



ARLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The Perennial

September 2025

Issue 1

ArlingtonGarden.org

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President's Message



Greetings My Fellow Gardeners,

Welcome! I hope everyone has been able to enjoy lovely summer days in special places like gardens — yours, others, public spaces.

Programs Co-VPs Janet Pagliuca and Jan Still have lined up a terrific program of speakers on a wide range of relevant topics for the year. As well, all Board members were involved in updating the Club's Yearbook, a copy of which will be ready for you to collect at the September 17th meeting. Details of September's program appear later in *The Perennial*.

As we start the Club's new program year, I remind members to reach out to a Board member to get involved in an area of the Club that interests you. On the Membership Form you each noted interests you'd like to pursue. Our Membership Chair regularly updates and distributes that information to Board members. But, perhaps you haven't heard from anyone yet, and/or maybe you'd like to explore a new area, so please reach out to a Board member, or me, to let us know how you would like to participate in the Club's various activities.

Looking forward to a great year together!

Emily, your President

September Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Groundcovers

Kathie Skinner, Lifetime Master Gardener

Kathie is a past Education Coordinator and Master Gardener Training Coordinator for the Mass Master Gardener Association. Her topic “Groundcovers” will focus on the advantages of using plants to conserve water, keep weeds at bay and create plant communities with common growing conditions.

The meeting begins at 10:30 am at St. John’s Church, corner of Pleasant St. and Lombard Rd., Arlington

Reminder: Lunch along with coffee, tea and desserts will be provided by the Board.



Upcoming October Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025

Supercharging Landscapes for Watershed Health

Jennifer Fraulo Strassfeld, educator with the Mystic River Watershed Association



Jennifer will speak about how engineers in Arlington and neighboring towns use plants and soils in “green infrastructure” projects to ease flooding and reduce discharge to waterways. Jennifer will discuss simple ways you, as a gardener, can reduce pollutants from getting into our water supply.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

Civic Development

Patsy Kraemer, chair

Summertime is the busy time for the Civic Development projects of the Arlington Garden Club.

Here they are:

Beautification The Beautification Committee, headed by Marilyn Sullivan, oversees the sponsorship of 60 planters and islands throughout Arlington. This program is cosponsored by the Arlington Garden Club (AGC) and Arlington's Department of Public Works (DPW).

This spring, 16 of the spaces were reassigned to new sponsors. There is always much interest in the publicity of these sponsorships. Marilyn Sullivan and Patsy Kraemer coordinated with Dan Warren from DPW in getting the new signage in place for the new sponsors. It's a great collaboration between the AGC and the Town of Arlington!



Carol Walsh (L) and Barbara Neenan helping out at the Kitchen Garden

The Kitchen Garden at the Jason Russell House

The Kitchen Garden at the Jason Russell House is overflowing with abundant herbs, reminiscent of what a housewife in the 1800's would have available outside her kitchen in the historic Jason Russell House.

As you may have heard this summer on the 4th of July the Jason Russell House was visited by the Hollywood actor, Kurt Russell, and his son, Boston Russell. Jason Russell is the eighth great grandfather of Kurt Russell. The two Russells received a private tour of the grounds, the museum, and the house. They reported it being a very emotional experience for them.

The garden has been well maintained by the Garden Club committee headed by Julie McDaniel and garden historian, Carol Nahigian.

The Ridge Street Circle Steff Miller coordinates a small group of Arlington Garden Club members who are the worker bees maintaining this large island at the intersection of Ridge Street and Oak Hill Drive. This island is the showpiece of the kind of work the Garden Club does in Arlington. It's filled with abundant perennials and fall bulbs. It has a constant display of blooms as the growing season progresses. Be sure to come have a look-see!



An explosion of color at the Ridge St. Circle.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

Civic Development, *Continued*



Planters that brighten up the entrance to ArlingtonEATS

Planters at Arlington EATS Greeting the many customers of the Arlington EATS store are two handsome planters, maintained by Arlington Club President Emily Snyder. Emily keeps the herbs and flowers in a seasonal display, fresh and beautiful to be seen by the many Arlington residents coming to the food pantry for much needed food for their families.



Labor Day at the Town Hall Garden

Whittemore Robbins House and Town Hall Gardens Patsy Kraemer and Emily Snyder head up a group of Garden Club members and a community volunteer (yeah — Brian Player!!) who help maintain the beautiful and historic gardens at the Whittemore Robbins House and the Arlington Town Hall. Both the House and the Town Hall—including the Olmsted-designed garden—are rented for special events—weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, fundraisers. The income from these rentals is used to help maintain the gardens and the buildings. This group of volunteers provide the manpower to clean out the weeds, prune the plantings, and tidy up the general garden area. Wedding season is arriving with a wedding on August 30th. Sylvia, the bride, will be pleased!

All these projects welcome new members from the Garden Club. Anyone who likes doing direct garden work, please come on board!!

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 6 - 7 PM | ONLINE VIA ZOOM

A Secret Neighborhood

Backyard Caterpillars in Your Autumn Landscape

Massachusetts Pollinator Network

Join us for a presentation revealing the caterpillars whose ecosystems we inhabit and our role as neighbors, stewards, and champions of these incredible insects. Educators from The Caterpillar Lab will share how we can manage our spaces through the fall and winter to promote more insect diversity and offer some tips and tricks for measuring our success in the spring. Free. [Register here.](#)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1 - 3 PM

How Insects Use Plants

Native Plant Trust, Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA



Bugs are excellent botanists as they demonstrate the remarkable ability to locate their often very specific host plants. Join botanist and entomologist Adam Kohl for a tour through Garden in the Woods from the eyes of an arthropod. Walk away with a fresh understanding of how native plants are the building blocks of biodiversity.

\$45, [Register here.](#)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 10 AM TO 6 PM

New England Fall Flower Show: The World in Bloom

Massachusetts Horticultural Society, The Garden at Elm Bank, Wellesley, MA

Exhibitions, displays, vendors, and demonstrations will draw inspiration from global plants, styles, themes, and designs. Come celebrate the importance of plants around the world and the impact that cultivating and exhibiting plants can have on wellbeing, health, and community. \$25. [Buy tickets here](#)

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 10 AM - 1 PM (RAIN OR SHINE)

Somerville Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

331 Summer Street, Somerville

Discover the perfect plant to enliven your garden or windowsill at this popular yearly sale. Perennials for sun and shade, herbs, shrubs, groundcovers, plus a wide variety of house plants will be featured. Choose from hundreds of plants donated by Somerville Garden Club members and friends. There's something for everyone! Horticultural books, decorative containers, and garden tools will also be for sale. Experienced gardeners will be available to answer questions and assist with plant selections.

Proceeds benefit the all-volunteer, non-profit Somerville Garden Club.



FRIDAY OCTOBER 17, 10:30 - 11:45 AM

Visit to Radcliffe's Schlesinger Library

Arlington Garden Club

Thanks to Jan Still, AGC member and co-VP of Programs, Arlington Garden Club members have a unique opportunity to visit the Schlesinger Library to learn about the library's collections regarding women landscape designers. Radcliffe has educated many women over the years in landscape design. If you would like to participate, the group, which is limited to 15 members, will meet with a librarian, learn about the collections there and explore the library.

The Schlesinger Library is not far from Cambridge Common and is easily reached by the #77 and #78 buses. Car transit can be arranged.

Please let Emily Snyder know by Saturday, September 20th if you're interested in attending. Email her at ells.ells0306@gmail.com.

A Butterfly Story

Years ago, I found monarch butterfly eggs on milkweed in my backyard. This past summer, I witnessed the same transition from egg to chrysalis to butterfly in my dining room.

An Arlington neighbor put out an SOS for someone to care for her caterpillar egg because she was going out of town. I happily offered to do the job. I had a large net that fit over my dining room table that had worked for me in the past. Unfortunately, I was not home when the beautiful monarch fledged, but it was still in the enclosure when I returned. I have a butterfly net from my days as a teacher/naturalist for Audubon, so I was prepared. I brought it out and had the thrill of watching the butterfly take off into the beautiful blue sky.

I am watching another chrysalis at a friend's in Burlington and hope to be present as the butterfly emerges from the cocoon and we can watch it slowly unfurl and take flight.

Nature is truly a wonderful thing.



Chrysalis of a monarch butterfly that Lolly Bennett cared for this summer. Once the butterfly hatched, Lolly released it outdoors.