


<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p> <p><b>February 20, 2025</b></p> <p>6:30pm socializing, 7 pm business meeting and lecture by Gretel Anspach “Vegetable Gardening 101” Morse Library</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting  <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97994572329?pwd=ZVcjGVr781TqUxNpo_bMvVwVUpwWWeX.1">https://zoom.us/j/97994572329?pwd=ZVcjGVr781TqUxNpo_bMvVwVUpwWWeX.1</a>  Meeting ID: 979 9457 2329  Passcode: 607640</p>	
<p><a href="http://www.natickgardenclub.org">www.natickgardenclub.org</a></p>	<p>February 2025</p>

**President’s Letter**

I am sad to announce the passing of our NGC President Helen Johnson’s husband Thomas. Our thoughts are with Helen during this time. Unfortunately, her president’s message will not appear in our current newsletter. I am filling in with a short piece in its place.

February is the last month of winter. It is a great time to pamper your houseplants, prune the easy to spot extra branches outdoors and prepare your dormant gardening supplies. It is also a good time to relax and let our future gardens emerge from ideas as we look at colorful garden books and endless seed catalogs, visit websites and talk with other gardeners.

It is thanks to the never-ending energy of our garden club members; we can look forward to another amazing growing season for all our new and ongoing NGC projects. If you have a few hours, we have a job for you.

*Dee DeRuyck*  
*Vice President, 2023-25*

*sympathy arrangement sent to Helen in memory of Thomas*



## Dates to Remember

**March 20, 2025** – public-facing March meeting. Bring a friend and donations to benefit A Place to Turn.

**Late March** – spring pansy planting downtown. Watch your email for a sign-up genius.

**Saturday, May 10** – summer downtown planting

**Saturday, May 31** - plant sale set-up day

**Sunday, June 1** – plant sale! Community Senior Center

**Saturday, June 7** – NGC membership picnic (rain date June 8)

Further 2025 meeting dates can be found online or in your membership booklet.

## News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

### Lyman Estate and Greenhouse Field Trip

The next field trip will be on Thursday March 6 at 10:00 am for a private tour of the Lyman Estate Mansion followed by a walk through the greenhouses on our own. We will meet at 9:15 behind the Natick Police Station to carpool.

Reservations for lunch have been made for 1:00 pm at the Chateau Restaurant in Waltham. Cost for the tour is \$13 for seniors or \$15 for adults and \$5 for your driver if you are carpooling.

Please make your check payable to The Natick Garden Club. You may give it to Jean Egerhei or Pat Polimeno at the next meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20 or mail it to Jean Egerhei 12 St. Thomas Ave. Natick 01760

RSVP by February 20 via the below sign up genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49A4AD22AAF4CE9-55093836-blooming>

### March meeting

Please help spread the word about our club by taking a flier this month to post, or give to a neighbor or friend. All are welcomed on Thursday, March 20, and it is also a time we give back to the community.

Bring canned goods and personal hygiene items with you. Cash or a check made out to A Place to Turn is always welcome. Immediate needs are cereal, coffee, spaghetti and pasta, pasta sauce, canned fruit, diapers of all sizes, baby wipes. Please no expired items.



• If you could lend time after the meeting to load food bags into your vehicle, and then transport to A Place to Turn ~9:30am Friday March 21, let Publicity Chair Kate G. know at [kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com](mailto:kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com) or text 860-794-9451.

## Spring Plantings

Mother Nature as we know is finicky next month. Spring pansy planting will tentatively be the weekend of March 22 or the weekend of March 29, depending on the weather. On Saturday with a rain date of Sunday! Debby Thompson will be firming up details and sending a sign-up genius for volunteers for this sign of spring.

## Sunshine Fund

Dee DeRuyck is the contact for the NGC Sunshine Fund. If you know of a member who should receive a card from us (eg congratulations, illness, bereavement) please let Dee know at [deede.deruyck@gmail.com](mailto:deede.deruyck@gmail.com) .

## Pollinator Garden Certification Program

Paula Panchuck submitted this interesting (and rather simple) exploration for their own gardens. Members of a national garden club can enter a pollinator garden certification program to **register their garden as pollinator friendly**. The hope is this will help to incentivize members to better support birds, bees, butterflies and other native pollinators with intentionally selected planting. [PLANT AMERICA- Plant for Pollinators | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#) for more information!

Kudos to Paula for certification on this garden:



## Recent Activities

### Voices from the Garden: Hort + Culture

The Voices from the Garden: Hort + Culture Committee held a workshop for the Garden Club on winter sowing on 1/7/25. Heather Oluwole started the event by reading an acknowledgement of how Native Americans have shared their gardening knowledge through the centuries to help others learn about gardening. Next Monica Foley did a keynote and workshop on how to create winter sowing jugs.

We are hopeful that many native seedlings from this program will be part of the Plant Sale in June. Thanks to those for their attendance!



## Photography Update

Judy Sabol reports that Li Uli will be stepping into the Lead Photographer role; thanks to Sheila Tiberio, Carolyn Thompson, Marci Sapiers and Sue Mandell for continuing as members of the Photo Squad. If there are any other interested people to chip in occasionally contact Judy at 508-314-6447.

Below are the links to photos from our November monthly meeting and the Winter Greens arranging.

### *November Meeting:*

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/186BFnYdj1kTFhFLA>

### *Winter Greens*

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/a51C5mWGzAUmqEec9>



## Check these websites for 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/eventscalendar/>
- Frederick Law Olmsted Historic Site <https://friendsoffairsted.org/programs/>
- Grow Native Massachusetts <https://www.grownativemass.org/>

## Useful links:

- 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 Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts' newsletter *The Mayflower* online at: [GCFM 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. [Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Central Sout District](#)

## Recommended Blogs:

- <http://gardenrant.com/> A recent blog pointed to a curated collection of good gardening videos.
- <http://www.enchantedgardensdesign.com/blog/> Jana's blog is always a treat! Linda Vitagliano recently traveled with an Enchanted Gardens trip to Costa Rica, enjoy these photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/sqXQizqvqJhsGjBC9>
- <http://deborahsilver.com/blog/>
- <http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/category/arbog/>
- <https://awaytogarden.com/> sign up here for Margaret Roach's free email newsletter; she gardens in Copake Falls NY in the Hudson River Valley, zone 5B so her advice is pertinent.