



# NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD  
VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE 03



## President Ponderings

MaryAnn Piasecki

Sometimes you buy a plant completely new to you. You have no idea what it looks like or when it will bloom. Some create an instant surprise and some you have to wait a little longer. At the 2013 plant sale, I was excited to buy a rare white Aconitum (e.g., monkshood, wolf's bane, leopard's bane). The garden club "sales person" told me of the literary references of the plant like Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and when King Henry speaking says to his son, Thomas Duke of Clarence:

"The united vessel of their blood,  
Mingled with venom of suggestion  
As, force perforce, the age will pour it in  
Shall never leak, though it do work as strong  
As Aconitum or rash gunpowder".

For the October 2013 meeting we were asked to share a story about how summer gardening had gone and I took my assignment to be to emulate the great bard himself.  
(More on pages 10 and 11)

## Monkshood “Winked” by M. Piasecki

There once was a woman from Lovers Lane  
Who was determined to make her shade garden less plain  
Potting flowers for sale  
Found a beauty with a tale  
And went home with a rare WHITE Wolfs Bane

A mysterious plant that’s tied to folklore  
That deer will not eat and neither a boar  
She waited each day  
For the blooms to say  
Look at me, I am here for you to adore

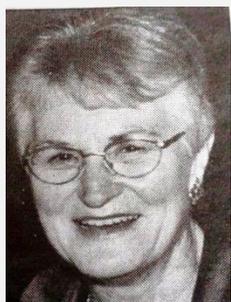
The summer past fast as it usually would  
Most garden flowers arrived as they should  
But no sign of a bloom  
She was in a gloom  
Still waiting in vain for her Monkshood

Mid October was here with leaves falling fast  
The summer and fall bloomers had all but past  
But wait! What did she see?  
New blooms, this cannot be?  
Her BLUE wolfs bane was here at last.



MaryAnn

## In Loving Memory: Lois Bennett Watt



Lois Bennett Watt, age 94, formerly of Harvard, died September 20, 2020, at Knollwood Nursing Center in Worcester.

From the Harvard Press: In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening and was a member of the Garden Club of Harvard. She always joked she didn’t have a green thumb but really enjoyed being with the “girls” at the meetings.

# Membership

AnaMaria Nanra, Membership Chair  
[chinni806@yahoo.com](mailto:chinni806@yahoo.com)

October is here!! As you probably know, we will not be able to be in person for our monthly meetings for the time-being. So this time, membership renewals will be done digitally.

Likewise, this year's membership renewal is being done in the fall vs. spring and your dues will cover you for the remainder of 2020 and 2021.

The membership renewal form is attached. I kindly request you print, complete it and mail it and your dues to me at:

AnaMaria Nanra  
Garden Club Membership  
38 Old Littleton Rd  
Harvard, MA 01451

If you have any problems and or concerns, don't hesitate to let AnaMaria know!

# Welcome

*We welcome Meg Bagdonas and Nancy Webber as our two newest members.*

Both have been in Harvard for a long time. **Nancy** has enjoyed condo living in Cambridge for several years however the freedom to enjoy nature in one's own backyard brought her back ...in the house of Joanne Williamson! She has big plans to share this beautiful garden with all of us. A lot of us know Nancy through her fitness classes on Tuesdays and Fridays.

**Meg** is a returning member. She's been a Harvard resident for over 30 years and is a lifelong gardener. She grows ornamentals and vegetables and happily shares her plants and her knowledge, including straw bale gardening and making hard cider. She says she has no plant failures - only future compost or chicken feed!



## Meeting – October 26

*On October 26 at 9:15 am*

*Program: Pollination: Birds, Bees, Flowers and Seeds*

*Speaker: Judith Sumner*

"If you can tempt Judith Sumner to address your group, you are in for a fantastic treat! She wowed us. Her talk on herbal medicine was both intellectually stimulating and hilariously funny. Her historical perspectives and humor-filled style made her one of the best speakers we have ever had. Five stars!!!"

*Her speaking fee supports her work with K-12 science/STEM teachers in Worcester on science writing and inquiry.*

[Judith Sumner's website](#)

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## November and December programs

**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 7 (rain date 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*

# Apple picking at Westward Orchard



On September 28 three groups listened how **Stephanie Green** explained how **Westward Orchard** grew and is still operating as a family business. Then we went apple picking. Suzan Osborn is showing how she (partially) paid for her apples with Monopoly money. *“Everyone I talked with was so happy to have a chance to meet. Thanks to the Program Committee for the clever planning of getting us together at Westward”* (Barbara Heim)



# News from our members

## The Spotted Lanternfly: we should be on the lookout!



The *spotted lanternfly* has invaded my home town area which includes Longwood Gardens in PA. I will be on the lookout. Glad to see it likes *tree of heaven* but once they take care of those invasives they'll be on to other foods. I just checked out Longwood



Gardens and they are offering a course on the spotted lanternfly. I haven't checked the other info put out by Longwood but it looks like a problem that may be coming.  
Connie Grabowy

Two of these have been found in Massachusetts so keep an eye out. They certainly look different. Reminiscent of gypsy moths, ick! Pennsylvania is training dogs to find the egg masses. They are supposed to be reported to the state agriculture dept.

Barbara Heim.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spotted\\_lanternfly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spotted_lanternfly)

If you click on the picture below you will go to the Tower Hill website with more info



# Civic Beautification

Info: Kathy Jackson



# NEW

# Book Club

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 was “Animal, Vegetable, Miracle – A year of Food Life” by Barbara Kingsolver.

***Please contact Helen Jean at [hberry@asrsd.org](mailto: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.  
Next meeting will be in January.

# Fall in the garden



Hardy Cyclamen and Zinnias.  
The cyclamen are under a native witch hazel which was also in bloom. (Betsy Morton)



Kate Guthro...see the skeleton in the window...and the creepy creatures on the pumpkins!

Home grown zinnias and marigolds.  
My favorite color aster and Tristan's prize winter lux pumpkin. (Rosemary McKeever)

# Nature Trail Walks on Conservation Land

Info: Pam Durrant, [pbdurrant@gmail.com](mailto:pbdurrant@gmail.com)

On October 8 Pam organized a walk on the Willard/Poitras trail and on October 15 the group walked on Horse Meadow Knoll.

*Horse Meadow Knoll and Willard/Poitras (pictures by Pam Durrant)*



## In Meg's Garden

All summer long I was angry at them,  
the short, leggy, sprawling one  
and the other with its clumps of thin stalks,  
doing nothing but growing,  
offering no beauty, color, or fragrance along the way.  
But how could I move them—  
the one so entangled in the rocks at the front of the bed;  
the other, with purple inside, had to stay for Meg.  
Still, something should have been in their stead:  
something vibrant with surprise,  
color dancing in the summer sun,  
something for the bees and butterflies.



But come October, resentment faded  
in the cascade of daisy blooms  
and the dainty purple clusters  
atop the tall stalks above my head.  
And so the lesson comes again:  
Let each give in its own time.

Carlene Phillips

## Still Summer



This is a still Summer morning of muted sounds.  
A drowsy undertone of fiddling insects surrounds the rustling of leaves  
as a goldfinch darts then disappears in dense greens.  
The sleepy daylilies have not yet stretched out their petals  
nor shaken off their morning showers  
before my garden wakes fully draped in flowers  
and the sun-warmed French lavender and the Russian sage  
mingle their perfumes as the foxgloves and honey bees engage.

But, now may I most hesitantly disclose,  
as bachelor buttons entwine with a scarlet rose,  
while the garden's abundance seems paused before the Turn  
and Summer still lingers under the amber Sun,

that Autumn's ripening of apples and pears  
forewarns the invasion of the potted chrysanthemum?

Poem and Painting by Suzan Osborn  
(Painting of Tower Hill in late August)

## LEAF LAMENT

Red, orange, yellow  
Artist dots on the mountain  
Harbinger of snow

Margaret Murphy



## The Summer Day

Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean--  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of  
up and down --  
who is gazing around with her enormous and  
complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly  
washes her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through  
the fields  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
With your one wild and precious life?

Mary Oliver

## Even to the end of the age: grandmother's credo



As summer falls  
crickets sing their bright dirge.  
Time to spread the compost, and plant  
bulbs — bluebell, crocus, narcissus, peony, lillies — a  
hundred tiny fists,  
raised against the hard salt snowpack to come.  
When spring peepers break winter's bleak silence  
with their fierce erotic chorus,  
snowmelt soaks the buried bulbs,  
warm sunlight stirs them to bloom.

Maureen Kemeza

Pictures: Marijke Vallaeyes

# 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 Vallaeyes  
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 Vallaeyes  
Bloom N Art Marijke Vallaeyes & AnaMaria Nanra