


<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p><u>September 21, 2023</u></p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday September 21, 2023, at 6:30 pm in person <u>only</u></p>	
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>September 2023</p>

Welcome to our 26th year!

President's Letter

I trust that all of you had a fine summer – even those of you who lost your plants to hungry rabbits or the incessant rain. If your gardening was a flop, I believe that this year's Garden Club programs and activities will give you a lift. I can assure you that your Board of Directors and Committee chairs are hard at work to provide you with a full schedule of events. Many thanks to these members for a terrific start to the 2023-2024 year.

Our most recent event was Natick Days, organized by Lucy Morris. It was a great success with our daffodil bulbs and greeting cards selling out, and lots of membership applications handed out. Upcoming events include our first meeting of the new season on Thursday, September 21st, and fall downtown planting on Friday, September 22nd.

For new members, we will hold a tea on October 1st. This is a chance to meet the members of the board and get their insight regarding our various activities. If you wish to participate in any activity, let us know or use the sign-up routine made available to you.

Sincerely,

Helen Johnson Natick Garden Club President 2023-24

Dates to Remember

- **Thursday, September 21st** **NGC Open meeting IN PERSON ONLY**
 - **6:30 Meet and greet, 7:00 Program**
- **Friday, September 22nd** **Fall planting, details below**

2023-2024 Natick Board of Gardeners

Officers

President	Helen Johnson
Vice-President	Dee DeRuyck
Secretary	Debby Thompson
Treasurers	Pat Polimeno & Liz Milch
Membership	Catherine Clifford
Programs	Geri Wadness & Sue Mandell
Federation Liaisons	Helen Johnson & Dee DeRuyck
Past President	Betsy Szymczak

Committee Chairs

Annual Dinner: vacant

Art in Bloom: Elizabeth Carroll, Monica Foley, Donna Thibault

Downtown Planting:

Spring - vacant

Summer - Betsy Lepain (planting only) & 3 weed and feed coordinators TBD

Fall - Elizabeth Carroll & Linda Lentz

Winter Greens - Joyce Hannaford & co-chair TBD

Festival of Trees: Sue Mandell w/ Elizabeth Carroll, Lucy Morris & Linda Lentz

Garden Tour Calendar: Earlina Jamison

Hospitality: Susan Shipman & Jean Egerhei

Library Outdoor Containers: Betsy Szymczak

Logo Items: Alison Parnes

Membership Book: Sue Mandell & Earlina Jamison

Natick Days: Lucy Morris

Newsletter: Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk

Nominating: Betsy Szymczak

Photography: Judy Sabol, Marci Sapers, & Sheila Tiberio

Plant Sale: Bryan Smith, Laurie Adelstein & Catherine Clifford

Publicity: Kate Grzesiuk

Scholarship: Sue Mandell

Social Media:

Instagram: Marilyn Lustig

Facebook: Sue Mandell

Technology: Catherine Clifford & co-chair TBD

Trip Coordinator: Jean Egerhei

Voices from the Garden: Hort + Culture: Monica Foley & Heather Oluwole

Web Masters: Laurie Adelstein & Linda Vitagliano

September Program

September 21, 2023 – in person only

Cheryl Monroe – The Blended Garden: In Praise of Multihorticulturalism

Are you feeling guilty and confused about the current hype surrounding native only planting? Are you overwhelmed by terms like invasive, aggressive, exotic, indigenous, alien and sustainable? Are you worried about the environmental impact of your garden? Learn the science and dispel the myths behind the Native vs. Exotic Plant Debate and the best way to make a garden that you, the pollinators, and Mother Earth will adore.

News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

Fall Planting

Date and time changed to Friday, September 22 9:30 AM

Welcome Gardeners!

It is that time of year to make the change from Summer to Fall for the downtown Natick planters. Not only do we transform downtown but this also provides a great opportunity to work side by side with your fellow club members and get to know each other! No worries if you have never done this before! When you arrive you will be assigned a partner and have instructions and a plant diagram to follow. We will meet in front of the old Fair & Yeager building. Please bring your garden gloves, a small trowel and if you have any Natick Garden Club swag please wear it.

Because we have changed the date, please email Elizabeth directly to sign up or ask questions. elizabethTcarroll@gmail.com

Natick Days 2023

Natick Days was again a great success! Thanks to all who helped make it so: the set-up team, the two shifts of members who staffed the booth welcoming the public, selling daffodil bulbs and notecards, and passing out club information, and finally the clean up crew, who packed up just ahead of the rain. Especial thank to Lucy Morris, who coordinated it all and whose energy (she was there all day) and organizational skills made everything run smoothly.

Photos can be seen in this album created by Judy Sabol: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Y4uRXAFSmZbmHLzf7>

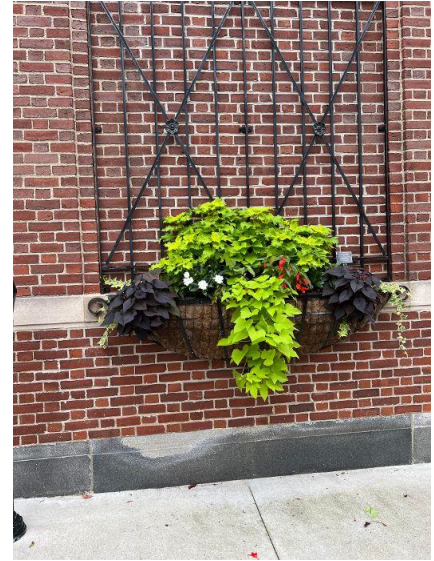
Year End Meeting / Picnic

The picnic was terrific. Rained out in June, it was August before the weather finally cooperated! Jean's beautiful yard once again provided a perfect setting. The food was delicious and the company even better! Lots of new members joined us. Lillian Graffam and Lucy Morris added the many details that made it even more special.

Photos can be seen in this album Judy Sabol created: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZPeh3CjxKNttWCxZ6>

Summer Downtown and Library Plant Maintenance

All summer long, teams of dedicated members watered, fertilized, & deadheaded keeping the downtown containers looking amazing. Thanks goes to the monthly “Weed & Feed” coordinators Mary Beth Connolly (June), Dee DeRuyck (July) and Rosalind Forber (August) and the teams they recruited. Here’s the August team.



2023 Plant Sale



The Annual Plant Sale was an enormous success. It just gets better every year. Setting up on Friday, even in the ridiculous heat, made a huge difference. Great plants, great door prizes, enthusiastic club members talking about plants to a crowd of eager shoppers, answering questions, suggesting plant combinations, it was just wonderful. We raised a lot of money and had fun doing it. Can it get any better than that? More photos can be seen here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/MBPn4QMGfALUmwSu7>

Members’ Travels

The world has opened up enough that members are traveling again, and gardeners go to see gardens – they can’t stop themselves. And they take photos of those gardens. So, please share them with the club, not just your friends and family. Judy Sabol has kindly created a Google Album for members’ travel photos <https://photos.app.goo.gl/MuR15eUtNn17vP8SA> and populated it with pictures from her trip to the southwest. So, add your photos and let us know what wonderful places you are going!

Volunteer Opportunities

Help Plant a “[Tiny Forest](#)” this Saturday, 9/23 at Natick High School

Natick is installing a [Miyawaki](#) or Tiny Forest on the Natick High School campus. We are looking for 30-40 volunteers for each 2.5-hour shift to assist with planting almost 700 plants! Can you join in?

Also, Natick’s Sustainability coordinator Jillian Wilson-Martin posted the following request:

Help Plant Trees on 15 Residential Properties within the Next 2 Weeks!

15 people who signed up for our Planting the Future program have indicated they need help with the actual planting of their free native tree. Many of the trees have already been picked up from the nursery, so the clock is ticking to get them in the ground. Please respond to Jillian at [<jwmartin@natickma.org>](mailto:jwmartin@natickma.org) if you can dig a hole and are willing to help. Shovel will be provided!

Natick Community Organic Farm

Each year we make a donation to the Farm for their fundraising auction, typically a plant or arrangement and a membership to the club. This year was no exception. Here’s our donation, and we’ll just wait to see if the “winner” actually joins the club. Thanks to Kate Grzesiuk for coordinating.



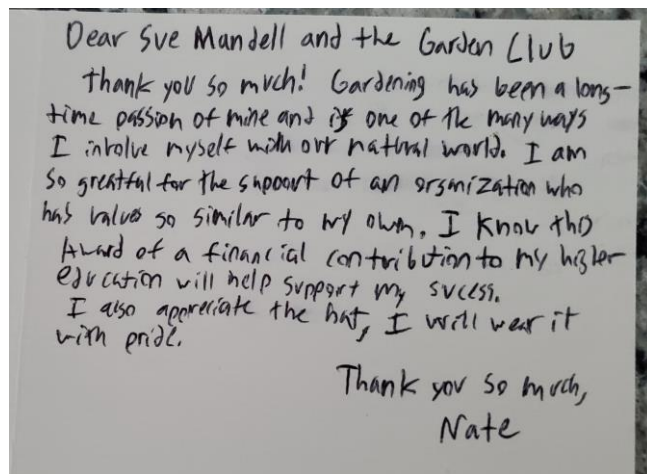
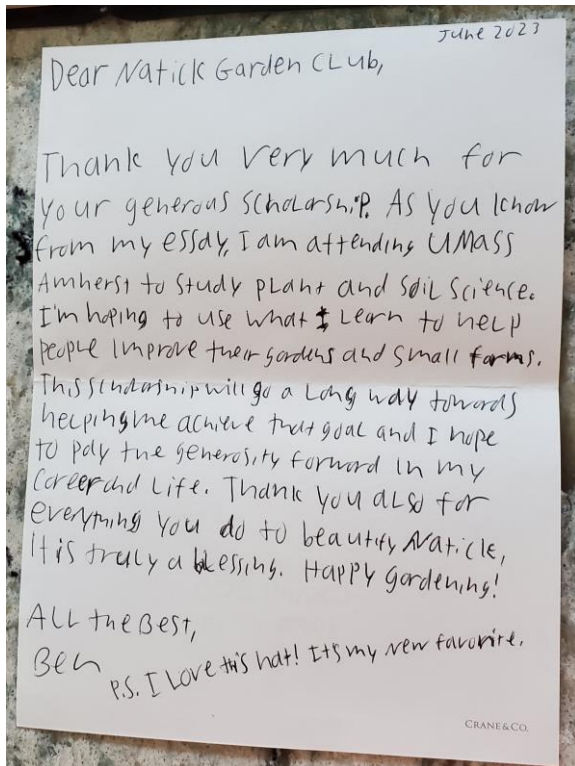
Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee is happy to announce the two recipients of the Natick Garden Club's scholarship award. Both awards went to Natick High School seniors. Benjamin Feldman and Nathaniel Lord embodied the motto of our club, "Beautify, Revitalize and Preserve...for Nature's Sake".

Benjamin Feldman will be attending UMass to pursue an Education in Plant and Soil Science in the School of Agriculture. He is passionate about improving our food system so that it can continue to feed us far into the future. He has volunteered with Keep Natick Beautiful and the Natick Community Gardens.

Nathaniel Lord spent a lot of time outside during lockdown. Hiking in the town forests brought him face to face with broken bottles and piled up garbage. That experience led Nate to Pat Conaway of Keep Natick Beautiful, management of the community garden at the Spiritual Center, an appointment as trail steward of the Natick Town Forest, service on the Board of the American Chestnut Foundation and a two-year position on the Natick Trails and Forest Stewardship Committee. Nate will major in Forest Health. He plans on wearing our Natick Garden Club hat with pride.

Thanks to committee members who pored over the applications of well deserving students: Ellen Alfaro, Elizabeth Carroll, Martha Coleman, Dee DeRuyck, Doris Fina, Marilyn Lustig, Ann Marie MacKinnon, Deborah Thompson and Chair Sue Mandell.



2023-2024 Programs:

September 21, 2023

Cheryl Monroe – The Blended Garden: In Praise of Multihorticulturalism

Are you feeling guilty and confused about the current hype surrounding native only planting? Are you overwhelmed by terms like invasive, aggressive, exotic, indigenous, alien and sustainable? Are you worried about the environmental impact of your garden? Learn the science and dispel the myths behind the Native vs. Exotic Plant Debate and the best way to make a garden that you, the pollinators, and Mother Earth will adore.

October 26, 2023

James Frantzreb – Creating a Meadow: The Natick Town Forest Meadow Project

In 2018, the Natick Conservation Commission set a goal to restore an overgrown area of the Town Forest that had once been a neighborhood recreational field. James will share the project's background, invasives mitigation, plans and progress toward transforming this 2-acre site into an open vista of diverse native grasses and forbs that will offer a welcome contrast to the surrounding forest while providing food, nectar and habitat for insects, birds and small mammals.

November 9, 2023

Trevor Smith – Garden Design

Trevor Smith is Weston Nurseries' Design and Education Manager. His passion for the natural world inspires his commitment to ecological principles and practices and he is devoted to creating beautiful landscapes as an oasis to reconnect with the natural world. Trevor specializes in green storm water infrastructure, such as permeable pavers and rain gardens, as well as in landscapes designed to maximize Earth's systems while balancing them with the needs and desires of her human inhabitants.

December 21, 2023

Gretel Anspach– Seed Saving

Gretel will speak about the reasons for saving your own seeds and teach us some of the basic techniques for ensuring genetic purity. They will discuss home garden plants from which seeds can be easily saved and stored for future use. Gretel established and maintains a 20,000 square foot food production garden that has provided fresh produce to the Marlboro and Maynard Food Pantries for the last ten years. Their primary interest and focus is always in the science behind horticulture.

January 18, 2024 (Zoom Presentation)

Tovah Martin – Easiest Houseplants Ever with Style

No matter what your home environment offers, Tovah has you covered with recommendations for plants that will become copacetic roommates. This lecture will leave you filled with hope, and an adoption list. The goal is to find botanical companions that will make your life ultra-beautiful. Want to adopt a houseplant? Tovah offers options that will fit your lifestyle with flair.

February 22, 2024

Deborah Trickett – 10 Most Popular Container Plants (and Why You Shouldn't Use Them)

Deborah Trickett, owner of The Captured Garden, will reveal alternatives to the top ten most popular plants on the list. This presentation is about discovering the attributes that make them so popular and then seeing if there are other, less well-known plants that can take their place.

March 21, 2024

Suzanne Mahler - Flowering Trees and Shrubs for the Home Landscape

Suzanne will speak about the splendor of flowering trees and shrubs with a look beyond the fleeting flowers to varieties that provide colorful foliage and fruits, attractive forms, and textural bark, for interest in more than one season.

April 18, 2024

Mary B. Hayes – Create Your Own Cutting Garden

Learn to make your own small but productive cutting garden. Mary will talk about easy and reliable plants to grow, preparation, maintenance, harvesting and flower conditioning. She will demonstrate a spiral and tied bouquet.

May 9, 2024

DIY Program

Members share their expertise on a topic of interest. The topic and format will be determined with input from members.

June 2023 (date TBD)

NGC Annual Plant Sale

This annual highlight of Natick's spring season held at the Natick Community-Senior Center is widely advertised and always draws a crowd. Members' and friends' donations of potted plants generate funds for club activities, programs and two scholarships to graduating high school students pursuing their vision of an improved environment.

June 2023 (date TBD)

Year-End Recognition Celebration

Annual celebration and installation of new officers and committee chairs. Details TBD!

Native Plant of the Month

White Wood Aster, *Eurybia divaricata*

As we move into the autumn months, asters take center stage in the garden. One aster that fits the bill as a ground cover is white wood aster, a hardy and easy to grow wild flower that serves an important role for native wildlife.

Eurybia divaricata — commonly known as white wood aster, white heart-leaved aster, and woodland aster — is native to dry open woods in the Eastern United States. It has a mounding habit, reaching up to about two feet high, with prolific flowers that begin in late summer and extend into fall. The plants spread by rhizomes and can cover a large area in a few years.



White wood aster features delicate white, daisy-like flowers with yellow centers that change to red after pollination. Dark colored stems and deep green, heart-shaped leaves look attractive all season. Plants can adapt to part shade or shade, dry or moist soils, and are both deer and drought tolerant. White wood aster is somewhat susceptible to powdery mildew so it benefits from good air circulation and some morning sun.



The flowers of white wood aster are a favorite of bees and butterflies, and the plant hosts the pearl crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*, pictured right) and checkerspot butterflies. When most plants have stopped flowering, white wood aster provides an important food source for these and other pollinators. Seeds that follow the flowers offer an important food source for birds and small mammals.

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:

- Dee DeRuyck 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 Dee know at deedee.deruyck@gmail.com or 860-214-6354
- Send photos of any and all club activities and events for inclusion in the newsletter to:
 - caclifford18@gmail.com 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 Elizabeth Carroll, Mary Hopkins, Helen Johnson, Linda Lentz, Sue Mandell, Lucy Morris, Ann Peterson, Judy Sabol, Susan Shipman & Geri Wadness for their contributions of content and photographs to this issue.

Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk