



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

April 2022 Volume XXIV Number 7

www.NSHorticulture.org

Meeting Location

Sacred Heart Parish Hall
62 School Street
Manchester-by-the-Sea

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

Upcoming Meetings

**Thursday, Apr 28th
7:30 PM**

Pamela Hartford
*Frederick Law Olmsted
and His Legacy on the
North Shore*

Thursday, May 26th

Plant Sale - 6:00 PM
Auction - 6:30 PM
with Fred Rice

Thursday, June 23rd

6:00 PM
Annual Picnic
at Tuck's Point

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, May 12th
7:30 PM

Frederick Law Olmsted and His Legacy on the North Shore Pamela Hartford

**Thursday, April 28th
7:30 PM**

Tuesday, April 26th marks the 200th anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted's birthday. The "father of landscape architecture" harnessed his love of natural scenery with acute powers of observation, organization, and a background in farming. He may be best known for design projects, such as Central Park in New York City and the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. However, he and his firm also created magic in over twenty communities on our North Shore. The evening's program will provide glimpses into some rarely seen private properties.

Our speaker, Pamela Hartford, is a landscape historian based in Salem. She is practiced in architecture, landscape design, historic preservation, and horticulture. An inveterate researcher, she documents historic sites and prepares rehabilitation plans while drawing from archives, public records, photographs, maps, drawings, and other sources. Ms. Hartford often writes and speaks about the history and cultural context of designed and vernacular landscapes.



President's Message

Carol Batdorf

Hi Everyone,

Spring is really here. The colors are starting to pop in the gardens and the flowering trees and bushes are putting on a show. A warmer breeze has started and sitting outside is pleasant unless you are right along the coast. The air off the ocean is still a bit nippy. I love going out each day to discover what has emerged from the winter leaf bed and what buds have opened. Listening to the bird songs and hearing the peepers at dusk heralds in the spring season.

Now we can get busy cleaning up the winter garden cover. Be mindful that there are going to be some cold nights still so if something is really tender hold off on uncovering it. The seeds from last year's crop will start to germinate once the ground is warm enough. Digging around or raking those areas of the garden will disturb the shallow seed growth. I am always chomping at the bit to get into the garden but the plants grow up through the leaves. It will take more time for me to pull out the leaves but the plants will be happier with the cover when the temps go down at night.

Be mindful that some other things (including ticks) are out and about. I heard this tip: If you tape your ankles so that the sticky side of the tape faces out, the ticks will get stuck in the tape. I might try that this year.

I bought some *ranuncula* this year - I could not resist the colors of the full blooms. They do not overwinter outside but hopefully they will give me color all summer.

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President's Message *(continued)*

What are the new types of plants that you are going to try this year in your gardens? What are the tried and true plants you need in your gardens? We have been influenced by what we want in our gardens by past gardeners and by the gardens that we have grown up in. Our speaker, Pamela Hartford, is going to explain how Frederick Law Olmsted has influenced the gardens found on the North Shore. Join us for a virtual walk down the garden history paths of our area. I look forward to seeing people in person. I'm also happy that people will be able to enjoy the program over Zoom if they prefer.

Happy spring everyone.

~ Carol

April Meeting Safety Protocols

We look forward to another in-person meeting. Masks are optional. We will have a limited supply of KN-95 masks to give to anyone who would like one. We will provide hand sanitizer. There will be no refreshments. For members who cannot attend in person, we will send an email with Zoom attendance instructions.

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## Are you interested in joining the NSHS Board?

We'll be voting on our Board Members during our April member meeting. If you are interested in joining the Board, please let Carol know before April 26<sup>th</sup>: 978-525-3528 or [nina\\_carol@verizon.net](mailto:nina_carol@verizon.net)

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Plant Sale and Auction

Our annual Plant Sale and Auction will be on Thursday, May 26th starting at 6:00 PM. This is our only fundraiser of the year. It helps fund the hall rental, our speaker programs, a North Shore Community College horticulture scholarship, and so much else that makes NSHS special. To make the event a complete success, please consider donating a plant (or plants!) to be sold that evening. And, if you can, please consider being a volunteer. A "Volunteer" form will be emailed to you a week before the April meeting. You can fill it out and return it, or sign up at the April meeting where there will be plenty of blank forms available. Many hands make light work!

The Plant Box



The tiny, white, bell-shaped flowers are very recognizable. But did you know that the Lily of the Valley is a member of the Asparagus Family? It was formerly classified in the Lily Family, but the latest classification revision created a breakout for it to join the Asparagus Family. Common characteristics include that the flowers grow on stalks and the stems are the main point for photosynthesis.

Lily of the Valley, a native of eastern North America, grows low and close together, so it can serve as a ground cover and should be used in that way as opposed to a garden perennial; it spreads easily, filling in open spaces through a dense root system. In planting them, Lily of the Valley prefers shade and can be the answer to vacant spots under trees.

A low maintenance plant, Lily of the Valley should be planted in early Spring and plantings will be as roots called pips. To help give their growth a head start, the pips can be soaked in water prior to planting. Planting should be done lightly near the top of the soil and most types of soil as well as climates support this plant, and once established it is drought tolerant. Blooms come in late Spring and early Summer.

There is, however, one drawback to this lovely, fragrant plant – it contains cardiac glycosides which are the same compounds found in foxglove; poisonous to pets and people if ingested, these will negatively impact heart function. As with everything, take care with the Lily of the Valley and you will have a delicate but hardy supporting member of your garden.

This 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