



www.actongardenclub.org

The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

July 2021

Jodi MacDonald

I am looking forward to our first summer outing on **July 13th**.

Meet at **8:45 AM** at the **Acton Center Fire Station** to carpool or caravan. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water and a snack.

We are projected to be at **Suzanne Mahler's** home (152 Brookwood Rd, Hanover, MA) by **10 AM** for the **garden tour** and **lily hybridization demo**.

We are expected at **Strawberry Fair**, 14 Pond St, Norwell (private room reserved) at **11:30 AM** for lunch.

Check out their lovely menu on the website. I am looking forward to a refreshing strawberry ice tea! <https://thestrwaberryfair.com/>

****Please let Jodi know if you plan to come to lunch so an accurate reservation headcount can be obtained****

We are projected to arrive by **1 PM** at **Cochato Native Plant Nursery**, 373 N Franklin St, Holbrook, MA. <https://www.cochatonursery.com/>

The afternoon should be pleasant at the nursery, the tall trees keep it reasonably cool even in peak summer heat.

You should remember Ms Mahler who provided the Club with its March program: Growing Iris, Daylilies and Hostas.



Suzanne has been sharing her passion for gardening for more than 30 years, having spoken at the Boston, Rhode Island and New England Spring Flower Shows, Art in Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts, the Environmental Protection Agency and garden clubs and organizations throughout the New England area.

She is a past President of the *New England Daylily Society*, an Overseer for the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and works part time at a local garden center.

Suzanne has been developing her **acre property for 40 years**, and is **an avid plant collector with extensive collections of woody plants and perennials including more than 300 daylily cultivars and 250 varieties of hosta**.



Recent **PIT** offered at **Jodi MacDonald's** woodland setting which was followed by a BYO lunch at her pond.

Aren't PITs fun?

They offer us the chance to explore other members' labors of love and along with an opportunity to *get together in person*.

PIT

We have another excellent opportunity to learn from viewing the gardens of another member. This new **Plant Identification Tour (PIT)** will be at **Maura Sharp's home** (2 Phlox Lane) **on Monday, June 28 at 11:00 AM**. Maura has invited us to bring our own chairs and picnic lunch so that we can have lunch together after the tour.

Thank you, Maura, for this kind invitation! I know we are in for a treat.

As much fun as this will be, please be aware that if you want to host a PIT, you don't need to feel obligated to invite us all to linger for lunch. Lunch is a nice bonus but definitely not required. So don't hold back if you want to invite us over for a PIT at your home. Contact Susanne Fuller (rellufs@verizon.net) if interested in hosting a PIT.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Luncheon has been rescheduled from April 2021

The exciting event is scheduled for **10 AM** on **September 14, 2021** at the **NARA Park Pavilion**. An Optional Boxed Lunch will be offered.

Details to come!

Rheta Roeber

The **Acton Garden Club** is a registered **non-profit**. As such it does not have to pay sales tax for goods purchased on its behalf. This applies no matter who makes the purchase. Consequently, the club does not reimburse for sales tax paid on items purchased for the club.

This has led to great confusion upon occasion, (difference in reimbursement requested versus check received). **Please remember you need to present the certificate of exemption at time of purchase**. If you are a committee chair and you request one of your committee members to purchase items on behalf of the club, please provide it to them and remind them to present the club's tax free certificate at time of purchase. Or you can contact Rheta (treasurer) and she will provide a copy of the certificate to you by email.

Tanaz Hashemi



Acton, MA (Community Forum)

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Matthew Laurence · 5h · 🗨️

I just wanted to give a shout out and big thanks to the Acton Garden Club, who I saw hard at work this gray morning making downtown West Acton more beautiful, and who make my morning walks with my dog that much lovelier. Thank you all for your good work! If anyone here knows any of them, please tag them or pass on the appreciation.



Joy Madden

Light pollution discourages fireflies/lightning bugs from lighting - their courting behavior. There are articles online. What's relevant to us is that people's outdoor lighting is on too late into the evening when they've gone indoors to get away from mosquitoes. There used to be many fireflies around the brook in my back yard. Last year I saw one, the year before, six.

A few weeks ago Fran Portante sent information about cutting back milkweed by 1/3 to stimulate new, tender growth that the monarch larvae like much better than season-long tough growth.

Jodi MacDonald

An short article about how walking in nature is good for us.

<https://www.discoverwildlife.com/people/how-nature-mends-us/>

Help Slow Earths Warming by Reimagining Your Lawn

Americans spend millions of dollars annually cultivating our lawns and using harsh chemicals to keep this non-native plant weed-free- often harming wildlife, pollinators, and sometimes even pets in the process. If you love your lawn too much to part with it entirely, consider feeding it with compost, instead of synthetic fertilizer, and switching your mower. While a push or ride-on lawn mower is convenient-especially for large

swaths of grass- it burns fossil fuels every time you rev that engine plus it creates noise pollution. A battery-powered mower is a much better (and quieter!) alternative. You could also try a push-reel lawn mower and hand-tools which use no fuel or power but your own and help you stay physically fit.

If all this seems like way too much work, then consider reducing the amount of traditional lawn in order to mow less! So for example, mix meadow grasses with wildflowers to help pollinators and support biodiversity. There are also new, low-mow grasses you can buy. Or you can plant white clover- a nitrogen fixer which supports pollinators with its flowers and spreads nicely with very little fertilizer input- as an alternative to a lawn. Creeping thyme is another nice alternative, which smells good and has pretty flowers.

Rheta Roeber

Remember when we made the flat box of solid flowers at Floral Design? *Thanks to Thelma Shoneman for keeping us abreast of the latest in floral design.*



Can you guess what this is? It is a photo wall made of **solid hydrangeas!**