



# Never Done!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD  
VOLUME XXXI-ISSUE 6



## Here's What Bill Thinks...

As I write this, I am looking at the final flakes of what will be five inches of snow on my lawn, garden and backyard "farm." It is 28 degrees, there is no wind and it is stunning to look at.

And...out there by the raised beds...two duct-taped milk cartons.

It was so nice to see so many Garden Club members at the Winter Seed Sowing event yesterday. I think we made up at least half of the attendees. There was a lovely 'feel' to the event as we learned more about native plants, pollinators and the value of both to our gardens.

Lots of good humor and joy in being part of something so nurturing to the Earth. I even overheard a joyful comment..."look, my hands are filthy" (thinking of you, Jane) ...as we gathered soil for our seeds.

Dormant time? I think not. Seed catalogues are coming in; Breck's Bulbs continues their relentless e-mails; Linda has our Plant Sale order; exhibition Baseball starts in 10 days; Spring is coming!

In the meantime, enjoy this beautiful season.

Bill Loehfelm

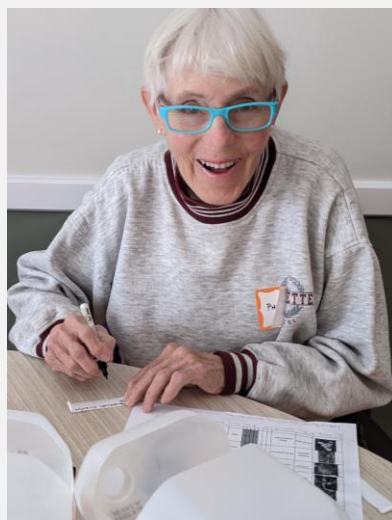


*Pictures of the free seed sowing workshop,  
sponsored by the Conservation Commission Land Stewardship Subcommittee.*

## WINTER SOWING WORKSHOP FOR GROWING NATIVE PLANTS

Many thanks to Wendy Sisson and the Land Stewardship Subcommittee of the Harvard Conservation Commission for organizing. The workshop was led by Freddie Gillespie from the Southborough Stewardship Committee; she has been working with Dr. Robert Gegear and the Beecology Research Project since 2015.

This workshop was an opportunity to sow seeds of native plants in a mini-greenhouse (a gallon jug) that is put outside now, midwinter, so the seeds spend the necessary time out in the cold and will be ready to sprout in the spring. Growing plants from seed is an almost free way to add plants to your garden.



*More info: Jessie Panek*



# General Meeting and Joint Meeting with the Woman's Club on March 3, 2025

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## How to Live Free of Gasoline and Utility Costs and Minimize your Environmental Impact

**Speakers: Pat DeLeeuw and Richard Jenson**

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In 2015 Pat and Richard bought land on Mill Road in Harvard and, with architect Paul Lukez, designed a net-zero house that, though small, would feel spacious and bring the outside inside with lots of windows and a design that felt respectful of its setting. Pat and Richard will speak about their design and building process and the choices they made throughout it to achieve their goals.



### *Hospitality Team*

Team leader: Maria Day  
Maureen Remeika, Fay Childers, Maria Walton, Jessie  
Panek, Jeanie Colony, Marijke Vallaey

*HARVARD SENIOR  
CENTER  
16 LANCASTER ROAD  
AT 11:30 AM*

# January meeting: Flower arranging

Deborah Dowson, our own Garden Club member, coordinator of Bloom N Art project, and enthusiastic floral design artist presented ideas and tips on how to approach the interpretive side of floral design, using different artworks and various forms of flowers and plants. She shared a ton of examples. It was an exceptional and very inspiring talk.



As an example, she showed a painting by Shirley Boudreau, who started Bloom N Art in the Garden Club., Deb explained what to look for in an artwork and how to create a flower arrangement based on your observations.

## Membership

Info: Nancy Hartshorne

*WELCOME TO PATRICIA LOMANDO* – [plomando@gmail.com](mailto:plomando@gmail.com)

## From our members

*Thanks to Dee Lee*



Deep sleeps the Winter,  
Cold, wet, and grey;  
Surely all the world is dead;|  
Spring is far away.

Wait! The world shall waken;  
It is not dead, for lo,  
The Fair aids of February  
Stand in the snow!

By Cicely Mary Barker



# Bloom N Art

## March 29-30-31, 2025

Deborah Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Donna Guarino, Patrick Vallaeys

**The 9th anniversary of Bloom N Art is on March 29-30, 2025.**

Once again, the Garden Club of Harvard, the art department of Bromfield High School, and Fivesparks will work together to make this the highlight of early spring.

Donna Guarino introduced Bloom N Art to the membership.  
She explained the process and shared the most important dates.



- Deb sends all the artwork to the arrangers: this will happen shortly after February 14
- Please reply in a timely manner so we all get our assignment: week of February 17-23
- Viewing of artwork and short presentation for new arrangers: March 5
- Mock-up session of the arrangement at Fivesparks: March 12
- Flower market: March 26 (260 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Chelesea, MA 02150)
- Drop-off of arrangements: Friday, March 27
- Celebratory Reception: March 28, 6-8 pm at Fivesparks
- Exhibit: March 29 and March 30

[Sign up as an arranger](#)

[Sign up as a docent/greeter](#)

**The Bromfield art teachers sent us 29 pieces of art.**

**At this very moment we have 20 Garden Club arrangers.**

**We need 9 more enthusiastic arrangers !**

**Please join the BNA team...it's fun and if you need a mentor, there will be one just for you!**

# Horticultural Meanders

Info: Jessie Panek

## MORE ABOUT BEES

We had a great turnout for the winter seed sow in early February. We learned that several varieties of native bumblebees are 'at risk' of disappearing from Massachusetts. Planting native flowers that are the food for those species in particular is the purpose of the winter seed sowing programs organized by the workshop leader, Freddie Gillespie. In our area, the two threatened bumblebee species are *Bombus vagans* and *Bombus fervidus*. They feed on many of the same plants, so we can help both at the same time. Here is a link to Dr. Robert Gegear's chart of native plant species to support bumblebee species at risk in Massachusetts:

[https://grownativemass.org/sites/default/files/documents/Gegear\\_Native\\_Plants\\_Bumblebees\\_at\\_Risk.pdf](https://grownativemass.org/sites/default/files/documents/Gegear_Native_Plants_Bumblebees_at_Risk.pdf)

If you would like to try to identify the different bumblebee species, here is Dr. Gegear's visual key:

[https://grownativemass.org/sites/default/files/documents/Gegear\\_Bumblebee\\_ID\\_Nov2020.pdf](https://grownativemass.org/sites/default/files/documents/Gegear_Bumblebee_ID_Nov2020.pdf)

Massachusetts has 396 different bee species! 78% of these bees are generalists, meaning they forage for pollen from a wide variety of plants. 22% however, are specialists, and usually feed on pollen from only one plant family or genus. An astonishing 70% of our native bees nest in the ground, including bumblebees and miner bees. Those bare patches in your lawn may be providing important nesting habitat! About 20% of our native bees, including masons and leafcutters, nest in pre-existing cavities. Others like carpenter bees excavate nests in wood or pithy stems. Most of our native bees are solitary, but a few like the bumblebees are social, although their colonies are smaller than those of the non-native honeybee.

Here is a wonderful (free) online publication with nice drawings and lots of good information about bees in the US:

[https://grownativemass.org/sites/default/files/documents/Moisset\\_and\\_Buckmann\\_Intro\\_to\\_Native\\_Bees.pdf](https://grownativemass.org/sites/default/files/documents/Moisset_and_Buckmann_Intro_to_Native_Bees.pdf)

Another list can be found here of native trees and shrubs for native pollinators, from Grow Native Massachusetts: [https://grownativemass.org/sites/default/files/documents/Holm\\_Trees-Shrubs\\_for\\_Pollinators.pdf](https://grownativemass.org/sites/default/files/documents/Holm_Trees-Shrubs_for_Pollinators.pdf)

And native perennials for native pollinators:

[https://grownativemass.org/sites/default/files/documents/Holm\\_Perennials\\_for\\_Pollinators.pdf](https://grownativemass.org/sites/default/files/documents/Holm_Perennials_for_Pollinators.pdf)

A final fun fact: There is a technique some native bees use called 'buzz pollination.' A bee latches onto a flower and rapidly vibrates its flight muscles, making a buzz that vibrates the whole flower and shakes loose the pollen. Some flowers like tomatoes, eggplants, and blueberries require buzz pollination to be pollinated. Honeybees are not capable of doing this, so they cannot be used for those crops.



# Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison



MEG BAGDONAS, MARTY GREEN.

## LIBRARY FLOWERS IN MARCH

March 3: Marijke Vallaeys  
March 10: MaryAnn Piasecki

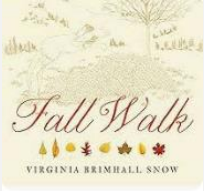
March 17: Jessie Panek  
March 24 Pam Marston

March 31 Carol Hartman

# Library Books

Info: Kathy Dollard and Heidi Siegrist (co-chairs), Maria Day, Marty Green

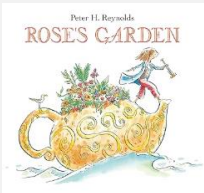
This month's focus is on the children's books we purchased. All of them except *The Noisy Puddle* were recommended by Heidi Siegrist. They're perfect for sharing a love of the natural world and gardening with grandchildren.



*Winter Walk* (2019) by Virginia Brimhall Snow. Ages 4 to 8.

This is the winter version of this four-season series.

"Grammy" takes the grandchildren for a walk and they learn about plants and animals in winter. We bought all four seasons, plus *Garden Walk*.



*Rose's Garden* (2009) by Peter Reynolds. Ages 5 to 9.

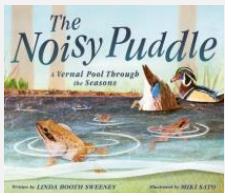
Dedicated to Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, the Rose of this story travels the world in a teapot then settles back to wait and wait for flower seeds to sprout in a neglected corner of the city. Will her dream come true?



*My Friend Earth* (2020) by Patricia MacLachlan. Ages 3 to 5.

Our friend Earth does so many wonderful things! She tends to animals, pours down summer rain, and protects the tiny seeds waiting for spring. Pages feature cut-outs and flaps. Keep this book in

mind – **Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**



*The Noisy Puddle: A Vernal Pool Through the Seasons* (2024) by L.B. Sweeny Ages 4 to 8.

If the Harvard Conservation Trust offers their vernal pool walk at Barba's Point later this spring, I highly recommend going and bringing your grandchildren. Nancy Hartshorne recommended this book.

Share your ideas with us about books we should consider purchasing for the Harvard Public Library. Look for the bright yellow-green sheets on your table.

Kathy Dollard and Heidi Siegrist (co-chairs), Maria Day, Marty Green



# Hospitality

## Apricot Bars from the kitchen of Marty Green

This recipe was given to Marty by a co-worker at the BU Medical Library, back around 1970.

2/3 cup dried apricots

Rinse apricots, cover them with water, and boil about 10 minutes. Drain, cool, and chop.

1/2 cup softened butter

1/4 cup granulated sugar

1 cup flour (for base layer)

Base layer: Grease 8" x 8" x 2" pan, and heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix butter, granulated sugar, and 1 cup of flour until crumbly. Pack into pan, and bake 25 minutes.

1/3 cup flour (for top layer)

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 cup brown sugar, packed

2 eggs

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

1/2 cup chopped nuts (walnuts or pecans)

Top layer: Sift together 1/3 cup flour, baking powder, and salt. Beat eggs well, then gradually beat in brown sugar. Mix in the flour mixture, then the vanilla, apricots, and nuts. Spread over baked layer. Bake 30 minutes, or until done. Let cool in pan and then cut into bars.

## Loaves and Fishes: Food security is important!

As a dedicated garden club, we're proud to be an integral part of the Harvard community. Here is a list of what is most needed.

*Our February General Meeting (on March 3 @11;30 am) will un-officially be called **Diaper Day**. This is a co-meeting with the Woman's Club of Harvard and they are joining us in an effort to alleviate a consistent issue at Loaves and Fishes...providing diapers to many of the needy families who come for food. L&F has a long history of providing non-food items for their clients: dishsoaps, toiletries, paper towels, etc.*

*Many of the newer clients seem to be families with small children and so diapers are hard to keep in stock.*

**SO, we would like everyone to bring a pack of diapers (or Pull-Ups, Pampers) to the meeting.**

**The most needed are size 5 and size 6 as well as newborn but all sizes are welcome for both boys and girls. They could, of course, use some wipes too.**

# 2024-2025 Officers Committee and Project Leaders

<b>Officers</b>	
President	Bill Loehfelm
Vice President	Marijke Vallaey
Recording Secretary	Carlene Phillips
Treasury	Deborah O'Rourke
<b>Committee and Project Leaders</b>	
Annual Lunch	Maria Day
Bloom N Art	Deb Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Donna Guarino, Patrick Vallaey
Civic Beautification	Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello, MaryAnn Piasecki
Corresponding Secretary	Stephanie Hooper
Garden Therapy	Mary Maxwell, Janice Rusiecki, Nancy Webber
Garden Tour	Katie Gandek, Jud Ratliff, Maria Day
Graduation Flowers	Kathy Hewett
Greens Workshop	Nancy Webber, Kathy Hewett
Historian	Carlene Phillips
Horticulture	Jessie Panek
Hospitality	Meg Bagdonas, Margaret Murphy
Library Books	Kathy Dollard, Heidi Siegrist
Library/Meeting Flowers	MaryJane Ellison
Membership	Nancy Hartshorne
Nature Trails	Pam Durrant
Newsletter	Marijke Vallaey
Nomination	Jessie Panek, Nancy Hartshorne, Member at Large
Plant Sale	Maureen Remeika, Jane Vasta, MaryAnn Piasecki
Programs	Janice Rusiecki
Publicity	Judy Warner, Meg Bagdonas

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

[www.harvardgardenclub.org](http://www.harvardgardenclub.org)  
 Garden Club of Harvard on Facebook  
<https://bloomnart.harvardma.org>

2022