



MAYFLOWER

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Newsletter



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

The President's Message



The last days of Summer have come and gone. As Fall is moving in we are starting to see the Garden Clubs are in full swing.

GCFM District Directors have been out among you hosting their Fall Coffee Meetings. We have had the opportunity to hear the District Clubs accomplishments for last year and what their plans are for this coming year.

As of this printing, the Cranberry, South-eastern and South Shore Districts have already had their meetings. The remaining District Fall Coffee Meetings are listed here:

AMERICA



As we enter America's semi-quincentennial year, GCFM will feature your patriotic-themed gardening efforts

WESTERN & CENTRAL SOUTH DISTRICT:
Friday, October 3, Charlton Public Library, 10-12

CENTRAL NORTH DISTRICT: Saturday, October 18, Northborough Public Library, 10-12

METRO DISTRICT: Monday, October 20, Temple Shalom, West Newton, 10-12

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Wednesday, October 22, Topsfield Public Library, 20-12

NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Date and Location to be determined

MIDDLESEX DISTRICT: Date and Location to be determined

Your GCFM District Directors are looking forward to talking with your club Presidents, Treasurers, and other representatives at these local meetings. These short "Coffee Meetings" are designed to give your executive staff the tools they need to run your club and educate them on the benefits that GCFM offers.

GCFM has some marvelous schools, programs, workshops, and contests coming up. Announcements will be made in the Monday Memos, and you can always check GCFM's [website](https://www.gcfm.org) for updates.

Happy Fall!

*Kim Edwards
GCFM President
"It Takes a Village"*



Table of Contents

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CLUB NEWS A-Z 3-8

FEDERATED NEWS

• Deadlines 9

EDUCATION - Upcoming Classes 10-11

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

• Massachusetts Leads the Nation
with New Bio-Diversity Goals 12

• Governor's Office 13

• Environmental Legislation 14

FLORAL NEWS

• Heritage Flower Show 15-17

• Marshfield Flower Show 18

• Fall Flower Show 19-20

FEATURES

• Her Shirley Farm 21-22

• Book Review 23

• Obituary 24

Shannon Fitzpatrick

Framingham Garden Club

FIRST PLACE

Class 1, "Part of a Greater Whole"

Mono-Botanic Design

FALL FLOWER SHOW, PAGE —

GARDEN CLUBS AT WORK



ANDOVER

The Andover Garden Club shared a table with the Andover Pollinator Pathway Group during Andover Days on Saturday, September 20.



AGC's table at the Andover Days booth

40 people signed up for the APP monthly newsletter, 2 bought yard signs and many took free native seed packets. A good day!



Maria Bartlett, Mindy Chave, Suzanne Korschun and Cheryl McKeough

BOXFORD

The Boxford Village Garden Club's booth at the Apple Festival was a blooming success and a favorite stop for festival-goers. Fresh flower bouquets and vases—many made with cuttings from members' gardens—accounted for about 60% of sales, while handmade, garden-themed décor contributed the remaining 40%. The club also hosted a conservation table, promoted its new website, and connected with potential new members.



Members of the Boxford Village Garden Club at their flower booth during Boxford's Apple Festival

Beyond raising funds, the booth radiated charm, joy, and energy—drawing smiles from the crowd and reflecting the spirit and positivity our members bring to every event.

BURLINGTON

To finish off the 2024-25 year, we had three highly successful fundraisers, enjoyed time with Seniors at the CoA, gave out the annual scholarship to a very deserving senior, and celebrated milestones and good memories at the annual dinner meeting. Rhody N. received the GCFM Middlesex District 2025 Unsung Hero award and Ruth Y. and Terri S. were celebrated with Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding service to the club and community.

Over the summer, members water and care for 9 planters on the Common, multiple planters at the Burlington Public Li-



Rhody presented the 2025 Unsung Hero award by District Director Susan Shealy.

brary and Council on Aging Buildings, and one traffic island. Members continue to help with the Community garden supporting Burlington's food pantry and upkeep of the adjacent pollinator garden and meadow.

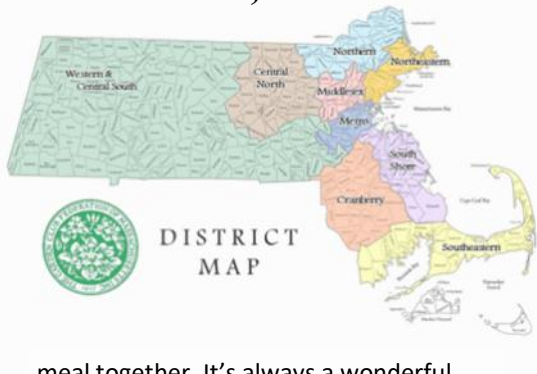


Terri and Ruth presented Certifications of Appreciation by Co-President Jane Boivin.

The 2025-26 season started in August with an informal garden party reconnecting with friends old and new, introduced a fresh redesigned logo, gave out a special High-Five award, discussed upcoming events, and enjoyed a potluck



Clubs at Work, Cont'd



meal together. It's always a wonderful time! Everyone is looking forward to the Fall filled with interesting programs, fun workshops, and garden therapy at the Sunrise assisted living center.

DANVERS

Spring fever was in the air at the March meeting. A workshop instructed by Joni Pesola was a huge hit and got all that participated ready for spring planting! Spring flower boxes were on the agenda with beautiful colored pansies and greens and pussy willow handles!!



Two of our members participated in Art in Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Kristie Hardin and Debbie Stashis-Douglass submitted a beautiful arrangement showcasing their talents. Thank you to these members for representing our club.

At our May meeting we installed two new Co-Presidents. Ann Chandler & Ann Farley will be taking the reins beginning in June. They have brought with them lots of new ideas as well as some of the favorites. We are looking forward to an exciting year!



Spring flower box workshop with colored pansies, greens and pussy-willow handles

FRAMINGHAM

The Framingham Garden Club kicked off its program year on September 10 with *Botanica Fantasia*, an intra-club Horticulture and Photography Show designed to help members explore National Garden Club requirements for entries in a fun, supportive setting.



Dahlias at horticulture show



Ruth Evans receiving Floribunda Award

Newly installed president Shannon Fitzpatrick led a lively first meeting that included welcoming two new members and awarding Ruth Evans a much-deserved Floribunda Award. The Floribunda Award is a symbol of recognition and gratitude bestowed upon a club member who has made exceptional contributions to a garden club.

GROTON

It has been 24 years since 9/11, and the Groton Garden Club continues to honor the memory of those killed on that day. The Club maintains the gardens at three memorials in town. The Center Fire Station on Farmer's Row has a garden that surrounds a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. A plaque commemorating the firefighters who lost their lives sits at



Hansen Family Memorial Garden

Clubs at Work, Cont'd



NAUSET

We started our year with a presentation from Dolores Ahearn and Gail Hubacker, two very talented floral designers and long-time National Garden Club Judges. They led our group in a lesson on how to create a "Petite Design".



Dolores Ahearn with her Petite Designs

Dolores and Gail described the principles of this type of design and what judges look for when critiquing flower show design entries. They encouraged our members to have fun, use their creativity and enter a flower show!

NORFOLK

This summer, on a beautiful July day, 16 members of the *Garden Club of Norfolk* joined forces with members of *Resilient Norfolk Yards* to beautify the Norfolk Public Library. Starting at 8:00 a.m., the workers pulled weeds, trimmed bushes, and "tamed" the wild landscape surrounding the Library's perimeter. The before-and-after pictures painted a powerful portrait of what can happen when we support one another. This was a powerful community event, involving three town groups, to beautify our wonderful Norfolk Public Library!



Members of the Garden Club of Norfolk and the Resilient Norfolk Yards relax after beautifying the Norfolk Public Library grounds

NORTHBOROUGH

To continue celebrating our 100th anniversary, the Northborough Garden Club had the most successful plant sale in years and the 100th customer received her plants at no charge and also won a hanging basket. The winning raffle ticket was drawn that afternoon and a lucky person won the Centennial Anniversary tulip-patterned quilt, lovingly made and donated by two club members. We had a great turnout for our self-guided Garden Tour that was held



Co-Presidents Deborah H. and Carlene D.

in early July, showcasing properties of members who generously opened their gardens for all to enjoy.

PLYMOUTH

Our spring began with a very successful plant sale. Over the summer, our club members host a garden party at their homes for club members. We have had several this summer and it will continue into the fall.



Spring Plant Sale 2025

We also prepared fifty herb plants, with recipes attached as a donation for the Plymouth Library Foundation's Annual Garden Tour and Sustainability Fair. This donation helps raise funds for the renovation of the Schiff Garden.



Betsy H., Cathy M., Patti O., Gloria P., Joanie N., MaryJo G. Summer Garden Party Hostess Betsy H.

Clubs at Work, Cont'd



SPRINGFIELD

This summer the Springfield Garden Club had many lovely group strolls through members' gardens. It's a great way to keep in touch through the summer and to learn from each other.

SUDBURY



One of Springfield's Garden Strolls

The Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury held its first September meeting on September 11, 2025. The presentation for the meeting was based on the idea of "Guess Who is Coming to Dinner". The criteria was a semi formal table for 2. Two designers would work together and come up with their table setting and guest.

We held 2 workshops over the summer and had 11 attendees. Our first workshop was to give an overview of the Principles of Design. The students worked with a small vase and flowers concentrating on Proportion and Scale.

Our second workshop we discussed the Elements of Design. Specifically color and form. At this workshop we worked with an array of flowers using containers the de-



Table design workshop participants

signers thought could work for their semi-formal table.



Table design workshop participants

September 11th was presentation day. Their table designs were a Big Hit! Club members enjoyed all the different table designs. Each table had a few clues as to who might be their guest.

This meeting was a great icebreaker. Members and guests were chit chatting and having a great time Guessing "Who was Coming to Dinner" Our meetings are open to the public.

TEWKSBURY

Our year ended spending time together at a closing dinner complete with a "little green bag" as a take home remembrance. Next year's executive board will be meeting over the summer to plan educational and fun programs.



Jaine Marquis, Luann O'Keefe, Trish Briggs

The Bayberry Garden Therapy Group planted several raised beds to encourage the residents to enjoy the outdoors as well as fresh vegetables.



Trisha Keddle, Lisa Bengtson-Gill, Charlene Buckley

Our pollinator preservation garden continued to expand as we used the Ames grant tools to plant native plant species at Muster Park. Using plants purchased with grant money from the Tewksbury Congregational Church, and dug from Giancarla Kalpa's Sunny Meadows Pollinator Gardens, we planted at Muster Park and the Town Hall Annex to increase our pollinator plant footprint.

Clubs at Work, Cont'd



WEST NEWBURY

The West Newbury Garden Club hosted its third "Art in the Garden Tour" on June 14th. The tour included six beautiful gardens in West Newbury and Merrimac, MA. Each garden was uniquely designed, reflecting the artistic personality of its host. The theme of this year's tour was Gardens as Art and visitors were encouraged to view the gardens themselves as works of art. "Plein air" artists and musicians performed at each garden.

An added treat was provided by the owners of a historic home in Merrimac surrounded by period gardens. The house was originally built in 1710 in Concord, MA, by Peregrine White, Jr., the son of the first English child born on the Mayflower. It was moved to Merrimac and beautifully restored by the current owners.

The event was a huge success because each garden was so distinctive and carefully curated by its owner.



An artist at Knettel House



Ellie Denault and Bonnie Hoefer



Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Program

Looking for a great 250th celebration gift to your town and club?

Why not a Blue Star memorial plaque or highway marker? These plaques and highway signs are a good way to honor all who have served in the armed forces.

For help and more information contact:

Joy DiMaggio at GCFMbluestar@gmail.com



Blue Star Memorial Marker in Sudbury



DEADLINES/REMINDERS

OCT 1 - ESPOMA GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN

Applications are now being accepted for Espoma grants through NGC. [Click here](#)

OCT 15 - 501(c)(3)

Renewals are due to Linda Thomson-Clem by October 15. [Click here](#)

OCT 15 - PLANT AMERICA

Submissions are due to NGC on October 15. [Click here](#).

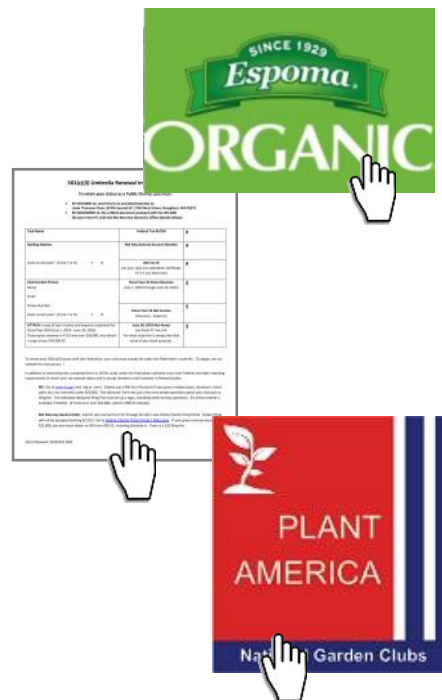
DEC 1 - GCFM STATE AWARDS SUBMISSIONS GCFM FLOWER AWARDS SUBMISSIONS

Download the application by [clicking here](#).

GCFM HANDBOOK - [click here](#).

Please contact Lisa Murray about GCFM State Awards at GCFMStateAwards@gmail.com

Please contact Gail Hubacker about Flower Show Awards at GCFMFlowerShowAwards@gmail.com



DEC 10 - MAYFLOWER WINTER ISSUE DEADLINE

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 (describe what is going on in the photograph).

NEGC Annual Meeting

October 14-15, 2025

The New England Garden Clubs Annual Meeting will be held at The Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, 100 Capitol Boulevard Rocky Hill, CT on October 14-15, 2025.

Register by [CLICKING HERE](#).



PARLIAMENTARIAN WANTED

If interested, please contact

gardenclubfedma@gmail.com

EDUCATION



GARDEN CLUB - FINANCE SEMINAR WEBINAR OCTOBER 6

DEADLINE TO REGISTER - OCTOBER 4

GCFM Executive Board Presentation, Financial Concerns, Responsibilities & Procedures. Available to Garden Club Presidents, Treasurers or Club Representatives.



GCFM FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE III - October 15-18, 2025

DEADLINE TO REGISTER - SEPTEMBER 23

Education Division and Youth/Sponsored Group Divisions; Judging etiquette/ethics; Combination plantings; Creative designs.



GCFM LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL COURSE IV - October 28-30, 2025

DEADLINE TO REGISTER - OCTOBER 15

ZOOM CLASS. Contemporary Trends; Community Participation; History and Development; Suburban Design; Guidelines for Evaluating Designs; Evaluation of Designs.



EDUCATION



GCFM FLORAL DESIGN WITH RUTH EVANS WORKSHOP - OCTOBER 28, 2025



DEADLINE TO REGISTER - [OCTOBER 15](#)

Ruth Evans will teach a transparency design workshop, in-person at St. Susanna's Parish in Dedham, MA.

OCTOBER DESIGN WORKSHOP

GCFM and Designing Workshop Present
Flower Show Judge
RUTH EVANS
 Tuesday, October 28, 2025
 10:00 – 11:30 AM
 Saint Susanna's Parish
 262 Needham Street, Dedham, MA
 Ruth will teach us about transparency design. Class includes a lecture, demonstration, and the opportunity to apply what you've learned as you create an arrangement to take home.
 • All levels of experience in floral arranging are welcome
 • Bring your floral snips or scissors
 • Attendees do not have to belong to a GCFM garden club
 • Bring a friend with you for a most enjoyable morning
 • \$55.00, credit cards only
 To register for the class please click this link. Deadline to register is October 15!
[REGISTER NOW](#)
 Please email margo_yie@verizon.net or call Margo Yie at 781-235-2573 if you have any questions.

Future Design Workshop!
 Monday, December 1, 2025
 Visit the www.gcfm.org website for most information on Design Workshop programs.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST - KEN TURINO WEBINAR NOVEMBER 4



DEADLINE TO REGISTER - [NOVEMBER 1](#)

This richly illustrated lecture reveals how Christmas in America has evolved from its controversial beginnings in 17th-century New England—when it was banned!—to the cherished holiday we celebrate today.


FREE WEBINAR
For GCFM Members
Spirit of Christmas Past
With Ken Turino
Four Centuries of Christmas in America
NOVEMBER 4, 2025 7:00 PM EST
 Join us for an enchanting journey through Christmases of the past! This richly illustrated lecture reveals how Christmas in America has evolved from its controversial beginnings in 17th-century New England—when it was banned!—to the cherished holiday we celebrate today. Discover surprising origins behind beloved traditions, among the topics discussed are how Christmas trees were raised, halls were decked, and Santa Clause came to town. You'll see how Christmas shifted from raucous revelry to the warm, family-centered celebration we know and love.
 Perfect for history buffs and holiday enthusiasts alike, this presentation will illuminate the fascinating story behind the making of a "traditional" American Christmas.
 Ken Turino Biography
 Ken Turino is a curator, educator, and author with a deep focus on community engagement, historic interpretation, and public history. As Manager of Community Partnerships and Resource Development at Historic New England, he has overseen numerous regional projects and exhibitions. His award-winning films, such as "Back to School: Lessons from Norwich's One-Room Schoolhouses," have aired on PBS.
[Register Now](#)


GCFM FLORAL DESIGN WITH JUDY MORGAN WORKSHOP - DECEMBER 1, 2025



DEADLINE TO REGISTER - [NOVEMBER 26](#)

Judy Morgan will teach a class on underwater design, in-person at Saint Patrick's Parish Hall, Wareham, MA.

DECEMBER DESIGN WORKSHOP

GCFM and Designing Workshop Present
Flower Show Judge
JUDY MORGAN
 Monday, December 1, 2025
 10:00 – 11:30 AM
 Saint Patrick's Parish Hall
 82 High Street, Wareham, MA
 Judy will teach us about underwater design. Class includes a lecture, demonstration, and the opportunity to apply what you've learned as you create an arrangement to take home.
 • All levels of experience in floral arranging are welcome
 • Bring your floral snips or scissors
 • Attendees do not have to belong to a GCFM garden club
 • Bring a friend with you for a most enjoyable morning
 To register for the class please click this link:
[REGISTER NOW](#)
 Please email jessie_yie@verizon.net or call Margo Yie at 781-235-2573 if you have any questions.






ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

with Maria Bartlett

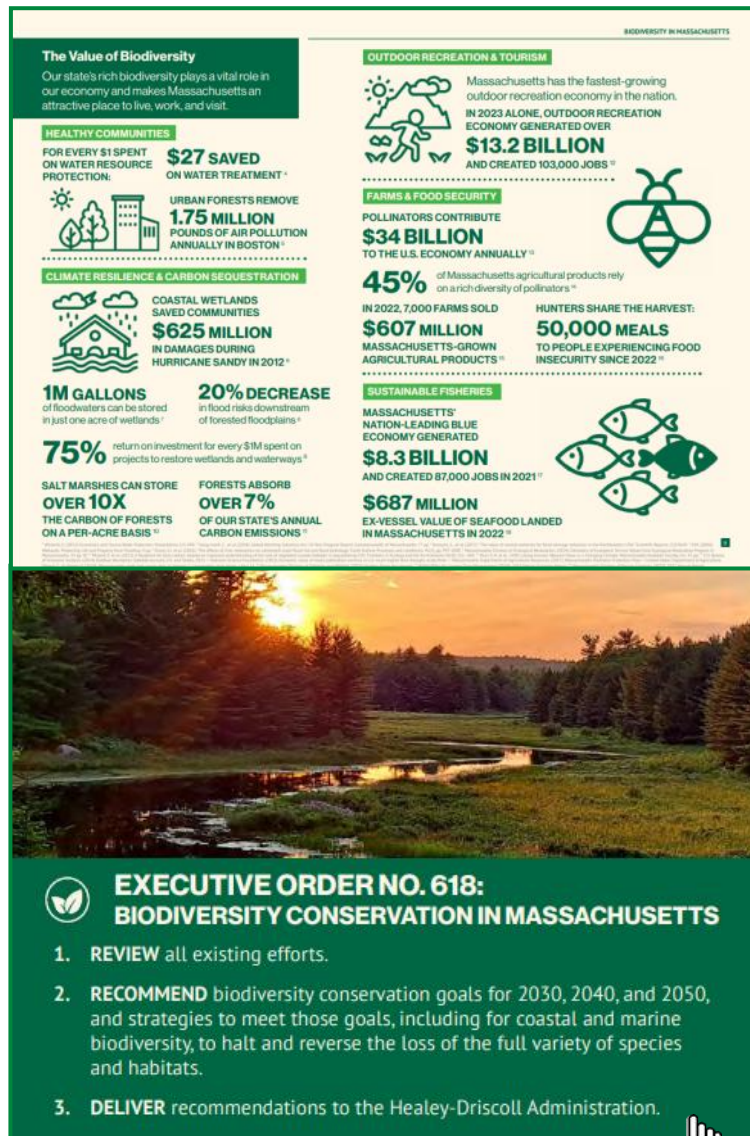
The State Launches Nation-Leading Biodiversity Conservation Goals for Massachusetts

On August 21, 2025, Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, Governor Maura Healey, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper, and key partners announced the nation-leading **Biodiversity Conservation Goals for the Commonwealth**

This ambitious, whole-of-government approach charts a path forward to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and invest in nature to sustain our health and well-being, food security, economy, and way of life.

Called for by Governor Maura Healey's [Executive Order No. 618](#), this is the **first time** a state has comprehensively set biodiversity targets for 2030, 2040, and 2050, including for coastal and marine habitats. Notably, this plan commits to doubling the pace of land protection to achieve 30% by 2030 and 40% by 2050 and restoring 75% of our most important habitats for wildlife by 2050.

To kick off this initiative, Mass Audubon was announced as the first partner in a new public-private **Massachusetts Biodiversity Partnership** to drive innovation and build momentum. Thanks also go to over 250 supporter organizations. (Included are two Pollinator Pathway groups: Lexington Living Landscapes and Andover Pollinator Pathway, as well as Grow Native Massachusetts.)



"There is hope and we can make a difference - Massachusetts will lead the way."

Please check out the following link:

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION GOALS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

A whole-of-government approach to conserve biodiversity in Massachusetts for 2030/2040/2050.

This is the user friendly interesting and informative Report. Access it at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-biodiversity-goals-report-2025/download>





ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

with Maria Bartlett

There has been a lot of positive news about environmental bills coming out of the Governor's office:

1. [Mass Ready Act](#), which would provide funding for increasing the tree canopy and for habitat restoration and protection

2. [The Biodiversity Conservation Goals for the Commonwealth](#) was announced at the end of August. It is a four part plan to protect, restore, sustain, and connect. It includes pollinator habitat creation and invasive species removal.

We will be waiting for more details on how these goals will be reached. The Fall Mayflower includes an article about this report (see previous page).

3. The Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources' [Pesticide and Pollinator hearing](#) is scheduled for Monday, October, 27th, at 1pm. We believe that many bills that are of interest to readers of this newsletter will be heard at this hearing.

There are opportunities to testify in person, virtually, or by sending in written comments. Check back on the [hearing link](#) for updates about how to testify.

Mass Ready Act

Strong infrastructure. Prepared communities.

- ✓ Strengthening Our Infrastructure
- ✓ Investing in Farms and Local Economies
- ✓ Protecting Water and Nature
- ✓ Housing & Environment Permitting Reform
- ✓ Supporting Western and Central Mass



Healey-Driscoll Administration



Hearing Details

★ JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES





ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

with Maria Bartlett

The following bills are of interest to gardeners and you could potentially advocate for them with your [legislators](#). The fact sheets below that various coalitions have put together can help you understand the issue and include talking points.

An Act to Protect Pollinators and Public Health (S.587/H.1041) protects Massachusetts' pollinators, ecosystems, waters, and public health by limiting neonicotinoid uses that cause significant harm without providing worthwhile benefits. Neonicotinoids or "neonics" are neurotoxic pesticides linked to massive bee and insect losses in Massachusetts and around the globe and to water contamination, ecosystem harms, and human health concerns. See the Conservation Law Foundation [fact sheet here](#).



An Act Providing Nature for All (S.597/H.901 now in new draft as S.2571) would create a permanent Nature for All Fund for the purposes of land acquisition, the restoration or improvement of nature to create parks and trails; the protection of forests, farms, wildlife habitat, and water resources; and advancement of climate resiliency and environmental justice goals. See the Nature for Massachusetts Coalition's [fact sheet here](#).



An Act Restricting the Use of Rodenticides in the Environment (S.644/H.965) will end the registration and reregistration of anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs), unless deemed necessary for a public health emergency. They will also give the Department of Agricultural Resources the ability to establish a process and standards for the limited use of anticoagulant rodenticides by licensed applicators in public health emergencies. A coalition of nonprofits have a [fact sheet here](#).



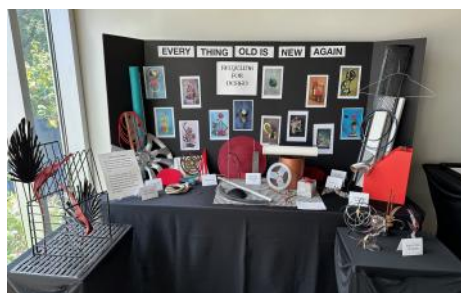
An Act Establishing an Ecologically-Based Mosquito Management Program in the Commonwealth to Protect Human Health (S.547/H.985) will protect against mosquito-borne diseases through monitoring, public education, source reduction of mosquito breeding sites, and restoration of wetland habitat for mosquito predators. It will protect people, fish, pollinators, and the environment by reducing pesticide use. A coalition of nonprofits have a [fact sheet here](#).



Floral News

The Southeastern District of the GCFM held its Standard Flower Show, "Silver Anniversary" at Heritage Museums & Gardens, July 23-25, 2025. The theme was "Silver Anniversary," celebrating the 25th year anniversary of the SE District Study Group.

Upon entry to the show was an Education Exhibit titled "Everything Old is New Again," a stunning display of items that could be up-cycled for use in floral design.



"Everything Old is New Again" Display

Four youth categories were located in the lobby to be enjoyed before the doors opened on this highly anticipated event.

A total of 16 adult categories were staged inside the auditorium. Blue ribbon winners are listed here.

CREATIVE CRAFTSMANSHIP

Angry Birds - Betty Szymczak
Figures on a Beach - Cathy Kert
Barbie - Isabel de Melo

BOTANICAL ARTS "AMERICANA"

Country Music - Cindy Doherty
Pinball - Ruth Evans
4th of July Fireworks - Tran Vu Thu-Hang

CELEBRATING HERITAGE

(Petite Category)

The Loof Carousel - Donna Rumpf
The Windmill - Jacquie Clay
Hidden Hollow - Sylvia Strand

Southeastern District's "Silver Anniversary" Flower Show at Heritage Museums & Gardens, July 23-25, 2025



Betsy Szymczak of the Garden Club of Natick posed with her blue ribbon winning "Angry Birds" entry

SEASON OF SPLENDOR

Endless Summer - Dolores Ahern
September to Remember - Lynette Helms
Winterscapes - Dottie Palko

INNOVATION

Art is Everywhere You Look - Alda Barron
Secrets and Miracles - Donna Rumpf
Eureka - Shirley Minott



Tran Vu Thu-Hang of the Garden Club of Milton for her plaque design expressing the title "4th of July Fireworks." Blue Ribbon Winner.

AMERICAN TRADITIONS

Wedding Vows - Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne



Isabel de Melo of the Garden Club of Aptucxet created a winning design in the "Barbie" handbag category using acorn, black beans, squash, cantaloupe, flax and papaya seeds, hellebore, kousa dogwood, palm, peas, pistachio shells and sweet woodruff

The big winner was Donna Rumpf of the Osterville Garden Club with two First Place Awards. The first in the Petite "Looff Carousel" category, and the second in the "Secrets and Miracles" category. Congratulations to Donna and all the winners of the Silver Anniversary Flower Show!



A moving tribute to Bobbie Lingard, co-founder of the Southeastern District Study Group, Past Chair of many flower shows, Past Chair of Judges' Council and Designer of the highest distinction, was displayed in the corner of the second room in the auditorium.

Silver Anniversary, Cont'd



Donna Rumpf of the Osterville Garden Club, for her Transparency Design expressing the title "Secrets and Miracles." Blue Ribbon winner.



Shirley Minott, Walnut Hill Garden Club, for her Creative Design expressing the title "Eureka." Blue Ribbon winner. Blue Ribbon, Designer's Choice and Award of Design Excellence Winner.



Alda Barron of the Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne for her Assemblage Design expressing the title "Art is Everywhere you Look." Blue Ribbon winner.



Lynette Helms, The Garden Club of Hyannis, for her Analogous Color Design expressing the title "September to Remember." Blue Ribbon and Tricolor Award Winner.



Dolores Ahern, the Garden Club of Hyannis, for her Grouped Mass Design expressing the title "Endless Summer." Blue Ribbon Winner.



Cathy Kert, The Garden Club of Aptucxet, for her Botanical Arts entry expressing "Figures on a Beach", Blue Ribbon Winner

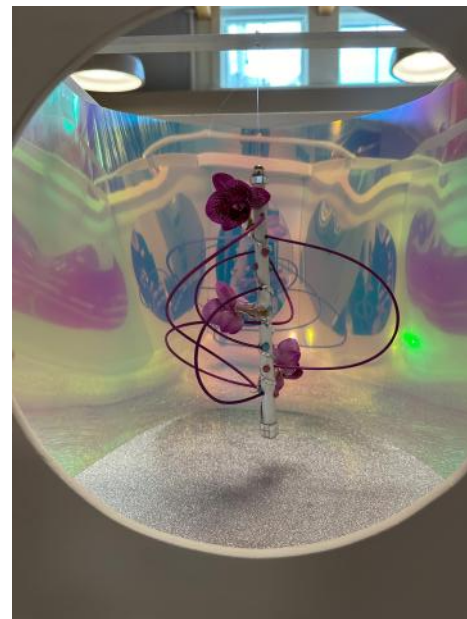
Silver Anniversary, Cont'd



Cindy Doherty of the Garden Club of Nauset win Blue Ribbon in the "Country Music" class



Sylvia Strand, Wareham Garden Club, for her Petite Design expressing "Hidden Hollow." Blue Ribbon Winner.



Donna Rumpf, Osterville Garden Club, for her Hanging Petite Design expressing the title "Looff Carousel." Blue Ribbon and Petite Award Winner.



Dottie Palko, The Garden Club of Hyannis, Blue Ribbon for the "Winterscapes" class



Jacque Clay, Garden Club of Hyannis, for her Petite Design expressing "Hidden Hollow." Blue Ribbon Winner.



Ruth Evans, the Garden Club of Framingham, for her Botanical Arts Design expressing the title "Pinball." Blue Ribbon Winner.



Floral News

South Shore District Flower Show, Marshfield Fair, August 15-19, 2025

GCFM's South Shore District held their NGC-Standard Flower Show at the horticultural building of the Marshfield Fair during August 15-19, 2025.

The name of the show was "Back to the Future", and each of the six classes was named for a quote or item from the movie.

Here is a list of the blue ribbon winners.

QUOTES

"Roads? Where we're going we don't need roads." - Valerie Howes

"If you're going to build a time machine into a car, why not do it with some style?"

- Mariette Wooden

"So you're my Uncle Joey. Better get used to these bars, kid." - Cynthia Chapra

MEMORIES

The Clock Tower - Ginger King

Enhancement Under The Sea Dance - Shirley Minott

Marty's Skateboard - Betsy Szymczak



Mariette Wooden, Community Garden Club of Duxbury, Blue Ribbon, for "If you're going to build a time machine into a car, why not do it with style?"



Cynthia Chapra, Weston Garden Club, Blue Ribbon, for "So you're my Uncle Joey. Better get used to these bars, kid." A parallel design.



Ginger King, Scituate Garden Club, Cohasset Garden Club, Blue Ribbon, Designer's Choice and Award of Design Excellence for her entry in The Clock Tower, Traditional Line-Mass Design



Valerie Howes, Holliston Garden Club, Blue Ribbon, for "Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads." creative line-mass design



Shirley Minott, Walnut Hill Garden Club, Blue Ribbon, Enhancement Under the Sea Dance



Betsy Szymczak, Natick Garden Club, Framingham Garden Club, Blue Ribbon Design, "Marty's Skateboard"



New England Fall Flower Show, September 20-21, 2025, Massachusetts Horticultural Society

The "World In Bloom" New England Fall Flower Show was held at The Garden at Elm Bank in Wellesley, home of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, September 20-21, 2025.

The FLORAL DESIGN category had six classes. Here is a list of the winners.

1 Part of a Greater Whole (Mono-Botanic design) - Shannon Fitzpatrick (see Page 2)

2 Breakfast Blooms From Afar (Functional Breakfast Tray) - Beth Tarde

3 Botanical Explosion (dynamic design inspired by an opening flower) - Lisa Schwartz

4 A Journey Around The Garden (synergistic design inspired by a pollinator's flight) - Kaye Vosburgh

5 Bloom Where You're Planted (parallel design inspired by a famous garden designer) - Joy DiMaggio

6 Diminutive but Conspicuous (small design) - MaryLou Ashur

BOTANICAL ARTS had three classes. The winners were:

1 The Language of Flowers - Tussie-mussie - Leslie Purple and Alice Farley, Wissakockon Garden Club

2 Floral Celebration - Flower coronet - Laura Levenson

3 Asian Inspired Flower Brooch - Sue Cram

Congratulations to all the winners!



Joy DiMaggio, Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury, Blue Ribbon Winner for her entry in the "Bloom Where You're Planted" parallel design class in the Floral Design category



Laura Levenson, the Garden Club of Houston, Blue Ribbon Winner, MHS Garden Club of America Award of Distinction, MHS Novice Award and MHX Best in Show for her entry in Floral Celebration "Flower Coronet"



Sue Cram, Ashland NH Garden Club, Blue Ribbon for her Asian Inspired Flower Brooch "The simple elegance of this rhythmic design is elevated by the skillful treatment of the components" ~ judges comments



Leslie Purple and Alice Farley of the Wissakockon Garden Club, Blue Ribbon winners for their entry in the Language of Flowers "Tussie-mussie" competition

Fall Flower Show, Cont'd



Beth Tarde, Sasqua Garden Club, Blue Ribbon Winner, "Breakfast Blooms From Afar" Functional Breakfast Tray



MaryLou Ashur, Hyannis Garden Club, Blue Ribbon winner for, "Diminutive but Conspicuous"

"The manipulation of dracaena in dual containers unifies the design with powerful rhythm that cannot be ignored"



Lisa Schwartz, Show Flower Society Member, Blue Ribbon, John Taylor Arms Award for Floral Design, Best in Show for her entry in the "Botanical Explosion" Class



Kaye Vosburgh, Noanett Garden Club, Blue Ribbon Winner for her design in the "A Journey Around the Garden" Class, inspired by a pollinator's flight



Sally Jablonski, Worcester Garden Club, Yellow Ribbon Winner and Winner of the Ruth A. Wallack Award for her design in the "A Journey Around the Garden" Class, which is inspired by a pollinator's flight



Penny Kaczyk, Worcester Garden Club, Red Ribbon and winner of the Garden Club of America Award of Distinction in Floral Design for her entry in the "Bloom Where You're Planted" Class

Her Shirley Farm Landscape Project, Part Fourteen - Juliet Silveri

Twilight Fireflies, Wind Blusters Down the Allée, Perennial Beauty, and a Future Espalier

In early September there is a silver and purple river of *salix candida* 'iceberg alley' (sageleaf willow) and *perovskia* 'denim and lace' in my perennial garden.



The heavenly silver and purple of the perennial garden



The white pumpkin 'Casper' took over the bird garden

One pumpkin seed planted in the bird garden yielded a huge impactful vine that dominates the garden and has drawn many questions from recent tour goers, because of its impact and its gigantic leaves. It is the white pumpkin 'Casper.' The huge group of cosmos nearby provide bird food with their seed heads, and the tiny finches feast happily.

The wildlife hedge is looking silvery with the 'ivory halo' dogwoods and the 'tardiva' hy-



The cosmos provide pollen for the bees and dried seed heads for the finches



The wildlife hedge with dogwoods and hydrangeas

drangeas. The roots of a nearby enormous oak tree took water from two of the dogwoods further down. This created a **shrub emergency** when the dryness of the fall became constant, and I had to move the dogwoods away from the oak. They had been struggling along, but were failing, with very dry soil, despite regular watering.

Dipladenia climbs up an arborvitae, which provides it support and a lush green background. Also growing next to it is a clematis that has yet to bloom—it was a gift so I'm not sure what kind it is.

Maybe next year this *eleutherococcus sieboldianus*, or five-fingered aralia, will be big enough to espalier against this

cinderblock wall. This spot is very shady and will suit this shrub, which stands out at a distance with its white-green foliage. The wall is horizontal and the sideways spreading habit of this shrub means it may fill the wall space, which looks like a blank canvas from my kitchen window. I have not yet tried the art form of espalier, and am eagerly looking forward to it.

The secluded woods area down back is slowly being filled in with native shrubs, which helps prevent more invasives from growing there. I used black plastic to kill poison ivy and bittersweet close to the *amelanchier canadensis* in the picture, then added compost and organic mulch around it. In this way I plan on continuing to replace invasives bit by bit, until they are gone from the area. I think it will take years--this is a happy start.



An arborvitae provides a lush green background for clematis and dipladenia

Her Shirley Farm, Cont'd*Eleutherococcus sieboldianus is too small to espalier*

I wish you could see and hear the west wind as it tousled and blew the green mountain sugar maple leaves at the back woods end of the allée, then blew on to the next sugar maple in the allée, and continued its bluster down the row. A windy majestic show, viewed from my upstairs window in June. I wish I had a movie of the fireflies that danced on a hot night in July, down back in

a secluded area of my yard, as I watered shrubs in the twilight. The fireflies sparkled here and there and surrounded me with transfixing lights.

I hope you enjoyed your own beguiling wind and firefly shows this summer.

*Amelanchier canadensis surviving despite the surrounding invasives***Is Your Club Into Conservation? Get Noticed!**

There is a new feature on the Environmental Awareness page for clubs who do conservation work - like Harwich. Just send in a picture of your club at work with a paragraph or two, and your hard work will be posted on the GCFM website in our new ***"Spotlight on Garden Club Conservation Efforts"***.

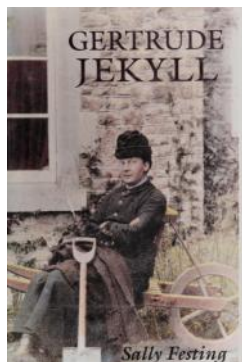
Join clubs like Harwich and send in your stories and photographs of environmental projects such as efforts to eliminate invasive plants and preserve native species. Does your club have programs to educate members and/or the public about pollinators, and organic ways to treat pests? Do you bare-root your plants before potting them up for your yearly Plant Sale? Do you work with a seed library? Are you planting trees on Arbor Day? We want to hear about it! Send in your information to gcfmwebmaster@gmail.com.



Book Review - by Pat Nemeth



Gertrude Jekyll: A Biography, Sally Festing London: Viking, 1991



Sally Festing has written a fascinating biography about one of the greatest landscape architects in the world. Gertrude Jekyll was a landscape designer who planned gardens as if she held a

paint brush in her hand. Her colors flow together into vistas that take your breath away.

Gertrude was born in 1843 in London, a member of the Victorian upper class. As a child, she was recognized as being a very creative artist. She was inspired by the work of the Impressionists. At 18, she enrolled in the South Kensington School of Art, where she studied botany, anatomy, and painting. Here she became interested in what she described as the "creative art of planting."

Gertrude was a horticulturist, a garden designer, a painter, writer, and a business-woman. Gertrude would go on to define the fine art of planting in England. Her gardens were laid out to resemble brush strokes of texture and color.



It is said that genius loves company. When Gertrude was in her 50's and already independently wealthy from her work as a garden designer, she was invited to a tea party. There she met the 20-year-old architect Edwin Lutyens. Together they would work as partners for the rest of her life. His buildings and her gardens would become hallmark creations of the English Arts and Crafts Movement.

Gertrude hired Lutyens to design a home for her and her mother called Munstead Wood. She constructed walking paths through the chestnut woodlands; and created four seasonal gardens that flowed with carefully arranged shades of color. The gardens have been privately restored and are open to the public by appointment.

In addition to her commissions for garden designs, Gertrude wrote over 1,000 articles, many of which were for Country Life. Through Gertrude, Lutyens met the owner of the magazine (Edward Hudson). Together Gertrude and Lutyens would do four homes and gardens for Mr. Hudson.



Lindisfarne Castle Gardens

One of those projects was the walled garden at Lindisfarne Castle. Gertrude Jekyll was an amazing creative force! In addition to her gardens, articles, and dozens of books, she also designed glass vases, wicker garden baskets and ran a plant nursery. What a lady! Her mind truly was a creative and restless force. No garden designer has had a more enduring influence on the British garden.



Gertrude Jekyll Roses in a Gertrude Jekyll Vase

I give this book 5 stars! Enter the world of Gertrude Jekyll and be inspired!

*Pat Nemeth
Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne*



"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies." ~ Gertrude Jekyll

OBITUARY



KATHERINE JONES

GCFM is sad to announce the passing of our own Katherine Jones, GCFM Scholarship Secretary 2015-2025, former Berkshire District Director and member of the Williamstown Garden Club, 2019-2025.

*"May there be comfort
in knowing that
someone so special will
never be forgotten."*

~Julie Hebert



GCFM HELP WANTED

Get to Know the People in Your Village

All garden club members are invited to learn more about the GCFM Village. We have committees, schools, flower shows, FUN, and lots more to share.

There are many ways you can participate —

- be part of a committee (Awards, Scholarships, Youth activities, Yearbook, or others)
- attend a Fall Coffee Meeting and meet the Officers
- coordinate a district event for nearby clubs
- participate in a GCFM School or learn more about the Councils

Our mission is dedicated to assisting you with education and appreciation of Horticulture, Landscape and Floral Design, Gardening and Environmental Concerns.

To find out more -

- check out www.gcfm.org
- email gardenclubfedma@gmail.com
- call us at 781-237-0336



A Note From The Editor

Friends,

Fall is an exciting season, full of vibrant colors and rapid changes to the world around us. One of the most visible signs of the seasonal change is the hibernation activity of the animals, squirrels especially reminding us as they gather acorns that it is time to sleep for the winter.

There are other, not so visible creatures also preparing to nest and rest for the winter, and they make their homes in leaves and sticks. They are your pollinators and other beneficial insects. Please "leave the leaves" alone, let some parts of your garden wait until spring, and keep your insect population safe this winter.



Karen Brockelbank

gcfmmayflower@gmail.com



A "HOW-TO" FOR SENDING IN YOUR 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.

All photographs in this newsletter have been supplied courtesy of each Garden Club submitting the information