

The Perennial



2014-2015
Issue 9: May

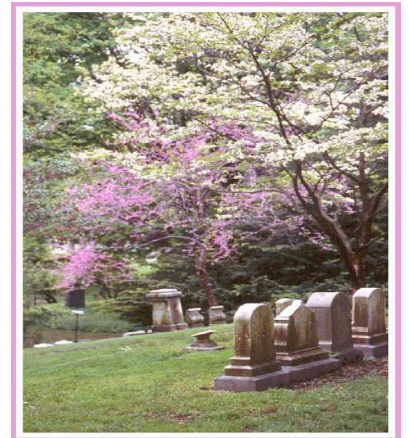
Website:
ArlingtonGarden.org

What a crazy spring! From the winter that wouldn't end to instant summer and back to frost alerts for the middle of May, our gardens have been under stress especially from the lack of water. Be sure to give new plantings, including those from last season, a good drink of water. And don't forget to water all the plants you've prepared for the Plant Sale on May 23. Be sure to read the article from co-chairs Fritz Galley and Gerry Ricci.

Upcoming Programs:

Evening Meeting – May 28 – 7:00pm
Masonic Temple

Mount Auburn's History and Current Sustainable Horticultural Practices – Steve Jackson, Plant Records Manager, Mount Auburn Cemetery, will discuss a brief history of horticulture at the cemetery followed by a discussion of organic gardening, compost teas and native plant propagation.



End of the Year Celebration
Day and Evening Group Joint June Meeting
Wednesday - June 17 – 6 pm
Town Hall

A catered dinner will be provided, thank yous and recognitions will be made, news about programs and projects for the season will be shared and drawings for free door prizes will be held.

Following dinner we will be joined by Diane Edgecomb who brings to life the legends surrounding favorite garden flowers revealing the deep meaning cultures around the world have found in them. Diane will be accompanied by harpist, Margot Chamberlain.

Annual Plant Sale

CHAIRS: FRITZI GALLEY AND GERRY RICCI

We need lots of volunteers so please come and participate. It's a fun day for all!

DATE: MAY 23, 2015 – MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND – JUST A WEEK AWAY!

TIME: 9AM – 12PM - RAIN OR SHINE

LOCATION: JASON RUSSELL HOUSE (corner Mass Ave and Jason Street)

Sub-Committee Chairs:

Bake Sale – Ginger Tower (helper – Kyle Sterne)

Cashier's Table – Irene MacKinnon (helpers Gerry Ricci, Nancie Richardson)

Café with coffee and dessert – Fritzi Galley and Katherine Krister

Master Gardener Table – Trish Webb will provide master gardeners

Plants (gather and price) – Carol Davis (helpers Jackie Keshian, Stephen Miller)

Publicity – Flo Dunlap

Tag Sale – Carol Nahigian (helpers Marie Doughty, Jane Foley, Valerie Maxwell, Donna McGowan, Nancy Pike)

We'll have updates soon from sub-committee chairs with helpful instructions on what needs to be done. They'll be looking for helpers too. **Pick a task and give that Chair a call.**



Come Join in the Fun!

Planting Guidelines and Labels

Both are available at the end of the newsletter following the renewal forms and online at our website: arlingtongarden.org.

Invasives Corner from Mary Stack

Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia* L.) also called Moneywort is a very attractive garden and container plant. Unfortunately it is now prohibited in Massachusetts. Because it is low-growing and spreads quickly, it is popularly used as groundcover. These characters are also what make it invasive. It prefers moist areas and poses a danger in forests and wetlands where it can form dense mats which block out native plants. The seeds can be carried by water so it can spread far from the source.

If you want to get rid of it, pulling by hand is best. Just be sure to get all the roots. Some native replacements are: Canadian ginger (*Asarum canadense*); Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadense*); Woman's tobacco (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*)



Creeping Jenny
Lysimachia nummularia L.



Goldenseal
Hydrastis canadensis



Canadian Ginger
Asarum canadense



Woman's Tobacco
Antennaria plantaginifolia

Environmental Corner

Mary has picked up a collection box for button batteries from the DPW. It will be available at the Wednesday meetings next fall. Button batteries (the type used in watches, hearing aids and other small electronic devices) contain mercury and should not be thrown out. We get cash for recycling these batteries, so please check around to see if you have any to turn in.

Membership Renewal:

Don't forget to renew your membership as soon as possible to be sure your information is included in the 2015-2016 Yearbook. Renewal forms are available at the end of the newsletter.

Robbins Library Plant Resources:

At the April evening meeting, Andrea Nicolay shared the many resources available from the library for gardeners. There are several different online resources, books, and the services of the [reference](#) librarians who will "not stop until your question is answered!"

Garden Center Discounts:

Be sure to check out the yearbook for the listing of discounts available to our membership.

Programs of Interest

Dan Jaffe, New England Wild Flower Society

Wednesday, June 11 in the Community Room, Robbins Library, 7-9 pm.

Looking to provide as much habitat for local wildlife and pollinators as possible but without the cost of losing the beauty that makes your garden your own? Join Dan Jaffe of the New England Wild Flower Society as he discusses the best plants and strategies for attracting wildlife to your garden. Learn why pollinators are attracted to specific plants and learn how to use the information to make more educated plant choices, discuss solutions for problem areas in the garden, and talk about the best plant choices for your garden.

For more information call [781-316-3201](tel:781-316-3201).

I can recommend Dan as an extremely knowledgeable speaker who is always willing to share his passion for our native plants and gardening.

*Have a wonderful summer. Enjoy every minute of your gardens.
See you in September!*



**Membership Renewal Form
2015-2016**

Yearly membership allows you to attend either or both the day and evening meetings. Membership dues are \$40.00 per year. Make check payable to "Arlington Garden Club."

Please complete this form and bring it with your check to the **May 13th** day meeting or mail it to: Barbara Neenan, 325 Gray Street, Arlington, MA 02476. **Membership renewals must be received no later than June 1, 2015.** Please print all information.

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please indicate your interest in any of the following Projects and Programs:

Civic Development Projects: Foot of the Rocks Visibility Site _____ Cooke's Hollow _____

Jason Russell House Herb Garden. _____ Broadway Plaza _____ Spy Pond Rain Garden _____

Town Hall/Whittemore Robbins House Gardens _____

Social and Educational Programs: Hospitality _____ Concert Decorations _____ Garden Therapy _____

Environmental Programs _____ Islands/Planters Committee _____

Fund Raising Programs: Books in Bloom _____ Spring Plant Sale _____

New Projects – Open to suggestions: _____

Do you have the skills for and/or can you help with:

_____ Web site development and/or maintenance _____ Access to *pro bono* legal advice

_____ Access to a truck or SUV (transporting tables, etc.)

Please indicate other garden-related interests, or topics you would like to explore:



2015 PLANT SALE GUIDELINES

Preparation and delivery of plants

Some members have questions about how to get plants ready for the sale. The following information can be used to help.

Q: What plants can I contribute to the sale?

A: Please, no invasives! The following websites list plants which have been identified as invasive or potentially invasive within the state of Massachusetts:

<http://www.newenglandwild.org>

<http://www.eddmaps.org/ipane>

Here is a partial list of suggested plants you can contribute. Most all perennials are appropriate.

Houseplants, astilbe, ginger, ferns, coreopsis, sedum, daisy, asters, lily of the valley, clematis, strawberry, foxglove, lady's mantle, coneflower, bleeding heart, black-eyed Susan, hostas, daylilies, iris, May apple, sweet woodruff, bee balm, herbs, trees, shrubs, other native plants.

Q: What plants should I divide?

A: As plants begin to emerge in your garden, see if they appear overcrowded or not in an ideal location. These may be the plants you want to divide and donate.

Q: When should I pot my plants?

A: Potting should be completed no later than one week before the sale but two weeks is preferable to allow time for roots to establish. Please don't forget to water your plants well to help them thrive.

Q: How should I pot my plants?

A: Here are some general guidelines:

- Use pots that are generous in size for the plant; clean out if they are re-used pots
- Select enough plant material to make a good sized plant
- When dividing plants, be sure to include the roots
- Hold plant with roots hanging down into the pot
- Use a good potting soil for the type of plant
- Add the soil around the roots, filling the pot to the top
- Press the soil down and water
- Place in the shade, not sun! Remember to water them well.

Q: What information do I need to provide with my plants?

A: Please use the updated labels we have designed. These will be available at meetings, in the *Perennial* newsletter, and on our website (www.arlingtongarden.org). Plastic holders will also be provided in advance of the sale date. Insert the completed label into the pocket on the holder that will then adhere to the pot. Remember, if you print the labels yourself AND use an ink jet printer the ink will run if it gets damp. It is preferable to have a Xeroxed copy. Please provide any additional information that may be helpful to grow this plant successfully.

Q: Do I need to price my plants?

A: There is no need for you to price the plants since AGC volunteers will be responsible for this.

Q: When and where should I deliver my plants?

A: With the exception of houseplants, all potted plants and any purchased donations can be delivered to the Jason Russell House Monday-Thursday, May 18th-21st. The deadline is May 21st to allow the time necessary to price the plants. Please label your plants before delivery and place them under the tree to the left of the house.

Houseplants will also be accepted and should be brought down to the Jason Russell House by 8:00 a.m. the morning of the sale.

Contact/questions: Carol Davis

Bake Sale

- **Categories:** preferably homemade baked goods, including cookies, brownies, muffins, scones, cupcakes, bars, cakes and pies. Please check with Ginger if you wish to bring other categories.
- **Packaging:** Use clear wrap and label (see below). If frosted, please use clear take-out containers.
- **Labels:** All items must be labeled. Designate category (kind of cupcake, muffin, etc.). Clearly identify foods that are gluten free, that contain nuts or that contain no nuts.
- **Pricing:** The Bake Sale Team will price all items.
- **Delivery of baked goods:** Drop off at Jason Russell House by 8:00 a.m. the day of the sale.
- **Contact/questions:** Ginger Tower

Tag Sale

- **Guidelines for contributions:** We are particularly seeking
 - **Items with a garden/ nature theme** e.g. tools, pots, vases, dishes, linens, books.
 - **Boutique items /special treasures** e.g. crystal, china, jewelry, vintage and antique items.
- **Delivery:** Donations can be left at Nancy Pike's house, 32 Mount Vernon St. on Saturday May 2nd through May 17th. Please remember that it takes time to price items and time is limited. Give Nancy a call to arrange a drop-off time.
- **Pricing:** The Tag Team will price all items for you.
- **Contact/questions:** Nancy Pike 781 646-4121

Thanks to everyone for your help in making this sale a success!

See below for plant labels.

A.G.C. PLANT SALE

Plant name: _____
 Conditions/Environment preferred:
☐ sun ☐ shade ☐ partial shade
 Flower color: _____
 Blooming period: ☐ spring ☐ summer ☐ fall
 Height: _____ Width: _____
 Other Comments (plant history, special care, etc.):

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