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| <p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>March 18, 2021</p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday March 18, 2021, at 6:30 pm via ZOOM</p> |  |
| <p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p> | <p>March 2021</p> |

President's Letter

A Spike of Green

*When I went out The sun was hot It shone upon My flower pot.
 And there I saw A spike of green That no one else Had ever seen!
 On other days The things I see Are mostly old Except for me.
 But this green spike So new and small Had never yet Been seen at all!
 ~ by Barbara Baker*

Welcome to Spring lovely gardeners! I know we are all watching our garden beds looking for the last of the snow to melt and the slightest hint of green and the bit of tiny emerging crocuses or early spring snow drops to blanket our landscape. Can the daffodils or tulips be far behind? Even the air smells fresher.

Thanks to Lillian Graffam and her wonderful team of annual dinner planners our June picnic plans are being finalized. Details will be provided soon. It will be wonderful seeing everyone in person. It has been a long year.

Natick Art in Bloom on April 17 will be another special event to look forward to this spring thanks to Elizabeth Carroll and our fantastic garden club floral designers. I can't wait to see all of our Natick art paired with beautiful floral arrangements.

Our February 18th program on "Starting from Seed" presented by Gretel Ansbach was wonderfully helpful. Like many of you, I am especially looking forward to starting my vegetable garden this year and her tips were an inspiration.

Our March 18th meeting will feature Michele Schuckel's program on Survival of the Fittest: Native Plants, Natural Selections. She will guide us through ways to design a garden that incorporates plant material native to New England.

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

Dates to Remember

Thursday, March 18, 2021 - NGC monthly meeting, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81445871526?pwd=TlFtUnFySjdxbnJ4TjRZMkpOWDZpdz09>

Meeting ID: **814 4587 1526**

Passcode: **288324**

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

Saturday, March 20, 2021 – Clean out winter greens in downtown & library – weather permitting

Saturday, March 27, 2021 – Plant Pansies, downtown & library, rain date: Saturday, April 3

Thursday, April 8, 2021 – **Note NEW date** for our April program

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

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

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

March Program

March 18, 2021 (via Zoom)



Survival of the Fittest: Native Plants, Natural Selections

Presented by Michele Schuckel

Michele is the founder and principal designer at Natural Selections. She will discuss and illustrate how to design a garden that incorporates plant material native to New England. Benefits of this practice include attracting pollinating insects and birds, increasing your garden's tolerance to seasonal weather, and extending your garden's longevity.

<http://www.naturalselectionsgardens.com/>

February Meeting

Gretel Anspach – Starting from Seed

Even if you never even thought about planting a vegetable garden before, Gretel Anspach's presentation would have you considering it. Gretel's passion, experience and dry humor (not to mention her fabulous visuals which she generously shared in total!) made this meeting another home run for our program chairs. The recent email chatter about what seeds to start and when, and which to direct sow, makes it clear there are more vegetable gardeners in our club every year.



Do some research

- Production:
 - Cornell Vegetable Growing Guides (<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/sceneb771.html>)
 - New England Vegetable Growing Guides (<https://nevegetable.org/crops>)
- Disease resistance:
 - Web search of disease trials
- Variety / Timing / Flavor
 - Seed Savers Exchange (9,153 tomato listings versus 134 in Johnny's)
 - Cornell Vegetable Varieties (<http://vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu/main/login.php>)
 - All American Selections
 - (calibrated) Seed Catalogs

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When to start seeds



50% last frost date from derived from "NCDC freeze frost"
 Estimated planting dates in zone 5 in <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G6570>

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Required Equipment - Fertilizer



- Any balanced liquid fertilizer will do
 - Balanced means that the three numbers (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium) are about the same (e.g. 5-5-5)

News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

Voting at March meeting on proposed Bylaws changes.

Please be prepared to vote on the changes to the Bylaws, sent in mid-February and attached again to this email so you don't have to dig them out.

Ordering NGC Logo Items

Last call for ordering logo items. The form is attached to the email with this newsletter.

Items available include:

- Pink or Navy short-sleeve polo S-M-L \$25, XL-XXL \$27
- Khaki Bucket Hat (2 sizes, same price) S/M \$18.50, L//XL \$18.50
- Stone Baseball Hat \$18
- Apron \$19.75
- Tote Bag \$25
- And your own personal items can have a garden club logo as well \$10. Personal items can be delivered by hand to Alison, with payment, at the address below.

Please get your orders and checks to Alison (snail mail address below) no later than March 31.

Checks should be made out to Alison, and mailed with the order form to:

Alison Parnes
9 Fiske Lane,
Natick, MA 01760

If you have questions, you may reach Alison at 508 653-8545 or aparnes@verizon.net

Penny Pines Honoree

Be sure to send your suggestion for this year's Penny Pines Honoree to Pat Polimeno
rpolimeno@comcast.net

Noanett Gold Compost

Prepaid orders must be received by April 1st 40 lb bags are now \$10, but this is correctly named gold.

Natick Community Organic Farm Seedlings

The NCOF certified-organic seedling pre-order is now open online. **Order now and pick up in late May, when it's time to plant.** We have many delicious vegetables and herbs and attractive flowers, all carefully chosen to perform under our local growing conditions. Current members save 20% on their orders; the minimum order is \$24. Additional cultivars will be put out for sale on the market stand once it warms up.

<https://ncof.givecloud.co/seedlings>



Mark Your Calendars for these NGC activities...

Change to April meeting: New date, April 6th

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

Natick's Art in Bloom



Natick's Art in Bloom, a wonderful event for our club and community, will be presented by the garden club, in conjunction with the Natick Center Cultural District. Club members will highlight our town's extensive collection of public art with floral arrangements interpreting the artworks. Fourteen members have signed up to create floral arrangements, and there is room for a few more! If you enjoy floral arranging please consider participating in this event, either solo, or partner with a friend or fellow club member. Monica Foley will be hosting a Tips and Tricks of floral design on April 3 for the participating floral designers.

A number of members have already signed up to help with the information and sidewalk sale tables, but stay tuned for emails with details about day-of volunteering opportunities.

For inspiration, see Natick's public art here:

<https://www.natickcenter.org/public-art/>

Please let Elizabeth Carroll know if you would like to make an arrangement, or help on the day with logistics and other tasks. **Call or email Elizabeth at ElizabethTcarroll@gmail.com or 508-951-0378** In the meantime, make sure to follow, like and share on social media! Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



2021 Online Plant Sale

As you know, the 2021 plant sale is going to be on-line again. Planning is underway, and many improvements will be happening with the ordering process thanks to hard work by Laurie Adelstein on our web-based 'catalog'.

While you are dreaming of spring, Plant Sale chair Bryan Smith asks that you be thinking of what plants you can donate to this year's sale. There must be lots of new plants you want to try, and you must need to make room for them, so what can you divide and pot for the sale? Typically members donated the majority of the plants for the auction, last year was an anomaly, so we hope that this year we will see lots of member contributions again.

And for virtual events of interest...

Here is a link to a video of some stunning Japanese Gardens (without jetlag): (Thanks Ann Katan!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5piVBK3Bcbc>

Good news from club members:

Please let us know what good things are happening in your lives.

For other events, 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 *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!
The current entry lists ten outstanding mail order nurseries, some within the range of a day trip.

<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/> and here's the link to the latest rant.....

<https://gardenrant.com/2021/03/losing-a-garden.html>

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.
- 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 Deb Thompson know DeborahThompson567@gmail.com, and if you physically go someplace, send your photos to Catherine Clifford at caclifford18@gmail.com

Our thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Jean Egerhei, Ann Katan, Alison Parnes, and Bryan Smith for their contributions to this issue.

Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk