

# *The Perennial*



2014-2015  
Issue 3: November

Website:  
[ArlingtonGarden.org](http://ArlingtonGarden.org)

As we are about to experience possible record-breaking cold, I do look forward to watching the birds picking seeds from the Echinacea heads and seeking shelter in the holly bushes which have an abundance of berries this year. We have lots of news to share this month.

## Upcoming Programs:

Evening Meeting – November 20  
Masonic Temple

“Tips, Tricks and Tools” – Ginny Ballou, Mrs. Blossom’s Flower Company, teacher and lecturer.

This will be an interactive lecture/ discussion based on planning, planting and perfecting the perennial garden with time and money saving tips, favorite tools, and easier ways to do things from Ginny’s 30 years of gardening. There’ll be time to share our own perennial experiences.



Daytime Meeting - December 10  
St. John’s Church

Catered Holiday Luncheon and program,  
“Gardening is Murder”

Join Neal Sanders, writer of a blog, The Principal Undergardener and author of several garden club murder mysteries who will share his observations of gardeners in a humorous, informative and poignant way. He will also have his newest book for sale and will donate 10% of sales to the Garden Club.



## *Town Hall Invasives Removal*

Several members of the Garden Club joined together with the newly formed Friends of the Winfield-Robbins Memorial Garden to remove the invasive English Ivy that was climbing the exterior walls of Town Hall and damaging the mortar. Along the way, large quantities of bittersweet were pulled and bagged for disposal. (see the invasives alert further down in the newsletter) In the photo, Nancie Richardson emerges from the shrubbery with an armful of ivy.



## *Tower Hill Tour*

Garden Club members are invited to a holiday tour of the Tower Hill Botanical Gardens where there will be “glittering indoor displays as well as illuminated trees and shrubs in the Orchard, Entry, Lawn and Winter Gardens.” Members will meet at St. Camillus Church at 9:00 with a tour starting time of 10:30. As we will be carpooling, drivers are needed. The entry fee is \$14.00 or \$12.00 for seniors. Lunch would be an additional cost. There will also be time for some shopping in the gift shop. Even if you signed up at last week’s meeting, please contact Emily Forshay-Crowley at [realtorEmilyCrowley@rcn.com](mailto:realtorEmilyCrowley@rcn.com) by the absolute deadline of Monday, Nov. 24.



## *Wreath-Making Workshop*

Members are invited to participate in a Wreath-Making Workshop to be held at Carol Nahigian’s home (3 Monadnock Rd.) on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. We will be making wreaths for the doors of the Jason Russell House as well as our own homes. If possible, please bring along wire, wire clippers and decorations, although we will have some available. Please RSVP to Jean Van Orman at [jeannevanorman@gmail.com](mailto:jeannevanorman@gmail.com) or Carol Nahigian at 781 648-0143.

## *Books in Bloom*

Our fourth biennial fund raiser will be held on Friday, February 27 from 7-9. (Please change the date in your yearbook.) Funds raised from this event are split with the Friends of the Robbins Library. We are seeking members to do arrangements that connect to a favorite book. If you would like to do an arrangement, please contact Patsy Kraemer at [patsy@patsykraemer.com](mailto:patsy@patsykraemer.com). Photos from past events are available at our website, [ArlingtonGarden.org](http://ArlingtonGarden.org) Watch the newsletter for more information about all the ways you can participate in what is always a very special evening.

## Jason Russell House News

From Jeanne Van Orman



Carol Davis, a member of the Jason Russell House Committee of the Arlington Garden Club, touring the garden of the Monroe Tavern, Lexington.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Jason Russell House Committee members made their first field trip to research historic gardens of 18<sup>th</sup> c. houses in preparation for the revamping of the gardens of Arlington's historic Jason Russell House on Massachusetts Ave and Jason St.

Committee members Juliette Avots, Carol Davis, Patsy Kraemer, Carol Nahigian, Gerry Ricci, Jeanne Van Orman and Ruth Yannetti toured two Lexington historic gardens: that of Monroe Tavern (pictured above) and that of Hancock-Clarke House.

With the enthusiastic support of the Arlington Historical Society, it is the Committee's goal to re-establish a garden at the Jason Russell House. The current work will build on the work done to create an historic garden at the House by the Historical Society.

## Invasives Alert

From Mary Stack

Most gardeners are familiar with oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*.) Like many alien invasive species, it has no natural checks and is very prolific. The abundant bright berries, which first made it attractive to gardeners, are the reason it has become so difficult to eradicate. They are spread by birds and, unwittingly, by people through careless disposal or use as decorations. It also spreads by its roots and shoots.

These vines are very destructive to native trees and shrubs. They take up water and nutrients and block the sun. Their weight will often break branches and can topple trees. Although they do provide food to some wildlife, they crowd out native plants that could provide a more diverse diet.



Although there is a native American bittersweet( *Celastrus scandens*), it is being crowded out by this invasive and is being degraded by cross-pollination.

There are three recommended ways to get rid of bittersweet. You can pull it out, spray it with herbicide or cut the stems and then apply herbicide. Pulling it up is effective for small plants, but will have to be done repeatedly because any remaining roots will send up shoots. Spraying is dangerous to the surrounding vegetation. Large vines can be cut off at the roots and herbicide applied to the cuts. Fall is a good time to pull or cut the plants, but not for spraying.

It is important to dispose carefully of the plants so they don't spread by roots or seeds. They shouldn't be composted or put out as yard waste. The Town of Arlington will collect invasive plants in plastic bags if they are labeled with identifying stickers that are available at the DPW office on Grove Street. If you only have a few plants you can just bag them and put them in with your trash.



Oriental Bittersweet

A possible native replacement vine would be Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). Although it is not invasive, it can be aggressive and requires pruning to control in a garden landscape. The blue berries are a rich source of food for birds and it has spectacular fall color.



Virginia Creeper

*An Event of Interest:*

COGdesign, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality landscape design services to community-based groups, is presenting The Resilient Farm and Homestead on December 2, 2014 at 6:30 pm at District Hall, 75 Northern Avenue, Boston. Ben Falk will be discussing his handbook for developing regenerative human habitat systems that are adaptive to the challenges of climate change. For further information, please contact Jeanne Van Orman.

*Member Discounts:*

As you shop for your holiday floral arrangements and supplies, don't forget to check out the website for a list of nurseries and garden centers that offer a discount to AGC members.

Happy Thanksgiving