

<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>April 8, 2021</p> <p>via Zoom</p> <p>The next monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday</p> <p>April 8, 2021,</p> <p>at 6:45 pm</p>	
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>April 2021</p>



Winter sowing by Monica Foley
(Monica's not alone in this, send in photos of your seed starting arrangements, indoors or out!)

Note from your Zoom host:

Congratulations to all of us! It was one year ago that we decided as a club to try out Zoom for our monthly programs. Remember those wonderful slides of trees from "The Growth of Trees" by Michael Wojtech? 38 of us logged into that first Zoom program and realized that this would be a viable option to move forward. And, throughout the year, we all have become more competent and comfortable with this way of engaging with each other and participating in the club's educational programs! It makes me so happy that a good portion of our members join in each month!

See you on Zoom,

Laurie

(photo from February 2020, our last in-person-with-delicious-food meeting.)



President's Letter

The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day.
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
a cloud come over the sunlit arch,
And wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March.
~ Robert Frost, *Two Tramps in Mud Time*, 1926

Well, lovely gardeners, we've watched March go out like a lamb, and here come April's warm and welcome showers. Many of us are itching to get our hands dirty, either sowing seeds or planting some beautiful annuals or perennials. Thanks to our March speaker, Michele Scheckel, and her program about the Survival of the Fittest: Native Plants, and Natural Selections, this spring we can incorporate some native plants into our gardens.

Now is a great time to look in our gardens to see what needs to be divided, replaced or evicted. Our annual plant sale needs your plants, and those plants need good homes! Many thanks to all of our members who have or are going to donate plants.

We're looking forward to our next speaker, Jen Kettell, an arborist and horticulturist serving the New England area. We are very lucky to have her share her wealth of knowledge with us next Thursday night April 8th at 6:30.

Be sure to save April 17th (12-5) and plan to attend Natick's Art in Bloom and see Natick's public art paired with floral arrangements by our very own talented garden club members. An event not to miss!

Finally, a big thank you goes out to Martha Coleman and all of the hardworking members of the garden club for removing the winter greens and replacing them a week later with very happy looking spring pansies and pussy willows. The downtown and library look amazing with a fresh spring look.
Enjoy the Spring,

Inside My Garden Gate
How I love my little garden, where I sit and contemplate.
My perfect piece of paradise inside my garden gate.
Hanging baskets, pretty pots, the flowers are brimming over.
The grass so green, the buttercups, the daisies, and the clover.
~ Susan C Walkinshaw-Kelly

Hope to see you all on zoom,
Jean Egerhei
Natick Garden Club President 2020-2021

Dates to Remember

Thursday, April 8, 2021 – NGC monthly meeting via Zoom

NOTE: we will start promptly at 6:45, so log on before then!!!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87370038696?pwd=Q0tGeW94WDcrdE9uWTl1TUVVTk1yUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 7003 8696

Passcode: 173205

Phone: +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Saturday, April 17, 2021 – Natick Art in Bloom (rain date Sunday, April 18, 2021)

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – Last day to sign up for Garden Ornament Visit

Fri-Mon, April 30 – May 3, 2021 – Art in Bloom, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Start date TBD, May-June, 2021 – Our 2nd Online plant sale, watch for emailed details

Thursday, May 20, 2021 – our annual member participation meeting, details TBA

Saturday, May 22, 2021 – Summer planting, planned, weather permitting

Saturday, June 26, 2021 – **SAVE THE DATE**: as our Annual dinner meeting pivots to a picnic!

April Program

Small Plants, Big Bang! *Jen Kettel of Radiant Leaf Consulting*

Starts at 6:45

Spring is an ideal time to be transplanting woody plants, and Jen will introduce us to new and old favorites that make the most of small spaces. In the excitement to create a beautiful outdoor living space, many gardeners overplant (in number or size). Learn about the long-term consequences of overplanting, and how to avoid it by introducing the smaller gems of the plant world into your garden. Design your next garden bed with some unique native groundcovers, dwarf conifers, and more!



March Meeting

Survival of the Fittest: Native Plants, Natural Selections

We welcomed Michele Schuckel, both a nurse and certified master gardener, to our March meeting. This annual open meeting was attended by members of the community at large as well as the membership. We want to thank all who donated to our annual effort to help out our neighbors in need by contributing to a food pantry of choice.

Michele gave us a colorful and hopeful look ahead to spring and summer by showcasing all that New England and native plants have to offer in a variety of settings. The resources she shared are attached to this email with the newsletter. In response to the questions about natives for specific locations, Michele suggests we see (or visit) the Native Plant Trust for lots of great info in addition to those linked via the attached handout. Native Trust's Plant Finder is especially helpful.

<https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/> and <https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/Plant-Search>
<http://www.naturalselectionsgardens.com/>

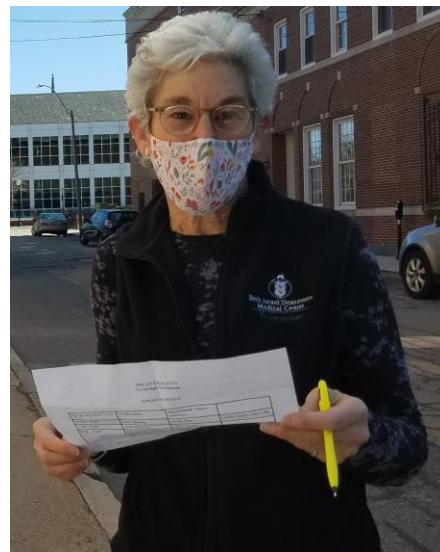
News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

Natick Community Organic Farm

In response to the heartbreaking destruction of the farm's 1815 barn in the March 17th fire the board voted on Thursday to make a donation of \$500 to the rebuilding effort.

Container and Library gardens Spring planting 2021 was a wonderful opportunity for club members to socialize safely as we planted the downtown and library containers. Martha Coleman and Terry Fitzgibbons made certain we had the right plants, Pat Polimeno, assisted by her granddaughters, picked them up from Fran's, and we had a terrific showing of members eager to mask up and plant. The photos tell the story: you can see that everyone who participated was happy they did.







*[In contrast, here's what happened in 2020: In this time of social distancing, all our outdoor activities have been curtailed or postponed, and this included the pansy planting originally scheduled for early April. However, this left the sad remnants of our holiday and winter greens arrangements in place, contributing to the overall sadness of this difficult time. So, in late March, four members (Elizabeth Carroll, Terry Fitzgibbons, Doris Fina and Catherine Clifford) worked very quickly, and **very** far from one another, to remove the no-longer-green greens from the bridge, downtown containers, and library planters. Subsequently, Jill has worked solo in the library garden to clear out winter debris and start the necessary pruning. She plans to finish up hydrangea pruning with a single, distanced helper.]*

Mark Your Calendars for These Natick Garden Club activities...

Natick's Art in Bloom



This collaboration between the Natick Center Cultural District and the Natick Garden Club is shaping up to be a terrific event! On **April 17th**, a selection of thirteen works from Natick's extensive collection of public art will be interpreted by floral arrangements created by fourteen club members. Art works have been assigned to designers, Monica Foley hosted a Tips and Tricks of floral design for the designers on April 3, and Elizabeth Carroll aided by Linda Lentz has all the rest of the details well in hand.

The club will be selling packages of photo greeting cards created by members Shirley Fitzpatrick and Sue Mandell; wildflower and sunflower seed packets Laurie Adelstein and Linda Lentz have donated, and dahlia tubers donated by Betsy Szymczak. We will need volunteers to staff the information and sidewalk sale tables. Look for

email from Linda Lentz with details about day-of volunteering opportunities.

For inspiration, see Natick's public art here: <https://www.natickcenter.org/public-art/>

Traveling Garden Ornaments

Have a garden ornament 'visit' your garden between April and October. The ornaments will circulate on a weekly basis. To have one (or more) of them visit your garden, you **MUST** sign up. It's easy, just email your answers to the questions below by April 20th to Marilyn Lustig at Marilyn@darrah.at

- An ornament will be placed in your garden.
- A packet will be hung on your door with the ornament's "itinerary" & alert you that the ornament has arrived.
- Please take a picture or two of the ornament in your garden & feel free to move it around.
- Email your pictures to Marilyn.
- After a short visit (4-5) days, take it to the next house on its itinerary, **after cutting off your name so the next person won't know who delivered it**, hang the list on their door & place the ornament where you'd like (unless there are other instructions - see below). This way it's a surprise - you know it's coming but not when or what the ornament actually is.

We will post the pictures in the fall - on line, at a meeting or with luck, the holiday dinner meeting - for wonderful views of all our gardens with a twist.

Any questions? Ask Marilyn marilyn@darrah.at or 508-934-6356

Sign up by sending Marilyn the following:

- Name, street address, email, phone number & **vacation dates**.
- Restrictions to garden: locked gate? Dog? Other?
- Don't go in the garden, leave at door instead? Back? Front? Side?
- And best time of day to bring ornament, if any.

On-line Plant Sale – our 2nd Annual!

Last year's on-line plant sale was a success, so we hope to build on that with even more plants and more variety. So, now look at your gardens with a critical eye. If something is crowding its neighbor, it needs dividing, and that division probably needs a new home. If the light in your garden has changed, and now you have too much sun for your shade lovers, or the reverse, trees have grown up and are now casting too much shade on your sun-lovers, then don't let them struggle, dig, pot and donate them!! Look for an email from Bryan Smith with more details.

May 20th member participation meeting

May's meeting is designed just for you, but the Program Committee needs your help. We will design the program around your questions and interests. Some previous areas of interest were tools, Lyme disease and ticks, invasive plants and invasive critters. At the Board meeting we added lawn alternatives, native plants and garden celebrities. We are sure you can add your specific interests to the list. Everyone, as soon as possible, please send a topic of interest that you would like to hear about and tell us if you would be willing to facilitate. We will try to group those topics in a way that we can accommodate everyone on Zoom. We have the option to have breakout rooms where we will have small groups and a specific topic. After the small group discussion, we will return to the meeting group and someone in your group can summarize your small group discussion.

Your feedback and topic(s) of interest should be sent to Geri Wadness geriwadness@verizon.net AND Laurie Adelstein ladelstein4@gmail.com

Our Annual Dinner Meeting will be a picnic. Seriously!

Once again, our club is "making lemonade" and in lieu of our Annual Dinner, this year NGC will hold our first Annual Picnic. Our president, Jean Egerhei, has graciously offered her property (12 St. Thomas Ave) for the event. So, save these dates: **Saturday, June 26** with a rain date of **Sunday, June 27**.

Outdoor events present their own challenges, and we'll meet in the afternoon to avoid one of them: mosquitos! **Hours are 12:30 pm -3:30 pm.**

The format is casual, and BYO Everything: a lawn chair or blanket, along with your own food and beverage. In addition to the usual business of thanking the outgoing board and welcoming the new board, we all really need a social event where we can get together in person again after a long year of lockdowns and minimal contact with other people. Since everyone may not have had a chance to get vaccinated by the time of the event we will still be masked and staying socially distant, but as the spring planting just beautifully demonstrated, we can socialize just fine with masks on!

Invitations will go out in May and you can RSVP via email so that the committee can fine-tune their plans.

Stay tuned for more information.

And for These Events of Interest

Cultural Alliance of Medfield's Daffodil Days

April 10, 1 - 3

Join us to celebrate spring and the 6,500 new daffodils volunteers planted last fall in front of the Chapel at the former Medfield State Hospital. Activities include live music, plein air painters, activities for children, and lots of photo opportunities with the flowers, friends and family. Monique Allen, owner of The Garden Continuum and the garden designer, will be on hand to answer your questions with her new book "Stop Landscaping and Start LifeScaping." The Chapel will be open for covid-friendly guided tours. Please enjoy the festivities while wearing a mask and maintaining physical distancing

On-line Educational Opportunities – add these to your calendars

Celebrate Earth Day with us! Composting 101

Hey neighbors, interested in learning how to compost? Join our webinar on just that.

Wednesday, April 14th at 7pm.

Sherborn's own Grisha Maziya presents the attributes on Backyard Composting, the rich blessings of decay.

Grisha has a BS from UMass Amherst-College of Natural Resources and Environment. He will discuss the basics of composting, the different setups, the curing needs, and the finished product as well as some fun facts and myths of composting.

All are welcome to this free event! To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/backyard-composting-101-tickets-148400113735>

Sponsored by: Upper Charles Climate Action, your local 350.org node

Grow Native Massachusetts

EVENINGS WITH EXPERTS

New Naturalism: Lessons from Wild Plant Communities

Kelly D. Norris, Author, *New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden*

When: April 28 | 7:00 - 8:30pm

Where: Online (By Zoom Meeting)

Fee: Free to All

Wild plant communities are a source of inspiration for purposeful gardening, and understanding how plants interact in these environments is key to success. Join Kelly Norris to learn how he interprets these ecosystems in creating beautiful, functional residential landscapes with plant layers and palettes defined by nature, not humans.

<https://kellydnorris.com/about>

<https://grownativemass.org/Our-Programs/evenings-experts/New-Naturalism-Lessons-from-Wild-Plant-Communities>



Grow Native Massachusetts



EVENINGS WITH EXPERTS

Cultivating Wildlife Conservation with Native Plants

Desiree Narango, David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellow, University of Massachusetts Amherst

When: **May 26 | 7:00 - 8:30pm**

Where: Online (By Zoom Meeting)

Fee: Free to All

Restoring habitat in urban and suburban spaces is crucial to stemming declines in biodiversity. To be successful, we need evidence-based guidelines to inform our landscaping decisions. Desiree Narango will describe her research showing that native plants are essential to sustaining biodiversity, and discuss findings that

illuminate the proportion of natives needed, and best species to use, if we are to create thriving wildlife habitat at home.

<https://desireenarango.weebly.com/>

<https://grownativemass.org/Our-Programs/evenings-experts/Achieving-Wildlife-Conservation-with-Native-Plants>

Here's a Native Plants of New England Facebook group

Lots of great information here, plus interesting arguments 😊

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/367054536748975/?ref=share>

Interesting article

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/news/new-smithsonian-study-links-declines-suburban-backyard-birds-presence-nonnative-plants>

Natick's Sustainability link

<https://mailchi.mp/natickma/booyahspring?e=5d2e739859>

Not a club trip, but worth the solo drive to Andover??

<https://thetrustees.org/program/springbloomfest-at-stevens-coolidge-house-gardens/>

Club Trips

In lieu of physical trips, our trip coordinators will select for us virtual tours of botanical gardens and flower shows. Details and links will be provided by email by Deb Thompson or Carolyn Wirth. Stay tuned.

For online classes or workshops of interest, check these websites....

Arnold Arboretum <https://my.arboretum.harvard.edu/>

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts <http://www.gcfm.org/Calendar-News/Calendar.aspx>

Garden in the Woods <http://www.newenglandwild.org/learn/our-programs>

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

Massachusetts Horticultural Society <https://www.masshort.org/Events>

Tower Hill Botanic Garden <http://www.towerhillbg.org/index.php/visit/what-s-happening/events-calendar/>

Useful link(s):

- The UMass Extension Gardener monthly e-Newsletter is now **Hort Notes: Clippings from the Garden**. It is written for landscapers, grounds managers, arborists, and other green industry professionals with the understanding that home gardeners may also look to this publication for information as well. <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/newsletters-updates/hort-notes>
- 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 calendar on the Federation's website to see what other clubs are doing, there frequently are open meetings. <http://www.gcfm.org/Calendar-News/Calendar.aspx>
- Here is the latest Newsletter from New England Garden Clubs, see what's going on in other states: [New England Region Newsletter February 2021](#)

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.

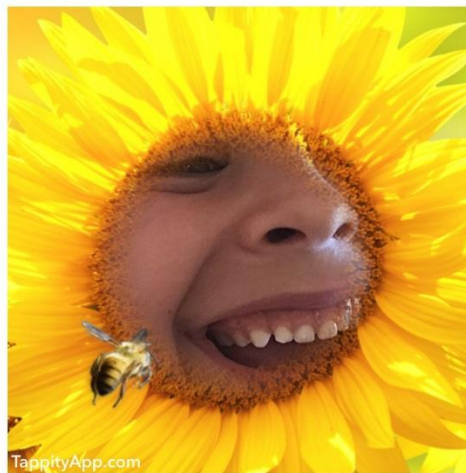
<http://gardenrant.com/> A recent blog pointed to a curated collection of good gardening videos.

You can see them here <https://goodgardeningvideos.org/>

Reminders:

- Linda Lentz 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 Linda know at LindaRLentz@gmail.com or 508-208-8686.
- If you travel virtually to places of horticultural interest, please let Deb Thompson know DeborahThompson567@gmail.com, and if you physically go someplace, send your photos to Catherine Clifford at caclifford18@gmail.com

What's Blooming in our gardens?



**The time a Tappernaut was
a sunflower.**

Kate Grzesiuk's son Jack



Mary Meehan's Black pussy willow

Alternative to Noanett Gold

A dairy farm in Carlisle, MA at the Great Brook Farm State Park sells bagged cured cow manure. The State Park is located at 165 North Road, Carlisle, MA. The phone number for the State Park is 978-369-6312 and they can give the number for the dairy farmer if you need to call them. The red bags of cow manure each weigh about 60 to 70 pounds and they are heavy! They are sitting on platforms near the barn. There is a self-service honor system to pay for the bags near the barn. Each bag is 5.50 or 4 bags for 20.00 dollars.

Our thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Martha Coleman, Jean Egerhei, Monica Foley, Lillian Graffam, Marilyn Lustig, Sue Mandell, Mary Meehan, Ann Peterson, Pat Polimeno, Judy Sabol, Susan Shipman and Sheila Tiberio for their contributions to this issue.

Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk