

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

October 23rd through December 11, 2014



The Marigold is October's flower.

October 29
(note change of date
originally scheduled.)



It's time to put the gardens our club maintains in our community to bed for the winter! Horticulture Co-Chair, Jane Cullinan, is looking for helping hands with rakes, brooms and clippers starting at the island on Prospect Street at 9:30 am. Once that's done, we will be off to the Pine Grove Cemetery, and the next and final stop, the island at Linebrook Road! As you know, there are always yummy refreshments to keep our energy up! If past history is any indicator, this won't take long! Please let Jane know if you can make it.

November 3



Just a reminder for those of you participating in the Back to Basics Workshops that you will be meeting at the Espousal Center, 554 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA at 10 am.

November 6



Our club is hosting the Annual Joint Meeting of the Tri-Town Garden Clubs at the First Church Congregational of Boxford, 4 Georgetown Road, Boxford at 6:30 pm. Our club plans this meeting every five years and this year is our turn to shine! Designer Lisa Green has been invited to present her program "Fall and Winter Arrangements." In addition to the program, our club, under Linda Mann's very capable direction, and with your help, will be offering spectacular refreshments for all attendees. We'll need lots of help from all of you for many jobs, including setting up around 5 pm and for picking up after the meeting to prepare the hall for the final cleanup by the hall's custodian. To make this special meeting a success, all members are expected to pitch in. Please look for your opportunity to sign up for the many jobs available in your e-mail inbox very soon, and please respond to Linda's e-mail request for goodies for our refreshment table.

November 10



Kerry Ann Mendez garden

Our club members have been invited to attend a joint meeting of the Sea Spray Garden Club of Salisbury and the Merrimac Garden Club at the Merrimac Library, 86 West Main Street, Merrimac, MA at 7 pm. The program will feature Kerry Ann Mendez, garden consultant, author and lecturer, who will present her program "Simplifying our Gardens to Fit our Lifestyles." Kerry is a recipient of the 2014 Gold Medal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. There is a \$5.00 guest fee.

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

November 30



Our new theme!

*Our club will decorate the Topsfield Library for the holidays at 1 pm. This year's theme will be Trees and Christmas Animals, such as deer, rabbits, bears, and raccoons. So gather what you have that you can share for our display and bring your items to the library on decorating day. **Please note that this is a change from the "Bells" theme originally chosen. And, artistic Co-Chair Rose Ann will be looking for helping hands to dress up the library both inside and out. A sign-sheet will be coming your way soon, so please be prepared to lend your talents to this annual holiday treat for the library and the community. Rose Ann will be very happy to hear from you with the news that you will participate!*

December 2

Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Agnes Salvatore at 10 am.

December 8



Luca Mignogna

And, here's another invitation from the Sea Spray Garden Club of Salisbury to join them at "A Night at the Cheese Factory!" This sounds like my kind of night!! The meeting will be held at Wolf Meadow Farms, 91 High Street, Amesbury at 7 pm. Proprietor Luca Mignogna will give a tour of the factory with a cheese and wine tasting. The cost is \$15.00 and advanced sign up is required for this one. Please contact Sheila Donovan at sheiladonovan27@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

December 9



Our Holiday Social this year will be Brunch at the Bradford Tavern, 87 Haverhill Street, Rowley at 11:30 am. Stay tuned for further details about this year's festive occasion.

December 11



Our newest members, Pat Gagnon and Mary Landry, will be holding a holiday workshop with members of the Topsfield Council On Aging at the Club House at the Topsfield Fairgrounds from 10 am to 12 pm. They will need help setting up that day at 9 am and would appreciate your helping hands. If you can come by, please contact them. Also, they will be in need of freshly cut greens from your gardens. If you have some you can spare, it would be a great help if you could cut pieces about 12 inches long and bring them to our Holiday Social at the Bradford Tavern on December 9th.

Please stay tuned for the postponement date for our fundraiser at the Pretty Poppy!

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

NOTES

Topsfield Fair News



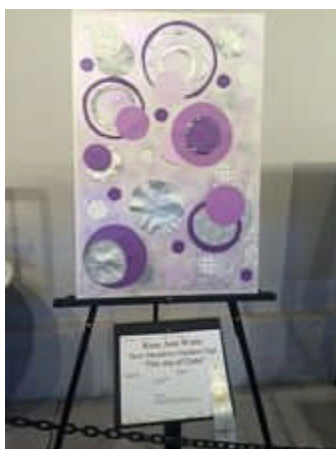
The float is underway in front of Proctor School! There's Heidi Parisi with the big wave walking beside us.



We arrive at the Fairgrounds having won first prize!

Once again this year our club collaborated with the Topsfield Garden Club, the Topsfield Agricultural Commission, Chipmunk Farm, Connemara Farm, Peirce Farm and Valley View Farm to create a prize winning float for the Annual Topsfield Fair Parade. The float won First Prize in The Grand Theme Float category in the annual parade held Saturday, October 4th! Although cloudy and somewhat drizzly the day of the parade, the weather held and a good time was had by all!

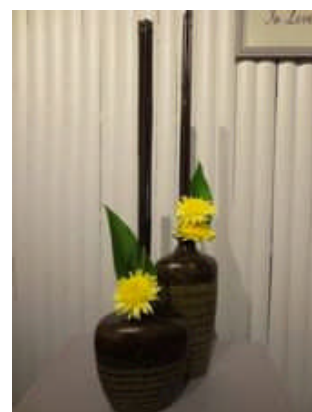
Topsfield Fair Standard Flower Show



Rose Ann Waite's HM entry in the Collage Class...remember our final workshop with dear Georgia?



Here's the first winner of the Georgia McHugh Award, submitted by Heather Kent of the Hamilton Wenham Garden Club.



Margo Maione's second place entry this time representing the Georgetown Garden club.

...more on the following page...



Donna Ryan won a third place ribbon for her Quick Bread. She shares her recipe with us below!

Meanwhile, here are entries our members made throughout the Fair!



Co-President Mary entered her artwork once again this year for all to enjoy.

Donna Ryan's Very British Savory Tea Bread with Pub Butter Spread

Ingredients:

<i>1 – 6 ounce block Cheddar, divided</i>	<i>½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided</i>
<i>3 cups flour</i>	<i>¾ stick cold butter</i>
<i>1 tablespoon baking powder</i>	<i>¼ cup warm chopped bacon</i>
<i>½ teaspoon baking soda</i>	<i>1 scallion, finely sliced</i>
<i>1 teaspoon salt</i>	<i>1 stick cold unsalted butter</i>
<i>1 tablespoon sugar</i>	<i>1 cup buttermilk</i>
	<i>¼ teaspoon sea salt</i>

Pub butter

Reserved 3 ounces shredded cheese
4 tablespoons softened unsalted butter
1 1/2 tablespoons brown mustard

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Shred the bar of cheese in a food processor and remove half of the cheese. Set aside. On top of the remaining cheese add the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, sugar and ¼ teaspoon black pepper, Pulse to combine. Add butter and pulse again. Add in the bacon and scallion and pulse 2-3 times.

Add in the buttermilk and pulse until crumbly. Then add the buttermilk and pulse to combine into a dough. Turn out onto a floured surface. Knead until a nice dough and drop into a parchment lined 8 inch square baking dish. Flatten to make a square. Sprinkle with the reserved black pepper and sea salt. Place on the prepared baking sheet and bake 18-22 minutes.

While baking prepare the pub butter. Place the cheese, butter and mustard in a small food processor. Pulse to combine until the cheese is well incorporated into the butter-mustard. Serve with the warm bread. Yield 1 tea bread and ½ cup pub butter.

***** Also can be cut before baking as scones. Chopped walnuts are great in it too.***

Thanks for sharing your prize winning recipe, Donna!

...continued on the next page...

Art In Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts

We have great news to pass on to all of you! Club member Margo Maione has volunteered to represent our club at Art In Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts next spring. Her assistant will be Mei Schuster, our designer at last year's event. The dates for this special event are April 24th through April 27, 2015. The tradition goes on!

...Bits and pieces...



Co-President Helen Gaffey welcomes new club members Mary Landry and Pat Gagnon at our September 2014 meeting at the Gould Barn.



Co-President Mary Connor wins the prize at the October 2014 Back to Basics Workshop.

...the Green Thumb follows...

Green Thumb Corner

Well, here I am again. For those of you with gardens like me, you are probably spending much of your time these days raking leaves, pulling up annuals, cutting down perennials and raking leaves yet again. Ah, fall...don't you just love it?



Chores, chores, chores...after our first frost, many of your annuals may have turned to mush, so they should be thanked profusely for their long and faithful service in your garden all season long, and sadly pulled up. However, before this happens, some annuals that you may be sweet on could be dug up and brought inside to grow as houseplants. But, beware that not all annuals are suited for this. Petunias, Coleus, Mandevilla Vine and some Begonias are good candidates.

Perennials are another story. Most of your herbaceous plants should be cut down to 2-3 inches of the crown after they have gone dormant and before we get our first snow. For those of you scratching your heads about the word "herbaceous", these are plants that have leaves and stems that die down to soil level at the end of the growing season. Cutting back perennials in fall helps keep foliage diseases from re-infesting next year's foliage, as well as serving aesthetic purposes in your garden. Some perennials that benefit from cutting back in fall are Beebalm, Columbine, Daylily, Japanese Anemone, Painted Daisy, Peony, Phlox, Solomon's Seal, Veronica and Yarrow.

But there are exceptions to cutting down perennials in fall. Shasta daisies, Jacob's Ladder, Oriental Poppies and Salvias, for example, form new clumps of leaves at their bases when they are finished blooming. These clumps should be left untouched for the winter. Also, woody perennials like Butterfly Bush, Lavender, and Russian Sage can be primped a bit, but prefer not to be cut back to the ground. Perennials like Coral Bells, Hellebore and Dianthus, which are evergreen or semi-evergreen, should also not be cut back in fall. Many perennials like Black Eyed Susan and Coneflower also have attractive foliage during winter and perhaps seed heads that are particularly tasty to birds. There are still other perennials whose foliage helps insulate their crowns during our cold winter weather and should be left intact in fall. This is true for Mums, Astilbe, Hosta, Lady's Mantle, Lavendar, and Lupine. Perennials included in the "no-cut in the fall" category should be cleaned up and/or pruned in spring.

I hope these general guidelines help with your garden cleanup chores this fall! May your garden show its appreciation with a magnificent floral display next year. And remember...get those leaves off your lawn before the first snow. You wouldn't want your little blades of grass to smother, and it's a beast to remove those pesky leaves once they're covered with the white stuff!



*Talk about fall cleanup in your garden, I was doing some of these chores the other day and came across a couple of Woolly Bear Caterpillars, and thought that we might talk a bit about them today too. Cute little guys, aren't they? They are the larva of the Isabella Tiger Moth (*Pyrrharctia isabella*). They are found in many cold regions, including the Arctic. The larva emerges in fall, and because it has something akin to anti-freeze in its tissues, it over-winters as a caterpillar and*

literally freezes solid. The caterpillar can withstand temperatures as low as -90F degrees! In spring it thaws out, emerges from its pupa as a moth to mate. Some are known to live through as many as 14 winters! Before settling in for winter, the caterpillar feeds on a variety of plants like grass, clover, cabbage and spinach...all the good stuff. To protect itself from predators, it will curl up into a ball, exposing only its bristles, which can be quite irritating to the skin. So be careful about touching! Among its other talents, the Woolly Bear Caterpillar is said to be a pretty good weather forecaster. It enjoys an 80-85 percent accuracy rate! In our area, it is believed that if the caterpillar has more brown on its body than black, it will be a fair winter. If it's the other way around, it will be a harsh winter! Pretty cool!

Finally, your pumpkin hint for the month...for a delicious pumpkin pie, it is very important to use a sugar pumpkin in your favorite recipe. These small gems weigh about 4 pounds and one should be enough for a pie!