



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

November/December 2022

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www.needhamgardenclub.com

Up-coming Event

- 11/3- Bow Making
- 11/15- General Meeting
with Richard O'Mara
- 12/1- Set Up, Wreath Sale
- 12/2- Make Wreaths
- 12/3- Wreath/Jewelry Sale

[See details below.](#)

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Greetings from your Co-Presidents. Your Board members have planned an exciting fall for us. Our September program, Dahlias presented by Betsy Szymczak was a great success. Who knew that the dahlia originated from the hills of Mexico? Cortez, while looking for gold, stumbled upon these gorgeous blooms.

On another high note, we are restarting our Garden Therapy sessions. This is a program our members really enjoy. Bringing smiles to our Seniors is its own reward.

Our Ways and Means Co-Chairs, Fabienne Madsen and Nancy Yablonski, are finalizing the plans for the Wreath and Arrangement Sale on Dec. 3rd. They will be bringing back the Jewelry Sale as part of the festivities. This has been a highlight in the past.

One more thing... Your Co-Presidents recently attended the GCFM Fall meeting. We would like to call your attention to its website: www.gcfm.org. There is information on programs, activities, classes and more on this site. We look forward to an exciting fall. Be safe and be well.

Gail Davis and Debbie Wentworth, Co-Presidents



Gail Davis and Debbie Wentworth presenting the Unsung Hero Awards to Terry Luskin and Trish Cruickshank for all their important contributions last year.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Program Committee



November 15th we will welcome Richard O'Mara, the talented owner of Cedar Grove Gardens in Dorchester. He will demonstrate his innovative techniques for making festive holiday greenery by making it once and then using the same materials in a different way. Join us for "Make It Nice, Use It Twice." This program will take place at 9:30 am in the Needham Public Library Community Room.

Nancy Gallerani and Martha Schleck, Co-Chairs

Ways and Means Committee



The Ways and Means Committee is gearing up for the annual Wreath Sale on Saturday December 3rd from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We've ordered 3 dozen 12" balsam wreaths, 3 dozen 14" balsam wreaths, a case of bunched white pine tips and 8 yard signs. The wreaths will be delivered directly to the

Church on 12/1. Please do an assessment of the greens in your yard to bring on 12/1. All evergreens are welcome!



Please update your calendars with the following dates.

2022 Ways and Means Wreath Sale Dates			
Date	Activity	Location	Time
11/3	Bow Making	Lynn Braley's house	10:30 am – 12 pm
12/1	Set up for wreath sale	Congregational Church	9 – 11 am
12/2	Make wreaths, arrangements, and swags	Congregational Church	9 am- 1 pm
12/3	Wreath Sale/set up/prep/clean up	Congregational Church	8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Signup sheets were available at the October 18th meeting. A big thanks to everyone who’s already signed up. There will be another opportunity for signups at our November meeting.

We’ve made a few changes this year.

1. There is **no** ‘Make Your Own Wreath’ activity. Instead, you can purchase the beautiful wreath you make.
2. We’re excited to be reinstating the **jewelry sale** this year. Diana Conroy and Susan Condon have graciously agreed to co-lead this sub-committee. We’re actively collecting jewelry and ask that it be cleaned and placed in plastic bags prior to your donation. We’re also looking for loans of items on which to display jewelry, i.e., trays, jewelry boxes, necklace/earring holders. Put your name on these items and they will be returned.
3. The Ways and Means committee met on October 6th at Nancy Yablonski’s to make **dried arrangements** for the sale with supplies from the Congregational Church. We’ll meet again on November 10th to make more. Here are some examples of the finished output.



Fabienne Madsen and Nancy Yablonski, Co-Chairs



Ways and Means Committee with its beautiful creations!



Horticulture Committee

Some fall tips:

Early to mid-November is a beneficial time to add new shrubs, bushes and perennials. The prices at the nurseries are reduced and the cool weather helps the new plants set strong roots throughout the fall and winter into spring.

Now is also a preferred time to divide many perennials. Hosta, Asiatic and Oriental lilies, peonies, day lilies, bearded iris, Oriental copies, and sedums are best divided this time of year to ensure that they will be strong and mature for next spring.



these strategies is ... mixed.

Spring bulbs are also planted in the fall. These bulbs are best planted in nourished soil and as deep as 2 to 3 times the bulb's height. Daffodils can be planted in September, but tulips and other tasty bulbs should be planted as late as possible. Squirrels, chipmunks and voles love tulips. If you want tulips to survive, you will have to take some preventive strategies and the effectiveness of

- Plant your tulips later in November. Hopefully the critters will have already stored their winter food supply.
- Do not use blood meal but super phosphate to nourish the soil. The critters are drawn to the blood meal.
- Cages made from small-gage chicken wire or hardware cloth can also protect the bulbs underground. See YouTube for directions
- Finally, when your tulip leaves immerge in the spring, start spraying with deer and/or critter spray. Local bunnies LOVE tulips.

Wishing you all the best of luck and please share your best practices with us.

Terry Luskin and Trish Cruickshank, Co-Chairs

Membership Committee

The Membership Team is very pleased to announce three new members of the Needham Garden Club:

-Cheryl White will be joining the Hospitality Committee, and her mentor is Carole Grosberg.

-Tanitha Hathcock will be joining the Ways and Means Committee, and her mentor is Joyce Lafaver.

-Kris Cauti will be joining the Horticulture Committee, and her mentor is Lindy Roesthlisberger.

Welcome each and all. We are thrilled that you have joined, and hope that this will provide a chance for new friends, new connections and some enhanced understanding of gardening and horticulture.



New members who have joined this year.

Lynne Braley and Diana Conroy, Co-Chairs

Community Outreach Committee

Community Outreach has been busy this fall, and we thank all the members that make possible all the projects that are beneficial to our community.

The Library Urns. In October, the faded flowers of summer were replaced with fall mums. Volunteers continue to water and care for the plantings. In November we will be filling the urns with a variety of evergreen branches for the winter. Donations of branches are welcome.

The Garden in Noyes Park. Most of the plants survived the summer drought and heat thanks to the volunteers who watered them. The recent rains and cooler weather have further revived the garden. We will continue to plan for native plants with an eye to drought resistant varieties.



Flowers or Plants for the Library Reception Area. This is a year-round activity for our club that is much appreciated by the patrons and the staff. There are volunteers signed-up through December with opportunities to sign-up at our club meetings and on-line for future weeks.

Garden Therapy. Our first return, after two years, to this activity ran into a last-minute snag. The facility at the North Hill assisted living had to cancel due to Covid concerns. Since we had the flowers, our members made 15 lovely basket arrangements for the residents to enjoy. We continue to plan for future sessions. As always, we can use medium size

baskets and plastic liners.

Ellen Barnes and Cathie Cummings, Co-chairs



Community Outreach held a last-minute workshop at Ellen Barnes' house. After making floral arrangements, they delivered them to North Hill after several cases of Covid caused the cancellation of the planned Garden Therapy program.

Newsletter Committee

We thank everyone for their timely submissions and all the photos. The next issue of the Newsletter comes out January 1, put together by Becky Levanduski, a new member of our team! The deadline for articles/photos is **December 10.**

DAHLIAS, FALL – WHAT TO DO (For those who missed this program.)



Dahlia gardeners who wish to save their tubers to replant in the spring, come frost, ask 'what do I do now'? Betsy Szymczak recently provided members of The Needham Garden Club the answer to that question. She provided a brief history of the discovery of dahlias and their introduction into the American garden. She included tips on where to plant dahlias, and water and fertilizer requirements.

To over-winter, if you choose, Betsy explained in detail how to dig up tubers, split them, and ready them for storage. She marks her tubers and stores them in vermiculite. There are many more options that work, as



long as your tubers remain not too wet nor too dry.

Betsy concluded with a brief discussion of American Dahlia Society (ADS) classification, how to enter a Dahlia show and where to visit to enjoy dahlia gardens.

Pictures from the October mixer of our table designs and floral arrangements using fruit, flowers and herbs and vegetables. What an amazingly cr

