



NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE 01



President Ponderings in August

Presidents Ponderings in August

Here we are in the “The Dog Days of Summer” which is described in the Farmer’s Almanac as an oppressive period of summer, between July 3rd and August 11th.

The phrase refers to the time the sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius the brightest star visible from any part of Earth and part of the constellation Canis Major, the Greater Dog.

This effect of the Sirius' light combined with the Sun's was thought to have an effect on plants, animals, and women, as well as men:

“But when the artichoke flowers, and the chirping grass-hopper sits in a tree and pours down his shrill song continually from under his wings in the season of wearisome heat, then goats are plumpest and wine sweetest; women are most wanton (pampered), but men are feeblest, because Sirius parches head and knees and the skin is dry through heat. “ *Hesiod, Works and Day*

Great time for all gardeners to sit back with a cold drink and enjoy the garden, weeds and all.

MaryAnn Piasecki

Profiles: MaryAnn Piasecki our new president



MaryAnn moved to Harvard 1995 with her husband Leon and daughter Alison.

She has a degree in Chemistry and worked full time in the semiconductor industry for over 30 years. Before retiring 6 years ago MaryAnn was the director of engineering for a lithium ion battery startup company where she worked on a high performance battery for an F1 racing team. Her career and personal travels brought her to many countries in the world and she managed to sneak in visits to over 30 famous garden's with some of her favorites being: Keukenhof, Kyoto Japan Botanical, Huntington CA Botanical, Sissinghurst Castle Garden.

MaryAnn has been a full time member of the garden club since 2013 and has been nature trail lead, civic beautification co-leader, recording secretary and vice president.

Profiles: Jessie Panek our new vice president

Jessie moved to Harvard with her husband Jon in 1994 and promptly joined the Garden Club.

"It seemed like a great way to meet people in town with a common interest. At that time I was in the Radcliffe program for Landscape Design. It turned out that the previous owner of the house (Sara Timmons) had also been part of this program, and in her 10 years on the property had created several gardens that gave me a great start. Although I did work as a landscape designer for some years, I am now happy just working in my own garden and helping with plantings around town and at my church in Acton. In addition to growing a wide variety of perennials, shrubs, and trees, I enjoy having a vegetable garden."



For a number of years she took classes at the New England Wild Flower Society (now Native Plant Trust) and then taught classes in native perennials for gardens for about 5 years. She has a special interest in native plants and ecology, but non-natives continue to be included in her gardens. However, she's pretty passionate about invasive plants that disrupt the ecological balance, and besides helping organize the garlic mustard pull as part of the town cleanup days, she puts a lot of effort into removing various invaders from her property, especially that nasty Japanese barberry. (Editor's note: see page 8)

Officers for 2020-2021

President MaryAnn Piasecki, 978-844-1958
Vice President Jessie Panek, 978-430-2238
Recording Secretary Abby Besse 978-456-3025
Treasurer Pauline Carroll, 978-456-8837

Committee Chairs

Corresponding Secretary Stephanie Hooper
Historian Carlene Phillips
Hospitality Carol Hartman
Membership AnaMaria Nanra
Newsletter Marijke Vallaey
Nominating Margaret Murphy & Janice Rusiecki
Programs Theresa Ledoux, Maria Walton & Janice Rusiecki
Publicity Marty Green

Projects

Annual Luncheon Maria Day
Civic Beautification Kathy Jackson Garden
Therapy Mary Maxwell
Garden Tour Suzan Osborn & Carlene Phillips
Graduation Flowers Jessie Panek
Holiday Greens Workshop Deborah Dowson & Denyse Cox
Horticulture Connie Grabow
Library Books Joanne Williamson & Helen Berry
Library and Meeting Flowers Kathleen Turnbull
Nature Trails Pam Durrant
Plant Sale Abby Besse & Mary Jane Ellison
Webmaster Betsy Howard
Yearbook Marijke Vallaey
Bloom N Art Marijke Vallaey & AnaMaria Nanra



Picture: MaryAnn Piasecki meeting with membership and yearbook chairs in front of Fivesparks!

Programs



September 21 Zoom Board meeting

September 28 Westward Orchards apple picking 9:00 am - 10:30 am

We will have specific sign-up times for meeting with Stephanie O'Keefe discussion on "Growing Apples in Harvard" followed by apple picking.

October 19 Zoom Board Meeting

October 26 Zoom Regular meeting

Program: Pollination: Birds, Bees, Flowers and Seeds

Speaker: Judith Sumner

November 23 Zoom Board Meeting (Thanksgiving is on 11/26)

November 30: Zoom Regular Meeting

Program: "Victorian Flowers - Still the Favorite"

This talk is based on his new book.

Speaker: Thomas Mickey

December 14: Holiday Greens

The club gathers each year to make baskets of greens for shut-ins and arrangements for themselves.

Logistics for this year need to be worked out.

January 19 Zoom Board Meeting - Tuesday MLK Holiday: 1/18

January 25 Zoom Regular Meeting

Program: Cooking Demonstration Speaker: Liz Barbour

February 22 Zoom Board Meeting

March 1 Joint Zoom Meeting with Woman's Club at 12:15 pm

***Program: Beyond the Lens - Visual Storytelling
Speaker: Kelly Fitzsimmons***

March 22 Zoom Board Meeting and Plant sale kickoff

March 29 Zoom General Meeting

***Program: Get ready for spring
Speaker: Suzanne Mahler April***

April 20 Tuesday Board meeting (April 19th is Holiday)

April 26 General Meeting Zoom (?)

***Program: What's Bugging You
Speaker: Bonnie Power May***

May 15 Plant Sale

May 24 Board Meeting Location TBD June

June 7 Annual Luncheon

A stroll in Suzan Osborn's garden



Teddy Coffin's two lily plants have gone berserk!



Barbara Heim is wondering if these are Orienpet Lilies.

She writes: "Just gorgeous! I ordered some bulbs and gave a few to friends. I learned they start small and grow over time."

(Editor's note: I was about to correct the spelling and change it into Oriental, but Orienpet Lilies exist! They are the result of crossing Oriental Lilies with Trumpet/Aurelian Lilies)

In Phyllis Konop's Garden



"I miss my real birds. I had to remove feeders because chipmunks and squirrels were taking over the front yard. They were digging into plants and stealing birdseed."

The battle will begin again in the fall."



Creative art in Kathy and Pete Jackson's white garden

With some branches and a stump from a cedar tree "They Pat" was created!





NEW

Book Club

Zoom

Info: Helen Jean Berry

Helen Jean looks forward to the possibility of bringing a book club group together for our garden club!

Books will be based on the love of gardening and our first selection is “Animal, Vegetable, Miracle – A year of Food Life” by Barbara Kingsolver.

Please contact Helen Jean by September 1st at hberry@asrsd.org if you are interested in joining the book club.

Helen Jean will be setting up the book club Zoom meetings with members that join.

(editor’s note: Jessie writes about the “nasty invasive plant Japanese barberry” on page 2)



The shrubs are warmer and more humid than other plants, creating an environment where ticks can thrive and reproduce, increasing the risk of transmission of Lyme and other potentially dangerous infectious diseases, experts say.

Graduation Class of 2020

Kudos to Jessie Panek and her team of Mary's!
(Maribeth, MaryJane, Maria and MaryMaxw)
for the beautiful Bromfield graduation flowers!



PICTURES BY MARGARET MURPHY AND MARIA DAY