

West Newbury Garden Club



Next Meeting – November 3rd - 6:45 pm - Annex Building

Japanese Inspired Gardens



Our November meeting will feature a Japanese flair with Christie Dustman, owner of Christie Dustman & Company. She will share her knowledge of how elements of Japanese gardens can translate into our NE gardens. Christie will describe how the use of line, asymmetrical balance, intentional focal points, stone, and plants can influence our local gardens and create the evocative mood in a Japanese garden. For those of you who prefer to join virtually, contact Heather Conner by Oct 30th for the Zoom link.

****Celebrate the holiday season with your garden club friends on Sunday, Dec. 11th from 3-6pm at Café Sarina. Payment of \$20 (cash/check) will be collected at the November meeting. Join us for holiday cheer, dinner, dessert, and warmth of being together!*

October Meeting - An Apple a Day by Sherry Louden

Our October meeting featured Nancy Riggs, a retired teacher of 33 years and avid gardener with 2 master's degrees in gardening. Nancy shared her love of apples and provided some history and even a taste test of five different varieties of apples. Did you know that there are 7,500 varieties of apples worldwide and 2,500 which are grown in the United States? The apple originated in Kazakhstan in central Asia, east of the Caspian Sea. The capital of Kazakhstan, Alma Ata means "full of apples."

During the early 1800's John Chapman, later know as Johnny Appleseed was a prolific nurseryman, who planted acres & acres of apple seeds around America's western front. His apples were known as "spitters" because they were small and tart. During Prohibition, many cut down apple trees to eliminate "hard cider." While there are various theories why Steve Jobs named his company Apple, his biographer maintains, Steve Jobs just visited an apple orchard and thought the name was, "fun, spirited and not intimidating." It also listed him in the phone book before one of his rival companies, Atari. Members enjoyed taste testing five apples, Cortland, Gala, Liberty, Northern Spy & Spencer and rating the apples on appearance, crispness, juiciness, sweetness, and yummys. Three raffle winners also took away delicious apple treats purchased from Cider Hill Farms. There are many apple orchards around the Massachusetts and NH areas and now is a great time to take the kids and grandkids for some apple picking!



Nancy Riggs



Elsa Grammer & Maureen Harris

New Member Gathering

Many thanks to Gail Dinaro and the board members for hosting the October new member gathering! The event was a great opportunity to socialize, connect with board members, and learn more about the history of WNGC.



Gini Mazman, Lynn Boyd & Sherry Loudon



Karen Coggins, Linda Schaeffer, Gail Dinaro, & Irene Harnett

Putting Dahlias to Bed by Barbara Merrill



Now that you have enjoyed your dahlias' 3 months of continuous blooms, it is time to put the tubers to bed for the winter. After the first frost when the leaves start to shrivel, cut the foliage to 6 inches, and use a pitchfork or spade to dig the tubers. Wash tubers with a garden hose and leave for one day to dry protected from the elements. Tubers should be stored in a cardboard box or crate lined with about 10-12 layers of newspaper, although I have had success using garden pots. Add damp peat moss or wood shavings around the tubers and store in a cool, dry area ideally 40 - 50 degrees.

Harvesting Herbs for the Winter - by Alison Reyes



If you are an herb lover like me, it is time to start thinking about harvesting and cutting back your herbs for the winter so that you can enjoy them year-round. In Zone 6B, Perennial herbs like Oregano, Thyme, and Rosemary should be cut back a couple of weeks before the first frost, usually around mid-late October. Annual herbs like Basil, Dill, and Cilantro should be harvested entirely after the last frost as they will not survive a New England winter.

When harvesting herbs, cut them at the stems about ¼ inch above the soil, and cover the remaining stems with soil. This will protect the seeds that will be sown by the decaying plant and give them a better chance of making it through the winter and sprouting again in spring. For harvested herbs you can dry the leaves in a microwave, oven, or in some cases, freeze in ice cube trays for later use. Herbs with woody stems, such as Oregano, Rosemary, and Thyme, contain low water content so they are better off dried than frozen. To learn more about the many ways to preserve herbs: <https://morningchores.com/preserving-herbs/> Happy Harvesting!

Fall Garden Committee

Thank you to our Fall Garden committee members for their efforts! The Elwell Square Island Garden is being overhauled; watch for the new plantings in the spring.



Diana Fogel, Heather Conner & Diane Teed



Upcoming Holiday Events and General Reminders:

The Museum of Old Newbury (Cushing House)

Chaired by Margo Pullman, WNGC members are once again invited to decorate a room in this lovely house. For 2022, the WNGC will be tasked with decorating the China Trade Room. The installation date is Friday, 12/2 at 9am and the teardown date is Tuesday 12/6 at 9am. One additional volunteer is needed; please contact Margo Pullman if you are available.

December Meeting

Members are asked to please start thinking about what you are willing and able to contribute to our annual wreath decorating event.

Anna Jacques Hospital

Chaired by Karen Claggett, this committee will decorate two large holiday wreaths that will be displayed at the hospital. The committee is looking for a few volunteers; please contact Karen if you are willing to help.

Planning for the May Plant Sale

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 20th for the 2023 Plant and Bake Sale, held at the Training Field in West Newbury. Members will set up tables and move plants on the afternoon of Friday, May 19th. The rain date is Sunday, May 21st. A new member meeting about the Plant and Bake Sale will be held at Carrie Hometh's house on Thursday, October 27th at 5:00 pm. If you would like to learn more about how you can participate in the Plant and Bake Sale, please feel free to join us! ***Members are also reminded to mark your donated plants with the name, height & color. This is especially important for the native plants since they tend to be very small!***

Notes from a Novice Gardener by Andrea Caswell



The new fence wasn't meant to create a fortress. We just wanted to keep the rabbits out. It began several Saturdays ago, when my husband and I finally tackled the job of rabbit-proofing, and hopefully deer-proofing, a flower bed. Until recently, we'd been calling that section of our backyard "the kidney bean", and sometimes "the pollinator plot," which is what we hoped it will become. But every time we planted flowers in the back, the rabbits moved in swiftly and decisively.

At first, we made a half-hearted attempt at a small enclosure. My husband used short posts from his scrap pile in the woodshop, and attached deer netting around them with some twine. It was rather awful-looking, but worse, it didn't do the job. For our next attempt, we brought out heavy metal stakes, a mallet to drive them into the ground, and a larger swath of deer netting to surround them. We could see what we wanted to do, but we weren't exactly sure how to do it. Frankly, I'd expected my husband to take the lead. He's an engineer, after all! Why was he looking at me (an English and French Literature major) when it came time to build the fence? In the end, we improvised a bit, and that has been my goal all along in growing a garden: go with the flow. Experiment. See how things turn out. Learn from the results. Keep trying. Evolve.

Once we'd decided on the exact area to be enclosed (which turned out to be more of a rectangle than a kidney bean), my husband did use his muscles to drive the stakes into the ground. Then we simply unrolled the black mesh and stretched it tightly around the stakes, with multiple attachment points for security. A problem was that the mesh was 7 feet tall, but the stakes were less than four feet in height. We came up with the half-baked idea of rolling up the bottom edge of the mesh, which created a sort of impassable "mesh zone" at the base of the fence. To further fortify it, we borrowed about a dozen tent stakes from a tent we'll never use. When we stepped back to admire our handiwork, it became clear that no rabbit would ever make it through. We now call it "Mr. McGregor's Garden," with grand hopes for flowers in the spring.

WNGC Newsletter
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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 Monday of each month at Board members' homes. Please contact Lori Boudrow if you wish to attend.