



Never Done!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
VOLUME XXXI-ISSUE 4



Here's What Bill Thinks...

Let us give thanks for a bounty of people:

For children who are our second planting, and though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are;

For generous friends with hearts and smiles as bright as their blossoms;

For feisty friends as tart as apples;

For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them;

For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;

For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the other, plain as potatoes and as good for you;

For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes, and serious friends, as complex as cauliflowers and as intricate as onions;

For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you through the winter;

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;

For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts and witherings;

And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, and who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter;

For all these we give thanks.
(A poem by Max Coots)

General Meeting November 25, 2024



*Want to transform your backyard into a
bountiful orchard?*

*Community Harvest Project
Speaker: Dave Johnson
Farm Operations Manager*

We'll learn about Community Harvest Project, a non-profit, and their Harvard orchard. Dave will provide us with a unique and complete perspective of the work at the orchard. He will give us expert tips on nurturing our fruit trees, discovering ideal companion plants, and selecting the most effective organic solutions.

*HARVARD SENIOR
CENTER
16 LANCASTER ROAD
AT 9:30 AM*

Hospitality Team in November

Team leader: Janice Rusiecki

Cindy Dumser, Pam Marston, Mary Jane Ellison, Dottie Houck, Margaret Kusner

Hospitality Team in December (Cookies and coffee/tea)

Team Leader: Margaret Murphy

Kathleen Turnbull, Jane Vasta, Bet Conlon, Smith

Holiday Greens Workshop

Info: Kathy Hewett and Nancy Webber

Monday, December 9

9:30 am – 11:30 am

St. Theresa's Church, 15 Still River Road.



Please join us for this wonderful holiday event on Monday, December 9, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am. You can help by donating greens, making an arrangement (instructions are provided), and/or delivering an arrangement.

Once the arrangements for delivery are completed, you will have ample time to create arrangements for yourself or to give as gifts. You are welcome to use the greens that have been donated to share, and in addition, there will be supplies such as containers and floral foam and decorations to purchase. You may also bring your own containers if you prefer and please remember to bring clippers to use.

It is one of our favorite activities of the year! You can let Kathy Hewett or Nancy Webber know if you have someone to suggest who would benefit from a delivery of a little holiday cheer. If you don't want to arrange, come join in the holiday spirit: observe, comment, have some cookies!

On the next page you will find a list of greens that work well in these arrangements!

Margaret Murphy has arranged a drop-off of the greens on Sunday afternoon, December 8.

The spot for drop-off will be marked by cones and a tarp. Place the greens on the tarp. More instructions will follow in an email shortly before the event.

Civic Beautification

Info: MaryAnn Piasecki, Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello

















This is a photo of dried plant materials used at the Harvard Historical Society planter, tiding us over until we arrange winter greens next month.



Fresh and Fragrant

The Holiday Workshop needs your greens!

*Bringing greens to share is vital to the success of our Greens Workshop.
Without these contributions, our arrangements would be dull indeed!*

	White pine	Arborvitae	
	Blue Holly (Meserve) both green and with berries	Incense cedar	
	Chamaecyparis (hinoki cypress)	Mountain laurel	
	Small leafed rhododendron	Andromeda/pieris	
	PJM rhododendron (nice red color now)	Yew	
	Boulevard Cyprus	Variegated euonymus	
	Gold-thread cyprus	Variegated vinca vine	
	Spruce with soft needles	Seedpods of any kind	
	Winterberry	Umbrella pine	
No Hemlock, dries out quickly and drops its needles			

Bloom N Art

Deborah Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Donna Guarino, Patrick Vallaeys

Right now, we think about the end-of-year festivities, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. But at the start of 2025, when our gardens are covered in snow, we'll want to watch videos about flower arrangements and these images will lead us to Bloom n Art!

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.

More info will be in the January newsletter. We will have demonstrations and mock-up sessions in the months leading up to the BNA exhibit!

**At the January 27, 2025 meeting Deborah Dowson will
give a presentation on Flower Arranging.**



Membership

Info: Nancy Hartshorne

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



My name is **Daniela Rissi**, and I'm so excited to be part of this gardening club! I'll be honest, I'm a total newbie when it comes to gardening. I come from a place with only one season where you just stick a pencil in the ground, and it simply grows. So, I'm here to learn everything I can from you all, and hopefully not kill too many plants in the process.

A little about me: I'm a stay-at-home mom to a toddler, so I'm always juggling a million things at once. Gardening is a new adventure I'm diving into, and I'm hoping it will be a relaxing and rewarding hobby that I can enjoy with my little one. I might have a lot of questions, so thank you in advance for your patience and wisdom! I'm looking forward to learning, sharing, and growing (both my garden and myself!) with you all. Thanks for welcoming me to the group!



My name is **Eileen Gorss**. I have been in Harvard for 3 years now. We moved into my in-law's home after 38 years in Southboro. We have 2 daughters and one granddaughter.

I retired from Boston Children's Hospital in 2020 and have enjoyed volunteering at Loaves and Fishes since moving to Harvard.

Lee Z. and I have shared a plot at the community garden and we enjoy watching our flowers and veggies grow! Christine S., a fellow member of the club, has shared her garden expertise and seedlings with us. Other activities I enjoy are hiking, biking, kayaking, baking and travel. I look forward to participating in the activities of the garden club and meeting new friends.



I'm **Lee Zupancic** and decided to join the garden club now that I am retired and have some free time. My family has lived in Harvard since 1990; I have 3 children, 1 boy and 2 girls. I love outdoor adventures such as hiking, biking, kayaking, xc skiing and photography. I'm hoping to learn from the group how to keep color in the garden all season long as well as keeping the critters away. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and sharing ideas.

Nature Trails

Info: Pam Durrant



October 24: Williams Pond/Great Elms



Mary and Kerry Maxwell, and Carole Herbin finding an iris in the field, and a maple viburnum



October 31: Black Pond



Another selfie!

Mary with Patrick and Marijke pulling out burning bushes.

A garter snake soaking up the warmth of the sun.



October panel

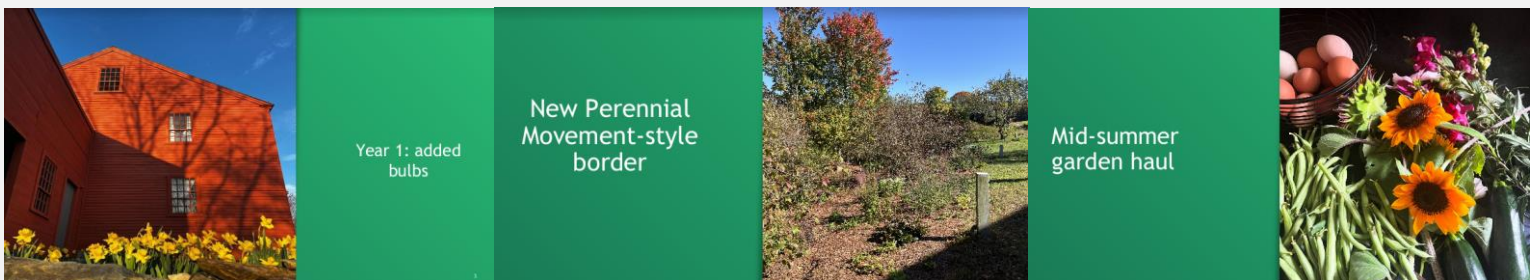


Amy Cataudella talked about the flower growing business she started.



AnaMaria Nanra with Zebra haworthia plant she received from the Garden Club in 2021. The same plant at the presentation about house plants!

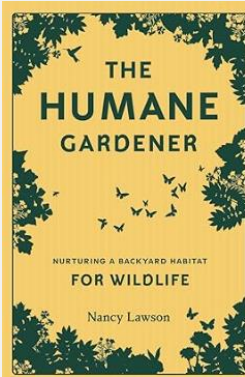
Lindsay Burke showed slides of her New Perennial Movement-style border inspired by Piet Oudolf's Garden Designs.



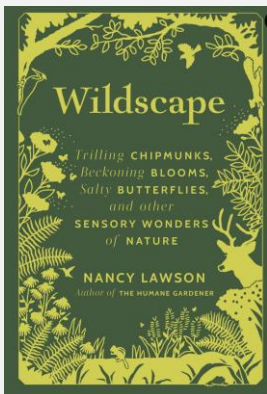
Library Books

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

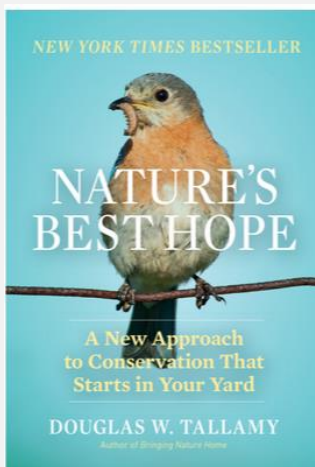
This month we'd like you to know about three books we purchased with a conservation theme.



THE HUMANE GARDENER: NURTURING A BACKYARD HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE (HOW TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE AND ETHICAL GARDEN THAT PROMOTES NATIVE WILDLIFE, PLANTS, AND BIODIVERSITY) (2017) BY NANCY LAWSON. Writer, speaker, and habitat consultant, Nancy Lawson pioneers creative, wildlife-friendly landscaping methods. In her words, "A humane gardener challenges herself to see the world through the eyes (and ears and noses and antennae) of other species, from the easy-to-love butterflies and birds to the more misunderstood moles and beetles and wasps and groundhogs. She appreciates all the creatures just trying to make a life outside her door, rather than applying compassion selectively to some species and not others." Nancy Hartshorne recommended this book.



WILDSCAPE: TRILLING CHIPMUNKS, BECKONING BLOOMS, SALTY BUTTERFLIES, AND OTHER SENSORY WONDERS OF NATURE (2023), ALSO BY NANCY LAWSON, and also recommended by Nancy Hartshorne. "This book is a joy, both inside and out. The text is divided into five sections, each focusing on a different sense: scent, sound, taste, touch, and sight. Nancy Lawson's stories and photos will open your eyes (and ears and fingers and nose) to new ways of perceiving and enjoying the natural world," from an Amazon reviewer. You have no idea what you have been missing in your garden!



NATURE'S BEST HOPE: A NEW APPROACH TO CONSERVATION THAT STARTS IN YOUR YARD (2020) BY DOUG TALLAMY. I thought all birds ate birdseed – that's what we'll put in our feeders this winter – right? But did you know that in the spring, songbirds like chickadees, **require 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to raise a single brood of baby birds?** Caterpillars are high in protein – exactly what baby birds need to grow so rapidly. Without all those bugs, we wouldn't have any birds. We need to find the same joy in finding insects that we find in sighting bluebirds. Learn about Professor Tallamy's vision for a Homegrown National Park in every backyard. Kathy Dollard recommended this one.

At our next meeting, please be sure to share your ideas with us about books we should purchase for the Harvard Public Library. Look for the bright yellow-green sheets on your table. Thank you to everyone who gave us suggestions at the September meeting!

Horticultural Meanders

Info: Jessie Panek

Is it really almost Thanksgiving?? It certainly doesn't feel like it, walking around my garden today without a jacket. But it is early winter, and some indoor plants that bloom for us in the dark days of winter need a rest period before they are ready to bloom again. Clivia and amaryllis are two of these. They are in the same plant family, even though Amaryllis is a bulb and Clivia is not. Both need a period of 8 to 10 weeks in the cool dark, like a basement around 50 degrees. (When you buy amaryllis I think they have usually been precooled, so they are ready to grow.) You should not water during this rest time, unless your Clivia starts to wilt in which case you can water a bit. Mine look almost exactly the same after 2 months being totally ignored in the basement—Amazing plants!

As we all know, our unusually warm fall has also been terribly dry, and our drought status has moved to level 3 'Critical'. In recent years our dry months have been in summer not fall, so this feels very different. Although we are being encouraged to conserve water, if you have done any significant planting this year, especially of trees or shrubs, be sure to water them well now, to get them through the winter. Take shorter showers and don't wash your car, but water your plants!

I ran across some information about climate change and drought, looking back to the major drought of the 1960s and forward to how similar conditions might play out in the future. It doesn't look too good. This summary is from **A Retrospective and Prospective Examination of the 1960s U.S. Northeast Drought** by Zeyu Xue and Paul Ullrich, first published July 7, 2021.

"The 1960s Northeastern United States (NEUS) drought was an abnormally long period of low precipitation, recognized for its impacts on agriculture and the water supply. Although cold temperatures at the time did partially mitigate its impacts, under a changing climate there is a risk of much warmer temperatures exacerbating these impacts. To better understand the impacts from a reoccurrence of the 1960s drought, we study a scenario in which the weather patterns of this period return in the context of a warmer future environment. Our results show that subject to similar weather patterns, the NEUS will be much wetter, with increases in both precipitation and soil water. However, these wetter conditions are only apparent in moderate and moderately wet months; in extremely dry months, future water availability is largely unchanged, or even decreases from the analogous historical months. Further, future precipitation has more variability and drought tends to initiate more quickly. Additional challenges emerge with more extremely hot days, more severe extreme precipitation, reduced snowpack, loss of frozen soil, and subsequent loss of runoff."

From our orchard to our table!

Apple Snacking Spice Cake

Courtesy OXO Chef in Residence Joanne Chang. (thanks to Katie Gandek)

1 cup (140 grams) all-purpose flour
3/4 cup (100 grams) cake flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
1 1/2 cups (300 grams) granulated sugar
12 tablespoons (6 ounces; 170 grams) unsalted butter at room temperature
2 eggs
4 cups (450 grams) peeled and chopped granny smith apples (2 to 3 medium apples)
1/2 cup (80 grams) raisins
1 cup (100 grams) pecan halves, toasted and chopped
Confectioners' sugar, for dusting

Instructions:

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour a 9-inch round cake pan, or use a non-stick cake pan

1. Sift together the all-purpose flour, cake flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, ginger and cloves in a large bowl. Put the butter and sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment (or a medium bowl if using a hand mixer) and mix them together at medium speed for 1-2 minutes, or until butter mixture is pale yellow, light and fluffy.
2. Mix the flour mixture with the sugar and butter on medium speed until the butter is fully incorporated into the dry ingredients, about 1 minute. Scrape the paddle and the sides of the bowl several times to make sure all the butter is mixed in.
3. Add the eggs and mix on low speed for 10 to 15 seconds. Once the eggs are incorporated, turn the mixer to medium-high speed for about 1 minute, until the batter turns light and fluffy.
4. Fold in the apples, raisins and pecans by hand. The batter will be very stiff and thick. It will look like too many apples and not enough batter, but this is intended.
5. Spread the batter onto the prepared cake pan and smooth it evenly to fill the pan. Bake for 35-40 minutes, until the cake feels firm when you press it in the middle and is a dark golden brown color. Let the cake cool in the pan completely on a wire rack. Invert the cake onto a serving plate, then invert it again so it is right-side up. Slice and serve with a dusting of powdered sugar.
6. Note: The cake keeps wrapped tightly in plastic for up to 3 days at room temperature or for up to 2 weeks in the freezer; defrost overnight at room temperature before serving.

Garden Therapy

Indo: Janice Rusiecki

Mary Jane E., Katie G., Mary M., and Janice R., enjoyed their time with the ladies at RiverCourt Residences on November 12. We assisted with arranging mums, carnations, and more.

The ladies were quite happy with their arrangements.



Pictures by Janice Rusiecki

Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison

*The Halloween Diorama was initiated by Teddy Coffin.
Kim Morton brought the Despicable Me minions to Spooky town!*



November arrangements : Meg Bagdonas, Jane Vasta, Marijke Vallaeys.

Library Flowers in December

Library flowers in January

Dec. 2: Mary Maxwell	Dec. 16: Maria Day	Jan.6: Maria Walton	Jan. 20: Kathleen Turnbull
Dec. 9: Fran <u>Maiore</u>	Dec. 23: Lisa Brown	Jan 13: Kathy Hewett	Jan. 27: <u>AnaMaria Nanra</u>
	Dec: 30 Fay Childers	Jan.20: Marijke Vallaeys	

In Our Garden



My one Brandywine tomato plant produced beautifully!

Can you spot the 10 avocado plants which germinated in my compost pile this summer?

Sweet potato plants!

(Phyllis Clawson)

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, even beyond the holidays.

Broth/stock	Flavored rice	Canned pasta (like SpagettiOs)
Crackers	Hearty soups	Albacore tuna
Baking mixes	Ensure	Coffee (no K cups)
Poise and menstrual products	Depends— unisex is most helpful, large and extra-large seem to be in shortest supply	Diapers and pullups, especially large sizes 4, 5, and 6.

2024-2025 Officers Committee and Project Leaders

Officers	
President	Bill Loehfelm
Vice President	Marijke Vallaey
Recording Secretary	Carlene Phillips
Treasury	Deborah O'Rourke
Committee and Project Leaders	
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
Webmaster	Betsy Howard
Yearbook	Carlene Phillips, Marijke Vallaey

Thanks to Carlene Phillips for proofreading, always much appreciated!