



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

June 2021 Volume XXIII Number 6

www.NSHorticulture.org

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, June 24th

6:00 PM Annual Picnic
at Tuck's Point

Mark your calendar!

The first meeting of the
2021-2022 season is
Thursday, September
23rd

Still to be determined:
Zoom meeting
or in person at the
Sacred Heart Parish Hall

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, August 12th
6:30 PM
at Ruth and Norm
Weeks' house



Annual Picnic at the Chowder House Tuck's Point, Manchester Thursday, June 24th, 6:00PM

It is picnic time for the North Shore Horticultural Society. What a great time to celebrate being able to socialize in person again!

This year, the picnic is "bring your own everything": your own utensils, plates, and napkins, as well as your own food and drink. (Please do not bring alcoholic beverages.)

There is no cost this year and you are welcome to bring a guest.



We encourage you to survey your garden and bring your favorite horticultural material in a container for display as a centerpiece on one of the Chowder House tables. It is always fun to see what is growing in fellow members' gardens.

New this year: Bring your favorite garden tool along with a short, written note that describes it. It will be fun to discuss its virtues with the other members.

Note that some attendees might not be vaccinated. We will follow CDC guidelines: if you are not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask. If you are fully vaccinated, you do not need a mask - feel free to wear one if it makes you more comfortable.

We look forward to seeing you all in person and enjoying the view from the Chowder House together!

President's Message

Carol Batdorf

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to June – it has already felt like early spring and full-blown hot, humid summer in the first week of June. These temperature swings will probably be the norm as our climate changes. We have to enjoy the good days and make it through the hard ones. Some people would say that the cold wet Memorial Day weekend was not to their liking but I would take that over what we are experiencing this week.

I am hoping that the rhododendrons that are in bloom right now can handle these temperature swings because the blooms are so beautiful, colorful and everywhere this year. I have a rhodie in the back, side yard that is covered with blooms. In the past, there have been a few blooms but nothing like this year. I wonder why it decided to put on its colors this year. Maybe someone can give me a hint when we are at the June picnic at Tuck's Point later this month.

It will be great to see everyone in person. Everyone will bring their own picnic dinner to be on the safe side. We will share the scenery and the picnic setting together but no shared food. Please bring a "pick and plunk" arrangement, if you can, from flowers in your garden. We could make a list of all the different blooms that come to the dinner. Also bring your favorite garden tool and give some pointers on how it helps you in the garden. Please put in an order for nice weather. My order will be for cooler temps, a breeze to keep the bugs away, and a wonderful sunset to share with everyone. See you there...

~ Carol

Members' Open Garden Days

Our spontaneous garden days have been a hit this year!

Many thanks to the following members for opening up their gardens this spring:

- Joan and Pete Johnson
- Carol Batdorf
- Ruth and Norm Weeks
- Betsy and Mike Habich
- Sandra Stolle
- Sue Anne Willis
- Sue Trent

We have another one planned for the first weekend in July – we'll send out an email beforehand.

If there is a weekend day this summer that you'd like to open your garden, let us know and we'll share the news with the other NSHS members. You can contact us at northshorehorticulture@gmail.com

Remember to take photos of your garden



or other places of interest that you visit this summer - for sharing in our annual Virtual Garden Tour that we hope to have in January 2022.

Upcoming Garden Tours on the North Shore

Danvers Garden Club Tour

Saturday June 19, 9-3:30, \$25 per ticket.

<https://www.gcfm.org/events-1/danvers-garden-club>

Gloucester Garden Tour

Saturday, July 10, 10-4, \$30 per ticket.

Tickets are advance purchase only. You also have an option to get a ticket for a virtual tour if you can't make it in person

<https://generousgardeners.org/2021-gloucester-garden-tour/>

Swampscott Garden Art Walk

Sunday, July 11, 11-3, attendance is free, with donations encouraged.

<https://reacharts.org/artistsandgardeners>

The Plant Box



So, what's good about a weed? Well, with this one you can eat it. Whether it's sautéed greens with garlic or fried flower heads or homemade wine, this garden pest is versatile. It's a niche in the farm-to-table movement that's been around for a million years. Actually, more than that. Dandelions date back 30 million years - fossil seeds have been dated to that period. In addition to being edible, dandelions have been used in medicine in many cultures, including Native American and Chinese. From treating heartburn to making salve to helping with anemia to reducing the pain of a toothache, people have relied on dandelions for their health. They also have used them for dye; by steeping the petals you'll get a lovely, natural and safe yellow color for all your crafting needs. And some of us look to them for fun. As a kid I had a way of braiding them into bracelets and necklaces and crowns. I was the Queen of My Backyard in a yellow halo fresh from the earth. But now, thinking about all those hours of joy has worked up my appetite – time to go make a dandelion smoothie.

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