



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

April 2019 Volume XXI Number 8

www.NSHorticulture.org

Meeting Location

is usually the
Manchester Masonic Lodge,
10 Church Street,
Manchester-by-the-Sea
(behind Town Hall)

Meeting Preview

Tuesday, April 23rd

7:30 PM

Annual Meeting
and
Gretel Anspach
Growing a Healthy Lawn

Tuesday, May 28th

6:00 PM

Plant Sale
and
Auction

Tuesday, June 25th

6:00 PM

Annual Potluck Picnic
at
Tuck's Point

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, May 2nd

7:00 PM

at the home of
Carol Batdorf



Annual Meeting and Growing a Healthy Lawn

Gretel Anspach

It is once again time for the Society's Annual Meeting. In addition to electing officers and directors, we will vote on updates to the Society's by-laws.

Lawns are imported garden fixtures from places with cool, wet summers. Here, maintaining a "perfect" lawn is a struggle, and advertisers would have us believe that if you follow their four (or three or five) step process, your lawn will be magnificent. Learn what it really takes to have a healthy lawn. We'll be shown options for tailoring our own lawn and the lawn care needed to fit our needs, our site, and our vision of the perfect lawn.

Gretel Anspach is a Trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a Lifetime Master Gardener, past-president of the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association and a retired systems engineer for Raytheon.

Horticultural Points of Interest (HPOI)

Looking for things to do in your garden while waiting for the warmer weather? Mike's HPOI this month are the last ones for the spring season! He describes how to divide and transplant perennials, evergreens, and bulbs. He also provides information on safely spraying for winter moths and viburnum beetles.

Remember to Dig!

On or before May 20th
for our Plant Sale and Auction which
will be held on May 28th

President's Message

Carol Batdorf

Hi Everyone, April showers bring May flowers. This is the month when we go from drab winter colors to the eye-catching colors of spring. An ephemeral mist of greens, reds and oranges halo the trees and bushes as the leaf buds color their branches. I noted that the lilac buds have some beautiful light green showing. New leaf growth is happening all around us.

I have been cleaning up my gardens but I am being mindful of the insects that are overwintering in the gardens. I keep uncovering woolly bear caterpillars so I put them back under the leaves and stop raking in that area. I'm dragging the leaf matter to a compost pile so the good insects that are in the stems should still be okay and should emerge without problems, at least I hope so. If you are bagging up your garden waste and having it taken away then the rule of waiting until the temperatures are at 50 or above maybe should be followed. We need all the good bees, butterflies and moths that we can get. But on the other hand, I want to get as much of the yard cleaned up before those awful biting insects attack me as I'm working in the garden. The good and bad insects will emerge at a similar range of temperatures so we should be mindful of the good insect's life cycles. This has been the earliest I have ever started to clean up my gardens.

As I have been raking the lawn I have noticed that the front lawn is mostly some sort of moss and there is a thick layer of thatch that I am slowly raking up.

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President's Message, *continued*

I'm wondering if the front lawn is transitioning into something other than grass. Is this a good thing or a bad thing? I'm hoping to learn from Gretel Anspach's April talk "Growing a Healthy Lawn" if I need to do major work to the lawn or if it will take care of itself. You do not need to mow moss and I really do not like to mow grass.

We have many upcoming events. Please mark your calendar! If you are planning to go plant shopping you might want to call someone from the NSHS to share the ride and the fun of obtaining new plants. If you have some wonderful plants blooming in your gardens share the blooms and let people know. I look forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting. Please bring a friend and share in the fun. Carol

Refreshments

Thank you to the following members for volunteering to bring treats to the April 23rd meeting: Joan Johnson, Betsy Lynch, Dotty Ryan, Dot Sieradzki, Jack Sumski, Sylvia Topp, and Ruth and Norm Weeks.

Plant Sale and Auction

Our annual Plant Sale and Auction will take place on Tuesday, May 28th starting at 6:00 PM. This is our only fundraiser of the year. It helps fund our programs and the NSHS's Scholarship at North Shore Community College: a student of horticulture or floriculture receives \$1000. To make the Plant Sale and Auction a success, we need you to solicit donations, put up posters in your neighborhood, set up tables, etc. Many hands make light work! The volunteer form was included with the March newsletter. If you have not already signed-up, you can do so at our April meeting.

Member's Garden Tour

This year's Member's Garden Tour is planned for Saturday, June 22nd (rain date June 23rd). Please consider opening your garden for the membership to visit. You can sign up at the April meeting.

Native Plant Finder

www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants

The Native Plant Finder is a web tool recently launched by the National Wildlife Federation that makes it easy (simply enter your zip code) to discover which indigenous plant species are the very best at supporting the insects that drive local food webs.

Compost

Newport Daffodil Days Festival Newport RI (April 13th -21th) Celebrate the annual blooming of daffodils at more than 20 events throughout the city of Newport, including a parade, garden tours, and classic car show. Free parking during the event means you can enjoy the day with no interruptions to feed the meter. www.newportdaffydays.com

Art in Bloom Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA (April 27th - 29th) Annual festival of fine art and flowers. Enjoy art from across the MFA's collection paired with magnificent floral interpretations.

Spring events at **Tower Hill Botanic Garden** in West Bolyston, MA.

Wind, Waves, and Light: Art in Motion (April 13th – October 14th) This unconventional exhibition features large-scale, stainless steel sculptures that move and change with the wind. An artist and engineer, George Sherwood creates kinetic sculptures that evoke shimmering leaves, flocks of birds, schools of fish, and waves of light and water.

Hello Spring 2019 (April – May) Celebrate the passing of winter's chill with tens of thousands of spring blooms, including a field of more than 25,000 daffodils!

Plant Sale at Long Hill 55 Cogswell Ave, Beverly MA (May 11th 10AM-1PM) A great selection of unusual plants and old favorites, including the silent auction of rare plants, perennials from A to Z, natives, annuals, propagated Sedgwick Garden specialties, herbs, succulents, hypertufa containers, and gardening books. Rain or shine, please bring your wagons!

Spring 2019 Hummingbird Migration Map and Sightings Many hummingbirds spend the winter in Central America or Mexico, and migrate north to their breeding grounds in the southern United States as early as February, and to areas further north later in the spring. Hummingbirds fly by day when nectar sources such as flowers are more abundant. Flying low allows the birds to see, and stop at, food supplies along the way. They are also experts at using tail winds to help reach their destination faster and by consuming less energy and body fat. Research indicates a hummingbird can travel as much as 23 miles in one day. Check out www.hummingbirdcentral.com

