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## Next Meeting – November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6:30 pm - Annex Building

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### ***A Native Transformation***



Our November meeting will feature Katie Banks Hone, also known as the “monarch gardener”. Katie resides in Ipswich, MA and has transformed her riverfront property with over 80 species of native plants. Her garden boasts, “garden rooms” which attract bees, birds, and butterflies while also conserving water along one of the nation’s top ten endangered rivers. Join us for an informative evening! Guests are welcome for a \$5.00 fee.

*Members are reminded to bring a \$20 check for the Annual Holiday Party on 12/10 from 3-6 pm!*

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### ***Feeding Backyard Birds*** by Heather Conner



Our October meeting featured Bill Gette who began birding at age 16. He shared his knowledge and expertise on various birds, their appearances in the seasons, mating patterns, and what they like to eat. A common theme was to offer food for the birds you want to attract and avoid offering food for critters you do not want to attract. For example, safflower seeds are loved by many birds but not a favorite for squirrels.

Bill also recommends creating a pile of sticks and brush in your yard and not cleaning up gardens if you can help it. This provides an area for birds to nest and take cover during the winter months. Also, if you have dead branches or a tree, try to leave it in place unless it is a safety hazard. Titmouse, chickadee, and nuthatches enjoy tree cavities to nest in during the winter. Bill also encourages purchasing shade-grown coffee. This helps the Central and South American birds settle for the winter. Additionally, the clear cutting of fields for coffee reduces the space for birds to find sanctuary.

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### ***Plant Container Pot Drive*** by Carrie Hometh

The Plant Sale committee is holding a plastic container pot drive on **November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from 9-3 each day at “Old” Town Hall across from the library.** We are specifically looking for 1–2-gallon containers. Please note that we **do not need** small <6” containers. The pot drive will be unmanned. Please use the container on the left side of the Town Hall so your donation doesn’t blow away! Anne Sanchez-Felix & Carrie Hometh will move the donations each day at 3:00 and store them in the Vault. Mark your calendars now! We appreciate your help.

***Native Seed Planting – A Member Only Event!*** by Chris Gerzon



Would you like to add some native plants to your garden but don't quite know where to start? If yes, join us on **November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the 1910 Town Annex**. This member only, free native planting workshop will be given by several of our own garden club members including the knowledgeable Linda Schaeffer and Carol Decker who will share their expertise with us as we learn about how to incorporate natives into our existing gardens.

Late fall into early winter is the best time to plant many native seeds which need to, "winter over" to germinate and thrive. Members were unable to purchase natives at the plant sale because they sold out within the first hour! This workshop is a great opportunity to add natives to your garden and inspire you to sow more native seeds in the future.

The selection of seeds includes Butterfly Weed, Rose Milkweed, Common Milkweed, Great Blue Lobelia, Boneset, New England Aster, Wild Bergamot, Blue Vervain, Joe Pye Weed and others.

Please bring gloves, all other material will be supplied. **RSVP to Linda Schaeffer November 9<sup>th</sup>**. We look forward to planting with you! Carol Decker, Linda Schaeffer and Wild and Native Members

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***Notes from a Novice Gardener*** - by Andrea Caswell



In mid-fall, I often have the feeling that I'm behind: on garden tasks, on seasonal changeover tasks, on holiday prep and other year-end items. For example, I should have ordered bearberry plants a few months ago, for delivery in September or October. I had hoped to put in a new batch as groundcover, in a partly sunny spot in the yard where bearberry does well. But by the time I got organized enough to plan, most websites indicated "Sold Out" for small bearberry plants.

I was disappointed but determined to plant something this fall. "Well, I can still buy bulbs," I thought. Plenty of those were available online, and I ordered a collection of early bloomers. These are the brave little bulbs that could, the ones willing to poke through snow if they must. The collection includes crocus, eranthis, Galanthus, iris and daffodils. I'm hoping the bees will be big fans of these little cuties!

The delivery driver left the box—brimming with possibility—on our doorstep. Now I must spring into action and follow the instructions on what to do next. First, the bulbs are supposed to get some air and I let the bulbs sit quietly for a while (pictured) the bulbs ordered are in good condition. The Narcissi are the largest bulbs by far, each about the size of a small potato. The eranthis are the most diminutive; each bulb is no bigger than a blueberry. They all appear healthy and ready to go. Now the tricky part: not planting them until the soil is below 55 degrees, but well before the ground has frozen. I don't have a soil thermometer, or a crystal ball when the ground freezes. How will I determine the right time to plant these bulbs?

***Elwell Square Garden & Espoma Grant-*** by Lori Boudrow



WNGC maintains a traffic island garden located at Elwell Square, (intersection of Main and Maple St) and visible from the Post Office. Margo Pullman volunteered to chair in 2022 and quickly realized the plantings were overcrowded and the soil needed augmenting. In the Fall of 2022, the Elwell/Church St committee of Margo, Suzanne Coffin, Deb Duncanson, Kathy Krajewski, Maureen Leonard, and KC Swallow removed the plantings and bulbs from Elwell Sq. The plants were divided for reuse and donations to our Plant Sale. Margo submitted a new design plan along with a budget proposal which was unanimously supported by the Board. Spring 2023 brought the committee together digging up old plants, purchasing new plants, soil prep, and installation! How fortunate for town residents to watch this garden grow and come together!!

The Church Street planter is maintained by the team too! Planted with beautiful annuals this oversized container has posed a new challenge ...winter storage! If any club member can offer storage, please contact Margo. An inquiry for storage has been submitted to the WN DPW, fingers crossed!

Through the National Garden Club an Espoma grant of \$250 has been awarded to WNGC! The Elwell Square design provided the basis for the grant and our club was one of 20 dispersed nationally! A little about Espoma and their products: Espoma produces organic plant food products, manufactured at a state-of-the-art solar powered facility. NE rep, Charlie Shields has recommended their signature product Bio-Tone, a plant food with a unique blend of microbes and mycorrhizae to help develop deeper roots and allow plants to take in maximum water and nutrients. Plant-Tone, an all-purpose plant food sprinkled into the dirt and Soil-Perfactor, to improve soil and deter voles and moles. Lastly, Garden Gypsum which is recommended in the Spring for island gardens as it draws road salt out of the soil! Thank you Espoma!

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***Please Share During November Social Time!***



During our October board meeting we discussed how best to prepare your vegetable and flower gardens for winter. What works well for you? The Board thought this would be a great topic to discuss among ourselves at our November meeting. Please come prepared to share your thoughts on this topic so others can learn from you!

## ***Coming Soon!***

### **WNGC Holiday Party**

Our annual holiday party will take place on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 PM at Nunan's Café Sarina. This member only event is a great opportunity to socialize with fellow members as we enjoy a selection of savory and sweet hors d'oeuvres. Wine and beer are available for purchase. The cost per person is \$20.00 and the club will match payment. See yearbook for details and remember to ***bring your check on November 2nd, made payable to WNGC or mail to Treasurer Claudia Woods Estin. Sadly, our cutoff date of Thursday, Nov. 30th!***

### **The Museum of Old Newbury (Cushing House)**

WNGC has again been invited to decorate this lovely house - this year it's Margaret's Parlor! A free to the public "Open House" will be Sat, Dec. 2nd, and Sunday Dec. 3rd from 10:00-4:00. If you'd like to participate in the decorating, please contact Margo Pullman. Please be available to help set up Friday, Dec. 1st at 9:00 am and tear-down Tuesday, Dec. 5th at 9:00 am.

### **December Meeting**

Members are asked to please think about what you are willing to contribute from your property for our annual wreath decorating and tabletop making event. If you have material but are unable to collect it yourself, contact Lori Boudrow.

### **Anna Jacques Hospital**

Chaired by Karen Clagett, this committee will decorate two large holiday wreaths donated by the club. They will be installed at the hospital, bringing joy to both visitors and employees! It only takes a couple hours on the morning of Monday November 27<sup>th</sup>. Three volunteers are needed - please contact Karen Clagett.

### **Pettengill House Food Drive @ December 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The club will once again collect non-perishable food items, paper goods, personal hygiene products, and gift cards (i.e., Market Basket, Walmart, or other nearby shops). Food insecurity is at an all-time high ~ let's help this organization make a difference in the local communities!

***Thank you Peg Duchemin who has volunteered to transport our donations!***

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

Dianna Denning

**Contact Us!**

WNGC Newsletter Editors

Alison Reyes

Alexis Katkevich

Marley Switzer

Contributing Columnist

Andrea Caswell, WNGC Member

Facebook

Chris Gerzon

WNGC President/Website

Lori Boudrow

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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.

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**Stay Connected to WNGC**

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