



Working Around Town

Pretty soon it will be time to sign up for a committee for next year.

We currently support 27 working committees. With 75 members, that works out to fewer than 3 people per committee. Some committees require physical ability, some do not. Some have a clear purpose, others have gotten a bit obscure. Some work all year long, others only once a year. Some meet very regularly, and others, not at all.

What currently keeps them all going is the fact that some of us work on more than one committee. Several hard-working souls serve on 3 or more, some while serving on the Board. The record is 5!

Unless you are an associate member, you are obliged to work on a committee.

We normally sign up for a committee at the May meeting. Last year, our sign-up sheets were incomplete after the May meeting, and it proved fairly difficult to get everyone signed up. A lot of our members have full-time jobs, children at home, a full slate of other commitments, or all of the above.

Rather than spread ourselves so thin, rather than feel obligated to do things we'd really rather not, or guilty for not doing it, shall we reduce the number of committees? If we get a good mix of physical and "armchair" committees, we should be able to meet everyone's needs, do a lot of good around the town, have fun working with people we like, and have the service part of membership be an enjoyable part. Let's review our committees at the April Meeting.

April 6 "Eagles Rebound Along the Merrimack"

Our own **Cyndy Bourquard** will be presenting a fabulous slide show and talk about our world famous nesting bald eagles which last spring successfully fledged two baby eagles for the first time in living memory. This is an exciting story of clandestine visits to the nest, the returning vitality of the mighty Merrimack, and the role we gardeners play in the future of the river and the eagles.

As always, the meeting will be held at 6:45 in the 1910 Building Annex.



Hospitality will be provided by **Pat Finley, Ellie Bragg, Anne Burrill, and Mary Doyle**, "chaired on" by **Karen Doliber & Evelyn Thornton**.

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The best purpose of a garden is to give delight and to give refreshment of mind, to soothe, to refine, and to lift up the heart in a spirit of praise and thankfulness.

— Gertrude Jekyll

Gardening **Spring Plant Sale Happenings**

Spring is finally here! The ground is warming up, the trees are budding out and the bulbs are just poking up in our gardens. We have the promise of beautiful tulips, daffodils and all the other gorgeous spring display. This is the best time to think about the Plant Sale, before all that spring work starts. The sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 20 this year and the Plant Sale Chairs are already working hard to make this year's sale a success.

Many of you have already signed up for committees, but there are still vacancies and lots of chances to help out. The more members who participate the less work and more fun it is for everyone. Good participation also reduces stress for the Chairs. Need we say more? The funds raised from the sale provide many benefits to all members, and the community: our scholarships, the wonderful programs, the holiday party, and all the wonderful civic gardens. If you enjoy these things, then participate!

One of the most important items for the sale is, you guessed it, **Plants!** No plants, no money. Now is the time to think spring and review what you want to divide or remove from your garden. Surely, everyone has something in your garden to donate. This year we are trying a couple of new approaches:

- We will have a separate table for especially beautiful, rare, or exotic plants. (See below) These include plants that are exceptional specimens of a common species, or plants not usually found at local nurseries, or found but very pricey. Laurel Mackay is heading up this effort and she has compiled a list of some plants that meet these criteria. The list will be available at the April meeting. Please scan your gardens for some of these plants.
- We have asked the HerbFarmacy to supply the herb table this year. They have a wonderful selection of herbs and heirloom tomatoes that are all organic and very healthy and vigorous. Plan to buy your supplies there!

Members of the telephone committee will be calling to see what plants you may have for the sale. If you need help digging, or if you need pots, soil, or markers, call one of the committee chairs and they will help you out. A list of chairs and committee members will be available at the April meeting. The Chairs are shown below.

HAPPY GARDENING from your Plant Sale Chairs
Carole Ward and **Gloria Kuran**

Sun: Jane Jeffers & Kathy Krajewski
Shade: Deb Zoltai & Donna Greene
Digging: Maguy Thomson & Priscilla Styer
Donated: Nancy Perkins **Knapp's:** Liz Scheld
Herbs: Diane Dobson **Banners:** Lisa Arnold
Cashiers: Dot Cavanaugh
Food: Ellie Bragg, Marilyn Kent, Anne Burrill
Choice: Laurel Mackay **Set-up:** Jennifer Germain
Breakdown(!): Gloria Kuran & Carole Ward
Publicity: Jane Jeffers, Gloria Kuran, Deb Zoltai



Sandi Preble, Ginger Selman, and Donna Greene set up for the Sale

Horticulture **Dig, Divide, and Donate!**

The plant sale is fast approaching, and April is the month to grab your shovel and turn Dirt into Dollars. Here are a few of the especially desirable plants sought by the Choice Plants Table, headed up by Laurel Mackay:

Jack in the Pulpit (Arisaema) **Dutchman's Pipe**
Asarum (Wild Ginger) **Lily of the Valley** **Brunnera**
Campsis (Trumpet Vine) **Cimicifuga** **Clematis**
Lady Slippers (garden-grown) **Epimedium** **Ferns**
Erythronium (Dog-toothed Violets or Trout Lilies)
Gentians **Hellebores** **Peonies** **Trillium**
Many Hostas: Please see the complete list from Laurel

May Apples **Solomon's Seal** **Rodgersia**

Don't have any of these? Buy a couple and donate them! **No money?** Dig from your own wonderful selection, potting up at least 2 weeks prior to the sale (that would be no later than the first Saturday in May.) **Can't dig?** Call Maguy and schedule the light-footed and always humorous Digging Committee. **No garden?** Buy something luscious at your local nursery (don't forget your discount card) and donate it! What a hero you will be!

Members in the News **Nancy Perkins for Woman of the Year**

The indefatigable **Dianne Faulkner** has been planting one or two seeds around town, and they have definitely sprouted. That Diannel!

First, she has nominated **Nancy Perkins** for the YWCA Woman of the Year award. Nancy's long life has been dedicated to teaching and giving to her community, which in her view, takes in most of the world. She has envisioned and implemented such amazing feats as getting all the electrical wires in Merrimack center put underground to improve its appearance. She has dedicated 100 acres of Merrimack land in her late husband's name, opening it to the public, with trails, where races are held every year.

Nancy and the other nominees will be honored in the Tribute to Women held Wednesday, May 17 at DiBurro's Restaurant in Ward Hill. The festivities begin at 11:30, with a wonderful dinner from 12-2. Boston Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole is the keynote speaker. Commissioner O'Toole has quite an interesting history, and her talk will be every bit as interesting as her life. For tickets, call the YWCA at 978 374-6121, and ask for a seat at the table for Nancy, so we can all sit together. Tickets are \$45.

Secondly, Dianne has talked with the organizer for the annual West Newbury **Memorial Day Parade** about members of the Garden Club riding in the parade on Monday, May 29th. The plant sale will be over, so let's get together and ride in a hay wagon decorated with flowers, or an open limo or two. The parade forms up at 10:00 am. Perhaps a garden breakfast at Marsha's before-hand? Mimosa's and decorated hats? Let's discuss it



Nancy Perkins in the place she likes best

at the April Meeting!

Carol Hurn organized a great trip to the NESFS, and she **more** than filled the bus. We had a great trip, and with the theme based on "home" we brought home lots of great ideas for our own gardens. Thanks again, Carol!

Club & Federation News **Garden Tour & GCFMA**

This year's Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts **Northern District Annual Meeting** will be held at the Andover CC on Thursday May 4 from 9 am to about 3 pm. 8 am (registration) Last year we just about filled a table for ten, and we had a ball, both at the meeting, and carpooling to Andover. Please try to join the group this year. Registration forms will be at the April meeting or from Marsha at 978 388 2076 or bpgroup@verizon.net. Registrations due by 20 April.

Our **WNGC Personal Garden Tour** on June 17th will be for members and your guests only, with a focus on gardeners who want design help from their friends. Food and beverage will be available for a small fee. So far, six members have signed up to open their gardens to us, but we are welcoming more. Please sign up at the April meeting to have your garden on the tour. If you aren't able to attend, call **Jane Jeffers** at 978-372-6549. **Donna Greene & Cyndy Bourquard** are on the committee with Jane, so call them, too.

Floral Design **Art In Bloom April 24**

Priscilla Styer will once again risk it all in public by interpreting an artwork at the Museum of Fine Arts Annual Fundraiser, Art in Bloom. If you haven't been, it is a must, as 70 over-the-top floral arrangements are created and displayed from April 22nd through 25th. Each arrangement interprets a particular work of art, from impressionist paintings to **ancient Egyptian cat sculptures** (WNGC's challenge this year) to 19th century American furniture. The imagination, overwhelming

scale, and magnificent beauty of these floral arrangements are breathtaking, humorous, and instructive, showing you aspects of the artwork which you may not have seen until paired with the design. Last year's tour was judged a success by those who attended. Plan to join us, and bring a friend, a sister, your Mom. Bus departs Monday, April 24 from 1910 Building at 9 am, returning at 3 pm. **Adults \$30, Seniors \$28, MFA Members \$15**. Sign up at the April meeting or let Marsha know **before April 12th**.



WNGC

WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB

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Phone: 978 388-2076
E-mail: bpgroup@verizon.net
Website: www.WNGC.org

Gardens for beauty, learning, and sharing

The West Newbury Garden Club was founded in 1936 to encourage and cultivate an interest in gardening, to aid in protecting and conserving our natural resources, to further the study of horticulture and flower arranging, and to promote civic beauty. For more information, please contact Marsha Cope at 978 388 2076, at bpgroup@verizon.net, or at 30 Merrimac St, Amesbury MA, 01913.

Extra

Next Board Meeting
April 13, 2006 7:00pm

In the Garden this Month **April**

Garden Highlights this Month

Bulbs: Aconite, chionodoxa, crocus, daffodils, dwarf iris, snowdrops, windflowers. **Wildflowers:** Marsh marigold, skunk cabbage, spring beauty. **Shrubs:** Pussy willow, forsythia.

Planting

Indoors: Transplant warm-season vegetables to larger containers. Pot up summer-blooming bulbs for planting out in May. **Outdoors:** Plant, transplant all hardy plant material. Divide crowded early bulbs, summer- and fall-blooming perennials.

Pruning

Prune trees and shrubs. Continue pruning shrub roses. Shear or mow winter-damaged ground covers to 5 inches. Deadhead bulbs but leave the foliage to yellow and wither to nourish next year's flowers.

Fertilizing

Fertilize emerging perennials lightly, and bulbs as they finish blooming.

Garden Maintenance

Apply organic pre-emergent weed killer to outdoor storage areas.

Continue spring cleanup. Prepare beds for spring planting.

Service your irrigation systems.

Begin hardening off annual seedlings later in the month.

Begin your annual rose care program.

Lawn care: finish major work.

