



MAYFLOWER



The Mayflower is an online newsletter, full of clickable internet links that can take you to GCFM resources

The President's Message



Greetings to all GCFM members!

Fall is upon us. How did the summer progress so quickly? First, thanks to all of you who dedicated time, talent and patience to organize and present the marvelous flower shows that we have enjoyed each month this summer. What a treat it has been to marvel at the creativity that each show displayed. And we still have Topsfield and the Tower Hill shows to look forward to viewing!

As of this writing, the District Directors have organized and hosted fall meetings for six of our GCFM districts. These meetings have provided the opportunity for the clubs' leadership to gather and share their achievements and challenges with one another. The discussions were animated and engaging as everyone offered her/his thoughts. I appreciated the valuable time that we had to be together and look forward to future District gatherings.

The GCFM yearbook went to press basically on schedule and has been distributed at the District fall meetings to each club. GCFM requests that each club with a yearbook submit (3) copies- a copy for the District Director, a copy for the Awards committee and a copy for the president.

October is going to be as productive a month as September, with another flower show, the New England Regional Annual Conference and Landscape

Design school. The Monday Memo is going out to all club presidents and the GCFM Board every other week to highlight upcoming events, meetings and other projects of interest to all members. Please take advantage of all that our clubs and the Federation have to offer!

Finally, on behalf of the GCFM Board, we all welcome invitations to join you at a club meeting or special event to have the chance to meet and listen to your ideas and suggestions so that we can provide a stronger network of support for all our Federation clubs and their members.

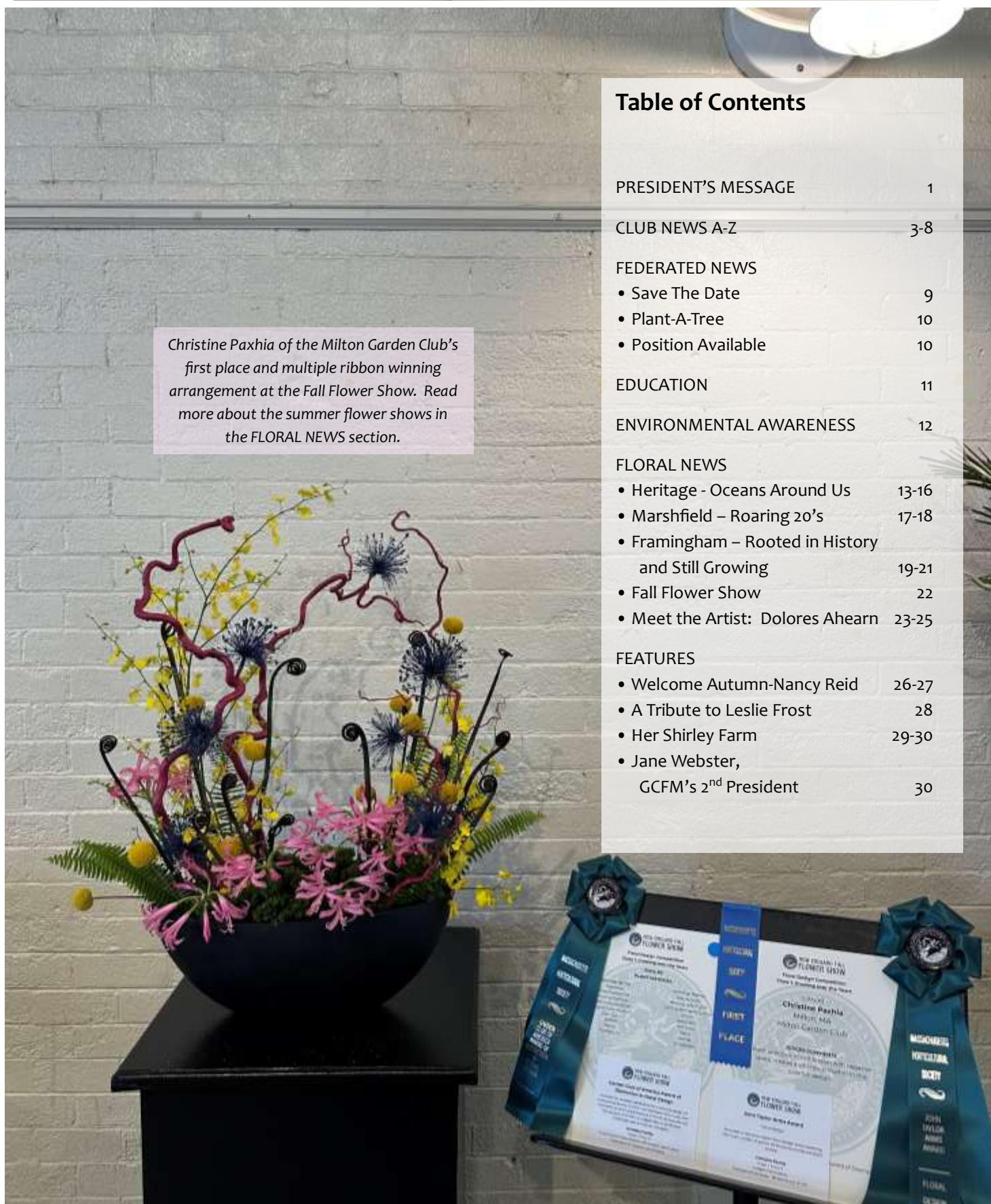
Wishing you all the best of the season!

Susie MacPherson
GCFM President

Christine Paxhia of the Milton Garden Club's first place and multiple ribbon winning arrangement at the Fall Flower Show. Read more about the summer flower shows in the FLORAL NEWS section.

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GARDEN CLUBS AT WORK



BOXFORD

The Boxford Village Garden Club had a great day at the annual Boxford Apple Festival in September. Members volunteered their time to create handmade cut flower bouquets. In addition, garden-themed décor was also sold.



*Linda Shea and Carolyn McPartlin
at the craft table*

The club hosted a conservation table to promote its Pollinator Pathway lecture in October, which will be presented by Suzanne Korschun from Andover.



*Bernadette Lombardo and Jayne Smallman
make bouquets*

EASTON

The Easton Garden Club enjoyed the summer of garden tours. A group of members visited the New England Botanical Garden at Tower Hill in Boylston to see the Glass in Flight exhibit on August 19, 2026; It was a wonderful trip.

In July and August, four gracious members opened their gardens for tours. It was wonderful to see the creativity of EGC members and to share the beauty and tranquility of their gardens. Tours included:

Darya Cotter's stunning yard and gardens kicked off the summer tours. As an added bonus, many attendees took the scenic path from Darya's backyard to the historic Smith House at Borderland State Park. It was a wonderful connection with nature.



Darya Cotter's Garden



*Darya Cotter's path to Borderland
State Park*

Leslie Mullen showcased her lovely garden which also featured her husband Bill's talent of a creatively installed irrigation system and beautiful hand-built pergola that covers the back deck. There was also yummy cookies & lemonade.

Mary Beth Meyer, Lyn Feeney, Vivian Bissett, Sharon Marochino, Kathy

McCarthy, Leslie Mullen, Ann Trettis, Linda Thomsom-Clem, Karen Lyon, Cindy Lemish

Linda Thomson-Clem hosted several members who visited her beautiful, whimsical garden. Members were treated to a stroll along a winding path through lush mix of perennials leading to Linda's vegetable garden. There are also sculptures tucked throughout adding charm and personality at every turn.



Leslie Mullen's Garden



Sculpture

Last but not least, members visited Peggy Longwe's garden which is a delightful blend of natural beauty, bursts of color and creativity. Sipping ice tea and delicious baked goods was a lovely way to end the tour.



Peggy Longwe's garden



FALMOUTH

The Falmouth Garden Club hosted a Harvest House Tour on October 10, 2026, in celebration of its 95th anniversary. The tour featured five exceptional homes, each enhanced with floral displays created by club members to complement the unique character and style of the property.



Harvest House Tour October 10, 2026

Additionally, several members were honored at the GCFM SE District Flower Show held July 22–24, receiving first place in the "Mantle Class" and a Blue Ribbon for club participation.



Roni Lahage, Annemarie Lemoyne, Beth Milligan, and Mary Lane

GROTON

The Groton Garden Club (GGC) teamed up with the Children's Room of the Groton Public Library (GPL) for the Library's 2026 Summer Reading program to stage multiple events. The theme was "Plant a Seed – Read!", which lends well to gardening and growing plants we can eat. The GPL held a "county fair" kickoff event on its grounds with games, face painting, and a petting zoo with farm animals on June 18th. The GGC manned a table where



Children learn about the plants in the Pizza Garden. Garden Club members demonstrate how to plant herbs and tomatoes.

children used magnifying glasses to search for differences among plant leaves. Different types of pollinators and various aspects of gardening were illustrated by children's books from the summer reading list. Hoping to recruit new members among the parents, GGC members shared information about the 12 municipal gardens maintained throughout Groton.



Library Summer Reading participants plant the Pizza Garden with assistance from Groton Garden Club members

On June 26th, approximately 20 children in grades 2 – 5 helped GGC members plant barrels of cherry tomato, basil, oregano, and pepper plants – some of the ingredients used in making pizza! Plants

were donated by members and supplemented by GGC plant purchases. Children did the digging, shoveling soil, and watering the small seedlings - all under GGC watchful eyes and guidance. The day was promoted in the GPL's newsletter and summer reading flyer, and on social media posts by Library staff members. As part of the event, relevant books were featured and several were read aloud in the library's garden. Periodic watering of the plantings was provided by middle school summer interns. A sign was mounted in the "Pizza Garden" announcing the joint undertaking between the GPL and the GGC.



Groton Garden Club members Nancy Muller, Barbara Seeber Wagner, and Carole Carter helping with Pizza Garden plantings

About 100 children and parents attended the long-awaited "Pizza and Popsicle Party" funded by the GGC on August 20th. Children munched on cherry tomatoes, sniffed oregano and basil leaves, and viewed sweet peppers grown in their "Pizza Garden" while eating slices of pizza and popsicles. Several GGC members were on hand to help serve. The local newspaper was sent a story by the GGC about the partnership and the fun that it generated for the Town's children. The GGC contributed \$230 towards expenses for the garden and celebration events. The partnership between the GGC and GPL continues to grow and expand just like this year's Pizza Garden.

HYANNIS

The Garden Club of Hyannis has had a very busy summer! In June at the GCFM annual meeting two of our members, Elena Ahlin and Kathy Looney, were awarded the Helen Friedberg award and the national award for container



gardening! Gail Hubacker's incredible design was an entry in the Heritage Gardens show in 2025 and was awarded the prestigious Cindora Goldberg award also at the 2026 GCFM annual meeting



Gail Hubacker's 2026 Cindora Goldberg Award Winning Design

In July at the 2026 Southeast District show, the Garden Club of Hyannis was awarded 7 blue ribbons, 7 yellow ribbons, and 3 white ribbons!



Elena Ahlin holds the Helen Friedberg award and Kathy Loonie holds the NGC award for container gardening



Jacquie Clay and her award winning design



Dottie Palko's award winning design at the Southeastern District Flower Show

The Bobbi Lingard award was won by Jackie Clay and the Laverne Collard award was won by Dottie Palko!

NAUSET

Nauset Garden Club began our year with an informational and interesting program **"Reimagining a Garden from the Past"** Designing the heirloom flower gardens at the Elijah Cobb House Museum in Brewster, MA., Bob Hoxie, garden designer and horticulturist, presented how he created the heirloom flower gardens at the Elijah Cobb House Museum in Brewster. The gardens are inspired by the

diaries of Caroline Titherton Dugan, a dynamic and articulate young woman who lived and gardened at the Elijah Cobb House in the 1870's. The Museum and Gardens are open to the public.



This sign sits in the new gardens that Bob Hoxie has replicated from the Cobb House gardens of the past.

We ended our 2025-2026 year with a luncheon, a new president Lisa Rowe and the presentation of the 2026 Floribunda Award to Cindy Doherty. The Floribunda Award is presented annually to a member for their outstanding service and dedication to the Nauset Garden Club.



Lisa Rowe and Cindy Doherty

NORFOLK

On July 25th, 20 volunteers, including representatives from *The Garden Club of Norfolk*, *Resilient Norfolk Yards*, and *The Friends of Norfolk Library*, gathered for our 3rd annual Library Beautification Day. It was a perfect weather morning to weed out invasives, thin perennial plantings, and trim overgrown hedges!



NGC member Marianne Mitchell



NGC member Carol Feczko

The hard work and community spirit of all involved have made our library an even more welcoming and inspiring place for everyone to enjoy. We are truly grateful for the commitment and support that have made a lasting difference to our community.



NGC members Leslie Lincoln and Margaret Marino

NORWELL

The Norwell Garden Club finished off their 75th anniversary year with a garden party and tour of one of their member's garden. The Club celebrated all year long with interesting presentations and speakers, field trips, two hands-on workshops, our annual plant auction and a springtime President's tea. One of the Club's favorite activities was making their own Kokedama.



Our club awarded member Donna Cunio the South Shore District Floribunda Award for her endless help with our Community Outreach, the Holiday Greens Sale and always raising a hand (or two) to help whenever needed.



President Christine Josti gives the Floribunda award to Donna Cunio

NORTHBORO

The beautiful cover of our yearbook is a copy of a painting done by Carlene D, our talented and artistic co-president. Flower pounding was the theme of a unique workshop where flowers, special paper and lots of hammering resulted in one-of-a-kind note cards and envelopes created by members. It was a loud and fun night! Town beautification projects created and lovingly maintained by club members this summer contained red, white and blue elements to celebrate America's 250th anniversary.



TEWKSBURY

Tewksbury Garden Club members recently joined Tewksbury Hospital for the dedication of the historic greenhouse complex as the Hope and Growth Greenhouse. The club is among several community organizations that have used the century-old greenhouses, which the hospital continues to preserve for patients, staff, and the community. Tewksbury Garden Club is fortunate to be able to use this space to grow plants for our annual plant sale.



Tewksbury Greenhouse Dedication

Members also enjoyed tours of two fellow gardeners' properties, exploring creative approaches to very different challenges from maximizing numerous small growing spaces at a condo to gardening on hilly terrain near the water.



Garden Tour

At Muster Park, the club continued its transformation from a hosta and lily garden to a native perennial pollinator habitat. Nonnative plants were removed and replaced with native perennials and grasses, including asters, columbine, hyssop, field thistle, pearly everlasting, and little bluestem.



Muster Park Pollinator Garden

WEST NEWBURY

The summer gardening season finds the members of the Garden Club of West Newbury busy planting and maintaining the eight small town gardens scattered around town. It is a labor of love requiring that members bring in water to the areas where there is no local supply. The townspeople often stop by when members are working to express their appreciation for our efforts.



Garden tour

A highlight of the Garden Club of West Newbury's summer activities is a set of afternoon visits to several of the beautiful gardens of our members. We tour the gardens, discovering new plants and ideas for landscaping and vegetable gardening while enjoying lively conversations with our fellow gardeners.

WILLIAMSTOWN

The Williamstown Garden Club has had a great start to our active season. We took field trips to Stanley Park in Westfield and to the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge. We participated in our town's annual Independence Day parade with amazing flower signs made by our Club artist, Joan Wright.



Marching in Independence Day Parade



Bridge Flower Boxes

Our displays of annuals throughout the town feature red, white and blue (well, purple was the closest we could get!). Our biggest project was the reinstallation of flower boxes on the town bridge after a multi-year state project to rebuild the bridge.

With the help of students from McCann Technical School, a grant from our Chamber of Commerce and many consultations with state officials, our bridge boxes are back and are as beautiful as ever.

Paxton Garden Club's Amazing Endeavor – Part IV

“Because we needed a shed, we’re building a community garden instead!”



**From Market Stalls to
Moving Dirt: Things Are
Falling Into Place!**

Things are slowly falling into place with our project.

The Community Garden Subcommittee held three monthly farmers markets this summer on the second Thursday in July, August, and September. They were so successful! Each market saw 16–17 vendors, plus music and children's activities. We set them up across from our planned site, which provided great exposure and excitement to promote the project. We raised over \$1,700 through vendor fees and selling floral arrangements. Plus, the community loved the unique experience we brought to the town!

For 2027, we are planning to host four farmers markets: June 24, July 15, August 12, and Sept. 9. (Learn more at www.paxtongardenclub.com/our-fundraisers/farmers-markets).

Other progress we made this summer included a sit-down interview with the *Wachusett Free Press* local paper and having the land cleared, thanks to a local landscaper, Hayden's Landscaping, who donated their services.

Next on the to-do list is installing a rock retaining wall, compliments of a local excavation company, Dig 'n Deep; building a staircase from the parking lot up the banking, thanks to local contractor Brian Lawler (both of whom are donating their services); and kicking off our brick fundraiser to install a sundial patio in the center of the garden with engraved bricks and a beautiful pedestal sundial. You can find details at www.paxtongardenclub.com/about-us/join/community-garden.

Stay tuned for more updates this winter!

Submitted by
Robin Tasca, PMAGC President



Paxton Farmer's Market



Kids activities



Wachusett Free Press Article



Land clearing

NEW PLANT-A-TREE PROGRAM FOR 2026-2027



PLANT-A-TREE in EVERY DISTRICT

PLANT-A-TREE in EVERY DISTRICT challenges clubs who have never before contributed to this worthy program to donate money and plant a tree in memory of, or in honor of, a garden club member. The District(s) with the greatest percentage of participating clubs will receive a special award at the 2027 Annual Meeting.



How it Works:

- Each club designates one person in charge of the Plant-A-Tree program
- Small contributions from club members – nickels, dimes and quarters – can quickly add up through teamwork over the season to a \$50 donation.
- Access the Plant-A-Tree form on GCFM website under <https://www.gcfm.org/plantatree>
- Fill out the Form. Please make sure you give your email address.
- Make your club's check payable to GCFM.
- Mail the filled-out form with the check to:
Aparna Kumar
31 Pinewood Drive
Framingham, MA 01701



Spare change from the bottom of your purse

Certificate:

- You will get an acknowledgement of your donation from NGC via email
- Access the Plant-A-Tree Certificate on GCFM website under <https://www.gcfm.org/plantatree>
- Fill out *In Honor Of* or *In Memory Of* with name and date
- Print out the Certificate
- Present to your club meeting, or mail as appropriate

Reforestation is a vital process in restoring destroyed forests, providing soil protection and habitat for animals. Forest ecosystems act as natural filters that trap sediments and pollutants, protecting water sheds and improving drinking water quality. Expanded green spaces improve public health by lowering local temperatures and offering recreational areas that reduce stress. **There is such an impact when you "plant a tree".**

Consult your District Director for questions about this program. Together, we can restore and replant damaged and destroyed forests in need together.

This year GCFM is launching a challenge for all Garden Clubs to participate in the Plant-A-Tree in Every District program.

We are calling on all clubs – especially those who have never participated before – to rise to this challenge and collect money during your General Meetings. Take the spare change from the bottom of your handbags and turn it in to the Plant-A-Tree program. Donate money to this worthy cause.

We are looking for 100% participation by next June at our Centennial Annual Meeting. Even if you can't raise \$50 for a tree, your \$5, \$10 or \$15 can still make a difference.

Go to the GCFM website or contact your District Director for more information.

We can Plant-A-Tree in Every District this year!



Visit <https://www.gcfm.org/plantatree> for more details

ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE

June 10-11, 2027

- GCFM will celebrate its 100th Anniversary on **June 10th and 11th, 2027**, at the Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center, Framingham, MA.
- On June 10th we will hold a demonstration / presentation followed by a cocktail party, dinner and speaker.
- June 11th will be our annual meeting. We will install the new officers, enjoy presentations, and browse the vendors and exhibits.
- Full details will be available soon. For information, or to volunteer at the event, please contact Linda Thomson-Clem: ljthomson1@verizon.net

SPECIAL PREVIEW!

- GCFM will hold a **BOOKS IN BLOOM** event in celebration of our Centennial Anniversary
- The books, to be chosen by a special committee, will span the decades of the past 100 years
- **20 garden clubs** will be invited to participate

The floral arrangements will be on display both days of the Centennial celebration and Annual meeting. If your garden club would like to participate, stay tuned to the Monday Memo and Mayflower for updates on how you can enter to be one of the 20.



Renaissance Hotel Framingham

E D U C A T I O N



GCFM LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL COURSE 1, Series 18 – October 28-30, 2026

NEW!

No refunds after October 15

This Zoom Course is held for three consecutive mornings which seems to be the most convenient timing for attendees. Each day will feature 3-4 topics presented by professionals in the landscape design field for one hour. A topic presentation is approximately 50 minutes in length allowing for ten minutes of questions.

Susie MacPherson, rmacpham@me.com



JUDGES COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM November 3-4, 2026

No refunds after October 15

All are welcome to attend, but only those who are members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and are taking the full course with examination are eligible for credit. In order to obtain credit, attendees must be present for all lectures and obtain passing grades for all Point Score exams in Design and Horticulture.

Ruth Gorman, ruth.gorman3@gmail.com



Seeking Local Chairs To Help With Organizing Both Garden And Environmental Schools!

We are hoping to connect with interested individuals or garden clubs who might be willing to help organize and continue the current Gardening School series or begin a new Environmental School series.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help provide comprehensive educational opportunities to GCFM and other NGC members. The organizational process for these courses is straight forward and not challenging and can easily be managed by two people. Local chairs will have complete support in engaging speakers, organizing paperwork and completion of all filing of paperwork to NGC at the Courses' completion.

For more complete description of the process and/or to answer any questions, please contact Susie MacPherson (rmacpham@me.com)



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

with Maria Bartlett

The Stakes Cannot Be Higher

Just before Labor Day weekend, the U.N. Environmental Program said that [the world will fail to meet its goal](#) of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is a clinical way of saying what is at stake: “food security (crop failures, fisheries collapses) and safety (storms, floods) for billions of people, *for all of us*, hangs in the balance.” If you think the floods, wildfires, droughts and heat of this year has been bad, we are in for much worse unless we step up the correction pace.

So what do we do? Start with reading an important and lovely 2024 essay, “[What if we act as if we love the future?](#)”

The author concludes: “I know that every tenth of a degree of warming we prevent, every centimeter of sea level rise we avoid, every increasingly unnatural disaster we avert, every species we save, every bit of nature we protect and restore, matters. I know that our efforts add up, and that our fates are intertwined. Averting climate catastrophe, this is the work of our lifetimes. So, go where there is need and where your heart can find a home.”

For us gardeners, we can work on protecting biodiversity by planting native plants, by avoiding pesticides, by composting and by eliminating invasive plants and insects. As residents of our communities, we can reduce food waste, install solar panels, add insulation and convert to heat pumps, and drive electric vehicles. For us in the United States, we have opportunities on November 3 to do much more by influencing public policy when we vote.

We need to elect candidates and Congress members who are committed to clean energy goals and reducing fossil fuels, actions that will help to stem the climate disaster that is so obvious today and is accelerating. If your elected officials are already climate smart, donate and/or work to elect climate smart officials in other jurisdictions. The time is NOW!

For information on actions that work to address the climate crisis, go to Project Drawdown at <https://drawdown.org/explorer>

LEAVE THE LEAVES



There are many benefits to leaving the fallen leaves on your lawn and around the shrubbery and plants in your yard.

Leaves provide habitat for wildlife over the winter months. They provide protection for insects like pollinators like bumblebees, moths, butterflies and fireflies that might hibernate there over the winter.

They also provide natural fertilizer as decomposing leaves release essential nutrients like carbon, vitamins and minerals back into the earth.

Leaves provide a thin layer of thin mulch, blocking weeds and protecting plant roots from extreme cold.

Read more about it here.

[National Wildlife Federation:](#)
[Leave the Leaves](#)

[A Way to Garden – Leaving the Leaves](#)

Floral News

“Oceans Around Us”

**Southeastern District at
Heritage Museums & Gardens,
July 22-24, 2026**

Interview with Ginger King
~ Karen Brockelbank

The Southeastern District Flower Show “Oceans Around Us” was designed by Ginger King, NGC Flower Show Judge. When she wrote the schedule, she wanted it to reflect all three components of design, horticulture and conservation. “I called it “Oceans Around Us” because the oceans are part of the big conservancy of the world, but I gave it the little pirate twist to be fun.”



Sharon Garden Club's 1st award winning educational display about Oyster Farming

Ginger has been spending time in the SE District Study group with other designers for many years. She has judged in other NGC shows, GCA shows all over, including Philadelphia, but says in all the places she has showed and judged there aren't as many fine designers anywhere else as in this special group in Sandwich.

The Heritage Flower Show is not confined to designers from the SE District Designers Group - designers from all over may enter. It surprises Ginger how well the novices do. The “Oceans Around Us” show brought another surprise. The

“Captain's Hearth” category was sparsely set up for each designer, but each garden club decked out the designated area like real mantles. “They came out so detailed, like full on mantles.”



*Lynnette Helms, Garden Club of Hyannis
1st place design, "Cruise Ship"
monochromatic traditional mass design
category*

Ginger will be designing the 2027 SE District Flower Show at Heritage Museum. We look forward to seeing what creative magic next year will bring!



*Dolores Ahern, Garden Club of Hyannis
1st place design, "Walk the Plank" line
mass design category*



*Judy Sheehy, Aptucxet Garden Club
1st place, "Sailboat" an angular
design*



*Kathy Clay, Garden Club of Hyannis
1st place, "Wave", cascade design*

Floral News

“Oceans Around Us” Southeastern District at Heritage Museums & Gardens, July 22-24, 2026



Jacquie Clay, Garden Club of Hyannis
1st place, “Ghost Ship”
Illuminary Design



Christine Decas, Wareham Garden Club
1st place, “Ship's Hammock”
Horizontal Design



Amy McDonald, Osterville Garden Club
1st place “Lunch by the Sea”
Alfresco Picnic for Two



Peggy McNamara,
Garden Club of Hyannis
1st place, “Breakfast on the Bounty”
Breakfast Tray for One



Ginger King,
Scituate & Cohasset Garden Clubs
1st place, “Dinner in the Rigging”
Exhibition Table



Donna Rumpf, Osterville Garden Club
1st place, “Sea Glass”, Designer's Choice

**“Oceans Around Us”
Southeastern District at
Heritage Museums &
Gardens, July 22-24, 2026**



*Maria Kallis, Barrington Garden Club
1st place, Coral Reef, Underwater Design*



*Shirley Minott, Walnut Hill Garden Club
1st place, Denizens of the Deep,
Imaginary Sea Creature*



*Jacquie Clay, Garden Club of Hyannis
1st place, Pirate's Booty, Brooch*



*Cynthia Chapra, Weston Garden Club
1st place, Port Hole, Wreath*



*Shirley Minott, Walnut Hill Garden Club
1st place, Out at Sea, Sailor's Valentine*



*Dotty Palko, Garden Club of Hyannis
1st place, Binnacle, Topiary Design*

**“Oceans Around Us”
Southeastern District at
Heritage Museums &
Gardens, July 22-24, 2026**



*Sally Cameron, Garden Club of Hyannis
1st place, Nantucket Lightship.
a Pot-et-fleur*



*Mariette Wooden, Community Garden
Club of Duxbury
1st place, Flotsam and Jetsam,
Assemblage*



Falmouth Garden Club, 1st place, Captain's Hearth, Vignette



*Elena Ahlin & Candi Hurwitz, Garden Club of Hyannis, 2nd Place, “Seaweed & its Uses”
Education Division*



“Roaring Twenties” South Shore District Flower Show at Marshfield Fair, August

~ Karen Brockelbank

I went to the “Roaring Twenties” Flower Show at the Marshfield Fairgrounds, hoping for an amazing experience. I was not disappointed.



*Dolores Ahern, Garden Club of Hyannis
1st place, Skyscrapers,
A Construction Design*

Lisa Pattinson and Mariette Wooden created the show together, and chose the Art Deco movement as their theme to celebrate its 100th anniversary. This artistic movement was a time when trends were moving away from Edwardian naturalism. In the modern 20s, people were driving, vacationing, and dancing. Lisa and Mariette took this, along with the architectural movement, and then correlated them to class movements that seemed inspiring.

The setup for the Marshfield flower show has a generous area available for each design, so categories such as “Skyscrapers: A Construction Design”, and “Technicolor: A Tapestry Design” had more

than enough room to show off their brilliant edges and floral hues. The designers seemed to take the challenge and run with it, creating some of the most amazing designs this spectator has seen so far. They took full advantage of the outrageous lines and curves of the Art Deco movement, and brought them in to the “Roaring Twenties” Flower Show in Marshfield.



*Margo Yie, Beth Shalom Garden Club
2nd place, Technicolor, a Tapestry Design*



*Shirley Minott, Walnut Hill Garden Club
1st place, Technicolor, a Tapestry Design*



*Christine Harris, Scituate Garden Club
1st place, Jazz, a Design*



*Phyllis Karlberg, Scituate Garden Club
1st place, Leisure Travel, a Design*



Floral News

“Roaring Twenties” South Shore District Flower Show at Marshfield Fair, August



Amy Spencer Forrest, Scituate Garden Club,
2nd place, Leisure Travel, a Design



Shannon Fitzpatrick,
Framingham Garden Club
3rd place, Breaking the rules,
a creative design



Cynthia Chapra, Weston Garden Club
1st place, Men were dapper; women were
flapper, a reflective design



Jean Nalen Dobachesky, Plymouth
Garden Club, America's Home Town
Garden Club
2nd place, Men were dapper; women
were flapper, a reflective design



Mariette Wooden, Community GC of
Duxbury, Bartra GC of Amelia Island
2nd place, Breaking the Rules, a
Creative Design



Heather Mahoney, Weston Garden Club
1st place, Breaking the Rules,
a Creative Design



“Rooted in History and Still Growing” – Framingham Garden Club’s Flower Show Returns After 26 Years ~ Shannon Fitzpatrick

The Framingham Garden Club is breathing a sigh of relief, contentment, and pride after hosting its first standard flower show in 26 years on September 16–17, 2026, at the historic Framingham Village Hall. Entitled Rooted in History and Still Growing, each floral design and horticulture exhibit honored what made Framingham special in the past and what makes it vibrant today.

Past pillars of the community, such as Christa McAuliffe and Henry Knox, and current treasures of our community, such as Framingham State University, the Framingham History Center, and the Danforth Museum, were just some of the past and present features of our city used for design inspiration.



Village Hall



Nancy Martin award winning low profile design honoring Henry Knox



Happy first time entrant and blue ribbon winner Jackie Kenney

Planning began in February, led by FGC's Design Committee Chair, Ruth Evans. Early on, an ad hoc committee brainstormed ideas for a theme and schedule titles. Volunteers assumed roles to prepare for and organize each step of the process. Experienced club designers led “Garage Workshops” on the design types in the schedule. Preparations continued throughout the summer into September, until debut day — September 16.



Marie Giorgetti Exhibition Table Remembering Framingham Baking Company's 109 Years

One of our goals in holding Rooted in History was to encourage FGC members to conquer their fear of being judged.

Eighteen first-time entrants from our club did exactly that! In fact, more than half of the 48 floral designs were made by our own members. Talented designers from clubs around the state also contributed marvelous designs.

“It has been a great thrill to see so many of our members step up to participate in an NGC Design competition for the first time. It takes bravery to take on a new challenge and then put the results of your work out to be judged. They did it! We have a remarkable group. It’s a privilege to be a part of it!” said Ruth Evans.

Not to go unmentioned are the horticultural and educational divisions. Dozens, if not hundreds, of well-groomed specimens filled Village Hall's Baker Room. Each horticultural class was named after a Framingham outdoor area, such as Callahan State Park, Sax Dam, and Garden in the Woods. The Educational Division featured “Green Therapy: Gardening for Mind, Body and Soul” and “The Power of Plants and Pollen.”



Caleb Gilman and his award winning marigold

The show created a wave of enthusiasm throughout the community, and our first-time designers were extremely proud of what they had accomplished. We hope this experience has encouraged them — and inspires even more members to take the leap and enter future NGC flower shows. Twenty-six years in the making, Rooted in History and Still Growing proved that the Framingham Garden Club is exactly that: still growing.



Floral News

“Rooted in History and Still Growing” Framingham Flower Show, September 16-17, 2026

~ Karen Brockelbank

I went to see the Framingham flower show on September 17. The event was inside a magnificent building which I learned later was the Old Village Hall. The horticulture section was on the first floor. I saw a table full of shiny marigolds beaming their orange faces into the room, and overheard someone explaining that this had been a “member challenge” where seedlings had been provided by a committee and individually grown in each person’s yard over the season. They were all different sizes and shapes, depending on the sun and water they had received.



A sea of marigolds

Upstairs, the categories spoke of Framingham’s rich history. “Pillars of the Community” included astronaut Christa McAuliffe, and colonial hero Henry Knox. There were “Gems on the Common” featuring the Framingham History Center and the Danforth Museum. “Framingham’s Future” featured categories such as the Framingham State University and the Framingham Heart Study. “Then and Now” featured a category near and dear to natives’ hearts, a tribute to the Framingham Baking Company, who had just closed its doors after 109 years.



Catherine Fochtman, Acton Garden Club, 2nd place, “Framingham Baking Company”

When I spoke with Ruth Evans, the show’s Design Committee General Chair, I remarked on the fact that the entire show seemed like a love letter to the city of Framingham. She said she likes to write and put ideas together, and when it came time to construct the flower show she and her committee knew it was going to be located in the history center, Village Hall, they came up with the idea of being “rooted in history – and what makes Framingham special today”. She explained that the flower show had been years in the making, with many workshops planned within the Framingham Garden Club, and years of practice horticulture shows each September.



Betsy Szymczak, Framingham & Natick Garden Clubs, 3rd place, “Framingham Heart Study”, a Creative Design

In order to explain the principles of design, the club has held been two or three design workshops each year, on a variety of topics, but all based on the Principles of Design. For several years, there have been little shows without any judging at general meetings. Rather than judging they worked together having gentle critiques in the workshops. There were garage workshops in the summer that started four years ago. Some individuals who ran senior classes said they had a lot of people who like to work with seniors, but they weren’t comfortable teaching design. So some more experienced designers stepped in to teach them.



Ruth Evans, Framingham Garden Club 1st place “Cultural Diversity” table award, Hispanic Table for Two

Of the 48 entries in the “Rooted and History and Still Growing” show, 18 of them were filled by first time exhibitors – an astounding 37%. Due to the gentle nurturing by Ruth Evans, Aparna Kumar, and Marie Giorgetti (with great help from Betsy Szymczak and many others), the Framingham show was a stunning success, and a great example of what happens when a community works together.



Mary Hayden, Framingham Garden Club 1st place, Traditional American Colonial Design

Floral News

"Rooted in History and Still Growing" Framingham Flower Show, September 16-17, 2026



Joanne Kennett, Hamilton Wenham Garden Club, 1st place, "Framingham Public Library"



Susan Hehir, Framingham Garden Club 2nd place, "Farmer's Market"



Andrea Saari, Framingham Garden Club, 1st place educational display, "Green Therapy: Gardening for the Mind, Body and Soul"



Andrea Saari, Framingham Garden Club 2nd place, "Danforth Museum"



Maria Chaput, Framingham Garden Club 1st place "Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller"





Floral News

“New England Fall Flower Show” Sept 18-22 Highlights

See Page 2



Katie Lorenz and Amy Guidi
Wellesley Gardeners' Guild
1st Place – Shared Insights
Best in Show



Leigh Hudson, Worcester Garden Club
1st Place – Growing Together
Ruth A. Wallack Design Award



Sarah Ribeiro, Worcester Garden Club
1st Place, Support Network



Floral News

Meet the Artist



GETTING TO KNOW DOLORES AHERN – By Karen Brockelbank

Many of you may know of Dolores Ahern by reputation as the leader of the Southeastern District Design and Horticulture Study Group on Cape Cod. I had the privilege of interviewing Dolores over Labor Day weekend and learned about her fascinating life, and how she became such a beloved teacher.

Her introduction to the gardening world came from a friend 50 years ago. Dolores was living in Chelmsford with her husband and two small children when her neighbor, Emma Houseman, noticed the enormous tomato plants growing up the side of the Ahern's garage. "You should join the garden club!" said Emma. And so Dolores did, eager to learn more. She found out later that her tomatoes had grown so well because they were unwittingly planted on a leach field.

The Laurel Gardeners, one of nine garden clubs in Chelmsford during the 1970's, was offering a class in floral design. Dolores has always been interested in the arts, and signed up for the class taught by Clare Richards*. She immediately fell in love with the art of floral design. Over the next several years, with Clare as her mentor, Dolores grew as a gardener and as a designer, going on to become an NGC Accredited Flower Show Judge, and ultimately reaching the level of Master Judge in 1981.

With nine garden clubs in Chelmsford, there was always a flower show going on. Sometimes all nine clubs joined together and created a town-wide show where the presidents decided on a theme and worked with each

other to put on a larger event. In the first show that Dolores entered she won the Blue Ribbon. *"I look back at the design and wonder why because it didn't look so great to me! But there's nothing like a blue ribbon to add to the addiction to this pursuit."*

Dolores entered the Mass Design category frequently in the Topsfield Fair Flower Show. She said, *"I didn't get the blue ribbon until after watching Georgia McHugh** for several years. Entering the fair and not getting the blue ribbon is the best thing that can*



Dolores Ahern at the Design Specialty Show held at Heritage Museum & Gardens in July



Floral News

Meet the Artist



GETTING TO KNOW DOLORES AHERN- By Karen Brockelbank



Gail Hubacker and Dolores Ahern

happen to you because you learn from it."

The Aherns moved to the Cape in 1981, and Dolores entered the Barnstable County Fair immediately, often chairing it and/or writing schedules. *"The best part of this has always been the wonderful friends that I have made. There is nothing like flower friends."*

Dolores and Bobbie Lingard formed The Southeastern District Design and Horticulture Study Group in Sandwich in 2000. The rules are very specific. The group meets four times a year, and membership is by invitation only. At its inception there were around 25 members, now the group numbers about 50. The group isn't meant for new arrangers. *"It is not the ABC's of flower arranging, you must have already done that,"* says Dolores. Some of their members commute from as far away as Sudbury.

Dolores sends out an assignment once a month in advance with three classes to choose from, often bouncing off a recent flower show where there were issues with designs. Study group members are required to support standard flower shows and to bring a design to at least two of the four meetings per year. Unlike an actual flower show where the designers are never allowed to hear the reasoning of the judges, this group benefits from full feedback. *"It's a flower show where the exhibitors are allowed to ask questions,"* says Dolores. *"I can feel the creative energy in the room"*



A design honoring the late Karen Knaub



New England Spring Flower Show
Stretch Design



Floral News

Meet the Artist



GETTING TO KNOW DOLORES AHERN– By Karen Brockelbank

during those meetings, I'm very proud of that group."

Continuing education is a subject that is important to Dolores. *"I have enjoyed being the recipient of some really nice awards, but I continue to study and educate myself. There is no end to where the creative process can take you. I am committed for as long as I can keep at it to the education of the newer folks. Some are judges now, some are not. But the judges must commit to constantly growing and being the best evaluators on other artists work. And to do that, they must always be students too."*



*CLARE RICHARDS

Clare influenced so many in the appreciation of the art of floral design and in horticulture.

In design classes we always were introduced to plant materials with their proper names. (And frequently quizzed at subsequent meetings! Clare was a teacher by trade and by the natural gift she had to mesmerize an audience in her knowledge of those worlds. Classes often lasted many hours and we were instructed to bring a lunch. We never minded, we loved every minute of being with her and soaking up the genius that was Clare.

I think I was particularly smitten and went to her at every turn of my tenure as a designer. And I use her teaching methods when giving classes. She was my mentor. I hung on her every word.



The great Clare Richards

Clare had so many gifts but the one that is most identified with her is her sensitivity to color.

The Clare Richards Award is given annually at the State show for the sensitive use of color. The Awards I am most honored to have received are the two times I was the recipient of that award. Clare was still alive for one of them and when she saw me at the show while she was sitting with colleagues, she shouted out "She's one of mine!!!" No greater honor.

The Clare L. Richards Award (1979) This GCFM Flower Show award, a plaque, may be given for the entry that best exemplifies the sensitive use of color.

**GEORGIA MCHUGH

Georgia McHugh was a nationally accredited master flower show judge, chairman of the Massachusetts judges council, recipient of countless top design awards, including the prestigious John Taylor Arms, Marie Hancock, Pauline Bowden and Clair Richards awards. She was chairman of many flower shows, including the design division of the New England Spring Flower Show and the Topsfield Fair.

The Georgia McHugh Award: A plaque given annually to the Novice with the highest point score in the Design Division at the Topsfield Fair. An exhibitor who has never won a blue ribbon in an NGC Standard Flower Show is considered a Novice. All classes are eligible. There will be one award given for both entry days.

Welcome Autumn! – By Nancy Reid

Fall arrives during the first week of September when I hear just one lonely cricket chirping outside my window at dusk—not in any kind of cadence but just here and there, irritating me to no end. Try as I might, sleep that night is out of the question. The following evening, a few more enter the group and by the end of the week there's a full blown chorus here on my little patch of creation. It begins to coalesce into what I call the Autumn Symphony which I gradually make peace with. Slipping into slumber happens more easily now, knowing it's here just until the first killing frost when the insects will have sung their last. Acclimatization is the name of the game as summer comes to a close with insect sounds and autumnal weather beginning to assert themselves.

I read up on the "Autumn Symphony" insects produce at this time of the year. Apparently, a cricket's noise is made by each insect rubbing its legs together to make that "chirp" sound. I can't identify the individual sounds of the other insects who join in, but all together they seem to be following a talented conductor who keeps them in tune working together to produce a cohesive whole. Recently while driving home and listening to my classical radio station, I heard Tellemann's Cricket Symphony



White Phlox Rose of Sharon

which I'd not heard of before. How about that? Apparently insects born last Spring are now looking for mates. They identify their species sounds and mate, laying their eggs in unobtrusive places in the gardens and woods surrounding our home. Next Spring their descendants will come forth when the time is right to begin life again. Amazing!



Roguchi Clematis

Still blooming in the gardens are tall white phlox David, purple bell-shaped Roguchi clematis, Rose of Sharon trees and purple Verbena bonariensis which hold their copious little purple pompoms on lofty stems lording it all over spent peonies, semi-evergreen daylilies and bearded iris leaves that are ready to cut back into their fan shape for winter. Various species of tall Sedum are now in starring positions tucked in here and there as their white, pink and magenta blossoms beckon hordes of bees to sample their offerings. Sweet Alyssum planted last April still holds forth forming a foamy white lace border that remains until the first killing frost. I also just found a perennial chrysanthemum a friend gave me years ago that finally loves the space I gave it and it's finally growing tall and is covered with buds. It has yet to bloom but that's when perennial mums send forth their flowers to open—later than all the others in my garden. Such a lovely surprise to look forward to as October progresses.

Now I'm looking at my gardens with an eye to pruning and cutting back. There's also much to divide and move but I usually leave that to the last. I cut back my Catmint (*Nepeta faseneii*) in mid-July. It rebloomed and now is ready for the final fall cutback. Such a rewarding plant. I've transplanted twelve lavender Rose of Sharon trees to my backyard along the forest section and after several years they're tall and doing incredibly well. It's a joy to get up in the morning to see their profuse flowers that will last well into October. They're considered invasive, but I seem to have a system that keeps them under control. The lavender ones propagate from their spent blooms taking root under the parent plant so taking the little ones out before the strong tap root takes hold is how I handle them. The ones that slipped by and became taller are now in my backyard forming a lovely lavender hedgerow. What's not to love?



Squirrel on Suet Feeder

Our oak trees are filling our lawn and gardens with acorns of all shapes and sizes. One year my husband filled 5 wheelbarrows full of acorns just from the street in front of our house. That was an exceptional year and I don't expect it to be like that this year, thankfully. Our Hickory Tree is busy sending down its nuts—thudding straight down into the lawn and cracking open when hitting our brick walkway opening their shells. Our squirrels are in heaven with this abundant gift from above. Birds have been molting their feathers

Welcome Autumn! – By Nancy Reid

between Summer's end and Autumn's advent. They hide away under cover as their old feathers come out and wait for their new feathers to grow in. We noticed this molting time since our bird feeders were only sporadically being used. Birds are vulnerable at this time and have to be careful. Soon they'll be eating us out of house and home, as it were. We also recently realized that our sparrows in particular will keep warm in winter in groups when they huddle together and jostle their feathers to stay warm. They'll also use our bird house nesting boxes filling each one with 2–3 birds at a time. With 11 individual nesting boxes we have homes for 22 to 33 birds! Others will do the same in our evergreens when there's not enough available inside space.



Wren on Suet Feeder



Lavender Rose of Sharon

I'm looking forward to receiving a package of bulbs and alliums to plant. Last Spring was the first time the bunnies and deer bothered my daylilies by nibbling the tops of leaves and even unopened buds on the spathes. It was a dreadfully cold winter when there wasn't much to eat so I understand why the damage was worse than usual. And I believe all creatures need to eat. So this year I'm planting more alliums and narcissus amongst my daylilies to help stem the tide of the destruction from last year. I know our critters here are very able to get what they want and when they want it, but I feel the need to hopefully keep things in better check with this year's efforts.

Speaking of critters, this year I've seen more rabbits than usual moving in and out between our lawn and garden areas.

They're so cute and soft looking. If I could only hold one and love on it would that help? Who am I kidding? Absolutely no way... I moved a pot of herbs and noticed they took down part of my large The President purple clematis which is looking brown at the base. No wonder the flowers were so sparse this year. Ugh! Last year they did the same to another clematis by biting the stems off two-inches from the ground and then leaving the upper vines to die back, finding them not to their taste. The only good news is those clematis plants reappeared and came back well in the Spring, so all is not completely lost.

Chipmunks are busy in the gardens now looking for anything they can transport to their underground dens for winter. We leave sunflower seeds out for them to add to their cache. It's so much fun to see how our little ecosystem works. We'll be hanging out our suet feeders soon. I always want to feed our two families of wrens but the sparrows and squirrels have figured out suet is great to add to their diet as well, so this year we'll be stocking up to be sure our wrens are well fed. So what if the squirrels and sparrows make off with the lion's share from time to time?

Nature is in charge after all and always has the final word!

So bring on the serenading insects, get ready to tackle cutting back this year's garden when ready, dividing and conquering where necessary, and have fun doing it!



Nancy Reid has been gardening since her early twenties. Her own design business in Harvard Square with clients such as The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Laura Ashley Ltd., Horticulture Magazine, and Dutch Gardens among many others, gave her an active and fun life working with color, design, and photography. Upon retirement her gardening increased incrementally once she joined the Reading Garden Club where she is an active member and former President. She designs the monthly newsletter, Flower Press and reports on what's happening on the little patch of creation she's been gifted with. She has written a book on gardening in the North East which hopefully will be published this coming Fall.

A Tribute to Leslie Frost, Garden Club of Massachusetts President

Honoring Extraordinary Service, Leadership, and Commitment to Botanical Excellence

Contributed by Marjorie Dienhart, GCFM President 2023-2025

Leslie Frost served as President of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts from 2003–2005. In the twenty years that followed, she remained an active and dedicated member of our Board of Directors, most notably as Chair of the Civic & Historic Landscaping Grant Program. As an avid gardener herself, Leslie took great pride in overseeing this program and in helping garden clubs throughout Massachusetts preserve and enhance their communities.

As State President, Leslie made a conscientious effort to visit as many clubs as possible. She traveled extensively throughout Massachusetts, connecting with clubs and their members, while also representing our Federation at the annual New England Regional and National Garden Clubs, Inc. conferences. She was an open-minded and thoughtful board member who always sought to understand both sides of an issue. She was also a steadfast supporter and enthusiastic cheerleader for the members of the Executive Board.

During her presidency, Leslie became a fully seated Trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Her dedicated stewardship across statewide organizations helped advance public education, historic landscape preservation, and community gardening initiatives throughout the region.

Leslie wore many hats during her years of service to GCFM. Among her many leadership roles were Legislation Chair; Action Committee for the Environment Chair; Reclamation and Recycling Chair; Northern District ACE Coordinator; Awards Chair; Northern District Conservation Chair; Garden Study School Chair; Environmental Concerns Chair; Historic Preservation and Historic Gardens Chair; Conservation/Natural Resources Chair; Leadership Guides Chair; Ways & Means Overseer;

Conservation Chair; Horticulture Chair; Office Liaison; and GCFM First Vice President.

She also served on numerous committees, including Administrative, Advisory, By-Laws, Civic Development and Preservation of Historic Land and Gardens Grant, Finance & Budget, Investment, Scholarship, and Documentation & Retention.

Well ahead of her time, Leslie graduated from Bates College in 1960, at a time when only 5.6% of women graduated from college. Her education opened doors and broadened her appreciation for beauty—in art, gardens, flowers, and beautiful objects—which naturally led to her becoming a collector.



Leslie generously shared her love of gardening by opening her garden to the public and to fellow garden club members for tours. Her home was a reflection of her appreciation for history and beauty. It showcased paintings, artifacts, and authentic timepieces from centuries past, revealing her passion for preserving and celebrating the past.

An epicurean at heart, Leslie also loved to cook and entertain. She often hosted committee meetings in her home, where

members were welcomed not only with her gracious hospitality but also with a delicious lunch prepared with joy and pride. True to Leslie's appreciation for history and tradition, the meals were served on China plates with matching tea cups and saucers dating back to the 1800s.

Leslie was a floral designer, preservationist, gardener, collector, family historian, and community leader. But beyond all of these accomplishments, she will be remembered for the person she was: a friend to many, a mentor to some, and a role model to all.

We are deeply grateful for Leslie's ambition, dedication, and tireless commitment to the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. Her spirit of service, good will, wisdom, and generosity enriched our Federation in countless ways.

Leslie's kindness, warmth, and love of nature touched everyone around her. Her hands made gardens grow, her heart made people be seen, and her spirit left a lasting bloom in all of our lives. We will cherish her memory and the many contributions she made to our organization and to the gardening community she loved.

Leslie will be deeply and fondly missed.



Her Shirley Farm Landscape Project, Part Eighteen - Juliet Silveri

A Barn Garden, Experimental Ground Covers in Dry Soil, and the Wildly Unsuccessful Pastoral Grass

Let's start with a 'Fireworks' *solidago rugosa* bang—look at this striking display of bright yellow bee-luring glory. This is part of my upper garden in late summer—this glorious bloomer is spectacular in September.



'Fireworks' Solidago rugosa

It was a depressing view from my kitchen window—weeds crowding out the *persicaria* I had planted in front of the barn, so I had those weeds pulled, had the area edged, had compost spread, then mulch. Eight small *persicaria amplexicaulis* (mountain fleece) have been there for a couple of years but lately have been crowded out by weeds. I chose this lovely 3-ft tall plant because: it will not grow tall enough to block the barn windows, has chartreuse foliage all season that stands out from a distance, and blooms with spiky magenta flowers for months. A row of these plants against a gray barn will make a striking view from my kitchen window about 150 feet away. It will be a monoculture of only *persicaria*. I added three or four clumps from my upper garden, and so was created my new barn garden—this garden may seem a relatively small thing, but it is in a very visible place and once the *persicaria* grow larger the garden will provide a key focal point in the landscape.



My New Barn Garden with Persicaria Amplexicaulis, Front View



My New Barn Garden with Persicaria Amplexicaulis, Side View

In the gardening world there is currently a trend of creating "pocket" forests and my backwoods area was one—now I am partially "unforesting" or "unwinding" in this area that had been cleared of poison ivy. Here the tree roots take up any moisture and create a very dry soil where the usual assortment of goldenrod, bittersweet, small maple and oak saplings, American burnweed, and other wild and invasive things are growing. I am gradually reducing the amount of poison ivy and invasives and replacing them with the ground covers and ferns mentioned below, with a few other shrubs that might adapt to the area's conditions.



Backwoods Area Looks Bare After Poison Ivy Removal

For ground cover I planted *tiarella cordifolia* (foam flower). I also planted Sweet Woodruff (*galium odoratum*) and these two ground covers began to do well once I realized the soil was very dry and started to provide

consistent watering. The tiarella has been eaten by some creature so I am not sure I want to continue with it. I don't want the chore of spraying another set of plants with deer and rabbit repellent. I also had planted lambs' ears, which have spread seed and I see little babies sprouting up—these should tolerate the dry soil and will provide a silver luminous ground cover.



Backwoods Area in September 2026—Ground Cover Plantings Not Yet Visible

In this area I had planted five ghost ferns (*athyrium* x 'ghost') and two perished before I realized how much water these plants needed; I recently bought two replacements and the other three are surviving well.



One of My Athyrium 'Ghost' Ferns Growing in the Backwoods Area

I am trying to grow grass in an accursed area. It's a continuing adventure. This effort this past spring resulted in a huge amount of crabgrass and a small amount of real grass,

Her Shirley Farm, Cont'd

despite bringing in new dirt, seeding, constant watering, and fertilizing. I figured out that the dirt we got from a landscaping company must have contained crabgrass seeds because I can't think of any other explanation. So next spring we will try again. We will use crabgrass preventative in April, stare at the whole mess until September, then once again plant some grass seed—on top of compost this time. Over the last five years I have had gravel removed, dirt bought in, and tried to grow grass unsuccessfully, and then had it dug out AGAIN. Then tried to grow grass unsuccessfully AGAIN. It will be my fourth try. What else could possibly go wrong?

Future design plans languished this season as I searched for a landscape designer, but the plans will progress, so join me on my winding path and pond adventure in the winter and spring!



MAYFLOWER SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE: The next *Mayflower* Issue deadline for submissions is **December 10.**

TEXT: Please try to keep your stories 75 words or less.

PICTURES: Attach image files (usually JPG's) to your email, do not embed them in your document.

CAPTIONS: *Please provide captions for each photo you submit.*

SEND IN YOUR NEWSWORTHY ITEMS TO
GCFMmayflower@gmail.com.

Jane dePeyster Hovey Webster, 1870-1969

GCFM's Dynamic Second President

Jane dePeyster was born in 1870 to Fannie and William de Peyster in Chelsea, Massachusetts. Her grandfather, Charles Fox Hovey, was an abolitionist and supported the first National Woman's Rights Convention in 1850.

She married Edwin Sibley Webster on June 1, 1893. Together, they led their lives supporting the arts and noble causes. He served on the board of trustees at Mass General Hospital and the Museum of Fine Arts. She became president of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in Massachusetts 1942-1947, and curated important historic sites for preservation. Her portrait was drawn by John Singer Sargent, and she was often photographed at many society events at Boston's most famous locations.

Jane loved flowers and gardens. The renowned Webster Rose Garden at her summer home in Quisset was open to the public for almost 40 years. Once, in 1932, she joined with three other local gardeners to open their gardens to the public for a fee - \$1 to benefit the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Edwin Webster was president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society from 1932-1944.

Jane was living in Chestnut Hill with her family when she accepted the role of President of the brand new Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts for the 1929-1930 season. Her four children, Frances, Mabel, Edwin Jr. and Mary, had long left the nest to marry and raise their own families. At the age of 59, with



such a storied career behind her already, she might have felt excited about being part of something new.

GCFM had 53 member clubs at the start of President Webster's term, a 28% gain over the count of 38 the year before. During her time as leader, she concentrated on civic projects and plantings at local railroad stations. She wanted to beautify the grounds around public buildings and maintain the grounds of hospitals and homes for the aged. The western part of the state was cooperating in a broad program known as the Highway Beautification Contest. GCFM worked to interest children in gardening.

Legislative work was added to conservation. Jane was busy during her year as president, but I'm sure she was eager to move on to her next gallant cause and more time with Edwin.

Karen Brockelbank