

The Perennial



2017-2018

Issue 3: November

Website:

ArlingtonGarden.org

It seems like we returned to summer for a brief period and suddenly we're now in late autumn weather. I've expected to see leaves remaining on marcescent trees like oaks and beeches but I've been surprised by the number of dry and even green leaves that remain on some maples, poplars, and many others. We're left to wonder whether the drought and erratic temperatures have confused the trees as much as it has confused us.

Garden Tip of the Month: Be sure to keep watering new plants and evergreens until the ground freezes.

*December's Program: December 13th, 10:30 am
St. John's Episcopal Church 74 Pleasant St. Arlington, MA*

Good Bug / Bad Bug

Bruce Wenning, Horticulturalist at The Country Club, Brookline will cover the major groups of insect pests plaguing gardeners, and the insects' life cycles. Bio-controls and low toxicity control measures will be reviewed. Bruce, who has degrees in both plant pathology and entomology, will also talk about "good" insects, the ones we want to live in our gardens.



Hospitality Committee – Nancy Pike and Donna McGowan

The Hospitality Committee is now in the final stages of planning for the holiday luncheon on December 13th. This will be a catered affair (Michelle of Beaujolais will prepare the meal) with a few special things happening. In addition to the excellent speaker on bugs there will be a return of the *Famous Pound Auction* with Nancie Richardson as the auctioneer extraordinaire. Find out what that is, bring your psychic powers, and bid to make this a successful, small as a fundraiser but big as a FUNraiser, event! We're looking forward to seeing many of our members there. Be sure to let Nancy or Donna know by December 1st if you will be attending.



Town Hall Garden – Patsy Kraemer and Emily Snyder

There will be a community meeting on Monday November 30th at 7:00 pm in the Robbins Library when the plans for the restoration of the Reflecting Pool will be shared. This project was supported by the Arlington Garden Club and funded by a CPA grant.

The Friends of the Robbins Town Gardens have a new website: friendsofrobbinstowngardens.org. On the site is an article Miriam Levine and Emily Snyder wrote on invasive plants and citing the work being done by Garden Club and Master Gardener volunteers.



Garden Therapy Committee – Barbara Neenan and Robin Watkins

On November 6th, the Garden Therapy Committee met at the Park Avenue Nursing Center to celebrate fall, with a combination Halloween and



Thanksgiving themes. We welcomed two new committee members, Carole Crowley and Zohreh Damghany, who joined us for the first time.

Bev Miller and Irene MacKinnon provided the craft and delicious blueberry cupcakes! The dining room was ablaze with the brightly colored pumpkins and, as always, everyone enjoyed the wonderful piano accompaniment featuring many songs of a seasonal nature.

Our next meeting will be held on Dec. 4th for our holiday celebration. Anyone who is interested in joining our committee, please call Robin or Barbara.

Environmental Corner – Karen MacKinnon

Gardening for Wildlife

With more and more natural habitat being lost to urban sprawl, many of our wildlife species are at risk. One small way we can help in this regard is to provide a friendly environment for wildlife in our own backyards. This can help our local fauna in addition to migratory wildlife. In order to create a garden that encourages wildlife, four components are required: food, water, shelter, and places to raise young. A variety of trees, shrubs and flowers will provide berries, nectar and fruit for food as well as shelter. Including both evergreen and deciduous plants will provide shelter in the winter months. A simple birdbath can provide water. To provide water through the winter a heater to keep the birdbath from freezing is an easy option. Ponds and fountains are other ways to supply water to the local wildlife. Birds, insects and small mammals can find shelter in brush piles, logs, and rocks as well as in the trees and shrubs, so consider leaving these areas available to our wildlife friends.



For more information check out the National Wildlife Federation [website](#).

Holiday Gift Giving Ideas

When I asked the Town Hall Garden regulars what their recommendations for great gardening gifts might be, they came up with the following:

ARS Bonsai Pruning Tool –Karen MacKinnon loves its flexibility for getting into tight places. Emily Snyder and Diane Ciuffetti Geis also praise this tool.

Felco Hand Pruner – Stephan Miller describes it as indispensable

Soil Knives – Great for large weeds, splitting perennials and bulb planting. Emily's choice is the AM Leonard Soil Knife; Patsy Kraemer uses the Lelcera Soil Knife; and Jan Ford's favorite is the Truly Gardens Hori Hori.

Spear Head Spade – Karen likes the 30" and Jan likes the 41" versions. From their website: "Designed by an 85-year old who wanted to keep on gardening."

And when I asked Fritz Galley for suggestions for some back-friendly tools, she recommended the *DeWit long handled Spork*.

Have fun shopping for these tools for your favorite gardeners or drop lots of hints to your favorite gift-giver! Most are available through the manufacturer's website or Amazon.com.

Member's Corner



Not only does Bev Miller design crafts for the Garden Therapy group but she has also been doing the flower arrangements for the NEAT (Neighbors Eating All Together) community dinners. The flowers are provided by local businesses through Food Link, and although they are no longer saleable, Bev turns them into lovely centerpieces for the tables.

Membership – Jackie Keshian

Email addresses in the yearbook need to be updated for the following people:

Vasanthan Ananthakrishnan - change hyphen to period

Kathy Dias - new email address

Irene MacKinnon - new email address

Please see your emailed newsletter or talk to Jackie for the new addresses.



Best Wishes
for a Happy Thanksgiving