



ARLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The Perennial

January 2025

Issue 3

ArlingtonGarden.org

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President's Message

Greetings My Fellow Gardeners,

Arlington's Environmental Planner David Morgan was the club's presenter in January 2024 when he told us about the upcoming Sustainable Landscape Handbook, a publication for which Arlington, Winchester and Stoneham collaborated. Although the Handbook was soon made available on-line, several AGC members lobbied for a hard copy to be available at the library. Various attempts by some members to find the hard copy had ended in vain.



While at Robbins Library a few weeks ago, I was determined to find it. So I asked at the Reference Desk how to find the elusive Handbook. The librarian on duty thought it might be a special document, but I said we were told it was in the Library of Things. Along came another librarian who, hearing our conversation, walked straight over to the Garden Kit Bag, a green canvas bag which contained, along with some hand tools, the Sustainable Landscape Handbook. The handbook is in a soft cover 3-hole binder inside the Garden Kit Bag. It is color printed and has lots of photos. Check it out yourselves!

Emily, your president

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

Updates from the Town's Recycling and Reuse Coordinator

Charlotte Milan, Arlington Recycling Coordinator



Charlotte has been Arlington's recycling coordinator for over a decade. She oversees various diversion, reuse, and recycling activities, including the Reuse & Recycling Center for dropping off harder-to-recycle materials. Efforts by the Town to expand reuse have led to the creation of the Swap Shed and a student-led group called Project Zero, which provides reusable service ware for Town Hall events. Charlotte will update the Garden Club about these and other waste diversion priorities, as well as provide a peek into new program developments.

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 February Meeting



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 5 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.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

Hospitality

Cindy Hamel and Julie McDaniel, Chairs

Reminder: It has been the club's policy for several years to ask that members bring their own Brown Bag Lunches to the January and February meetings. Coffee, tea and desserts will be provided. So remember to bring your own lunch to the January meeting.

Also, if schools are canceled due to snow or inclement weather, then our meeting is also canceled.

Garden Club Trivia



Our lovely plates that we use for special occasions, such as our December luncheon, are from a well known pottery manufacturer called Homer Laughlin China Company. Homer and his brother, Shakespeare, started their company in 1871 in West Virginia.

While their most famous line is Fiesta, which is the most collected dinnerware in history, our design is called "Majestic." Our plates were made in 1953, and stored for many years in St. John's Church.

Invasive Species Alert | Emerald Ash Borer



The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, flying beetle, native to Asia. Since its discovery in Michigan in 2012, it has spread across the country and into Massachusetts. The EAB can kill a tree fast, within a few years, because it bores directly under the bark, where the tree's conductive system is.

Arlington, along with many surrounding communities, is treating Ash trees with an organic pesticide that is not hazardous to human and animals.

The Town's [website](#) has lots of useful information on the EAB including how to identify and **report it**. A map of the Town's tree inventory is [available here](#). Use the "Layers" feature and deselect all tree species except "Fraxinus - Ash" to see if you have Ash trees on your street.

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 7- 8:30 PM

Plant Communities: Functional Plant Roles for Restorative Gardens

Presented by Grow Native Massachusetts

Any garden is an ecological community that will co-evolve over time. How can we give that community the ingredients—the elements that fill various roles—to survive and thrive? Holly Greenleaf, an ecological landscape designer, explains how to design a garden based on the plants' functional roles in addition to their aesthetic beauty, starting by considering our goals for the garden. \$28/\$38 (member/non member)

[Register here](#)



SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 9:30 - 4:00 PM

Houseplant and Begonia Sale

Presented by Lyman Estate Greenhouse, 185 Lyman Street, Waltham, MA

This exotic houseplant sale features begonias and semi-tropical plants. Browse our large selection of hard-to-find houseplants, along with succulents, cactus, citrus, gesneriads, flowering plants, terrarium plants, and striking foliage plants. Historic New England members save 10% on purchases. [More information](#)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Pathways to Action: Climate Conversations on the Local Level

Presented by Native Plant Trust in conjunction with Framingham State University's Danforth Art Museum at Framingham State University Danforth Art Museum

Inspired by current Danforth exhibitions of work, [Ecologies of Restoration by D.M. Witman](#) and [A Murmur in the Trees by Suzanne Revy](#), *Pathways to Action* includes opportunities to hear from experts whose work focuses on the human potential to act in the face of our changing climate, and to learn how each of us can get involved with local climate-focused organizations.

The evening will begin with lightning presentations by, and conversation among, Framingham State faculty [Dr. Lawrence McKenna](#) and [Dr. Vandana Singh](#), Native Plant Trust's Director of Horticulture and Boston Globe's "Ask the Gardener" columnist, Uli Lorimer, and artist D.M. Witman. Join us after the presentation for continued conversation, refreshments, and opportunities to get involved with building a more resilient climate, starting with your own community. Free. [Register here](#)

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 7-8.15 PM, ONLINE

The Impacts of Artificial Light on Insects

Presented by the Massachusetts Pollinator Network (MAPN)



Dr. Avalon Owens, a Harvard researcher, presents the impacts of artificial light on insects at the MAPN monthly presentation.

Please note: Massachusetts Pollinator Network is now part of Grow Native Massachusetts

[Register here](#)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 5-6 PM, ONLINE

The Meaning of Gardens

Presented by Native Plant Trust

Visiting a garden can kindle a sense of connection to a larger world, physical or imaginary. Jane Roy Brown explores the process of imagining a garden that holds personal meaning, sharing examples of garden types that become meaningful for their creators or for visitors. \$17/20 (members/nonmembers)

[Register here](#)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 7-8.30 PM

Designing Biodiversity from Gardens to Regions

Presented by Grow Native Massachusetts

Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

To support native pollinators we can build diverse habitats everywhere: along sidewalks, in parks, in front lawns and backyard gardens. These habitats can serve as building blocks to link intact natural areas across a fragmented landscape. But what to plant, where to focus first and how to measure the results? Evan Abramson, habitat designer and planner on a mission, offers case studies from project sites across the Northeast. This is the first in the 2025 Grow Native Massachusetts series of Evenings with Experts. Free.

[Information here](#)

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