



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

April 2021 Volume XXIII Number 4

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, 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*

**Thursday, June 24th
7:30 PM**

*Garden Gate seminar
Water Smart
Sherri Ribbey*

Board Meeting

Thursday, May 13th
7:00 PM



President's Message

by Carol Batdorf

April is here and things are popping up in the gardens. Yeah! It is so good to see some splashes of color and evidence of new growth. The tree buds are swelling and the birds are chirping. The sun feels warm on our skin and we can once again go outside to enjoy our gardens and open spaces. Every day, I look forward to getting home from work and walking the gardens to see what new colors or signs of spring have appeared like magic over a 24-hour period. Isn't nature wonderful to put on a new flower show in our gardens every year? Yes, we add bulbs and plants with the hopes they will come up the next spring. But we have little say as to whether they will be fodder for the hungry deer and rodents. I have seen many deer prints throughout my gardens this spring so I don't know what they have dug up and eaten and what they have left alone. I will have to wait and see.

Waiting to see what plants are emerging in the gardens is a gift every day. With perennials, the gift is given every year and they keep making more plants that we can redistribute to another part of the garden or give away. It is always important to put the plants in the right places. We must keep in mind that trees and shrubs get bigger and can make sun gardens transition into shade gardens.

Knowing what growing conditions our perennials need helps us to get the best results in our gardens. Plants don't read the plant books as to what they are supposed to do but we have a general idea of what will happen if we plant in shade or sun.

This month's Zoom presentation, "Perennials that Live up to their Promise,"

Perennials that Live up to their Promise

**Thursday, April 22nd
7:30 PM**

Some plants look seductive at the garden center, but how do you know if they'll grow vigorously in your garden? Let our experiences at the *Garden Gate* test garden help you decide which plants will keep getting better and better as the years go by.

Sherri Ribbey is a senior editor at *Garden Gate* magazine. With an old house, a big garden and a new dog, Sherri is never at a loss for something to do!

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, *continued*

should help give us some ideas about what plants to get and where to plant them in our gardens. Hopefully, you can join the Zoom meeting and get some new ideas. Keep in mind that we hope to have a members' garden tour this summer or fall. You can point out your successes and trials when we come to visit your gardens this summer. Happy gardening everyone.

~ Carol

Green Thumb Go-To's

From Sue McLaughlin: The March/April 2021 issue of *Yankee Magazine* has a big section on pages 76-79 that lists some favorite gardens and nurseries for finding horticultural inspiration. If you don't have a hard copy of *Yankee Magazine*, you can access a free online version of the current issue here:

https://issuu.com/yankeemagazine/docs/_yk0321_flipbook

Long Hill Property Ambassadors Needed

From Norm Weeks: Long Hill in Beverly is looking for a few "Property Ambassadors", volunteers at the main house or strolling the grounds who share information about the property, events, programs and workshops there. Volunteers must be available for at least two 2-hour shifts each month. For more info, go to <http://volunteer.thetrustees.org/>.

Winners of the 2021 American Horticultural Society Book Awards

The Complete Book of Ferns
by Mobe Weinstein

Mobe Weinstein, foreman of gardeners for outdoor gardens at the New York Botanical Garden, offers readers an in-depth, yet not overwhelming, ode to the fern. Within its pages are sections on the history of the fern, botany, growing techniques, profiles of 70 different varieties, and even fern projects. Judge Amy Champion appreciated that the book includes both indoor and outdoor ferns contributing to its appeal to gardeners and houseplant aficionados alike. The judges were impressed by the beautiful photographs throughout; Viveka Neveln noted that making a book visually appealing when the plant photographs are mostly green is no small feat.

Plant Partners: Science-Based Companion Planting Strategies for the Vegetable Garden
by Jessica Walliser

Bringing science-based evidence to the lore and old wives' tales, author Jessica Walliser brings a fresh approach to companion planting and eye-opening information about plant interactions above and underground. Susan Eubank, judge and botanical librarian, declared that the book, "made me happy" because of its practicality and ease of use. Judge Kim Toscano Holmes has found that there is a growing interest in this topic and feels comfortable pointing people to an evidence-based resource.

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The Plant Box



Born as a fruit in South America, the tomato was legally declared a vegetable by the U. S. Supreme Court in 1893. This decision ended the debate over the tomato's status so that it aligned with how people thought of and used it. This declaration was the last step in the tomato becoming more accepted. Several decades prior, many people felt it was toxic thanks to its membership in the *Solanumaceae* family, kin to the poisonous Nightshade. So, as you plant this very pedestrian produce, keep in mind it's not only nutritious but historical, it likes sun and to be planted when it's warm, it likes to go in close to the ground and it thrives in well-watered and well-drained soil. As they grow, stakes or cages will keep tomato plants strong until you're ready to harvest. Tomatoes can be picked green to ripen on your counter and can stay on the counter since they store best at room temperature. And with the many that you'll gather, remember you have a friend somewhere hoping you'll share!

This second edition of the Plant Box was submitted by Anne Morin. Thanks, Anne!

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

Squirrels in the garden or your flowerpots driving you nuts?

From Norm Weeks: Try natural repellents such as cayenne pepper, crushed red pepper, vinegar, peppermint oil, or garlic (or combinations of two or more). Rain or watering can dilute these, so have extra on hand.

Spring is here!

From Norm Weeks: A sure sign of renewal is when the Star Magnolia at the corner of Haskell and Webster Streets in Beverly Farms buds and blossoms. It should be in full glory the 2nd and 3rd week of April, and worth a look.