



Next Meeting – December 7th - 6:30 pm - Annex Building

Holiday Town Decorating



Our December 7th meeting will be dedicated to annual wreath decorating for the town and tabletop arrangements for the residents of the WN Community Housing. The club will supply wreaths, decorative materials, and bows created by our best bow-maker, Gail Dinero. Members are asked to come with greens from your yard and decorations that you would like to use or offer to others. Please also bring cutters and wire to help fasten the embellishments. This is an all hands-on-activity, and we need you, your ideas, your nimble fingers, and your plant materials.

📌 ***Last Call to attend our Dec 10th Holiday Party.***

Drop your check to Claudia Woods Estin by Thursday, November 30th ~ see our yearbook for more details.

The club will once again be collecting donations for the Pettengill House Food Pantry at the Dec. meeting. Please bring your donation of non-perishable food, personal care items, or local establishment gift cards (i.e., Market Basket, Walmart).

The Monarch Gardener by Alison Reyes



Our November meeting featured Katie Banks Hone, also known as the “monarch gardener.” Gifted a grant from the Plum Island/Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Estuary Slow the Flow program, Katie transformed her Ipswich riverfront property by adding over 80 species of native plants. The Slow the Flow program encourages residents within the Plum Island Sound to implement native green landscapes to improve water quality along the Plum Island Estuary.

Today, her garden boasts, “garden rooms” which attract bees, birds, and butterflies while also capturing and conserving water along one of the nation’s top ten endangered rivers. Members learned about the Monarch Waystation 5687 which, “provides resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain the migration.” Members also learned about the many varieties of natives and the best time for planting.

A Native Transformation by Chris Gerzon

WNGC members gathered at the Town Annex on November 11th for the first Native Plant Workshop. Chaired by Linda Schaeffer and Carol Decker, participants learned the importance of planting natives to protect our endangered pollinators. The workshop was prefaced with an informative presentation by Carol Decker followed by a hands-on native seed planting.

Insects have been the structural and functional basis of the world's ecosystem for 400 million years yet today, more than 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered due to habitat loss, pollution, and climate change. The introduction of non-native plants has also hurt insects. Because many insects have evolved to feed on or fertilize a single plant species, the disruption of the plant world can have an outsized effect. Three-quarters of the world's flowering plants and about a third of the world's food crops depend on pollinators at some stage. There is a practical action we can all take in our gardens by making sure we support the insect population and the birds and animals they feed by planting native plants. The good news is that native plants are easy to grow and do not require fertilization or constant care.

After Carol's presentation, members had the opportunity to choose from a wide array of native seeds and enjoyed learning more about each plant and how to incorporate them in our existing gardens. Members left the workshop with several seeds safely planted and ready to "winter over" for planting next year. The vast array of Zone 6B native beauties included Butterfly Weed, Rose Milkweed, Common Milkweed, Great Blue Lobelia, Boneset, New England Aster, Wild Bergamot, Blue Vervain, and Joe Pye Weed. And the good news is that once these plants become established in our gardens, we can split and sell at our annual plant sale ensuring that our community is doing its part to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Thank you, Carol, and Linda!



Anna Jacques Hospital - Wreath Decorating



We know the 2023 Holiday Season is upon us when the club attends wreath decorating at Anna Jacques Hospital! On Monday, Nov 27th two (2) 30" wreaths, purchased by the club, were decorated by chair Karen Claggett and her elves Irene Harnett and Jane Jeffers. These displays bring great joy to employees, patients, and visitors to our community hospital.

Garden Committee Spotlight Town Hall - By Alexis Katkevich



The garden located at the West Newbury Town Hall on 381 Main Street is a daily sight for many local residents, and is tended to by WNGC members Linda Schaeffer, Carol Decker, Peg Duchemin, Hannah Page Koch, Nancy Pau, Anne Selig, & Deb Whitaker. Although the garden space was removed this year when the building was repainted to portray historically accurate colors, it will undergo exciting renovations in spring 2024.

Linda Schaeffer, WNGC member since 2005 and Town Hall Committee Chair since 2010, shares that the “plan is to create a native garden as a demonstration garden for the town to see the beauty and benefits of planting natives.” She adds that the gardens in front of the building and along the left side will help highlight the diverse design opportunities for native gardens as “part of a chain of native gardens throughout town.” This will provide a wonderful opportunity for residents to be inspired as native plant landscaping trends gain more momentum.

The committee faces unique challenges, however, as the Historical Commission requests that the garden be no more than two feet high at the front of the building. Keeping this height requirement in mind, Linda expects beautiful native plants to be selected that also require little maintenance and “can tolerate west facing afternoon sun.” While we can all look forward to this new native garden, planters with seasonal displays will continue to be visible in front of the Town Hall building. Like perhaps many of us, Linda joined the WNGC to meet new friends who share a love of gardening and from whom she could gain “knowledge, experience, and camaraderie.” Renovating a garden space with native plants on a historical property brings specific challenges. However, with seven committee members Linda says, “many hands make light work,” and everyone is looking forward to working together again this spring to bring the garden to life.

Board News

The club has continued its commitment to Greenbelt, Essex County’s Land Trust by making its annual donation of \$300. We have also met a GCFM challenge that every Massachusetts Garden Club make a single donation of \$68 to Penny Pines. If each club in MA contributes, the money collected will exceed the 2023 drive!

The Executive Board extends a Happy Holiday & Happy New Year to our members!

Cushing House “Free” Open House Tour 🏠

Saturday, December 2nd & Sunday the 3rd from 10-4 will be your opportunity to view this historical home with holiday trimmings by local garden clubs, including ours! Margaret’s Parlor decorated by our own Margo Pullman, Hannah Page Koch, and Claudia Woods Estin. Support their efforts by attending the open house!

WNGC National Penny Pines Program



During our November meeting GCFM 1st VP and District Advisor, Kim Edwards presented the club with a certificate for the members contribution to the National Program, Penny Pines. Kim met the committee chair, Diane Teed, along with members of the club and stayed to enjoy the evening program.

Welcome New Member!

Mary Marino

Contact us!

WNGC Newsletter Editors

Alison Reyes

Alexis Katkevich

Contributing Columnist

Andrea Caswell, WNGC Member

Facebook

Chris Gerzon

WNGC President/Website

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