



NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD

VOLUME XXX-ISSUE 2



President's October Ponderings

Info: Jessie Panek

We seem to be suspended in early fall, with no hint of frosty weather, not even a night below 40 despite the calendar reading the second half of October. Anyone care to bet on when we'll get our first frost?

Waiting for the season to change, I have been slowly cleaning up my vegetable garden: squash and cucumbers are pulled out, I harvested the last pole beans and cherry tomatoes this weekend, and some peppers are still on the plants. Chard is beautiful, and I have a little late lettuce; carrots remain tucked into their bed until the end. But my garlic is waiting to be planted and I'm ready to put everything to bed for the winter. (I'm so glad to live in a climate where we get a winter break!)

Bill Loehfelm and I enjoyed attending a Garden Club Federation lunch in early October and picked up some good information. Here's one: Anytime you have a horticultural question you can get free expert advice by calling or emailing a Master Gardener at one of the two Massachusetts horticultural hotlines, one at Mass Horticultural Society and one at Tower Hill NEBG. See this link with details about that service. <https://www.massmastergardeners.org/educational-resources/helplines>

We also learned that the National Garden Club Federation President Brenda Moore has started a new program to encourage garden clubs to grow and donate produce to food pantries. Most of our active year is not when we are harvesting from our gardens here in New England, but I have been talking with our local food pantry Loaves and Fishes about becoming a neighborhood food coordinator for Harvard, specifically the 'neighborhood' of the Garden Club. It seems a perfect time to start this—the Federation's focus on feeding people, the fact that I (plus a few other club members) volunteer at Loaves and Fishes, and our VP (Bill) is a staff person there!

Our Garden Club Neighborhood Food Project will work like this: I will collect donations of non-perishable food at each Garden Club meeting from any members wishing to help (nobody is required to participate, though I hope many of you will—and I certainly won't be keeping track of who remembers each month!). Loaves and Fishes will provide special reusable 'Green Bags' for us, and you can buy one or more items to add to it whenever you shop. When you come to our meetings, just bring the bag with you. I will take it from there. (Maybe next summer I can set up a schedule to collect fresh produce to deliver to the pantry and take those extra zucchini off your hands ☺). You can bring donations this month in any bag you

have, and I'll have the Green Bags for you to take home for next month. We can make a difference to our neighbors in need!

I'm looking forward to our October meeting's in-house 'panel' discussion of our gardens this past season. This is all about sharing with each other, so I hope we'll have a lively and wide-ranging conversation. What were your favorite varieties in your vegetable garden? What did you learn from having so much rain? (Would you rather have drought or deluge???) What is your favorite nursery, locally and/or online? Since I know we will probably talk about jumping worms, I wanted to share with you all this great video that Barbara Heim sent me a while ago. It's not about jumping worms, but I think these worm hunters' technique would work for our new pest, though as Barbara says, you'll have to be fast! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lLoGcSxCAY>

Best wishes,
Jessie

PANEL DISCUSSION October 30, 2023

General Meeting

When: October 30, 2023

Where: St. Theresa Church
15 Still River Road

Time: 9:30 am

Oh boy, what a year this has been in the garden!
Lots of precipitation, lots of mosquitos, climate
change reminders galore!

This meeting will feature our own experts looking
back on this year and reminding us what we should
be doing in the garden right now... stay tuned for an
always popular panel discussion and bring your
questions for the audience participation part!

Library Flowers

Nov.6: Marty Green

Nov. 13: Shlawna Sikochi

Nov. 20: Cindy Dumser

Nov. 27 Jane Vasta

Hospitality Team at the October meeting (info: Meg Bagdonas)

Team leader: Deb Dowson

Maribeth Marcello

MaryAnn Piasecki

Kathleen Turnbull

Carole Herbin

Maria Day

Marty Green

Pam Durrant



ON SEPTEMBER 25TH ALEXIS DOSHAS GAVE AN INFORMATIVE TALK ABOUT NATIVE LAWN ALTERNATIVES.

Usually, you will find here a short description of the talk. Not this time...because Carlene Phillips wrote extensively about it in The Harvard Press of Friday, September 29, 2023.

Her article, 'Out with lawn, in with natives' is great and worth reading.

<https://www.harvardpress.com/Features/Feature-Articles/out-with-lawns-in-with-natives>.

An excerpt:

"Lastly Doshas described a dozen or so native ground covers that could serve as alternatives to turf. A colorful one is **Prunella vulgaris**, which has a small purple flower that blooms from May to November. Doshas said some of us may have it in our yards already, and many heads nodded. She described **Carex pennsylvanica** as the native that looks the most like turf. It will grow in shade and is best started by planting plugs. **Eragrostis spectabilis** (purple lovegrass) is taller and turns a beautiful mauve at this time of year. **Bearberry kinnikinnick** is a woody evergreen with a bright red berry and is well suited for slopes. **Antennaria neglecta** is an interesting name for pussytoes, which sounds as though it would be soft to walk on. **Tiarella cordifolia** (running foamflower) grows in shady areas as does **Asarum canadense** (ginger)". These and others can be found at plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/Plant-Search



Year-End Report for Fiscal Year 2023

Info: Deborah O' Rourke

GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR-END REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

June 30 2023

CATEGORY	BUDGET	EXPENSE	INCOME	NET
Affiliations / gifts	\$ 1,225.00	\$ (1,225.00)	\$ -	\$ (1,225.00)
Annual Luncheon	\$ 300.00	\$ (1,690.63)	\$ 1,777.00	\$ 86.37
Community Support: Bloom N' Art	\$ 1,800.00	\$ (1,435.93)	\$ -	\$ (1,435.93)
Community Support :Civic Beautification	\$ 950.00	\$ (713.86)	\$ -	\$ (713.86)
Community Support: Garden Therapy	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Community Support:Graduation Flowers	\$ 200.00	\$ (140.40)	\$ -	\$ (140.40)
Community Support: Library Books	\$ 325.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Community Support:Library Flowers	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions/Donations to GCH	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 185.00	\$ 185.00
Correspondence	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federation Dues	\$ 500.00	\$ (541.00)	\$ -	\$ (541.00)
Flower Arranging	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Garden Tour	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants:Educational	\$ 500.00	\$ (280.00)	\$ -	\$ (280.00)
Historian	\$ 100.00	\$ (35.06)	\$ -	\$ (35.06)
Hospitality	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HolidayGreens	\$ 350.00	\$ (50.00)	\$ -	\$ (50.00)
Insurance	\$ 550.00	\$ (550.50)	\$ -	\$ (550.50)
Interest Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 599.77	\$ 599.77
Membership Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,620.00	\$ 3,620.00
Membership Maintenance (for Our Club)	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Misc. Income *	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 654.33	\$ 654.33
PayPal Expense	\$ -	\$ (163.48)	\$ -	\$ (163.48)
Plant Sale	\$ 7,000.00	\$ (8,071.71)	\$ 16,494.70	\$ 8,422.99
President's Fund	\$ 200.00	\$ (24.78)	\$ -	\$ (24.78)
Programs	\$ 2,400.00	\$ (1,214.34)	\$ -	\$ (1,214.34)
Publications:Newsletter	\$ 200.00	\$ (71.94)	\$ -	\$ (71.94)
Publications: Website	\$ 150.00	\$ (364.24)	\$ -	\$ (364.24)
Publications:Yearbook	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.40)	\$ -	\$ (400.40)
Publicity	\$ 150.00	\$ (23.58)	\$ -	\$ (23.58)
Other Fundraisers	\$ -	\$ (637.00)	\$ 840.00	\$ 203.00
Rent **	\$ 800.00	\$ (5,800.00)	\$ -	\$ (5,800.00)
Special Projects	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Treasurer/Administrative	\$ 850.00	\$ (701.80)	\$ -	\$ (701.80)
TOTAL values, excel calculation	\$ 20,800.00	\$ (24,135.65)	\$ 24,170.80	\$ 35.15
Quicken reported values (proof)		\$ (24,135.65)	\$ 24,170.80	

*MISCELLANEOUS INCOME \$ 654.33

One-time adjustment to reconcile Quicken account with Bank Statement

**NOTE: In recognition of a particularly difficult farming year, in June, the Board of GCH approved paying a market rent of \$5000 for our use of Westward Orchards farmstand for storage and for the Plant Sale during FY 2023

Year-End Report ... continued

ASSET Accounts	6/30/2022	6/30/2023
Checking 4469	\$ 19,526.56	\$ 19,120.34
Saving Account 6125 (Educational Grant Fund)	\$ 4,682.86	\$ 3,904.11
CD 4794 Matures 07/07/23/23 12 mo at .3 (int	\$ 10,618.87	\$ 10,649.98
CD 3127 Matures 03/23/24 13 month at 4.170% \$ 11,470.57		\$ 11,657.71
CD 4687 Matures 10/23/2023 11 month at 3.06	\$ 11,435.26	\$ 11,654.72
CD 1260 Matures 12/27/2023 15 Month at 2.5%	\$ 3,125.01	\$ 3,186.52
Cash Box	\$ 196.25	\$ 196.25
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 61,055.38	\$ 60,369.63

Treasurer's Report First Quarter Fiscal Year 2024

30-Sep-23

CATEGORY	BUDGET	EXPENSE	INCOME	NET
Affiliations / gifts	\$ 1,225.00			\$ -
Annual Luncheon	\$ 300.00			\$ -
Community Support: Bloom N' Art	\$ 1,800.00			\$ -
Community Support :Civic Beautification	\$ 950.00	\$ (313.72)		\$ (313.72)
Community Support: Garden Therapy	\$ 200.00			\$ -
Community Support:Graduation Flowers	\$ 200.00			\$ -
Community Support: Library Books	\$ 325.00			\$ -
Community Support:Library Flowers	\$ 50.00			\$ -
Contributions/Donations to GCH	\$ -			\$ -
Correspondence	\$ 100.00			\$ -
Federation Dues	\$ 500.00			\$ -
Flower Arranging	\$ 100.00			\$ -
Garden Tour	\$ 200.00			\$ -
Grants:Educational	\$ 500.00			\$ -
Historian	\$ 100.00			\$ -
Hospitality	\$ 100.00			\$ -
Holiday Greens	\$ 350.00			\$ -
Insurance	\$ 550.00			\$ -
Interest Income	\$ -		\$ 252.52	\$ 252.52
Membership Income	\$ -		\$ 645.00	\$ 645.00
Membership Maintenance (for Our Club)	\$ 100.00			\$ -
Paypal	\$ -			\$ -
Plant Sale	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
President's Fund	\$ 200.00			\$ -
Programs	\$ 2,400.00	\$ (393.30)		\$ (393.30)
Publications:Newsletter	\$ 200.00			\$ -
Publications: Website	\$ 150.00			\$ -
Publications:Yearbook	\$ 500.00	\$ (543.60)		\$ (543.60)
Publicity	\$ 150.00	\$ (34.99)		\$ (34.99)
Other Fundraisers	\$ -		\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00
Rent-	\$ 800.00			\$ -
Special Projects	\$ 1,000.00			\$ -
Treasurer/Administrative	\$ 850.00	\$ (38.18)		\$ (38.18)
TOTAL values, excel calculation	\$ 21,900.00	\$ (1,323.79)	\$ 1,037.52	\$ (286.27)
Quicken reported values (proof)		\$ (1,323.79)	\$ 1,037.52	\$ (286.27)

Membership

Info: Nancy Hartshorne

WELCOME!



Hi! My name is Jeanie Colony, and I'm very excited about joining the Harvard Garden Club! My husband Jim and I moved to Harvard from California 25 years ago. We love it here and have raised our two sons and made many wonderful friends. I have always been drawn to the outdoors, gardens and plants. The smell of the earth and getting my hands in the soil is literally very grounding. Though I've dreamed of creating a beautiful garden at our home, it's been mostly "hit and miss" and largely in pots. I'm looking forward to learning more about planning and creating a garden and making new friends.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER JOANNA RUTTER-BENT

Please add this information in your yearbook.

183 Littleton Road
617-823-5826
joanna@editoratwork.com

PUBLICITY

Info: Kate Guthro

<https://www.harvardgardenclub.org>

[Garden Club of Harvard](#)

[Bloomnart.online](#)

HORTICULTURAL MUSINGS

Info: Betsy Morton

Stories that caught my eye since last newsletter:

A 100-year-old beech tree in Linscott Park in Swampscott has beech leaf disease, but that probably didn't cause its death. That coupled with severe droughts these past years just weakened it so that the ultimate fate was its being cut down.



Another tree which has been much photographed was felled by an act of violence. I'm referring to the tree at Sycamore Gap in Northumberland beside a stone wall where a fight occurred near the beginning of the movie, Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves. (They caught the vandal.)

"A water fight rooted in carrots" in CA where a pistachio tree grower hauled 2 of the largest carrot farm growers into court on their right to pump ground water. This is the new wave of legal battles over water use.

But it's not all bad news. You may have read about the Roxbury firm, called Best Bees, SmartHives. SmartHives are designed to keep bees healthy. "All our food systems rely on pollinators." This company monitors what's happening to the bee population and then notifies their bee keeping clients through an app so they can take care of their own hives of bees. It's a new company hoping to expand so bee population in MA can expand and stay healthier.

Is the New Perennial movement over? (Piet Oudolf)

Green Fingers

I stuck pieces of a sansevieria leaf in starting mix sometime in January and earlier this September each one had a sprout. It was time to take the casserole dish out of the Ziplock and pot them up. Hope they like the new house air. -- Phyllis Clawson



Civic Beautification

Info: Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello and MaryAnn Piasecki

The Civic beautification team has been working on planters near the fire stations, town hall, the General Store, the Ayer Road trough.



Pictures by MaryAnn Piasecki



Plant Sale

It's time to order the seeds for our tomatoes, herbs and vegetables at Herbs&Harvest in Groton

Even with the rainy weather I had good luck with the Martha Washington tomato plant and would like to have it back next year. How about you? Let me know (mvalleays@gmail.com) or check off your all-time best performer on the form at the meeting on Monday. Is your favorite not on the list? Let us know!

Tomatoes	Indigo Cherry Drop Flamme Martha Washington Juliet	Black Prince Sungold Five Star Red Grape Speckled Roman San Marzano II Cipolla's Pride Citrino Captain Lucky
Big Beef Cherokee Purple Brandywine Defiant		

Peppers: Bell Pepper, Apple Pepper, Early Jalapeno, Shishito, Carmen Eggplants: Hansel, Orient Express or Galine Cucumber-Squash: Marketmore, Nokya, Slick Pick, Pantheon	Edible Flowers: Nasturtium Greens: Chards, Lettuce Mix, Broccoli. Kale, Arugula Herbs: Basil, Cilantro, Dill, Fennel, Lavender, Lemongrass, Marjoram, Mint, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary. Sage, Savory, Chamomile, Thyme, Lemon Verbena
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Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison



Members deliver flowers to the library once a week. On the day of the general meeting the flowers first embellish our refreshment table.

Flower arrangements from Shlawna Sikochi, Maribeth Marcello and Barbara Heim.

The Halloween diorama will be there the whole month, thanks to Kim Morton.



Nature Trails

Info: Pam Durrant



Thursday September 28 – We met at 11 am on Slough Road to walk the Dolan-Mason land and Small Nature Trail. Open fields, stream crossing, a beech grove and a few shagbark hickory trees were some of the highlights.

(Know your natives: the Solidago Caesia)



Thursday October 5 – We met at 11 am on Oak Hill Road to walk the West Oak/Dunlap conservation land. Open field with views to the distant NH mountains, pond, and several stream crossings were some of the highlights.

(Deb Dowson, Patrick Vallaeys, Carole Herbin, Pam Durrant, Margaret Kusner)



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
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!