

<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>May 21, 2020</p> <p>The May meeting will be held via Zoom</p> <p>The next monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday</p> <p>May 21, 2020, at 6:30 pm</p>	
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>May 2020</p>

Letter from the President

Fellow gardeners:

What an interesting few months this has been! It is impressive how we're all adapting and finding ways to stay connected and share our interest in the beauty of growing things.

Enjoy this newsletter, share garden photos with Judy Sabol, and visit the on-line garden trips that our trip coordinators are sending by email!

I hope that you and all your loved ones are well and remain healthy, and that your gardens thrive and provide a sense of satisfaction and calm.

Laurie Adelstein
President 2019-2020

Dates to Remember

May 21, 2020 This will be our third collaborative May meeting: **Ask a Gardener**.

It will be held via Zoom, and the link and password are below and will also be emailed on the 21st.

May 30, 2020 Online Plants Sale (replacing our annual auction and sidewalk sale.) Details below.

The dates of all other club activities are under review and TBD.

May Program

As you know, we will hold our May meeting on Thursday the 21st via Zoom. The information for joining the meeting is below, and Laurie will also re-send the email with the link, call in number and instructions on the 21st. And, as Laurie said in her initial email, please don't hesitate to reach out for tech assistance if you need it!

Below is the link to join the meeting through your computer, tablet, or phone as well as the phone number to call if you just want to listen in on your phone. It will also be recorded with a few minute's delay on our YouTube channel so you can follow the meeting that way - or watch it at a later time!

Topic: NGC "Ask the Gardeners" program
Time: May 21, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88546146575?pwd=cDEyWUVNUmlpM0FhVjVjVEOGtsaDVUZz09>

Meeting ID: **885 4614 6575**

Password: **053887**

To just call in:

One tap mobile +19294362866,,88546146575#,,1#,053887# US (New York)

OR

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: **885 4614 6575**

Password: **053887**

Here are the requested topics for the meeting, and the requestors.

PLEASE let me know if you would like to offer solutions for any of these topics.

We'd like to have a list of those with suggested solutions in advance of the meeting.

Plant selection:

- Best plants for areas that get intermittently flooded, spring and heavy rain, but are otherwise dry?
Laurie, Bryan

Invasives:

- How to get rid of the crazy snake worm? (topic we did not get to in 2019) Marcie
- How to control enthusiastic (aggressive?) spreaders: Lily of the valley, ajuga, myrtle, mint, English ivy (besides not planting them in the first place, or pulling it all up?) Laurie

Pruning:

- What to do, and when, and how to tell which plant to prune in Spring vs Fall Marcie

Dead trees:

- Do I have to cut them down? How do I determine the risk of them falling? Marcie

Rodents:

- Safe, effective (& not deadly by my hand) rodent (rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks) control for vegetables as well as ornamentals. Catherine
- Chipmunks - Lucia
- To the rodent list add not one but 2 ground hogs which I actually saw climbing in my dogwood to eat the flowers! Marilyn

Seed questions – from Earlina

1. What are some of the easiest annuals to grow from seed.
2. What are some of the easiest perennials to grow from seed.
3. Do anyone have any great sites they use to order seeds?
4. Is it too late to grow flowers from seed now?

April Meeting

The Growth of Trees – *Michael Wojtech*

On Thursday, April 16th, thirty-eight members of the club logged into Zoom and watched the planned presentation on The Growth of Trees by Michael Wojtech.

Thanks to our tech-savvy president, the meeting went smoothly. Seeing Michael's beautiful bud slides close up on our personal devices gave us a level of detail we may not have seen had they been enlarged for the projector screen at the library. Other pluses, we could each adjust the volume to suit our own ability to hear, and there were no background conversations to interfere, since we were all muted.

It may or may not have been a plus that we didn't share our usual selection of delicious snacks, depending on how much exercise we are getting in our gardens.

For tree enthusiasts who want to know more, Michael has a presentation scheduled on June 6, 9-11 titled "Bark: Get to Know Your Trees" at Mass Hort.

<http://knowyourtrees.com/programs/june-6-bark-get-to-know-your-trees/>

News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

Earth Day

Since Natick's Earth Day celebration had to move from the Common to YouTube, the club moved too! With the help of many members (script by Linda Lentz, presentation by Laurie Adelstein, photos by Judy Sabol and too many more members to mention) we created a wonderful video about the Natick Garden Club. Thanks to all and a special shoutout to David Strout (Laurie's son) who put it all together beautifully! If you haven't seen it click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUe3Z4KTZdY&t=3s> Or go to YouTube and search for The Natick Garden Club. It is a great watch!!

Container and Library gardens

Jill Miller worked solo in the library garden to clear out winter debris and start the necessary pruning. On April 14th (a lifetime ago) with the socially distanced assistance of Doris Fina and Catherine Clifford, Jill finished a dramatic pruning of the hydrangeas. If you walk past the library gardens now, you will see the pruned hydrangeas enthusiastically putting out new growth.

Club Trips

In lieu of physical trips, our trip coordinators, Elizabeth Carroll, Joanne Rampe, and Carolyn Wirth selected some lovely virtual garden tours for us.

In case you missed any of them, here are the links again. Share these experiences by emailing these links to friends and family. Especially the Arboretum since Lilac Sunday was cancelled.

Make sure you have the volume on as the music is lovely.

Arnold Arboretum <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tJNxBhDGBw&authuser=0>

The Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona

It is fascinating to see a landscape so different from ours. These two videos go well with each other.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g58QL2CWy5U&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbwXdx9Ek8U&feature=youtu.be>

Iconic Butchart Gardens in Victoria British Columbia, Canada. If you have never visited, this will whet your appetite. If you have been already it may bring back wonderful memories, but either way we hope you enjoy this video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=262KealkrCo>

Coordinating club trips in the current era of social distancing is certainly different, as you can see by the links above. If browsing the internet is your 'thing', perhaps scouting out video tours is something you might like to help with. Several people have volunteered, but more eyes could be useful. Let Elizabeth know at ElizabethTCarroll@gmail.com or 508-951-0378.

On Line Plant Sale

This year our Annual Plant Auction and Sidewalk sale have been replaced with an On-line Plant Sale. Regular Auction goers will be delighted to know that long-time club supporter Frank Osborne has once again donated more than 300 plants! However, we need your donations as well in order generate as much revenue as possible to pay for our wonderful programs. The first edition of our catalog is set to be released **May 23** with sales starting **May 30** and continuing into the summer with regular updates to the catalog.

If you have plants to donate to the sale, follow these easy steps, most of which are the same as in past years:

- Start now and dig early and often - give the plants time to become acclimated to their pots. Try to dig at least a week before they are to be sold.
- Make sure the plant has a substantial root system.
- Plant in a pot (not a box or bag.) A milk carton, yogurt tub, or other plastic food holder will work. If you need pots, call or text Catherine at 978-808-2950 or Bryan at 617-910-7383.
- Amend the soil if your garden soil is poor. You can lighten large pots and reduce the use of soil with leaves at the bottom of the pot. Pots do not need to be full so long as the roots are covered.
- Remove hitchhiking bugs and/or weeds, and dead or tattered leaves. Stake if necessary.
- Do NOT donate invasive plants no matter how appealing. (ex: NO orange daylilies!)
- Gather as much information as possible: name (common and scientific if you know it), bloom time, color, height, light and moisture requirements and type (perennial/biennial/annual.) Note if it is a rapid spreader or enthusiastic self-seeder.
- Get a photo of the plant in bloom if you can, but do NOT “borrow” a photo from another source.
- Your donated plants will stay home with you until they are sold, so be prepared to care for them.

The sooner you can do this, the better, we need time to get all the information organized into the catalog. The catalog is set for release on May 23, but, don't let running out of time stop you – we will be updating and re-releasing the catalog regularly until sometime mid-summer.

Here's what is new: getting the information about your donations to us so we can add it to the catalog. You can use the attached Plant Donation Form as a reference and include the information in the body of an email, OR you can fill out the form on the computer and email that, OR you can print the form, fill it out by hand, then scan it or photograph it and email that. Please include as much of the requested information as possible and photos if available. Send it to: **donateplants@natickgardenclub.org**.

You will get an email back with an Item Number for each plant (multiples of the same plant will have the same number) You will need to put this number clearly and well secured (written on or stapled to the pot would be great) on each plant and leave the plants in a safe, but accessible location. Then you will need to reply to the email that gave you your item number(s) to tell us where the plants are located. Plan on watering the plants for a while.

With everyone's participation, we can make this year's sale as successful as past years' auctions. Happy Digging!

Google Photo Album

Below is the link to the MEMBER'S ONLY album started by Judy Sabol with a few recent photos from her spring garden. Several members have contributed already in response to the email Judy sent.

(You do not need to have downloaded or use Google photos to view the album or participate in sending me pictures.)

If you click on a photo, the describing information should be visible, but depending on what device you are using, you may need to click on a 3 vertical dots icon, or a circle with an "i" in the middle to see the information.

Judy invites club members to send her, via email: jrsabol@gmail.com or text 508-314-6447 a photo or two from your garden or walks and she will post them to the album. Please don't overwhelm her with photos, send her your best, and if you have a size option, pick "Actual" or "Large" for better resolution.

Please include any information about what we are seeing. Judy will update the album with your contributions. Since she will be doing the postings, most of the pictures may be credited to her on the picture, but if you click on each slide, the Information section should have the photographer's name and whatever details were included.

Smart phones have great cameras (Judy uses an iPhone 7!) so Judy's hoping that everyone will feel that they can contribute to this effort in our attempts to stay connected as a Club. If you have any technical questions or hit a snag about how to participate, please be in touch with Judy.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/YnqdkA9XJLbGuFdY8>

Book Review:

Ghosts in the Garden

Reflections on Endings, Beginnings, & the Unearthing of Self

By Beth Kephart Photographs by William Sulit

This is an older book - 2005; essays about her reflections as she walked the beautiful garden, Chanticleer, in Pennsylvania for a year.

The essays are very short & I enjoy a few before bedtime, very relaxing.

Her dedication says it all;

For those who love the smell of the earth & the color of a bloom upon a tree.

So until you can visit yourself or until your next visit (I've been there twice), this is a lovely read & general enough for any garden. I visit the website for Chanticleer regularly as there are weekly photos of what's in bloom. <https://www.chanticleergarden.org/inbloom.html>

Fun, especially now.

~ Marilyn Lustig ~

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 2020](#)

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:

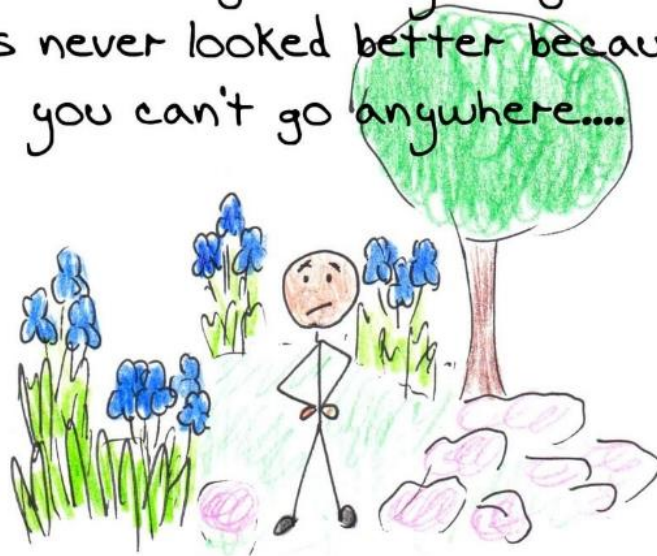
- Vice President Jean Egerhei is the contact for the NGC Sunshine Fund. If you know of a member who should receive a card from us, (illness, bereavement) please let Jean know at jegerhei@gmail.com or 508-655-7916.
- Remember if you have traveled to places of horticultural interest, send your photos to Catherine Clifford at c.clifford90@comcast.net.



finegardening  • Following



That feeling when your garden
has never looked better because
you can't go anywhere....

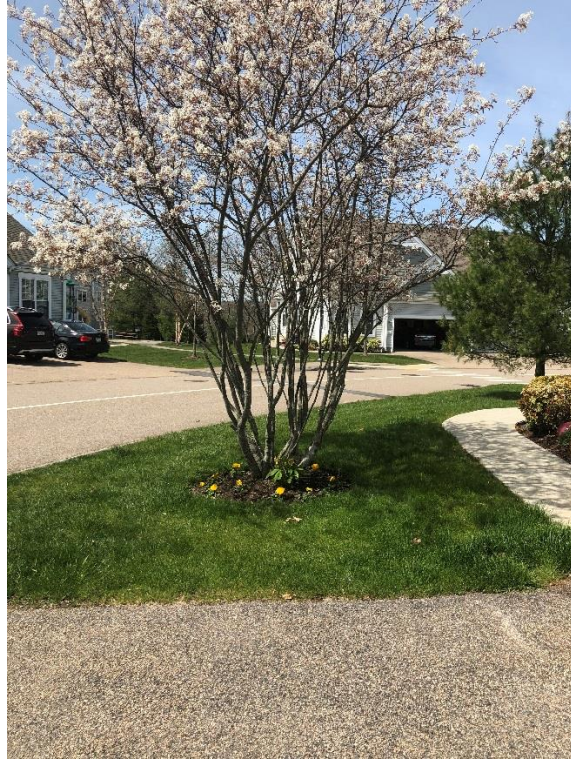


...but no one can come over and
see how great it looks.

Joseph Tychonievich

Some of what's blooming in our gardens:

The daffodils in this planting at Shirley Fitzpatrick's keep the tulips safe from browsing deer.



Ann Peterson's native serviceberry (*Amalanchier canadensis*) aka shadbush in full bloom.



Linda Lentz was delighted with these beautiful daffodils, especially since this was the variety she selected for the club to sell at Natick days last fall. They started blooming on April 15, and continued to look great for two weeks.

Our thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Shirley Fitzpatrick, Linda Lentz, Marilyn Lustig, Ann Peterson, and Judy Sabol for their contributions to this issue.

Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk