



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

February 2024 Volume XXVI Number 5

www.NSHorticulture.org

Meeting Location

Sacred Heart Parish Hall
62 School Street
Manchester-by-the-Sea
In person or by Zoom
The Zoom meeting link
will be emailed to
members a few days
before and again
the day before the
February meeting

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, Feb 22nd

The Spirit of Stone
Hybrid

7:00 PM Social Time
7:30 PM Meeting

Thursday, March 28th

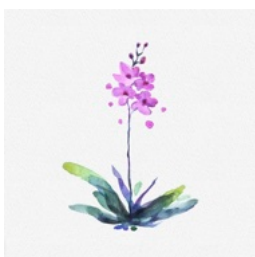
Our Favorite
Gardening Tools

Thursday, April 25th

Rake, Shovel, Sweep and
Lift: An Ergonomic

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, Mar 14th
7:00 PM



The Spirit of Stone

Jan Johnsen (Virtual)

Thursday, February 22nd

Award-winning landscape designer Jan Johnsen shares creative and practical ways that you can use natural stone in the garden: from rock gardens to dry streams, and as benches, paths, and more. The durability and sustainability of stone make it appealing to both home owners and designers. By the end of this popular talk, you will never look at natural stone the same again.



This is the NSHS's first virtual speaker meeting. Jan will be presenting via Zoom. You can join us at the Parish Hall or from your home. The Zoom link will be emailed to members beforehand.

Jan Johnsen is a principal of Johnsen Landscapes & Pools in New York and an admired landscape designer and author. She was the 2019 recipient of the prestigious 'Award of Distinction' from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. Trained in landscape architecture and professional horticulture, Jan has worked in Japan, Hawaii, and Kenya, among other places. She is an inspiring speaker and loves to show how you can create serene outdoor spaces. Jan taught at Columbia University for many years and still teaches at the New York Botanical Garden where she was named "Instructor of the Year". Her best-selling book, Gardentopia, joins her other garden design books, Heaven is a Garden, The Spirit of Stone and Floratopia.

President's Message

Carol Batdorf

Hi Everyone,

Winter is upon us, or at least I think so. Some of my hellebores have decided to bud. I tell them to wait another month but they never listen. Yearning for spring blooms? Ready for the garden work to begin? No, not yet. I enjoy this time when the garden is sleeping so I can try to catch up on things that go by the wayside when I'm trying to get work done during the gardening months.

This also is the time to do some garden dreaming. The plant catalogs paint vivid pictures in my mind as to what flowers could be growing in my garden. Then I have to remember that my garden has mostly shade conditions and so the sun plants that I long for will have to be enjoyed in someone else's garden.

This year I am thinking of writing up a wish list for my garden, sort of a "honey do" list for my plants:

Add compost to the garden...

Try to take care of the gout weed problem as early as possible...

Sow some poppy seeds when it is still cold out...

... and the list goes on.

Maybe you want to dream bigger by adding some hardscape to your gardens.

Our speaker this month, Jan Johnsen, will give us some stone ideas for our gardens. Please come, bring a friend and learn about some possibilities!

~ Carol

Fun Facts About Orchids

- The orchid family is one of the oldest, largest, and most diverse families of flowering plants.
- There are more than 28,000 known species of orchids.
- The first orchids developed over 100 million years ago during the time of dinosaurs!
- Orchids are found on all continents except for Antarctica.
- Orchids can grow on other plants (these orchids are called epiphytes) on or between rocks (lithophytes), or terrestrially on the ground.
- An estimated one-third of orchids use deceptive techniques to attract pollinators. The pollinators are seduced with false promises, yet no reward is received for their service in helping the orchid reproduce!
- There are over 200 orchid species in North America.
- About 45 orchids are found in Massachusetts.
- Orchids have the tiniest seeds in the world. One seedpod can contain 3 million seeds!
- The smallest orchid is about the size of a dime.
- The largest orchid weighs several hundred pounds.
- Some orchids are known to live up to 100 years.
- Vanilla comes from an orchid. The vanilla orchid is commercially grown and harvested for its seed pod, the vanilla bean.
- Orchid flowers are symmetrical; If you draw a line down the center of an orchid flower, the two sides are mirrors of each other.

Learn more at the Orchid Exhibit: Patterns in Bloom, February 10th to March 17th at the New England Botanical Garden in West Boylston, MA.
<https://nebg.org/patterns-in-bloom/>

Other Upcoming Gardening Events

Connecticut Flower and Garden Show

February 22 – 25
Hartford, CT
<https://ctflowershow.com/>

The Bulb Show

February 24 – March 17
Fitzpatrick Greenhouse
Berkshire Botanical Garden
Stockbridge, MA
<https://www.berkshirebotanical.org/events/bulb-show-2024>

The Plant Box

by Anne Morin



As a child I ran in and out and in and out of the back door at my grandmother's house, passing a lovely lilac bush, large and lush with its tiny, lavender petals. Besides being a sentry at the entryway to decorum, that lilac bush meant so much more.

The first thing I learned was that poems have been written about the lilac. Walt Whitman wrote that lilacs "last in the dooryard bloom'd" and that always made me sad—to have such a pretty flower, as with life and in this case that of Abraham Lincoln, passing too quickly. And the lilacs always came and went, blooming for only three weeks in the Spring.

I wasn't alone in my thoughts about lilacs; other poets like Amy Lowell, as well as plant catalogs, spoke to the delight that a softly-scented lilac could bring to a garden. Butterflies and hummingbirds have a thing or two to say about this shrub—they enjoy it! The smallness of the flowers makes it easier for them to take the nectar and to perch.

While I don't know how these garden friends might like the array of colors found in lilacs, there is a wide swath to appreciate, from white to blue to pink and of course, the ubiquitous and always attractive shades of purple. But who would have thought these splendid colors root in the Olive family?

And from that genesis, the earliest lilacs in the United States are reported to have been introduced in 1750 at the Governor Wentworth Estate in Portsmouth, NH. They or their scions are still there today. We can breathe in their scent and appreciate the thoughtful plantings that have made the lilac one of the most adored plantings in any New England garden.