



# North Shore Horticultural Society

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

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

## Meeting Location

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

## Upcoming Meetings

**Thursday, Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**7:30 PM**

*Fresh Water Plants and  
Your Garden*  
Donald J. Padgett

**Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**

Annual Meeting  
and  
*Victorian Flowers  
We Still Love*  
Thomas Mickey

**Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**

Annual Plant Sale  
and Auction

**Next Board Meeting**

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 PM



## **Fresh Water Plants and Your Garden**

*Donald J. Padgett*

**Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**



Make a splash with a new feature in your garden and be the envy of your neighbors.

Whether it's adding a water garden, a container water feature, or

decorating up a marshy area, you can add color and variety as well as plants to make your garden more special. This presentation will bring us into the world of using aquatic plants in our gardens.

*Donald is a professional botanist with interests in freshwater aquatic ecosystems. He teaches about, studies, and cultivates (as a hobby) aquatic flowering plants. He is employed as a professor of Biological Sciences at Bridgewater State University, Massachusetts. Donald also provides private environmental consulting services.*

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## **Annual Meeting Notice**

Our Annual meeting is held each year in April. This April, we will vote on minor changes to the Constitution and Bylaws and approve the slate for the Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining the NSHS board, please contact Carol Batdorf at (978) 525-3528.

## **President's Message**

*Carol Batdorf*

Hi Everyone,

March is upon us and hopefully soon the many signs of spring will be popping up all over. I can't wait. Currently, I have curly willow rooting and leafing out in my kitchen. There are blooming primula and hyacinths perfuming the air with that sweet scent that broadcasts spring. Yes, I have spring fever. It was helped along by going to the Connecticut flower show this past week-end. It was so wonderful to see blooming plants and spring displays. Almost all the displays had some sort of water feature in them and that enhanced the garden experience.



I love the ones in which the water flows over stone steps or bubbles up through the rocks. I attended a talk about water garden basics. I know what I don't want to take on but maybe a small water container garden would be possible or a small flowing waterfall. I will definitely have questions for our speaker, Donald Padgett, when he presents his talk on fresh water plants and your garden. Please bring a friend and learn about what is possible in our gardens. Spring is coming.

~ Carol

## Historical Gardens

Our recent NSHS survey indicated that many members are interested in historic gardens. Here is a list of several historic sites and gardens around Massachusetts, so you can start making plans to visit them when the weather allows:

- [Ashland Historical Society Gardens](#)
- [Castle Hill on the Crane Estate](#)
- [Codman Estate](#)
- [Dorothy Quincy Homestead](#)
- [Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Garden at Elm Bank](#)
- [Fletcher Steele \(Spalding\) Garden](#)
- [Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site](#)
- [Heritage Museums and Gardens](#)
- [Heritage Park](#)
- [Longfellow House Washington's Headquarters](#)
- [Long Hill Gardens](#)
- [Lyman Estate](#)
- [Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)
- [Peter Oliver Estate](#)
- [Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Museum](#)
- [Ropes Mansion - Peabody Essex Museum](#)
- [Shirley-Eustis House](#)
- [Stevens-Coolidge House and Gardens](#)

Source:

<https://www.massmastergardeners.org/community-programs/historical-gardens>

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### Did you know?

#### Carrots were originally purple

Most people think that carrots are orange but carrots were originally purple or white and were used as food as early as the 10th century in the Persian empire according to *Healthline*. The orange carrots we eat today were a genetic mutation. You can buy different colored carrots in markets today and they are all packed full of nutrition.

#### Over 100 billion bananas are consumed every year

Bananas aren't always yellow; some are green and even red but this healthy breakfast and snack food is one of the most consumed plants in the world. According to *Science Kids*, bananas grow in large hanging bunches that are known as fingers, while a row is called a hand.

## The Plant Box



With its three-leaf form, the shamrock is widely recognized today but its history has not always been so clear. It is known to be a form of clover, but no one species of clover is identified botanically as a shamrock.

By the late 1800s, it was accepted that the shamrock was a member of lesser clover from an 1893 study by Nathaniel Colgan. This report confirmed thinking long held in Irish history where the word "shamrock" comes from the word "seamair" for young clover.

As a clover, the shamrock is native to Europe, and locally, can be found in areas throughout New England from fields to roadsides to meadows. A tiny, yellow blossom on the plant attracts bees, butterflies and pollinators. It serves as a healthy treat to animals, containing protein and calcium. So, while lesser clover may not fit well with the image of a perfectly bladed lawn, it is perfect to help the environment.

It also is marketed to be grown as a houseplant; however, those sold for this purpose most likely will be a plant similar to the shamrock: *Oxalis regnelli*. This plant likes damp but well drained soil with fertilizer every few weeks. It also does not do well in the cold, so best to keep it away from your windowsill during the winter months.

As the shamrock will soon be ready to take in the sunshine and warmth of Spring, it also is positioned to inspire us. So, keep in mind this Irish saying as you travel through your days:

*May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow and may trouble avoid you wherever you go.*

*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](mailto:northshorehorticulture@gmail.com)*