



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

October 2019 Volume XXII Number 2

www.NSHorticulture.org

Meeting Location

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

Meeting Preview

Thursday, Oct 24th

7:30 PM

Kim Smith

The Hummingbird Garden

Thursday, Nov 14th

7:30 PM

Suzanne Mahler
*Native Plants vs.
Invasive Species*

Thursday, Dec 12th

7:30 PM

Traci Sobocinski
*Holiday Decoration
Workshop*

Thursday, Jan 23rd

6:00 PM

*Potluck
Virtual Garden Tour
Houseplant Auction*

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, Nov 7th

7:00 PM

at the home of
Norm and Ruth Weeks

The Hummingbird Garden

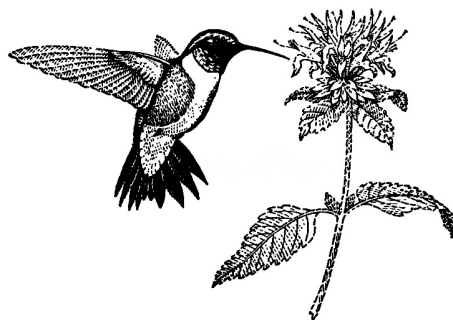
Thursday, October 24th

7:30PM

Kim Smith

Did you know that the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only species of hummingbird that nests in Massachusetts? Through photographs and discussion, we'll learn about the life cycle of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and the best plants to attract this tiniest of breeding birds to your garden. Learn what to plant to help sustain this elusive beauty while it is breeding in our region and during its annual spring and fall migrations. *When you plant for the pollinators, they will come!*

Kim Smith is an award-winning landscape designer, documentary filmmaker, photographer, author, and illustrator. She specializes in creating gardens for people and pollinators—butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds, and bees—with a focus on North American wildflowers and native trees, shrubs, and vines. Kim's programs are developed from her landscape design work and documentary nature films.



President's Message

Carol Batdorf

Happy October, everyone! The month for leaf peeping and planning for a colorful spring is upon us. It is spring bulb planting time. Daffodils mean color and happiness to me. Two boxes of daffodils have arrived and are waiting for me to put in the garden beds - by the light of a flashlight after work and before the snow flies. I do this every year in memory of my Dad. I love this time of year with the trees changing color, the cooler temperatures blowing in, and the knowledge that soon it will be the end of grass mowing for the year. The gardens are festooned with asters, chrysanthemums, Montauk daisies, hydrangeas, and dahlias in colors to drink up before the first major frost arrives. I enjoy the fall colors because winter will have less vivid colors and then spring will bring a vast profusion of blooms that beg you to go outside and enjoy them.

Our speaker this month, Kim Smith, will give us suggestions on what plants to have in our gardens for the hummingbirds' annual spring and fall migrations. I look forward to learning about these small birds that I enjoy watching in the gardens. They are magical as they hover in front of a flower to feed. They are also very feisty and territorial. I call them flying jewels. Adding more plants to my gardens that will feed them is on my To Do list. Just how much I get done on that list remains to be seen.

Please bring a friend and enjoy the evening with everyone. See you there, Carol



*"Listen!
The wind is rising and
the air is wild with leaves.
We have had our summer evenings,
now for October eves"
- Humbert Wolfe*

Horticultural Points of Interest

This month for the Horticultural Points of Interest (HPOI), Carol Batdorf will share information about houseplants that help clean the air in our homes.

Note: If you are interested in presenting a HPOI at one of our monthly meetings, let us know!

Refreshments

A sincere thank you to those who volunteered to bring refreshments to our October meeting: Kathy Harney, Sue McLaughlin, Marguerite Schernig, Dot Sieradzki, Janet Steel, and Sandra Stolle.

Field Trip Ideas

Do you have an idea for a NSHS group field trip? Please share it with Norm Weeks at the meeting or call him at 978-232-0102.

Reminder to Take Photos!

Take photographs of your garden or other places of interest that you visit this fall - to share in our January Virtual Garden Tour.

Greenscaping

Fall is a great time to Greenscape! Planting in fall gives plants time to get established, and fall is an excellent time to switch over to drought-resistant low-maintenance lawn cover. Follow the recommendations in the newly updated *Greenscapes Guide* to create beautiful, natural outdoor spaces that protect our water and wildlife. You can view the guide online at <http://greenscapes.org/greenscapes-guide> or pick up a hard copy at Riverbend, 143 County Rd (aka Route 1A) Ipswich, MA. Riverbend is the headquarters for the Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA). IRWA is a partner organization with Greenscapes North Shore Coalition.

Compost

Advice from the Massachusetts Master Gardeners: it's time to prepare your perennial garden for winter:

Prevent disease: It is important to remove the leaves of any plant that had a disease or fungus so that the problem does not overwinter in the garden and reappear next season. Gather leaves and dispose of them in the trash, do NOT put them in the compost.

Divide crowded plants: The fall is a good time to dig up and divide large clumps or overcrowded plants. Divisions can be given away to friends or potted up and saved for garden club sales. As they get older, many plants—such as Siberian irises—develop a dead zone in the center of the clump. These plants benefit from digging up, dividing, composting the dead center, and replanting a division in the same spot with the addition of some compost.

Protect plants from winter weather: Perennial plants benefit from mulching to protect them from winter freeze/thaw cycles. Mulch also helps protect plants from heaving up from the ground. One choice is salt marsh hay, which adds a layer of protection while not adding weed seeds to the garden that may be found in regular hay mulch. One of my favorite winter covers for the perennial garden is chopped dry leaves. Tree leaves—raked up and chopped by a lawn mower or leaf shredder—can be layered on top of the perennial garden after plant tops have died down and been removed, and the ground has frozen. In the spring most of the leaves can be raked up and composted; the remaining leaf mulch can be turned into the soil where it will compost down, adding nutrients to the soil.

The Amazing Baobab tree Baobab trees (*Adansonia* spp.) are mostly found in arid regions of Madagascar and mainland Africa. Another common name for these trees is the "tree of life" because they provide shelter, clothing, food, and water for animals and humans. The baobab reaches heights of 16 to 98 ft and trunk diameters of 23 to 36 ft. A trunk can hold up to 31,700 gallons of water.

Mature trees are usually hollow. The cork-like bark and huge trunk are fire resistant and can be used for making cloth and rope. The leaves are used as condiments and medicine. The fruit, called monkey bread, is edible and full of vitamin C.

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

www.NSHorticulture.org

www.facebook.com/NSHorticulture