

# Leaflet

A MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

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### A New Video Spotlights MassHort

Sometimes, it helps to see yourself through someone else's eyes.

That's the case at MassHort where an independent documentary maker turned his camera on the Society and Elm Bank during September's Perennial Plant Symposium. The result can be seen on the Society's home page (click on the garden scene to start the video).

The six-minute presentation interviews attendees and speakers at the Symposium and intersperses those interviews with vignettes from other events, such as the 2007 construction of the Bessingham Garden.

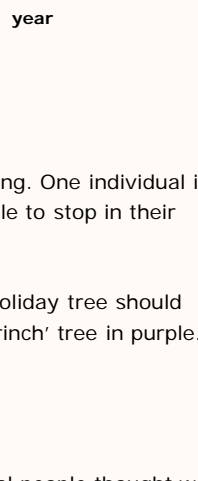
"The gardens look glorious," says Trustee Jeanne Leszczynski, who also appears in the video. "You see these gardens every week, but the film captures their color and movement and brings alive the way people interact with Elm Bank."

The video, in turn, is part of the launch of MassHort's Annual Appeal. With the Society on a sound financial footing, the need now is to provide the dollars that will ensure maintenance of the gardens, put the Plantmobile out on the road for the school year, and expand educational programs. Members will receive appeal letters during the month of November.

## Roll Out for the Horticultural History Tour

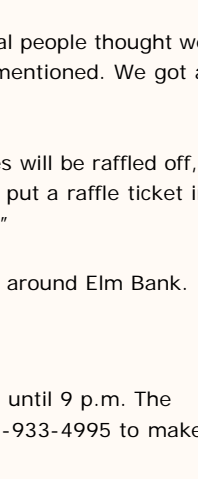
On **Saturday, November 13**, MassHort will sponsor a full day of series of talks focused on the history of horticulture and landscape design, with a special emphasis on New England gardens.

The day kicks off with a talk by Frederick Law Olmsted. Well, not Olmsted himself but, rather, Gerry Wright, who will inhabit Olmsted's persona as he discusses the landscaper's architect's creation of the "pastoral" and the "picturesque" schools and his sense of service deeply rooted in his planning of public places. Olmsted designed New York City's Central Park and the Arnold Arboretum, among other achievements.



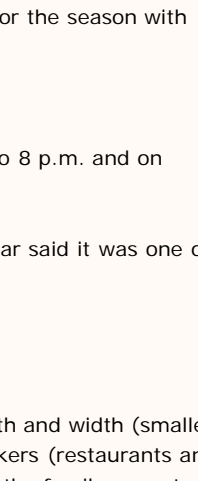
Then, garden historian Willyson Hayward will talk on two important New England estates, the Hunnewell estate, known as Wellesley, and Elm Bank, the Cheney/Baltzell estate which is now MassHort's home. Ms. Hayward will take you on an armchair tour of the two gardens from 1850 to the present.

Following Ms. Hayward's presentation, David Barnett, President and CEO of Mount Auburn Cemetery, will present "Wilson's China: A Century On". Ernest Henry Wilson was Arnold Arboretum's principal plant collector, introducing over 1,200 plants to America as a result of two remarkable expeditions to China in the first decade of the twentieth century. Barnett's talk is illustrated with then and now views taken by Wilson and authors Tony Kirkham and Mark Flanagan who retraced Wilson's expedition.



After lunch, garden historian Elizabeth Eustis will speak on Romanticism in the Landscape, the subject of a 2010 exhibition that she co-curated for the Morgan Library in New York. Romantic Gardens: Art, Nature and Garden Design. Ms. Eustis documents how Romanticism added a new emphasis on emotional and spiritual response to the landscape, and contributed powerfully to the public parks movement while creating new elements such as artificial ruins, garden cemeteries and wild gardens.

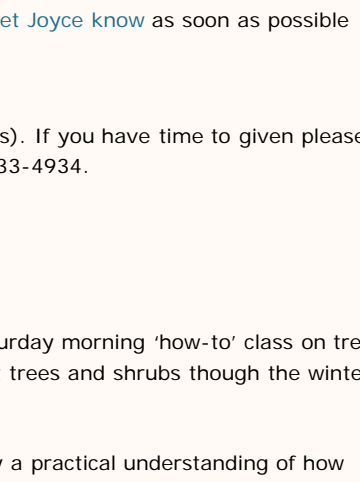
The final speaker of the day will be author Meg Muckenhoupt, who will lead attendees through the verdant world of Boston's gardens and green spaces. Ms. Muckenhoupt will discuss the role of public spaces throughout Boston's historic and contemporary landscape and how the philosophy behind public spaces shifted over the years. It will be a fascinating journey through green Boston, past to present.



The cost of the full day is \$65 for MassHort members, which includes lunch catered by Cuisine Chez Vous. The fee for non-members is \$75. You may register online or by calling 617-933-4995.

## It's Back! The Festival of Trees Opens November 20

If you were one of the thousands of people who came to Elm Bank last November and December for the inaugural Festival of Trees, here's some great news: the Festival is back for 2010, bigger, better and brighter.



Open from **November 20 through December 4**, the Festival of Trees is a terrific way to kick off the holiday season. It's a family-friendly event that is as much fun for adults as for kids.

### What's new for this year?

"For starters, outdoor lights and gingerbread houses," says Joyce Bakshi, chair of the Festival of Trees Committee. "Because of several sponsors' generosity, we'll be able to light the gardens and paths around Elm Bank so that those on the hayrides will have a lot to see. Indoor, we're adding a selection of gingerbread houses, most of them provided by local restaurants and bakeries."

### What about trees?

"More trees," Joyce says. "Some of the themes are birds, cats, seashells and gardening. One individual is creating a tree comprised entirely of mechanical devices. It will definitely cause people to stop in their tracks."

Some of last year's entries went well beyond the standard mental image of what a holiday tree should look like. "We had a beautifully decorated palm tree," Joyce says. "We also had a 'Grinch' tree in purple. What constitutes a tree is entirely up to the imagination of the provider."

And the gingerbread houses? "We had a book filled with suggestions after last year's Festival," Joyce says. "Several people thought we could 'branch out' into other holiday-themed displays and gingerbread houses were mentioned. We got an enthusiastic response when we mentioned it as a new category."

In addition to viewing trees, visitors will have the opportunity to win one or more of them. All trees and gingerbread houses will be raffled off, with proceeds going to Mass Hort. "It's a simple process," Joyce explains. "If you see a tree or gingerbread house you like, put a raffle ticket in the box in front of it. If you like it a lot, put a lot of raffle tickets in the box. Everything is going to go home with someone."

One tree will be decorated with gift certificates. Most of the certificates are from stores and restaurants in the communities around Elm Bank.

### Will there be a Preview Party?

It wouldn't be a Festival of Trees without one. This year's event will be on Friday, November 19th and run from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. The price is a very reasonable \$25 per person and food and drinks will be served. There is no fixed dress code. Please call 617-933-4995 to make a reservation.

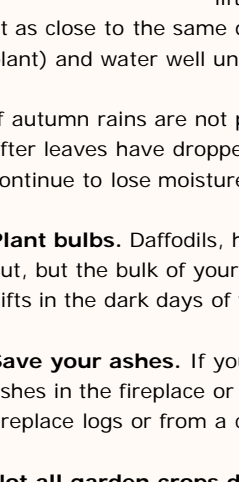
The setting for all of this is the beautiful Carriage House on the Elm Bank Reservation, which itself will also be decorated for the season with wreaths and swags. There will be hayrides every day around the Elm Bank gardens.

### Admission

Admission is just \$8 for adults; there is no charge for children under 12. The Festival will be open weekdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on weekends and the day after Thanksgiving from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.

"This is something you can bring the kids to, and then come back with the in-laws," Joyce says. "Those who came last year said it was one of the best experiences a family can have this holiday season."

For full details concerning hours and how the tree auction works, visit [www.MassHortFestivalofTrees.org](http://www.MassHortFestivalofTrees.org).



Come Join our Gingerbread House Competition!

**The Festival is also looking for gingerbread houses.** They can be up to 24 inches in length and width (smaller is OK, too), and decorated in any style you like. There are separate classes for professional bakers (restaurants and bakeries) and 'amateurs'. It's an opportunity for people whose skills lie in the kitchen rather in the family room to show what they can do.

Whether it's a tree or a gingerbread house, or as a sponsor for a tree, please let Joyce know as soon as possible that you're interested in providing an entry for the Festival of Trees.

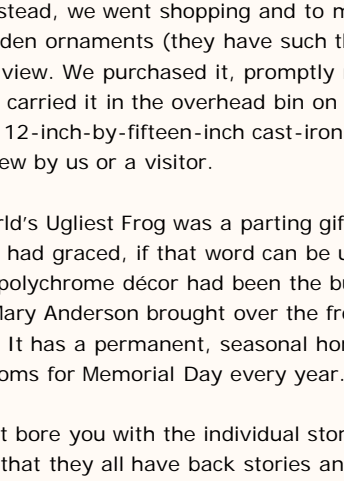
**Mass Hort needs volunteers for this event** (see next article for more details). If you have time to given please email [volunteers@MassHortFestivalofTrees.org](mailto:volunteers@MassHortFestivalofTrees.org) or call Vivien Bouffard at 617-933-4934.

## Final 'Wednesday Evening' Session Ends With an Aerial Display

On **October 30**, MassHort closed out the 2010 edition of **Wednesday Evenings at Elm Bank** with a Saturday morning 'how-to' class on tree pruning. Arborist Joe Biagioni gave a hands-on demonstration of how to prune and how to get trees and shrubs through the winter so that they'll look great next spring, using the Elm Bank gardens as his how-to-do-it examples.

His two-hour course took the crowd through tools and techniques, and the fifty-plus attendees came away a practical understanding of how and when to tackle trees and shrubs. Three Master Gardeners who learned their craft from Joe as part of their Master Gardener training were on hand to answer questions and to provide one-on-one instruction in the use of tools.

A new group of practical gardening sessions are planned for 2011. Classes are \$8 for MassHort members, \$10 for non-members.



Arborist Joe Biagioni leads an outdoor class on pruning

## In Memoriam: Mabel Maria Herweg

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society, along with the larger horticultural, garden club and floral design world, lost a friend and leader with the death on October 24 of Mabel Maria Herweg. Mabel was a Trustee emeritus of the Society and received an MHS Honorary Gold Medal for her lifelong contribution of outstanding service to the organization.



Mabel Maria Herweg at the plant of a site she designed in Dedham. Photo by Sally Musgraff

Mabel's service was broad and spanned decades. In the horticultural sphere, she served as president of the Dedham Fairbanks Garden Club and the New England Hosta Society. She was on the board of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. (New England Region), Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts (Metro East Director) and the New England Horticultural Resources Network. She was an active member of the New England Wildflower Society and Worcester Horticultural Society. A hosta, H. 'Mabel Maria Herweg' is named in her honor.

She began her studies of Ikebana, Japanese flower arranging, while living in Japan and earned master teaching degrees for the Ikenobo, Sogestu and Ohara flower schools and throughout her life taught and made presentations to garden clubs and other organizations. She was a past president of the Boston Chapter of Ikebana International.

Mabel was a Master Flower Show Judge as well as the author of a chapter on flower arranging with hostas for the 'The Hosta Book' as well as numerous magazine articles.

She was very active in community improvement through Dedham Civic Pride and devoted herself to the beautification of many public spaces throughout the town of Dedham, including the design of gardens for traffic islands. She also served as vice president of the Dedham Historical Society.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, John Barton Herweg, and her son, John W. Herweg.

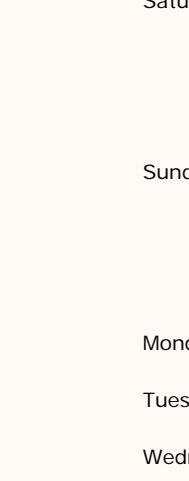
## November Horticultural Hints



by Betty Sanders  
Lifetime Master Gardener

**Clean up, clean up, clean up!** While it is still pleasant to work outside, remove this year's plant debris from garden beds. Taking away dead stalks and leaves will remove many possible sources of disease if you had problems this year. Many pests lay their eggs in the leaves (such as iris borers) and stalks (like corn borers) of their hosts. Sending the debris to the trash or a burn pile means fewer insects next year.

**Leaves in beds can stay put for the winter** — after you've cleaned out the dead perennials and any weeds trying to winter over. If you have the time, rake them out onto the lawn, chip them with your mower or chipper and return them to the beds. By spring, they will have become compost. Even un-chipped leaves will help protect the plants from winter freezes and thaws. This is particularly important for anything planted this year and vital for those planted this fall.



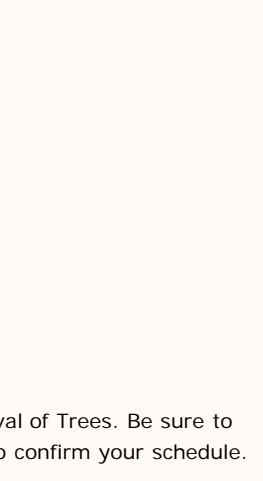
Use your lawn mower to mulch leaves back into the lawn.

**Keep mowing the lawn.** By now your mower blade should have been lowered to approximately two inches. If you have not fertilized, a light application of fertilizer that is not high in nitrogen (the first number on the front of a fertilizer bag) but also contains phosphorus and potassium (the second and third numbers) is appropriate now. You are encouraging the grass to concentrate on growing roots.

Don't be afraid to continue mowing leaves into the lawn no matter how deep those leaves are: they will compost into the soil over the winter. Oak leaves are more acidic than pine needles so a week or two after you fertilize, put down lime over your lawn if many of the leaves are from oaks.

**This is a good time to move shrubs.** After the leaves have dropped is a good time to relocate old shrubs to new homes, (or to add new shrubs).

When moving an old shrub, create its new hole first (a saucer not a teacup). Start digging outside the drip-line of the plant. Work all the way around it before trying to lift it out. Do NOT lift a tree or shrub by the stem or branches! Instead, pry it up onto a shovel or tarp. Replant it as close to the same depth it was growing at before as possible, add mulch (careful not to touch the trunk of the plant) and water well until the ground freezes solidly.



Proper planting of trees or shrubs

If autumn rains are not plentiful, water trees and shrubs until the ground is frozen. They are still creating new roots after leaves have dropped. Evergreens in particular need to have as much water available as possible since they will continue to lose moisture through their leaves throughout the winter.

**Plant bulbs.** Daffodils, hyacinths and alliums are unattractive to deer and rodents. They may eat a few to figure this out, but the bulk of your planting should survive. Don't forget to start bulbs for forcing, they are always welcome gifts in the dark days of winter.

**Save your ashes.** If you have wood fires, ashes should be saved to place around plants that prefer sweet (not acidic) soil. Always leave the ashes in the fireplace or outside on the ground, not the deck or porch, in a metal bucket until they are cold. Do not use the ash from manmade fireplace logs or from a charcoal grill.

**Not all garden crops die with the first frost.** Your vegetable garden may still have lettuce or arugula, leeks, swiss chard, turnips, carrots or young sprouts growing. Enjoy fresh produce along with fruits and vegetables you have stored, frozen, canned or dried at your Thanksgiving dinner while you give thanks for a fruitful year.

## Garden Ornaments, Memories of People and Places Past



by Neal Sanders  
Leaflet Contributor

Berkeley the snail is getting ready to go away for the winter. This weekend he will join the World's Ugliest Frog, Fish, and a dozen other garden ornaments in the safe confines of our basement. He will be first cleaned with a bleach solution and then placed carefully inside a pot or some other protective container.

Berkeley joined our garden menagerie as a result of a trip to London ten years ago. I was there as part of a Berkeley local show in deepest, darkest February. Because of the road show's grueling, two-week duration, Betty had been invited to join me for its final, transatlantic stop. The underwriters were responsible for all lodging and they chose for us a junior suite at The Berkeley, an extraordinarily luxurious Knightsbridge hotel a stone's throw from Hyde Park.



Going to gardens was quite out of the question so, instead, we went shopping and to museums. Just down the street from our hotel was a shop that dealt in garden ornaments (they have such things in England) and the snail pictured on the left was prominently on view. We purchased it, promptly named it after our lodgings - pronounced, by the way, "BARK-lee" - and carried it in the overhead bin on the flight home. (In that pre-9/11 world, no one in airport security took notice of our carrying onboard a 12-inch-by-fifteen-inch cast-iron object.) Every year since, Berkeley has been positioned in a different perennial bed, waiting to be admired anew by us or a visitor.



The World's Ugliest Frog was a parting gift from a friend leaving Medfield. She was moving, and the frog had graced, if that word can be used for such a thing, her garden for many years. Its muted, polychrome décor had been the butt of numerous jokes. On the day that the packers came, Mary Anderson brought over the frog and said that World's Ugliest Frog should come live with us. It has a permanent, seasonal home underneath a magnificent 'Alfred's Crimson' pony tail that blooms for Memorial Day every year.

I will not bore you with the individual stories for each of our other garden ornaments. I will only tell you that they all have back stories and that all those stories link us to times, places or people fondly remembered.

Oh, all right, one more. An outrageously overpriced concrete turtle at the Winterthur Shop was knocked down to a much more realistic five dollars after we pointed out a chip on its nose. For fifteen gardening seasons now, the turtle's chipped nose has poked out of the water in a bird bath. We suffer its imperfection with as much dignity as we can muster. The butterflies and dragonflies that land on its snout don't seem to mind in the least.



Each spring, we take out these items much as we take out Christmas tree ornaments in December. We discover them anew and, with great deliberation, place them around the property, taking into account changes in the landscape. This season, a *chamaecyparis* in our outer sidewalk bed pushed into the space long occupied by the turtle and its bath. The pair became the first occupants of the new wisteria bed and they look terrific there.

These garden ornaments are links to travels. They are reminders of old friends. They are also practical objects that draw the eye to certain plants or that break up expanses of mulch. Some are put in plain sight while others are deliberately hidden, awaiting someone to part the foliage and find a surprise. With the 2010 garden season nearly over, their careful cleaning and storage are also part of an annual ritual as distinct as picking apples or harvesting the butternut squash.

*Neal Sanders is a frequent contributor to the Leaflet. We encourage you to read his contributions to our In the Gardens Blog where he focuses on interesting cultivars that can found in the Elm Bank gardens. Neal's first novel, Murder Imperfect, has been published. You can learn more about it here or order it through Amazon.com.*

## Volunteer at Mass Hort's Festival of Trees

**Mass Hort's Festival of Trees opens on November 20!** Preparations are speeding along and we are anticipating another spectacular and successful event.

The hours this year will be 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends and the day after Thanksgiving, and 3-8 p.m. on weekdays (closed on Thanksgiving Day). With such extensive hours, this festival requires many, many volunteers for greeting and serving the public. Volunteer jobs include taking admission fees, selling raffle tickets, circulating in the tree area, and working a small food concession. Below are the shifts we need to fill, we need eight people per shift.

The weekday shifts are rather long, but we will rotate people around for a change of task. All volunteers should plan to arrive 15 minutes before the beginning of the shift for orientation.

In addition to the staffing needs listed above, we could still use a few people for the following special jobs: 1) helping to decorate the Hunnewell and/or sponsored trees during the few days before the opening of the festival; 2) coordinating the food concession, which means making sure we have supplies of cider, coffee, and muffins or cookies on hand. We will assign volunteers to staff the table, but we need someone to take charge of making sure we have adequate supplies. Also, if you have indoor/outdoor UL-approved strings of lights that you don't use anymore, we would be happy to have them to make Elm Bank even brighter! We would appreciate other Christmas decorations you're ready to part with also.

Saturday, November 20 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
2-5 p.m.  
5-8 p.m.

Sunday, November 21 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
2-5 p.m.  
5-8 p.m.

Monday, November 22 3-8 p.m.

Tuesday, November 23 3-8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 24 3-8 p.m.

Friday, November 26 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
2-5 p.m.  
5-8 p.m.

Saturday, November 27 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
2-5 p.m.  
5-8 p.m.

Sunday, November 28 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
2-5 p.m.  
5-8 p.m.

Monday, November 29 3-8 p.m.

Tuesday, November 30 3-8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 1 3-8 p.m.

Thursday, December 2 3-8 p.m.

Friday, December 3 3-8 p.m.

Saturday, December 4 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
2-5 p.m.  
5-8:30 p.m.

Please email us at [volunteers@masshort.org](mailto:volunteers@masshort.org) or call (617) 933-4934 to let us know that you can help with the Festival of Trees. Be sure to include your telephone number in your reply, and which days and times are best for you. We will get back to you to confirm your schedule.

Thank you for your service to Mass Hort. We appreciate your being a part of this great fundraiser.

Sincerely yours,  
Vivien Bouffard  
Volunteer Coordinator  
(617) 933-4934 [volunteers@masshort.org](mailto:volunteers@masshort.org)

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## About the Massachusetts Horticultural Society

Founded in 1829, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society is dedicated to encouraging the science and practice of horticulture and developing the public's enjoyment, appreciation, and understanding of plants and the environment.