



May 7 Annual Meeting at Trish's

Our annual meeting is the time of the year that we conduct the business of the Club, elect our officers, and enjoy each others' company, cooking, and conversation.

Trish Robinson has graciously invited us to join her home in Byfield to celebrate spring and our friendships. Everyone should bring an appetizer, salad, main dish, or dessert to share. Bring an old favorite, or try something entirely new, and delight yourself and your friends. This is always a great party, and this year is the beginning of a new tradition, as it

is the first year in a long time we will not be meeting at Audrey Dimitry's (thanks, Audrey!)

The meeting begins at **6:00 pm**.

Hospitality will be provided by chairs **Pat Finley and Claire Flaherty** with Judy Belyea, Janet Gilchrist, Mary Jarvis, Jane Jeffers, Joan Quackenbos, Kris Pyle and of course Trish!



Directions to Trish Robinson's Home: 8 Knobb Hill, Byfield 978-358-7900

From **113** in West Newbury take **Bachelor St**, and take a **right on Indian Hill St**.

When you come to a **T**, take a **right on South St** which will turn into **Main St**.

Go **0.4 mile past the US Post Office** on the left, and over a little bridge on the Parker River.

Watch for a **big, light bluish-green Victorian** home with a **solid white fence** on your left. Opposite the white fence, take a **right onto Knobb Hill Street**.

Go up the hill to **8 Knobb Hill**, the **4th house on right**. Look for a **granite post** with a **black mailbox**. You can't see the house from the street.

Please **carpool** and **park on the street**. If anyone needs to **drop off** members or food, drive into the driveway, where there is a circle to turn around to go back to the street and park. It wouldn't hurt to bring a flashlight, although the driveway is pretty well lit and there is a street light by the mail box.

There's a circle at the end of the street, so turning around is easy, too.

We hope to see everyone there!

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Presently we pass to some other object which rounds itself into a whole as did the first; for example, a well-laid garden; and nothing seems worth doing but the laying-out of gardens.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Gardening **Time to Dig!!**

Sharpen up those digging implements and don your gloves! It's time to **dig up your entire garden** and donate it to the Annual Plant Sale! No? Okay, just dig what you can, depending on the maturity and size of your garden.

Keep in mind that even small plants will bring in dollars for scholarships and operating expenses. Unusual plants, and those in bloom at the end of May always sell like hotcakes. Avoid the common plants which never really sell: orange roadside daylilies, common Siberian iris, lamb's ears. Also be sure to avoid invasives like aegopodium (goutweed or bishop's weed), gooseneck loosestrife, mint (egad!).

Pots are available at **Dot Cavanaugh's** on Training Field Road, and Joan Tranfaglia will be bringing **labels** to the May Meeting. You should label your plants with name and growing information such as sun / shade, height, weight (just kidding), bloom time and color. Please do not price them, as the various committees will set pricing.

Drop off **Shade Plants** at **Claire Flaherty's** house at 10 Dole Place (363-5274) and **Sun Plants** at **Gail Dinaro's** at 230 Middle street (363-5435). Please be sure you drop the plants off a **week prior to the sale** date of May 30, so the committees have time to price them. Keep them well watered, and out of the scorching sun so they will look their best for the ball.

If you would like some **help digging**, just call **Marsha Cope** at 388-2076 or email her at bpgroup@verizon.net and she will dispatch the furry little diggers post haste. We will love your garden and your plants, and leave behind no unsightly holes.

Don't forget to **bake something yummy** for the Bake Table; the Ladies of the Table will price your goodies that morning. Just wrap them up and stick a few violets on top.

Have fun digging, and if you have any questions, call the co-chairs: **Joan Tranfaglia** at 978 510-1228 or **Kathy Krajeski** at 363-5216.

Flower Arranging **Art in Bloom**

Questions and Answers from the Museum of Fine Arts for the Art in Bloom participants:

What was it about your object that gave you your initial inspiration?

The practical use of the navigational map called to mind the emptiness of the sea, and the great risk to the sailors in journeying across a vast, empty expanse of potentially deadly water.

In observing your object, what were you responding to i.e., color, texture, form, movement, and how did these play a part in your floral selection?

The lack of a third dimension drove us to focus on the implied motion denoted by the bamboo representation of currents and wave patterns. The cowry shells might as easily represent the cloud formations which are the marine navigator's telltale of land, and which appear to the navigator long before the land mass.

How did your art object affect the choice of your container? How is it tied to the art?

The bamboo is an obvious echo of the rebbelith's construction, but the container also represents the outriggers used by the Marshall Islanders.

What is it about your object that motivated your choice of plant material, and how do these choices relate to the art object?

We wanted to evoke the texture and rolling motion of the Pacific, the glint of sunlight on water, and the suddenness and immutability of the towering Hokusai-like wave.



Arranger **Priscilla Styer** at the Museum of Fine Arts, putting the finishing touches on her interpretation of the Marshall Islanders' nautical chart. **Marsha Cope** mopped Priscilla's brow and shouted encouragement.

Annual May Meeting Business Items

Club News and Member News Garden Tour 2009

Election of the WNGC Officers & Directors

The slate for the Board is:

President	Linda Schaeffer
1 st VP	Kathy Krajewski
2 nd VP	Joan Tranfaglia
Treasurer	Dot Cavanaugh
Recording Secretary	Jane Jeffers
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Jackson
Board Member	Virginia Hallman
Board Member	Karen Doliber
Board Member	Liz Scheld
Board Member	Helen Thumser

Committee and Hospitality Signups

Please make sure to sign up for one of the monthly meetings' hospitality duties. It's fun to sign up with a friend, and even more fun to volunteer to chair with a friend. The Committee signup sheets will give you a chance to select your favorite way of contributing to the Club and the Town next year, and it is a great way to meet new members or work with people you would like to know better.

Treasurer's Report

Dot Cavanaugh will regale us with tidbits from her latest trip. No, seriously, we will review the year's income and expenses.

Committee Reports

We will have reports from each of the committee chairs as a way of updating all our members and introducing new members to the responsibilities and attractions of the committee's contributions.

Plant Sale Instructions

Last minute instructions for digging, potting, and labeling, plus question and answer time. **Joan** and **Kathy** will also have flyers on hand to be posted here and in the surrounding towns advertising the sale.



This year we will once again have a garden tour for members and guests. **Trish Robinson** and **Gloria Kuran** are working feverishly to line up the gardens for our June 20th Members Garden Tour 2009. They are conscientiously taking a lesson from past years and keeping the travelling time and the number of gardens to a manageable level. The preliminary plan is to begin once again in Marsha Cope's riverside garden for a light breakfast, then cross back over the river to Trish Robinson's garden, along with one or two others, and finish at the historic herb garden at Hills House for a Brown Bag lunch. Gloria and Trish are finalizing the details even as you read this, so look for more information in the June newsletter. **Save the date: Saturday morning, June 20th.**



Ask Peony May, cont. from p.4

How to divide?

1. Dig around the perimeter of the plant with a sharp spade.
2. After digging all around the plant, slide your spade beneath the clump and lift it out of the ground.
3. Use a sharp spade or a knife to cut the clump into smaller, more manageable plants.
4. Discard any sections of the plant that are dead and trim off any damaged roots.
5. Keep the divisions moist and in the shade until they can be replanted.
6. Replant the divisions at the same depth the plant was originally Growing.
7. Water the newly planted divisions well and keep them from drying out while they re-establish themselves.



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 President Linda Schaeffer at 978 363-5251 or at linda-schaeffer@verizon.net

Board Meeting at Town Offices

May 14, 2009 at 7:00pm



Ask Peony **May**

Dear Peony,
My garden is chock-full of plants and I don't know what to do now that spring is here. How do I know when and if to divide my perennials? Help me.
Messy in Mass.

Dear Mess,
Sooner or later, perennials will get "too big for their britches" and will need to be divided. When? Some may need to be divided every 3-4 years, others will grow for up to ten years before they need to be divided, and a few species don't like to be divided at all. Let the plants tell you when it's time.
And, don't be nervous. Dividing perennials is often more stressful for the gardener than for the plants.
Yours in undivided gardening friendship, *Peonia*



Why Divide?

1. The plant is flowering less than usual and blooms are smaller.
2. Growth in the center of the plant is dying, leaving a hole in the center with growth only around the edges (eg. Siberian iris).
3. The plant isn't growing as vigorously as it has in the past, although you have fed it.
4. The plant has outgrown its space and is becoming crowded by its neighbors

When to divide?

- Spring is the best time to divide most perennials, with some exceptions.
1. Perennials that bloom in the spring, such as iris and poppies, can be divided in late summer to early fall.
 2. Some plants don't like to be divided or moved at all. These homebodies include peonies and tree peonies, foxtail lilies, bleeding hearts, goatsbeard and butterfly milkweed. They should be divided only when absolutely necessary.
 3. Never divide a perennial while it is blooming- too stressful for the plant.