

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

October 23rd through December 11, 2018



Here's a photo I snapped of my 5 year old geraniums summering on our deck. They're happily back in the house for the winter. Check out this month's Green Thumb for tips on bringing those plants you'd like to keep into the house for the winter.

The objectives of the New Meadows Garden Club shall be to foster knowledge of home gardening, decorative arrangements and an interest in civic projects.

October 20

The Town of Topsfield will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house from 10 am to 2 pm to celebrate the completion of the Town Hall's renovation project. Our club is providing the floral designs for this exciting event!

October 23



Our October regular membership meeting will be held at the Clubhouse at Amberwood Farms at 6:30 pm. Please note that this is a change of venue from that printed in your program book, and carpooling is recommended. Our very own Co-President, Jane, will create two fresh flower designs for us, and also a fall silk flower design. A workshop will follow, during which we will create fall silk designs to be sold at our fundraising table at the Joint Meeting of the five area garden clubs on November 7th. All materials will be provided! You might slip some clippers in your bag!

Our hostesses for the evening are Janet Hanson and Gerrie Bunker

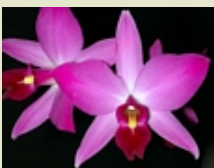
****Each member is requested to bring a few items to be included in the beautiful baskets we will raffle at our fundraising table at the November Joint Meeting!**

October 29



It's cleanup day at the gardens our club maintains in the community of Topsfield! We will start at 11 am at the Prospect Street island, and then move on to the Linebrook Road island and the Pine Grove Cemetery. It should go quickly since both Nancy Emmons and Co-President Jane have already started the job! Bring your gloves, clippers or shears, and rakes!

November 2 - 4



The Massachusetts Orchid Society invites you to attend their annual "World of Orchids" show at the Sons of Italy Hall, 117 Swanton Street, Winchester, MA. Visitors will enjoy displays of private collections and orchid societies from all over New England, hourly tours and national vendors, who will be selling everything an orchid-lover will ever pine for. And a hint: bring a magnifier to view the beautiful intricacies of even the most diminutive orchids.

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

November 7



The Joint Meeting of the five area garden clubs will be held at the First Church Congregational, 4 Georgetown Road, Boxford at 6:30 pm. The Village Gardeners of Topsfield have invited Tom Capano, owner of that neat little gift shop in Topsfield, Fresh Look Designs, to present his program "Interactive Tablescaping for the Holidays Utilizing Natural Materials". As always, there will be lots of shopping at the garden club tables, and great goodies to enjoy while you browse! Co-Presidents Sandy and Jane would definitely welcome volunteers to help at our fundraising table!

November 14



The Tewksbury Garden Club is hosting "Holiday Happenings" with award-winning Floral Designer and Master Judge, Mary Huntoon. The event will take place at the Tewksbury Country Club, 1880 Main Street (Rt. 38), Tewksbury at 7 pm. Tickets are \$20.00, and sold in advance only. Contact: tewksburygardenclub@gmail.com for more information.

November 17



Rooms in Bloom Open House will be held at the Stevens-Coolidge Place, 139 Andover Street, North Andover from 10 am to 3 pm. The cost for Trustee members is \$9 and \$15 for non-members. You will be brought through the entire home of John and Helen Coolidge during this open house, which will also showcase the creative talents of local floral designers and garden club members. Pre-registration is encouraged by calling 978-356-4351X3202.

November 17



The Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Boston invites you to learn the principles of Ikenobo at a special one-day workshop on Ikenobo Ikebana to be held at the First Parish Church, 50 Church Street, Waltham from 9:30 am to 3 pm. The cost is \$40.00, payable by November 7th. Here's a link if you need more information: <https://www.ikenobobostonchapter.org/events/>

December 4

Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Linda Flynn at 10 am.

December 11



Another enjoyable Holiday Social Lunch and Yankee Swap is being planned for us at the Bradford Tavern, 87 Haverhill Street, Rowley at 12:00 pm. Stay tuned for further details about this year's festive occasion and be sure to mark your calendars!



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

December 13



Our Garden Therapy Committee will hold a Boxwood Tree Workshop for members of the Topsfield Council On Aging at the Trinity Church Meeting Hall, Topsfield at 10 am. Mary Connor and her committee may be looking for help putting materials for the workshop together ahead of time, and also the day of the workshop, so mark your calendars and please stay tuned for further details.

December 13

Deliver centerpieces for the Topsfield Council On Aging Holiday Party to the Topsfield Town Hall between 1 pm and 2 pm. Many thanks in advance to all who will volunteer to make a centerpiece!

NOTES



Coming soon! Sometime near the end of November, our club will be decorating the urns at the Topsfield Library and the outside of the building with wreaths and swags for the holiday season. Helping hands will be needed, so mark your calendars and be prepared to be part of the merry crew once more details are available!

Topsfield Fair News



Exciting news for our sister club in Topsfield, the Topsfield Garden Club! For the second year in a row, the club was awarded the "Donald Miller Award" for the exquisite medium-sized garden they created in the Flower Barn. It was the best garden display in their category! This year, the club also created a second small garden for all to see.

Congratulations to the Topsfield Garden Club for a job very well done!

...more on the following page...

...Bits and pieces...



*Our recent workshops
(Working together is a blast!)*

*Barbara Shade's pre-Strawberry
Festival workshop*



The finished product!



Fall workshop at Nunan's



*Penny Rogers' finished
product!*



*Preparing flower designs for the
Topsfield Town Hall Ribbon Cutting
Ceremony, October 20, 2018*



...Green Thumb Corner follows...

Green Thumb Corner

Many times in the fall, we gardeners wonder when it is time to bring plants inside, which have been treated to a summer outside the last few months. This question came up for Honorary Member, Barbara Shade, a few weeks ago, and she thought that it might be a good topic to be addressed here so that all of us would all be "in the know!"



Hopefully, those plants with which you would like to share your cozy home this winter are happy in an inside location by now since it dipped a bit below freezing just last night! So, while it may be a bit late to pass this information on to you for this year, here are a few tips for successfully bringing your plants inside when next fall arrives.

► In our climate, early September is an ideal time to start thinking about bringing your plants inside. Once temperatures outside reach 50 degrees or less at night, it is definitely time, especially if you have orchids summering outside. Watch weather reports for frost, which may result in sudden death for your sweeties! Check out Dave's Garden for frost dates in your town: <https://davesgarden.com/guides/freeze-frost-dates/>

► It is important to inspect your plants in advance to make sure you are not bringing any unwelcome pests like caterpillars, mealy bug, spider mites or aphids in with them! I actually start this inspection in the latter part of August, spraying on a regular basis with BT for caterpillars and Neem Oil or Insecticidal Soap for insects. Also, it is a good idea when repotting is necessary to insert wire screening over the holes in the bottom of your pots to prevent insects like ants, snails and worms from getting inside during the summer! As an alternative, soaking your pots in a tub of lukewarm water with insecticidal soap for half an hour will overcome even the toughest of pests in the soil. I find the screening much easier!

► To reduce shock to your plants, it is best to expose them to conditions in your home gradually. You might bring them in at night and take them back out in the morning for a few days, gradually increasing the amount of time the plants spend indoors. This is also a good time to clean and shine up your windows, both inside and out, so that your plants get as much light as possible once they're inside for our dark, winter months. And, a quick wipe to the outside and bottom of your pots, and you will be good to go!

► Plants that are indoors don't need as much water as when they were outdoors, so water only when the soil feels dry to you. At this point, you might also want to give your plants a boost of fertilizer.

► One of the first thoughts when bringing plants inside is locating them in a place where they will get good light and the proper temperature. But, don't forget your pets! Many plants are toxic to pets, so another consideration is placing them where your best buddy can't get to them! More on Pets and Plants next time!