



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

Welcome Back!



As is our tradition, our September meeting will feature a potluck dinner, a slideshow highlighting past club events, and updates from the board. Members will receive their 2023-24 yearbooks thanks to the hard work of yearbook co-editors Lynn Boyd and Sherry Loudon, with help from committee members Lori Boudrow, Wendy Gus, Linda Schaeffer, Maureen Harris, Anne Sanchez Felix, and Jane Jeffers.

2023/24 looks to be an exciting year of lectures and socializing thanks to programming director, Maureen Harris. From backyard birding to natives & pollinators (times 2!), learning about the health benefits of plants, and the interesting journey to bring plants to market. This year's programming also includes a chance to socialize at our traditional potlucks, annual wreath decorating, holiday party, and to cap off the year, a paint party!

This year's potluck has been organized a little differently:

Members whose last name begins with A-C please provide a salad, such as a leafy salad, rice salad, pasta salad, or tomato salad. Members whose last name begins with D-G please provide a main dish. Each dish should aim to feed approximately 8 people. Please provide serving spoons. The board will provide dessert along with a gluten free option. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, let's make it a memorable evening!

Friendly reminder that our meeting start time is now 6:30 pm and the hospitality committee set up time is now 5:30 pm.

June Meeting



Our June meeting featured Suzanne Mahler, an avid gardener and photographer for over 40 years. Suzanne shared her collection of Hosta and Daylily cultivars that blanket her property in Hanover, MA. She also highlighted the beautiful and colorful public gardens of Coastal Maine, Tower Hill, Berkshire Botanical Gardens, Bedrock Gardens, Elm Bank, and Heritage Gardens. Members enjoyed an in-depth look at growing these beautiful perennials and how to use them in their landscape planning and designs.

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. Members celebrated Dot Cavanaugh and her long-time dedication to the club. A big thanks to Maureen Harris, WNGC 1st Vice-President, who organized the event and to all members who participated!



Chris Gerzon & Maureen Harris



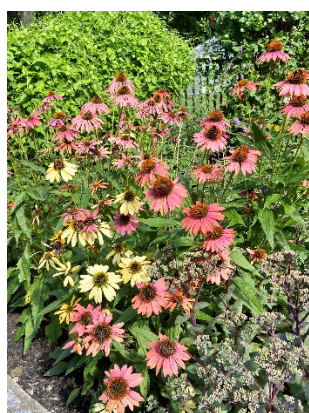
The Marching Crew!



Kathy Mandeville & Carol Hurn

Open Gardens 2023

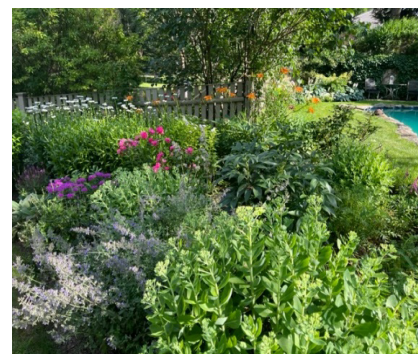
For the third year, WNGC club members had the opportunity to informally socialize and share garden ideas in a relaxed garden setting. This summer 4 members opened their beautiful gardens for the club to enjoy on various Friday summer gatherings! Thank you to Hannah Page Koch, Carol Decker, Joanne Gay, & KC/Steven Swallow. Each garden proved to be special for reasons as unique as the homeowners! Thanks to our hosts who made this possible and Barbara Merrill for organizing these events!



Joanne's Garden



Carol's Garden



Hannah's Garden

Notes from a Novice Gardener by Andrea Caswell



The weather was the story of the summer, not just here in New England but worldwide, as heat waves washed across the globe. NASA and NOAA recently announced that July 2023 was the planet's hottest July on record, in 174 years of record-keeping. June 2023 was the hottest-ever June. Prolonged drought conditions in Canada have caused wildfires to burn in all 13 of its provinces since April.

Here in West Newbury, what kept returning, besides smoke from the Canadian fires, was the rain. In June, we received double the amount of rain we received last June. Each weekend, I have imagined all the weddings and graduation parties and camping trips that have been rained out. As of this writing, two weeks into August, we've already surpassed June's rainfall total.

The extra rain this summer, punctuated by sunny days, resulted in rampant growth in our garden. The grass did not burn up and dry out but stayed lush and green for months. The hydrangeas enjoyed the extra water, of course, and only on the hottest days did they wilt and function as if they were about to faint. Our ferns nearly doubled in size. The sweet pepper bushes also did well, as a plant that does not mind having "wet feet" for prolonged periods of time.

The hands-down winner of the summer, though, was the blue vervain (pictured). It grew as if it was on steroids! We think it may have reached seven feet tall. Blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*) is native to North America and is a favorite with bumblebees and butterflies. Even dragonflies came to flutter on their blue-purple spikes, while the deer in our backyard wanted nothing to do with it. As August wanes, the plant's blue-purple flowers have begun to fade, but we have enjoyed the pretty show all summer.

Public Safety Garden

With Dianne Faulkner at the helm, members worked to plant a garden at WN Public Safety Complex. Resident Josie Dow donated many plants and others were purchased by the town. This fall, spring bulbs will be planted along with autumn flowers. The club is not responsible for the upkeep but the goodwill between our club and the community is something we all can be proud of! Special thanks to Carrie Crowley, Dianne Faulkner, Diana Fini, Donna Greene, Irene Harnett, Carrie Hometh. Heather Conner will join the team for the fall plantings!



The Planting Crew!



Carrie Crowley

Two Scholarship Recipients from Pentucket by Karen Clagett



The WNGC Scholarship Committee Chair, Karen Clagett, presented Will Pessina and Braeden Roche, both from West Newbury, with our 2023 scholarships at the Pentucket Awards Night in June. Both young men demonstrated inside and outside of the classroom a real commitment to the environment and a passion for effective change.

Will Pessina studied AP Biology, Physics, Engineering, and Anatomy and Physiology among other challenging courses and made effective use of a dual enrollment program with Merrimack College. Outside of class, not only was he a National Honor Society student, a track captain, and a student ambassador, he also managed to work at Market Basket, a marina, and a restaurant. Will plans to attend Assumption College in the fall and his major will be Environmental Science.

Braeden Roche will travel this autumn to Boulder, Colorado to attend the University of Colorado. He wishes to study engineering and will begin his course work in Biology and Engineering Design. Braeden's concerns for the future of our planet led to his interest in sustainable energy. He has worked at Long Hill Orchard, enjoys photography, and ran cross-country and track at Pentucket.

Because our 2022 plant sale was so successful, we were also able to create a special award this spring for a young woman who attended Pentucket for only one year. As her guidance counselor explained, "Alina Hlaskova is a war refugee from Ukraine. Her hometown is Russian-occupied and was destroyed. Her family was held at gunpoint, sending her mother and brother to Germany, and her father, a ranking officer in the army remains in Ukraine fighting for freedom." Alina, who is fluent in Ukrainian, Russian, and English, wishes to study in the US and then return to her country someday to help repair the scars of war. As we plan for next year's spring plant sale, let's remember Will, Braeden, and Alina and the many others that our efforts have helped.

Penny Pines Award



The GCFM awarded the West Newbury Garden Club the winner of the Penny Pines Program for largest contribution from a medium sized club \$1088.00. A BIG thank you, members, for your generous donations. We could not have done this without you!

Images on Facebook, Club Website, and Newsletter



We ask any members who do NOT want their images used on Facebook or the Club's publications to inform membership chair, Linda Schaeffer and Social Media Chair, Chris Gerzon (see your yearbook for contact info). To better ensure your image is not used, the board suggests removing yourself from any pictures being taken.

Executive Board of Directors News



A big THANK YOU to outgoing Directors, Jean Berkenbush, Gail Dinaro, and Barbara Merrill, who each brought a unique perspective as well as thoughtful contributions to the Board. The Board welcomes new Directors: Dianna Fogel, Chris Gerzon, and Carrie Hometh. We look forward to working together!

Contact us!

WNGC Newsletter Editors

Alison Reyes

Alexis Katkevich

Marley Switzer

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

WNGC Privacy Statement

We respect the privacy of our members. Membership information in the Yearbook and/or in the Newsletter is for WNGC use only. Member Contact information is not to be released or used except within and for WNGC communication, and never for commercial purposes.

WNGC is a member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. Read their quarterly newsletter Mayflower for articles, announcements, events and workshops.

Stay Connected to WNGC

Note: WNGC Board meetings are held the 1st Monday of the month at Board members' homes. Please contact Lori Boudrow if you wish to attend.