



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

May/June 2017

LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

We are finally in spring! Despite two snowstorms in April, we are now seeing yellow daffodils, crocuses are popping up, and forsythia is in bloom. Trees are



budding, yards are being mulched, and it will soon be time to plant our vegetables.

We have had a successful year, filled with activities,

workshops, and instructions. The wreath and arrangement sale was a success again. We have new members with energy and enthusiasm. Our February speaker on hydrangeas, Gail Anderson, spoke about the variety of hydrangeas including new cultivars, how to choose them for your garden, and how to care for them. In March we had a highly successful Tri-Club meeting. Our April speaker, Suzanne Mahler, presented “Getting Ready for Spring,” and we are planning a “teacup” flower arranging workshop on May 12. Please bring your teacup and lunch. We will start with a tour of Elm Bank, then have lunch and make miniature arrangements—see details later in this issue. Just in time for Mother’s Day!

We will finish the year with our annual meeting and luncheon at the Needham Golf Club on Tuesday, May 16.

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

You won’t want to miss the Annual Meeting and Luncheon to be held this year on Tuesday, May 16, at the Needham Golf Course, 49 Green Street, Needham.

Upcoming Calendar

May 12: Teacup Workshop. 10:00 at Elm Bank

May 16: Annual Meeting and Luncheon. 11:30 at the Needham Golf Club

May 31st: Tour of the Natick Community Organic Farm

June 3: Plant Sale at the NBA Street Fair

June 11: Tour of Hunnewell Grounds and Arboretum.

June 20: Garden Stroll. Watch for details.

July 1: Dues for next year are due. Dues are \$45 for Associate Members and \$40 for Active Members. Please bring a check to the Annual Meeting/Club

The business meeting will begin at 11:30 with lunch to follow at 12:00 noon. If you wish to attend, please send a check for \$30.00 made payable to NGC to Mary Toran no later than May 9. Please bring any photos you have of this past year's projects and programs to the meeting.

The luncheon is sponsored by the Hospitality Committee, with centerpieces provided by the Flower Arranging Committee.

FLOWER ARRANGING COMMITTEE NEWS

The Flower Arranging Committee will be running a teacup arrangement workshop. This program will be held at Elm Bank on May 12th. We will gather at 10:00 for a tour of the gardens at Elm Bank. Our program will begin at 11:00. The cost per design will be \$12. This workshop will teach us special techniques used for making small arrangements. Included will be the oasis, flowers, and instructions with handouts. You should bring scissors, a paper bag, a bag lunch (if desired), and your teacup. We will provide paper goods, drinks, and dessert. Send your money to Karen Shapiro by May 1st.



Co-Chairs: Anne Carlson and Karen Shapiro

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE NEWS



On March 21st we held our Kokedama workshop. Each participant created a moss container for a houseplant, which made for a lovely woodland effect. We liked them so much we may make some to sell at our June sale. Many thanks to everyone who helped by setting up, cleaning up, and providing refreshments.

Horticulture Corner.

At the May meeting we will feature our Begonia Challenge. Please bring in your begonia plant(s) for display at our Annual Meeting. As they may not yet be blooming, we may have to have another display in September to see the flowers.

Do you have a special bloom from your garden or a favorite plant? Please bring it to display in our corner. We'd love to see it.

Tour of the Natick Community Organic Farm--Wednesday, May 31st

There will be a tour of the Natick Community Organic Farm led by Trish Umbrell, the speaker at our September program. The tour starts at 10:00. We will carpool from the Needham Library parking lot on Highland Ave at 9:15. The cost is \$7; checks should be made out to the Needham Garden Club. There will be sign-ups at the May meeting or you can contact Eileen Mecagni or Jo Belval.

Plant sale--Saturday, June 3rd.

Our plant sale is part of the Needham Business Association's Street Fair, which



is held on the Town Common. This is an all-club event coordinated by the Horticulture Committee. Please start to pot up plants in mid-May so they will look good and be healthy for the sale. If you are not available for the sale itself but have plants to donate, please contact Cathie or Eileen to arrange for delivery. Also contact them if you need pots or help with digging up plants. There will be sign-up sheets at the April and May meetings to work at the sale. Working hours are 8:00 to 3:00 in two-hour shifts.

Garden Stroll--Tuesday, June 20th.



“Garden Stroll” is an informal opportunity for members to enjoy each other's gardens. Gardens will be open from 10:00 to 4:00. The gardener may or may not be present. A list of gardens included in the stroll will be given to the members at our May meeting and by email. This is a members-only event. Guests are welcome only if accompanied by a member. This year, the event will be a week later in hopes of having some different plants and flowers to enjoy. We are still looking for more gardens to be a part of the stroll. If you are interested

in participating or wish to recommend a garden, please contact Cathie, Eileen or any member of the Horticulture Committee.

An additional garden tour may be of interest. On June 11, from 2:00 to 6:00, you may tour the Hunnewell Grounds and Arboretum on Route 16 in Wellesley, very near the Bacon Free Library. Tickets are available by emailing bfl@minlib.net. Exciting prizes will be raffled off.

Horticulture Tip.

If you are dividing a perennial, first soak the area around the plant well. Dig up the clump to be divided. If the roots are still tight, put the clump in a container with water and soak it a little longer to loosen the roots. Use a sharp garden tool to divide the root ball. Once the plant is separated and potted up, keep it out of the sunlight and well watered until the plant is no longer drooping. Then move it into the light exposure appropriate for the plant.



Co-Chairs: Cathie Cummings and Eileen Mecagni

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS



May finds the Garden Therapy portion of Community Outreach wrapped up for the year after we visited Avery Crossings in March and Wingate in April. For those who think going to a nursing home is simply depressing, just note the exquisite grace of this beautiful hand that created this lovely flower basket. The joy and gratitude from participants make the time and effort that we put in evaporate, and we are left with profoundly moving memories.



These two muddy members picked up ten bags of compost on the rainiest day that we've had for a while! On a brisk Saturday in April, five members, a lovely daughter, and a strong husband did a cleanup and spread that compost in 25 minutes! Many thanks to Debbie Wentworth, Faye Remnitz, brand new member Catherine Kurkjian and her very sweet daughter Corina, Nancy Agler, Diana Conroy, and Jim Conroy. It's hard to believe that we were talking drought, drought, drought last summer and fall! When you get a chance to swing by Noyes garden, note the tender loving care that it has received for the last few years and the health of the plants! We'll select some colorful annuals to plant in May when the selection is abundant, and the temperature is more moderate. Hopefully, after two extremely dry summers, we'll be blessed with abundant rain this summer (but only at nighttime as in Camelot ;-).



The Community Outreach Committee also provides and maintains arrangements for the plant urns at the Highland Avenue entrance to the Needham Public Library. Thank you to Karen Taggart for providing this stunning arrangement.

Co-Chairs: Diana Conroy and Nancy Agler

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

The Nominating Committee presents the following Slate of Officers and Committee Chairs (the Board) for 2017-2018 to be elected at the Annual Meeting:

Co-Presidents: Nancy Agler and Diana Conroy

First Vice Presidents: Fawn Hurwitz and Lori Markell (Programs Committee Co-Chairs)

Second Vice Presidents: Anne Carlson and Char Sidell (Flower Arranging Committee Co-Chairs)

Treasurer: Martha Schleck (Finance Committee Chair)

Recording Secretary: Jane Brand

Corresponding Secretary: Cathy MacFarlane

Community Outreach Co-Chairs: Debbie Wentworth and Lynne Jones

Horticulture Co-Chairs: Cathie Cummings and Eileen Mecagni

Hospitality Co-Chairs: Mary Toran and Cathy Flaherty

Membership Co-Chairs: Sally Toran and Bonnie Waters

Newsletter Co-Editors: Carol Alper and Amy Cicala

Nominating Co-Chairs: Karen Taggart and Lynne Braley

Publicity Co-Chairs: Gail Davis and Karen Shapiro

Ways & Means Co-Chairs: Janice Berns and Jane Lischewski

Yearbook Co-Chairs: Nina Saltus and Karen Taggart

Website Chair: Nancy Agler

Co-Chairs: Lynne Braley and Karen Taggart

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The Membership Committee is delighted to welcome two new members to our club. Please add their names and contact information to your copy of the Yearbook.

Nancy Gallerani

398 Hillcrest Rd., Needham, MA 02492

Phone: (Cell) 781-844-6333. Email nsg2@aol.com

Nancy is interested in gardening and flower arranging. She will definitely be an addition to the club by serving on two committees: Community Outreach and Membership.

Catherine Kurkjian

43 Briarwood Circle, Needham, MA 02494

Phone: (Home) 339-206-3870. Email catherine@timelesstreasuresgallery.com

Catherine recently opened a new store in Medfield called Timeless Treasures Gallery that features fine art, floral keepsakes, and unique gifts. She is also interested in flower arranging. Catherine will serve on Community Outreach.

At our February 28th meeting there were 26 guests, some of whom expressed interest in joining the club. Membership packets were handed out to five guests. The remaining guests were members of garden clubs in the area.

If you know of anyone who might like a call from Membership Co-Chairs Sally Toran (781-444-4920) or Bonnie Waters (781-449-6364), please let us know.

Co-Chairs: Sally Toran and Bonnie Waters

WEBSITE

It seems like the snow finally may be over and we look forward to the beautiful blooms of springtime. Send your photos to Nancy Agler at niagler@aol.com for our special "Needham in the Spring" page. Our club's website (www.needhamgardenclub.com) is packed full of photos, up-to-the-minute club news, and gardening tips. Check out the committee and photo pages to see pics from this year's events. Type in "needham" (case sensitive) on the Member's Only page for private club info.

Chair: Nancy Agler

YEARBOOK

The Yearbook editors will be working on gathering all the schedules and details for next season's club activities as soon as this year's annual meeting is finished. So we need all your information as soon as possible! We will coordinate with the Membership Committee to get any changes in your contact information and whether your dues check has been received, so please remember to send it in early. We hope to include all current members in the 2017-2018 Needham Garden Club Yearbook.

Co-Editors: Nina Saltus and Karen Taggart

NEWSLETTER

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. Please keep sending us your photos and ideas for stories. If you are planning a Garden Club event for September or October, please send us your article so it can be included in the next newsletter. The deadline is August 10, 2017.

Co-Editors: Carol Alper and Amy Cicala

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT CLUB EVENTS



Karen Taggart and Nina Saltus each demonstrated how to put together early spring containers at the Needham Historical Society's "Pansy Day" celebration. Nina donated her container (on behalf of our club) to the Metro GCFM "Opportunity Drawing" at their luncheon on April 13th, along with a gift certificate for a massage acquired by Diana Conroy. The attendees celebrated Nancy Agler as our "Unsung Heroine" for her extra efforts related to our new website and heard an impressive and comprehensive talk about the life of Frederick Law Olmstead.

On April 25th Suzanne Mahler, a garden lecturer for 39 years, presented an informative program including a live demonstration on how to get our gardens ready for spring.



On March 4th and 5th several members of our club joined arrangers from the Beth Shalom and Kalmia Garden Clubs in collaborating with the Art Department at Needham High School to present **ART IN BLOOM** at the Needham Public Library. Club members created floral arrangements to coordinate with students' art works. Below is just a sampling from the event—visit the club website (www.needhamgardenclub.com) to see more.



Anne Carlson and Martha Schleck



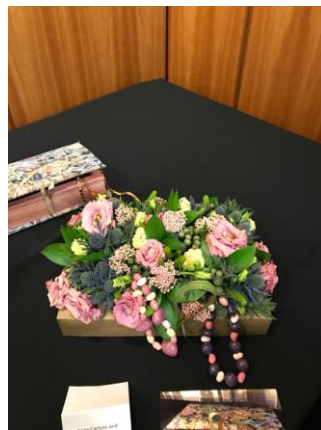
Lyn Jekowsky



Bonnie Waters and Karen Taggart



Anne Carlson and Martha Schleck



Mary Jane Casey and Eileen Mecagni