



## Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.

The Village News, January 5, 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Best wishes for a happy and healthy year ahead. The countdown is on...there are 75 days until Spring! We hope you have time during these short days to start making plans for updates to your gardens. It is also a great time to look outside and see how the winter landscape differs from the summer. Look at the tree branches, walk in the woods, or watch the birds in the bushes, and enjoy winter's beauty.

### TIME-SENSITIVE ITEMS:

#### **January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 via ZOOM 7:30 to 8:30 pm – The Future of Beech Trees**

Learn about key threats to beech trees, including phytophthora, beech bark disease, wood decay pathogens, foliar-feeding arthropods and beech leaf disease with Dr. Beth Brantley, research scientist with Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories. Register Here: [Future of Beech Trees](#)

#### **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

#### **NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB GRANT PROGRAM with the 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, natives, 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**

**FUNDamentals of Floral Design II - Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.**

**Both classes** take place at the Topsfield Fairground, Coolidge Hall 207 Boston Street, Topsfield MA 91983., Contact Pat Fleming at email: [fleming.3patricia@gmail.com](mailto:fleming.3patricia@gmail.com) \$25 per class or \$40 for both classes. Checks made to GCFM.

## **GCFM MEMBER SCHOLARSHIPS**

All GCFM Garden Club members are eligible for The Helen DeOrsay Freidberg Tribute Scholarship.

This scholarship, established in 2006, is awarded each year for EACH of the NGC schools held in Massachusetts: Landscape Design, Gardening, Flower Show School, and Environmental.

Scholarship to be given to one Garden Club Member per district to any of the GCFM Schools in MA per year.

Scholarship Application Requirements 1. An applicant must be a member of a GCFM Federated Club and may apply to any school in any given year. 2. An application form must be filled out by the applicant and signed by the president of her/his club. 3. An application must be received by the chairman of the Helen D. Freidberg Scholarship Committee BEFORE 15 Feb of the calendar year. 4. Only one member per club may apply for each course. 5. The course must be held in Massachusetts. 6. The applicant may not be a previous recipient of a scholarship for that school. 7. The scholarship is a onetime award. 8. The scholarship covers only tuition. Books, lodging, travel, and incidentals are not covered. 9. The scholarships will be awarded at the GCFM Annual meeting and must be used in the following fiscal year.

The form is being updated and will be available on January 15, 2026.

Deadline to apply is February 15, 2026.



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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