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# WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB

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## GROWING TOGETHER

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### October 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting DIY Embellished Pumpkins

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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!



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### September 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting at Annex

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Join us on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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### Member Garden Visits

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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*

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### **WNGC in the News**

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

### **Invasive Jumping Worms!**

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“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**

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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**

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

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### Editor’s Note

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#### **WNGC Privacy Statement**

We respect the privacy of our members.

Membership information in the Yearbook and/or in the Newsletter is for WNGC use only.

Contact information is not to be released or used except within and for WNGC communication, and never for commercial purposes.

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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#### *Contact us*

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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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 resources 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.

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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