



# The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

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March 2024

**March 5th General Meeting at Town Hall, Room 204**

The program and location listed in your yearbook has been changed.

**IN PERSON EVENT ONLY. NOT ZOOMED**

**9 AM Social Time**

**9:30 AM Business Meeting**

**10:30 AM Program: Floral Design Demonstration: Judging Criteria**

Our own **Thelma Shoneman** will demonstrate winning floral design techniques. We will learn what a typical Flower Show theme and categories might be like. As she creates several arrangements, Thelma will explain what the judges look for when they are reviewing a design. **Cathy Fochtman** will be assisting Thelma and will show us slides of arrangements from past shows. A few lucky audience members will take home Thelma's creations. This is a great opportunity to increase your confidence to participate in a Flower Show. Or come to improve your arranging skills for your own enjoyment. The program is open to the public. Nonmembers can go to <http://actongardenclub.org> for more information.

Thelma Shoneman is an award-winning floral designer and Emeritus Master Level, Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judge, an instructor in the Sogetsu School of Ikebana International and an active member of the Actor Garden Club for over 40 years. She has chaired and exhibited in the Design division of the Boston Flower Show, exhibited in the Ikebana Division of the Boston Flower Show, Tower Hill Ikebana shows, the Museum of Fine Arts, Art in Bloom shows and the Worcester Art Museum Flora in Winter shows. Thelma retired in 2007 from owning her own flower shop, Colony Florist in Concord, and enjoys presenting floral design programs throughout New England.

**March 12<sup>th</sup> Horticulture Study Group** will meet at the Public Safety Building, 371 Main Street

**9 AM Potting Stations:** *Share what you do and learn from others.* **Janet Irons and Anne Sterling** will be the program leaders.

**March 15, 2024 @ 12 PM on Zoom**

Ask the Expert: **Planting, Pampering and Petal Perfection** is a webinar offered by GBH and it is FREE on March 15th from 12-1 PM. Register here. <https://www.wgbh.org/events/ask-the-expert-planting-pampering-and-petal-perfection>

**March 19<sup>th</sup> Floral Design Study Group will meet at St Matthew's Church at 9 AM.**

**Save the Date!**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 9:00 AM**

**It's a Small World – Creative vs. Traditional Design**



We'll explore the differences between traditional vs. creative design on a small scale. All components will be provided to make TWO designs, a traditional and the January Petite hanging design will be the creative example in our comparison. Bring floral shears, wire cutters, and your toolbox. If you previously signed up for January Floral Design, you are registered. If not, please sign up and join the fun.

Cost \$25, *check to "Acton Garden Club", memo "Floral Design"*.  
**DEADLINE: Wednesday, March 13.**

Sign up at the February General Meeting or contact  
Cathy Fochtman, [lcfochtman@gmail.com](mailto:lcfochtman@gmail.com)

*Cathy Fochtman & Thelma Shoneman*  
**Floral Design Study Group**

## March 25<sup>th</sup> Deadline to sign up for the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Luncheon.

Please use the attached form.

**Pay your annual dues!** A \$10 late fee will be applied after April 1st. The 3-part form for dues, Community Service and Hospitality is attached.

**March 26<sup>th</sup> 9 AM** Board Meeting at Helen Webster's house, 15 Long Ridge Road.

### Membership

If you have a change of address or phone number, please let Membership Chairman, Anne Sterling know. 978-263-1230 or [absterling@gmail.com](mailto:absterling@gmail.com)



Thank you, Karin Victor, for bringing spring time to the circulation desk at the Acton Memorial Library.



Karin Victor wished the library patrons Happy Valentine's Day.



Anne Berkwitz must have been thinking of spring when she used these lemon yellow Chrysanthemums.

**The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been hard at work drumming up excitement. It will be a fun filled year getting the word out about the Acton Garden Club and what WE do.**

### Susanne Fuller, Hort Study Group

This is an excellent article about how to get your amaryllis to rebloom. It was written by the company from which we buy our amaryllis (and daffodil) bulbs.

[https://www.colorblends.com/getting-an-amaryllis-to-flower-again/?mc\\_cid=ceb60d6556&mc\\_eid=5dbb6dd665](https://www.colorblends.com/getting-an-amaryllis-to-flower-again/?mc_cid=ceb60d6556&mc_eid=5dbb6dd665)



On February 7, the **Gardening With Young People committee** ran a workshop at the Acton Memorial Library for kids. They made gorgeous floral arrangements to celebrate the *Caldecott* book winners. Each year books are awarded the *Caldecott Medal* for their spectacular illustrations. The books and the kids' floral designs were displayed in the Children's Department of the library. Credit goes to Cathy Fochtman for her excellent selection of flowers. Club members who participated were: Jean Butler, Kara Osselmann, Ann Marie Testarmata, Cathy Fochtman and Ruth Schemel.

### May 18<sup>th</sup> Plant Sale info

How about dividing some of your house plants now and potting them up to be available for the **May 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale**?

**White Flower Farm** is advertising **Hellebores** in their catalogue for **\$25.95 per plant**. Seriously think of dividing yours this spring and donating **half** of them to the **May 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale**.

**Plant sale raffle tickets** will begin being sold at the **March 5<sup>th</sup>** meeting. Bring some of your return address labels to save time in writing your name on all those tickets you purchase!

Items to be raffled include gift certificates to *Kitchen Outfitters*, *Rapsallion*, and *Silver Unicorn Bookstore*. Other items include garden art, kid's gardening tool set, kitchen compost starter kit, and a beautiful necklace created by our very own Janet Irons.

NYTimes 2/8/24



- Monarch butterfly numbers in wintering areas in Mexico [have hit a record low](#) after hot, dry conditions in the U.S. and Canada reduced caterpillars' food supply.
- Last month was the [hottest January ever measured](#), the E.U. climate monitor said.

Washington Post 2/19/24

**[Study: Nonnative earthworms are all over North America, and it's a problem](#)**

Thanks, Elizabeth Waldman, for sending along the video on raising ginger in a cold climate as you are basking in the Florida sun.



[Ginger CAN Be Grown In A Cold Climate - Here's How](#)  
[ct.sendgrid.net](http://ct.sendgrid.net)

Click above to watch the fascinating video on growing ginger.