



# North Shore Horticultural Society

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

May 2021 Volume XXIII Number 5

[www.NSHorticulture.org](http://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, May 27<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 PM**

*Garden Gate* seminar  
*Gardening for Birds*  
James Baggett

**Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

*\* format to be determined  
by membership vote \**

6:00 PM Annual Picnic  
at Tuck's Point

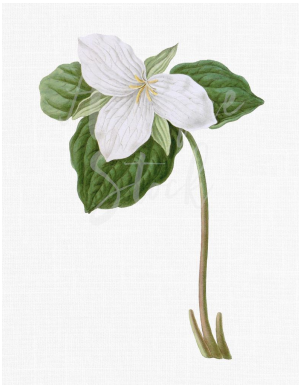
*or*

7:30 PM Zoom seminar  
*Garden Gate - Water Smart*

## **Board Meeting**

Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 PM

Joan Johnson's house



## **President's Message**

*by Carol Batdorf*

Hi Everyone,

It is May and the gardens are greening up with blooming flowers all over, that is if you are not plagued by deer, rabbits, and/or groundhogs. This year I seem to have them all munching in my garden. The Virginia blue bells have been eaten to the ground, the hostas have been sampled, the early tulips were eaten before they had a chance to bloom and the list goes on. So, I decided to learn what plants deer might leave alone, realizing that they haven't read the "will not eat" list. Other deer-plagued gardeners have reported success with the following perennials: Astilbes, Bleeding heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*), Columbines (*Aquilegia*), Daffodils (*Narcissus*), *Epi-mediums*, Foxgloves (*Digitalis*), Hellebores, Iris, Large periwinkle (*Vinca major*), Lavenders (*Lavendula*), Lungworts (*Pulmonaria*), Sunflowers (*Helianthus*), and Yucca. I have ten of these perennial types in my garden so maybe I will have enough plant material to make a pick and plunk bouquet at the end of the day for most of the spring and summer.

Animals that I do want to come to my garden are the birds. The very same day that I put up my hummingbird feeder, the hummers were using it. Other birds are having fun in the bird baths and at the bird feeders (along with the furry birds – the squirrels). Our talk this month is about birds in the garden. Come and join us on the May Zoom meeting to find out how to encourage birds to be in your garden. It will be wonderful to see all that can join in the meeting. See you then.

~ Carol

## **Gardening for Birds**

**Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**

Want to bring more birds into your garden and get them to stay there? James Baggett (avid birder as well as *Garden Gate* magazine senior editor) will show you the best plants to feed, provide shelter, and offer nesting opportunities for your favorite birds.

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](mailto:northshorehorticulture@gmail.com)

## **Notice to NSHS Members Annual Meeting Update**

Due to COVID restrictions, the 2020 Annual Meeting was moved from April to October. This meeting is ordinarily when members vote for Board members and officers. Last year, the voting was done by using postcards. We are still unable to meet in person, and it's not clear when we will again. For these reasons, the Board has decided to postpone the 2021 Annual Meeting until April 2022. The Board is also considering a change in the By-Laws to make the Annual Meeting date more fluid and allow us to accommodate potential future disruptions to meeting dates. This change was adopted by other organizations (for example, Essex County Greenbelt) and reflects the uncertain times through which we are living.

If you have any questions or opinions to express, we welcome them. Please contact Norm Weeks (978-232-0102) or Carol Batdorf (978-525-3528).

*Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.*  
~ William Shakespeare

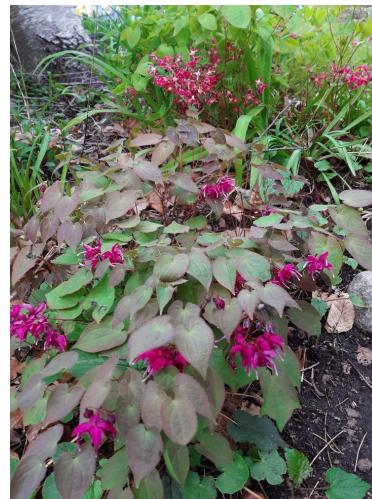
**Garlic Mustard:  
A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing**  
*by Dorothy Ryan*

A few years ago, in a semi wild section of my garden, I discovered some unfamiliar plants. They were spindly, frail looking things about a foot high and topped with a clusters of tiny white flowers. What were these newcomers? A bit of research led me to an unpleasant discovery. They were *Alliaria petiolata*, a herbaceous biennial commonly known as Garlic Mustard. Originally from Europe, they have quickly made themselves at home in North America. I discovered that each plant can produce hundreds of tiny seeds which are easily spread and remain viable for five years. Colonies, once established, can take over large areas and they are able to produce chemicals that interfere with the growth of plants near them. Yikes! I didn't want them to take over my garden, so I set about getting rid of them. Not only were there plants in flower but also thousands of little first year seedlings. Thank goodness they were fairly easy to pull up but there were so many of them that it took me hours to complete the task. I learned that even when the plant has been pulled up, the seeds continue to develop. Not into the compost, then, but into the trash they went, two trash bags full of them. Years later, I continued to be vigilant about removing Garlic Mustard plants that are still coming up but I think I have them under control. Now I can turn my attention to Bittersweet vine, Bindweed, and Swallow-wort, my usual adversaries.



*Garlic Mustard in all its glory*

**The Plant Box**



*Epimedium* (Barrenwort) is an evergreen or semi-evergreen ground cover that blooms in the spring and turns color in the fall. The leaves are heart shaped and can be speckled, edged in black, blushed with red or be totally purple/bronze, as well as, all green. The heart-shaped leaves can be long, round, smooth edged, or serrated. They flower in early spring before the new leaves emerge. The flowers are carried on thin stems in open clusters that appear to hover above or to the side of the leaf matter. Each flower has 8 petal-like sepals and 4 often spur-like petals. The flower color ranges from white to yellow, bronze, red, and pink. They remind me of columbine flowers that have morphed into alien spaceships.

*Epimediums* are easy to grow, long-lived shade perennials that thrive in well-drained, humus-rich, moisture-retentive soils. Once they are established, they can tolerate dry shady garden sites where other plants fail. This makes them good plants for under shallow-rooted trees and in gardens that experience periodic drought. They are hardy; growing in zones 4 to 8. One thing that differentiates *Epimediums* from most other perennials is that they are very sensitive to harsh chemical fertilizers; mulch and compost provide all the nutrients they need. Once you try one in your garden, I bet you can't stop at one. I know I couldn't.

*This edition of the Plant Box was  
submitted by Carol Batdorf. Thanks, Carol!  
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](mailto:northshorehorticulture@gmail.com)