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## ***The Perennial***

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***May 2021***

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2020-21: Issue 8

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Website: <[ArlingtonGarden.org](http://ArlingtonGarden.org)>

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Facebook: [m.facebook.com/arlingtongardenclubma](https://m.facebook.com/arlingtongardenclubma)

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### **Dear readers....**

Sadly, we are still in the social-distancing, masking phase of Covid-19. Happily, we are reaching the end of this phase and, we hope, will be able to meet in person again when the club's new year starts in September.



In the meantime, we're planning our **June end-of-the-year meeting via Zoom.**  
**Date is set: Wednesday June 16<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am.**  
Stay tuned for program details!



Emily Snyder – Editor, *The Perennial*

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**May Program – Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 10:30 am**  
*via Zoom (Zoom link will be sent a few days before the program.)*

**“Soil for Life”**

**Wendy McCluskey & Janet Powers**  
**Members, Mothers Out Front**



What does soil have to do with climate change? Why is human health connected to healthy soil? We know our gardens are beautiful...but can they also function on another level? Let's explore the connection between soil, climate, our, health, and our gardens.

Mothers Out Front is a national movement that brings together mothers to take action on climate change and work towards a just transition away from fossil fuels to clean and renewable energy.

Wendy is currently working on a campaign to modify city zoning to increase the number of green roofs. Following a career in information technology, she decided to focus her energies into nature and combatting climate change. She was an educator for Mass. Audubon at the Habitat Sanctuary in Belmont and is now co-coordinator of the Massachusetts Mothers Out Front *Healthy Soil, Livable Future* action group.

Janet is an ecological landscape designer and art maker who, early in her career, focused on native plant communities, working at the Garden in the Woods. She also has experience in wetland restoration, farming, and permaculture. She is an active member of the *Healthy Soil, Livable Future* action group.

1. Why soil matters to climate change & food nutrition: carbon sequestration in soil
2. What can I do? Tips for increasing carbon drawdown in home gardens.
3. Legislative update
4. List of resources
5. Q & A

## ***Environment***

***Chair Stephan Miller is on gardening-leave this month.***

*While readers may be disappointed to miss his always informative, inspiring pieces, we offer '10 Pruning Tips' for shrubs, which were presented by April's Program speaker, Jen Kettell, arborist and founder of [Radiantleaf](#)*



### **SHRUB GUIDE: 10 STEPS**

1. Have a moment with shrub (Got your PPE?)
  2. Identify plant and note its natural habit
  3. Use thinning cuts to manage shape & structure; use heading cuts sparingly
  4. Work from base to top, from inside to outside
  5. Remove hazardous, dead, diseased, and broken wood
  6. Remove insanely twisty stems that have left their quadrant
  7. Remove crossing/rubbing branches
  8. Thin canopy to encourage growth at base. Remember the 3 generations!  
(BUT: remove suckers from base of grafted plants)
  9. Create a strong, open framework of branch structure
  10. Step back frequently to refocus
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## MAY GARDENING TIP



Spring means flowers, so add some colorful blooms to your property while attracting more birds and beautiful pollinators. Have shady areas where the grass isn't great? Plant shade-loving (or -tolerant) shrubs such as some rhododendrons, Black Beauty Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* 'Gerda'), *Itea virginica* 'Little Henry,' or Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia* - SHOWN).

A few more gardening tidbits for further reading or viewing...

Don't be put off by the title [Soiling in Undies](#)

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[Evenings With Experts](#) | [Grow Native Massachusetts](#)

### **Hip Hip Hydrangeas! How to! with Andi Ross**

Date: Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> Time: 7 p.m. Location: Online via Zoom. Advanced registration is required for this Zoom event.

Register using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/5avmr3y6>

Hydrangeas are our secret weapon here in New England to insure drama and romance in our gardens from spring to late fall. Join Andi Ross for this complete "how to" program, starting with identifying the hydrangeas you have in your garden, and followed by best care, pruning, watering, cutting and preserving tips.

Andi Ross is a creative landscape designer, private garden coach, educator, horticulturist, botanical artist and painter. She is dedicated to taking a sustainable approach to every facet of gardening.

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### **Received an email request regarding a Civic Development project?**

We are contacting all members who've expressed interest, but if you are no longer interested, please let Civic Development Chair Patsy Kraemer know.



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## ***Members' Corner***

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that the slate of officers and committee chairs for the Arlington Garden Club has been elected. Many thanks for such a terrific and quick response from so many of you! The new crew will officially take office on June 1, 2021, and serve until May 31, 2022.

A special thank you to garden club members who have stepped forward to help guide our terrific club!

*Patsy, Kraemer, Janet Pagliuca, Emily Snyder*  
Nominating Committee

### **Slate of officers for 2021-22**

President	Lolly Bennett
Vice President – Operations	(no nominee)
Vice President- Programs	Carmen Torres/Janet Ford (co-chairs)
Treasurer	Kathleen Creedon
Recording Secretary	Emily Snyder
Civic Development	Patsy Kraemer
Environment	Stephan Miller
Garden Therapy	Carmen Torres/Carol Nahigian (cochairs)
Hospitality	Bronwyn Dillon / Karen MacKinnon (cochairs)
Membership	Ginger Tower
Publicity	Melissa Laube

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Your AGC membership entitles you to discounts at the following garden center, and Membership Chair, Ginger Tower, has provided an updated list

Membership Card and/or *Yearbook* with your name may be requested.

Mahoney's Garden Center  
242 Cambridge Street (Rte. 3), Winchester  
781.729.5900  
[www.mahoneysgarden.com](http://www.mahoneysgarden.com)  
**No Member Discount** 10% senior discount  
(60+) on Tuesdays  
Rewards Program

Seasons Four  
1265 Mass. Ave., Lexington  
781.861.1200  
[www.seasons-four.com](http://www.seasons-four.com)  
**No Member Discount**  
10% senior discount (60+) on Wednesdays  
Closed Tuesdays

McCue Garden Center  
200 Cambridge Road, Woburn  
781.933.1385  
[www.mccuegardencenter.com](http://www.mccuegardencenter.com)  
**No Member Discount**  
15% senior discount (62+) on Mondays  
Rewards Program

New England Nurseries  
216 Concord Road (Rte. 62W), Bedford  
781.275.2525  
[www.newenglandnurseries.com](http://www.newenglandnurseries.com)  
10% discount on garden-related items every  
day

Pemberton Farms & Garden Center  
2225 Mass. Ave., Cambridge  
1.617.491.2244  
[www.pembertonfarms.com](http://www.pembertonfarms.com)  
10% discount on garden-related items

Wagon Wheel Nursery  
927 Waltham St., Lexington  
781.862.2112  
[www.wagonwheelinc.com](http://www.wagonwheelinc.com)

10% discount on plants

- Ask for Larry, Alex, or Maria in the Contractor's Office at Waltham Street location
- Ask for Jose at Rt. 2W, Junction 95/2 location

Wilson Farms  
10 Pleasant Street, Lexington  
781.862.3900  
[www.wilsonfarm.com](http://www.wilsonfarm.com)

10% discount on garden-related items



While for the first time in 71 years no one was allowed in Holland's Keukenhof Gardens, the gardens' zig-zag paths highlighted the garden's magnificent layout design.