



View from the Garden

News from the Wolfeboro Garden Club

**Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 12 @ 1pm**

Board meeting @ 11am



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Wolfeboro Garden Club members,

The Wolfeboro Garden Club is proud to be an active and visible part of the Wolfeboro community, we are involved in many projects throughout the year which beautify the town, raise funds and promote the Club itself. This has the added benefit of creating many different ways that members can be involved in our Club if they are unable to assist in the gardens we maintain. Our members have many varied talents and interests, and that's what I'm appealing to. At this time the Board is in a bit of a bind. Our Secretary is stepping down as of September due to life changes (all good ones), and as of this newsletter no one has come forward to fill the position. The main duty is, of course, to attend eight monthly Board meetings, take notes and type them up. We truly do have a wonderful and diverse Board, we meet for about an hour before the general meeting, we encourage open discussion and debate, and together we make the decisions we feel benefit the WGC and its' members going forward. We also need to fill the position of Vice President so that Bobbie can step down after 6 years. VP fills in if I am unable to chair at any given time, and they oversee the Programs chair. Both are two year positions. Please contact either Katherine Minor or myself if you are interested.

Your President,

Kim

Garden Club 2026 - 2027 dues are payable at this time.

<https://wolfeborogardenclub.org/membership-application>

Thanks so much!

Kim

Wolfeboro Garden Club Presents Douglas Tallamy:

“How Can I Help? How We Can Save Nature in Our Yards” (Live Virtual Program)

The Wolfeboro Garden Club invites the public to a special May program featuring Douglas Tallamy, a nationally recognized leader in ecological gardening and conservation.

Tallamy will present **“How Can I Help? How We Can Save Nature in Our Yards,”** a timely and practical talk that addresses the many questions he receives from gardeners and homeowners seeking to make a meaningful difference. Drawing from years of research and public engagement, he explores topics such as biodiversity loss, invasive species, declining insect populations, the role of native and non-native plants, and how individual actions can contribute to larger conservation efforts.

The program also touches on keystone plants, oak ecology, supporting wildlife at home, and the broader vision behind initiatives like Homegrown National Park. Tallamy's approach connects everyday landscaping choices to the health of ecosystems, offering clear direction for those looking to take part in restoring nature where they live.

A professor at the University of Delaware, Tallamy is widely recognized for his influential work encouraging homeowners and communities to rethink traditional landscapes in favor of more sustainable, wildlife-supporting environments. This presentation offers a unique opportunity for the local community to hear directly from one of the foremost experts in the field.

The presentation will be held on Tuesday, May 12 at 1:00 PM at All Saints Church in Wolfeboro, where attendees will gather to view the live virtual event.

Introducing: Member Spotlight from Julie Fergus

We're excited to introduce a new feature in the Wolfeboro Garden Club newsletter—**Member Spotlight**. Each month, we'll highlight one of our members, sharing their story, gardening interests, and the experiences that have shaped their time in the Club.

These profiles are a way to get to know one another a little better, celebrate the depth of knowledge and passion within our group, and honor the people who make our Club what it is.



Member Spotlight: Trish Leipold

When **Trish Leipold** first attended a Wolfeboro Garden Club meeting, she was new to town and simply checking it out, hoping to learn about gardening—but like many people in a room full of strangers, she didn't immediately feel connected. It took the encouragement of a new friend, Hume Gile, a Life member of the Club, to bring her back.

That second visit made all the difference. Trish has now been a member since 2002, and that early experience shaped something she carries with her to this day: a commitment to making sure new members feel welcome.

Trish didn't grow up thinking she'd become a gardener. Raised in Binghamton, New York, she was introduced to gardening through her father's vegetable garden, but it didn't take hold for her until later in life.

She went on to earn an MS degree in nutrition science from Cornell and married her husband Bob, a now-retired physician. Together they built a life that took them from Barrington, New Hampshire, to rural Maine, and eventually to Wolfeboro, where they've lived for more than 30 years while raising their two daughters.

It wasn't until they purchased a large parcel of land in Wolfeboro that gardening—real gardening—took root. While living in Maine, she had tried her hand at vegetable gardening, but found the effort outweighed the yield. Instead, she was drawn to something wilder.

Trish describes herself as a decorative gardener, but her true focus is ecological. She favors native perennials, shrubs, and trees, and has spent years managing her land with wildlife in mind—removing invasive plants and replacing them with species that belong. That work isn't always easy. She admits that taking out burning bush—beloved for its brilliant fall color—was a tough decision, and an even harder sell to Bob. But science, and a commitment to doing what's right for the land, won out. Her connection to nature extends beyond gardening. Trish and Bob are bird hunters and lifetime members of the Ruffed Grouse Society, a conservation organization

dedicated to preserving habitat for grouse and other wildlife. Often accompanied by their English pointer, they hunt ruffed grouse—her favorite bird, admired for both the challenge of the hunt and, as she notes with a smile, “the tenders are delicious.” Over the years, Trish became deeply involved in the Wolfeboro Garden Club, serving as Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Past President. She also chaired the Ways & Means Committee and played a key role in shaping some of the Club’s most visible contributions to the community. Among her proudest accomplishments is spearheading the development of the Bean Park Gardens—including the Waters Edge Garden, the Rain Garden, and the Hallock Memorial Garden. These projects were a true collaboration between the Club, the Bean family, and the Town, and remain a lasting gift to the community.

She also witnessed—and helped guide—the evolution of the Club’s fundraising efforts. What was once a single, high-pressure fundraiser known as the Holly Berry Fair has grown into today’s highly successful wreath project. She still remembers the stress of relying on one day of sales, including a year when a major snowstorm threatened everything. The Club adapted, persevered, and ultimately found a better way forward. Today, the wreath sale has grown from 100 wreaths in its first year to nearly 500 annually.

Trish carries with her an appreciation for the Club’s deeper history. In its earliest years during the 1930s, members collected milkweed floss to support the war effort, using it as a substitute for kapok in life jackets—a reminder that even small, local efforts can connect to something much larger.

Now in her 70s, Trish’s approach to gardening has shifted. She still loves being outdoors, but she’s learned to adapt—accepting help, tolerating more weeds, and embracing “volunteer” plants that once might have been pulled without hesitation. Her philosophy has evolved toward something both practical and ecological: less control, more coexistence. She encourages gardeners to leave their gardens standing through the fall and into late spring, allowing insects and wildlife to make use of the habitat. Where people prefer neat and tidy, nature prefers and thrives with chaos.

For those just starting out, Trish offers straightforward advice: learn about native plants, understand your site conditions, and give new plantings the water and time they need—especially in the first two years. And for new Garden Club members, her advice is just as clear: get involved. Join a committee. Serve on the board. Be part of a garden team. That’s how connections are made and friendships are built—the very thing that brought her back after that first meeting.

After more than two decades with the Wolfeboro Garden Club, Trish continues to value what drew her in—and kept her there: education, community, and a shared love of the outdoors.

Her favorite season is still Spring, when the landscape wakes up in fresh color after a long New Hampshire winter. In many ways, her story mirrors the garden itself—rooted in patience, shaped by change, and always growing.

Support the Wolfeboro Booms Project from Deborah Long-Smith

The happy yellow flowers are blooming all around town and it is time to think about next year. **The Garden Club Budget** will be discussed at the general meeting on Tuesday. Please support the **Wolfeboro Booms** project.

I am willing to co-chair this annual event with Bobbie Stave. We have 2 years of experience and know how amazing our club volunteers have been in supporting this project.

Our goals continue to be beautification of the town and to enhance the reputation of our club in the community. We have accomplished both of these. We have the support of the Historical Society and the Cotton Valley Rail Trail. We received great publicity from Julie, wonderful response from the recipients, recruited new members and requests to make this an annual event. Some think Wolfeboro could compete with other daffodil tourist destinations!

The cost of this town wide program is approximately \$3000 for 3000 bulbs.

We received positive comments from citizens about the large size and quality of these bulbs. This is a separate line item and does not come out of the existing beautification budget. This amount meets the qualifications and could come out of our reserve funds, if necessary.

This is an easy project which takes about 5 hours total; and it is clean fun! A fantastic group of approximately 20 volunteers created an assembly line in Bobbie's garage last year. Within 90 minutes, 300 individual bags were placed in large boxes and put into members' cars for delivery on Saturday to Clark Park for pick up between 9 and 12 on Saturday.

October is the ideal time to distribute and plant these bulbs. Please support this project.
Deborah

GET READY FOR OUR JUNE LUNCHEON!!

Send RESERVATION or pay with your choice of entree at the May meeting
to **Marla Collins,**

4 Bennett Lane,

Mirror Lake, N.H. 03853

NAME: please Print _____

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE: **Choose One**

1. Stuffed filet of **Sole**

2. Maple-Bacon wrapped **Pork Tenderloin**

3. **Chicken** Franchise in Lemon Butter Sauce

A check for \$35 (made out to WGC) must accompany your reservation.

From Nancy Combs for our June Luncheon

It is time to start thinking about our fabulous June luncheon. I will again be adding decorations to our tables. I am looking for **eight “bowls”** to use as bases. Clear glass or silver revere type, 12 inches in diameter. **Contact Bobbie Stave or Nancy Combs** if you are willing to loan or donate! Thank you, so much!

Nancy Combs, 925.351.6999. nancypcombs@thecombsteam.com

Bobbie 603.986.0714 bastave1@gmail.com

TIME TO GET YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP PAID

We're now accepting the 2026-2027 season membership dues.

We are returning to the original/pre-covid amount of **\$40**.

<https://wolfeborogardenclub.org/membership-application>

Checks can be made out to

WGC and mailed to PO Box 1786, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 if mailing is more convenient.

The member list has been updated on our website and can be downloaded.

Please note the following for additions/corrections to the 2025-2026 Yearbook at this time. At the meeting they'll be wearing a green dot on their name badge.

New Member

Please add **Amy Ball** to your membership list.

Ball, Amy 4/26

316 Governor Wentworth Hwy

Mirror Lake, NH 03853

603-455-6507

amyjeanne2@gmail.com



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