

Member Spotlight: Martie Lincoln



If you ask Martie Lincoln what she enjoys most about the Wolfeboro Garden Club, her answer is immediate: the people.

A self-described people person, Martie values friendships, family, and community. Gardening is certainly part of the story, but for Martie, the connections made through a shared love of gardening are every bit as important as the flowers themselves.

Growing up in Topsfield, Massachusetts, gardening was part of life. Her mother tended ornamental gardens while her father grew vegetables. Martie remembers trumpet vines, asparagus beds, and neighbors who all seemed to have gardens of their own. In those days, growing vegetables, canning food, and sharing the harvest with neighbors was simply a way of life.

One gardening memory in particular has stayed with her through the years. Martie remembers a deep, dark tulip that her mother grew in the family garden. While she no longer recalls its name, she still grows it today, a small connection to those early gardening memories.

After marrying, Martie and her husband Charlie made their home in Boxford, Massachusetts, where they lived for forty years and raised their two children. Their property provided plenty of room for gardening and the busy family life they built together.

For 28 years, Martie worked as a real estate broker on Massachusetts' North Shore, where she especially enjoyed helping first-time homebuyers. The profession suited her well because it allowed her to work closely with people. One lesson she carried throughout her career was to "never close a door to a person."

One experience in particular reinforced that philosophy. A client purchased a for-sale-by-owner property, something that frustrated many agents because there was little opportunity to earn a commission. Martie saw it differently. She was simply happy for the buyer. That relationship eventually led to referrals and new clients, reinforcing her belief that treating people well is always the right thing to do.

That same outlook served her well during the challenging real estate market of the early 1980s. With interest rates soaring and home sales slowing, Martie and Charlie rented out their Boxford home and spent a year in Wolfeboro. During that time, Martie took a waitressing job at the restaurant that occupied the site of today's Back Bay Boathouse.

She remembers the experience fondly. As someone who genuinely enjoys people, she loved the fast pace, the conversations with customers, and the chance to earn tip money at the end of each day. It was different from real estate, but it suited her perfectly.

When Martie and Charlie settled in Wolfeboro full-time in 2003, one of the first organizations she joined was the Wolfeboro Garden Club. Having enjoyed her years with the Boxford Garden Club, she quickly found a home among fellow gardeners. She spent many years on the Dockside Garden team before becoming Beautification Chair.

In that role, she works with the volunteers who care for the Club's town gardens, helping coordinate everything from spring planting and volunteer recruitment to budgets and seasonal maintenance. It's a role that combines her love of gardening with her talent for working with people.

Helping others has always been important to Martie. She volunteered at St. Charles Children's Home in Rochester, where she spent time reading, talking, and doing activities with children. Whether through volunteer work, her professional career, or her involvement in the Garden Club, she has always enjoyed connecting with people.

Today, Martie's garden reflects her love of the cottage garden style, with an emphasis on flowers. She especially enjoys dogwoods, peonies, clematis, feverfew, and old-fashioned bleeding hearts. She also has a fondness for ferns, including maidenhair fern and Japanese painted fern, both of which are featured in her garden. The delicate maidenhair fern is a particular favorite. One of her favorite projects is what she calls the "nursery" behind the garage, where she sows seeds collected from her bleeding hearts and grows young plants for future gardens.

In addition to gardening, Martie enjoys acrylic painting, reading novels by Nora Roberts, and creating artwork from dried flowers. Many members may be surprised to learn that she and Charlie are also sports car enthusiasts who enjoy driving their manual-transmission cars and attending car shows together.

Martie believes the Garden Club plays an important role in the community. Through the efforts of volunteers and the support of members, the Club helps beautify Wolfeboro while reducing the burden on the town.

Just as importantly, she believes the Club brings people together. Gardeners may join because they love plants, but many stay because of the friendships they make along the way. Martie has enjoyed a long friendship with Cindy Jenkins and Jean Malay and encouraged both to become involved with the Club. The friendships she has developed through gardening and the Garden Club remain among the most rewarding parts of her membership.

Her motto may be "Friends, Flowers, and Fun," but if you ask Martie what she enjoys most about the Wolfeboro Garden Club, her answer is immediate: the people.