



Never Done!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
VOLUME XXXI-ISSUE 9

We were honored with an award!

Bill Loehfelm



Congratulations upon winning the Publications yearbook award.

Marjorie Dienhart
GCFM Former President

We received an award at **the Annual meeting of the Garden Club Federation of Mass.** Though Bill and I missed the event due to traffic, we were surprised and delighted to get a congratulatory email from Kathy Fitts of the Haverhill Garden Club. The award certificate is now with Bill, thanks to Deb Dowson, who received it from Lisa Murray of the Groton Garden Club. This recognition for our yearbook is a testament to everyone's hard work in compiling all the important information.

WWW.HARVARDGARDENCLUB.ORG
[GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD ON FACEBOOK](#)
[HTTPS://BLOOMNART.HARVARDMA.ORG](https://BLOOMNART.HARVARDMA.ORG)

Thanks, Carlene Phillips for proofreading, always much appreciated!

Annual Meeting / Luncheon June 9, 2025

Info: Maria Day



*A festive, happy event with good food, lovely flower arrangements,
and some hats to keep the tradition going.*

Welcome back Pauline!

Membership

Info: Nancy Hartshorne and Pat Jennings

Please welcome two new members!

Clare Perry
303 Littleton Road
978-505-1000
ctperry27@gmail.com

Lisa St. Amand
1088 Hill Road
Boxborough, MA 01719
978-501-4282
lisastaman@aol.com

Who's who:



My name is **Patricia Lomando** and I am originally from Nashua, NH. My husband Zach and I moved to Bolton in March of 2020 as everything was shutting down due to the pandemic. This is when my love of gardening began. We still have much of our 5-acre yard to fill with native plants to attract more pollinators and invite wildlife. Our owl box is currently a squirrel box and our bat box is housing wasps, but we'll get there. We hope to dig a large nature pond and would love advice if anyone has been through the process.

I work in eCommerce now, but went to school for industrial design at SCAD and interior architecture at RISD. Gardening is the best outlet for my creativity. Animals are my passion. When I'm not working or in the garden, I am one half of the Stow Kittens adoption team, working with Red Clay Animal Rescue in Savannah, Georgia. We find homes for roughly 200 rescue kittens per year. Our permanent pack includes 5 special needs cats (blind kitties are the best!) and a dog. I think my animals would say my love is a suffocating love.

Susan Tarrant: Thank you so much for your warm welcome to the Garden Club!



I have lived in Harvard on Oak Hill Road since 1984 and at my current address for the last two decades. Pam Durrant and Denis Wagner have created a lovely garden here with now mature shrubs and trees. I enjoy tending to flowers and herbs on my deck.

My career centered on mediating medical care complaints at a university teaching hospital for 40 years, retiring in 2018, and teaching at the affiliated medical school helping first year medical students learn the skills of patient interviewing, retiring a couple of years ago.

Harvard has given me a spiritual home as well as an actual one. After long days at the hospital, the beauty of our town has always been a balm to my soul. I imagine many of you feel the same. To look into the woodlands, to appreciate the Garden Club's mini-gardens in the town center, to take the long view to Mt Wachusett, to walk with our dogs along the many Conservation Trust trails fills me with gratitude that I live in such a place.

Thank you to Maribeth Marcello for introducing me to the Garden Club! I look forward to contributing to the good work of the GC and learning from you all.

GCH PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2026

CATEGORY	BUDGET	2025	VARIANCE
Affiliations / gifts	\$ 2,710.00	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 1,485.00
Annual Luncheon	\$ 300.00		
Community Support: Bloom N' Art	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 200.00
Community Support :Civic Beautification	\$ 950.00		
Community Support: Garden Therapy	\$ 500.00		
Community Support:Graduation Flowers	\$ 200.00		
Community Support: Holiday Greens	\$ 350.00		
Community Support: Library Books	\$ 325.00		
Community Support:Library Flowers	\$ 50.00		
Correspondence	\$ 100.00		
Federation Dues	\$ 550.00		
Flower Arranging	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)
Garden Tour	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)
Grants:Educational	\$ 500.00		
Historian	\$ 100.00		
Hospitality	\$ 100.00		
Insurance	\$ 675.00		
Membership Maintenance (for our Club)	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)
Technology Service Fees	\$ 600.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 250.00
Plant Sale	\$ 8,000.00		
President's Fund	\$ 200.00		
Programs	\$ 2,400.00		
Publications:Newsletter	\$ 200.00		
Publications: Website	\$ 400.00		
Publications:Yearbook	\$ 600.00		
Publicity	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00
Rent-	\$ 1,700.00		
Special Projects	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Treasurer/Administrative	\$ 850.00		
TOTAL values, excel calculation	\$ 27,560.00		\$ 3,585.00

2025 BUDGET **\$ 23,975.00**
 (prior fiscal year for comparison)

Civic Beautification

Info: MaryAnn Piasecki, Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello



Civil War monument: newly weeded and newly planted pale-yellow Hyperion daylilies and sedum "Matrona".

Watering over the summer months can be quite a task for the Civic Beautification team, especially since most of the town sites do not have a water source. That means, our teams haul gallons of water to the sites, and do so day in and day out!

We extend our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who have participated in watering Civic Beautification planters and memorial sites. Planting and weeding don't compare to the effort required to keep our beautiful sites hydrated. Thank you!



Horse trough on Ayer Road



The new succulent garden at the "Old Millstone" The mill stone is a monument to the founders of Harvard.

All pictures by MaryAnn

Bromfield HS Graduation Flowers

Info: Kathy Hewett

June 8, 2025
To Members of the Harvard Garden Club:
A warm thank you for the extraordinary banks of blooms at the Bromfield Graduation. They welcomed us as we approached and made the stage a focus of beauty and festivity. How fortunate we are!
Sincerely,
Judith Schutman



A Thank You email from a graduate's family member.

View all the pictures: <https://www.smugmug.com/app/organize/Harvard-Garden-Club/Graduation-2025>



Garden Therapy

Info: Mary Maxwell, Janice Rusiecki, Nancy Webber

Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison5080517-0500

The summer library flowers slots are all filled, so patrons and staff can enjoy the displays through Labor Day.

Folks at the library, staff and patrons, are very happy to see these beautiful contributions. After years of service, the black poster board we place the flowers on has retired. Patrick Vallaeyes fashioned a new one for us.

Questions to [Mary Jane Ellison](#):

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**MANY regular slots are available for September to May.
Please sign up soon, so we can include all the names
and dates in the yearbook. Click on [SignUpGenius](#) or
contact Mary Jane (508-517-0500)A**

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Thanks to Lisa Brown, Maria Day, Meg Bagdonas, Ally Zhu, Carol Hartman, Karen Green and Marijke Vallaeyes for delivering flowers in July. In August Mary Maxwell, Maribeth Marcello, Cynthia Dumser and Kathy Hewett will bring joy and color to the library.

Hospitality

Info: Eileen Gorss and Mary Maxwell

Signup genius will be available in July.



**Plant Sale
May 17, 25**

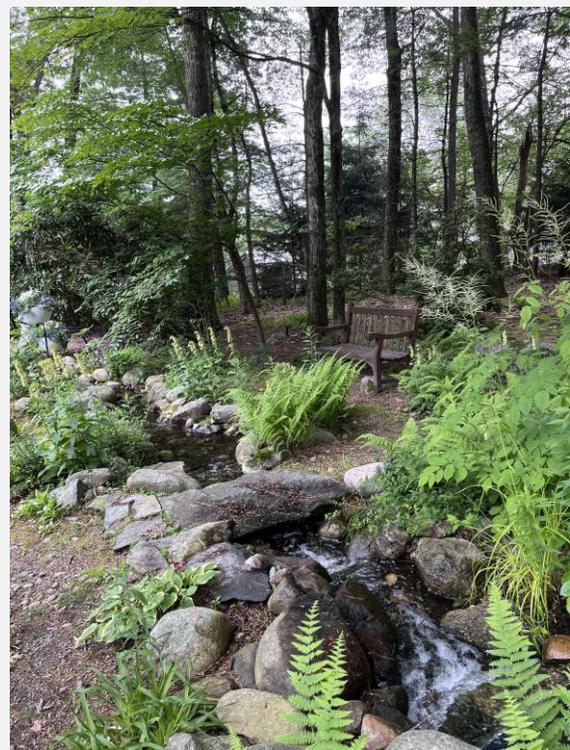
*Info: Jane Vasta and
Maureen Remeika*

Garden Tours – June 9, 2025

Info: Katie Gandek



PAM AND DAVID DURRANT GARDEN, 159 EAST BARE HILL ROAD (pictures by Marijke Vallaey)



VIRGINIA THURSTON HEALING GARDEN, 145 BOLTON ROAD (pictures by Denyse Cox)

News from Mary Helan

I haven't become a member of the Magnolia Garden Club in Brunswick GA yet, but I took the Master Gardener Extension Volunteer class this spring, courtesy of the UGA Extension Service in Glynn County. I learned a whole bunch—the text book is 987 pages long because it covers zones 6a-9b in Georgia—including more than I really want to know about lawns and chemicals (aaaargh, my eyeballs were bleeding). As an Extension Volunteer in Southeast Coastal Georgia I am supposed to be knowledgeable about all kinds of horticultural stuff related to our zone, 9a. Some of my required volunteer hours are in a community of tiny homes for formerly unsheltered people encouraging them to grow vegetables in raised beds, as well as the Extension demonstration garden where the harvest goes to one of the many food banks in Brunswick, population 15,000. About 31% of the population lives below the poverty level here.

Speaking of spring, before selling our boat at the end of June 2023, we had spent the sailing season (effectively Jan - June) in the Bahamas for the previous two years, so I had never spent a spring season in Brunswick. I was pretty ignorant that spring goes from February to April here and completely missed spring planting for 2024. 😞 I did better this year, and finished harvesting the last of my sugar snap peas at the end of April and harvesting potatoes by the end of May, and now planting sweet potatoes which will take about four months to mature. I'm still figuring out what will thrive in the summer heat of 95° temps and 94 % humidity. Answer: not much, including me!

The environment is quite friendly to a large variety of ornamental shrubs, scented flowering vines such as star jasmine, as well as a zillion perennials and some bulbs. (Ahem, it is not necessary to remove dahlia tubers from the ground here for the winter.) Masses of red-, white- and salmon-colored azaleas were stunning in April, giving way to big blooms from blue and oak leaf hydrangea in May. Alas, neither peonies, rhubarb nor lilacs grow in zone 9a although these thrive in Atlanta, five hours away.

Lots of folks have tropicals in the ground here including bananas, bougainvillea, bromeliads, citrus, ginger, hibiscus, lantana, palms, plumeria as well as epiphytes (air plants) growing on the trunks of ginormous live oaks. Then below freezing temperatures will arrive for three days or even an ice storm, and the blackened stumps of frozen banana trees will remind us that a humid subtropical climate is not the same as a tropical climate. After trying desperately, but ineffectively, to cover tropical plants for a winter or two, most of my gardening friends now shrug and say to their plants: “You're on your own. If you come back, that's great.” I'm almost at that point, except I will continue to haul my potted six-foot tall plumeria inside, and cover the lovely lemon tree whose fruit I use to make some pretty potent limoncello.

Do we have invasives? Oh my, yes, but that's a subject for another day.

Lots of folks come to the Golden Isles (Brunswick, St. Simon's Island, Jekyll Island, Sea Island) to vacation, so if any of all y'all are headed down this way, please do look us up. We live in a lovely 1920 Craftsman bungalow, and will always be pleased to sit on our porch with you and a cold beverage, and catch up. Aloha, Mary Helan

Officers Committee and Project Leaders 2025-2026

Officers	
President	Bill Loehfelm
Vice President	Marijke Vallaeys
Recording Secretary	Carlene Phillips
Treasury	Deborah O'Rourke
Committee and Project Leaders	
Annual Luncheon	Maria Day
Bloom N Art	Deb Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Donna Guarino, Patrick Vallaeys
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
Graduation Flowers	Kathy Hewett
Historian	Carlene Phillips
Holiday Greens Workshop	Kathy Hewett
Horticulture	Jessie Panek
Hospitality	Eileen Gorss, Mary Maxwell
Library Books	Kathy Dollard
Library/Meeting Flowers	Mary Jane Ellison
Membership	Nancy Hartshorne, Pat Jennings
Nature Trails	Pam Durrant
Newsletter	Marijke Vallaeys
Nomination	Jessie Panek, Nancy Hartshorne
Plant Sale	Maureen Remeika, Jane Vasta, Beth Conlon-Smith
Programs	Jeanie Colony, Maria Walton
Publicity	Judy Warner, Meg Bagdonas
Special Acitivities	Meg Bagdonas, Nancy Hartshorne
Webmaster	Betsy Howard
Yearbook	Marijke Vallaeys, Carlene Phillips