



ARLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The Perennial

September 2026

Issue 1

ArlingtonGarden.org

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President's Message



Members Jan Still and Patsy Kraemer share a moment at this year's plant sale.

Welcome to the Club's new year!

As the Arlington Garden Club enters its 95th year, we continue to promote good gardening practices, increase environmental awareness and offer stimulating educational programs. The Club also provides enjoyable social interaction with wonderful opportunities to develop personal friendships. I, myself, have experienced all of these benefits since joining the Club more than 10 years ago. I hope you have too.

Your Board, while puttering around various gardens and taking some vacation time during the summer, has also been planning the Club's 2026-27 year. The Co-VPs of Programs, Janet Pagliuca and Jan Still, have lined up a broad range of excellent programs for our monthly meetings. The full list is on the Club's website under **Programs & Events**.

As well, the Club's 2026-27 Yearbook will be ready for you to collect at the September 16th meeting. It, too, contains a full list of Programs and our handy Membership list.

Please feel free to reach out to me or any Board member to become involved in an area of the Club which interests you. On the Membership Form you noted interests you'd like to pursue, and Membership Chair Kathy Creedon will regularly update and distribute information to Board members, but don't be shy: reach out if you haven't been contacted about an activity you'd like to be part of.

I look forward to another wonderful year together.

Emily Snyder, President

September Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

American Landscapes Through the Centuries

Martha Chiarchiaro



Winslow Homer, Driving Cows to Pasture, 1879, watercolor, Bequest of Katharine Dexter McCormick

Martha is making a repeat appearance with a different program. We will hear about the Hudson River School artists as well as Winslow Homer and the Wyeth Family and how they captured the landscapes of New England and its coastline.

Reminder: Lunch along with coffee, tea and desserts will be provided by the Board.

Upcoming Program for October

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Green Teams Update

Dallin and Bishop Schools

Staff and students will present their projects from concept to design and implementation.



Members of the Dallin School Green Team and AGC

Left: Garden enthusiasts at the Bishop School

Spotted Lanternfly Found in Arlington

This summer, the Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) informed the Town of Arlington that it has confirmed an infestation of the invasive insect known as spotted lanternfly (SLF) in Arlington. SLF prefers to feed on Tree of Heaven, an invasive tree that is common in Arlington. SLF does not bite, sting, or otherwise harm people or pets, but heavy infestations can make time outside unpleasant, especially while the adults are swarming as they can cover anything they are on with a sticky, sugary waste product known as honeydew.

MDAR is asking Arlington residents and businesses to check for SLF and report any sightings of this pest via their [SLF website](#).



Adult spotted lanternflies in Brooklyn Botanic Garden in September 2021



Spotted lanternfly's life cycle (instars) with size comparison to a U.S. quarter.

Civic Development

Patsy Kraemer, Chair

The Jason Russell House herb garden has long been maintained by the Arlington Garden Club. This summer plantings have been surprisingly lush, despite long hot dry spells, and has required only infrequent watering. The lemon and bee balm have filled in and, along with other herbs like summer savory, have been covered in bees and other pollinators.

An unusual plant in bloom now is wild senna, a perennial in the pea family native to eastern North America. The showy yellow flowers develop and grow into dark brown seedpods that attract birds and add winter interest to the garden. Senna is prized for healing properties and is a natural laxative.



Wild senna, photo courtesy of Julie McDaniel



Summertime arrangements from Agnes Parise's home.

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

It's September—the gardening world comes back to life! Garden tours in Newton and Watertown—likely to be lovely. Mass Hort's fall flower show. A pop-up natives sale in Newton and a native plant sale in Lexington.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1:30-6 PM

Native Plant Pop-up Market

Newton Farmers Market, Cold Spring Park, 1189 Beacon St.,

GrowNativeMass gives us another chance to buy sustainably-grown native plants at a farmers market. These are getting good reviews. More information [here](#)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

New England Fall Flower Show

Elm Bank, 900 Washington St., Wellesley

Remember the annual flower shows Mass Hort put on at the Bayside Expo Center and then the Boston Expo Center? Well, they're back. This is three days of curated vendors, food trucks, demos and speakers, floral installations and award-winning plant and design exhibits. \$28/day.

Buy timed tickets in advance

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 12-4 PM (RAIN: SEPT. 26)

4th Annual Newton Pollinator Garden Tour



Explore a mix of beautiful and functional private and public landscapes across several Newton villages, demonstrating how native flora can beautifully sustain vital local pollinators. Sponsors include multiple local groups. Free. [Register here](#) to get the list of gardens and map

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 10 - 1 PM

Somerville Garden Club annual plant sale

331 Summer St., corner of St. James Ave, Somerville

Discover the perfect plant to enliven your garden or windowsill at this popular yearly sale. Perennials for sun and shade, herbs, shrubs, groundcovers, plus a wide variety of house plants will be featured. More information [here](#).



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 5:30 - 7 PM

Flower Arranging Class

Wright-Locke Farm, 82 Ridge St., Winchester

Class starts with a tour of the flower shed and flower field. Participants will have a hands-on experience making one quart-sized mason jar arrangement to take home. \$47.

[Register here](#)



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 7 PM

Create Habitat to Support Biodiversity Year-Round

Learning Lab. Cambridge Main Library

449 Broadway, Cambridge or online

Learn how to garden to support pollinators, birds and other species so they can overwinter, reproduce, and thrive year-round. Amy Meltzer will cover specifics of how to provide food, water, shelter and nesting sites, build healthy soil, remove invasive plants, avoid chemical use, minimize nighttime light, reduce your lawn, and create year-round beauty in your garden. If attending online, [register here](#) to receive Zoom link.

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

FRIDAY, SEPT 25 (4 - 7 PM) AND SATURDAY, SEPT 26 (9 AM - 1 PM)

Middlesex Conservation District Native Plant Sale

Pickup plants at Minuteman High School, 758 Marrett Rd., Lexington

Order online by Friday, September 18. There will also be a limited inventory of plants for in-person shopping. Order plants [here](#).

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 12 - 3 PM

Life-Friendly Garden Tour

Watertown Community Gardens

Watertown Community Gardens celebrates 15 years of growing food, protecting the environment, and building community. This tour includes beautiful spaces that support pollinators, birds, and other wildlife without synthetic pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers. [Register here](#) to get the list of locations.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1 - 3 PM

Arlington, MA Invasives (ArMI): Weed-out/Planting at Window on the Mystic

406 Mystic St., Arlington

Join a group of Arlington residents dedicated to removing invasive plants along this scenic Town property. Not sure which plants are invasive? This is a good opportunity to learn.

Get parking info and [RSVP here](#).



Garlic mustard

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

Newport Flower Show

Member Janet Pagliuca attended the annual Newport Flower Show in June, which was held at the Rosecliff Mansion. The theme was “Pearls of Newport” in honor of the Gilded Age. According to Janet, the arrangements were over the top and the people watching was like attending a summer wedding at the Hamptons; women wearing long flower summer dresses with fascinator hats. The show was held on the 1st level and the exhibitors were from New England, New York and New Jersey. The vendors were under canopies in the backyard facing the harbor; a perfect setting to walk around and enjoy the view on a perfect summer day.

At right: Brooch made only from plant material. Photo courtesy of Janet Pagliuca



Seed Savers Exchange



Member JB Maxwell shared news that **Seed Savers**, a non-profit, was awarded four stars by Charity Navigator. Seed Savers houses the largest non-governmental seed bank in the US with more than 20,000 varieties of endangered heirloom seeds. Its 2027 Seed Savers Exchange catalog ships in late November. Request your free copy [here](#).

Charity Navigator rates not-for-profit organizations on the strength of their finances, their governance, and the transparency of their operations. Four stars is the group's highest rating.

Katherine Krister

Member Katherine Krister passed away on July 25, 2026.

There will be a Celebration of Life on Sunday, September 27th, 2-4 pm at Robbins Library, where she worked and volunteered.

Here's her [obituary](#).

