

<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>June 25, 2020</p> <p>The May meeting will be held via Zoom</p> <p>The next monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday</p> <p>June 25, 2020, at 7:00 pm</p>	
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>June 2020</p>

Letter from the President

Fellow gardeners,

This is my final president's newsletter message! Thank you for your support and for giving me the privilege of leading the club this year. It has certainly been an interesting last few months!

Recently I had the pleasure of participating in a Zoom meeting with other club presidents and was able to share the wonderful ways that we are adapting during the pandemic to continue our mission.

We held our monthly programs in April and May on Zoom, chose two recipients for our high school senior scholarships, figured out a system for a successful on-line plant sale, did our civic planting downtown and at the library, and are sharing garden photos and sending links for online virtual tours of famous gardens. Our website continues to attract visitors, there have been articles about the club in local newspapers, the club sends out regular posts on Facebook and we have a new YouTube channel. All of this because of the passion and commitment of members. I thank the committee chairs and board members for their efforts!!

This Thursday, please join for the last meeting of the year - our virtual Annual "Dinner". We'll start the meeting with a toast so please bring a beverage. The Annual Dinner committee planned some fun and games for us so be prepared to laugh and share in the spirit of our club's community.

Thank you again for the opportunity of being your president.

Respectfully,

Laurie

"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments." ~Anonymous

Dates to Remember

June 25, 2020 This will be our first virtual Annual End of Year Meeting.

It will be held via Zoom, and the link and password are below and will also be emailed on the 21st.

The dates of all other club activities are under review and TBD.

June 22-28 is National Pollinator week! <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week>

June Program

As you know, we will hold our June meeting on Thursday the 25th via Zoom.

The information for joining the meeting is below, and Laurie will also re-send the email with the link, call in number and instructions on the 23rd. And, as Laurie said in her initial email, please don't hesitate to reach out for tech assistance if you need it!

Below is the link to join the meeting through your computer, tablet, or phone as well as the phone number to call if you just want to listen in on your phone. It will also be recorded with a few minute's delay on our YouTube channel so you can follow the meeting that way - or watch it at a later time!

The Zoom link for this Thursday's NGC mtg has changed!!!

Time: Jun 25, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87463288084?pwd=dUJQazlkR3Naak1lZWFXYS3JnZ2NVQT09>

Meeting ID: **874 6328 8084**

Password: **010126**

or phone in:

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

The Annual Dinner Committee has come up with fun activities for us to do over Zoom! Plus, we'll install the new board, vote on a bylaws change, and talk about summer and fall plans. Hope you can join in!

April Meeting

Here are just some of the Zoom-ers who attended our May meeting.



Topics discussed at our May 21, 2020 meeting, responses in bold

- What to plant in areas that get intermittently flooded, in the spring and when we have heavy rain, but are otherwise dry?
 - **dappled willow (*Salix integra*)**,
 - **winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*, *native*)**,
 - **astilbe**,
 - **Siberian iris**,
 - **swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*, *native*)**,
 - **cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*, *native*)**,
 - **and Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*, *native*)**
- How to control enthusiastic (aggressive?) spreaders: Lily of the valley, ajuga, myrtle, mint, English ivy (besides not planting them in the first place, or pulling it all up?)
Constant weeding followed by layers of newspaper or cardboard buried under mulch
- How to get rid of the crazy snake worm? (topic we did not get to in 2019)
Per Ann Katan: Capture them and put them in ziploc bag in the sun. Eeew!

- Safe, effective rodent control for vegetables as well as ornamentals. The consensus was that no one approach or product works forever. Your resident critters get used to one repellant and it ceases to work, so switch.
 - **Repels All by Bonide (around, not on vegetables)**
 - **Plantskydd (lasts for months, but does nothing for groundhogs)**
 - **egg, garlic and thyme oil**
 - **Deer Defeat (for deer, rabbits and groundhogs)**
 - **coffee grounds**
 - **Oh Deer company,**
 - **minced garlic**
 - **used kitty litter – put it down the chipmunk holes, they'll move**
 - **grilled hot pepper, emulsified along with coyote urine**
 - **Human hair**
 - **Grow garlic or onions around the perimeter of yard**
- Questions concerning seeds:
 1. What are some of the easiest annuals to grow from seed?
 - **Cosmos, zinnias, sunflowers, marigolds, calendula**
 - *these can be planted now, or in the fall and covered with leaf mulch or hay*
 2. What are some of the easiest perennials to grow from seed?
 - **We didn't get an answer to this, any suggestions???**
 3. Does anyone have any great sites they use to order seeds?
 - **Johnny's selected seeds** <https://www.johnnyseeds.com/>
 - **Seed Savers' Exchange** <https://www.seedsavers.org/>
 - **High Mowing Seeds** <https://www.highmowingseeds.com/>
 4. Is it too late to grow flowers from seed now? (May 21st)
 - **You can direct seed the annuals listed above in May. Next year you can start them indoors or in a raised bed earlier and get a head start. If you check the seed packages, generally they say what temperature the ground should be before planting seed. (No need to purchase a special thermometer, just use an instant meat thermometer to check.) Pat Polimeno highly recommended her aerogarden for seed starting. <https://www.aerogarden.com/>**
- Pruning tips – what to do, when, how to tell which plant to prune in Spring vs. Fall
General rule: Prune after blooming finishes. Google specific plants for details.
Lilac pruning tips: <https://www.finegardening.com/article/pruning-lilacs>
- Do dead trees HAVE to be cut down? How do you assess the risk of them falling?
Only need to take down if they pose a risk to property (yours or neighbor's). Might need a professional to assess the risk.

News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

Library planting

On Saturday, June 6th Terry Fitzgibbons, Melanie Harvey and Doris Fina filled the library urns and planters with summer plants and brought happiness to the library staff and all the library patrons arriving for curbside pickup. Here's the tired but happy crew that did the planting, left to right, Melanie, Terry and Doris. Thank you!



Downtown and Library planting

On Monday, June 8th, thanks to Sheila Tiberio's superlative organization and hard work, as well as the hard work of the faithful and enthusiastic club members who emptied, relined and reinforced the planters in advance, and lugged bags of potting soil, the downtown planting was completed safely and efficiently and it looks wonderful!

Many thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carrol, Martha Coleman, Doris Fina, Terry Fitzgibbons, Lillian Graffam, Joyce Hannaford, Pam Harrington, Linda Lentz, Sue Mandell, Ann Marie MacKinnon, Pat Polimeno, Marci Sapers, Susan Shipman, Geri Wadness, Carolyn Wirth, and of course Sheila. Here's a sample of how it looked before and after. To see all of Judy Sabol's great photos, and see if you can identify the masked participants, check here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/BZcNv2LBf81rpwBh8>



On Line Plant Sale

Our On-line Plant Sale has been a success so far thanks to great publicity, members spreading the word to friends, family and other garden clubs, and posting on social media, not to mention fabulous plants donated by our club's incredible supporter, Frank Osborne (541 plants to date, and he keeps digging more!) Since the sale started (with a "surge") at 9 AM on Saturday, May 30th we have sold more than 530 plants, and email orders are continuing to arrive daily. Thus far, we have generated enough revenue to assure we can pay our expenses for the coming year. Here's what May 31st looked like at Frank's home as we put together the first 40 orders for pickup Sunday morning. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/xtAeujp31aBQgzpr7> However, we have more than 300 plants still on hand, and more become available as members continue to donate them. We plan to continue the sale for as long as people want to buy our plants. So, please keep checking back at our website for the latest catalog, and encouraging your friends and family to do so as well.

We are asking members who have plants to donate to let us know what they have and how many **BEFORE** they dig and pot. We can put plants in the catalog as "available on request" and then they can stay in the ground until there is demand. (And not be dug up at all if there is no demand.) This has worked so far, as buyers have understood that there would be a few days' wait for plants to be 'custom dug-and-potted'. Send as much information as possible about your plants, including photos of them in bloom if possible, to: **donateplants@natickgardenclub.org**.

You will get an email back with an Item Number for each plant (multiples of the same plant will have the same number) You will need to put this number clearly and well secured, on a plant marker or some sort on each plant and leave the plants in a safe, shady, but accessible location. Then you will need to reply to the email that gave you your item number(s) to tell us where the plants are located. Plan on watering the plants for a while.

Since people are shopping online, the photos in the catalog are critical. (Frank Osborne's fabulous photos certainly sold his plants!) Take photos of plants in bloom now, if there is any chance at all that you will divide and donate them later. And, even if you don't donate the plants, Judy Sabol will be glad to have your photos for the club's albums. There is absolutely no reason at all to walk around your gardens without your cell phone or camera in your hands (or at least, your pocket!)

With everyone's participation, we can make this year's sale as successful as past years' auctions.

Google Photo Albums

Below is the link to the MEMBER'S ONLY album for the month of May.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/YnqdkA9XJLbGuFdY8>

If you click on a photo, the describing information should be visible, but depending on what device you are using, you may need to click on a 3 vertical dots icon, or a circle with an "i" in the middle to see the information. Most items will be credited to Judy since she uploaded them, but the information section should have the photographer's name and whatever details were provided.

Now more good news! Judy is creating another album for June, and again, invites club members to send her, via email: jrsabol@gmail.com or text 508-314-6447 a photo or two from your garden or walks and she will post them to the album. Please don't overwhelm her with photos, send her your best, and if you have a size option, pick "Actual" or "Large" for better resolution. Please include any information about what we are seeing.

Scholarships:

Mario DeLuca and Grace Benzi,

2020 graduates of Natick High School were recently awarded the Natick Garden Club's two scholarships.

Mario is pursuing a career as a landscape architect. He dedicated himself to summer and after school work with DeLuca Landscaping, his uncle's business. During a unique three-year project, he worked with landscape architects and engineers. "Working with the architects and seeing the plans come to life was one of the best experiences of my high school years." Discovering how the design came together with the aim of water conservation, the protection of wild life and the surrounding area provided Mario with the aspiration to study landscape architecture.

Grace Benzi chose civil engineering as her major. She worked at the Natick Community Organic Farm for all four years of high school. Part of her role at NCOF was that of community education. She studied the practice of no-tillage, reading The One-Straw Revolution by Masanobu Fukuoka, that helped her to understand her work. "By implementing these practices ourselves, we demonstrate how we can be kind to the planet and the creatures which inhabit it and that the harmful practices of industrial agriculture are not necessary to feed our world."



We hope to post a photo of Mario DeLuca in a future newsletter.

NGC 2020-2021 Board

The nominating committee, Sue Mandell, Martha Coleman and Susan Shipman, are delighted to offer the slate for the Natick Garden Club board of officers and committee chairs for the 2020-2021 membership year.

Officers

President	Jean Egerhei
Vice-President	Linda Lentz
Secretary	Rosalind Forber
Treasurers	Ann Marie MacKinnon and Pat Polimeno
Membership	Helen Johnson and Catherine Clifford
Programs	Phyllis Moir and Geri Wadness
Federation Liaisons	Jean Egerhei and Linda Lentz
Past President	Laurie Adelstein

Committee Chairs

Annual Dinner	Lillian Graffam
Auction	Bryan Smith
Downtown Plantings	
Spring	Martha Coleman
Summer	Sheila Tiberio
Fall	Liane Glenn
Winter Greens	Helen Johnson
Earth Day	Linda Lentz
Facebook	Sue Mandell
Festival of Trees	Ellen Yetman
Garden Tour Calendar	Earlina Jamison
Horticulture	Heather Oluwol
Hospitality	Elizabeth Carroll, Martha Coleman, Joanne Rampe, Susan Shipman
Library Containers	Terry Monahan
Library & Pollinator Gardens	Jill Miller
Library Holiday Decorating	Rhea Gallagher and Fran Guthrey
Library Indoor Plants	Connie Lane
Logo Items	Alison Parnes
Membership Book	Sue Mandell
Natick Days	Linda Lentz
Newsletter	Catherine Clifford and Kate Grzesiuk
Nominating	Laurie Adelstein
Photographers	Judy Sabol and Sheila Tiberio
Publicity	Kate Grzesiuk
Scholarship	Sue Mandell
Trip Coordinator	TBD
Webmasters	Laurie Adelstein and Linda Vitagliano

For online classes or workshops of interest, check these websites....

Arnold Arboretum <https://my.arboretum.harvard.edu/>

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts <http://www.gcfm.org/Calendar-News/Calendar.aspx>

Garden in the Woods <http://www.newenglandwild.org/learn/our-programs>

Grow Native Massachusetts <https://www.grownativemass.org/>

Massachusetts Horticultural Society <https://www.masshort.org/Events>

Tower Hill Botanic Garden <http://www.towerhillbg.org/index.php/visit/what-s-happening/events-calendar/>

Useful link(s):

- The UMass Extension Gardener monthly e-Newsletter is now **Hort Notes: Clippings from the Garden**. It is written for landscapers, grounds managers, arborists, and other green industry professionals with the understanding that home gardeners may also look to this publication for information as well. <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/newsletters-updates/hort-notes>
- You can read the latest issue of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts' newsletter *The Mayflower* online at <https://www.gcfm.org/mayflower>
- Check the calendar on the Federation's website to see what other clubs are doing, there frequently are open meetings. <http://www.gcfm.org/Calendar-News/Calendar.aspx>
- Here is the latest Newsletter from New England Garden Clubs, see what's going on in other states: [New England Region Newsletter February 2020](#)

Recommended Blogs:

<http://www.enchantedgardensdesign.com/blog/> Jana's blog is always a treat!

<https://awaytogarden.com/> sign up here for Margaret Roach's free email newsletter; she gardens in Copake Falls NY in the Hudson River Valley, zone 5B so her advice is pertinent.

<http://gardenrant.com/> A recent blog pointed to a curated collection of good gardening videos.

You can see them here <https://goodgardeningvideos.org/>

Reminders:

- Vice President Linda Lentz is the new contact for the NGC Sunshine Fund. If you know of a member who should receive a card from us, (illness, bereavement) please let Jean know at LindaRLentz@gmail.com or 508-208-8686.
- Remember if you have traveled to places of horticultural interest in the past, send your photos and the dates you traveled to Catherine Clifford at c.clifford90@comcast.net.

Susan Shipman sent this idea for reducing the strain on your squash vines, should you be lucky enough to avoid the plague of groundhogs this year, and actually get a squash this large!



Our thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Terry Fitzgibbons, Sue Mandell, Judy Sabol, Susan Shipman and Sheila Tiberio for their contributions to this issue.

Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk