


<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>March 16, 2023</p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday March 16, 2023, at 7 pm IN PERSON and via ZOOM to socialize come in person at 6:30 or log in at 6:45 pm</p>	
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>March 2023</p>

President's Letter

While we wait for outdoor gardening activities to begin, your Board of Gardeners is hard at work planning for next year. Please take a moment to read a nominating committee update by past president Linda Lentz. A big thank you to Linda and committee members Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Catherine Clifford, Jean Egerhei, and Helen Johnson.

We were well represented at the Community Farm Maple Magic Pancake Breakfast; a big thank you to Debby Thompson and Sue Mandell for representing our club.

While anxiously waiting for a mild day to survey my garden, I traveled to three flower shows in as many weeks. A first-ever visit to the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in Seattle was amazing. Unlike the east coast shows, there were no horticulture or amateur design competitions. But more than 50 plant vendors and a dozen seminars each day made for an exciting visit. The Connecticut Flower Show small in comparison, was an easy drive; and several of my plants won ribbons! I started attending the Philadelphia Flower Show when my daughter moved to Philly 16 years ago. After being held outdoors in mid-June for two years, last week it was back to the Convention Center. I enjoyed judging begonias in the amateur horticulture competition. Gorgeous floral displays greeted visitors. A beautifully designed garden "In Search of Peace - A Tribute to Children of War" stopped me in my tracks as I walked through a woodland of white flowering bulbs, hostas, viburnums, and white doves that, suddenly, was punctuated by brilliant red impatiens. A sad and sobering reminder of the reality of this terrible war.

I hope you find solace in your garden,

Betsy Szymczak

Natick Garden Club President 2022-2023



Message From The Nominating Committee

As all of you know our Club's Mission could not be carried out if it weren't for our many dependable and hardworking volunteers. Our officers and committee chairs not only ensure that the club stays financially strong, but work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that club events are successfully coordinated and communicated to our members and the Natick Community. Many of you have heard from a member of the Nominating Committee recently and have let us know whether or not you wish to continue in your role for the 2023-2024 year. Others have been approached to see if they would be interested in being an officer or in chairing or co-chairing a committee.

We have everything in place for the remainder of 2022-2023 but now is when we plan for September. Do you have a skill (accounting, organizing, container gardening, etc.) that would be a good fit with an activity that the club does? Please consider helping out the club with your skills! If you aren't sure what's involved with an event or an officer role but want to learn—please contact one of us and we can answer your questions or partner you with the person in the role now so you can learn the details.

Those of us on the Nominating Committee have all had other roles and have worked with many of you on a variety of events—we all agree that doing the extra work has been meaningful for us personally and hope that it has benefitted the club—we'd like others to have the same experience!

The Nominating Committee includes Betsy Szymczak, Helen Johnson, Jean Egerhei, Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Catherine Clifford, and Linda Lentz as Chair.



Dates to Remember

- **Thursday, March 16, 2023** – NGC monthly meeting, ZOOM & in person

NOTE: As the club has done traditionally, we will be collecting food and monetary donations to help to stock the shelves of a Natick food pantry. This year the donations are for **A Place to Turn (APTT)**. Please remember this need when grocery shopping. . See the website for the most needed items and note that APTT gets steep discounts when they purchase, so monetary donations are particularly welcome. <https://www.aplacetoturn-natick.org/donation-request-list/>

Topic: NGC March meeting

Time: Mar 16, 2023, 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96400025009?pwd=WDUwdkdtRUFpSHFyM1R0Q215TEFPQT09>

Meeting ID: 964 0002 5009

Passcode: 896053

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

- **Friday or Saturday, March 24 or 25, 2023** – removing winter greens (weather dependent.)
Time TBA via email
- **Saturday, April 1, 2023 (rain date TBD) – TENTATIVE** – downtown planting Pansies! 10 a.m. in front of Fair & Yeager. Confirmation via email.
- **Thursday, April 20, 2023** – NGC monthly meeting, Claudia Price – Nature Nurtures: Creating Garden Waystations for Monarchs
- **Saturday, April 29, 2023** – Eco Natick, NGC's information table at Monica Foley's garden
- **Wednesday, May 3, 2023** – Art in Bloom floral design workshop
- **Saturday, June 3, 2023** – Plant Sale

March Program

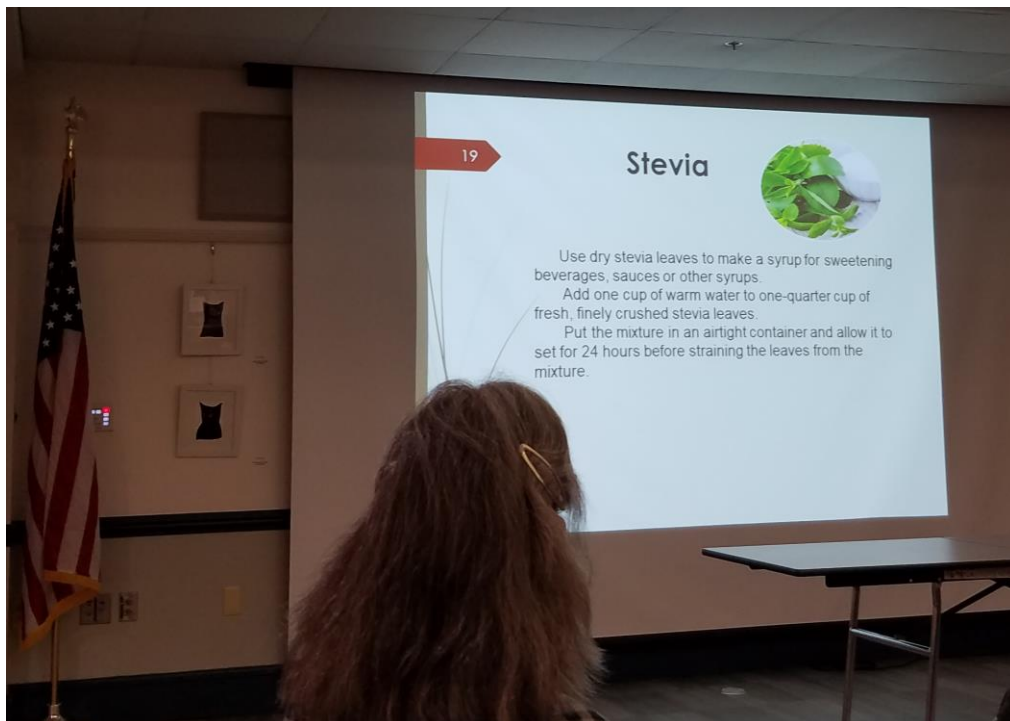
Gardening in a Changing Climate – *Michele Schuckel*

How can we, as gardeners and stewards of our beautiful New England, advocate and protect our ecosystems while still finding beauty, peace and joy in our plant-based passions? Michele Schuckel will discuss rain gardens, vernal pools, an accelerating carbon cycle, shifting plant zones and more. She will empower us to take actionable steps to make a difference in our own backyards.

February Meeting

Herb Gardening – *Barb McIntosh*

Barb McIntosh's talk was full of helpful tips about growing, preserving and cooking with herbs. She "peppered" it with humor, answered our questions and passed around samples of her fragrant dried herbs. She also provided two handouts which are attached to the email.



News, Notes, and Upcoming Events



Natick Community Organic Farm's Maple Magic Pancake Breakfast

Debby Thompson and Sue Mandell staffed the club's table and reported it was a lovely event. Lots of material handed out and maybe a new member or two will result.

Worcester Art Museum's Flora in Winter

Always a treat, Worcester Art Museum's Flora in Winter was the first of the club's organized trips in 2023. On March 2nd, a dozen members of the club enjoyed a private tour followed by lunch. Thanks to our trip coordinator Jean Egerhei for pulling this trip together so quickly. Here's the link to the album Judy Sabol created <https://photos.app.goo.gl/PszNqA4CMx7exNUJ9>



Needham Art in Bloom

Our thanks to Susan Shipman for sharing these photographs.



Tower Hill Orchid and Camellia Flower Show



Philadelphia & Northwest Flower & Garden Shows:



Sad news:

Long time members will remember Ginny Chew who was an active member of our club for several years and recently passed away. Ginny, who would have been 94 in May, loved our garden trips and tours. She is in the upper left.



Mark Your Calendars for this NGC activity...

Downtown Pansy Planting

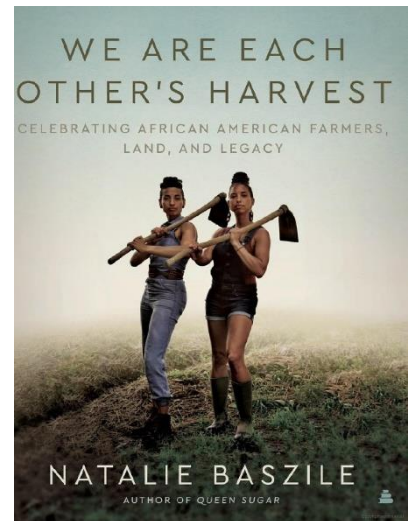
In two parts, and weather dependent as always (New England spring is always a surprise!) we plan to remove the winter greens on either **Friday or Saturday, March 24 or 25**. Martha Coleman will announce the time and place via email. Then, on **Saturday, April 1st** – again depending on weather, we will be bringing spring to downtown Natick and planting Pansies! **10 a.m. in front of Fair & Yeager**, bring a trowel, and please wear your NGC swag. Once again, confirmation and signup will be via email.

Voices in The Garden

March Book Review by **Heather Oluwole**

“We Are Each Other’s Harvest” - Celebrating African American Farmers, Land and Legacy by Natalie Baszile Armistad, 2021 368 pages

We are Each Other’s Harvest, Celebrating African American Farmers, Land and Legacy is an engaging, provocative, thought-provoking exploration and celebration of Black farming in America. At the opening of the book, Natalie Bazile describes a mural intended to be a tribute to farmers, which shows an image of a white man, in plaid shirt and jeans in a vast field, with a tractor. This is a common image and familiar to most when thinking of farmers. Bazile asks what can be missing from our understanding and appreciation of American farming, if this is our only view. What stories would Black farmers tell? This anthology is full of essays, interviews, personal family stories, poems and photos that provide a historical and present day look at Black farmers and their stories.



Through the stories we learn of some poignant struggles and emerging from these see the persistence, adaptability and community ties and learn about the Black farmers that laid the groundwork for today’s local farming movement. We read of Dr. George Washington Carver, who taught regenerative farming practices; Booker T. Whatley who innovated the idea of “pick your own” and community-based agriculture. As well as Shirley and Charles Serrod, who helped to form a community trust on 5,700 acres of Black-owned land in Georgia.

A key theme that runs through this anthology is land ownership and as we read these stories, the joy and passion come through, despite the struggles encountered. We learn about generational Black family farms that establish and expand their land base and pass on farming knowledge to new generations.

We are Each Other’s Harvest lifts up the voices and stories of black farmers and communities of color, inspiring stories of perseverance and resilience, while bringing to light the challenges that continue to be faced. Luminous and enlightening, this collection captures the celebration of African American farmers, their land and legacy.

I highly recommend this stunning and moving book which left me wanting to have discussions with others who have read it.

Native Ground Cover of the Month (from Master Gardener Newsletter)

Canadian wild ginger - *Asarum canadense*

While European ginger (*Asarum europaeum*) is a commonly used ground cover in many New England gardens, our native wild ginger, *Asarum canadense*, is a great alternative for gardeners looking to include more native plants in their landscapes. European ginger has glossier leaves than Canadian ginger and is more commonly available. *A. canadense* is a tough, easy to grow perennial that can be used to cover a large expanse of dry shade or be planted under trees and shrubs to eliminate the need for bark mulch.

Growing 6-12" high, wild ginger is found wild in woodlands across Eastern and Central North America; the plant is hardy enough to survive all the way to [USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 3](#).



Wild ginger features attractive deep green, heart-shaped leaves that appear as spring ephemerals are fading, making it a good filler for the remainder of the growing season. The plant spreads by rhizomes, creating a dense root system to form large colonies over time. An added benefit is that the leaves are a food source for the pipevine swallowtail butterfly (*Battus philenor*), pictured left.

The plant prefers acidic soil and shade to part shade conditions. Wild ginger has attractive cup-shaped, reddish brown flowers that are hidden under the foliage where they are pollinated by ants and flies.

Wild ginger gets its name from the fact that the rhizomes smell of ginger when crushed, although the plant is not related to culinary ginger root. Its strong scent makes it unappealing to most herbivores including rabbits and deer.



In case you haven't ordered your seeds yet, here are the Members' Seed & Plant Catalog recommendations again.

(note: blue means multiple recommendations, order is alphabetical.)

Baker Creek <https://www.rareseeds.com> - this "catalog" is 500+ pages and costs \$10, the free edition is 162 pages! They source globally.

Burpee <https://www.burpee.com/> (less expensive option.)

Fedco <https://www.fedcoseeds.com/>

Geoseed <https://geoseed.com/> Principally flowers, very few photos in catalog

High Mowing seeds <https://www.highmowingseeds.com/>

Johnny's <https://www.johnnyseeds.com/>

Old House <https://oldhousegardens.com> summer bulbs: glads, dahlias, canna lilies

Pinetree Seeds <https://www.superseeds.com/> unusual and inexpensive

Prairie Moon Nursery www.prairiemoon.com also ships bare root plants

Renee's Garden <https://www.reneesgarden.com/> great patio planter annual seeds, and detailed seed packets.

Select Seeds <https://www.selectseeds.com>

Territorial Seed Co <https://territorialseed.com/> a little bit of everything

Totally Tomatoes <https://www.totallytomato.com/>

Seed Savers Exchange <https://www.seedsavers.org/>

Vermont Bean Seed <https://www.vermontbean.com/>

Wild Seed Project <https://wildseedproject.net/>

Check these websites for events, classes and workshops of interest; note that some organizations are moving back 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://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>

Recommended Blogs:

<http://www.enchantedgardensdesign.com/blog/> Jana's blog is always a treat!
The current entry is on longstalk holly (Ilex pedunculosa).

<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.

<http://gardenrant.com/> A recent blog post humorously compared snowdrop enthusiasts to fans of daffodils.

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 or 508-958-4794
- 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 have gone to relatively local places of horticultural interest, please let trip coordinator **Jean Egerhei** know jegerhei@gmail.com
- If you travel near or far to a garden, send your photos to **Catherine Clifford** at caclifford18@gmail.com or **Kate Grzesiuk** at kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com



Many thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Martha Coleman, Linda Lentz, Sue Mandell, Heather Oluwole, Ann Peterson, Judy Sabol, Susan Shipman, Betsy Szymczak, and Geri Wadness for their contributions to this issue.

Your Newsletter team: Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk