



NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD

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April President Ponderings

No mow May and other no mores.

There's a new revolution slowly happening. Similar to 1775 in that it started with the British (Plantlife charity) and it has migrated to North America. It's a campaign called No Mow May. And there's been no reported violence involved, yet!

The premise behind No Mow May is to leave your lawn alone for the month of May. This allows lawn flowers to bloom and feed hungry native bees emerging from hibernation when other flowers are not blooming yet. There have been several studies (skirmishes) done in areas of Wisconsin, Kentucky, and Massachusetts. The studies have shown that lawn flowers can support a high diversity of bees and other pollinators. According to an article in Gardens Illustrated "the results are indisputable: changing the way we mow can result in a tenfold increase in the amount of nectar available to bees and other pollinators. The new mowing regime saw an increase in the growth of daisies, germander, speedwell and creeping buttercup."

It's easy to participate. Don't mow your lawn. Your friends and neighbors will think you have moved away so you will have no more visitors. You will have no more green stained sneakers, no more discussion with your spouse on whose turn it is to mow and no more hum of the lawnmowers' motor. So I shall ponder thisCan less be more when it comes to not mowing your lawn?

MaryAnn Piasecki

General Meeting on Monday, April 25

Program:
Inspired by Nature

Speaker: Martha Chiachiaro
Docent at the Worcester Art Museum



Flowers and landscapes have inspired artists for centuries!

Explore the gorgeous floral paintings of artists such as Van Gogh and Cassatt or the breathtaking landscapes of Church and Bierstadt.

Imagine yourself strolling through Monet's gardens at Giverny, the inspiration for both floral and landscape paintings.

When: Monday, April 25, 2022

Where: Holy Trinity Parish St. Theresa Church
15 Still River Road

Time: 9:30 am

Masks recommended

Why Native?

Speaker: Jessie Panek
(March 28 program)



Pictures by MaryAnn Piasecki

Some key points and resources from “Why Native?” By Jessie Panek

Our native plants and native insects are tightly interdependent, and the rest of the ecosystem—all birds and other wildlife, and even people, depends on the survival of a diversity of both native insects and native plants. A native plant is one that functions in the local ecology, and the closer to our local area that it is found in the wild, the better, so choose plants from southern New England first. A plant from the eastern U.S. is far more likely to function as part of our ecology than a western U.S., Asian, or European species.

Make the goal for your garden to be both pretty and ecologically productive! To support our ecosystem, aim to have at least 70% of your landscape be native plants. Whenever possible, choose the ‘straight species’ rather than a cultivar, or at least a cultivar that has the same color leaves and flowers as the species and does not have double flowers.

- A ‘pollinator garden’ for butterflies must include plants for the caterpillar stage, not just the adult butterflies (like milkweed for Monarch caterpillars)

Native bees, however, are our primary pollinators (honeybees are not native!), and you can support them by following these recommendations:

- Plant in masses—at least 3-5 of each species of perennial -- for pollinators this is much more efficient. Bees are looking for more of what they just visited, not variety!
- If you have space, try to have at least 3 different species blooming for pollinators in each season: spring, summer, and fall.
- Provide different shaped flowers that appeal to a variety of pollinators: flat daisies, flowers with spurs, bell-shaped, closed tubes, etc. —these match the tongue lengths of different pollinators.

Here are some of Jessie's favorite plants for each season:

Spring: Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Fringed bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*), Native columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), native strawberries (*Fragaria virginiana*), Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), Bugbane (*Actaea racemosa*, formerly called *Cimicifuga*) and violets (even those in your lawn!)

Summer: Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*, *Pycnanthemum muticum*), *Coreopsis verticillata*, black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia fulgida*, *Rudbeckia hirta*), milkweeds (*Asclepias tuberosa*, *Asclepias incarnata*), bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*, *Monarda didyma*), Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*).

Fall: New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), Smooth aster (*Aster laevis*), blue-stemmed Goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*), Great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium* (formerly *Eupatorium*) *maculatum*, *Eutrochium purpureum*)

Some helpful resources to identify native plants for our area that are important to our ecology:

The Native Plant Finder website provides detailed information based on your zip code, to identify plants that host the highest number of caterpillars, that critical food source for all baby birds. Native trees and shrubs are especially important.

www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder

Another useful website is the Audubon Native Plant Database

www.audubon.org/native-plants

This one allows you to filter results and find just trees, just perennials, etc., and to filter by what kind of resources the plants provide: food for caterpillars, nectar, fruit and so forth.

Websites with information about planting for native bee species:

<https://www.svtweb.org/our-work/metrowest-conservation-alliance/priority-issues/native-pollinators/garden-toolkit/where>

<https://gegearlab.weebly.com/plant-list.html>



Poster by Kate Guthro



Plant Sale: potting workshops

Info: Bill Loehfelm and Claudia Wesley



It's ice cold one day and pleasantly sunny the next. Getting the grass out of the Angelina sedum by hand or dividing a plant with a saw, Garden Club members always find a way...

Plant Sale memories

In the Harvard Press - From the archives in the Harvard Public Library

Harvard, Massachusetts, Friday, May 28, 1982



Grace Cummings hurries to wait on one of the hundreds of eager customers during the Harvard Garden Club's annual plant sale on Saturday. Miss Cummings raised over 5,000 seedlings that she donated to the plant sale. (Photo by Barbara Kemp)

“Miss Cummings raised over 5,000 seedlings that she donated to the plant sale”(1982)

“Club member Connie Grabowy once again raised more than 50 English delphiniums from seeds. Other members work tirelessly separating perennials and potting new plants for the sale” (2010)

THIS WEEKEND
Harvard's Garden Club
to host annual plant sale

Three event highlights

1 The sale offers a wide variety of healthy perennial, annuals, herbs, small shrubs and vegetable seedlings for both sunny and shady gardens. Plant Sale co-chairman Pam Marston said, "This year, in addition to such staples as bleeding heart, Jacob's ladder, bee balm, phlox, peonies, Shasta daisy, we have a wide variety of the lovely and indestructible daylilies and delphinium. We also have a number of heirloom tomato plants and other vegetables for the backyard gardener."

2 Plants are donated from Garden Club members' home gardens. Club member Connie Grabowy once again raised more than 50 English delphiniums from seeds. Other members work tirelessly separating perennials and potting new plants for the sale.

3 Garden Club members will be on hand to help the novice gardener and confer with those with more experience.



Bill Parkinson, left, Barbara Heim and Carlene Phillips help at a potting workshop in preparation of the Harvard Garden Club's Plant Sale. COURTESY PHOTO

Why you should attend

Proceeds from the sale support the Garden Club's many local projects including landscape projects and seasonal plantings in town, book donations on home gardening and horticulture to the Harvard Public Library and service programs such as garden therapy and flower decorations for Bromfield School's graduation ceremony. The club also makes regular donations of books and annual member-

ships to five organizations dedicated to horticulture or conservation to the Harvard Public Library. This year the club has committed to the re-landscape of the Hildreth Elementary School in addition to other projects around town.

About the plant sale

WHEN 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 15, rain or shine
WHERE Harvard Town Common
INFO harvardgardenclub.org

EARTH DAY “SHOW AND TELL” ALL OVER TOWN

Harvard Climate Initiative Committee is planning a Harvard Earth Day event with the mission of uniting our community in a broad conversation about **sustainable living on April 30th (rain date on May 1st)** from 11am – 5pm. In addition to having some activities in the center of town, our vision is to have community members share their sustainable, resilient, and “green” projects and activities at their homes, farms or in the town center.

We are reaching out to the Garden Club to see if any of you might be interested in showing other community members any of the following: your native plant installations, worm bins, compost systems, vegetable garden, rainwater catchment, permaculture, bee keeping, electric tools, or any other garden-related project that leads to lower energy footprints and the protection of wildlife and flora. There’s no need to commit to the full day. Any 2+ hour window would be fine.

It doesn’t have to end there! We are also seeking community members that have air or ground sourced heating/cooling systems, induction stoves, solar installations, electric vehicles and bikes, etc. So if you have multiple things you would like to share – all the better. If you simply have an interest and some time to give, we will need plenty of volunteers as well.

We are also hoping to find some sponsors to offset expenses – any suggestions along those lines would be helpful too. Perhaps you are aware of a local business that is using sustainable practices that might be interested.

This is an idea in its gestation stage, so we don’t have all the details worked out, but we hope to have a fun and informative event with plenty of community participation and we will provide support. Appropriate COVID protocols will be determined at the time and observed to keep everyone safe.

Please contact me if you have interest or ideas to share. deborahorourke@verizon.net

Thank you and Happy Spring!

Membership

Welcome new members!



Jud Ratliff



Lynda Kacharis

Membership renewal!

It's that time of the year again.

Info: AnaMaria Nanra

Please send the membership form and check to AnaMaria Nanra/Garden Club Membership
38 Old Littleton Road
Harvard, MA 01451

The membership renewal form is attached.

Or go to:

https://www.harvardgardenclub.org/files/ugd/2c4649_de7f30e167f44094a22eb546218d9af3.pdf

Annual Garden Tour – June 6, 2022

Info: Suzan Osborn (suzanosborn@gmail.com) and Sarah Tate (sjt@sarahjanetate.com)



Come and enjoy the June **6, 2022 Annual Garden Tour**. This year we will visit three gardens. More info in the next newsletter.

BIG NEWS! The board decided to change the tour time to **before** the annual luncheon. That was the way we did it in the “olden” days and it was noted that the cool of the morning is a better time for touring the gardens than in the scorching afternoon sun. After the tour everyone can relax at

lunch that will officially start at 12:30 in Maria's garden. The garden tour is our traditional treat at the Annual Meeting Luncheon.

Flower Arranging

Inspired by the success and enthusiasm of "Bloom n Art," the Garden Club will offer a workshop for the enjoyment of members eager to gain additional experience with botanical interpretations.

If interested, please email Maribeth Marcello (maribeth.marcello@gmail.com), who will coordinate a date/time in late June for arrangers.

Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison



Maribeth Marcello



Kathy Hewett



Bobby Taylor



Jessie Panek

Civic Beautification

Info: Kathy Jackson



Noteworthy: more native plants!

Members of the Garden Club and the Bromfield Green Team removed grass plants in the garden in front of Bromfield High School.

The grass plants will be replaced by native plants including dwarf fothergill, winterberry, rhododendron and native azaleas.

Invasive Asian Jumping Earthworms

Asian jumping worms devour organic matter more rapidly than their European counterparts, stripping the forest of the layer critical for seedlings and wildflowers. Jumping worms grow twice as fast, reproduce more quickly, and can infest soils at high densities. In areas of heavy infestation, native plants, soil invertebrates, salamanders, birds, and other animals may decline. **These invasive worms can severely damage the roots of plants in nurseries, gardens, forests, and turf.** They, along with other invasive worms, can also help spread invasive plant species by disturbing the soil.

How do you stop the spread? There are currently no viable jumping earthworm control methods, although research is continuing and we can prevent their spread:

- Do not buy or use jumping worms for bait, vermicomposting, or gardening.
- When purchasing bulk mulch or compost, use a reputable producer that has heat-treated the material to a temperature of 130°F for at least three days to destroy the cocoons or purchase bagged mulch.
- Check your property for jumping earthworms using a mustard pour (it won't harm your plants!). Mix a gallon of water with 1/3 cup of ground yellow mustard seed and pour slowly into the soil. This will drive any worms to the surface where you can easily remove them.
- Cocoons are sensitive to heat and can be destroyed with clear plastic solarization; in late spring or summer, cover moistened soil with a sheet of transparent polyethylene for two/three weeks or until the soil temperature exceeds 104°F for at least three days.
- Be careful when sharing and moving plants; always check for worms and know where your plantings come from; buy bare root stock when possible.
- If you have a small population of jumping worms, handpick and destroy them by bagging them and throwing them in the trash, or place them in a bag and leave out in the sun for at least 10 minutes; then throw the bag away.

Research is currently being conducted on invasive worms at the University of Wisconsin and several practices do show some promise of control. Abrasive materials such as biochar (ground up charcoal) and diatomaceous earth (fossilized diatoms) may show some promise in killing adult jumping worms. Incorporate one of these products into the infested soil to a depth where the worms are located; worms that come in contact with the materials will be adversely affected.

<http://warren.cce.cornell.edu/gardening-landscape/warren-county-master-gardener-articles/invasive-asian-jumping-earthworms>

with thanks to Maria Day for this info

Officers for 2021-2022

President: MaryAnn Piasecki
Vice President: Jessie Panek
Secretary: Stephanie Hooper
Treasurer: Pauline Carroll

Committee Chairs

Historian: Carlene Phillips
Hospitality: Pending Covid Restrictions
Membership: AnaMaria Nanra
Newsletter: Marijke Vallaey
Nominating: Margaret Murphy, Janice Rusiecki
Programs: Margaret Murphy, Janice Rusiecki
Publicity: Marty Green

Projects

Annual Luncheon: Maria Day
Civic Beautification: Kathy Jackson Garden
GardenTherapy: Janice Rusiecki
Garden Tour: Sarah Tate, Suzan Osborn
Graduation Flowers: Kathy Hewett
Holiday Greens Workshop: Deborah Dowson, Denyse Cox
Horticulture: Connie Grabowy
Library Books: Helen Berry
Book Discussion Group: Helen Berry
Library and Meeting Flowers: Mary Jane Ellison
Nature Trails: Pam Durrant
Plant Sale: Claudia Wesley and Bill Loehfelm
Webmaster: Betsy Howard
Yearbook: Marijke Vallaey
Bloom N Art: Marijke Vallaey, AnaMaria Nanra