ARLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The Perennial

October 2026 Issue 2

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President's Message

Greetings my fellow gardeners,

I'm really looking forward to our October program. Representatives from the Green Teams from two of Arlington's elementary schools will be presenting on their school's garden project.

The Club's Environment Committee, chaired by Pam Carpenter and Myra Schwartz, oversees the Grants Program. The Committee was impressed with applications received from several of Arlington's elementary schools, and, after discussing proposals with some Board members, made the decision to award funds to projects at both the Dallin and the Bishop Schools. **Photo ops and coverage** in *YourArlington* followed, and soon we will hear—and see—what has transpired in those gardens since the funds were awarded.

Fall cleanup….or not? Best practice is LET LEAVES LIE! You'll save time, help fertilize and enrich the soil in your gardens and lawn, as well as giving pollinators a place to ride out the winter. Many insects thrive and lay eggs in leaf mulch, well secluded and insulated until they burst forth to benefit our gardens in the spring.

Emily Snyder, President

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026

Green School Grant Recipients

Educators from Bishop Elementary and Dallin Elementary Schools



October's Arlington Garden Club (AGC) speaker program will feature the Bishop Elementary and Dallin Elementary 2026 Green School Grant recipients. Their submitted garden proposals were selected to receive funding from the AGC last spring. A representative from each team will offer a presentation focused on their school's garden project. Along with these speakers, an Arlington Community Media, Inc. member will be on hand to videotape the event for a later broadcast on Arlington's non-profit public-access TV station.

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

The elevator at St. John's will be available for meetings beginning this month. The red door nearest Pleasant St. on Lombard Rd. will be available when pressing the handicap button on the left. Please call Jan Ford (781-799-4431) when you get inside and she will come up to show you how to run the elevator.

Also, the date for our October meeting is incorrect in the Yearbook. The correct date is October 21st.

Program for November



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Wondrous World of Fireflies

Dr. Sara Lewis

Dr. Lewis is an ecologist and professor emerita at Tufts University. For over 30 years, she has been fascinated by firefly behavior, ecology and evolution. She is the co-chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Firefly Specialist Group.

Fireflies are bioluminescent insects that are declining due to habitat loss, pesticides, and light pollution.

Photo by Radim Schreiber

Goats Grazing on Invasive Plants at 21 Pond Lane

In late September, a herd of goats began grazing on Town open space at 21 Pond Lane, next to Spy Pond Park. The volunteer goats, from **Goodwin Hill**, are helping to clear invasive plants to prepare the site for a future project to plant native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants at the site. Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding is being pursued to implement this project. In the meantime and depending on the weather and need, the goats will return on Mondays and/or Wednesdays over the next few weeks, usually around 11:30 a.m., but volunteer goats have a flexible schedule. Passersby are encouraged to observe the goats at work (do not pet) and please keep dogs away. We thank the Goodwin Hill goats for their efforts to prepare the site for the future.



Goodwin Hill goats and Spy Pond Park



Civic Development

Patsy Kraemer, Chair

Thanks to Julie McDaniel's efforts, the Jason Russell House Kitchen Garden group met on Wednesday, September 30th to do a fall cleanup. Imagine our surprise to see a Spotted Lanternfly on one of the plants as we started pruning, a first for many of us.

Matt Beres, the historical society director, told us that they've incorporated some of the kitchen garden plants in their program for visiting third graders, very gratifying to hear!

We trimmed back foliage, weeded, raked, potted some extra plants for the May plant sale, planted spring bulbs, and added mulch. The garden is getting ready for winter.
Article written by Julie McDaniel.



Yet another Spotted Lanternfly



Happy gardeners at the Jason Russell House. From l to r, Barbara Neenan, Gerry Ricci, Ginger Tower, Carol Walsh, Pam Carpenter, Patsy Kraemer, Julie McDaniel, Emily Snyder, and Jan Still

Garden Outreach

Carol Nahigian and Jackie Keshian, co-chairs

On Thursday, September 24th, Garden Outreach began its 2026-2027 season. Committee members joined seven residents of Brightview Senior Living to create beautiful autumn flower arrangements for their rooms. Garden Outreach members brought flowers, mason jars, ribbon and seasonal decorations. Everyone enjoyed sitting at the table and chatting as they created their arrangements. The fall flowers included various chrysanthemums, Shasta Daisy, statice, Dusty Miller, ferns and other greenery.

The 2026-2027 season will meet with residents of Brightview Senior Living once monthly September through December and March through May on the fourth Thursday unless that date is on or close to a holiday.







MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 5:30 - 6:30, ONLINE

Foundations of a Four-Season Garden

Native Plant Trust



How to plan a garden that prioritizes biodiversity and wildlife—and is tailored to your goals and space? Landscaper Marie Chieppo thinks about plants' individual personalities, or growing habits, when they share a common space, and how to integrate them year round. She's a good speaker. $25, **register here**.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 6:30 PM

Lawns and Lawn Alternatives

Follen Church, 755 Mass Ave., Lexington
Sponsored by Lexington Field and Garden Club
Gretel Anspach Lifetime Master Gardener

Lawns are imported garden fixtures in places with cool, wet summers. Here a "perfect" lawn is a major drain on water supplies, a source of pollution, and a lot of work. Gretel Anspach, a Lifetime Master Gardener, will discuss alternatives to the traditional grass lawn, along with different options to help tailor your needs, potentially eliminating hundreds of hours of labor and expensive treatments every year. Free.Attendees are encouraged to bring a plant or garden item to swap.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 10 - 3 PM

Native Plant Pop-Up Market

7 Harrington Road, Lexington



Grow Native Massachusetts has a huge native plant market every spring—this is their first autumn one. October is a great time to plant! They will have plants from many local growers; many have native species that are not yet widely available. Also: advice from plant experts, and baked goodies.
Details here.

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, 2 - 4 PM

Fascinating Fungi of Fresh Pond

Fresh Pond Ranger Station, 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge
Sponsored by Friends of Fresh Pond.



False turkey tail mushrooms growing on a fallen log at Fresh Pond Reservation.
Photo courtesy of Hannah Loss GBH News

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. Will you be the lucky one to find #400? Limited to 15. If interested, email **agarms@cambridgema.gov**

TUESDAY OCTOBER 27, 7 - 8:15 PM, ONLINE

Rights of Nature and Wetlands: Transforming the People-Nature Relationship

Grow Native Massachusetts and Massachusetts Pollinator Network

Those looking at the current biodiversity crash through a Rights of Nature/Wetlands lens consider humans as part of Nature, not separate or superior to it. If Nature has a legal right to exist, defending that right can help halt the destruction of Nature. Wetland scientist Gillian Davies, visiting professor at Tufts, will describe the Rights of Nature/Wetlands movement. **Register here.**



MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

TUESDAY OCTOBER 27, 7 PM ONLINE

The Life-Saving Benefits of Trees

Lexington Living Landscapes and Cary Memorial Library

Dr. Geoffrey Donovan, forest economist, describes three studies linking urban trees with human health. The studies range from the impact of urban trees on underweight or premature births, cardiovascular mortality in communities impacted by the emerald ash borer and the public-health impacts of a tree planting program. This makes urban trees key to our urban public-health infrastructure. Free.

Register here.



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 9:15 - 11:30 AM

Forest Forensics Guided Walk

Wright-Locke Farm, Winchester



Join environmental archaeologist, Dr. Naomi Riddiford, in 'reading' the forested landscape around Wright-Locke Farm. Learn how to identify clues to past human activities associated with the farm (established in c.1638) and uncover a ghost agricultural landscape hidden among the trees.

This is an outdoor walk. Please dress for conditions and expect some rocky inclines and uneven surfaces. Steady rain cancels. Tiered pricing $15 to $25. **Register here**.

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

Wanted! Treasurer



You do NOT need a Ph.D. or even a Master's degree in economics to do this job—you just need to know how to write checks and balance a checkbook.

You'll be working with a group of supportive, well-functioning Board members. The club is NOT in the red. As careful stewards of our, i.e., your money, we strive to use it in the most beneficial ways to educate about horticulture, and gardening and to enhance civic beautification throughout the Town.

Please consider taking on this role. Feel free to reach out to former Treasurer Nancie Richardson or Emily Snyder. Both will be happy to talk with you about it.

Member Photos



Fall Colors from Agnes Parise



Arizona colors from Janet Pagliuca