

The Perennial



2014-2015

Issue 6: February

Website:
ArlingtonGarden.org

With the continued parking ban and the possibility of more snow in the forecast, the decision was made to postpone Books in Bloom until November 6. Please look for the details in the first article after the meeting information.

Upcoming Programs:

Evening Meeting – February 26 – 7:00pm
Masonic Temple

Vegetable Gardening with Susan Hammond, principal master gardener and Manager of Mass Hort's Elm Bank vegetable garden. Susan will share different types of vegetable gardens as well as a variety of choices and growing techniques. Vegetable gardening is a great way to bring fresh produce to your table, teach children where their food comes from, and can even beautify your yard.



Daytime meeting – March 11-10:30am
St. John's Episcopal Church

Springtime Along the Charles – Carol Berney, an award-winning photographer will take us on a visual tour of the Charles River. Come along as we celebrate the gifts of the natural world. We'll not only see the plants that call the river home but we'll see some of the animals that depend on the river and the flora for their survival. This should be a wonderful respite from our winter weather.



Books in Bloom Rescheduled!

Due to the continued parking bans and forecast of even more snow the Books in Bloom committee has decided the best plan is to reschedule.

Based on activities of the Friends of the Robbins Library and the Garden Club as well as other town activities and availability of the venue, Books in Bloom has been rescheduled to November 6. Fall will be a wonderful time to enjoy the evening and view the florals. Our thanks to all who have worked so hard on the plans. If you see a flyer in a store-front, please mark it clearly "Rescheduled to Nov. 6th". Arrangements are being made to reimburse those who have already purchased tickets.

EcoFest – Energy Wise: Sparking Local Solutions

EcoFest is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Town Hall. This year's theme is "EnergyWise: Sparking Local Solutions."

Admission is free. Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager and Audrey Schulman of Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) are the featured speakers. There will be free computer recycling, free compost, discounted rain barrels and composters, raffles, refreshments, electric/hybrid vehicles (maybe), and many vendors related to the theme. See [Town website](#) for more information and articles.

Please let Patsy Kraemer know if you can help out at this event.

Enchanted Garden Designs

Juliette Avots subscribed to this website following the program by Joan Butler and Jana Milbocker, our October daytime meeting speakers. She has provided a link to their blog and the latest entry: *Five-Plant Gardens*.

<http://www.enchantedgardensdesign.com/blog>

Juliette said that she couldn't wait to get her nails dirty after visiting the site!

Invasives Corner

From Mary Stack

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) appears to be the perfect shrub. It is drought tolerant, grows well in shade and is deer resistant. Unfortunately, these are the very characteristics that make it invasive. It was first introduced as an ornamental by the Arnold Arboretum. Later it was used as a substitute for common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*), an alien plant, which was grown for its fruit and for use as hedges but was found to be a host for wheat rust. Over the years it has escaped and invaded forests and open spaces.

Like many invasive plants, it is most damaging to the forest understory. The

seeds are spread by birds and small rodents. Deer won't eat it, so it replaces the native plants that deer do eat. Lately, it has been associated with increases in the population of deer ticks which spread Lyme disease. Because of its thick growth of arching stems, it provides a humid environment where ticks breed. It also provides cover for white-footed mice which are hosts for deer ticks and a vector in the spread of Lyme disease.

Barberry is difficult to remove because of its spines and large root mass. Since it can spread by rhizomes it is important to get out as much of the root as possible. It can also be eliminated by cutting it back and applying herbicide to the cut stems. It can be controlled by repeatedly cutting it back before florescence.

Many states, including Massachusetts, have banned the sale of various cultivars of barberry, but it is still available online.

If you have barberry bushes that you are considering removing, some good native replacements are Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*), High bush blueberry (*Vaccinium corybosum*) or Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*).



Bayberry



Highbush Blueberry



Winterberry

Programs of Interest:

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts is offering the following programs:

“Containers Galore” with Joanne Veiera of Tower Hill Botanic Garden on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 10:00am at the Espousal Retreat Center, 554 Lexington St., Waltham, MA \$5.00 members, \$10.00 for guests.

Grow Native will be hosting a program by Bill Brumbeck, Director of Conservation for the New England Wildflower Society, on Native Orchids of New England on March 4. There are over fifty varieties of ground orchids that have adapted to our woodlands and wetlands. The program will be held at the Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge.

“Planning for Civic Projects and Choosing the Right Plants” will be presented on Thursday, March 26, 2015 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The speaker will be Warren P. Leach, landscape designer. This is an ideal workshop for anyone who is responsible for container plantings. Registration is \$15.00 and forms are available on line at GCFM.org

In Memoriam:

We were saddened to learn of the passing in September of member Melanie Mahin



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A visit to a local greenhouse may just be the cure for this winter.
Remember... its only a month to the first day of spring!