



# Needham Garden Club Newsletter

September/October 2022

Visit us online at  
[www.needhamgardenclub.com](http://www.needhamgardenclub.com)

## Up-coming Events

9/20- 9:30 am "Fall Dahlias"  
9/29- 10:15 am Garden Therapy  
10/20- 9:15 am Garden Therapy  
(Details Below)

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Welcome back! We hope that you've had a pleasurable summer. The weather has been sunny which is what we wait for all year, but... it has certainly been a challenging one for us as gardeners. The drought has severely stressed our plants and forced us to be judicious in our use of water. Gail feels that she'll permanently walk with a tilt from carrying heavy watering cans to selectively water her most water-needy plants. Thank you to the Community Outreach Committee and all of you who are watering the library urns and Noyes Garden, difficult tasks this summer. Those plants, even the drought resistant ones, would not survive without your efforts.

This year we plan to get back to pre-Covid times by holding all of our general meetings in person. We're looking forward to consistently connecting with each other in the Community Room of the Library and enjoy the fine programs arranged by the Program Committee.

As Co-Presidents, we are enjoying working together with our enthusiastic, talented Board. They have been hard at work preparing for this year's events. We look forward to everyone's full participation in the activities of our Garden Club.

Debbie Wentworth and Gail Davis, Co-Presidents



In Memoriam- We have lost two of our members in the last few months.

Maryjane Casey was a kind, engaging, ever-helpful member of the Garden Club, who contributed her time and her talents to many of our activities.

Janet O'Shea was President of the Garden Club from 1994 to 1996. She was an avid gardener and flower arranger and was recognized with awards at the New England Flower Show.

## OUR NEW BOARD 2022-2023



### NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB AWARDS ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP



Needham High School student, Jessie Hoffmeister, is the year's recipient of the annual Needham Garden Club Scholarship.

The award is given to a student who has shown enthusiasm in the study of horticulture and concern for the environment and plans to continue to study at the college level.

Jessie has been active in many areas during her four years at Needham High School. She has played soccer, participated in cross country and lacrosse. Her most valued area of commitment has been her four years on

the alpine ski team and was the captain and MVP during her senior year. Ceramics is her other found love. She has taken all the courses held at the school, did an independent study and created an AP portfolio her senior year. She is a lover of the outdoors and spends as much time out in nature as possible. She finds this does wonders for mental and overall wellness.

Jessie will be attending California Polytechnic State University (CAL POLY) in San Luis Obispo this coming year. She will be studying Wine and Viticulture with a concentration in business. She wanted to study something unique in the field of environmental sciences. This might prove to be the perfect pick for someone with a love of nature and the outdoors.

We are all wishing Jessie the best in the coming years of study.

Debbie Wentworth, one of our co-presidents presented the check to Jessie at her home. Funds for the scholarship were raised from proceeds of the club's annual wreath and arrangement sale, as well as the plant sale held in the Spring.

Anne Carlson

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### Program Committee



The Program Committee is thrilled with the schedule for 2022-2023 which has a variety of speakers to, hopefully, pique everyone's interest. September's meeting is going to be "Fall Dahlias" with the very enjoyable Betsy Szymczak. See you September 20 at 9:30 am in the Needham Public Library Community Room.



## Horticulture Committee



We're sending so many thank-yous to Club members for all your support of May's Plant Sale! Potting up plants in your garden and at the workshop, donating both time and money to raise funds, gathering plants at the drop off and grouping them at the Sale, advising shoppers with insights and smiles, and breaking down the entire installation -- the essence of a team effort! We're sure that your enthusiasm for gardening and the pleasure of being together with Club members was evident to our shoppers.



These days our gardens and trees are wailing about the dryness of the last five months. Before the end of July, the MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs said that 100% of the Commonwealth endured drought conditions, with our area suffering Severe Drought (D2) status; this is not the sort of "top-tier" grade that anyone wants.

One dry season is not likely to kill well-established trees or shrubs, but they are showing the stress with brittle branches and early leaf drop. Morning watering at the base (rather than showering higher up on the trunk or foliage) of trees and shrubs will help our struggling plants handle the lack of significant rain.

If your grass has browned (we call our lawn "crispy" these days), please be sure NOT to fertilize until after regular rains have returned.

More photos at the end of the Newsletter.



Here are some smart watering reminders:

- Water early and late in the day to reduce water loss from evaporation
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid wasting water on driveways and sidewalks
- Water deeply, long enough to soak the top 8"- 12" of topsoil, and start off at a lower flow rate to keep water from running off the surface
- Measure sprinkler output with rain gauges or tuna cans, and apply up to 1-1/2" of water at a time
- Use mulch to retain water and keep roots cooler. Bark, woodchips, gravel, and compost are all good options.

Online resources include: <https://extension.psu.edu/how-to-garden-during-drought-conditions> and <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/gardening-extreme-drought>

Look for an email arriving in September for a club field trip to a local garden space. We hope that an outdoor visit together, in somewhat cooler temperatures, will appeal to you.

Terry Luskin and Trish Cruickshank, Co-Chairs

## Community Outreach Committee



Many thanks to our members who have helped with our club's many community projects over the summer. Every week fresh flowers or plants have appeared in the library reception area. Volunteers also made sure the library urns and our garden in Noyes Park were well-watered and cared for which was a huge task with multiple heat waves and drought conditions.

The Library Urns. In June the urns were filled with red, white & blue flowers. In late September or early October, they will be changed for Fall flowers

The Garden in Noyes Park. There is an ongoing project to introduce more native plantings. In the Spring some of the older plants were removed and some native varieties were added. Sadly, the rabbits that ignore the non-natives love the new plants. We are attempting to find ways to protect the plants. The extreme heat this summer also put a hold on new plantings. We will try again in September.



We will accept any recommendations for drought tolerant natives that are not on the rabbits' menu.

Flowers or Plants for the Library Reception Area. This is a year-round activity for our club that is much appreciated by the patrons and the staff. There are volunteers signed up through September. There will be opportunities to sign up at our club meetings and on-line for future weeks.

Garden Therapy. We are pleased to announce the resumption of this popular activity. We take baskets, flowers and greens to local nursing home residents or area seniors to create arrangements. For this project we need donations of medium size baskets and pint size plastic deli containers (for use as liners for the baskets.) Please sign-up in advance at our club meetings in September and October or by contacting Ellen or Cathie.

#### Schedule-

North Hill Assisted Living Neighborhood on Thursday, 9/29 at 10:15  
Briarwood Healthcare Center on Thursday, 10/20 at 9:15.

Ellen Barnes and Cathie Cummings, Co-Chairs

## **Ways and Means Committee**

The Ways and Means Committee is busy planning for December. We met in Fabienne's backyard on May 16 to introduce the team and share ideas. Fabienne's husband was recruited to take the following team photo.



The Wreath and Arrangement Sale will be on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Congregational Church. This is an ALL-CLUB activity, and everyone is expected to help make the wreath sale a fun and enjoyable experience. Please mark your calendars:

2022 Ways and Means Committee Dates				
Month	Day	Activity	Location	Time
November	3	Bow Making	Lynn Braley's house	10:30am - 12pm
December	1	Set up for wreath sale	Congregational Church	9am - 11am
December	2	Make wreaths, arrangements, and swags	Congregational Church	9am - 1pm
December	3	Wreath Sale	Congregational Church	9am - 1pm

The Ways and Means Committee is also trying some new and recycled ideas this year. First, there will be no 'make-your-own' wreath activity. All efforts will be on decorating sale wreaths. You can purchase the beautiful wreath that you make. Second, we're reinstating the jewelry sale. Please inventory your jewelry to see what can be donated, clean it, and put each piece in a zip lock bag. You can drop the bags at Nancy Yablonski's at 82 Old Farm Road or bring them to the September meeting. We're also looking to form a jewelry committee to help price the jewelry and are looking for display pieces to showcase the items at the sale. Send an email to either Fabienne or Nancy to let us know if you can join the jewelry team.

Finally, the committee will meet in October to make dried arrangements for the sale with supplies from the Congregational Church. We are looking forward to a fun and profitable event!

Fabienne Madsen and Nancy Yablonski, Co-Chairs

## **Membership Committee**

The Membership committee is pleased to introduce two new members.

Iva Hayes joined in May. She has a variety of interests from gardening and landscaping to home improvement. Terry Luskin will be her mentor, and she will be joining the Horticulture Committee.

Susan Condon joined over the summer. Her interests range from photography and painting to word games and outdoor gardening. Anne Carlson will be her mentor, and she will be joining the Community Outreach committee.

A warm welcome to both Iva and Susan. We look forward to presenting you with your aprons in September.

Lynne Braley and Diana Conroy, Co-Chairs

## **Communications Committee**

Did You Know...

- The Needham Garden Club's membership to the Native Plant Trust grants us 4 passes which we donate to the public library for anyone to use? Contact the library to borrow them.
- The Needham Garden Club's membership to Elm Bank grants us 20 one-day passes (good until June 30, 2023.) The passes will be held by Co-Presidents Debbie Wentworth and Gail Davis and Treasurer Nancy Agler. Contact one of them to get your pass.
- The Massachusetts Horticulture Library at Elm Bank in Wellesley is the oldest horticultural library in the United States. It is bursting with over 20,000 volumes on all facets of horticulture, landscape design, botany, garden destinations, cookbooks and children's books, to name just a few.

To access the garden club's website, go to [www.needhamgardenclub.com](http://www.needhamgardenclub.com)  
To access the Members Only page use Password pansy2020

## **Newsletter Committee**

We thank everyone for their timely submissions and all the photos. The next issue of the Newsletter comes out November 1, put together by Amy Cicala. The deadline for articles/photos is **October 10**.



Anne Brain shared these photos of spring ephemerals from Phippsburg, Maine.



## More Plant Sale Photos



