



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

October, 2017 Volume XX Number 2

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

MEETING LOCATION Manchester Masonic Lodge,

9 Church Street,
Manchester-by-
the-Sea. It is lo-
cated to the left of
the American Le-
gion Hall. Use the
same parking lot.

Meeting Preview

October 24th

Traci Sobocinski
Bulbs Rock!

November 28th

Andrew Keys
*Why Grow This
When You Can
Grow That?:*

*Underused Plants
for Northeast
Gardens*

December 12th

Tovah Martin
*Trowels & Tomor-
row: Garden
Stewardship*

Board Meeting

Thursday,
November 9th
at the home of
Allison Cohen
7:30PM

BULBS ROCK!

Traci Sobocinski

Tuesday, October 24th

7:30PM

The University of Illinois Extension's *Bulbs and More* says "the term 'bulb' is used by most people to refer to plants that have underground, fleshy storage structures. Only some of the plants commonly called bulbs actually are bulbs. The definition of a bulb is any plant that stores its complete life cycle in an underground storage structure."

Our speaker and NSHS member, Traci Sobocinski will clarify and educate us on how to grow some of the lesser known bulbs for spring. She'll also share hints on what to plant to keep critters from enjoying a meal of bulbs. Members will learn about her favorite bulbs, how and where to plant them as well as suggestions of where to purchase them.

Traci is, among other things, a thoughtful, organic gardener who has opened her garden for the last Members' Garden tour and she also is the Secretary of the NSHS.

Share the evening with a friend and remember we are now meeting at the Masonic Lodge. If you haven't already submitted them, don't forget your completed membership form and dues for 2017-2018.

BULBS

*Safe in the earth they lie, serenely
waiting,*

*They never speak to the north winds or
the snow,*

*Perfume and color in the dark creating,
Fit for the sunlit world that they will
know.*

*Louise Driscoll
American Poet
1875-1957*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol Batdorf

Hi Everyone, Has Jack Frost visited your garden? Now is the time to enjoy the last colors in the garden and to put it to bed. I have to find all of the garden sculptures before they get covered by leaves. As I rake up leaves I wonder if I can complete the tasks at hand before the daylight goes away. I think about the plants that have graced the garden this year and wonder if they will be back next year. Should I leave a layer of leaves on the garden or clean it down to the ground? I also think about having a few months of not having to mow the lawn or weed or swat insects or water the outside planters. I will miss my pick and plunk flower arrangements I gather from the garden.

But now is also the time to think about the wonderful spring colors that can be in your gardens if you plant some bulbs in the autumn. I indulge in spring bulbs because they remind me of my Dad. We would have an ongoing communication every spring as to how many crocus and daffodils would be blooming in our gardens. Dad's garden would be about two weeks ahead of mine so his counts would always be more than mine in the beginning of the spring. We always agreed to stop counting when we got over 300 blooms. Spring bulbs make me smile and remember. The colors make me happy and they are spring in its full glory.

Traci Sobocinski, one of our own Board members, will be talking about spring bulbs during the October meeting. Traci will introduce us to some new bulbs you may never have seen. She will give us pointers on how to plant them and where you can purchase them.

Pres. Letter continued on next page

President's Letter continued:

Knowing which bulbs are candy to deer, squirrels and chipmunks will help us pick bulbs that we can enjoy year after year. I can't have enough of them in my gardens. Please bring a friend and enjoy the evening with everyone. See you there, *Carol*

HORTICULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST - THE 9TH YEAR

At our October meeting there will be a brief discussion regarding one of the plants that changed the course of history.

CHILDREN'S FRIEND AND FAMILY SERVICES OF SALEM (CFFSS)

Again this year, NSHS will be collecting gifts at our November meeting for CFFSS. So, when you are shopping, keep your eyes open for toys, toiletries, etc. for this wonderful social service agency. The Society started doing this project years ago at the suggestion of a dedicated gardener and long time Board member, the late Alice Salter.

MEMBERSHIP

A Reminder: with the September Newsletter, there was a "planetary purple" colored membership form. Thank you to the many members who either brought the completed form and a check for the dues to the September meeting, or mailed it to PO Box 171, Manchester, MA 01944. If it is still on the counter or your desk, please either mail the form and check to the post office box or bring it to the October meeting.

REFRESHMENTS

Thank you to Sue McLaughlin, and Ruth and Norm Weeks who have volunteered to bring refreshments to the October meeting. Members, please feel free to bring a treat to share. All goodies are very much appreciated.

VIRTUAL GARDEN TOUR PHOTOS

I was just working in the garden cutting back and dead heading but stopped as the still flowering plants were teaming with bees and butterflies. It was awesome. I took some photos which will be for the Virtual Garden Tour, but also to be used as a reminder when I am trying to remember what I wanted move, to save, and what I can put in the Plant Sale and Auction next May. (*Joan, ed.*)

COMPOST

On Wednesday, November 15th, 6:30-9PM at the **Trustees Stevens-Coolidge Estate, Betsy Williams** will be conducting a workshop "Creating Thanksgiving Centerpieces". Use fresh fall flowers, fruits, vegetables, fragrant herbs and seasonal berries combined with preserved leaves to celebrate our National Day of Thanks. Call 978-356-4351 x3202 for more information.

Also, at another **Trustees** property, **The Old Manse**, in Concord, Richard Higgins will give a lecture based on his recent book, *Thoreau and the Language of Trees*, on Saturday, October 21st, at 2PM. Call 978-369-3909 for more information.

According to gardenknowhow.com, a great way to prepare for a new garden bed in Zone 5 to 6 is to lay out a vinyl tablecloth or black plastic sheet on the ground, weigh it down with bricks or pin it with landscape staples. The vinyl/plastic combined with heavy snow, lack of sunlight, and lack of water and oxygen cause the grass beneath to die. Remove the tablecloth/black plastic in early-mid May, when all danger of frost has passed, and simply till the area as needed. It will till much easier than it would as a mass of living turf grass.

The gardenknowhow.com website reiterated the fact that fall is an excellent time for planting trees and shrubs, and perennials. They can establish roots in soil temperatures down to 45F, although 55-65F is ideal. Many times plants establish better in the fall because they don't have to deal with sweltering heat just after being planted. Evergreens are the exception: they establish best in soil temperatures above 65F. Their roots stop growing in cool soil temperatures and they stop absorbing water necessary for the prevention of winter burn.

