



# North Shore Horticultural Society

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

June 2020 Volume XXII Number 7

[www.NSHorticulture.org](http://www.NSHorticulture.org)

## President's Message

*Carol Batdorf*

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all well and have been able to enjoy being in your gardens this spring. The spring bulbs I planted last fall in memory of my Dad really gave me a much-needed mood lift this spring. This has been a very different winter and spring. When I am in my garden I seem to be able to push all the COVID-19 terror and sadness to the back of my mind and marvel at the green growing power found in the garden. Plants that have been given to me from family and friends gone by and plants planted in memory of friends and family have a special meaning to me especially this year when there has been so much loss. We are connected to the past with our gardens but we are also connected to the future. The growing cycle is all around us, take it in, be a part of it, and live. The tree peonies have just started to bloom as most of the daffodils are going by. I must take pictures for the virtual tour.

I look forward to hearing from you with the items and pictures you send for the newsletter. We will be gathering together at some point – until then stay safe and garden on.

Carol

\*\*\*\*\*

From **Sandra Stolle**

Dear NSHS Members:

My garden at Great Pond Road off Rt.1A opposite Wenham Lake is ready for visitors. Working in the garden almost daily for several weeks has been a tonic, a great joy for me this spring. I invite you to please come. Can you identify the 25+ different trees? There are 12 places for you to sit and much more of nature's abundance for you to discover.

Call 978 468-2966 or come whenever.

## Word Jumble from Carol

Things that are used or found in the garden

Hint: No plant names will be found in this word jumble.

1. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
k g d o r n a f e r
2. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
d s e w e
3. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
r e b r n i a a l r
4. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
t p r a l e n
5. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
z t e e r r f i i l
6. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
p t o c o m s
7. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
b b r d h a i t
8. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
h c l s c o e
9. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
l s r t i l e
10. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
c w g i t a r a e n n
11. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
w t r o l e
12. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
h d n a o e g r s e
13. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
v s l o h e
14. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
n d l a u s i
15. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
z b l a g a i n l g
16. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
d f d e u m n g r e i i e h m b r
17. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
e a p s d
18. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
d l v s o a g e e n r

*see the last page for the answers*

North Shore Horticultural Society, Post Office Box 171, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944

[www.NSHorticulture.org](http://www.NSHorticulture.org)

[www.facebook.com/NSHorticulture](https://www.facebook.com/NSHorticulture)

### From Joan Johnson

This is from *Fall Foliage: the Mystery, Science and Folklore of Autumn Leaves*, published 2005. It is documented in a report from the U.S. Forest Service. Little bits of odd information:

- Maple – dance floors, bowling alleys, bowling pins, and some baseball bats
- Paper birch trees – some toothpicks, tongue depressors, and ice cream sticks
- Hickory – charcoal, tool handles, and rungs of ladders
- Flowering dogwoods – traditional source for pulleys and golf club heads
- Ash – many things including baseball bats
- White wood of tulip trees – gunstocks as well as musical instruments
- Hop hornbeam is very hard and used for tool handles, mallets, and wooden canes
- Sourwood was traditionally used to make runners of sleds, tool handles, and machine bearings
- Softwood of aspen trees – matchsticks and paper pulp for newspapers
- Oak – mining timbers, caskets, barrels, kegs, and ships
- Sassafras – good for fence posts
- Elm – cheese boxes and hockey sticks

“We admire the beauty of living trees, yet knowing what these magnificent plants become under our hand also allows the observer to build an appreciation for the unique traits and qualities of each species.”



### From Kathleen Harney

This is my first year with the North Shore Horticultural Society. I am thoroughly enjoying my membership. I've been gardening for approximately 45 years or so. My current favorite is the tree peony. I used to read a lot when I first started gardening. One thing has stayed with me from my research. I think it was from a book by Helen Van Pelt Wilson. She said the four major perennials for your garden are iris, peonies, daylilies, and mums. They all have a neat habit and will provide color all season long.



## From Anita Brewer-Siljeholm

Last year I resolved to convert a shabby piece of sunny front lawn into a small garden full of flowers for pollinators. I had two pieces of granite from a fountain never assembled and hoped to include those somehow as a bird bath. Modern Homestead of Essex helped me create a wonderful arrangement. After they installed the granite in the fall, I watched the water surface all winter tie itself to the sky above, between polished flat edges, or rise in a mound after a sharp freeze. Generous flagstones from the street and tucked around the base invite both a visual visit and an actual one. Now that spring has established itself, the plants are arriving, and the garden is underway with more plants to come – milkweeds, blueberries, black-eyed susans and more. I am not much of a gardener, but for about 10 years I have admired and enjoyed the meetings of the NSHS, taken notes and taken heart that I can be successful in my garden.



## From Jo Goodwin

How long have I been a member? Who knows, maybe two decades. There were still estate gardeners in the group when I first joined. I was a landscape designer and professional gardener back then. Now I'm just playing in the dirt as I did when a child. My ancestors were farmers from the US and Italy. But my mother could barely keep a philodendron alive.

The evolution, the process and the stunning results (sometimes) are what keep me invested.

Thirteen years ago, I left the over-crowded North Shore and bought a 200-year-old farm house on 11 acres of land at the end of a road in a very quiet town in northern NH. Reclaiming the two beds and expanding to nine, a small orchard, blueberry, blackberry, raspberry and asparagus patches and a stunning mountain view. The soil is poor compared to Marblehead so composting has been a huge project which began to show results a few years ago. I live on a hill so drainage is immediate, water conservation a must, a row of rain barrels line the side of the barn. Growing season can be short. It snowed here (over 6") the 9th of May. So, three years ago I built a 7' X 12' green house out of conduit and sheet plastic for under \$100. At this writing (5/21) I have peas ready to bloom, radishes, spinach, chard and lettuce almost ready to harvest and tomato plants over a foot tall. This plan also keeps the hungry deer, chipmunks and squirrels away, allows me to start annuals and encourage wintered over dahlias and begonias along until time to put them into the containers.

One of my favorite transplants—and I brought many, to the cold North—was a seedling of Verda's fabulous Snow Bells/*Styrax japonicus*, just a beautiful, airy understory tree. It came as a two-foot tall whip and now tops 15' and blooms profusely every year. The other is a double Bloodroot/*Sanguinaria*, an ephemeral stunner blooming right now outside my studio door.

Stay safe...miss you all

\*\*\*\*\*

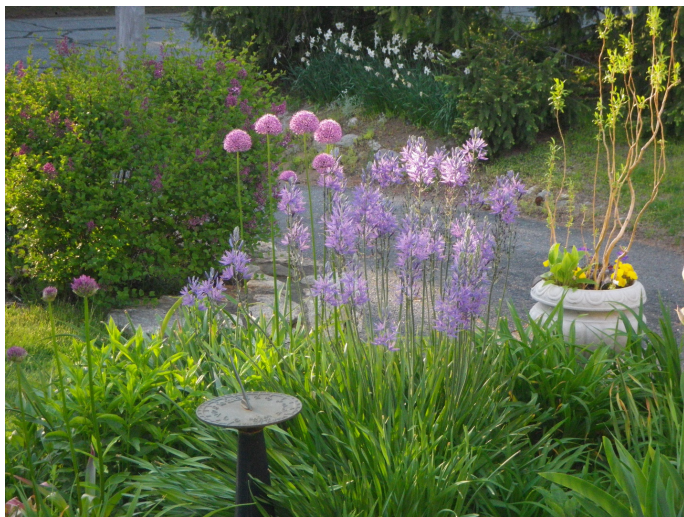
**Tower Hill Botanic Garden's** 171-acre property in West Boylston MA reopened on a limited basis beginning June 1 for Tower Hill members and June 8 for the general public. For reservation guidelines and tickets: <https://www.towerhillbg.org/planyourvisit/>

## From Ruth and Norm Weeks

Hello! We hope you all are well and staying safe. Never in our lives has gardening been such a palliative. We are so fortunate to have a plot of land and to be able to get out and dig about. It really takes our thoughts to calmer places. We are especially grateful to Cathy Felton for her plant gifts to our members last weekend. Also, to Melissa Flinn, our *Newsletter* editor, who attended Cathy's give-away and remembered our interest in the late blooming fall aster. She kindly delivered three gorgeous specimens to us. These were planted the next day and appear to be thriving.

Our garden beds are really looking quite nice. If anyone has some time, drop by for a "gander" at 41 Oak Street in Beverly.

Hope to see you all for our new season in September, subject to the virus vicissitudes, of course.



*Pheasant's Eye, Korean Lilac, Allium, Camassia, Curly Willow*

In this time of a new kind of personal confinement and with many looking longingly to the future when we'll again be free to be ourselves, perhaps this passage from Beverley Nichols will remind us of better days to come:

"It was a wild October evening, with an angry glow behind the yellowing elms. Outside, there was an ugly wilderness of weeds and brambles; with here and there a tiny patch which we had begun to clear. But such was my faith that I saw it all as a garden; perhaps it might be far away, but I could still see it, a garden with smooth lawns, and trim hedges, and secret plots, and balustrades of silver stone."

## From Liz Loomis

I have been a member of NSHS for about 20 years. My mother was an avid gardener and as a child I could have cared less. That all changed after I got married and moved to California. Wandering Jew grew in the ground around my weeping cherry tree! Everything grew so easily and my husband and I took lots of classes through the Berkeley Extension Service. Things really took off when we moved to a new area where the winters were mild and summers long and hot and I had a big yard to work with. I had a huge vegetable garden and lots of different kinds of fruit trees. No one liked pineapple guava jelly. I discovered Dinner Plate Dahlias and brought them with me when we moved back East. Every year I make sure I have some in my garden. When we moved from our last house the buyers noticed the dahlias and I felt obliged to leave them behind. 4 years later when they moved they dug them up and brought them to me! I was once in a wedding where the bouquets were wildflowers and I fell in love with Queen Anne Lace. I let them grow wild and then pick the blossoms to use in arrangements and dry them in silica gel to use as "snowflakes" at Christmas.

My husband was a big fan of cleome. He said they reminded him of fireworks so I am always sure to include them in my garden.

My favorite garden tool is a small pickax which I have to use to dig in this rocky New England soil.

Stop by and say hello and meet my friends.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Garden in the Woods** (180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA) opened to the public on June 1. For your safety, and to comply with state mandates, admission is limited and by advance ticket purchase only. You can purchase Garden admission tickets for the month of June here:

<https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/garden-tickets/>

\*\*\*\*\*

*Here is the key for the word jumble from Carol:*

- 1) garden fork, 2) weeds, 3) rain barrel, 4) planter,
- 5) fertilizer, 6) compost, 7) bird bath, 8) cloches,
- 9) trellis, 10) watering can, 11) trowel,
- 12) garden hose, 13) shovel, 14) sundial, 15) gazing ball,
- 16) hummingbird feeder, 17) spade, 18) garden gloves