

<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p> <p><b>March 17, 2022</b></p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday <b>March 17, 2022, at 7 pm</b>  <b>IN PERSON</b>  <b>and via ZOOM</b>  <b>log in at 6:45 pm</b>  <b>to socialize</b></p>	
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>March 2022</p>

## President's Letter

Moving clocks forward, longer days, warmer sun and melting snow are all welcome signs of winter coming to an end and gardening season about to begin. The annual April celebration of Earth Day is another sign of spring.

In past years the Garden Club, in coordination with the town, participated in Earth Day, providing information for adults and seed planting activities for children. This year a new model will be used for the event: activities will not be centralized on the town common but rather held at locations throughout the town. This will make the event more suited for brick and mortar locations for businesses or at homes where environmental sustaining ideas have been implemented. Rather than participate as the Garden Club for the first year of the new model, I've included the information below for those of you who want to participate as an individual.

- ***EcoNatick is partnering with community groups, organizations, families, individuals, businesses, and houses of worship to host Earth-friendly (mostly outdoor) activities all over town (think First Night or Artists Open Studios). We will feature these events on [EcoNatick.org](http://EcoNatick.org)***
- ***Event Host Guide 2-pager to provide the details, along with the link to our Event Host Registration Form. Due April 1st***

Another sign of spring coming in April—Natick Garden Club Downtown Spring Planting!! Continue reading for more information.

*Linda Lentz*

Natick Garden Club President 2021-2022

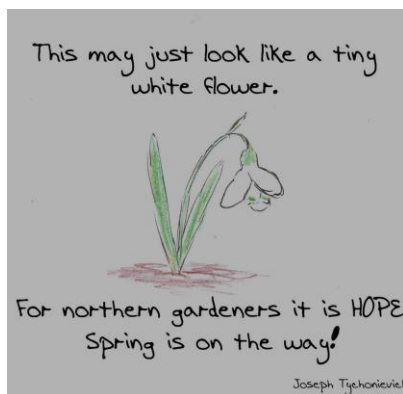
**Of Special Interest:**

The chairs of the following committees are planning to step down, or are requesting an additional team member. **The current committee chairs will be happy to help you understand what is involved and assist with the transition.**

Current openings for 2022-2023 are:

- Downtown Planting Spring – One or two people
- Downtown Planting Summer – One or two people
- Library Containers
- Library and Pollinator Gardens – One or two people
- Natick Days
- Vice President

Nominating committee chair Jean Egerhei needs a non-board member volunteer to complete the committee. It's a critical, but short-term, commitment and a great way to get to know your fellow club members.



## **Dates to Remember**

- **Thursday, March 17, 2022** – 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 Natick Service Council's shelves. Please remember this need when shopping. Most needed items: Cereal; Instant coffee; 4 oz cans of fruits and vegetables; Soup; Baking items: oil, flour, cake mix

Topic: NGC March program

Time: Mar 17, 2022 06:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86811788053?pwd=eW9QMjBWMGN6eWZYb29Xa0JMZCtMQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 1178 8053

Passcode: 361462

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

- **Saturday, March 19, 2022** – removing winter greens (weather dependent.) Time TBA via email
- **Friday, March 25 (rain date Saturday, March 26) – TENTATIVE** – downtown planting Pansies! 10 a.m. in front of Fair & Yeager. Confirmation via email.
- **Thursday, April 21, 2022** – NGC monthly meeting
- **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
- **Saturday, June 4, 2022** – Plant Sale (Auction if possible)

## March Program

### **Rethinking Uses for Annuals** – *Sally Muspratt*

Are perennials really the most economical and beautiful plants for a flower garden? This talk explores the special virtues of annuals in areas where winters regularly ruin plantings, as “rough drafts” for permanent plantings, as the best choice where bright color is essential and as an alternative for the gardener who delights in reinventing her garden every year.

## February Meeting

### **Tales of a Gardener's Journey** – *Debra Alvarez*

Debra Alvarez's Zoom presentation highlighted what we all instinctively know, that gardens and gardening not only make us happy, but have wonderful health benefits as well. Her photos of the three gardens in her presentation were beautiful (although we could have wished she'd stayed on the paths and used a longer lens in the Tetons!) and may have added to some of our garden-bucket-lists!

## News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

### Ordering NGC Logo Items

This year's order form for logo items is attached to this email. Orders will be taken in February and early March for delivery in April. Here's the list of what is available. **Please know there are now minimum orders for some items, most importantly hats.** Alison Parnes ([aparnes@verizon.net](mailto:aparnes@verizon.net)) is happy to answer any questions.

- Pink or Navy short-sleeve polo S-M-L \$25, XL-XXL \$28
- Khaki Bucket Hat (2 sizes, same price) S/M \$19.50, L/XL \$19.50
- Stone Baseball Hat \$18.50
- Apron, Stone or Hunter Green \$22
- Tote Bag White with green straps \$25
- Your own personal items (vest, fleece jackets, etc.) can have a garden club logo as well \$15.



*Logo on bucket hat*

### 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 2022. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, Pat Collins, Jean Egerhei, Rosalind Forber & her daughter Stephanie, new member

Donna McPherson, Pat Polimeno, Sheila Tiberio and Geri Wadness enjoyed a private tour followed by lunch. Thanks to our trip coordinator Jean Egerhei for pulling this trip together so quickly.





## Mark Your Calendars for these NGC activities...

### Downtown Pansy Planting

In two parts, and weather dependent as always (New England spring is always a surprise!) we'll remove the winter greens on **Saturday, March 19, 2022**. Martha Coleman will announce the time and place via email. Then, on **Friday, March 25 (rain date Saturday, March 26)** – 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.

### Art in Bloom 2022!

May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Morse Institute Library. Our designers, listed below, will be inspired by art from the Natick Artists Association. There is still time to sign up, teams are welcome, and coaching is available for novice designers, so contact the coordinators to let them know you are interested in becoming part of this new club event.

Introducing our floral designers for Art in Bloom 2022

Elizabeth Carroll  
Rose Coyman and Julie Mason  
Jean Egerhei  
Doris Fina  
Terry Fitzgibbons  
Monica Foley  
Kate Grzesiuk  
Joyce Hannaford  
Sibby Hill  
Lucy Morris and Lillian Graffam  
Donna McPherson  
Doreen O'Connor  
Susan Shipman  
Donna Thibault

*Art in Bloom 2022 Committee*

<i>Elizabeth Carroll</i>	<i><u><a href="mailto:elizabethTcarroll@gmail.com">elizabethTcarroll@gmail.com</a></u></i>
<i>Monica Foley</i>	<i><u><a href="mailto:mfoley1324@gmail.com">mfoley1324@gmail.com</a></u></i>
<i>Donna Thibault</i>	<i><u><a href="mailto:donna.thibault@verizon.net">donna.thibault@verizon.net</a></u></i>

## And these virtual events 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 coincides with the opening of the Bacon Library's new **Seed Sharing Library**.

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. See the attached 2022 Program Document for lecture descriptions and links to sign up.

The next program is on **March 23** | 6:30 pm | Virtual | Natick Gardens Program

**Preparing the Soil for Gardening:** The quality and make-up of your soil has a huge influence on how well your plants will do. Unlike sunlight, air, and water (the other 3 requirements), you can't tell whether your soils are right for your plants by looking at your soil or even by looking at your plants. Learn about soil structure, compaction, fertility, and pH, and learn how you can modify these qualities for a more successful garden.

Gretel Anspach is a Trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a Lifetime Master Gardener with the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, and a recently-retired systems engineer for Raytheon. She won the MMGA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. 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. Her primary interest and focus is always in the science behind horticulture.

Signup: Community Pass

[https://register.capturepoint.com/reg/cat\\_program\\_list\\_detail.cfm?season\\_id=19130&program\\_id=1663838](https://register.capturepoint.com/reg/cat_program_list_detail.cfm?season_id=19130&program_id=1663838)



## How we are keeping busy...

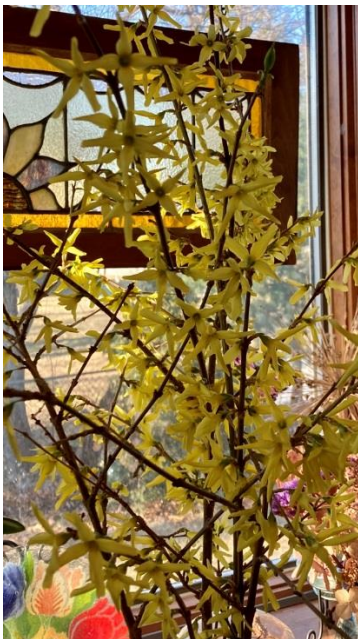
**Marilyn Lustig** is caring for her granddaughter, and has kept a monthly personal newsletter (hardcopy) that she mails to her daughter. Marilyn tells us “It’s a creative outlet for me & a great communication with my far away daughter, filled with things I’ve read, seen & heard. I also draw pictures or copy pictures. It’s a journal between the 2 of us. I got the idea from an article in the New York Times & that person made copies that she sent to all family & friends. Mine is personalized to just the one child but very fulfilling for both of us.”

**Elizabeth Vincent Owen** sent this description of her garden and tool maintenance efforts: “I have treated my tools. I painted the handles of small hand tools a bright color so I can find them if I happen to leave them in the garden, then then polished them with beeswax or clear wax. This will last most of the summer, depending on how much the tool is used. My shovel handle is especially important to me. Every year I fill any small gaps with wood filler, sand and cover it with boiled linseed oil. This year I’m going to use beeswax on top of that too. It has been fine with just the boiled linseed oil. I’m just experimenting this year. I also treated my stirrup hoe (if that’s the right name) in the same manner.

I have some old logs that I am hoping to use in a way to tame the raspberry “forest”. I have treated the logs with polyurethane and will let you know if the project progresses and if it’s successful. Also, I planted some daffodils Saturday and we’ll see how they do.

**Pat Collins** reports that she’s sorting and discarding old papers, and can’t wait for spring!

**Judy Sabol** has sowed arugula in her cold frame, and forced forsythia to bring spring indoors!



## Members' travels...near and far

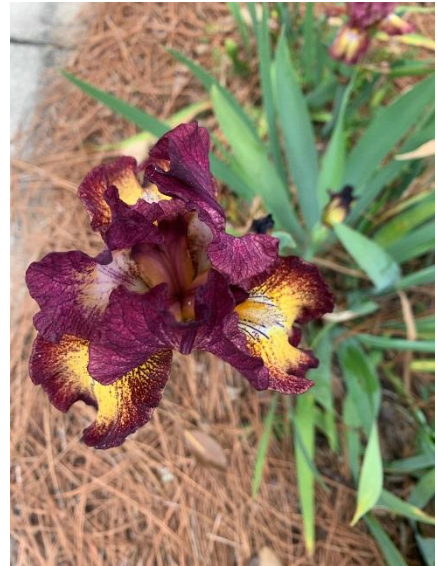
**Carolyn Wirth** escaped to warmer Atlanta to spend a month with her family and experienced an early spring, then came home to have another one in her own garden!



**Laurie Adelstein** sent us photos from her trip to St Croix, where the frangipani tree blooms, after dropping most of its leaves. (Maybe to make it easier for pollinators to find them???)



**Elizabeth Carroll** is visiting family in Auburn, GA and sent us these photos. Note the pine straw mulch in the last photo.



**Julie Mason** enjoyed visiting this butterfly garden in Aruba.



**Pam Harrington** travelled to the Big Island of Hawaii in November, 2021, to visit during the Kona Coffee Festival. Anyone who knows Pam, knows she speaks the truth when she says that the combination of gardens and coffee is her idea of paradise!



**Elizabeth Vincent Owen** sent us photos from St James Park, London, where spring has definitely begun!



**Just 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](http://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 winter sowing, which a number of members do with great success.

<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 pointed to a curated collection of good gardening videos. You can see them here <https://goodgardeningvideos.org/>

## 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](mailto: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 travel virtually to places of horticultural interest, please let trip coordinator **Jean Egerhei** know [jeegerhei@gmail.com](mailto:jeegerhei@gmail.com) and if you physically go someplace, send your photos to **Catherine Clifford** at [caclifford18@gmail.com](mailto:caclifford18@gmail.com) or **Kate Grzesiuk** at [kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com](mailto:kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com)

*Many thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Pat Collins, Jean Egerhei, Doris Fina, Monica Foley, Pam Harrington, Linda Lentz, Marilyn Lustig, Julie Mason, Elizabeth Vincent Owen, Alison Parnes, Pat Polimeno, Judy Sabol, Susan Shipman, Betsy Szymczak, Sheila Tiberio, and Geri Wadness for their contributions to this issue.*

*Your Newsletter team: Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk*