



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

## The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

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May 2021

The **Horticulture Study group** is going to resume its **PITs (Plant Identification Tours)**. For those who are new to the club, and as a refresher to the old-timers, PITs began in response to a member's request for identification of some plants in her garden because she didn't know whether or not to offer them for the plant sale. PITs still serve that purpose, but have evolved to also include an element of "show and tell". In all cases, the garden tours are informal and definitely non-judgmental. If you see a weed, other than helping the garden owner possibly identify one she did not already know, you quietly look the other way and never utter a peep. The tours have provided the participants (both garden owner and visitors) with opportunities to share information about plants and how to care for them as well as garden design ideas. And, the club being what it is, we also share some good conversation.

We usually allow about an hour for a PIT, and in the past, we have tried to schedule them on Tuesday mornings, but we are not restricted to only Tuesday mornings. If you would like to host a PIT, please let Susanne Fuller [rellufs@verizon.net](mailto:rellufs@verizon.net) know when you would like to do it.

This year, since we are having a Lemonade Party plant sale, our **PITs** can also offer the visitors an opportunity to see the plants that the garden owner is offering for sale. As good as our inventory lists are, sometimes it is an added benefit to see the plants in person.

To kick things off, **Susanne** has offered to host a **PIT on Tuesday, April 27, at noon**. Those who are interested, are welcome to stay for lunch in her yard. **You bring your own lunch and a chair**. The best feature of Susanne's garden now is the many varieties of daffodils that are in bloom; she has purchased whatever the club has offered each summer in its bulb sale, so she has a lot. The late ones may not yet be in bloom when you come.

**Please send Susanne a brief email to let me know if you plan to attend.**  
[rellufs@verizon.net](mailto:rellufs@verizon.net)

**We would like to make Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> another PIT, but we need a host - ideally someone who has a lot of plants already potted for sale. Any volunteers?**  
**Contact Susanne [rellufs@verizon.net](mailto:rellufs@verizon.net)**

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

- **May 4<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 AM. The Business Meeting will begin at 9:30 AM.**

**Part 2: the virtual program presentation at 10:15 AM.**



**Susan Guest** will present the program **Gardening: Healthy Body and Tools**. This program takes time to focus on the health of our gardeners and the ergonomics of gardening. Ms. Guest has been a fitness coach and Conscious Movement Educator since 2008 and will help us learn alternative techniques, strengthening exercises and about ergonomic tools. The goal of this program is to produce long lasting gardeners by learning tips, strategies and other healthy ways to enjoy the garden.

Participants should switch their Zoom viewing mode to "speaker" mode (vs gallery mode) if they are not already. That way, Ms. Guest's box will be the main large box on your 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 Ms. Guest when there is a question.

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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81378724275?pwd=bWpUMXRqQmZuSEIUREdzS3FOUjUrZz0>  
**Meeting ID: 813 7872 4275 Passcode: 739789**

- **April 30 - May 3 Art in Bloom, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston** Maureen Christmas with the assistance of **Cathy Fochtman** will be presenting.
- **Currently under way thru the 1<sup>st</sup> week in June: *Lemonade Party***

**Keep offering those zone hardy plants from your garden as well as shopping the special plants other members are offering. This is our only fundraiser and a fun way to augment your garden.**

**Get your friends and other garden enthuses involved!**

Don't hesitate to purchase any of **Alan Cushing's** plants during the **Lemonade Party** just because he lives in **Newton**. Alan is willing to make arrangements to get them to Acton when he volunteers at the Arboretum.

- **May 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting at 9 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6884517160?pwd=ckszU0E5NXZobFRqM3NwOCtPMEpMUT09>

Board meeting zoom id is: 688-451-7160



## March Floral Design

### Celebrating Green!

It was a feast for sore eyes to see, green, green, green textures, flowers and fun leaf manipulation. Presentation by Thelma Shoneman  
Video by Quincy Shoneman  
Zoom moderator Cathy Fochtman

Design by Janet Irons

*View the recording:*

*Topic: March Floral Design Study Group Meeting*

*Start Time : Mar 16, 2021 08:51 AM*

*Meeting Recording:*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wBEN0zEJF\\_1dwJiGnZq6OGGqXFtJUTbWf1kYUabpRFrh7O0rgkqToZGNSOoTsfSM.XoQMzPRkLdUpCCWX](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wBEN0zEJF_1dwJiGnZq6OGGqXFtJUTbWf1kYUabpRFrh7O0rgkqToZGNSOoTsfSM.XoQMzPRkLdUpCCWX)

*Access Passcode: 8jN?N0&F*

*TIPS FOR VIEWING: We start the program at 18:00 minutes into the recording. After viewing Thelma's introduction, skip ahead to 37:00 minutes into the recording to get to the start of Thelma's video. That way you'll skip over Cathy working out her video sharing technical difficulties!*



Design by Mimi Flanary



Design by Cathy Fochtman

## Rheta Roeber



Rheta thought you might get a kick out of these plant sale related photos. Her husband, Paul, was so excited about his birthday Beech tree (2020 Lemonade Party plant sale from Susanne Fuller) that he spent 2 weekends digging a giant hole and removing big rocks.

Here we have the finished product! Someday it will be as big as momma tree (who by the way we visited and is truly enormous). Today it is about the same as the daffodils!

***Can't wait to see what we will find in this year's sale!***



So what is growing in your garden now?

We have a use for all those extra volunteers.

**List them in the *Lemonade Party* spreadsheet.**

## Coming Attractions

The **June 8th meeting of the Hort Study group** is a field trip to **Golden Skep Farm in Berlin, MA**. Now that COVID seems to be on the wane, and because this event occurs outdoors, we will proceed with the plan to have this field trip. As usual, we will meet in the parking lot behind the Acton Center fire house. Although Susanne anticipates that some of you may not want to car pool, as we usually do, we can still form a caravan and leave the parking lot as a group, with cars carrying as many people as feel comfortable sharing such space. Please feel totally free to drive alone to Golden Skep Farm. When we are there, we will follow the safety protocol that they have in place. We are checking into what that is and will pass the information along well before the field trip. I hope you will feel comfortable to join us.

**Barbara Bender**

Just wondering if you can recommend a business that does yard cleanup and/or lawn repair.  
Feeling my age.

Barbara Bender [babsbender@gmail.com](mailto:babsbender@gmail.com) 978-263-8833 cell 978-621-2323



Thanks Rheta for this gorgeous photo of **Daffodil Run**.

**Stephanie Reid** and **Diane Krasnick** and their crew have worked hard to produce this breath of spring look at the corner of Main Street and Nagog Hill Rd.

Help protect and promote healthy, resilient landscapes and ecosystems!

ANNOUNCING

**ACTON BOXBOROUGH**

**BIOBLITZ 2021**




**April 30-May 3**



**Join the project!**

**Celebrate and document biodiversity in Acton and Boxborough!**  
Contribute to the global City Nature Challenge database as a "citizen scientist."

Participating is easy when you download the free iNaturalist phone app:

-  create account, click "More" (at bottom), then "Projects"
- AB** search for Acton Boxborough BioBlitz 2021, and join
-  find plants / bugs / animals anywhere in Acton
-  take a picture of what you find
-  share your observations

A project of: **GREEN ACTON** with co-sponsors:

**GREEN ACTON**



Using Less ~ Living Better

[GreenActon.org](http://GreenActon.org)



**Runs April 30-May 3**

There is a "**Kick-Off Event**" next **Monday, April 26th, at 7:00pm**, to show people how to sign up. Also, a few local conservation leaders will be sharing their thoughts on the importance of biodiversity.

Here is a **link** to the [BioBlitz Kick Off](https://zoom.us/j/98611968757?pwd=QIRZQTd6OFRHOWRVY1h1R1dvTFdjdz09or#success). Zoom meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/98611968757?pwd=QIRZQTd6OFRHOWRVY1h1R1dvTFdjdz09or#success>

Smithsonian Magazine

## Highly Invasive Jumping Worms Have Spread to 15 States



The invertebrate depletes topsoil of nutrients and makes it difficult for fungi and plants to grow.

[Highly Invasive Jumping Worms Have Spread to 15 States](#)

Thanks Jodi MacDonald for drawing our attention to the article.

*NYTimes* 4/21/21

### ***One of the World's Oldest Science Experiments Comes Up From the Dirt***

Every 20 years under the cover of darkness, scientists dig up seeds that were stashed 142 years ago beneath a college campus.

[https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/21/science/beal-seeds-experiment.html?campaign\\_id=61&emc=edit\\_ts\\_20210421&instance\\_id=29506&nl=the-great-read&regi\\_id=70293402&segment\\_id=56027&te=1&user\\_id=dd90d78d4c4835cb3a1e5087698a5733](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/21/science/beal-seeds-experiment.html?campaign_id=61&emc=edit_ts_20210421&instance_id=29506&nl=the-great-read&regi_id=70293402&segment_id=56027&te=1&user_id=dd90d78d4c4835cb3a1e5087698a5733)