



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

November/December 2021

Wishes for hygge to all our members!

(Read on to see its meaning!)

Our program year got off to a wonderful start in September with "Fun with Flowers," a program by Kathryn Leva. This was a long anticipated meeting in that it was our first in-person meeting in 19 months. There were 40 members present at the meeting and it was great seeing so many fall and spooky-themed decorations.

Our October meeting was our annual club mixer. In keeping with the season, the theme was Halloween. Six teams participated with a variety of Halloween tablescapes from traditional fall themes to spooky designs.

Great news! Our annual Wreath and Arrangement Sale is back on the schedule for December at the Congregational Church. Be on the lookout for information from the Ways and Means committee on how we can all help make this event great.

Debbie Wentworth, Martha Schleck and Jane Lischewski, Tri-Presidents' letter

Program Committee News

We are excited to welcome Karen Gorton on November 16th at the Library Community Room at 9:30 a.m. She will present 'Season's Greening with a Floral Twist', a unique program focusing on holiday designs using various greens, ribbon, faux fruit, and a variety of natural materials. She will also use floral material that can be replaced or refreshed. We hope everyone will walk away with new ideas for their holiday decorating.

Pat Hession and Bonnie Waters, Co-Chairs

Ways and Means Committee News

The Ways and Means Team is gearing up for re-entry into the annual Wreath Sale! It will be on a slightly smaller scale this year due to several factors. We are a bit unsure as to how confident the

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Upcoming Events-

*Nov. 16- Season's Greening
with a Floral Twist with
Karen Gorton, 9:30AM*

Dec. 4- NGC Wreath Sale



public will be in coming to our indoor sale, so we are keeping the wreath numbers to 60 versus 72 that we have gotten in previous years. The lovely greens that we have purchased in the past are simply not available this year due to the heat, drought and fires in the Midwest and Oregon. Please do an assessment of your yard in the weeks to come for greens to bring. Be ready to think outside the box-- some greens that we don't usually consider for the winter holidays such as pachysandra and euonymus could enhance the arrangements.

We have a good number of containers left from the 2019 sale. If you have any stunning, modest-size containers, please let the Tri-Chairs know. The really large arrangements don't sell well-- the price point for them tends to be too high since they need so many materials to fill them. We also have PLENTY OF MUGS so please do not bring those.



Due to COVID, spray paint has been hard to come by and very pricy. The same ingredients used for spray paint are used in many hand sanitizers, so there is a scarcity. If anyone has white, silver or red spray paint in their supplies please consider sharing. We have plenty of gold and burgundy.

We will all work together to make this both a good fundraiser and club fellowship event. Thanks in advance for all that club members will add to the efforts.

Diana Conroy, Fabienne Madsen, Nancy Yablonski, Tri-Chairs



The Festival of Trees is the major fundraiser for Massachusetts Horticultural Society and the Needham Garden Club has opted to participate in odd-numbered years.

The 2021 Festival of Trees Sub-Committee consists of Nancy Yablonski, Monica Foley, Isabell Wells, Jane Brand, Diana Conroy and former member Caryl Johnson. We have met numerous times starting in January of 2021 and put in many hours of time to craft this tree. We chose a Scandinavian theme based on "Hygge," pronounced "HUGH guh," which means finding comfort, pleasure, and warmth in simple, soothing things. Our theme is "Scandinavian Hugs."

Isabell Wells' son-in-law, Jonathan, was an invaluable help as he has designed and engineered an extraordinary tree from wood, which will stand alone and come apart for easy storage. All ornaments have been handcrafted using Scandinavian flag colors and Scandinavian themes. All gifts that were selected relate to Scandinavian natural resources, games and Hygge-related



themes. Pictures show the work in progress.

We hope that you will visit Elm Bank for the Festival of Trees November 26-December 19. Last year, the organizers did a spectacular job of keeping the event socially distanced and safe and we expect that this year will be no different.

Diana Conroy
On behalf of the Festival of Trees Sub-Committee.

Community Outreach Committee News



The club's Garden Therapy program at the local nursing homes continues to be on hold until participation is deemed safe for the residents and our members. Since it involves working closely with residents, we need to keep this a fun and safe project. Please continue to collect the small baskets and the plastic deli containers that we use for the arrangements for a future date



In November, as the weather gets cooler, we will be putting the garden at Noyes Park to bed. We will be posting a date on email and will welcome any help. Over the winter we hope to review the garden and plan for a minor redesign in the spring, which will incorporate more native plants.

Also, this fall we will be potting the library urns with a display for the fall and winter seasons. We will be requesting contributions of evergreen branches, pinecones, etc. Creativity and helping hands will also be welcome. Watch email postings for time and dates.

In late August we resumed our tradition of members placing a plant or flower arrangement on the coffee table in library reception area. Members are asked to display a favorite plant or a flower arrangement on a weekly basis. The plants and flowers are popular with both the library patrons and staff. A signup request has been sent via email. You may also sign up at our meetings or by contacting Cathie Cummings.



Cathie Cummings and Lynne Jones, Co-Chairs

Horticulture Committee News



One more sign of a return to “the before-times”: amaryllis bulbs have been ordered for the holidays! Many members preferred red-striped bulbs, while others preferred pink or white blossoms. If you happened to miss our Club order, have a look in the John Scheepers catalogue at “Christmas flowering amaryllis.” Those who have already placed an order will get an email from Trish Cruickshank with the cost of their order, as well as information about how to pick up their bulbs.

The Board received a tip from several other garden clubs that can facilitate plant-sale success: dig up your perennials in October, pot them up, and plunge them in their pot into the ground to winter over. After 7 undisturbed months, the plants will be in pristine condition to beckon buyers at the spring plant sale. Empty pots are available through Terry Luskin.

Trish Cruickshank and Terry Luskin, Co-Chairs

Newsletter Committee

Our thanks to all those who have shared articles and pictures. The next deadline for the January/February newsletter is December 10, 2021.

Amy Cicala and Carol Alper, Co-Chairs

Recent Club Events



“Fun with Flowers” by Kathryn Leva on September 21st.

Fall Garden Club Mixer





Fun was had by all!

