



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

January 2024 Volume XXVI Number 4

www.NSHorticulture.org

Meeting Location

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

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, Jan 25th

*Virtual Garden Tour and
Potluck Dinner*

Thursday, Feb 22nd

The Spirit of Stone
Jan Johnsen (Virtual)

Thursday, March 28th

*Our Favorite
Gardening Tools*
Thad Closson

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb 8th
7:00 PM



Virtual Garden Tour and Potluck Dinner Thursday, January 25th

6:00 PM Slideshow and Dinner

Our Annual Virtual Garden Tour and Potluck Dinner will start off our 2024 calendar. The slideshow showcases members' gardens as well as photos from members' travels.

Please bring a dish to share and a serving utensil.

Guests are always welcome and there is no charge for them to attend the January meeting.

Bring a neighbor or a gardening friend or both! Please call Joan Johnson at 978-927-8829 if you plan to join us.

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## **We Want Your Photos!**

To make our Virtual Garden Tour a success, please look through your photos from the past year.



By **Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**, please send any horticultural moments that you captured to:

**[nshsphotos2024@gmail.com](mailto:nshsphotos2024@gmail.com)**

Send as many photos as you like. Limit the number attached to a single email to 3 so that we can download them successfully. For example, if you have 12 photos, send 4 emails. Optionally, in the emails, you can include information about the photos, such as date and location. By default, your name will be displayed along with your photos in the slideshow. If you prefer to be anonymous – just let us know in your email when you send the photos.

## **President's Message**

*Carol Batdorf*

Happy New Year Everyone.

2024 marks the 125th year for the NSHS. We continue to enjoy the wonders of the plant world as our founding members did. We always have questions and observations about things growing around us. However, we have to be more conscientious of the environmental impact of what we do in and around our homes as compared to 1899. With this in mind, I tried to put myself on that stone wall in front of the library all those years ago. One of our main useful but polluting products had not been developed yet - PLASTIC. Bakelite was developed in 1907. There isn't space in this letter to give the history of plastic but maybe we can really start to realize how plastic affects our everyday lives and our Earth. Maybe we can make a real effort to use less plastic this year to help our future garden planet. Look for tips on recycling and please share with the group. Here are some tips about recycling at Home Depot:

They will take back clean plastic pots that plants are sold in at the garden centers. Home Depot will also take plastics in the form of retail shopping bags, grocery bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, cereal box liners, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, zip top food storage bags, produce bags, case over wrap, and air pillows. The plastic bags should be empty, free of food residue and dry. Look for the recycling symbols because compostable and bio-degradable plastic cannot be put in

*President's Message continued on page 2*

## President's Message, *continued*

their plastic recycle bins.

We can share more tips at the pot luck meal and enjoy some wonderful glimpses of gardens with the pictures you all will send to [nshsphotos2024@gmail.com](mailto:nshsphotos2024@gmail.com) by January 19<sup>th</sup> for the virtual garden tour. Come and enjoy a meal together, talk and enjoy a virtual garden tour with friends, the plant kind and the human ones.

See you there, Carol

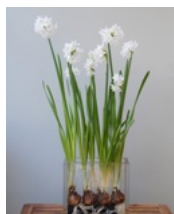
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To all who contributed to our November toy and gift collection to benefit the Children's Family and Friends Services of Salem. Your generous contributions were gratefully received and very much appreciated. Thank you for your kindness and caring.

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## Ready for a little indoor color this winter?



Forcing flower bulbs indoors is a great way to enjoy flowers during the cold months. It all starts with choosing the right type of bulb. Early-flowering spring types are easier to force, or make to bloom indoors sooner than they would outdoors.

For example, these flower bulbs are easy to force:

- Grape hyacinths
- Daffodils
- Hyacinths
- Paperwhites

Check out the *Garden Gate* magazine web site for two easy ways to force bulbs:

<https://www.gardengatemagazine.com/articles/how-to-plant/how-to-force-bulbs-indoors/>

## The Plant Box by Anne Morin

Around the year 1900, the United States Department of Agriculture engaged in a program to identify, import and introduce new plants from other countries. One country of particular interest was China under the belief that the similar climate there would yield discoveries that would work well here. From that venture, a pear tree called the Callery Pear was discovered in 1917 and brought for development and testing. Many years later, in the 1960s, it was introduced to the public.

Not only native to China but also to Vietnam, the Callery Pear, especially the most common cultivar, Bradford, is lovely, with clusters of white blossoms that bloom from Spring to Fall on a conical shape of branches. It grows quickly, tolerates various types of soil, drainage and acidity, is suited to a range of climates and is inexpensive. It also attracts pollinators. These many plusses have made it a ubiquitous member of the ornamental trees in public and private settings.

Add to this its commercial value. The Callery has served as root stock for developing cultivars of pears, including Bosc, and its fine wood has been used to make musical instruments and furniture and for woodblocks in hand printing. The easy result is that this source of beauty and craft is an asset of the environment.

However, time has also shown that the Callery Pear has moved from plantings in front lawns and commercial nurseries to wild stands in forests and other natural areas. The reseeding process that occurs among the different cultivars as well as the seed dispersal by birds has caused the Callery Pear to appear in so many places that many states now consider it invasive (it is under consideration for this status in Massachusetts).



While the perspective on the Callery Pear is still mixed, we can be sure that as nature moves forward in its evolution so too will the view of the Callery Pear.