



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

March, 2017 Volume XIX Number 6

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

Meeting Preview

Tuesday, 7:30PM
April 25th
NSHS'
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,
April 13th
at the home of
Joan Johnson
7:30PM

DESIGNING A KITCHEN GARDEN *Ellen Ecker Ogden* **Tuesday, March 28th** **7:30PM**

Ellen Ecker Ogden, horticultural doyenne, has grown from her first garden experience, a rectangle marked by four sticks and a ball of twine, to introducing arcs and geometric triangles for an aesthetically pleasing kitchen garden space which then enhances the growing of "beautiful food". Her enthusiasm about design and interesting home grown food will be demonstrated in her program, **Designing A Kitchen Garden**. We will also learn about easy maintenance and productivity of a kitchen garden. What will be really interesting are examples of very different gardens that start with the same ingredients: seeds, soil, and plants. Ellen will suggest the best varieties to plant for flavor and how to combine flowers and food for impact and harvest.

"Everything I learned about gardening can be traced to my art school education: keep a sketchbook for ideas, take chances with color, be patient and observe." Inspiration for her learning came from classic European-style kitchen gardens where she discovered heirloom seed varieties were far more interesting than traditional varieties offered by typical seed catalogues.

This will be a wonderfully informative meeting to get us going for spring. Bring a friend to share the information.

ANNUAL MEETING

The North Shore Horticultural Society's Annual Meeting will take place April 25th, 7:30PM at its regularly scheduled meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Carol Battdorf*

Hi Everyone, How many people plan to set aside a bit of time on March 20th to celebrate the first day of Spring? Maybe some spring flowers and plants will magically appear in your home to help bring in the spring season. Think about fresh greens for your salads or starting seeds for a veggie garden or annuals to add color to your perennial borders. Most veggie plants are beautiful and can fill in color and texture in your gardens. I stay at a hotel up in Waterville Valley in the summer that has edible plants throughout the flower beds. Susan, the proprietor, plans her gardens to provide food for her guests. She goes out every day to pick salad greens, herbs and veggies from her hotel gardens. The food is wonderful and is grown right there. You cannot get any fresher food than what you grow and harvest for yourself. Decreasing our carbon footprint by growing some of our own food in our gardens is also a wonderful way to help our Earth and to stay in tune with the land.

To help us with the mind set of what our gardens have to offer is our speaker for the month. Ellen Ecker Ogden will help us to add elements to our garden that will do well on our food plates.

Okay everyone, Spring is on its way. Go have fun out in the gardens. Go easy at first, as the leaves and deadfall have been there all winter. They do not have to be cleared away all in one day. I am saying this to remind myself that slow and steady wins the race or gets the garden cleaned up. Save those backs, shoulders, elbows, and hands so we can enjoy the summer. Try to garden gently
Pres. Letter continued on next page

President's Letter continued:

at first. Remember to check for ticks when you come inside.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. Please ask some friends to join us. We really do have a great group of people. Happy gardening.

Carol

HORTICULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Mike Mack will begin our March meeting with his information-filled HPOI. All of Mike's HPOIs are available on the Society's website.

THE LOST IS FOUND

The missing book, "State of the Birds 2013" has been returned. Thank you.

REFRESHMENTS

Thank you to Bonnie Banincasa,, Alice Bradford, Anne Mescar, Marguerite Schernig, Dot Sieradzki, Janet Steel, and the Weeks for volunteering to bring treats to the March meeting.

MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR and ROAD TRIP are in the planning stages.

BONNIE JEAN MALCOLM'S SHOW

If you missed Bonnie Jean's retrospective in December, you can go to the web and see the video on You Tube. <https://youtu.be/3Gj9EMUpFC0>.

NSHS SCHOLARSHIP

Every year the North Shore Horticultural Society Scholarship is awarded to a North Shore Community College student of horticulture or floraculture. Monies raised from our auction and plant sale help fund the \$1000 Scholarship. This year the awards are being given at an afternoon reception at the NSCC Lynn Campus on Wednesday, May 3rd.

A favorite quote of the editor appeared in NSHS's March 2009 issue:

Henry van Dyke said: "The first day of SPRING is one thing, and the first spring day is another, the difference between them is sometimes as great as a month."

COMPOST

Your luddite editor went on an adventure while doing this column and learned something interesting that many of you probably already know. Go to the Beverly Public Library site, click on **CATALOGUE**, then **NOBLE Web**, then **REFERENCE DATABASES** and scroll down the main list to **GARDENING**. Hover over Gardening, Landscape and Horticultural Collection, click. "Discover a comprehensive periodical collection supporting research in horticultural studies." There are many older articles as well as some newer ones, comprising more than 4 million! It was like finding those files in the cabinet with all the articles which had been ripped out years ago and saved, "just in case...or this is a good idea" It is fun for a snowy day!

At **Tower Hill**, Boylston, **Plants, Pollinators and How to Support Them**, March 25th, 1:30-2:30PM. Joseph Tychonievich explains the interesting ways plants have evolved to attract their preferred pollinators. Along with a tour of nature's most creative (and sometimes disgusting) methods of connecting pollinators and plants, Joseph discusses ways to foster biodiversity in your own garden and shows examples of managing garden pests by letting other insects do the dirty work. For more information call 508-869-6111.

At **Trustees of Reservations'** Stevens Coolidge Place in North Andover, on March 26th, 10-noon, there will be a program **Winter Pruning and Tree ID**. Learn skills for pruning (tools and maintenance) and techniques for shrub and tree identification. With that information, learn how to prune, when, and how to make proper cuts. Call 978-689-9105x1.

Has anyone ever tried this? A **potato cradle** for propagating finicky, stubborn, woody plants and shrubs. Cut a slip of your plant on the diagonal. Tuck the cutting immediately into a hole in a small potato. Prepare the ground or a container for planting, add compost, set the potato into the soil, cover it completely, leaving the cutting above the surface. Water gently and tend as you would any newly propagated plant. (from **Trowel and Error**)
