



# North Shore Horticultural Society

P. O. Box 171 Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944  
February, 2018 Volume XX Number 6

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

**MEETING**  
**LOCATION**  
**Manchester**  
**Masonic**  
**Lodge,**

9 Church Street,  
Manchester-by-  
the-Sea (behind  
Town Hall)

**Meeting Preview**  
**February 27th**  
**Tuesday, 7:30PM**  
Angela Treadwell-  
Palmer  
*To Market, to*  
*Market: How Does*  
*A New Plant Get*  
*to Market?*

**March 27th**  
**Tuesday, 7:30PM**  
Rita Wolmering  
*Organic*  
*Gardening and*  
*Companion*  
*Planting*

**April 24th**  
**Tuesday, 7:30PM**  
Thomas Mickey  
*America's*  
*Romance with the*  
*English Garden*

**Board Meeting**  
**March 8th**  
**7:30PM**  
at the home of  
Anne Mesgar

**TO MARKET, TO MARKET:**  
**HOW DOES A NEW PLANT**  
**GET TO MARKET?**

*Angela Treadwell-Palmer*  
**Tuesday, February 27th 7:30PM**

The seed and plant catalogues now filling our mailboxes gushingly label many plants as new to the market, "introducing new, exclusive varieties to ... gardeners every year." How does that happen? What is "new"? Our speaker for February is Angela Treadwell-Palmer, founder and co-owner of Plants Nouveau. The company works directly with plant breeders to select plants that are perfect for the consumers in their market. "We help plant breeders bring their plants to market by helping them through the introduction process." Plant Nouveau's motto is "responsible introductions, making tomorrow's gardens possible".

Through her presentation, the audience will learn about all that goes into the process of getting new plant material to customers. Angela has much experience in the field as she managed the Plant Introduction Program for Chicagoland Grows®, Inc. This was a program of the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Morton Arboretum.

When she is not traveling around the world looking for new plants, Angela spends time studying and planning for a brand new 3/4 acre trial garden near Newburyport. She has a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design from the University of Delaware and her career has spanned almost every aspect of gardening, garden design and teaching folks how to garden with plants – especially natives.

Bring a friend to the meeting and surely there will be a new appreciation of the trials which one goes through to bring something new to the market, as well as a more critical evaluation of what appears in the catalogues. Hope to see you on the 27th!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Carol Batdorf*

It is February everyone and I already have Spring Fever. When the rains came and washed away most of the snow I found myself walking along the driveway looking in the garden for signs of life. I am telling myself it is still too early but I looked anyway. I enjoyed a wonderful clear and crisp starry winter night last night. The stars were very easy to see with the leaves off of the trees. I could hear my Dad's voice pointing out the constellations. Does anyone know of a constellation that was named after a plant? When we had a good bed of snow on the ground I enjoyed the way the moonlight and tree shadows magically turned the snow into colors of blue, grey, pale yellow and shiny white. These colors are also in the garden during the growing season but there are flashier reds, yellows and pinks that grab your attention first. I am trying to enjoy the colors of each season but I will admit that I have been paging through the seed and plant catalogs and longing for the growing season. I have ordered some of the new hybridized stand tall hellebores. I can't wait to see them blooming in my gardens.

Our speaker for the month, Angela Treadwell-Palmer, will be giving us the story behind how new species of plants make it to market. What are all the processes that occur in the plant industry? I really have only a vague idea of what goes into introducing a new plant we see in the plant catalog or the nursery. I'm always looking for new plants that may work wonders in a shade garden. Please bring a friend and come and enjoy learning about the struggles and achievements of getting new plants to market. *Carol*

## TOGETHER WE ARE THE FUTURE OF NSHS

Your ideas and energy will help spark our upcoming activities and programs! We invite you to join us on the Board or in leading specific roles, field trips, events or segments of our meetings. Feel free to contact any Board member for how you might like to be involved. You'll know us by the Spring flowers on our name tags.

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## REFRESHMENTS

Thank you to Alice Bradford, Anne Fucillo, Joan Johnson, and Marguerite Schernig for volunteering to bring treats to the February meeting.

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## HORTICULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST (HPOI)

At the February meeting, Mike will be taking us through the fertilizer maze and the when and hows of pruning. Don't forget to sharpen those pruning tools!

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## FIELD TRIP SATURDAY, MARCH 10th

**Rain/Snowdate, Sunday, March 11th**

At Wentworth Nursery and Greenhouses in Rollinsford, New Hampshire, there will be an **Exotic Plant Show** which is full of fantastic displays, beautiful and unique orchids, houseplants of all shapes and sizes, free seminars, and good food! Rollinsford is 60 miles from Manchester-by-the-Sea and is near Dover, NH. More information and a sign up sheet will be available at the February 27th meeting.

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## COMPOST *continued:*

Don't forget the **Camellia Blooming Season** at the Lyman Estate Greenhouses, February 20th-March 23rd. For more information call 617-994-5913.

At The Trustees of Reservation's Stevens-Coolidge Place in North Andover, there will be a **Fairy Garden Workshop** on Sunday, March 25th, 1:20-3:30PM. For more information call the Trustees at 978-356-4351 x3202.

At Tower Hill, Boylston, there will be a talk by Kerry Mendez, author of **Budget Wise Gardener**, Saturday, February 17th, call 508-869-6111 for more info.

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## COMPOST

**Recipients of the American Horticultural Society's 2017 Book Awards** are: *All the Presidents' Gardens* by Martha McDowell; *The Bee-Friendly* by Kate Frey and Gretchen LeBuhn; *Garden Revolution* by Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher; *Plant* by The Editors of Phaidon Press; and *Rock Gardening* by Joseph Tychonievich

As of press time, Friday, February 9th, **40 days until Spring, 132 until the Summer Solstice!**

If you are considering starting seeds, save the bottom of **egg cartons** and the **salad greens containers**. It ends up being a mini greenhouse when seeds are started in the egg cartons.

**Essex County Greenbelt** is hosting a *More Than Honey* Film Screening March 22nd, 7-8PM at HC Media, 60 Elm Street, Haverhill. "Without bees, there is no pollination, and fruits and vegetables could disappear from the face of the earth. *Apis mellifera* (the honey bee), which appeared on earth 60 million years before man, is as indispensable to the economy as it is to man's survival. Should we blame pesticides or even medication used to combat them for "colony collapse disorder?" Maybe look at parasites such as varroa mites? New viruses? Travelling stress? This compelling film looks at the agents responsible for the weakening of the bees' immune defenses." For other events and films go to [www.ecga.org/Events\\_FilmSeries](http://www.ecga.org/Events_FilmSeries).

As I (ed.) am looking through the numerous catalogues coming in the mail I must say I am looking for more and different milkweed plants. The Environmental Defense Fund's flyer "**Help Save the Monarch Before It's Too Late**" reiterates the fact that more than 90% of North American monarchs have been wiped out over the last 20 years. These slight creatures weigh less than a dime, yet travel thousands of miles every year — 50 to 100 miles in just a day. An instinctive internal compass guides them on the same migration path as their ancestors. The females lay their eggs on milkweed — the plant most precious to the monarch. About four days later, the caterpillars will hatch and feast on the toxic (but harmless to monarchs) leaves, storing the milkweed's poison in their bodies. The toxin remains in the monarch even after the caterpillar forms a chrysalis to protect itself during its two week metamorphosis, and emerges as a bright orange butterfly. The color of the monarch's wings signals to potential predators that the monarch itself contains this poison, warning them that the butterfly tastes terrible, and ensuring the monarch's protection.

**COMPOST** *continued in column to the left*