



NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
VOLUME XXX-ISSUE 1



President Ponderings

Info: Jessie Panek

Hello my gardening friends,

Ready or not, fall is here, and we have to bid farewell to summer. What a crazy summer it has been in the garden! Last year drought, this year the monsoon... We'll have a chance to talk about it together in our October meeting, but first we have a great September program on native alternatives for your lawn. Don't miss this one.

I hope you all have received your physical yearbook as well as the digital version. If for any reason you haven't, please contact Marijke and she'll get you a copy. As always there are a few corrections/updates, both on dates and people's info, so be sure to write those into your paper copy.

As we start up our new program year, we have one big change which is the return of 'hospitality' to our meetings! That means there will be refreshments of coffee/tea and some goodies to enjoy. The official start time for our meeting is 9:30 am, and we will enjoy the refreshments and some social time for about 20 minutes before we start the 'business' part of our meeting. After that, somewhere between 10 and 10:15 am we will start the program portion of the meeting with our guest speaker or discussion, whatever is planned for the day.

Your Board, made up of officers and all the leaders for various projects and committees, had a great meeting earlier this week during which we did some brainstorming about how we might make our Club better. Among them were ideas for having more activities during the summer months, organizing special trips to gardens or nurseries, workshops on skills like arranging flowers or dividing perennials, or programs that involve children. It was a great start, but now we want to ask you, our members, what you would like to see and do. Do any of those ideas excite you? What else? We don't have to do things just because 'we've always done it that way'! Please think about what you want this Club to be, and share any ideas you have.

I'm looking forward to a great year with you all. Jessie

P.S. We are trying to move past the pandemic, but we know Covid is not really gone. Please feel free to wear a mask at any of our activities and meetings if you are more comfortable doing so.

September 25, 2023

NATIVE LAWN ALTERNATIVES

Speaker: Alexis Doshas

Nasami Farm Nursery Manager

Nasami Farm grows thousands of native seedlings from known wild ecotype seed. Alexis holds a master's degree in conservation biology from Antioch University New England and teaches many classes on propagation and native plant ecology for Native Plant Trust.

How can we as homeowners, land stewards, gardeners, and landscape professionals better support biodiversity and resiliency in our green spaces?
Kill our lawns! - Or at least reconsider them.

In this informal and practical talk we will discuss ways to increase life and support healthy ecosystems through the use of native groundcovers. We will review tips and techniques for landscape transformations, and introduce a palette of native plants for various conditions.

Where: St. Theresa Church, 15 Still River Road
Time: 9:30 am.

Library Flowers

Sept. 4: Lindsay Burke
Sept. 11: Carol Hartman

Sept. 18: Kathy Hewett
Sept. 25: Shlawna Sikochi

Meeting Hospitality

Hospitality Chair: Carol Hartman

Maureen Remeika
Lisa Brown
Janine Andrews

Lynda Herbolsheimer
Mary Jane Ellison
Carolynn Luescher

Civic Beautification

Info: Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello and MaryAnn Piasecki



Town center fire station.



Civic beautification at the WWII War Memorial, with Kathy, Pat Jennings, MaryAnn and memorial committee members.

MaryAnn and Kathy weeding at the Civil War Monument.



Membership

Info: Nancy Hartshorne

Please welcome our new member, **Jeanie Colony**, to the Garden Club!

PUBLICITY

Info: Kate Guthro

<https://www.harvardgardenclub.org>

[Garden Club of Harvard](#)

[Bloomnart.online](#)

Yearbook

Info: Marijke Vallaes

[Some changes....](#)

Annual meeting: June 10, 2024

Greens workshop: Monday, December 11, 2023

KNOW YOUR LAND

Info: Deborah O'Rourke

Introducing the "KNOW YOUR LAND" Series in Harvard!

HARVARD'S CLIMATE INITIATIVE COMMITTEE is thrilled to announce the debut of our collaborative educational series, KNOW YOUR LAND. Designed to enlighten and engage, the series kicks off with an immersive event titled *"Forest Health in Harvard: the Good, the Bad, and the Healthy."*

On October 14th (Rain date October 15th), join us for a guided walk through the conservation land at Horse Meadows Knoll and a portion of the Muller Trail where you will meet and talk with local forestry experts about forest health. You will learn how to recognize hallmarks of a robust forest and identify some of the invasive species threatening our green spaces. But that's not all! This event is for the entire family. At the heart of this endeavor is the series' mission: to empower our community with knowledge about Harvard's natural environments. By understanding how to care for and protect our land, we can ensure its health and beauty for generations to come.

Come, dive into nature, understand your land better, and become more aware of Harvard's beautiful forests. Together, let's embark on this journey towards a brighter, greener future!

Key Details:

- Location: Horse Meadows Knoll, Sherry Road, Harvard.
- Time: Participants are welcome to start their exploration anytime between 1:00 and 2:30 pm.
- Length: 1.4-mile round trip without any steep terrain.

INTERESTING!

Here's the website for [Izel Native Plants](#), where you can order plugs, and select plants that are native to your geographical area.

The Joe Gardener Show podcast with Joe Lampl, where he interviewed Benjamin Vogt of Monarch Gardens, is where I learned about the Izel Native Plants. The episode is called, [Natural Garden Design Basics with Benjamin Vogt](#).

Margaret Roach's podcast, A Way to Garden, featured Uli Lorimer on the topic of Native Annuals in June, 2022. That episode is [here](#).

The NY Times article entitled, [A Viable Alternative to Conventional Lawn? Cornell May Have Found One](#), by Margaret Roach, appeared in the September 13, 2023 edition.

—Marybeth Marcello

Summer in our gardens...or barns!



Funny tomato in MaryAnn Piasecki's vegetable garden.



Butternut squash overtook my garden. They were volunteers from compost. I had perhaps 50 seedlings and allowed 5-6 grow and now have 30/40 squash! Fun surprise after poor tomato year.

-- Mary Maxwell



Maria Walton has a large barn on her property where her family has lived for several generations. Her husband's parents and grandparents neatly saved many items with notes, as if to communicate with subsequent generations.

Recently, Maria found a very old Beechnut Coffee can at the back of a shelf, and she opened the lid, only to find many flower seeds. They are so interesting because they are small packets, labeled 1 through 15, with small descriptions. Intriguing!

– Marybeth Marcello

Horticultural Musings

Info: Betsy Morton

Do you have any plants which you consider invasive? Not talking about garlic mustard, bittersweet, Japanese knot wood etc., but plants not on any list which you always dig out of the lawn or garden.

This will be the topic for our September Garden Club meeting.

Board Meeting on September 18



At the September 18, 2023 board meeting MaryAnn Piasecki volunteered as recording secretary.



Nancy Webber, Nancy Harthorne, Marybeth Marcello, Meg Bagdonas, Bill Loehfelm.

Mid-summer walk in Jessie Panek's lush gardens



One of my favorite fall flowers is the native bottle gentian.

This is the first time I've been able to capture on camera how a bee gets its pollen.

It's not easy, as you can see here! ([watch the video](#))

Only bumblebees are strong enough to do this, so the gentian has 'selected' this species as its pollinator.

jessie



Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison



Arrangements by Lindsay Burke, Carol Hartman and Kathy Hewett.

Kathy used coleus, kousa dogwood, and fall asters in her arrangement.

Officers 2023-2024

Officers	
President	Jessie Panek
Vice President	Bill Loehfelm
Recording Secretary	Denyse Cox
Treasury	Deborah O'Rourke
Committee Chairs	
Historian	Carlene Phillips
Hospitality	Meg Bagdonas
Membership	Nancy Hartshorne
Newsletter	Marijke Vallaes
Nomination	MaryAnn Piasecki
Programs	Margaret Murphy, Janice Rusiecki
Publicity	Kate Guthro
Projects	
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!