

WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Big Bad Beetle—There may have been other insects to have their own billboard, but I don't remember any. This billboard is on Route 1 going south through Peabody/Saugus, about 1 mile from the jughandle. More, opposite.



The Green Carpet— Thanks to Dianne Faulkner for setting us on the trail of this new and unwelcome state resident, the "mile-a-minute" vine. See page 2 for what Helen Thumser found out that you'll want to know.

Our Club's Purpose

To encourage and cultivate an interest in gardening, to aid in the protection and conservation of natural resources, to encourage the study of horticulture and flower arranging, and to promote civic beauty.

From the Editor

As it turns out, this issue has a lot to say about two pretty scary aliens—one fauna, and one flora. And you can see what you missed if you didn't make our opening meeting last month, which was a real treat in all ways. Plus, a terrific, simple, and simply great floral arrangement idea courtesy of Gloria Kuran. Remember, your ideas, comments, and suggestions for the Newsletter are always most appreciated.

Virginia Hallman

October Meeting

New England's Wild Places & Forgotten History
October 1, 6:45 PM at the Annex

This month's speaker knows how to spin a tale. Per his website, Michael Tougias (pronounced "Toe-gis") is a dynamic speaker and an award winning author of 18 books, some of which may visit us along with the author. Michael is a well-traveled adventurer, and a favorite with more than one garden club. Don't miss this one! Pricilla Styer, Linda Jackson, Clover Nally, Nancy Perkins, and Alison Scher will be out hostesses.



Need a ride? Call Linda Schaeffer, 978-363-5251.

Asian Longhorned Beetle Refresher

I think we all shuttered to learn of the drastic tree cutting Wochester did a year or so ago to try and stop the infestation of this destructive beetle. Similar infestations plagued New York City, Chicago, and New Jersey in 2008. Its very favorite host trees include Maples, Elms, Willows, Boxelders, Buckeyes, and Horse Chestnuts. The only hardwood tree known *not* be a potential host is Ailanthus—Tree of Heaven and you guessed it— an invasive alien species from China.

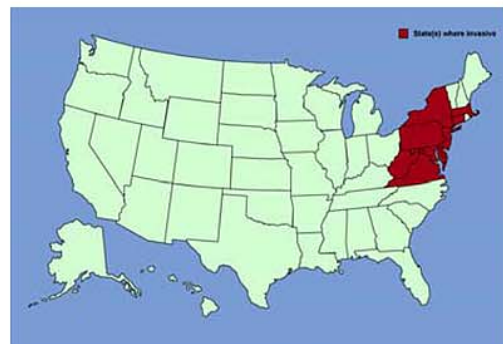
Keep an eye out for this showy insect, which can be seen from spring thru fall and measures $\frac{3}{4}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long. And remember—if you spot these spots, put the beetle in a jar, then in the freezer and call (866) 702-9938 to report the sighting. Learn other ways to save our trees at www.beetlebusters.info (warning; this site has a very realistic, animated beetle!) and find out more about the beetle at www.uvm.edu/albeetle.

Bioinvasion is fast becoming one of the world's most costly ecological problems, as it disrupts agriculture, drastically alters ecosystems, spreads disease, and interferes with shipping. The economic and environmental damages from alien plant, animals, and microbes in the United States, British Isles, Australia, South Africa, India, and Brazil account for more than \$300 billion per year in damages and control costs.

Catch Me If You Can... Meet *Persicaria perfoliata*, aka Asiatic tearthumb. That's right—keep your eyes open for one of the latest aliens to invade gardens from the Virginias northward all the way to upstate New York and Massachusetts.

Article by Helen Thumser

This pretty little vine grows so rapidly (up to six inches a day) that it can cover everything growing on the ground and even grow over trees. The plant is actually a vine with triangular shaped green (chartreuse) leaves. The stems and the underside of leaves put out spiny tendrils which can attach to almost anything. It is especially pervasive in natural areas. Its flowers are small, white and inconspicuous. Mercifully, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine do not seem to be affected as of the 2007 map of infested areas provided by the National Park Service's Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group. And, so far, it has only been spotted in lower Massachusetts.



Where did it come from? It is native from India to Eastern Asia, China and the islands from Japan to the Philippines, including Nepal, Burma, Manchuria, China, Korea, Taiwan and the Malay Peninsula and was spotted in the U. S. as early as 1890 in Portland, Oregon, and Beltsville, Maryland in 1937. This population was controlled and effectively eliminated. But in the late 1930's, it is believed that it came to the U. S. with holly seeds, imported by a nursery in York County, Pennsylvania. Then it came up with the holly plants, and since the nurseryman found it interesting, he let it grow. From here on it spread to neighboring states through prolific self-seeding. Essentially Mile-A-Minute Plant is an annual that drops its seeds to winter over and germinate in the spring. (Remind you of crabgrass?) It likes to grow near streams and wetlands, so flowing water can help spread them. The blue, berry-like fruit (about the size of a pea) is frequently carried and spread by birds, and deer have been observed eating it, as well as chipmunks and squirrels.

Controls are being tested at various sites, including the introduction of host specific insects to destroy it. It has been determined that ROUNDUP® and RODEO® will kill it. However, since it is not listed on their respective labels, it may only be used with permission of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. The best bet, as advised by many sources working on the problem, is to keep a watchful eye in your garden (and in natural areas, especially near water) and to pull it up at the first sign of its appearance. We are all warned to wear long garden gloves when doing so to protect the skin, as the spiny tendrils that begin to cling to other plants or on the ground, are extremely sharp and can cut skin and clothing!

To learn more, check out the following resources:

- <http://www.wbur.org/2009/07/16/mile-a-minute-weed>
- <http://www.nps.gov/plants/ALIEN/fact/pepel.htm>
- <http://www.massrnc.org/pests/blog/labels/Mile-a-minute%20vine.html>

Massachusetts has two populations of this plant--one in Falmouth and one in Milton. Sightings of the plant may be reported on line with the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources, or by phone at (617) 626-1779 (their hotline).





Notes from the 9/10 Board Meeting

- The Club thanks Lisa Arsenault and her family for donating a \$500 scholarship commemorating late Club member, Julia. The Board voted to match this amount, and will award the one-time "WNGC Scholarship in Memory of Julia Arsenault" this year in addition to the Club's normal level of scholarship awards.
- The Board authorized purchase of daffodil bulbs again this year—thanks to Maguy Thomson for heading up this project.
- Many thanks to Claire Flaherty for hosting December's Annual Holiday Party again this year!
- If you would like to participate in an advisory role in reclaiming the overgrown Polly Zevin garden near the Pipestave Hill entrance, contact Linda Schaeffer or Kathy Krajeski. Groups inviting the Club's expertise are the Riding and Driving Club of West Newbury and the Millpond Committee.

Club News

- **FAIRY LANE PARK MAKEOVER**—After several rain delays, the pavers are in thanks to the efforts of its Garden Maintenance Committee, and helpers Linda DeCoste, and John Dimitry. What a nice addition to the garden!



Member News

- Helping out in the Flower Hall at the Topsfield Fair will be Kathy Krajeski (10/3, 12-2) and Linda Schaeffer (10/10, 10-12).



Starry, Starry, Night

Our September meeting was quite a treat, filled with the glow of greetings, catching-up conversations, festive lights, and charming bouquets. The meeting's hostesses want to thank all of you who gave so generously from you gardens to help create the magic. Unclaimed bouquets were taken next door for the Seniors to enjoy.



Photos by Virginia Hallman...Top left, Liz Scheld and Diane Faulkner talk with fellow members; Center, Helen Thumser and Norma Graf enjoy choosing pot luck selections; Bottom right, Linda Jackson, Karen Doliber, and Dot Cavanaugh explore the beverage table.

Out and About

The Federation's Fall Conference on 10/27 at the Andover Country Club may interest you. The program runs from 8:30-3:15. Contact Linda Schaeffer or Kathy Krajeski for information and the registration form.

Roger's Spring Hill Fall Family Festival is Saturday, 9/26, in Ward Hill. A sequence of six "how to" presentations start at 9 with the last one at 2. Call 978-372-4780 for details.

The Fall Garden Party at Elm Bank will begin at 2 on 9/27. The 2:45 speaker will be Londoner Alaric Naiman, who will talk about the wildlife pond he created.



Next Board Meeting:
October 8, 7:00 pm
At: Town Office Building
2nd floor Small Meeting Room

Hosta (syn.: *Funkia*) is a genus of about 23–45 species of lily-like plants native to northeast Asia. They were once classified in the family Liliaceae but are now included in the family Agavaceae by the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group. The scientific name is also used as the common name; in the past they were also sometimes called the **Corfu Lily**, the **Day Lily**, or the **Plantain lily**, but these terms are now obsolete.

EASY AND ELEGANT LATE SUMMER CENTERPIECE

Many thanks to Gloria Kuran for demonstrating how to assemble her arrangement.



Cut pairs of hosta leaves from a large and a smaller variety.



Slide the stem of the smaller leaf inside the larger one.



Arrange each pair of leaves in the curves of a fluted vase.

4. Add center material—here, Gloria has chosen sedum, garlic chive blossoms, and hydrangea. The hydrangea acts as a flower frog to hold other stems in place. All of the material in this arrangement will last a week or more with slight refreshing.



The “bed” of hosta leaves can provide the perfect backdrop for a variety of summer and late summer flowers. Stiff stemmed ones will work the best. Have fun experimenting!