

NORTHERN EXPOSURE

New England Region Newsletter

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Connecticut – Maine – Massachusetts - New Hampshire- Rhode Island - Vermont



January 2012

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first issue of "***Northern Exposure,***" formerly known as the rather nameless "NER Newsletter." Congratulations to Ginny Urdi, New Hampshire State President, for submitting the winning entry naming our regional newsletter. Her club, and ironically mine as well, the Bow Garden Club, will be issued a check for \$50 on her behalf, her prize for having submitted the "winning" submission. I hope you are as pleased as I am with the regional newsletter's new name.

Now more than six months into the 2011-2013 term, I believe we have all become better acquainted with our State Presidents and have learned more about the goals and objectives for their terms. What dedicated, informed and energetic ladies we have at the helm of our state garden club organizations and how fortunate we are to have them. Please continue to give them your much deserved support throughout their terms.

We were very pleased to have had eighty-nine (89) attendees at the most recent NER Annual Meeting held in Chelmsford this past October. By all accounts it was a very informative and enjoyable meeting and I would like to thank Nancy Donaldson, the 2011 NER Annual Meeting Chairman and her committee chairs for their efforts in making the meeting such a successful event. The 2012 NER Annual Meeting and Symposium will be held in Providence, RI this year on October 14-15 and October 15-17, respectively, hosted by the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. More details will be made available to you in the coming months.

Recently I was the guest of both the Garden Club Federation of Maine and the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs at their state meetings as well as that of the Hamilton-Wenham (Massachusetts) Garden Club's Holiday Open Meeting. At these events, I was graciously hosted, entertained and enlightened by your fellow New England garden club members who went out of their way to make me feel very welcome and appreciated. Being among the "membership-at-large" and observing how the different clubs and state organizations "tick" will surely be the highlight of my directorship; I just love seeing how you all work together toward your common goals and I learn something new every time to take along with me to share with the other state organizations and garden clubs. Please invite me to attend your state meetings or events, your garden club meetings or special events, etc. at your earliest opportunity, enabling me to add them to my calendar now. I sincerely look forward to visiting with our members in their various states, cities and towns throughout my term as Regional Director. Our members *are* the backbone of this organization.

I sincerely hope that each and every one of you experienced many wonderful holiday moments during the past several weeks and are now revitalized and ready to tackle the year ahead. Just think . . . "It will be Spring before you know it! (???)

"Happy New Year Everyone!"

Joyce

Joyce A. Kimball
New England Region Director, 2011-201

THE NAMING OF THE NEWSLETTER

At the close of the 2009-2011 administration, members of the New England Region of Garden Clubs were invited to submit suggestions for a "real name" for the NER Newsletter with a deadline of December 1, 2011. The judging panel was composed of the State Presidents and Regional Director of the 2009-2011 administration. We received a great range of suggestions, however the "finalists" easily surfaced with *Northern Exposure* "winning by a landslide," followed by *New England Ramblings* and *New England Blooms*. Ginny Urdi, State President, New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. submitted the winning entry. "Congratulations, Ginny!"

By Kathy Thomas
Immediate Past-Regional Director



NEW ENGLAND REGION ANNUAL MEETING 2011



Present and former NER Directors at the 2011 NER Annual Meeting. Above, left to right are: NER Director Joyce Kimball, Kathleen Thomas (2009-2011), Sonia Cianchette (2007-2009), Pam Hebert (2005-2007), Deanne Mozzochi (2001-2003), Virginia GrandPre (1999-2001) and Jeanne Marie Parkes (1997-1999).



Also at the 2011 Annual Meeting were state garden club presidents, left to right: Judy Hager, Rhode Island; Bronwyn (Ronnie) Schoelzel, Connecticut ; Kathleen J. Marty, Maine; NER Director Joyce Kimball; Virginia (Ginny) Urdi, New Hampshire; Heidi Kost-Gross, Massachusetts; Gay Gaston, Vermont

Plantings for Public and Special Places

A new and exciting program called Plantings for Public and Special Places is active and growing. The focus of this 3-part program will help garden clubs, districts and regions to easily expand their community service - an important goal of National Garden Clubs.

Whether you choose, Container Gardens - Susan Robinson (rerob@mac.com)
Gardens with Edibles - Patricia Rupiper (arupiper@bright.net)
or Trees and Shrubs - Lissa Williamson (erw510@aol.com)
as your project, you will be doing a wonderful thing.

The beauty of this program is that existing projects can be enlarged or refurbished. Or they can beautify a blighted area. Having an environmental aspect or being part of Blue Star and garden week is equally great. For more help, you can visit the National web site for hints and ideas.

Also, an on line application will soon be available for you to fill out. This will help us keep track of the creative and exciting work you've undertaken! Citations will be presented to the clubs.

Looking forward to achieving great results.

Sue Robinson
NER Container Gardens Chairman

"Go Red for Women AHA Event" November 1, 2011

Members of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. recently made fifty floral arrangements to grace the tables of the American Heart Association's "6th Annual New Hampshire Go Red for Women Luncheon" held at the Radisson Hotel on November 1st. The garden clubs of Atkinson, Bow, Claremont, Derry, Goffstown, Hooksett, New London, Opechee (Laconia Area) and Mountain (Upper Mt. Washington Valley Area) participated.

Individual members of each club donated their time and the materials to make floral arrangements to serve as colorful centerpieces for each of the forty-plus luncheon



tables and cocktail tables that filled the Radisson's ballroom. The only criteria the floral designers were given was "GO RED" and "GO RED" they did!

NH Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. President Virginia Urdi (left) poses with Katy McGrath (R), Corporate Events Director for the American Heart Association, prior to the "6th Annual New Hampshire Go Red for Women Luncheon" held at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester on November 1st.



Report of the Rhode Island Federated Garden Club President Announcing Standard Flower Show February 23-26

The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs (RIFGC) had a busy 2011, accomplishing many of our goals for the year. But, now we move into 2012 with a focus on our state flower show. Each year, RIFGC holds a standard flower show in conjunction with a Flower and Garden Show held at the convention center in Providence. I know that many NER members have participated in our show, by either entering a design, artistic craft or horticulture, serving as a judge for our show or by attending the show itself. We really appreciate the level of support the smallest state receives for this effort!

This year, Feb. 23-26th, the overall theme for the Flower and Garden Show is "Simple Pleasures." Our standard flower show is "Through the Eyes of a Child." It features a wonderful schedule (created by Vera Bowen) with classes that focus on the whimsy and charm as seen through the eyes of a child. The schedule can be found on our website at www.rigardenclubs.org. Please consider entering the show by contacting the consultant listed for the class you are interested in entering. Otherwise, please come see our show. It is truly wonderful to feel like spring is just around the corner once you enter the convention center. For more information, visit our website, the Flower and Garden Show site, www.flowershow.com or contact me at jhager@cox.net.

Judy Hager, RIFGC President



NER Awards Application Process 2012

Many, many clubs are engaged in wonderful projects that highlight the clubs abilities and talents throughout the New England Region. We want to ensure that those efforts are recognized. One way to reward outstanding projects is through the award process.

We hope to dispel some of the confusion that has arisen from the format changes to the awards process. The NGC format for award applications changed for 2011-13 and the New England Region has also changed the format for the NER award applications in order to be in line with the format required for NGC awards.

First, there is a new awards application form. This new application form is available on the NER website (www.ngcner.org). Other changes include the length of the application – three pages total using the front side of each sheet, including the application with answers to the questions listed on the application. Please do not use report covers or sheet protectors. Your application may be submitted as hard copy or electronically via e-mail or as a CD. If possible, submitting electronic applications in a .pdf format ensures that it will be readable to all who review it. With fewer pages required, it is hoped that more clubs will be able to document their projects and submit them for awards. Award applications will not be returned so please make a copy of your application for your records.

Second, some projects may qualify for more than one award. A club may submit a project for multiple awards but each submission must be unique and address the subject of that award. The same submission with different award numbers for each will not qualify. Also, the NER submission is not the same as one submitted for a state award.

Third, starting this year all yearbooks will be judged at the Regional level, as are the Publicity Pressbooks. Each state is asked to judge the yearbooks using the scale of points and size categories in the Fall issue of *The National Gardener*, page 31. State Award Chairmen are asked to forward the winners from each size category to the NER Chairmen by January 15 for judging on the Regional level. Winners will be announced at the NGC Convention.

All other NER Award applications are to be submitted to the NER Awards Chairmen by September 1 for judging. More information can be found on the NER website www.ngcner.org under the awards tab. Please submit only one awards application submission for each award number from each state. Please encourage all your clubs to document their projects so that they may apply for recognition of their efforts. We look forward to having many clubs applying for NER Awards.

Vera Bowen and Diane McMillen
NER Awards Co-Chairmen

GOT SILVER?

At the October 18, 2011 New England Region Meeting held in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, a motion was approved to have all NER silver awards appraised for insurance purposes.

A local New Hampshire appraiser/insurance adjuster has been contacted and it will be possible for him to give us a report on this project without actually having the awards in hand.

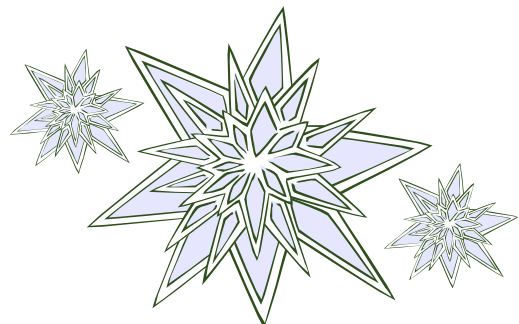
Since these awards are located throughout New England, we need your help. If your state/club received a silver award at the recent meeting, please send the following:

1. A photograph of the award
2. A description of the award (dimensions – height, circumference, weight, etc.)
3. Condition of award (dented, marred, etc.)
4. Any markings on the award (other than recipient engraving).
5. If the award is attached to a wooden base – the type of wood the base is made of
6. Contact information of the person holding the award in case the appraiser needs further information

As soon as all information is received, the appraiser will give us a cost (either by the hour or by the complete project). Once a cost is approved, he will conduct the appraisal and submit a complete report for the Region. Thank you for your help with this important project.

Please send this information and any questions to:

Virginia GrandPrè
86 Wood Lot Lane
Stoddard, NH 03464-4646
(603) 446-7866
vgrandpre@gmail.com



2011 NER Awards



The awards program affords National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the New England Region an opportunity to express their appreciation and support for all the club projects that were completed or were in progress during the past year. By honoring our clubs, we hope to promote growth and stimulate our members to plan their programs and activities for the coming year in accordance with the objectives of our organization.

This year's Books of Evidence attest to the abilities and talents of our clubs. The Awards Committee congratulates the winners, thanks all who applied for an award this year, and encourages more clubs to submit entries next year.

The following Awards were presented at the NER Meeting in Chelmsford, MA:

1. **Sears Civic Beautification Bowl** is awarded to **Opechee Garden Club of New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs** for their wonderful project to provide gardens of benefit to the public. These gardens, placed along a trail, connect two urban centers allowing an alternate route to schools, the library and views of Lake Opechee.

3. **Evelyn Cole National Gardener Tray** is awarded to the **Garden Club Federation of Maine** for the greatest percentage of their membership receiving paid subscriptions to The National Gardener.

10. **Mary Stone Garden Therapy Award** is awarded to **Danvers Garden Club of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts** for their commendable work visiting and planning programs to meet the needs of the residents at the four nursing homes they serve.

12. **Mary Louise Marks Smith Flower Show Schedule Award** is awarded to the **Atkinson Garden Club of New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs** for their skillfully crafted "Over the Rainbow" Standard Flower Show Schedule.

13. **Virginia Thurston Landscape Design Award** is awarded to **Williamstown Garden Club of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts** for establishing two perennial gardens at the Town Green.

15. **Kenney/Colton Horticulture Award** is awarded to **The Atkinson Garden Club of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs** for the impressive horticulture displayed at their Standard Flower Show "Over the Rainbow".

16. **The Nancy H. Atwell Trophy** is awarded to **Camden Garden Club of the Garden Club Federation of Maine** for the well publicized Camden House and Garden Tour

17. **Jeanne-Marie Parkes Award** is awarded to **The Atkinson Garden Club of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs** for their exhibit, to raise awareness of how to preserve and conserve our water resources.

20. **Deanna Mozzochi Creative Design Award** is awarded to **Maureen Christmas of Acton Garden Club of Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts** for her spectacular design exhibited at the Tower Hill Standard Flower Show.

21. **Maureen Colton Award** is awarded to **Barrington Garden Club of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs** for their beautiful table designs exhibited in their Standard Flower Show and House Tour "Bays, Beaches and Bouquets."

22. **Pamela Hebert Garden of Youth Award** is awarded to **Danbury Garden Club of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut** for their work to introduce young women to the fundamental skills of horticulture, nature, conservation, environmental awareness and floral design.

24. **Excellence in Teamwork Award** is awarded to **Dracut Garden Club of Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts** for their Arbor Day Celebration that included educational exhibits, tree planting and the adoption of 100 maple seedlings. This project was truly a team effort with help from the town, department of public works, and Brookside Junior Gardeners.

25. **National Gardening Association Award** is awarded to **Guilford Garden Club of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut** for their project that established a vegetable and flower garden for children to teach them about the food that they eat and to encourage good eating habits.

2011 Publicity Press Book Winners for the New England Region

Large Club Category

First	The Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc. Boothbay Garden Club
Second	New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (very high second) Mountain Garden Club
Second	The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. Norwood Evening Garden Club

2011 Publicity Press Book Winners - continued

Third Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Barrington Garden Club

Medium Club Category

First The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut
Cheshire Garden Club

Second The Garden Club Federation of Maine Inc.
Kennebec Valley Garden Club

Second New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Bow Garden Club

Third The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.
Reading Garden Club

Third Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Portsmouth Garden Club

Small Club Category

First Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Hameho Garden Club

Second New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Hooksett Garden Club

Third The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut
North Haven Garden Club

Diane Bullock
NER Publicity Press Books Chairman



NER Regional Symposium 2011

Over 140 garden club members from the NER Region and beyond attended the 44th Annual meeting at the Radisson Hotel and Suites in Chelmsford, MA on Oct. 18-20, 2011. This number included instructors and committee members. The Symposium received official accreditation from NGC Symposium Chairman, Julia Clevett on November 27, 2011.

One hundred thirty participants registered for the Symposium. There were 66 from Massachusetts, 26 from Connecticut, 12 from New Hampshire, 11 from Rhode Island, 8 from Maine, 3 from Vermont, 3 from New York and 1 from Florida. Of those attending 45 judges took the exam for credit and all passed. 47 judges received audit credit.

The symposium began with an Allied Topic lecture, "Judging Comments," presented by Gina V. Jogan, design instructor from Molino, Florida. After a social hour and time to shop, dinner was served. Following dinner, the second Allied Topic was a demonstration on the new Armature design by Tony Todesco. On Wednesday, Instructor, Gina Jogan lectured on "Constructions and Assemblages." On Thursday, Horticulture lectures were given by Sandra Joyce, Master Judge and Instructor from Hudson, Massachusetts. She talked about "Incredible Heucheras" and "Exotic Sansevierias."

The final financial report is not yet complete but I am sure that Symposium 2011 made a substantial profit. As soon as the report is complete and funds are properly distributed, the numbers will be released.

Symposium 2011 was a success! I want to thank Joyce Kimball, Nancy Donaldson and Sue Redden for their invaluable help and support. Many thanks to the terrific Symposium team who worked together to present a valuable educational experience:

Registrar/Treasurer: Maureen Christmas

Registration Helpers and Proctors: Linda Jean Smith, Emma Houseman

Design Assistants: Elaine DiGiovanni, Carolyn Sharrino

Horticulture Assistants: Joan Butler, Joyce Girvin, Catherine Healy, Maureen Marshall, Joan Schofield, Donna Lane

Vendors: Sandra Sears

Brochure: Bobbie Lingard

Master Panel Design: Dolores Ahern, Julie Lapham

Master Panel Horticulture: Catherine Felton, Mollie Lou Traggis

Designers: Maureen Christmas, Catherine Felton, Joyce Girvin, Laura Lindop, Bobbie Lingard, Jean McCarthy, Marisa McCoy, Shirley Minott, Suzanne Reed, Merrily Rowse, Hazel Schroder, Thelma Shoneman

This was a TEAM EXTRAORDINAIRE! THANKS to everyone for your support of Symposium 2011.

Thelma Shoneman
NER Symposium 2011 Chairman, Massachusetts

"Advice From A Snowman"

*Be a jolly, happy soul,
Spend time outdoors,
Stay cool,
Avoid meltdowns,
Be well-rounded,
Live well.....Life is short.*



"Digging For Opportunities to Promote and Preserve" Report of the Garden Club Federation of Maine President

What a beautiful autumn we enjoyed in Maine. It was rather strange with snow for Halloween and right before Thanksgiving. Since then our days have felt more like early fall than approaching winter. As I write this, however, we now have a light coating of snow and very cold temperatures that remind us that January is really approaching and we should now be prepared. Our gardens will have been put to bed for that long winter's nap and I feel certain that all the gardeners are ready to sit back, relax, enjoy a warm "cuppa," watch the snow fall and start planning for next year's growing season.

It hardly seems possible that it has been six months since Maine's 2011 Convention. All of the clubs have been extremely busy with civic development projects, plant sales and garden tours to name only a few of the events. Many of the clubs have been working hard to "Promote" membership and have seen increases.

Wednesday, October 26th was our annual Fall Conference. We were delighted that Joyce Kimball, Regional Director and Ginny Urdi, President of New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs joined us for the day. Our theme was "Gardening with a Purpose" and included three speakers. Charles Hugo and Maya Travaglia, Landscape Designers from South Berwick, Maine, presented us with wonderful ideas for "Gardening in Small, Sloped and Vertical spaces." This program was followed with "Gardening to Enhance Personal Health and Beauty" presented by Debra Soule of Avena Botanicals in Rockport, Maine. Debra presented materials and beautiful slides of all the flowers and herbs that can be used to make your own skin care remedies. Following lunch and the usual business meeting, author Meg Muckenhoupt talked about "Gardening to Repurpose Areas for Neighborhood Unity and Enjoyment." Her book "Boston Gardens and Green Spaces" is filled with photographs and the history of how Boston has converted blighted areas, mud flats and vacant lots into community enjoyable places that create a new urbanism that is a commitment to the environment and neighborhoods. Each of us, I believe, came away with a renewed sense of purpose as we continue to promote and



"Digging For Opportunities . . ." - continued

preserve green spaces. The 2012 Fall Conference will be held on October 31st at the Augusta Civic Center.

Three awards were presented during the Fall Conference. Congratulations to the Camden Club for receiving the Nancy Atwell Trophy for their Publicity for the Camden House and Garden Tour and for the Gloria Bryson Burrill Tree planting Award. GCFM was awarded the Evelyn Cole National Gardener Tray for the greatest

increase in paid subscribers to the National Gardener. Congratulations to all the GCFM members who subscribe to the National Gardener.

GCFM will hold our annual June Convention "A Passion for Flowers", June 19 – 21 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, Me. The convention will include several greenhouse and private garden tours, workshops on Cooking with Edible Flowers, "Fulfilling Your Passion for Flowers" with new and old favorites from Proven Winners, "Preserving and Dehydrating Bounty from the Garden" (a hands-on demonstration) and Wednesday evening will be a gala banquet "Broadway in Bloom", an event not to be missed. The full schedule of the convention will be available on the web site and in the GCFM newsletter. Please contact us for more information. Oh, should I mention that while in Freeport there will be time for SHOPPING!?

Have a safe and "cozy" winter and the very best in 2012.

Kathleen Marty

President, Garden Club Federation of Maine

NER "Sharing and Caring" Helping Out Your NER Neighbors

Those of you who attended the October 18th (2011) NER Annual Meeting may recall that a motion was made and voted in the affirmative during the "New Business" portion of the meeting "that NER would support a particular project in a member state (suggested by that state) by volunteering time, not money, to come to that state's aid following significant storm damage, etc., in a sort of a mutual aid response." All six states would be welcome to submit projects for consideration and all states would be asked to help with the selected project; hopefully there would be representation from all six states.

Wouldn't it be wonderful for us, as a region of members brought together by our love of gardening and the call of civic and environmental responsibility, to volunteer our time to help a sister state who has suffered severe storm damage or some other form of natural disaster in recent years, or possibly in the future? NER members would simply be asked to volunteer a few hours of their time to help another state in

NER "Sharing and Caring" – continued

need; no money would be involved — only volunteer time and travel cost. This is only a concept, but in light of all the devastation that has occurred within our New England states over this past year due to storm damage, etc., would it not be gratifying to experience one state helping another, sort of a "unified project" of our own making? Something to think about for sure. Your input is welcome and more details about possible projects and their locations will be forthcoming in the Spring newsletter.



"Plan Before You Plant"

By Joyce Kimball, Regional Director

This is the second article in a series I am presenting as part of my Director's Project--a public awareness campaign of sorts -- to emphasize and educate about the importance of selecting "the right tree for the right space". The information contained in this series was extrapolated, with permission, from publications distributed by the Public Service Company of New Hampshire, the Municipal Arborists & Urban Forestry Society and the United States Department of Agriculture, Northeast Region.

The distance trees should be planted from overhead power distribution lines is determined by the tree's height at maturity. And trees planted near transmission lines require greater clearing distance. **For example:** 60' tall trees should be relegated only to "LAWNS;" 40' tall *medium* trees are appropriate for your LAWN as well near your HOUSE; only 20' tall *low* trees should be placed close to power lines.

"Plan Before You Plant" – continued

LAWNS: This zone is suitable for those trees that grow over 60' tall. When selecting a tree to plant you should also consider your neighbor's view and property characteristics. Trees for this zone should be placed *at least 35 feet* away from the house for proper root development and should never be planted near a power line.

HOUSE AND LAWN: This zone, which includes mostly lawn area, is the main landscape area of a home. Trees in this area should frame the landscape without hiding the house from sight at its maturity. Trees for this zone may have a *mature height of 40 feet*. Also, consider the *diameter* of the tree at maturity when making your selection.

POWER LINES: This zone *ends 20 feet away from overhead power lines*. It is recommended that you not plant *any* tree in this zone, but if you must, select a suitable tree from the guide below. These selections include those trees that should not require trimming to assure public safety and reliable electric service.

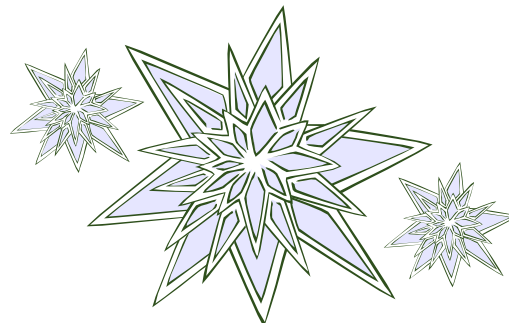
COMPATIBLE TREES AROUND POWER LINES: Arborvitae, Dogwood, Flowering Crabapple, Japanese Maple, Hawthorne, Shadblow and Magnolia.

TREES DEFINITELY NOT TO PLANT AROUND POWER LINES: Maple, Oak, Pine, Spruce, Poplar, Willow and Hickory.

PLEASE NOTE: I realize that much of the information I am sharing with you here is basically common knowledge to you as "seasoned" gardeners; however, hopefully you are all sharing your NER newsletter with your fellow garden club members, some of whom may be less familiar with the "do's and don'ts" of appropriate tree planting. Thanks for sharing...



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR NER FUND RAISER



Dear Members,

Shortly after its formation, the NER Board opted to create a venue for *Sponsorship/Advertising* on the front pages of our NER website where we would list the logos and/or websites of any garden-related vendor as an *NER Sponsor* for a small fee. We currently have four "on the books" and they are looking good! (Go to www.ngcner.org and check out the opening page of the NER Website!)

This is how it all works: We will list a subscribing vendor for one year for \$50 or \$75 for two years. All they have to do is send their company logo, website, etc. to our Webmaster Kathy Thomas (along with a very basic signed contract and their check). In the case of those already signed up, all we had to do was "ask." They were the first to say it was a great deal as the cost is certainly minimal for the amount of potential exposure their businesses have by being listed on the front page of our website.

The NER website is routinely accessed by garden club members from all over New England as well as other parts of the country and is totally accessible to the general public as well. One "click" on the sponsor's logo or website address and the viewer will be sent directly to the sponsor's homepage.

If we receive enough sponsors, we will not need to hold any NER fund raisers during this administration. The only exception would be if we decided to take on a special project that would need funding, however this is unlikely. We ask that each state do what they can to sign on at least 4 vendors per year and the list will be updated regularly and quickly as new vendors sign on.

State Presidents, please let your members know about this opportunity for their favorite nurseries, garden centers or any garden-related businesses to sign on as an *NER Sponsor*, which will help bolster our Treasury. Please mention it in your newsletters, at your state meetings, club visitations, etc. Together we can make this work for our mutual benefit. An additional copy of the Sponsor Contract and basic guidelines of the *NER Sponsorship Program* will be sent to you or your members on request. I look forward to seeing pages of sponsors and their company logos on the front pages of the New England Region website, www.ngcner.org in the very near future!

Thank you.
Joyce Kimball
NER Director

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

PLEASE NOTE: Entries and requests for information concerning the *NGC Essay Contest*, *Poetry Contest* and *Sculpture Contest* should be directed to:

Elaine Dates, NER Youth Activities Chairman
145 South Pointe Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403
elainedates@comcast.net
(802) 985-9494, (802) 985-8794 fax



New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs President's Report

This year, 2011, with the economic situation we found ourselves in, it was decided to try something different. Instead of holding a large "fancy" Semi-Annual meeting, a less costly, casual and fun event was planned. The two very small clubs in our District V got together to plan this meeting. Club members made homemade soups, raffle tickets were pre-sold with registration (which was just \$10) and the NHFGC Board provided muffins, breads and desserts. The event was held at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, at no cost. The speakers were from the Urban Forestry Center and gave wonderful programs on our largest plants – The Trees – again, at no cost. But the defining moment had to be when the special guest arrived. This room full of garden club ladies and gentlemen just beamed at the sight of Smokey Bear. Everyone came forward to have her or his photo taken with Smokey. My Smokey Bear chairman tells me she has received much interest in the program. We made a small donation to the Forestry Center.

Following along with the NGC President's Project "Plant it Pink," pink gardens have **NHFGC President's Report - continued** sprung up all over New Hampshire. One garden in particular is at Memorial Field in Concord, New Hampshire: the Garden of Hope which has been planted Spring and

Fall for the past five years by the Bow Garden Club. This garden is at the start line for the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" and serves as a place of remembrance and reflection on walk day.

NHFGC partnered with the American Heart Association this year to provide table arrangements for the "Go Red for Women" luncheon. The member participation was wonderful. Fifty arrangements were made and delivered to the Radison Hotel in Manchester the day of the event. NHFGC provided a sea of red for a very worthwhile event and provided a glimpse of our organization to those in attendance. Please read pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter for photos and more information.

We are now in the planning stages for our Annual Meeting, which will be held Wednesday, May 23 at the Common Man Inn and Spa in Plymouth, New Hampshire. We will welcome National President Shirley Nicoali to New Hampshire with a wonderful program presented by the NHFGC Judges Council.

We will also be working with Garden Club Federation of Vermont to hold another Girl Scout "Nurture the Earth Day" in 2012.

Virginia M. Urdi
President, New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont President's Report

The seventeen clubs that comprise the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont are alive and well, despite a nasty visit in September from Tropical Storm Irene that deposited up to ten inches of rain in a very short period of time and wreaked havoc in many of our central and southern Vermont communities. As a result of Irene's aftermath, I have asked all of our clubs' presidents to have their members consider adopting a hard hit Vermont community and plan on planting a small "Irene Garden" there in a public space next spring. Several of the clubs have already stepped up to help their own members who were directly affected by the flood waters.

My theme for the next two years is "Keep Vermont Green." Environmental issues will be addressed in our newsletters, on our website and by speakers with emphasis on sustainable practices. The President's Projects will be highlighted as well. All club members will be urged to measure their carbon footprints and strive to reduce them.

One of my goals is to help every club develop its own website, and our webmaster has volunteered to train webmasters for those clubs willing to do so. Our federation website continues to evolve, expand and improve, and our First Vice President has taken this on as a special project. Photographs are continuously added, and many have been sent on to FLICKR for the NGC website.

Another goal is to seek funding and provide a new Blue Star Memorial at the Vermont Veterans' Cemetery to honor the Vermont members of our armed forces who have given their lives over the past decade in Iraq and Afghanistan. This would be the fifth Blue Star Memorial in Vermont.

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont President's Report - continued

By the end of January, I will have visited seven clubs and installed many new officers. During the summer, two clubs held successful flower shows, and four flower design workshops have been sponsored by our Judges Council. My executive committee met in August and my first state board meeting as President was held in early October. Pam Hebert, aided by Elaine Dates, presented a program on the four NGC Study Schools. The new NGC film was shown, and feedback has been very positive.

With our membership declining, we will be working in several areas to attempt to bring in new clubs as we help our existing clubs explore possible ways to attract and keep members. We have great plans for our annual meeting in Newport with President Shirley Nicolai next June 11th to be preceded on June 10th by tours of two fabulous gardens in the Northeast Kingdom and a visit to a wonderful wholesale nursery. Please plan to join us, and bring your spouses, as there are three great golf courses in the area. And then plan to go into Canada to visit the Eastern Townships or Montreal. My new job is challenging, keeps me quite busy, and is very rewarding. I look forward with enthusiasm to the next eighteen months of my term.

Gay D. Gaston
President, Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

.....

NAUMKEAG: Historic Garden Focus

First in a series on New England's historic and public gardens.

One has only to visit the few Berkshires "cottages" which managed to escape the wrecking ball to realize that "McMansions" did not originate in the last few years, but at the height of the Gilded Age. The 1870s through the early 1900s saw a trend of wealthy primarily New Yorkers, who chose to forego the pleasures of the ocean, to hire the very best of architects of the time to build summer cottages in the area which became known as "the inland Newport." Set among the green hills of the beautiful Berkshires in western Massachusetts, several of these properties became equally renowned for their gardens, and Naumkeag was no exception. Designed by Stanford White, the house was built on unusually hilly terrain, and when Mabel Choate inherited the Stockbridge property in 1926 from her father, Ambassador Joseph Choate, she enlisted the creative landscape architect Fletcher Steele to create gardens which would serve both aesthetic and practical purposes.

Inspired by Steele's bold ideas, which combined European traditions with his original and client-driven style, Mabel Choate commissioned him to create an Afternoon Garden,



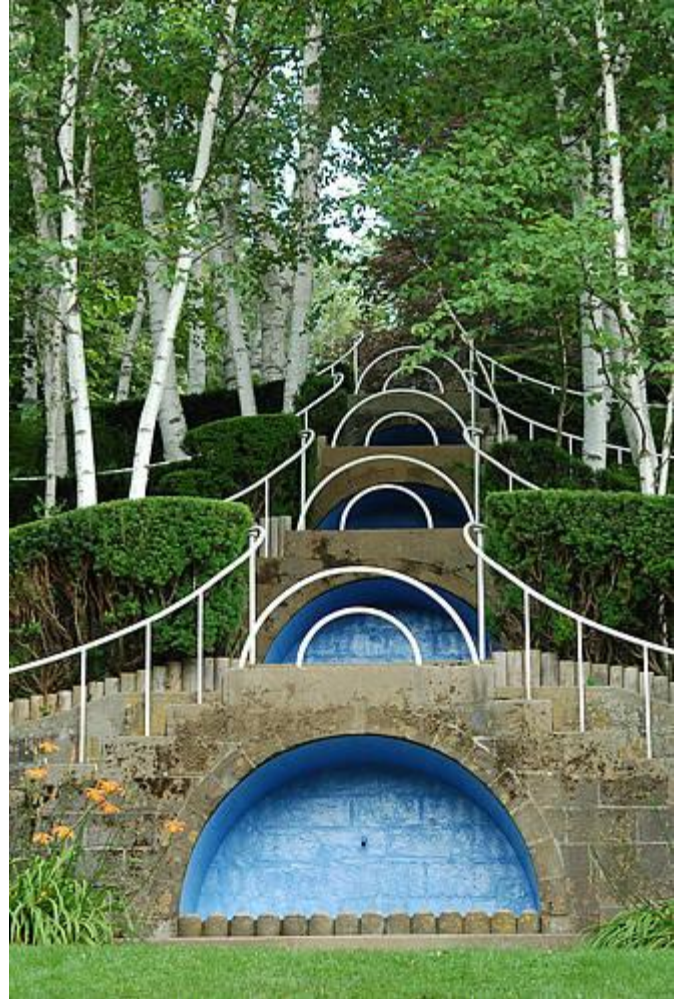
a southerly exposure with afternoon sunlight. As she liked to have her afternoon tea here, overlooking the mountains, he created the first of Naumkeag's fanciful gardens that drew their inspiration from the natural landscape and the artistic movement of

the time, abstract modernism. Steele fancied himself an artist, a landscape sculptor to be exact, and this orientation is evident in his choice of garden structures throughout the property. The garden's box parterres, which surround a black glass reflecting pool surrounded by fountains, are woven together by chipped coal; this and the greenery produce a cool appearance in the afternoon's sunlight. Clematis and Virginia creeper festoon the ropes which connect Venetian-style painted posts.

But, that was just the beginning of a long and fruitful collaboration. Over the years, Steele created a number of gardens and garden features at Naumkeag, and perhaps the best known is the Blue Steps, descending from the South Lawn. These were the result of a utilitarian concern for Mabel, who wished to reach her cutting garden at the bottom of the steep hill easily. She told Steele "he must make me some steps that would be both convenient and easy... little did I know what I was in for." Instead of a simple series of stairways, Steele created an architectural wonder, square terraces interspersed among the steps, whose straight lines were softened by arcs on the façade of each terrace painted a vivid blue. A white steel railing echoes these arcs, united by a rill of rippling water from the Afternoon Garden down through the steps, and the whiteness is extended by a stand of birch on either side of the terraces.

Among the other outstanding features is the walled Chinese Garden with a Chinese-style temple, moon gate, and many architectural ornaments which Mabel brought home from her travels. It also contains a Devil's Screen (a tricky entrance designed to keep out evil spirits), a stand of ginkgo trees and a beautiful selection of Chinese tree peonies. Although he designed many other prominent commissions during his career, it was Naumkeag that Steele considered the jewel of his career. He continued to create and modify its designs until Mabel Choate's death in 1958, his last contribution being the Rose Garden in 1952. Unlike the formal botanical presentation of Hartford's Elizabeth Park Rose Garden or the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical

Garden, Naumkeag's hybrid tea roses are planted in scalloped beds along serpentine paths of pink gravel cut into the lawn of the Sunken Garden. Steel's extraordinary designs are further carried out in the Japanese Garden complete with pagoda, Linden Walk, and Oak Lawn. Both the house and gardens can be visited daily from Memorial Day through Columbus Day, and, combined with a summer theater outing, Tanglewood concert or visit to the Norman Rockwell Museum, they make for a delightful summer outing in the Berkshires. For more information, see www.thetrustees.org.



Nearby gardens of interest (all open May-October):

Mission House, 19 Main St., Stockbridge, Massachusetts. See www.thetrustees.org A 17th-century home preserved through the efforts of Mabel Choate, who enlisted Fletcher Steele to design its small colonial garden.

Berkshire Botanical Garden, 5 W. Stockbridge Rd., Stockbridge, Massachusetts. See www.berkshirebotanical.org Fifteen acres of public display gardens, open May through mid-October, they are among the oldest in the US; more than 3,000 species and varieties are represented.

Chesterwood, 4 Williamsville Rd., Stockbridge, Massachusetts. See www.chesterwood.org Home, studio and gardens of 20th century sculptor Daniel Chester French, best known for the Seated Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC

Sandi Tinyk
NER Historical/Memorial/Public Gardens Chairman

Helping Snow and Ice Melt Off Your Paths and Driveways, Without Harming Your Gardens

Question: Is it safe to put ice-melt salt down on the paths near my garden?

Answer: If rock salt (sodium chloride) drains or drifts into the soil alongside the paths, it can harm your plants and rob the soil of nutrients. Ice-melt products made of potassium chloride, magnesium chloride or calcium chloride are slightly less harmful; they are less corrosive and they contain nutrients that plants can use. If you have to use ice melt, read the packaging closely and follow the directions. Applying the product appropriately should minimize damage. Here are some general guidelines for applying ice-melt products:

Use the least amount possible to get the job done. Start with a small amount, let it completely dissolve and go to work, then apply more if needed.

Apply the product before the snow and ice hit, if you are certain they are coming, or just as it starts to snow or sleet. Again, apply only a small amount.

Don't bother applying ice melt when temperatures are extremely cold. Rock salt will be effective down to 15°F. Calcium chloride will be effective down to 5°F. There's no product that will work below 5°F unless you apply it very, very heavily. It would be better to wait for the temperature to warm up some.

Here are some other tips for keeping walkways ice-free and plants safe in winter:

Don't put ice-melt products on top of snow. Shovel or snow blow the snow away first.

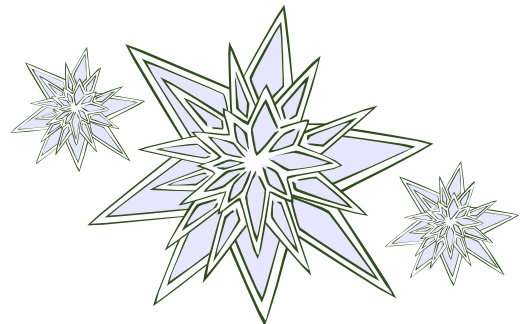
If you can remove ice without a melting product, that would be safest for plants.

Thin layers of ice can sometimes be chipped or scraped away, particularly if the sun is working on them too.

Don't shovel or blow snow directly on top of plants and shrubs.

Get out and shovel or blow as soon as possible after the storm, so ice has less chance to form. Work in a way that lets you avoid stepping on the snow before you remove it. Ice often forms where people have compacted the snow against the pavement by stomping on it.

Reprinted from Horticulture Magazine (www.hortmag.com)



THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT 2011 Bronze Medal

Shortly after moving to Connecticut in 1978, Helen Pritchard began driving her step-mother to meetings of the Danbury Garden Club because of her step-mother's deteriorating vision. Helen became a member of that club in 1988 and was appointed Conservation Chairman the next year. In 1992 she was elected 2nd Vice President and moved up to President in 1993 when the First Vice President moved to Chicago.

The same year, Helen began serving on the Board of Directors of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. She has recently completed three six year terms, having served as Civic Development Chairman 1993-99, Recording Secretary 2001-07 and Awards Chairman 2005-11.

Helen's impressive resume includes completion of Flower Show School, Gardening Study School, and Environmental Studies School. She is an Accredited Master Judge, a Master Gardening Consultant and an Environmental Consultant. She serves as Proctor for these schools annually.

Helen chaired the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show in 1998 and 1999 and has served on that committee continuously since 1994. Most recently, she is Chairman of Special Exhibits.

Helen is an active member of the Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society, the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, the Tri-State Hosta Society, the Hardy Plant Society, and the Connecticut Botanical Society. She is a founding member of Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group and has produced two editions of Connecticut's Endangered and Invasive Plants.

This very special garden club member has been a member of the New England Region of National Garden Clubs since 1999. In 2007 she was appointed to the Board of Directors of National Garden Clubs, Inc. to prepare a study course on native plants. In 2009 she was named Chairman of the Communications Print Committee and is presently serving as Chairman of Environmental Council until 2013.



FGCCT President Ronnie Schoelzel (left) presents the Bronze Medal to Helen Pritchard at the December 8, 2011 Awards Luncheon.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut President's Report

Connecticut was dealt a cruel blow by Mother Nature on October 29, 2011, dumping up to 20" of snow in many areas of the state and knocking out power and cell tower usage to almost a million customers. This freak blizzard prompted the unprecedented cancellation of the October 31 Awards Meeting. It was difficult getting the word out to 350 members who planned to attend, but as president, I felt cancelling was the safe choice to make. We were able to reschedule our meeting for December 8, 2011, and almost all who planned to attend in October came to the meeting! In addition to the awards, a lovely luncheon, and vendors, there was a design speaker, Sylvia Nichols, who demonstrated holiday designs. The Aqua Turf Club was beautifully decorated for the holidays, so it was a festive affair for all.

In November, the FGCCT First Vice President, Anne Harrigan, resigned. Jacqueline Connell has moved up to First Vice President, and Jane Waugh, the current state Treasurer, will assume the position of Second Vice President in March, 2012. These ladies are already on the Board, but we welcome them to their new offices.

Connecticut looks forward to presenting its 31st annual state flower show, "The Fabulous Fifties" that will be part of the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show February 23-16, 2012, held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT. Visit the FGCCT website for more information: www.ctgardenclubs.org.

Ronnie Schoelzel
President, The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.



Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

President's Report

The six months since taking office have been exciting and very busy. The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts has grown by two new clubs bringing the total to 194, with over 12,200 members. These clubs have been independent of any affiliation and belong to our oldest in the State, one having been established in 1931.

What were the reasons that both found the need to join the Federation now? Simply, the legal umbrellas we extend: non-profit, tax-exempt status -- 501 (c)(3), the umbrella insurance coverage for all club events and venues, and the extensive educational opportunities we offer, including the four nationally accredited schools.

It is a goal of this administration to bring all garden clubs in the State into compliance with the General Laws of the Commonwealth. All groups or clubs charging due, or handling public funds, must be accepted by the IRS as charities and be registered with the Attorney General's office. Should they not attain, or wish to attain, this status, fund-raising is limited and all moneys raised are subject to taxation. We are making progress in enlightening our constituency in this regard.

Another goal is to shepherd a dues increase with minimum opposition through our membership. For the last 17 years, Massachusetts has **not** raised its dues of \$3.50 per garden club member. At the November 2011 Executive Board meeting, the assembly voted to increase the dues by \$1.50 per dues-paying garden club member to \$5.00. The preparation for this increase was accomplished at the fall coffees through presenting the rationale for this action by highlighting our extensive programming, speaker fees and rentals, etc., and have received general consensus for this necessity. A letter to this effect will be going to all club presidents this month, though the official endorsement process via general vote at the Annual Meeting in June delays any benefits until spring 2013.

As I highlighted at the NER Fall Meeting, the Massachusetts legislature has for the last 17 years been considering expanding the returnable bottle bill to include other glass containers and plastic bottles, especially water bottles.

When the original bottle bill was considered by the Massachusetts legislature in 1982, the garden club community was in the forefront of supporters. And we are again at this time. I had been asked by the House and Senate committee to testify before both branches during July and, together with the Environmental League of Massachusetts and other non-profits, we were heard. Since July, 85% of the 351 cities and towns in the State have signed on to the bill, many at the urging of their citizens, including garden club members. We may expect passage of the Expanded Bottle Bill at the end of this legislative year. I have asked our garden clubs to thank their senators and house members for their support of this bill and many club presidents have done so.

A matter of concern to our Board has been the demand by the Federal and State Governments to create certain policies, among them a Written Information Security Program - WISP, a Whistleblower Policy, a Financial Oversight Policy, a Conflict of Interest Policy and

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts President's Report - continued a

Governance Policy for which we will have to review our by-laws. While all above-mentioned policies are in place, the by-laws committee, under the guidance of past President Diane Bullock, is in the process of reviewing and will be recommending changes for consideration soon.

The Landscape Design Study School in October, the Environmental Study School in November and the Flower Show School in September were once again very successful thanks to their indefatigable leaders Hila Lyman, Jane O'Sullivan and Judy Dorner. Workshops are also running well -- all thanks to their capable chairs.

Another project under consideration at this time is a Horticultural Festival in June 2012, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society at their Wellesley home at Elm Bank. We hope that all our NER friends will come and celebrate with us.

However, all of the above accomplishments, as well as all future ones, are due to the ongoing support of our member clubs and their members' willingness to serve on the board of the GCFM. Reaching out to the individual clubs, visiting their meetings and events, as well as a consistent information flow, all seem to work for us at this time. Still, ongoing concerns center on programs to increase club membership.

Heidi Kost-Gross
President, Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts



NER 2012 Calendar

National and Regional Events

January 20-21 – National Board Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico

March 15 – deadline for April 2012 "Northern Exposure"

May 16-19 – National Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention, Buffalo, New York

October 14 – 15 - 78th New England Region Annual Meeting, The Providence Marriott, One Orms Street, Providence, Rhode Island

October 15 - 17, 2012 - 45th New England Region Symposium, The Providence Marriott, One Orms Street, Providence, Rhode Island

Conventions, State Meetings

April 26 – RIFGC Annual Awards Meeting & Luncheon, program “Dance & Design,” Twin Rivers Casino, Lincoln, Rhode Island, 10 a.m.

May 31 – RIFGC Life Member Luncheon, Rhode Island Country Club, Barrington, Rhode Island

June 19-21 – GCFM Annual Convention Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, Maine, for more information contact Kathleen Marty, President, 207-633-7349, kjmarty1@roadrunner.com



October 31 – GCFM 2012 Fall Conference at the Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, for more information contact Kathleen Marty, President, 207-633-7349, kjmarty1@roadrunner.com

Flower Shows, Fairs, and Garden Tours

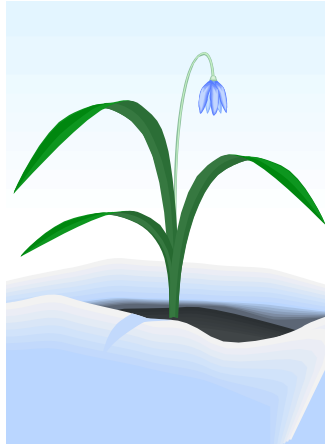
February 23-26 – State Flower Show, “The Fabulous Fifties,” Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, Connecticut (part of The Connecticut Flower and Garden Show)

February 23-26, 2012 – Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show, Rhode Island Convention Center

Environmental Studies School

GCFMA WILL be conducting (all 4 courses) Environmental School Series IV- Course 1 in Fall (October or November). New School Chairman will be Bonnie Rosenthal. Proposed site: Concord, Massachusetts. Information will be forthcoming after a January 4th meeting when the date and site will be selected.

Flower Show School



Gardening Study School

Landscape Design Study School

March 27, 28 and 30 – Landscape Design School, Course II at Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, Connecticut

November 1, 2 and 3 – Landscape Design School, Course III, Series 14 takes place in Massachusetts. Required reading is in the course textbook Stewards of the Land: A Survey of Landscape Architecture and Design in America and in *The National Gardener*, the official publication of National Garden Clubs, Inc. For a subscription, please contact Lillian N. Cohen (781) 721-2888; email lilandbud@verizon.net. For more information, please contact Jane E. O'Sullivan, 84 Old Meeting House Lane, Norwell, MA 02061-1436; (781) 659-4423; jeosullivan@comcast.net

Special Programs

June 3-9 - NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

*** * * NER 2013 Calendar * * ***

***NOTE that a proper calendar listing should include location (address), date, time, and contact information for anyone wanting directions or reservations. Please send information to NER Newsletter Editor Nancy Atwell at atwelln@aol.com**

