

# A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

April 20th through May 18, 2021

The objectives of the New Meadows Garden Club shall be to foster knowledge of home gardening, decorative arrangements and an interest in civic projects.



Check out the Green Thumb Corner for some environmental tips and inspiring words.

April 30 -  
May 3



The Museum of Fine Arts will be saluting spring virtually this year with their special event, Art In Bloom, and are looking forward to delivering a weekend of delight and discovery as they showcase fine art and floral design for the 45th year. Featured are three hour-long recorded tours that can be viewed any time over the Art In Bloom weekend. Presented by a team of art and floral guides, each video features 9 works from the MFA collection alongside the floral designs that the art inspired. The tours are free for members, \$10 for nonmembers, and \$24 for all three tours. Here's link if you would like additional information:

<https://mfa.org/event/special-event/art-in-bloom?event=3173>

May 1



Membership Chair, Janet Hanson, will mail membership renewals to all members. Please renew your membership with your dues payment as soon as possible. Dues payments are due by June 15th.

May 6—workshop  
May 7, May 8  
Mother's Day sale



Our Mother's Day Tea Cup Fundraising Sale is finally here! All hands on deck...it's time to get ready. Collect your tea cups or mugs, your silk or live floral material and make a plan to contribute 2 or 3 designs. Our sale will take place outside the Topsfield Post Office May 7th and 8th from 9 am until noon each day.

Mary Connor has graciously volunteered to host a workshop at her home on May 6th at 1 pm. Please let Mary know if you plan to attend so there will be a seat for you! Remember to bring your masks.

If you plan to design your tea cups and mugs at home, please drop them by at Mary's home prior to the first sale day on Friday, May 7th. They may be left outside her garage door. If you don't have cups available, there will be extras at Mary's workshop. Just bring your plant material with you. There will also be extra plant material available for your use there. Donations of spring colored silk flowers are

definitely welcome! Workshop attendees using silk flowers should bring wire cutters to size the stems to the containers. Oasis will be available for those who choose to bring and design with live material. Be sure to check out Sandy, Jane and Mary's e-mail message of April 22nd, which contains lots of details and tips. There are also links included in that message to spark your creativity!

This promises to be an exciting event for our club. You will see information posted in town and on social media letting the public know about our event. We hope to use the proceeds towards the upkeep of our traffic islands, so please lend a hand!

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



**May 18**



*Our next board meeting will be a Zoom meeting at 10 am. Stay tuned board members, and be prepared to fire up your electronics for this meeting. A Zoom invitation will be sent prior to the meeting.*

**May 20**



*\*\*\*Attention all Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs! If you will have an annual Committee Report for this abbreviated garden club year, please submit it to Secretary Joline Yeaton by **May 20th** for inclusion in her Annual Report to be distributed electronically in June.*

**NOTES**



*The end of April to the beginning of May is a good time to hang your feeders for the Ruby-throated and the Rufous hummingbirds that will be arriving in our area for the summer very soon.*

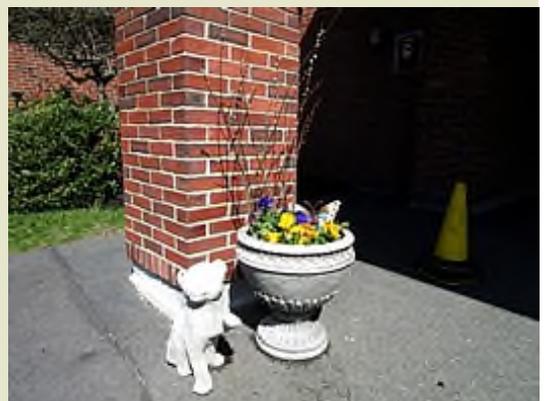


*Calling all members! Please be on the lookout for a request for helpers in mid-May for mulch spreading at our Linebrook Road and Prospect Street Islands. There will also be a call for helpers on planting day during the week of Memorial Day at the Pine Grove Cemetery garden. Stay tuned. More information will come via e-mail, so be sure to check your mailboxes!*

*...Bits and pieces...*



*Belgian artist's portable terrarium offers COVID protection!*



*Linda Flynn's urns at the Steward School*

*...Green Thumb Corner follows...*

## Green Thumb Corner

*There's a lot of talk about climate change these days, so I thought we could share a few thoughts about this between us today. There is no doubt that Earth's climate is changing...it is always changing. Interestingly, planet Earth's temperature during the Pliocene Epoch more than 3 million years ago was warmer than it is today!*



*Some reasons for these changes rest with the properties of our solar system itself, and are not affected by us who inhabit this planet. In addition, there are also some reasons for climate fluctuations that remain mysteries to us. But we also know that how all of us live on this planet has some affect as well. Much of the discussion centers around the amount of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in our atmosphere and how too much contributes to "global warming." However, since CO<sub>2</sub> plays several roles in keeping Earth's climate stable, one of which is to trap heat in the atmosphere without which Earth would be in a perpetual ice age, the solution to too much of it in our atmosphere is definitely not to try eliminate all sources of this greenhouse gas. Since it should behoove all citizens of the Earth, no matter where, to be kind to this place we call home, what are we to do? Many solutions are being offered, new ones every day. But did you know that we as gardeners can do our share to help stabilize CO<sub>2</sub> levels and keep them from entering our atmosphere and warming the planet simply by growing plants? Plants, during their photosynthesis process, actually "gobble up" CO<sub>2</sub> generated by cars, planes and factories, turning the gases into sugars and depositing carbon into the soil via their roots and plant residues. This process keeps carbon out of our atmosphere for years. Trees and shrubs are the best performers since they are long-lived. You get more "bang for your buck" when you plant these! Long-lived woody perennials like peonies and ornamental grasses are good choices too.*

*Another tip is to choose a variety of native plants, which are more low maintenance and encourage a balanced ecosystem in your garden. A variety of natives will provide food and habitat for beneficial garden insects which will help keep pests in check and decrease the need for pesticides, the use of which increase your carbon footprint!*

*While we're on the subject of pesticides, it's also a good idea to skip the use of harsh man-made fertilizers in your yard. Instead, use organic fertilizers, which are made from natural occurring organic material like bone or plant meal and composted manure. The reality is that greenhouse gases are released during the manufacture of synthetic fertilizers, and once they're in your soil, they produce nitrous oxide, which is even more powerful than CO<sub>2</sub> in warming the atmosphere.*

*Composting is another great idea for the environment and for your plants. When kitchen and garden waste winds up in landfills, not only is CO<sub>2</sub> produced but also methane, which is a greenhouse gas much more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> in producing global warming! Why not put your kitchen and garden waste to work for you? There are many internet sites you can visit that will guide you through the process of composting. We've been doing it for years at our place, and our plants are so very grateful for it! Our compost pile is nothing fancy...just leaves, grass clippings, and scraps from kitchen and indoor plants. A couple of turns of the pile during the summer, and that does it...instant fertilizer!*

*And next, a word about tilling your gardens by hand or by means of a gas or electric rototiller. Don't do it! Carbon is actually sequestered in the plant roots, bacteria, fungi and humus in your soil. Tilling releases this carbon into the atmosphere, which you should try not to do. It is best to disturb your soil as little as possible. So, if you wish to do new plantings, create a layer in which to plant with mulch or compost, while digging into your soil as little as possible. Your plants will be healthier, there will be more soil life, there will be less need for fertilizers and other chemicals and lastly, there will be minimal release of carbon into the atmosphere.*

*...more on the next page...*



*And, no matter how much or how little space you have, a garden can always be planted, whether in the ground or in a container on your deck! Production of food, as well as processing and transportation, all contribute to the amount of CO2 in our atmosphere. So, why not grow some of your own food right at home, which will only make the short trip from your garden to your table? Think tomatoes, greens and herbs! Those that are perennial are even better! And, while you're at it, try growing your own floral bouquets. If you play your cards right, you will also benefit our local pollinators in the process!*

*Finally, what we all wouldn't do for a beautiful lawn! All the mowing and fertilizer with so little in return! A better plan to help our environment is to reduce your lawn area if you can and consider using battery-powered mowers and edgers rather than those with gasoline engines, which produce CO2. How about transforming some of the area into a meadow of wildflowers?*

*In the end, there is no need to despair about all the bad news we hear in the media these days about "global warming." All of us citizens of Earth can work together, and we as gardeners can have a real impact by doing what we love to do...garden to our heart's content! ♦*

*And to close for this month, a little inspiration from a beautifully written poem about gratitude by Ralph Waldo Emerson...*

*For flowers that bloom about our feet,  
For tender grass so fresh and sweet,  
For song of bird and hum of bee,  
For all things fair we hear and see,  
Father in heaven,  
Father in heaven, we thank thee.*

*For blue of stream and blue of sky,  
For pleasant shade of branches high,  
For fragrant air and cooling breeze,  
For beauty of the blooming trees,  
Father in heaven,  
Father in heaven, we thank thee.*

