

WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB
ARCHIVED NEWSLETTERS

2022

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West Newbury Garden Club



Next Meeting – December 1st - 6:45 pm - Annex Building

Holiday Town Decorating

Our December 1st meeting will be dedicated to wreath decorating for the town and table top arrangements for the residents of the WN Community Housing. How great that we can meet again this year as a club and share in creating decorations for our community! The club will supply the wreaths, decorative materials, and bows created by Gail Dinaro. 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.



A local Brownie troop will be joining us at the December meeting for their wreath making badge, anyone interested showing the scouts how to make a wreath using a wire frame please reach out to Lori Boudrow.

We will be collecting donations for the Pettingill House Food Pantry at the Dec. meeting. Please bring your donation of staple foods, personal care items, or local establishment gift cards (i.e Market Basket, Walmart).

Celebrate the holiday season with your garden club friends on Sunday, Dec. 11th from 3-6pm at Café Sarina.

A payment of \$20 is needed by Nov. 30th.

Need a ride? Ask a member or reach out to the board and we can coordinate transportation!

Japanese Inspired Gardens by Christine Gerzon



At our November meeting, expert gardener, Christie Dustman, principal owner of Christie Dustman and Company, a garden design firm based in Boston gave an informative and entertaining presentation on how to incorporate Japanese inspired design principles into our own home gardens. Using clear, effective slides, she showed us photos of the gardens she has visited over the years in both Japan and in this country, including the Japanese Garden in Portland, Oregon. She also showed us photos of gardens she has designed for her clients. What they

all have in common are some design principles that can transform any garden into an evocative, natural environment sure to entice your family and friends.

One principle is the use of vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines to clearly define your space. These lines can be created with plants, shrubs, statues, trees and elements like stone, fences, and even intentional empty spaces. The use of clear lines can provide our garden with a sense of dynamic rhythm. Horizontal lines can evoke a sense of serenity while vertical lines evoke tension and power, and diagonal lines might evoke excitement.

Another principle found in all Japanese gardens is the concept of balance which is used to provide visual dynamism. Unlike English gardens which use *symmetry*, in Japanese gardens, *asymmetry* creates a sense of mystery. When an arbor or entryway is used, it is placed off center to create a compelling invitation to enter discovering what cannot be seen at first glance.

Japanese gardens often mimic the nearby natural landscape. Home gardens are designed to incorporate "borrowed scenery" recreating in miniature the view of features outside the garden such as hills, water and buildings. This practice makes the garden seem larger than it really is. Japanese gardeners use a limited palette of plants including evergreens, shrubs (rather than flowers), stones, gravel, statues, bamboo, moss, and bonsai (which is pruned to mimic what the natural elements would have done).

Creating a Japanese inspired garden is within reach of every gardener and using these principles can help us revitalize our own gardens. If you are interested in seeing some Japanese garden designs, please visit <https://japanesegarden.org> or Christie's website at <https://christiedustman.com>.

Saving Forests \$68 At A Time



We rarely have an opportunity to make a minimal investment, requiring minimal effort, which guarantees abundant beneficial returns. Penny Pines, a California conservation program founded in 1941 that eventually expanded to all 50 states, offers a proven chance to make a positive environmental change.

Penny Pines Program

As members of a qualifying garden club, for a donation of \$68.00, (or multiples of \$68.00), the USDA Forest Service will apply our contribution to the cost of planting "approximately 200 replacement seedlings" indigenous to a particular damaged area. Whether by fire or a natural catastrophe, pine trees and other lost trees will be replaced. The plantations are a part of the regular National Forest reforestation program.

How can you contribute?

We would love to see 100% participation. No contribution is too large or too small. We suggest you set up a "Penny Pines vase" at your home to collect loose change from NOW until March 2, 2023 for this special cause.

What will the WNGC do?

At our March 2, 2023 meeting, in conjunction with our scheduled presentation "Gardening in a Changing Climate", Diane Teed has offered to collect everyone's change and coordinate the joint submission to Penny

Pines. **Please consider participating in this uniquely worthwhile project. We welcome any amount that is right for you!** We will be sharing examples of the national success of this program over the next few months. Watch for our monthly reminders!

Herbal Corner – by Alison Reyes



For many of us, the holidays are a special time to create new memories with family and friends but also a time to revisit recipes that have been passed down from generation to generation. Some of my favorite holiday spices include ginger, rosemary, and sage. Ginger was first discovered almost 5,000 years ago and is used in every country and culture. Medicinally, ginger is useful for nausea, inflammation, and indigestion. A staple for gingerbread cookies and pares well with carrots and honey. Rosemary is native to the Mediterranean coast and is a symbol of remembrance. A powerful antioxidant and immune booster, you can add it to potatoes or ham and be sure to use the fresh sprigs for extra flavor. Sage is also native to the Mediterranean region and, can support brain health and memory. It pares well with stuffing, apples, squash, and turkey. Spice up your holidays with these herbal wonders!

Upcoming Holiday Events and General Reminders:

The Museum of Old Newbury (Cushing House)

Members are encouraged to visit the Cushing House at the Museum of Old Newbury - 98 High St, Newburyport on Sat. Dec. 3 & Sun Dec 4 from 10-4. This is a FREE event. Thank you to Margo Pullman, Hannah Page Koch, and Karen Coggins for their willingness to decorate the China Trade Room.

Plant Sale Pot Drive



The WNGC is planning a pot drive to replenish our inventory of pots needed for our annual plant sale. Members are asked to bring your pots to the Town Hall building (across from the library) on Saturday November 26 and Sunday November 27 from 10-3. Recycle containers will be set up along the east side wall of the building. In the event of wind, please leave the pots secure or consider bagging them. Please be selective when donating and make sure your pots are free of debris.

Our highest volume is 1-gallon pots, roughly 7"H x 7"W and "6 Pack" rectangular peat containers. Please limit the number of 12" wide or larger pots and note that smaller pots (less than 6" wide) are not needed at this time. We appreciate any donations that fit these criteria!

Reminders and Notes from the Board

Digital Documents

Thank you to Barbara Merrill, Dot Cavanaugh, Joanne Gay, and Kathy Mandeville, for their hard work and recommendations to digitally archive our clubs' various documents. A long-discussed action and the board is happy to see it come to fruition!

Welcome New Members!

Megan Chiango
Heidi O'Connor

WNGC Newsletter
Alison Reyes & Sherry Loudon

Contributing Columnist
Andrea Caswell, WNGC Member

Facebook
Chris Gerzon

WNGC President/Website
Lori Boudrow

West Newbury Garden Club
P.O Box 11 West Newbury, MA 01985
Email: mrcwebmaster@comcast.net

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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.

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 yumminess. 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
Alison Reyes & Sherry Loudon

Contributing Columnist
Andrea Caswell, WNGC Member

Facebook
Chris Gerzon

WNGC President/Website
Lori Boudrow

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Please contact Lori Boudrow if you wish to attend.

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

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West Newbury Garden Club



Next Meeting – September 8th - 6:00 pm - Annex Building

Welcome Back!

As is our tradition, our September meeting will feature a potluck dinner, slideshow highlighting past club events, update from the board, a brief presentation from [Nourishing the North Shore](#), and ample social time to connect with new and existing members. Members will receive their club 2022-23 Yearbooks thanks to the hard work of yearbook Editor Lynn Boyd, with help from committee members Wendy Gus, Linda Schaeffer, Maureen Harris, and Anne Sanchez Felix. Big thanks to Jane Jeffers and Elisa Grammer for updating our website!

Members who have last names starting with A-G, please bring an appetizer, main dish, or dessert. Members who have last names starting with H-Z will be asked to contribute to our May meeting.

June Meeting and Flower Arranging



Our June meeting featured WNGC member Margo Pullman who shared her flower arranging expertise. Members enjoyed learning about mass design, color theory, contemporary design, and floral mechanics. A big thanks to the hospitality committee which included Dot Cavanaugh, Chair, and members Sharon Dahn, Susan Dougherty, Sally Fabian, Joanne Gay, Joan Quakenbos, Marie Scher, Claudia Woods-Estin, Gini Mazman, and Ann Selig.

Memorial Day Parade

The annual West Newbury Memorial Day Parade featured WNGC members who shared their enthusiasm and love of gardens and veterans. Burt Knowles, longtime resident of West Newbury, once again generously trucked the decorated float, and members enthusiastically paraded Main Street to promote our club and mission. A big thanks to Maureen Harris, WNGC 1st Vice-President, who organized the event and to all members who participated!



Elisa Grammer & Lori Boudrow



The Marching Crew!



Alison Reyes & Chris Gerzon

Board of Directors News

Many thanks to our past and newly elected Board of Directors. Leaving the Board are Kathy Mandeville having served as a Board Director for 2 years and President for 5 years; Jane Jeffers - board member since 2006 having served as a Director, President, 1st Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer; and Linda Schaeffer – board member since 2007, having served as a Board Director, 2nd Vice-President and President.

Welcome to new Board Directors Jean Berkenbush, and Hannah Page Koch, along with Claudia Woods-Estin who will serve as Treasurer.

Art in the Garden – by Margo Pullman

Art in the Garden 2022 was a great success with a 16% increase in ticket sales from the previous garden tour. Feedback from visitors, gardeners, musicians, and artists was overwhelmingly positive. A comment we heard from everyone was that the ticket price was low for the quality of the event, and this was a great compliment to the garden hosts, artists, and musicians!

The event had many challenges including the closing of the Rocks Village Bridge and the Merrimac gardens had to be deferred to 2025 and 4 new gardens were added. All this added to a condensed timeline which was duly met by the WNGC and the West Newbury Cultural Council. To top it off, there was a helium shortage for balloons but located in Plaistow, NH.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to the WNGC members who tirelessly supported this event... PR team, website coordinator, newsletter team, treasurer, garden attendants, and of course our garden hosts! Thanks to all who promoted Art in the Garden to their friends and family. A special thank you to Irene Hartnett and Lori Boudrow for their steadfast support, can-do attitude, and sense of humor. Now, to end on a high note, here are some comments from attendees:

"The gardens and music were magical."

"The tour had the best variety of gardens."

"I thought I was just on a garden tour but ended up buying art which was a bonus."

"Can't wait for next year."

"I'm so inspired for my own garden."

"We had the best time exploring the hidden pockets of the area."

"The tour was so organized."

"Better than the Newburyport tour."



Open Gardens 2022

For the second year, WNGC club members had the opportunity to informally socialize and share garden ideas in a relaxed garden setting. This summer Deb Whitaker, Anne Sanchez-Felix, Margo Pullman, and Carrie Hometh graciously offered to open their gardens to club members. Some brought family members whom we enjoyed meeting. The events were enthusiastically received by 20 - 25 attendees at each garden. The hosts offered wine and light refreshments which were appreciated by all. Thanks to our hosts who made this possible! Thanks also to member, Barbara Merrill, who took this idea and made it a delightful happening.



Margo Pullman's Garden



Carrie Hometh's Garden

Memorial Donation

For many years, gardeners in the area have appreciated Byfield Greenhouses, a nursery run by the Sforza family. Susan Sforza Nico worked with her father as farm manager there for the past 15 years, and in May, was killed by a tragic accident while working at the greenhouses. Sadly, the family made the decision not to reopen the nursery. To honor Susan's love of animals, the WNGC donated to the NH SPCA.

West Newbury Council on Aging now called "The Sage Center"

The club is pleased to have contributed to some of the many changes happening at our town's senior center. Located on the first floor of the 1910 Building, the town purchased planters for the patio adjacent to the center. This summer, WNGC board members funded and planted four of the patio planters. Pictured are members Gail Dinaro, Karen Claggett and Anne Sanchez-Felix.



WNGC Field Trip - Brave Boat Harbor Farm by Kathy Mandeville

A big thanks to Barbara Merrill for organizing a day trip to this horticultural gem in York, Maine. Barbara described the trip: “We were greeted with lovely gardens and fields overlooking the ocean. Two generations of owners designed and worked these gardens for 75 years. There were many perennials including deep blue delphinium at peak bloom, unusual poppies, and many others. There is an impressive stone house surrounded by cottage gardens. Afterward many of us enjoyed a convivial lunch at a local eatery.” Enjoying the day with Barbara were Lynn Boyd, Karen Clagett, Irene Harnett, Jeanne Pucci and Carrie Hometh, and husband, Rod.



Lynn Boyd, Karen Clagett,
Irene Harnett, and Barbara Merrill



Lynn Boyd, Karen Clagett, and Jeanne

For more information on this lovely garden, go to: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days/garden-directory/braveboat-harbor-farm>

Special gardens are always more interesting to visit in the company of other gardeners. If you have gardens that YOU would like to recommend as a club field trip, contact Barbara Merrill at barbmerrill2@aol.com

Notes from a Novice Gardener by Andrea Caswell



Whenever I'm lucky enough to travel, I try to visit local gardens if possible, to see "what's growing on." On a recent trip to Michigan, I spent an afternoon at the impressive [Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park](#). Set on 158 acres in Grand Rapids, the outdoor portion of the park features a world-renowned sculpture collection (including a Rodin), perennial and farm gardens, a children's garden, meadows, woodlands, and wetlands. Indoor facilities include conservatories featuring different plant types (such as tropical, desert, and carnivorous), as well as rotating horticultural and art exhibitions. I especially enjoyed an "orchid wall" in the tropical section, and a stroll through a Victorian garden decorated with fountains, greenhouses, and benches, amid ferns and other greenery.

The highlight of my visit was seeing the glorious Japanese garden, an oasis of peaceful beauty spread across eight acres. It was designed by Hoichi Kurisu, a master craftsman I've written of in a previous column. Like other

sacred spaces that Kurisu has created, this special garden incorporates recognizable design elements such as waterfalls, arched wooden bridges, natural boulders, a bonsai garden, and a traditional teahouse. For an hour I followed winding pathways among hundreds of pines, sat on stone benches in shaded nooks, and wound my way through a bamboo forest. Other trees included flowering cherries, Japanese maples, willows, aspens, and cedars. Pink flowers blossomed on water lilies; haiku poetry was etched into rocks. In short, this magnificent garden epitomized much of what a garden can be: a place of tranquility, of wonder at nature's beauty, of quiet reflection, and of renewal in the face of modern busy life.

The Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park is open 362 days a year, throughout the Michigan winter. On Tuesdays the grounds remain open until 9 p.m. During the summer, concerts and picnics can be enjoyed at an outdoor amphitheater. Year-round, programs also include classes and horticultural presentations. There's really something for everyone! Members of the American Horticultural Society and select other botanical gardens enjoy reciprocal admissions privileges. For more information, visit www.meijergardens.org.

Contact us

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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.

West Newbury Garden Club



Next Meeting - June 2nd - 6:45pm - Annex Building

Flower Arranging with Margo Pullman



Our June meeting will feature WNGC member Margo Pullman who will share her expertise with flower arranging. Margo's interest in floral training came as a result of her love of flowers and her time with Boston's MFA floral designer program. This 10 week training includes topics like mass design, color theory, contemporary design, and floral mechanics. Margo has continued to enhance her learning by taking floral master classes with designers Ariella Chezar, Francoise Weeks, Laura Dowling and Christian Tortu. She is passionate about teaching others so join us for a fun and informative evening!

*Members are reminded to bring \$30 for annual dues to the June meeting or mail to Jane Jeffers no later than July 15th.
No meeting in July or August.*

Our first Fall meeting will take place on September 8th, 2022. More details to follow in our September newsletter!

PLEASE BRING PLANT SALE YARD SIGNS TO THE JUNE MEETING!

May Meeting Highlights



Our annual meeting took place on May 5th with over 50 members in attendance. The board members were elected for the 2022-2023 calendar year and all by-law changes were accepted by the membership. Members enjoyed an abundance of food as part of our annual pot-luck tradition. Alison Scher was recognized for her 29 years of membership and contributions as past president, board member, and former webmistress of the WNGC website and WNGC Facebook page.

Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipients!



*Silas Bucco &
John Terry*

We are pleased to announce our 2022 scholarship winners! Our first scholarship recipient is Silas Bucco from West Newbury. Silas (pictured to the right with WNGC member, John Terry) attends the University of Rhode Island as an environmental science major. He spent last summer interning at the [Gulf of Maine Institute](https://www.gulfmaine.edu/) and will return this summer for a second year. Silas also helped out at this year's plant sale. Thank you, Silas!

Our second recipient is Caleb Calderwood who also lives in West Newbury. He is a senior at Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School and studies Natural Resource Management. He will attend Great Bay Community College next year. Congratulations Silas and Caleb!

Annual Plant and Bake Sale

Our annual plant fundraiser was a great success, with an excellent turnout from our community and beyond! A big thank you to the following members:

Plant and Bake Sale Chairs - Gail Dinaro and Barbara Butler

Digging Committee - Chair Gail Dinaro and members Lori Boudrow, Karen Claggett, Heather Conner, Carrie Crowley and Members Helena Dion, Dianna Fogel, Jane Jeffers, KC Swallow, Claudia Woods-Estin

Sun Plants Committee - Chair Lynn Boyd and members Barbara Merrill Hannah Page Koch, Deb Whitaker, Diane Teed, Joan Reynolds Ann Craig, Katie Clapp, Joanne Gay

Shade Plants Committee - Chair Linda Schaeffer and Co-Chair Kathy Krajewski and members Karen Claggett, Deb Duncanson, Anne Fitzgerald, Mary Kuck, Mary Moody, and Honorary Member, Dave Kuck

Native Plant Committee - Chair Kathy Mandeville and members Gail Dinaro, Nancy Pau, Carol Decker, Andrea Caswell, Debra Caminiti, John Terry, and Judy Bloomgarden

Holding Area - Chair Jane Jeffers and members Helena Dion, Rosemarie McCobb, Maureen Leonard, Lori Boudrow, Wendy Gus, Susan Dougherty, Donna Greene, Anne Selig, Chris Gerzon

Bookkeeping and Cashiers - Chair Jane Jeffers, and members Dot Cavanaugh, Marie Scher, Alison Scher, Carrie Hometh, Dianna Fogel

Bake Table - Chair Maureen Harris and members Peg Duchemin, Sarah Robinson. and Sharyn Dahn

Publicity - Chair Karen Diambola and members Karen Claggett, Cyndy Bourquard, Jane Jeffers

Lastly, to all our members (and family members) who also helped with digging, publicity, set-up, breakdown, and for those who provided beautiful baked goods. Our sincerest apologies to anyone that may inadvertently been omitted. The enthusiasm of our members and sincere interactions with our customers was greatly appreciated!



Jane Jeffers & Lori Boudrow



Steve Jeffers, Dot Cavanaugh,
Marie Scher, Alison Scher



Nancy Pau, Kathy Mandeville,
Carol Decker



Susan Dougherty



Christine Gerzon

Memorial Day Parade – Monday, May 30th

Remember! Members are asked to meet at the West Newbury Learning Center parking lot (277 Main Street) at **10:00 AM**. Decorate your sun hat and join other WNGC members on our float honoring our veterans and celebrating our town.

Yearbook Updates for 2022-2023

Members are asked to please notify Membership Chair, Linda Schaeffer no later than July 15th if you would like to make any changes to your assigned committees or if you will not be renewing your membership.

Art in the Garden – Saturday, June 18th



Art in the Garden, a collaboration between West Newbury Garden Club and the West Newbury Cultural Council, will feature nine gardens and artists this year. WNGC members assist by selling tickets in advance, or at each of the garden sites. Margo Pullman, WNGC member, is coordinating this event and members are still needed to work at each garden to check tickets. The WNGC website will be updated to include write ups for each garden, along with the artists and musicians!

Garden Visits this Summer

Barbara Merrill is organizing visits to member gardens in July and August as well as possible field trips. Contact Barbara if you'd like to host a visit, have destination ideas, or for more information.

Nourishing the North Shore



[Nourishing the North Shore](#) is a Newburyport based non-profit working to expand food access in our community. They specifically partner with local farmers to distribute produce to food insecure individuals and families. Their mission is to ensure equal access to healthy, local food to all members of the North Shore Communities in a manner that builds community, fosters connection, and promotes dignity and self-reliance. For more information on volunteer opportunities and their activities, contact them.

Welcome New Member: Gwenyth Hoffman

Herbal Corner – Oregano by Alison Reyes



Oregano (*Origanum Vulgare* & *Origanum Majorana*) is a hardy herb that will flourish in Zone 6B in the spring and summer months. Oregano grows best in full sun with at least 6 hours daily, and soil that is well drained. When spacing oregano, allow 8-10 inches between plants. Oregano is heat tolerant with ideal growing conditions between 60-80 degrees fahrenheit.

Fresh oregano works great as an antibacterial agent due to its powerful phytonutrient properties. For centuries, oregano has been used to fight infections such as staphylococcus aureus. Packed with fiber, antioxidants, vitamin K, iron, calcium, and vitamin E, you can't go wrong with oregano! Chop and add the leaves to your favorite marinara sauce, sprinkle on top of your favorite pizza, add to a tomato, onion and olive salad or spinkle on top of meat, poultry or fish before roasting. Oh Oregano!

Notes from a Novice Gardener by Andrea Caswell



Cause of death - vinegar and lemon juice

The Battle of the Weeds has begun. What a formidable adversary we have in these foes! I quickly understood that they'll win the war, but have decided I can at least pitch a few battles, especially now that the threat of snow seems past and we can go outside. I've been fighting weeds in several areas, including in a bed along the patio, in a "pollinator patch" by the mailbox, and in the driveway. Yes, weeds growing up through tiny cracks in the driveway, making those cracks bigger! All the usual suspects are involved: quackgrass, pokeweed, fleabane (I think). The point is weeds, weeds, and more weeds.

Here's what I've learned about fighting them so far:

- Weed work is incremental. My motto is, "Progress never counts as failure." This is a quote about writing books by the wonderful Ann Patchett, but I find it works well for weeding too.
- Correct body position really matters! I've regretted awkward reaches and twists I've made in my quest to get at more weeds. As a reminder to keep my body well-aligned, I remind myself to "face the weeds" so that I'm twisting less.
- It's easy to pull weeds for too long without taking a break. No break = backache.
- Spray a mixture of vinegar and lemon juice on existing weeds to kill them. I mainly did this in the driveway, using a one-gallon pump sprayer to target weeds coming up through the cracks. I didn't mess around, either! I purchased an industrial-strength vinegar containing 30% acetic acid for the job (a minimum of 20% is recommended for efficacy). I mixed 4 oz. of lemon juice (from an expired bottle sitting in the fridge) per one quart of vinegar. The driveway weeds were deadlier than doornails within an hour or two of spraying.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding your weeding tips. Best of luck out there!

Contact us

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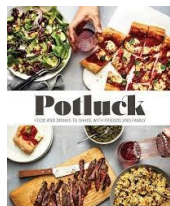
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Please contact Lori Boudrow if you wish to attend.

West Newbury Garden Club



Next Meeting – May 5th - 6:45pm - Annex Building

Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner



Our May 5th meeting is reserved for our annual meeting, final planning of our May plant sale, and potluck dinner. Members will come together to reflect on our accomplishments this past year, celebrate friendships old and new, and share some of our favorite foods. Topics include a review of our finances, election of officers, and planning for our 2022-2023 fiscal year. Members are reminded to bring a potluck food, drink, or dessert to share. To ensure a diverse potluck menu please bring a dish that corresponds with your last name. A-F appetizer, G-L salad or side dish, M-R main course and S-Z dessert.

Bring Your \$30 Dues!

In anticipation of members' adoption of the proposed By-Laws change, annual dues will be collected at the May and June meetings (rather than the September meeting as in the past). This will help to assure that the Yearbook reflects the membership accurately. Please bring a check for \$30 to the meeting.

Members will also vote on the proposed slate of officers as well as By-Laws changes recommended by the Board.

The Slate of Officers for 2022-23 is the following:

President	Lori Boudrow
Vice President	Maureen Harris
2nd Vice President	Anne Sanchez-Felix
Treasurer	Claudia Woods-Estin**
Recording Secretary	Karen Clagett
Corresponding Sec.	Lynn Boyd
Directors	Jean Berkenbush**
	Gail Dinaro
	Hannah Page-Koch**
	Barbara Merrill

**New officers will be nominated at the Annual meeting May 5, 2022

WNGC's By-Laws can be found in our Yearbooks. The following are changes in red are proposed by the Board:

Article II. Section 3.

All active members will serve on one of the club's committees, assist at the annual plant sale, and assume hospitality duties at one of the club's meetings. Active members will pay yearly annual dues.

Article II. Section 6. The Chair of the Membership Committee will review all expectations of club membership with new members before accepting his/her membership form will be deleted.

Article III. Section 4. The Annual Meeting shall be held in May for the hearing of reports from all officers and standing committees **if requested by the executive board.** Officers and new directors to the executive board shall be elected for the upcoming year.

Article IV. Section 1.

- a). The annual dues for active members shall be \$30. Associate members shall pay a 25% uplift on the annual dues, with all dues payable at the May meeting for the following year.
- b). If dues are not paid on or before December 31st, following notification to non-paying members, the membership ceases.
- c). If dues are not paid by July 15th, unless the member has contacted the membership committee to request inclusion in the yearbook, the member's name will be omitted from the upcoming yearbook.

Article V. Section 2.

C) Second Vice President: In the absence of the President and First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall assume all dues. She/he shall be chairperson of the **hospitality** committee. She/he shall be responsible for notifying co-chairs for each up-coming meeting of their responsibilities.

Article V. Section 3.

- a) Auditor: The Auditor shall examine the books and provide a written report to the **president and executive board.**

Article VI. Committees

- c) There shall be a Membership Committee. One of whom shall sit on the executive board will be deleted.
- d) The yearbook publication committee, comprising the yearbook editors and assisted by the membership committee, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President, and the club's President, is responsible for the formulation, editing/formatting and production of the club's Yearbook. The yearbook shall be prepared in time for the September meeting.

April Meeting Highlights



Teresa Mosher, consultant rosarian for the American Rose Society, shared her knowledge and expertise on how to care for and grow roses. From pruning to planting bare root and container grown roses, members learned new and old tricks for a lush rose garden. Teresa enlightened members about the many varieties of roses that will flourish in Zone 6. This shared meeting with the Newburyport Garden Club was informative and enjoyed by all who attended. For Teresa's recent podcast on how roses touch our lives, click here. [HOW ROSES TOUCH OUR LIVES | Rose Chat Podcast \(podbean.com\)](#)

May 21st Plant and Bake Sale

Members are asked to review the WNGC Operations Manual, Section 15 – Plant Sale, which can be found at www.wngc.org under “Resources”. At the May meeting, Co-Chairs Gail Dinero and Barbara Butler will present a slide show highlighting details of the May 21st sale.

Our popular **Bake Sale** will be back again this year, thanks to Maureen Harris! It will be located ON the Training Field, adjacent to where customers will be loading their plants.

Members are asked to:

- prepare a baked item (or pick up from a store)
- place on a paper plate, wrapped with plastic wrap, labeled with name of food item and any common allergens that may be in the food i.e. nuts, peanut butter. Gluten-free options are also welcome.
- **drop off at Maureen Harris' house on Friday, May 20th between 9:00 am to 7:00 pm**

22 Follinsbee Lane, West Newbury 978-500-9629 maureen.harris61@gmail.com

If members need **help digging or potting plants**, they should contact Gail Dinaro, Plant Sale Co-Chair at gdinaro@comcast.net or 508-633-7609 **no later than May 1st**. Members need to **drop off their labeled plants to the correct locations between Saturday, May 14th and noon on Thursday, May 19th** so the plants can be labeled and priced prior to transport to the Training Field.

Drop-off Locations:

Sun Plants (need 6+ hours of sun/day)
Shade Plants (need 2-6 hours of sun/day)
Native Plants [Helpful Reference List](#)

Lynn Boyd – 39 Way to the River
Linda Schaeffer – 77 Coffin Street
Gail Dinaro – 230 Middle Street

Memorial Day Parade

Decorate your sun hat and mark your calendars for Monday, May 30th! WNGC will once again participate in the West Newbury Parade honoring our veterans and celebrating our town. Stay tuned for more details!

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.

Herbal Corner – Cilantro by Alison Reyes



Cilantro (*Coriandrum Sativum*) is a hardy herb that produces both leaves (cilantro) and seeds (coriander) for versatility in cooking. Cilantro is native to Zone 6B and is best planted in early spring after the last frost. Cilantro will do best with partial sun, no more than 6 hours daily, and prefers cooler temperatures between 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit. The soil should be kept moist, but not saturated. The herb leaves are ready for harvest around 4 weeks when the plant reaches approximately 6 inches tall. To harvest seeds, allow the plant to flower and dry out. Once dry, shake them into a bowl to release the seeds.

The health benefits of cilantro are numerous including brain health, blood sugar management, anti-anxiety, and detoxification. Clip a few leaves and enjoy in a green salad, chop and add to brown rice with lemon and olive oil, or combine with lime to make a delicious seasoning for grilled fish. In the winter months, prepare a hearty cilantro soup with assorted vegetables and your choice of protein such as chicken or tofu. Coriander seeds can be added to baked potatoes, eggplant, rice and boosts a nutty flavor. Hope you are now inspired to grow

cilantro!

Notes from a Novice Gardener by Andrea Caswell



Part of being a novice gardener (or a novice-anything) is being on the lookout for excellent information. On April 14, I attended an online presentation called “A Native Transformation,” sponsored by West Newbury Wild and Native (WN2) and GAR Memorial Library. It was inspiring to learn how to start a beautiful new habitat right in my own backyard! Katie Banks Hone, nicknamed “The Monarch Gardener,” shared her experience of turning her riverside home in Ipswich into an almost 100% native-plants-only property. As part of its transformation, she created a rain garden to catch rainwater, which she uses to water beds, as well as the 6,000 seedlings growing chemical-free in her native plant nursery. In addition to conserving water, the rain garden decreases yard erosion and reduces flow into the Ipswich River.

Katie showed dramatic before and after photographs of the rain garden, a butterfly garden (an official “Monarch Waystation”), herb and vegetable beds, a woodland island, and perennial borders. To increase the habitat available to struggling pollinators, she and her family removed lawn and traditional foundational plantings over several years, and replaced them with nourishing native plants, including milkweed. Milkweed is the only plant on which monarchs can lay their eggs; it is also the only plant monarch caterpillars can eat. Later, milkweed nectar supports generations of butterflies during their migration to Mexico. Her waystation flutters and buzzes with activity in the summer; in the fall, native coneflowers attract and feed goldfinches. Please note, milkweed grown with neonicotinoids is fatal for monarch caterpillars. Thoughtful plant selection and informed plant purchases can make a life-saving difference for these and other pollinators.

Here's a short list for integrating more native plants into your landscape. Instead of:

forsythia – plant spicebush
crocus – plant bloodroot
vinca – plant foamflower
boxwood – plant New Jersey Tea bushes
daisies – plant coneflowers
Russian sage – plant blazing star
delphinium – plant great blue lobelia
digitalis – plant beardtongue
butterfly bush – plant Joe Pye weed
Montauk daisies – plant New England asters

There are many resources available for learning how to support pollinators in your own backyard. Katie runs a native-only, chemical-free nursery from her property in Ipswich; her website contains plant lists and other ideas for transforming your garden into a rich native environment (www.themonarchgardener.com). Other resources include Doug Tallamy’s website, www.homegrownnationalpark.org, Native Plant Trust in Framingham, www.nativeplanttrust.org, and our very own West Newbury Wild and Native, at www.wnwildnative.org.

Member News

Welcome New Members!

Gini Mazman
Anne Selig

Contact us

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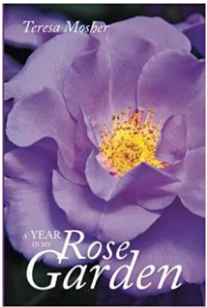
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West Newbury Garden Club



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 Privacy Statement

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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

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West Newbury Garden Club



Next Meeting - March 3rd - 6:45pm - Annex Building

A Journey through New England Forests with Fred Chanania



Our March meeting will feature Fred Chanania, local resident and founder of the West Newbury Tree Committee, who will trace the history of New England forests dating back 400 years. Mr. Chanania will also share his plans to create a town wide tree nursery which will hopefully be approved later this year. Challenges such as the lethal invasion of the emerald ash borer, which is destroying native ash trees, will also be explored. Hope you can join us for an informative evening and a journey through time.

Please note the March 3rd meeting will be available on Zoom. The meeting will begin at 7:15 PM with a short bit of business followed by the March presentation. Members are asked to remember that this presentation 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/86359791825>

Meeting ID: 863 5979 1825

Passcode: 953676

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.

February Meeting Highlights

With the theme of “Gardening Will Kill You”, Neal Sanders - local mystery writer, popular public speaker, and blogger of [The Principal Undergardener](#) delighted members with his humorous tales. From managing a community garden, building a house, to creating his wife’s dream garden, he describes how being the husband of a master gardener is no easy task.

Today, he is a proud owner and gardener of a property in Medfield, MA which blossoms with native plants, flowers, and rock walls, all created at the hands of himself and his wife, Betty. Neal also shared his inspiration for his 15 mystery books, the latest entitled, *How to Kill Your Contractor*. Members enjoyed his anecdotes and related to his many woeful garden tales!



Home Gardening Webinar Series! By Kathy Mandeville

The [Massachusetts Master Gardener Program](#) is offering a great opportunity to broaden our gardening knowledge!

MMGA Home Gardening Spring Webinar Series - This program has four online classes meeting on Wednesday evenings from March 23rd – April 13th packed with practical information. “Whether you're a new or intermediate gardener, already have a flower garden or are planning one, this four-session webinar series will provide tips and techniques focused on **Peonies, Daylilies, Hydrangeas and Roses**”. The cost is \$60. For more information and registration [click here](#).

Registration is limited, so register ASAP!

WNGC Plant Sale - Get Your Shovels & Trowels Ready!



Planning is underway for the annual WNGC plant sale scheduled for Saturday, May 21st (rain date May 22nd). Chairman for this committee, Gail Dinero, has received all required permits to once again, offer spectacular plants to our local citizens. Board members are in the process of reviewing best strategies to minimize the spread of Jumping Worms from donated plants. Members will assume last year's assignments but can contact [Gail \[gdinero@comcast.net\]\(mailto:gdinero@comcast.net\)](mailto:gdinero@comcast.net) if they'd like to make changes.

Member News

Please welcome new member, **Karen Coggins!**

As is our tradition, the club has donated a book to the G.A.R. Memorial Library in memory of Helen Thumser.

Scholarship Time Again – Seeking 2 Deserving Young Persons!

Due to the great success of our plant sale last May, we will be offering \$3,000 scholarships to 2 students who are residents of West Newbury, Groveland, or Merrimac. Applicant selection criteria include plans to enroll in college in 2022-23 in a field of study related to the environment. Please encourage eligible high school students or already enrolled college students to apply. More details and the application are available [on our website](#).

Openings for 2022-23 WNGC Board of Directors

Please consider joining our West Newbury Garden Club Board of Directors. Serving on the Board is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow members and to invest in the Club's future. You do not need to have been in the

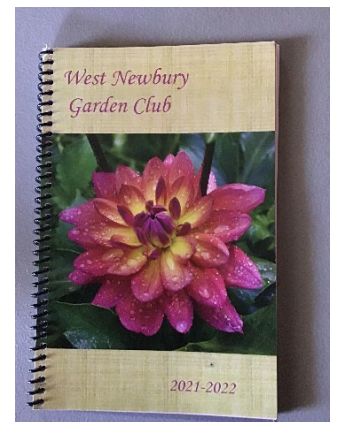
club a long time, you just need a willingness to learn and pitch in. A nominating committee is being formed and you will hear more about the opportunities in the coming months.

WNGC Website Gets an Update

After some hard work, members of the website committee are pleased to announce that the newly revised garden club website is now online. The site www.wngc.org has been streamlined making it easier to navigate and full of resources that interest gardeners. You can use it to plan future garden visits, learn about deer resistant plants, enjoy gardening blogs, and so much more. We think it will also be very helpful to those who want to learn more about our club and join in our efforts. Please explore the new site! The committee welcomes your comments and feedback. Please send to Barbara Merrill, barbmerrill2@aol.com

Change Proposed for Collecting Member Dues

To assure the yearbook reflects our current membership, the board voted in favor of collecting dues in May and June, rather than in September. This decision will be proposed as a By-Law change at the May Annual Meeting.



Casual Garden Chat Gathering

Four club members got together on February 16th to talk gardening and get to know each other better. They talked about native plant alternatives to traditional plantings, preferred garden centers, and helpful resources – many of which are now accessible through the WNGC website. Come join us next month...open to all. March 16th, 10am, Kathy Mandeville's house.

Gardening Fact Sheets

The University of Massachusetts at Amherst's Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment has prepared several Fact Sheets on topics of interest to gardeners – and all are evidence-based, current and helpful. Topics covered are found under broad headings of Flowers, Fruit, Lawns, Tree and Shrubs, Vegetables, and Wildlife Management. To explore these many Fact Sheets, click [here](#)



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WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB



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

Mystery Author and Gardener, Neal Sanders



Our February 3rd meeting will feature mystery writer, Neal Sanders and his perception about life as a gardener. Neal has written 15 mystery novels using horticultural or garden club settings and his latest publication is entitled, *Murder Brushed with Gold*. Neal enjoys writing about strong, independent women and adds a touch of humor throughout. Just a quick glance at the titles of his [publications](#), leaves you wanting to read them all. Hope you can join us for a fun, and educational evening!

Given the current risk of Omicron, NO REFRESHMENTS will be served. Members are asked to wear masks throughout the meeting.

The February presentation does not lend itself to be well received on Zoom. We are sorry for the inconvenience and hope you can attend in person.

Neal will have copies of his mystery books on hand for purchase! Books are \$14.00 each - cash or check

December Meeting Highlights

Fragrant greens, berried branches and holiday baubles in hand, over thirty members came together to decorate holiday wreaths, and swags for West Newbury's municipal buildings as well as to create festive table arrangements for WN community housing residents.

Thank you for your donations to the Pettingill House! Collectively, WNGC member donations totaled \$600.00



Christine Gerzon and
Donna Greene



Carrie Crowley



Rosemarie McCobb



Dianne Faulkner and
Dot Cavanaugh

Annual Wreath for Anna Jacques Hospital

Cheryl Straub, director of volunteer services at Anna Jacques Hospital shared the follow message with WNGC members:

"Just wanted to be sure to say another THANK YOU to you and your fellow West Newbury Garden Club members for the beautiful wreaths you create for the hospital! They look so nice. I've received many compliments! I wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday"



Jane Jeffers, Karen Clagett, Jeanne Pucci and Donna Greene (also Dianne Faulkner, not pictured)

Elegant Decorations for Cushing House



Lori Boudrow, WNGC President shared the following comments about the Cushing House Décor:

"I was amazed and so proud to be WNGC President and member when I visited the Cushing Museum on Saturday! The front entry hall was BEAUTIFUL! I loved the garland on the lower part of the handrail, the multiple arrangements on the stairs, the elegant sideboard, antique lantern, greenery, lights and more under the rising staircase. It was fun to see the beautiful blue accents, so rare in holiday decorating but such a welcome change! Phenomenal!"

"The garden hallway was DELIGHTFUL! Wreaths gracing the staircase with the touch of oranges, lemons, spices, and herbs really tells the story of the space's function. The graceful flow of the handrail garland with more petite wreaths brought your eye up to another lemon infused arrangement at the top. Bravo!"

Margo Pullman, Chair and Committee Members Irene Harnett, Jane Jeffers, Peg Duchemin and Kathy Krajeski.

WNGC Member Shares Local Tree Décor by Alison Reyes



WNGC Member, Carrie Hometh shared this picture of her beautifully decorated Christmas tree. This past August, she cut branches from a hydrangea tree in her yard and, hung them upside down in her basement to dry. The tree was cut locally at the Ash Street Christmas Tree Farm and is adorn with white lights, white ribbon, and wooden ornaments. Thank you, Carrie for sharing!

Be a Bee Keeper? by Kathy Mandeville

In October of 2020, our club was fortunate in having speaker William Hamilton, from West Newbury's own Black Birch Farm Apiaries, discuss the cycle of honeybees. [Black Birch Farm Apiaries](https://blackbirchfarmapiaries.com) offers a Bee School, providing the "necessary hands-on novice and specialized education to become a more successful and sustainable beekeeper."



The Introductory Class of 5 sessions is being held via zoom, starting on Wednesday January 26th through February 23rd for a fee of \$80. For more information and to register go to:

<https://blackbirchfarmapiaries.com/education-workshops>

Sad News

We are saddened to learn of the recent passing of long-time club member, Helen Thumser. Helen was a member of the WNGC since 2003, having been active on the Anna Jacques Hospital Wreath Committee. Our condolences go out to Helen's family.



Notes From a Novice Gardener by Andrea Caswell



Brady
2014-2022

There are some simple truths...and the dogs know what they are.
~Joseph Duemer

Between our house and our neighbors' stand of arborvitae, there's a stretch of grass, about 15 feet wide, which functions as a sort of transition from the front yard to the back. The grass there is protected from the afternoon sun, and it grows lush and dense each summer. We call that area "Yorkshire" because of how beautifully green the grass becomes, not unlike the English countryside.

A few weeks ago, I took our dog on her last walk in Yorkshire. She was a French bulldog, darling and brindle, and plagued by back problems due to her short spine. Her name was Brady. It was that sunny afternoon before the first snowstorm of January, and her appointment at the vet was for 5:30. I felt grateful for the sunshine, not too much wind, a pseudo-spring day near forty degrees. For this last walk, I set Brady down by the backdoor and followed her lead. She walked along the house, past the steps and front door, then she turned right to enter Yorkshire. It had always been one of her favorite parts of the yard.

She sniffed the first boxwood; I suspect one of her deer friends had been there. She stopped at the next one and decided it was the chosen spot to pee. She continued down the gentle incline, and I gave her as much leash as she wanted. She walked past the blue hydrangea I named "Cranky" and reached the threshold of the garden,

the part where Yorkshire ends, and the backyard really begins.

Then she devoted her attention to the grass. With that smooshed-in nose, she really had to put her whole face in something to smell it. She reminded us of Flower, the skunk in Bambi who liked to sink his face in petals. She sniffed the grass for a while, became excessively interested in it, which could only mean one thing: deer poop. Aka dog candy. Normally I'd shoo her away, but I knew it couldn't hurt her now. I let her eat some candy.

She retraced her steps back through Yorkshire. She turned left at the front walkway and trotted the length of the house to wait by the back door. I carried her inside and we spent a quiet afternoon together. My husband and I have always loved that section of the yard; just this fall we finally prepared a bed for planting. We'll select flowers Brady would have liked to sniff, perhaps zinnias or phlox or forgot-me-nots.

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Next Meeting – December 2nd 6:45pm Annex Building ***No Meeting in January



Making the Holiday a Little Happier for Others

Our December 2nd Meeting will once again be dedicated to wreath decorating and providing table centerpieces for West Newbury residents. How great that we can meet again this year as a club and share in creating decorations for our community! The club will supply some decorative material however, 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.

Please bring non-perishable goods and/or gift cards for the Pettingill House which we will later deliver. This is an excellent way to start the season of giving.

November Meeting Highlights



Garden Beauty in Winter by Kathy Mandeville

With an obvious passion for horticulture, our November speaker, Warren Leach from Tranquil Lake Nursery in Rehobeth, MA encouraged us to consider the additional delight of winter's effect on our gardens. His beautifully photographed examples included not only the beauty of shrubs and trees with colored bark like Red Twig Dogwood (*Cornus Sericea*), Yellow Twig Dogwood (*Cornus servicea 'Flamiramea'*), Paperbark Maple and Birch, but also those with berries like Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), Red Chokeberry (*Aronia*) and Beautyberry Bush (*Callicarpa americana*). Ornamental grasses can be beautiful if left uncut, as can Evergreen trees, and shrubs like Leucothoe (*Leucothoe axillaris*) and groundcovers like Bearberry (*Cotoneaster dammeri*). Late Winter/early Spring blooming plants like Hellebores (*Helleborus*) can be striking, as can the many varieties of the small tree, Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis*). For more examples of Winter plants, you might check out: <https://www.gardenia.net/plants/seasons/winter>

Using an abundance of caution, the Board requests that you wear a mask and be fully vaccinated for our face-to-face meetings.

Annual Holiday Party Cancelled



As much as we were looking forward to celebrating together, due to unforeseen circumstances at Cafe Sarina's, our club's December 12th Holiday Party has been cancelled. Once again, we turn hopeful for next year's holiday season when we can gather with confidence and ease. In the meantime, let's look forward to sharing some time together during our wreath and table-top decorating meeting!

***Reimbursement for the party will take place on Thursday, December 2nd or, if you are unable to attend, a check will be mailed to you.

A Great Way to Kick Off the Christmas Season!



Margo Pullman is heading the holiday decorating committee for the Museum of Old Newbury (Cushing House). The annual Holiday Open House sponsored by the Newburyport Historical Society, will be held on Saturday, December 4th and Sunday, December 5th. Times are from 10 am to 4 pm. There is NO admission charge so be sure to stop by and take in the beautiful holiday décor planned by our club, and other area clubs. The house glows each year with festive lighting and features original ideas that you may be able to use when you decorate your own home this holiday season.

Let's Talk Gardening by Kathy Mandeville



Are you a WNGC member who would enjoy an additional opportunity to chat about gardening and plants? Perhaps with a smaller group, less structure, more casual, other than just during our monthly meeting? This was an idea recently initiated based on a conversation with new member, Kath Mason. "I know there are others like me sitting at meetings who are relatively new gardeners and, would love to learn more about gardening, and get to know other members better".

Winter is upon us, and what a better time to give this idea a chance? If you're interested in getting together with some other WNGC members to "talk plants, pose gardening challenges. and share ideas", let me know the best day(s) of the week that will work for you during the month of January. BYO tea or coffee and I'll provide the coffeecake. Contact Kathy Mandeville. Let's keep growing our garden club!



"The Mad Gardener"
Illustration by Harry Furniss

Notes From a Novice Gardener by Andrea Caswell

Long before we plant our own gardens, they are planted in our imaginations. They may be sacred and specific, such as the Garden of Eden, or secular literary gardens made famous by their authors. *The Secret Garden* (1911) by Frances Hodgson Burnett conjures its own sort of paradise, as does Milton's complex epic, *Paradise Lost* (1667). What all these gardens have in common is the possibility of transformation.

For many children, Mr. McGregor's Garden may be the first one they "enter" when they follow Peter through the green gate. After the success of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (1893) and subsequent books, Beatrix Potter purchased 34 acres of buildings and land known as Hill Top Farm in England's Lake District. Though Hill Top was only a part-time residence, away from the hustle-and-bustle of London, Potter used it as a sort of canvas to experiment with the aesthetics of houses and gardens that figured prominently in her fiction. From her letters, we know she was influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement, extensive travels, and well-known gardeners of the time such as Gertrude Jekyll. In 1906, Potter wrote to a friend of "...a quarryman who lives on the road to the ferry who has got some most splendid phloxes, they will look nice between the laurels...I shall plant the lilies between the azaleas."

In *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1866) by Lewis Carroll (pseudonym of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), Alice is on a quest to follow the White Rabbit to "the loveliest garden you ever saw." In addition to the metamorphoses, she undergoes after consuming magical potions and currant cakes, a dream-world of fanciful characters to reach the enchanted garden. She converses with the Caterpillar, asks directions of the Cheshire-Cat, and attends the infamous party in front of the March Hare's house. To escape "the stupidest tea-party I ever was at in all my life," she passes through a tiny door in a tree. Then "she found herself at last in the beautiful garden, among the bright flower-beds and the cool fountains."

The peace of the garden is an illusion too; she's stumbled into the croquet grounds of the Queen of Hearts. The Queen's gardeners are frantically trying to correct an error—they'd planted white roses instead of red—before the Queen can order their execution. High-stakes gardening, Mr. Carroll! But even that act, of trying to change the roses from white to red, is rooted in transformation, in the magical currency of the child's world. The Mad Hatter is one of the most famous characters in children's literature. But in a later novel, *Sylvie and Bruno* (1889), Carroll introduced an equally absurd character called, The Mad Gardener. This character, too, spouts all kinds of nonsense in rhymed verse. He's described as follows: "A gardener he seemed to be—yet surely a mad one, by the way he brandished his rake—madder, by the way he broke, ever and anon, into a frantic jig..." Yet can we fault him for his unbridled joy? Here's to brandishing rakes, to singing and dancing, through the gardens of our imaginations.

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WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB

Next Meeting - November 4th 6:45pm Annex Building Meeting/Program



Celebrating the Winter Garden

Landscape horticulturist, [Warren Leach](#), from [Tranquil Lake Nursery](#) in Rehoboth, MA, will showcase gardens he has designed that celebrate the winter season. This nursery prides itself on excellence in horticultural and landscape design as well as affirming environmental stewardship. Throughout the presentation, he will share his creative design ideas for use in our own gardens.

The November 4th meeting will also be offered via Zoom. Please use the chat feature for questions. We are not “producing” the November lecture to be viewed exclusively on Zoom and ask for understanding if the visual and audio are not ideal.

Looking ahead to our Sunday, December 12th Annual Holiday Party, **members are asked to bring a check in the amount of \$15.00 to the November meeting to confirm their participation.** For this event, 50% of the total costs will be covered by the club. (See page 2 for more details.)

Using an abundance of caution, the Board requests that you wear a mask and be fully vaccinated for our face-to-face meetings.

October Meeting Highlights

The October meeting was a great success with a total of 35 members participating in the embellished pumpkin decorating event! A big thank you to Mary Beth Hayes who shared her techniques to create beautifully decorated mini pumpkins.



Katie Clapp & Joan Reynolds creating their masterpieces!



Thank you to our October Hospitality Committee for the delicious goodies! Chaired by Irene Harnett and members Dianna Fogel, Peg Duchemin, Jean Berkenbush, Barbara Berkenbush, Anne Fitzgerald, Anne Burrill, and Anne Jarzowski.

Save the Date for our Annual Holiday Gathering!

Sunday, December 12th, 2021 @ 2:00 PM

Cafe Sarina's @ Nunan's Florist & Greenhouses - Georgetown, MA

Imagine Halloween is still days away and our thoughts are already turning to the December holidays! The Club has reserved the beautifully decorated fireplace space at Cafe Sarina's. Their scratch kitchen will provide the edibles while wine options will be available for purchase. A head count is needed, and we don't want anyone to miss out! Please bring your payment of \$15.00 (payable by check) to the November meeting. Alternately, payments can be mailed and received NO LATER THAN Nov. 28th 2021 to:

Jane Jeffers 460 E. Broadway Haverhill, MA 01830

Art in the Garden Tour by Margo Pullman

WNGC has sponsored tours of outstanding gardens over the years. The last tour in 2017, was done in collaboration with the Local Cultural Council of MA, and featured artists and musicians as well as beautiful gardens.

Art in the Garden will once again be delighting participants on Saturday, June 18th, 2022. There are eight (8) gardens to tour and 3 of them will be hosted by our own club members Lynn Boyd, Helena Dion, and Hannah Koch. Two of the gardens are located over the river in Merrimac while the rest are found in West Newbury. Each garden will tell a story of the gardener's vision. It could be about a favorite flower, garden sculpture, color palette or plantings for attracting pollinators. Join us and learn about the inspiration and unique voice of each gardener!

Board Meeting Notes

- The Board affirmed the decision to once again sell native plants at the May plant sale. Native seedlings will be purchased in April from a specialty native plant nursery, and re-potted into larger containers for sale. Members are encouraged to bring native plants from their own yards.
- In memory of Sandi Preble, long-time WNGC member who passed away in September, the Board decided to purchase a commemorative brick in front walkway of the G.A.R. Library. Kathy Mandeville made this suggestion as there is not sufficient room in the Ferry Park Garden for another planting and a shrub placed elsewhere in the park would be 'under-whelming', and subject to potential flooding. Sandi's family has requested that donations made in Sandi's memory be directed to the WNGC. It was decided that we would create a line-item from potential donations that could be used to purchase trees or shrubs for the community gardens.

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Successful New Member Gathering!



The Membership Committee held a gathering for new WNGC members on Sunday, October 26th. The event was hosted by Anne Fitzgerald, Lori Boudrow, Gail Dinero, Irene Harnett, Maureen Harris, and Linda Schaeffer who welcomed new members Andrea Caswell, Joanne Gay, David & Mary Moody, Diane Teed, and Joan Reynolds. Stories, wine, and food were shared creating a friendly and fun social occasion. Thanks for your generous hospitality, Anne! If you are interested in becoming a new member, please contact the Membership Committee or join us for one of our monthly meetings.

Member News

Welcome New Members:

Alison Reyes
West Newbury, MA 01985

Christine Gerzon
W. Newbury, MA 01985

Best wishes for a full recovery from recent surgery to long-time member, **Jeanne Pucci**.

Sincere condolences to member, **Heather Conner**, on the recent death of her mother, Mrs. Barbara Irene (Kenney) Crowe.

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Facebook: [West Newbury Garden Club](https://www.facebook.com/WestNewburyGardenClub)

Notes From a Novice Gardener by Andrea Caswell

This past spring, we hired a certified arborist to assess and manage the health of trees on our property. I learned that we have Lindens, a Japanese Lilac, and a Cedar that were not going to make it—a Maple nearby is hogging all the sunlight. There is also a pesky Morrow's Honeysuckle too.

Of particular interest to the arborist, though, were our Ash trees. She focused on a stand in the backyard, studying them with her trained eye, taking them all in. "I haven't seen this many of them alive in a long time," she said. *Alive*. I could hear the wonder and sadness in her voice. An estimated 10 to 20 million Ash trees in North America have been lost to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an exotic beetle first detected in Michigan in 2002. Despite these grim statistics, there are ways to protect healthy trees before they succumb to an EAB infestation.

Like all conservation efforts, the journey begins with education and discussion. I learned that if an Ash tree is EAB-free, it can be inoculated against an infestation with a preventative soil injection, administered annually by an arborist. Talk with your neighbors about adjacent Ash trees. Perhaps they'd be willing to have their trees evaluated and treated, to widen the circle of protection against EAB.

As with many diseases, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It's rarely possible to save a tree already infested with EAB, especially when discovered too late. For additional information on ash trees and the threats they face in our area, visit <https://www.mass.gov/guides/emerald-ash-borer-in-massachusetts>.



Helpful Gardening Fact Sheets and Resources by Kathy Mandeville

Many U.S. universities have agricultural programs that provide research-based, practical gardening information to the public. The [University of Massachusetts](#) and the [University of New Hampshire](#) are two of these sites – both offering helpful printed information available online.

[UMass](#) offers several [fact sheets](#) under the general topics of Plant Diseases, Cultural Practices and Fertilizing, Flowers, Fruit, Gardening, Pest Management, Soil, Vegetables, Water, Weeds, and Wildlife Management. The [UNH](#) site is directed to garden centers and their customers. General topics include [fact sheets](#) on Vegetables, Fruits, Ornamental Gardening and Landscaping, Lawn Care and General Gardening.

As cold weather looms and we spend more time indoors, these may be sources of information that you might find interesting, inspiring, and helpful!

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WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB

October 7th 6:45pm Annex Building Meeting/Workshop



Our October speaker will lead participants in a hands-on decoration of succulent-filled pumpkins. Members who would like to participate must have pre-registered with a \$22 materials fee, though all are welcome to watch. For those of you who missed the September meeting, please remember to bring your \$30 annual membership dues (cash or check preferred, but credit cards will be accepted), and pick up your 2021-2022 Year Book. **Using an abundance of caution, the Board requests that you wear a mask and be fully vaccinated for our face-to-face meetings.**

September Meeting – Together AT LAST

Face masks couldn't hide the beaming smiles of forty-two members coming together for our September 2nd in-person gathering held after several months of zoomed meetings. New president, Lori Boudrow, offered a warm welcome to all, and thanks to out-going president, Kathy Mandeville. (Kathy has served on the WNGC board since 2014 and has been president for the past five years.) Members enjoyed refreshments and decorations provided by the hospitality committee including Carrie Hometh, Nancy Pau, Karen Dolliber, Hannah Page-Koch, Andrea Caswell and Kathy Mandeville. Member Jane Jeffers spoke about preparing for the May Plant Sale and techniques for dividing and overwintering plants.



Kathy Mandeville and Lori Boudrow
(Photo courtesy of Dianne Faulkner)

WNGC YEAR BOOK 2021-22

Many thanks to Editor, Lynn Boyd. Email any corrections to Lynn at lynnboyd02@gmail.com

Members Stepping Up

A great thanks to two members taking on two new roles. **Dianne Faulkner** has agreed to become the Club's first Garden Committees Overseer. She will coordinate everyone's efforts on our town gardens. **Tracy Peter** has offered to review news from the [Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts](https://www.gardenclubfederation.org/) and call to the President's attention all information that would be of particular interest to members.

Board Meeting Notes by Karen Claggett

- **Conserving Natural Resources**

At the prompting of Board member Anne Felix-Sanchez, the club will be exploring ways that we can reduce waste and use more recyclable products at our meetings.

- **Communications Survey Results** At the September meeting, members were asked for their opinions on the club's newsletter, website and email communications, and did so with interest and engagement. The Board was pleased to find that most members were happy with its outreach efforts. Members read the newsletter and pay attention to emails. The website is less used, and the Board believes it best serves new and prospective members and specific tasks such as providing scholarship information and applications. The website committee is making good progress narrowing down potential site hosts, and has determined what new requirements, such as email capability, the site should have.

- **WNGC Scholarship 2022 Increased**

The Board voted to offer two \$3,000 scholarships in the coming year as a result of the tremendous success of the May Plant Sale. Scholarship Committee Chair and Board member, Karen Claggett commented "We were blessed with excellent candidates last year, and the scholarship committee found it difficult to limit itself to one choice, necessary due to no plant sale the previous year. Board members should be proud that they will be helping two deserving students this coming year." Please help get the word out about scholarships; if you know a student interested in the environment and planning to study in a field related to it, encourage that student to apply. Eligibility information is on the club's website and deadlines will be updated.

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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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.

Stay Connected to WNGC

Please remember to notify Linda Schaeffer, Membership Chair, when you change your mailing address, email address, and/or phone number. linda-schaeffer@verizon.net

Welcome New Members

Mary and David Moody

Joan Reynolds



September Registration Table

Overwintering Plants – Jane Jeffers



Sad News

[Sandi Preble](#) WNGC member passed away on August 29th at the age of 83. Sandi was a dedicated member for 53 years, having served on the Board as well as being an active member of the Ferry Lane Park Garden Committee. We will miss her warm smile and sage advice.



Ferry Lane Park Garden – July 2021

Our sincere condolences go to member **Claudia Woods-Estin**, whose son, [Chauncey Depew Steele](#), passed away on September 1st. Our thoughts are with you.

Notes From a Novice Gardener by Andrea Caswell

September wields a powerful combination of endings and beginnings. It reminds us that summer is dwindling and will in fact disappear, yet it includes a batch of warm days to create a cushion between us and the impending gloom. This month, I've enjoyed the end-of-summer blooms from earlier plantings, including from a blue hydrangea that I named "Cranky." But I know I can't sit back and enjoy the fruits of my prior labor for much longer. It's clear that September is crunch time in the garden.

About a week ago, after suiting up in thick canvas pants and a pair of elbow-length padded gloves that a falconer might envy, I went after the brambles. I had grand plans to get them under control (the naiveté!). A few hours later, it was obvious that the brambles would win: their spiny, curling tendrils seemed to reach anywhere and everywhere they wanted to, taking no notice of my determination. Still, I kept disentangling and chopping. While I was at it, I cut back the raspberry bushes too—pretty much down to the ground—but I assume they'll grow right back, if the current rate of bramble proliferation holds.



For these Sisyphean tasks, like weeding and crabgrass hunting, or my indoor activity of writing a novel, I have a motto: *Progress never counts as failure*. It's true, the brambles are having a hey-day out there; they've probably grown an inch in the time it took me to write about them. But it's the progress, the true effort, and the time-on-task that offer me a sense of satisfaction. A Chinese proverb reminds us that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. It means that what we do matters. It means we can celebrate every step along the way.



West Newbury Garden Club
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WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB

GROWING TOGETHER

October 7th Meeting DIY Embellished Pumpkins

At the October meeting, Mary Beth Hayes will share techniques to create decorated mini-pumpkin. (Photo left provided by Mary Beth) This activity requires a materials fee of \$22/pp, which must be paid in advance at the September meeting. Nonpaying Members are welcome to observe the presentation!



September 2nd Meeting at Annex

Join us on September 2nd at 6pm. Using an abundance of caution, the board requests that you wear a mask and be fully vaccinated in order to

attend our face-to-face meetings. Those members who have not been vaccinated and therefore are unable to attend, we will be glad to drop yearbooks at homes or by the mail.

Member Garden Visits

A special thank you to five WNGC members who graciously opened their gardens this summer. The gardens were beautiful and members expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to spend time together in such lovely settings. Special thanks to board member, Barbara Merrill, for organizing the calendar of openings, and to garden hosts Debra Caminiti, Lynn Boyd, Jane Jeffers, Gail Dinero & Barbara Merrill. See photos of member garden visits, provided by Barbara Merrill, throughout this newsletter.

Bring your membership dues of \$30 and an optional \$22 material fee for October's workshop (cash or check preferred, but credit cards will be accepted). Pick up your 2021-2022 club year book.

Jane Jeffers will provide a presentation on dividing plants and overwintering techniques. Knowing that food brings us together, **we will provide finger sandwiches, dessert and punch.** We invite you to safely-distance your chairs while eating. Come, stay, eat, chat, learn... looking forward to being together once again!

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In the News

WNGC in the News

Thanks to local reporter, Jennifer Solis, for her article about our club and the community gardens that we tend in the July 20th issue of the *Newburyport Daily News*. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Invasive Jumping Worms!

“Asian Jumping Worm” or “Snake Worms” spotted by WNGC member! These worms can deplete the soil of essential nutrients. Unlike common European earthworms, they:

- Jump, wiggle and are very active.
- Live in the leaf litter and the top few inches of soil on the forest floor.
- Change the soil texture, with an appearance like coffee grounds, strip the soil of nutrients.

They can kill plants and prevention is the only known way to manage them. Dispose of them in the garbage! For more information, [click here](#).

West Newbury Wild & Native

This organization’s mission is to encourage public and private landowners to adopt practices which promote sustainable lands by the use of native plants, pollinator, wildlife-friendly gardening, and controlling invasive plants. Check out their new [website](#) and learn about upcoming programming like the “Bittersweet Challenge.”

Stay Connected

It is easy to stay connected with WNGC! Notify Linda Schaeffer when you change your mailing address, email address, and/or phone number.

Editor’s Note

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Photos by Barb Merrill, Andrea Caswell & Mary Beth Hayes.

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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Welcome New Member

Leidy Zuercher

Plant Sale

Prep Now for May 21, 2022 Plant Sale

By Jane Jeffers

It's never too early to begin thinking about the club's annual plant sale. As plants emerge in the spring we often forget how big they will grow, or how we did not like the location. As we put our gardens to bed this fall, we can identify plants that need to be divided and/or moved. **Now** is the time to identify those plants. Mark them, take a picture, make a note of plant names and colors. Then spring digging will be easier and more productive.

Many plants can be potted in fall and overwintered. Plants which overwinter well include, daylilies, bearded iris, Siberian iris, peonies, hosta, and other early summer perennials, as well as aster, bee balm, veronica, and phlox. Plants which may be marked and dug up in the spring include coneflower, shasta daisy, and rudbeckia.

Recommendations for successful digging and overwintering:

- Use a big pot, more than 1 gallon.
- Pot early so that roots adjust.
- Provide winter protection. You can "heel in" pots in an unused veggie garden, after the first frost, lay sticks across the plants before covering with mounds of leaves, use frost cloth, or tuck them in under evergreens where they will be out of the wind.
- Uncover the plants late March or early April once plants start to emerge.

Not all plants will successfully overwinter, but most will. Digging in the fall reduces the amount of work in the Spring.



Notes from a Novice Gardener

By Andrea Caswell

The May 15th Plant Sale was a lot of work, but festive and a whole lot of fun! Customers seemed pleased to scan various sections and then leave delighted with their special finds. Some intrepid shoppers even came prepared with their own wagons! [Mason bee houses](#) were of great interest to many people. The nine we had at the Plant Sale sold out quickly. Some people wanted the information sheet only; they were curious about helping bees, but not ready to invest in real estate. Thank you to club members who purchased them!

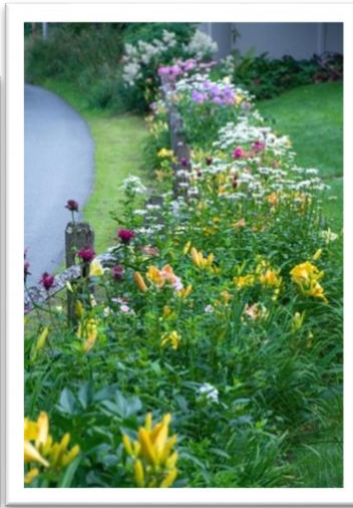
This summer It was wonderful to get working in the garden, but I was reminded about not skipping preliminary steps: wear more sunscreen, more often. Stretch more and take breaks frequently! We had great success in the sun-dappled area around our patio. We spread a compost-peat moss mixture over the soil and planted [dwarf goat's beard](#), hydrangea, [caradonna sage](#), and [broad beech fern](#). They grew like weeds!

There are wonderful resourcees available for learning more on specialized gardening topics, such as native plants and planting for pollinators. A few that were generously shared by club members include the [Aspetuck Land Trust](#), [The Monarch Garden](#), the [Xerces Society](#), and the local group, [West Newbury Wild and Native](#) that gave a presentation on creating and managing pollinator habitats. An idea I learned from the May WNGC newsletter was the benefits of keeping a garden journal. It is a great way to keep track of what you planted, when and where, and how well it's doing. I finally got around to starting a journal, using an old spiral-bound calendar book. The days of the week were not quite right, but all the dates were already there and plenty of space for making notes about my experiments.

WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB

Without knowing it, I passed an international gardening test. One stormy weekend in May, I visited a nursery in Ipswich with my British friend, Helen, (herself a gardener) whose sister is a Master Gardener in Oxford, England. We walked rows of plants in what felt like a gale; our foul weather gear was no match for the howling wind and icy rain. Safely back in the car, Helen

told me that I'd passed the unofficial English test for whether or not someone is a gardener: willingness to shop at an outdoor garden center in even the most miserable weather.



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