



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

January 2022 Volume XXIV Number 4

www.NSHorticulture.org

Meeting Location

For Zoom meetings, we will email the link to members on the Monday before and again the morning of the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, Jan 27th
7:30 PM

*Members Garden
Photo Show
Zoom meeting*

Thursday, Feb 24th
7:30 PM

*Topic and location
to be determined*

Thursday, Mar 24th
7:30 PM

*Topic and location
to be determined*

Next Board Meeting
Thursday, February 10th
7:30 PM



Members Virtual Garden Tour

by NSHS members
Thursday, Jan 27th
7:30 PM

We'll present an online slideshow of photos submitted by our members. Members who have submitted photos will have the option of discussing their photos during the presentation.

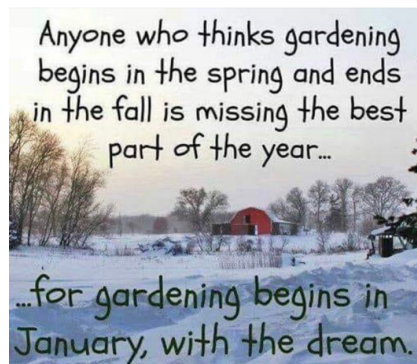
We want your photos!

To make our Virtual Garden Tour a success, please look through your photos from the past year.

By **Thursday, January 20th**, please send any horticultural moments that you captured to Melissa Flinn at: **NSHSphotos2022@gmail.com**

Attach up to three photos per email to make sure that she can download them. Send as many emails as you like.

Optionally, in the emails, you can include information about the photos, such as date and location. By default, your name will be displayed along with your photos in the slideshow. If you prefer to be anonymous – just let Melissa know in your email when you send the photos.



from Doty Ryan

President's Message

Carol Batdorf

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are keeping warm and staying safe. We will not be meeting in person this month but hopefully our efforts to share pictures of gardens will warm our gardeners' hearts for the need for greenery and flowers via a Zoom meeting.

Looking at pictures of lush gardens in the peak of bloom is wonderful during the winter months but you can bring a bit of that garden experience into your home with bouquets that you make from bought flowers and fruit.

I have a few pointers to share from an article about better bouquets that I read in *Real Simple*, June 2021. They reference the book *Flower School: A Practical Guide to the Art of Flower Arranging* by Calvert Crary. Here are some of the pointers:

Peek under the paper/plastic that is encasing the store bought flowers. If the stem is freshly cut, it should not look brown, moldy or feel soft. Be picky about the condition of the bunch of flowers you pick up at the market.

Look at the blossoms and figure out if they are still opening or if they are all the way open. Look on the backside of the flower. Is the connection at the flower and stem healthy? Tap lightly on a flower and if the petals start to fall, well it is past its prime. Ask at the supermarket what day the flower orders usually come in and shop accordingly.

If you are doing a centerpiece for a dinner, flowers and fruit go well together. You want a centerpiece that you can see over, so keep it low to the table and play with

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President's Message *(continued)*

flowers, lemons, oranges, grapes, and apples – they all have wonderful colors – or just use fruit and greens.

Create a color wish list - think about the container you will be using and what the room colors are for where you will put the arrangement. Sometimes the flower displays at the market are too enticing and you can get carried away. I can speak from experience on that!

Try to buy flowers that will last for more than a day or two, for example, roses, chrysanthemums, statice, and baby's breath. When you get home with your flowers, re-cut the flowers and put them in fresh water. I use the crystal packet that comes with the flowers in the water for the arrangement water. If buying roses, remove all foliage, re-cut the stem and hydrate the stems for two to four hours in hot water before arranging in a separate vase.



There are many more tricks to taking care of flowers before putting them into an arrangement. Have fun bringing color into your home during the winter. Chase the winter blues away with some flowers.

Happy flowering ~ Carol

Upcoming Online Events

Camden Garden Club Online Horticultural Series

Tuesdays 9:30 to 10:30 AM (free)

The next event is Tuesday, January 25, 2022 *Birds, Bugs and Botanicals*

For more information and to register:

<https://www.camdengardenclub.org/garden-club-events>

UMass Extension Jumping Worm Conference

Wed., Jan. 26 and Thurs., Jan. 27 9:00 to 11:45AM

Pre-registration required.

\$25 for individual days or \$40 for both days

<https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/events/jumping-worm-conference>

UMass Extension Mass Aggie Series Workshops

Saturdays, 10:30 am to noon

Starting February 5 - \$35 per workshop

<https://ag.umass.edu/fruit/news-events/mass-aggie-seminars-2022>

The Plant Box



They're big, they're bright, they're yellow!

With winter days we need harbingers of the sun and sunflowers welcome us to our future, happy days of summer. But did you know they also could be orange, red or purple? Sunflowers will help you bring color into your garden very easily. With 70 species and dwarf cultivars at three feet to the Guinness World Record holder at 27 feet, you can take a basic garden to new heights with sunflowers.

As an easy grower that's tolerant of heat and drought, sunflowers can be annual or perennial; the large, yellow ones we typically see are annuals. Native to North and Central America, the first known sunflower seeds were found in Mexico and dated to 2100 BCE. It's believed these early seeds were used for food. And we've continued to enjoy snacking on sunflower seeds to this day as do birds and deer. Additionally, sunflowers are used for other products such as oil, soap, dye and paint.

This versatile flower is a member of the Aster family in the genus *Helianthus*. Liking full sun (as you might imagine) and doing best in slightly acidic soil, sunflowers add back to your garden by attracting pollinators. So plant a sunflower or two and you'll actually be planting many flowers; the disc of the sunflower is made up of many tiny individual flowers. Whether you take a close look to enjoy the detail or stand back for the bigger view, you'll have many moments of enjoyment from the beauty of this historic flower.

This edition of the Plant Box was submitted by Anne Morin and the photo by Joan Johnson.

Thanks, Anne and Joan!

Is there a type of plant that is special to you?

Please submit your idea (photo and relevant informative text ~200 words) for a future edition of the Plant Box to northshorehorticulture@gmail.com

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

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