

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY GARDEN



NEWS



MARCH 2018



NEW GARDENER REGISTRATION SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Registration for gardeners new to the Community Garden takes place on Sat., **March 24, 9 a.m. to noon**, at the Northampton Recreation Department (100A Bridge Road, next to JFK Middle School). If you know someone who would like a plot this year, encourage her or him to come sign up for a plot. 🍀

NEW GARDENER ORIENTATION MTG.

Wednesday, April 25, 7:00 P.M., at **Forbes Library**. Members of the Garden Committee will talk about the Garden and answer questions. Meet other new gardeners, ask questions, and receive a 1/4-hour credit for community service! 🍀

APRIL 28 — OPENING DAY / SPRING CLEANUP DAY

It's time to get the Garden in shape for the season! This includes cleaning out the tool shed, testing and setting out hoses, working on the compost piles, weeding invasive plants — and plenty more. Hours are 10–noon and 2–4 P.M. There will be bales of mulch straw and bagged chopped mulch straw for sale from Pine Brook Farm.

Master Gardeners (from the Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners) will be on hand to test

your soil pH and answer your gardening questions. This is a good way to meet other gardeners, help the Garden, and earn community service hours. (Rain date: Saturday, May 5.)

SIGN MAKING

We hope to have a plot sign making workshop as part of Clean-up Day. Many plots have no signs or inadequate signs. This makes it very difficult for new gardeners to find their plots and for inspection teams to do their jobs on Inspection Walkthroughs.

Every plot must have a legible, visible sign with the plot number on it. **The number must be 1 1/2" tall or larger, and the number must be at least 18" off the ground.** NO MORE signs painted on overgrown rocks or faded planks or hidden behind your compost pile. Stay tuned for more information about this.

THANK YOU to **Peter Payne** for fixing the bulletin board case on the tool shed. 🍀

GETTING STARTED WORKSHOP

The first-of-the-year Garden workshop, **Getting Your garden Started**, will be held on Saturday, April 28, 10:30–noon, at the Northampton Recreation Dep't., (100A Bridge Road, JFK School grounds). Start your gardening season right with help from Julie Abramson, Master Gardener and friendly person.



2018 GARDEN CALENDAR

NEW GARDENER REGISTRATION

Saturday, March 24
Rec. Dep't., 100A Bridge Road

NEW GARDENER ORIENTATION

Wednesday, April 25
Forbes Library

WORKSHOP: GETTING YOUR GARDEN STARTED

Saturday, April 28
Rec. Dep't., 100A Bridge Road

OPENING DAY / SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, April 28

IS-YOUR-PLOT-PLANTED? INSPECTION

Sunday, June 3

RAGWEED WALKTHROUGH

Sunday, July 15

FALL CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, October 6

FALL INSPECTION

Sunday, October 14

LAST-CHANCE INSPECTION

Sunday, October 28

GARDEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Third Monday each month
@ 6:00 p.m. at the Rec. Dept.
at JFK Middle School
(or in the Garden during nice weather;
call to confirm)

Topics discussed will be: clearing your plot, use of compost, fertilizer, and mulch; deciding what plants to grow and how to space them in the garden; organic practices...and more. Julie will also answer your questions. Registration is not required. If you have questions, e-mail Julie at JABRAMSON@ALBANY.EDU.

Julie has written a great article about **Seed Starting. You can find it in the March 2017 newsletter on our website: [HTTPS://NOHOGARDEN.ORG/NEWSLETTERS/](https://nohogarden.org/newsletters/) 

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

We are working on a new, online system for recording community service hours at the garden. For now, please keep track of how many hours you've worked and what you work on. 


STOP TILLING!

An article in the *New York Times*, *Soil Power! The Dirty Way to a Green Planet* (by Jacques Leslie, Dec. 2, 2017) urges us to improve the health of our soil by stopping practices such as tillage.

(<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/02/opinion/sunday/soil-power-the-dirty-way-to-a-green-planet.html>)

Scientists have documented "how sequestering carbon in soil can produce a double dividend: It reduces climate change by extracting carbon from the atmosphere, and it restores the health of degraded soil and increases agricultural yields.... Putting the carbon back in soil is not only mitigating climate change, but also improving human health,

productivity, food security, nutrition security, water quality, air quality — everything."

Watch for a workshop in the "Under the Mulberry Tree" Series about No-Till Gardening. 

"UNDER THE MULBERRY TREE" WORKSHOP SERIES

In the area where the north compost pile used to stand, under the lovely Mulberry tree, we will be creating a picnic area. This space will also be used as an outdoor classroom where we'll offer workshops on a variety of gardening topics. Workshops will take place on Saturday mornings; they are free and open to anyone who is interested.

Some workshop topics will be:

SOIL IMPROVEMENT

COVER CROPS

NO-TILL GARDENING

POLLINATOR GARDEN DESIGN

GRANT PROGRAMS FOR SMALL FARMS

COMPOSTING TOILETS

MAKING HERBAL REMEDIES

Dates to come... 

MANAGERS NEEDED

We want everyone in the Garden to know who is in charge of what, and we will soon be posting a list of **WHO DOES WHAT**.

Meanwhile, we need people to take charge of certain realms of the Garden. You will earn Community Service hours for this work, along with thanks from all of us. (We changed the title from "Czar" to "Manager," but if you have a better title, please let us know.)

In the list below, if a name is not

assigned to a project, it means we need someone to be in charge of it. Could that be — **YOU?**

Carts — **YOU?**

Cleanup Day / Fall — Garry

Cleanup Day / Spring — Skip

Compost pile / North — Jim

Compost pile / West — Bob

Dumpster (Apr & Oct) — Jim

Education / Workshops — Larri

Facebook — Frankie

Garden Committee — Larri & Betsey

Garden Friends — Linda Bisallion

Garden Inspection / June — **YOU?**

Garden Inspection / July — **YOU?**

Garden Insp./ early Oct. — **YOU?**

Garden Insp. / late Oct — **YOU?**

Garden Neighbors — Ellie

Herb Garden — Betsy Y.

Mosaic Garden — **YOU?**

Mower maintenance — Scott

Mowing schedule — Blaise

Newsletter — Betsey

Orientation / New Gardeners — Betsey

Port-a-potty/ Apr & Oct — Brian

Registration / new gardeners — Larri & Betsey

Service Hours — Gloria

Sign-making — Jim

Survival Center deliveries — **YOU?**


Survival Center plot — **YOU?**

Tool shed maintenance — Johanna

Water, spigots, and hoses — Tom

Website — **YOU?**

If you can take on one of these areas for the season, please contact Larri or Betsey.

Thank you! 

TICKS

LEARN ABOUT TICKS BEFORE YOU SPEND TIME OUTDOORS!

Ticks are tiny bugs most likely found in shady, damp, brushy, wooded, or grassy areas (espe-



cially in tall grass), including your own backyard.

Different kinds of ticks feed on the blood of mammals (including people, dogs, cats, deer, and mice), birds, or reptiles (snakes and turtles, for example). In Massachusetts, certain kinds of ticks can bite you and spread diseases like **Lyme disease, babesiosis, anaplasmosis, tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Borrelia miyamotoi, and Powassan virus.**

Ticks do not fly or jump. They attach to animals or people that come into direct contact with them. Deer ticks and dog ticks are found throughout Massachusetts; Lone Star ticks are also found in some places in Massachusetts.

Read more:

[HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/SERVICE-DETAILS/TICK-BORNE-DISEASE-INFORMATION-FOR-THE-PUBLIC](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/tick-borne-disease-information-for-the-public)

or

[HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/TICK-PREVENTION](https://www.mass.gov/tick-prevention)

[HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/SERVICE-DETAILS/PERSONAL-PROTECTION-AGAINST-TICKS](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/personal-protection-against-ticks) 🍀

SOS PLANT SALE: MAY 12

The 22nd Annual **Support our Schools (SOS) Plant and Garden Market** will be held on Saturday, May 12, from 9 to 1. Organizers

are looking for plant donations from local gardeners. Community members who have perennials to divide or plants they are removing from their gardens, are asked to please pot them up and take them to Smith Vocational School on Friday, May 11, from 4 to 7 P.M. (If you want to deliver plants early, between April 2 and May 9, please take them to 12 Forbes Ave.)

For plant donations, please pot your plants early, and water them, so that they look happy on the day of the sale. Should you need pots, helpers for digging, dividing and potting, or picking up potted plants, there are volunteers available. We need donations as well as people to attend the sale. We also need volunteers to collect and organize donated plants on May 12, and to work at the event on May 12. Your contributions to SOS, in any way, will be greatly appreciated.

At the sale you will find treasures from local gardens and local artisans. There will be handcrafted garden furniture donated by local woodworkers, bags of compost, and a raffle for a handmade quilt and garden furniture made by Smith Vocational students. Last year the event raised more than \$12,000 for our public school libraries. Come help support our public schools by donating plants, volunteering, or attending the event.

Contact Robin Freedenfeld at RFSTUDIOS@AOL.COM or Mand Gerry at MANDYGERRY@GMAIL.COM, 413-320-3440. 🍀

UMASS MASS AGGIE SPRING WORKSHOPS

Each year, UMass Extension offers a workshop series for homeowners and small scale farmers. All workshops have a hands-on component that will help participants gain new skills to use in their own gardens or landscapes. Locations and registration fees vary.

For full details, visit UMASSGARDEN.COM.

Mar 24 • Home Orchard Pruning

Mar 31 • Pruning Blueberries

April 7 • Home Orchard Establishment & Basics

April 7 • Home Orchard Pest Management

April 14 • Pollinator Biology and Conservation 🍀

GARDEN CLIPPINGS FROM UMASS EXTENSION

The *Garden Clippings* newsletter is created for home gardeners by the experts of UMass Extension's Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program. It is delivered via e-mail on a monthly basis during the growing season.

Sign up here: [HTTPS://AG.UMASS.EDU/LANDSCAPE/PUBLICATIONS-RESOURCES/GARDEN-CALENDAR/UMASS-EXTENSIONS-HOME-GARDENER-EMAIL-LIST](https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/publications-resources/garden-calendar/umass-extensions-home-gardener-email-list)

Find resources for Home Gardeners here: [HTTPS://AG.UMASS.EDU/RESOURCES/HOME-LAWN-GARDEN](https://ag.umass.edu/resources/home-lawn-garden) 🍀

IF THE GARDEN WERE A SONG

by Margaret Babbott

i.

*All of these lines across my face tell you a story of who I am
When are you happiest? Who tended you in the past?
What's the story of the soil? What's the story of the soul?
What have you seen and what do you need?
Tell me before the plants suffer. Tell me to come more often, tell me to receive.
Do you mind the poppies take up so much space? All of these lines across my face?
Will you forgive me? What seeds are you hiding? Why do you let the witch grass in?*

ii.

*Wild thing! Each visit a surprise —
Chinese chives in the compost, finally my heavenly blues,
bean grub and mystery aster, the dahlias weren't a disaster,
first time corn, zinnias from a packet,
400 garlic, 40 butternut, bumper crop of asparagus;
the everbearing raspberries ever and ever, forever the stand of sunflowers,
the okra exploded, peppers wilted, & amaranth stained my palms.*

Inch by inch, row by row

*Golden rod, morning glory, dandelion spread & reach;
things appear then disappear, someone stole my pail,
took my melons, hubbard squash, Dino kale.
Earthworm, garter; mosquito and no see um.
blistered, bruised, burned, bit and blessed.
Groundhog hole, chipmunk stash; deer scat and bobcat track.*

Dip, dip and swing

*Bluebird light, eagle shadow, monarch wing.
Each year, I find a nest deep in the grape arbor (Can I show you where?).
Raptors dip their curved wings, a certain sparrow.*

Spring Sorrow

*The nocturnals take their turn— turn as the occluded moon and clear.
Eclipse and lightening; voles, moles, raccoon and bear;
Pachelbel's Canon fills the air.*

Come and get your love

*These sun gold tomatoes, soy beans sweet and green,
lemon verbena, mint, mint, mint.
Praise to the pollinators, to bees in comfrey bloom!
Whiff of wild, lavender fills the nose — and too,
the conspicuous odor of sunflower, the smell of decomposing leaves,
even the scent of twilight after rain.
Raspberries burst on the tongue, seed the teeth, strawberries feast the eyes.
Why do I long for the bitter aftertaste of a snap pea beyond its time?
All you need is love*

iii.

*Beethoven's Pastoral summons next year's song:
Of truckloads of compost, rain & spigot,
Of curves & lines, pathways & hoops; of space & time, radish & golden beet,
Of chaos & order, wheelbarrow & scythe; of new friends, quiet as they bend.
A chorus of crickets sings Joy to the World, sings Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!*

With thanks to: P1, M14, I14, G5, T4, X3, K18, O11, R5, F5, E8, N16, O15, M11, H12, Q4, N20, P7

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY GARDEN

Northampton Recreation Department
100A Bridge Road
Northampton, MA 01060

