

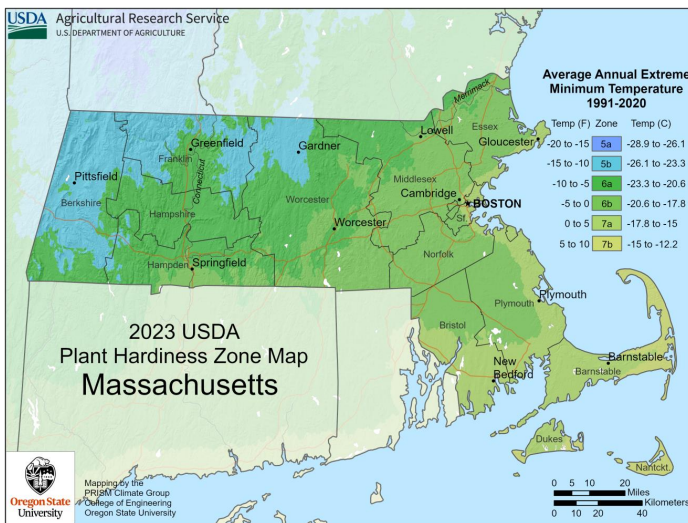


# NEVER DONE!

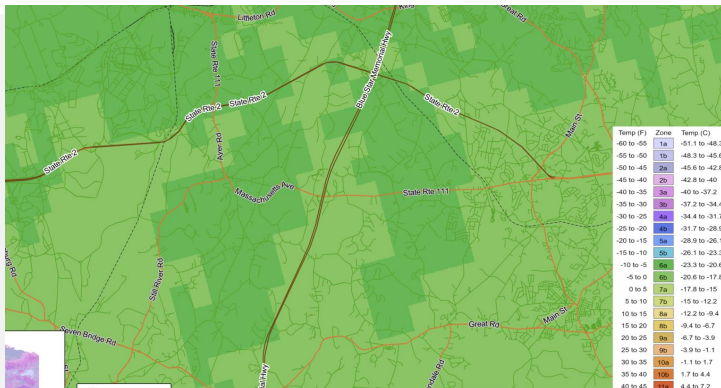
THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD  
VOLUME XXX-ISSUE 3



## President's November Ponderings



Tonight, it really feels like winter is coming. Temperatures expected in the teens! I dug some of my late season carrots before the ground freezes, but I've left a row because it's just fun to dig some out when the ground has frozen. We did that one year and had freshly dug carrots for our Christmas dinner. (It required a pickax!) The cold weather is reassuring, especially after looking at the 2023 Plant Hardiness Map that has just come out. Harvard is now firmly in zone 6 rather than 5. The ridge where I live is zone 6a, but the lower parts of town are now 6b! Boston is now zone 7.... I'm attaching a state wide and a zoomed in view of Harvard from this new map. Here's the website if you want to look at other areas. <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>



remove foliage of peonies and iris. Very tall plants like ironweed that would fall into the path will get cut and mostly left lying in place. Even 'leaving the leaves' I can find plenty to do: I've taken advantage of the last warmer days to either pull (small plants) or 'cut and paint' (with herbicide) larger invasive plants in the woods.

One of the plants I have only recently started pulling is Japanese honeysuckle vine. Most of the invasive honeysuckle around Harvard is the shrub species, but there is also a vine species. I discovered this vine

growing at the edge of my field a few years ago. It didn't seem to be spreading that much so I hadn't done anything about it. This summer it suddenly leapt out into the field, where with the full sun it spread aggressively but rather secretly, since for the most part it was along the ground, hiding under the taller plants. This vine roots at the nodes, so it can be very well attached and hard to pull out without it breaking off. I managed to pull a good pile, but I'll see how well I did next spring. The jumping worm does make it easier to pull invasives, because the soil is so loose. A (very) small silver lining.

I have been seeing a lot of vole or mole tunnels in my yard, and I am hoping moles have been eating lots of jumping worms. However, I discovered when I dug up my dahlias that, for the first time ever, quite a few tubers were eaten from the bottom, so I may have a lot of voles, which are herbivores (plant-eaters) rather than moles (which eat worms and beetles and such.) I also have shrews (I've caught some inside the house in mouse traps) which might be the dahlia culprit, because shrews are omnivorous, but I don't know if they dig like voles.

I know it's not fun to empty mousetraps, but I beg any of you who have to deal with mice in your home NOT to use any poison. Poisoned mice leave the house and go outside where they are eaten by predators like owls or hawks, who are then poisoned and die. Bird populations have dropped drastically in recent decades, and we can help them survive by planting native plants and choosing not to use pesticides or rodenticides.

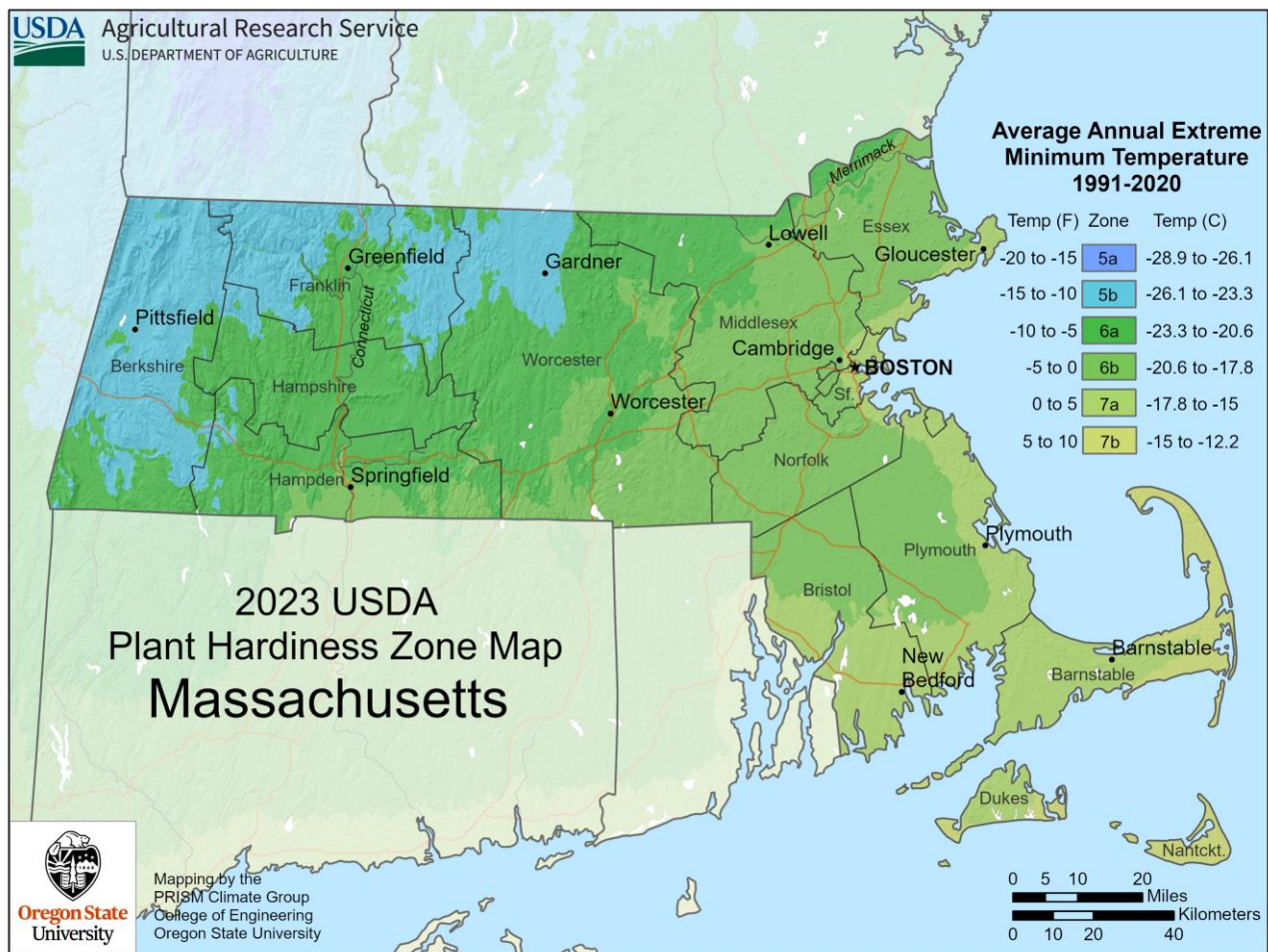
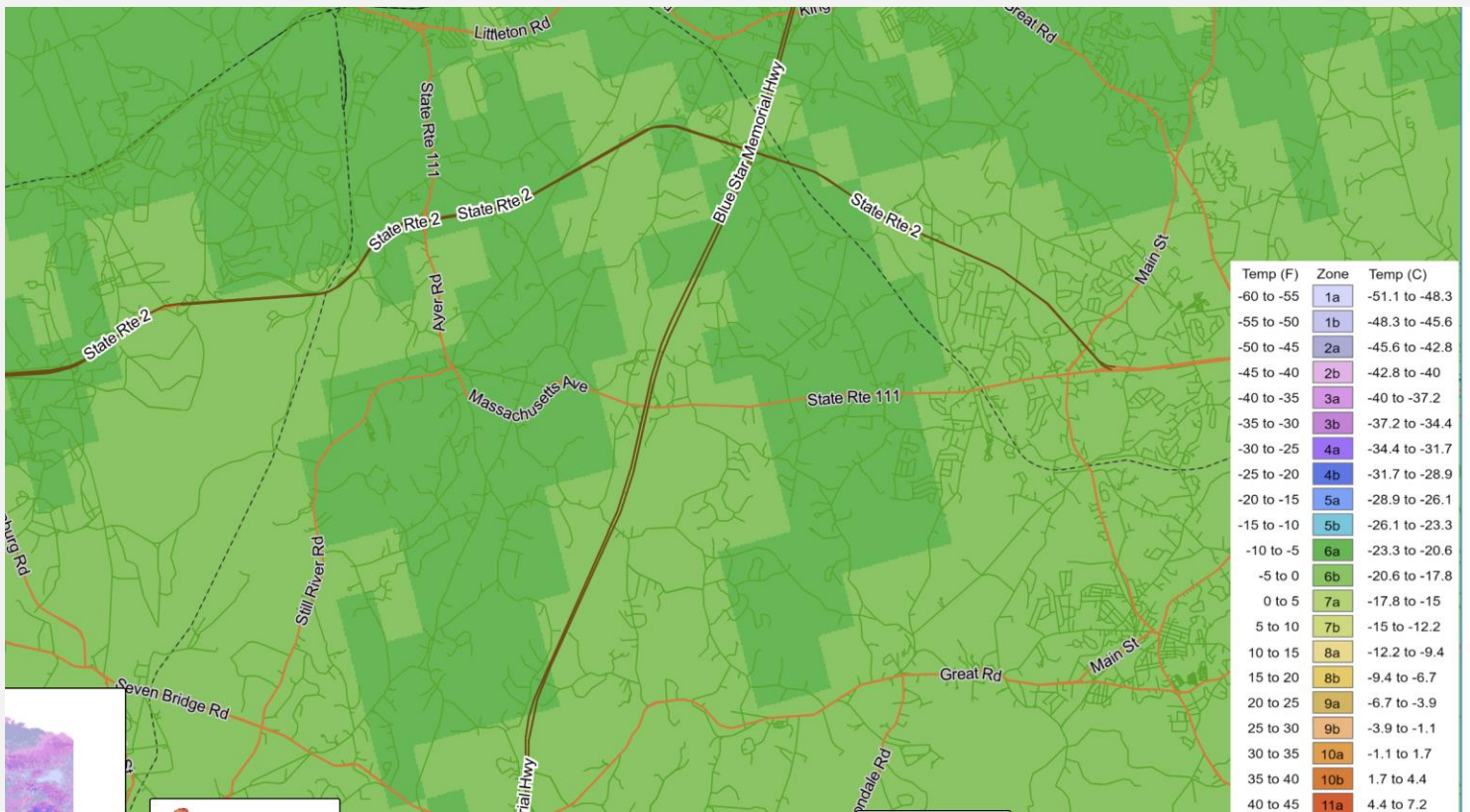
Fall is a good time for planting shrubs, and in the last month members of the Bromfield Green Team led by Deborah O'Rourke and me worked to weed beds and plant some additional native shrubs at Bromfield: bearberry, fothergilla, rhododendron, and azalea. The team had to replace a couple of plants that didn't make it through their first winter, and they continue to fill in where invasive burning bushes were removed a couple of years ago with the help of an educational grant from the Garden Club.

Finally, it's time to think about food! We will be collecting groceries for the Neighborhood Food Project at our meeting, as we hope to do at every meeting this year. If you took a green bag to fill, please bring it with you on Monday, or if you'd like to contribute but didn't have a chance to take a reusable bag, you can bring food in any bag. We will have more green bags to 'trade' for you to take home. Thank you for your support of our neighbors in need of nutritious food.

Speaking of food, I wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving, overflowing with delicious food and special time with family and friends. Thank you for being part of the Garden Club!

Best wishes, Jessie





# CONSERVATION TRAILS & BIRDING

## November 27, 2023

Speakers: Pam & David Durrant



An introduction on our local trails: we will discover where they are; how to enjoy them best and learn from their exploration.

Pam has led our trail walks and is deeply experienced in them. Both Pam and David are birding experts and will talk about birds we are likely to see

or hear on our conservation lands

### *Library Flowers in December and January*

Dec. 4: Mary Maxwell  
Dec. 11: Claudia Wesley

Dec. 18: Lisa Brown  
Dec. 26: Betsy Morton

Jan.1: Mary Jane Ellison  
Jan 8: Kathy Hewett  
Jan. 15: Marijke Vallaeyes

Jan. 22: Maria Walton  
Jan. 29: Meg Bagdonas

### ***GENERAL MEETING***

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

***15 Still River Rd.***

***9:30 am***

***Followed by the***

***program***

### *Hospitality Team at the November meeting*

Team Leader: Betsy Morton  
Jane Vasta  
Judy Warner

Claudia Wesley  
Pam Marston  
Janice Rusiecki  
Vijaya Maclean

### *Hospitality Team at the January meeting*

Team Leader: Marijke Vallaeyes  
Jane Vasta  
Kathy Hewett  
AnaMaria Nanra

Kate Connolly  
Maria Walton  
Meg Bagdonas



# Holiday Greens Workshop

Info: Nancy Webber and Kathy Jackson

Monday, December 11

9:30 am – 11:30 am

St. Theresa's Church.



Please join us for this wonderful holiday event on Monday, December 11, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am. You can help by donating greens, making an arrangement (instructions are provided), and/or delivering an arrangement.

Once the arrangements for delivery are completed, you will have ample time to create arrangements for yourself or to give as gifts. You are welcome to use the greens that have been donated to share, and in addition, there will be supplies such as containers and floral foam and decorations to purchase. You may also bring your own containers if you prefer and please remember to bring clippers to use.

It is one of our favorite activities of the year! You can let Nancy Webber or Kathy Jackson know if you have someone to suggest who would benefit from a delivery of a little holiday cheer.

On the next page you will find a list of greens that work well in these arrangements!













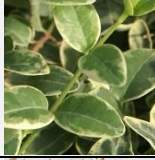



Margaret Murphy has arranged a drop-off of the greens on Sunday afternoon, December 10.

The spot for drop-off will be marked by cones and a tarp. Place the greens on the tarp. More instructions will follow in an email shortly before the event.

# Fresh and fragrant

## The Holiday Workshop needs your greens!

*Bringing greens to share is vital to the success of our Greens Workshop.  
Without these contributions, our arrangements would be dull indeed!*

	White pine		Arborvitae
	Blue Holly (Meserve) both green and with berries		Incense cedar
	Chamaecyparis (hinoki cypress)		Mountain laurel
	Small leafed rhododendron		Andromeda/pieris
PJM rhododendron (nice red color now)			Yew
	Boulevard Cyprus		Variegated euonymus
	Gold-thread cyprus		Variegated vinca vine
Spruce with soft needles			Seedpods of any kind
	Winterberry		Umbrella pine
No Hemlock, dries out quickly and drops its needles			

# Civic Beautification

Info: Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello and MaryAnn Piasecki

## In the community

### Warner Free Lecture

**January 12, 2024: Gardening in the Age of Climate Change by John Hanson Mitchell**



*Voltaire's suggestion was to "cultivate one's garden" in the face of the absurdities and disasters of the world. Author John Hanson Mitchell will discuss works in progress in his own acre-and-a-half garden as a means of countering worldwide issues like climate change. Even a small urban garden can offer refuge and solace, as well as physical and spiritual benefits in the face of the dark future we seem to face.*

*John Hanson Mitchell founded the Massachusetts Audubon Society's award-winning journal Sanctuary. He has written 10 books including Ceremonial Times: Fifteen Thousand Years on One Square Mile.*

**WHEN: JANUARY 12, 2024**

**WHERE: VOLUNTEERS HALL OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**TIME: 7:00 PM, DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM**

**MORE INFO: [HTTPS://WWW.WARNERFREELECTURE.ORG/](https://www.warnerfreelecture.org/)**

### Loaves and Fishes



Please bring your green bag filled with much needed items for the food pantry to the general meeting on Monday, November 27.

# Fivesparks

Fivesparks sends heartfelt thanks to members of the Garden Club who periodically provide gorgeous flower arrangement for our Art Exhibit Receptions. And then we get to enjoy them daily for a week or two after! They really make our historic space feel even cozier and more cheerful.



Info provided by AnaMaria Nanra, executive director of Fivesparks

## Horticultural Musings

Info: Betsy Morton

“Putting Trees at the center strategy to fight global warming” was a recent headline in the Boston Globe. As we know, trees store carbon in their trunks and roots. New Hampshire’s Chamberlain- Reynolds Memorial Forest has a range of trees from young to over 300 years old. The forester in charge of that forest has found that by careful cutting of some trees and leaving others to continue to grow, they have been able to grow more wood/acre than before. Thus, more carbon is taken out of the atmosphere.

New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) has a \$30 million initiative to help forest landowners to implement climate smart forest practices. This is a 5-year pilot project including all 6 NE states, with a focus on mass timber production. This includes foresters, forest landowners and loggers, who will be given incentives for practices that store more carbon. By sustainably cutting of trees NEFF believes it can make forests more productive

This will be good when this information becomes available to anyone who wants to apply these methods on their own plots of land.

[NEFF WEBSITE](#)



# Card Project

Info Margaret Murphy

*Thanksgiving is around the corner, and one thing I am grateful for this year is the card project made possible by Suzan Osborne's generous permission to use her six pieces of original watercolors for the benefit of Garden Club programs.*

The cards are on white card stock and all are images from various gardens. They measure 5 X 7, include envelopes, and have the image on the front, a blank inside for your personalized message, and identifying information on the back. Pricing is \$5.00 for one and three of your choice for \$10.00. (These may be the same or different images - a full set of the six options would be \$20.



With holiday season upon us, these garden images remind us of spring and summer gardens, and lend themselves to any holiday message. For those friends who are difficult to find perfect gifts, either a white or black frame is lovely when paired with a card that fits perfectly when the message is read, and, of course, can be re-read and retrieved easily, unlike electronic messages.

Please consider supporting this project by your purchase. Cards will be available before the next General Meeting of the Club, and through Margaret Murphy, who can be reached at 978-456-7819 or [murphy.margaret@gmail.com](mailto:murphy.margaret@gmail.com).



Our first run of cards has been depleted and refreshed, so we are ready for your orders - thank you in advance for your support!



*Bird of Paradise Flowers at Tower Hill.  
Orchids in the Orangerie at Tower Hill.  
Poppies and Delphiniums.  
Day Lily in Harvard.  
Path through the Irises.  
Rose Arches in Monet's Garden.  
Fritillaria Persica at Tower Hill.*



# Membership

Info: Nancy Hartshorne

*Welcome!*

<b>Virginia Hildreth</b> PO Box 468 33 Ayer Road 512-629-6499 vehildreth@gmail.com	<b>Joanna Rutter-Bent</b> 183 Littleton Road 617-823-5826 joanna@editoratwork.com	<b>Fay Childers</b> 225 Stow Road 603-848-3430 faychilders@gmail.com
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**Hi! I'm Joanna** and I'm excited to be a new member of the Club. After raising our children in Arlington, and creating and tending a relatively small and very shady garden there for the last 25 years, my husband and I made our dream come true when we moved to Harvard last February.

We are blessed with 5 acres with huge potential—including sun! — but it is an intimidatingly large blank canvas. I'm working on making an English border garden and a shade garden and we are planting trees, and hopefully will be able to reclaim a silted-up pond. I'm especially interested in creative garden design ideas. I am looking forward to learning from other members and making friends in our beloved new "hometown."

# PUBLICITY

Info: Kate Guthro

<https://www.harvardgardenclub.org>

[Garden Club of Harvard](#)

[Bloomnart.online](#)



# Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison



Flower arrangements by Maria Day and Marty Green.



Shlawna Sikochi and Cindy Dumser





# Nature Trails

Info: Pam Durrant

**Thursday, October 19: Willard Poitras land** with a view to Bare Hill Pond.



Pinesap  
(*Hypopitys  
montropa*)



Whorled wood aster  
(*Oclemena acuminata*)

**Thursday October 26: Sprague conservation land.** Views from the open field to Mt. Wachusett, gentle terrain and Bare Hill Pond overlook are some of the highlights.

**Thursday, November 2: Hermann Orchard.**



Hophornbeam  
(*Ostrya virginiana*)





# Bloom n Art

Deborah Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Marijke Vallaey

Right now, we think about the end-of-year festivities, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. But at the start of 2024, when our gardens are covered in snow, we'll want to watch videos about flower arrangements and these images will lead us to Bloom n Art!

**The 8th anniversary of Bloom n Art is on March 23-24, 2024.** Once again, the Garden Club of Harvard, the art department of Bromfield High School and Fivesparks will work together to make this the highlight of early spring.

More info will be in the January newsletter but **you can already sign up as an arranger!** We will have demonstrations and mock-up sessions in the months leading up to the BnA exhibit! So don't hesitate!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B49A9A629AAF85-46293096-bloom>



# Garden Therapy

Info: Mary Maxwell and Janice Rusiecki



November 16, 2023 at Nashoba Nursing Service



(Mary Jane Ellison, Maria Day  
and Janice Rusiecki)

## In our neck of the woods



In Margaret Murphy's garden: It's white.

How unusual! Can you guess what it is?

It's a squirrel! A white squirrel.



# Plant Sale

Info: Marijke Vallaey's and Carol Herbin

## Know it to use it: Pineapple sage, *Salvia elegans*

Hardy only in zones 8-11, in our cooler climate we have to grow it as an annual.

Grow it in full sun in moist, well-drained soil. Grow pineapple sage with other herbs or keep it near pollinator-friendly plants, like coneflower, borage, or calendula. Because pollinators love pineapple sage so much, it's also an excellent companion plant to grow in vegetable gardens to increase pollinator activity and boost harvest yields.

Like many herbs, pineapple sage has its health benefits as well. You can drink pineapple sage tea to calm your nerves, and like many of its mint cousins it aids in digestion and is good for settling an upset stomach. (excerpt from Plant Talk - Inside the New York Botanical Garden)

A recipe: Pineapple Sage, Ginger and Lemon Chicken by Catherine Carrigan

- 2 organic chicken breasts
  - extra virgin coconut oil
  - Celtic sea salt
  - 1 tbsp butter
  - 1/4 cup fresh ginger minced
  - **1/4 cup pineapple sage leaves**
  - 2 lemons
1. Slice the chicken breasts in half to make them half as thick.
  2. In a skillet, pour a smaller layer of coconut oil. Sauté the chicken breasts until brown on each side.
  3. Sprinkle with Celtic Sea salt.
  4. On your cutting board, take fresh ginger root and mince. Wash the pineapple sage leaves and chop, then keep mincing the ginger and pineapple sage leaves together.
  5. After the chicken breasts are lightly browned, throw in a tablespoon of butter along with the ginger and pineapple sage.
  6. Squeeze the juice of two lemons into the sauce as you are cooking. Simmer the sauce until the chicken breasts are cooked through. Serve immediately.

# 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 Vallaey
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 Vallaey
Webmaster	Betsy Howard
Yearbook	Carlene Phillips, Marijke Vallaey
Bloom N Art	Deb Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Marijke Vallaey

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