

# A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

## New Meadows Garden Club

### Topsfield, Massachusetts

#### March 17th through April 30, 2020



Happy Spring! For tips on bringing a bit of spring time into your home, check out this month's Green Thumb

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

► Please note that, regrettably, dates and locations for events may have to be changed or cancelled due to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in our area. Please be safe.

April 4

Topsfield Garden Club's Grow Spring EXPO has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

April 21

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

April 25



Arbor Day will be held at the Steward School, 261 Perkins Row, Topsfield at 9:15 am. It's best to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the ceremony so that you have time to check in at the office. As our club does each year, a tree will be donated and planted on the school grounds. You are invited to join in the celebration of this rite of spring with the children in Kindergarten through Grade 3.

► Subject to cancellation.

April 30



Our regular membership meeting will be a real treat! Betsy Williams will be our guest presenter. Anyone who has been present at one of Betsy's presentations knows that she is an entertaining lecturer, as she shares stories and legends throughout her demonstrations. She will guide us as we create our own Tussie Mussies. The meeting will be held at the Topsfield Town Library at 5:30 pm. ► Please note that this is a change of date, location and program from that printed in our program books. The cost is \$15.00 for members and \$30.00 for your guests. \*\*Please RSVP to Janet Hanson with your check made out to NMGC by April 24th.

► Subject to cancellation.

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

May 2—4

*Art In Bloom at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts has been cancelled due to COVID-19.*

## NOTES



- ▶ *Saturday, May 9, 2020—Mother's Day Tea Cup Sale from 9 am to 12 pm.. More details will follow. Save the date!*
- ▶ *Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 11 am—Membership meeting at the Valley View Farm in Topsfield. Learn all about the resident goats and the cheese making process. More details will follow. Save the date.*
- ▶ *Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 12 pm—Our club's Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held at the Ipswich Country Club. Save the date!*
- ▶ *Saturday, June 13, 2020—Our fundraiser at the Strawberry Festival will be held on the Topsfield Common. Save the date!*
- ▶▶ *All events subject to cancellation.*

## *...Bits and pieces...*




*Joline Yeaton and Pat Durgin brought their fresh and silk tea cup designs as examples for our Mother's Day Tea Cup Sale.*

## *Mid—Winter Social at the home of Donna Ryan*



*Donna treated us to delicious appetizers and desserts using herbs grown in her indoor herb garden.*

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



*The following inspiring poem was sent to me a few days ago, and I am pleased to share it with you here...*

### *Pandemic*

*What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the Sabbath-  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.*

*And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.*

*Promise this world your love--  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.*

*--Lynn Ungar 3/11/20  
Lynnungar.com*

## Green Thumb Corner

Last week, Co-President, Jane, shared this photo of forsythia branches she is forcing, displayed with daffodils. She suggests we might think of doing the same to bring a little cheer from outside into our homes. What a perfect idea at this very serious time of "social distancing." Perhaps, you're used to picking up a bouquet of flowers while at the supermarket during your shopping trips, but, if you are heeding the current warnings, this may not be as easy if you are under "house arrest," as my son has put my husband and me on for the foreseeable future. So why not do a little clipping on some of your flowering trees and shrubs and enjoy a spring preview with your own natural bouquet.



It's a pretty easy process. All you need is some clean, sharp pruners and some spring-flowering trees or shrubs in your yard. Please note that branches from trees tend to be more stubborn than branches from shrubs! Cut your branches at least 12 inches long with lots of plump but still tight buds. Be sure to cut a few extra branches in case some fail to bloom for you. Once you bring your branches inside, carefully split the bases up about 4 inches and then trim about an inch off the bottom. You want nice fresh cuts to aid in water absorption. Place the whole branch in warm water. If your branches are too long, make sure that at least the cut ends are in the water. Soak your branches overnight and once this is done, you can place them in your favorite container, once again in warm water. Your branches will need bright, indirect light...direct light may burn the flowers, so make sure your light is indirect. Also, cooler temperatures (50 to 70 degrees) are better if you want your flowers to last longer. Be sure to change the water in your container often, just as you do with cut flowers.

The time it will take for your branches to bloom indoors can take anywhere from one to eight weeks, depending on the type of tree or shrub the branches are taken from and how close you cut the branches to the normal blooming time outside. The following is a nice chart put out by The Old Farmer's Almanac which contains a list of the best trees and shrubs to try to force with the approximate time to bloom:

Buckeye	5 weeks
Cherry	4 weeks
Cornelian dogwood	2 weeks
Crab apple	4 weeks
Deutzia	3 weeks
Flowering almond	3 weeks
Flowering dogwood	5 weeks
Flowering quince	4 weeks
Forsythia	1 week
Honeysuckle	3 weeks
Horse chestnut	5 weeks
Lilac	4 weeks
Magnolia	3 weeks
Pussy willow	2 weeks
Red maple	2 weeks
Redbud	2 weeks
Red-twig dogwood	5 weeks
Spicebush	2 weeks
Spirea	4 weeks
Wisteria	3 weeks

**\*\*Pussy Willows don't require water, and will last for a very long time. Enjoy! ♥**

**"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."**

**...Audrey Hepburn**