



The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

May 2023

April 28th – May 1st Art In Bloom at the MFA in Boston

Our president, Eileen Ryan, and Janet Irons will be representing the Acton Garden Club with their interpretation of an assigned MFA pieces of art.

Boston Globe 4/28/23



Eileen Ryan working on her arrangement on Thursday in preparation for the 47th annual **Art in Bloom** festival at the **Museum of Fine Arts in Boston**. The show pairs art from the MFA's collection with floral interpretations created by area garden clubs and professional designers. **Eileen Ryan of the Acton Garden Club** makes final touches in the Gods and Goddesses Gallery.

45 floral arrangements will be on view through Sunday when visitors can join free guided tours.

May 2nd Business Meeting at Acton Town Hall, room 204 and zoom hybrid

Our general meeting will be hybrid, but the program will only be over zoom starting at 10:15 AM.

AGC general meeting zoom

Zoom address:

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

Meeting ID: 813 7872 4275

Passcode: 739789

9 AM Monthly Business Meeting

9:45 AM Social Time

10:15 AM **Program: Growing Meadows large or small**, present by **Kathy Connolly**.

Ms. Connolly is a landscape designer who specializes in naturalized designs, low-impact landscape techniques, and native plants. She works with homeowners, municipalities, and organizations. She has a master's degree in ecological landscape planning and design from the Conway School in Northampton, MA.



Ms. Conway who will educate us as to what it takes to create and maintain a meadow. **What is a meadow?** Is it a lawn gone feral? Is it a perennial garden gone wild? Or is it something else altogether? More importantly, is a meadow right for your setting? No one can grow an instant meadow, but you can quickly increase your understanding of what it takes to create and maintain one. In this seminar, we explore the definition of a meadow, and how it differs from other “no-mow” and “low-mow” approaches to the landscape.

An extensive plant and resource list is included with the presentation.

May 9th 9 AM Horticulture Study Group will be a **two-fer**, i.e. **two for one**.

The meeting will be an outdoor meeting, first meet up at 9 AM at **Jodi MacDonald's** house (36 Fort Pond Rd) and at 10:20 AM moving on to **Janet Irons' house** (717 Main Street) to see both sun and shade rock and wall garden plantings.

Eileen Ryan will provide refreshments that can be carried and munched while walking. BYO beverage. Eileen's refreshments on their own are enough to entice you to attend this meeting!

We encourage carpooling to reduce the number of cars at each house.

At Jodi's please park to allow other cars to leave before you (i.e. don't block the driveway). At Janet's if you have trouble walking distances or downhill, feel free to park in the driveway. Others are encouraged to park along Wyndcliffe Rd, across the street from her driveway.

Fingers crossed for a sunny warm day! If it's chilly or drizzly, we plan to go ahead anyway. If it's pouring or terribly windy, we'll probably need to re-schedule.

This should be an informative and inspirational meeting. It is a real treat to see Janet's property and her utilization of the walls that came with the property.

May 20th Annual Plant Sale Rain or Shine!

9 AM – 1 PM at the Red House, 468 Main Street.

This is the club's only fund raiser! It will take all of us working on sale day to make this a great successful event.

PLANT SALE INFORMATION

Supplies (soil, tongue depressors and pots) are available from Fran Hearn's kiosk, 116 Stow Street, each day 'til 7 PM.

If more pots or different sizes are needed, check out the pen behind the garage at the Red House after 5:30 PM weekdays or anytime on weekends.

Remember to leave the pen cleaner and neater than you found it.

Digger & Potters: Please contact Jodi MacDonald to volunteer a couple of hours of your time to dig in other folks' gardens. It is truly a learning experience.

When to pot: Mother Nature cooperating with warmer temp's plan on digging and potting at **least 2 weeks or more before the event.**

Labeling: Use page 43 in your yearbook as your guide or the label info you were given at the April 4th meeting along with you started kit of tongue depressors. The labels should be filled out for each plant before delivering them to the Red House.

When to deliver potted, labeled plants to the Red House:

Tuesday, May 16th 1 – 4 PM, Wednesday, May 17th 10 AM – 4 PM, Thursday, May 18th 10 – 11:30 AM.

One way traffic, road construction permitting, please enter off Main Street & exit the Red House via Newtown Rd.

Water your plants the day before you deliver them.

If you can't make any of these dates or times to drop off your plant donations, you can drop them off Tuesday AM, Wednesday or Thursday before or after normal receiving time. Leave them to the left side of the Garage at the Red House. Make sure each one is properly labeled and watered the day before.

New this year, House Plants will be offered

Call or email Linda O'Neil (978-263-5552 or gognah@yahoo.com) if you have house plants that you would like to donate to the sale. ***Please send her photos of your donation if possible. Neaten them up and make them look as attractive as possible.***

Put a marker in each house plant to identify: name of the plant, color of bloom if any, sun or shade and watering preference.

Drop off of your House Plants at the Red House and pricing will take place on Friday, May 19th between 10 AM - noon.

Needed: 2 club members to help Friday morning pricing and set up. Let Linda know you are willing to help.

Needed: 2 members to man the house plant table during the sale.

Call or email Linda O'Neil to volunteer to help either 1st or 2nd shift during the sale.

The Plant Sale Raffle Committee is happy to announce that \$208 worth of raffle tickets were sold at the Annual Meeting.

But there are lots of prizes to win at the Plant Sale's Raffle. See below!

Raffle Prizes

- | | |
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| 1. Rapsallion \$50 gift Certificate | 10. Cross Roads \$50 gift Certificate |
| 2. Frolic and Detour \$50 gift Certificate | 11. Filho's \$50 gift Certificate |
| 3. West Brewery \$50 gift Certificate | 12. Silver Plate tray with removable wood meat platter |
| 4. Gardening books - child to adult | 13. Apron with pruning shears |
| 5. Bread Basket | 14. Big picnic basket with red checkered cloth & napkins to match...lots of cute plastic plates and all one would need for an old-fashioned picnic |
| 6. Shade Garden | |
| 7. Gardening bag with tools | |
| 8. Solar garden lights | |
| 9. Grandpa's weeder | |

Raffle Tickets will be on sale the day of the Annual Plant Sale for 6 for \$5 or 12 for \$10.

May 30th 9 AM Board Meeting at Helen Webster's house, 15 Long Ridge Rd.

Membership

We are pleased to welcome 2 new members to the Acton Garden Club.

Laura Wolfe has photography skills to offer the club. She has come to the right place for she would like to learn more about Floral Design. Laura is interested in working with Civic Beautification, Daffodil Run and the Herb Garden. All of these are within walking distance of her home on Wood Lane. Please add Laura's info to page 86 of your yearbook.

Our second new member is actually returning to the club. **Melisse Schecter** is moving back to the area. She is interested in all we have to offer from Floral Design to Hort Study. Please add Melisse's info to page 86 of your yearbook.

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Melisse Schecter
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978-943-4597

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Susan Harrigan's sweet spring colors at the Acton Memorial Library's circulation desk.



Noreen Rowe's lovely arrangement greeted patrons at the library on 4/20/23



Noreen, did these beautiful yellow tulips come from your yard? Interesting vessel. Thanks for sharing at the library.



Sara Massarello hard at work at Daffodil Run

Daffodil Run.



The fruits of the labor of all the hard working folks on The Daffodil Run committee.

Daffodil Run

NY Times 4/22/23

[The benefits of leaving your grass long — aside from not mowing](#)

“No mow” initiative is becoming an [increasingly popular springtime effort](#) to help support bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

Mowing grass too short can cut the tops off flowering plants, creating lawns that are inhospitable for pollinators seeking habitats in which to feed, rest and nest, experts say. Keeping your lawn neat and trim not only is resource-intensive but can also affect its overall health.

There are about 40 million acres of lawn, according to [a 2005 NASA estimate derived from satellite imaging](#). These spaces could be havens for pollinating critters, many of which are [facing widespread habitat loss](#). Having more food sources available for pollinators in the early spring is especially critical for their survival.

To help pollinators, a good first step is to stop treating your yard with chemicals. Ideally, grass should be allowed to grow to around six inches before it’s cut to roughly four inches. Experts widely recommend mowing on the highest setting.

[Some research](#) suggests that cutting grass only every two weeks could help boost the number of bees. Another recent study [found](#) that turf lawns enhanced with flowering plants supported more-diverse bee communities.

Longer grass generally has deeper roots, making it more drought-resistant.

Beyond mowing less frequently, you can also consult local experts to learn more about [native plant species](#) you could introduce to your lawn or [how to set up a pollinator garden](#). Experts say pollinator lawns and gardens typically require less maintenance and can thrive without fertilizers and other harmful chemicals such as insecticides or herbicides.