the chlorophyll to break down. And so the green color disappears,

and the yellows and oranges become visible, thus creating the colors of fall. Other chemical changes occur creating reds and purples. As the fall colors appear, a special layer of cells develop where the leaf's stem is attached to the tree that gradually severs the tissues that support the leaf. The tree seals this cut, so when the leaf falls, a leaf scar is left behind. Most of our deciduous trees lose their leaves in fall. However, oaks retain many of their leaves until growth starts again in the spring.

Weather, light and rain amount do influence intensity and duration of fall color. Low temperatures will encourage bright colors. However an early frost may weaken colors, while rainy or cloudy days may intensify colors. And, lack of rain in spring and summer affects the trees ability to produce color in autumn. Trees may lose leaves prematurely, or start to turning color earlier than usual. Other interesting factors to consider are changes due to human activity and climate change. At the start of the 20th century, much of New England was covered by white pine forests. As we harvested the white pines, deciduous trees like maples, oaks, chestnuts and birches took their place. So, rather than having a green landscape all year round, autumn color began to grace our landscapes each year. In addition, during the 18th and 19th centuries, sugar maples were extensively planted along roadsides in New England providing the striking reds of fall. But even these colors change as species of trees go through periodic bouts with disease. A case in point is the chestnut tree, which has pretty much been killed by Chestnut Blight, a fungal disease. So the yellows that these trees turn in the fall have disappeared from the landscape. Also, because of climate change, over time autumn colors may fade as conditions become less favorable for trees such as sugar maples. These trees are near the southern end of their growing range here in Massachusetts, so it is not a stretch to say that they may disappear from our landscape over the next century if our climate continues to get warmer. So you can see that the colors of autumn, while present, never stay the same. They are always in flux and each year is a completely unique palate onto itself.

*I don't know about you, but my home has been inundated both inside and out this fall by the critter pictured here. For those of you who have had a similar experience with this persistent, smelly creature, here is the skinny...let me be the first to introduce you to *Leptoglossus occidentalis*, alias the Western conifer seed bug. We'll call him "Seedy" for short! "Seedy" is relatively new to our region, having moved east from California, where he was first described in 1910. "Seedy" is about 3/4 of an inch long, with long legs and long antennae, as you can see. Adults can fly great distances, and make a buzzing*



sound. During the growing season these bugs feed on developing seeds of conifers such as pines of all varieties, spruce, hemlock and Douglas fir, as well as seeds of sumac and dogwood trees. If your trees seem to be sustaining damage from this bug, you can apply insecticidal soap sprays either before they arrive in spring or during an infestation.

Since host trees very often are planted or are growing near homes, in the fall "Seedy" will seek nearby buildings as an over wintering site. While "Seedy" does not bite, sting or infect people or pets, damage the inside of your home or reproduce in it, he can definitely make a complete nuisance of himself. The best defense is to screen attic and wall vents, chimneys and fireplaces. Eliminate or caulk gaps around door and window frames. If these bugs happen to outsmart you and enter your home, the best control is to sweep or vacuum them away. Beware of squishing them though...they do give off a very distasteful odor. "Seedy's" primary defense when threatened is to spray a bitter, offending smell, though sometimes this can smell like apples or pine sap. So choose your approach very carefully. I am afraid that mine is to carefully carry "Seedy" in a paper towel to the toilet for a swim!