



www.actongardenclub.org

The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

March 2022

The board passed a motion regarding Covid protocol for all indoor club gatherings including General Meetings, Hort Meetings, Board Meetings and Floral Design. All attendees must wear masks. There will be no refreshments served allowing us to remain masked throughout. If you are not vaccinated, please do not attend.

March 1st The Acton Garden Club's March Meeting will take place virtually.

Zoom address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81378724275?pwd=bWpUMXRqQmZuSEIUREdzS3FOUjUrZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 7872 4275

Passcode: 739789

9:15 AM Chat time

9:30 AM Business Meeting

10:15 AM Program presentation: **Natural Control of Invasive Plants** with **Michael**

Nadeau

Michael Nadeau is a leading authority in the field of sustainable organic and ethical land care strategies. He will teach us the best natural tools and techniques for tackling the difficult task of *controlling invasive weeds*.

Michael Nadeau's thirty plus years in the organic landscaping business have positioned him as a leading authority in the field of sustainable organic and ethical land care strategies in the U.S. He developed both the Northeast Organic Farming Association's (NOFA) Standards for Organic Land Care and the NOFA Organic Land and Turf Course Manual, the only 100% organic manual for the care of athletic fields and home lawns. In today's program he will teach us the best natural tools and techniques for tackling the difficult task of controlling invasive weeds.

March 8th Horticulture Study Group

9 AM program, Propagation Techniques, will be conducted by Rheta Roeber

The meeting will be held at Helen Webster's home, 15 Long Ridge Road.

March 15th Floral Design Study at St. Matthew's Methodist Church.

9 AM program will be a combination of the postponed January 18th study: "*Woodland Explorations*", Bark Covered Container and March 15th program, "*Woodland Explorations*" Ikebana Line Design.

All components will be provided but you are urged to bring a *kenzan* (pin holder) to use instead of oasis.

Bring floral shears, wire cutters, and your tool box. Cost is \$22.

DEADLINE TO SIGNUP FOR THE EVENT TO MARCH 5th. Send your check payable to Acton Garden Club to Cathy Fochtman, 18 Wright Terrace, Acton.

March 29th Board Meeting 9 AM

Zoom address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6884517160?pwd=ckszUOE5NXZobFRqM3NwOCTPMEpMUT09> Meeting ID: 688 451

7160 Passcode: 739789

Annual Dues must be paid by April 30th. Send your check and filled out "pink form" to Rheta Roeber, 2 Shady Lane, Acton.

Membership

The Acton Garden Club is pleased to welcome as a new member Melissa Hatanaka to the Acton Garden Club.

Melissa is interested in learning more about all the Study Groups: the Horticulture Study Group, Floral Design Study Group, and the Gardening with Young People Program. But she feels she should try one study group at a time. Melissa would like to join the folks volunteering in *Garden Therapy* (when it gets up and running again), *Herb Garden* or *Daffodil Run*.

Melissa will be a great asset to the club with her knowledge of website work.

We look forward to the day that our meetings will all be in person and we can make connections once again with our member.

Please add Melissa's info to page 86 in your yearbook.

8 Houghton Lane, Acton

978-257-6510

melissahatanaka@gmail.com

If you have a change of address, phone number or email address, please let Membership Chairman, Melissa Coucke know. mjcoucke@gmail.com

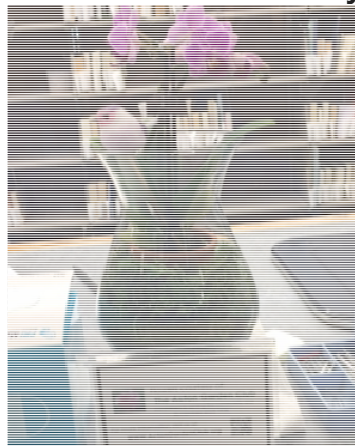
The following members' status has been changed to Senior Associate:

Alan Cushing, Jean Lane, and Gena Manalan. Hard to believe they have been members for at least 15 years and are over 70!

**Floral arrangements created by AGC members great patrons at the
Circulation Desk at the Acton Memorial Library**



Helen Webster's hint of spring arrangement greets you on a cold winter day at the Acton Memorial Library



Linda O'Neil's whimsical arrangement graces the Circulation Desk at the Acton Memorial Library

Gena Manalan sent us this wonderful look at nature via International Garden Photography. Take a moment to enjoy the beauty.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-60111369>

A 'spudpocalypse' could threaten Mass. french fries and hash browns

Canada halted exports of potatoes from Prince Edward Island to tame the spread of a soil-borne pest called potato wart. The move could have an outside impact in Massachusetts, where residents consume 75 million pounds of the spuds annually

Will we have to revert to Idaho potatoes? Fish without chips???

The jumping worm isn't the only invasive thing we have to worry about.

Is a raised bed perhaps a short term answer to the jumping worm invasion?

AWARDS UPDATE

Cathy Fochtman

Acton Garden Club receives GCFM Awards!

Thanks to **Judy Dembsey**, **Thelma Shoneman**, and **Polly Ginn** for their contributions!

Gardening tip of the month: Wait on pruning




The Acton Garden Club suggests instead of bagging leaves, rake them, chop them (run over them with a lawn mower) and return the chopped leaves as a mulch around trees and shrubs. [COURTESY/GOOGLE IMAGES]

Garden Club offers advice for November
By Judy Dembsey

Editor's note: Judy Dembsey is a master gardener and member of the Acton Garden Club. She offers monthly advice to keep your garden in tip-top shape.

needed. Pine needles, pine boughs, straw, salt marsh hay or shredded oak leaves can be used. Avoid the use of hay which may contain seeds.

Safeguard roses against winter injury. Place garden soil around the base of each rose plant. This will protect the vulnerable bud union. Do not cover up



Floral Design Study Group
Design Your Heart Out – Autumn Harvest
ZOOM Recording from 10/20/2020
Featuring a Floral Design Quiz and
Thelma Shoneman's How-To Video



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The Monthly AGC 'Dirt' Chapter

Shelter in Place 2020

Daffodil Run



The Acton Garden Club applied to the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts (GCFM) for three GCFM awards on December 1, 2020. The applications were submitted for activity by the Acton Garden Club during the calendar year, January – December 2020. Award recipients are traditionally announced at the GCFM Annual Meeting in June the following year.

XI. Publications B. Margaret K. Bell Award: For Best Newsletter, "The Monthly AGC Dirt" and "Shelter in Place", by member Polly Ginn. The three issues submitted were:

- 1) Acton Garden Club "Shelter in Place Dirt", 1st Edition, April 5, 2020
- 2) Acton Garden Club "The Monthly AGC Dirt", October 4, 2020
- 3) Acton Garden Club "Shelter in Place Dirt", 20th Edition, November 15, 2020

V. A. Public Relations: Individual member of a club who, by some project, have reached the general public in an especially outstanding way according to the approved aims and principles of the state garden club: for member Judy Dembsey's series of horticulture articles published June, July, August, October, and November 2020 in the *Acton Boxborough Beacon*, a local community newspaper.

IX. Program Awards D. Patricia C. Michaud Award: A silver vase, given by Scituate Garden Club, may be awarded for an outstanding design program or series of programs given by a member to its members, for member Thelma Shoneman's Floral Design Study Group program, "Design Your Heart Out: Autumn Harvest."

The GCFM Annual Meeting was held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. President Jill Malcolm stated that annual awards would be publicized later in the Mayflower newsletter. A link to the list of award recipients, [Awards 2021](#), was posted on the GCFM website in the fall and in the winter 2021 Mayflower, under the heading [Important Forms and Links](#). The Acton Garden Club received both the Publications award for Judy Dembsey's community newspaper gardening articles and the Patricia C. Michaud Award for Thelma Shoneman's Floral Design Study Group program on this list.

Congratulations, Judy and Thelma!

Although the Club's newsletter was not selected this year for the Newsletter Award, the Club would like to recognize the outstanding job that Polly Ginn did to inform and entertain our members during the year 2020. As Communications chair she not only produced the monthly "Dirt" newsletter, she also distributed a total of 20 additional "Shelter In Place Dirt" missives with interesting content submitted by Club members.

We are proud of the efforts that these members made to reach the public and our membership in such outstanding ways during this unprecedented time.

Middlesex Conservation District 2022 Spring Plant Sale Native Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Fruit, Supplies!

The 2022 Spring Plant Sale is coming! Place your orders now!

Order online: <https://middlesexconservationdistrict.org/>

In this special *Foraging and Home Food Production Edition*, they have taken special care to provide access to native plants that will shelter and feed a wide variety of life throughout your landscape, including you!

The online order deadline is March 31st. Ordering online is the best method for securing inventory. Browse the offerings and place your order early as some plants are in short supply.

Orders may be picked up April 15th from 3 PM to 5pm or April 16th from 9 AM to noon at Kimball Farm in Westford, MA. Any orders not picked up will be donated.