



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

March/April 2019

LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Hello Fellow Gardeners!

Within the next few weeks, we will find ourselves with muscles that are sore from unaccustomed use, dirty fingernails, and big smiles on our faces as we get back out into the garden. As we do our chores, we will be joined by butterflies, bees, and some less beneficial garden companions. We're all used to it and take it in stride.

On an icy frigid day in January, we had a fascinating program about bees and their busy lives. In addition to being interesting, it opened our minds to new facts and our eyes to seeing some of the "eyesores" of the garden in a different light.



One of those "eyesores" is the dandelion that we all strive to eliminate. Not so fast! Here are some fun facts about the benefits of dandelions:

The pollen of the early blooming dandelion is extremely nutritious for bees. By the time the dandelion blossoms are waning, there are lots of other flowers starting to bloom. To prevent a yard full of nothing but dandelions, pluck the heads off just before they erupt full of seeds. (Far easier than weeding out the actual plant.) The incredibly long taproot of the dandelion is nature's miner. It transfers minerals, especially calcium, upward from deeper soil layers and deposits them nearer the surface, and therefore returns to the surface minerals that have

leached down too deep for other plants to use. This versatile plant is beneficial to humans too. All parts of the dandelion plant are edible. The leaves are loaded with vitamins A and C, and also the minerals lutein and zeaxanthin, which properties make them crucial for eye health. The leaves have more protein than spinach, and the bitter taste can be masked by sautéing in olive oil. Yum! The sap from the dandelion stem has anti-inflammatory properties which make it beneficial for treating many skin ailments, including painful stings from insects!

Happy Spring, and we'll be looking forward to hearing your tales of the garden.

Nancy Agler and Diana Conroy, Co-Presidents

Up-coming Events

March 9-10- Needham Art in Bloom

March 13-17- Boston Flower and Garden Show

March 19- How to Prepare Plants for a Standard Flower Show, Library, 9:30

- Tri-Club Meeting, 7pm

March 21- Community Outreach at Briarwood, 10am

April 23- Dividing and Transplanting with Suzanne Mahler, 9:30am

April 25- Community Outreach at Wingate, 10am

COMMITTEE NEWS

Program Committee News



Tuesday, March 19 - Tri-Club Meeting, 7pm. Michael Theriault will share some of his flower-arranging expertise gained over 30 years of experience. It will take place at Temple Beth Shalom.



Tuesday, April 23- "Dividing and Transplanting." Since nearly all perennials benefit from periodic division, Suzanne Mahler will speak on dividing and transplanting them. She will identify indicators for plant division, which plants require regular separation, and give the best times to split and transplant. Suzanne will also demonstrate the tools of the trade and methods of division on plants that she brings. This program will be very useful to club members in preparing for our annual Plant Sale.



Fawn Hurwitz and Lori Markell, Co-Chairs

Jewelry Committee News

We will be collecting gently used jewelry again for next year's sale. There will be a box at each general meeting for you to donate your baubles. Last year we made over \$1000 on the sale of jewelry.

Community Outreach Committee News

Community Outreach is looking forward to the next Garden Therapy event on March 21 at Briarwood. The following event is on April 25 at Wingate. We will be substituting small "silver" or "gold" Paul Revere bowls for our time-tested baskets that have served us so well in the past. Some of our members suggested using these bowls, so we plan to initiate a pilot program in March to see how they work. Please join us as these events are lots of fun and much appreciated by the residents and staff of the nursing homes we serve.



Lynne Jones and Debbie Wentworth, Co-Chairs

Hospitality Committee News

The Ways & Means Committee is scheduled for hospitality duties at the April 23 General Meeting.

The Committee would like to remind the membership that our **Annual Meeting and Luncheon** will be held on Tuesday, May 21, at the Needham Golf Club. Invitations will arrive in April and we ask that we receive your responses and checks no later than May 14. Thank you!

Mary Toran and Cathy Flaherty, Co-Chairs

Membership Committee News

Please welcome our newest club member, Isabell Wells, who will be joining the Program Committee. She enjoys organizing spaces, gardening, green living, and using native plants to attract insects and animals. For contact information, please see the member directory on the website. Please welcome Isabell at the next meeting.

We have three potential members considering membership in the club and had many visitors at both our January and February programs.

We also share the passing of three long-time members: Ada Suydam, Alice Comisky and Mary Nuccio.

Nancy Gallerani, Eileen Mecagni and Bonnie Waters, Tri-Chairs

Social Media Committee News

Two new pages have been added to the website!

Gardening Tips: The tips on this page will be more specific than the monthly tips.

Travels: If you have been somewhere that has exceptional flowers/gardens, send me your photos and let me know where you took the photos.

Nancy Agler: niagler@aol.com

Newsletter Committee

Our thanks to all those who have shared articles and pictures. The next deadline for the May-June newsletter is April 10, 2019.

Amy Cicala and Carol Alper, Co-Chairs



For all you crossword enthusiasts and those who love plants and flowers, we have a crossword puzzle created by Stu Agler, Nancy's husband. A link to the answers can be found at the bottom of the Garden Club Website Home Page.

Flower Time (Created by Stu Agler)

Across

- 1. Antacid brand
- 5. Jab
- 9. Flowering plant from the olive family, cultivated as an ornamental
- 14. Leave out
- 15. Eggs ____ easy
- 16. Author Zola
- 17. The "P" in IPA
- 18. Mama's mate
- 19. Tax filing day month
- 20. Flowering bulb originally from S. America, which will flower indoors or out
- 22. Challenges
- 23. Annual with long strong stem with a bright daisy-like flowerhead
- 24. Revise, as text
- 26. Nudge
- 29. Global charitable org.
- 33. Outer ____
- 37. Rind
- 39. Otherwise

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | | 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | | 19 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | 21 | | | | | | 22 | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | | | 24 | 25 | | | | | |
| | | | | 26 | | 27 | 28 | | 29 | | | 30 | 31 | 32 |
| 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | | | 37 | | 38 | | | 39 | | | |
| 40 | | | | | 41 | | | | | | 42 | | | |
| 43 | | | | | 44 | | | | | | 45 | | | |
| 46 | | | | 47 | | | 48 | | 49 | | | | | |
| | | | 50 | | | 51 | | | 52 | | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 |
| 57 | 58 | 59 | | | | 60 | 61 | 62 | | | | | | |
| 63 | | | | | | 64 | | | | | | 65 | | |
| 66 | | | | | | 67 | | | | | | 68 | | |
| 69 | | | | | | 70 | | | | | | 71 | | |

- 40. Killerwhale
- 41. Large-flowered hybrid pant typically purple in color
- 42. ____ bene
- 43. Wild hog
- 44. Landed
- 45. Daisy-like, bright rayed flower typically purple or pink
- 46. "This is ____ Tap": 1984 mockumentary
- 48. Artist Chagall
- 50. Too
- 52. Colorful ring
- 57. List of candidates
- 60. Flowering plant often seen in meadows or prairies and used for medicines
- 63. Showy, spring blooming perennial associated with Holland
- 64. 552 in Roman numerals

- 65. Some orders at a chinese restaurant
- 66. Bar, legally
- 67. Cockney greeting
- 68. Grandson of Adam
- 69. 45 player, in brief
- 70. "No" votes
- 71. Woody perennial with thorns on its stem

Down

- 1. November birthstone
- 2. Savory taste
- 3. Italian fashion hub
- 4. Radio host Howard
- 5. Plant genus that includes aspens and cottonwoods
- 6. Elongated circle
- 7. French military helmet
- 8. Wipe out
- 9. Segue
- 10. Common, bright annual

- also known as "Busy Lizzie" and "Touch-me-not"
- 11. Train with stops in Massapequa and Ronkonkoma
- 12. "I cannot tell ____"
- 13. Cartoon frames
- 21. "Holy cow!"
- 25. As is fitting
- 27. October birthstone
- 28. Blue jean material
- 30. Coagulate
- 31. Villa D' ____
- 32. Phobia
- 33. Weeps
- 34. A wand or top hat for a magician
- 35. Smoothie "superfruit"
- 36. Common double flowered species also known as clove pink
- 38. "Como ____ usted?"

- 41. Buddies
- 45. Land measurement
- 47. Largest city in Syria
- 49. Squad car necessities
- 51. Poet Nash
- 53. Go in
- 54. University of Maine's main campus
- 55. Company symbols
- 56. ____ of his own medicine
- 57. Rung
- 58. Very green and healthy
- 59. Type of sax
- 61. Earthenware pot
- 62. Perennial with large fragrant, prominent flowers

Highlights from the Winter



A Friendly Look into a Beehive
with Sue Robinson



A Sustainable Garden
with Rebecca Warner



