

The Perennial



2018-2019

Issue 4: December

Website: ArlingtonGarden.org

Facebook: m.facebook.com/arlingtongardenclubma

December's Holiday Luncheon

December 12th at 10:30 am

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

~ Enjoy a catered lunch ~ Wine will be available ~



The November meeting was quite a success! Master Gardener Betty Sanders put us through the steps of when and how to put our gardens to bed, so to speak, for the winter.

Now we are looking forward to our **annual holiday luncheon catered by Beaujolais of Arlington** on December 12th. Although we do not plan a formal program with a speaker – we want to have plenty of time to socialize! -- we do have a music program in the works. Members will be given song sheets appropriate to the holidays, and Garden Therapy pianist Florynce Bornstein will accompany us.

~ RSVP needed by December 5th ~

*If you did not sign up at the November meeting for the luncheon, would
you please RSVP to Hospitality Chairs
Zoreh or Browyn]*

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*Garden Therapy – Robin Watkins and Barbara Neenan*



November's Garden Therapy program evoked thoughts of harvest time and fall apple picking. Irene MacKinnon and Beverly Miller provided a project and snack for 24 residents of the Park Avenue Health Center. Each resident created a fall room decoration by surrounding a scarecrow with hay, pumpkins, and colorful leaves. Afterwards, the residents enjoyed a slice of delicious homemade apple bread. To conclude the program, Carol Nahigian led a sing-along of patriotic songs celebrating America's bounty and honoring our military veterans.

### ***Senior Center Planter Update***

Two years ago the Club chose to adopt the planter in front of the Senior Center on Maple Street. Sally Naish ran a series of workshops on design, which several members attended, with the final challenge being to design the planter for the Senior Center. Jan Ford's design was voted the winner by the group. However, due to construction plans by the Town, the Club has had to put the planter work on hold.

Construction on the drive in front of the Senior Center is nearly complete at this writing. The curved driveway area has been regraded to eliminate the puddles that constantly appeared when it rained; the bricks will be replaced by concrete for safety reasons; and the planter area has been made a bit smaller by 3 pools (rain garden approach) being added inside the planter area.

This work has impacted the original design, and after the first of the year the Club's Board will revisit the project: Can the AGC still adopt the planter and, if so, what modifications can be made to the original design? Things are in limbo right now, so stay tuned for further information.

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Water Conservation – Karen MacKinnon, Environment Chair

With all the rain -- and now snow! -- that we've been having recently, it seems like water conservation should not be a concern here in Massachusetts.

However, this is not the case.



Our area has relatively shallow aquifers, so even a short time of drought can adversely affect our water supply. With summers becoming hotter and periods of drought becoming more frequent, our residential population, as well as the populations of our natural ecosystems, are affected.

Ways we can help:

- When replacing items such as toilets (did you know that toilets account for 24% of indoor water use?!), washing machines, *etc.* choose high efficiency models
- Repair leaks as soon as possible
- Don't run water continuously at sinks
- Rather than using a garbage disposal, put food waste in a compost pile or consider using a curbside pick-up program (There are 4 companies operating in Arlington.)

There are many ways we can help conserve water outdoors as well, but that is a topic for another day.

Let's all do our part to help with water conservation and efficiency in our state so that Massachusetts can continue to be a beautiful place for future generations.

The Annual Mass Hort's Festival of Trees
~ November 23 – December 9 ~



Opens the day after Thanksgiving

Make plans to visit Mass Hort's 10th Annual Festival of Trees, which runs from Friday, November 23 through Sunday, December 9. Bring your family and friends to this festive event!

In the Hunnewell Building at Elm Bank in Wellesley, more than 65 decorated trees in both ornate and amusing trimmings are being showcased. Each tree is donated and decorated by a local business, garden club or individual. Visitors have the chance to win their favorite tree at the end of the event by entering the raffle which takes place throughout the festival.

Be sure to plan time to see *Snow Village*, an enchanted exhibit of holiday villages and trains that includes a model Fenway Park, Beacon Hill, Dickens' Village, the North Pole, and carnival! Train enthusiasts, families, and children will surely get excited about the holiday season when they visit Mass Hort's Festival of Trees!

Holiday Festival Hours:

Friday - Sunday, November 23 – 25: 10 am. - 8 pm.
Wednesday - Thursday, November 28 – 29: 4 - 8 pm
Friday - Sunday, November 30 – December 2: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday - Thursday, December 5 – 6: 4 - 8 pm
Friday - Saturday, December 7 – 8: 10 am - 8 pm
Sunday, December 9: 10 a. - 6 pm

Horse drawn carriage rides will return this year (as will the horses, Bill and Bob) for weekend visitors. Santa will be visiting on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

For more information, visit the Mass Hort website [masshort.org] or call (617) 933-4988 for information.

All proceeds of this holiday event directly benefit the operations and mission of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit organization.

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**Christmas cactus**



**Happy holidays to all !**