

Photo: Virginia Hallman



70th Anniversary Plans

The 70th Anniversary Committee is whizzing along at breakneck speed, putting together a great collection of events and memorabilia in celebration of the Garden Club's seventy years of friendship, learning, and service to West Newbury.

Pollyann Statom unearthed **Poetry Snippets** from past Yearbooks published in the late 1970s and early '80s, and she has sent them along to be republished in the current newsletters. The first one appears this month at the bottom of page one.

Cyndy Bourquard is organizing a **Memorial Day Parade Float** for the Garden Club, with room for a group of

lucky riders and with decorations to be announced. She will have more news for us as the date approaches.

Through the efforts of a great many people, the committee members have collected the **Historical Archives of the WNGC** and **Pollyann** is trying to bring some order to the boxes and boxes of documents, club newsletters, photos, newspaper clippings, announcements, minutes, and correspondence from 70 years of very active people. From early June through early July, there will be a **Historical Display** at the GAR Library of some of the most interesting of these materials, and the sorted and orderly

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April 5 An Evening with MassHort



The Massachusetts Horticultural Society not only hosts the New England Spring Flower Show, it also sponsors highly qualified speakers on a wide range

of topics, and joining us tonight is Paulette Heim to talk about garden design. Paulette has been around

the garden scene for most of her life. She is a Certified Horticulturist, a Master Gardner and Tree Steward, and teaches a post graduate class in Landscape Design. Paulette has her own landscaping business and is currently working toward her Arborist License. She loves sharing her knowledge and experience. We will have a slide presentation on the Art and Mechanics of Landscape Design. She will have a question and answer period following the presentation, so bring your questions!

Hospitality will be provided by chairs **Elise Henrichs** and **Nora O'Neil** with Marie Anderson, Karen Doliber, Alison Scher, and Marie Scher.

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Celebrating Our 70 Years of Service:

This Poetry Snippet is one of several published in Yearbooks from the late 1970s

Daffodils that come before the
swallow dares,
And take the winds of March
with Beauty.

...William Shakespeare

Gardening **Container Planting**

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archives will then be given a permanent home and a Keeper.

During the History Display at the Library, the committee is also sponsoring our own **Mini Art in Bloom** featuring art and interpretive floral arrangements from members. See the details in the article on page 3, and if you would like to participate, plan on signing up at the April Meeting.

The splashiest event will be the **September Anniversary Party**, planned for the first meeting next year. The committee is planning a social evening that appeals to everyone, is enjoyable and gives us plenty of time to socialize without having to conduct any club business, and that will be comfortable and accessible for everyone. **Dianne Faulkner**, the Chair of the 70th Anniversary Committee, will tell us more about this at our April Meeting. Please be sure to save the date: **September 6, 2007!** We will conduct our "Yearbooks and Dues business" at the October

meeting, so we can focus on celebrating the successes of the Club, especially our **senior members**, and enjoy the company of our friends.

The woman who brought you last year's Plant Sale Aprons is back! **Gloria Kuran** is once again on the loose, this time finding and designing **Commemorative Tote Bags** as a memento of our Anniversary. The bags will be very affordable, and the Committee is currently searching for a suitable, attractive design for the outside of the bag. Gloria will have more information for us soon.



And last but not least, we have been hearing rumors of a **Commemorative Booklet** to be published sometime this summer, recounting the history of the Club.

Whew! What a Committee! What a lot of great ideas, and energy! **Many, many thanks for all the hard work!**

Conservation **This Barberry a Dame-Dame***

America has always been known as the great melting pot, incorporating ideas, traditions, foods, and even plants from many different cultures. Who doesn't love to eat out at a Chinese restaurant now and then? But when it comes to plants, not every plant from around the world is a welcome visitor. **Japanese Barberry** (*Berberis thunbergii*) is one of those plants and for good reasons.

I love to garden, especially for the birds and the butterflies that come to visit my garden and have been bird banding for Mass Audubon since 2004. I recently moved to a new home in Newbury, overlooking the marsh. As I was investigating my new property in late November, I discovered a Japanese Barberry growing next to the garage.

Some gardeners love this plant for its wonderful reddish purple leaves and for the bright red berries which the birds eat. Sadly, I learned a couple of years ago from one of the Mass Audubon naturalists that barberry is a very poor source of nutrition for the birds and is last on their menu. It looks like it would be good bird food but it fills them up without giving the birds much energy to burn. We band a little warbler, the **Blackpoll Warbler**, at our banding station. This little bird is less than 4 inches long and weighs less than half an ounce. You could mail two of these warblers for the price of a first class stamp. (But they wouldn't like being stuck in that envelope!) The Blackpoll needs to double its body weight in just a few short weeks so it can migrate non-stop from Massachusetts to the north coast of South America, roughly 4,000 miles, in an 80 to 90 hour

journey. It can be hard to gain enough weight and put on those fat reserves if the right plants are not around.

Japanese Barberry can also hybridize with common barberry (*B. vulgaris*) and spread **black stem rust**. Dense stands of barberry can change the **soil pH** and reduce the layer of litter on the forest floor, reducing **species diversity**. Millions of dollars has been spent across the U.S. in efforts to eradicate this invasive plant.

So I will be digging up that one little barberry in my garden come this spring and replacing it with something more bird friendly such as **Winterberry**, **Inkberry** or **Bayberry**. In fact, we know it will be a good fall for catching **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at our bird banding station by the size of the bayberry crop, a favorite food for these wonderful little warblers, too. By planting a native species I will provide a better natural food choice for the birds and encourage them to visit my yard, and shelter in these native shrubs. The next time you decide to add a new plant, cut down an overgrown shrub, or move a plant that is in the wrong spot, please consider "gardening for the birds" by replacing it with a nutritious native. The birds will love you for it!

* *Dame* is Japanese for *no good*, so dame-dame is a no-no.

*This article was contributed by our newest member, **Deb La Roy**. Look for more informative conservation articles from Deb in up-coming issues of the newsletter.*

Members in the News **Great Flower Show Trip**

We had a great trip to the New England Spring Flower Show once again, thanks to **Carol Hurn's** flawless arrangements. A wonderful bus ride in and out, and a really great show this year, plus the company of friends and fellow members made the afternoon and evening very enjoyable. The Show this year was attractive, with a very upbeat tone and a lot of ideas and designs able to be implemented in our own gardens. There were 2 hits of the show: a life-size "sunken pirate ship" with a mermaid, octopus, and sea turtle, surrounded by coral and marine plants most of which

were made of succulents, and a pavilion of tables-for-ten on a theme of Dinner in Dunes, all of which were dressed to the nines with plover decoys, shells, glass urns of bubbling water, bushes of orchids, and fabulous tableware and linens. It was a great show!



Club News **MFA Art in Bloom-April 24th**

We still have 6 seats available for the trip to the Museum of Fine Arts for their 37th Art in Bloom on **Tuesday** April 24th. We leave from the Annex's back parking lot at **9:00 am** sharp, and get back at **3:00 pm**. The price includes your round-trip bus fare, tickets to the museum, and the AIB program booklet. Adults are \$38, Seniors (65+) are \$36, and Members of the MFA are \$23. Box lunches are also available if you wish, for \$15, and include your choice of Chicken Salad on Rosemary Focaccia, Veggie Wrap, or

Shrimp Salad on a Croissant, plus Water or Canned Soda, Gourmet Chips, Chocolate Chip Cookies, and a Seasonal Fruit Cup. Sign-up sheets will be at the welcome table at the April meeting, and if you have signed up but not paid, please bring a check to the meeting or send it to Marsha Cope, 30 Merrimac St., Amesbury, MA 01913 by April 10th. Join your friends for a truly won-



Flower Arranging **WNGC Mini Art in Bloom**

Another fabulous idea from the 70th Anniversary Committee! What in heaven's name will be left to do for our 75th!?

Under the inspired guidance of **Pollyann Statom**, the West Newbury Garden Club's 70th Anniversary Committee is sponsoring a **Mini Art in Bloom** at the GAR Library from **June 5th through the 8th**. This is a wonderful opportunity, not only from a personal perspective, but in light of the fun and learning it makes available to the members, and for the beauty it will bring to the town.

The **art will hang from June 5 until July 6**, and the arrangements will go into the Library on Monday evening June 4, and come out on Friday, June 8 in the late afternoon. Our gardens will all be blooming their little heads off, so a good supply of raw materials will be at hand, though purchased materials are great, too.

We will need approximately **ten art pieces and ten designers**. You can lend a work of art to be interpreted, you can do the interpreting by designing and constructing a floral arrangement, or you can do both! You can go solo, or two people can team up to complete one display, or just sign up as an arranger, and we will match you with an artwork.

We will have an **Arranger's Workshop** which will include a tour of the room at the library, cautions and requirements

for safety and "curator's concerns," discussion of the mechanics of arranging and displaying, how to choose materials and containers, a discussion of how to approach the aesthetics of interpretation, and a demonstration and practice session on floral foam, wiring, watering, and refreshing. There will be **simple clear guidelines to follow** to make it easy for anyone to participate.

Please give this project some serious thought. It could be a really exciting adventure for anyone interested in doing floral arrangements in general, or doing the Real Thing at the MFA sometime. It is a fairly safe venue (i.e., not too public) for a new arranger, and is close to home so the travel to Boston every day is eliminated. Having a helper doubles the creative energy, and reduces the care-and-feeding, thus opening the door to those of us who may not feel confident enough to tackle an arrangement on our own.

We need to identify the arrangers and potential arrangers by mid-April, prior to the workshop, and more information and sign-up sheets will be available at our April 5th meeting. Please consider participating, and definitely mark your calendars to get over to the Library to see our very own Art in Bloom!



WNGC

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*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
April 12, 2007 7:00pm



Ask Peony April

Dear Peony,

I live in a cold winter climate in Maine, but we can have hot summers, too. There is a great deal of shade in my garden. Also, water is very expensive. Six kids bathe in the same bath water. Then we share it with whatever is growing in the flower garden. What perennials should I consider?

No Tan On Me

Dear Dusty,

There are excellent perennials for many conditions, even your dry, shady, dirty, filthy garden. The following ideas come from **Ambergate Gardens** where Mike & Jean Heger, have prepared detailed lists of plants for your and other climactic conditions. Check it out. But first, clean up your act!

Peony

www.ambergategardens.com **Ambergate Gardens**
8730 County Road 43 Chaska, MN 55318-9358

Perennials Tolerant of Dry Shady Situations

Acanthus mollis Common Bear's-Breech **Adonis amurensis** Amur Adonis **Anemone x hybrida** Japanese Anemone **Arum italicum** Arum Lily **Aster cordifolius** Heart-Leaved Aster **Aster divaricatus** White Wood Aster **Bergenia** Bergenia **Brunnera macrophylla** False Forget-Me-Not **Colchicum** Autumn Crocus **Convallaria majalis** Lily-of-the-Valley **Cornus canadensis** Bunchberry **Corydalis lutea** **Cyclamen** **Dennstaedtia punctilobula** Hay-Scented Fern

Deschampsia flexuosa Crinkled Hairgrass **Disporum** Fairy-Bells **Dryopteris filix-mas** Male Fern **Epimedium** Barrenwort **Eranthis** Winter Aconite **Erythronium** Fawn-Lily **Eupatorium rugosum** White Snakeroot **Filipendula vulgaris** Dropwort **Galanthus** Snow-drop **Galax urceolata** Wand-Flower **Galium odoratum** Sweet Woodruff **Geranium macrorrhizum** Bigroot Cranesbill **Geranium phaeum** Mourning Widow **Hosta strumosus** Woodland Sun-flower **Helleborus** Hellebore **Hosta hystrix patula** Bottlebrush Grass **Lamium galeobdolon** Yellow Archangel **Lamium maculatum** Spotted Dead Nettle **Liriope** Lily-Turf **Luzula nivea** Snowy Woodrush **Podophyllum peltatum** Mayapple **Polygonatum** Solomon's Seal **Polystichum acrostichoides** Christmas Fern **Sedum ternatum** Crowsfoot Stonecrop **Symphytum grandiflorum** Large-Flowered Comfrey **Vancouveria hexandra** American Barrenwort **Viola palmata** Early Blue Violet **Viola pubescens** Downy Yellow Violet **Waldsteinia** Barren Strawberry

Peony Has a Thought: Ouch! I have recently found a copy of Contemporary Perennials, by Roderick W. Cumming and Robert E. Lee (yes, that's what is says) and illustrated by Allianora Rosse, published by the Macmillan Co. in 1960. Dedicated to "E.O.", or "each one who has in any way helped in..." I feel so included, don't you? The inside of the slightly torn jacket claims that beginners will be started on the right path, and that old timers will be inspired to bring their gardens up to date. This is so reminiscent of blond wood and Danish modern furniture. Anyone wishing to add this chart-filled, data-crammed horticultural treasure, please attend the April meeting.