

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Bethany Groff Dorau, Executive Director
RE: **Museum of Old Newbury Announces *The Heirloom Gardener – Traditional Plants and Skills with John Forti***
DATE: Thursday May 18, 2023
LOCATION: St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 166 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
PHONE: 978-462-2681

Newburyport, MA: The Museum of Old Newbury is proud to present *The Heirloom Gardener – Traditional Plants and Skills with John Forti*, scheduled for Thursday May 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Join John Forti for a lively talk based on his new book, *The Heirloom Gardener – Traditional Plants and Skills for the Modern World*. Richly illustrated with period images and contemporary woodcuts, his PowerPoint shares inspiration from our long history of heirloom preservation, garden craft and homestead lifeways. Artisanal gardening lifestyles are helping us to rebuild vibrant local agricultural economies and celebrate sustainable cottage industries that are contributing to our new, homegrown American arts & crafts movement and backyard environmentalism. At a time when we could all use a little good news, we hope you will join us for a refreshing look at how you can make a difference and build habitat in your own backyard and community.

John Forti is a garden historian and ethnobotanist who has directed gardens for Plimoth Plantation Museum, Strawberry Banke Museum, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and Bedrock Gardens. As a Slow Food USA Councilor and biodiversity specialist, his preservation work has helped to restore countless native and heirloom plants and has brought traditional artisanal practices to modern thinking. He has won numerous awards for historic garden preservation, children’s garden design, herbal and historical education and the 2021 Award of Excellence from National Garden Clubs, one of the nation’s most-recognized nonprofits and largest volunteer gardening organization in the world. His new book was inspired by his posts as *The Heirloom Gardener - John Forti* which go out regularly to millions on Facebook.

Special thanks to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church for hosting this Museum of Old Newbury event.

\$10 for Museum of Old Newbury members, \$20 for non-members. Please reserve your seat at NewburyHistory.org or by calling 978-462-2681

For additional information, images, and contacts, please email bethany@newburyhistory.org.

The Museum of Old Newbury preserves and interprets the history of “Old Newbury” including Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury from European settlement to the present. Founded in 1877, the Museum carries out its mission through the preservation and administration of the Cushing House, the Perkins Engraving Plant, and other historic structures on its High Street campus and furthers its purpose through lectures, exhibitions, educational programs, publications, and research.