



ARLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The Perennial

November 2025

Issue 3

ArlingtonGarden.org

m.facebook.com/arlingtongardenclubma

President's Message

Greetings My Fellow Gardeners,

Between our monthly meetings, a lot happens behind the scenes at the Arlington Garden Club. October was no exception. There was the fascinating field trip to Radcliffe's Scheslinger Library to learn more about their renowned landscape design program and the women who taught and studied there. See article in this issue.

On a stunning New England fall day, Andrea Golden coordinated a tour of the 20-acre **Wright-Locke Farm** on the border of Arlington and Winchester. Excellently led by Enrichment Coordinator Lauren Winterer, the group crisscrossed the property to explore the flower farm, vegetable beds, raspberry patch, pond and two barns.

Throughout the year the Club's website receives various requests and questions, which Janet Pagliuca carefully curates. A recent question came from a Belmont woman who had six bales of straw to get rid of. She had overestimated the amount of straw she needed to insulate a plant much happier in the American South. Last week I collected one bale to over-winter some beds. If anyone would like a bale of straw, please contact me. She has five more bales.



The Club was invited to participate in Arlington's first Home & Garden Show on October 18th, and Janet Pagliuca and I staffed the table. We showed photos, gave away seeds and answered garden questions from attendees.

As I announced at the October meeting, the club received a generous donation in honor of long-time AGC member, Valerie Maxwell. The gift from her husband, JB Maxwell, will be used to purchase new audio equipment for the Club. Thank you, JB!

Emily, your President

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

Women Floral Painters Through the Centuries

Martha Chiarchiaro



Martha is an art history educator with more than 30 years of experience studying the life and times of people through their art. Martha will explore the floral and fauna illustrations of the following woman artists: Maria Sibylla Merian, and Rachel Ruysch, Mary Moser, Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt and Georgia O'Keeffe. and how their work reveals different truths about the times in which they lived.

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 our fellow members.

Painting by Rachel Ruysch photographed at the Museum of Fine Arts by Peggy Bliss

Program for December

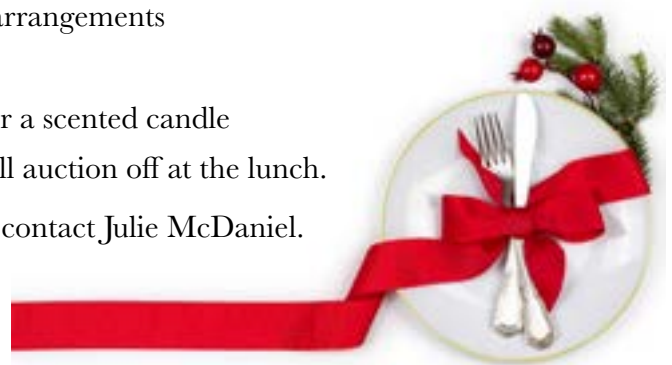
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025

Holiday Lunch

The holiday season is fast approaching! We are planning our annual December lunch for Wednesday, December 17th, at St. John's Church. We will gather at 10:30 am for social time followed by lunch catered by Beaujolais. Cost is \$10. We will be collecting at the November Garden Club meeting. If you can't make the meeting, but want to attend the December lunch, contact Julie McDaniel at juliemcdaniel@mac.com. Final numbers need to be in by December 12th. Consider helping with our lunch. We need people to

- Come early to set the tables, decorate or make floral arrangements
- Bring holiday cookies for dessert
- Provide a small raffle prize such as gardening gloves or a scented candle
- Work with a group to make a gift basket, which we will auction off at the lunch.

Sign up for these activities at the November meeting, or contact Julie McDaniel.
Thank you!



REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

Garden Outreach

Jackie Keshian and Carol Nahigian, co-chairs

Members of Garden Outreach continue to bring joy to residents of BrightView Senior Living Center. On October 30th, Jackie Keshian, Carol Nahigian, Charleen Donahue, Donna McGowan and Robin Watkins arrived with their arms full of colorful fall flowers and greenery including chrysanthemums and carnations, white feverfew, enkianthus leaves, greens in varied textures and glass vases. With their help, six residents created autumn floral arrangements to take back to their rooms. Everyone enjoyed socializing and combining colors and textures to create memorable arrangements.



Photos by Robin Watkins

Programs

Janet Pagliuca, Jan Still, co-chairs

Jennifer Fraulo Strassfeld, who spoke last month about how to supercharge landscapes for watershed health, has kindly provided [this helpful document](#) about planting “hell” strips in our yards.



Black-eyed coneflower are a cheerful addition to a hellstrip.

Schlesinger library Visit

by Jan Still and Emily Snyder

In hopes of scheduling a speaker to tell AGC members about Radcliffe College's history of training women as landscape architects/designers, Program Co-Chair Jan Still contacted the Schlesinger Library this past summer. The library does not provide speakers, but Head of Education and Outreach Librarian Tamar Brown issued an invitation for a group to visit the library for a tour of its historical archives. So it was that on a bright autumnal October day, five AGC members accepted the invitation and visited the library.

Welcoming the group, Ms. Brown ushered us downstairs to lockers where we had to store our coats and bags. Fortunately, phones were allowed, so we could take photos. We then walked through tunnels to the 'Pool Vault,' so named because the enormous, temperature-controlled room was Radcliffe's former swimming pool. Water now drained, white pool tiles could still be seen at the end of long aisles between the massive

floor-to-ceiling moving shelving units. Ms. Brown described how materials were catalogued, pulling out a few volumes and boxes to demonstrate the wide range of materials the library holds. We headed back to the main building into a Study Room where Ms. Brown had carefully laid out a wide variety of materials about women who studied landscape architecture at Radcliffe College and went on to design major gardens. Their theses, drawings and correspondence, dating back more than a 100 years, were all available for us to peruse.



With sheer determination, Madeline Sherwood and Jan Still removed an invasive acacia tree, roots and all, from the Town Hall Garden. Wow!

Garden Club Members Tour Wright-Locke Farm

October 22nd was a perfect day to explore Winchester's Wright-Locke Farm (WLF); drizzle in the early morning and blue skies as the tour got underway.

Club members met with WLF educator Lauren Winterer, who led the tour. Since the Wright-Locke Farm Land Trust acquired the land in 2015, the WLF Conservancy has created a hub for sustainable agriculture and active learning, and has stewarded one of the few intact early nineteenth-century farmsteads in the Boston area.

During the tour, members learned about the farm's history, and the educational programs for children and adults. They toured the greenhouse, farm fields, the Miyawaki forest, and the 1827 barn, and met the goats and chickens. Currently, WLF offers a CSA (community-supported agriculture) and Farm-to-Go produce. The All Seasons barn hosts events throughout the year, including concerts, weddings and private parties.



Julie McDaniel, Annie Grear, Emily Snyder, Jan Ford, Andrea Golden, Gerry Ricci, and Lauren Winterer



Lauren told us about WLF's Miyawaki forest, installed last year



WLF's 1827 barn



Lauren with one of WLF's goats

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Redesigning the Future of Plastic Plant Containers

Lexington Garden Club

Follen Church, 755 Mass Ave, Lexington

Approximately 98% of plastic plant containers end up in landfills. Marie Chieppo, an ecological landscape designer, wrote a report on the issue in 2019. She will discuss the history behind the proliferation of these pots, progress being made within the industry, new regulations driving change, and ways consumers are responding. Free, but [RSVP here](#)



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1-3:30 PM

Seed Cleaning Workshop

Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathway Group

First Parish UU Church, 630 Mass. Ave, Arlington

The Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathway Group is training people on how to save, clean and plant native seeds. This session focuses on techniques for cleaning different kinds of seeds. At future sessions the group will package seeds and learn about winter planting. Bring any seeds you've gathered and want to clean. If you like, bring cleaned seeds to add to the Little Free Seed Library.

[2025 Seed Sharing information here](#)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 7 PM, ONLINE

Living in the Liberated Landscape: My Yard

Wild Ones

Larry Weaner, landscaper extraordinaire, wants us to free ourselves from static compositions of carefully placed and managed plants—by taking advantage of plants' natural abilities to reproduce and proliferate. Showing us his own garden, he'll consider plants' reproductive abilities, the ecological processes that affect those plants, and the wildlife those plants can support. [Free, information here](#)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 6-8 PM, ONLINE

Tallamy and Weaner:

A Season by Season Guide to Plant-Wildlife Connections

New Directions in the American Landscape

Doug Tallamy, the respected entomologist and wildlife ecologist, joins Larry Weaner (see above) in describing their integrated approach to creating dynamic landscapes. The key is developing habitats that connect plants, wildlife, and their specific seasonal needs. They'll also compare notes on their personal experience of interacting with plants and wildlife at their home landscapes. \$38, likely well worth it. [Register here](#)

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9, 6 PM ONLINE

Turn that Patch into a Plan

Wild Ones

Mother and daughter team, Zoe Evans (**Plan it Wild**) and Heather Evans (**Design Your Wild**) show us how to reimagine an entire yard as a place that is truly restorative for both people and wildlife. Their focus is practical design strategies, like using paths, destinations, and enclosures. **Free, information here.**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 9 - 5 PM AND

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 10 AM - 12 NOON

2025 Greens Sale

Framingham Garden Club

Cushing Park Maintenance Bldg, Framingham

Annual sale of member-designed wreaths, swags, outdoor baskets, floral centerpieces, and gifts. Mantlepieces and oversized wreaths are available by special request in advance of sale. Contact fgcfitzlaw@gmail.com for advance orders.

Enter at Keefe Tech Driveway on Winter Street, Framingham, and take immediate left through the gate, then follow signs.

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



Thinking ahead to the holiday season, you can choose between two beloved outdoor extravaganzas. Mount Auburn Cemetery offers a SOLSTICE celebration (Dec 5 to 21), with light and sound artworks and more. Buy timed tickets [here](#) And Mass Hort, at Elm Bank, Wellesley, offers its annual Festival of Trees (Nov 28 to Dec 28), with a wonderland of beautifully decorated trees, plus model trains and more. Buy timed tickets [here](#)



A scene from Mount Auburn Cemetery's SOLSTICE celebration

MEMBERS' CORNER November 2025



Emily Forshay-Crowley discovered this stunning Autumn Joy sedum (left) at the Crane Estate in late September.



In October, Janet Pagliuca found these bewitching scenes at the Naumkeag Estate in Stockbridge.



And for those who want to relive our wonderful Arts in Bloom event, here is a [link](#) to the event's video, created by Videographer Joe Snodgrass (Sally Naish's husband). Be patient; it takes time to load.