

# A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

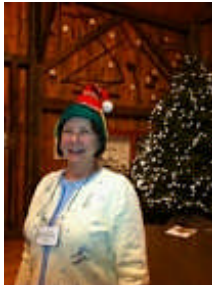
Topsfield, Massachusetts

December 11, 2012 through January 15, 2013



*It's nature's deep sleep.*

## December 11



Don't miss our gift exchange  
under Jean Bilisbury's  
capable direction!



Our Holiday Social will be held at the Gould Barn, Topsfield at 6:00 pm. Please note the change in time. Members whose last names begin with the letters A through M are requested to bring a dessert. Members whose last names begin with N through Z are requested to bring an appetizer. And, once again, Jean Bilisbury has agreed to guide us through our gift exchange with one of her always entertaining stories about Mr. And Mrs. Right! Be sure to bring a gift for the exchange, value about \$10.00. In addition, board members are requested to provide a bottle of wine for the festivities. See you there!

## December 19



*Our club will provide 15 centerpieces for the Topsfield Council On Aging Christmas Party to be held this year at the Emerson Center, Topsfield. Garden Therapy Co-Chairs Rose Ann Waite and Marianne Strong are coordinating this community service, and will have oasis-filled containers available for pickup at our Holiday Social on December 11th. Centerpieces are requested to be delivered by members to the Emerson Center by 10 am on the 19th. Please call or e-mail Rose Ann to volunteer, and as President Judy says, no previous experience is needed!*

## January 6

*Time to pack our holiday decorations at the Topsfield Library away for another year! Please meet at the library at 1 pm. The more the merrier, and the job will be done in a jiffy, too.*

## January 15

Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Rita Galvin, at 9:30 am.

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

## NOTES



*We were sorry to hear about the recent passing of former club member, Betty Hughes.  
We extend our sympathy to her family at this sad time.*

*...Bits and pieces...*



*Here we are all busy as  
bees at our October  
Craft Workshop and  
Picnic at the Gould Barn.  
There was no end to our  
creativity!*



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





*Fall cleanup time at the Linebrook traffic island.*



*And, a job well done at the fall cleanup of the Pine Grove Cemetery Memorial Garden.*



*Members put the finishing touches on our club's sale table at the November Joint Meeting at the Emerson Center.*



*Fun at the Bow Workshop at Rose Ann Waite's home!*



*More fun at the Boxwood Tree Workshop with the Council on Aging!*



*Even more fun decorating the Topsfield Library for Christmas!*

***It's the Season!***



*The beauty of the Topsfield Library at Christmas Time!*



*The simplicity is exquisite.*



*"Some of our Favorite Things" at the Topsfield Library!*

***And, one last note: Soon, you will have an opportunity to participate in our club's annual three month service to the Topsfield Library by bringing a small flower design or plant for the library's main desk. Artistic Chairs Rose Ann Waite and Jean Bilsbury will be looking for volunteers at our Christmas Social for each week for the months of January, February and March.***

*...Green Thumb on the next page...*

## Green Thumb Corner

*Here are some quick December tips:*

*During this past week, have you seen millions of moths swarming at your windows or around your outdoor lights? Sad to say, these are the winter moths, which are once again emerging, preparing to wreak havoc on your favorite trees, shrubs and plants in the spring. Now's the time to check your supply of horticultural oil spray, which may be used to manage the eggs.*



*These will be deposited by the females on the bark of trees such as maples, oaks, apple, crabapple, ash, weeping cherry, fringe tree and blueberry. For spraying the trunks and branches with horticultural oil, wait until as close to bud break in the spring as possible, and make sure temperatures will be above 40 degrees for at least 24 hours. More information is contained in the following past issues of the Posy Picker: February 2010, November 2010, April 2011 and March 2012.*



*Next tip: Soon the cold, howling winds will be here. Be warned that cold winter winds can cause injury to evergreens. Wind blowing over leaf surfaces can result in winter burn, and can draw water out of the plant. To protect your plants, be sure that the soil is evenly moist up until ground freeze. You may also want to consider wrapping your plants in burlap or setting up some kind of barrier to break the wind. Another option is to spray with an anti-desiccant spray such as Wilt Pruf. These sprays work by creating an invisible film on the surface of the leaves which will reduce the amount of water lost to the sun and wind.*

*Tip number three: Did you know that giving your houseplants cold water to drink can destroy the ability of their root cells to take up nutrients and water? Water below 50 degrees may reduce leaf size, cause leaves to drop and may eventually cause the untimely death of your poor plant. So the next time it becomes necessary to water, do it with water that feels comfortable to you...about 90 degrees...which has been found to actually stimulate growth.*



*Here's number four: Your houseplants just hate that dry feeling in your heated home all winter! Plants prefer relative humidity of about 40 to 50 percent, and suffer at levels which are common in our homes during winter...10 to 20 percent. What to do? Humidifiers help, as does grouping plants together. Another method, which I use, is to place houseplants on trays or saucers filled with pebbles. Add water to the trays, making sure that you keep the bottoms of your pots above the water line. And it turns out that misting is not an effective way to raise humidity. The plant's foliage dries much too quickly, and in order to be effective, you would have to mist several times a day. That's not going to happen!*



*And, the final tip for today: When buying your poinsettias, be sure to buy those which have bright bracts and healthy foliage that does not look wilted. Once you bring your plant home, place it in a brightly lit location away from cold drafts or hot air registers. By all means, don't over water your plant. Water only when the*

*surface of the soil is dry to the touch. And, if the pot is covered with foil, be sure there is a drainage hole in the foil. Empty any water that might collect either in the foil, or in the saucer below your plant.*

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

*Even though the following passage seems meant for our Thanksgiving holiday celebrations, I feel that the entirety of the holiday season should be a time of thanksgiving for all that we have, and perhaps take for granted. In this spirit, I pass these thoughts onto you...*



*~ A Gardener's Thanksgiving ~*

*Let us give thanks for a bounty of people:*

*For children who are our second planting, and though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are;*

*For generous friends with hearts and smiles as bright as their blossoms;*

*For feisty friends as tart as apples;*

*For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them;*

*For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;*

*For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the other, plain as potatoes and as good for you;*

*For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussels Sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem Artichokes, and serious friends, as complex as cauliflowers and as intricate as onions;*

*For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you through the winter;*

*For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;*

*For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts and witherings;*

*And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, and who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter;*

*For all these we give thanks.*

*~ Reverend Max Coots  
1928-2009*

*Best wishes to you and those special to you for a beautiful season of holidays. May you be safe, healthy and happy!*