



North Shore Horticultural Society

P. O. Box 171 Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944

February, 2019 Volume XXI Number 6

<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

February 26th

Betsy Szymczak
*Gardening
with Dahlias*

Tuesday, 7:30PM

March 26th

Tomoko Tanaka
*Ikebana: A Dem-
onstration of the
Japanese Art of
Flower Arranging*

Tuesday, 7:30PM

April 23rd

Gretel Anspach
*Growing a Healthy
Lawn*

Tuesday, 6:00PM

May 28th

Plant Sale and
Auction

BOARD

MEETING

Thursday,

7:30PM

March 14th

at the home of
Ruth and Norm
Weeks

GARDENING WITH DAHLIAS

Betsy Szymczak

Tuesday, February 26th, 7:30PM

With the crazy weather here in New England, it is wonderful to be able to think about spring and then summer and what may be planted in the garden. One should seriously consider the dahlia, an easy to grow tuberous rooted flower, maybe named for a Swedish botanist, Dr. Anders Dahl.

Prize winner and dahlia grower Betsy Szymczak's presentation will include a brief history of the discovery of dahlias and how they eventually became incorporated into the American garden. She will then discuss the "how-tos" of dahlias in the garden: selecting tubers, planting, watering, fertilizing and then overwintering. We will also learn about the American Dahlia Society Classification and how to enter a Dahlia Show.

Betsy started growing dahlias 10 years ago "with a few bags of dahlia tubers from Ocean State Job Lot and Home Depot; and had some success." Now she is a member of the American Dahlia Society, and the Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New England Dahlia Societies. Betsy also has an affinity for begonias as she is an ABS certified begonia judge and has judged begonia sections at both the Philadelphia and Boston Flower Shows.

Bring a friend to the February meeting and start dreaming of what can be in your garden this summer and fall.

Those manuals of make-believe, the seed catalogues, have one weakness: they don't tell me how to sustain my April gardening enthusiasm through the heat of July. Oren Arnold in

The Glory of the Garden

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol Batdorf

It is February, everyone, and I'm on the hunt for green. The birch catkins are forming. The willow trees are getting yellowy/green bark and the lilac leaf buds are plumping up. The birds are singing their spring songs and we have had some very warm days that are so spring-like, but it doesn't smell like spring yet. I saw budded daffodils in the grocery store flower section yesterday and now Spring Fever has set in.

I was talking with my mom last weekend and she can't wait until the garden centers open up and she can get her veggies to put in her raised table garden at The Highlands in Pennsylvania. I said she will have to wait until May before she can safely buy the plants and set them out. She asked – what about in April? Pennsylvania is two weeks ahead of us but May is still the safest time to put out the tomatoes and peppers. I think we all get to the point that we want growing things around us, some sooner than others.

Our speaker for the month, Betsy Szymczak, will be taking us into the world of dahlias. These flowers are wonderful to have in your garden. These types of flowers are my mom's favorite – the pom-pom ones to be exact. I always knew what to get my mom for Mother's Day. I would get all different types of dahlias for her and then when I visited, I would put them in and she would do the rest. When some of Mom's friends were having dinner parties they would ask if Mom had enough dahlias to make an arrangement for the table. She was always happy to give her friends flowers after she had made fresh arrangements every week for her table.

President's Message continued on p.2

President's Message continued:

Please bring a friend and come and enjoy learning about dahlias and you, too, can be giving them away to friends this summer. Carol

REFRESHMENTS FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Since the sign up clipboard did not get passed around at our January meeting, it would be wonderful if some members would bring some treats to share at the February 26th meeting. The clipboard for refreshments sign up will be passed around for the March 26th meeting!

HORTICULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST FERTILIZERS

Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium... then there are the minor components, then trace elements. (Often it is like alphabet soup for me when it comes to deciphering what is on the bag, and what is needed by plants. *ed.*) At the beginning of the February meeting, Mike Mack will decode the composition and use of indoor and outdoor fertilizers for us.

JANUARY'S VIRTUAL GARDEN TOUR

A thank you to Dotty Ryan, Susanna McLaughlin, and Carol Batdorf for providing photos for Virtual Garden Tour VIII. AND a huge thank you to both Carol Batdorf and Nina Duston for collaborating and getting the emailed photos together for the tour. It certainly provoked many smiles while dinner was being eaten!

HOSPITALITY CHAIR

In January's Newsletter we thanked Anne Mesgar for her many years of being in charge of hospitality for the Society. There is a need for someone to take over. It is not a one person show. There will be a sign-up sheet for the Hospitality Committee at the February meeting. Susanna McLaughlin and Kay Joseph will continue to help to facilitate the libation set up.

Weather is the greatest uncertainty in the naturalist's garden.

Ruth Shaw Ernest
The Naturalist's Garden

COMPOST

The American Horticultural Society has announced its **2018 Book Awards** which were chosen from a list of 75 nominations. The winners are: *Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide* by Heather Holm (Pollination Press LLC); *Floret Farm's Cut Flower Garden* by Erin Benzakein with Julie Chai (Chronicle Books); *The Trees of North America: Michaux and Redouté's American Masterpiece* New York Botanical Garden (Abbeville Press).

Speaking of good books, I (ed.) just finished reading a book which appeared in **Compost** a few months ago, *The Food Explorer: The True Adventures of the Globe Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats* by Daniel Stone. It was absolutely fascinating to learn about how fruits and vegetables arrived in the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s! The Noblenet network has it if you want to borrow it from the library.

At the **Stevens-Coolidge Place** in North Andover on Friday, March 29th, 6:30-8:30PM, there will be a **fairy garden workshop**. A container, soil mix, a variety of suitable miniature plants, and a selection of miniature embellishments and natural materials to appease the garden fairies will be provided. Call 978-356-4351 x3202 or email kbibeau@thetrustees.org for more information. This program fills up quickly, so make your reservation now.

At the **Lyman Estate** in Waltham, there will be a program, **History of Camellias in Boston**, March 2, 2-3PM. Discover the rich history from the late 1700s through the 1900s in the illustrated lecture by Lyman Estate Greenhouses Manager Lynn Ackerman. For more information call 617-994-5913. Tickets: \$15.

If you are unable to attend the lecture, the **Greenhouses at the Lyman Estate**, 185 Lyman Street, Waltham, are open to the public, free of charge, Tuesdays-Sundays, 9:30-4:00. The camellias are absolutely beautiful now.

From *The Curious Gardener's Almanac*: **Peppers** contain up to five times as much Vitamin C as oranges. The highest levels are found when peppers are in the early green stage of ripening.
