



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

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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, Oct 28th
7:30 PM

A History of Plants and People
Gretel Anspach
Live Zoom meeting

Thursday, Nov 11th
7:30 PM

Topic and location to be determined

Thursday, Dec 9th
7:30 PM

Topic and location to be determined

Next Board Meeting
Thursday, November 4th
7:30 PM

"How nice it would be to sit in the garden and imagine we are living in a world in which everything was as it ought to be."

*~ Wallace Stevens
"Letter to Robert Frost"*

A History of Plants and People

Gretel Anspach
Master Gardener

The science of agriculture is approximately 25,000 years old. The development of agriculture has influenced civilization, impacted the environment, and dictated food supplies. Gretel Anspach will provide a Live Zoom presentation in which she will discuss significant agricultural changes that have occurred in the last century. She'll also discuss the future of agriculture, based on the choices we are making today.

This live Zoom presentation is sponsored by the Manchester Cultural Council.

Remember to take photos of your garden



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



Gloucester waterfront gardens
Photo by Carol Batdorf

President's Message

Carol Batdorf

Hi all,

It is fall color time. I have different types of pumpkins on my front steps to welcome in the fall season. You can find color all around you right now. Apples and pears come in different red, pink, green, yellow, and even brown tones. When autumn comes around, I love to see the trees lit up with early morning light. At times they look ablaze with color. On the way to work today, the fog made the orange and red leaves blur with color but they shone through the white of the fog.

There are other colors and plants that help herald in fall. You can see these colors in the dahlias in the Gloucester waterfront gardens. All different sizes, shapes, and colors are represented by the dahlias growing along the harbor walkway. The Montauk daisies and purple asters are brilliant in the sun.

I am happy to see the toad lilies blooming in my garden. The first set of blooms were eaten by something but there are now orchid-like flowers at the ends of the stems. The goldenrod is all cheery yellow beckoning bees to come and visit for a spell. Hydrangeas are changing from white, blues, and pinks to pale green and burgundy blooms. It is a magical color world out there right now. Take a walk with a friend or by yourself and soak up the colors.

We will meet via Zoom this month but we'll have a live lecture by Master Gardener Gretel Anspach. Please join us, enjoy the presentation, and then share with everyone your favorite place to visit in the autumn.

Happy autumn...

~ Carol



Trees that Talk - How Fungal Networks Connect the Forest

shared by Joan Johnson
from Hartney Greymont's The Leaflet:
Your Resource for All Things Trees

It is easy to see trees as individual units, but the truth is more complex. Science has shown that trees in forests interact with each other-sharing food, water, and information. The connection among them? An underground network of fungi that fuses with tree roots, forming a subterranean web called mycorrhizae (*mai-kuh-rai-zee*).

Dr. Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia, has researched these networks for decades. Her work has shown incredible evidence of community:

- Everything from water and nutrients to hormones and warning signals can be shared among different trees and even different species.
- Resources tend to flow from the oldest and biggest trees to the youngest and smallest.
- Seedlings that are networked are more likely to survive than unconnected counterparts.
- Trees have been found to transfer resources to neighbors before dying.

Sheet Mulching

A quick way to create thriving, healthy soil for a garden and to reduce the amount of lawn that you have is to sheet mulch. Sheet mulching (sometimes called lasagna mulching) is a process of creating a new garden bed or planting zone over an area of grass by layering on "sheets" of organic matter. <https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/sheet-mulching/9500.html>

Member Traci Sobocinski reports that we should have at least two (and maybe more) extra weeks to get our bulbs in the ground this year. All of the extra rain has raised water tables in the area and soil temperatures will be higher for longer due to the general warming trend. Plus, she adds, this is the time for big discounts at garden centers. ☺

From Board Member Dorothy Ryan: the UMass Extension Gardening Calendar 2022 is for sale. As always, it's full of gardening tips and great photos: <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/publications-resources/garden-calendar/how-to-order-umass-extensions-2022-garden-calendar>

Gift Giving for Children's Friend and Family Services of Salem

Our tradition for the NSHS November meeting has been for each member to bring an unwrapped gift, which we then deliver to the Children's Friend and Family Services of Salem (CFFSS). This year, since we are not meeting in person, you can drop off your donation at Joan and Pete Johnson's house at 667 Hale Street in Beverly Farms between Saturday Nov 6th through Thursday, November 11th. You can leave items on the bench on the porch. Suggested items include toys, toiletries, new clothing, or gift cards (for example, from Market Basket or Target).

This community service was suggested years ago by long time Board member, the late Alice Salter. Since 1837, CFFSS has committed itself to a sustainable, long term vision of creating and cultivating a community of loving, caring, capable families. Throughout the years, they have partnered with families in the face of difficulties, loss, trauma, and mental illness. For more information, go to: <https://jri.org/community-services/childrens-friend-and-family-services>

The Plant Box



These non-flowering plants produce spores and have stems and leaves, but unlike most other plants, they don't have roots. Instead they have rhizoids, which are small hair-like structures. Their main function is anchoring the plant to rock, bark or soil. Without roots, some suck nutrients up through the rhizoids and others draw in moisture and minerals from rain and the water around them through their highly absorbent surfaces.

These plants date back 450 million years, and have survived and thrived through a range of drastic climate changes. Comprised of 15,000 - 25,000 species, they occur on every continent and in every ecosystem habitable by plants that use sunlight for energy.

These plants are mosses!!

This edition of the Plant Box was submitted by Melissa Flinn
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