



The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

September 2023

Eileen Ryan, *President, Acton Garden Club*

2023-2024 Acton Garden Club Year Books are here!

Hi, all! Hope you're enjoying your summer. **Yearbooks are now in the breezeway at Helen Webster's house, 15 Long Ridge Rd for pickup until the Board Meeting on September 7th. After that they will be at the general meeting on September 12th.** If you think you need one mailed to you, please let Helen know. Another wonderful endeavor by the yearbook team; you will need yours sooner rather than later. **The Year Book is beautifully designed, informative and entertaining with all the tidbits about the Club in years gone by. And don't forget you can have it on your kindle as well!**

September 12th Meeting at Town Hall, room 206

9 AM Social hour to honor *Past Presidents*. The club will be 90 years old in 2024! Not all will be present.

9:30 AM Business Meeting

10:30 AM Program: *Adventures in Seed Saving with Judith Taylor, Seeds2Plate*

Saving seeds is fun and inexpensive, but beware, it can also be addictive! Join our *in-person class* to learn about the importance of saving seeds, seed saving 'how to's' and tips and tricks for saving and storing seeds successfully. Many types of seeds will be discussed in the presentation and attendees will have a chance to ask seed saving questions about their favorite plants.

Judith Taylor has been gardening in Massachusetts for over 25 years and is a graduate of the *UMass Green School* and has attended *The Seed Savers Exchange Seed School*. She has hands on experience with growing all sorts of perennials, fruits, and vegetables as well as landscape design. Her passion is to share knowledge with new gardeners as well as exchanging tips and tricks with those more experienced. She is using her experience from teaching classes at many local universities to spread the word on seed starting, growing, and saving to inspire people to get hooked on gardening! In her spare time, she manages the *Littleton Seed Library* and coordinates an annual seed share program for her garden club. She has participated in *The Seed Savers Exchange Renew Program* in which she started tomatoes from seed in the Spring and returned them to SSE in the Fall. Her hope is that some of those seeds will end up in the *International Seed Vault* in Norway!

September 7th 9 AM Board Meeting at Janet Iron's house, 717 Main Street, Acton. Park on Wyndcliff Drive and walk across Main Street to Janet's house.

**September 19th 9 AM Horticulture Study Group
Program: *Living Walls* by Trever Smith, Design & Education
Manager of Weston Nurseries.**

Meet behind the Acton Center Fire Station at 9 AM to car pool to **Weston Nurseries**, 93 E. Main Street, Hopkinton, MA.

Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water and a snack.

How would you like to host a PIT (Plant Identification Tour)?

This is your opportunity to show off your garden in late summer or fall as well as ask questions. Don't worry about the weeds. We all have them! Some are even attractive.

Contact Susanne Fuller, rellufs@verizon.net to arrange for the Hort Group to come visit.

September 26th 9 AM Board Meeting at Judy Rice's house, 6 Berry Lane, Acton.
There's plenty of room to park along Berry Lane.

July 11th Field Trip to Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH.

Check out the photos below sent in with the story by club photographer, Jodi MacDonald. *Bedrock Gardens* is a 30-acre site that integrates unusual botanical specimens and unique sculptures into an inspiring landscape journey. A wonderful tour was conducted by John Forti, the garden founder. A truly magical place made up of garden "rooms" filled with gorgeous plants and sculptures. A picnic lunch was had following the tour and some retail therapy.



August 1st picnic at the Arboretum



The August 1st field trip got canceled. Our fearless Program Chairman, Jodi MacDonald, came up with the idea of a picnic in the *Acton Arboretum*. **Look who showed up!** We love plants and food and getting together. We enjoyed seeing all the beautiful plantings and especially the new fish pond. It was perfect weather for our picnic lunch in the shade. We even had a plant swap! **Best of all, we received the new yearbook.** You have until **September 7th** to pick up yours from Helen Webster's breezeway at 15 Long Ridge Road.

The August 2024 Program field trip to Bridge of Flowers is cancelled. As some of you have heard, the bridge will be closed for repairs. A new outing will be planned instead. *Stay tuned for details!* We will make a trip to **Bridge of Flowers** when it reopens in the future.

The Acton's Looking Good Committee met twice over the summer to discuss how they would like to find the **best-looking businesses** to receive our **Acton's Looking Good Awards**. The team includes **Susan Harrigan, Janet Iron, Heather Makris, Sherry Ryder, Maura Sharp and Ann Marie Testarmarta**.

The committee members individually drove around town taking photos of particularly interesting gardens and/or landscape designs. Maura created a document with all the pictures sent in. When the committee met in July, they reviewed all of the photos and voted on the businesses thought *best enhanced the town's beauty*.

The winning businesses will be invited to attend our **October 3rd** meeting to receive their plaques.

Stay tuned to find out who these creative businesses are!

Floral Design Study Group with Cathy Fochtman and Thelma Shoneman

Save the dates for upcoming Floral Design Study Group Workshops!

IT'S A SMALL WORLD!

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 - 9:00 AM, Petite Creative Line Design

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 - 9:00 AM, Greens Workshop - Tiny Trees

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 - 9:00 AM, Petite Creative Mass Design

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 - 9:00 AM, Petite Creative vs. Traditional Design

Floral Design Study Group

October Functional Table Designs



March Exhibition Table Designs



2022 - 2023

Here is a retrospective photo collage of last year's workshops. We had a blast, so come along and have fun with flowers! We conduct a sign-up at the general meeting and via email the month prior to each session, with details about the project. Watch upcoming issues of *The Dirt* for more information.

To celebrate the Club's 50th anniversary in 1984 the Club created and gifted to the Town the *Oval Garden* in front of Town Hall. How appropriate that we are in the process of redesigning and planting that area during our 90th year celebration.

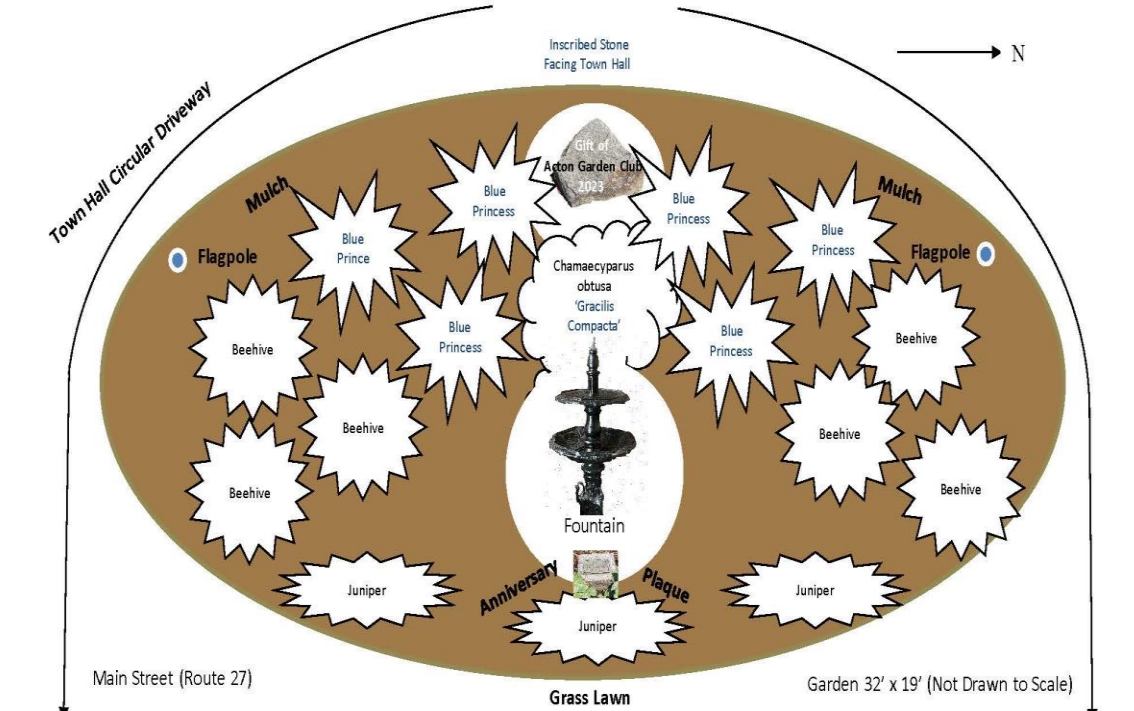
Update: The Oval Garden Committee's plan has been accepted by the Town and the Town has agreed to move forward in September. The Plan was also approved by *the Historic District Commission*, with their requirement that they approve a mock-up of the fountain's footing and groundwork before we finalize the installation. **See the Landscaping Plan below of the proposed Oval Garden plus fountain.**

Town Hall Oval Garden
Landscape Plan



Town Hall Entrance

- (1) *Chamaecyparous obtusa* 'Gracilis Compacta'
- (5) *Ilex x meserveae* 'Blue Princess' (Holly 'Blue Princess')
- (1) *Ilex x meserveae* 'Blue Prince' (Holly 'Blue Prince')
- (6) *Ilex crenata* 'Beehive' (Japanese Holly 'Beehive')
- (3) *Juniper procumbens* 'Nana'



Sample Botanical Label

Concord Road
(East)



AGC 1934-1984 Plaque



Over the summer the West Acton Baptist Church added a food pantry to the grounds near the church's parking lot. As part of the project, Linda O'Neil and a few other church members added an herb-cutting garden to the area.

Thank you to Acton Garden Club members, Lisa Bullock, Elaine Dors, Janet Irons, and Heather Makris who donated herbs for this worthy project! Lisa donated heirloom tomato plants that are full of ripening fruit.