



A Look Ahead

The West Newbury Garden Club was founded in 1936. Next year will be our 70th Anniversary, and it seems that we might like to celebrate, look back at our history, take stock of where we are today, and lay some plans for the future. A little navel-gazing could reap rewards, and be pleasant, too.

Our history of contributing to the town and to the earth itself is long and worthy. Perhaps we should plan to mark the occasion, either in 2006 (or for the longer term, in preparation for the 75th) to acknowledge and honor the people involved and their accomplishments, then and now.

Maybe we should have a membership drive, or start a special project for the town or the townspeople.

Should we re-examine the goals and structure of the club itself, its affiliations

and purpose? How has the town changed in 70 years, and how have our lives and perceptions changed?

Who would we like to thank, to honor for their contributions?

And we must certainly have a party! Who should we invite?

Let's all give this some thought over the rest of this year, and take some time to share opinions and thoughts, reflections and suggestions, both in our regular meetings, and in our Executive Board meetings.

To inform the discussion, there is a look at our financial trends on page 3 of this issue. More food for thought: our current Purpose is on page 4, above the mailing address.

Let's talk!

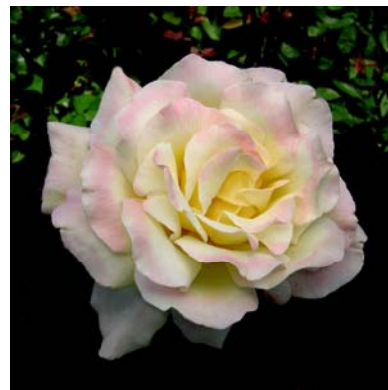
October 6 at 6:45 pm "All About Roses"

Jennifer Roy is the manager of Terry's Flower Shop in Merrimac, and for our next meeting, she will educate us about roses, their history, where they come from, and how they arrived here in America.

She is full of helpful hints on preserving our rose arrangements at home. A floral designer from the shop will demonstrate the use of roses in arrangements while Jennifer shares her great knowledge.

The arrangements **will be raffled** at the end of the demonstration, so bring your

piggy-bank! *As usual the meeting will be held at 1910 Building Annex.*



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A toast:

To our gardens!

May they be more beautiful than we dared hope ...Require less work than we thought ... and cost only a little more than the budget could stand!

Gardening Books **Food for Thought**

The Art of Setting Stones by Marc Peter Keane

Virginia Hallman says, "It's not a book everyone would enjoy, and it doesn't offer instruction. Those who appreciate the poetic and philosophical about gardening will treasure it. I loved every sentence in it, and will reread it countless times to savor its wisdom and beauty of expression. The author is sensitive, articulate, and thoughtful."

The publisher, Stone Bridge Press, says, "In Japanese gardens, composition follows from placement of the first stone. These eight essays on Kyoto gardens similarly begin with keen description and build into richly meditative excursions into art, Buddhism, nature, and science. Landscape architect Keane shows how Japanese gar-

dens are both a microcosm of the natural universe and a clear expression of our humanity, mirroring how we think, worship, and organize our lives and communities. Filled with passages of alluring beauty, this a truly transcendent book about "experiencing" Japanese design.

Available in paperback at Rivendell Books in Montpelier, VT or through Amazon.com for \$11.53



Garden Techniques **Easy Spring Bulbs**

Every summer, the bulb catalogs arrive. All over West Newbury the sound of pages riffling grows louder. We all know it is not a question of *if*, it's a question of *how many*. Heedless of past experience, the late autumn trips to the chiropractor, the year you planted the last of the 400 in the dark, the time you called your gardening confidante in January to ask if you planted them in the spring, would they bloom. You begin to lose control. Again. And why not?

For a fabulous, impressive display which let's you plant a hundred bulbs in less than a half hour, try the following approach. Rather than planting in groups of 12-20, plant 50 to 100 in one stunning group. Imagine a big meandering sprawl of pale pink hyacinths in front of a pink flowering cherry. Picture a long blue drift of grape hyacinth in front of your bleeding hearts, maybe wrapping around both ends. A trail of mixed narcissus and pale blue muscari disappearing around the corner of a bed, or over a rise, leading you on to a focal point...

First, leaf through the catalogs until you find a picture that just makes your heart sing, that begs for a place in your garden, that hollers "Yes!" Then, order as many as the budget can stand.

When they arrive, check the spacing instructions. Take your morning coffee into the garden and find a spot. Using a garden hose, lay out an irregular shape such as a long curling trench or an oval curving around a tree,

walk, birdbath, shrub, etc. Put down a ground sheet, and dig the entire area to a depth of 6 to 12 inches, depending on your bulbs. Dig to the deeper end of their range, since the deeper you plant your bulbs, the longer they will live. Sprinkle bulb food in the bottom of the hole. (Over the past ten years, many experts have suggested avoiding bone meal fertilizers due to the persistence of mad cow disease. It also attracts dogs.)

Plant your bulbs pointy end up. If you are not sure which end is the top, plant them sideways. They're clever little devils and will figure out what to do. Half-fill the hole and water it in, then fill the rest of the hole and pat it firmly. Next spring, invite **all** your friends for morning coffee.

Deer-proof bulbs:

- Allium
- Muscari
- Scilla Siberica
- Narcissus
- Chionodoxa
- Eranthus
- Fritillaria meleagris
- Hyacinthoides



A. Purple Sensation, Ch. Sardensis, Eranthus Hyemalis, M. Armenicum, Narcissus Ice Follies, Nar. Marieke

Members in the News **Yearbook Updates**

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the creation of our beautiful yearbook. We have a few corrections to the yearbook:

Page 4: Northern District leader is **Dura Smith**

Page 6: Add to the Executive Board Meetings list:
April 13, 2006, May 11, 2006, June 8, 2006

Page 7: Add **Priscilla Styer** to the **Hills House Herb Garden** committee

Page 8: Add **Dot Cavanaugh** to the **Membership** committee

Page 9: Add **Dianne Faulkner** to **Safety Complex** committee

Page 22: Lisa Arnold Boyle's (no hyphen) email is lisa.arnoldboyle@arnoldad.com

Kristine Boyd and **Jane Brown** are no longer members of the club

Page 24: Susan Dougherty's email: sisioux@comcast.net

Page 29: A few more email corrections:

Ginger Selman's email is gingerbug@comcast.net.

Sandy Taylor's is bsttaylor1@comcast.net

Page 30: Carole Ward's email is cwardc@comcast.net

Page 33: Under Article III, Section 1: the fiscal year ends on August 31.

Yellow Pages at the back:
Homestead Farm is giving a discount of 10% off **Plants only**. Thanks very much!

Please submit your additions and corrections to Marsha for inclusion in the next issue.

Club News **Financial Report**

Have you ever wondered where our club's funds come from and how we spend them? Thanks to **Dot Cavanaugh's** fabulous accounting, we can track our income and expenses on a year-to-year basis. The two charts at the left are a fairly accurate representation of the past four years' trends.

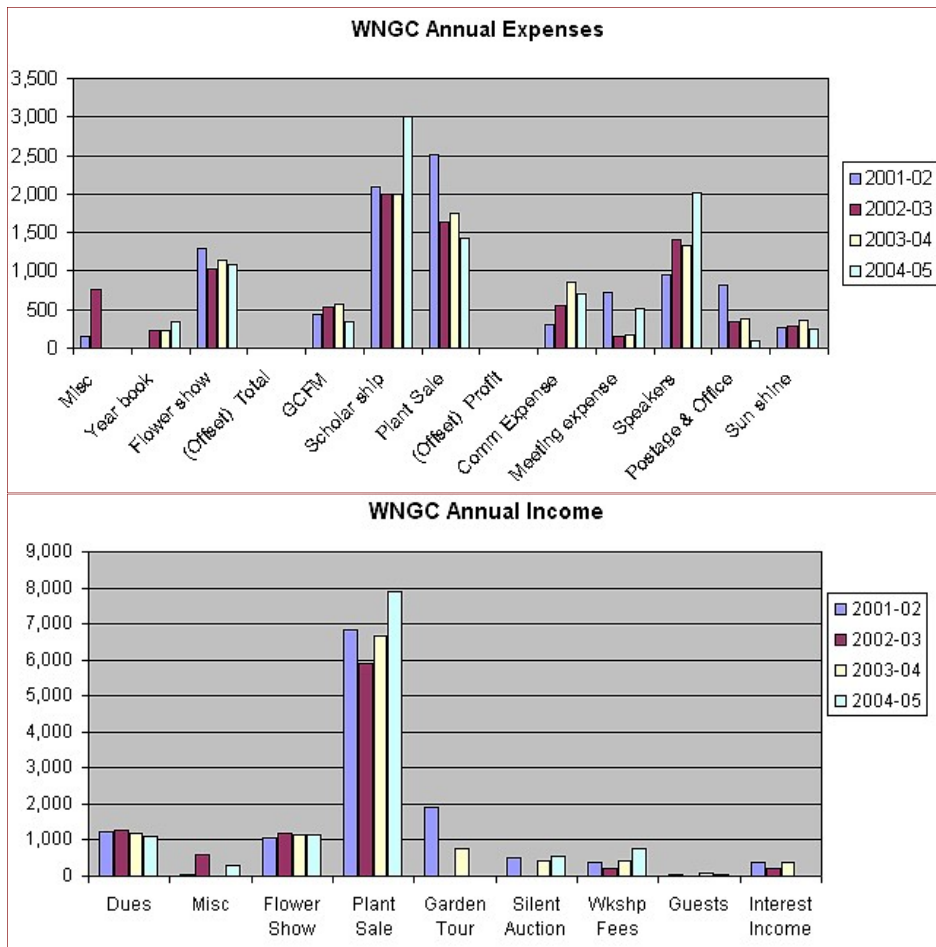
The **top chart** shows where we spent those hard-earned dollars, and how the expenses change over time. For some expenses like the Flower Show and the Plant Sale, the expense is offset by corresponding income for that event.

"Meeting expenses" sometimes includes one-time costs such as awards, or folding tables. Notice how much postage we saved by sending newsletters email!

The **lower chart** clearly shows that the Plant Sale is our big earner, with Dues income a close second.

The **bottom line** for these 4 years is:

2001-2002: \$2,790 surplus
2002-2003: \$ 249 surplus
2003-2004: \$2,255 surplus
2004-2005: \$1,932 surplus





WNGC

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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.

Next Board Meeting
October 13, 2005

In the Garden this Month **October**

Garden Highlights this Month

Aconitum, aster, boltonia, chrysanthemum, ornamental grasses, sedum, windflowers. Fall color: the berries of chokeberry, cotoneaster (ka-TONE-ee-aster), mountain ash, pyracantha, viburnum.



Planting

Plant and transplant needle evergreens, and deciduous trees and shrubs after leaf fall. Plant early spring bulbs, tulips. Divide perennials. Lift and store tender bulbs. Pot up hardy spring bulbs for forcing.

Pruning

Prune late summer-blooming shrubs (abelia, althea, butterfly bush, clethra, hydrangea, hypericum) once fully dormant. Prune and fasten climbers against wind damage. Take hardwood cuttings to increase plant stock.

Fertilizing

Fertilize deciduous trees and shrubs, as well as broadleaf and needle evergreen trees and shrubs when dormant. Feed your bulbs.

Garden Maintenance

Water broadleaf evergreens, newly planted trees and shrubs, and bulb beds thoroughly before ground freezes. Continue fall cleanup. Prepare roses for winter. Place tender plants in cold frame. Clean up your perennial, annual, and vegetable beds. Prepare for spring planting. Begin feeding birds mixed seed and suet. Lawn care: Continue mowing and watering new grass.