

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

October 2020



Apples and colorful leaves of fall are sure signs of the season. Find tips about fallen leaves and the latest on the 2020 apple season in this month's Green Thumb Corner.

Keeping in touch during the Pandemic and at a time of social distancing.

There's no question that the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to create extreme uncertainty in our lives. This uncertainty continues to extend to our club and how it is able to function at this time. In an effort to keep our members safe, our regular monthly meetings continue to be suspended until further notice. But, rest assured, our board is working on our members' behalf to carry on club business and will schedule events when it will be possible to hold them safely. You are being kept up to date electronically, so keep an eye out for messages you will receive about club happenings as time goes on. We all look forward to a time when we can safely be together again. In the meantime, please continue to keep yourselves and those special to you safe and healthy.

November 17

Our next board meeting will be a Zoom meeting at 10 am. Stay tuned board members, and be prepared to fire up your electronics for this meeting!



NOTES



My favorite miniature rose !

In the spirit of keeping in touch at a time when it is difficult for us to be together, why not share some seasonal photos of your gardens, visiting wildlife, places you have visited or driven past that we might be interested in seeing too or even table decorations you have created. We'd all like to see what you're up to!



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

Many club members might not be aware of a very special garden experience in Topsfield open to the public offered by garden creators and caretakers, Mary MacDonald and Karl Ackerman. Rest Stop Ranch is located at 202 Haverhill Road (Route 97), Topsfield directly across from the traffic island at Linebrook Road our club tends. The garden offers a beautiful therapeutic wheelchair-accessible garden experience for people living with long-term illnesses and their care-partners. The garden offers seven wheelchair-accessible horticultural gardens connected by a 0.1-mile custom brick-laid trail. The seven gardens are the Cut Flower, Roses & Kitchen, Ornamental Tree & Shrub, Orchard Avenue, Raspberry Patch, Cedar Grove & Tunnel and Koi Pond. The following are fall and holiday programs free-of-charge:

- Virtual Memory Café Saturday, November 7th, 10 am—12 pm
- Mums the Word,
for Vets and Military Families Sunday, November 8th, 10 am—2 pm
(Private Garden Time up to 60 minutes by Appointment)
- Holiday Walk & Wheel Saturday, December 5th, 12th, 19th
4 pm—7 pm

**Please call ahead if you would like to schedule a private tour or private time in the gardens.*

*** Volunteers are needed year-round.*



The holiday season is fast approaching, so it is time to start thinking about dressing up the outside of the Topsfield Town Library, one of our club's annual community service projects. We are looking for helpers to wrap the railings with garland and attach bows. And the three urns will need to be dolled up too. This year we're thinking about a change of pace for the urns, perhaps something like the urn pictured here. For this endeavor, we are looking for members who are

brave enough to allow their artistic talents to run totally wild, transforming the urn pictured to the right into the one pictured above! We'll definitely need members to collect greens and berries from your landscapes. Please contact Sandy Whelan if you, or your team, would like to be involved in this fun project. Stay tuned for the date and time we will be decorating. We usually meet to complete this project sometime soon after the Thanksgiving Holiday! Please plan to lend a hand.



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

...Bits and pieces...

Fall Cleanup at our Community Gardens



The cemetery crew...Sandy, Whelan, Jane Cullinan and Nancy Emmons



Prospect Street Island goes to sleep for the winter!



The island crew...Landscaper Scott Hayes, Linde Martin, Jane Cullinan, Sandy Whelan, Chris Cullinan and, Steve Whelan (the photographer). Many thanks to Scott, Chris and Steve for donating so much time and energy to help us out!



Our club has placed a placard in gratitude of the Donna Ryan Family's generous contribution of new urns at the Topsfield Town Library.

Main Street, Topsfield is decorated for fall! As part of a MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Grant to fund improvements to the downtown area, festive fall designs have been installed as calming measures at crosswalks and near the Topsfield Shopping Plaza. Volunteers from garden clubs in Topsfield and businesses in town were enlisted to create the decorations. Pictured here is the crosswalk outside the Topsfield Town Library.



...Green Thumb Corner follows...

Green Thumb Corner

Leaves changing color in autumn is one of the most awesome sights Mother Nature has to offer each year. The colors are truly beautiful and breathtaking. Who doesn't have fond memories of jumping into piles of this riot of colors? However, now that most of us probably will think twice about doing this, there are more serious considerations



about fallen leaves. Unfortunately, these exquisite autumn leaves aren't as much fun when they land on sidewalks and roads and get wet on a rainy afternoon. Wet leaves are known to cause falls and even auto accidents and here's the reason why...leaves don't soak up water. Since trees take in water through their roots, leaves are very purposely designed not to allow water to penetrate. Instead, water sits on the leaf's waxy surface, and beads the same way water beads on a newly polished car! Wet leaves are unbelievably smooth to the touch and you can well imagine how easy it would be for your shoes or even your car's tires to slip on them! Some suggest, and probably rightly so, that you should walk and drive on wet leaves as you would on ice. So, enjoy the colorful autumn scenery while we have it, but be careful at the same time!



I am sure all of us would agree that this past summer and early fall has been extremely dry with very little rainfall. Matter-of-fact, our area has officially been in drought conditions for quite a while now and we are not out of the woods as yet. It has been a challenge to keep our flower and vegetable gardens alive, and even more so for local farmers, who depend on the health of their crops for their livelihood. Which brings me to apples. Apples are usually more resistant than other crops to dramatic changes in weather, but can still be negatively impacted. Our dry summer, paired with the late spring frost we had, has definitely impacted this year's apple crop. You may notice a small difference in the taste and size of our locally grown apples.

Smaller apples can result from persistent dry weather. On the other hand, these conditions may have a positive effect on the taste. Apples can actually be sweeter as a result of dryer growing conditions since there is less water in each piece. So, no need to pass these fruits of autumn up this year...they may be smaller, but they may also be sweeter! Remember, good things come in small packages! And so, I am done for this month...my garden awaits its cleanup. Stay safe.

