



## Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.

### The Village News, January 19, 2026

January! Do you love January? Some of us love the quiet beauty of January, where the world slows down and we can dream big for the year ahead! We can dream of our gardens, flip through all those gardening magazines we are getting in the mail, and plan what exciting new plant we want to add to our gardens! Enjoy this quiet time to dream of flowers and spring...it's coming sooner than you think!

#### **Save the Date and Mark Your Calendars!**

Our GCFM 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Milford, MA. Details and further information will be communicated shortly so stay tuned..... it's going to be an exciting meeting with great speakers and award presentations!

#### **TIME-SENSITIVE ITEMS:**

**The PHS Philadelphia Flower Show - February 28, to March 8<sup>th</sup>, 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: <https://phsonline.org/the-flower-show>

**The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut - A NGC Standard Flower Show February 19 – 22, 2026, A Storybook Garden**

44th Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show® CT Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103

The link for more information: <https://ctgardenclubs.org/events-overview/ct-flower-show/>

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. 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**

The Plant America Community Project Grant submission date of October 15<sup>th</sup> has passed. However, we mention this program to encourage your club to consider applying for this grant. Isn't this a great time of year to dream of gardens and maybe collaborate with another club to create a project?

Grant recipients were notified in December 2025 and received up to \$2000.00 to be used for 2026 projects. Projects must be completed by **February 28, 2027**; final reports due by April 1, 2027. For more information click here: [Plant America Grants](#)

The scope of these projects may include but are not limited to:

- Beautification and/or restoration
- Youth Gardening, Community Gardens
- Landscape projects, including tree planting: could include Habitat for Humanity
- A horticulture or environmental educational event for the public

**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**. Find out more about these programs by clicking on this link: <https://www.ngcinc.org/>

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

This program began in 2014 and the AMES Companies have generously agreed to extend their in-kind grant program for 2026. 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**

### **EDUCATION SCHOOL REMINDERS**

#### **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](#)

#### **NGC GARDEN SCHOOL SERIES 12, COURSE 4 April 9, 10, 11, 20, & 26. ZOOM**

Deadline for registration on April 1, 2026.

Learn about gardening styles, pruning techniques, nativars, and more. 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](#)

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL**

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

Dates to be announced; contact Pat Rupiper, [patrupiper@gmail.com](mailto:patrupiper@gmail.com) with questions.

### **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 your check, name, email, phone number, name of Garden Club to: Pat Fleming, 143 Cherry St, Wenham, MA 01984

All participants will receive a packet of reference handouts. Contact Pat Fleming at email: [fleming.3patricia@gmail.com](mailto:fleming.3patricia@gmail.com) with questions.

**Technology issues impact our planned GCFM January 14<sup>th</sup> ZOOM meeting with Dr. Beth Brantley “The Future of Beech Trees”.** Widespread ATT & Verizon outages cut off tens of thousands of users and lasted more than six hours across the United States. This service interruption stemmed from a complex software issue, and a faulty configuration update in the 5G core network. This issue impacted phone calls, emails, and data transmission disruption for ALL devices causing the inability for users to communicate. Due to this service interruption, we could not communicate with those GCFM Members who registered for Dr. Brantley's program “The Future of Beech Trees”, the free webinar that was to take place at 7:00 PM. The Zoom meeting was cancelled, and Dr. Brantley has graciously agreed to reschedule the Zoom Meeting. As soon as the date is confirmed you will be advised. We apologize for the cancellation of this Zoom meeting and the ability to communicate to those who registered for the Zoom meeting, but we were unable to send any form of communication due to these technical issues.



We hope you find the Village News useful and informative.

Please send feedback or suggestions for future articles in the Village News to

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