

West Newbury Garden Club



Next Meeting – October 6th - 6:45 pm - Annex Building

An Apple a Day with Nancy Riggs



Our October meeting will feature Nancy Riggs who is a member of Holden Garden Club and her gardens have been featured in numerous garden tours. She will share her love of apples, apple trees, and the history of apple production. This presentation includes “apple tasting” with five in-season varieties of apples from a local orchard. Club business begins at 6:45 PM followed by Nancy’s presentation at 7:30 PM. Members can choose to attend in person or via Zoom, and membership will email the zoom link prior to the meeting. Meeting ID: 872 5892 2141 & Passcode: 516404

September Potluck Dinner

Our September meeting featured a potluck dinner, new connections, and slideshow presented by WNGC President, Lori Boudrow, highlighting our accomplishments this past year. Members also received an update from the board and presentation from [Nourishing the North Shore](#) by Tany Blasko. Gini Mazman, WNGC member and board member for [Nourishing the North Shore](#) was also acknowledged for her contributions to this much-needed program that promotes fresh produce to all residents of the north shore. Members received their club 2022-23 Yearbooks thanks to the hard work of yearbook Editor Lynn Boyd and help from committee members Wendy Gus, Linda Schaeffer, Maureen Harris, and Anne Sanchez Felix.



Board News

Thank you to the following board members who have completed their **terms on the Board**: Jane Jeffers, Kathy Mandeville & Linda Schaeffer. Welcome Treasurer Claudia Woods-Estin and Directors, Jean Berkenbush & Hannah Page Koch. Another round of applause for our **2022-23 WNGC Yearbook** - cover photo by Barbara Merrill and special thanks to Lynn Boyd who worked tirelessly (along with the yearbook committee). Members are asked to review the book for details on committee assignments, membership policies and obligations and the calendar of events.

Upcoming Holiday Events:

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. Contact Margo if you are available and would like to participate in this lovely event.

WNGC Holiday Party

This year's holiday party will take place on Sunday, December 11th from 3:00 pm-6:00 pm at Nunan's Cafe Sarina. Payment for the event will be collected at the November meeting. If you'd like to help with the party contact Maureen Harris.

Anna Jacques Hospital

Chaired by [Karen Clagett](#), this committee will decorate two large holiday wreaths that will be displayed at the hospital. The committee is seeking members who are available the weekend after Thanksgiving.

Save Those Geraniums by Kathy Mandeville

It isn't only that I hate to throw away living plants or spend a lot of money on new plants – well, maybe it's a bit of both – but also, it has been so EASY to save our geraniums from year to year. Before the first frost, I trim our geraniums to about one-half their size and store them in our cool basement (which has good-sized windows), and water them a few times during the winter. They get leggy by Spring, but then I bring them outside after danger of frost, do a little pruning, add water, and fertilize lightly. Alternately, you can shake the soil from the roots, hang them upside down (again, in a cool basement or garage), soak the stems a few times during the winter, then re-pot in the Spring. If you have a well-lit storage space that stays about 50-60 degrees in the winter and you can REMEMBER to water the plants a few times, you too can enjoy your lovely container beauties.



Kathy's 5 year old Geranium

Massachusetts Master Gardener Association by Kathy Mandeville

At the September member meeting, mention was made of members who were “master gardeners” – a formidable designation at the least! The “Master Garden Program” was started in the 1970’s by university-based Cooperative Extension Agents in the Seattle area who provided intensive horticultural training for avid home gardeners. The program became popular and effective, and was soon adopted by land-grant state universities, with the goal that participants would volunteer in their communities by giving lectures, providing gardening help, staffing help-lines and many other projects - all based on current evidence-based horticultural practices. The University of Massachusetts had a Master Gardener (MG) Training Program until 1989, but state-funding caused UMASS to re-focus on commercial growers. MG programs were then started in different regions of Massachusetts. In 2008, the Eastern Region MG program became incorporated as the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association (MMGA). To receive their monthly newsletter, *The Dirt*, click [here](#).

MG Training Programs can be found in all 50 states and 8 Canadian provinces. Programs typically include several sessions of horticultural coursework, homework and tests, and supervised experience. In order to maintain active status, Master Gardeners are expected to achieve a minimum number of continuing education hours, gardening at approved sites, and group sessions annually. For more information on the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association Training Program, click [here](#).

Notes from a Novice Gardener by Andrea Caswell

And all at once, summer collapsed into fall. ~ Oscar Wilde



I’m excited about fall. Now that I’m retired from teaching, I can enjoy the excitement of back-to-school without having to pull it off. Football season gets underway, my favorite season. And according to a gardening magazine I read, it’s an important time in the garden. I’m sure I didn’t do enough out there this summer (watering and weeding), so this feels like my chance to take care of things I may have missed.

Generally I assume fall is when things die, so it didn’t occur to me I could plant now. But after reading a “Guide to Fall Garden Tasks,” I learned that because the soil is still warm, it can be a better time to plant than early spring. Also, because fall plantings don’t have to withstand summer’s heat and possibly drought, they may establish better. No doubt this depends on which type of plants and the ensuing conditions. Still, it was good information for a novice to consider.

So I ordered some plants for shipment “in the fall.” When the UPS driver delivered them last week, it felt like Christmas! That was the fun part. Once the plants were on my doorstep, though, they were in my care, and I had to try not to kill them. The box they arrived in was sturdy, about the size of a large dictionary. I brought it inside and set it on the kitchen island. The next day, I noticed in all-caps on the box “This side up” (with arrows pointing vigorously upward) and “Do not lay flat” (exactly as I’d done when I set it on the counter). I moved on.

I opened it carefully and found two plants (*monarda punctata*) that looked healthy, and a third one that looked as if it had a rough trip. The vendor refunded my money for the exhausted one. I followed instructions to place them outside so they could acclimate to the outdoors.

After a few days on the deck, I planted them in a kidney-bean shaped bed in the backyard. I even planted the half-dead one in case it decides to recover. This was toward the end of a busy Saturday, and I still needed to cook dinner. I hadn't had time to construct a mesh fence, even a temporary one, to keep out the rabbits. What a risk! When I looked out the window in the morning to see if the plants had survived the night, they were still there, untouched. *To be continued...*

Member News:

Welcome New Members!

Sherry Loudon

Joan Reynolds

Nicole Surette

Contact us

WNGC Newsletter Editor
Alison Reyes

WNGC Newsletter Editor
Kathy Mandeville

Contributing Columnist
Andrea Caswell, WNGC Member

Facebook
Chris Gerzon

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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.

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.

