



ARLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The Perennial

February 2025

Issue 4

ArlingtonGarden.org

m.facebook.com/arlingtongardenclubma

President's Message

Greetings My Fellow Gardeners,



Stay Environmentally Aware! Such an informative presentation we had in January from Arlington's Recycling Coordinator, Charlotte Milan. While I think that the Q & A could have gone on for another hour, we had to cut it short to conduct our meeting.

For those who missed Charlotte, she delivered a 'hot off the press' announcement: Arlington's next waste management contract will include supplying large trash cans on wheels, which can be lift-assisted into trucks. These containers will be more durable than the containers some residents have already purchased at Home Depot or Lowe's. While no definite date for start of the new contract was given, the town's current three-year contract expires on June 30, 2025.

On another local, environmentally-conscious issue, Electrify Arlington's Energy Advocate (and gardener) Lori Kenschaft organized a recent series of open houses for residents to learn more about fossil fuel-free measures to heat and cool homes and heat water. If you want to talk with an Electrify Arlington heat pump coach about what might work well in your home, watch a short course on heat pumps, download tip sheets on finding heat pump installers and comparative costs of whole-home and hybrid heat pump systems, or read heat pump maintenance and usage tips, go to Electrify Arlington on the [Town's website](#). I've been working with an energy coach, who's helped me navigate the often daunting process, and would be happy to talk about my experience.

Emily, your President

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Arlington EATS: A Journey Towards a Food-Secure Arlington

Susan Dorson, Arlington EATS program director



Susan has been the Program Director at Arlington EATS for the past five years. Her role as Program Director is to improve quality, quantity and accessibility to food for Arlington residents, while working closely with local organizations to connect people to resources.

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

Reminder: This month is a "brown bag" lunch meeting. Bring your own. Coffee, teas and desserts will be provided.

Upcoming March Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

Climate Change and Our Gardens

Michael Friedman, American Meteorological Society



Michael has a PhD in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since 2001 he has been working for the American Meteorological Society in Boston. He will cover the reality of climate change (climate crisis) including the basics of what, why and how it is happening. He will speak on how it affects your garden and offer survival strategies for you and your garden. Michael is a former Arlington resident.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

Fundraising

THE ARTS in Bloom, our fundraiser, is coming fast on the horizon! We need help and support from all garden club members.

The Event is Friday, March 7, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm at the Robbins Library. We are cosponsoring the event with the Friends of the Library. Tickets for the event are \$40 (\$45 at the door). We're hoping all you members will be part of the festivities and come with family and friends!!

We need much help from all of you, We need you to sign up for helping with various tasks and food supplies. Here's what we need help with:



- Bakers: 3-4 dozen cookies/bars/small cupcakes
- Suppliers of Veggies & Dips: purchased at Wilson's, Costco, Whole Foods
- Suppliers of Cheese Platters: purchased at Wilson's, Costco, Whole Foods
- Suppliers of Fruit Platters: purchased at Wilson's, Costco, Whole Foods
- Greeters at Front Door/Ticket Takers
- Sellers of Bar Tickets
- Cocktail Waitresses
- Kitchen Staff/Serving Staffers to prepare food plates such as cookies, etc.
- Cleaner Uppers

You can see that there's lots to be done! Please sign up at the February Garden Club meeting or via email with Patsy (patsyLKraemer@gmail.com) or Sally (sjnhome@gmail.com)

Thanks for helping out. Together, we'll make it a successful fundraiser and a fun party, if we all pitch in!



Environment

Lolly Bennett, chair

A group of six members is starting to meet regularly. Please let Lolly know if you're interested in joining.

Invasive Species Alert | Spotted Lanternfly



Tree-of-Heaven leaves

(Inset) Spotted Lanternflies appear as adults between July and November.

Spotted lanternfly (“SLF”, scientific name *Lycorma delicatula*) was accidentally introduced into the United States around 2014 on shipments of crushed stone sent to a business in Pennsylvania. Since then, this pest has been unintentionally spread to other states in many ways, including by hitchhiking on vehicles, nursery stock, and sheds and other outdoor equipment.

Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive pest that can harm agriculture. It doesn’t bite, sting or otherwise harm people and pets.

It’s been found in Arlington and in many communities near us such as Natick, Framingham, Weston, Wellesley, and Worcester. Check your property for Spotted Lanternfly and its favorite host plants which are tree-of-heaven, an invasive, and grape. What to look for is in this helpful [Homeowner’s Guide](#) put out by the Mass Dept of Natural Resources.

If you see Spotted Lanternfly outside of a known infested area, take a picture and report it to the [Mass. Introduced Pests Outreach Project](#). (Not sure? Check [this map](#) showing confirmed sightings of Spotted Lanternfly.

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 6 PM CT

Bees Beyond Honey: Understanding Native and Managed Pollinators

Presented by Wild Ones, Free, online

Sam Droege (U.S. Geological Survey), Dave Hunter (Crown Bees), and Dr. Lora Morandin (The Pollinator Partnership) will share their expertise on the vital roles of native, solitary, and honeybees in ecosystems, the challenges they face, and how to balance the needs of managed and wild pollinators. You'll gain actionable insights to support pollinators and biodiversity in your community. [Register here](#)



MULTIPLE DAYS BETWEEN MARCH 1 - 8, 1:30 - 2:45 PM

Witch-hazel Walk

Presented by Arnold Arboretum. Free



Meet in front of the Hunnewell Building, just inside of the Arboretum's Arborway Gate (125 Arborway)

Did you know that flowers bloom at the Arboretum even in the depths of winter? Witch-hazels bloom in vibrant oranges, reds, and yellows across the landscape, giving a beautiful pop of color amidst the winter greys and whites. Join us on a tour and be ready to step off the path to admire the flowers of our native witch-hazels, as well as those from China and Japan. Free. [Register here](#)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 7 - 8:30 PM

An Experiment in Lawn to Meadow Conversion: Exceeding Expectations

Presented by Sara Weaner Cooper, Executive Director, New Directions in the American Landscape in conjunction with Grow Native Massachusetts Free, online via Zoom

In April of 2022, Sara and Evan Cooper moved into a new home in suburban Philadelphia with a 5,000 sq. ft. front lawn. Eager to transition it into a native wildflower meadow, Sara also wanted to avoid herbicide, heavy physical labor, and unhappy feedback from neighbors. Leaving the turf in place, she began a conversion process that relied on actions that weakened the lawn grass while strengthening her newly planted meadow. After two growing seasons, the results have exceeded expectations enough to be featured in *The New York Times* in 2024. Learn the practical steps they took, their successes and challenges thus far, methods of maintaining neighborhood harmony, and their plans for guiding the meadow to maturity. Free. [Register here](#).

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

TUESDAY MARCH 25, 7 - 8:15 PM

The New UMass Extension Pollinator Program: An Introduction

Presented by the Massachusetts Pollinator Network (MAPN)

Free, online via Zoom

Nicole Bell is the pollinator specialist and extension educator with UMass Amherst Extension. Based in the Boston area, her work focuses on pollinator-related outreach and education for home gardeners, growers, city municipalities, and beyond. Nicole will introduce us to the new pollinator program through UMass Extension, and talk about its future goals. She is open to any and all ideas for future projects and collaborations! In addition, she'll discuss some of her prior research on wild bees, and briefly discuss provisioning habitat for specialized pollinators. Free. [Register here](#).



WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 5-7 PM | SOIRÉE

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 9 AM - 5 PM | TOUR

The Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill 96th Annual Tour & Soirée

Presented by the Beacon Hill Garden Club



Join us as we open the gates to some of the finest private gardens, featuring a stunning NEW addition in historic Louisburg Square that promises to be a highlight of our Soirée. Tickets now on sale. [Purchase here](#)

Event listings courtesy of Helen Snively, member, Somerville Garden Club

Get Ready!

Gas powered leaf blower ban goes into effect for commercial landscapers



Arlington's ban of gas-powered leaf blowers goes into effect for commercial landscapers on March 15th, 2025. Residents have until March 15, 2026 to find alternatives to gas-powered leaf blowers. The 3-year phase out of gas powered leaf blowers began when Arlington Town Meeting passed the gas leaf blower phaseout and eventual ban in 2022.

Lawn care companies were informed that they would no longer be able to use gas powered leaf blowers after 2025. If you use a commercial service, please remind them about the ban. More information is available at the [Quiet Healthy Arlington website](#).

Members of the Quiet Healthy Arlington group behind the leaf blower ban will be available for questions and comments at the February 19 Garden Club meeting.