



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

January/February 2020

Hello Garden Club Members and Our Best Wishes for a Very Happy New Year!

During the long, sometimes dreary New England winters, a bright spot in our yards and the woods can be the bright red berries of various shrubs. There are many native varieties that provide this color for us to enjoy, as well as food for the hungry birds brave enough to stick around.

One popular shrub that we are finding to be dangerously invasive is Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*.) Although the birds flock to it, a few sources that were found say that it is not terribly nutritious for native species. Others say it is. Regardless, the seeds are not digestible, and are therefore spread with great abundance to forest lands and watersheds where it grows easily and prolifically. As with many invasive species, the foliage of Burning Bush is not at all nutritious for the larva of native butterflies and insects. Since the larvae are being crowded out and not nourished, they are not depositing their droppings in streams and ponds, and the fish that actually depend upon those droppings are also being deprived of nourishment. Thus the larger food web is affected including for those who fish.

Here are some fantastic native alternatives for Burning Bush. In addition to being healthy for the ecosystem, they have the added benefit of providing 3 or 4 season interest. Let's face it- no one plants Burning Bush for the green foliage or the color of its bare branches.

-Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) has beautiful spring flowers, delicious fruit for either people or birds, lovely fall foliage color, and interesting red stems in the winter. This plant is tolerant of road salt so thrives in suburban gardens. If you don't mind sharing with the birds, it makes a very attractive garden bed plant.

-Smokebush (*Cotinus obovatus* syn. *Cotinus americanus*) is a native species. It has spring flowers, but they are not terribly interesting- the foliage is the star. Spring leaves are silky pink, becoming bluish to dark green. Fall leaves are magnificently colorful. A gnarled limb structure and the dark, flaking bark are other attributes.



-Fothergilla (*Fothergilla major* or *Fothergilla gardenii*) is a member of the witch hazel family. Fothergilla is a slow growing shrub with aromatic, fluffy white flowers in the spring, interesting foliage in the summer followed by beautiful golden autumn foliage color.

Upcoming Events

January 7- Board meeting,
9:30 at Lyn Jekowski's

January 28- Behind the Scenes:
Floral Arranging at the MFA

February 25- Drought Tolerant
Plants, Jen Kettle

-Chokeberry (*Aronia Melanocarpa*) is named for its edible, but very astringent berry which if eaten makes the mouth pucker. The lovely white spring blossoms are attractive to a wide variety of pollinators, the shrub is tolerant of a great range of soil conditions, and the vibrant fall color makes it a wonderful substitute for Burning Bush. The berries last into the winter and are highly visible since the Chokeberry is deciduous.

If you have an invasive Burning Bush in your yard, consider stripping the berries so that they can't be consumed. Talk to your neighbors, and do some gentle educating! If our native pollinators can't thrive, then we will all suffer the consequences.

Have some fun doing a little research on this subject; there is a rich abundance of material out there to keep you busy during these cold months.

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

Program Committee News



January's program on the 28th will take us behind the scenes at the Museum of Fine Arts, where we will learn how an MFA Senior Associate creates beautiful arrangements for the museum on a weekly basis throughout the seasons. Following the instructive power point presentation there will be a live floral design demonstration. Come learn some new techniques and creative arranging tips.

On February 25, we will learn about Drought Tolerant Plants with Jen Kettle. She will describe plants that require less water and how plant adaptations make this possible. We will be introduced to a new palette of plant material that will decrease our water use while increasing species diversity and beauty in our home landscapes.



Bonnie Waters, Pat Hession, Co-Chairs



Ways and Means Committee News

December 6 and 7 saw another industrious and successful Wreath and Arrangement workshop followed by a wonderful sale. The Congregational Church graciously allowed the Ways and Means chairwomen to display and sell the leftover wreaths, arrangements and swags. Everything sold! Considering that the sale was the latest possible date for the first Saturday in December, we were well pleased making over \$2700 for the club.

January and February will see us consolidating notes for next year, inventorying what supplies we have left, and then taking a well-deserved rest from thinking about wreaths!

Thank you to all club members for their cheerful hard work, creative ideas, and the incredible ladies who stayed after the sale to clean up. What a great club of women we have!

Diana Conroy, Fabienne Madsen, Co-Chairs



Jewelry Committee

The Jewelry Committee did well at the sale and donated left over jewelry to the Needham Community Council, Needham Senior Center, Dress for Success and the Salvation Army. All were happy recipients of our donations.

Bow Making

Holiday preparations began for Needham Garden Club on November 7th. Novice and expert bow makers gathered under the tutelage of "master bow maker" Lynne Braley, and with gorgeous ribbons of many textures and colors, assembled over 90 bows. For many of us it was a challenge to get the hang of the "button", but as you can see by the pictures, we all met with success. □

These bows, from burlap, to most unusual birch tree pattern, silky silver, red polka dot, red and gold velvet, gold mesh, and many more, adorned wreaths that garden club members decorated and sold at our annual wreath and arrangement sale, and jewelry sale, on Saturday, December 7th.



Community Outreach Committee News

The plants or arrangements provided by our members make a warm and welcoming addition to the library. Many thanks to all who have contributed to this much appreciated project over the past year. We will be looking for volunteers to continue to bring an interesting plant or flowers to be placed on the coffee table in the reception area of the library. It is only a one-week commitment. Imie Kilburn will have sign-up sheets at the general meetings starting in January.

On November 21st we brought baskets, greens and flowers to the residents of Avita of Needham. The residents and our members had an enjoyable time playing with flowers. The residents were all pleased to take an arrangement that they had created for their rooms. This is a fun volunteer event. Look for our next Garden therapy sessions in March & April.





For December we transformed the library urns from an autumn to a winter theme. They will not need the watering of the Spring and Summer months. However, they are still subject to the elements. If anyone notices anything amiss, please let the Community Outreach Committee know.

Lynne Jones, Cathie Cummings, Co-Chairs



Horticulture Committee News

January Horticulture Corner will feature a members' swap. Please bring gardening books, magazines, catalogs, seed packets, etc. to share with others.

February Horticulture Corner will have a display of drought-tolerant plants. This display complements the topic of the General Meeting.

Membership Committee News

We are pleased to introduce three new members. They are:

Ellen Barnes, 589 High Rock Street. She will be a member of the Hospitality Committee and Pat Hession will be her mentor.

Joan Halford, 780 Webster Street. She will be a member of Community Outreach and Lyn Jekowsky will be her mentor.

Kathryn Bender, 1091 Highland Avenue. She will be a member of the Horticulture Committee and Karen Taggart will be her mentor.

Please extend a warm welcome to Ellen, Joan and Kathryn when you see them.

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

Membership Committee News

Now is the time for all active members to let the Nominating Committee know about your Committee Preferences for the 2020-2021 Garden Club year. We know it seems so early into this current year but we need the forms back by **January the 13th** for our committee to start our work.

Think about heading a committee or co-chairing a committee with a friend. It's a great way to get to know and see each other and help with important activities in this very active club. Any questions you might have, we are here to answer them.

The preference sheets will be emailed to you or you can contact the co-chairs directly:

awcarlson@aol.com H 781-400-1876

lynnebraley@gmail.com H 781-449-3872

Anne Carlson and Lynne Braley, Co-Chairs

<i>Do you like:</i>	<i>Yes, I do!</i>	<i>Then this is the Committee for you!</i>
Helping the environment and Community?		Community Outreach
Writing and editing? The latest news?		Newsletter
Planning luncheons?		Hospitality
Welcoming new people?		Membership
Holiday decorations?		Ways & Means
Deciding who's in charge?		Nominating
Fresh air? Neat gardens?		Community Outreach
Looking for interesting speakers?		Program
Writing articles? Taking photos? Making posters?		Publicity
Organizing road trips?		Horticulture
Creating beautiful floral designs		Floral Arranging
Working online?		Website
Updating records?		Yearbook

Newsletter Committee

Our thanks to all those who have shared articles and pictures. The next deadline for the March/April newsletter is February 10, 2019. Please send reports and pictures to Amy Cicala.

Amy Cicala and Carol Alper, Co-Chairs

Recent Club Events



Thelma Shoneman shared her expertise on making holiday arrangements for the whole house.



Festival of Trees- Massachusetts Horticulture Society



The Mitten Tree entry
for the Needham Garden
Club By Lyn Jekowski and
Carole Grosberg



Mercy Wheeler's entry
for Wingate



Monica Foley's entry for
FosterParrots.org

Wreath Making and Sale



Fun was had by all!



NEW THIS YEAR!

Hostess Gifts

Teacher Gifts

Lemon Cypress Trees
Small \$15
Large \$22

Terracotta Snowman
In Holiday Gift Bag
\$12