



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

May 2022 Volume XXIV Number 8

www.NSHorticulture.org

Meeting Location

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

Upcoming Meetings

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, June 9th
7:30 PM

**Dig we must
no later than
May 21st
for our
PLANT SALE
And AUCTION
May 26th**



Plant Sale and Auction

with Fred Rice

Thursday, May 26th

Plant Sale - 6:00 PM

Auction - 6:30 PM

Mark your calendars, fire all the cannons at once, and let your friends and neighbors know that our annual NSHS Plant Sale & Auction is coming up on Thursday, May 26th. Once again, Fred Rice will return as Auctioneer Extraordinaire and share his expertise and good humor with us as a rich variety of horticultural gems go up for bid.

Another date to remember is May 21st. This is the date by when you should dig and pot your plants in order for them to have time to acclimate to pot life. Everyone is encouraged to share some of their wonderful plants, bulbs, ground covers, bushes, flowering trees and other items known to entice gardening enthusiasts. And garden-related items such as garden tools, planters, plant art, pots, garden furniture and garden whimsy are also welcome.

The sale of pre-priced items starts at 6:00pm, and the auction starts at 6:30pm. Cash and checks are the only forms of payment that we can accept. This event is the major fundraiser for NSHS.

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## **May Gardening Tip**

*from Massachusetts Master Gardeners*

As soon as your early-flowering trees and shrubs finish blooming, prune them back to promote the largest possible flower display next year. This includes forsythia, rhododendron, azaleas, lilacs, dogwoods, crabapples, and redbud. Pruning later in the summer removes next year's buds.

## **President's Message**

*Carol Batdorf*

Hi Everyone,

We have been waiting a long time to have a plant sale and auction. We have missed two events to hear Fred Rice extol the virtues of a plant or garden item that you simply must have for the garden. I hope that your perennials need to be divided and that you have many garden-related items that would excite a bidding war. This is our fundraiser for the Society and much work goes into the event to make it a success. Please dig up some plants five days or more before the Auction so that the plants are in good condition for the sale. You can also buy plants from garden centers and donate them.

For me, the garden has been a centering force during the last two years of Covid. It is a place that feels safe and normal. I am always on the lookout to add something new to my garden and I obtained many additions from past NSHS Auctions. I can't wait to see what's available this year.

Thank you ahead of time for everyone who brings in plants and garden items, puts up signs in their neighborhood, tells people about the Auction, helps as a bid taker or a plant runner, sets up the Sale and Auction, and cleans up after the event. Many hands make light work. We'll even have some fun!

Bid often and bid high.

~ Carol

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Gardening is cheaper than therapy, and you get tomatoes.

Plant Sale and Auction Logistics

Ahead of time:

- Sign up to volunteer** if you have not already done so. Any time that you can give will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to help and have not submitted your volunteer form, please call 978-232-0102.
- Let friends and neighbors know** and plan to bring them to the event! A flyer is provided along with this newsletter mailing.

Preparing plants for the Sale/Auction:

- Dig and pot plants by May 21st.**
- Label plants** with name, color, and ultimate height and diameter, if known.

Dropping off plants and other items:

Bring your labeled plants and other items to the Sacred Heart Hall at 62 School Street *during these hours only*:

Wednesday, May 25th 3:00- 6:30 PM

Thursday, May 26th 2:00- 6:00 PM

Enter the parking lot and look for help from one of our volunteers.

Note: The earlier that you drop off your items (during these hours), the more time there is for us to organize them.

Remember to bring these items to the Sale/Auction:

- If you plan to pay by check**, bring two checks: one for the Sale and the other for the Auction.
- Cardboard boxes, plant trays, and newspaper** to make it easier to transport your purchases home. (NSHS will provide compostable bags).
- Your family, friends, and neighbors!**

Questions? Please call Norm Weeks at 978-232-0102

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After the Auction

We will need help cleaning up – “many hands make light work” 😊

We want you!

Join the NSHS Board or a Committee

We are looking for members to participate in the following committees: Program, Publicity, Hospitality, Field Trips, and Community Outreach.

We are also looking for members to join the NSHS Board for the 2022-2023 season.

Please let us know if you'd like to volunteer!

The Plant Box



We admire it but don't really look at it. We take care of it, but it does nothing for us. Grass is a very pedestrian part of our lives and it's always getting underfoot. So, let's step lightly and explore one of the best lawn grasses for Massachusetts: Kentucky Bluegrass.

One of the claims to fame of Kentucky Bluegrass is that it's used at Fenway Park. Several other ballparks lay down this sod as do several football stadiums. A reason for this is that it wears well, and another is that it can withstand cold temperatures. It provides a dense and lush surface on which to walk and play but it needs some nurturing by way of regular watering and sunshine. Kentucky Bluegrass has a shallow root system of rhizomes which limits its tolerance for heat and drought. Mixed with other grasses like ryegrass, it becomes hardier and very disease resistant.

Left on its own, Kentucky Bluegrass can grow to three feet tall and it's fast growing. So, mowing is a regular necessity to keep it looking its best, be it lawn or field. Originally, Bluegrass was used for pastures and was among many grasses that grazing farm animals kept trim.

As summer now approaches, and the whirl of lawn mowers start up to take down that carefully raised Bluegrass, we can keep our eye on our lawns, knowing that this greenery is lovely to look at, nice to walk on, and brings to mind the famous words of Summer: “Play ball!”

~ Anne Morin