



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

January/February 2021

Letter from the Co-Presidents

Less than a year ago, I don't think any of us even knew what Zoom was. Now it is part of the reason we are still working as a group keeping our connections strong and sharing our love of all things gardening and floral arranging. With every presentation the attendance increases.

The November meeting "Orchids", inspired by the book "The Orchid Thief," was presented by Tom Kuligowski, an avid orchid grower in South Florida. He spoke of the plight of orchids in their natural habitat of the Florida Everglades and had amazing pictures of rare and endangered orchids. Cathie Cummings followed with a how-to about caring for orchids in your home, a challenge for many of us. Lyn Jekowsky created an amazingly beautiful Pecha Kucha of orchids. If you missed this terrific presentation, it is now available on our website.

In December, we did not have the Annual Wreath & Arrangement sale, but we did have a mini flower arranging Zoom meeting using gold-rimmed teacups. The gold-rimmed tea cups date to a more formal time in the club's history. Margie Hillback, who has stored these teacups for years, gave a brief club history lesson to start the meeting, which was followed by break-out sessions where members could make an arrangement of their choice. These break-out sessions gave us a chance to catch up with old friends or get to spend time with a member we may not know very well -- a great benefit of Zoom.

Upcoming Calendar

January 5 at 9:30 am – Board meeting via Zoom

January 19 at 9:30 am – 'Gardening for the Future,' presented by Master Gardener Nancy Riggs, via Zoom

February 23 at 9:30 am – A lecture about Forcing Bulbs, presented by Lifetime Master Gardener Kathi Garipey, via Zoom

The meeting closed with a Pecha Kucha prepared by Lyn Jekowski . The slides were submitted by members who took pictures of their front doors decorated for the season.

We have an amazing membership working to keep us connected and safe during these strange times.

Please look at our Facebook page for new content and "like" our posts.

We can look forward to more creative Zoom meetings until we are able to meet again at the Library.

**Jane Lischewski & Martha Schleck,
Co-Presidents**

Nominating Committee

Usually in November the Nominating Committee begins to meet, and sends out the sheets asking members their preference about where they would like to serve the following year. Then we spend several months organizing the leaders and teams that run our great club. This crazy year has changed not only our personal plans, but the plans of the Needham Garden Club as well. Most events and meetings have been put on hold or re-imagined. In light of the changes this year, the club's Board has decided that committee members should "hold in place," meaning they will stay on the committees they were assigned to for 2020 and serve in the same role for 2021. Most of the committee chairs and club officers will be doing the same.

We hope this time next year we will be in the middle of a very active and fun Garden Club year, and enjoying each other's company.

***Anne Carlson and Nancy Agler,
Co-Chairs***

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is pleased to introduce a new member, Christine Fleskes. She is a kitchen/bath designer and lives in Needham. Her committee assignment and mentor will be decided at our next Board meeting. Please extend a warm welcome to Christine when you see her.

***Eileen Mecagni and Debbie
Wentworth, Co-Chairs***



Program Committee

The January 19th program will be on Zoom. Master Gardener, Nancy Riggs, will present a program called "Gardening for the Future" where she will explore ways to better enjoy your garden, save time and energy, and keep your garden and yourself in balance. We have postponed our February program with Dan Jaffe to the following year and have substituted a Zoom presentation by Kathi Gariepy, a Lifetime Master Gardener. On Tuesday, February 23rd at 9:30 a.m., she will present a program on forcing bulbs. We will learn the history of forcing bulbs, which bulbs are best for forcing, and how and why they are able to be forced. We will send the Zoom link to our members in advance of both programs.

***Pat Hession and Bonnie Waters,
Co-Chairs***

Outreach Committee

On the Friday before Thanksgiving, we replaced the mums in the urns at the library with greens, white painted branches, and faux winter berry. Ways & Means later added a bow. Then we had two storms with heavy rain and strong wind. When we checked on the urns, we found one of them had fallen over. The urns were supported by wooden boxes which have been slowly rotting, and one of them collapsed. This was not a surprise, and we were planning on making a change to the urns and bases in the Spring. Hope you had a chance to see the lovely display before the crash.

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



Newsletter Committee

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

Committee chairs: If you are planning a Garden Club event for March or April, please send us your article by **February 10, 2021** so it can be included in the next newsletter.

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

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, move or celebratory event, please send an email to Bonnie at 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? If you have gardening tips or photos to share, please send them to Nancy Agler at niagler@aol.com. And keep sending photos of club events to Lyn Jekowsky at lynjekowsky@comcast.net. Lyn will post them on the club's Facebook page.

Ways and Means Committee

While the Wreath & Arrangement Sale for 2020 had to be canceled, some enthusiastic members of Ways and Means decided to look ahead with good cheer and a chance to safely get together.

On a beautiful November day, Ways and Means members Mary Toran, Sally Toran, Lynne Braley, Kathy Bender, Isabell Wells, Sally Burns, Bette Lavery and Diana Conroy gathered together in Diana's back yard to sort several bags of pinecones that had been lovingly stored by Margie Hillback, and then to wire and start painting them in anticipation of the 2021 sale. We accomplished plenty and all were refreshed by the fellowship and gorgeous weather.

As you put away your 2020 decorations, please remember to save any wreath decoration that can be reused or repurposed. The creativity of our members to "upcycle" reusable goods never ceases to amaze me. During your outdoor hikes (aren't we all doing a lot more of that these days!) please remember to scavenge for white birch bark, stunningly perfect pinecones and items of natural interest.

Here's to the start of a fresh New Year, full of Hope and Promise.

Diana Conroy and Fabienne Madsen, Co-Chairs



Winter Distractions

Here are some free videos that may be of interest:

Garden Masterclass

“Garden Masterclass aims to bring together gardeners and designers with the very best and most innovative people in the gardening world through one day workshops in different parts of the country. Each workshop or webinar is organised around a specific topic, and designed to help participants learn, create and apply new knowledge and skills.” – gardenmasterclass.org

Dozens of videos (most approximately 1 hour in length) of experts speaking on a variety of topics can be viewed by going to the Garden Masterclass website (gardenmasterclass.org) and clicking on the “online” tab, then clicking on ‘Thursday Garden Chat’ and/or ‘Public Recordings’ for more information and links to the recordings.

Or access Garden Masterclass videos on youtube directly with this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXrC79EfhUQJjBPXd4wzGHg/videos>

Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary

Another free video which you may find of interest is a virtual tour of the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Wales, MA. This tour is hosted by Dan Jaffe Wilder (who is scheduled to speak to our club next year), who is Horticulturalist and Propagator for Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary. Use this link to view the video:

<https://www.norcrosswildlife.org/virtual-tour-of-norcross/>

Recent Events

Tea Cup Arrangement Workshop

On December 15, club members met over Zoom to create seasonal tea cup arrangements. It was fun to be connected and a good time was had by all!



Members' Holiday Front Doors & Decorations





