



# back to basics

## NORTHEAST DISTRICT GATHERING

Plans are underway for the 2020 Northeast District Gathering. We want to share some of the details with you so you can plan to attend this all-inclusive event to be held August 27 and 28, 2020. We will be meeting on the shore of Half Moon Pond in Hancock, New Hampshire at the Boston University Sargent Center. Rustic accommodations are available at the Center or you can stay nearby in Hancock or Peterborough if you prefer that option. All meals will be included, from a cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres and subsequent barbecue on Thursday night, to a full breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Friday, ending with a full breakfast before departure on Saturday morning.

Garden tours are planned – three very special gardens that are renowned for their exquisite views, plant material, and thoughtful execution. They are all close by, as are some charming public gardens designed by one of the hosts.

Our theme of “Back to Basics” compliments the natural setting in which we will be staying. Twenty-two miles of trails crisscross the 700 acres at the Center. There are several cabins with separate sleeping areas (though shared baths) and we have been promised that no one will have to stay in the upper bunk! The assistant director has promised us a “Wild Ones Walk,” and as a budding herbalist, he is quite excited to take us through the area and point out the native plants.

We are still lining up speakers, but have already secured Ellen Zachos, author of several books, including “Backyard Forager” which will be the basis of her talk and possible demonstration. It promises to be an educational and fun-filled two days, with lots of time for exploring the area.

Peterborough, NH is just down the road and filled with wonderful shops, boutiques, museums, and dining options. Hancock and Harrisville are two other quaint New England towns to explore, especially Harrisville Mill for those in need of a fiber fix.

Rocky, the chef at the Sargent Center, is thrilled to have us come and is eagerly anticipating adding new herbs and recipes to his repertoire. We've promised to bring fresh herbs and supply him with ideas to make his cooking herb and spice filled.

More information will be coming as we ascertain pricing and options. We realize that not everyone will be interested in staying at the Center, but we hope many will come and enjoy the beautiful Mt. Monadnock area and participate in the gathering. A campfire, sing-a-long, and tasty campfire treats will highlight our Friday night so be sure to put this on your calendar and prepare for an herbal adventure!

### The Steering Committee

Karen O'Brien, District Delegate

Susan Anthony

Doris Buco

Lydia Francis

Jackie Majorossy

Ewa Ojarovska

Linda Russell

Dava Stravinsky

Dianne Tunney

Donna Tyson

Claudia VanNes