

# A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

October 24th through December 10, 2013



*It's National Pumpkin Month!*

October 23



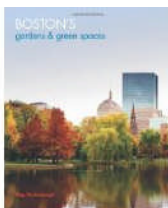
*It's time to put the Pine Grove Cemetery garden to bed for the winter! Horticulture Co-chair, Jane Cullinan, is looking for helping hands with rakes and clippers at 10 am. She always brings yummy refreshments too! The clean up work shouldn't take more than a couple of hours. The rain date is October 24th, same time. Please let Jane know if you can make it.*

October 24



*Our October fundraiser is here, and will be held at the Pretty Poppy, a neat boutique located at 43 Pleasant Street, Newburyport! Pretty Poppy is a women's jewelry and accessory store with something for everyone, and known for its "wallet friendly sweet sparkles." The store will be sharing its proceeds for the day with our club to benefit our programs and civic projects. So, why not plan a day with your friends or family in Newburyport. Have a meal in one of the wonderful restaurants and come shop for yourself, for a birthday gift for a special someone or for the holidays. Our club will be providing a hospitality table for the day. Enjoy a treat while you shop. 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 a preview of the lovely items you will see at the shop, check out the Pretty Poppy's website at <http://prettypoppystore.com>. \*There is street parking and also a municipal lot across the street.*

October 24



*The Tewksbury Public Library and the Tewksbury Garden Club will co-sponsor a special program featuring Meg Muckenhoupt, who will discuss her latest book, "Boston's Gardens and Green Spaces." You will recall that Meg was our guide at our recent visit to the Boston Public Garden. This event will be held at 7 pm at the Tewksbury Public Library, 300 Chandler Street, Tewksbury, MA. Registration is required by calling 978-640-4490 x205. There will be a book signing following the program.*

October 28



*And, Islands Chair, Claudette Poor, needs helping hands with fall clean up at the Prospect Street Island. We will be meeting at 10 am with rakes and clippers...and smiles. She promises coffee at the Main Street Market in Topsfield once we're done! The rain date is October 29th, same time. Please let Claudette know if you can make it. If you cannot, she suggests that you do some clipping at the island for 15 minutes when you have some time. Leave the clippings there, and she will bag them at a later time.*

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

October 30

*And, last, but certainly not least, Gerrie Bunker requests our help to put the Linebrook Road Island to bed at 9:30 am. Bring those rakes and clippers, and we will be done in a flash! Please contact Gerrie if you can help. The rain date is October 31st, same time.*



November 7



A special Joint Meeting of the Tri-Town Garden Clubs has been planned this year for us by the Village Gardeners of Topsfield. The meeting will be held at the First Church Congregational of Boxford, 4 Georgetown Road, Boxford at 7:00 pm. The featured speaker will be Chef Liz Barbour, who will present her program "Creative Feast." Liz will create an edible still-life buffet for entertaining. There will be tasting and recipes available! As in the past, special items will also be offered for sale by each of the clubs, including our club. Extra hands would be welcome to help set up and sell items at our table.

December 1



Topsfield Library  
December 2012

*Our club will decorate the Topsfield Library for the holidays at 1 pm. This year's theme will be "Angels." Artistic Co-Chairs Rose Ann Waite and Jean Bilsbury are hoping that you will share your Holiday Angels for our display this year. They will also be looking for helping hands to dress up the library, both inside and out. Please be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet at the Joint Meeting on November 7th and an e-mail message with further details. You may also give Rose Ann a call if you will be able to participate.*

December 3

*Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Judy Donovan at 10:00 am.*

December 10



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

...more on the following page...

## NOTES



*NMGC aprons and totes will be available from Jean Bilsbury at our Holiday Social in December!  
Aprons are \$18.00 and the totes are \$15.00.  
Get yours before they're all gone!*



*Great news! Mei Schuster has agreed to represent our club with a design in the exclusive event "Art In Bloom" at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, April 25th to April 28, 2014, and Mary Dalton has agreed to be Mei's assistant. Hopefully our club will be among those chosen to participate once again. We'll keep you posted!*

*\*\*Newly revised, board-approved club bylaws have arrived in your mailbox for your review! Please refer any questions or comments to Bylaw Committee Chair, Linde Martin, before November 1, 2013. A vote will be taken to accept this new edition of our bylaws at our Holiday Social, December 10, 2013.*

## Topstfield Fair News



*Tammy Glasser, Mary Connor, Judy Donovan and Jean Bilsbury busy preparing props for the float.*



*Our float awaits the go-ahead to join the Topsfield Fair Parade on a glorious day!*

Once again this year our club collaborated with the Topsfield Garden Club, the Topsfield Agricultural Commission and other organizations in Topsfield to create a prize winning float for the Annual Topsfield Fair Parade. **This year's entry won second prize in the Agriculture Division.** Many thanks to Jean Bilsbury, Mary Connor, Tammy Glasser, Judy Donovan and Linde Martin, who all helped along the way. This year, it was a spectacular day for a parade!

*...more on the next page...*





## Topsfield Fair Standard Flower Show



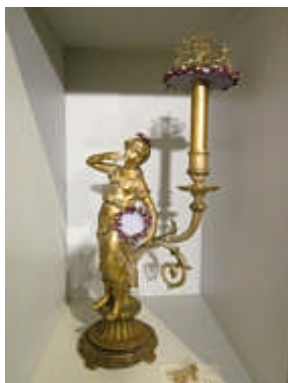
*Presenting Rose Ann Waite's  
pristine crown.*



*Here's our gang primping the  
hostess table at the Flower Barn.*



*A crowd pleaser...  
Georgia McHugh's creative  
design to be worn on the head.*



*Simple, but lovely...another design  
entry from Georgia McHugh.*



*Rose Ann Waite's prize  
winning challenge entry.*



*A treat for the eyes, courtesy of  
Margo Maione.*



*Clean lines and beautiful colors  
from new member, Margo Maione.*

*Meanwhile, at the Coolidge Building, here's  
Mary Connor's prize winning piece of artwork!*



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

## Green Thumb Corner

*Pumpkins, pumpkins, pumpkins! It's pumpkin season...there are pumpkins everywhere. And, October is National Pumpkin Month...hurray! In our country, pumpkins go hand in hand with our fall holidays of Halloween and Thanksgiving.*



*Did you know that pumpkins are a member of the gourd family, which also includes cucumbers, zucchini and melons? They are native to Central America and Mexico, and have been grown in North America for five thousand years. Pumpkins are low in calories, fat and sodium, and high in fiber. They are a good source of Vitamins A and B, potassium, protein and iron. Sounds pretty good to me! We use them in soups, desserts and breads. And what would Halloween be without carving pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns? This tradition originated hundreds of years ago in Ireland. Back then, jack-o-lanterns were made from turnips and potatoes. But then, Irish immigrants arriving in America discovered the pumpkin and a new tradition was born!*

*So many pumpkins...which one to choose? If you are thinking of using a pumpkin for cooking, select a smaller variety bred for sweet, tasty flesh, not size. Smaller varieties have smoother, denser flesh with a higher sugar content than large varieties, which are bred for carving and other decorative uses.*

*If you are choosing a pumpkin for carving, select one with a lighter orange rind. These are easier to carve than darker orange varieties because the skin is not as tough. However, the lighter varieties do not keep as long in storage. A fully mature pumpkin will not be easily pierced with a thumbnail. But, don't go around poking holes in all the pumpkins in the store's display...that wouldn't be nice.*

*And here are some tips for prolonging your carved pumpkins' lifespan after all your expert handiwork: the key is to slow down the dehydration process and deter the onset of mold. If your pumpkin seems to be shriveling up, it can sometimes be restored by soaking it in water overnight. But a good practice, once you are finished with your masterpiece, is to immediately coat all cut surfaces of the pumpkin with petroleum jelly. This includes a light coating inside the pumpkin as well. The petroleum jelly will seal in the pumpkin's internal moisture, and slow down dehydration. You can either use your finger to apply the jelly, or a paper towel. And keep your carved pumpkin in a dry, shaded area during the day.*

*Okay, now a change of subject...this fall, those of you who have Kousa Dogwood growing in your yards may have notice that your tree has been covered with small clusters of rose colored fruit! I never notice these on my tree before, but this year you could not miss them! I did some research on this phenomenon and did you know that these fruits are edible? The larger and darker red fruit have been*



*described as creamy, delicate and sweet. Having read that, I rushed right out and tried one from my tree. My description would not be as favorable...I did survive, however. The flavor was a bit tart and it was not really creamy...perhaps I waited too far into the season to try and the fruit was over-ripe. There were a million seeds...more like pomegranates in this respect. It is said that the flavor can vary depending on what type of Kousa Dogwood you have. Some are tastier than others, and the flavor can even vary year to year. This fruit can be used to make wine and jam. Did I mention that the squirrels love them too?*

*On a horticultural note, the Kousa Dogwood can be distinguished from flowering dogwood by its more upright habit, and presents pointed rather than rounded flower bracts a month later than the flowering variety. The blossoms seem to last longer too, and, on my tree, lasted well into late summer this year. The Kousa Dogwood is also resistant to the dogwood anthracnose disease, which is caused by a fungus. Flowering dogwood is very susceptible to this and is commonly killed by it. And the fall foliage on Kousa Dogwood is a very showy red color...a nice addition, if you are looking for something new!*

**UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, HAPPY HALLOWEEN AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**