



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

February, 2017 Volume XIX Number 5

<http://www.NSHorticulture.org/>

Meeting Preview

Tuesday, 7:30PM
March 28th
Ellen Ecker Ogden
Designing a Kitchen Garden

Tuesday, 7:30PM
April 25th
NSHS's
Annual Meeting
and
Peter Bradford
Gardens of Europe

Tuesday, 6PM
May 23rd
Fred Rice,
Auctioneer
*Annual Auction
And Plant Sale*

Tuesday, 6PM
June 27th
*Tuck's Point
Pot Luck Picnic*

All NSHS meetings, except as noted, will be held at the American Legion Hall, 14 Church St., Manchester (behind Town Hall).

Board Meeting
Thursday,
March 9th
at the home of
Becky Ehrhardt
7:30PM

ESTATE GARDENS and GARDENERS 1850-1919

Nancy Coffey
Tuesday, February 28th
7:30PM

Local historian and Beverly native, Nancy Coffey, is bringing to the NSHS's February meeting encyclopedic knowledge of many of the gardens and gardeners of the Gold Coast homes. She will discuss the changing expectations of the estate owners and gardeners in the early years of the summer community. Among gardens that will be highlighted are those of the Lorings, the Spaulding brothers and Marie Antoinette Evans. Nancy will also give some history of the estate gardeners founding the North Shore Horticultural Society.

For almost a decade, Nancy has been researching the story of those who built and worked on the summer estates during an era when the North Shore was Boston's Gold Coast. She has just finished "The Story of Edgewater House", a book about one of the Gold Coast estates along West Beach in Beverly Farms.

This program has been supported by the Manchester Cultural Council through a grant under the auspices of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Please invite friends and neighbors to this program, which is free and open to the public.

NSHS Board of Directors: It is time to start thinking about the Nominating Committee. The Board is seeking members for the committee which will present a slate of officers and Board members. If you would like to be on the committee, please call Carol Batdorf at 978-525-3528.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol Batdorf

Hi Everyone, We are in the midst of winter with a few spring-like days appearing in February. The warmer days are teases of the spring to come. While we are looking at seed and plant catalogs, we can fantasize over all the plants we want to add to our gardens. This month you do not have to mow the lawn, weed, fertilize, deadhead, plant, water, prune, divide and separate, can or freeze produce or make jams or jellies. You can go to greenhouses and take in some green air as I call it and look at growing plants. Buy some cut flowers to brighten up your table or window sill. You get to be a lady or lord gardener planning on what the spring and summer gardens could have with enough staff to make it happen. If you are the only staff for the garden, I suggest you don't dream too big. Maybe you could plan a garden work day and have friends come over to tackle a project you cannot do yourself. The garden work days take some planning so start on them now because before you know it spring will be here.

Our speaker for the February meeting, Nancy Coffey, will be giving us a glimpse into the past (1850 -1919) of the North Shore garden estates and what plans were thought up by the estate gardeners for their employers – the lords and ladies of the North Shore. Nancy will also give us insight into how gardens were influenced by needs caused from World War I. Please bring a friend and come and enjoy learning about the history that has shaped some of the gardens on the North Shore.

Carol

HORTICULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST

This month, Mike Mack gets us ready to be in the garden with suggestions for purchasing seeds, and horticultural activities in your home and in the garden. All of Mike's HPOIs are available on the Horticultural Society's website.

VIRTUAL GARDEN TOUR at the ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER

Thank you to those who took the time to send Carol your photos. It is so refreshing to be able to sit, converse with friends, have a wonderful meal, all the while viewing gardens, both private and public. What a treat it was to see beautiful plant material, structures, and sculptures.

REFRESHMENTS

Thank you to Dorothy Anderson, Joan Johnson, Anne Mesgar, Marguerite Schernig, and Ruth Weeks for volunteering to bring "treats" to the February meeting. It would be greatly appreciated if others brought something baked or store bought.

ROAD TRIP

The clip board will again be circulating at the February meeting asking for suggestions for a road trip this spring/summer.

MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR

For those who missed the January meeting, a clip board was passed around asking for members who would be willing to open their garden for a garden tour. Remember, gardens are a work in progress and who knows what plants will look like this year after this past summer and now the crazy winter, but that is life. So, with that said, please consider opening your garden. On the clip board there will be a space for you to indicate what time-frame would be best for you. Thank you.

More COMPOST: The Manchester-by-the-Sea Public Library is having a **Garden(ing) Book Sale**, Sunday, March 12th, 1-3PM. These are gently used books which have been donated to the library.

COMPOST

The following bits of information are from the "American Nurseryman": there is a shortage of those choosing a career in horticulture. **Seed Your Future** is a program supported by horticulture luminaries lending their knowledge, advice and expertise to the program, which was officially launched early this year by Longwood Gardens and the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS). It's described as "a multi-year effort to combat declining awareness of horticulture among U.S. audiences and promote horticulture as a vital and viable career path for the nation's youth."

Shrubs are more widespread than trees? According to scientists in Sweden, the fact that shrubs have multiple stems helps them to grow and survive better than trees of similar sizes. Shrubs "have a larger total cross-sectional stem area at the base than trees with the same above-ground woody volume. This makes it easier for shrubs to grow since it helps them transport water and nutrients more rapidly to leaves and growth processes." Shrubs also have a larger bark area than trees. Trees, however, can grow larger and shade out shrubs.

Also noted, widespread "plant blindness". Researchers have determined that people are generally more interested in animals than plants, particularly when it comes to conservation efforts. Why? One theory is that kids learn more about animals in their biology classes than they do about plants; another suggests that it's easier for humans to bond with lifeforms that more closely resemble ourselves, with eyes, noses, mouths—faces. Adults may be a lost cause, but teaching kids about plants, especially by helping them interact with plants — to garden — could help to reverse this phenomenon and give us all reason to stem the tide of threatened plant species.

Thanks to "American Nurseryman" for providing interesting tidbits for COMPOST.

From **Trowel and Error** by Sharon Lovejoy: Cardboard egg cartons can be recycled into perfect seed-starting flats. When it is time to plant in the garden, separate the sections with a sharp knife, and tuck each one into the soil. The cardboard will decompose as the seedlings grow.