

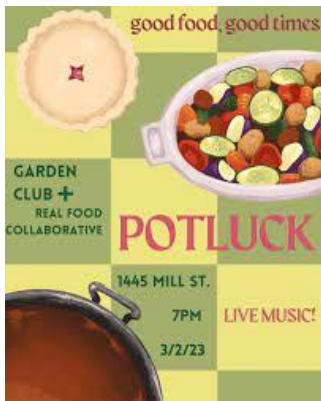


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## Next Meeting – May 4<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 pm - Annex Building

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### **Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner** by Alison Reyes



Our May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting is reserved for our annual meeting, final planning of our May plant sale, and potluck dinner. Members will come together to reflect on our accomplishments this past year, celebrate friendships old and new, and share our favorite foods. Topics include a review of the bylaws and election of officers.

To ensure a diverse potluck menu please bring a dish that corresponds with your last name. If your last name begins with:

- \*M-R- Please bring an Appetizer
- \*S-Z- Please bring a Main Course or Salad
- \* H-L- Please bring a Dessert

*Please bring your \$30 Dues – Checks preferred made payable to WNGC!*

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### **April Meeting -** by Alexis Katkevich



Our April meeting featured Betsy Szymczak, an expert gardener of all things Begonias. After teaching microbiology for 35 years at several local colleges and universities, Betsy retired and pursued her passion for growing flowers with a special interest in Begonias.

Members learned about the pantropic origins and how to grow and care for Begonias throughout the seasons. Practical information was shared regarding propagation methods, prospective challenges, and the specific requirements of different varieties. The many Begonia varieties that members learned about included Dragon Wing, Tuberous, and Winter Blooming. The Dragon Wing Begonia was highlighted as a readily available hybrid that can tolerate full sun more than other varieties. Betsy showed pictures of her Begonia gardens both inside and outside and even brought a few to share with the members, including one from a mother leaf that belonged to a winner at the Newport Flower Show. The hospitality committee provided a beautiful array of refreshments complete with abundantly flowering Begonia centerpieces.



Some of our hard-working diggers!  
Carrie Crowley, Dianna Fogel, Heather  
Conner, Helena Dion, & Mary Moody

## **Plant Sale Reminders** by Carrie Hometh

During the May meeting, Carrie will present a slide show highlighting details of the May 20<sup>th</sup> Plant sale. The sale requires a great deal of coordination and participation, and the club is grateful for everyone's help. Carrie will also have wooden sticks to mark your plants. Members are asked to label pertinent details using a sharpie pen in common language versus Latin names.

Additionally, our popular **Bake Sale** will be back again this year, thanks to Maureen Harris! The table of goodies will be located ON the Training Field under a tent, adjacent to where customers will be loading their plants.

### **Members are asked to:**

- Prepare baked items.
- Place on a paper plate, wrapped with plastic wrap, labeled with the name of food item and any common allergens i.e., nuts, milk, eggs. Gluten-free options are welcome along with dog and horse treats.
- **Drop them off at Maureen Harris 'house on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

If members need **help digging or potting plants**, they should contact Helena Dion **no later than May 1st**.

Members need to **drop off their labeled plants at the correct location noted below from Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> through noon on Thursday, May 18th** so the plants can be priced prior to transport to the Training Field. If you need pots for your plants, they are available in the vault at the Town Hall, across from the library. The key to the Town Hall can be checked out from the library desk. If you have been saving newspapers, please drop them off at Helena's house prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> so that the Digging Committee can use them.

### **Drop-off Locations:**

Sun Plants (need 6+ hours of sun/day) Lynn Boyd

Shade Plants (need 2-6 hours of sun/day) Sarah Robinson

Native Plants - Linda Schaeffer

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## **Supporting Climate Change in West Newbury** - by Lori Boudrow



On behalf of WNGC, the board of directors has submitted a letter to the West Newbury town manager in support of a climate change study that focuses on the flooding impact of the Merrimack River, related risks at River Road and its environment. This study will be conducted over various times and will enable the town and its residents to prepare and plan for the adverse effects of climate change. Our letter of support will aid the town as it seeks the MVP Action Grant funds for this study. More information can be found at: <https://www.wnewbury.org/climate-change-resiliency-committee>

***A Word from WN Wild & Native No Mow, Low Mow May and Why We Need It!*** - By Carol Decker



With warming temperatures and buds breaking, you may be thinking about garden cleanup and revving up the lawn mower. Did you know that your lawn and yard are critical to native bees and other pollinators in early spring? Many of our native bees can be found in our lawns when there are few other plants for them to forage on. By letting the clovers, spring beauties, violets and other non-native and native wildflowers bloom in April and May, you can help the bees get through this tough period.

Of course, No Mow, Low Mow May is only one step as native plants, shrubs and trees blooming from April through September in our yards are critical to support our native bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. By reducing the lawn area and replacing it with native plants, even in small steps each year, you will be helping ensure pollinators for future generations. Finally, put down the rake and leaf blower and enjoy beautiful spring. Leave the leaves around stone walls and in your garden beds as they are a natural mulch and harbor lots of pollinator and insect species that have yet to emerge. If you are itching for garden work, continue removing invasive shrubs and vines as the damp earth makes pulling invasive plants like Morrow's honeysuckle much easier.

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***Penny Pines Project Thank You!*** - by Diane Teed



Thanks to all of you for making the Penny Pines Project an unqualified success! Through your generosity, the WNGC has contributed \$680 to the NH White Mountain National Forest and \$408 to California forests for a total of \$1,088. As a result of your contributions, these two forests will gain 3,200 seedlings. In addition to their beauty, these plantings offer carbon sequestration, soil protection, a rich wildlife habitat, and improved forest health and are consistent with the WNGC mission to aid in, "the protection and conservation of natural resources". You did all this! THANK YOU.

*The club would also like to thank Diane Teed for running this successful fundraising campaign!*

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***Seeking a Member with Grant Writing Experience!*** - by Alison Reyes



Do you have grant writing experience? If yes, we need your expertise! Margo Pullman is chairing the Elwell Square Garden (traffic island garden at the intersection of Main & Maple) for a GCFM Civic Development Grant. Civic Development Grants are for new or on-going projects that garden clubs will help maintain. Please contact Lori Boudrow if you have grant writing knowledge and are willing to help with this project!

## **Reimbursement policy** – by Alison Reyes



Although the club appreciates donations, members can be reimbursed for items that pertain to the plant sale (i.e., soil) and your garden committee expenses. When submitting for reimbursement, please follow these steps:

- Submit expenses within 30 days to Treasurer Claudia Woods-Estin.
- Include original receipts.
- Indicate the nature of the expense e.g., specific community garden or plant sale soil.
- Include your name and address.
- Please cash the checks ASAP!

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## **2023 Bylaws** – by Lori Boudrow



Members will vote on the proposed slate of officers as well as By-Laws changes recommended by the Board. **Slate of Officers for 2023/24 is the following:**

President - Lori Boudrow  
1st Vice President - Maureen Harris  
2nd Vice President - Anne Sanchez-Felix  
Treasurer - Claudia Woods-Estin  
Recording Secretary - Karen Clagett  
Corresponding Secretary - Lynn Boyd  
Director - Hannah Page-Koch  
New Directors - Dianna Fogel\*\* Chris Gerzon\*\* Carrie Hometh\*\*

\*\*New officers will be nominated at the Annual meeting May 4, 2023.

**WNGC's By-Laws can be found in our Yearbook beginning on page 33. The following changes in RED are proposed by the Board:** Pg.33 Article II Membership Section 3

All active members are **encouraged to attend three (3) meetings a year unless prolonged illness or unusual circumstances prevent attendance.** All active members are expected to serve on one of the club's committees, assist at the annual plant sale, and assume hospitality duties at one of the club's meetings. Active members are required to pay the annual dues.

Pg 35 Article IV Dues Section 1. a) The annual dues for active members shall be \$30. Associate members shall **pay an additional 50%** of the annual dues. All dues are payable at the May meeting for the following year.

## ***Welcome New Member!***

Joanne Clark

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WNGC Newsletter  
Alison Reyes & Alexis Katkevich

Photography  
Anne Selig

Contributing Columnist  
Andrea Caswell, WNGC Member

WNGC President/Website  
Lori Boudrow

Facebook  
Chris Gerzon

West Newbury Garden Club  
P.O Box 11 West Newbury, MA 01985  
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### WNGC Privacy Statement

We respect the privacy of our members. Membership information in the Yearbook and/or in the Newsletter is for WNGC use only. Member Contact information is not to be released or used except within and for WNGC communication, and never for commercial purposes.

WNGC is a member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. Read their quarterly newsletter Mayflower for articles, announcements, events and workshops.

### **Stay Connected to WNGC**

Note: WNGC Board meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at Board members 'homes.  
Please contact Lori Boudrow if you wish to attend.