



The Perennial ***March 2022***

2021-22: Issue 6

Website: <ArlingtonGarden.org>

Facebook: m.facebook.com/arlingtongardenclubma



Greetings, Club members...

In keeping with my recent thoughts regarding grass and the environment, I want to share exciting information about a forthcoming town warrant soon to be proposed. Several concerned local residents are working on this, and it should be on the town meeting agenda (the *Warrant Article*) this spring.

The proposal is an amendment to the noise regulations around gas-powered leaf blowers and seeks to address the issues that the gas-powered leaf blowers raise, including noise, pollution, public health, climate effects, and quality of life. Finding a solution that acknowledges needs of small businesses and rights of residents to a quiet, healthy environment, allows for individual choices about lawn care, and helps the Town achieve its net zero goals is the proposal's goal.

Being proposed is a phase out of gas-powered leaf blowers with a complete transition away from them by 2024. The phase out period is allocated to coincide with the lifetime of the equipment. The proposal is in line with many other communities which are moving toward electric leaf blowers, including Lexington, Belmont, Winchester, Boston, Cambridge, Duxbury and Andover.

As concerned environmentalists and gardeners, I felt you would like to know about this initiative and its importance to our town. Learn more about this in Stephan Miller's article in this issue.

Your President, Lolly Bennett

Thank you to Betsy Scymczak and Tim Lecuivre for their flexibility in swapping their programs so that we were able to host a Zoom program this month. Tim will be live in March, and we are definitely looking forward to gathering together.

Betsy's presentation on Dahlias was full of information on varieties, planting, care, propagation and wintering over. Do check out her handout as it offered a synopsis of her talk along with many resources.

March Program

Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 - 10:30 am
Masonic Temple, 19 Academy Street, Arlington

Bring your own bag lunch ~ Coffee, tea and water will be provided



“Trees: Their Importance to the Environment and the Community”

Tim Lecuivre, Arlington Tree Warden

Tim will speak on the value and necessity of having a variety of trees in our town, and we learn how trees can help mitigate the effects we have experienced from global warming. He will introduce us to the Town Tree Committee and engage us in the ways in which we too can become tree stewards.

End-of-Year Gathering

Jan Ford, Programs Co-Chair

It's looking like we'll be able to meet for a final gathering once again. We are planning to have a slide show sharing both our gardens and are love of gardening. I do have some photos that I collected before Covid, but I would appreciate having new ones. Even if you sent photos previously, please feel free to send along some more. If you haven't sent in any, please send in some! This is a wonderful opportunity to share our love for gardening. If you would send in a couple of sentences to explain why you garden, those would be most welcomed. I would need these by the end of April. Many thanks, Jan <ford.jd@gmail.com>

Environment – Stephan Miller, Chair

A ban on leaf blowers?

It has come to my attention that a warrant article to ban gas-powered leaf blowers has been submitted to the Arlington Select Board. I strongly support this article and urge the Select Board and Town Meeting to vote it into law.



Let me state my reasons for this position. However, first a disclaimer: I hate gas-powered leaf blowers, and they seem to be everywhere. My *animus* is caused by the fact that, in my neighborhood, from April to November, I hear them every day, sometimes several times a day.

Landscapers have increased the simultaneous use of leaf blowers, first to two at time and now, frequently, three at time, and the din is deafening.

A single leaf blower produces a noise level of 65 to 80 decibels at a 50-foot distance. This level of noise can cause permanent hearing damage or other hearing issues such as tinnitus. I am awakened at 7 am by a landscaper, blowing away God knows what, in the middle of summer, in a neighbor's yard.

I also suspect that these dust clouds contain insecticides, fertilizers and lead from paint scraped off of houses in years past. These are not things living beings want to be breathing in.

This equipment uses a 2-stroke engine in which the oil is mixed with the fuel. This means that the oil is burned along with the gasoline, and the combustion products are expelled in the exhaust emitting 23 times more carbon monoxide and almost 300 times more hydrocarbons than a current model pickup truck.

In addition to the air pollution, scientists believe that clearing every leaf from flower beds has contributed to the recent precipitous decline of insects in our gardens. Many insects, including various bee species, winter over and reproduce on these fallen leaves and twigs.

I rake the leaves off my lawn and perennial beds, shred them and rake them back onto the beds and vegetable garden. It makes a very nice mulch which promotes fungal and insect growth and insulates the plant roots against temperature extremes during the winter.

My last gripe about leaf blowers is the clouds of dust they produce during dry periods. I frequently have to bicycle through these clouds during the summer.

So I urge you to lobby the Select Board and your Town Meeting members to vote in favor of this article.

Following are some references generated by local cities and towns

http://lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/6597/Leaf-Blower-Summary-Report-to-the-Lincoln-Board-of-Health_February-2014?bidId=

<http://lincolntown.org/488/Leaf-Blower-Study-Group>

<https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21303/LeafBlowerBylaw831>

https://www.lexingtonma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif7101/f/pages/fact_sheet_for_landscapers_4.15.2021_2.pdf

Garden Therapy

Carol Nahigian & Carmen Torres, Co-Chairs

February's program was cancelled due to COVID concerns

Garden Club Plant Sale & Flea Market

Sat. May 21st, 2022 ~ Jason Russell House



A Planning Committee is being formed & welcomes participants

If interested, please contact Emily Snyder if interested.

ells.ells0306@gmail.com – 617-750-0106

The Smith College 2022 Bulb Show - Limited Access

**Monday, March 7th - Friday, March 18th, 2022
Lyman Conservatory**

**The Botanic Garden of Smith College
16 College Lane, Northampton MA 01063**



Crocuses, hyacinths, narcissi, irises, lilies and tulips are about ready to bloom, and just in time for the 2022 Bulb Show. This year's show will be open the week of March 7-11 and the week of March 14-18, 9am to 4pm.

In order to limit crowds due to the current health situation, **the general public (including Friends of the Botanic Garden) must register in advance** to access Lyman Conservatory during the Bulb Show. Walk-ins will not be allowed this year.

Important details:

**UPDATE : Additional time slots have been added as of 24 February 2022.
Thank you for your patience.**

- **[REGISTER FOR THE 2022 BULB SHOW](#)**
- All registered attendees **must show proof of full vaccination** to enter the show. Additional information on the vaccine requirements can be found on the [External Attendees at Indoor Sponsored College Events Policy](#).
- On campus parking can be found using the [interactive campus map](#). Public parking is also available along Elm St. and in Northampton public parking lots. **Parking along College Lane is not permitted.**
- Members of the Smith College community with approved Smith College OneCard designations (Student, Faculty/Staff, Casual Worker, Emeriti, Five College, Inc, Five College Student or High School Student) can access the show without pre-registration. **A OneCard is required for entry.**
- Facemasks are required for all visitors aged 2 and above. Please wear a well fitted mask that covers your mouth and nose, single layer cloth masks, neck gaiters and bandanas are not permitted.

Marathon Daffodils



Marathon Daffodils mission is one of a giving nature. The non-profit distributes thousands of daffodils from the Boston Marathon's start in Hopkinton to the finish line on Boylston Street, Boston, and dozens of sites within the city.

The organization raises money solely to source locally grown daffodils. With the help of hundreds of dedicated volunteers they distribute these glorious yellow daffodils as reminders of the strength of all Bostonians after the tragic events in 2013. The hope is to brighten and beautify the City with reminders throughout showcasing resiliency and rebirth through the giving of daffodils.

See: <https://www.marathondaffodils.org/>

You can see Sign Up Genius to register to volunteer.

Organizer: Barbara Butwinick bbutwinick65@gmail.com 617-549-3948

Boston Museum of Fine Arts **'Art in Bloom' is back and better than ever!**



Come back to the Museum to smell the flowers in person April 28 to May 1, watch from the comfort of your own home April 6 to 13, or treat yourself and enjoy both versions of Art in Bloom!

Group Visits to Art in Bloom at the MFA

Gather at the Museum for an on-site guided experience. [Reserve a time and get tickets for your group beginning today.](#) Group onsite tours available from April 28 to May 1.

Livestreamed Tours of Virtual Art in Bloom

Invite your group to a live interactive one-hour Zoom presentation where you'll learn all about 8 floral arrangements and the art that inspired them. [Reserve your tickets today.](#) Presented virtually April 6 through 13.