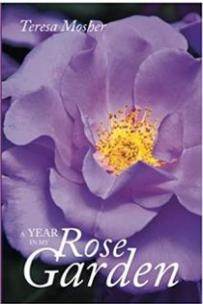


West Newbury Garden Club



Next Meeting – April 7th - 6:45pm - Annex Building



All Things Roses with Teresa Mosher

The April 7th meeting will feature Teresa Mosher, leading garden and rose consultant in New England and native of Methuen, MA. Her love for roses is rooted in her childhood as she watched her dad start seedlings, and plant them in the family garden each spring. Teresa's love for roses drives her to volunteer as president of the New England Rose Society, a Horticulture Rose Judge, and a consulting rosarian for the American Rose Society. Teresa will share her secrets on how to plant, protect, prune, fertilize, and choose hardy roses. Join us for an informative meeting shared with the Newburyport Garden Club.

Please note the April 7th meeting will also be available on Zoom. The meeting will begin at 7:15 PM with a short bit of business followed by the presentation at 7:20 PM. Members are asked to join between 7:00-7:15 PM and are reminded that this is not a produced event, so we will do our best to provide an enjoyable program.

Join WNGC March Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84361875912>

Meeting ID: 843 6187 5912

Passcode: 055878

Dial by your location:

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Refreshments will be served. Members who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask in public places, unless they or someone in their household is at risk for severe COVID.

March Meeting Highlights



Fred Chanania enlightened members with an engaging presentation about the history of New England forests. As resident and founder of the West Newbury Tree Committee, Mr. Chanania discussed local horticultural challenges such as the need for a local tree nursery, and the lethal invasion of the [Emerald Ash Borer](#), which is destroying native ash trees. With over 700 tree fatalities in West Newbury alone, residents are encouraged to actively seek out ash trees on their properties and get them inspected by an arborist to avoid further destruction by the Emerald Ash Borer. [Click here](#) to learn more about the West Newbury Tree Committee, and to access its many resources.

Art in the Garden – Pop up Tents Requested!

The Art in the Garden event is scheduled for June 18th and we are in search of 7-8 pop up tents. Please contact Margo Pullman margopullman@gmail.com if you have a tent we can borrow.

Deterring Deer from Eating Our Tulips by Kathy Mandeville

We planted tulip bulbs in our neighborhood a few years ago and come April, were thrilled to see the lovely green shoots coming out of the ground. They got taller, and taller, and the lovely buds formed and then – chomp! Gone in one day, chewed to the ground!



Last year, we spread soft fiber mesh netting over the emerging plants, staked at the corners by sticks, with enough “give” so that the plants could grow without being held down. Apparently, deer don’t like the feel of the mesh, and they move on. Though a bit unsightly if you stand over the “meshed plants”, the flowering bulbs looked beautiful from a short distance away. See what others recommend: [White Flower Farm](#) , [This Old House](#) .

Growing Dahlias by Barbara Merrill

Have you ever considered growing Dahlias only to decide they are too much work? Well, think again! For minimal effort you will reap the rewards of almost 4 months of continuous blossoms with plant heights ranging from 18-60 inches. Their blooming period is late July until the first frost - usually around the end of October in Massachusetts. Tubers should be planted in the ground after the last frost around mid-May.



Tubers can also be retrieved from the ground in the fall to avoid the harsh winter temperatures. Digging is easy with a pitchfork if the ground was properly prepared in the spring. Wash and let them dry for a day or two. Place them in a paper bag with vermiculite, peat moss, or wood shavings, wrapped in plastic (once tubers are dry) or place them in a plastic grocery bag with vermiculite. Store in an area between 40-55 degrees until they are ready for planting in the spring.

Dahlias are easy to grow, require a sunny location and good drainage. They like soil with rich organic content and require minimal watering. Add a high nitrogen fertilizer early spring and be sure to stake the taller plants. Dahlias also do well in pots, which make them ideal patio plants. Best of all, deer are not fond of Dahlias!

Herbal Corner – Lavender by Alison Reyes



English Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) is an evergreen plant that is native to the Mediterranean region but will thrive in our region (Zone 6B) during the summer months. The striking appearance of the lush purple flowers make it popular for gardeners worldwide. Lavender loves a sunny, wind-protected location with nutrient-poor sandy soil, and low moisture. With level ground and heavy soil, you can create hills or mounds to keep the roots from getting too wet. If you want to plant in raised garden beds, place each plant about 20-25 inches apart and, if you are planting lavender in a pot, be sure to layer with gravel to allow drainage. The fragrant oils of the lavender plant have calming effects and may be beneficial for insomnia, depression, and anxiety. Lavender oil is gently relaxing when used as aromatherapy, or the blossoms can be made into a tea. Aviva Romm, Integrative MD and internationally respected authority on botanical and functional medicine, recommends steeping ½ tsp. each of lavender blossoms, chamomile blossoms, and lemon balm leaf with 1 cup of boiling water for 20 minutes and enjoy! www.avivaromm.com

Worry Over Worms by Kathy Mandeville

At our September 2021 meeting, WNGC Member Carol Decker spoke briefly about an invasive species of earthworms showing up in Massachusetts and asking members to recognize and destroy them if found. These earthworms, referred to as “Jumping” or “Snake Worms” have now been found in our area, and all gardeners need to help control the spread. “These worms are invasive and cause harm to the soil....’they’ feed voraciously on the soil organic matter and excrete material that appears grainy, like coffee grounds, which changes the soil chemistry and decreases nutrient availability.” (UNH Extension March 2020).



Jumping worms die in the fall, but their tiny eggs are in the soil, and can easily be spread when dividing plants. This poses a challenge to garden clubs, such as ours, that have plant sales in the spring that feature locally harvested plants. Fortunately, there are recommendations that can help us reduce the risk of spreading jumping worms, and garden clubs certainly have a role in educating the public. Plant Sale Chairs Gail Dinero and Barbara Butler will be providing further guidance to members in April and May. In the meantime, learn how to recognize tell-tale signs of infestation; repot plants in new or washed pots; use only bagged or heat-treated potting soil or compost; and wash your hand tools between plants. Two very helpful fact sheets can be found at: [UNH Cooperative Extension](#) or [Cornell Cooperative Extension](#)

Notes from a Novice Gardener by Andrea Caswell



There must be things I was supposed to do in the garden this winter to prepare it for spring. For a host of reasons, I let it go, and now I am curious to see what will happen out there. As I walk around in the backyard, I notice that our fall clean-up was incomplete. In October and November, each time we dealt with the leaves, another windstorm would blow through town, flinging dry leaves everywhere again. Finally, I let the dead leaves “do their thing,” so they would provide organic material for the soil and increase moisture retention, while offering cover for caterpillars to become butterflies.

This month I have included a picture of a Hydrangea in the bed along the back patio. As the photo shows, I did nothing to help it weather the cold months. Brown flower petals hang from an old bloom, and fall leaves are still caught in the bush. As far as I can tell, this Hydrangea is dead. A part of me does not believe it will return to the green, lush state it enjoyed last summer, but maybe it will! Sometimes I wonder how the plants outside make it through New England winters. For the ones that do, their survival is a testament to just how hardy and resilient they truly are.

What many smart novice gardeners would have done in this situation is search the internet for, “How to prepare a hydrangea for winter.” They would watch a YouTube video and teach themselves all the steps to take, and when, to ensure the continued health of the plant. But lately, in the last year or so, I have been trying to limit my time online. If I start watching interesting and educational videos on YouTube, all will be lost, and I will never get off the computer. So for now, as I venture out onto the patio because the ice has finally melted, I am left to wait and wonder: is this hydrangea going to make it? What about the other plants? These are the questions that spring will answer.

Member News

Correction: Email for Debra Caminiti is: dcaminiti@caminiticonsulting.com

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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 2nd Tuesday of each month at Board members' homes.
Please contact Lori Boudrow if you wish to attend.