



www.actongardenclub.org

The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

September 2021

September 9th Board Meeting at 9 AM will be via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Board meeting zoom id is: 688-451-7160

September 14th Gather at **NARA Park Pavilion**, between the bathhouse and amphitheater, at 10 AM for the Monthly Meeting.

You can park in either the upper or lower lot and walk along the pavement to the pavilion. It is possible to drop off members at the pavilion and then park in either lot.

The **Business** portion of the meeting is scheduled to begin at **10:15 AM**.

Friendship Hour: 11 AM

The **postponed 2020 Annual Luncheon** will start at **11:30 AM**

Luncheon Details:

The luncheon will be held rain or shine since the pavilion has a roof. There are twenty round picnic tables with picnic table seating. Feel free to bring a portable chair if you require a chair back.

The Acton Garden club has decided to follow current State Covid guidelines. This means because the event is outdoors no masks are required and no vaccine is required. Members can decide on attending based on their personal risk tolerance.

Please complete the attached Luncheon Form if you have not reserved your space and lunch choice.

Send with payment if needed to Rheta Roeber, 2 Shady Lane, Acton **by Wednesday, September 1st**.

Contact **Rheta Roeber**, raroeber1@gmail.com or call her at 978-263-8631 or text her at 508-527-1293, if have any questions or issues with signing up for the luncheon or you need a ride.

You can't tell the players without a program.

Your **'21-'22 AGC Yearbook** can be picked up from **Eileen Ryan's** front porch (36 Hammond Street) until the September 13th. You might want to give her a call first (978-501-5192). If you miss this opportunity, they will be available at the September 14th meeting at the Nara Park Pavilion.

September 21st Horticulture Study Group: **Let's Make Herbal Products. (Signup is required)**

Meeting will be a hands-on workshop making herbal products presented by our own **Elizabeth Howley**. Not only is Elizabeth going to show us how to make herbal products, she is also generously providing all of the materials. Elizabeth needed to know by August 10th if you will be attending the September 21st meeting. The **9 AM** meeting will be held in **Susanne Fuller's driveway**.

September 28th Board Meeting. The 9 AM meeting will be held at Maura Sharp's house, 2 Phlox Lane.

A look ahead



The **October 5th** program is a hands on ***Embellished Pumpkin Workshop*** led by **Mary Beth Hayes** of **Semper Virens Flowers**. Mary Beth will show us how to decorate a little pumpkin with succulents and fresh and dried flowers. If you want to make your own, the fee is \$25. Members are welcome to just watch if they don't want to make their own.

Stay tuned for details whether we will meet at St. Matthews or work remotely over Zoom. If remote, you will be able to pick up your kit of materials from Jodi a few days prior.

Register by September 21st by sending a check to Rheta made out to Acton Garden Club.

October 19th Floral Design Study Group

“Woodland Explorations” – Driftwood & Found Wood Arrangement. Design incorporating an interesting piece of wood collected over the summer. All other materials provided at a cost of \$22.

Improvements at the Herb Garden in the Acton Arboretum



Shoutout to **Linda O'Neil** for going above and beyond in her work at the *Herb Garden*.

Linda removed and replaced 8 bricks that were settling and could have been a trip hazard to visitors. In doing so she added sand to stabilize the bricks.

Jodi MacDonald Monarch butterfly transformation

Jodi sent in the following web site linking her IG post to see the change she captured from caterpillar to chrysalis that morning! She saw 3 of them change that morning and currently has 5 chrysalis she can spot in her garden now!

https://www.instagram.com/p/CS2RxyqLJIZ/?utm_medium=copy_link

Don't miss all 6 photos of the metamorphism.

“Spirits of the Season”

A National Garden Club Standard **Flower Show** Sponsored by the Central North and Central South Districts of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. with the cooperation of the Worcester County Horticulture Society Friday and Saturday, October 29 - October 31, 2021 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM at **Tower Hill Botanic Garden**, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA 508-869-6111, www.towerhillbg.org

Adults \$16, Seniors \$11, Youth \$6, Members and Children under 5 free.

The Central North and Central South Districts are members of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., The New England Region of Garden Clubs and the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc.



Summer Gardening Books on display in the lobby of the Acton Memorial Library.

Stephanie Reed sent the following article which was 1st published in 2016. **Landscape Architect Visit: Clamshell Alley on the Coast of Maine**

Original Article: <https://www.gardenista.com/posts/landscape-architect-visit-clamshell-alley-on-the-coast-of-maine-matthew-cunningham/>

The photography is sensational.

Oh, to have property with that view and the finances to hire a landscape architect with the knowhow to transform it.

Massachusetts-based landscape architect [Matthew Cunningham](#) grew up in Maine. So when prospective clients contacted him about designing a garden for their newly built summer house in Lamoine, Maine (about a three-hours' drive north of Portland, along the coast), he understood the challenges: extreme temperatures, salt air, fog, and rampant deer and other wildlife to wreak havoc on a garden the instant you turn your back.

The homeowners, who live in Texas, planned to spend half the year in Dallas and half in Maine, where they had ties. "She grew up around the area, and after they found the land, they built the house from scratch and did all the detailing and the interiors themselves," Cunningham says. "It was easy for them, from Texas, to pick furnishings that would work well. But it's almost impossible to live in Texas and pick plants that will be adaptive to Maine."

The first time Cunningham saw the 1.5-acre property the homeowners named Clamshell Alley, it was a blank canvas—with potential for both sun and shade gardens. "It's a beautiful waterfront and it's so private that your neighbors are literally pine trees," he says. "The homeowners wanted to live lightly on the land, and from the moment I stepped on the site I had a vision of what needed to happen."

The garden he designed is an ode to Maine: colorful and tough, with perennials that stand up to all kinds of weather and varmints.

Fall Landscape Cleanup Dos and Don'ts

The "Dos" — Do These Tasks in Fall

Encourage late blooms Plants that bloom in late summer and autumn, such as asters, Joe Pye weed, and helenium, are an important source of food for pollinators. Monarch butterflies, in particular, need nectar to fuel their fall migration.

Save seeds. Collect seeds from mature seed heads for replanting next year.

Leave some seed heads for birds. Leave seed heads on some annuals and perennials, such as sunflowers and coneflowers, to allow birds to feast on the seeds.

Cut back spent perennials. Start tidying up other perennials when all the flowers, foliage, and stems have died back. Trim stems to 2-3". Use permanent labels to mark the location of perennials, so you'll know what to look for in spring.

Apply compost. Spread a 1" to 2" layer of compost under perennials, trees, and shrubs as a slow-release supply of nutrients for roots, so they're ready for robust growth next spring.

Continue to water trees and shrubs. The soil around woody plants should be kept moist until the ground freezes. This is especially important for evergreens, which continue to take up water throughout the winter. Once the ground freezes, apply a 2-3" layer of organic mulch (shredded leaves, pine straw, or bark chips) around the trees and shrubs, keeping the mulch a few inches from stems and trunks.

Leave ornamental grasses. Ornamental grasses can be left as is, so you can enjoy their beauty all winter. Or, if you prefer, they can be cut back to 3-4" in fall.

Do light fall pruning. Trim dead or diseased branches from trees and shrubs. Wait until spring or summer (depending on the type of plant) for major pruning.

Drain hoses. Make sure the water is drained from irrigation systems, hoses, and any other watering equipment that can be damaged when water freezes.

Fall Cleanup "Don'ts"

Don't let soil freeze in planters. Moist soil expands as it freezes, which can cause cracks in ceramic, terra cotta, and some plastic containers. Unless a planter is guaranteed as weatherproof, it's best to empty it and store it under cover.

Don't discard fallen leaves. They contain a wealth of nutrients! If you have a scattering of leaves on your lawn, mow over them to break them into small pieces that will decompose quickly. Otherwise, rake and add leaves to your compost pile.

Avoid fertilizing in fall. Feeding late in the season can disrupt the plants' hardening-off process. Slow-release fertilizers and compost are the exception, because unlike quick-release synthetic fertilizers, they won't cause a flush of new growth.

Tidy up — but not too much. Many beneficial insects and pollinators overwinter in fallen leaves, brush piles, and un-mowed areas. Allowing part of your yard to remain a little "wild" will provide important habitat.

Don't mulch too early, or too deeply. Mulch insulates the soil, and in fall that isn't necessarily a good thing. Cool soil helps plants enter their winter resting state. Wait until the ground has frozen, then apply a 2-3" layer of mulch to prevent winter freeze-thaw cycles that can stress plants.

Stand Up to Stigma ENTER NOW Scarecrow Contest

Proceeds Benefit NAMI Central Middlesex (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

Bring a \$25 donation to Cucurbit Farm, 32 Parker St. Acton and pick up your scarecrow frame.

Then drop off your family friendly scarecrow at the farm stand.

Scarecrows on display for the month of October.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE SCARECROW.

Jack O' Lantern Glow By Event Halloween Weekend

Your carved pumpkin lit up along the farm stand fence!

cucurbitfarm.com

There's a Corn Maze too!