



# North Shore Horticultural Society

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

November 2022 Volume XXV Number 3

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

## Meeting Location

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

## Upcoming Meetings

**Thursday, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**

*New England  
Native Plants*  
Gretel Anspach

**Thursday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**

*Holiday Decoration  
Workshop*  
Traci Sobocinski

**Thursday, Jan 26<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 PM**

*Virtual Garden Tour and  
Annual Potluck*

**7:30 PM**

*House Plant Auction*

## **Next Board Meeting**

Thursday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>  
7:30 PM



## **New England Native Plants**

*Gretel Anspach*

**Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:30 PM.**

Master Gardener Gretel Anspach will describe plants that are native to our region which are relatively easy to maintain and able to withstand New England weather. They might even be resistant to deer and rabbits! The trees, shrubs, and perennials that evolved here can grow here with minimal input from you. Learn how to “go native” and reduce your workload while creating a paradise for our native birds and pollinators.

*Besides being a Lifetime Master Gardener with the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, a Trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and retired systems engineer, Gretel has helped establish and maintain two food production gardens. These gardens have provided fresh produce to the Marlborough MA Food Pantry for more than ten years!*

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## **Reminder: Bring an Unwrapped Gift**

Please bring an unwrapped gift to the November meeting. We will deliver all of the gifts to the Children’s Friend and Family Services of Salem (CFFSS). 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, and capable families.

## **Do You Like to Keep Things Organized and Have a Good Eye for Detail?**

We have a vacancy on the NSHS board for the position of **Secretary**. This important position involves taking minutes at our monthly Thursday evening Board meetings, keeping track of action items, submitting minutes for review before each board meeting, and writing and sending correspondence from NSHS. If you are interested, please contact Carol Batdorf (978-525-3528).

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## **Join the NSHS Board or a Committee**

Now that we are meeting in-person again, we want to get our committees back into action. Consider contributing to the success of our wonderful organization and join one of these committees:

**Program Committee** - Arranges programs for our monthly meetings; researches and contacts speakers, sends contracts, and introduces speakers at the meetings. Led by the NSHS vice president.

**Field Trip Committee** - Researches and proposes at least one annual field trip.

**Publicity Committee** - Provides press releases and submits articles to online local news sources.

**Hospitality Committee** - Promotes fellowship throughout the organization, greets new members, welcomes them to NSHS and organizes food and beverages at NSHS events.

## 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.

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## Keep Watering!

Here is a November Gardening Tip from the Massachusetts Master Gardeners: New England has suffered through an extremely dry growing season this year. Even if you were able to do some watering, all woody plants, trees and shrubs still need more NOW to fill their roots before the ground freezes. So, don't stop watering just yet!

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## December Meeting Holiday Decoration Workshop

For next month's meeting on December 8, NSHS member Traci Sobocinski will demonstrate twists on classical holiday décor by using fresh pine and boxwood branches, mosses, brilliant berries, gilded cones and pods, and glittering ornaments. You will be able to create your own festive wreaths, swags, garlands, and holiday centerpieces. Please bring pruners or scissors, special containers and other embellishments such as ribbons, pinecones and ornaments for your creation. Inspiration, greens, wreath forms and other supplies will be provided.

\$5 materials fee for Members. Guests are welcome and will be asked to donate \$10. RSVP requested.

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## Home Gardener Boot Camp 2023

Whether you're relatively new to home gardening or have been learning-by-doing for years, there's no time like the present to get grounded in gardening "Hows" and "Whys" across a broad range of key topics.

Ten 2-hour Online sessions, Fee \$250

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM

January 18,25; February 1,8,15,22; March 1,8,15,22

For more details and to register:

<https://www.massmastergardeners.org/educational-resources/boot-camp>

## The Plant Box



In line with Autumn colors, Witch Hazel shines in the waning sun with its yellow to red-orange flowers that will pass as Winter approaches since this shrub is deciduous. And like the ever-present change of seasons, Witch Hazel is indigenous to the Northeast. The most common Massachusetts species is American Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*. Rather than having to do with witches, the name is from an Olde English word, *wiche*, meaning *pliant*. The closest that the plant gets to being "other worldly" is when the branches are used for divining rods.

In your yard, Witch Hazel will be a low maintenance addition. It thrives in full sun and moderate shade, enjoying moist, well-drained, acidic soil. It will grow slowly to spread into a lovely denizen with flowers and fruit for all to enjoy. Except the deer who have always left this plant to human use.

Beginning with the Native Americans, humans have used Witch Hazel leaves, twigs, and bark for remedies, teas, herbalism, and skin care as well as for medical treatments, including liver ailments and tuberculosis. With no evidence supporting some of these applications, Witch Hazel use waned, but it remained effective as a topical astringent with anti-inflammatory properties. Because of these qualities, it saw commercial success. Beginning in the mid-1800s and continuing to today, Connecticut has been the center of production and billed as the Witch Hazel capital of the world. They have earned that lofty place from products like Pond's Cold Cream where its original formulation included Witch Hazel and was called Pond's Golden Treasure.

Whether it's in your garden or on your skin, Witch Hazel has stood the test of time as more than a shrub. Plant a Witch Hazel today and you'll be well on your way tomorrow to basking in the glow of this versatile product of nature.

~ Anne Morin

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