



The Grapevine

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Annual Luncheon at the Village Green -on May 13th
- The Luncheon Reservation form allows for sign-ups for the Luncheon and upcoming programs!
- Revised Program dates included on Page 6.
- Annual dues coming up!

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SPRING IS COMING!

When I started this newsletter, snow and ice covered our gardens and the plants were all resting up. Now, some little sprouts are thinking about waking up to welcome Spring. We, too, can look forward to a burst of activity starting very soon. After our holiday "intermission," our programs began again in February with Kindra's presentation on bee-keeping. This Spring we will have another series of interesting and enjoyable activities centering on conservation, education, floral arranging, crafts and civic projects. Please be sure to check the Program on the last page as some of the dates have changed.

On the Federation level, we submitted a list of our educa-

tional environmental programs to Lisa Bourgeois, the Districts Unified Project Chair, to demonstrate what we are doing to "maintain peace between the earth and the environment and tranquility among the community and ourselves." Our efforts include the Arbor Day Program, the Agricultural Program, the Smokey Bear assembly at Steward School. We were thrilled to learn that a Topsfield student won an Honorable Mention for his Smokey Bear poster.

We continue to collaborate with other community groups to further our efforts in education, conservation and community service. We should be proud of the fact that we work throughout the year with the Fire Department, the Agricul-

tural Commission, the Essex Agricultural Society, the Tree Planning Committee, the Council on Aging, the Main Street Foundation, the Historical Society, and Topsfield's other Garden Clubs.

Our new collaborative relationship with the Council on Aging began with great success. The Christmas arrangements that we made were delivered to shut-ins by the Meals-on-Wheels program. These were greatly appreciated by those who received them. We plan to do more projects like this.

We hope that you will join us for some or all of our upcoming activities described in the newsletter. Our continued vitality depends on all of us.

Happy Spring!

ARBOR DAY PROGRAM

The Annual Arbor Day Program will be held at Proctor School at 2 pm on May 1st. Dan Peabody of the Tree Planning Committee will give a talk on the importance of trees and will be joined by his Committee in distributing tree seedlings to the students in the Fourth

Grade. Martha Morrison and Kindra Clineff will be on hand represent the Topsfield Garden Club.

Once again the Topsfield Garden Club will sponsor the Arbor Day poster contest for Fourth Grade students. En-

tries will be due at the school on April 17th, so we will have plenty of time to do the judging. A time and place for judging will be announced.

All participating students will receive a certificate and winners will be awarded ribbons.

ORCHIDS & ART IN BLOOM

We arranged to participate in the New Meadows Garden Club program in March. The program is "Basic Orchid Care" given by members of the Orchid society. Orchids are easily purchased these days, but keeping them happily blooming might be a challenge. If you're interested in learning how to care for these lovely plants, this refresher course is just what you need. The meeting will

be at the Gould Barn on March 24 at 7:00. We will be making a contribution to help with the cost of this program based on the number of our members who attend. Please R.S.V.P. to Kindra at 887-2272.

New Meadows also invites us to participate in their Art in Bloom show at the Topsfield Library. Individuals or teams of designers will create floral arrangements to comple-

ment the art work at the Library. Beth Matlack will have photos of the art work at the March Orchid program. If anyone would like to participate but can not attend the March meeting, Beth will make arrangements to share the photos at another time. Please let Kindra or Martha know if you are interested. The program runs from Thursday, April 23 to Saturday, April 25.



A Exotic Touch of Spring

"If we're very lucky, we can provide housing for Purple Martins that have an uncertain future in Massachusetts."

GOURD WORKSHOP

Our meeting on March 11th will be "for the birds" as we make birdhouses out of dried gourds.

Hard Shell Gourds have been used for many thousands of years to make all sorts of containers and even musical instruments. Native American Indians and the early settlers who learned from them hung gourds on their trees to invite

birds to visit. With these birdhouses you will most likely see chickadees, wrens, and swallows. If we're very lucky, we can provide housing for Purple Martins that have an uncertain future in Massachusetts. The male bird is navy blue and black in color. The female bird is pale gray. We do want to attract these birds because they once were

much more common here. Besides, they eat a lot of mosquitoes.



KITCHEN GARDENS AND SEED SWAP

The Village Gardeners have invited New Meadows and Topsfield Garden Club Members to a "Good Bye Winter, Hello Spring" event - a "Kitchen Gardens and Seed Swap". With Spring just around the corner, this event will be just what we need to get geared up for getting back into the dirt or organizing your container gardens if your space is limited.

Locally grown food is all the rage these days and what could be more local than your own backyard? This lecture will include selecting and growing the best fruits, herbs and vegetables for a kitchen garden with an emphasis on organic practices and composting.

Peggy Flanagan will be our guest presenter.

Bring a packet of your favorite seeds and participate in a seed-grab swap.

If you harvest your own seeds, please indicate on the packet what the seeds are, planting instructions, etc.

Please join in on Tuesday, March 17 at the Gould Barn. Social begins at 6:30 pm. The presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON YEAR-END MEETING

Our annual luncheon will be held at the Village Green, 225 Newbury Street (Route 1) in Danvers on May 13th at 11:30 am. There will be a brief year-end meeting followed by lunch. Ellen Guinee has arranged a lovely three-course meal with a choice of entrees - either tuna or chicken salad on a croissant with a side salad or Caesar salad topped with sliced grilled chicken. Meals include a cup of soup, dessert, and coffee or tea. The cost of the meal is \$15 per person, including tax and gratuity.

As always, wine and other beverages can be purchased at the bar. We will also have sign-up sheets for library floral arrangements, the Yard Sale and the Strawberry Festival available. You may also sign up ahead of time on the reverse of the Luncheon Reservation Form below. Please remember, too, that it's annual dues time!



LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Please fill out the form below and return it with your checks for lunch and dues to:

Peg Isler
135 Perkins Row
Topsfield, MA 01983

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

My Choice of Entrée is: Tuna Salad

Chicken Salad

Caesar Salad with Chicken

Enclosed is my check for \$15 for Lunch

Enclosed are my dues of \$20

LIBRARY ARRANGEMENTS



Topsfield Town Library

For many years the garden clubs of Topsfield provided floral arrangements

to beautify the circulation desk of the Library. This tradition has languished of late, and we would like to revive it.

The arrangements do not have to be elaborate. A flowering plant, a basket with some flowers, a small arrangement of blooms are all perfect for the limited space at the desk. The staff will care for the flowers.

Arrangements should be taken to the Library on Monday morning and picked up on Saturday. If you would like to participate in this activity,

please let Ann Orcutt know. She will have a sign-up sheet at the Annual Luncheon.

The patrons and the staff really enjoy our lovely flowers and have missed them.



MORE ORCHIDS

The Friends of the Boxford Library have invited the Topsfield Garden Club to a special lecture.

Robert Winkley, the well known orchid grower will speak at

the Boxford Public Library on Sunday, March 29th, at 10:00 AM. His topic is YES, YOU CAN GROW ORCHIDS. The program is free and is sponsored by The Friends of The Boxford Library.

I plan to attend the Platinum Posies floral arranging program. My check for \$20 is enclosed.

I can work at the Strawberry Festival from _____ until _____.

I can work at the Yard Sale from _____ until _____.

I can provide an arrangement for the Library in the month of:

June

July

August

YARD SALE & STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Two fund-raisers are coming up - the annual Strawberry Festival and the Yard Sale. The yard sale is scheduled for May 16, so save your attic treasures. At the same time, we will sell perennials. The time will be right for dividing our own plants and people coming to the yard sale will be getting out into the garden themselves. All of the plants that are too mature to move at Strawberry Festival time will be perfect in May. If you have questions or would like to help out, please call

Jan Megyesy at 978-887-6599.

Watch for further information about this event.

The Strawberry Festival is our biggest fund-raiser of the year. Our gorgeous hanging plants are our hallmark item. Smaller container plants have become very popular at our table. There will be a workshop on June 10th to plant containers. This year along with our traditional flower containers, we're going to add vegetable and herb containers. With all the interest in "grow-

your-own food" and environmentally friendly activities, these items should be well received. In addition, we will have literature about our club and its activities.

The Strawberry Festival is always a wonderful event as we get to socialize while raising money for our annual operating costs.

Please let us know when you can work on the reservation form or at the Luncheon. We need everyone's help for this event!

PLATINUM POSIES

The April 8th meeting will be a special treat. Platinum Posies of Middleton will conduct a flower arranging program designed to celebrate Spring just in time for Easter!

Using a colorful array of seasonal flowers, decorations and ribbon, we will have the opportunity to enjoy the artistic exploration of floral arranging.

Platinum Posies will provide the flowers, containers, decorations, ribbon and scissors - everything we need. The container will be a low dish. Participants are welcome to bring their own favorite containers, decorations, ribbon and tools to use instead.

The price for the program is \$20 per person. In order to let

Platinum Posies know how many people will participate, we need reservations by April 1st.

To R.S.V.P. check the box on the back of the luncheon reservation form and include your check or contact Martha Morrison at 978-887-6273 or morrismh@bc.edu for further information

"We will have the opportunity to enjoy the artistic exploration of floral arranging"

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

The Agricultural Heritage program at Proctor School will take place this year on Friday, June 19th. One of our multi-organizational activities, this program is sponsored by the Topsfield Garden Club, the Topsfield Agricultural Commission, the Topsfield Historical Society and the Essex Agricultural Society. This year, the

Grange will be joining us as well!

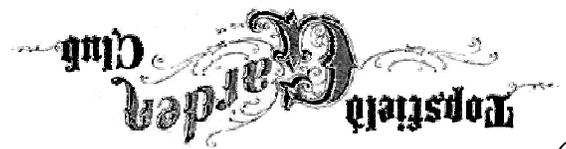
Speakers representing one or more of the various groups talk with the students about Topsfield's agricultural heritage "then and now." Special attention is paid to Topsfield's working farms and the value of preserving agricultural land as open space. Part of the pro-

gram presents the benefits of buying and eating locally grown foods.

Students receive a tomato plant, a package of sunflower seeds, and an historic map of Topsfield that includes information about entering the Topsfield Fair.



217 Rowley Bridge Road
Topsfield, MA 01983



2008-2009 SPRING PROGRAM

February

11th - Meeting and Talk on "A Year in the Bee Yard" 9:30 AM at the home of Kindra Clineff.

March

11th - Meeting and Birdhouse Gourd Workshop . 9:30 AM at the Gould Barn.

17th - Kitchen Gardens and Seed Swap, sponsored by Village Gardeners. 6:30 PM at the Gould Barn.

24th - Joint meeting with New Meadows Garden Club. Program about orchids. 7 PM at the Gould Barn.

March (continued)

29th - Friends of the Boxford Library program on orchids. 10 AM at the Boxford Public Library.

April

8th - Lecture and workshop on Spring Floral Décor by Platinum Posies. 9:30 AM Gould Barn.

23rd-25th - Art in Bloom at the Town Library.

May

1st - Arbor Day Presentation at Proctor School.

6th - Yard Sale preparation workshop.

May (continued)

13th - Annual Luncheon, 11:30 AM at the Village Green.

16th - Yard and Plant Sale.

20th - Triangle Clean-up.

June

10th - Strawberry Festival Workshop

13th - Strawberry Festival

19th - Agricultural Presentation at Proctor School.

June, July and August

Library Floral Arrangements.