



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

March/April 2021

Visit us online at
www.needhamgardenclub.com

Upcoming Calendar

2020 is OVER! That is the good news. Unfortunately, we are still not able to have in-person meetings. But we are a resilient club and brought back our virtual meetings in January 2021 with a tour of Nancy Riggs's garden. It made us all wish it was warm enough to get out into our own gardens. Our general meeting in February was a lesson on Forcing Bulbs by Kathi Gariepy.

March's Tri-Club meeting is going to be held on March 16th via Zoom. The presenter is J Schwanke, who created a popular floral design video series featured on PBS. We are also planning on having a Zoom meeting on Monday the 15th to share with you the Art in Bloom YouTube video created by Lyn Jekowsky.

Thanks to all of you for supporting all of our endeavors to keep in touch.

Co-Presidents: Jane and Martha

March 15: 9:30 a.m. Slide presentation of Needham's Art in Bloom, 2021, via Zoom.

March 16: 7:15 p.m. Tri-Club Program. J Schwanke on Flower Design, via Zoom.

April 27: 9:30 a.m. Susan Guest on "Finding Balance and Harmony for Your Body in the Garden," Via Zoom.

April 30-May 3. Art in Bloom virtually at the Museum of Fine Arts.



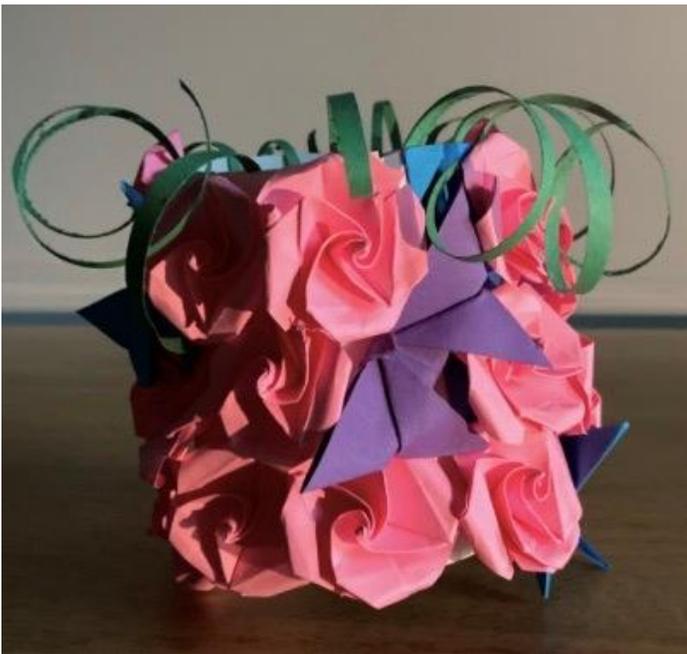
PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEWS

MARCH PROGRAMS

Art in Bloom 2021. Monday, March 15th, at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for a club Zoom meeting to view Lyn Jekowsky's YouTube presentation of Art in Bloom 2021. This year, Art in Bloom was sponsored by Beth Shalom Garden Club, and was held virtually. Nineteen Needham High School students from ceramics, photography, and graphic design classes entered their works for garden club members to interpret with flowers.

Lyn's program also includes a segment called "Through the Years," a retrospective of Art in Bloom's floral interpretations of student art work from 2009 to 2020. **Watch your email for the Zoom link.**



Student artwork by Abbey Horgan. Floral arrangement by Diana Conroy and Jane Brand

Tri-Club Meeting. Tuesday, March 16th, at 7:15 p.m.



J Schwanke, a famed florist and designer, will present an amazing virtual flower design program. J created the popular floral design video series on PBS. He is also an award-winning author. For more information on J Schwanke, please visit his website at ubloom.com.

Watch your email for the Zoom link.

APRIL PROGRAM

Monthly NGC Meeting. Tuesday, April 27th, at 9:30 a.m.

Susan Guest will be speaking on “Finding Balance and Harmony for Your Body in the Garden.” **Watch your email for details on how to Zoom in for this event.**



Susan Guest’s lecture is full of helpful hints to help us keep our bodies strong and safe as we enjoy gardening, one of life’s special joys.

From Susan: “I love to share my passion for gardening with knowledge about how the body works. I worked as an educator and as a fitness professional. I connect the physical and mental benefits of gardening with best practices;

protecting our joints, preventing injuries, optimizing our time in the garden, and creating more relaxation and enjoyment. Gardening is good for us, body, mind, and emotions. The goal of this program is to produce Long Lasting Gardeners, aging gracefully, and learning natural, healthy ways to enjoy the garden.”

In case you missed them...

FEBRUARY PROGRAM



Our speaker on February 23rd, Kathi Gariepy, presented a Zoom program on forcing bulbs. You can find Kathi's notes for this program in the members-only section of our website.

Kathi summarized her program by giving us **10 steps to successfully forcing bulbs.**

1. Choose a decorative container to set off your blooms.
2. Choose an appropriately sized plastic pot to plant them in.
3. Look for heavy bulbs that are not mushy or dried out. Avoid mold.
4. For large bulbs, fill your pot with soil to a 2-inch depth; 1 inch for small bulbs.
5. Keep the soil moist, not wet.
6. Add a label—you may forget the color or type.
7. Chill in your refrigerator, cellar, or unheated garage.
8. Do not use a refrigerator that also stores fruit, which gives off a gas harmful to the bulbs.
9. Once the bulbs start to sprout, move them to a cool room.
10. Enjoy the fruits of your labor!

With spring just around the corner, we're all eager to see our spring flowers emerge.



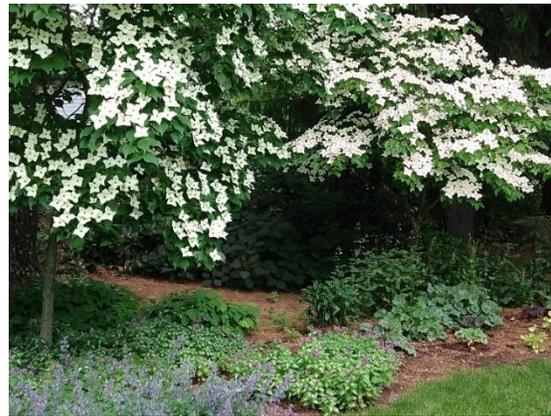
JANUARY PROGRAM

Our speaker on January 19 was Nancy Riggs, who offered a Zoom program called “Gardening for the Future.” Nancy’s slide show illustrated the evolution of her garden from a virtually blank slate to the spectacular garden it is today.

Before:



After:



WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, and PUBLICITY COMMITTEE NEWS

Have you taken a look at the NGC website recently? It is chock full of gardening helpful hints, a monthly list of to-dos to have a fantastic garden, great photos from past years spread throughout, an up-to-date members-only section, and so much more. To access the site, go to www.needhamgardenclub.com. To view the members-only page, type “pansy2020” into the password box. Enjoy!!!

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

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE NEWS

Native Plant Challenge 2021 - 2023

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts has extended the Native Plant challenge for two more years to encourage gardeners to grow and enjoy native plants and to appreciate the birds, butterflies, and bees that they bring to our landscape. The Federation will be sending regular newsletters. Each issue will highlight a favorite native, resources, where to find natives, and will be forwarded to you via email by one of our Co-Presidents. If you have a favorite native plant or other information that you would like to see in a future newsletter, please contact Cathie Cummings. Go Native!



Cone flower (echinacea)



Milkweed (asclepias tuberosa)



Bee Balm (monarda)

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank you to all the contributors to this month's newsletter. We could not do it without you! The deadline for submissions for the May/June issue is April 10. Please let us know about any Garden Club news, photos from your gardens, or other information you'd like us to include.

Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs: Carol Alper and Amy Cicala

FESTIVAL OF TREES COMMITTEE NEWS



The Needham Garden Club started participating in Mass Hort's Festival of Trees at Elm Bank in 2015 with our Lego Tree Masterpiece. We decided, after creating that tree, that going forward we would make a tree every other year with a sub-committee of members who had the energy to put in the great deal of effort needed to represent our Garden Club with pride.

The sub-committee for 2021 has a wonderful group of volunteers: Caryl Johnson,

Nancy Yablonski, Isabell Wells, Monica Foley, Jane Brand, Martha Schleck, and Diana Conroy. Isabell's son-in-law, Jonathan, is assisting with some expert woodworking skills. We are busy at work on a tree with a Scandinavian theme. So far, thanks to Zoom and Martha's Zoom-master abilities, we have been able to do our work remotely and energetically. Here is a sneak peek at one of our offerings, thanks to the needlework skills of Caryl Johnson.

Stay tuned for more information, and be sure put the Festival of Trees on your calendar for late 2021!

Festival of Trees Committee Representative: Diana Conroy

REMEMBRANCE

Long-time Garden Club member Birgit Paulin passed away peacefully at home on January 18, 2021. She was an enthusiastic, active member for many years and would often open her home for Garden Club workshops. She especially loved her garden and flower arranging. Her full obituary can be found on the website for Eaton Funeral Home.

GARDEN-RELATED RESOURCES

“The most important thing you can do for your plants’ health is to take care of where they live,” by Ea Murphy.

With spring coming, it is time to start thinking about your gardens. Have a look at this article from *Fine Gardening Magazine* for ideas on how to improve garden soil.

<https://www.finegardening.com/article/5-tips-to-improve-your-garden-soil>

Trivia Quiz

1. What familiar plant is related to some of your favorite fruits including apple, peaches and strawberries?
2. What plant does the vanilla bean come from?
3. What is the fastest growing woody plant in the world?
4. Saffron, used in Mediterranean cooking, is harvested from the stigma of what fall-blooming flower?
5. What is the state flower of Massachusetts?

Look for answers at the end of this newsletter.

Honey Bee Trivia



Here is a collection of Honey Bee trivia and fun facts:

- Bees must go to two million flowers, at 50-100 flowers per flight, to gather enough pollen and nectar to make one pound of honey.
- Different types of flowers result in subtle, yet discernible changes in the taste of the honey.

- During its life (approximately 40 days), a honey bee will gather enough pollen and nectar to make about 1/12 teaspoon of honey.
- Honey bees fly around 15 mph.
- Honey is the only food that includes all the substances necessary to sustain life including enzymes, minerals and water.
- Honey bees communicate with one another by dancing.
- All worker bees are female.
- Honey bees comprise about 80% of all pollinators.
- Bees can see the same colors we see except red. They can also see ultraviolet color.
- Bees do not hibernate. They huddle together in winter, to share body heat.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY OUR MEMBERS

From Anne Carlson:



From Cathy Flaherty:

Years ago, the Club had a workshop on 🌵 cactus. Here is how Cathy's looks today.



Answers to the Trivia Quiz:

1. Roses 2. Orchid 3. Bamboo 4. Crocus 5. Mayflower