



North Shore Horticultural Society

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

November, 2017 Volume XX Number 3

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

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

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

Meeting Preview
Tuesday, 7:30PM
November 28th

Andrew Keys
*Why Grow That
When You Can
Grow This?:
Underused Plants
for Northeast
Gardens*

Tuesday, 7:30PM
December 12th
**(This is the
2nd Tuesday
not the 4th)**

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

Tuesday, 6:00PM
January 23rd

Pot Luck Dinner
and Virtual Garden
Tour
*Vegetable Garden-
ing in Less Than
Full Sun*

Board Meeting
Thursday,
December 7th
at Joan Johnson's

**WHY GROW THAT WHEN
YOU CAN GROW THIS:
UNDERUSED PLANTS FOR
NORTHEAST GARDENS**

Andrew Keys

Tuesday, November 28th
7:30PM

Andrew Keys brings a fresh voice to the world of horticulture and garden design. In his presentation, "Why Grow That When You Can Grow This....." a whole new world is opened up when we are introduced to beautiful but, for some reason, underutilized or forgotten plants. This program, especially at this time of year, is revitalizing as we are putting our gardens to bed and evaluating what did well and what didn't, particularly when past horticultural purchases which were supposed to be fantastic ended up being blah, blah, blah. He will offer creative alternatives to the plants that have become all too common elements of landscape design.

Not only does Andrew design and garden, his second book *Why Grow That When You Can Grow This?* was just published last year. In this book, he "seeks to empower growers to reboot the traditional rules of gardening and create landscapes that are intelligent, entertaining, edgy, and authentic." He has had feature articles in *Fine Gardening*. Besides being immersed in plants and writing about them, he also is the web manager for the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

*Every leaf speaks bliss to me,
Fluttering from the autumn tree.*
Emily Bronte

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol Batdorf

November – the Thanksgiving month. I think we have a great deal to be thankful for. The last storm may have knocked out the electricity for many but it is back on. I was without power for 2½ days with fairly warm temperatures for this time of the year. I was thinking about all the people recovering from the hurricanes this season. Many are still without power or drinking water some seven weeks later. The winds from the last storm really battered my house but they were only 70 mph gusts. Can you imagine what 200 mph gusts and sustained winds of 150 mph would have been like? I am thankful that the roof and trees are still intact on my property. Yes, leaves and small branches are all over the place but I can clean that up without needing heavy equipment to put things to rights.

We live in an area that receives a fair amount of water. We have been in some drought conditions over the last few years but we do get rain. What if we only had sand and a very thin soil horizon to grow our plants? I have lots of rocks on my property but I can bring in soil to augment the gardens and the compost pile is full of black gold when I dig in for some compost. We have many places to buy our plants from – we do not have to rely on seed stock that we have saved from the year before. As gardening conditions go, we should be thankful for what Mother Nature has provided for us in New England.

Our speaker for November, Andrew Keys, will offer us some options for what to plant in our New England gardens. I am always open to new suggestions to help the garden have options for
Pres. Letter continued on next page

President's Letter continued:

color, texture, drought tolerant forms, non-invasive species and so on. It is wonderful to learn about new plants that can join the tried and true in my garden. Maybe I can manage to get more color into my shade gardens.

The November meeting is also the time when we can reach out as a group and help others. Please bring in unwrapped gifts or gift certificates for children and adults that can provide some cheer for this holiday season. The gifts will be distributed through the Children's Friend and Family Services of Salem. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Please come and join us for the November meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Carol

HORTICULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST - THE 9TH YEAR

Mike Mack will speak about Powassan Virus and other things tick related. He will also discuss making early winter cuttings and the importance of keeping a garden journal.

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

Again this year, NSHS will be collecting gifts (toys, toiletries, gift cards) for all ages at our November meeting for CFFSS. NSHS started doing this years ago at the suggestion of a gardener and long time Board member, the late Alice Salter.

MEMBERSHIP

Reminder: IF THERE IS A BIG RED DOT on the label of your newsletter, that means the treasurer has not received your dues for this year. Please complete the form that was included with your September newsletter and either mail it to PO Box 171, Manchester, MA 01944, or bring it with a check to the November meeting. Otherwise, this is the last newsletter you will receive. Those who receive the newsletter electronically and have not renewed membership, will receive a separate email follow up. To all who have already renewed their membership, a sincere thank you.

REFRESHMENTS

Dot Anderson, Becky Ehrhardt, Anne Fucillo, Anne Mesgar, Marguerite Schernig, Sylvia Topp and Ruth Weeks have graciously volunteered to bring goodies to the November meeting. Thanks!

COMPOST

I recently read the Sunday *Globe's* "The Gardener" by Carol Stocker. The column showed a photo of the invasive swallow wort (also called black dog strangling vine), a type of milkweed, and described the problems it causes. This caused me to research further. I hadn't known the name of that vine with shiny dark green oval to heart shaped leaves, small dark purple, star shaped flowers, seed pods that are milkweed-like and full of flat brown seeds covered in fine, white hairs. These plants are toxic to many insect larvae including monarch caterpillars (if a monarch mistakes the black swallow-wort for actual milkweed and lays its eggs on the plant, the eggs will not hatch.). They were cultivated in greenhouses in Ipswich and at the Harvard Botanical Garden in Cambridge in the mid-1800s to be used as an ornamental. The vine is native to southern Europe and is now found in every county in Massachusetts. It grows well in disturbed soil and has found its "soul mate" in the chain link fences it loves to climb. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, eradication is almost impossible. The whole crown must be removed. Pulling the plants by hand generally leads to resprouting but it can prevent seed production if repeated during the growing season. Ideally, plants bearing seeds should be burned or bagged and disposed of in trash pick up.

Did you know, according to *The Salem News*, the American record for **pumpkin growing** was a 2,363 pound gourd from California? The world record is 2,624.6 pounder grown in Belgium in 2016. This year at Topsfield it was 2003.5 lbs.

The VIRTUAL GARDEN TOUR is coming up in January. Before things get too frenetic, please go through the photos you took of gardens, plants, pollinators, etc., and decide which ones you would like to share. Please jot down an appropriate caption for each picture. Send no more than three photos per email to Carol at nina_carol@verizon.net (the space between nina and carol is an underscore) or carol.batdorf@state.ma.us. Multiple emails are always welcome.

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