



ARLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The Perennial

March 2026

Issue 7

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Message from the Plant Sale Committee

Jan Ford and Karen MacKinnon, Plant Sale Committee Co-chairs

Greetings my fellow gardeners,

The Plant Sale Committee had a fantastic first meeting! Many creative new ideas were discussed. We decided that, in addition to our Plants and Baked Goods tables, we will have a table selling floral notecards (courtesy of Jan Ford and Stephan Miller), garden gloves, garden tools, and our new idea is to sell gently used scarves (light weight, not winter) collected from members.

We are also looking for any members who would be willing to let us borrow a canopy for the day. Please be in touch with Jan or Karen.

Digging up plants for the sale might not be the first thing on your minds with all this snow! But start thinking about what you might want to dig up, divide and donate to the sale. Plant Sale committee members are happy to come out to help with digging and potting up.

At the March and April meetings we will be collecting:
scarves—Peggy Bliss will have a donation box.
garden tools—Patsy Kraemer will have a donation box.



Wrap yourself in something lovely and help our Garden Club thrive. Donate your gently used scarves and buy new ones.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

Spring Ephemerals: Our Native Woodland Wildflowers

Joan Butler



Joan is an avid gardener, plant collector, and backyard birder. She is past President of the Holliston Garden Club and an Accredited Flower Show Judge. She is a Master Gardener, holds degrees in Geology and Landscape Management from UMass Amherst and their Green School. We have invited Joan back to present to us another of her delightful programs.

Upcoming Program for April

APRIL 15, 2026

Spring Container Gardening for Stunning Results

Susan Nock

Join us as Susan designs three container displays using her favorite plants. She will be choosing spring-specific planters and will create show-stopping arrangements while giving tips we can use to attain the same results. We will auction off all the finished designs.



Nominating Committee

Lolly Bennett, Chair



Lolly Bennett and members Marilyn Sullivan and Marie Doughty are the Club's 2026 Nominating Committee. Their role is to present a slate of nominees for the 2026-27 Board positions to April's membership meeting (April 15). Voting will take place in May. The new Board takes office June 1st.

While several Board members will remain in their roles, the following positions are open to nominees for 2026-27: Treasurer, Membership Chair, Hospitality Co-Chairs, Environment Chair or Co-Chairs.

Each Board member who holds these current positions are happy to tell you more about their duties and responsibilities.

Treasurer Nancie Richardson, keeper of the Club's funds, makes sure that the Club is financially solvent. No previous CFO experience necessary. If you can write checks and balance a checkbook, you have the qualities needed for the job.

You can thank Membership Chair Emily Forshay-Crowley for keeping accurate membership records, sending gentle reminders when necessary and thoughtfully following up with members not seen at meetings.

You know how much you like the Club's terrific range of monthly programs, and I bet that's also because great speakers are followed by the Club's tasty lunch, giving members time to socialize and enjoy each other's company. And who doesn't enjoy the Club's two catered events: December Holiday Luncheon and the June End-of-Year Dinner? It's the Club's Hospitality Co-Chairs, Julie McDaniel and Cindy Hamel, who have coordinated these events for the past 3 years, fostering an important social aspect of the Club.

The Club's Environment Chair, Lolly Bennett, encourages innovative ideas to educate members about environmental issues and coordinates with the Club's outreach to and funding of school gardens.

Thank you for considering a role in the Club's leadership!

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

FEBRUARY 9 TO APRIL 10, MONDAY - FRIDAY, 10 AM - 3 PM

Where I've Been, What I've Seen

First Parish Church of Arlington, 630 Mass Ave

Jean Rosenberg, an AGC member, is honoring her recently deceased husband, Peter Southwick, with an exhibit of his photos from his long career as a photojournalist. The exhibit is titled, "Where I've Been, What I've Seen," and in Peter's words, "This is what I saw when I wasn't telling stories. A departure from my photojournalism career."

The exhibit is in the First Parish Parlor and is open to the public when the space is not reserved for meetings. The exhibit will also be on display in Arlington's Town Hall in September, 2026.

The exhibit includes travels to Alaska in 1975 and 2022, New Zealand's South Island in 2016 and 2019, Nova Scotia, Maine and Massachusetts. Glaciers, mountains, oceans, birds, whales, a sunrise and sunset.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 6 - 7 PM, ONLINE

What About Cultivars?

Wild Seed Project

What about cultivars? Are they good, are they bad, how do I know? What is a "nativar"? Where do cultivars even come from? And how do I make the right choices at the garden center?

These are some of the top questions we get when talking about what plants to bring into our growing spaces. Join us for an engaging conversation with a panel of researchers who are teasing out the layered interactions of garden plants with the larger ecological web. Sliding scale fee, [register here](#)

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2 - 4 PM

Fascinating Fungi of Fresh Pond

Fresh Pond Ranger Station, 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge

Mycologist Larry Millman will lead a walk around Fresh Pond to find and identify mushrooms. He's written several books on his fungal findings and has documented 399 fungal species just at Fresh Pond. Please dress for the weather and note that the group will walk on uneven terrain, down hills, and over roots. Limited to 15.

Register: agarms@cambridgema.gov or call 617-680-2418



False turkey tail mushrooms growing on a fallen log at Fresh Pond Reservation.

Photo courtesy of Hannah Loss GBH News

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18, 6-7:30 PM, ONLINE

Design-less Gardening: A Naturalistic Approach

Mt. Cuba Center, Delaware

Dan Jaffe Wilder <<https://www.ecolandscaping.org/2023-2024-dan-jaffe-wilder-bio/>> suggests we look to nature, and take clues from our own landscapes. We can evaluate sunlight, moisture, soil and other factors to develop a low-maintenance garden: less watering, fertilizing, and coddling. And still support the environment and provide beauty for all. Check the Mt. Cuba Center website for other talks too. \$25, [register here](#)

THURSDAY MARCH 19, 1-2:30 PM, ONLINE

The Science Behind Leaving Your Leaves

Margaret Roach: The Virtual Garden Club

What's "best practice" now in caring for our yards? Max Ferlauto, Maryland's state entomologist, will share the results of a 2-year study on the impacts of removing fall leaves, as well as alternative planting and management strategies beyond fall-cleanup tactics. He'll even show us how to tie our efforts at planning biodiversity to the larger conservation goals of preserving rare species and habitats. Part of a series organized by Margaret Roach, NY Times garden columnist. \$29, [Register here](#)



THURSDAY MARCH 19, 5-6 PM, ONLINE

Redesigning the Future of Plastic Plant Containers

Native Plant Trust

In 2019, landscaper and researcher Marie Chieppo concluded that approximately 98% of plastic horticultural containers are not recycled, but go to landfills; she's been pursuing the problem ever since. She will explain the obstacles facing manufacturers, recyclers, growers, consumers and lawmakers, and will also share the amazing progress being made on many fronts, including by Native Plant Trust.

Free, [register here](#)

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 10 AM - 5 PM

Northeastern University: 50th Annual Gardeners' Gathering

Northeastern University Curry Center, 360 Huntington Ave, Boston

Keynote speakers, workshops and exhibits, focus on community gardening. In the past they have covered topics like building healthy soil, foraging, keeping bees and chickens, managing pests and diseases. This year should be bigger than ever. Free, always worth a look. Full program, once it's settled, [register here](#)

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 7-8 PM, ONLINE

Bats in Massachusetts and How You Can Help Them

Mass Pollinator Network

Elise Stanmyer, a biologist with DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection, will describe bats in general and some common bat myths, then introduce our native species, cover the threats they face, and discuss ways we can do our part to help them. Monthly presentation from the Mass Pollinator Network—which is worth following. Free, [register here](#)



THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 130 - 3 PM

Senior Tea

Wright-Locke Farm, Winchester

Come enjoy a lovely afternoon at Wright-Locke Farm's All Season's Barn. Seniors are invited to relax and connect over a warm cup of tea, delicious homemade treats, and the serene beauty of the farm. This special gathering is a perfect opportunity to meet new friends, share stories, and unwind in a welcoming environment. Free, [register here](#)

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 6 - 7:30 PM

Container Gardening

Garden in the Woods, Framingham

Whether you're gardening on a back porch, patio, or in a larger green space, learn essential container gardening techniques in this make-and-take, hands-on workshop. Explore how to use containers to create an ecological garden, grow food, and add pops of beauty and biodiversity to an outdoor area. Learn how to choose the right plants, and take home a beautifully designed container filled with native plants from Native Plant Trust's own plant shop. \$50, [register here](#)

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

MEMBERS' CORNER | March 2026

This winter inspired lots of photos from members.

From around Patsy Kraemer's home



Cutie at the feeder



Stalactites!?



Birds' delight from Emily Snyder's yard



Spring's hope eternal from Agnes Parise's home



Plant unique to Australia from Andrea Golden's travels

Sturt's desert pea is widespread in inland Australia. It is in the pea family.