

# WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Issue 6



**WNGC Makeover**—Marsha Cope and Alison Scher have given the Club's website a fresh new look along with updates and resources. Check it out when it goes live later this month at [www.wngc.org](http://www.wngc.org).



Photo by Helen Thumser

**Member Profile**—Go to page 2 to visit with our Club's President, Linda Schaeffer. Learn about her beautiful garden, and much more.

## 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

Welcome to a new year, and a new Newsletter. We all will miss the fabulous Newsletters Marsha Cope created over the past several years. This year there is a new look and a standing invitation to members to contribute articles and photos. Also, we'll feature several Club member profiles during the year to help us become better acquainted with one another. I hope you enjoy them. And happily, we'll be continuing with the ever entertaining and astute "Dear Peony." Your ideas, comments, and suggestions for the Newsletter are always most appreciated.

*Virginia Hallman*

## Member Survey Results

30 members attending June's meeting shared ideas and opinions by completing a *Member Survey on Meetings, 2009*. Here's what they thought:

1. Most respondents felt that time for socializing before each meeting and meeting length, is fine.
2. A fair majority would like more information about happenings/decisions of the Club's Board of Directors meetings to be shared in the Newsletter.
3. Regarding having the minutes of the prior monthly meeting and the Treasurer's Report read at each meeting, a majority did not favor this but they would like an update on the Club's finances several times throughout the year.

See page 3 for actions taken by the Board in response.

## Opening Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner September 3, 6:00 PM at the Annex

Donna Greene is unable to host the meeting due to unanticipated travel plans, so our talented Hospitality crew (Dianne Faulkner, Kathy Krajewski, Gloria Kuran, and Linda Schaeffer—led by chairs Marsha Cope and Sandi Preble) are lending their considerable talents and effort to transforming the Annex space into a festive setting for our first meeting of the year. Please bring your favorite appetizer, main dish, or dessert to share. Pick up your Club Year-book, pay dues, and find out what your fellow Club members have been up to. There will be a brief business meeting.

*Need a ride to the meeting? Call Linda Schaeffer, 978-363-5251.*



*Linda counted SEVEN blooms on this Stargazer lily in her garden. Did you know...that pink varieties such as this one is are considered symbolic of wealth and prosperity, as well as being a sign of aspiration and of purity.*

**Member Profile...** *If you want to get something done, give it to a busy person. September's Member Profile illustrates exactly that type of person. Meet our Club President, LINDA SCHAEFFER.*

Article by Helen Thumser  
Photos by Helen Thumser and Virginia Hallman

Linda grew up in Concord and Acton, Massachusetts. One of five children, she learned gardening as a youngster, when her mother assigned each of the siblings a special plot of his/her own around the yard. Linda says she had the "best" plot and enjoyed growing things even then.



After high school Linda continued her education at Boston College. During her college years she took a break and made a conscious decision between working with "machines" (computers) or "people." People won hands down, and she has been working in various organizations that help mentally disabled people ever since. Her degree is in Education and Special Education, which prepared her for this special work she now does right here in West Newbury with an Early Intervention program that services children birth to three who have, or are at risk for developmental delays, including children with autism. Linda says the belief is that the earlier autism and other developmental issues are recognized and the child put into treatment, the more effective the results. A worthy cause, indeed, especially in view of one set of disturbing statistics showing a newborn child has a chance of 1 in 166 of developing autism.



Gardening was an early interest for Linda, and today her garden displays her avid interest *and* skill in developing a lovely landscape at her West Newbury home. Her two-acre property incorporates about ten different smaller gardens that frame her rear yard. Each has its charm from shade gardens to butterfly gardens; she even grows blueberries! The piece de resistance is a large fish pond in the front of the property which, she admits, is her hubby Rob's baby. Although it was done professionally, the input came from Linda and Rob, who is also an avid gardener. Especially beautiful is the waterfall at one end. The pond is full of large goldfish and is 4 feet deep to protect them from predators. The special water plants include lotus, water lilies and pickerel.



Both Linda and Rob also enjoy birding and frequently visit the local bird sanctuaries. Currently they are watching the progress of a baby eagle on the Merrimack River near the Rocks Bridge. In addition to birding, kayaking is a serious pastime with Plum Island and the river off Cashman Park two of their favorite venues. Another favorite place for kayaking is on Cape Cod near Provincetown and Wellfleet. The water is calm and smooth there and ideal for the sport. Talk about serious, walking is a passion with Linda, and she covers a lot of territory each week.

When asked what special projects she may have in mind for her already extensive gardens, she says she is planning to do a lot of rebuilding and refurbishing of a few gardens. There is always something to work on. Her gardens are about 20+ years old at this point and reflect a wonderfully wide variety of trees, shrubs and flowers.

Linda and Rob have lived in West Newbury since the early 1980's, when they built their lovely contemporary home on Coffin Street and moved here from Byfield. It is not surprising that she joined our club a few years ago to further explore gardening and offer her knowledge and leadership to the rest of us.



**When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.** Author Unknown

## Notes from the 8/10 Board Meeting

- In response to Member Survey results, Treasurer Dot Cavanaugh will present year-to-date financials at the October, May, and June monthly meetings. The board will discuss whether to survey members next year.
- Also in response to the survey results, Newsletter coverage of Board news, decisions, and discussions is expanded.
- The Telephone Committee will only call those members without email, so everyone else please check your computer!
- Kathy Krajeski reported that the Club's new Church Street planter was vandalized in June. It hasn't fully recovered; perhaps mums will be added.
- Starting this fall, Board members will rotate as Greeters at monthly meetings to help guests and new members feel at home and learn about the Club. (They will also be in charge of setting up the microphone.)
- Happily, many of last year's chairpersons are continuing this year. This should lend a faster and surer start to committee activities.

## Club News

- Through the rest of August and all of September, acting chairperson of the Sunshine Committee will be Anne Burrill. During this time, contact Anne at 978-499-0250 with any requests to send cards or flowers to an ill or bereaved Club member.

## Member News

- In Sept.—Dec., Priscilla Styer will present a series of 8 workshops at NECC for brides-to-be on wedding-related floral design.



### **BIRTHDAY CONGRAGULATIONS!**

To Bea Ropes, who on 8/19 became 95 years young. Her family will help Bea celebrate on 8/22 at a party in her honor.



## Perfect Picky Place

A dozen or so members and guests joined Kathy Krajeski for the Club's 3<sup>rd</sup> Summer Safari journey to Picky Place in Mason, NH. A stroll through their old English and herb gardens, a 5-course French luncheon decked with garden goodies, and two overflowing gift shops on a perfect summer day with fellow gardeners was a delight!



Photos by Virginia Hallman...Clockwise from bottom left: (1) Dining room courtyard; (2) Linda Schaeffer, Dot Cavanaugh and Priscilla Styer explore a plant; (3) Joan Colby, Nancy Perkins, and guest Fran; (4) Enjoying the gardens; (5) Gift shop; (6) Rosemarie McCobb and guest Leona await lunch.

## Out and About

Knapps is offering a *Putting Your Perennial Garden to Bed* workshop on Sat. 9/12 from 1– 2. Call 978-363-2612 to register; space is limited.

Sea Spray Garden Club will meet Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. in Salisbury at the East Parish United Methodist Church. John Forti, curator of Strawberry Banke gardens in Portsmouth, will speak on *Herbs and Herbalism from New England's Past to Your Present Garden*. Visitors pay \$5.

**PHOTOS...**The Board plans to take a few photos at monthly meetings so if you don't want to be seen in them, please let the person you see with a camera know your preference not to be included.



Next Board Meeting:  
September 10, 7:00 pm

At: Town Office Building  
Town Hearing Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor



## **DEAR PEONY,**

*I love that daylilies bloom all summer and then some. But, how and when do I divide them without hurting them? I have five children who could help.*

*Misses in Lilyland, MA*

*Dear Miss Mass,*

*Here is an article on the subject. You'll never miss taming the lilies with this information. You've proven that you can deal with large numbers. Now have fun with the masses!*

*Happy days, Peony*

## **Dividing Daylilies**

*Daylilies are easy to grow, easy to divide and easy to love. Not fussy plants, they still prefer full sun. The reward? Bright blooms after spring flowers fade for years to come. Daylilies continue to bloom profusely if they're divided every few years as they multiply and become overcrowded. If plants become overcrowded, they produce fewer blooms. Dividing plants and giving them more growing room will revitalize daylilies. Have some pity! Would you plant your five kids in one bed? (Stop it! Nobody believes you.)*

*Ideal time to divide daylilies is in late summer to early fall, after they are done blooming for the season. To divide them, use a sharp spade or garden fork. Lift the clump from the soil, carefully digging about 6-12 inches from the plants to completely pry out the clump. Next, take two garden forks - or smaller, stronger versions of pitchforks - and push the forks back to back into the midst of the clump. Then gently pull the garden fork handles apart, forcing the roots to separate into two smaller clumps. Huge clumps have to be separated into several divisions. Be tough and persistent. Pretend that you are separating two eleven-year old boys who want the remote, or a man and anyone else.*

*Back to daylily divisions: To replant, start by digging a wide, shallow hole about six inches wider than the rootball of your daylilies. Place the rootball in the hole at the same depth as the plant was dug. Tamp the soil into place, water thoroughly and add an inch of mulch around the plants to keep down weeds and help the soil retain moisture. Trim back foliage to about 12 inches to help the plant put its energy into re-establishing itself in its new home. Voilà! You'll thank me later.*