



Never Done!

The Garden Club of Harvard

Volume XVIII, Issue 1

Welcome to New Members and to a New Year for the Garden Club of Harvard

The Garden Club is pleased to welcome several new members this year.

Joyce Grant has lived in Harvard for four years. She is looking for ideas for shade plantings, but mainly she gardens because she enjoys being outdoors. Last spring, she worked on graduation flowers even before she was officially a club member, and over the summer she helped with civic beautification. She has also volunteered at the Healing Garden, where she took part in the fall clean-up, working with students from Ayer.

Lilo Harpur, who moved to Harvard in 1999, came as a guest to some meetings last year. She says she enjoyed the programs very much and decided to become a member. Her particular interest is native plants, and she calls her own garden a “nature-scape.” She says that stopping the use of chemicals on her land has led to “wonderful surprises” such as fringed polygala, lady slippers, and six varieties of violets.



Fringed polygala

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Photos Needed for Club History Records



To keep our club records up to date, Garden Club historian Maureen Phillips needs photos and other memorabilia from the past few years. (Did we stop sharing photos after we all began to go digital?)

Please check your albums, desk drawers, shoeboxes, and—yes—even your computer files to see if you have some good pictures of our meetings, plant sales, garden tours, and trail walks. Let Maureen know, and your items will become part of club history. Thanks!

How Much Wood Would a Woodchuck . . . ?

Marty Green

It was a three-woodchuck summer. First to arrive was the one we nicknamed Woody. He announced his presence with an absence—the absence of every lettuce plant, bean plant, and pea plant in the garden. Gone, every one. The only thing Woody didn't like was leeks.

Soon, Woody had grown so portly that he needed to enlarge his domicile, producing a giant heap of sand next to the deck at our front door. Still intent on home improvements, he extended his tunnels and spare rooms under our brick walk, with predictable results. We set up a sawhorse to keep the UPS man from falling into the black hole where the bricks had collapsed. And we got out our Havahart trap.

Several pieces of iceberg lettuce shriveled and dried in the trap before we found Woody's weakness—romaine. It is illegal to transport a wild animal in Massachusetts, so what happened next is rather vague. But somehow or other, Woody developed an urge to see the wider world. We were woodchuck free for two blessed weeks.



Then Chucky showed up, waddling across the lawn and moving into Woody's old digs. Chucky proved extremely savvy about the Havahart. Time after time, the bait disappeared, but the trap remained empty. (Except for one really irate squirrel.) But eventually—like Adam in the first garden—Chucky was undone by a bite of apple. CLANG!

Given his history of successful raids on the trap, we decided Chucky had military inclinations. We encouraged him to enlist. He was last seen galumphing down the path toward the Devens South Post Training Area.

Within 24 hours, Chewy strolled into view. What was going on here? Was there some secret sign on our house that one woodchuck left for the next? (During the Depression, my grandmother always thought there was a mark on her home because, she said, every hobo who passed through town knocked at her back door to ask for a sandwich.)

Fortunately, Chewy was easier to trap than Chucky—and a lot smaller than either of his predecessors. Was this the next generation? And if so, how many siblings did he have?



Being smaller, Chewy could maneuver freely within the trap—turn around, twist, and climb. The little metal plate around the handle seemed barely adequate to keep my fingers away from his long, yellow teeth. I watch *Law and Order*, and I know when to call for back-up: “Paul, can you come home from work soon?”

It didn't seem humane to send the little fellow (or gal—who could tell?) off into the world all alone, so we decided he should follow in the footsteps of his parent. Like Chucky, Chewy is in the army now.

And we are watching, with weary resignation, for the next member of the clan.

Share Ideas, Photos, and More on Our Garden Club Blog

1. Go to our web site (www.HarvardGardenClub.org).
2. Click on the link **Blog**. The Blog home page will display. Browse through to see the pictures and messages that other members have posted. OK—now take the plunge, follow the steps below, and post something yourself!
3. In the far right corner of the horizontal dark blue bar at the top of the Blog page, you'll see **Sign in**. Click it. The Google page will display.
4. In the **email** box, type: `gch@harvardgardenclub.org` (Notice that this is all lower case, and there are no spaces.)
5. In the **password** box, type: `1929gch1929` (Again, all lower case and no spaces.) **NOTE:** It's not a good idea for our password to be public, so please don't share it or leave it out at a public computer.
6. After typing the email and password information, click the button that says **Sign In**. The Blogger Dashboard page will display. You are ready to blog!

If you want to comment on one of the photos or messages that you saw while you were browsing earlier, look carefully on the Dashboard page until you see **View Blog** and click it. The Blog homepage will display. Scroll through the posts until you find the one you want to respond to. Click on its title. (Titles are orange.) The post you clicked on is displayed. Scroll to the bottom and you'll see a Comment box. Type something in the box. When you are done, click **Post Comment**.

If you want to write something new, look carefully on the Dashboard page until you see a blue button that says **New Post** and click it. The Posting tab will display. Type your idea, question, etc., in the **Compose** box and then click **Publish Now**. Don't be afraid to try different buttons for adding photos and so forth. You can't do any damage.

When you are done, click **Sign out** located in the far right corner of the horizontal blue bar at the top.



Welcome to New Members, cont'd

one point, Lilo worked at the Olmstead National Historic Site in Brookline, and she says it would be a great place for a club visit.

Nancy Meyer came to Harvard in 2002 from Portsmouth, NH. Nancy lives on an old farm with some established plants, and she is interested in doing more landscape planting in keeping with the site. She is also interested in flower arranging and took part in our holiday workshop last year. She has recently taken a job in the dean's office at Tufts Veterinary School.

Welcome to everyone!

Announcements and Events

"The Work of 1000" Friday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 pm everyone will have an opportunity to see the film and hear the talk by Marion Stoddart about the clean-up of the Nashua River. The evening is being co-sponsored by the Garden Club, the Warner Free Lecture series, and the Conservation Commission. Hopefully, there will be a good turn out of our members. Refreshments will be served. If you can bring some cookies or brownies to share, they would be appreciated.

Our Own Flower Arranging Workshop Thursday, Oct. 6, at Friendly Crossways, 247 Littleton County Road, 1:00 pm. All are welcome. We will arrange with seasonal materials. Cost is \$23 and includes everything. Please pay Lois Frampton or Barbara Heim before October 5. Bring clippers, and if you have any good fall seed pods, grass tassels, rose hips, etc., bring those, too. (Colored leaves will not keep unless you put them in glycerine). *(continued on page 4)*

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Announcements and Events, *cont'd*

Mushroom Walk Harvard Conservation Trust, Sunday Oct. 1, at 11 am with Al Ferry of the Mycological Society. Meet at Bowers Springs Conservation Area parking lot at the end of Flanagan Road, just over the Bolton line.

Shades of Autumn Arts and Crafts Market Oct. 8-10, at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, from 9 am to 5 pm. Featuring area artisans and farmers. Dried floral wreaths and arrangements, garden accessories, maple syrup, crafts for kids, hayrides, and more.

Ikebana International Japanese Flower Arrangement Exhibition, Oct. 28-30, at Tower Hill. Classes on various schools of Ikebana, including one by Kathy Marble on Ikenobo at 2:30 on Saturday.

Topsfield Fair Flower Show Sept. 30-Oct. 10. The Design Division of a Standard Flower Show with a

range of classes. To enter, contact Ellen Todd, 978-921-2949 or Ellen.todd@comcast.net. Or just go to the fair and look at the many interesting categories.

Designing Principles Three lecture/demonstrations on flower arranging. Wednesdays, Oct. 26, Jan. 25, Apr. 25. 10 am-noon. Espousal Center, 554 Lexington St., Waltham. \$25 for all three. Check payable to GCFM, Inc. Mail to Thelma Shoneman, 21 Freedom Farm Rd., Acton 01720. Deadline Oct. 15.

GCFM Horticulture Mornings Three symposia: Oct. 12, "Rare and Choice Bulbs for Your Garden" by Russell Stafford. Feb. 13, "Seeds Up Close: Amazing" by Julie Shapiro. March 19, "Roses for the Sustainable Garden" by Irwin Ehrenreich. 10 am at the Espousal Center, 554 Lexington St., Waltham. \$5 donation at door.

If you have an announcement or an article for the newsletter, please email it to martygre@gmail.com or phone 456-3547 with the information at least a week before the regular meeting. Thank you.

Three Billion Bulbs, and Counting

When you are planting your bulbs the fall, think about these amazing photos, which Teddy Coffin forwarded, along with many others that were equally striking.

These photos and the text below were originally published in the British newspaper *The Daily Mail*, in May, 2008.

“At first glance, it looks like a giant child armed with a box of crayons has been set loose upon the landscape. Vivid stripes of purple, yellow, red, pink, orange and green make up a glorious patchwork.



“Yet far from being a child’s sketchbook, this is, in fact, the northern Netherlands in the middle of tulip season. The Dutch landscape in May is a kaleidoscope of color as the tulips burst into life.

“The bulbs are planted in late October and early November. More than three billion tulips are grown each year and two-thirds of the vibrant blooms are exported, mostly to the U.S. and Germany.”

So you are part of a three-billion bulb effort to make the world more beautiful. Thanks for sharing, Teddy!

