



# North Shore Horticultural Society

P. O. Box 171 Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944  
September, 2018 Volume XXI Number 1

<http://www.NSHorticulture.org/>

## MEETING LOCATION

is generally at  
The Manchester  
Masonic Lodge,  
9 Church Street,  
Manchester-by-  
the-Sea (behind  
Town Hall)

### Meeting Preview

Tuesday, 7:30PM

September 25th

Art Scarpa

*Succulents for*

*Home and Garden*

Tuesday, 7:30PM

October 23rd

Katie Banks Hone

*Sustaining the*

*Monarch*

Tuesday, 7:30PM

November 27th

Mary Ellen

Lepionka

*Algonquin Food*

*and Medicinal*

*Plants*

## SECOND TUES-

DAY of Decem-

ber, 7:30PM

December 11th

Mary Huntoon

*Holiday*

*Decoration*

*Workshop*

## BOARD MEET-

ING

October 11th

7:30PM

at the home of

Kay Joseph

## SUCCULENTS FOR HOME AND GARDEN

*Art Scarpa*

**Tuesday, September 25, 7:30PM**

Art Scarpa, the founder and former President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Massachusetts, will share his passion for succulents, noting native habitats and cultivation requirements at the first meeting of the NSHS's 119th year!

Attendees will be able to see in real life many examples of succulents as plant materials will be passed around during the program. One often sees them at florists, garden centers, and other places, but there is a lot of background information regarding temperature, light, soil mixes, etc., that Art will share concerning what makes the plants happy in a new environment. Many of these are easy to care for and very rewarding to grow.

Art's passion is growing and sharing his knowledge of these fascinating plants from all over the world in many climate extremes.

So, please bring a friend and any questions you may have about succulents to this informative meeting.

\*\*\*

## MEMBERSHIP

It is time to pay **DUES** for the 2018-2019 season. Members are receiving the September Newsletter, Membership Form, and the 2018-2019 Program by U.S. mail. All members, including Life Members, please complete the enclosed Membership Form, even if last year's information has not changed. Also, please indicate if you would like to receive the Newsletter electronically. Bring the completed form and payment to the September meeting or mail them to PO Box 171, Manchester MA 01944.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Carol Batdorf*

It's September – Welcome to another program season with the North Shore Horticultural Society at the Masonic Hall. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and events throughout the year. Check the program listing in this mailing for all that is planned for the year. Thank you, Mike Mack, for once again completing this task and producing a wonderful set of programs for the year. Field trips and workshops will be announced as they are planned. We will be looking for a new editor for the newsletter. Joan Johnson will be stepping down from that position after many years as editor. Thank you, Joan. Anne Mesgar will be stepping down from the Board in December. She has been our hospitality Board member for many years. Thank you, Anne.

I hope your gardens grew well over the summer months. This has been one of the warmest summers on record. This past weekend, when the cool temperatures started to flow into our area, I felt like I could breathe again. I have had all the hot and humid weather I care to struggle through for quite awhile. We all will be keeping a lookout on the hurricanes that are developing down in the tropics. We have had a fair amount of rain during the summer but the last few weeks have been dry and windy. This takes a toll on our plants. Remember to do some deep root watering to help your plants get ready for the winter. Some tropical rains may come through in the next weeks; if not, give some water to your plants.

Art Scarpa will be returning to us for the September meeting with succulents  
*President's letter continued on page 2.*

*President's letter continued:*

galore. Please come and take in the world of succulents. Ask a friend to come with you to the meeting, the more, the merrier. See you soon,

*Carol*

\*\*\*

### NAME TAGS

If you have a NSHS name tag on your bureau or in your glove compartment, please bring it with you to the September meeting. If yours is missing from the bags at the registration table, please sign in on the clip board and a new name tag will be waiting for you in October.

\*\*\*

### HORTICULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST

The September meeting marks the 10th year of Mick Mack's HPOI, which have covered a huge variety of subjects. This month Mike will talk about the summer rains, noxious weeds, and pests that are affecting trees... all in about 10 minutes!

\*\*\*

### ATTENTION LIFE MEMBERS

If you are receiving your Newsletter by the U.S. Postal Service regularly, please consider a donation to help offset the cost of printing and postage. You can bring your donation to the September meeting with the Membership Form or send them both to NSHS, PO Box 171, Manchester MA 01944. Thank you.

\*\*\*

### REFRESHMENTS

The Board brings refreshments for the September meeting. But, if you have an abundance of vegetables or fruit from your garden, and a new recipe or an old favorite, we all welcome taste trials. Any donation of food is welcome!

\*\*\*



*A garden is a zoo for plants.*

**Neil deGrasse Tyson**

### COMPOST

**Topsfield Fair** is 100 years old this year. Mark your calendars for September 28th – October 8th. Prefair tickets are available on line and at many local retailers. I am sure we all must have stories about the Fair. Mine was taking my aunt and mother when they both were in decline. We went through the gates, they saw the fried dough, we stopped and had some, and then they were ready to go home.

The Giant Pumpkin Weigh Off (September 28th at 4pm) is 28 years old this year. The first weigh off was in 1984 and the winner weighed 433 pounds and its grower received \$100. In 2016 Stephen Connolly grew one weighing in at 2075 pounds and the prize was \$1000!

Just looking at the activities described, it is certainly a lot more than the “biggest pumpkin”. (The Alaska State Fair just had its 23rd Annual Giant Cabbage contest. The winner was a 90 pound cabbage. When getting ready to bring it to the Fair, the cabbage is cut out of the ground as close to the contest as it loses water—weight by the hour!) For more information about what is happening in Topsfield go to <https://topsfieldfair.org>.

Has anyone heard of using red plastic weed suppressant around your tomato plants? There was a newspaper article late last spring about using it and how it encourages growth. I have not seen any in the stores, but I am curious. Please let us know if you have tried it.

NSHS Member Sandra Stolle has been busy reading this summer and has suggested two books: *The Budget Wise Gardener; with Hundreds of Money Saving Buying and Design Tips for Planting the Best for Less* by Kerry Ann Mendez (published in 2018) and *The \$64 Tomato: How One Man Nearly Lost His Sanity, Spent a Fortune, & Endured an Existential Crisis in the Quest for A Perfect Garden*, by William Alexander (published in 2007).

At Tower Hill in Boylston, September 22nd and 23rd, the **Begonia and Gesneriad Show** takes place. The following weekend, September 29th and 30th, Tower Hill hosts the **Dahlia Show**. For more information call Tower Hill at 508-869-6111.

\*\*\*

North Shore Horticultural Society, Post Office Box 171, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944

<http://www.NSHorticulture.org> [www.facebook.com/NSHorticulture](http://www.facebook.com/NSHorticulture)