

Topsham Garden Club September Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

[Topsham Public Library](#)

25 Foreside Road, Topsham, ME

12:00 - Bring-your-own lunch with coffee & dessert provided by the club

12:30 - Business meeting

1:30 – Speaker

“Many Rooms in my Garden”

Bob Metivier, potter of “[Dust of the Earth Pottery](#)” will take us on a photographic journey through his extensive gardens in Topsham.

Bob was born in Rumford, ME and lived in the area until Junior High when he moved to Gray. His interest in gardening began in kindergarten when we planted marigolds in cut-off milk cartons. From then those seeds never stopped growing. He also had an interest in the arts which fits right in with landscape design.

About his gardens, Bob writes:

My garden in Topsham has become a much bigger project than I ever imagined. The land was rich in resources – mostly rocks and ledge which is a gold mine for someone who enjoys hardscape. As of now there is probably over 2,000 feet of rock walls all built with rock from the property.

There are many “rooms” in my garden borrowing views from other nearby rooms and beyond creating many layers to the garden. I use a lot of shrubs and trees to cut down on the maintenance and to create a garden that has interest pretty much year round. Most of the color and texture is achieved through the foliage and rocks so I don’t have a big reliance on flowers to do the job although the spring time is bursting with color when the trees and shrubs come into bloom.

As a result of my love for the tropics I like to grow plants that you would normally think of seeing in the tropics and not in Maine. There is an orange and fig tree that survived their first ME winter this past year. Besides that about another 50 – 70 cacti or so made it through this past winter.

Daylilies have made their way from the bottom of my list up near the top when I discovered a world of daylilies I never knew existed. It will be like Christmas in July when over 100 new daylilies bloom to reveal what was hidden in those little black seeds I planted a few years ago. As they begin to bloom I will be trying my hand at hybridizing them. There are several fruit trees including pears, apples, peaches and persimmon. Other fruits are grapes, blueberries, raspberries, gooseberries and strawberries.

Bob is also a potter. He describes his work as an artist as:

I can’t seem to get my hands out of the dirt. If I’m not working in the garden or potting plants I’m working the “Dust of the Earth” into pottery. “Dust of the Earth Pottery” is the name of my business. I produce mostly functional pottery but enjoy taking time now and then to be more creative and work on pieces that aren’t quite as practical like fairy castles or other pieces that may be used in a fairy garden. I have had no formal training beyond high school in any of what I am doing. It’s all hands on training and reading up on whatever it is I might want to do. A lot of my knowledge of plants comes from seeding lots of seed catalogs over the years.

The public is welcome!

For more information on the Topsham Garden Club: www.TopshamGardenClub.com.