



Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. The Village News, March 16, 2026

Mid-March Update

We are slowly returning to gardening as sunshine and warmer temperatures arrive. Melting snow from the recent Nor'easter reveals tree buds and spring bulbs, marking the start of spring. As a reminder, "The Village News" is circulated on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. The Board, Committees, and District Directors receive email editions. Garden club members may use our vital link to find all current news: [The GCFM Website](#)

Plant & Garden Tour Postings

It's almost Plant Sale Season! Send your plant sale and garden tour flyers to our GCFM website team for posting. These will be added to the event calendar and promoted via social media to help support your fundraising activities. Maximize our marketing resources! Email: kimedwards098@gmail.com

Save the Date and Mark Your Calendars!

GCFM Annual Meeting – The team is planning an engaging day featuring speakers, awards, and club activities.

When: Thursday, **June 4, 2026** **Where:** Doubletree Hilton, Milford, MA

Registration Here: [Annual Meeting Online Registration](#)

Printable Mail In Registration Form: [Mail In Registration Form Annual Meeting](#)

A block of guest rooms is reserved at \$139 per night. Use this link to book your room: [Annual Meeting Hotel Room](#)

The morning program, "*Celebrating our Past, Inspiring our Future,*" will be a showcase of club projects. We hope to inspire, encourage, and motivate all members to blossom. We've learned about various award categories, now we invite clubs to share highlights of their work. Our aim is to show those in attendance the wide variety of exceptional projects happening in our state. If your club would like to participate, please contact Lisa Murray at: GCFMStateAwards@gmail.com or call 978-302-1063. For general information about the Annual Meeting 2026, contact **Linda Thomson-Clem** at: ljlthomson1@verizon.net or call 781-789-7002.

Memorials

The GCFM Annual Meeting wishes to recognize your garden club members who passed away in the past year. If you would like your deceased member to be memorialized, please send a photograph with name, garden club, and date of passing to: Karen.e.brockelbank@gmail.com

Photos & Memorabilia Needed

Plans for our 100th Anniversary are in progress. We are in search of photos and memorabilia for the 100th Anniversary Celebration. Photos of past presidents, or Annual Meetings would be great. Check your archives and let us know what you find. Avoid newspaper clippings as they do not copy well. Send your photos or questions to Suzanne McCance at suzannebmcance@gmail.com

Environmental School Error in previous edition

Here is the corrected information for the NGC Environmental School Chair:

Contact Roxanna Champagne at roxannachamp@cox.net regarding ES courses. For Environmental School sign off, contact GCFM President, Kim Edwards at kimedwards098@gmail.com

2026-2027 Speakers Program is now available! Get ready to be inspired!

The dynamic 26-27 Speakers Program lineup is now available on the secured GCFM website for [Federated Garden Clubs of MA only](#). The Program is carefully curated to bring fresh insight and engaging, informative and educational content to your Club's programming. If you have difficulty accessing the materials please contact Webmaster, Betsy Howard, at GCFM.MyVideoSpeakProg@gmail.com

CINDORA GOLDBERG - A SPECIAL AWARD

The Cindora A. Goldberg Award, honors the ability to continually see and create in an innovative manner. This award will be given to the most outstanding floral design submitted by a member of the GCFM. Entries must be photographs and digital images. All entries must be received by **May 15, 2025**. Further details and an application can be found on this link: [Cindora Goldberg Award](#)

TIME-SENSITIVE ITEMS:

1. Free Webinar - The Future of Beech Trees with Dr. Beth Brantley **March 31, 2026** at 7:00 pm

Registration is here: [GCFM Website](#) (Note: limited to the first 100 participants.)

2. New England Garden Clubs Photo Club "Think Spring Newsletter" Click here: [NEGC Newsletter](#)

Polly Brooks, Director, invites you to participate in the upcoming meetings titled "We Grow Gardens & Gardeners". See the newsletter for the full schedule.

3. Topsfield Garden Club's Grow Spring! EXPO **April 11 10-3:00** at the Topsfield Fairgrounds. We're issuing an early invitation for garden clubs to participate. On-line sign-up link here: [Grow Spring Expo](#)

4. Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. NGC Design Specialty Flower Show "Dearly Beloved"

April 10 - 12, 2026, RI Convention Center, 1 Sabin Street, Providence, RI. This year includes a Botanical Arts Division offering an opportunity to broaden our reach beyond floral designers and engage more members.

5. The Roaring Twenties - Flower Show Save the Date - The GCFM South Shore District is presenting an NGC Inc.

Standard Flower Show on **August 21-25, 2026** 12:00 to 10:00 pm. The show is titled "The Roaring Twenties."

Further details to follow. Contact Show Chair Lisa Pattinson for more information: lisa.pattinson@gmail.com

6. The Topsfield Fair is **Oct 2 to Oct 12, 2026**. Day 1 entries will be October 2nd, Day 2 entries will be Oct. 7th.

General Chairs are Pat Fleming and Suzanne McCance. To volunteer, contact Pat Fleming at

fleming.3patricia@gmail.com



PLANT AMERICA: Blue & Gold Star Memorial Beautification Program is a joint initiative of **National Garden Clubs, Inc.** and **Keep America Beautiful**. It supports projects that remove litter, plant flowers and greenery, and beautify Blue Star and Gold Star Memorials nationwide, with a special emphasis on planting red, white, and blue flowers in celebration of **America's 250th Anniversary on July 4, 2026**. Find out more: [Plant America Grant](#)

EDUCATION SCHOOL REMINDERS

1. GCFM FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE IV **April 25, 28-30, 2026**

Where: Double Tree by Hilton, 11 Beaver Street, Milford, MA 01757

Flower Show School is a comprehensive program that teaches you about judging, entering, competing, and chairing an NGC flower show. Course Flyer: [FS Sch Course IV](#) Registration (deadline 3/23): [FS School Registration](#)

2. NGC GARDEN SCHOOL SERIES – Garden Studies Course 4

The Garden School Studies Course 4 has been postponed to November 2026. Further details will be provided soon.

3. FUNDAMENTALS OF FLORAL DESIGN II

FUNDamentals of Floral Design II - Wednesday, June 3, 2026 10:00 to 11:30 am

Where: Topsfield Fairgrounds

A series of 2 classes to learn the elements and principles of design, Flower Show rules, and presentation of three designs to be critiqued. Instructors: NGC Judges Pat Fleming and Suzanne McCance. **Cost:** \$25 for one class, \$40 for both. Checks made out to GCFM **Registration:** Send your check, name, email, phone number, name of Garden Club to: Pat Fleming, 143 Cherry St, Wenham, MA 01984 All participants receive reference handouts. Contact Pat Fleming at fleming.3patricia@gmail.com with questions.



We hope you find the Village News useful and informative. Please send feedback or suggestions to Donna Garrabrant - chrisanddonnacc@gmail.com. Donna will be on hiatus for a bit, but fear not, the Village News will continue to be delivered to your Club from a different email address. Stay tuned for updates.