

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

September 2021



Happy Autumn!
Check out this month's
Green Thumb Corner
for fall planting tips!

Welcome to our club's sixty-third year!

September 28



Our first club meeting of the year will be held at the home of Joline Yeaton, 43A Batchelder Road, Boxford at 10 am. Come one and come all with your ideas and suggestions to this very important planning and restructuring meeting. It will be very special to finally all be together physically, don't you think? Please RSVP to Joline as soon as possible to let her know if you will be able to attend.

October 1—
October 11



The Topsfield Fair is back following last year's cancellation due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. The Topsfield Board of Health has mandated that masks must be worn in all buildings and shuttles by attendees. If you decided to go, be sure to see the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Standard Flower Show "It's All Fair" and the Topsfield Garden Club's exhibit, both located in the Flower Building.

October 22—
October 24



The Massachusetts Orchid Society presents "World of Orchids The Caribbean." I do love the sound of this! The show will take place at the Sons of Italy Hall, 117 Swanton Street, Winchester, MA. There will be lots of exhibits and vendors to leisurely browse through. Admission is \$10.00 and per Winchester regulations, masks will be required for all visitors to the show. Here's a link for more information : <https://massorchid.org/show>

October 19

Mark your calendar for our next board meeting. Place and time will be advised soon.

...more news on the following page...

NOTES



Once again this year, there will be no formal program book printed. So, to keep up to date with garden club happenings, please be sure to keep your e-mail contact information up to date and check your e-mail inbox often for new club developments!



Just a reminder that fall is here, and with that it will soon be time for us to cut down our community gardens and put them to bed for the winter. Please be at the ready with your gardening gloves, clippers and rakes to help at the Pine Grove Cemetery Memorial Garden, the Prospect Street Island and the traffic island at Linebrook Road. More details soon!

Upcoming Events Update

December 6, 2021 (tentative) Topsfield Council On Aging Boxwood Tree Workshop.

▶▶ *Due to Coronavirus concerns, the Annual Joint Meeting of the five area garden clubs will not be held in November 2021.*



Many thanks go to Shirley and Glen Holt for their plant contributions to the Prospect Street Island. They have set in the ground with great care two Hydrangeas, Rose of Sharon and Hyssop plants. These will make a wonderful addition to our beautiful existing plantings.

Hopefully, some of you were able to attend Topsfield's Tomato Festival a few weeks ago. Surely, many enjoyed the ability to be out in public at a fun event after a long drought due to the pandemic. Congratulations go to our member, Donna Ryan, who was awarded first place in the Tomato Recipe Contest for her Tomato Bacon Jam. In addition to her blue ribbon, she took home a new Chef's Knife to use on her next culinary creation!



...more news on the following page...



...Bits and pieces...

Our Topsfield Civic Projects



Pine Grove Cemetery garden planting crew!



Pine Grove Cemetery Garden



Anne Mahen's garden at the Parson Capen House



Prospect Street Island



Linebrook Road Island



Urns at the Topsfield Town Library



...Green Thumb Corner follows...

Green Thumb Corner

A sure sign of autumn are the leaves that have already changed color on the trees I can see from my kitchen window. You must see them as well. So, do you feel like throwing your gardening gloves and tools up in the air in glee that another gardening season is over?



Not so fast! Did you know that, even though we often think that spring is the ideal time to plant, autumn affords us a second and sometimes even better chance to plant trees, shrubs and perennials? The following are some reasons why this is true:

- ▶ *First and foremost for me, especially after this hot and very humid summer, the cooler months of autumn are far more enjoyable for gardening work.*
- ▶ *Cooler nights and increased rainfall in fall creates less stress on your plants and provides ideal conditions for optimal root growth. In autumn, plants are going dormant, so they aren't using very much energy above the ground. Planting, moving or dividing plants when plants do not have to focus energy aboveground as well as below provides them with a lot less stress.*
- ▶ *In addition, and perhaps most importantly, planting, moving and splitting plants in fall gives more time to develop strong root systems before they are exposed to the intense heat of summer! Below ground in autumn, plants continue to put out roots until the ground freezes.*
- ▶ *If you need another reason to plant in autumn, consider that weeds are also going dormant at this time of year, which means that they will not compete with your newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials as much. In addition, those pesky leaf-eating insects that are consistently around in spring and summer, at least in my gardens, are less active in fall, so your plants will be less stressed from this point of view.*

Here are a few quick tips for successful fall planting:

- ▶ *Aim to plant, move and split your plants 4 to 6 weeks before the ground freezes. Hereabouts, planting should be able to be done until early November.*
- ▶ *Applying a layer of mulch on your new fall plantings can help keep the ground warm longer, giving your plants' roots a little extra time to establish themselves. Try 2 to 3 inches of shredded leaves or bark mulch. In addition to allowing plants additional time to grow roots, mulching will conserve moisture and help prevent the winter freeze and thaw cycles we experience in these parts, which definitely creates nothing but stress for our plants.*
- ▶ *Remember to water new plantings as needed to the depth of the root ball until the ground freezes.*

So, there you have it...you may not be done with those gardening gloves and tools after all!

And lastly for today, my Hummingbird update...at our house, the last Hummingbird sighting was September 12th this year...much the same as in years past. The recommendation is to keep the feeders up for about two weeks after the last sighting in case some stragglers pass through on their way to the tropics. Our feeders will come down today. Bye for now, my Hummingbird friends! ♥

- ▶ *Here's a link if you would like to know more about these exciting little creatures:<https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/birds/hummingbirds>*