

## The Acton Garden Club

The Acton Garden Club has been committed to serving its membership and the community since 1934. We welcome you as a prospective member and are please you have inquired about our activities.

### ***Why become a member?***

Whether you are a beginning gardener or have gardened for years, the Acton Garden Club offers the prospect for everyone to increase and share their knowledge in the vast world of gardening. The educational programs and the enjoyable social aspects of our Club appeal to people of all ages. The highly regarded work we do for the community makes the Acton Garden Club an outstanding opportunity for personal growth and satisfaction.

### ***When do we meet?***

Our meetings are held at the Acton Town Hall, Room 204, 472 Main Street in Acton Center on the first Tuesday morning of each month along with two night meetings. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments are prepared and served by the Hospitality Committee prior to the business meeting and featured program.

### ***How do we serve our membership?***

Monthly programs encompass all aspects of gardening. Featured speakers have included floral designers, horticulturists, landscape designers, specialists in perennial, herb and wildflower gardening as well as educators in environmental and conservation issues. Our programs vary from informative slide lectures to flower arranging demonstrations.

**The Horticulture Study Group**, an informal group open to all members, meets once a month for nine months of the year. If you are new to gardening or have a continuing interest, this is the place to advance your knowledge in a smaller group setting with the opportunity to ask questions. Programs cover a wide range of topics and may take the form of a workshop, a behind the scenes tour of a commercial nursery or guided tours of public and private gardens, including those of our own members.

**The Floral Design Study Group**, also open to all members, meets four times a year. This group grew out of an interest and enthusiasm for design workshops preceding our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary flower show. Participants range from novices to seasoned arrangers. Goals include learning the principles and elements of design as well as the mechanics useful in creating different types of arrangements.

**Gardening with Young People** program is dedicated to promoting projects that strive to teach children a love of gardening, appreciations of nature's beauty and the value oand protection of our natural resources. Each year our committee chairperson plans an exciting program of interesting activities.

Members are entitled to discounts at various local garden centers. Details are available through the Membership Chairperson.

Additionally, the Club's membership in the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts entitles members to participate in Federation sponsored monthly horticulture and floral design programs as well as the National Council of State Garden Club's courses in Flower Show Judging, Gardening Study, Landscape Design and Environmental Studies.

### ***How do we serve our community?***

The Acton Garden Club is very involved in the Acton community. Members have developed and continue to cultivate and maintain a period herb garden and a native wildflower garden as well as provide seasonal plantings throughout town. Furthermore, our garden therapy program brings joy and satisfaction to patients of Emerson Hospital.

Our annual plant sale fund raiser not only provides us with the funds necessary to maintain these activities and our educational programs, but also gives us the opportunity to provide up to two annual scholarships to Acton seniors who plan to major in an environmental field.

In addition, a \$500 stipend is offered annually to a teacher in the Acton Public or Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools. This award may be used to enroll in an environmentally related course, which would enrich future classroom instruction, or to develop an environmental classroom project to broaden the scope of their student's knowledge and experience.

Other annual projects include the Acton's Looking Good Contest and participation in community events such as Oktoberfest, Art in Bloom at the MFA, Bi-Annual Flower Shows, and the celebration of National Gardening Week are among the many ways the Acton Garden Club serves the community.

#### **Our Community Service Projects:**

❖ *Civic Beautification*

Seasonal plantings and maintenance at the Acton Town Hall, the Acton Memorial Library, the Acton Center trough, the West Acton trough and planters and the Public Safety Building.

❖ *Acton Arboretum Herb Garden*

Maintenance of a period herb garden developed by the Acton Garden Club and planted on a historic foundation at the Acton Arboretum.

❖ *Meeting House Hill – Daffodil Run and the Wildflower Garden*

Maintenance of a native New England wildflower garden at the rear of Meeting House Hill and the daffodil and perennial garden on the embankment along Main Street.

❖ *Garden Therapy – Emerson Hospital*

Under the supervision of the occupational therapists, members assist patients and residents learn to create fresh flower arrangements that they enjoy in their rooms.

### ***How do I become a member?***

If after reading this brochure, you would like to learn more about the Acton Garden Club, you are welcome to join us as a guest at one of our monthly meetings; and, if you would like to become a member of the Acton Garden Club, you should know that membership in the Club requires the following commitments:

- Working four times a year on one of the Community Services Projects
- Serving on a Hospitality Committee at one monthly meeting per year
- Participating in the Club's annual plant sale fundraiser in May
- Annual Dues of \$30.00 (payable upon acceptance).
- The AGC recommends attending four monthly meetings per year.

After your application for membership is received, it will be presented to the Executive Board. Our Membership Chairperson will contact you to notify you of acceptance and make arrangements for you to attend our next regular meeting where you will be introduced to the other members and officially welcomed into the Club. At this time, you will also receive our Yearbook which contains our monthly calendar of events, the membership list and our by-laws.

For more information about the club visit our website at [actongardenclub.org](http://actongardenclub.org). If you wish to attend a meeting, please call or email our Membership Chairperson:

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Rev. May 6, 2023