

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

March 26th through April 25, 2013



Had enough???

March 26



Our club meeting will be held at the Gould Barn, Topsfield at 1.00 pm. Please note that this is a change in time for the meeting! This will be our Horticulture meeting, and will feature our very own Rose Ann Waite, who will lead us in a workshop to create a beautiful Pot-et-Fleur ...just in time to grace your Easter table...or someone else's. Georgia McHugh will assist her in this presentation. Since this is our regular monthly meeting, all members are encouraged to attend whether or not you plan to make a Pot-et-Fleur. As always, it is fun to get together and get the latest news on club happenings! For those of you who will be participating in this workshop, please refer to the recent detailed instruction e-mail messages from Jane Cullinan. And, Rose Ann suggests you bring your club aprons to protect those Chico's outfits as you fashion your Pot-et Fleur. See you there.

April 1



The GCFM's Horticulture Meeting will be held at 10 am at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boyleston. The program will be "The Pollinator Garden" presented by Kim Smith. A donation of \$5.00 is requested at the door, and all members of our club and guests are welcome to attend.

April 2



The Tewksbury Garden Club, together with the Tewksbury Historical Society and the Friends of the Tewksbury Library are pleased to present "Traditions & Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls" presented by stone wall builder, Kevin Gardner. This program will be held at 7 pm at the Tewksbury Public Library, 300 Chandler Street, Tewksbury and is free of charge. Registration is required and can be made at www.tewksburypl.org, #1 Online Calendar, or by calling 978-640-4490 x 205.

April 8



The Ipswich River Watershed Association invites us to a program "Organic Landscaping: Simple Steps to an Organic Lawn" presented by Organic landscaper, Javier Gil at the Topsfield Town Library at 7 pm. Please RSVP to Cynthia at cingelfinger@ipswichriver.org or by calling 978-412-8200.

...more news on the following page...



April 9



The Danvers Garden Club invites us to “An Evening with Steve Janavicus” of *Flowers by Steve of Bradford* from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Danversport Yacht Club. Coffee, tea and desserts will be served, and shopping at boutiques and drawings will also be offered. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased by calling Jacquie at 508-932-1320. Tables of eight can be reserved.

April 9



The North Andover Garden club invites us to their program “Shrubs for Year-Around Interest” presented by Master Gardener Cheryl Munroe at St. Michael’s Parish Hall, 190 Main Street, North Andover at 7 pm. This meeting is being shared with the Village Garden Club of Andover and the Tewksbury Garden Club, and is free and open to all.

April 15



The Northern District Annual Meeting will be held at the Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury Street, Andover. Why not join our officers for a day of friendship, boutique shopping, lunch and all things floral? The deadline for registration is April 5, 2013. A registration form appeared on the last page of your February 2013 Posy Picker for your convenience.

***Also, you still have an opportunity to take part in an exciting Floral Exhibit, “Fun with Fashion and Flowers,” to be featured at this meeting. Please see your February 2013 Posy Picker for details and sign up instructions if you would like to participate!

April 16

Our next board meeting will be held at the home of Lorraine Erickson at 10 am. Please note that this is a change in the start time for the meeting.

April 25



Our meeting, Art in Flowers, will be held at the Topsfield Library at 7 pm. Please note that this is a Thursday evening meeting. Members will create designs to coordinate with the stunning art collection at the library. There is still time to volunteer a design, so if you would like to do so, Artistic Co-Chair, Rose Ann Waite, would definitely welcome your call! For those who are participating, there is a planned trip to the flower market in Boston for materials, and an opportunity to join other participants at Rose Ann’s home to create your design prior to the meeting! Hope to see you there.

...more on the following page...

NOTES



Please be sure to mark your calendar for Art In Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts. This year's special annual event will be April 27th through April 29, 2013. As you know, Barbara Shade will represent our club this year, and Rose Ann Waite will be her assistant. Barbara has received her assignment, which is pictured at left. Post-impressionist artist, Paul Gauguin, carved these panels, entitled "War and Peace," in Tahiti toward the end of his life.

"War and Peace" by Paul Gauguin

***As a matter of interest, historically, our club has had a very strong presence in this very exclusive annual event at the Museum of Fine Arts, and designs of the members who have represented our club down through the years have been very well received. So much, in fact, that a past design of Barbara Shade's was featured on the cover of a recent program book for this event. In addition, at this year's Exhibitor's Meeting, two designs created by our members were among twelve included in a PowerPoint presentation of designs from past years. Those two designs are pictured below. Members who have participated as designers have great praise for this experience. Our club requests volunteers annually for this event and encourages those interested in flower design to try their hand at this...it is a beautiful experience, and there are many in the club who can provide guidance, if needed!*

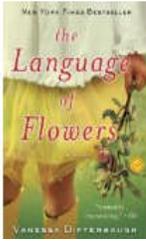


*Mary Dalton, designer, & Mary Connor
2009*



*Barbara Shade, designer, & Mary Dalton
2010*

...more on the following page...



Looking for your next good read? Past President, Rose Ann suggests that Vanessa Diffenbaugh's "The Language of Flowers" will definitely fit the bill! And, it's available on Amazon.com! Happy reading.

The Concord Museum's Garden Tour has become a New England tradition for garden lovers far and wide. The museum is located at 200 Lexington Road, Concord. This year's tour will be Friday, May 31st and Saturday, June 1st, rain or shine, and will feature seven private gardens. This tour is self-guided from 9 am to 4 pm. For more information and for tickets, contact the museum at 978-369-9763 x 216 or on-line at <http://www.concordmuseum.org/>



If you are pining for spring, and who isn't at this point, check out this website: www.enchantedgardensdesign.com. You will find loads of beautiful photos from the Boston Flower and Garden Show, and of Hellebores, Entry Gardens, Patio Gardens, Shady Retreats, Perennial Gardens and Planted Containers. These are great for getting your creative juices running again after a very long winter, or to just provide a beautiful spring daydream.

...Bits and pieces...

At the Boston Flower & Garden Show with Rose Ann Waite and Claudette Poor!



Georgia McHugh demonstrates how to design arrangements to complement art for members at her home on a cold day in February 2013.

...Green Thumb follows...

Green Thumb Corner



So, am I the only one who always thought the first day of spring is March 21st??

You can image how confused I was last Wednesday to hear the weatherman report very authoritatively that it was the first day of spring...AND IT WAS ONLY MARCH 20TH!!! What is this world coming to anyway???

So, me being me, I did some research on the subject! What are computers for anyway? Since I was sure you would want to know what I found, here, with the help of Joe Rao of New York's Hayden Planetarium, is the story in a nutshell: due to reasons far beyond our need to know or even understand, the timing of the first day of spring, or the vernal equinox as it is also known, is not cast in stone and does deviate. In fact, in the 20th century, March 21st was the first day of spring only 36 out of 100 years. And in the years 1981 to 2102, the first day of spring was or will be no later than March 20th. To add to the confusion, in different parts of our world, spring arrives on different dates.

And here's some interesting information on the current lengths of the seasons in the Northern Hemisphere: Winter is 88.99 days (This is not evident this year!)

Spring is 92.76 days

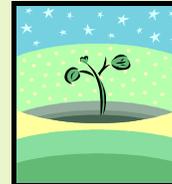
Summer is 93.65 days (I like that this is the longest season!)

Autumn is 89.84 days

Here are some interesting facts to think about...spring is currently being reduced by approximately one minute per year, and winter by about a half minute per year. Summer is gaining the minute lost from spring, and autumn is gaining the half minute lost from winter. Great stuff!!

Happy spring everyone!

Okay, are you sitting inside with your feet up using the fact that we have mountains of snow on the ground still at this late date in March as an excuse for not working in your gardens? Well, get up...there are some things you can do to get ready for real spring when it finally decides to make it's appearance. Today would be a great day to go out and sprinkle some slow release organic fertilizer



on your flower beds...right on top of the snow! The time to apply this type of fertilizer is in advance of plant growth, and so applications now will support spring's growth. One application lasts months, supplies nutrients for plants and improves the soil's ability to absorb water.

Looking for something else to do while the snow is on the ground? Why not rake the snow piles away... as much as you can? This will make the snow melt more quickly, and will prevent problems with snow mold on lawns. And once your lawn is no longer frozen and the soil no longer soggy, you can remove any leaves or other debris that have accumulated during the winter.

And once most of the snow is gone, and this will finally happen even though we don't believe it right now, you can gradually remove winter mulches and leaves that may be covering your perennials. This allows emerging plants to get more sun and cool temperatures they need to support new strong growth. Once the soil has dried out sufficiently, it's time to cut back any dead growth from last year on your perennials and ornamental grasses. Be sure to leave undisturbed any new growth. To help avoid compaction of the soil, you can lay a board across the ground to better distribute your weight.

One last tip: if you can still take note of the places in your yard where the snow melts away the fastest, these spots will be the sunniest and warmest places in your garden. These warmer areas are good choices for planting more tender perennials and other plants, or even those that are only marginally suited to our growing zone.