



The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

November 2023

November 7th General monthly meeting in room 204 at Town Hall

Don't forget to silence your phone!

9 AM Social Time

9:30 AM Business Meeting

The meeting will be hybrid zoom and in person

The zoom feature is available for Acton Garden Club members only. The general public is welcome to attend the program in person.

AGC general meeting zoom

Meeting ID 813 7872 4275

739789 passcode

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

10:30 AM Program: Creating Winter Gardens & Beyond: Using the Art of Lay-out Design presented by Maria von Brincken, Landscape Designer.



Learn how to create winter gardens that delight and inspire. You'll learn lay-out techniques that work in all seasons. Discover how to make a winter garden that is the bones of the four-season landscape.

Maria von Brincken, principle of Maria von Brincken Landscape Garden Design, is an award-winning certified designer (APLD and LI) celebrating over 30 years in professional practice. Maria specializes in beautiful earth-friendly landscapes and colorful flower gardens using native plants designed for you and your family.

Trained as a fine artist, color theorist, and organic gardener Maria brings years of critical design thinking to her landscape solutions. Her design has been featured in *Fine Gardening Magazine*, *Landscape Ideas You Can Use*, *Front Yard IdeaBook*, and others.

A former contributing editor to *LandShapes Magazine*, you can read her blog on her website <http://www.mariavonbrincken.com>.

Visit her website to view her portfolio and to book her Home Gardener Coaching Services and Design Planning. The slide lecture presents design concepts & techniques to create your own beautiful garden.

November 14th 9 AM Hort Study Group. Helen Webster will not only provide the location (15 Long Ridge Road) for the meeting but will conduct the study group session.

November 28th Board Meeting at Jodi MacDonald's house, 36 Fort Pond Road.



Who is hiding in the Butterfly Garden at the Acton Arboretum on one of our bright sunny days?

Sue Whitcomb with her wealth of knowledge of plants can be spotted everywhere in the Arboretum.

Thanks to Bettina for the charming photo.

Planning ahead

There will be a **house plant section** at the **2024 Plant Sale**. It was a success this year with a minimum number of plants. **Linda O'Neil** suggests you look at your house plants as you bring them in for winter. See what you have that can be divided or maybe *you just want to give a new home*. Give Linda a call (978-263-5552) or email (gognah@yahoo.com) with any thoughts or questions.

You remember those lovely floral arrangements that greet the patrons at the circulation desk at the Acton Memorial Library? They are created by your fellow AGC members. A couple of slots are available for you to help bring a smile to library employees and patrons alike. Contact Peggy Garrison, peggygarrison1@verizon.net to volunteer.

“2023 Acton’s Looking Good Awards”

Each summer the Acton Garden Club conducts its award-winning program, the “*Acton’s Looking Good Campaign*” to acknowledge Acton businesses whose landscapes enhance the Town’s beauty.

A committee of Acton Garden Club members survey the town, searching for gardens and landscapes deserving of recognition. Criteria for judging include design, color, texture, creativity, scale, and maintenance and awards are granted in various categories.

The Recipients of the “2023 Acton Looking Good” Award were honored on October 3rd at the Acton Garden Club meeting with a plaque and photograph of their landscape and a reception at Acton Town Hall.

The Recipients of the “2023 Acton’s Looking Good” awards are:

Best Retail Plaza - Roche Bros/TJ Maxx
Best New Garden - Tavernier Place
Continued Excellence - West Acton Village

Best Stand-Alone Business - Acton Funeral Home
Best Use of Small Space - Ernie’s Auto Body Shop
Best Use of Container Gardens - Anita’s Shoe Boutique



Maura Sharp, Chairperson of the Acton Garden Club’s Committee, (right) presents an award to Rachelly Bartolotta of Tavernier Place (left) for Best New Garden.



(left to right) Rose Silveira of Ernie’s Auto Body; Anita Opitz of Anita’s Shoe Boutique, Lauren Richardt of West Side Creamery and West Acton Village and Dan White, of Acton Funeral Home accept their awards at the October Meeting of the Acton Garden Club.

What's Going On?!!!!" It's the Acton Garden Club at work!



Just when you think you can relax, the construction in Acton Center is done, the lines repainted, the traffic redirected, the damage from microburst cleaned up, and the power back on and now, the plants are missing?!!! What's going on? It's the Acton Garden Club celebrating their 90th birthday with a gift to the town. *Stay tuned.* We are hard at work! It's going to be exciting! Here's the story!

Acton Garden Club, in cooperation with the Town of Acton, is renovating the "Oval Garden" in front of Acton Town Hall this fall to honor the Acton Garden Club's organization in 1934 and celebrate its 90 years of service to the community. A Civic Development grant was sought by the Club and awarded by Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts to supplement funding and volunteer labor. The Historic District Commission has issued a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a Victorian era fountain formerly owned by resident Mabel Jenks and donated by the O'Neil family, surrounded by holly and evergreen conifers. Upon final approval of the fountain's location by the Historic District Commission, the Town will excavate the site, provide loam and compost, and the Acton Garden Club will plant the garden with assistance from O'Neil Construction Company. The Club installed the "Oval Garden" in 1984.



Looking like the *American Gothic*, Fran Portante, Linda O'Neil and Cathy Fochtman working on the *Oval Garden* in spite of the weather.

Report from the Oval Garden team: Linda O'Neil & Cathy Fochtman

With the help of Dean Charter, Cathy Fochtman, Fran Portante and Linda O'Neil the old plant materials have been clean cut from the existing Oval Garden. We are waiting to hear from the DPW about when they can remove roots and the old soil and replace it with new soil for planting.

New Dig Safe markers are in place. And two markers for new lights to illuminate the flag poles in this area.

The HDC will visit the garden soon to view a mock-up of the fountain for their approval.

All plant materials have been purchased and are ready to be planted.

It is getting close! Stay tuned as we will need many hands and shovels when the actual planting day arrives.

Exciting stuff!

How To Remove Spotted Lanternfly Eggs

<https://extension.psu.edu/how-to-remove-spotted-lanternfly-eggs/>



Learn first-hand how to scrape and destroy spotted lanternfly egg masses, which are visible between October and July.

<https://youtu.be/aTRr1Oc6weE>

An excuse to leave it to Mother Nature to take care of things.



Washington Post 10/14/23
[Why you should be lazy and leave your leaves in the yard](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outdoors/why-you-should-be-lazy-and-leave-your-leaves-in-the-yard/2023/10/14/)

<https://wapo.st/47aY3XI>



NY Times 10/23/23
Why You Don't Need to Rake Leaves

https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/19/us/raking-leaves.html?unlocked_article_code=1.6Ew.MCod.408kDdg50tGm&smid=url-share

Painting Mandalas

Tuesday, November 14th, 11AM – 1PM at Dia Chigas' house, 315 Nagog Hill Rd, Acton
Feel free to bring a bag lunch for yourself. Dia will lead us through the method for painting an ombre mandala.



We will supply black wooden disks to paint that we will prepare with chalk stenciling to guide you. We will be purchasing painting tools and paint to use in the class. The fee is \$10 to cover the cost of materials. You get to keep the tools.

If you have not RSVPed yet, please let us know ASAP so we are able to have enough materials. We will also have stones for sale if you would like to try painting a stone at home after learning the techniques!

Cookie Swap

Tuesday, December 12th at 9:30 AM at Jodi MacDonald's house, 42 Shagbark Dr, Littleton

We will be swapping cookies and tips and techniques! Each participant brings **3 dozen cookies of one variety** and goes home with 3 dozen mixed varieties. (minus on site munching) Taste some new cookies! Get the recipes! Impress your family! You can freeze them until the holidays. Bring your own container to transport your cookie assortment home. We will also discuss and demonstrate some cookie skills as well as make some no-bake treats at the meeting for some hands-on fun. Bring your favorite cookie making tools and secrets to share. RSVP to Jodi at jodihomemaker@yahoo.com