



ARLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The Perennial

May 2026

Issue 9

ArlingtonGarden.org

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President's Message

Greetings my fellow gardeners,

Please come and support our Annual Plant Sale! Jan Ford and Karen MacKinnon, our hard-working Plant Sale organizers, have the following announcements.

Emily Snyder, President

Plant Sale

- Plant categories: Donate well rooted perennials, small shrubs and house plants in individual pots. Young annuals, vegetables and herbs will also be accepted.
- When and where: Plants should be delivered to the Jason Russell House between Tuesday, May 12 and Thursday, May 14. The driveway is accessible from Jason Terrace.
- Labels: Label all plants with plant's name, size, growth conditions and a brief description. Plant labels and pots can be obtained by contacting Stephan Miller. He can also provide you with an electronic version of the plant labels. For small pots, it's okay to just use a small label with the plant name.
- Pricing: The Plant Sale Team will price all plants
- Help/Questions: Stephan Miller is glad to help if you have problems or questions about digging, dividing, labeling or transporting your plants. Contact Stephan Miller at either steffmiller@mac.com or leave a message at (781) 641-2845.

Announcements continued on next page



Our new Plant Sale poster that's in front of Arlington's Town Hall. Designed by member Andrea Golden.

Bake Sale



- Categories: Preferably homemade baked goods of brownies, cookies, muffins, etc. individually wrapped or in amounts of 2-6 per package. Banana, nut and fruit breads cut into individual slices and packaged.
- Packaging: use clear wrap and label. If frosted, please use clear take-out containers.
- Labels: All items must be labeled. Designate category (kind of cupcake, muffin, etc.) Clearly identify foods that are gluten free, contain nuts or that contain no nuts.
- Pricing: The Bake Sale Team will price all items.
- Delivery of baked goods: Drop off at Jason Russell House by 8 am the day of the sale.
- Contact/Questions: Ginger Tower (781) 643-0107 or towerg@verizon.net

Garden Tools and Scarves



- Items: Gently used garden tools and old (or new) scarves that you are no longer using.
- Delivery: Drop off at the Jason Russell House by 8 am the day of the sale.
- Pricing: The Tool Team or the Scarves Team will price all items
- Contact/Questions: Tools: Jan Ford (781) 648-0143 or ford.jd@gmail.com
Scarves: Peggy Bliss (617) 823-2478 or peggy.bliss99@gmail.com



WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026

Commercial Composting A-Z

Andrew Brousseau



Did you ever wonder what happens to your scraps when the truck comes to your house, picks up the green bucket, and empties it into their stinky truck? Andrew will share with us anything and everything you want to know about commercial composting the Black Earth way. Andrew is a partner and compost manager at Black Earth Compost.

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

NOTE: If you can bring sandwiches, a salad, or a dessert to our May meeting, please contact Julie McDaniel (juliemcdaniel@mac.com). Hospitality is looking for a few more signups. Our meals have been wonderful this year!

Upcoming Program for June

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

End-of-Year Dinner

Arlington Town Hall

Save the date! We'll have another fabulous dinner, this time at Arlington's Town Hall. The cost is \$10. You can sign up and pay at our May meeting or contact Julie McDaniel or Nancie Richardson to reserve your spot. Julie is working with the caterer, **Beaujolais**, to come with a dinner that is sure to wow us.



Gardening and Garden Books at the Arlington Reservoir

The Wildlife Habitat Garden at Arlington’s Reservoir is a quiet oasis, home to many species of native flora and fauna. Shrubs, grasses and wildflowers provide shelter and food for a wide variety of wildlife, including rabbits, turtles, toads, birds, butterflies, bees, dragonflies, and many other species. The garden was started in 2011 following the reconstruction of the earthen berm around the Reservoir and installation of the spillway.

The garden is maintained by the Reservoir Committee, a part of Envision Arlington, in collaboration with the Conservation Commission and the Park and Recreation Commission. Volunteers meet year-round to present educational programs and organize work days during the growing season. More volunteers are always needed to maintain the native plants, and to help remove invasive plants, both on land and in the Reservoir itself.

A recently installed Little Free Library holds books on gardening, native plants and related environmental topics. Please consider donating books that you no longer use to share through this volunteer resource, and maybe you’ll find a book that you want to borrow. The library box was built by Alex Rego as part of his Eagle Scout project for Scout Troop 306.

Inspired by an anonymous donation from an Arlington Land Trust member, the garden is now supported by contributions from many local residents. For more information about the garden and the Reservoir Committee, see arlingtonreservoir.org. Financial donations to support this work can be made through the Arlington Land Trust, PO Box 492, Arlington, MA 02476 or at arlingtonlandtrust.org.



It's Official

Our Arlington Garden Club is officially collaborating with the Friends of Town Gardens to provide caretaking services and financial support for the Olmsted-designed Town Hall Garden. In late April, we participated in a workday with the Friends to do spring clean-up and tidying in the Garden.

On Friday June 5th the Friends will be holding a Garden Party in the garden. We're hoping that some of you garden club members will purchase a ticket for that fundraising event and support their cause — aka the Town Garden! It's a fun party with a light box supper, beer and wine, good dancing music — and in a beautiful setting! And the proceeds support the care of the garden.

We will also be supporting the Town Hall garden with some of our hard-earned money in the Garden Club bank account. We will be contracting with Cunniff Landscaping to do monthly upkeep in the garden — including weeding, pruning, edging. The combination of professional services from Robert Cunniff and the hands-on services from Garden Club members and Friends members should make our Town Gardens a showplace for Arlington!



Meredith Zona (Friends) and Carol Walsh (AGC) brought enthusiasm and strong backs to cleaning debris around the Reflecting Pool at the Town Hall Garden.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

Nominations

Lolly Bennett, chair, and members Marie Doughty and Marilyn Sullivan

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of 2026-2027 officers for the Arlington Garden Club. There were no additional nominations from the floor at the April meeting. Voting for the slate will be held at the May membership meeting on May 20, 2026.

• President	Emily Snyder
• Vice Presidents/Programs	Janet Pagliuca & Jan Still
• Treasurer	Open
• Vice President, Communications	Peggy Bliss
• Recording Secretary	Agnes Parise
• Membership Chair	Kathy Creedon
• Hospitality Chairs	Bronwyn Dillon & Christopher Tonkin
• Garden Outreach	Jackie Keshian & Carol Nahigian
• Environment Chairs	Pam Carpenter & Myra Schwartz
• Civic Development Chair	Patsy Kraemer

Garden Outreach

Jackie Keshian and Carol Nahigian, co-chairs, and Barbara Neenan, Charleen Donahue, Mary Hatvany, and Robin Watkins

The April project for Garden Outreach came from Robin Parker, Activity Director at Brightview, who requested that the residents plant vegetable and herb seedlings with Garden Outreach, take the seedlings back to their rooms and keep them watered until June 6, when the residents will plant them outdoors in raised beds. Brightview provided the pots. Garden Outreach brought soil and flats of tomatoes, bell peppers, thyme and Moroccan mint.

Garden Outreach also brought a planter and flowers in yellow, purple, and white to illustrate principles from a recent Garden Club talk on spring container gardening. Some residents also brought plants from their rooms for advice and help.

The last Garden Outreach visit to Brightview this season will be on May 21 with a Memorial Day theme.



Photo by Robin Watkins

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

This spring brings us more garden events than ever! Lots of plant swaps/sales & events.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 6 - 7 PM

Daffodil Arranging Class

Wright-Locke Farm, Winchester

You will be provided many different varieties of daffodils as well as other seasonal flowers, branches, jars and ribbons to create a fresh fragrant spring arrangement. Includes demonstrations of simple floral arranging techniques and then you can create your own!

SATURDAY, MAY 16

Plant sales by three local clubs: Lexington, Arlington (ours!) and Lincoln

Lexington 8 - 11 am, 201 Bedford St.
(front lawn of DPW)

Lexington Field and Garden Club

Arlington 9 am – 12 noon, Corner of Jason St.
& Mass Ave. (Jason Russell House)

Arlington Garden Club

Lincoln 11 am - 1 pm, Lincoln Station,
145 Lincoln Rd.

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust



Arlington Garden Club's plant sale



TUESDAY MAY 19, 4 - 6 PM

Plant and Seed Swap

*Kendall/MIT Open Space
292 Main St., Cambridge*

MIT Open Space Initiative
More information [here](#)

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST



THURSDAY MAY 28, 7 PM (ONE NIGHT ONLY)

The Boston-area premiere of *The Gardener*

Regent Theater, Arlington

Make a night of it! Gather friends and enjoy exploring how gardening helps people heal. \$20.

[Ticket link here](#)



SATURDAY MAY 30

(FRIDAY, MAY 29 FOR MEMBERS ONLY)

Grow Native Massachusetts Annual Native Plant Sale

7 Harrington Rd, Lexington (First Parish Church)

They will have 150+ species, 6,000+ plants total. List is published a week or so before the sale. Preregister and sign up for time slot to ease crowding, parking etc. [Register here](#)

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 11 AM - 2 PM

Biodiversity Day at Danehy Park

Danehy Park, Cambridge

Bird watching, tours of native plant garden & Miyawaki Forest, music, games for all ages.

Co-sponsored by several local groups.

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Secret Gardens of Cambridge

Various locations

30+ gardens all over the city—tiny pockets to breathtaking spots around Brattle St. Just try and see them all in 6 hours! Biennial fundraiser for the Friends of the Cambridge Public Library, \$25. **Tickets sold online** and in person in early June.



SATURDAY, JULY 11 10 AM - 3 PM

Secret Gardens of the Kennebunks

Explore seven private gardens—normally hidden behind stone walls, seaside cottages, and privacy hedges—and discover Kennebunks’s most enchanting and diverse landscapes. \$65. **Get tickets**



Events compiled and submitted by Helen Snively, Somerville Garden Club member



Look for our Plant Sale poster that will be displayed in various traffic islands starting on Monday, May 11th. Members Marie LaCour and Peggy Bliss have been hard at work.

Art Show at Habitat

AGC members Sally Naish and Joan Robbio are exhibiting their photography along with five other photographers (and friends) at Habitat <<https://www.massaudubon.org/places-to-explore/wildlife-sanctuaries/habitat>> in Belmont in May and June. If you plan to visit at a time other than for the Reception on May 3, let Sally know; perhaps she can meet up with you.



Photo by Sally Naish

The works on display vary in approach, but all relate to nature, befitting the Mass Audubon location. Spring should be well and truly sprung by then, so come and enjoy Habitat's walking trails as well.

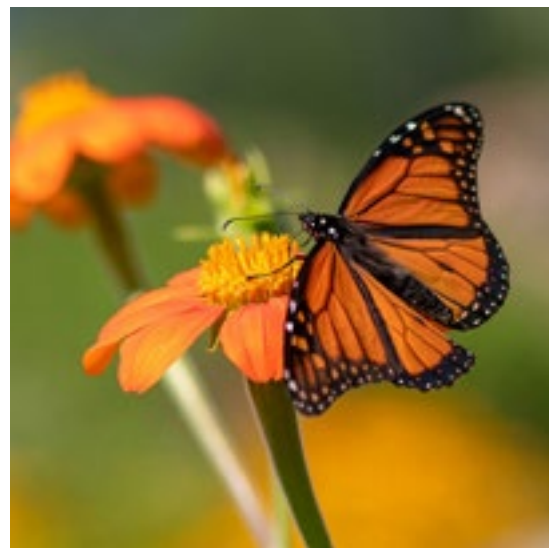


Photo by Joan Robbio