



The Perennial ***April 2023***

2022-23: Issue 8

Website: <ArlingtonGarden.org>

Facebook: m.facebook.com/arlingtongardenclubma



Witch hazel (*Hamamelis*) blooming at
the Arlington Reservoir.



Daffodils (*Narcissus*) popping up in
East Arlington

Greetings my fellow gardeners -

Spring has sprung and it's one of the favorite times of the year for gardeners! Time to wake up the garden from its long winter's nap! Lots of activities ahead, mulching, pruning, planting. Shopping for new plants, seed catalogues to peruse.

Our annual Arlington Garden Club Plant Sale will be held Saturday, May 20, 9 am-1pm, Jason Russell House grounds. It is our biggest fundraiser, involves many members and is always well attended by the community. Not only will the plants on sale provide a wonderful resource for enhancing our gardens, but the Ask-A-Master-Gardener table returns this year, the Bake Sale will be laden with tasty treats, and the Tag Sale bargains galore are not to be missed.

So get up and out to enjoy the fresh air and exercise that gardening provides. I look forward to enjoying the day with everyone. Happy spring!

Lolly, Your President

APRIL PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – 10:30 am

**St. John's Episcopal Church, 74 Pleasant Street, Arlington
(enter through side door on Lombard Road)**

~ Lunch, coffee, tea & water will be provided ~

Establishing a Home Herb Garden



Kathi Gariepy, former special needs preschool teacher, Lifetime Mass. Master Gardener, Past VP-Mass. Master Gardeners Assoc. She lives in an old farmhouse surrounded by gardens, grapes, blueberries, raspberries and some very old apple trees.

Herb gardening has been popular for centuries, but herbs were not grown solely for culinary use, as we think of them today. Herb gardens took care of the family by providing herbs for medicine, dying cloths, keeping the clothes and homes fresh, and many other uses. Kathi will explore the world of herbs and take a look at a modern-day herb garden.

Garden Therapy ***Carol Nahigian & Carmen Torres, Co-Chairs***

On March 23, Carol Nahigian, Carmen Torres, Charleen Donahue, Jacqueline Keshian, Marcia de Rosas, Robin Watkins, members of the Garden Therapy Committee invited interested BrightView residents to plant small gardens for their rooms.



The Garden Club furnished pots, soil, small trowels or gloves, and plants: purple and yellow Johnny Jump-ups, fragrant lavender and pussy willow branches. Residents created their own plant designs, adding ribbon around the pot, if they so desired. A pleasant time was had by all, with residents expressing their appreciation for the Garden Therapy program.



Environment – Stephan Miller, Chair

Arlington Garden Club Spring Plant Sale

It's again time for the Club's biggest fundraiser of the year, and everything is dependent on your donations and your help on the day!

For those members new to the game, the sale consists of three sections, the **Plant sale**, the **Tag sale** and the **Bake sale**.

For the **Plant sale section** each year, members donate perennials and shrubs from their gardens -- you know, those overgrown iris and hostas you've been meaning to divide for years! We can provide assistance and pots, if you need them. The sooner you dig up and divide the plants, the better. That way the plants will have time to acclimate to the pot so they will not be stunted or wilted by the time of the sale. Please label your donations with the plant's name and growing conditions. Printed labels will be available at meetings or from me, Stephan Miller or Emily Snyder.

For the **Tag sale section**, we will be accepting functional household items you no longer want - small appliances, crockery and glassware are examples. Book donations must be relevant to gardening, sustainability or the environment. Jewelry, small antiques and artwork are also accepted. All items must be clean and functional.

The tastiest part of the sale is always the **Bake sale**! In the past, most people have donated home-made pastries but good quality purchased are also appreciated. All items should be wrapped in clear packaging. Package muffins and scones as single items. Cookies, bars and brownies can be combined up to 6 items in a single bag. Please label all items and note if they contain nuts.

We need everyone to make the 2023 **Spring Plant Sale** a rollicking success!

See the "Tips & Tactics" sheet at the end of *The Perennial* for more specific details and contact information.

Civic Development – Patsy Kraemer, Chair

Spring is here! And the weather gods are giving us good weather - a raw, cold day here - a sunny warm day there - a few flakes of snow - and some spring showers! So the Civic Development program heeds the call of spring, and its projects are getting back to their various beautification stations around Arlington. If any of you are not yet connected with a beautification project and would like to join one of the groups - you're more than welcome!!

Here's what we're doing:

Ridge Street Traffic Circle - Stephan Miller coordinates us "Ridgenicks" who spend time beautifying this traffic island at the crossroads of Ridge Street, Oak Hill Drive, and Cutter Hill Rd. The perennial garden is a showplace for the Arlington Garden Club. Take a drive by - it's blooming with spring bulbs! Contact Stephan if you'd like to join the crew. We plant, weed, prune, mulch - working together on an every-other-week basis.

Jason Russell House Kitchen/Herb Garden - Carol Nahigian and Juliette Avots coordinate this garden at the historic Jason Russell House, corner of Mass. Ave. and Jason Street. In the 1970's the Garden Club created an herb garden and a perennial flower bed at this historic site. The group of 15 Garden Club members tweaks the flowers and herbs and keeps the garden looking terrific. The group would welcome new members for this effort!

Whittemore Robbins House and the Town Hall Garden. The Town Hall garden was designed in the 1930's by the Olmsted firm. A group of Garden Club members, some community volunteers and some volunteers from the Friends of the Town Hall Gardens all contribute to maintaining this beautiful, historic garden. The work includes pruning, weeding, planting, and mulching. The group gardens on an every-other-week basis to accomplish these tasks. New members are more than welcome - it's a big space to work on! This project is coordinated by Patsy Kraemer and Emily Snyder from the Garden Club and Christine Harris from the Friends of the Town Hall Garden.

Arlington Beautification: Traffic Islands and Planters effort, spearheaded by Marilyn Sullivan. This is a project that does not involve outdoors hands-on work in a garden. The group meets to coordinate the adoption of the 60 public planters and traffic islands, adopted and taken care of by individual gardeners and businesses, throughout Arlington. The committee offers assistance on plant selection and basic gardening information, if needed, finds new gardeners when a particular site becomes available and coordinates when new signage is needed for individual sites. New members are always welcome to join this crew!

Please be in touch if you have any interest in hooking up with one of these projects. Everyone enjoys working together to make Arlington beautiful!!

**A History of the Arlington Garden Club:
Fourth Installment - 1970's (Part 2)**
~ Compiled by Nancie Richardson, former Club President
and Club Historian, for the Club's 75th Anniversary in 2005 ~

In 1971 – We had Special Committees, which included bird study, anti-litter campaigns and general study groups which met outside our normal monthly meetings.

1973 – We had a Float Committee to plan for the annual Patriot's Day parade.

1974 & 1975 – In preparation for the town's bicentennial, Garden Club president, Mrs. Frank Morrel proposed we crease an authentic colonial herb garden, but we needed a place as we did not have our own property. A member of the Arlington Historical Society suggested the historic Jason Russell House. Both organizations were enthusiastic and signed an agreement stipulating space, design and maintenance. A trial run garden was developed in the summer of 1974 with the club doing soil testing, donating annuals and perennials from members' gardens and researching the herbs found in an 18th Century farmhouse garden. With the exception of a few years in the late 1970's to early 80's, when renovations on the house prevented us from continuing the plantings, we have maintained the garden to present day.

Time to register for... "NEW PERENNIALS: A LOVE STORY"
with Deborah Chud -- Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 7 pm (on-line)

Please join the Garden Club and the Friends of the Robbins Library for this **free virtual** presentation by Deborah Chud entitled: "*New Perennials: A Love Story*". The talk is a personal introduction to the design principles of the New Perennialists who gave rise to the hottest gardening trend in the world today—naturalistic landscaping – as can be seen on New York's High Line, among other sites. Deborah's years of research on these gardens led to her own, highly unusual New Perennial garden and the only known database of New Perennial plant combinations. Deborah will offer gardeners some practical "dos & don'ts" for solving the problem of excessive contrast. Bring your questions and join the conversation. Registration is required to receive the link. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-perennials-a-love-story-tickets-520385345577>

Thanks, Agnes Parise, for bringing this article to members' attention.
From the New York Times, 3/30/23: This Is What It Sounds Like When Plants Cry

Scientists recorded the popping noises that plants make in response to stresses like dehydration or a cut. Researchers found that the plants they studied did not air their grievances randomly but rather made specific complaints that matched up with the type of stresses they were under.

Members with a *NY Times* subscription can access the full article here:
<<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/30/science/plant-sounds-stress.html?smid=nytcare-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>>

Some nearby upcoming gardening events
With thanks to Helen Snively,
contributor to the Somerville Garden Club newsletter

Saturday May 6, 12 to 2, Fayette Park (off Fayette St.), Cambridge: Annual spring plant swap. All gardeners welcome. We generally have perennials, seedlings, seeds, herbs, houseplants, catalogs, pots, and lots of "whatever." Rain date (in case of downpour): Sunday May 7, 12 to 2. Info: hmsnively@aol.com

Saturday May 13, 11 to 1, Groundwork Somerville, 138 South St.: Seedling Sale. Now an annual family-friendly fundraising event. Seedlings come from <ReVision Urban Farm> in Dorchester. Rain date May 14. <https://groundworksomerville.org/event/spring-seedling-sale/>

Sunday May 14, Arnold Arboretum: Lilac Sunday. 399 lilacs, tours with Arboretum experts, kids' programming, picnicking (the only day it's allowed) and more. Check the website at <arboretum.harvard.edu> to print a self-guided tour. Or just go wander around.
