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| <p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>January 19, 2023</p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday January 19, 2023, at 6:30 pm in person and via ZOOM</p> |  |
| <p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p> | <p>January 2023</p> |

President’s Letter

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the holidays! The annual Mass Horticulture Festival of Trees was a highlight for me. I was a volunteer floor monitor on the Sunday before Christmas. In addition to the lovely Natick Garden Club tree ‘New England Winter’ decorated by **Ellen Yetman** and **Shirley Fitzpatrick**, other club members contributed trees to this holiday fundraiser. **Beth Gray-Nix** decorated two trees, ‘Bees and Buds’ and ‘Berry Bruin’. **Catherine Clifford, Elizabeth Carroll and Kate Grzesiuk**, created a ‘Cookies for Santa’ tree, and Catherine and her friend Diana Mills donated a ‘Bakers Dream’.

A big thank you to **Rhea Gallagher** and **Fran Guthery** for assisting the library with holiday decorations.

January brings another seed catalog to my mailbox almost every day and the days are getting longer – really! January 28th is National Seed Swap Day. Perhaps a seed swap can be part of our May DIY meeting. <https://nationaltoday.com/national-seed-swap-day/>
 Stay warm, only 9 weeks to the first day of Spring!

Betsy Szymczak
 Natick Garden Club President 2022-2023





“New England Winter”



“Bees and Buds”



“Cookies for Santa”



“Bakers’ Dream”

Dates to Remember

- **Thursday, January 19, 2023** - NGC monthly meeting, 7 – 8:30 pm, **in person & via Zoom**
- **Note:** please log at least a few minutes before 7, the link will be live at 6:30 for socializing.
- **Join Zoom Meeting**
<https://zoom.us/j/96322743794?pwd=MjQ4bzJKL1JsZDMvZkNIM3dvTzNIUT09>

Meeting ID: 963 2274 3794

Passcode: 809810

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

- **Thursday, February 2, 2023** – Board of Gardeners meeting, 7-9 pm, in person
- **Thursday, February 16, 2023** – NGC monthly meeting, Barb McIntosh – Herb Gardening,
- **Saturday, March 4, 2023** – NGC table at NCOF's Maple Magic
- **Thursday, March 16, 2023** – NGC monthly meeting, Michele Schuckel – Gardening in a Changing Climate
- **Thursday, April 20, 2023** – NGC monthly meeting,, Claudia Price – Nature Nurtures: Creating Garden Waystations for Monarchs

January Program

Thinking Globally, Acting in Your Own Yard – *Rebecca Warner*

What we do in our own yards can make a difference for the environment. Rebecca Warner will show us how we can do our part to reduce pollution and energy use, conserve water and prevent storm water runoff by replacing some lawn with alternatives.

https://www.instagram.com/sustainable_enough_garden/?hl=en

December Meeting

Establishing Strong Architecture in Young Trees – *Jan Kettel*

It is wonderful to be able to meet in person again, and Natick's own Jen Kettel, arborist and owner of Radiant Leaf Consulting, gave an enormously informative presentation on tree pruning. Her talk on pruning young trees focused on using smaller cuts. While this editor very much enjoyed the talk, I did not take great notes! Jen has graciously shared her powerpoint so pour a cup of tea and navigate to radiantleaf.com/natick . Password is: holiday



News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

Holiday Giving Space at Morse Institute

Giving tree coordinators **Fran Guthery** and **Rhea Gallagher**, with help from **Ana Timmins**, took the library holiday themed decorations down and replaced them with winter themed items the library had purchased. The library delivered the contributions to A Place to Turn, in addition to the hats, mittens, scarves, etc., that covered the wall, there were two filled to overflowing baskets of warm outerwear. The Christmas tree was donated by the garden club to the Police station for their annual holiday drive.

Club Housekeeping Notes & Requests:

Refreshments

Martha Coleman has a system for making certain we have snacks at our meetings: 10 people are asked to bring something each month. If you are asked and are not able to bring something, Martha asks that you let her know as soon as possible so she can continue down the list. It does not need to be anything fancy, (although it could be if you are so inspired) and store bought is perfectly fine. Everyone who attends appreciates your contribution, especially Martha.

Instagram

Marilyn Lustig is our Instagram-er for the club and since pictures for winter can be a challenge, she asks that members to send her pictures of their houseplants, forced bulbs, seed starting efforts inside or out, or anything of horticultural interest they'd like to share. Please include identifying information – plant names especially. Marilyn wants you to be assured that of course no identifying information will be posted. Send your submissions to marilyn@darrah.at.

ZOOM

Laurie Adelstein, who has made our ZOOM meetings possible since the beginning of the pandemic, is looking for 1 or 2 members to help her with managing Zoom for our meetings. Are you interested in improving your Zoom skills? Or do you feel Zoom-competent? Email Laurie at ladelstein4@gmail.com if you're interested in helping the club in this way.

Penny Pines

Pat Polimeno will be collecting for Penny Pines at the January and February meetings, so bring your wallets.

Newsletter

Kate Grzesiuk and **Catherine Clifford** are looking for a member to join the newsletter team. Let us know if you'd like to give it a try.

Mark Your Calendars for these NGC activities...

Maple Magic – An Invitation

After a two-year hiatus the Natick Organic Community Farm will once again celebrate Maple Magic. On Saturday March 4, a pancake breakfast at Memorial School will start the day. Maple sugaring tours at the farm are also planned. We have been invited to host a table in the school lobby. The organizers would like us to share information about the Natick Garden Club. The hours are 8:00-11:00AM. Contact **Betsy Szymczak** if you are interested in volunteering or need more information. szymczakb@gmail.com

Art in Bloom

A Floral Design Workshop is in the works for this Spring! The Art in Bloom Committee is busy planning a workshop to encourage club members to participate in Natick's Art in Bloom 2024. Have you thought about being a floral designer for the event but didn't feel confident? Were you an Art in Bloom floral designer who felt like you would like to learn more? This will be your chance to learn all about how to create a floral arrangement that is inspired by a piece of artwork. Stay tuned for more information.

To inspire you here is a great YouTube video on floral design for an Art in Bloom event. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynMHK0f5wMY>

Your Art in Bloom Committee: **Monica Foley, Elizabeth Carroll and Donna Thibault**

Photos of Art in Bloom 2021 to inspire you!!



And for virtual (and some in person) events of interest...

There are attachments to the email for the following

- Sue Mandell suggests the free Webinars offered on native gardening by the Tewksbury Public Library
- Grow Native Massachusetts' Evenings with Experts has its usual great line up of speakers
- MassHort has a host of offerings, including a book club.

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
- Grow Native Massachusetts <https://www.grownativemass.org/>

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>

Recommended Blogs:

<http://www.enchantedgardensdesign.com/blog/> Jana's blog is always a treat!

<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:

- **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 helenjohnson@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 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 and **Kate Grzesiuk** at kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com

Many thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Martha Coleman, Monica Foley, Rhea Gallagher, Fran Guthery, Marilyn Lustig, Sue Mandell, Pat Polimeno, Betsy Szymczak, and Geri Wadness for their contributions to this issue.

Your Newsletter team: Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk at Tower Hill a year ago!

