

The Perennial



2017-2018

Issue 6: February

Website: ArlingtonGarden.org

Facebook: [Arlington Garden Club - MA](https://www.facebook.com/ArlingtonGardenClub-MA)

Once again our gardens are dealing with warm temperatures that encourage budding while winter weather and temperatures most certainly will return. Last summer many hydrangeas never bloomed because of putting out early buds in February and then experiencing severe frost in March. Hopefully we won't see a repeat this summer. I wonder if this is our new "normal."

Garden Tip of the Month:

*Cut branches from flowering shrubs to force indoors.
Forsythia, pussy willow, quince and witch hazel work well.*

*March Program: March 14th, 10:30 am
St. John's Episcopal Church 74 Pleasant St. Arlington, MA*

Tim Lecuivre, Arlington Tree Warden, and John Ellis, Member, Arlington Tree Committee - Gardeners appreciate the immense value of trees for so many reasons. Trees growing in our own yards, parks and streets are probably the ones which we know and love the most. Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers and grant-supported interns, Arlington's tree inventory was completed in the summer of 2017. Tim and John will describe the fascinating inventory process using Geographic Information Systems mapping software and present us with the results.



Hospitality – Nancy Pike and Donna McGowan

We return to our monthly luncheon in March, provided by our members.

Nominating Committee – Flo Dunlap, Chairperson

The Nominating Committee will be seeking Garden Club members to fill the following positions:

Recording Secretary
Civic Development
Hospitality (2 positions)

Please consider serving if you are contacted.

Plant Sale – Emily Snyder, Chairperson

This year's sale will be held on Saturday, May 19th at the Jason Russell House. The committee is considering alternative options to the tag sale. Stay tuned for updates and ways in which you can support this important fundraiser.

Garden Tour – Patsy Kraemer, Eliza Burden and Beth Locke (Chamber of Commerce), Co-Chairs

The Garden Tour will be held on Sunday, September 23rd from 12 noon until 4:00 pm. The plan is to have 5 or 6 gardens open for tours. If any Garden Club members would like their garden to be considered for the tour, please let Patsy or Eliza know as soon as possible. The tour is co-sponsored with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. The committee also hopes to collaborate with the Arlington Tree Committee to have some of their members on site at the gardens to highlight the trees on the property and provide information on them. The group is also exploring the possibility of musical presentations in the gardens. Don't forget to save the date and look forward to helping out to make this an exceptional event.

Garden Therapy – Barbara Neenan and Robin Watkins



Garden Therapy's February program at Park Avenue Health Center was a celebration of Valentine's Day and Ms. G's springtime prediction. Residents helped decorate a birdhouse with flowers and hearts and afterwards enjoyed a treat of heart-shaped cookies. Following the refreshments, Florynce Bornstein accompanied the residents on the piano as they sang classic love songs. Charleen Donahue and Carole Crowley created February's project and snack.

EcoFest - AGC, Sustainable Arlington, and the Open Space Committee, Co-Sponsors

This year's theme is "Greenward: Land Use and Water Management, Plants and Pollinators, People and Healthy Ecosystems" and takes place on Saturday, March 24th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Arlington Town Hall. The keynote speaker, Ben Barkan of Home-Harvest, will address Edible Landscapes for Sustainable Living. If you are able to help with taking a shift at the Garden Club table, please contact Jane Foley. For more information visit the [website](#).

Environmental Corner – Karen MacKinnon

Recycling – What's New in Arlington?

In the spirit of the wonderful February program by Charlotte Milan and Teresa DeBenedictis, here are some reminders of existing, new and future plans for recycling in town.

* Please make sure all recycling is contained. Don't fill your bins too full, or opt for a bin with a lid.

* Reminder: There can be no soft plastics in curbside recycling. Plastic bags and clean plastic wrap can be recycled at local grocery stores.

* Recycling Center for harder-to-recycle items is next open March 10th 9-12 at 51 Grove St. Foam peanuts are no longer accepted for recycling. For details about what is accepted at the Recycling Center please follow this [link](#).

* Upcoming film and panel discussion: "Want to waste less food? What are we doing and what more can be done?" Tuesday March 6th, 7-9 pm. in the Robbins Library Community Room.

* The Stratton will soon be the 6th school in town to participate in the Lunchroom Food Scrap Collection Program. Food scraps collected are used to make compost.

Town Hall Gardens – Emily Snyder & Patsy Kraemer

The early birds may catch the worms, but the early gardeners at the Town Hall Gardens were able to prune shrubs and pull invasives while they are still dormant. Club members Stephan Miller, Patsy Kraemer, Emily Snyder and Master Gardener Diane Giuffetti Geis took advantage of the beautiful weather on February 20th to work in the garden alongside members of the Friends of Town Hall Gardens.



Sound System – Patsy Kraemer

Patsy will be bringing a sound system for us to try out during our March meeting. The hope is to provide greater flexibility for our speakers as well as clarity for our members.

Civic Development – Jane Foley

Arlington's Economic Development Coordinator, Ali Carter, convenes regular meetings with the merchants' groups from each of the Arlington commercial areas and members of the Arlington Garden Club. The AGC representatives are Jane Foley, Arlington Heights; Patsy Kraemer, Arlington Center; and Emily Snyder, East Arlington. Our goal is to encourage and join in on beautification projects with local merchants and residents. Members are invited to contact us with suggestions and ideas vis à vis such beautification endeavors.

Snow Closings

If the weather is questionable, as it can be in March, be sure to check for Arlington School Closings. If the schools are closed, we will not have our meeting.

Kokedama –Moss Ball Planter Workshop – Emily Snyder

There are still openings for a workshop on making these unique natural planters made from a ball of soil and covered with moss on which an ornamental plant is placed, on Saturday, March 24th from 2:30 – 4:30 for a fee of \$18.00. Please contact Emily for more information.

Members' Corner

It is with sadness, that we extend our sympathies to member Juliette Avots on the passing of her mother, Nancy Bundgus, and to Past President Kathy Leva on the passing of her mother, former member Shirley Fratello.

Programs of Interest

The next Grow Native Massachusetts “Evening with Experts,” program, will be held on March 7th. Uli Lorimer, Curator of the Native Flora Garden at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden will speak on “Lessons Learned When Field Botany Meets Design”. These talks are held at the Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. For more information please visit the [website](#).

Calling all our fabulous Garden Club photographers! The UMASS Garden Calendar is pleased to announce that they are now accepting photos submitted by the public. Submissions will be judged by the calendar team at the UMass Extension service and may earn a spot in the 2019 Garden Calendar. The deadline for submissions is April 1, 2018. For more information go to their [website](#).

The Middlesex Conservation District is a not-for-profit environmental agency dedicated to protecting soils and waters in Middlesex County. They hold plant sales (mostly native plants) twice a year, in April and September, to fund conservation programs. Click [here](#) for more info on this year's spring plant sale on April 27-28.

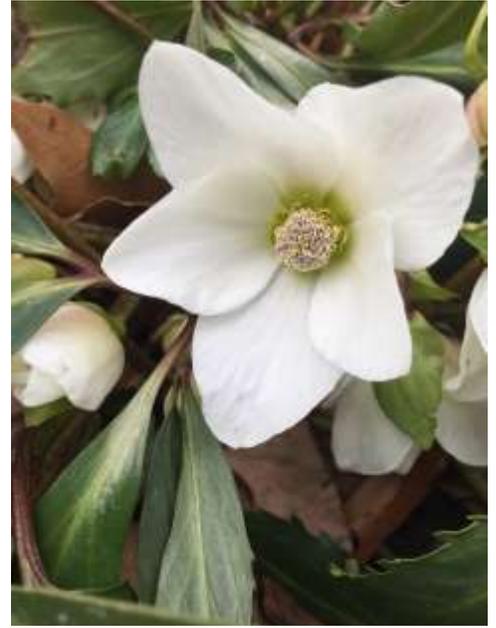
The Massachusetts Master Gardener Association is offering its Spring Home Horticultural Series, a series of 10 classes, Thursday evenings from March 22 to May 24. These are the same classes offered to Master Gardener students without the additional components of outside reading, homework, testing or volunteering. Although you would not receive certification, you will learn about soil health, herbaceous and perennial plants, weed management and much more. For more details, please visit their [website](#).

The New England Unit of the Herb Society of America is presenting a symposium on the celebration of herbs in our festivities, our gardens and our senses. A catered luncheon, demonstrations and displays, a silent auction and herbal marketplace are included in this celebration. Topics include Gardening for the Five Senses; Modern Herbal Weddings; and Cultivation, Cookery and Caveats. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Despite the fact we are in the month of February and should be experiencing the throes of winter, there are some plants which share their beautiful blossoms even in these chilly dark days. Many thanks to Eliza Burden for the photos of the winter flowering Japanese Witch Hazel and the Hellebore (Lenten Rose.) The Snowdrops are from your editor's garden. Look closely and you can see where our resident rabbit has munched off the tops of the leaves!



Witch Hazel



Hellebore

