



Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.

The Village News, February 16, 2026

In late February, signs of spring start to appear as days grow longer and sunsets come after 5:00 pm. On recent wetlands walk in Massachusetts, the first flower of the season were spotted.....skunk cabbage. Though not attractive and known for its smell, this unique plant generates heat to melt nearby snow and ice. It's identifiable by a hooded spathe around the spadix, with large green leaves appearing soon after. Despite its odor, it's a welcome sign of growth during this time of year! *(From the Editor's Corner)*

"NEW" NEWS!

In this edition, we will separate new updates from previous information to make our communication clearer and more responsive to your input. As always, your feedback is welcome to improve GCFM communications.

GCFM SPEAKERS PROGRAM NEWS!!

The Speakers Program will be launched on **Monday, March 2, 2026**, in the GCFM Garden Club Secured Area. The Secured area and password for Garden Club members will be sent to Garden Club Presidents in a separate email from the Village News on March 2nd with the link to the site along with the password.

GCFM 99th ANNUAL MEETING!

Our **GCFM 99th Annual Meeting** will take place on **Thursday, June 4, 2026**, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Milford, MA. It's going to be an exciting meeting with great speakers and award presentations!

Registration Online: [Annual Meeting Online Registration Here](#) or <https://pci.jotform.com/form/260260432530141>

Printable Registration Form: [Mail In Registration Form Annual Meeting](#) or https://f9d09a9d-5df8-4ea9-ae05-47d39a3492df.filesusr.com/ugd/bc1df3_6bc09ab1a89b49ecab4f6bb517e28aee.pdf

The link to booking a hotel room is also live on the website.

THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT PRESENTS the 45th Annual Show, an NGC Standard Flower Show titled **"Oceans Around Us"**. The show will be held at the Heritage Museums & Gardens, 65 Grove Street, Sandwich, MA 02563. Dates of the show are Wednesday July 22, 2023 (1 - 5 pm), Thursday, July 23, 2026 (10 am - 7:30 pm), Friday July 24, 2026 (10 am - 5 pm) Free with Museum Admission. Contact Show Chair Ginger King with questions: kingbob@aol.com or call 781-962-7116.



"OLD" NEWS aka REMINDERS:

FUNDAMENTALS OF FLORAL DESIGN I and II

FUNDamentals of Floral Design I - Tuesday, March 10, 2026 10:00 to 11:30 am

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

A series of two classes to learn and review the elements and principles of design, GC rules for Flower Show, and presentation of three designs to be critiqued. **Both classes** take place at the **Topsfield Fairground**, Coolidge Hall 207 Boston Street, Topsfield, MA FUNDamental Instructors: NGC Judges Pat Fleming and Suzanne McCance **Cost:** \$25 for one class, \$40 for both. Checks made out to **GCFM Registration:** Send payment, name, email, phone number, and Garden Club name to: Pat Fleming, 143 Cherry St, Wenham, MA 01984 Participants receive handouts. Contact Pat Fleming: fleming.3patricia@gmail.com with questions.

EDUCATION SCHOOL REMINDERS Does your club offer tuition assistance for GCFM courses?

NGC GARDEN SCHOOL SERIES 12, COURSE 4 April 9, 10, 11, 20, & 26. ZOOM Deadline for registration on April 1, 2026 Garden club members completing the series of four courses and passing exams gain the designation of NGC Gardening Consultant. Click here to register: [Gardening School Registration](#)

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

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

Flower Show School is a comprehensive program that teaches all you need to know about judging, entering, competing, and chairing an NGC flower show.

Registration: Send remittance with application to be received by the Registrar before March 23, 2026.

Click here for flyer: [Flower Show School Course IV](#) Click here to register: [Flower Show School Registration](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL upcoming courses March 16-19 (zoom) and April 6-7 (in person)

These classes investigate, challenge and explore all aspects of the environment with a focus on the interrelationships of plants, animals, insects and people.

Contact Pat Rupiper, patrupiper@gmail.com with questions.

TIME-SENSITIVE ITEMS:

The PHS Philadelphia Flower Show - February 28, to March 8th, 2026

held at the Philadelphia Convention Center. The PHS Philadelphia Flower Show is the nation's largest and longest-running horticultural event and fundraiser featuring stunning displays by the world's premier floral, garden, and landscape designers. The link for more information: [PHS Philadelphia Flower Show](#)

The Federated Garden Clubs of CT - present An NGC Standard Flower Show

A Storybook Garden, February 19 - 22, 2026

44th Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show® CT Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103 The link for more information: [CT Flower Show](#)

RI Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. present An NGC Design Specialty Flower Show

"Dearly Beloved", April 10 - 12, 2026

RI Convention Center, 1 Sabin Street, Providence, RI. President Judy Gray has advised this year is particularly exciting as we've included the Botanical Arts Division Section Artist Crafts, offering an opportunity to broaden our reach beyond floral designers and engage more members.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB GRANTS - Plant America Community Project Grants

Although the deadline for Plant America Community Project Grants has passed, this is a great time to think about a garden club project for the next cycle. The link for more information: [Plant America Grants](#)

PLANT AMERICA: Blue & Gold Star Memorial Beautification Program is a joint initiative of **National Garden Clubs, Inc.** and **Keep America Beautiful**. The program 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**. The link for more information: [Blue/Gold Star Program](#)

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB GRANT PROGRAM with The AMES Companies, Inc.

Take advantage of this benefit of being an NGC member garden club. Select tools up to a retail value of \$250 for your community garden or garden therapy club project.

Apply Here: [AMES Tool Grant Application](#) Deadline is **March 1, 2026**

We hope you find the Village News useful and informative. Please send feedback or suggestions for future articles in the Village News to Donna Garrabrant - chrisanddonnacc@gmail.com