



One of the splendid gardens from the Concord Museum Garden Tour

Bringing Color to Concord via Gardening

BY ANNE LEHMANN

Summer is here and along with that comes bountiful blooms. Concord is a kaleidoscope of colorful periwinkle iris, diamond frost euphorbia, and purple bellflowers, all on full display. They arrive at the hands of many gardening clubs and organizations whose members enjoy getting their hands dirty, literally.

The West Concord Green Thumbs have designed, cultivated, and currently maintain five gardens; Kenny Dunn Square, Mandrioli Park, Junction Park, Crest Street Triangle, and at the Fowler Library. In addition to these gardens the Green Thumbs plant all of the 46 hanging baskets that adorn Main Street all summer long, providing an uplift of color throughout the town walkways.

They have recently partnered with the Fowler Library supporting an outreach program which consists of 100 lunch bag size 'grab and make' crafts. The activity varies week to week. Recently they offered seedlings planted in plastic cups for children to watch the miracle of growth and coming up they are organizing painted rocks to place in gardens.

The Concord Garden Club has its origins dating back to 1928. This organization

has a wide breadth of touches throughout the Concord community not only relating to gardening but also connecting parts of the community where sharing the life of a flower or plant can have a significant impact. The partnership with various groups is an understated way to offer kindness through action, not necessarily words. In the spring time fresh flowers are delivered to approximately 150 senior residents and in the winter months the club decorates boxwood trees for the Meals on Wheels Program.

In addition, they provided a grant to Minute Man Arc for use in their community garden, the Rogers Garden. The Minute Man Arc's clients use this garden as a therapeutic opportunity where together they weed, plant, water, harvest, and finally share their fresh vegetables with their cohorts. Irene Flood from MMA shared, "The best part of the gardening experience is when one of our clients brings freshly picked vegetables back to the others with such pride."

The club also presents cheer by adorning holiday wreaths on municipal buildings. This past year the wreaths were dressed with

lively seafoam green and white polka dot wide-brimmed bows. Anyone walking by these wreaths would have been bound to smile and enjoy the decorator spirit, care, and skill that went into each one.

The gardens the club has designed, created, and maintains are three-fold, a perennial garden in front of the Town House, at the Veteran's Park, and near the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. They are all beautiful in contrasting colors and clever with the gradation of height allowing your eye to sweep up through the various plants and flowers.

A final organization bringing color to Concord is the Guild of Volunteers for the Concord Museum. This year the tour is virtual and the date for release is June 25-27. The tour includes six episodes of watching and learning. Each episode features one home and explores the unique landscape design for that residence. While live experience is optimal, this tour will provide a parallel experience.

Gardening in Concord is multifaceted and with that brings an abundance of color to our streets, parks, and backyards.