

<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p> <p><b><u>December 15, 2022</u></b></p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held <b>IN PERSON</b> And Via <b>ZOOM</b> on <b>December 15, 2022, Starting at 6:45</b></p>	
<a href="http://www.natickgardenclub.org">www.natickgardenclub.org</a>	December 2022

## President's Letter

As we continue to enjoy the holidays and look forward to the new year it's time to look both back and forward. Last year at this time we had an almost "normal" fall, but by the new year we were mostly back to remote meetings. Our meeting last month was wonderful. It was great to see friends, many for the first time in two years! Stacey Lee's message about local flower sourcing and no-foam was very compelling, a new way to think about future designs.

Wishing you holiday cheer and a happy healthy 2023.

*Betsy Szymczak,*

Natick Garden Club President, 2022-2023

## Dates to Remember:

- **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** **Jen Kettel – The Smaller Cut: Early Training of Young Trees**  
*in person & ZOOM NOTE: come socialize at 6:30*
- **Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** **NGC monthly meeting, in person & ZOOM**  
Rebecca Warner – Thinking Globally, Acting Locally
- **Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** **NGC board meeting, 7 pm, in person & ZOOM**
- **Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** **NGC monthly meeting, 7 pm, in person & ZOOM**  
Barb McIntosh – Herb Gardening
- **Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** **NGC monthly meeting, 7 pm, in person & ZOOM**  
Michele Schuckel – Gardening in a Changing Climate  
open meeting, public invited
- **Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** **NGC monthly meeting, 7 pm, in person & ZOOM**  
Claudia Price – Nature Nurtures: Creating Garden Waystations for Monarchs
- **Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** **NGC monthly meeting, 7 pm, in person & ZOOM**  
Ask a Gardener – Sharing Garden Ideas

## December Program

### Jen Kettel – The Smaller Cut: Early Training of Young Trees

Correcting structural defects in large, mature trees can be a risky business. Taking the time to assess the framework of young trees at planting is an often neglected and crucial step in ensuring their future health. Jen will begin by reviewing sound tree selection that matches habit with function. She will then present the markers of healthy tree architecture and demonstrate pruning techniques using her 10-step guide for correcting structural defects in the early years.

Jen Kettel is an arborist and horticulturist serving the New England area. She is a recent graduate of the American Society for Consulting Arborists (ASCA) Academy, an advanced professional training for experienced arborists.

#### Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, NGC Monthly Meeting:

**6:30 pm social, but not pot-luck**

**7:15 pm** meeting starts

Speaker at 7:30 and Zoom link live.

Meeting time: **Dec 15, 2022, 07:15 PM Eastern**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94195319387?pwd=UXZzS3hzVHYxYkNURER1a1Bod3FDUT09>

Meeting ID: 941 9531 9387

Passcode: 334720

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,94195319387#,,,,\*334720# US

+13092053325,,94195319387#,,,,\*334720# US

Dial by your location

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)



## November Meeting

### Stacey Lee – Sustainable Floral Design

Stacey Lee's presentation was not only enormously informative but also hugely entertaining. We learned about new sustainable industry products (allowing us to say goodbye to the ubiquitous flower foam aka oasis) and where to source both foliage and flowers locally, or from American farms all the while watching Stacy produce two stunning designs. And, at the end of the evening, three very lucky members went home with an original Stacey Lee arrangement. See the Google album **Judy Sabol** created for more images of a delightful evening.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/v9QDgxbTpzUAToba6>

## News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

### **MassHort Festival of Trees:**

You still have an opportunity to see dozens of beautiful trees including those created by club members at MassHort's 14<sup>th</sup> Festival of Trees, which runs every day except Christmas until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Go to <https://masshort.org/festival-of-trees/> to get your timed-entry ticket today! Tickets are limited and must be pre-purchased. MassHort also needs volunteers, info also on MassHort website or 617-933-4988.

The club's tree, crafted by **Ellen Yetman**, assisted by **Shirley Fitzpatrick**, was pictured in last month's newsletter. The theme is "Winter Wonderland" and it includes two \$50 gift cards, for Fran's Flowers and Russell's Garden Center.



## **Greening at the Library**

A big thank you to **Terry Monahan** for managing the library outdoor planters for the past few years. **Betsy Szymczak** has now taken on this responsibility, and this season led a small but mighty team: **Terry, Doris Fina, Sibby Hill** and **Susan Shipman**, as they refreshed the containers the week after the downtown planting. Two sets of photos (before and after) show the transformation, and the fall and winter teams. (The fall flowers had held up exceedingly well, thanks to our unseasonably warm autumn.)







### **Natick Garden Club on Instagram:**

Club founder **Marilyn Lustig** is now managing the Natick Garden Club's Instagram page. Thanks Marilyn! If you don't already, please follow **@natickgardenclub** for updates both historical and new. And, if you want to be featured, send Marilyn a text message with your photo(s) to 508-934-6356 and/or tag the club in your posts. To do this select 'natickgardenclub' under Tag People.

Enjoy this new way of our club's outreach!



## **Library Holiday Decorating:**

On Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, **Rhea Gallagher, Ana Timmins** and **Fran Guthery** worked at the library, adding sparkle to the holiday decorations. Stop by to see the winter scenes and the quilt exhibit. The Club has generously donated the tree previously used as the library's Giving Tree to the Natick Police Department. It is being used at the Police Station as a children's Wish Tree - very much like a giving tree. It's gratifying that the tree will be put to such an appropriate use.



## **GCFM Design Workshop**

After a two-year hiatus the Federation offered a hands-on design workshop November 30 at St. Peter's Church in Weston. **Pat Collins** and **Betsy Szymczak** had a great time arranging white lisianthus, burgundy mums, peach carnations, alstroemeria, eucalyptus and dried lotus pods.





## **Members' travels: Near and Far**

Member **Terry Monahan Fitzgibbons** visited San Antonio, Texas in November and shared a few photos from the San Antonio botanical garden, a Japanese sunken garden, and the famed river walk.





NGC Members **Linda Vitagliano** and **Jean Egerhei** just returned from a tour of Brandywine Valley gardens organized by travel author and garden speaker Jana Millbocker. The tour included Winterthur, Nemours Mansion and the Brandywine River Museum, as well as Longwood Gardens. Linda and Jean shared some photos of Longwood Gardens (here are just a few!) and reported that the trip was amazing.







### **Prepaid tick testing**

Thinking ahead to spring, member **Doris Fina** highly recommends the TickReport testing service. She says *“I have used this service twice. Amazing amount of detail in the report. I buy the basic \$50 test package.”* Right now, the company is offering Prepaid tick testing: save 10-30% on tick pathogen testing. See the attachment to this email for more information or use this link. <https://www.medzulabs.org/prepaid>

## **Send photos of your seasonal décor, we'll make an album!**

**Check these websites for events, classes and workshops of interest; *note that some organizations are moving to in person events.***

- 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/>
- Frederick Law Olmsted Historic Site <https://friendsoffairsted.org/programs/>
- Grow Native Massachusetts <https://www.grownativemass.org/>

## **Reminders:**

- Helen Johnson 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 Helen know at [helen.johnson@nemoves.com](mailto:helen.johnson@nemoves.com) or 508-958-4794
- Send photos of any and all club activities and events for inclusion in the newsletter to Catherine and Kate at [caclifford18@gmail.com](mailto:caclifford18@gmail.com) and [kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com](mailto:kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com)

## **Useful link(s):**

- The Native Plants of New England Facebook page has lots of useful information. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/367054536748975/permalink/4687926097995109/>
- Landscape designer, gardener, speaker, and writer Kathy Connolly's website is chock full of helpful information. <https://www.speakingoflandscapes.com/>
- The UMass Extension Gardener monthly e-Newsletter *Clippings* is always worth reading. You can always read it here: <https://ag.umass.edu/resources/home-lawn-garden/newsletters> 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](#)
- Natick is lucky to have both town employees and dedicated citizens actively working on sustainability initiatives, many of which align with our Club's mission to "beautify, revitalize and preserve.... for nature's sake." Please take a moment to click over to the Sustainability website



<https://www.natickma.gov/964/Sustainability> where you can subscribe to a newsletter or read back issues. Or follow their efforts on <https://www.facebook.com/sustainablenatick>

*Thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Jean Egerhei, Doris Fina, Terry Fitzgibbons, Fran Guthery, Judy Sabol, Betsy Szymczak, and Linda Vitagliano for their contributions of content and photographs to this issue.*

*Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk*