

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

October 22nd through November 19, 2019



There's nothing like the first glimpse of the happy faces of spring bulbs peaking through the bare ground after a long winter's nap, don't you agree? For some tips on choosing and planting these little gems to delight you next spring, check out this month's Green Thumb Corner.

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 22



Our October regular membership meeting will be held at the Topsfield Public Hall at 6:30 pm. Linda Mann has planned a special program featuring Pressed Flower Artist, Jacki Harrington, who will guide us in creating our own pressed flower card. The cost to members is \$3.00. If you plan to attend this meeting, please RSVP to Linda Mann as soon as possible.

Our hostesses for the evening are Shirley Holt and Joline Yeaton.

► And a reminder...please bring a fall themed item to this meeting to add to the fall gift basket our club will assemble and raffle at the Joint Meeting we are planning for the five area garden clubs on November 12, 2019.

October 23



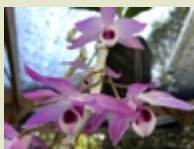
The Village Gardeners have invited our members to join them at the Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, 87 Perkins Row, Topsfield at 6:30 pm for a special Owl and Nature Presentation. Your guests are also welcome.

October 29



It's cleanup day at the gardens our club maintains in the community of Topsfield! We will start at 10:30 am at Pine Grove Cemetery and then move on to the Linebrook Road Island. Co-President, Jane's, landscaper, Scott Hayes has kindly offered to clear the Prospect Street Island for us. Please bring your gloves, clippers or shears, and rakes!

November 8-10



The Massachusetts Orchid Society presents World of Orchids Asia at the Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton Street, Winchester Friday 12:30 to 5 pm, Saturday 10 to 5 pm and Sunday 10 to 4 pm. Admission is \$10.00. For more information, go to: www.massorchid.org/show.

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

November 12



Our club will be hosting the Joint Meeting of the five area garden clubs at the First Church Congregational, 4 Georgetown Road, Boxford at 6:30 pm. Our presenter will be Bill Graham, owner of Beautiful Things Flowers and Gifts in Salem. Always an exciting speaker, this meeting is not to be missed! Hosting this meeting is a huge undertaking and Linda Mann has volunteered to coordinate our refreshment table, as only she can do it! Since we anticipate serving about 125 guests, each of our members is request to bring two dishes of "finger" type foods on your "dressy" serving dishes. No paper plates!!!

Please contact Linda Mann with the specific food donations you are planning to make as soon as possible. So that your serving dishes don't get mislaid, please attach your name to the bottom. Each food item should be labeled, especially if it contains nuts. Linda Mann will be supplying labels at our meeting on October 22nd for you to use for this purpose. If you cannot attend the Joint Meeting, please arrange for a friend to bring your food items for you!

► And, Honorary Member, Barbara Shade, has invited our club members and also those of the other clubs at this special meeting, to bring Pajama donations for the Community Giving Tree in Boxford. The pajamas can be sizes infants through teens for both boys and girls. The larger sizes are in great demand. Barbara will then deliver this loving bundle following the meeting!

November 19

Our next board meeting will be held at the Topsfield Town Library Meeting Room at 10 am.

NOTES



Art In Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts

It is time to sign up for one of the coveted spaces available at the Art in Bloom event at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts May 2020. We are still looking for a member who would like to represent our club as our designer, as well as a member willing to serve as our designer's assistant. Co-President Jane has volunteered to provide transportation into the museum if needed! Please contact Sandy Whelan or Jane Cullinan as soon as possible if you are interested in participating, since the spaces available disappear very quickly!

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

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



Highest honors for our Donna Ryan for her King Arthur flour brownie/blondie recipe!



Exciting news for our sister club in Topsfield, the Topsfield Garden Club! For the third year in a row, the club was awarded the "Donald Miller Award" for the Best Medium Garden Design, which they created in the Flower Barn. W. T. Leroyer and Dan Philpot also participated in creating this Hobbit Garden, which delighted both young and not-so-young! Congratulations to the Topsfield Garden Club and their team for a job very well done!

...more on the following page...



- ♥ Our club's Holiday Social and Yankee Swap will be held at the Bradford Tavern, December 10, 2019 at 12 pm. Save the date.
- ♥ Our club will hold a Boxwood Tree Workshop for the Topsfield Council on Aging at the Trinity Church on December 11, 2019 at 9:30 am. *Note that this is a change of date and location from that listed in our program book. Save the date.
- ♥ Topsfield Council On Aging table arrangements due on December 12, 2019 for their holiday luncheon. Containers will be distributed at our December 10th Holiday Social. Save the date.
- ♥ Our Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers will be held at the Ipswich Country Club on June 9, 2020 at 12 pm. *Note that this will be a luncheon! Save the date.
- ♥ Our fundraiser at the Strawberry Festival will be held on June 13, 2020! Save the date!

...Bits and pieces...



Artistic juices are running as members dress their pumpkins with floral decoupage!

Fall workshop at Nunan's



Treasurer Marsha is loving her creation!



Linda Flynn poses with her design!



Member Lorraine Erickson's fall plantings in the new urns at the Topsfield Library

...Green Thumb Corner follows...

Green Thumb Corner

Truth be told, I am not a big fan of our New England winters.

Honestly, they are much too long and dreary. But, just in the knick of time, all is forgiven when I spot the very first evidence that my spring bulbs are waking up. Hope is truly still alive and kicking, and everything is once again good with my world! Since the ground is generally not as yet frozen, but the heat of summer



and early fall is past, October and November are the perfect months to plant these beauties hereabouts if you, too, would like the thrill of watching the awakening of spring. The bulbs we plant here in fall are dormant perennials, and the cool and moist soil of autumn brings them out of dormancy so they can grow roots in preparation for the bloom in spring. Now, I know that many, if not most of you, already have experience planting and growing spring bulbs, but a review is never a bad thing.

First of all, know how to choose good bulbs at your favorite, trusted garden center. Make sure that they are firm, fresh, without rot or mold, and with the papery husks surrounding the bulbs, if possible. Also, be sure to plant your bulbs promptly or store them in a cool dark and dry place until you are ready to plant them. Remember, starting with healthy plants is really important for success in your garden, no matter what you are planting.

Next comes proper planting in the correct environment. Bulbs love a place that receives at least part sun during springtime. They can be planted beneath deciduous trees, and look pretty nice there, because they should receive ample sun before the trees have a chance to leaf out. The soil should be moist but not wet. You don't want your bulbs to rot! If your soil has a lot of clay, try a raised bed. As for planting, ideal planting depth depends on the size of the bulb. The package your bulbs were sold in will have instructions, but, the rule of thumb is to plant three times as deep as the bulb is wide. This may be a tall order if your soil is as rocky as mine is, but for that situation, you might want to plant smaller bulbs like Snowdrops, Checkered Lily, Siberian Squill or Glory of the Snow, which are pretty too, with some even deer resistant. The smaller ones may be a little more difficult to find, but can be purchased online. Spacing is up to you, but planting bulbs closer together, but not touching, give greater impact.

And a word about deer and rodents. Nothing's worse than putting all the cost and effort into planting your spring bulbs only to find that they have been stolen by your local wildlife! There are two approaches here...try to plant varieties that don't interest those creatures you share your gardens with, or spray your bulbs with some kind of deer repellent spray, like Deer Off, and place your bulbs in a chicken wire container during the planting process. Here's a website you can visit to see which bulbs are deer and rodent resistant:

<http://www.flowerbulbcrazy.com/rodent-and-deer-resistant-bulbs/>

For those of you who have downsized and live in more urban settings, and are fortunate enough to have balconies, all is not lost. In warm climates, bulbs can be planted in containers and left outside year-round. But in cold climates such as ours, growing spring bulbs in

...more on the following page...

containers is a bit more challenging. In containers in cold climates, bulbs are exposed to extreme cold, bitter, drying winds and frequent thawing and freezing due to fluctuations of temperatures during the day and at night. This is not a recipe for success, needless to say!

One option is simply to buy blooming potted bulbs in spring and insert them into your favorite containers. But, if you are up for the challenge for a more "hands-on" approach, you might try planting your bulbs in your containers and then storing them in an unheated garage or basement. Another similar approach is to plant your bulbs in small 6 or 8 inch pots and over winter them in a cold garage. Then, in spring, as the pots start to bloom and once the danger of a hard frost has passed, you can sink them into larger containers and bring them outdoors for all to see.

And one last word...remember that bulb foliage should always be left to yellow on the plant. This is how the bulb gets its energy to bloom beautifully next year! In an effort to make the foliage look a bit more neat, some folks braid the foliage or loop it with rubber bands. Better not to do this since the leaf surface needs to be exposed to sun in order to photosynthesize and store food for next year's bloom!

Okay, so the bulb planting review is done...good luck with whatever bulb planting activities you choose to tackle! ♥

In my internet travels, as I researched material for this month's Green Thumb Corner, I came across this very neat idea for providing a real treat for our wild birds. At this time of year, fall bouquets very often include sunflowers! As much as we love looking at them, the wild birds love the seeds and the flower's



heads make very unique, natural bird feeders. Each sunflower can contain as many as 1000 to 2000 seeds! Here are some quick instructions as to how to make your feeder:

- Cut a piece of twine and tie off a circle, which is large enough for the sunflower's stem to fit into.*
- Next, cut six pieces of twine to your preferred length and tie them to the circle.*
- Slip the stem of the sunflower into the circle making sure the seeds are facing up.*
- Pull the six pieces of twine evenly around the outside making a nice cradle for your blossom.*
- Tie the six pieces of twine at the top, and you're ready to hang your sunflower feeder, much to the delight of the wild birds who were patiently watching you from the outside of your kitchen window! ♥*

"A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer's wave goodbye."

...Unknown