



# Never Done!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD  
VOLUME XXX-ISSUE 6



## President's March Ponderings

Spring certainly feels like it is here! But wait, gardeners, not so fast...

If you want your garden to be habitat for pollinators and other insect friends, don't clear leaves off your garden beds until the average temperature is 50 degrees. Historically this looks to be about the second week of April. We may get there a few days early this year, but I would say best to hold off until at least April 1.



One thing you *can* do immediately is take care of any plants that were heaved out of the ground from the freeze thaw cycle of this winter.

Without a consistent snow cover, I had some significant heaving of the bearded iris I divided last summer. I need to lift them out and reset them so their roots are below ground (but the rhizome stays above the soil). I find Heuchera also heave often.

The ground wasn't deeply frozen in many areas, and I have found other damage where voles ate roots of some asters, and the plants are barely attached to the ground at all.

I wrote extensively last year about my challenge of liking a 'neat and tidy' garden which conflicts with the ecological needs of our wildlife. (You can go to the Garden Club website and read my ponderings from last April's newsletter).

This past fall I went a bit further toward letting nature have her way, and I did not cut down any of my perennials in the fall except peonies and iris. This week I am enjoying the lovely weather by going around cutting down old stems of everything else, though if they are still upright, I am only cutting them down to about 8-12". I am piling the debris up loosely, not turning them into my compost yet... waiting for that magic date when we reach an average temperature of 50 degrees before burying anything that might harbor a small creature-in-waiting.

I watched a great Grow Native Massachusetts talk recently by Nick Dorian about native bees. He explained exactly how leaving stems standing after the summer helps our native bees. Small native bees make their nests in hollow stems, often making a series of compartments along the length of the stem that are each walled off separately. They make these nests in old stems, but here's the key: they make these nests in the summer, using stems still standing from the *previous* fall. The bee eggs overwinter and hatch out the following spring, which means you need to leave the stems over **two** winters to serve this habitat function. His suggestion is to cut the stems down to 8 to 12" and leave them indefinitely. They will be covered up by new stems so you won't even see them, and they will be there for the bees. Some of the plants that native bees will use this way are Milkweed, Monarda, and Joe-Pye weed.

In preparation for our coming 'panel discussion' at the next meeting, I invite you all to think if you have a special passion for some aspect of gardening that you might enjoy sharing with the rest of us. I hope to see you next Monday!

Happy spring,  
Jessie

# General Meeting on March 25, 2024

Info: Margaret Murphy and Janice Rusiecki

## Program: Panel Discussion

'Tis the season for new garden resolutions, and a panel of members will explore how to translate them from dreams to actual landscapes, using natives, annuals, and perennials. And they will bring an element of reality to bear on how those dream gardens can be affected by unknown weather conditions. Be sure to bring your questions along—it will be fun!

### *Library Flowers in April*

April 1: Marty Green  
April 8: Judy Warner

April 15: Margaret Murphy  
April 22: Pat Cooper  
April 29: Maria Day

### *Hospitality Team at the March meeting*

Team leader: Meg Bagdonas

Carolynn Luescher  
Margaret Kusner  
Nancy Webber

Nancy Hartshorne  
Phyllis Clawson  
Kathy Dollard

### *Hospitality Team at the April meeting*

Team leader: Pat Jennings

Suzan Osborn  
Dee Lee  
Carlene Phillips

Denyse Cox  
Stephanie Hooper  
Judy Ockene

## **GENERAL MEETING**

***St. Theresa's Church***

***15 Still River Rd.***

***9:30 am***

***Followed by the  
program***



# Membership Renewal Form

An **Active** member attends Garden Club meetings, participates on a service committee, serves on one hospitality committee per year, and helps with the annual plant sale. An active membership may include a second family member living at the same residence.

A **Supporting** member may attend meetings but need not take part in other activities, although many volunteer to do so.

Please check the level of membership you're interested in:

☐ **Active** \$35

☐ **Family** \$40

☐ **Supporting** \$50.00

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address AND Post Office Box, if applicable. Town and Zip Code if other than Harvard.

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Information in the Yearbook is used for intra-Club correspondence only.

Please make your dues check payable to **The Garden Club of Harvard.**

Send your check AND this completed form to:

**Garden Club of Harvard Membership**

**c/o Nancy Hartshorne  
160 Prospect Hill Road  
Harvard, MA 01451**

## **ACTIVE MEMBERS REQUIREMENTS (Optional for Supporting Members)**

Club activities and service projects give members hands-on opportunities to meet new people, learn, be creative and give back to our community. Our Garden Club thrives best when everyone is involved.

**Hospitality:** *All active members are expected to provide refreshments and to help with set-up/clean-up at one meeting each year. Please circle your preferred month. If blank, you will be assigned as needed.*

Sept.          Oct.          Nov.          Jan.          Feb.          March          April

**Plant Sale:** *All active members are required to help with the Plant Sale, our major fundraiser. Helping opportunities include donating plants, digging, potting, pricing, setting-up, and picking up annuals/vegetables/herbs from suppliers, as well as working on the day of the Sale.*

**Service Committee and Project Involvement:** *Active Members should choose at least one additional way to serve our community or our members. The level of involvement ranges from 'one and done' to coordinating a year-long activity. Excellent training and guidance is provided. Interactions with amazing people guaranteed!*

Please choose at least one Service Committee to PARTICIPATE in OR one Service Activity/Project to LEAD.

### **Service Committees**

- ☐ **Bloom N Art:** Arranges flowers for, helps with planning or publicity, and/or volunteers at the annual (March) exhibit showcasing artwork from the Bromfield School students paired with flower arrangements created by our club members.
- ☐ **Civic Beautification:** Participates in planning, planting, upkeep, and watering of public landscapes and containers in Harvard.
- ☐ **Garden Therapy:** Works with groups of elders at assisted-living facilities, using plant materials and garden projects as therapy.
- ☐ **Graduation Flowers:** Helps make floral decorations for Bromfield graduation.
- ☐ **Holiday Greens Workshop:** Participates in workshop creating winter arrangements for homebound residents.
- ☐ **Library and Fivespark Flowers:** Provides an arrangement/plant for a week at the Harvard Public Library, Garden Club meetings, or special events for Fivesparks.

**Service Projects and Activities** Please *check below if you would like to LEAD or co-lead one of our Projects and Activities.*

- ☐ **Programs:** Plans and organizes speakers/programs for monthly Garden Club meetings.
- ☐ **Special Activities:** Plans and organizes a variety of field trips of interest to members.
- ☐ **Annual Luncheon:** Secures luncheon site and coordinates the June annual meeting.
- ☐ **Garden Tour:** Organizes tour (for members) of local gardens to visit after our annual meeting in June.
- ☐ **Historian:** Saves appropriate materials for Club Archives at the Harvard Public Library.
- ☐ **Horticulture:** Shares information about plant cultivation at meetings and/or in newsletters.
- ☐ **Library Books:** Works with the director of the Harvard Public Library to choose books related to horticulture or nature for the Club to donate to the Library.
- ☐ **Membership:** Keeps records of members, provides name tags, organizes the annual membership drive, greets and provides outreach to new members.
- ☐ **Nature Trails:** Leads nature walks on trails, usually on Thursday mornings.
- ☐ **Newsletter:** Publishes/distributes a monthly Garden Club of Harvard digital newsletter.
- ☐ **Nominating:** Nominates new officers, committee and project chairs to fill vacancies. (one member-at-large needed to assist Board)
- ☐ **Publicity:** Provides information to the public about the Club's meetings and special events via the Harvard Press, the Federation website, and social media (e.g. Facebook and Nextdoor.)
- ☐ **Webmaster:** Maintains the official website of the Garden Club of Harvard.
- ☐ **Yearbook:** Publishes the yearly program and membership contact information.

Any special skills you would like to share with us, like finance, technology, graphic design, desktop publishing, proofreading, grant writing, running a book club, etc.? Please list below.

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# Horticultural Musings

Info: Betsy Morton

## *PLANTING NATIVES*

Many of us will be planting more native plants this season, but which ones?

I'm thinking about starting a small meadow where there is little sun. Prairie Moon Nursery has a plant list for shade, but most pollinator gardens need full sun—or 6 hours at least.

Google “Plants native to MA” and several sites will come up.

The following are good ones.

nativeplanttrust.org which will have lists of the plants they are selling this year. Don't know when the lists will come out, but is a good way to find and buy native plants. They are located 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham MA. Become a member, enjoy their programs, facility and plant sale!

massaudubon.org has a good list of native plants.

izelplants.com click on “native to” then click on MA.  
Has pictures of the plants and many grasses listed.

grownativemass.org has several lists under it. The first is Plant Lists and Landscape guides which then has several interesting lists under it. Very good website.

webster-ma.gov has nurseries on the bottom pages.

sudbury.ma.us has a good list of native plants.

wildseedproject.net shop native seeds.

Hope this is useful.



# Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison



Deb

Deb Dowson



Dowson

Meg Bagdonas



Kate Connolly



Fran Maiore



# Nature Trails

Info: Pam Durrant

Thursday, February 22: Town Forest.

Thursday, February 29: Williams conservation land.

Thursday, March 21: Great Elms conservation land.



*Trail walks provide an opportunity to walk with friends and become familiar with the wide variety of Harvard conservation land trails and their unique features and plants.*





# Bloom N Art March 23-24 Mock-up session on March 15

Deborah Dowson, AnaMaria  
Nanra, Marijke Vallaeys

Pictures Patrick  
and Marijke Vallaeys



**BLOOM N ART ON MARCH 23 -24**



# Plant Sale - May 18

Info: Marijke Vallaeys and Carol Herbin

## *IT'S SIGNUP SEASON!*



We need leaders for the four weeks (2/week) of potting. And potters...and plants. During these four weeks you learn a lot about plants, worms etc....plus it's fun to work together, in blazing sun or freezing cold! **This all starts on April 16.**

sure that the right tag goes on it. Identifying is always a big issue, that's why we appreciate that you let us know what plants you will share with us.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B49A9A629AAF85-48593126-plant>





# Know Your Herbs

Info: MaryAnn Piasecki



**LEMONGRASS:** *Cymbopogon citratus* is a genus of the grass family that is an annual in zone 5. Lemon grass is grown for both its beauty, aromatic oils and food flavoring. Fast-growing lemongrass is as beautiful waving in the summer breeze as it is appetizing in your soups, stir-fries, tonic water and teas. The plant is native to Sri Lanka and India and grows with abundance in areas where conditions mimic the warm and humid habitat of its native region. The plant likes lots of heat, light, and moisture.

Lemongrass is fragrant and also known as a pest repellent. The smell of the plant's oil is used to deter unwanted insects, such as mosquitos.

You may know lemongrass as that tasty zing of flavor in a Thai soup or Indian curry. Its fragrance also makes it the perfect pick for soothing body scrubs and aromatic soaps.

**IN COOKING,** lemongrass is often finely chopped or pounded in order to break down the tough stalks. Once minced or pounded, lemongrass can be added to marinades or grilled meats for a touch of sweet citrusy flavor or used to brighten curry pastes and simple sauces. Once harvested Lemongrass stalks can be frozen for later use in cooking.

This graceful and tall grass is also a beautiful addition to a garden, and even doubles as beautiful ornamentation in landscaping.





# Monday March 4, 2024

## Visit to Patterns in Bloom at NE Botanical Garden



Sale of the orchids at Tower Hill on March 29 at 9:00am



## In the Community



Please bring your green bag filled with much needed items for the food pantry to the general meeting on Monday, March 25.

Save the date: May 5<sup>th</sup> for the 2024 Spring into Action 5 K

New Garden Club member Fay Childers is teaching a Mahjong Class as a fundraiser to benefit Harvard Historical Society and Fivesparks, starting April 9.

[More information,](#)



## Field trip

Info: Nancy Hartshorne, Kathy Dollard



The founder of Johnny Putts Farm, Gerry Carvallo has invited the Garden Club to tour his hydroponic and land-based farm in Littleton.

If you have tried this lettuce, then you know how good it is; if you have never tried it, well, maybe you should drop everything and run to the General Store.

Farmer Gerry Carvallo's lettuce tastes even better than your just-picked summer garden lettuce because he mixes seasonal lettuces with peppery nasturtiums and sweet, spicy young sprouts.

We hope you can make it to this very special outing. Possible dates are April 15 or April 16 at 2:00pm

To find out more and to register, please click [this link](#)

# Membership

Info: Nancy Hartshorne



Fay Childer

It's my pleasure to have this opportunity to introduce myself. I came from Taiwan, lived in New Hampshire for close to 20 years, and moved to Harvard 9 years ago.

I like the outdoors and gardening. Our club's guided tours on Thursdays are one of my favorite activities. I used to teach Mandarin, Chinese Cooking and Mahjong classes at community education centers.

Recently, I've become a 'friend' of the antique stove at Fivesparks. To help the Harvard Historical Society purchase this stove, I've been teaching Taiwan Mahjong classes at Fivesparks as a fundraiser.

I look forward to learning more about gardening and flower arranging and to meeting new people.



# Officers 2023-2024

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

<https://www.harvardgardenclub.org>

Garden Club of Harvard on



[Bloomnart.online](#)

*Thanks to Carlene Phillips for proofreading, always much appreciated!*