



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

May/June 2020

LETTER FROM THE TRI-PRESIDENTS

Hello Garden Club members!

This spring, in the time of social distancing, will find us appreciating our gardens and houseplants more than ever. I hope that you will find an invigorating solace in your spaces. Several local nurseries remain open for business and are helping people to select plants via email or phone and bringing them to your car so that you avoid contact with others.



Here in Needham, we have in our midst an extraordinary young lady who is a budding gardener and ecologist.

Mackenzie Kraft is a junior at Needham High School who developed a passionate

interest in bees of all kinds. She also saw a need in her neighborhood. At the intersection of Falcon Street, Hillcrest Road, and Highgate



Street, there is a patch of earth surrounded by curbs and streets that has been barren for years. Mackenzie saw this as an opportunity rather than an eyesore and got to work. She met with the town Select Board and explained her vision. She secured approval from the Board to develop this plot, and also acquired some new soil to renew this bit of land. She then gathered her neighborhood together- requesting donations of plants, bulbs, and elbow grease. She had a planting party and got the plot started in the course of a weekend. She worked with some volunteers to do the major planting in August, and then held a bulb planting for

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Upcoming Calendar

May 5: Board Meeting, via Zoom. Look for an invitation via email.

*May 12: Workshop at Elm Bank. This has been **rescheduled** for September 8. Look for details in the September newsletter.*

*May 19: Annual Meeting and Luncheon. This has been **postponed** until fall. Look for updated information at a later date.*

*May 30: Plant Sale. **Cancelled**. Instead we will hold an informal/voluntary member plant swap.*

*June 2: Fairy Garden Workshop at the home of Lyn Jekowsky. **Postponed** until a later date.*

June 9: Board Meeting. Look for details to come on the format for this meeting.

adults. Then she organized a painting party for children in the neighborhood to paint stones to decorate the edges. Contributors ranged from 3-year-olds to teens, and the stones added some color while we wait for the plants to get established. The folks from the Town's Forestry Division planted a cherry tree as a focal point—which was in glorious full bloom in April. The garden is still a wonderful work in progress. Mackenzie and I met there on a pleasant Saturday in late March so that I could learn about the garden project and she could learn a bit about native plants and pollinators. Please make a point to go and visit. If you have a native pollinator to contribute please let me know (conroyjd@rcn.com) and I will pass this information along to Mackenzie.



Every year the Needham Garden Club offers a scholarship to a student who is studying for a career in ecology or a related subject. A fine candidate from Needham High School has been selected to receive this year's scholarship. We don't know his or her name yet - that will be released when the high school announces the winners of all the scholarships. We will let everyone know about the recipient in our next newsletter!

On a different note, in the last newsletter I mentioned a new product that I had found, "Pittmoss," which is a USA sourced substitute for non-renewable peat moss. At that time, I had not had the opportunity to try it. Since then I have tried it and been THRILLED with it. Please consider giving it a try!

We Tri-Presidents wish you health, energy, and hope as summer approaches. We have all learned a lot and are grateful.

Respectfully,

Nancy Agler, Diana Conroy, Jane Lischewski
Tri-Presidents Needham Garden Club

PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEWS

Our April program, "Your Body in the Garden," has been **cancelled** but we were able to rebook Susan Guest for our general meeting in April of 2021. In the meantime, we continue to make progress lining up exciting speakers for programs in the 2020-2021 season. Look for details in the September/October issue of the Newsletter.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As you know, our two sessions for Garden Therapy in March and April were **cancelled** due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The library is closed for the same reason and therefore we have stopped supplying a plant or flowers to the reception area and maintaining the urns in the front. Once it is safe to do so and the library reopens, we will resume these activities.

At the appropriate times we will send out requests by email for volunteers for the following tasks:

- We'll look for a team of volunteers to water our garden at Noyes Park over the summer.
- Once we have planted the library urns, we will recruit a separate list of volunteers to water them.
- We'll ask volunteers to provide a plant or flower arrangement for the library reception area.

WE NEED BASKETS. We use small recycled baskets for the Garden Therapy arrangements. If we don't have to purchase the containers, we have more money for the flowers. If you have collected baskets, please hold on to them. We hope to be able to use them next year.



Thank you.

Community Outreach Committee Co-Chairs: Lynne Jones and Cathie Cummings

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE NEWS

In light of the current guidelines for social distancing, the NGC Board voted to **cancel** the annual **Plant Sale** that had been scheduled for May 30th. In an attempt to rescue this club tradition under today's social distancing rules, we have decided to encourage members to participate in a voluntary, members-only plant swap. Use some of the extra time you find yourself with to dig up and pot up some of your overgrown perennials or houseplants to share with your garden club friends.



Plant Day - Saturday, May 30th, 9-12. Members are invited to swap plants in a format consistent with whatever social distancing and other guidelines are in effect at that time. If you have plants to share with members, please email Karen Taggart (taggartkaren@comcast.net) and Vivian Weller (vivianweller81@gmail.com) with a list of the plants you have to swap/share and where in your yard members might pick them up. The deadline for notifying the Committee chairs is Wednesday, May 20th. A notice will be sent out to members on

May 22nd listing plant offerings for swaps.

Horticulture Committee Co-Chairs: Karen Taggart and Vivian Weller

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY NEWS

We encourage all Needham Garden Club members to send Bonnie Waters any news that would warrant a card from the Club. Whether illness, death, or a happier event, please notify her at bonniewater@comcast.net or call 617-512-1404. Thanks so much.



Corresponding Secretary: Bonnie Waters

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The Membership Committee wants to remind everyone that DUES ARE DUE by June 1, 2020. Unfortunately, we will not be having any general meetings during this Spring season so we will be unable to “haunt” you in person. This may be our only reminder. The dues for Associate Members are \$45.00 and Active Members \$40.00 for the 2020/2021 season.



Checks should be made payable to the Needham Garden Club and mailed to either:

Debbie Wentworth
36 Appleton Road
Needham, MA 02492

or

Eileen Mecagni
173 Valley Road
Needham, MA 02492

Dues MUST be paid by June 1, 2020 for you to be listed in the 2020/2021 Garden Club Yearbook. Please get your payment to us promptly if you have not already done so. Also, if you are NOT planning to renew, please let us know.

Membership Committee Tri-Chairs: Nancy Gallerani, Eileen Mecagni, and Debbie Wentworth

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate of officers and chairs for the 2020/2021 year. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve in this capacity.

Officers

Presidents: Jane Lischewski, Martha Schleck

Recording Secretary: Jane Brand

1st VP (Programs): Pat Hession, Bonnie Waters

Corresponding Secretary: Bonnie Waters

2nd VP (Flower Arranging): Carole Grosberg, Lyn Jekowsky

Treasurer: Nancy Agler



Plumaria from Vivian Weller

Committee Chairs

Community Outreach: Cathie Cummings, Lynne Jones

Finance: Nancy Agler

Flower Arranging: Carole Grosberg, Lyn Jekowsky

Horticulture: Trish Cruickshank, Terry Luskin

Hospitality: Anne Brain, Cathy Flaherty

Membership: Debbie Wentworth, Eileen Mecagni

Newsletter: Carol Alper, Amy Cicala

Nominating: Anne Carlson, Nancy Agler

Programs: Pat Hession, Bonnie Waters

Ways and Means: Diana Conroy, Fabienne Madsen

Communications: Gail Davis (Publicity), Lyn Jekowsky (Social Media), Trish Cruickshank (Yearbook)

Nominating Committee Co-Chairs: Lynne Braley and Anne Carlson

FAIRY GARDEN/DISH GARDEN WORKSHOP



Postponed. If Covid-19 has faded and we are able to come out of isolation, let's connect and have fun at the home of Lyn Jekowsky. Perhaps we can begin the Garden Club season with this workshop in late August. Hopefully we can be outside, keep our distance, and wear masks if we wish. We will be creating Fairy Gardens or Dish Gardens.

Lyn will email the club with details when this workshop will take place.

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, and PUBLICITY

Visit our Club Website [NeedhamGardenClub.com] and Facebook page often to stay abreast of Club news.

Social Media, Website and Publicity Tri-Chairs: Nancy Agler, Lyn Jekowsky, and Gail Davis

NEWSLETTER

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter. The deadline for submissions for the September/October issue is August 10. Please let us know about any Garden Club news or other information you'd like us to include. Because so many of our spring Garden Club events are being cancelled, we won't have our usual pictures for the fall newsletter. Please collect images of your own gardens or gardens you visit to share. And remember to check in with your garden club friends in this time of isolation.

Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs: Carol Alper and Amy Cicala

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SPRING

We held a delightful event in March, before the pandemic isolation began--the Art in Bloom project--which pairs high school art students' work with Garden Club floral arrangements. Here are a few highlights.





