

The Perennial



2016-2017

Issue 7: March

Website:

ArlingtonGarden.org

The combination of seventy degrees in February followed by freezing temperatures and twelve inches of snow in March likely has our plants totally confused. Buds were forming on some shrubs and early ephemerals and bulbs were poking up. The snow may have acted as an insulator. We'll have to wait and see what spring brings.

A sure sign of spring is the Plant Sale in May. Be sure to read the article from Emily and Jessica to learn where you can lend a hand.

April Program: April 12 at 10:30

St. John's Episcopal Church, 74 Pleasant St., Arlington, MA

Designing Beautiful & Abundant
Landscapes – Ben Barkan, owner and
founder of Home Harvest, will educate us
on soil health, understanding
sustainability, and medicinal herbs.



Officers for 2017 – 2018

Thanks go out to Janet Pagliuca and the nominating committee for their work to put together a completed slate of officers and chairs for the coming year.

President	Janet Pagliuca
VP Operations	Flo Dunlap
VP Programs	Emily Snyder
Treasurer	Mary Rogers
Recording Secretary	Joan Robbio
Membership	Jackie Keshian
Hospitality	Nancy Pike & Donna McGowan
Publicity	Eliza Burden
Environment	Karen MacKinnon
Civic Development	Jane Foley
Garden Therapy	Barbara Neenan & Robin Watkins
Newsletter Editor	Janet Ford

Books in Bloom

Normally quiet and sedate Robbins Library came alive with beautiful and often thought provoking arrangements and the sounds of jazz. The food was delicious and its presentation, lovely. Our members' presentations were recognized as being on a par with those of the professionals. Thanks to co-chairs, Patsy Kraemer and Sally Naish and to Hospitality chairs Carol Nahigian and Nancy Pike as well as all the members who volunteered. Photos of the arrangements are on the [web site](#).



Garden Therapy – Robin Watkins and Barbara Neenan



On Monday, March 6th, the Garden Therapy Committee met at the Park Avenue Nursing Facility. Janet and Barbara provided the craft and refreshments this month, featuring a St. Patrick's Day theme. Kathy Reeder researched and printed out many tunes appropriate for our celebration, including some sweet Scottish songs. A wee bit of fun was enjoyed by all.

Environmental Corner – Mary Stack

This is the time of year gardeners start reading catalogs and planning for spring. After last year's drought and the resulting high water bills, gardeners might also want to plan ways to conserve water. One simple, easy way is to use rain barrels.

Rainwater is free and is better for plants than treated water. It has no chlorine, fluoride or other chemicals that are used to treat drinking water. It is free of salt and pharmaceutical residue that can be present in municipal water. As it passes through the atmosphere, it picks up nitrates and other trace minerals that are beneficial to plants.

Capturing rainwater in rain barrels helps reduce runoff into sewers. As water runs into sewers, it picks up pollutants like oil, salt, lead, pesticides and bacteria from animal waste. All these eventually end up in our rivers and oceans.

Gardens need about one inch of water a week. At .623 gal per square foot, a 10x10 square foot bed would require 62.3 gallons of water. Often in summer, rain comes from thunderstorms. The water comes down so fast it doesn't penetrate deeply and most of it runs off into storm drains. Rain barrels can collect this runoff. Approximately 600 gallons of water can be collected from a 1000 square foot roof after one inch of rainfall.

The rain barrels now being offered by the Arlington DPW can hold 60 gallons and are being offered at the discount price of \$79. Save money and help the environment by ordering one. The deadline for ordering is April 27. For more info on how to order one, go to the town [website](#):

You can also contact the [Great American Rain Barrel Company](#):

Spring Plant Sale Reminders –Emily Snyder and Jessica Lane

New England snowstorms be darned! We are already planning the Club's Annual Plant Sale, a fun town-wide event and major fundraiser for the Club. Here's the where and when...

WHEN: Saturday, May 20th, 9 am – 12 noon

WHERE: Lawn of the Jason Russell House (corner Mass. Ave. and Jason St.)

Although it's called a "Plant Sale" and pots of green foliage abound, there's also more. Below are reminders from some Plant Sale Committee members about what you can do now – *well, soon* – to contribute to the Plant Sale's success.

FIRST OF ALL, PLANTS...

It's hard to believe now, but in a few weeks it will be time for you to be thinking about which plants you will be willing to donate to the Annual Plant Sale. Early spring is a good time to thin and divide all those perennials that overgrew their beds last summer. I have plenty of pots left over from last year if you need them. If you have any questions about the plant sale contact me, Stephan Miller.

THE TAG SALE...

The Hospitality Committee is getting ready for the Garden Club's annual spring fundraiser. The plant and tag sale is something you don't want to miss. The club will start gathering collectibles at Nancy Pike's house (see Yearbook for address) after April 15th, as soon as your taxes are done! Please bring your clean donations to the basement of Nancy's house. If you call first and nobody's home, you can leave the box labeled with your name on the front porch. Thank you to all who can contribute.

THE BAKED GOODIES...

AGC members should start thinking about making their favorite treats, nothing gourmet required, for the Plant Sale. Muffins, cookies, scones, breads, candy, with or without nuts, gluten free, etc., wrapped in clear wrap/packaging and labeled. Depending on what the treat is, probably should be packaged in numbers of two, four, or six—no larger quantities unless the items are very small. The committee will do the pricing.

Thanks for any and all your contributions to make the Plant Sale another big success!

General questions can also be directed to us, your Plant Sale Committee Co-chairs
Emily Snyder & Jessica Lane

Senior Center Island – Kathy Morello

Congratulations to the three finalists: Emily Forshay-Crowley, Jessica Lane, and Janet Ford. Three unique designs were presented to the group, each with strengths and design components that would provide a pleasing garden. Jan's

native plant garden was selected by the group. We are now waiting for construction to be finished and to accommodate changes to the size of the island. Hopefully we will be able to plant this fall.

Program of Interest:

April 5 - [Grow Native Massachusetts Evening with Experts](#). Using native cultivars has become a somewhat controversial topic. University of Vermont Adjunct Professor Annie White will present her extensive research regarding the support of pollinators when cultivars vs. true native plants are used in gardens. Cambridge Public Library.

Welcome New Members:

Joyce Cuklanz and Agnes O'Donnell



First Day of Spring: Monday, March 20