

Mayflower

The Newsletter of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts



March 2022

Please click "[view entire message](#)"
at the bottom of this email.

Please forward this to your membership.



2022 Program Workshop

March 24 10:30 am via ZOOM

[Click to Register](#)

** Looking Ahead **

- [Flower Show School Course II](#) will be held April 12-14 at the Double Tree by Hilton 11 Beaver Street Milford. To register, email ruth.gorman3@gmail.com. Click for [brochure](#).
- [Maine Flower Show](#) March 24-27

- [Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show](#) April 7-10
- **Laurelwood Garden Club** 24th Annual Art in Bloom. April 28-May 1. Fitchburg Art Museum 12pm-4pm.
- [Art in Bloom](#), MFA, April 29-May 1
- [Needham Art in Bloom](#), Virtual, starting March 11
- **GCFM Annual Meeting** June 2, 2022

Spring Garden Tours

- [Weston Garden Club Garden Tour](#) Sat June 4 10am - 4pm
- [Andover Garden Club Garden Tour](#) Sat Jun 11 10am-4pm
- [Salem Garden Club](#) A Stroll Through the Gardens of Salem at the Common Sat July 9 from 10am - 4pm.
- [Art in the Garden](#) Sat Jun 18 10am - 4pm at Old Town Hall, West Newbury
- [Community Garden Club of Cohasset](#) Thurs Jun 23 10am - 4pm. Gardens in a Seaside Village.



PRESENTS:

Andover in Bloom
A TOUR OF ANDOVER GARDENS

SATURDAY JUNE 4TH 2022 | 10 AM - 4 PM
If it rains then the event will be rescheduled for Sunday June 5th 2022 rain or shine

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT:
andovergardenclub2022tour.com
or at the event (*cash or check only*)
Tickets \$25 | \$30 at the event

To purchase tickets by check please call: 978-500-0626

Start at the garden of your choice.
Carpooling encouraged.



Spring Plant Sales

- **Driftwood Garden Club** Sat May 7 at 62 Pleasant St 8:30 - 11:30am
- **Bridgewater Garden Club** Sat May 7 at the BTV studios, 80 Spring St. Bridgewater 9am - noon
- **Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club** Sat May 7 at the Hamilton Council on Aging 9am - 1pm

- **Garden Club of Concord** Sat May 7 at the corner of Thoreau and Hubbard Streets
- **Wareham Garden Club** Sat May 14 at the Old Methodist Meeting House 495 Main Street 9am - 1pm

GCFM President, Jill Malcolm
was honored this winter by her garden club,
Holliston Garden Club,
for all her efforts on behalf of the club.



Jill has been an active member of her club for many years holding positions as president, treasurer and chair of the annual plant sale. She has enriched the town of Holliston by planting and maintaining the garden in front of the town green, decorating the library, planting and maintaining Arbor Day trees and working to award the club's annual scholarship to a Holliston student. She also co-chaired Holliston Books in Bloom.

Because the club has admired her positive and cheerful attitude and the difference she has made they recognized her as a distinguished citizen of Holliston.

Gardening School Course 4, Series II

Gardening School Course 4 will be held April 7, 8 & 9, 2022 via zoom. The school is open to anyone wishing to take the course, but credit is only given to a garden club member. You do not need to take the courses in any specific order and each course is self-contained. If taking the course for credit an exam is given each day at the end of the school. You can also attend any single day of the school that interests you, but will not get credit. A registration form and course list can be found [here](#).

Topics:

Plant Classification and Nomenclature; Outdoor Identification of Plants; Specialized Styles of Gardening; Gardening with Native Plants; Techniques for Growing Woody Ornamentals; Pruning Techniques.

Lecturers:

Dr. Judith Sumner, Professor of Natural Sciences, Assumption College
Laura Eisner, Teacher in the Landscape Institute at the Boston Architectural College and at North Shore Community College. Landscape Design Consultant
Joann Vieira, Horticulturalist, former head of horticulture Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, current head of horticulture for MA Trustees of Reservation

Cindora A. Goldberg Award

An annual award is to be given in tribute to Cindora A. Goldberg. The award honors the ability she had to continually see and create in an innovative manner. The award is in the form of framed certificate, and will be given to the most outstanding floral design submitted by a member of The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.

Click [here](#) for more information.

The Cindora Goldberg Award

THE CINDORA A. GOLDBERG AWARD (established in 2002)
(rev. January 2022)
NEW DEADLINE OF MAY 3, 2022

FOR DESIGNERS' MOST OUTSTANDING CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE WORK
FROM Yesterday, 5, 10,15+ Years ago....
THE CINDORA A. GOLDBERG AWARD (established in 2002)

A Note from your Mayflower Editor

Thank you everyone all for all of your wonderful contributions to this issue of the Mayflower! This newsletter is only as fun and as useful as its submissions. You are all so busy out there raising money, planting, creating, touring, volunteering, designing, presenting, and writing (!). This issue is all the richer for your efforts.

This April marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted, America's first landscape architect, renown park designer, and advocate for free and open green spaces for the public. To commemorate his bicentennial, the National Park Service has planned activities, tours, exhibits, and talks. Check out [Olmsted Now](#) for dates and more information.

Remember to send future submissions to joanminklei@gmail.com. By June 1 for the June 15 issue. THANK YOU!

Joan

Garden Clubs at Work



Northborough Garden Club donated the children's book, "Network with Nature", to our five elementary school libraries and to our town library. In keeping with our mission to inspire the next generation of home gardeners, we hope it will be an inspiration to their young readers. There is no better time to remind young readers of the wonders of the great outdoors and the adventures that await outside their doorsteps.

Northborough Garden Club hosted a public Zoom meeting on Feb 1 during which Gary instructed and demonstrated how, through cold stratification techniques, you can grow native plants from seed outdoors this winter.

Participants are seeding and expect to grow plants to be transplanted into the pollination garden this year. The selected species will produce pollen and nectar needed for survival by our at-risk bee and butterfly populations that are challenged by our changing climate.



Also, while home grown vegetables can't be donated at this time of year, participants donated canned vegetables to be given to The Northborough Food Pantry in recognition of Kindness Week.

Then we held our Winter Sow Workshop. Thanks to the efforts of Gary Phillips of Northborough, the

The Garden Club of Norfolk had a busy holiday season. Members crafted 20 greenery baskets then donated to the Norfolk Food Pantry; held both an online and in-person sale of bows, decorated skis, skates, and sleds; and wrapped up the season with our holiday party.



There everyone was guided through the process of creating a beautiful winter centerpiece for their home thanks to the generosity of a member who gifted

everyone with the supplies as well as instruction. Others helped to make and bring centerpieces to those who couldn't attend the gathering...keeping everyone in touch.

Members will also stay in touch with a combination of virtual and in-person programs during the winter and early spring.



The **Waltham Garden Club** is having an exciting year. Our **Garden Chardonnay Workshop** was a great success! Alexis Shaw and Kathy Hines collaboratively put this workshop together. It was a fun hands-on activity with everyone getting their hands "a little dirty" and learning how to care for succulents. There were six different kinds of plants members could choose from.

Everyone seemed pleased and proud of their vessel as they left that night.

There are more exciting evening planned for our upcoming spring meetings. Things are going really well!

Members of the **Wareham Garden Club** are very busy planning two exciting events for this spring. One is an Arbor Day Event and the other is their annual Spring Plant and Yard Sale.

On **Thursday, April 21, from 10-2**, there will be a **free** outdoor event celebrating Arbor Day at the A. D. Makepeace property at 158 Tihonet Road in Wareham. Events planned include a native tree seedling give-away, a talk by the Plymouth County Entomologist, Blake Dinius, a floral demonstration and hands-on workshop for adults, and "tree-related" storybook circles for children.

On **Saturday, May 14th, from 9-1**, there will be a Spring Plant and Yard Sale, "Spring into Bloom" at the Old Methodist Meeting House at 495 Main Street in Wareham. Offered at the sale will be a wide variety of plants and herbs, garden related crafts and yard sale items and tools, garden club cookbooks with recipe samples, a bake sale, and a 50/50 raffle.

Westborough Garden Club On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2021, National Garden Clubs Blue and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker National Chair, Andrea Little, was able to have a dream come true and have a BSMM erected in her hometown of Westborough. She and her husband Bruce have been dedicated supporters of this goal to recognize and honor veterans. After approval from the Westborough Select Board, the Veterans' Advisory Board, Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials, VFW Post 9013 and the American Legion Post 0163, the DPW, and the Westborough Garden Club, the marker was installed in front of the Forbes Municipal Building on West Main Street. Bruce Little designed the star-shaped garden frame. Several WGC members participated in planting flowers and at the ceremony, reading the history of the BSMM, laying an exquisite floral wreath made by Andrea and even singing the National Anthem! Please stop by and see this wonderful tribute to our

members of the armed forces. *Photo credit Solleo Photography*



Armed with ribbons & bows, pinecones, whimsical garnishes, and hot glue guns, in December members of the **Driftwood Garden Club** decorated 40 fresh balsam wreaths and 15 swags which were donated to the Marblehead Council on Aging. The COA delivered these freshly-festooned greens to local seniors who live alone and who enjoyed the creative touches of holiday greenery.



Established in 1952 as a volunteer, non-profit organization, the Driftwood Garden Club maintains the Abbot Public Library gardens and provides educational opportunities in gardening and support of the environment, as well as spreading cheer through holiday wreaths to the Council on Aging

Photos: Members of the Driftwood Garden Club of Marblehead decorate and donate holiday greenery distributed to local senior citizens.

The **Boxborough Garden Club** held a flower arrangement workshop on December 15 at the Albert J Sargent Memorial Library. Members brought flowers and we shared what we had and we left a basket of greens at the Library.



The Boxborough Garden Club restored the walkways in our landmark Colonial Garden in September 2021. The Garden was first planted in 1975 and has been maintained by the Club ever since. See below for photos of the process (left and middle) and after (right).



The Weston Garden Club presents its 2022 Garden Tour on Saturday, June 4, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Eleven unique gardens will include native plants, pollinators, garden rooms, water features, and more. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the tour day. Program pickup and day-of-tour sales begin at 9:30 am at the Josiah Smith Tavern, 358 Boston Post Road in Weston Center.



Purchase tickets and find updates about the tour at www.westongardenclub.org.

The **Laurelwood Garden Club** in partnership with the Fitchburg Art Museum invites you to be an interpreter in the 2022 **Art in Bloom** event to be held at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg.

Interpreters have free admission and a complimentary ticket to the Friday evening Champagne Reception. Visit the Fitchburg Art Museum between February 16 thru March 27 to select your Artwork and complete the Interpreter's Registration packet. There are 40 Artwork pieces.

Museum hours are Weds – Sun from 12 to 4 pm.

For information Julie Palioca at pajuliejulie@verizon.net or 978-537- 7630 or Jessie Olson, Fitchburg Art Museum at



The **Burlington Garden Club** had an excellent turnout for the December workshop creating unique and festive winter centerpieces, learning bow-making tricks from a new member,

and presenting the Burlington Science Center's Director with a donation to support their educational gardening and nature programs.

We are really looking forward to our next in-person meeting on March 23rd! Laura Bibler will present "Residential Garden Design" - helping us look at our own landscapes with fresh eyes and then avoid some common design mistakes this spring. More information can be found on our [website](#).



Weymouth Garden Club staged a Books in Bloom festival at the Tufts Library from Feb. 10-12. Books in Bloom Committee Chairperson Michelle Cappellini said the celebration allows people of all ages to create and display a floral arrangement that interprets a book cover or storyline.

Garden Club members were present during the festival to answer questions about the floral book displays. Read the Wicked Local [article](#).

The Springfield Garden Club used the last day of 2021 to support a stronger future and improve food equity in Springfield by contributing \$1078 to Gardening the Community.

The donation was presented on New Year's Eve by SGC President Vana Nesor to Ramon Elliston, GTC Farm Store Manager; Toussaint Paskins, GTC's Assistant Director of Youth Leadership & Agriculture; and his son Jaiden Jimenez. "The donation is critical", Toussaint said, "in getting us nearer our goal." While there, Toussaint took Nesor on a tour of the new experimental winter composting unit and showed her the different varieties of kale that were still growing vigorously in the gardens.

GTC operates a training program created for youth from around the Mason Square neighborhood and beyond to grow fruits and vegetables on vacant and abandoned lots. Youth receive a stipend and are taught principles of urban sustainable living and urban agriculture.

The food that is grown is sold at their 200 Walnut Street Community Farm Store, the Mason Square Farmers Market, local restaurants, and bodegas



(corner stores). Youth also bring food home to their families. When Nesper visited the Farm Store to present the check, business was brisk with area residents purchasing nutritious food for their New Year's Eve dinners. *Photo - Gardening the Community Farm Store; from left to right in back: Ramon Eliston - Farm Store Manager for the Day; Vana Nesper, President, Springfield Garden Club; Toussaint Paskins, GTC's Assistant Director of Youth Leadership & Agriculture; and his son Jaiden Jimenez.*

As I write this in late February, members of the **Garden Club of Concord** are gathering materials and names for our Spring Basket Community Outreach the second week of March, when we make and deliver seasonal arrangements to more than 100 local folks needing a little Springtime cheer. A clean up day for the three public gardens we maintain has been scheduled, and field trips are planned once the weather warms up to Garden in the Woods and the Asa Gray garden at Mount Auburn Cemetery. Like many clubs, we are looking forward to the return of "in person" meetings come April, and our plant sale on May 7 at the corner of Thoreau and Hubbard streets here in town. We'd love to see you there if your own club's sale doesn't conflict!



Julia Farwell-Cla



During the heat of August, **The Evening Garden Club of Plymouth** held A Fairy Garden in The Rose Briggs Garden, at the Plymouth Antiquarian Society's, Hedge House on Water Street in Plymouth. Children arrived in fairy costumes, or were able to purchase fairy wings. Club members created unique gardens placed around the garden. The children participated in a Fairy hunt, painted rocks, had their faces painted and had a "Fairy" Good Time! The air was filled with magical bubbles and plenty of Fairy dancing.



Outreach Center's tree lighting ceremony. Gathering with the Veterans and their families kicked off the Holiday Season for many Plymouth residents.

Our club made petite arrangements for our Local Meals on Wheels in conjunction with The Council on Aging. Members created these fresh arrangements using tuna cans as the



Club member Jean Nalen-Dobachesky gave a demonstration at our November meeting on creating Holiday centerpieces, in preparation for our Annual Greens sale. Club members also learned how to make bows for wreaths. This year we held our sale December 5th, in conjunction with 3 Hart's Farm, Nathan Hale

container. Each is put into a lunch bag and delivered to local seniors with their meal. Hopefully, they helped brighten the dreary February days!

Beginning in March, club members will be working with Plymouth South Middle School sixth graders. We will be leading an afterschool club on Gardening. This six-week group will include hands on learning about seeds and seed starting, bulbs, perennials, annuals, gardening tools, Bees, insects in the garden, and hopefully input from the students on which topics they would like to cover. We will be assisting the group in planting their outdoor raised beds. Club members are excited about sharing our love of all things gardening with these young people.

submitted by Cynthia Dunn

The Nauset Garden Club was able to return to the Latham School (located in Brewster) on February 11th for a Valentine's Garden Project. Tina Williamson put together a lovely floral design for 24 students to complete. Under the guidance of the NGC volunteers the students had an enjoyable afternoon. In appreciation for the project a handmade rose was given to the NGC by one of the students.



The Orleans Citizen Forum hosted "Protecting Our Greenspace: What You Can Do" on January 26th, it was recorded and is posted on their [website](#). The panel included Carol Alper of the Nauset Garden Club. The panel discussed issues including

native and invasive plants, the importance of pollination pathways and what the town is doing to manage open space.

On January 19th at the Town of Orleans Select Board Meeting, the Pollinator Pathway Resolution was presented and approved by the Board.

The garden clubs of Sandwich, Chatham, and Wellfleet, as well as the Barnstable Land Trust have become participating members of the Pollinator Pathway Cape Cod.

A new Nauset Garden Club Scholar Award Program with UMass has been established. This fund will provide an annual award of \$2,000 to an eligible rising sophomore, junior or senior majoring in the College of Natural Sciences or the Stockbridge School of Agriculture whose major is related to creating sustainable landscapes or practicing sustainable agriculture and conserving our natural resources. The students must be residents of Cape Cod and the Islands and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above.

Who Needs a Monet when you can have a McWade?

The Groton Garden Club is presenting a workshop entitled "Who needs a Monet when you can have a McWade?" This Art in Bloom type event allows participants to interpret an original artwork and then create a unique flower arrangement. Local artist and Garden Club member Peg McWade provides her watercolor painting of an Italian villa for

inspiration. Peg has worked in arts and crafts for over 60 years and is a member of the Nashoba Valley Artists and the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society. Her creations include works in painting, rug hooking, metalwork, basket weaving, jewelry making, and more. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm prompts us all to be creative.

Workshop organizer Laura Semple and her team of Lynne Kavanagh, Lisa Theall, and Linda Loren want to give members the opportunity to learn more about the art of interpreting visual pieces, while offering a fun way to bring color and excitement to the community.

To assist in this process, Margaret Murphy from the Harvard Garden Club, will demonstrate how she creates her interpretation of flower arrangements. She has been teaching these methods for many years. Participants will then collaborate in small groups to make their own arrangement. Margaret will also offer guidance and tips while circulating around the room. The Garden Club has also collaborated with the Groton Council on Aging to showcase the finished arrangements at the town's Community Center.

The cooperation and collaboration among these individuals and various groups demonstrates true community spirit. The Groton Garden Club is glad to be able to organize this truly one-of-a-kind event.

Submitted by Lisa Murray, GGC President



The Garden Club of Hyannis kicked off the 2021 fall with an in-person outside farmers market for our club members. Sharing members garden bounties, crafts and talents was a huge success. It was so great to see members once again with COVID numbers on the decline. In November we presented a successful Holiday Showcase! It culminated all the work

of our members for the past 4 years! It was wonderful to see the crowds and the amazement of everyone as they toured through the rooms and boutique!

December was our Holiday luncheon. Members made Pine Cone Pudding centerpieces for the decorations using wired pine ones and picks to attach the cones to floral foam. The flowers were placed in wet foam to mimic white frosting! In January and



in February we are back to Zoom meetings as the COVID numbers started rising again! We hope to meet in person in March when our program will be Property Design.

submitted by Debby Faulconer,
Publicity Chairperson



The Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club concluded 2021 with a successful Decorative Delights fundraiser and a Greens Workshop, a much loved holiday event.

We were escorted out of our living rooms in January to view Francis H. Cabot's Quebec Garden, Les Quatre Vents with Sally Muspratt. This was a much welcomed virtual escape! Michele Fronk Schuckel educated us with a very informative lecture entitled "Field to Fork: The Horticulture of the Food We Eat" in February. The science, horticulture and economics of where our food is grown and how it gets to our tables was fascinating! GMO? Certified Organic? Michele



taught us to think about plants and vegetables in a new way.

Our club will be meeting again in-person on March 16 to hear about “The Future of Food & Sustainability” with Chris Sellew of Little Leaf Farms. Our members are excited to learn about how they’ve transformed the way our greens are grown.



In March, we will bring back our cherished Design and Horticulture competitions at each of our Program meetings. Our aim is to use this platform for instruction and fun to build knowledge of how to compete and how entries are judged. April will usher in “An Evening of Botanical Sketching & Drawing” with Jessica Yurwitz of Slow River Studios. We anticipate a fun evening of nature sketching open to all to channel their inner creativity.

Our Annual Meeting will be in May. In addition to our traditional Plant Swap, we will have Sandra Bonzagni educate us on the Problems of Lyme Disease and other Tick-Borne Diseases. As gardeners there is great interest in this topic.



Our Pingree Park Garden in Wenham remains a showcase and we encourage everyone to learn, relax, and enjoy on our benches. It is always a work in progress and has grown beautifully. This year, the committee will be replacing the old plant tags with new ones, including a QR code for our visitor’s enrichment and education!

Our Plant Sale fundraiser will be held on May 7 at the Hamilton Council on Aging from 9-1PM. Please come, say hello, and enjoy our offerings of perennial favorites, native selections, annual flowers, and amazing plant care products from Neptune’s Harvest. After two years of cancellation, our Annual Celebration will be in June and our membership is excited to be getting back together to enjoy each other’s company and a lovely meal.

Submitted by: *Paula E. Bartlett & Lisa Harrison*

Noanett Garden Club’s major fundraiser is the sale of their Noanett “Gold”: organic, composted cow manure that comes from the Catlin Farmstead in

Winchendon, Massachusetts, that makes cheese. When you purchase the compost, you not only get a wonderful, healthy way to improve your garden's soil, but you also support the farm and they need all the support they can get. Orders need to be placed and paid for by April 1. [Click here for a non-member order form.](#) Happy Spring!

Needham Art in Bloom

Beth Shalom Garden Club will be presenting its 14th Needham's Art in Bloom. We are very excited to continue our tradition but in a VIRTUAL way. Beth Shalom Garden Club and participants from Needham Garden Club and Kalmia Garden Club will interpret artwork by Needham High School students with flower arrangements. Everyone is invited to view beautiful artwork and floral designs online.



Our free VIRTUAL presentation will be available at NeedhamArtinBloom.com beginning on March 11 and continue throughout the year.

Join us as we step into spring!
Ariane May (Beth Shalom Garden Club)

Kalmia Garden Club, Needham

As we look forward to visiting the Gardner Museum in April while the nasturtiums are in bloom and readying our civic gardens, we can reflect on the success of our winter programs.

Our annual swag workshop held at the Needham Housing Authority's Chamber's Street location in early December was attended by a only few residents due to ongoing Covid concerns. Club members made swags to hang at sixteen entryways while residents made swags for themselves.

In January, Jana Milbocker of Enchanted Gardens presented her virtual lecture "Artists' Gardens in New England". Combining horticulture and history, Jana's photographs from the gardens of a number of New England's well-known sculptors, authors, and painters inspired her audience to visit these treasures.

The gloom of February was brightened by Neal Sanders' humorous recounting of the massive task to create a garden from the rubble of house construction to its present day evolution.

West Newbury Garden Club will co-sponsor Art in the Garden featuring gardens, artists, and musicians on Sat, June 18, from 10-4. Eight beautiful and inspired gardens will be on display with an art connection. Artists painting,

ART in the Garden



musicians playing, and art on display throughout is sure to delight. Visit wngc.org for more info.

The March Program of the **Pinefield Garden Club** of Framingham was funded by a grant from the Framingham Cultural Council. Erin Espinosa of the New Garden Society of Boston gave a presentation about the organization's work with teaching incarcerated people horticulture and gardening. Erin is a farmer and on her day off, she volunteers to work with students in prisons and youth facilities to train them in the art and science of plants. In prison classrooms, students are taught core horticultural concepts, and these concepts are then applied to prison gardens and greenhouses. The students have something to look forward to each week and develop marketable skills for the future.



The Community Garden Club of Cohasset is having a Garden tour called "GARDENS IN A SEASIDE VILLAGE". Showcasing 6 gorgeous gardens featuring unique outdoor lifestyle spaces, partnering with local businesses to create an outdoor oasis. June 23, 2022 10-4 rain or shine.

[Click here for information.](#)

Every newsletter will feature the doings of GCFM garden clubs. Please submit any events, workshops, field trips, community service, fundraisers that you would like to share with the wider GCFM community to joanminklei@gmail.com for inclusion in the Mayflower.

THANK YOU!

Her Shirley Farm Landscape Project, Part One

by Juliet Silveri

When I first saw the land, its farm-like beauty had a feeling that I wanted to keep. To me, a farm is a home that is comforting, peaceful, and is full of fields, meadows, stone walls, birds and beasts, and has plenty of land. Now that I have the land--my desire for visual, audible, touchable, smellable, feelable, peaceful beauty has started me on this journey through a landscape development project.



When I moved into my new house last February, I knew a fair amount about plants, having been a busy gardener for thirty years. After a season of working with a landscape designer, I realized I knew very little about landscaping. In vague terms, I knew what I wanted to create, but it was difficult to visualize exactly how it would look. So my journey started.

My land is almost two acres, with most of the property in back of the house. Before I turned my attention to the back, I needed to improve the small front yard that borders on a busy road; it contained a dead cherry tree, an ungainly but healthy rhododendron, and a long equestrian-style fence in need of repair. There was also a five-foot tall weigela, with quite a bit of poison ivy, in the other front corner, next to the road. A large Norway maple is on town land, right outside the fence, bordering the street.

The front of the property runs 140 feet wide, and there wasn't much appeal there when I moved in. My landscape designer suggested the daring but exciting idea of transplanting three 15-foot-tall arborvitae to a corner where the cherry tree had been. I was skeptical whether they would live after the transplant, but decided to try it. In early September I had a tree company move them, and the results are imposing and stately. After the transplant, I insisted the tree company stake them with large stakes to hold them straight. Those arborvitae now define the feeling of that corner, which is up against the street. Too noisy to sit in, the 10 x 10-ish area will hold a small vegetable/cutting garden, at the suggestion of the designer. Pumpkins, nasturtiums, eggplants, and radishes will grow there, with enough southern and eastern sun. And I really needed a 'Limelight' hydrangea, so I planted one without my designer knowing, not far from the arborvitae. The corner now feels like a small formal and lovely room.

In a line along the front we planted eight *aronia melanocarpa* 'Autumn Magic,' or black chokeberry shrubs, which are native to eastern North America. This line has softened and of course improved the front of the property. In full sun they bloom with white flowers covered in bees in spring. Walk along beside them and you will smell a thick cloud of honey, all the way down the line. Black berries replace those flowers, and bright orange/red foliage appears in the fall.

I wanted two pure white lilacs to frame the sides of the driveway. "Are you sure?" Asked my designer "Lilacs tend to defoliate and get powdery mildew." I expect to regret my decision, because my designer is always right, but I have planted two old-fashioned white lilacs with country charm at each side of my driveway. We fixed and painted the fence a light luminous gray, which will work with any landscape design.

As for my rhododendron, early on I revealed my plans to cut it down. (My main objection to this type of rhododendron is its large leathery leaves and the pink color

of its blooms.) I whined to my designer: "It's just a big, sprawling *mess*." "I know," she said sympathetically, "but it's healthy, evergreen, does well here (under the shade of the Norway Maple), is a good privacy screen, and remember, it only blooms (a hideous shade of pink) for two weeks out of the year. Don't murder it yet. You can always prune it back." So I started by pruning it back, and found—quite an interesting, wavy shape to the trunk that I like looking at. Because of that, I have granted it a temporary stay of execution.

This is only a portion of the front yard. The rest is under development, as is the much larger back yard—a woodland front entrance garden, two stately Patriot Elms, an allee of trees, a large perennial garden...more to come, if you will accompany me on this journey.

Juliet Silveri is a member of the **Groton Garden Club** and the **Gardener's Exchange** in the Shirley area.



Front of the property looking north from the south side.



The corner, before the arborvitae were put there, with the rhododendron in bloom.



Arborvitae after transplanting, with the pruned rhododendron and the hydrangea.

Seed Season

by **Peter Coppola**

The traditional growing season for most gardeners in Massachusetts begins Memorial Day weekend. Garden centers sell out of seedlings and everyone returns to work with blistered hands and sore muscles. Proud of their efforts, they are also months behind those of us who start our plants indoors from seed. Who cares if there is a blanket of snow outside? It will reflect the sunlight—and that bright light will stream through the window onto seedlings and warm the sunroom. Then all will be good.



The Magic Inside a Seed. Inside every fertilized seed is a seedling waiting for the ideal germination conditions to begin growing. The cotyledons (the seed leaves) nourish the seedling until it breaks the soil surface and can begin manufacturing its own food. Sowing seed against a clear cup is a great learning tool that we can take to the library and classrooms. Children will see the radicle root growing downward and the seedling pushing the cotyledons to the soil surface. Then the cotyledons will fold back as the true leaves take over. Similar to all of us gardeners over the last two years. We sustained ourselves with our inner strength and now we can emerge with our true leaves.

Some American Seed History. Founding fathers George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew seed stock in their nurseries. Jefferson was all about experimentation and creating new varieties.. Washington was all about lowering the price of seeds for farmers. Their goal was the same: provide better and cheaper seed stock to help farmers sustain higher yields from crops needed

for their survival. The botanist and horticulturalist Luther Burbank, born in Lancaster, MA, in 1849, is famous for developing the blight resistant Burbank potato, invented to help with the Irish potato famine. He sold the rights to the potato for \$150; enough to move to California where he developed over 800 varieties of plants and trees, including the Shasta Daisy. The Burbank potato is the most widely cultivated in the U.S. Also originating in Massachusetts, Joseph Breck and Sons, now Breck's, operated a large retail operation in Boston and grew their seed stock in Lexington. Recently, the catalog industry has responded to gardeners' increased demand for non-GMO or hybrid seed, by reintroducing open-pollinated "heirloom" seeds: varieties that our parents and grandparents grew, seeds that we can save and share with our gardening friends.

Super- Hyper- Locavorism. Fifty years ago the Hippie movement motivated the Baby Boomer Flower Children to channel our ancestors by returning to the soil to garden organically. Today the Millennial Hippie has taken up the baton and added their own twist. They call their movement *Locavorism*, the practice of eating food that is produced within a one-hundred mile radius of where you live. If you have a home vegetable garden you are a *Super-Locavorist*. Super, hyper, locavorist. All those years growing vegetables at home and I finally have a descriptor name. I call myself a "gardener" and you can be one too starting with seeds.



peanut fertilized seed



Squash seedling growing against clear container

Saugus Garden Club Doings in *Saugus Advocate*

by Laura Eisener, Saugus Garden Club

When the pandemic struck in Spring 2020, many people began taking walks in their neighborhoods: no virus can stop flowers from blooming. In April, 2020, I started writing a column for the weekly newspaper, *Saugus Advocate*, about what was blooming in town as a way to make the walks more interesting and to give us all something cheerful to focus on.

Every town has its own distinctive gardens and public spaces. We often take for granted our nearby parks and only visit when friends arrive from far away. Saugus has a small national park (Saugus Ironworks), charming neighborhoods, bike trails, a state park (Breakheart Reservation), access to a neighboring town's forest and reservoir system (Lynn Woods), and many individual gardens. Each week I feature different parts of town, including native and introduced plants, from trees to small perennials and even lichen.



We have seen bald eagles spending time along the Saugus River, flying over the hills, and scanning the surroundings from tall trees, and have had the chance to observe their rebounding population. Saugus Garden Club member Nancy Sayles has selected plants to appeal to Monarch butterflies and quite a number of them are seen in her garden throughout the summer. Since the Saugus Ironworks is a popular walking spot near the center of town, several articles have mentioned its distinctive trees, herb gardens with 17th century plants, trees and shrubs along the nature trail, and native plantings around the river edge. Others have mentioned street trees, both old specimens and newly planted ones, in various parts of town; gardens around monuments and traffic islands; local woodlands and ponds; and flowers blooming in Route 1 parking lots. The column has been retained because, as it has turned out, many people -even those who are not gardeners- have discovered they enjoy reading about the natural world around them.



Recent article in the *Advocate*



Butterflies on Joe Pye Weed



Monarch butterfly

Important Forms and Links

- [GCFM Awards for 2021](#)
- [GCFM State Awards Application](#)
- [Blue Star Memorial Information](#) - ornament [order form](#)
- [Presidents Pins Form](#)
- Club Insurance Information - to come

[Click Here for the main GCFM Website](#)

In Memorium

Mary Bowen Nokes

March 13, 1941 - December 28, 2021

Mary B. Nokes was born in 1941 in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she grew up and went to school. She then went to Vassar in New York where she majored in English. Following graduation Mary attended the Katherine Gibbs School in Boston to study business and then went on to work at Mass General Hospital. She would meet her husband of 51 years, David, and they would marry, settle in Lexington and have 3 children.



Mary's mother was an active garden club member; so Mary joined the Lexington Field & Garden Club, where she soon became a very active member. She was a regular board member, past chairman of the Wednesday Workshop group and a past president of the main club (2015-2017).

Mary was very active in many other organizations including the National Society of the Colonial Dames in Massachusetts where she was on the Historical Activities and Research Committee, and the Vassar Club of Boston. She served on the Awards Committee of the New England Wildflower Society. In addition to serving on those boards, she was active in the Church of our Redeemer in Lexington.

Mary also served on many Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts board's committees over the years. She took three of the four NGC schools (Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design) and became a master in all three. She was on all three Councils, but most active in the Landscape Design Council where she served as secretary, advisor and on the trip committee. Mary was the registrar for all three schools for many years.

She was a hard worker and liked to work behind the scenes, and took no credit for all she did. All who knew her will miss her vibrancy, humor, quick wit, and charm.

GCFM Youth Poetry Contest Winner



Be Careful With Nature

Don't put litter out in nature
Don't eat out in nature and leave litter
Don't put secret eggs in the birds nest, only real ones will do
Everyone has to eat carefully in nature
Some foods are not good for the environment and animals
Be careful with nature, be kind and caring as much as you can be
Everyone loves nature you see

By **Phoebe (December 13, 2021)**

Phoebe is 6 and Lynn Noland's Granddaughter!

2022 Perennial Plant of the Year Little Bluestem

by **Linda Jean Smith**

Each year various plant associations pick a plant they feel has outstanding qualities. Some of the qualities that are looked for are; suitability for a wide range of climatic conditions, low-maintenance requirements, relative pest- and disease-resistance, ready availability in the year of promotion, and multiple seasons of ornamental interest. This year the Perennial Plant Association has chosen *Schizachyrium scoparium* or Little Bluestem also called Prairie Beard Grass as the 2022 Perennial Plant of the Year.



Little bluestem is a colorful and compact North American tallgrass that has a dense and upright growth that works well in tight spaces. Its name comes from the fact that the foliage tends to show bluish tints from spring through summer, but it will turn orange in autumn. It has fluffy white seed heads from fall through winter giving winter interest and food for birds. It is native to prairies, fields, clearings, hills, limestone glades, roadsides, waste areas and open woods from Alberta to Quebec south to Arizona and Florida.

It is slow to start in spring, but does well in the heat of summer. It grows 2-4 ft. tall and

18-24 inches wide depending on variety. It grows in full sun and well-drained, poor to average soil and will even tolerate a dry site. It spreads slowly by its roots, but is more a bunching grass and the least invasive of the ornamental grasses. It's hardy in USDA Zones 3-9. There are no serious insect or disease problems with this plant, but it will suffer from too much mulch near the crown. Cut the foliage and flower stalks to ground in late winter or early spring. Plants can be started through seed stratification.

It is good for borders, cottage gardens, rock gardens, rain gardens, wild gardens, wood margins, meadows or prairie-like settings, and is a good low-maintenance selection for sunbaked areas. It is also good used in groups or massed.

Little bluestem, has the tendency of the species and some selections to flop with shade or rich, moist soil. To avoid this problem, the Perennial Plant Association recommends 'Standing Ovation' for all regions, thanks to its color and its stalwart upright habit even in irrigated, fertile garden soil. 'The Blues' is recommended for the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and West, as well as the South, although flopping can be a problem there if it doesn't get full sun and dry, lean soil.

National Garden Club News

LEARN, GROW, CONNECT, AND SERVE TOGETHER

The 3-Rs (Recruit, Retain, Revitalize) series started on last fall and all three videos can be found on the [website](#) under the Member Resource Library.

For more educational videos, drop into the

[Video Cafe](#)

The Native Plant Challenge



Native plant resources to check out:

[Hilltop Native Garden](#)
[Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary Gardens](#)
[Grow Native Massachusetts' Experts Videos](#)
[Native Plant Trust Online Classes](#)

Environmental Awareness Report: The Time is Now

by **Maria Bartlett**

On February 28, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change issued their first major report of this kind since 2014. The report painted a dire picture of planetary warming changing the world more quickly than anticipated, with impacts more widespread and horrific than previously thought. Climate change has reached an unprecedented level. Extreme heat, sea-level rise, and disasters including storms and wildfires are threatening people and ecosystems, and warming is leading to such cascading consequences as food and water insecurity and increased disease. The report was compiled by 270 scientists from 67 countries who reviewed thousands of studies.

The effects of climate change are worse than we thought, the new UN report finds. In New England, ocean warming in particular is taking a toll: lobster populations decreased by 78 percent in 30 years because warm water means they cannot grow and reproduce. This is an iconic \$100 million New England industry on the decline!!

New England's beloved winter sports of skiing and snowboarding are also at risk. Due to higher temperatures and less frequent snowfall, these industries could be damaged irreversibly.

Another major threat to New England is rising seas threatening our coastal cities. Increasing flooding from this and more severe rain storms will result in huge property damage costs.

The IPCC report includes actions that can stop further destruction of the environment.

WHAT CAN GARDENERS DO? We can compost and plant native plants, but that alone will not suffice. We all need to take as many of these individual steps as we can to reduce the CO2 emissions causing the climate crisis:

- put solar panels on our rooftops
- use rebates to install heat pumps when our furnaces/ac and water heaters need replacing
- buy induction cooktops not gas ranges
- buy hybrid cars or EVs
- eat plant-based foods rather than meats
- stop using plastics of all kinds
- reduce lawns and discontinue using pesticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers
- repair your items or buy used rather than new

The biggest impacts can best be made by our towns, our state and the federal government. Our towns need to adopt new net zero building stretch codes (out soon) and they need to develop Climate Action Plans to get to net zero emissions. MA has a great Roadmap Law but it must be implemented immediately. We all need to do our part individually and to be involved in making our towns and state and country working NOW to address the crisis. **BE AWARE, STAY FOCUSED!!** Our grandchildren are depending on us!

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