



# Needham Garden Club Newsletter

November/December 2019

## Letter from the Tri-Presidents

Welcome to late autumn and early winter! Many outdoor tasks are completed (although you should be able to throw some flower bulbs or garlic into the ground still!) so the planning can begin for next spring.

We are always in search of shade loving plants, and now should be thinking “native” first and foremost. Ground covers are especially desirable as more native trees are planted and mature, because our landscaping will naturally need more plants that thrive in the shade. English Ivy and Vinca Minor are so prevalent that we can almost be lulled into thinking that they are native. Not so!

A wonderful alternative to Ivy and Vinca is Canadian Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*.) A native of the Eastern United States and Canada, wild ginger thrives in shade, is low maintenance, is deer and rabbit resistant, and spreads to a thick ground cover. The Canadian wild ginger is a deciduous, rhizomatous plant that, while valued for its heart-shaped deep green leaves, has a lovely flower in the early spring. You will have to hunt for the flower as it lives under the leaf cover and is very short lived. Wild ginger is edible in reasonable quantities, and the Native Americans used it for everything from perfume to cough and cold relief to a spice for food.

If buying it, made sure that you get *Asarum canadense*, not *Asarum caudatum* -- which is a different species of wild ginger native to the northwest coast of North America and is quite different than the variety described here.

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## Upcoming Calendar

**Thursday, November 7 at 10:30 a.m. ~**

*Bow-Making Workshop for Wreath & Arrangement Sale at Lynne Braley's home; advance sign-up required (members only)*

**Thursday, November 7 at 1:00 p.m. ~**

*Amaryllis-Planting Workshop for Wreath & Arrangement Sale at Karen Taggart's home; advance sign-up required (members only)*

**Tuesday, November 19 at 9:30 a.m. ~**

*“Through the Holidays” with Thelma Shoneman at Needham Public Library Community Room (program starts at 10:00) (open to the public)*

**Thursday, November 21 at 1:00 p.m. ~**

*Garden Therapy at Avita of Needham, 880 Greendale Avenue; advance sign-up required (members only)*

**Friday, November 29 – Sunday, December 15 ~**

*MassHort's Festival of Trees at Elm Bank, Wellesley*

**Thursday, December 5, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ~**

*Wreath Sale set-up at Congregational Church of Needham; and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. ~*

*Members' Wreath-making Workshop; advance sign-up required (members only)*

**Friday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. ~**

*Wreath and Arrangement-Making Workshop at Congregational Church (members only)*

**Saturday, December 7, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ~**

*Wreath & Arrangement and Jewelry Sale at Congregational Church*





If you have wild ginger growing in your yard, please consider donating some to the Spring plant sale. As members who were working at the sale last year can attest, we had some and it was sold in a flash to those looking for native, shade-loving ground covers. Hopefully we'll have even more this year!

Looking forward to the Fall and Winter Programming!

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



## **Membership Committee**

We are pleased to welcome six new members:

**Marilyn Conviser**, who enjoys oil painting, reading, cooking, playing cards and interior design, will join the Hospitality Committee;

**Gerry Dardinski**, who is interested in zumba, music, reading, exercise, flower arranging and math, will join the Outreach Committee;

**Terry Luskin**, who enjoys travel, architecture and math, will join the Horticulture Committee;

**Janet Rubenstein**, who enjoys walking, volunteer work, crafts and travel, will join the Flower Arranging Committee;

**Martha (Mo) Dowd**, who is interested in art, working with the homeless and quilting, will join the Program Committee; and

**Amy Liss**, who enjoys gardening outside and floral arranging and is interested in learning more, will join the Outreach Committee.

Please offer a warm welcome to Marilyn, Gerry, Terry, Janet, Martha and Amy when you see them!

**Nancy Gallerani, Eileen Mecagni and Debbie Wentworth, Tri-Chairs**

## **Newsletter Committee**

Please send your announcements, photos and ideas for the newsletter to Carol Alper ([carol.alper25@gmail.com](mailto:carol.alper25@gmail.com)) or Amy Cicala ([amycicala293@gmail.com](mailto:amycicala293@gmail.com)).

**Committee chairs:** If you are planning a Garden Club event for January or February, please send us your article by **December 10, 2019** so it can be included in the next newsletter.

**Carol Alper & Amy Cicala, Co-Editors**

## ***Ways and Means Committee***

The Ways and Means Committee is busy getting prepared for the annual Wreath & Arrangement Sale, which will take place this year on December 7 at the Congregational Church of Needham. All club members are expected to participate in some way as this is our biggest fundraiser. We will once again be having a jewelry sale, thanks to the hard work of the sub-committee and the generous donations of jewelry by members, friends and family.



Mark your calendars for the Bow-Making Workshop, the Members-Only Wreath-Making Workshop, the general Wreath-Making Workshop, and the Sale. All dates and information are in your yearbook and on our website.

Please feel free to bring any reusable ornaments and decorations that are in great shape. The club's "Go Green" efforts continue and re-use is a great way to further those efforts.

While participation in the Wreath Sale and preparation is expected of all members, it is also a fun event with opportunities to chat, compare ideas, and enjoy some fellowship with friends and members who you will get to know better while working side by side.

### **BOW-MAKING WORKSHOP**

A bow-making workshop will be held on Thursday, November 7 at 10:30 a.m. at Lynne Braley's home.

### **AMARYLLIS PLANTING WORKSHOP**

An amaryllis planting workshop will be held on Thursday, November 7 at 1:00 p.m. at Karen Taggart's home. The plants will be sold at the Wreath and Arrangement Sale.

### **JEWELRY COLLECTION**

The Wreath & Arrangement Sale is less than two months away. We are holding the jewelry sale again this year as it was surprisingly successful last year, bringing in over \$1000. We would like to make it a tradition each year, but to do so we need all Club members to participate. We will have a collection box at the November meeting, where you can leave your donations. If you need assistance, please contact a Ways & Means Committee member or Bonnie Waters at 617-512-1404.

***Diana Conroy & Fabienne Madsen,***

The ***Horticulture Committee*** would like to know if any members have greens in their yard that could be used in making wreaths and arrangements for the Club's sale. Please check the link to Martha Stewart's piece on holiday greenery (<https://www.marthastewart.com/274907/holiday-greenery-101>) and let us know if you have some greens to cut or to have us cut. Thank you!

Karen Taggart: [taggartkaren@comcast.net](mailto:taggartkaren@comcast.net) Vivian Weller: [vivianweller81@gmail.com](mailto:vivianweller81@gmail.com)

## **Community Outreach**

Thank you to members that have decorated the library reception area with a lovely arrangement or plant. Also, thank you to our watering angels that help maintain the urns in front of the library and our garden in Noyes Park.

In October, we brought baskets, greens and flowers to the residents of Briarwood Healthcare to make floral arrangements to keep and enjoy. We will be doing the same at our next Garden Therapy session at Avita of Needham on November 21 at 1:00 (arrive at 12:15.) NOTE: THIS IS A CHANGE FROM THE 10:30 TIME LISTED IN THE YEARBOOK. All members are invited to participate. Please sign up at the October or November general meeting. We can always use greens from your gardens. If you are not able to attend and have greens to contribute, contact Cathie Cummings or Lynne Jones.



**Lynne Jones & Cathie Cummings, Co-Chairs**

## **Carol Roth Remembered**

Former member and past president of the Needham Garden Club, Carol Roth, passed away on October 5<sup>th</sup> at age 91. Carol was a valued member of our club, serving in many board positions, including as president from 2001 to 2003. She resigned from the club when she moved to Concord in 2009. A book (Margaret Roach's A Way to Garden) will be purchased and donated to the library in her memory.

## **From the Corresponding Secretary**

We encourage all Needham Garden Club members to let Bonnie Waters know of any news that would warrant a card from the Club. Whether illness, death, house move or a celebratory event, please send an email to Bonnie at [bonniewaters@comcast.net](mailto:bonniewaters@comcast.net), or call her at 617-512-1404. These cards are greatly appreciated.



## **Communications Committee**

Have you checked out the club's social media lately? The Fall calendar and new garden photos from members' travels have been added to the website. If you have gardening tips or photos to share, please send them to Nancy Agler at [niagler@aol.com](mailto:niagler@aol.com). And keep sending photos of club events to Lyn Jekowsky at [lynjekowsky@comcast.net](mailto:lynjekowsky@comcast.net). Lyn will post them on the club's Facebook page.



## ***Festival of Trees***

### A Celebration of *The Mitten*

*The Mitten*, by Jan Brett, is the theme of the Club's Christmas Tree donation to the Massachusetts Horticulture Society's Festival of Trees.



With creative efforts led by Lyn Jekowsky and Carole Grosberg, club members have knitted mittens of all sizes to hang on the tree and donated a variety of stuffed woodland creatures to snuggle into the tree. Diana Conroy crafted a gorgeous reversible tree skirt, one side depicting woodland animals. There will be gifts under the tree, including the book *The Mitten*, stuffed woodland animals and a gift certificate to Wellesley Booksmith.

For those unfamiliar with the book, Jan Brett's illustrations of woodland animals and winter landscape are gorgeous and realistic. The story is of a boy who loses in the snow one of the white mittens that his grandmother has just knit for him. Woodland animals come upon the mitten and crawl in one after the other, stretching the mitten, until the mouse tickles the bear's nose. The bear then sneezes, and all of the animals tumble out. The border illustrations on each page hint at what will happen next. The story and illustrations appeal to all ages.

So mark your calendars to visit this spectacular event at Elm Bank in Wellesley (details below), and check out the Club's tree. And thank you so much for your creations and contributions.

**NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 15, 2019**  
**MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**ELM BANK RESERVATION**  
**900 WASHINGTON STREET, WELLESLEY**

The Festival of Trees and Snow Village feature beautifully decorated trees and model trains winding through holiday villages. On weekends, festivities include Santa visits, horse-drawn wagon rides, music and more!

#### **HOURS:**

Wednesday and Thursday: 4 – 8 p.m.  
Friday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Sunday, December 15: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.



## Recent Events

### Chalk Painting Workshop

On October 10, more than twenty club members met in Karen Taggart's garage to learn the art of chalk painting from Colleen Perry of *Brissonte*. Ugly old clay pots were transformed into stunning treasures suitable for wreath sale arrangements or decorative pots for any occasion -- and a good time was had by all!



# September's Program

Debbie Kraft presents "Flowers for the Home"



# October Mixer

*Sponsored by the Flower Arranging Committee*

On October 15, members enjoyed the annual tablescapes mixer. The theme this year was “a natural world environment.” The teams displayed much creativity, with tablescapes reflecting the rainforest, the ocean, the seashore, the forest, Maine’s north woods and the Scottish highlands.

