

<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>May 9, 2019</p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday May 9, 2019, at 6:30 pm at the Morse Institute Library 14 E. Central St.</p>	
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>May 2019</p>

President's Letter

Hi Everyone,

April showers indeed! Spring may be here, but it doesn't feel much like it this week. And it is May!

However, in spite of the rain, Earth Day Natick was a success and the club contributed a great deal to the fun. Next Wednesday is the club's trip to the Frederick Law Olmsted National Park in Brookline, and we look forward to hearing about it from the members who attend. Our special May meeting is shaping up to be tremendous fun, as well as helpful. And then the summer planting rounds out May. June brings the auction and sidewalk sale, our end-of-year dinner and the trip to Fuller Gardens in NH. It is a busy time and we will be looking for many helpers to make everything go smoothly, so thank you all ahead of time for participating. See you Thursday night.

Martha Coleman

President 2018-2019

Dates to Remember

May 8, 2019 – NGC trip to Fairsted, the Olmstead Estate & Office, followed by lunch.

May 9, 2019 – NGC special May meeting. **Note this is the 2nd Thursday of the month.**

May 18, 2019 – Downtown Planting - **Summer flowers**

June 1, 2019 – Auction and Sidewalk Sale at the Natick Community Senior Center

June 6, 2019 – Annual Dinner at the Conrad's 120 Boston Post Road (Rte. 20), Sudbury

June 19, 2019 – NGC trip to Fuller Gardens, North Hampton, NH

June 21 - 23, 2019 – Newport Flower Show. Newport, RI newportmansions.org

May Program

Ask the Gardeners: Ask questions and share solutions to common gardening problems, by and for Natick Garden Club Members

This is a variation on an 'ask the expert' meeting we had way back in September 2010. Many of you have said how much fun it was last year when we sat in a circle and shared our favorite tools and tips. So, we'll sit in a circle again but this time we'll bring our problems and heartbreak (of the horticultural variety only please!) and share what has or hasn't worked for us.

Whether or not you have solutions to bunnies, deer, woodchucks, invasive plants or a mossy lawn, come join us for a fun evening. We will learn what other members who've faced the same issues have done to solve them and if it worked!

April Meeting



In April we were lucky enough to hear Charlie Nardoizzi, gardener, tour leader, author, radio personality and overall congenial speaker who was visiting from Burlington, Vermont. His topic was Cottage Gardens for which he gave us a historical overview and some helpful tips on how to achieve our own cottage gardens. Of most import of course is to start with a good soil. Then try and achieve "rooms" separated with pathways. Another practical idea is to have less diversity but more quantity of each type of plant. Fruits, vegetables, annuals, perennials, and containers can all be part of a cottage garden, of which we were treated to a dazzling slideshow of examples. For more information on Charlie's tips consider signing up for his newsletter, found on his website: [Gardening with Charlie Nardoizzi - Gardening Speaker](#)





News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

April 28th – Successful Earth Day – in spite of the weather

Once again, the Natick Garden Club contributed to a very successful Earth Day in Natick--despite the events moving indoors due to weather. Attendees moved easily among the three venues: Morse Library, Town Hall and Common Street Spiritual Center (CSSC).

Informing the Natick community about the Natick Garden Club's presence and mission and publicizing the Plant Auction are the main goals for our Earth Day booth. And we most certainly did that!

We worried that no one would find us in the lower level of the CSSC, but we were wrong. Maybe it was the Planetarium show or the kids choir upstairs, but we had a steady flow of people at the booth from 11 to about 2:15. We handed out many brochures about the club, answered numerous inquiries about club membership and activities and talked to countless adults about the auction while we had **65 happy kids** busy making seed balls. And every one of them took home info about the auction, too.

Our NGC volunteers deserve a huge thank you for their smiles, engaging conversations and efforts at our very busy Earth Day booth.

Elizabeth Carroll -- signage created and delivered

Kate Grzesiuk--handouts printed and delivered

Sue Mandell and granddaughter Jasmyn Gates--helped set up and worked the crowd with big smiles

Judy Sabol--found our booth among the many venues and took some great pictures

Helen Johnson--came early to help set up, went to work and came back!

Alison Parnes--arrived to lift spirits after lunch time and answered lots of questions for the public

Linda Lentz--new to the event and to the club, jumped right in to help with lots of energy engaging young visitors

Special thanks to Dani Newland for organizing, responding to the change in venue with an alternative setup and game plan, and for enthusiastically “playing in dirt” with dozens of delighted children.



Mark Your Calendars for these Natick Garden Club events

Fairsted, the Estate and Architecture Office of Frederick Law Olmsted Wednesday May 8th, 2019

Trip Coordinators Elizabeth Carroll, Joanne Rampe and Carolyn Wirth are delighted with the club's response (more than 24 people have signed up) to our upcoming trip to the Estate and Architecture office of Frederick Law Olmsted in Brookline, MA. We will have a guided tour through the office and home along with a brief tour of the property. We hope that in spite of this cold and rainy spring, Fairsted's flowering trees and shrubs will be at (or near) their peak. But the grounds are secondary to learning about the man who is recognized as the founder of the profession of American landscape architecture, and is responsible for landscapes that are enjoyed by millions across the country, including Central Park in NYC, The Emerald Necklace in Boston, US Capitol grounds and terraces and The Biltmore Estate in Asheville NC. [Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site](#)
The trip will be followed by lunch at the Wellesley College Club.

Downtown Natick Planting – Saturday, May 18th (Rain date: Sunday, May 19th)

Meet in front of Fair & Yeager at 9:30 AM

Please join us to beautify our town! We need lots of help filling the downtown containers and window boxes with summer flowers. With many hands we can finish before noon. Bring gloves and a trowel and wear your Natick Garden club swag! We will also need brooms and dust pans, jugs to fill with water, step ladders, recycle bags and a few easily transported wagons for delivering plants and water to the various locations. **If the weather forecast for the whole weekend is chancy, we'll move the planting to Friday.** Please email Sheila Tiberio if you can help and if you can bring any of the needed supplies listed. sltiberio@comcast.net

Annual Plant Auction and Sidewalk Sale - Saturday, June 1st

This year's Auction and Sidewalk Sale will once again be held on the **first Saturday in June**. This date has worked really well for us the past two years as plants had an additional week to leaf out, or even bloom, which made them more attractive to bidders! Sidewalk Sale starts at noon, the Auction at 1 pm. In addition to being our major fund raiser, providing funds for all of our great programs, the auction is fun, and a great way to get inexpensive plants that will grow well in your garden. **NOW** is the time to start thinking about what plants you can divide and share. It's also time to think about how you can help, before or on the day of the auction, hosting a sign, helping another member dig-and-pot, inviting friends and family to join us at the auction, or posting flyers at your health club, dentist or hair salon. Please see the Auction addendum that came in the email with this newsletter for more details.

Annual Dinner – Thursday, June 6th, 2019

Our annual dinner will be held as usual on the first Thursday in June, the 6th this year. It will be at Conrad's in Sudbury. The signup sheet for the dinner will be attached to this newsletter email, and there will be hard copies at the May meeting. Bring your checkbooks and save a stamp.

Fuller Gardens, North Hampton NH

Wednesday, June 19th, Rain date Thursday, June 20th

Fuller Gardens is a public botanical garden that was once part of the summer estate of Alvan T. Fuller (twice Governor of MA in the 1920s) on the seacoast of NH. We are planning our visit during peak rose season! The rose gardens were designed by the Olmstead firm in the late 1920s. We will also enjoy the Formal English perennial borders, a Japanese Garden and a tropical conservatory. Once we can tear ourselves away from this spectacular garden, we will enjoy lunch at a local establishment. Stay tuned for more information! <https://www.fullergardens.org/>



And for these Events of Interest...

Garden Vision Epimediums

Open Nursery Days (10am – 4pm) Rain or Shine Friday May 3rd - Sunday May 19th

Open every day for 17 days in a row, including weekdays, during the peak season of Epimedium bloom.
10 Templeton Rd, Phillipston, MA. www.epimediums.com

2019 Massachusetts Gardening Symposium “Inspiration for Next Year’s Garden”

Presented by the Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association

Saturday, September 28, 2019 8:30 am – 3:45 pm, Westford MA

<http://massmastergardeners.org/2019-symposium>

For other events, classes, or workshops of interest, check these websites....

[Arnold Arboretum](https://my.arboretum.harvard.edu/) <https://my.arboretum.harvard.edu/>

[Garden in the Woods](http://www.nativeplanttrust.org/visit/garden-woods/) <http://www.nativeplanttrust.org/visit/garden-woods/> Note new name

[Grow Native Massachusetts](https://www.grownativemass.org/) <https://www.grownativemass.org/>

[Massachusetts Horticultural Society](https://www.masshort.org/Events) <https://www.masshort.org/Events>

[Massachusetts Master Gardener Association](http://www.MassMasterGardeners.org) <http://www.MassMasterGardeners.org>

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

Recommended Blogs:

<http://thesustainable-enoughgarden.blogspot.com/> Rebecca Warner’s blog is full of great ideas for realistic sustainability.

<http://www.enchantedgardensdesign.com/blog/> Jana’s blog is always a treat! Especially the current entry as it lists numerous wonderful seasonal opportunities for “road trips.”

<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/>

Useful link(s):

- The UMass Extension Gardener monthly e-Newsletter *Clippings* is always worth reading. You can subscribe at: <https://extension.umass.edu/landscape/home-garden-email-list>
- You can read 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: <https://www.gcfm.org/events>.

Reminders:

- Laurie Adelstein is the contact for the NGC Sunshine Fund. If you know of a member who should receive a card from us, (illness, bereavement) please let Laurie know at ladell@verizon.net or 508-653-9053.
- Recycle gardening magazines, catalogs or books you no longer want by bringing them to the meeting to pass on to club members or donate to the library magazine swap rack.
- If you travel to places of horticultural interest, send your photos to Catherine Clifford at c.clifford90@comcast.net.

Members Travels – near and far:

Thanks to Lillian Graffam for this clever garden art idea from a botanical garden she visited in Port St. Lucie, FL.



Sue Mandell enjoyed Art in Bloom at the MFA as you can see.



Thanks to Elizabeth Carroll, Martha Coleman, Lillian Graffam, Sue Mandell, Dani Newland, Judy Sabol and Sheila Tiberio for their contributions to this issue.

Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk