



# The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

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July-August 2023

**July 11<sup>th</sup>** Our Program Chairman, Jodi MacDonald, has arranged for a field trip to **Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH.** It is about a 1.5 hour drive from Acton.

We will meet at the Kmart parking lot at 8:45 AM to carpool. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water and a snack.

Bedrock Gardens is 30-acre site that integrates unusual botanical specimens and unique sculptures into an inspiring landscape journey. We are scheduled for a private tour with the garden co-founder and Executive Director, John Forti. The tour will take 1.5 - 2 hours. We have an option to reserve box lunches.

<https://forms.gle/dSJQ8b82H5qUGYeU6>

**Please click the above link to fill out the form to let us know if you are coming, if you can drive and if you want to pre-order a box lunch. Info about the box lunch here: [Bedrock Gardens \(maryvs.com\)](http://maryvs.com)**

## August 1<sup>st</sup>

### August Program

**Please be aware that the outing for August has changed. We will not be going to Beauport Mansion on Aug 1st as described in the yearbook.** Instead, we will be visiting a garden in Acton. **Jessica Robison** has transformed her property into her "**Acton Food Forest.**" She will show us what she has created and tell us about her gardening philosophy. You may be inspired to increase the number of veggies you grow at your home! Although she grows lots of vegetables, her wisdom can be applied to gardening in general as well.

[Acton Food Forest & Garden Design](#)

We will meet at 9 AM at the K Mart lot to carpool. Afterward we can enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant.

## Membership

We are pleased to welcome as a new member to the Acton Garden Club **Suzi Solomon-Yarin**. Suzi would like to offer her help with Civic Beautification, the Herb Garden or Daffodil Run. Suzi has computer skills as well as publicity skills to offer the club. Using her publicity skills, she heard of the Acton Garden Club via the *Action Unlimited*.

**Please put Suzi's info on page 86 in your yearbook.**

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### ***A note from Eileen Ryan, AGC President***

At 10 pm on Monday, June 26, the Town of Acton, via the Select Board approved our plans and accepted the gift of the oval garden which will be in front of Town Hall. Linda O'Neil and Cathy Fochtman made a presentation, with diagrams and posters of our plans, to include a Victorian Fountain and a stone with a plaque acknowledging the Acton Garden Club's 90<sup>th</sup> year. Each member of the Select Board praised the plan, spoke of the wonderful work the Garden Club does for the town, congratulated us on our anniversary, and thanked us for the continued grace and beauty we bring to the Town of Acton. The next milestone will be a presentation before the *Historic Commission* for their input. If all goes well, shovels in the dirt in September!

### **Jodi MacDonald and Janet Irons**



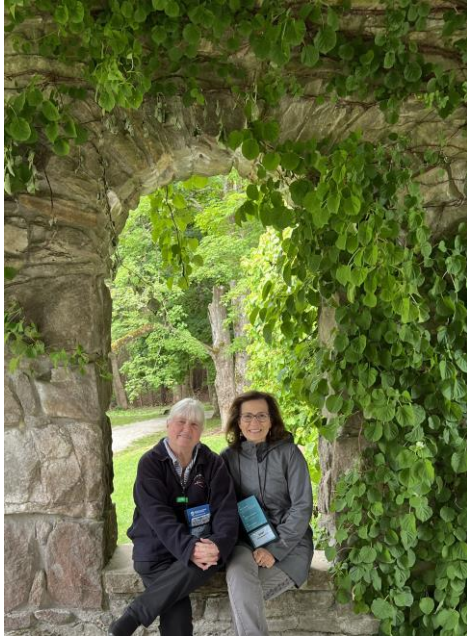
***Enchanted Gardens NY Hudson Valley Garden Tour***  
[Enchanted Gardens](http://enchantedgardensdesign.com)  
[\(enchantedgardensdesign.com\)](http://enchantedgardensdesign.com)

Janet and I wanted to let AGC members know what a great tour this was. So much beauty and history. It was very well organized, and we enjoyed all the gardens on the agenda. In many cases, we went on a house tour as well as a garden tour.

The bus was comfortable and as we traveled, Jana gave presentations about what we were going to be seeing that day. In addition to visiting gardens, we had a wine tasting and a ferry ride on the Hudson River. There were a few opportunities to shop as well. The meals were quite good, and it was fun to chat with the other garden loving

participants. If you are interested in joining one of Jana's tours, I recommend signing up as soon as it is made available. They fill up very quickly!

### ***Garden features***



Last summer's drought, the historic arctic blast in early February, the wild swings in temperature- they're all contributing to the lackluster spring.

**Susanne Fuller** arranged for a **special Hort Study Group meeting** on Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. at which **Elizabeth Howley** demonstrated how to sharpen and eliminated years of maltreatment of our favorite garden tools. *It was a great time had by all!*



Elizabeth holding court explaining how to sharpen our tools



Maura & Tanaz demonstrating how to clean their tools



Susanne as American Gothic with her *New England* shovel. Will sharpening help it?



**Speedy Sharp** is Elizabeth's favorite tool for sharpening almost anything. ***It is the greatest thing since sliced bread*** and is available thru Amazon.

The following Acton Garden Club members gave herbs for the new cutting garden for the West Acton Baptist Church, as part of the new food pantry: ***Elaine Dors, Lisa Bullock, Janet Irons and Heather Makris.***

### **Remember last summer's drought? Your azaleas do.**

All over Eastern Massachusetts it's the same story, with azaleas, forsythia, rhododendrons, and their colleagues underperforming. Where there should be flowers and joy, we have mere leaves, bare stems – and self-doubt.

The disappointing spring bloom is all the more painful because it comes against a backdrop of climate change – not the fault of any one gardener, but rather the collective action of the human species.



TAKE POLLINATORS  
UNDER YOUR WING 4 Ways Your  
Garden Can Help  
Pollinators

Somewhere between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants on Earth rely on pollinators. Without the pollinating action of certain birds, bees, bats, and butterflies, our global food systems would be in serious trouble. Sound scary? Yes. Can you help? YES! Here are four simple things every gardener can do to protect pollinators.

### ***Make your garden their home***

Like all wildlife, pollinators need shelter to hide from predators and ride out storms. Let part of your lawn grow wild for ground-nesting bees. Consider leaving a pile of leaves under the hedgerow or allowing a log to rest in a sunny patch of ground. Add **bat boxes, birdhouses, and shallow water features**, which are both functional and fantastic looking.

***Plant with pollen (and nectar) in mind***

Add native pollen- and nectar- producing plants to your garden. Whether you [garden in containers](#) or across an expansive yard, pollinators will appreciate every petal.

***Create a year-round buffet***

Birds, bees, bats, and butterflies all require different food sources at different times of the year. Plant a seasonal variety of flowering annuals, perennials, and shrubs so pollinators will always have something to rely on.

***Manage pests wisely***

Skip chemical pesticides and use natural or organic deterrents instead. Try gentle barriers to exclude insects from your fruit and veggie crops.