



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

March/April 2020

LETTER FROM THE TRI-PRESIDENTS:

Happy Springtime Garden Club Members!

As we continue to delve a little more deeply into using native plants, it might be that some folks are baffled as to where to find those plants and materials.

We, in Massachusetts, are lucky to have a very good source of native plants in the form of The Native Plant Trust. Its headquarters is located at Garden in the Woods in Framingham which is a true Massachusetts treasure. Its website: nativeplanttrust.org is just loaded with articles to read, plants available with order-form pdfs and lists of classes to take. All of the plants that are used on site and available for sale are grown at Nasami Farm in Whately, MA. It is purely organic, and according to Karen Taggart, makes a fine field trip on a Saturday or Sunday (April 25-October 7.)

Another website that is extremely helpful is the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX. (wildflower.org) It has plenty of information too and although geared towards plants native to Texas, I have found it to be a terrific resource. If you happen to be in the Austin, Texas area, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is a lovely place to visit (one of these days I hope to get there at the height of Texas Bluebonnet season! They are in bloom from March to mid-April.)

For a wealth of information on other nurseries from which to buy plants, a good web source is Wild Seed Project (wildseedproject.net) They have an extensive list of New England area organizations and co-ops that sell plants grown from seed or propagation.



While we are not in the habit of promoting businesses, in the context of this article, I will mention that I have purchased plants from two Midwest nurseries that specialize in native plants. While many of the plants are prairie based, there is a decent selection of natives from the Northeast. The customer service at both places is stellar, and the quality of the plants is astounding. They are Prairie Nursery (prairienursery.com) and

UP-COMING EVENTS

March 3- Board Meeting, 9:30am

March 11-15- Boston Flower Show

March 17- Tri-Club Meeting, 7:15pm, Sandra Sigman from Les Fleurs in Andover

March 19- Garden Therapy at North Hill, 9:45am

April 7- Board Meeting, 9:30am

April 23- Garden Therapy at Wingate Healthcare, 9:45am

April 28- Your Body in the Garden, Susan Guest, 9:30am

May 5- Enchanted F(L)orist, Brenna Quan, GCFM Speaker



Prairie Moon Nursery (prairiemoon.com.)



Lastly, in keeping with a goal to decrease our dependence upon peat, a valuable but non-renewable resource, I have discovered a peat alternative called PittMoss. It is made from recycled paper. I have ordered some to use but, haven't used it yet since I discovered it in the winter! It is good to know that this is available, and is possibly an even greener product than coconut coir (which must be transported from long distances.)

Have fun with your native plant projects, and be sure to take pictures and put them on the website and Facebook! Share the wealth of knowledge and we will all reap the benefits.

Nancy Agler, Diana Conroy, Jane Lischewski, Tri-Presidents

COMMITTEE NEWS

Program Committee

Our annual Tri-Club meeting will be on March 17, 2020 at 7:15pm. The presenter is Sandra Sigman from Les Fleurs in Andover. Les Fleurs is a French-inspired floral, home and garden shop.

Just a reminder that car-pooling is encouraged as parking is very tight at Temple Beth-Shalom.



Your Body in the Garden - April 28, 2020

Lecturer Susan Guest will teach us how to become more aware of our bodies as we perform our garden tasks. Susan is a fitness professional and she will give us tips on posture, exercises to increase strength and flexibility, bending over strategies to increase our shovel power and the use of proper tools and ergonomics in the garden.

Pat Hession and Bonnie Waters, Co-Chairs

Enchanted F(L)orist – May 5, 2020, 10am at Regis College.

Brenna Quan will be the featured speaker at this year's Wallack Event (GCFM.) For ticket information, contact Fawn Hurwitz: fhurwitz@aol.com

Community Outreach Committee

Many thanks to all who have braved the winter elements and brought in flowers or a plant for the coffee table in the library reception area. Imie Kilburn, who coordinates this project, reports of many appreciative remarks about the lovely flowers or an unusual plant, both from the staff and patrons of the library. Imie will have volunteer sign up sheets at the general meetings. Please consider a one-week contribution of a flower arrangement or plant to brighten this area.

Garden Therapy is a wonderful and fun activity that our club participates in. We bring flowers and containers to local nursing homes and we assist residents in making an arrangement to keep. All members are invited to participate. Please sign up in advance at the General meetings.



There are two sessions scheduled for the Spring:



Thursday, 3/19, at 9:45, at North Hill, Vista Terrace/Pine edge.

Thursday, 4/23, at 9:45, at Wingate Healthcare

WE NEED BASKETS. We use small recycled baskets for the Garden Therapy arrangements. If we don't have to purchase the containers, we have more money for the flowers.

Lynne Jones and Cathie Cummings, Co-Chairs

Hospitality Committee News

The Flower Arranging Committee will be providing food for the April meeting. Karen and Cathie enjoy goodies from our March meeting.

Anne Brain and Cathy Flaherty, Co-Chairs



Ways and Means Committee

This is a very quiet time for Ways and Means. Our only request is that you keep your eye out if you are in thrift shops for good Christmas decorating items. In this day of Marie Kondo'ing we might find some new treasures that will bring us joy (because we won't have to pay top dollar for them.)

Keep your eye out for an announcement about a Pinecone Painting Party this spring or summer at which we'll paint a new supply of pinecones, and will also meet to plan for next year.

Diana Conroy and Fabienne Madsen, Co-Chairs

Social Media Committee News

New information has been added to the website!

Gardening Tips: The tips on this page will be more specific than the monthly tips.

Travels: If you have been somewhere that has exceptional flowers/gardens, send me your photos and let me know where you took the photos.

Nancy Agler: niagler@aol.com

Newsletter Committee

Our thanks to all those who have shared articles and pictures. The next deadline for the May-June newsletter is April 10, 2020.

Amy Cicala and Carol Alper, Co-Chairs

RECENT CLUB MEETINGS



MFA Associates shared behind-the-scenes stories of preparing flowers for the museum and demonstrated a couple of arrangements that might be used at the museum.

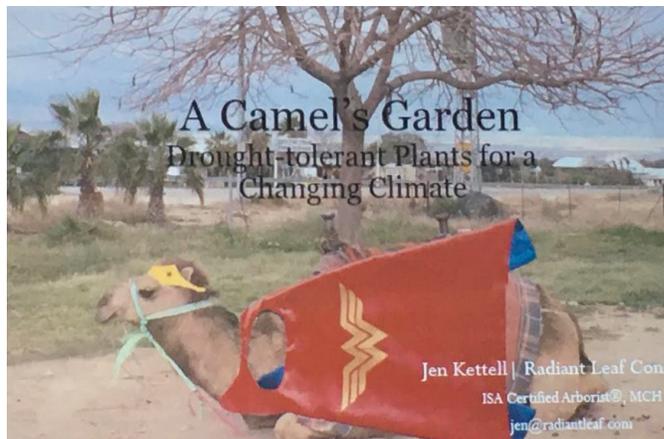


Lucky winners of plants and arrangements from the MFA Associates during our January meeting.





Monica Foley shares some jugs she planted with seeds for spring flowers.



Jen Kettell shared a wealth of information regarding techniques for gardening using minimal water as well as plants that she recommends that are drought-tolerant.



The horticulture corner showing drought-tolerant plants for our gardens.