

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

December 9th through January 20, 2015



Narcissus is December's flower, symbolizing rebirth and new beginnings.

December 9



Our Holiday Social this year will be Brunch at the Bradford Tavern, 87 Haverhill Street, Rowley at 11:30 am. We will be able to choose what each of us has a yen for from their wonderful menu items, and each of us will receive her own bill. No cooking for us and no clean up!

Those who would like to participate in a Yankee Swap should bring a wrapped gift item valued at \$10.00. Those who cannot attend are requested to contact Co-Presidents Mary or Helen so that we can provide the Tavern with a count. There will be a short business meeting featuring a very special announcement. Hope to see all of you there!

December 10



The Topsfield Council On Aging Holiday dinner will be held at the Emerson Center, Topsfield. Those members who have graciously volunteered to make table arrangements for this event should deliver them to the side door at the Emerson Center between 1 pm and 3 pm. Alternatively, if you would like Artistic Co-Chair, Rose Ann, to deliver your arrangement for you, please bring it to her at our Holiday Social at the Bradford Tavern on Tuesday, December 9th.

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 assistance. 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.

January 4

Time to pack away our holiday decorations at the Topsfield Library for yet another year! Please meet us at the library at 1 pm. The more, the merrier, and the job will be done in a jiffy. Please note that, if you cannot pick up your contributions to our display on that day, items must be picked up at the library by January 7th.

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

January 20

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

*****Please note that there is no regular membership meeting scheduled for January!***

NOTES



The Joint Meeting is a great success!

Many thanks to our members for helping to make the Joint Meeting for the five Tri-Town Garden Clubs on November 6th a spectacular event. Special thanks go to Linda Mann and her committee for the delightful table of refreshments, to Claudette Poor and Rose Ann Waite for their exquisite table arrangements, to VP Shirley Holt for a stellar job as our auctioneer, and to our members who contributed time and energy setting up, brought treats, and of course contributed the Lottery Tickets! The evening could not have been better!

******You will soon 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 to adorn the library's main desk. Artistic Co-Chair Jean Bilsbury will be looking for volunteers at our Holiday Social for each week for the months of January, February and March.***

Your assignment is very simple...on Monday of your week, just bring a plant, or a simple flower design to the library...the choice is yours and it doesn't have to be too complicated...then come back to pick it up the following Saturday afternoon. You can even arrange with the member volunteer for the week following yours to pick up your plant or design. No lilies please because of their strong scent! It couldn't be easier! If you are not able to attend our Social, please give Jean a call to get your name on the list, or Co-Chair Rose Ann if you cannot get Jean.

Many thanks to all our members whose support made our fundraiser at the Pretty Poppy a success!

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

...Bits and pieces...



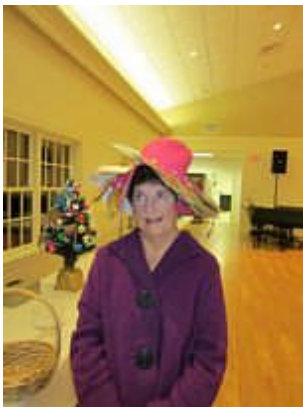
Oh what fun we had at our fall cleanup at the Prospect Street and Linebrook Road islands and at Pine Grove Cemetery!



Claudette Poor and Rose Ann Waite's exquisite arrangements for the head table.



Linda Mann's fantastic head table of refreshments!



Co-President Helen in THE HAT!

*The Joint Meeting
November 6, 2014*



Auctioneer VP Shirley with Rose Ann assisting!

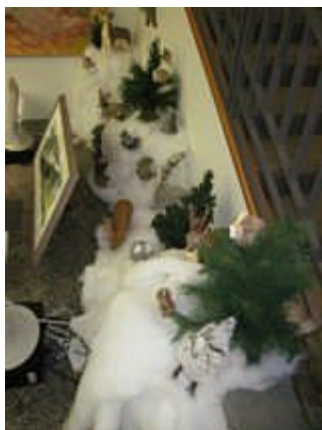
...more on the following page...



And, after October's win by Co-President Mary, VP Shirley Holt wins the prize at the November 2014 Back to Basics workshop!



A little fun between friends Donna Ryan and Cheryl Connors while decorating!



*Decorating the Topsfield Town Library with forest animals and bells.
November 30, 2014*



...the Green Thumb follows...

Green Thumb Corner

Have you started your holiday shopping yet??? Time is running out! Perhaps new garden tools are just the thing for someone on your list. Here are a few buying tips:



~Purchase the best tools you can afford. Good tools, if taken care of, will last forever. Tools that are used often should be made from durable materials such as stainless steel and carbon steel if the tool has blades.

~The weight of the tools is important. The tool you purchase should be heavy enough to last, but not so heavy that it is hard to use.

~The right tool has a good grip...it should be non-slip and pliable. Non-slip handles help to hang on to the tool...no need to waste energy keeping it in one's hand! A pliable and soft grip will be kind to the joints and help prevent cramping.

~And, the longer the handles, the easier to garden. Long handles save on bending and overextending while working in the garden! Long handles also add some leverage if it is needed.

I'm sure your local garden center would be delighted to provide guidance as well.



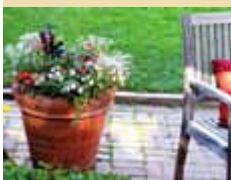
Many of us purchase Poinsettia plants at this time of year, and here are a few tips to help your plants last longer:

~When choosing your plant, look for bright bracts (the showy colored leaves) and healthy, un-wilted foliage. The true flower in the center of these colorful bracts should be tightly clustered and just starting to shed pollen. Be sure to provide some protection for your plant when you transport it home, especially if it is freezing outside!

~Place your little darling in a brightly lit location that is away from cold drafts and heat sources.

~The color will last longer if the plant is kept in high humidity (tough here) and temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees.

~If the pot is covered with foil, be sure to put a drainage hole in the foil. Empty any water that drains from the pot into the saucer below. Standing water is not good!



...And a few more quick tips for the season:

~ Cold temperatures are here to stay for a while, and when the temperatures fluctuate between freezing and thawing, any planting pots you might still have outdoors that contain moist soil may crack or break. The solution is to remove the soil from the pots and move them to a sheltered area for the winter.

~And, by all means, when storing your garden hoses for the winter, take care to drain them first and be careful not to kink them. Kinks become a weak point which can crack in the future. It is best to store your hoses on reels or just coil them loosely on the floor.



...more follows...

This is the season to be thankful for all we have in our lives and for celebration with our dear ones. With that in mind, I pass these beautiful words on to you ~

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.

*A Gardener's Thanksgiving
~ Reverend Max Coots
1928-2009*

*Best wishes to you and those special to you for this Holiday Season.
Your Posy Picker Paper Editor*