

<p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>December 16, 2021</u></p> <p>The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held IN PERSON And Via ZOOM on December 16, 2021, Starting at 6:45</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">www.natickgardenclub.org</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">December 2021</p>

President's Letter

I'm writing this on the last day of Hanukah; for those of you that celebrate I hope it was happy. I continue to be amazed how beautiful nature is at every season: the fall foliage colors just delighted me and the greens in the downtown and library planters look so very festive.

Seen recently, on one of my walks downtown, our Natick Garden Club's logo on Carol Krentzman's newest installation on Court Street. Be sure to check it out.

Just a heads up—much more to follow: Elizabeth is working very hard to plan another Art in Bloom event and Bryan and the auction/plant sale team are beginning to consider whether or not the in-person Plant Auction will happen. I don't know about all of you but I'm always happiest when I have things to look forward to!

Enjoy the rest of the holiday season

Stay safe, stay well!!

Linda Lentz,

Natick Garden Club President

President, 2021-2022



Dates to Remember:

- Thursday, December 16th Betsy Szymczak: The 2016 Obama White House at Christmas **ZOOM & in person**
- Thursday, January 20th NGC monthly meeting, ZOOM only
- Thursday, February 3rd NGC board meeting, 7 pm, via ZOOM
- Thursday, February 17th NGC monthly meeting, ZOOM & in person

December Program

The White House Historical Association, organized in 1961, is a private nonprofit that provides public access to the White House's rich history. Every year, at the end of November, more than 125 volunteers take just a few days to decorate both public and private spaces. Betsy Szymczak, Natick Garden Club Vice President, loves to garden, visit gardens, garden centers, and historic homes and gardens. This 2016 trip to the White House was on her post-retirement bucket list. She will show us photos of her visit to the White House in December of 2016, and many of us will undoubtedly want to add the White House at Christmas to our own bucket lists.



Meeting time: **Dec 16, 2021 06:45 PM Eastern**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88286916837?pwd=dEhuZkZ3WnZiUkRlBlZTaWtLbnBLQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 8691 6837

Passcode: 994999

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

November Meeting

Hands on Garland Making – Mary B. Hayes

Led by Mary Hayes, a group of enthusiastic (and masked) members crafted fall inspired garlands for a table or mantel. We were provided with fresh and dried foliage to build the base, and then customized at home with additional fresh and dried florals, dried fruit, ornamental wheat, cattails, and in one case, turkey feathers, perfect for a Thanksgiving table! It was a great evening, not least because we were together!



News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

Greening at the Library

The weather gods continued to shine on our efforts, and Wednesday, November 17th was another sunny day. Thanks to Terry Fizgibbons, Rhea Gallagher and Doris Fina who filled the baskets and urns at the Morse Institute Library with greens and have them looking their holiday best.

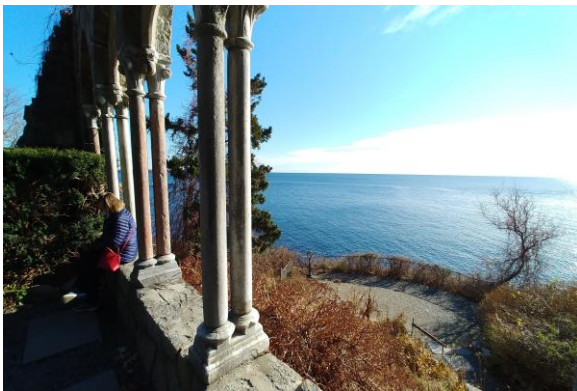


Library Holiday Decorating:

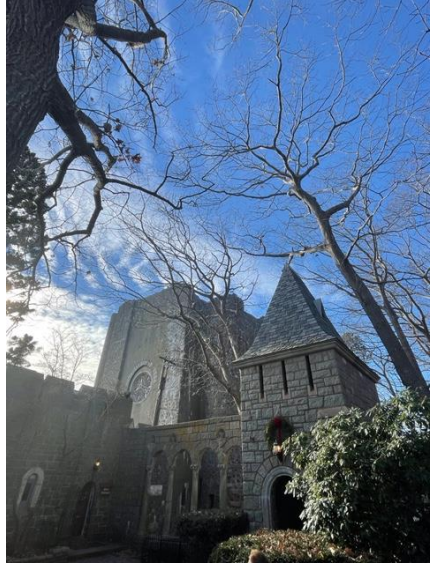
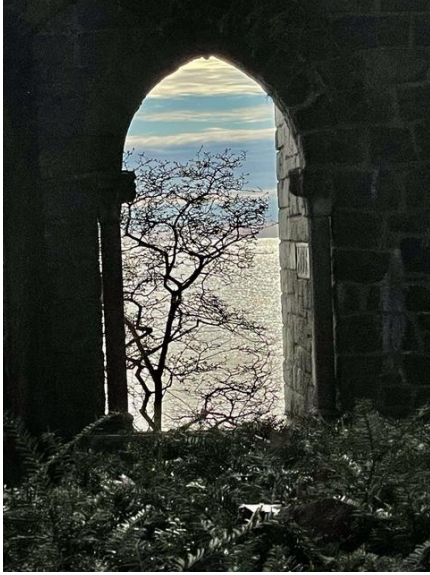
Happily the library is once again open, so the Club's Annual Giving Tree is back inside. It was decorated on Monday, November 29th and looks lovely thanks to the good work of Martha Coleman, Pat Collins, Sibby Hill, Ana Timmins and co-chairs Rhea Gallagher and Fran Guthery. Please make an opportunity to see the tree and add a donation for A Place to Turn. Already the basket under the tree has started to be filled with new (with tags) warm gloves, hats, scarves and socks.



Hammond Castle Trip



We had yet another gorgeous day for the club's trip to Hammond Castle in Gloucester on Saturday, December 4th. And what a fabulous setting! (The best view from inside the castle was from the ladies' rest room.) Trip coordinator Jean Egerhei had organized a private tour, and our enthusiastic docent both enlightened and entertained us. Lunch afterwards at the Seaport Grille rounded out a wonderful outing. Thanks Jean, we look forward to more great trips!





There are many more photographs, so we'll have an appendix, and possibly a google album.

MassHort Festival of Trees:

You still have an opportunity to see dozens of beautiful trees including those created by club members at MassHort’s 13th Festival of Trees, which runs Wednesday through Sunday until December 19th. Go to <https://masshort.org/festival-of-trees/> to get your timed-entry ticket today! Tickets are limited and must be pre-purchased. MassHort also needs volunteers, info also on MassHort website or 617-933-4988. Below left is member Monica Foley’s tree, center and right are trees by member Beth Gray-Nix.



The club’s tree, crafted by Ellen Yetman, assisted by Shirley Fitzpatrick, was pictured in last month’s newsletter, but here it is again! The theme was “Feed the Birds” and it included two \$50 gift cards, a solar bird feeder, bird seed and a book.



Members' seasonal arrangements

Empty window boxes cried out for greens, Lucy Morris (left) and Judy Sabol (right) responded.



Laurie Adelstein's winter vignette, (can you tell Laurie's a skater?) and the pinecone, seed pod and turkey feather swag Kate Grzesiuk made for Catherine Clifford



Send photos of your seasonal décor, we'll make an album!

Members' trips

NGC Members Nancy Peters, Susan Shipman, Sheila Tiberio, and former club member Debbie Hellmold and her husband Richard, just returned from a Bucks County, Pennsylvania garden tour organized by travel author Jana Millbocker. Susan and Sheila shared photos of Nemours Mansion, Winterthur, Longwood Gardens, and the New York Botanical Garden Christmas train display. Everyone had an absolutely splendid time.

There were so many photographs, they will be in their own appendix.

Volunteer Opportunities

Native Plant Trust (NPT, formerly Garden in the Woods) is the nation's first organization devoted to protecting native plants. Their Plant Conservation Volunteer program engages those passionate about native flora and conservation to monitor and protect rare plant species throughout New England. Micah Jasny, the Botanical Coordinator at NPT, invites members of the Natick Garden Club to become Plant Conservation Volunteers. The flyer with additional information about the program is attached to the newsletter email.

NOTE: The deadline for new applicants for the 2022 field season is Wednesday, March 16th.

www.NativePlantTrust.org

Check these websites for events, classes and workshops of interest; *note that some organizations are moving to in person events.*

- Arnold Arboretum <https://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/>
- Garden Club Federation of MA <https://www.gcfm.org/schools>
- Garden in the Woods aka Native Plant Trust <https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/education/>
- Mass Horticultural Society <https://www.masshort.org/Events>
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden <http://www.towerhillbg.org/index.php/visit/what-s-happening/events-calendar/>
- Frederick Law Olmsted Historic Site <https://friendsoffairsted.org/programs/>
- Grow Native Massachusetts <https://www.grownativemass.org/>

Reminders:

- Betsy Szymczak 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 Betsy know at szymczakb@gmail.com or 617-750-1422
- Send photos of any and all club activities and events for inclusion in the newsletter to Catherine and Kate at caclifford18@gmail.com and kategrzesiuk@yahoo.com

Useful link(s):

- **New!** The Native Plants of New England Facebook page has lots of useful information. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/367054536748975/permalink/4687926097995109/>
- **New!** Landscape designer, gardener, speaker and writer Kathy Connolly's website is chock full of helpful information. <https://www.speakingoflandscapes.com/>
- The UMass Extension Gardener monthly e-Newsletter *Clippings* is always worth reading. You can always read it here: <https://ag.umass.edu/resources/home-lawn-garden/newsletters> And you can subscribe at: <https://extension.umass.edu/landscape/home-garden-email-list>
- You can always read the latest issue of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts newsletter *The Mayflower* online at: [Mayflower](#)
- Natick is lucky to have both town employees and dedicated citizens actively working on sustainability initiatives, many of which align with our Club's mission to "beautify, revitalize and preserve.... for nature's sake." Please take a moment to click over to the Sustainability website <https://www.natickma.gov/964/Sustainability> where you can subscribe to a newsletter or read back issues. Or follow their efforts on <https://www.facebook.com/sustainablenatick>

Thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Doris Fina, Terry Fitzgibbons, Fran Guthery, Sibby Hill, Helen Johnson, Linda Lentz, Judy Sabol, Susan Shipman, Sheila Tiberio and Linda Vitagliano for their contributions of content and photographs to this issue.

Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk