



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

September/October 2019

LETTER FROM THE TRI-PRESIDENTS

We hope that everyone has had a great summer. Other than a few heat waves, which were pretty brutal, the summer has been perfectly lovely.

After being inspired by last winter/spring programming on native plantings and pollinators, I have focused on planting more native plants. (Okay-I also succumbed to some perfectly gorgeous Coleus for heavy shade areas.) I have been rewarded by a humming and floating parade of bees and butterflies this summer. Just as some people find watching a fish tank of tropical fish to be relaxing, I find that gazing at a bed of flowers that is buzzing with activity to be intoxicatingly relaxing.



As you plan for fall planting please think about going Native! That is the focus for the GCFM for the next two years. Let's talk about a garden favorite of so many-- the butterfly

bush. Sorry folks, it is invasive, no matter what the nurseries say. Despite the fact that in summer you will see butterflies swarming it (it is loaded with nectar after all) there is an important piece of the puzzle missing. Butterfly Bush FOLIAGE does not support any native insect larva and crowds out the plants that do. If we don't feed the larva, we will find ourselves with no native butterflies in the garden, and what a loss that would be. Butterfly Weed, on the other hand, is native, has a terrifically beautiful flower, and fairly interesting foliage. It is a mainstay of native pollinators too, so make the swap! Are you deterred by the name? A lot of our native flowering species were given the surname "Weed" by early settlers to this land. When they saw plants in abundant profusion, they made the assumption that it was a common weed. Hmmm. That's how native plants are supposed to behave when happy!

We look forward to seeing you soon, and to the upcoming year of gardening fellowship and friendship.

Respectfully,

Tri-Presidents: Nancy Agler, Diana Conroy, and Jane Lischewski

Visit us online at
www.needhamgardenclub.com
Password: needham

Upcoming Calendar

September 17: 9:30 a.m. September General Meeting, Community Room, Needham Library. "Flowers for the Home" with Debra Kraft.

October 15: 9:30 a.m. October General Meeting, Community Room, Needham Library. Club mixer: "A meal for Two in a Natural World Environment" followed by a members-only luncheon.

October 24: 1:15 p.m. Garden Therapy at Briarwood Rehabilitation and Healthcare.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEWS

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17



Meet floral design artist Debra Kraft as she presents her especially designed program, “Flowers for the Home.” Trained as a painter, she has traded canvas and paint for containers, botanicals, and flowers. Each of her inspired creations uses floral material widely available to us, and she will help us create beautiful and perfectly scaled arrangements for many areas of our homes to add beauty and seasonal interest.

The program will be held September 17 at 9:30 in the Needham Public Library Community Room, following a brief business meeting.

Program Committee Co-Chairs: Bonnie Waters and Pat Hession

OCTOBER PROGRAM: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

You won’t want to miss the Flower Arranging Committee’s ever-popular “club mixer” on October 15th in the Needham Public Library Community Room. This is an opportunity to work with and get to know club members you may not know well.

Club members will get the chance to use the hints we learned at our September meeting from Debra Kraft as we create our own floral arrangements. The Committee will assign members to a 4 to 6 person team to collaborate and create a “tablescape” inspired by the theme, “A Meal for Two in a Natural World Environment.” These “tablescapes” will consist of a place setting for two with a coordinating floral interpretation inspired by a natural world environment. For example, consider the desert, lowlands, marsh, mountains, Alps, forest, beach, ocean, rocky shores, Antarctica, etc. for inspiration. Each team will use a card table/area the size of a card table, to create its design. Teams will be chosen a few weeks before the event to allow time for creative excitement and planning. Each team will receive a \$25 stipend to cover the cost of flowers. The Flower Arranging Committee will meet after the general meeting to put together the teams and then contact a member of each team with their roster. This is your opportunity to think outside the box, be creative, and have fun with flowers!

The creative mixer will be followed by a Members-Only luncheon presented by the Hospitality Committee. There is no cost for lunch.

You must sign up separately for the mixer and luncheon at the September 17th meeting where two sign-up sheets will be circulated. If you will not be attending this meeting but would like to participate, email Lyn Jekowsky lynjekowsky@comcast.net, by Sept. 12th to sign up for the mixer and Cathy Flaherty at caf.beach2@verizon.net to sign up for the luncheon. Sign up. Don't be left out!

Flower Arranging Committee Co-Chairs: Lyn Jekowsky, Carole Grosberg, and Nina Saltus
Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs: Cathy Flaherty and Anne Brain

NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Will Humberstone was selected as the 2019 recipient of the Needham Garden Club Annual Scholarship. After looking at many candidates, we realized that Will was the clear winner. He was a hard-working student during high school, very engaged in the Norfolk Agricultural High School. He has served as a peer leader, giving tours for upcoming 8th graders and their parents and answering their questions from a student's perspective. He also has been involved in varsity baseball and varsity golf.

During high school he was selected for an Internship at Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum. This entailed spending a full semester of his junior year on the grounds and in the laboratories and included intensive learning experiences. Will described it as a great experience and says he enjoyed the non-traditional setting.

Will works at Dedham Country Club many hours per week in their groundskeeping department. During high school, he was enrolled in the Landscape Design/Management program, and will be attending U Mass Amherst in the fall to major in Turf Grass Management. We are honored to have Will receive this award.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS



Our club's garden at Noyes Park and the urns in front of the library were fresh and lovely all summer long thanks to the many club volunteers who kept them watered. Members also supplied an attractive plant or flower arrangement in the reception area of library over the summer months. Thank you all for helping to beautify public spaces in Needham.

Please look for sign-up sheets at the September meeting to continue the watering through the fall. We will also be asking members to sign-up to supply a plant or arrangement for the reception area of the library through the end of the year. All commitments are for one week only.

Each year members have enjoyed helping in our garden therapy program. We bring flowers and containers to local nursing homes and help residents create arrangements they can take back to their rooms. It is a fun and rewarding hour of your time. Our first session this year is at Briarwood Rehabilitation and Healthcare on Thursday, October 24th at 1:15 (arrive at 12:30 to help with preparation). There will be a sign-up sheet at the September and October general meetings. You can also help by gathering greens from your yard to add to the arrangements. Some common greens that you may have growing include arborvitae, ivy or vinca, boxwood, mountain laurel, leucothoe, pachysandra, rhododendron, daphne.



Community Outreach Committee Co-Chairs: Lynne Jones and Cathie Cummings

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY NEWS

We encourage all Needham Garden Club members to send Bonnie Waters any news that would warrant a card from the Club. Whether illness, death, or a happier event, please notify her at bonniewaters@comcast.net or call 617-512-1404. Thanks so much.

Corresponding Secretary: Bonnie Waters

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE NEWS



The Horticulture Committee would like to thank all our club members who offered so much this past June to our Club Plant Sale. It was the most successful in terms of participation, camaraderie, and sales in a while. We are especially grateful that the new venue at the Congregational Church was so visible and that the day itself could not have been better. Bravo!

Horticulture Workshops

This coming year we will be offering several workshops in hopes of meeting members' social as well as educational and artistic interests. It's much easier to get to know others in smaller settings, especially when new to the Club. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets at our general meetings. Dates have not yet been

finalized but some of the topics include planting amaryllis bulbs in pots for the holidays, designing and planting containers for our plant sale, and possibly offering gardening help to members with their own gardens. We also hope to offer some interesting "Road Trips" to special gardens and nurseries. We're looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Amaryllis Aftercare

We hope your amaryllis plant enjoyed the summer outside. In the fall, stop watering and move it to a cool, dark location; an unheated garage, basement, or bulkhead is ideal. Leave the foliage intact and let it wither naturally. Allow the plant to remain there undisturbed for at least 8 weeks. After the rest period, take it out and cut off the dried foliage. Repot the bulb if needed. Put it in a bright location in your home, but not in direct sunlight, and water sparingly until new growth appears. When it has finished blooming, cut the flower stalk off and treat it as you would any houseplant. Fertilize on a regular basis. If you have multiple bulbs, you may want to stagger their "re-entry" so that you may enjoy something in bloom throughout the winter.



Horticulture Committee Co-Chairs: Karen Taggart and Vivian Weller

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

We have had a few inquiries about club membership over the summer. If you know of someone who might like to join our club, please put them in touch with one of the Membership Committee's Co-Chairs.

Membership Committee Co-Chairs: Nancy Gallerani, Eileen Mecagni, and Debbie Wentworth

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE NEWS



Do you have any pieces of Jewelry you never wear?

Last December the Garden Club decided to sell gently used jewelry at the Wreath and Arrangement Sale. This was a huge success! We would like to make the addition of the jewelry sale a tradition each year but . . . we need your help! Please bring gently used pieces to the September meeting in the library. We will have a collection box where you can leave your donation. Or contact any of the Ways and Means Committee members, and we would be happy to pick it up. And thank you!

Ways and Means Committee Co-Chairs: Diana Conroy and Fabienne Madsen

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, and PUBLICITY

Visit our Club Website [NeedhamGardenClub.com] and Facebook page often to stay abreast of Club news.

Social Media, Website and Publicity TriChairs: Nancy Agler, Lyn Jekowsky, and Gail Davis

NEWSLETTER

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter. The deadline for submissions for the November/December issue is October 10. Please let us know about any Garden Club news or other information you'd like us to include.

Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs: Carol Alper and Amy Cicala

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SPRING

Suzanne Mahler presented a program at the Club's April 2019 meeting on transplanting and dividing our perennials.





Trip to the Arnold Arboretum

Annual Meeting at the Needham Golf Club. Our Unsung Hero for the club year was Mary Toran



The new board for 2019/2020.



Presidents' luncheon

Dahlia Planting Workshop



At a workshop at Elm Bank, Debbie Kraft and Lyn Jekowsky demonstrated using simple sculptures and common materials to create unusual arrangements.

