



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

March 2021 Volume XXIII Number 3

www.NSHorticulture.org

Meeting Location

The Zoom meeting link will be emailed to members the Monday before and again the morning of the meeting.

Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Thursday, Mar 25th

7:30 PM

Catherine Brown, DVM

*Ticks and Tick-Borne
Diseases in MA*

Live presentation
over Zoom

Thursday, April 22nd

7:30 PM

*Garden Gate seminar
Perennials that Live up
to their Promise*
Sherri Ribbey

Thursday, May 27th

7:30 PM

*Garden Gate seminar
Gardening for Birds*
James Baggett

Board Meeting

Thursday, April 8th

7:00 PM



Ticks and Tick Borne Diseases

Catherine Brown, DVM

Thursday, March 25th

7:30 PM



Dr. Catherine Brown is the State Epidemiologist and State Public Health Veterinarian at Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Her specialties include urban wildlife, zoonotic disease, and epidemiology. She is the state's expert on tick-borne diseases.

Ticks are tiny bugs that feed on the blood of mammals, birds, or reptiles. Black-legged (deer) ticks and dog ticks are found throughout Massachusetts and may spread different disease-causing germs when they bite you. The most common tick-borne diseases in Massachusetts are Lyme Disease, Babesiosis, and Anaplasmosis. Other diseases that are rarer, but still occur, are Tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, *Borrelia miyamotoi*, and Powassan virus. Tick-borne illnesses can be very severe. Taking steps to avoid tick bites is important.

Dr. Brown will share information about why ticks and tick-borne diseases have become such a problem, risk factors for getting a tick-borne disease, the best ways to protect yourself, the favorite places ticks like to attach themselves to on the body, and what to do if you find one on your body.

There will be time for audience questions after the presentation.

We will send an email with the link for our Zoom meeting on the Monday before the meeting. We'll follow up with a reminder email on the day of the meeting. If we don't have your email and you want to join the Zoom meeting, please let us know: northshorehorticulture@gmail.com

President's Message

by Carol Batdorf

Happy March everyone. I think we all are looking forward to Spring and getting outside and enjoying nature. Some people have been vaccinated and others are still waiting. Masks and distance are still needed but we are closer to a safer new normal. Whatever that is, we will all be able to enjoy our gardens and others that we visit.

Last year as I worked in the garden, I could focus on the tasks that needed to be done and the rest of the world stuff faded for a while. The same thing happens when I paint so maybe I should try and do some painting in the garden. No travel needed and it is safe from the crowds. But there are some things to remember when being in the garden. Will I be in the sun? Are there stinging insects to look out for? How will I protect myself from the smaller insects that bite, like mosquitoes and ticks?

This month Catherine Brown will tell us what we need to know about ticks and tick-borne diseases in Massachusetts. It will be good to keep this talk in mind as we clean up our gardens for this year's garden season. Join us for the Zoom meeting. "See" you there.

~ Carol

Pete Johnson shared this link for timely information about stink bugs in the house and tips on how to repel them:

<https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/gardens/animals-and-wildlife/why-are-there-so-many-stink-bugs-my-house>



Feats of Clay

by Norm Weeks

Clay pots are made of classic material, durable, reasonably priced, and available in thousands of sizes and styles. They've been around a long time and still serve us well.

Clay, itself, has quite a history around here. Clay bricks were the building blocks of early Boston and elsewhere. One company, A. H. Hews, a pottery and brickworks founded in 1765 in Weston, began by hauling clay from pits in North Cambridge.



Hews moved to Cambridge in 1871, and thrived making all sorts of red clay products from flowerpots to dishware to cuspidors. Standard and decorative pots were their most popular items, and by 1905 they were the largest producer of flowerpots in America, producing more than 16 million that year. Their customers were worldwide.

Plastic pots have since replaced clay pots in popularity. They are sharp-edged when broken and hard to recycle, but also inexpensive and less weighty. Some even credit the hanging versions with preserving the macramé industry.

But even shattered clay pots find use in the bottoms of others to improve soil drainage. And, of course, it's rare when one can say about something broken that it works just fine!

HERB FARMacy News

Rita Wollmering and Brooke Finn—great friends of NSHS for many years—have sold The HERB FARMacy in Salisbury to new owners. Many of us have visited there to take advantage of their organic vegetable plants, flowers, honey and eggs. The new managers are Rijk Gupta and Maura Desfosses.

Rijk studied horticultural at UMass Amherst with a focus on vegetable production and later mycology in graduate school at University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. Their first growing season was in Beverly on a

The Plant Box



Surprise: It's a vegetable!

It's also a very old and hardy perennial. Ben Franklin introduced it in the US. But it dates much earlier as a plant. *Rhubarb* has been traced to China as early as 2700 B.C. where it was used as a medicine. Liking cold climates, it even grows in Siberia. But in your backyard, it'll like full sun and a lightly moist and well-drained soil. Give it some space – it typically can grow to three feet wide and to six feet high. It can be started from seed or from a cutting or a root. Plant it in early spring after the ground has thawed but the temperature is still a little cold. Once it's in the ground, you'll need to wait two years for your first harvest and then you'll be ready to make a pie. Or eat it fresh from the ground like I did as a kid, right from my grandmother's garden. Or you can look for it in June at your local supermarket. And then be ready to combine it with some strawberries for National Strawberry-*Rhubarb* Pie Day on June 9th. Enjoy!

The idea for the Plant Box and this first edition were submitted by Anne Morin. Thanks, Anne!

Is there a type of plant that is special to you? Perhaps you have seen one while you were on a tropical vacation or at a local garden?

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

quarter acre that they leased from the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project. They later managed Anything Grows, an organic market garden.

And speaking of organic practices, Greenbelt has announced that Iron Ox Farm of Topsfield—a CSA—will be the new operator of the former Green Meadows Farm in Hamilton and Topsfield. We appreciate the lengthening list of organic farm choices in our area!