

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

President's Letter

Volunteer — a noun or a verb

- **A person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task**
 - Participant
- **Freely offer to do something**
 - Step forward, offer one's services, make oneself available

Volunteers are the heartbeat of the wonderful work done by the Natick Garden Club and perhaps why many of us joined the club and give so freely of our time and expertise. Being a member of the club and volunteering at a number of events, for me, has been a great experience of learning and meeting new people. While I'm not a very advanced gardener and was not sure how I could possibly contribute at first, I soon realized that no matter my skill or capabilities, there is always a way to help. As the club has grown so have the activities and so has the need for volunteers!

Below are some of the upcoming events — all wonderful activities and all opportunities to get out after a long winter and to reconnect with gardening and friends. The event chairs are already working on the planning for each activity so please mark your calendars and give thought to when you'd like to help out.

- **Spring Planting — TBD based on plant availability: aiming for March 24-26 or March 31-April 2**
- **Natick's Earth Day — April 30 and May 1 – NGC will participate one day, TBD**
- **Art in Bloom — May 14 and 15, at the Morse Institute Library**
- **Summer Planting — May 21, rain date May 22**
- **Plant Sale or Auction — June 4 – the Senior Center has been reserved!!!**
- **Natick Days — September (no specific date yet)**

There are other ways to contribute as well; the chairs of the following committees are planning to step down, or are requesting an additional team member.

Current openings for 2022-2023 are:

- Downtown Planting Spring – One or two people
- Downtown Planting Summer – One or two people
- Downtown Planting Fall – opening for an assistant to Elizabeth Carroll
- Downtown Winter Greens – One or two people
- Earth Day
- Facebook
- Horticulture
- Library Containers
- Library and Pollinator Gardens – One or two people
- Natick Days
- Vice President

We are also looking for someone to organize Natick’s Earth Day **this year**. There is a “play-book” and the previous chair will be available to provide “coaching”.

Nominating committee chair Jean Egerhei is looking for two volunteers to complete the Nominating committee, one board member, and one at-large (non-board member.)

Additional openings may arise and will be “advertised” as they occur.
Please let Jean Egerhei (jeegerhei@gmail.com) know which area you’d like to pursue.

I hope you will consider filling one of these roles; **the current committee chairs will be happy to help you understand what is involved and assist with the transition.**

Thank you all for your continued help with the good work that we do!!

Linda Lentz

Natick Garden Club President 2021-2022



Dates to Remember

- **Thursday, February 17, 2022** - NGC monthly meeting, 7 – 8:30 pm, via Zoom **ONLY**
Note: Please log in at least a few minutes before 7, the link will be live at 6:45 for socializing.

- Topic: Natick Garden Club February Meeting
Time: Feb 17, 2022 06:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86555582163?pwd=VitkWDhzbjhiV1dPN3hDRFZCa2M3UT09>

Meeting ID: 865 5558 2163

Passcode: 799621

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

- **Thursday, March 17, 2022** – NGC monthly meeting, ZOOM & in person
 - NOTE: As the club has done traditionally, we will be collecting to help to stock the Natick Service Council's shelves. Please remember this need when shopping this month. Check their website to see their most needed items.
 - <https://natickservicecouncil.org/in-kind-donations/>
- **Saturday & Sunday, May 14 & 15, 2022** – Art in Bloom
- **Saturday, June 4, Plant Sale (Auction if possible)**

February Program

Tales of a Gardener's Journey – Debra Alvarez

Be ready to be whisked off to three remarkable gardens, each located in a different region of the country. It will be a feast for the eyes as you discover the beauty of Teton wildflowers, the festive horticultural sculptures of the south, and gorgeous Italian Renaissance gardens of historic New England. There will be each garden's special exhibits, architectural landscaping details, historical facts and botanical nuggets. Because gardens have been so important during the pandemic, Debra will discuss the health and wellness benefits each garden offers and the research that supports those benefits.

January Meeting

"A Piet Oudolf Story" – Deborah Chud

In a fast-paced Zoom presentation, Deborah Chud gave us an overview of the design principles of the leading naturalistic landscape and garden designer in the world, Piet Oudolf. Her story began with an 'ah ha' moment in a Oudolf garden that led her to devote five years to researching how to reproduce that feeling in her own (much smaller) landscape, and culminated in her creation of the only known database of his plant combinations.

<https://deborah-chud-naturalistic-garden-consultancy.business.site/>

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) 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

Mark Your Calendars for these NGC activities...

Art in Bloom 2022!

Our second Art in Bloom event is on the calendar! It will be held indoors at the Morse Institute Library on the weekend of May 14th and 15th. Once again, the club will provide floral arrangements, and this year the inspiration will come from art from the Natick Artists Association.

This was a terrific event last year, and we hope to repeat its success. The committee is asking for members to sign up, either solo or with a partner, to create an arrangement. You'll have a budget, and will be matched with a piece of art. And, new this year, there will be an opportunity to purchase your flowers from designated wholesalers at the Chelsea Flower Market.

If you hesitated last year, consider signing up for this year's event. Repeat performances welcome too!

For all the FAQs, see the attachment to this email.

Art in Bloom 2022 Committee

Elizabeth Carroll	elizabethTcarroll@gmail.com
Monica Foley	mfoley1324@gmail.com
Donna Thibault	donna.thibault@verizon.net

And for virtual events of interest...

Tower Hill Botanical Garden has a good variety of events for February and beyond. Here are a few:

- Ecology Series, Wednesdays in Feb. 6:30-7:30 pm, 2-23rd, \$10 M, \$15 NM.
- Orchid Exhibition with art 2/12 & 13, 10-4 pm,

Check the website for more information. <https://www.towerhillbg.org/2021/12/23/january-february-2022-e-bulletin/>

MassHort also has a lot of offerings for the winter months. <http://www.masshort.org/>

NOTE: **Heather Oluwole** is our horticulture reporter, and welcomes member suggestions about the type of information they would like to see on horticulture topics.

HeatherOluwole@hotmail.com

How we are keeping busy...

(Some, but not all, of these activities have photos on the following pages.)

Deb Thompson: sorting and organizing 35 years-worth of family photos! And Deb says she's deep into the Netflix series *Trial 4*, set in Boston. <https://www.netflix.com/title/80202347>

Laurie Adelstein: Pushing a huge log down a hill toward our cabin for eventual splitting- we call it "squishing trolls" and cooking: homemade hamburger roll for venison mushroom burger with umatilla sauce.

Judy Logan: recalling sunny days by cataloging last summer's flower photos, AND cleaning and celebrating her now spotless oven.

Monica Foley: making jewelry (and planning Art in Bloom of course.)

Kate Grzesiuk: making wreaths for as gifts family and friends and to sell.

Elizabeth Carroll: creating a window garden, and enjoying the amaryllis that bloomed in time for Valentine's day.

Betsy Szymczak: winter sowing, and growing gorgeous Streptocarpus hybrids under lights in her basement.

Catherine Clifford: airfrying vegetables for soup for family, friends and the freezer. And doing jigsaw puzzles to avoid either cleaning her oven or organizing family photos.

Joyce Hannaford: making plans to add even more plants to her garden, which is featured in the March/April 2022 issue of Garden Gate magazine. And doing jigsaw puzzles.

Jill Miller: knitting up a storm and doing jigsaw puzzles. And waiting as patiently as possible for the soil to warm.

Lucy Morris: lots of reading. Lucy highly recommends "The Rose Code" by Kate Quinn, interesting historical fiction based on the real female code breakers at Bletchley Park during WWII and a recent selection of her book group. <https://mysterythrillerweek.com/2021/06/17/interview-with-the-author-of-the-rose-code-kate-quinn/>

Martha Emerson: delighting in her gorgeous amaryllis!









Members' travels...near and far

Sue Mandell escaped to warmer Sanibel Island and sent us these.



Members' Seed & Plant Catalog recommendations (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>

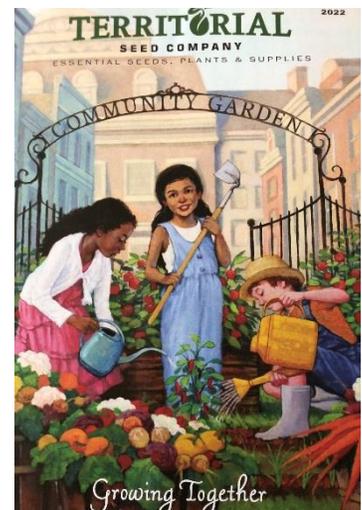
Territorial Seed Co <https://territorialseed.com/> a little bit of everything

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 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 or 617-750-1422
- Recycling gardening books, magazines, or catalogs you no longer want or need is challenging these days. If anyone wants to do an outside “meet up and book/catalog/magazine swap” on a sunny day, let’s try to make it happen. Alternatively, 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 jegerhei@gmail.com and if you physically go someplace, send your photos to **Catherine Clifford** at caclifford18@gmail.com or **Kate Grzesiuk** at kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com

Many thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Jean Egerhei, Martha Emerson, Monica Foley, Joyce Hannaford, Linda Lentz, Judy Logan, Sue Mandell, Mary Meehan, Jill Miller, Lucy Morris, Alison Parnes, Pat Polimeno, Judy Sabol, Betsy Szymczak, Deb Thompson, and Geri Wadness for their contributions to this issue.

*Your Newsletter team: Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk
Picture from 2017 Auction*

