



# NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD  
VOLUME XXIX-ISSUE 9



## President Ponderings

Info: Jessie Panek

It's been a great year for the Garden Club, and as usual the busiest weeks are at the end, with Plant Sale, Graduation Flowers, and Annual Meeting in quick succession. Thanks to everyone for making all three of those great events. We've finally made it to summer, past the solstice and into our typical humid summer weather—time for some R&R!

I'm so grateful for the continuing rain which means I don't have to spend time watering. Today I was able to just wander around for a while enjoying everything green and flowering. The last of my potted dahlias made it into the ground, and I harvested lettuce from the vegetable garden and a few strawberries, though all had a bite taken out... the birds love my lettuces and chard, but now it looks like strawberries are on their menu, too.

Rain is wonderful, but with these intense rainstorms, be sure to protect any open soil with mulch to reduce erosion. Of course, mulch also reduces weeds. "One year's seeds make seven years' weeds" ... Be sure to pull weeds before they set seed! (right after a rain is a great time to pull them, and any invasive plants you find.)

A few of the tasks I've been doing in the last week or two include heading back my asters—cutting back by half actually—to reduce the ultimate height and increase stem sturdiness and number of flowers; squashing lily leaf beetle larvae (I had almost none last year, but they appeared again this year); deadheading iris and peonies; and removing a few plants that I've decided I don't want or where they were taking over. I was sad to discover in pushing back some spreading leucothoe that they had seriously damaged the trunk of a sourwood tree, holding leaves and moisture against the bark and causing it to rot. I don't know how long it took to do this; I'm guessing a couple of years. This poor tree survived when a large branch fell on it last winter, but unfortunately, this trunk damage is so bad it is not likely to survive much longer.





I've also been fighting an infestation of thousands of bright red aphids on my native *Heliopsis*, aka oxeye sunflower. Aphids, like most insects, are very specific in what they feed on, and so these are only found on this one species, not on any of the adjacent plants, including the 'true' sunflowers, *Helianthus*. I wanted to let nature control this infestation if possible, so I have limited myself to squashing the aphids repeatedly and spraying them off with water. I knew there should be some 'good' bugs who would move in to eat them, but I have to admit it has required a lot of patience to wait for them! They have finally showed up, however, and the tide is turning. (This predator is also red and black... top center of photo). Meanwhile, I know that Native Americans could have used these aphids for body paint, as they have dyed my hands red very effectively.

One last pair of photos I wanted to share as a comparison: We like to consider plants either shade or sun plants, but when we call something a 'shade plant' it only occasionally means they prefer full shade. More often they tolerate shade, but bloom better with more sun, especially in our northern gardens. Here are two photos of yellow corydalis in my garden. It is definitely a shade plant, because it will bloom even in deep shade, but look how well it does in full sun!



Gardening is definitely a journey, not a destination. I wish you all many pleasures in your garden journey this summer, and the patience to deal with any setbacks.

Thank you all for being part of the Garden Club this year, and I look forward to seeing you all next fall, if not during the summer.

Best wishes,  
Jessie

# Annual Meeting/ Luncheon/ Garden Tours

## June 5, 2023

Info: Maria Day

In the gardens of Jud Ratliff and Bob Blanck & Willie and Brian Wickman



President Jessie Panek called the members to order and opened the annual meeting





*Teddie Coffin received an honorary membership ...*

More pictures:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/dDFSgMXhqfVytY8o8>



Kathleen Turnbull sitting next to treasurer Deborah O'Rourke, vice-president Bill Loehfelm and membership chair Nancy Hartshorne.

# Graduation flowers

Info: Kathy Hewett

Because of rain and thunderstorms, the graduation was postponed from June 2 to June 4. Many thanks to the arrangers and the many members who brought flowers.



*Maria, AnaMaria, Kate, Jessie, Maribeth, Marijke, Deb and Kathy*



Dear Jessie is the Harvard  
Garden Club,  
Thank you so much for the  
beautiful flowers at graduation.  
They were simply stunning.  
I am so grateful that you  
provide them for us as we  
celebrate our graduates.

Best,  
Kim  
TBS Principal

# Civic Beautification

Info: Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello and MaryAnn Piasecki

SPREADING MULCH AT  
FIVESPARKS:

DENYSE COX, JANICE  
RUSIECKI, JESSIE PANEK,  
MAMIE WYTRWAL, MARY  
MAXWELL, PAM MARSTON,  
MARYANN PIASECKI AND  
KATHY JACKSON.

Maybe some music next  
time...

I have read that classical  
music in the garden  
increases productivity  
but we did a great job  
with just conversation!

*MaryAnn Piasecki*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/14/realestate/garden-music-playlist.html?smid=url-share>



*Pictures: MaryAnn Piasecki and Marijke Vallaey*

# Membership

Info: Nancy Hartshorne

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their membership for the upcoming year. We look forward to another wonderful year with the Garden Club of Harvard. Happy summer and see you all in the fall!

PS We'd love to have everyone back so please renew ASAP if you haven't done so yet! Please send your check and membership form to

Nancy Hartshorne  
Membership, Garden Club of Harvard  
160 Prospect Hill Road  
Harvard, MA 01451

# PUBLICITY

Info: Kate Guthro

<https://www.harvardgardenclub.org>

Garden Club of Harvard

Bloomnart.online

## The Garden Club in the community



On May 31<sup>st</sup> Meg Bagdonas, Patrick and Marijke Vallaeyes went to admire the exhibit of Suzan Osborn's garden paintings at Tower Hill.

## Everyone hates ticks!

But New Englanders can enjoy the outdoors without worrying about ticks.

Please join the Harvard Public Library and the Harvard Board of Health for our 2023 *"Tick Talk" on July 11, 7pm, in Volunteers Hall at the Library. The speaker is Blake Dinius, Entomologist Educator for Plymouth County.*

Learn about:

- Mysteries behind tick biology and ecology
- History of tick-borne disease in America from past to present
- Tick-bite protection methods
- Anti-tick landscaping

More information: <https://bit.ly/2023TickTalk>

# Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison

Many thanks, staff and patrons very much appreciate our efforts  
to make the lobby warm and welcoming!



Arrangements by MaryAnn Piasecki, Kathy Jackson and Kate Connolly



# Plant Sale: April 25 – May 20, 2023

Info: Marijke Vallaeys, Carole Herbin, Margaret Murphy





# Nature Trails

Info: Pam Durrant

May 25: Muller Conservation Land



*Photos by Patrick Vallaeys*

# Officers 2023-2024

<b>Officers</b>	
President	Jessie Panek
Vice President	Bill Loehfelm
Recording Secretary	Denyse Cox
Treasury	Deborah O'Rourke
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	
Historian	Carlene Phillips
Hospitality	Meg Bagdonas
Membership	Nancy Hartshorne
Newsletter	Marijke Vallaes
Nomination	MaryAnn Piasecki
Programs	Margaret Murphy, Janice Rusiecki
Publicity	Kate Guthro
<b>Projects</b>	
Annual Lunch	Maria Day, Bobbie Taylor
Civic Beautification	Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello, MaryAnn Piasecki
Garden Therapy	Mary Maxwell, Janice Rusiecki, Nancy Webber
Garden Tour	Katie Gandek, Jud Ratliff, Maria Day
Greens Workshop	Kathy Jackson, Nancy Webber
Graduation Flowers	Kathy Hewett
Horticulture	Betsy Morton
Library Books	Heidi Siegrist
Library/Meeting Flowers	MaryJane Ellison
Nature Trails	Pam Durrant
Plant Sale	Carole Herbin, Marijke Vallaes
Webmaster	Betsy Howard
Yearbook	Carlene Phillips, Marijke Vallaes
Bloom N Art	Deb Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Marijke Vallaes

*Thanks to Carlene Phillips for proofreading, always much appreciated!*