



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

September/October 2016

Calendar for fall 2016

- September 20: "The Four Seasons of Gardening" with Trish Umbrell + bring a plant for "Horticulture Corner"
- October 18: Club Mixer/Member Luncheon + bring a plant for the plant swap
- October 20: Community Outreach at Briarwood
- November 17: Community Outreach at North Hill

LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Happy Autumn!

Hopefully, all of you had a wonderful summer, with just the right blend of relaxation and activity. We all certainly got our workouts maintaining our gardens during this hot and dry summer, didn't we?

Believe it or not, there are a few upsides of a drought for plants!

- 1) Areas where grapes are grown and wines are produced will generally have superior crops in years with cool, wet springs and hot, dry summers. The roots of the grape vines go extraordinarily deep, so they will find water. The heat brings out more sugars in the grapes, which lead to tastier wines. Stock up on the '16 vintages when they come out!



- 2) Wetlands need occasional periods of drought! As all that nutrient-laden muck builds up in wetlands, if it continues unabated, the wetland will gradually die due to too much of a good thing. The drying out period allows new plants to germinate, and the bottom to solidify so that the root systems are more stable. When the water returns, it is to a healthier environment.

- 3) Pollen counts are lower. For those of us with asthma and allergies, this is a blessing!
- 4) Grass really does go dormant! Although it looks brown and unsightly, most of our lawns are just waiting for the rain that will eventually come. Which lawns will suffer the most? The ones that have been half-heartedly watered, so that their root systems are close to the surface rather than down deep. This makes them more vulnerable to disease and truly dying off in the next drought.



- 5) All that time saved by not mowing the lawn!

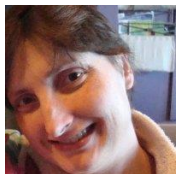
Regardless of the weather, we have lots to look forward to. The Ways and Means Committee has already started their jaunts for the most fun and interesting decorations for the Wreath Sale, the Flower Program Committee has outdone themselves with a fantastically varied program year -- can't wait to see each one. The Flower Arranging Committee has come up with yet another fantastic theme for our annual mixer. We look forward to seeing you on the 20th of September for our opening meeting.

Diana Conroy, on behalf of the Administrative Council

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

September 20, 2016

“The Four Seasons of Gardening” with Trish Umbrell



Trish Umbrell, of the Natick Community Organic Farm, (and editor of *Horticulture Magazine*) will present a lively talk on the four seasons of organic gardening at the farm. She will bring freshly cut flowers from the farm garden and demonstrate how to make lovely arrangements from your garden.

October 18, 2016

Club Mixer/Member Luncheon

Flower Arranging Committee

A single-themed group table design. Members will be assigned to a four-person team. Each team will work on the same idea this year so we can see how each group uses flowers and table designs to interpret the same theme in different ways. Teams will be given the assignment a few weeks in advance to allow for creative excitement and planning. A member luncheon will follow.

Lori Markell: Chair

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE



NBA Street Fair

Thank you to all who participated in our plant sale at the NBA street fair on June 4th. Our members donated many lovely plants from their gardens to sell. Happy customers chatted with club members about gardening and took home plants for their own gardens. We netted \$687 for our efforts and brought visibility to the club. Plus, we gave zinnia seedlings (planted and nurtured by the Horticulture Committee) to the children who stopped by our booth at the street fair. A good time for all!

NGC Garden Stroll

On June 15th we enjoyed our first annual club member garden stroll. Gardens were open for members and their guests to visit from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The featured gardens this year were those of Amy Cicala, Cathie Cummings, Jane Lischewski, Fabienne Madsen, Karen Taggart, and Kay Taylor. Many thanks to the host gardeners. It was a beautiful day and the lovely gardens were just different enough to make each stop interesting and unique. A plus was that a couple of gardeners served cookies and a beverage for the strollers.





We are planning to do a repeat stroll next year on Tuesday, June 20th. If you would like to open your garden to club members on that day, please contact Cathie or Eileen. Also, if you have any suggestions for additional future garden strolls please contact us.

Horticulture Corner

At our club's fall opening meeting, September 20th, show off the bounty from your garden. It can be a flower, vegetable, fruit, or foliage. We will provide a few vases of water for cut flowers to display your contributions.

At the next meeting, October 18th, we will feature a plant swap. Bring in a plant, a cutting or root division that you wish to share. You do not need to bring a plant to take one. If your plant is not adopted by the end of the meeting, please reclaim it.

Horticulture Tips for September and October

(compiled by committee member Carol Thomas -- Enjoy!)

The first frost for Needham is guessed to be October 16, so plan any gardening around that "guesstimate." Clean all houseplants you have put outside for the summer, re-pot them, fertilize, and bring them inside for winter. I find they are lighter to move if you allow them to dry out some before you bring them in. That should be easy enough this summer. Give them a good watering *after* you bring them in.



August-September is a good time to order spring bulbs. It is also a good time to plant small trees or shrubs you still have in containers or have just purchased. Celebrate our dry summer by sitting them in water until they stop bubbling and then plant and fertilize them. It is also a good time to fill in your lawn with grass seed or plant ground cover before the leaves start falling.

September or October is a good time to plant those spring bulbs you ordered. The ground should still be workable when you dig them in. I have actually planted bulbs in early December but it is best to do it earlier so they get a good start before frost. Stop any pruning because it encourages new growth and the plants could be damaged by frost.

Co-chairs: Cathie Cummings & Eileen Mecagni

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our team has worked valiantly during this long hot summer to maintain the perennials in Noyes Garden. While the annuals perished, the established plants are going strong. Mother Nature was pretty wimpy with her help, so the Outreach Team of Nancy Agler, Susan Abbott, Beth Klencheski, Carol Alper, Imie Kilburn, Fay Remnitz, Debbie Wentworth, Diana Conroy; and Friends of Outreach Bette Lavery, Karen Taggart, Cathie Cummings, Phyllis Uhl, and Lynne Braley filled in each week throughout the summer. Let's hope for a bit of a respite with some rain in the autumn. The library urns, with loving attention from Karen Taggart and the watering team, look wonderful. They are a challenge, since they are located in a position that might not get much rain even if the surrounding area is drenched. Thank you Karen and team!



Garden Therapy will start up again in October when we visit Briarwood on the 20th, followed by North Hill in November on the 17th. Please consider joining us to help with this service project. It is rewarding, to say the least, and requires minimal effort -- just a smiling face and willing pair of hands to assist residents as they create a much appreciated basket of flowers for their room. If your garden is still blooming nicely, please do consider sharing some greens and blooms. These two pictures are from our May 26 Garden Therapy at Wingate.



Nancy Agler and Diana Conroy, Co-Chairs

GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION NEWS

GCFM Fundraising Reminder



The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts has linked with Amazon.com for a fundraising program. Shoppers simply log onto the GCFM website www.GCFM.org and on the home page, click on the Amazon.com link. You will be taken directly to the Amazon.com website where you can shop and place orders as usual. There is no extra cost to shoppers and the GCFM does not capture any personal info. The GCFM will receive back 4%-15% of all your purchases to help fund educational programs.



Do You Like Flower Arranging?

The Garden Club Federation has two 3-class programs to help you learn and experiment. Both meet for one morning each in Oct., Jan., and March/April (see Yearbook). Back to Basics classes are demonstrations; Design Workshops are hands-on. Both programs require advance sign-up and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Back to Basics has a final registration deadline of September 26, 2016

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE NEWS

The beautiful 2016-2017 NGC Yearbook has been completed and sent to the club's members. Karen Taggart and Nina Saltus have worked diligently with additional help from technical expert, Mary Taggart Wheeldon, to provide the club's members with updated information and keep them informed throughout the year. Congratulations on a job well done!

Nina Saltus and Karen Taggart, Co-Editors

WEBSITE

The new Needham Garden Club website will be up and running very soon. When it's ready, we will send out an email announcement. We're very excited about this new forum to promote our club and share gardening news and information. We hope you will feel free to peruse the site and enjoy the photos. If you have any comments or suggestions on what you would like to see on the site, let Nancy Agler know at niagler@aol.com.

NEWSLETTER

Please keep sending us your photos and ideas for the newsletter. If you are planning a Garden Club event for November or December, please send us your article so it can be included in the next newsletter. The deadline is October 10, 2016.

Carol Alper and Amy Cicala, Co-Editors

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CLUB'S SUMMER ACTIVITIES



Canyon Ranch Road Trip



A Rainy Day Tour of Garden in the Woods