



# North Shore Horticultural Society

P. O. Box 171 Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944  
March, 2018 Volume XX Number 7

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

**MEETING**  
**LOCATION**  
**Manchester**  
**Masonic**

**Lodge,**

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

**Meeting Preview**

**March 27th**

**Tuesday, 7:30PM**

Rita Wollmering  
*Organic  
Gardening and  
Companion  
Planting*

**April 24th**

**Tuesday, 7:30PM**

Thomas Mickey  
*America's  
Romance with the  
English Garden*

**May 22nd**

**Tuesday, 6:00PM**

Fred Rice  
*Annual Plant Sale  
and Auction*

**June 26th**

**Tuesday, 6:00PM**

*Tuck's Point  
Pot Luck Picnic*

**Board Meeting**

**April 12th**

**7:30PM**

at the home of  
Carol Batdorf

**ORGANIC GARDENING  
AND COMPANION PLANTING**

*Rita Wollmering*

**Tuesday, March 27th 7:30PM**

Rita Wollmering from The HerbFarmacy, will get us out of our nor'easter funk and get us thinking about gardens. With her wonderful way of imparting knowledge, Rita will interconnect the importance of organic gardening and companion planting. Many robust things can be accomplished without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides in an organically managed yard or vegetable garden. One can cultivate an ecosystem that sustains and nourishes plants, soil microbes and beneficial insects rather than just simply making plants grow. By incorporating various plants that work together, the gardens flourish by taking up nutrients, attracting pollinators and improving pest management.

Rita and her partner Brook own and operate The HerbFarmacy, a certified organic farm since opening in 1998, on 10 acres in Salisbury. They have been committed from the start to being an organic farm, in order to provide their clients with healthy plants, nutritious food and a sustainable environment.

They specialize in growing Certified Organic plants with over 800 culinary, medicinal, and ornamental herbs as well as vegetables and annuals. A schedule of plant availability is included on the website <https://theherbfarmacy.com>. Can you imagine over 80 varieties of heirloom tomato plants?

Remember, the days are getting longer. It is light after 7PM. Things are getting better. Rita's program will provide hope, not to mention educating us, and surely provoke many smiles. Hope to see you there.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Carol Batdorf*

Happy March everyone. I have been to at least two greenhouses to get a green air fix as I call it. I need growing plants around me at this time of the year. We had a great time up in Rollinsford, NH at the Wentworth Greenhouses' Exotic Plant Show. I keep buying flowers to make arrangements for the home and to give to friends. It helps me get through this last month of winter. What are some of the things you do to look forward to spring? I look at my snow drops blooming in the gardens and the budded hellebores and think soon I can get out there and work. Just remember that the plants and seeds are working very hard to come out of dormancy and growing roots and new leaves. Try not to disturb all this new growth that is going on under the ground. Do not compact the soil as you clear off the leaf cover and don't start your spring cleanup of the garden too soon. I will try to content myself with looking at the gardens as I pick up the many branches that have come down in the storms we have been having. I could probably rake the lawn when it dries out some and that would be one job done and closer to spring. The Boston Flower Show, hopefully, will also help me get through March into April.

This month our friend Rita Wollmering will be talking about organic gardening and companion planting. Certain plants play very well together and help each other grow better. Rita will give us some pointers on how to make our gardens greener and healthier. Please join us at the March meeting to take in the wonders of plants working together for a greener world. Bring a friend and join in on the fun. See you there. *Carol*

## ANNUAL MEETING

**The North Shore Horticultural Society's Annual Meeting will take place Tuesday, April 24, 7:30PM, at its regularly scheduled meeting.**

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## **REFRESHMENTS**

Thank you to Anne Mesgar, Jack Sumski, and Ruth Weeks for volunteering to bring treats to the March meeting.

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## **HORTICULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST (HPOI)**

We have been focusing on native plants for the garden and yard. As a result, Mike's HPOI this month is an extensive list including sun and soil requirements as well as comments about the plants themselves.

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## **PLANT SALE and AUCTION MAY 22nd**

It is time to start planning for our annual Plant Sale and Auction. This, our only fundraiser of the year, helps fund our programs and the NSHS's Scholarship at North Shore Community College. The student of horticulture or floriculture receives \$1000. To make the plant sale and auction a success, members are needed to solicit donations, put up posters in your neighborhood, set up tables, etc. Many hands make light work. Included with this Newsletter is a volunteer form. Please complete it and bring it to the March meeting or send it to PO Box 171, Manchester, MA 01944. Thank you.

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## **MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR SATURDAY, JULY 14th BAD WEATHER DAY, JULY 15th**

At our February meeting, one member's garden was signed up. With the weather of the past few weeks, it is hard to even think of July's gardens. Spring is coming, next week! The Board sincerely hopes more members will volunteer to open their gardens. There will be a sign up sheet at the March 27th meeting. Remember, gardens are always a work in progress!!

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## **COMPOST**

At the **Arnold Arboretum** in Jamaica Plain on Saturday, March 24th, 9-11AM, there is a program, "Learn How to Create an Orchard in a Small Garden". Registration required. Visit [my.arboretum.harvard.edu](http://my.arboretum.harvard.edu) or call 617-384-5277 for more information.

The camellias are still blooming at Historic New England's **Lyman Estate**, 185 Lyman Street, Waltham. Tuesday through Sunday 9:30AM-4:00PM until March 23rd. The Spring Orchid Sale is April 6-8.

We just missed the Spring Bulb Show at the **Botanic Garden of Smith College** in Northampton that ended on March 18th. It is a noncommercial century old event with more than 5,000 tulips, lilies, hyacinths, irises, and African bulbs "coaxed" into simultaneous bloom in a beautiful antique greenhouse. This event has to go on next year's calendar!!!

**Fairy Garden Workshop** at the Stevens-Coolidge Estate in North Andover, on Sunday, March 25th, 1:30-3:30PM. On Thursday, April 20th also at the Stevens-Coolidge Estate, there will be a workshop **Create a Culinary Herb Garden**, 6:30-8:00PM. For more information relating to either workshop or to register call The Trustees at 978.356.4351 X 3202.

Here are interesting bits of information from *All the Presidents' Gardens* that was mentioned in last month's Newsletter. "Benjamin Franklin with others, including nurseryman John Bertram, Sr., founded the Philosophical Society in Philadelphia in 1743. By 1787 it was called The American Philosophical Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge, and each of the first four presidents-Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison-were members. Plants were part of the common stock of knowledge to be cultivated. Exploring the botanical wealth of North America was a priority." The Society also funded an expedition of the Louisiana Purchase with Meriweather Lewis. The purposes of the adventure were commercial, political and scientific. Many new dried plant specimens were brought back for botanists including the golden currant which was eventually grown on White House grounds. (The book is really a fascinating read. ed.)

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