

## Branching Out: Getting to know your fellow club members



### **Ann Peterson**

*Member since 2005*

#### ***What kind of gardening do you do? Or prefer?***

*I do mostly perennial gardening. Because we spend July and August in Maine, I am not in one place long enough for a vegetable garden. I have both sun and shade in Maine, although the shade garden is mostly viewed by the chipmunks.*

#### ***When did you start gardening? What drew you to it?***

*My mother was an avid gardener, but I didn't really get into it until my son was in high school. It was partly due to having more time. It was also because my older brother was dying of cancer at that time and I found gardening very life affirming.*

#### ***What would you like to tell the club about yourself: other passion(s); work (current/former/volunteer); family; gardening credentials; etc.?***

*I worked as a consultant for a small firm that did fund-raising and strategic planning for nonprofits for 25 years. It was a great job that offered me flexibility when my son was younger. It also enabled me to work with a lot of nonprofit leaders in Boston and elsewhere. It left me with huge respect for the people who choose to work and volunteer in the nonprofit field and the important work they do.*

#### ***How did you become involved with the Natick Garden Club?***

*Former club member Cheryl Miller was a neighbor. One day when I was out working in the garden, she walked by on her way to visit a member garden. I thought that was a pretty neat thing to be able to do and asked her about the club. Based on what she told me, I joined the club that fall. It has been a wonderful experience, enabling me to learn a lot about gardening and make some amazing friends. Recently, on the zoom board meeting, I was reminded of what a remarkable group of people our club has.*

#### ***What is most important to you about NGC membership?***

*I like all our programs: the monthly educational programs, the service to the town, the garden tours, the auction, and, of course, the people.*

#### ***What would you like to see the club do that it isn't doing now?***

*Can't think of a thing.*





## **Rose Coyman**

*Member since 2020*

### **What kind of gardening do you do? Or prefer?**

*Started with a blank slate about two years ago so have focused on foundation plantings/shrubs etc., but enjoyed adding some bulbs last fall that are emerging now, and have a vegetable garden under construction.*

### **When did you start gardening? What drew you to it?**

*My mother kept an amazing vegetable garden when I was growing up that we would tinker in. My husband and I spent the last 10 years in Boston where we had a small oasis on a roof deck with some planters, where we would garden to try to feel some nature amidst the city! The whole draw to move to the suburbs for me was to have space for gardening.*

### **What would you like to tell the club about yourself: other passion(s); work (current/former/volunteer); family; gardening credentials; etc.?**

*I am a hobby artist and baker, love to be outside, and am willing to help any other members with any physical tasks they can't handle (schedule/time permitting, just ask). My husband and I (plus cat) moved to Natick about 2 years ago. For work, I am a Realtor with Coldwell Banker, with clients from Boston out to Holliston and everywhere in between.*

### **How did you become involved with the Natick Garden Club?**

*I thought it would be a great community to join as a recent transplant and gardening enthusiast looking to meet some more people in the area, and when I found out that my family member (Julie Mason) was also thinking of rejoining, we decided to do so together!*

### **What is most important to you about NGC membership?**

*I've only been to one meeting so far, but I look forward to making new friends and learning from the wealth of gardening knowledge of the other members.*

### **What would you like to see the club do that it isn't doing now?**

*Not sure yet!*



**Laurie Adelstein**  
Member since 2010

**What kind of gardening do you do? Or prefer?**

*I do both vegetable and ornamental gardening. Until this year, my vegetable garden was a community garden plot at JJ Lane Park, but now I have sufficient sun to try growing them at home.*

**When did you start gardening?  
What drew you to it?**

*The first house I bought had a lovely garden already and I wanted to keep it going. I ended up adding to it and also making a veggie garden plot.*



**What would you like to tell the club about yourself: other passion(s); work (current/former/volunteer); family; gardening credentials; etc.?**

*As an occupational therapist I have worked with people with diagnoses of serious mental illness for about 35 years. I am a passionate adult figure skater and recently passed the gold level in ice dance. I also work with my husband in the wood shop and enjoy creating practical and lovely objects on the wood lathe.*



**How did you become involved with the Natick Garden Club?**

*I went to an Auction (I saw it advertised in the Tab) and was inspired by Shirley.*

**Tell us what is most important to you about NGC membership**

*The welcoming group of people.*

**What is one thing you'd like to see the club do that it isn't doing now?**

*As we grow, it might be nice to expand some of our civic planting. I also think we might coordinate more with the town around horticulture and sustainability issues.*





## **Martha Coleman**

*Member since 2013*

### **What kind of gardening do you do? Or prefer?**

*I have gardens around my yard that are always a work in progress. Both sunny and shady gardens with very different needs and mostly perennials. Last year I tried some roses which I'm still working on. I love to garden and play with all the colors and textures.*

### **When did you start gardening? What drew you to it?**

*My mom had great gardens when I was little and I had a great time helping her. My grandmother also worked for a landscape architect drawing up his plans which I found fascinating, particularly when she planned all the bushes in our back yard.*

### **What would you like to tell the club about yourself: other passion(s); work (current/former/volunteer); family; gardening credentials; etc.?**

*I am a retired elementary art teacher and loved teaching! I was particularly blessed to have a double certification so as enrollments would go up and down I also experienced teaching kindergarten, and grades four and two. It made life very interesting and definitely not dull. I'm very active in my church, Old South Church in Boston and I belong to a couple of book clubs. Do a lot with friends and am generally pretty busy.*

### **How did you become involved with the Natick Garden Club?**

*A friend who lives in Natick suggested I attend an open meeting because she thought it would be a good fit and the rest is history. I love the comradarie of the group and all the wonderful learning opportunities! Getting to take trips to some fabulous places all over New England just adds to the list of great things about the group.*

### **What is one thing you'd like to see the club do that it isn't doing now?**

*I know we are all very busy, but I would like to figure out a way to entice more members to be involved in the everyday work of the club. It really isn't that time consuming and is so very helpful! Otherwise, I don't think there's really something the club can do that it isn't already doing. I think we are in pretty good shape!*



## **Sheila Tiberio**

*Member since 2002*

### **What kind of gardening do you do? Or prefer?**

*Right now, I enjoy my perennials garden. If I had the space, I'd have vegetables again.*

### **When did you start gardening? What drew you to it?**

*When we moved into our house the previous owners had a vegetable garden, so it was pretty easy to take what they'd done and adapt it to our family's needs. I grew veggie staples like beans, cucumbers, zucchinis, peppers, and oh-so-many tomatoes. I loved to put up the tomatoes especially. I was a novice and didn't know much about heritage veggies, the best varieties of seeds, or even soil management and pests. So, what drew me to the club was how to be a better gardener.*



### **What would you like to tell the club about yourself: other passion(s); work (current/former/volunteer); family; gardening credentials; etc.?**

*I retired from bedside nursing in 2016 and from a part time Adjunct Professor position at Regis College in 2018. I started my career as a high school science teacher so teaching nursing was a good fit. Now I volunteer with Natick's Medical Reserve Corps.*

*I am married to the love of my life, Chuck, and we have two children and four grandchildren. Our daughter is in South Carolina and our son in Virginia. We visit often to try to keep up with the grands! Besides walking and swimming, I am an avid golfer and play 2-3 times per week in season.*

*I have no official gardening credentials (except for ILG) but I get to conferences at Elm Bank and have done on-line learning at Native Plant Trust. I can't wait to get back into the garden 'to play.' By the way ILG means I Love Gardening.*



### **How did you become involved with the Natick Garden Club?**

*Early on there were some speakers, but not as many and maybe they weren't as technically savvy as now. I still really enjoy the programs.*

*I came to meetings and volunteered when no one else would – and went from newbie member to President just like that! Initially it was a challenge because I didn't even know everyone's name, but members are so supportive, that the year just unfolded and no one got sued, arrested or injured! And that's a message I'd like to give to the newest members – just jump in! It'll be worth it in the end.*

***Tell us what is most important to you about NGC membership***

*It is a real bonus to go to meetings for gardening information, and then to find such wonderful, supportive, enthusiastic friends who are eager to share their experiences and advice.*

***What is one thing you'd like to see the club do that it isn't doing now?***

*We are volunteers and we have a respected presence in Natick. Even though everyone has their own responsibilities (be it work or family), I'd love to see more members volunteer for the various down town plantings that happen throughout the year – just 1-2 hours makes a difference.*



**Amy Foley**

*Member since 2019*

***What kind of gardening do you do? Or prefer? –***  
*Flowers!*

***When did you start gardening? What drew you to it?***

*When I first bought a house in 1989, but have had more time recently to get more into it.*

***How did you become involved with the Natick Garden Club?***

*Obtained information during Natick Days and signed up 10 years later!*

***What is most important to you about NGC membership?***

*Connections combined with education*

***What would you like to see the club do that it isn't doing now?***

*Hand's on gardening with experienced gardeners - in the dirt.*