


<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p><u>October 13, 2022</u></p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday October 13, 2022, at 6:45 pm in person and via Zoom</p>	
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>September-October 2022</p>

Welcome to our 25th year!

President's Letter

First, a welcome to all new Natick Garden Club members. On behalf of our membership, I am very happy you have joined our club and look forward to meeting you soon.

Secondly, a big 'thank you' to the officers and committee members who made a heroic effort to "keep the ship afloat" during more than two years of pandemic uncertainty. Past presidents: **Laurie Adelstein, Jean Egerhei** and **Linda Lentz** had to navigate the challenge of "what do we do next?" **Catherine Clifford** and **Kate Grzesiuk** kept us all in the loop with a high-quality newsletter. **Geri Wadness, Phyllis Moir,** and **Sue Mandell** worked diligently with speakers when meeting via Zoom was the only option. **Bryan Smith, Laurie** and **Catherine** made it seem effortless when they went from an auction format to e-commerce and then to an in-person plant sale. Through their efforts we were able to maintain a revenue stream that continues to support club activities. Kudos to **Linda Vitagliano** and **Laurie** (she was very busy) for enhancements to our website. Downtown and Library container chairs **Elizabeth Carroll, Martha Coleman, Sheila Tiberio, Betsy Lepain, Terry Fitzgibbons** and **Helen Johnson** dealt with drought, failing container liners, and supply chain issues, and recruited bands of volunteers, masked and socially distanced at first, then thankfully unmasked, to keep our town looking its best in all seasons. And we didn't just maintain the status quo. In the midst of the pandemic, **Elizabeth Carroll, Monica Foley** and **Donna Thibault** created Natick's Art in Bloom, a great new club event in partnership with the Natick Art Association and the Natick Center Cultural District.

I am very fortunate to be able to continue working with this great group as we transition, not back to normal, but to what's next.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all members who participated in both in-person and virtual events, volunteered, and renewed their membership for the coming year. I look forward to in-person meetings, but know that if we must pivot, we have a great team to make it all happen.

Betsy Szymczak
Natick Garden Club President 2022-23

Dates to Remember

- **Thursday, October 13th** **NGC meeting IN PERSON & via Zoom**
 - **6:30 Meet and greet, 7:00 Program**
 - Topic: NGC October meeting
Time: Oct 13, 2022 06:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81870948657?pwd=aytDZXBYV0U1UVZVQjBzaENVU0pEZz09>

Meeting ID: **818 7094 8657**

Passcode: **715436**

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,81870948657#,,,,*715436# US

+19294362866,,81870948657#,,,,*715436# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 **929 436 2866** US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81870948657?pwd=aytDZXBYV0U1UVZVQjBzaENVU0pEZz09>

October Program

How to Bring Japanese Inspired Garden Flair to Your Home Garden – Christie Dustman

A Japanese garden requires intensive labor beyond the scope of most home gardeners, but Christie Dustman will describe elements that can translate into our New England gardens. We will look at the use of line, asymmetrical balance, intentional focal points, stone, plants and the garden spirit to explore how Japanese gardens can influence our local gardens.

September Meeting

Fall Scaping - *Jana Millbocker*

Once again, our program chairs Geri Wadness and Sue Mandell scored a home run with a timely program and a great speaker. Jana's photographs were gorgeous and her enthusiasm for making fall gardens beautiful was contagious. She thoughtfully provided us with a plant list to help with our planning and future shopping trips. Meeting photos can be viewed here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/mGE7XbzXdJ7qp1p18>

2022-2023 Natick Board of Gardeners

Officers

President	Betsy Szymczak
Vice-President	Helen Johnson
Secretary	Rosalind Forber & Liz Milch
Treasurers	Pat Polimeno, Ann Marie MacKinnon & Ann Peterson
Membership	Helen Johnson & Catherine Clifford
Programs	Geri Wadness & Sue Mandell
Federation Liaisons	Betsy Szymczak & Helen Johnson
Past President	Linda Lentz

Committee Chairs

Annual Dinner	Lillian Graffam
Art in Bloom	Elizabeth Carroll, Monica Foley, Donna Thibault
Downtown Plantings	
Spring	Melissa Boyer
Summer	Betsy LePain & co-chair
Fall	Elizabeth Carroll & co-chair
Winter Greens	Joyce Hannaford & co-chair
Festival of Trees	Ellen Yetman
Garden Tour Calendar	Earlina Jamison
Hospitality	Martha Coleman, Joanne Rampe, Susan Shipman
Library Holiday Decorating	Rhea Gallgher & Fran Guthrey
Library Indoor Plants	Connie Lane
Library Outdoor Containers	Betsy Szymczak
Library Pollinator Gardens	Julie Mason
Logo Items	Alison Parnes
Membership Book	Sue Mandell & Earlina Jamison
Natick Days	Lucy Morris
Newsletter	Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk
Nominating	Linda Lentz
Photographers	Judy Sabol, Sheila Tiberio & Marci Sapers
Plant Sale	Bryan Smith & team
Publicity	Kate Grzesiuk
Scholarship	Sue Mandell
Social Media	Kate Grzesiuk
Technology Work Group	Catherine Clifford
Trip Coordinator	Jean Egerhei
<i>Voices from the Garden</i>	
<i>Hort + Culture</i>	Heather Oluwole & Monica Foley
Webmasters	Linda Vitagliano & Laurie Adelstein

News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

NGC Logo Items – order now!

Haven't you wished you could have our club's beautiful logo on your favorite jacket or fleece? Well, now is your chance. Or, if you prefer, you can purchase a shirt, hat, apron or tote bag with the logo. But, don't hesitate, as orders will not be accepted after October 31st. Order form will be in the same email as this newsletter. (Note the NGC Logo apron our scarecrow is wearing below!)

NGC Membership Book

The 2022-2023 annual membership booklet will be available, for those who have not yet received one, at the October 13th meeting. If you are not able to attend meetings, please let Sue Mandell know and she will make sure you have one delivered or sent by mail. Many thanks to Catherine Clifford and Geri Wadness for their meticulous proofreading. Please let Sue Mandell (sue.mandell3@gmail.com) know if there are errors to be corrected.

Morse Institute Library Family Scarecrow Stroll Friday October 14 at 4PM



We had so much fun creating Polly Pollinator! She is an impressive sight! Sporting her Natick Garden Club apron, fanciful hat and gourd birdhouse purse she is ready to attract pollinators and ward off any unwanted guests in the garden. Donna Thibault, Elizabeth Carroll, Monica Foley and Kate Grzesiuk had a great time creating her! Make sure to stop and check out all the scarecrows!



Voices from the Garden: Hort + Culture

At the last board meeting the board agreed to this name change from Horticultural Committee. The committee co-chairs Heather Oluwole and Monica Foley thought the club might be interested in learning about the early culture of the Praying Indians. Please go to the [Natick Historical Society](https://www.natickhistoricalsociety.org/) for more details. Check out the online resource called "I heard that word..."

<https://www.natickhistoricalsociety.org/17th-centuryнатик>

This is a closer look at Indigenous Experiences in Early Newton and Natick. Be sure to check the Events tab for walking tours and zoom lectures on local Indigenous People.

Penny Pines Honorees for 2021-22

Two acres of trees were planted in honor of Laurie Adelstein and Elizabeth Carroll for their outstanding contributions and dedication to the club.

Penny Pines is a grass roots project where pocket change is gathered at garden club meetings by passing a paper bag. Once the contributions reach \$68, the money is sent to the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Penny Pines Chairperson, who records the contributions and forwards the money on to National Garden Clubs. Contributions fund the planting of replacement trees that are indigenous (not only pine trees) to forested areas damaged by insects, fires or natural catastrophes. Approximately 200 replacement seedlings can be planted with a \$68 donation.

Club events are listed starting with the most recent and continuing back through the summer. Because there are so many, links to google albums are provided when available, rather than posting scores and scores of photos here.

New Member Tea – October 2nd

One of the club's most beloved traditions was reinstated, and a warm welcome was extended to new members at our New Members Tea, once again hosted by Sue Mandell. Members who joined in 2020 and 2021 were also invited since no teas were held then. It was a lovely party, organized by our hospitality team of Martha Coleman and Susan Shipman, with both tea (served in Pat Polimeno's antique teacups) and punch, accompanied by delicious sweets, savories and tea sandwiches. We spent a delightful afternoon getting to know some of our new members. Our President Betsy Szymczak talked about the club history, committees and ongoing projects, and new members were each given a small chrysanthemum plant.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/YQCE9hW5tm9TD2Fr8>

Fall Planting – September 23rd and 24th

Fall Planting Success!

We had a breezy and chilly two days to transform the downtown from Summer to Fall. It takes many people to make this happen! The garden club came out in full force and got the job done.

Thank you to Betsy Szymczak for organizing our volunteers on Sign Up Genius. It is a great tool to keep us organized.



Thank you to our Friday Clean Out Crew (photo at left) for removing the summer plants: Linda Lentz, Vicki Archabel, Donna Thibault, Paula Gould, Betsy LePain, Diane Creasey, Joyce Hannaford and Judy Logan. It made a big difference on Saturday to have the planters already prepped for planting.

A big shout out to Tom Hladick from the Natick DPW for getting the discarded plants picked up. Not having to make extra trips to the Recycle Center was very helpful.

Downtown was extra busy with the Farmers Market, Library Book Sale and Porch Fest! We added to the festivities with 24 club members planting 47 window boxes and planters with mums, cabbages/kale, pansies, grasses, beets and artificial bittersweet.

The day started early for Betsy LePain and Linda Lentz – we met the truck from Fran’s Flowers at 8:30. Another first – having the flowers delivered – a big thank you to Fran and Chris for delivering the plants this year! Betsy, Linda and I distributed the plants to all the planters and then at 10 am our mighty volunteers went to work. We really enjoyed getting to meet so many new members!

Thank you for all your hard work; Linda Lentz, Vicki Archabel, Sue Mandell, Pat Collins, Donna Thibault, Geri Wadness, Paula Gould, Joyce Hannaford, Rhea Gallagher, Betsy LePain, Diane Creasey, Marie Williams, Pat Polimeno and her two amazing granddaughters, Sheila Tiberio, Martha Coleman, Marci Sapers, Judy Logan, Amy Foley, Laura Magasanik, Mary Beth Connolly and Linda Vitagliano. As we planted, we received many wonderful compliments and thank you’s for our work and that truly makes a difference.

Athena Pandolf from the Natick Center Cultural District expressed how thankful they are for all we do to make Natick Center beautiful!

Thank you to all who helped! The downtown is ready for Fall!

Elizabeth Carroll

Fall Planting Chair

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/BPszm9airiCZSu1V6>

Natick Day 2022 – September 10th

The club's participation in Natick Day was once again a success thanks to enthusiastic volunteers and to Mother Nature for providing perfect weather. The revised Bean Bag Toss game using the club's floral backdrop was a hit with many children and their parents. All the daffodil bulbs were sold as well as the beautiful note cards provided by Shirley Fitzpatrick. Many thanks to Elizabeth Carroll, Lillian Graffam, Pat Polimeno, Laurie Adelstein, Geri Wadness, Betsy LePain, Alison Parnes, Sue Mandell, Lucia Frenkel, Amy Foley, Kate Grzesiuk and to new members Ellen Alfaro and Laura Magasanik. Special thanks go to chair Lucy Morris for great organizing and to Betsy Szymczak and Linda Lentz for their technical support and guidance. Follow the link below to the Google Album NGC Natick Days 2022.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/UMWucxmE62az3pBH8>

In Person Plant Sale – June 4th

Once again, the club changed direction. Instead of an auction, or an on-line plant sale, we held an in-person plant sale, and Pat Polimeno assures us we raised enough money to fund all our programs! Our dedicated, innovative and energetic "auction team" (Laurie Adelstein & Catherine Clifford) led by chair Bryan Smith reimagined the auction as a sale, and both the club and the public responded. Members dug, divided, potted and donated huge numbers of wonderful, healthy plants. And once again, our amazing, most generous benefactor, Frank Osborne, donated hundreds of plants. Gorgeous new signs (thanks Elizabeth Carroll) and great publicity (thanks Kate Grzesiuk) brought people in droves! And they were thrilled to purchase our outstanding plants and lug them by the cartloads home to beautify their gardens. More than 50 members participated in this critical fundraiser, and we needed every one of them! It can't be said enough, this event needs the participation of the whole club. It was a huge undertaking and a huge success. And we will do it again next year! Here's a link to the album Judy Sabol created for us.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/BPszm9airiCZSu1V6>

Year End Meeting / Picnic – June 25th

A big thank you to Lillian Graffam and Lucy Morris for another superlative job of organizing our annual end of the year picnic which again this year was held in Jean Egerhei's beautiful backyard. They even arranged for perfect sunny, warm weather for the day. It was a terrific event with delicious potluck style food provided by the 40 members that attended and beautiful floral decorations that adorned the tables. Special colorful visors were available to all members as favors to commemorate the occasion. Guests enjoyed good food, conversations and wandering through the gardens. Some even took the opportunity to jump in the pool. After the luncheon a beautiful cake was served while outgoing president, Linda Lentz was honored for her work, and Betsy Szymczak was installed as the 2022-2023 president.



Library Summer Planting – May 23rd



This “small but mighty” team: Doris Fina, Sibby Hill & Linda Vitagliano, led by chair Terry Monahan, had the library planters looking their summer best in record time on May 23rd, and kept them looking great all summer long.



Downtown Summer Planting – May 21st

“Many hands make light work” certainly describes the club’s downtown planting efforts! Downtown planting was a success thanks to the following volunteers organized by summer planting chair Betsy LePain: Annie Aisenberg, Vicki Archabal, Elizabeth Carroll, Martha Coleman, Mary Beth Connolly, Pat Collins, Doris Fina, Beth Gray-Nix, Kate Grzesiuk, Lillian Graffam, Ann Katan, Linda Lentz, Ann Marie MacKinnon, Liz Milch, Henry Milch, Lucy Morris, Pat Polimeno, Susan Shipman, Debby Thompson and of course, Sheila Tiberio.

Sheila’s wonderful design from last year worked beautifully, with just minor changes due to plant availability.

Betsy organized three “Weed & Feed” events at the end of June, July and August, which kept the planters looking great all summer despite the extreme heat.





Natick's Art in Bloom – May 14th & 15th

Art in Bloom was a tremendous success! The floral arrangements were so beautifully executed and well thought out. We are most appreciative of all the club members who contributed to making it so successful. It has been decided that the best fit for the club is to hold Natick's Art in Bloom on alternate years. We are planning a floral design workshop for later in the year that will be specifically for those members who would like to do a floral design in 2024. We will send out an announcement and sign up once we have all the details planned. View photos at the link below.

Natick's Art in Bloom Committee
Elizabeth Carroll,
Monica Foley,
Donna Thibault

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/NbLGvwV94renGxB68>

Members' Garden Tours 2022

So much of gardening depends on Mother Nature, our member garden tours are nearly always spontaneous, as in "My garden looks great this week, my x, y and z are in bloom, I think I'll invite the club to come see it!" And so, four members did invite us, and we went and enjoyed their gardens, and each other's company and delicious snacks as well.

Thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Melanie Harvey, Betsy LePain and Bryan Smith for sharing your gardens with us.

Here is the link to Laurie's garden tour.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/EVEncv34dLzHa7bV8>

And a link to the tour of Betsy LePain's garden

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/rN6U7zVmmh1gy6n57>

And a link to Melanie's garden tour

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/qq5xrHnmAvd7oUpaA>

Bryan and John pictured right (I couldn't find photos of their garden. Please send me any you took and we'll get an album made.)



2022 Scholarship awards

The NGC Scholarship Committee is delighted to announce that we have two recipients this year. Each student will receive an award of \$250, a baseball cap with the NGC logo and an award certificate.

Ryan Fangel is a Natick resident attending Keefe Tech. This is the first time we've been able to award a Keefe Tech student and Ryan's recommendations and accomplishments speak to the Natick Garden Club motto. He started landscaping at a young age and says he has always loved it. Three years ago, Ryan started his own four-season landscaping business and has grown it to include 100 clients. He has two full time employees that he "treats just like family." He feels that his biggest joy is the experience he gains with each new job. In addition to the four-season focus, Ryan recently added a hardscape side to the company. He is an exceptional and well-respected leader and athlete on the golf and hockey teams at Keefe Tech and was an Honor Society member during his junior and senior years at Keefe. Ryan also majored in the Electrical Career and Technical Program.

Rebecca Riley is our Natick High School recipient. She is planning to pursue a major in environmental engineering or architecture with a focus on sustainability. She first became interested in the environment through a summer program called Green Mountain Conservation Camp dedicated to helping youth care for fish, wildlife and natural resources. She has been with the program for seven years. Becca designed a scale model of a beach house complete with landscaping for her Civil Engineering and Architecture class. That model is showcased in the classroom to show and motivate other students. She also received a first-place award in the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs art contest last year and designed an online curriculum for the Girl Scouts that focused on a unique art form for each continent. She was a first ballot nominee for the service-oriented chapter of the National Honor Society based on her grades, character and leadership.



Many thanks to a very committed Scholarship Committee who selected these recipients from more than a dozen applicants: Sue Mandell (chair), Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Martha Coleman, Doris Fina, Lucia Frenkel, Marilyn Lustig, Ann Marie MacKinnon and Pat Polimeno.

Members' Travels, near and far

We are starting to travel again, and several members sent photos, too many to do justice to here, so I'm working on an appendix. Should be available before our meeting.

2022-2023 Programs:

October 13, 2022

Christie Dustman – How to bring Japanese Inspired Garden Flair to Your Home Garden

November 17, 2022

Stacey Lee – Sustainable Floral Design

December 15, 2022

Lou Greenstein – Designing Edible Centerpieces

January 19, 2023

Rebecca Warner – Thinking Globally, Acting in Your Own Yard

February 16, 2023

Bonnie Power – What's Wrong with My House Plant

March 16, 2023

Michele Schuckel – Gardening in a Changing Climate

April 20, 2023

Claudia Price – Nature Nurtures: Creating Garden Waystations for Monarchs

May 18, 2023

NGC DIY program: Ask a Gardener – Sharing garden ideas

Check these websites for (virtual) events, classes and workshops of interest.....

- Arnold Arboretum <https://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/>
- Garden Club Federation of MA <https://www.gcfm.org/schools>
- Garden in the Woods aka Native Plant Trust <https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/education/>
- Mass Horticultural Society <https://www.masshort.org/Events>
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden <http://www.towerhillbg.org/index.php/visit/what-s-happening/events-calendar/>

Reminders:

- **Helen Johnson** is now the contact for the NGC Sunshine Fund. If you know of a member who should receive a card from us, (illness, bereavement) please let Helen know at helen.johnson@nemooves.com or 508-958-4794 (cell.)
- Send photos of any and all club activities and events for inclusion in the newsletter to caclifford18@gmail.com and/or kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com

Useful link(s):

- The UMass Extension Gardener monthly e-Newsletter *Clippings* is always worth reading. You can always read it here: And you can subscribe at: <https://extension.umass.edu/landscape/home-garden-email-list>
- You can always read the latest issue of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts newsletter *The Mayflower* online at: [Mayflower](#)

Thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Jean Egerhei, Monica Foley, Lillian Grafam, Linda Lentz, Sue Mandell, Lucy Morris, Heather Oluwole, Pat Polimeno, Judy Sabol, Marci Sapers, Susan Shipman, Betsy Szymczak, Sheila Tiberio and Geri Wadness for their contributions of content and photographs to this issue. Special thanks to Judy for all the Google albums she has created for us.

Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk

Hummingbird Clearwing Moth (*Hemaris thysbe*) on phlox “Jenna” in Monica Foley’s garden. They overwinter in leaf litter, yet another reason to let the leaves remain on your garden beds.

