



www.actongardenclub.org

The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

May 2022

May 3rd Monthly Meeting in Room 204 at Town Hall and Zoomed



We have been asked not to park in either the lot behind Town Hall or the library.

You may park in the Congregational Church's lot or behind the Fire Station. Remember to use the cross walks to cross Main Street.

We are again taking advantage of the wonderful new technology in Town Hall Room 204.

9 AM Time to socialize and meet new members. *No refreshments.*

9:30 AM Monthly Business Meeting

10:15 AM Program: Following the general meeting **Michele Schuckel** will speak about ***Field to Fork: The Horticulture of the Food We Eat***. The science, horticulture, and economics of where our food is grown and how it gets to our tables is fascinating!

For members who cannot attend in person on May 3rd, we will provide the meeting in real time over zoom starting at 9:30 AM. **Remember to mute your audio and video.**

Questions can be entered in the chat and will be answered at the end.

After the presentation, please fill out the quick online feedback form at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfli4iXqWh6vgvh4vzaP4I2Gi_ILaFOZEynDgz8uF_ORjUEpQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Use our monthly zoom link to attend remotely:

Link to Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 813 7872 4275

Passcode: 739789



Ms. Schuckel is passionate about the art and science of horticulture and leading a balanced and healthy life both in and out of the garden. She is a certified Master Gardener through the Mass Horticultural Society and holds a BS in Nursing and MBA. In addition, she is a practicing nurse and entrepreneur focused on well and healthy living. All this education and experience is put into practice through her work as the owner of and principal designer for *Natural Selections Gardens*.

Always looking to tread lightly on our beautiful New England land, she utilizes organic practices and weaves native plants into cut flower arrangements and creative tablescape, as well as rooted into landscapes and container designs. She has consulted for the *Esplanade Association* for Horticultural Strategy, designed for Art in Bloom at the MFA Boston and created cut flower arrangement for numerous residential, commercial and religious events. Gardens she has designed are thriving in Vermont, Michigan and Massachusetts, including on the Cape and Islands.

Michele is a Certified Home Compost instructor through the *Mass Department of Environmental Protection* and takes a lead role in her own garden club. She has served on the Board of Directors for *Land's Sake*, a non-profit farm and forestry organization committed to connecting people to the land and providing hunger relief through the availability of fresh vegetables. An experienced public speaker and dedicated teacher and practitioner of mindfulness and wellness, she and her husband and children keep chickens at home, where every day is a wonderful adventure!

We'll explore the origins of cultivated crops, what it means for products to be GMO (or not!) or Certified Organic and the nutrition science behind the plants we consume every day. Think about plants in a new way!

Pits are back: Plant Identification Tours.

Following the May 3rd meeting a *Pit* will be held at Janet Irons house, 717 Main Street, Acton. It would be better if you parked across the street on Wyndcliff Drive rather than on her steep driveway. *Feel free to bring your lunch. Janet has amazing gardens!*

April 29-May 2 *Art in Bloom*, Boston MFA



The **MFA** is thrilled to announce that *Art in Bloom* is back and better than ever! On Friday, April 29, 2022, *Art in Bloom* returns to the MFA's galleries for the first time since 2019 with interpretive floral arrangements of 50 artworks. You won't want to miss this!



The **Acton Garden Club** will be represented by **Cathy Fochtman** and **Eileen Ryan** at the Museum of Fine Arts "**Art in Bloom**" event, **Thursday April 28-Sunday May 1**. They will

interpret a Native American Ojibwe artist's glass beaded vest, circa 1910, located in the lower level of the *Art of the Americas Collection*. General Admission for non-members is \$27, members are free. Visit <https://www.mfa.org/artinbloom> for more information.

Dues are to be paid by April 30th. A late fee of \$10 will be charged if received after that date.

Your membership entitles you to a discount at New England Nursery, Cataldo Nurseries, and Cucurbit Farm. You can collect your Membership Card at the May 3rd meeting and at the luncheon on June 7th.

Complete the attached form for dues and mail the completed form with your payment to Rheta Roeber, 2 Shady Lane, Acton.

May 21st Annual Plant Sale



**START POTTING
your 20 plants!**

May 25th Hort Study Group, NOTE THAT THIS IS A WEDNESDAY

10 AM Field trip to Joe Pyeweed's Garden in Carlisle, Carpool from the Acton Center Fire Station. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water and a snack.

May 31st Board Meeting 9 AM

Public Safety Building

June 7th Annual Luncheon at Nara Park

Please fill out the attached **Annual Luncheon order form** and return it along with your **\$20 check** made out to **Acton Garden Club** to Rheta Roeber, 2 Shady Lane, Acton **by MAY 24TH**.

Membership

We are pleased to welcome as a new member **Connie Mashock**. Connie is a Master Gardener who has many talents: water color artist, designs greeting cards for Hospice patients, many different handcrafts as well as teaching. She will be a terrific asset to the club. She would like to volunteer with *Garden Therapy*, but until they get up and running again Connie will be found working in the *Wildflower Garden*.

Please add Connie's info to page 86 of your yearbook.
Connie Mashock, 11A Railroad St., Acton. 262-757-5615, mashockconnie@gmail.com

Hope you were able to meet Connie at the April 5th meeting.

It has been a bonanza of a month for welcoming new members.

Please welcome **Sherry Tang** to the AGC. Sherry would like to do her community service in the *Wildflower Garden*. She offers the club her computer skills and Graphic/Web design.

Please add Sherry's info to page 86 of your yearbook.

Sherry Tang, 14 Breezy Point Road, Acton. 774-293-0919. sherryqtang@gmail.com

March Floral Design Study Group



The Floral Design Study Group met together for the first time this year on March 15, 2022. Thelma demonstrated two projects this session: a bark covered container and an Ikebana inspired design with flowers, foliage, and branches. The group created gorgeous receptacles out of tin cans by hot gluing sections of bark and embellishing with moss and mushrooms. Sue Whitcomb supplied pink budded willow for us to arrange in a kenzan within a clear low dish, incorporating leatherleaf and several flowers.

We completed our series of woodland explorations enjoying each other's company!

- Cathy Fochtman & Thelma Shoneman

AAA Newsletter **Our Northeast Flower Chart Shows You When to Plant**

With our flower chart, you can learn when to plant some of the most popular garden flowers in the Northeast.

Our Northeast Flower Chart Shows You When To Plant



Gardening is one of the most satisfying pastimes. You dig around in the dirt a little bit, apply water and then – voila! – **you have vegetables**, greenery and flowers. Whether its spring, summer or fall, flowers can brighten up your garden or landscaping. But when is the best time to plant flowers? Our Northeast flower chart can help. One of the first things you need to know when planting flowers is your planting zone. For the uninitiated, a planting zone is a way of measuring climate differences. The zones are based on the average annual minimum temperature in that area.

There are around 11 planting zones in the US. New York, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine get into the 3-4 range. Northeast planting zones range from 3 (cold) to 7 (mild), though most of the Northeast sits comfortably between zones 5 and 6. Only the very upper regions of New York, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine get into the 3-4 range.

Sourced from the **Old Farmer's Almanac**, the flower chart marks the zones in which certain flowers flourish, and it also notes if they're annuals or perennials. Annual flowers, like impatiens, go through their entire life cycle in one planting period. If you want impatiens every spring, you have to plant them every spring. Perennial flowers, like peonies, have a longer life cycle. With proper care, they can return and flower year after year.

An important thing to note when consulting our flower chart is that most flowers do not do well in extremes. As you look over the flower chart, you'll notice that almost all of the flowers thrive best when planted in either spring or fall. These mild, in-between seasons are perfect for growing strong and healthy flowering plants. Everyone knows you can't usually plant flowers in winter, but the dog days of summer can be just as bad.

When should you plant your flowers?

Gardening tips for the Northeast

Big-Leaf Hydrangeas

Big-leaf hydrangeas are perennial and they grow in zones 5-7. They can be planted in either spring or fall. Big-leaf hydrangeas are fascinating flowers that grow in an array of rich colors depending on the pH level of the soil. They bloom from mid-spring to early fall.

Black-Eyed Susans

These perennials thrive in zones 3-9. They should be planted in late spring or early summer, when the soil temperature reaches 70 degrees. Black-eyed Susans brighten up any garden when they bloom throughout the summer.

Coneflowers

Coneflowers are perennials that grow in zones 3-9. These spindly purple flowers are best when planted in spring. Coneflowers bloom from June to October, adding a vibrant pop of color to your garden for many months. Like zinnias, they also attract butterflies.

Jacob's Ladder

This perennial plant can grow in zones 3-8, and can be planted in either spring or fall. The vibrant purple flowers can bloom from late spring to early summer, and last up to four weeks.

Lavender

This fragrant perennial grows in zones 5-9, and should be planted in late spring. Expect the signature fragrance to hit its peak when they bloom in late spring and early summer.

Peonies

Peonies are perennial flowers that do best in zones 3-8. They are best planted from late September to early October, about six weeks before the ground freezes. These fat, fragrant blossoms flourish when planted in an area with direct sunlight. Once established, peony bushes are hardy plants with vast root systems. They bloom in late spring and early summer.

Roses

Roses are perennial flowers that can grow in zones 3-10. Plant your roses in late spring or early summer. There are many different types of roses, but they usually bloom on and off from spring to fall.

Shasta Daisies

Shasta daisies are perennial flowers that can grow in zones 5-8. Like Jacob's ladder, they can be planted in spring or fall. These flowers are classics of the garden, with white petals and yellow florets. Shasta daisies bloom in spring or early summer, and sometimes even flower through fall.

Sunflowers

Sunflowers are annual flowers that flourish in zones 2-11. (Although there are some smaller perennial varieties.) It is best to plant them after the last spring frost. Sunflowers look almost like huge daisies – some of them can grow over 16 feet in height! They are hardy plants that are easy to maintain. Sunflowers bloom in summer and early fall.

Tulips

Tulips are technically perennial, but generations of hybridization and human meddling has weakened their ability to come back year after year. **Most gardeners** treat them as annuals. Tulips can grow in zones 4-8. They should be planted in the fall, about 6-8 weeks before hard frost sets in. Tulips come in many varieties, but they usually bloom in spring.

Zinnias

These annual plants grow best in zones 3-10. Like sunflowers, make sure to plant them after the last spring frost, and no sooner. Zinnias are great flowers for new gardeners, since they're easy to plant as seeds and they grow very quickly. They bloom in summer and are beloved by butterflies.



Above is Mary Abbott's beautiful winter white floral arrangement which greeted patrons at the Acton Memorial Library circulation desk on 4-14-22.



Ideas for spring. Display of gardening books on the 2nd floor of the Acton Memorial Library.



Thanks for reading.

The Acton Garden Club Annual Luncheon Order Form

NARA Park Pavilion - Tuesday, June 7th

Response and payment are due by Tuesday, May 24th to Rheta Roeber, 2 Shady Lane, Acton, MA 01720.

Name _____

Boxed Lunch- Choose one (Provided by Blackbird Café, Acton)

_____ **Grilled Chicken Caesar Wrap**

Crisp romaine lettuce with grilled chicken breast, shaved parmesan cheese & creamy Caesar dressing in a whole wheat wrap

_____ **Vegan Mediterranean Wrap**

Mixed greens with marinated artichoke hearts, roasted red peppers, cucumber, tomato, red onion, mushroom, black olive & balsamic dressing in a whole wheat wrap

_____ **Ham & Swiss Wrap**

Honey ham, Swiss cheese, lettuce & tomato with coarse mustard in a whole wheat wrap

Beverage Choice- Choose one (Provided by Blackbird Café, Acton)

_____ Seltzers (*assorted flavors*)

_____ Nantucket Nectar Juices (*assorted flavors*)

Payment- boxed lunch, beverage, tax and tip.

_____ Check for \$20.00 made **payable to** the **Acton Garden Club** (mail to Rheta Roeber, 2 Shady Lane, Acton, MA 01720)

FILL IN YOUR NAME IN ALL 3 PLACES ON THIS FORM and send entire form and check to Rheta Roeber, 2 Shady Lane, Acton, MA 01720. Please send ASAP!!!!

Name: _____

DUES: for Club year April 2022 - March 2023

(Dues received after April 30th will be assessed a \$10 late fee)

(Please check one) Active, \$30.00: _____ Associate, \$40.00: _____ Sr. Associate** \$35.00

** (Sr. Associate is 70 years of age or older AND eligible for Associate, i.e. already has 15 years of service)

You are classified as an *Active Member* & must choose your work committee unless you had a different status last year or petitioned the *Membership Chair* for a change in status. You were notified if the board approved your petition!

Community Service

See pages 22-26 in your yearbook for job descriptions of each Community Service Committee.

Name: _____

After you have paid your dues, members with "Active" status must sign up for a **Community Service Committee**. *First paid, first choice!* The first opportunity to sign up will be following the February 1, 2022 meeting. If you have questions please contact Eileen Ryan, 978-501-5192, ebryanquilts@yahoo.com.

The Community Service Committees are: *Civic Beautification, Daffodil Run, Herb Garden, Wildflower Garden.* (Garden Therapy is on Hiatus) Please indicate your **1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th choices.**

Civic Beautification	Daffodil Run	Herb Garden	Wildflower Garden
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Choice #	Choice #	Choice #	Choice #
_____	_____	_____	_____

Name: _____

Hospitality

All Active and Associate members who are not on the board must serve on a Hospitality Committee for one monthly meeting. Board members will serve on the December and June Hospitality Committees.

Please mark your 1st, 2nd, & 3rd preferences.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| ____ September, 2022 | ____ February, 2023 | ____ May, 2023 |
| ____ October, 2022 | ____ March, 2023 | ____ July, 2023 |
| ____ November, 2022 | ____ April, 2023 | ____ August, 2023 |

- ____ I do not have a preference. You may assign me to a month where you have a need.
 ____ I will serve as chief hostess for a regular monthly meeting

FILL IN ALL 3 AREAS ON THIS FORM and send entire form and check to Rheta Roeber, 2 Shady Lane, Acton, MA 01720. Thank you