

<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>February 16, 2023</p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday February 16, 2023, at 6:30 pm in person and via ZOOM</p>	
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>February 2023</p>

President's Letter

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Well, I do not know what happened to the groundhog on February 2. I imagine, however, that - minus 12 degrees last weekend was enough to keep everyone home. I am already enjoying the few extra minutes of daylight. One of my weather apps includes the time of “first light” and “last light”, the light we see before the official sunrise and after sunset; it’s almost an extra hour. I started pansy seeds a month ago, seedlings have been up-potted and may be ready for containers by the end of March; sweet peas are next!

This is also the time of year when we start planning for next year. The Nominating Committee, ably lead by Past President Linda Lentz, has been meeting and will provide an update at our next meeting. If you are interested in serving as an officer or committee chair, please reach out to Linda lindarlentz@gmail.com

Betsy Szymczak

Natick Garden Club President 2022-2023



Dates to Remember

- **Thursday, February 16, 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/97925698962?pwd=SytlcDRBOVZkSEEWsyt0UkpxMGcrdz09>

Meeting ID: 979 2569 8962

Passcode: 332010

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

- **Thursday, March 2, 2023** – Field trip to Worcester Art Museum’s Flora in Winter
- **Saturday, March 4, 2023** – NGC’s table at Memorial school for NCOF’s Maple Magic
- **Saturday, March 11, 2023 & Sunday, March 12, 2023** – Needham’s Art in Bloom
- **Thursday, March 16, 2023** – NGC open meeting, Michele Schuckel – Gardening in a Changing Climate
- **Thursday, April 20, 2023** – NGC monthly meeting, Claudia Price – Nature Nurtures: Creating Garden Waystations for Monarchs
- **Saturday, April 29, 2023** – Eco Natick, NGC’s information table at Monica Foley’s garden
- **Wednesday, May 3, 2023** – Art in Bloom floral design workshop

February Program

Herb Gardening – Barb McIntosh

Herb gardening has been popular for centuries, but historically herbs were not grown solely for culinary use, as we think of them primarily today. Herb gardens took care of the family by providing herbs for medicine, herbs for dying cloths, herbs to keep the clothes and house fresh, and many other uses. We will explore the world of herbs and take a look at a modern-day herb garden.



January Meeting

Thinking Globally, Acting in Your Own Yard – Rebecca Warner

January speaker Rebecca Warner spoke passionately about her ongoing project to convert her expansive lawn of traditional grass into a non-lawn. What at first started a bit out of laziness, quickly developed into an environmental pursuit. In the US lawns take up as much space as Texas. In Massachusetts 20 some odd percent is lawn. She thinks about lawn mower exhaust, upkeep with seed and pesticides, and using up to 1/3 of your residential water in dialing back her lawn's "footprint."

Rebecca presented us with the history of the post-WWII marketing pitches, which have largely equated a tidy, standard turf grass (which is not native) yard to being a good neighbor. She acknowledges you can still be a good neighbor without this "ideal," and suggests if you do have grass to let it grow 3" or more, use a push mower or

rechargeable, and let clippings compost in place because they act like organic fertilizer.

If you are ready to start converting your lawn, maybe start in sections. Lawn alternatives could be ground cover, or even a sunny meadow. If you partake in Xeri-scaping (Greek for dry), here are a few guidelines:

- group plants by water needs
- composted soil helps retain water
- water efficiently.... keep an eye on it! think about doing drip irrigation. also hook up rain gauge to an automated system
- choose drought tolerant plants
- mulch because it's good at holding water/reducing evaporation
- limit lawn!
- use rain barrel, underground cistern, gray water
- plant a rain garden to hold water. good for low lying areas to prevent run-off

In summary her talk was a good reminder that each of us can be a contributor to the greater good even with a little parcel.





News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

Club Notes & Requests:

Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee is about to begin working on awarding two \$250 scholarships destined for one student at Natick High School and one Natick resident attending Keefe Tech. In addition, the committee has received a \$150 donation in memory of Marilyn Lustig's mother. We will be discussing how this money is to be distributed.

To apply, students must submit a short essay responding to our motto "Beautify, Revitalize and Preserve...for Nature's Sake. Students should be considering further study or work in a field related to nature, gardening, environmental sciences, landscaping or environmental engineering.

Our thanks to committee members **Laurie Adelstein, Lucia Frenkel** and **Pat Polimeno** who are stepping down. They have served on the committee since its inception, always offering thoughtful insights into all the applications.

In addition to present committee members **Elizabeth Carrol, Martha Coleman, Doris Fina, Marilyn Lustig, Ann Marie MacKinnon** and chair **Sue Mandell**, we welcome **Ellen Alfaro, Dee DeRuyck**, and **Debby Thompson** to the committee and look forward to their input and fresh ideas.

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.

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 February meeting, 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. We'd especially like to have someone contribute articles on native plants, perhaps the "native-of-the-month"? Or if you have another idea?

Instagram

Marilyn Lustig is having fun showing old and new photos on Instagram, utilizing the @natickgardenclub handle.

If you don't have Instagram, but you do have Facebook, you can read and follow-along this YouTube video on how to login to Instagram from Facebook [here](#)

If you have neither Facebook nor Instagram, either download the Instagram app on your smart phone and pick a username, etc., or if you are doing it on your computer you can go to [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com) to get started. Make sure to follow Natickgardenclub and send Marilyn your photos for a chance to be featured!!

Please note, you don't need to be in the photo. Photos are actually best when they are of in-animate objects. AND Marilyn wants you to be assured that of course no identifying information will be posted. Send your submissions to marilyn@darrah.at.

Thanks!
Marilyn (& Kate)
Instagram Publicity team

Mark Your Calendars for these NGC activities...

Field Trip to Worcester Art Museum's Flora in Winter

- **When:** Thursday, March 2, 2023
- **Where to Meet:** Hobby Lobby Parking Lot at 9:45 am
- **Tour starts at:** 11:00 am
- **Ticket price:** \$30 for event +\$5 for private tour; WAM members are free except for \$5 tour fee
- Make check payable to The Natick Garden Club and mail it to: Pat Polimeno 11 Dover Rd. Natick MA before Feb 24th
- *If we have to cancel because of inclement weather, we will try to reschedule on one of the remaining days or Pat will return your checks.
- **Lunch:** a caterer will be on site in the café during Flora called Sir Loins. They will have a range of soups, salads, and sandwiches available for purchase.
- Please email **Jean Egerhei** jeegerhei@gmail.com no later than Saturday February 18th if you wish to attend, and please let her know if you can be a driver.

Maple Magic – March 4th

After a two-year hiatus the Natick Organic Community Farm will once again celebrate Maple Magic on Saturday March 4. As in the past, the day will start with a pancake breakfast at Memorial School with maple sugaring tours at the farm to follow. NGC has been invited to host a table in the school lobby so we can share information about the club. The hours are 8:00-11:00 AM. Contact **Betsy Szymczak** if you are interested in volunteering or need more information. szymczakb@gmail.com

Art in Bloom Floral Design Workshop

Natick's Art in Bloom Committee has planned a workshop to encourage members to participate in Natick's Art in Bloom 2024! That is right, 2024! This year we are focusing on supporting and educating interested members with a design workshop, so that next year's event will be even better than 2022! Have you thought about being a floral designer for the event but didn't feel confident? Were you an Art in Bloom floral designer in 2022 who felt that you would like to learn more? This will be your chance to learn and create a floral arrangement that is inspired by a piece of art.

The workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, **May 3 at 6 pm** at the Morse Institute Library in the Lebowitz Meeting Hall. The cost is \$10 per person.

Stacey Lee of Paeonia Designs will lead the workshop. She will discuss sustainable floral mechanics, the creative design process, and principles of design. The Art in Bloom Committee will assist Stacey and help you work on your design. Working either in pairs or individually members will create a floral arrangement. Everyone will work from the same piece of art. It will have been preselected by the committee and a photo emailed to all participants in advance. Supplies will be provided, container and floral materials. If you want to bring anything cut from your own garden, please feel free!

Be on the lookout for an email with more details and a Sign-Up Genius link to participate in this workshop. We are very excited for this and are happy to answer any questions or chat with you about the workshop.

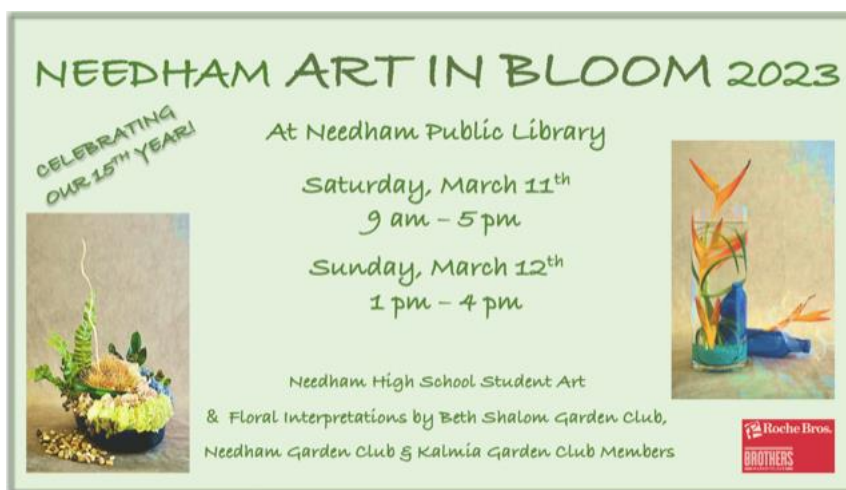
Monica Foley

Donna Thibault

Elizabeth Carroll

Natick's Art in Bloom Committee

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



Grow Native Massachusetts: Evenings with Experts

March 4, 1-2:30 PM Mary Reynolds, [Author, We Are The ARK](#)

Where: Online (By Zoom Webinar)

Register here: <https://grownativemass.org/Our-Programs/evenings-experts>

There are attachments to the email for the following

- Natick's Sustainability News
- Sudbury Valley Trustees Bumble Bee project
- Sudbury Valley Trustees At-Risk Pollinator Habitat starter kit plant descriptions
- Suburban Farmer workshops
- A conversation about lawns

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/>

Members' travels:

Monica Foley shared photos of torch ginger, and a red eyed tree frog from her trip to Costa Rica.



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 jeegerhei@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, Jean Egerhei, Monica Foley, Marilyn Lustig, Sue Mandell, Pat Polimeno, Betsy Szymczak, and Geri Wadness for their contributions to this issue.

Your Newsletter team: Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk