


<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>February 18, 2021</p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday February 18, 2021, at 6:30 pm via ZOOM</p>	
<p>www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p>February 2021</p>

President’s Letter

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."
 ~ Barbara Winkler

Natick Gardeners:
 Hope you are all safe and healthy during this very snowy month of February. We can hope that with the administration of the COVID vaccine, we may all be able to be together for the first time later this spring. Although we will still need to adhere to CDC guidelines, just being able to see all of our members in person is something that we can all look forward to. At our last board meeting Lillian Graffam had a wonderful suggestion about bringing your own picnic dinner to an outdoor backyard for our annual end of the season dinner that could be held in late June. Let’s cross our green thumbs and hope that this will come to fruition.

A big thank you to Alicia Carroll for her wonderful program last month about the history of a small group of women in England during the beginning of WWI who reinvigorated herbal horticulture and herbal medicine as well.

I am really looking forward to our upcoming program on February 18th. Gretel Ansbach’s program “Starting from Seed” is perfectly timely.

*"Surely as cometh the Winter, I know
 There are Spring violets under the snow."
 - R. H. Newell*

Jean Egerhei
 Natick Garden Club President 2020-2021

Dates to Remember

Thursday, February 18, 2021 – NGC monthly meeting, via Zoom, see link below.

Thursday, March 18, 2021 – NGC monthly meeting, via Zoom

Saturday, March 20, 2021 – Remove winter greens from downtown and library – weather permitting

Saturday, March 27, 2021 – Plant Pansies, downtown and library, rain date, Saturday, April 3

Thursday, April 8, 2021 – **Note NEW date for our April program**

Saturday, April 17, 2021 – Natick Art in Bloom (rain date Sunday, April 18, **exciting details below**)

Fri-Mon, April 30 - May 3, 2021 – Art in Bloom, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston **A virtual event**

Saturday, May 22, 2021 – Summer planting, planned, weather permitting

February Program

Starting from Seed – *Gretel Anspach*

Gretel Anspach, an Overseer of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and a Lifetime Master Gardener, helped to establish and maintain two food production gardens that have provided fresh produce to the Marlboro Food Pantry for the last ten years. Whether you are interested in edibles, annuals, perennials, or even shrubs and trees, Gretel's presentation will give you the information you need to be successful, from starting a seed to putting the seedling in the ground.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85010609147?pwd=MnhIT2dDd2lVTlFoNno4SGV5RTduQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 1060 9147

Passcode: 317791

One tap mobile +19294362866,,85010609147#,,, *317791# US (New York)

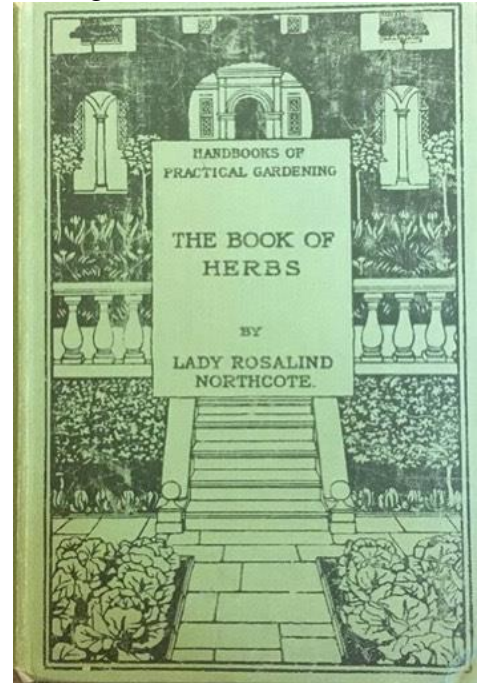
Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

January Meeting

Alicia Carroll – *Working Relationships: Women and the Twentieth-Century English Herbal Revival*

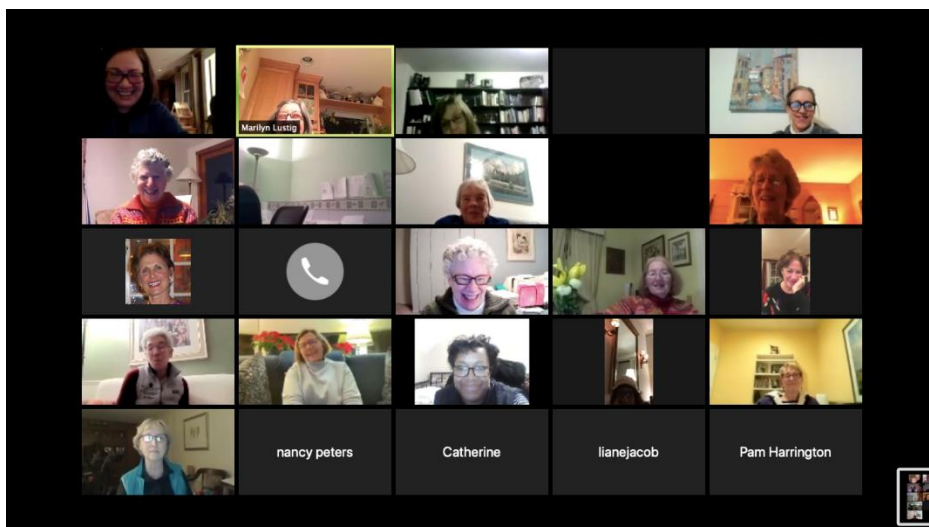
Dr. Alicia Carroll spoke to us about how a small group of women worked together to revive the local cultivation of herbs in England at the outset of World War I. Among these horticultural pioneers were Maud Grieve shown here, and Lady Rosalind Northcote whose *Book of Herbs*, published in 1912 is still in print today. We can thank the members of this group for their work which eventually produced new plants such as the still enormously popular Seal lavender, gardens such as Vita Sackville-West's famous herb garden at Sissinghurst, and modern versions of herbal medicine.



Maud Grieve seated in front of her cubby system which held her pamphlets and seeds for individual herbs at The Whins Medicinal & Commercial Herb School and Farm, Photo credit Kay Sanecki.



Based on the smiling faces, it was a fun meeting!!!



News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

Natick Art in Bloom



Exciting news! We have a new event to add to our Spring calendar. Natick Art in Bloom! Our club has been asked by the Natick Center Cultural District to work with them to create this event. It will be held on Saturday, April 17th with a rain date of Sunday, April 18th.

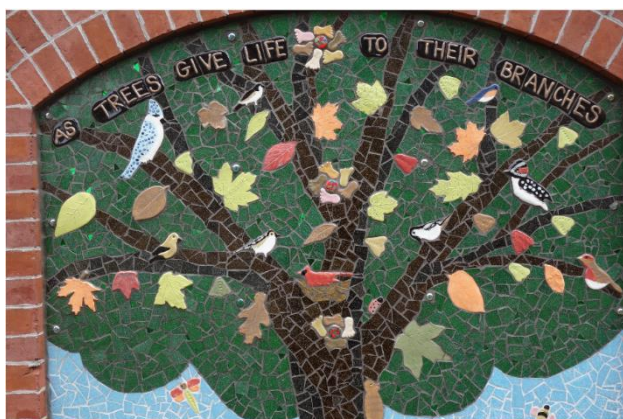
Typically, Art in Bloom events feature floral arrangements inspired by works of art; in this case the art will be Natick's public art with floral arrangements created by the Natick Garden Club. The location will be centered around the office of the Natick Center Cultural District at 8 Court Street, with the floral arrangements displayed on tables near the public artwork on Court and Adams streets. The other works of art not located on those streets will each be represented by a photo of the art accompanied by the floral arrangement it inspired.

Natick has many wonderful murals, mosaics and public art projects with which to work, and a list, with photographs, will be provided from which designers can submit their top three choices. Each floral designer will be matched with an art work from that list, and be given a budget for purchasing the necessary flowers. We are hoping to have a minimum of 12 floral arrangements.

If flower arranging is not your thing, not to worry, Monica Foley has volunteered to help with your floral design questions and challenges. And there will be plenty of other ways you can help make this a fantastic event, such as volunteering day-of for set up or staffing our table during *Natick Art in Bloom*.

These photos are only a sample, all the art can be seen at <https://www.natickcenter.org/public-art/>

Let Elizabeth Carroll know how you would like to participate, either as a floral designer and/or as a volunteer for the event. Stay tuned for more details! ElizabethTCarroll@gmail.com 508-951-0378



NGC History: Scrapbooks

Back in the early days of the Natick Garden Club, we had two very dedicated historians, Marilyn Lustig and Shirley Fitzpatrick, who made three scrapbooks, starting with the first meeting in September of 1998, right through 2015. A nicely compiled walk down memory lane.

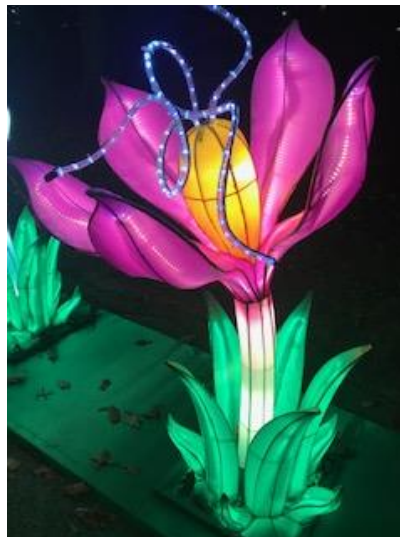
We have since begun to archive our meetings, events and community service on our website, and the scrapbooks are our paper history. I have had them in my possession for years, since assuming photographer responsibility. The Morse Institute Library as well as the Natick Historical Society both politely refused a donation of the books to their archives. The format of scrapbooks makes them very challenging to digitize.

I am willing to hold on to them until we downsize out of our present home, but since many of us have some extra time on our hands, I was wondering if others might like a chance to look through them? I would be happy to deliver to anyone who is interested, as well as pick up and drop off to the next interested party. Please feel free to reach out to me,
Judy Sabol, 508-314-6447

Lighting the winter darkness



Elizabeth Carroll's garden shed and photos Lillian Graffam took at an exhibit at Franklin Park Zoo.



Nominating Committee Notes:

The nominating committee (Laurie Adelstein, Susan Shipman and Mary Beth Connolly are looking for people for the positions below. Please consider volunteering for one of these jobs to help our club run.

- Vice President
- Secretary Back-up
- Summer Downtown Planting Coordinator (to work with Sheila Tiberio this summer and take over the summer of 2022)
- Winter Greens Downtown Co-Coordinator (to work with Helen Johnson in winter 2021 and take over the following winter)
- Trip Coordinator (for when we are again able to go on trips together)
- Coordinator for Natick Days or Earth Day (Linda L will do one of them along with being next year's president)
- Facebook coordinator (to work with Sue Mandell for a time before taking it on solo)

Annual Picnic??

As you all know, last year's Annual Dinner was cancelled due to Covid-19, and in 2021 we are still "in the weeds" with this disease. Once again, we will not be holding the Annual Dinner as we did in the past. However, it was discussed at our most recent NGC Board meeting that we re-imagine this event as an Annual picnic. Jean Egerhei has kindly offered her property for the occasion and assures that there's enough room to socially distance as we socialize. Each gardener would bring her/his own picnic and chair/blanket. Most likely, our picnic date will be near the end of June, and we'd have an alternate rain date, just in case. Details are being worked out, and you will be hearing more about this opportunity to get together in person and have some fun. Stay tuned.

Penny Pines

Between member donations and a budget allocation, we will again be purchasing a "penny pine plantation" in honor of one of our members this year. **Please send your suggestions for an honoree to Pat Polimeno at rpolimeno@comcast.net.** The club has designated plantations purchased in the past to remember (Emma Regele) and honor (Shirley Fitzpatrick, Jill Miller) long time members.

Treasurer Tech

The board approved an expenditure of up to \$1100 to purchase a small laptop and accounting software for the Club to be used by the treasurer(s) exclusively for Club financial business. To date, our treasurers have used their own computers, and had no accounting software. It's past time we modernized, and a club owned laptop would reduce risk in the event of a treasurer becoming incapacitated.

Reminder: Ordering NGC Logo Items

Alison Parnes has obtained the order form for logo items. It is attached to the email with this newsletter.

Items available include:

- Pink or Navy short-sleeve polo S-M-L \$25, XL-XXL \$27
- Khaki Bucket Hat (2 sizes, same price) S/M \$18.50, L//XL \$18.50
- Stone Baseball Hat \$18
- Apron \$19.75
- Tote Bag \$25
- And your own personal items can have a garden club logo as well \$10. Personal items can be delivered by hand to Alison, with payment, at the address below.

Please get your orders, items and checks to Alison (snail mail address below) no later than March 31. Checks should be made out to Alison, and mailed with the order form to:

Alison Parnes
9 Fiske Lane,
Natick, MA 01760

If you have questions, you may reach Alison at 508 653-8545 or aparnes@verizon.net

NOTE: Alison is inquiring about the possibility of having logos printed on masks, so stay tuned!

Reminder about our March meeting Natick Service Council Food Pantry donation

Historically during our March meeting, we sponsored a food and toiletries drive for the Natick Service Council. Since we cannot meet in person, here are three ways to help spread our love and help those in the community in this regard:

1. Consider helping to "fill the truck" every Monday at A Place to Turn, 99 Hartford St., 10 am - noon. Contactless drop off with most needed items [here](#)
2. If you shop at Roche Brothers, you can contribute to Natick Service Council by dropping items in the bin near checkout. Crackers and pantry staples high on need list.
3. Fancy making a \$ donation? The NSC is spending 150% more a month on supporting our community. <http://bit.ly.NSCDonation>

Thanks in advance for helping out our town.

On Line Plant Sale

Once again, the club will hold an on-line plant sale. Planning is underway, with details to follow but while you are dreaming of spring, be thinking of what plants you can donate to this year's sale. Except for last year, the bulk of the plants sold came from members and we hope that this year we will see lots of member contributions again.

Mark your calendars for these local events of interest...

- Weston Nurseries is sponsoring a live event every Thursday at 6 pm "Ask the Gardening Expert" featuring Trevor Smith of ReEarth Boston. 6-7pm Thursdays for the next few months; pre register at <https://bit.ly/asktheexpertweston>
- Listen to The Sunday Read: 'The Social Life of Forests' from The Daily on Apple Podcasts. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-daily/id1200361736?i=1000501497937>

Member Recommendations for On line events and programs of interest...

Kiss the Ground

If you don't have a Netflix subscription, you can 'rent' Kiss the ground for \$1 on-line.
<https://kissthegroundmovie.com/>

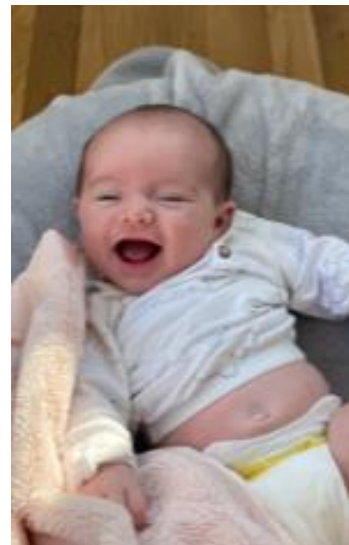
Biggest Little Farm

Good news from club members:

Judy Sabol's son Zach Portman was recently quoted in a NY Times article about native bees and citizen science. Check out the article and consider helping the efforts come spring!
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/07/science/native-bees-census.html>



And because no one can resist photos of adorable babies (or at least I can't), here's **Melanie's granddaughter Georgina** again.



And, for other events, 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 *Clippings* is always worth reading. You can subscribe at: <https://extension.umass.edu/landscape/home-garden-email-list>
- 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 Central-South District page under clubs on the Federation's website to see what other clubs are doing, often there are open meetings. <https://www.gcfm.org/central-south-district>

Recommended Blogs:

<http://www.enchantedgardensdesign.com/blog/> Jana's blog is always a treat!
The current entry lists ten outstanding mail order nurseries, some within the range of a day trip.

<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:

- Linda Lentz 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 Linda know at LindaRLentz@gmail.com or 508-208-8686.
- Recycling gardening books, magazines, or catalogs you no longer want or need is challenging these days. If anyone wants to do an outside “meet up and book/catalog/magazine swap” on a sunny day, let’s try to make it happen. Alternatively, if you have old copies of Horticulture or Fine Gardening that you probably won’t read again, MassHort’s library is accepting donations of gardening magazines and books. They can be left at the gate house if the library is not open.
- If you travel virtually to places of horticultural interest, please let Deb Thompson know DeborahThompson567@gmail.com, and if you physically go someplace, send your photos to Catherine Clifford at caclifford18@gmail.com

Our thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Martha Coleman, Jean Egerhei, Alison Parnes, Pat Polimeno, Judy Sabol, Bryan Smith and Sheila Tiberio for their contributions to this issue.

Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk