



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

May/June 2021

Visit us online at

www.needhamgardenclub.com

Upcoming Events

May 6- Planter Workshop with Lyn Jekowsky

May 22- Plant Sale, 9am-1pm

LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Happy Spring 2021....well, at least it feels like spring a few days a week. While we gardeners are anxious to get out and plant beautiful flowers, sadly it is still too early. We can look forward to planting in a few weeks. Daffodils, tulips and hyacinths are everywhere. They all help remind us that spring and warmer days will be here soon.

Hope many of you are out dividing perennials for the plant sale. Since we were unable to have the Wreath and Arrangement Sale, the plant sale is much more important this year.



We have had another successful Zoom general meeting, "Your Body in the Garden" presented by Susan Guest.

We have to believe that we are getting closer to "In-Person" meetings. The Library will reopen on June 1 with COVID rules in effect, whatever that will mean, but it is a ray of hope for all of us. We are also optimistic that we will be able to have our annual luncheon in early Fall. Although it is usually held in

May, safety and a lack of an appropriate venue made it impossible this year. There is a lot to look forward to- nicer weather, planting annuals, our plant sale and being able to get together in person in the near future.

Jane Lischewski and Martha Schleck, Co-Presidents

COMMITTEE NEWS

Membership Committee

It is that time of the year when the Member Committee collects dues for the coming year, 2021-2022. The dues are: \$45.00 for Associate Members or \$40.00 for Active Members.

Checks should be made out to the Needham Garden Club and submitted to:

**Debbie Wentworth 36 Appleton Road, Needham Ma. 02492 or
Eileen Mecagni 173 Valley Road, Needham Ma. 02492**

Dues must be paid by **June 1, 2021** to be listed in the Garden Club Yearbook. Please get your payment to us on time so that we don't have to make reminder calls.

Debbie Wentworth & Eileen Mecagni, Co-Chairs

Nominating Committee

Slate of Officers and Chairwomen for 2021-2022

Tri-Presidents: Jane Lischewski, Martha Schleck & Debbie Wentworth
1st Vice President (Program): Pat Hession & Bonnie Waters
2nd Vice President (Flower Arranging): Carole Grosberg & Lyn Jekowsky
Recording Secretary: Jane Brand
Corresponding Secretary: Bonnie Waters
Treasurer: Nancy Agler
Communications: Gail Davis (Publicity), Lyn Jekowsky (Social Media) & Trish Cruickshank (Yearbook)
Community Outreach: Cathie Cummings & Lynne Jones
Flower Arranging: Carole Grosberg & Lyn Jekowsky
Horticulture: Trish Cruickshank & Terry Luskin
Hospitality: Anne Brain & Cathy Flaherty
Membership: Fawn Hurwitz & Eileen Mecagni
Newsletter: Carol Alper & Amy Cicala
Nominating: Nancy Agler & Anne Carlson
Ways and Means: Diana Conroy, Fabienne Madsen & Nancy Yablonski



The vote will be held online.

Horticulture Committee

The Board has decided that we can finally emerge from our year-long Zoom dormancy, so the Club will pull together to hold the **Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 22, from 9 to 1** at the Congregational Church.

Members will recall that this is an ALL-MEMBER extravaganza, so do expect a call by early May from a member of the Horticulture Committee. We will be in touch regarding details about your donations and your availability for helping with other critical tasks.



Our greatest need is for perennials; shade-loving plants have been hits, and native plants are also worth offering. Vegetable, herb, heirloom and fruit plants have been popular., but there has been less demand for houseplants. (Please **avoid donating orange daylilies or invasive plants.**)

"Dirt-gardeners" may enjoy dividing and repotting perennials from their garden; tips on this follow. Most importantly, have your **repotting completed by the end of April/beginning of May**, so that plants can rebound to look healthy and happy again by the sale day. Others may find that a quick run to Volante Farms (shop local!), Russell's Gardens, or Mahoney's to pick up 5 or more plants feels right. Monetary donations in lieu of plant material are welcome; please contact either Trish or Terry for specifics on sending a check.



Lyn Jekowsky has offered to host a **container-planting workshop on Thursday May 6**. Other garden clubs report that they'd had success selling small container gardens with an assortment of herbs or multiple varieties of heirloom tomatoes. If you feel your donations might do well in one of these containers, please contact Trish to arrange an early drop-off at her house before the May 6 workshop.

Given the unavoidable COVID-related delays in green-lighting the sale, we're working with a truncated time-frame for accomplishing all this.

Although it may not be the biggest sale we've ever hosted, it could be a lovely chance for those of us who feel comfortable working outdoors with others to have some social time. Vaccinations may have paved the way for this small step toward a few hours of "before-world" normalcy....

Trish Cruickshank and Terry Luskin, Co-Chairs
(Trish cell: 781-248-8208)
(Terry cell: 781-254-2165)

Tips on digging and repotting:

- ~ NOW is the time to divide and repot, so that your plants will look healthy and presentable on May 22. If you will need help to divide, call Terry or Trish as soon as possible.
- ~ Water the plants that you will divide well in advance; this will aid in separating the roots and minimizing transplant stress.
- ~ Have your clean green or black plastic pots and potting soil ready. (Terracotta pots may be too heavy for customers to carry.)
- ~ Dig the plants up using a pitchfork or garden claw, and use a sharp tool to separate the roots. Some plants are easier to split than others.
- ~ Pot up your divisions in an appropriate size pot, water well, label with a sharpie on painter's tape, and place in a shady area. Once the plants have recovered, you can move them back to their original light condition and continue to keep the soil moist.
- ~ Fill in the Google form (which will arrive via email in April/early May) with information about your plant, so we can plan a sensible number of tables for the sale day.
- ~ Print a copy of the label (which will arrive via email) to attach to the pot later for the Plant Sale drop-off.
- ~ **Drop off your labeled plants** (unidentified plants just don't sell) between **7:30 and 8:30 am on Saturday May 22** at the Congregational Church (1154 Great Plain Avenue),

or in advance at Trish Cruickshank's house (64 Elmwood Road), or at Lyn Jekowsky's (530 High Rock Street) by 9 am May 6 for re-potting at the container-garden workshop.



Community Outreach Committee News



On April 19 four members of the committee met at Noyes Park to weed, cut back dead foliage and add fertilizer to the garden. Since we all had been vaccinated and we were outdoors, we enjoyed working maskless in the warm Spring air! The resident of 66 Noyes Street came over and thanked us for the garden and again extended the invitation to use water from her outdoor spigot for the garden.

We have purchased new urns for the front of the library. We will put them in place as soon as the old ones are removed and the weather is warm enough to fill them with flowering plants. Starting in June we will be asking club members to help with the watering of both the urns and the garden at Noyes Park. We had a great response last summer and hope for the same this year. The request will be done via email.

Cathie Cummings and Lynne Jones, Co-Chairs



Ways and Means Committee News

As the world begins opening up again, we on the Ways and Means committee are looking ahead cautiously, but hopefully, towards raising some money for the work of the club with the Wreath and Arrangement Sale on Saturday, December 4. Mark your calendars now for joining in the sessions on December 3 to make those gorgeous Wreaths and Arrangements. We will once again be making beautiful bows at Lynne Braley's house on Thursday, November 11. For those who have never had the chance, Lynne will teach you how to make those luscious bows that don't fall apart.



In the meantime, as you are clearing out closets, attics and storage places please keep your eye out for any Christmas décor that can be reused. The less we spend, the more we make. Also, please keep your eye out for anything that can be made into a charming holiday tableau- old skis, sleds and children's chairs are but a few that could be repurposed. As you are taking walks, please collect white birch bark and absolutely perfect pinecones- we go through lots but only want the best of the best.

We wish everyone good luck with their vaccines and subsequent travel and gathering. We have learned a lot; some have sacrificed much, and we will be grateful for the normal that we once took for granted.



Diana Conroy and Fabienne Madsen, Co-Chairs

Social Media Committee News

Visit our Club Website <http://www.needhamgardenclub.org/> and Facebook page often to stay abreast of Club news.

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

Newsletter Committee

We thank everyone who contributed to this and all of our newsletters this year. It's one of the many ways that The Garden Club has been able to keep in touch.

September/October newsletter deadline is August 10, 2021.

Amy Cicala and Carol Alper, Co-Chairs



Monica Foley and her entry in the Natick Art in Bloom.