



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

January 2023 Volume XXV Number 4

www.NSHorticulture.org

Meeting Location

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

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, Jan 26th
7:30 PM
Virtual Garden Tour
8:00 PM
Houseplant Auction

Thursday, Feb 23rd
7:30 PM
Building Productive Organic Soil
Peter V. Hauschka

Thursday, Mar 23rd
7:30 PM
Fresh Water Plants and Your Garden
Donald J. Padgett

Next Board Meeting
Thursday, February 9th
7:30 PM



Virtual Garden Tour and Houseplant Auction **Thursday, January 26th**

7:30 PM Slideshow
8:00 PM Houseplant Auction



Our Annual Virtual Garden Tour and Houseplant Auction start off our 2023 calendar. We will begin the evening with the slideshow that showcases members' gardens as well as photos from members' travels.

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! Remember to bring cash or check for your houseplant auction purchases.

Note that we will forgo the Potluck Dinner part of the evening due to rising Covid numbers. Also, we recommend face masks for this indoor event.

~~~

## **Bring your Houseplant donations**

A reminder to bring labeled houseplants that you want to donate to our January meeting's Houseplant Auction fundraiser.

Protect your plants from the cold as you transport them to the meeting. For example, cover them with a bag so they are not directly exposed to the cold outdoor air.

## **President's Message**

*Carol Batdorf*

Happy New Year, everyone! For our first meeting of 2023, we will have a member's virtual garden tour slideshow followed by a house plant auction to round out the evening. I was reading an article about picking pet-safe plants in the December issue of *Good Housekeeping* magazine. Toxic Houseplants to be aware of include most types of lilies which can cause renal failure in cats. These include Asiatic lilies, rose lilies, Oriental lilies, tiger lilies, Easter Lilies and daylilies. Philodendron, dumb cane, pothos, and elephant's ear can cause mouth and gastrointestinal irritation in pets. Sago palm can cause severe gastrointestinal distress, neurological problems, and liver failure. Pregnant onion can cause vomiting and, in severe cases, cardiac arrest. Poinsettias can cause mild gastrointestinal distress if nibbled. Be mindful of the different flowers that would be in a house warming bouquet for a home with pets.

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center number is 888-426-4435. For a list of poisonous plants and nonemergency information, visit <https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com> or <https://aspca.org>. The emergency Pet Poison Helpline is 855-764-7661.

On a lighter note, I had one cat that could not stay away from an arrangement that had baby's breath in it. It wasn't toxic to the cat but the arrangement never looked the same after Sammy was done with it.

I look forward to seeing you at the slideshow and auction. Please send in your pictures for all of us to enjoy.  
~ Carol

## 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 Melissa Flinn at: [nshphotos2023@gmail.com](mailto:nshphotos2023@gmail.com)

Send as many photos as you like. Limit the number attached to a single email to 3 so that she 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 Melissa know in your email when you send the photos.

~~~

A big THANK YOU!

To all of you 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.

~~~

## The Royal bees were told when their Queen died

When Queen Elizabeth II died last September, Buckingham Palace beekeeper John Chapple performed the venerable tradition of "telling the bees" — speaking softly to let them know that the "mistress of the hives" had passed and reassuring them that they would be well-treated by King Charles.

*Shared by Joan Johnson's sister who read it in the January issue of Bottom Line magazine*

~~~

Tired of winter?

Consider an escape to the tropics for a day at the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill in Boylston, MA. The Garden's two subtropical conservatories feature a robust collection of mostly potted plants that are sure to brighten your day with numerous blooms and cozy spaces to explore. Visitors are encouraged to enjoy a lunch, read a book, or even bring some supplies to paint or sketch. \$18, Seniors (65+): \$15. <https://nebg.org/>

The Plant Box

Tiny, at only 3 – 6" tall, snowdrops are a bright white spark amid the colors of nature. Peeking out through the winter snow, these perennials sport a single drooping, bell-shaped flower in a bright white nestled against two green leaves. Among the earliest of Spring blooms, snowdrops grow from a bulb with most of the 20 species flowering in winter.



While snowdrops may be growing in your garden, they likely hail from the countries of Turkey or Georgia. Native to Europe and the Middle East and noted since the 4th century BCE, they were first illustrated in 1583 by Rembert Dodoens, a Flemish physician and botanist.

A member of the Amaryllis Family, the snowdrop is best planted in Autumn in a sunny to semi-shady spot with well-drained soil, neutral to acidic. It will spread naturally and is deer resistant.

Despite having thrived for centuries, the snowdrop is now endangered in the wild. Through habitat destruction and climate change, it has been brought to the brink. Further irreparable damage occurred to one species, *G. panjutinil* – it was wiped out at one known site due to preparations for the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

To help preserve the natural population of all species of snowdrops, it is now illegal to collect them from natural locations. Species made available for sale have been limited to three. International trade regulations require a special permit to bring them to market.

As we step forward into a new year, we would do well to keep an eye on the snowdrop. With the best of intentions and concerted actions, all of nature can be maintained and then serve the rest of nature, including the many paths and gardens of humankind. In the language of flowers, snowdrop stands for an inspiring word: hope. With hope to all from the snowdrop.

*This edition of the Plant Box was submitted by Anne Morin. Thanks, Anne!
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*