



[www.actongardenclub.org](http://www.actongardenclub.org)

# The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

October 2020

**All monthly meeting for the time being will be conducted virtual via Zoom.**

**October 6<sup>th</sup>** There will be 2 parts to the meeting *using the same zoom link*

**Part 1: Monthly Business Meeting. Check in time: 9:30 AM. The Business Meeting will begin at 9:45 AM.**

**Part 2: the virtual program presentation at 10:30 AM, Floral Design Demonstration with our very own creative Maureen Christmas. Maureen will share her incredible talents and create floral designs for us to learn and enjoy.**

If members (or the public) do not plan to attend the business meeting, they can just join the Program at 10:30 AM.

**Participants should switch their Zoom viewing mode to "speaker" mode (vs gallery mode) if they are not already.** That way, Maureen's box will be the main large box on their screen (instead of dozens of small boxes). Everyone else **should be muted**. **Questions can be submitted using the chat feature** which Jodi MacDonald will keep an eye on and alert Maureen when there is a question.

*Fran Portante sent out the Zoom invite link & password for the two part October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**Below is the link to the Business Meeting with the Program to follow:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81378724275?pwd=bWpUMXRqQmZuSElUREdzS3FOUjUrZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 7872 4275

Passcode: 739789

**October 13<sup>th</sup> Horticulture Study Group**

The original topic has been cancelled. If you have any *brilliant ideas* for a program, please email Susanne Fuller at [rellufs@verizon.net](mailto:rellufs@verizon.net).

## Membership

**We are pleased to welcome three new members to the Acton Garden Club.**

Please add their info to page 84 of your '20-'21 yearbook.

Janet Irons  
717 Main Street  
Acton  
978-760-1362  
[rainjetson@gmail.com](mailto:rainjetson@gmail.com)

Heather Markis  
6 Fife & Drum Rd  
Acton  
978-884-3533  
[hmarkis2013@gmail.com](mailto:hmarkis2013@gmail.com)

Tracy Schauer  
31 Mohawk Dr  
Acton  
909-319-0338  
[tracyschauer@yahoo.com](mailto:tracyschauer@yahoo.com)

The ladies are already involved in Community Service Projects!

**If you have a change in address, phone number or email address, please contact Membership Chairman, Linda O'Neil, [gognah@yahoo.com](mailto:gognah@yahoo.com).**

## Floral Design Study Group

*Autumn Harvest*

**October 20, 2020**

9:00 AM on ZOOM!



Design a fall centerpiece with container grown plants, gourds and flowers.

**Participants are to supply** their own container and purchase the materials and *we will design it together on Zoom!*

Please refer to the attached *Floral Design Supply List* and *Floral Tool Box* handouts. The workshop supplies are available at Idylwilde, or any store of your choice and will cost about \$23.

**Register** for the workshop by emailing Cathy Fochtman, [fochtman@verizon.net](mailto:fochtman@verizon.net)

**Subject: "Sign me up for Floral Design."**

She will reply with a ZOOM link to the workshop and can answer any questions.

**The Emerson Hospital Garden Therapy** has been suspended officially until Summer 2021. The hospital sent word that they will re-evaluate having volunteers at that time. Meanwhile, our committee members may be assisting the **Civic Beautification** committee when possible.

**Fran Hearn** is ready to batten down the hatches on her *Plant Sale distribution kiosk* for the season on **October 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY POTS AT HER HOUSE LIKE THE FAMOUS GARDEN KNOME.**

If you have extra plastic pots lying around, contact Joy Madden ([jhmadden@gmail.com](mailto:jhmadden@gmail.com)) to arrange a drop off time at her barn.

### Great news

**Jean Lane** is continuing to get better and is staying at her daughter's home in Maine. She enjoys receiving cards at the following address:

Jean Lane  
C/O Betsy Lane  
760 Alewife Rd.  
Kennebunk ME 04043

**Jodi MacDonald** reports that she has lots of extra **milkweed** and **butterflyweed** seed pods if anyone wants them. She can be reached at [jodihomemaker@yahoo.com](mailto:jodihomemaker@yahoo.com).

### Panel Discussion on PFAS in Drinking Water: October 14 at 7pm via Zoom

Just last month, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection established a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS in drinking water. But what are PFAS? Where do they come from? What are the risks? What's being done about them locally? Join Green Acton and the League of Women Voters to learn from experts and ask questions. Oct. 14, 7 PM, by Zoom. Register at [bit.ly/ActonPFAS](https://bit.ly/ActonPFAS)

### Spotted Lanternfly



**Adult Spotted Lanternfly**



**Nymph stage of Spotted Lanternfly**

**New invasive insect in Mass are sap sucking tree damaging pests.** Crops and hosts are thought to be Tree of Heaven, Apple, and Peach among others. They are coming in on wooden furniture and plants (from PA). They have been spotted (dead) in Milford and Norwood. Here is the official link to report them:

<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/us/massachusetts>

**How many more plagues do we need this year?**

# “Design Your Heart Out” – Autumn Harvest Supply List

**Floral Design Study Group: Tuesday, October 20, 9:00am**

## **Virtual Meeting**

A fall centerpiece using container grown plants, gourds and flowers.

### **Supplies needed:**

- ✓ Pruners, a sharp knife and wooden skewers from your Tool Box  
*(Need to create or update your tool box? See the Floral Tool Box handout for a list of supplies to get you started)*
- ✓ A container of your choice:
  - Size recommended:
    - Square: 9”, 4” deep
    - Rectangle: 9-10” long , 4-5” wide and 4” deep
    - Round: approx. 8” diameter, 4” deep
  - Note: Depth is important so there is room for the roots of the plants
- ✓ 1 block oasis (soak in water prior to the session)
- ✓ 6 sandwich bags
- ✓ Two plants, 4” pots
  - Suggestion: Croton for fall color, Ivy or trailing plant to trail over edge of container
- ✓ 1 bunch of fall mums or other flowers you like. A few greens from your yard will help fill in any empty spaces.
- ✓ 3 gourds of your choice... suggestion: different shapes for interest
- ✓ You may like to have some extra potting soil to fill in and possibly pebbles. Thelma also incorporated kiwi vine in the photo above.



All supplies may be purchased at Idylwilde Farm in Acton, but you may buy them wherever you wish. This centerpiece can last indefinitely by just changing the flowers and greens. You can replace the gourds with seasonal trims!

Design your heart out!!! Have fun!



# **Floral Tool Box**

**Floral Shears ( Joyce Chen shears for example)**

**Pruners**

**Wire cutters**

**Sharp knife (for oasis)**

**Green Stick wire (20- 22 gauge)**

**UGLU dashes**

**Waterproof tape (to hold oasis in containers)**

**Greening pins**

**Wired sticks – 3 inch or larger**

**Wooden skewers**

Many of you have asked for a list of items you should have in your tool boxes. I have listed the most important above. All of the floral items can be purchased at Joanne Fabrics or Michaels. As we go along you will find other supplies that are very handy to have.

***Thelma***