

NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB

Standing Committee Reports

2016-2017

COMMITTEES

Community Outreach:

Co-Chairs Diana Conroy and Nancy Agler

This year the Community Outreach Committee organized Garden Therapy at North Hill, Briarwood, Wingate and Avery Manor. We have decided to cease our arrangement for Garden Therapy with North Hill due to non-compliance with our request that they have a staff member present. We will be starting Garden Therapy at Avita in the next year. We provided an arrangement for the Community Players Production in 2016 with the assistance of the Flower Arranging Committee. We maintained the urns at the library and provided a flower arrangement or plant by the circulation desk on a biweekly basis from September through June. We continue to maintain the Noyes Park Tercentennial Garden, and plan to amend the soil with the compost sold as a fundraiser from a fellow garden club, and plant some colorful annuals and a few new perennials as soon as the danger of frost has passed. Everything looks like it wintered over pretty well and we look forward to working on it.

Flower Arranging

Co-Chairs: Anne Carlson and Karen Shapiro

In October, the Flower Arranging Committee sponsored a Club mixer in the library. We made table arrangements with the theme "Fall in Provence."

Also in October, the Committee provided arrangements for the Needham High School Distinguished Career Award Ceremony honoring exemplary graduates. We provided eight table centerpieces and a large arrangement for the podium.

In May, the Committee will sponsor a workshop at Elm Bank. We will first have a tour, then make miniature arrangements in tea cups.

The Committee will provide centerpieces for the Annual Meeting & Luncheon to be held at the Needham Golf Club in May.

Horticulture:

Co-Chairs Cathie Cummings and Eileen Mecagni

In June, the club had a booth at the NBA Street Fair. We sold plants from members' gardens and distributed zinnia seedlings to children. This is an all-Club event coordinated by the Horticulture Committee. We had good weather, many customers and good participation from the membership. Also in June, there was a garden stroll for members only, of six members' gardens. This was our first event of this kind. Since all involved enjoyed it, we plan to have another stroll this June.

In February, we distributed the begonia tubers and planting instructions for this year's challenge. Results will

be displayed at our May meeting.

In March, we held a Kokedama Workshop for 20 members. This is a Japanese inspired technique of wrapping a plant in moss instead of using a pot. We plan to make a few to sell at our June sale.

In May, we are planning a tour of the Natick Community Organic Farm.

At the General Meetings, we organized a Horticulture Corner with member participation on a variety of themes. We had displays of interesting foliage, dried hydrangeas, signs of spring, and the begonia challenge plants. There was a plant swap and a swap of garden & flower arranging items.

Horticulture tips were submitted for each club Newsletter.

Hospitality:

Co-Chairs Mary Toran and Cathy Flaherty

The Hospitality Committee arranged for a committee to provide refreshments for all the general monthly meetings. The Committee also arranged for a members-only luncheon in October, and provided food and beverages for the Christmas Wreath and Arrangement sale in December. Invitations for the Annual Meeting and Luncheon were sent out and the Committee coordinated with Needham Golf Course for this event.

Membership:

Co-Chairs Bonnie Waters and Sally Toran

During the 2016-17 year, five new members joined NGC. Each new member was introduced at a General Meeting and given an NGC green apron and Year Book as welcome gifts. The board assigned the new members committees to serve on for their first year taking into account their preference on the application form and also where there was a need for the Club. There was also a mentor assigned to each new member to help her get to know the Club and to feel welcome.

The current membership of the Club now totals 76. We have one Honorary Member, 13 Associate Members and 62 Active Members. Attendance at the General Program Meetings averaged 35 members. We had 14 members attend the Tri Club Meeting in March. We have had as many as 20 visitors attend our programs.

We continue to place our bookmarks in the library and encourage members to reach out to friends to invite them to our programs. Most of our new members have come through attendance at our programs or from referrals from NGC members. We have continued to place a member of our committee at the entrance to greet visitors. This contact and greeting at the door has brought several new members our way.

Newsletter:

Co-Editors Carol Alper and Amy Cicala

Carol Alper and Amy Cicala have served as Co-Editors of the Newsletter for the past year. They have alternated the responsibility for the five editions with Karen Taggart and Nina Saltus continuing as proofreaders. The Newsletter is distributed mostly via email with only a few copies mailed, and appears on our web site.

Pictures of the various club activities and speakers, as well as articles from each of the committees, form the basis of the Newsletter. Members are encouraged to share their ideas as well as photos they have taken.

Nominating:

Co-Chairs Lynne Braley and Karen Taggart

Redesigned preference sheets for the 2017-2018 Garden Club year were emailed/distributed in January 2017. The Nominating Committee met several times and determined that the Club will have Co-Presidents for this coming year. It also worked on placing all the current and new members in committees compatible with their talents and requests, to be completed before the Annual Meeting.

Publicity:

Chair Gail Davis

The Needham Times, Wicked Local, and the Hometown Weekly consistently published press releases promoting Garden Club community activities and those programs which were open to the public. Flyers for presentations were posted in Needham, and event information was shared with other local Garden Clubs.

Program:

Co-Chairs Fawn Hurwitz and Lori Markell

The Program Committee reports a very diverse year, starting in September with Trish Umbrell of the Natick Community Organic Farm presenting the “Four Seasons of Gardening.”

In November, Richard O’Mara, owner of Cedar Grove Gardens in Dorchester, created holiday wreaths and centerpieces to give members ideas and inspiration for our upcoming “Wreath & Arrangement” fundraiser in December.

In January, Sue Kaplan stepped in for Marisa McCoy with an “Art in Bloom” interpretation to prepare us for Needham’s annual Art-In-Bloom in March at the Library.

In February, Landscape Designer and Master Gardener Gail Anderson presented a slide show of amazing “Hydrangea Highlights” to help get us through the “winter blues.”

March brought us the annual Tri-Club meeting in conjunction with the Temple Beth Shalom and Kalmia Garden Clubs. This year’s outstanding program was Rebecca Carter, Owner, Designer and Visionary of Branch and Bloom Floral Boutique in Wolfeboro, N.H.

In April, lecturer Suzanne Mahler, helped us “Get Ready for Spring,” with an informative program on spring pruning, transplanting trees and shrubs, and dividing perennials.

Ways and Means:

Co-Chairs Janice Berns and Martha Schleck

A members-only Wreath Workshop was held at the Public Library on Wednesday, November 30, for Club members to decorate their personal wreaths. The Wreath and Floral Arrangements Workshop for the Wreath Sale took place at the Needham Congregational Church on December 2. The sale was held at the church on Saturday, December 3. Members enjoyed working together making beautiful decorations. The sale continues to be a financial and social success. The proceeds from the sale fund both programs and civic activities for the Club.

Yearbook:

Co Editors Nina Saltus and Karen Taggart

During the summer of 2016, the Yearbook Editor gathered, entered and corrected the Club's detailed schedule (including meetings and programs offered by the Metro District and the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts), the current Club by-laws, and comprehensive contact information for District, Regional and National Garden Club leaders, as well as all Needham Garden Club members for the 2016-2017 season.

OFFICERS

Administrative Council Report:

Diana Conroy

The Administrative Council, comprised of five members, worked together to set agendas for and conduct eight Board Meetings and seven General Meetings for June of 2016 through June of 2017. An introductory letter for the yearbook was written, as were five letters for the Needham Garden Club newsletter. The Administrative Council also represented the Needham Garden Club at several Metro District meetings and several Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts meetings.

Treasurer:

Martha Schleck

The treasurer managed the finances of the Club making deposits and disbursements according to Club activities. Expenses included a \$1,000.00 Scholarship for a graduating Needham Senior, insurance, GCFM dues, and memberships to Mass. Hort. and N.E. Wildflower Society.

The Treasurer's report was presented monthly at board and general meetings. Upon meeting with the Finance Committee, the budget for 2017-2018 was prepared. The books will be balanced at the end of June.

Recording Secretary:

Mary Toran

The Recording Secretary took minutes at the Board and General Meetings. The previous meeting's minutes were emailed to the Board and General Meeting minutes were posted on the back table. Reports were collected from each officer and committee chair on their activities during the year. These reports were compiled into the Standing Committee Report that is presented at the May Annual Meeting.

Corresponding Secretary:

Nina Saltus

Get Well/Thinking-of-You Cards and Sympathy Cards were sent out this year. Monthly reminders for our Board Meetings were sent out and the hostesses and co-hostesses were reminded of their assignments. We did not have any Memorial Books in memory of past members to donate to the Needham Public Library this past year.