

<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p><u>November 18, 2021</u></p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday Nov. 18, 2021, in person Morse Library. 7 pm (wear mask, no food). Zoom optional.</p>		
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>November 2021</p>	

President's Letter

Seeing the leaves fall and cleaning up for winter always makes me a bit sad until I remember how happy I will be as the bulbs push through the dirt and the perennials come to life to indicate that winter is over. Nature's cycle—it really is wonderful! With Thanksgiving approaching, I wish for all of you a long list of things to be grateful for and a holiday with family and friends that feels a bit more like the days before the pandemic.

I am grateful to all who have continued the good work of the Garden Club and to those who are already planning for Spring!

Linda Lentz
 President, 2021-2022

Dates to Remember

- **Wednesday, November 17th, 10 am Morse Institute Library Winter Greens** - We will need lots and lots of winter greens! Please bring clippers, trowels and nimble fingers for the process!
- **Thursday, November 18th November meeting** - prepaid garland making. In person at Morse Library.
- **Friday, November 26th Festival of Trees at MassHort opens** (buy in advance)
- **Monday, November 29th, 9am** The Garden Club will once again be decorating Morse Library and the **Giving Tree** for the holidays!

- **Saturday, December 4th** **field trip** to Hammond Castle, Gloucester. Pre-registration required
- **Thursday, December 16th** **December meeting** zoom/library hybrid
- **Monday, January 3rd, 9 am** take down Giving Tree, Morse Library
- **Thursday, January 20, 2022** **Jan. meeting** zoom only

November Program

Mary B. Hayes – Hands on Garland Making

Learn to make a fall inspired garland for a table or mantle. The garland base will be made of fresh and dried foliage and we'll decorate it with a variety of fresh and dried florals, dried fruit, ornamental wheat and/or cattails, etc. We will use paddle wire, floral tape and floral glue to assemble the garland. Please bring your own clippers and wire cutters, and wear old clothes. All other supplies will be provided. A \$20 fee will be charged.

As we did in October, we will meet in person and via Zoom. The Zoom meeting will start at 7 so there isn't just background noise.

Time: Nov 18, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82656658350?pwd=RS9RWmVQVUF0cGgrUW8zM15Y09Pdz09>

Meeting ID: 826 5665 8350

Passcode: 164048

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

October Meeting

Our first ever hybrid meeting (both in person and via Zoom) was wonderful. Not only because it was pure delight to see (the top halves of) so many familiar faces, but also because our speakers reinforced what we all instinctively understand. Gardening is both therapeutic, and transformational. Erin Espinosa of The New Garden Society presented the society's work teaching horticulture to incarcerated men with all its challenges and rewards. While not all the graduates of her program will necessarily find work in horticulture once they are released, the skills they have learned will allow them to provide food for their families or bring beauty to their neighborhoods. Erin's obvious passion for her work was nothing short of inspirational.

The NGC received this nice email from the New Garden Society ~

I hope this email finds you well. Renee and I wanted to thank you and the Natick Garden Club for hosting The New Garden Society last month. We are always grateful for the opportunity to discuss our work with fellow gardeners who know the healing power of plants. Today, Renee and I gave graduation certificates to our horticulture students north of Boston. Many discussed starting gardens after they are released, hoping to save seed, attract pollinators, and grow with their loved ones. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share about our work and students.

If members of your garden club would like to stay in touch, we invite you to share this email and to sign up for our quarterly newsletter at www.thenewgardensociety.org.

With Gratitude,

Erin Espinosa

Development Associate & Educator

News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

2021-2022 Membership book

Our thanks to Sue Mandell and her amazing techno-wizard son who rescued the membership book when Sue's computer crashed the day the book was going to the printer. A disaster averted! The book looks great!

The booklet will be available at the November meeting. If you are unable to be there, you can pick it up from Sue at 15 Bradford Road in Natick or she can mail it to you or deliver it. Please let her know by emailing her (sue.mandell3@gmail.com).

Sue writes: If there is an error, particularly in the membership list, please note it and let me know so that corrections can be made for the 2022-2023 booklet. Thank you to Catherine Clifford, Phyllis Moir, Susan Shipman and Geri Wadness for proofreading the booklet. It is not an easy job to catch those errors and they all had a list.



Holiday Updates

Giving Tree at the Morse Library- Members are invited to help out with the tree trimming on Monday, 11/29 at 9 am. Email Fran Guthery if you can make it <gutheryf@gmail.com>.

One way all NGC members can help is to contribute to the Giving Tree! NEW mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves are requested to benefit A Place to Turn on Hartford Street. Plan your donations and spread the word to help our community during this season of giving.



*Shirley Fitzpatrick and
Ellen Yetman decorate the NGC
tree!*

Festival of Trees at Elm Bank will occur this year! Go to <https://masshort.org/festival-of-trees/> to get your timed-entry ticket today! There are a limited number and you must pre-purchase this year. The organization is also looking for volunteers, info also on masshort website or 617-933-4988. As always, Ellen Yetman will represent the club at the festival, with her representation of Feed the Birds. It features gift cards, a solar bird feeder, seed and a book. Look for trees decorated by several club members as well!

Winter Greening

I want to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to all of you who were able to participate in the decoration of the downtown window boxes. In a matter of two hours, the job was completed. This may be record time for this task, and it is due to the willingness of those who offered a bit of their time to bring a touch of the holiday season to our downtown area. We received several compliments from by-passers on our efforts.

I want to thank those of you who could not attend but provided us with holly and winter greens. Also, some of our members worked on the boxes but were not aware of the work staff sign-in sheet. I apologize that I cannot name them, but their efforts were most appreciated. The following people (including some whose names I do not have) helped in the decoration of the boxes:

Elizabeth Carroll ;Linda Lentz ;Laurie Adelstein ;Amy Foley ;Lucy Morris ;Lillian Raffam ;Geri Wadness ;Susan Shipman ;Vicki Archabal ;Doris Fina ;Sheila Tiberio ;Pat Collins; Ann Peterson

My sincere thanks for the help and materials provided. Happy holidays to all of you.

~Helen Johnson

Downtown Winter Greens Chair



About Town

Community Gardens

The Natick Housing Authority is developing a project to make **Cedar Gardens** more garden like. A housing authority board member is asking if anyone in the club might be interested in helping to design a garden bed and identify some low maintenance plantings for the bed. No manual labor or money is being asked for, just some good solid advice. Please let Rosalind Farber know if you would be willing to help out with this short term project to add cheer to Cedars Gardens. <awhir1123@gmail.com>

Erica Ball Gardens

(72 Main Street, Natick MA)

Apply December 1-January 31 for a garden plot at the Erica Ball Gardens, located behind 72 Main St! There are 40 ADA accessible beds available for \$75 each. Apply online with Community Pass or in person at the Community and Senior Center at 117 E Central Street.

Gardening is from May 2022-September 2022. Please contact the Community Gardens Coordinator for more information at communitygardens@natickma.org or call 508-647-6400 ext. 2013



Elizabeth Carroll's Fairy House pumpkin for the Morse Institute Pumpkin Walk :)

2021-2022 Programs:

- **December 16, 2021**
 - **Pot Luck Holiday Dinner CANCELLED but Betsy Szymczak is presenting a program about the holiday decorations at the White House. She visited the White House to see the decorations and took many photos.**

- **January 20, 2022 ZOOM ONLY**
 - **Deborah Chud – A Piet Oudolf Story**

- **February 17, 2022**
 - **Debra Alvarez – Tales of a Gardener's Journey**

- **March 17, 2022**
 - **Laura Bibler - Our Grandmothers Knew What They Were Doing!**

- April 21, 2022
 - Sally Muspratt – Rethinking Uses for Annuals
- May 2022 – date TBD
 - DIY Program: Members bring their expertise on a topic of interest to share with others.
- June 2022 – date TBD
 - NGC Annual Plant Extravaganza Auction & Plant Sale Online and In Person
- June 2022 – date TBD
 - Year End Recognition Dinner and Celebration

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/>
- (NEW!!!) Frederick Law Olmsted Historic Site <https://friendsoffairsted.org/programs/>

Reminders:

- Betsy Szymczak is now the contact for the NGC Sunshine Fund. If you know of a member who should receive a card from us, (illness, bereavement) please let Betsy know at szymczakb@gmail.com or 617750-1422
- Send photos of any and all club activities and events for inclusion in the newsletter to Catherine and Kate at c.clifford90@comcast.net and kategrzesiuk@yohoo.com

“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.”

-- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Useful link(s):

- The UMass Extension Gardener monthly e-Newsletter *Clippings* is always worth reading. You can always read it here: <https://ag.umass.edu/resources/home-lawn-garden/newsletters> And you can subscribe at: <https://extension.umass.edu/landscape/home-garden-email-list>
- You can always read the latest issue of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts newsletter *The Mayflower* online at: [Mayflower](#)

Thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Sue Mandell, Linda Lentz, Geri Wadness, Elizabeth Carroll, Sheila Tiberio, Helen Johnson, Ellen Yetmen and Fran Guthery for their contributions of content and photographs to this issue.

Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk