


<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>April 21, 2022</p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday April 21, 2022, at 7 pm IN PERSON and via ZOOM log in at 6:45 pm to socialize</p>	
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>April 2022</p>

President’s Letter

My pansies got pummeled by the hail a week ago Saturday — by Sunday morning they once again looked lovely, a perfect example of Resilience:

- ** the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness
- ** the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity

The Garden Club members are another example; planting the pansies downtown was attended by many - great fun and lots of catching up with folks who haven’t seen each other in a while. The in-person board meeting was well attended and very productive; a lot of behind the scenes work is going on for Art in Bloom and the Plant Sale.

It’s been a tough couple of years; participating in club activities is a great way to find our way back to activities that are fun and meaningful. As you complete the membership form to join the club for its 25th year please pay particular attention to the second page. The club functions best when all members offer their talents, interests and time. We all have different skills and the needs are many which is why I am confident that page two will offer something that you can participate in; whether you are an expert or simply interested to learn more about the activity please let us know how you will help to continue the good work of the Natick Garden Club.



Linda Lentz
Natick Garden Club President 2021-2022

Dates to Remember

- **Thursday, April 21, 2022** – NGC monthly meeting, ZOOM & in person
Topic: Natick Garden Club Zoom Meeting
Time: Apr 21, 2022 06:45 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84735171200?pwd=OUw3dkJGa3cveWZ2aHVraVBxWUFodz09>

Meeting ID: **847 3517 1200**
Passcode: **135149**
Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- **Saturday & Sunday, April 30 – May 1, 2022** – EcoNatick (formerly known as Earth Day) at many locations around Natick, including member Monica Foley’s garden, see link for details
<https://www.econatick.org/events/386>
- **Saturday & Sunday, May 14 & 15, 2022** – Natick’s Art in Bloom at the Morse Institute Library
- **Thursday, May 12, 2022** – NGC monthly meeting, “Ask a Gardener” in person at the Morse Institute Library
- **Saturday, June 4, 2022** – **Plant Sale** – live and in person at the Natick Senior Center

Of Special Interest:

The chairs of the following committees are planning to step down. **They will be happy to help you understand what is involved and assist with the transition.**

Current openings for 2022-2023 are:

- Downtown Planting Summer – One or two people
- Library Containers Summer – One or two people

April Program

Our Grandmothers Knew What They Were Doing – *Laura Bibler*

Laura Bibler has found inspiration for today's gardens from horticultural wisdom handed down from our grandmothers' time. Her presentation will bring to life both the design approach and the sage advice of prominent garden writers of the early 20th Century. Their pearls of wisdom continue to inform us on color blending, cultural considerations and plant placement. Truly, our grandmothers knew what they were doing!

March Meeting

Rethinking Uses for Annuals – *Sally Muspratt*

Sally Muspratt delivered a funny and informative program called "Rethinking Uses for Annuals." Sally suggested that garden club members not use predesigned annual arrangements sold by companies like Proven Winners and instead rely on our own creativity. Designing your own arrangements for containers or window boxes is less expensive, more fun, and often creates more interesting arrangements.

Sally also recommended considering annuals instead of perennials for a number of situations. One is for areas that are used for plowing piles of snow where perennials would be crushed and damaged by salt and sand. Another is for a new garden when the owner is not sure what colors or design to use. The owner can experiment using annuals, which are less expensive, to determine what colors work and where perennials might go in the future.

One of the most refreshing parts of her talk was her description of the terrible mistakes she had made in designing a garden for her ancestral home in Quebec. She said took four tries before she found that planting a garden of annuals was the best solution for that garden. It was very reassuring to hear such an experienced and skilled profession talk about her own failures.

News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

Library Container Planting

On a chilly April 1st, the Library containers were planted and made ready for Spring. A very big thank you to Doris Fina, Betsy LePain, Marianne Hedin, Sibby Hill, Ann Katan and to chair Terry Monahan Fitzgibbons. Many creative hands made light work of the planting and they also deadheaded some roses and did some other general clean-up. It looks great!



Downtown Pansy Planting

In two parts, (weather dependent as always), members removed the winter greens and planted the pansies. On Saturday, April 2nd with fierce winds and temperatures in the low 40s, a stalwart crew showed up to plant the pansies that signal spring in downtown. We worked quickly (with some breaks to thaw fingers and phone cameras) and were finished in 90 minutes! Many, many thanks to Martha Coleman for organizing, to Pat Polimeno for transporting the plants from Fran's (and bringing her helpful grandchildren), and to everyone who risked frostbite to make the containers look their spring best: Linda Lentz, Geri Wadness, Sheila Tiberio, Lucy Morris, Helen Johnson, Debbie Thompson, Catherine Clifford, Elizabeth Carroll, Amy Foley, Rosalind Forber, Judy Sabol, Susan Shipman, Laurie Adelstein, Betsy LePain, Ann Marie MacKinnon, and Ann Peterson. There is no question that this is a group effort and many hands made it all happen before we all froze to death!

See the smiles in spite of the cold, below and more on the Google album Judy Sabol created at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NAYFnpKjdDmiXhf2A>





NGC's Website and Facebook page

When you have a moment check out updates to the club's website www.natickgardenclub.org
Linda Vitagliano and Laurie Adelstein welcome feedback to continue to improve the site!
And if you use Facebook be sure to 'Like' the club. Ideas for posts can be sent to Sue Mandell.

Mark Your Calendars for these NGC activities...

May 12, 2022 Our May meeting will once again be an "Ask a Gardener" program so come prepared with questions and success stories.

Natick's Art in Bloom 2022! May 14th and 15th at the Morse Institute Library.



Natick's Art in Bloom is almost here! Mark your calendars, invite your family and friends! We will have 15 floral designs. Along with our Natick Garden Club designers, we are welcoming two guest designers: Stacey Alleva from Paeonia Designs and Susan Smith from the Natick Art Association.

We will have music! Violinist Ioana Weichelt on Saturday afternoon and acoustic guitarist Scott Matsumoto on Sunday. Also, on Saturday from 12-1 Stacey Alleva of Paeonia Designs will present a demonstration on sustainable floral design. There will be a fun selfie photo booth set up for all to enjoy! Stay tuned for an email from Linda Lentz asking for volunteers for the event. Thank you to Linda for coordinating the volunteer schedule!

Please like our Facebook post and share!
Please forward this terrific flyer (it's attached)

to your friends and family. And print it and post to any local organizations and businesses that you frequent. This will be a wonderful event so let's get the word out! A big round of applause for the artists and floral designers for giving of their time and talent!

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

Here's the list of our designers and the art from members of the Natick Artists Association which will inspire their designs.

Art, Artist & Floral Designers 2022

Garden of Delights by Joanna Dole
Birdsong by Janis Luedke
Tear Drop Nest by Suzanne Stumpf
Gardenin Blues by Susan Smith
Peace Buggy by Diane Gray
Boundless Joys of Color by Liliana Glen
#2 Untitled by Jeff Olsen
Transformation by Carolyn Williams
Flutterby by Denise Girardin
Kayaks by Yale Nicolls
Iris by Robin Chalfin
Spring by Deb Sayre
Wood Blooms by Steve Strout
South Street Late Afternoon by Barbara Levine
Summer Evening Elm Bank Reservation by Ryan Black

Terry Fitzgibbons
Lillian Graffam & Lucy Morris
Stacey Alleva of Paeonia Designs
Sibby Hill
Susan Smith NAA member
Joyce Hannaford
Doris Fina
Jean Egerhei
Donna Thibault
Susan Shipman
Kate Grzesiuk
Elizabeth Carroll
Monica Foley
Doreen O'Conner/ Monica Foley
Rose Coyman & Julie Mason



The Art in Bloom 2022 Committee: Elizabeth Carroll, Monica Foley and Donna Thibault, went to the Chelsea Flower Market to check out the flowers for our upcoming trip for the Art in Bloom floral designers! Looks like they had fun!

Saturday, June 4, 2022 – Plant Sale

We're so excited to announce we will be having a **LIVE, IN-PERSON, Plant Sale!!!**



This is our major fundraiser, and it takes all of us to make it a success. Here are some of the ways you can participate:

- Contribute plants (at least 3) from your own garden, or a friend's (with permission) or purchased at one of the wonderful garden centers here in Metrowest. See the attachment for details.
- Host a sign. If you live on Route 16 or 27 or 135, or a well-traveled street like Bacon, Oak, Pine, Pond, Marion, we **NEED** you to host a sign. We will have 60 beautiful new signs and want to put them to the best possible use.
- Solicit door prizes. We need people to contact donors from previous years to see if they'll donate again, and new potential donors as well.
- Help members dig and pot if they need assistance.
- Spread the word by placing flyers in places you frequent and sending them electronically to friends and family.
- Work before, during, and after the big day: picking up plants and delivering them to the Senior Center, selling door prize tickets, organizing and pricing plants, helping customers get their purchases to their cars – in short, just about every job we had for the auction except “runner.” Signup sheets will be available at the meeting, and then virtually.

And these events (in-person and virtual) of interest...



Natick Community Gardens Lecture Series

Hosted in collaboration with the Morse Institute Library and Bacon Free Library, two lectures will be held **virtually** each month from March to September and will be open to the public at no cost. The beginning of the lecture series coincided with the opening of the Bacon Library's new **Seed Sharing Library**.

<https://baconfreelibrary.org/news-3/>

All presentations will be related to gardening, with a specific focus on organic vegetable gardening for raised bed containers. For more information, to sign up for an event, or to participate in the seed sharing library, please visit the Community Gardens webpage <https://www.natickma.gov/1273/Community-Gardens> or the Morse Institute Library <https://morseinstitute.org/> and Bacon Free Library <https://baconfreelibrary.org/> webpages.

Saturday & Sunday, April 30 – May 1, 2022 – EcoNatick (formerly known as Earth Day) at many locations around Natick, including member **Monica Foley's** garden, which is a Certified Wildlife Habitat. There's a PDF attached that you can send to family and friends. See link for details <https://www.econatick.org/events/386>



April 26, 2022 - Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.'s 200th birthday. Events are scheduled around the country, but keep an eye here to see how his birthday will be celebrated at Fairsted.

<https://www.nps.gov/frla/getinvolved/olmsted-bicentennial.htm>

Follow Fairsted on social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube) for special video releases.

How we are keeping busy...

Seed starting

These are from Linda Vitagliano, but pretty sure many other members have comparable setups.



Check these websites for events, classes and workshops of interest; note that some organizations are moving back to in-person events. Note that Tower Hill has a new name and website.

- 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>
- **New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill** <https://purchase.nebg.org/calendar.aspx>
- Frederick Law Olmsted Historic Site <https://www.nps.gov/frla/index.htm>
- Grow Native Massachusetts <https://www.grownativemass.org/>
- Mass Horticultural Society Master Gardener program
<https://www.massmastergardeners.org/join-us/become-a-master-gardener>

Useful link(s):

- The UMass Extension Gardener monthly e-Newsletter Clippings is always worth reading. You can subscribe at: <https://extension.umass.edu/landscape/home-garden-email-list>
- You can read the latest issue of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts' newsletter The Mayflower online at <https://www.gcfm.org/mayflower>
- Check the Central-South District page under clubs on the Federation's website to see what other clubs are doing, often there are open meetings. <https://www.gcfm.org/central-south-district>
- Be sure to check out Natick's Sustainability News <https://mailchi.mp/natickma/sharethelove?e=5d2e739859>

Reminders:

- **Betsy Szymczak** is the contact for the NGC Sunshine Fund. If you know of a member who should receive a card from us, (illness, bereavement) please let Betsy know at szymczakb@gmail.com or 617-750-1422
- Recycling gardening books, magazines, or catalogs you no longer want or need is challenging these days. If you have old copies of Horticulture or Fine Gardening that you probably won't read again, MassHort's library is accepting donations of gardening magazines and books. They can be left at the gate house if the library is not open.
- If you physically go someplace, send your photos to **Catherine Clifford** at caclifford18@gmail.com or **Kate Grzesiuk** at kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com

Many thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Martha Coleman, Elizabeth Carroll, Jean Egerhei, Terry Monahan Fitzgibbons, Monica Foley, Linda Lentz, Alison Parnes, Pat Polimeno, Judy Sabol, Bryan Smith, Betsy Szymczak, Linda Vitagliano, and Geri Wadness for their contributions to this issue.

Your Newsletter team: Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk