



NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE 08



President Ponderings

MaryAnn Piasecki

It's been a great start to summer but first I want to thank Maria Day for hosting our annual meeting. It was a beautiful day and a beautiful setting. Many thanks for all the helpers who erected tents, took down tents, baked delicious desserts, carried their chairs, and donated many of the items that made it possible. It was great to see everyone with such a renewed sense of hope. Onward to summer vacation or in my house what science project are we doing this year?

While we were cleaning out our cape cod cottage prior to its sale last fall, we came across one of many of our daughter's "science notebooks". In the summer of 1997 Alison began measuring the width of horseshoe crabs, *Limulidae*, in the Orleans Bay from May until the last week in August. Each Saturday she would go down to the bay pull out a crab and measure it (one male, one female). We learned that the females grow about 20% more than the males and the males have feet that look like boxing gloves.



This year we are measuring the growth of our tomato plants with and without worm castings. My husband started his plants from seeds (Botanical Interests – Tomato pole *Cherokee Purple*) in mid-March using our master bathroom tub. The room has its own thermostat and is easier to control the humidity. All the tomato seeds were started at the same time. Three of the plants were planted outdoors with our standard mix the week of May 17th and three were

planted with the standard mix and a handful in the hole with worm castings on May 27th. At that time the earlier planted tomatoes were 14" taller than the ones just planted with the worm castings.



On June 23rd the plants with the worm castings have surpassed the earlier planted plants, have a more robust stem, more flowers but the formed tomatoes are smaller and appear to be about 2 weeks behind the earlier plants.

I know, this is extremely exciting. Who needs to read a summer mystery novel? Which plants will be bigger, which plants will have better tasting tomatoes or which plants will die early from the August blight. Stay

tuned.... Spreadsheets are soon to follow!

Welcome!

We welcome new member Terry Morton, husband of Betsy Morton!
We are looking forward to join you on Pam's guided walks on conservation land!



Deborah O'Rourke and Carole Herbin enjoying lunch with new member Lina Formicelli (R).

New member Maureen Remeika (R) chatting with Maribeth Marcello.



Annual Meeting & Lunch

June 7, 2021



The meeting and lunch was organized by Maria Day in her beautiful garden.

On this beautiful, warm and maskless (at last!) day we were welcomed by MaryAnn Piasecki, Jessie Panek and Janice Rusiecki who started with the annual meeting.





The plant sale was a success, thanks to Abby Besse and Mary Jane Ellison who despite all the challenges posed by the pandemic made it happen. They were given a plant as a thank-you.

Bloom 'n Art chairs AnaMaria Nanra and Marijke Vallaeys also received a plant as a thank you gift. The plants were real, contrary to Bloom 'n Art which was virtual this year. ([BloomNArt website.](#)).

Note from the editor: Bloom 'n Art could not have happened without a great HGC team. We thank Deb Dowson, Margaret Murphy, Theresa Ledoux, MaryAnn Piasecki, Marty Green, Carlene Phillips and Patrick Vallaeys.





Time for lunch!

Janice Rusiecki, Maria Day, Bill Loehfelm and Jessie Panek handed out the lunchboxes prepared by Panera Bread.

The desserts that members baked were sumptuous and delicious!



Some stayed under the tent for lunch, others sheltered in shady parts of the garden.



After lunch:
Three ladies with a hat,
Taking a stroll in the park.



Congratulations Carlene!



We are a nonprofit hands-on club that services the community of Harvard.

Honorary membership is the highest distinction that a club can bestow.

It's an honor of achievement, based on service and commitment to the betterment of our club.

This year's candidate was the club president over ten years ago. She has continued her service in multiple roles which include:

Programs, Publicity, Conservation, Garden Tours and multiple articles about our club in the press!

Please join me in congratulating Carlene Phillips as our newest honorary member of the garden club of Harvard.

(MaryAnn Piasecki, president)

Nicewicz – Peony Farm – June 1, 2021



Dear Eugenia and David,

We really enjoyed our tour of your fantastic Peony Farm this morning! What a fine day to see all your beautiful peonies! Your introductory talk was informative and amusing and the guided tour was beyond our expectations. The rows of peonies showed off a spectacular collection of gorgeous varieties of shapes and colors. Also your gardens looked so orderly and lovingly cared for with the supported blooms and the cut grass and straw paths. The three breathtaking flower fields filled our morning and will leave us with long lasting visions of delight.



Thank you for hosting our Harvard Garden Club and for the take-home fresh-cut Peony for each guest.

Have a blooming good season,
Suzan Osborn

Civic Beautification

Info: Kathy Jackson

Our photographer caught MaryAnn Piasecki and Kathy Jackson working on the trough on Ayer Road.



*At the corner of Old Shirley and Craggs Road is a sign:
"This Garden is maintained by The Garden Club of Harvard."
Claudia Wesley is taking care of that corner.*



Graduation Flowers

Info: Jessie Panek



A heat wave could not deter Jessie, Kathy H, Kathy J., Mary Jane, MaryAnn, Denyse, Marijke and Suzan from making arrangements for the Bromfield Graduation. At the end some of the ladies were just on the verge of a heat stroke...no wonder

after working in the blazing sun for 3 hours.

Thanks to all the people who brought flowers: Meg, Barbara, Suzan, Madelaine, Amy



This is a picture taken at 7:30 am, waiting for the delivery of the flowers.

And then the arranging started...





Nature Trails: Harris/Hoch Lands

Info: Pam Durrant



The intrepid walkers Pam Durrant and Carole Herbin: Look up and see how tall, and straight these red pines are!

Look down to find the partridgeberry, a creeping, perennial herb, no taller than 2"high.



In Madelaine Ferguson's garden



'Ken Janeck' yakushimanum - pink turning white
and a close-up of the 'Ken Janeck'



Miniature slow growing white
Yakushimanum
approximately 4" tall



Red rhododendron

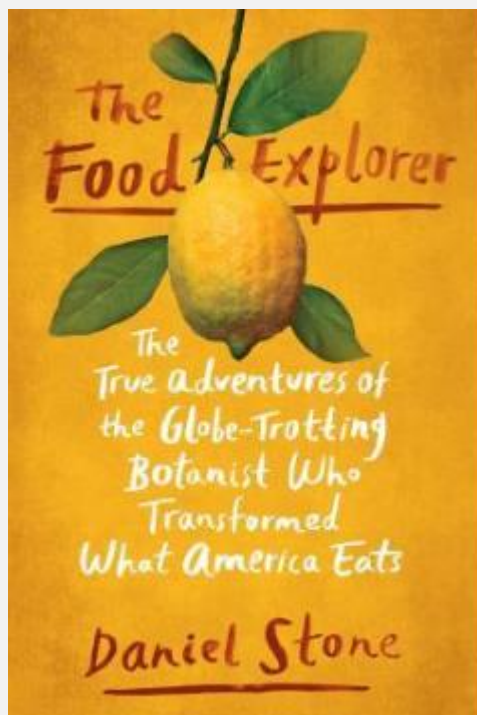


Azalea - slow growing
yellow

Book Club

Info: Helen Jean Berry

The HGC book club is still going strong! We meet every few months, so there's ample time to read the selections.



The newest selection is: **The Food Explorer**, by **Daniel Stone**.

(The true adventures of David Fairchild, a turn-of-the-century food explorer who traveled the globe and introduced diverse crops like avocados, mangoes, seedless grapes—and thousands more—to the American plate.)

Meetings start at 5:00 pm with the informal chat and move on at 5:30 to the “book discussion” as people may want to join only for certain parts of the meeting.

We'll meet after the summer. Precise date TBD.

Books read and discussed in the past:

- October 2020: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver
- January 2021: *Plants go to War* by Judith Sumner

Bringing native plants into your yard. Pam Durrant's tips

Interview by Catherine Warner, member of the Garden Club
excerpts from the Harvard Press, June 11, 2021



Pam is an excellent resource on native plants, although she says she started out from a background of general landscape design. “I’m a plant person – I just like plants” she emphasized while explaining that she thinks of herself as someone who continually learns about native plants rather than as an expert.

Although reluctant to claim expertise, Pam readily shares her knowledge - for example by leading guided walks on conservation land for the Garden Club. In fact, any conversation with Pam about native plants is punctuated by getting close to the subjects, turning over a leaf, or pushing foliage aside to check out a stem.

She notes that when readers are out walking on conservation land or along the road, in early June, they may observe native plants in various stages of bloom. She notes how critical it is to observe native plants growing in their habitats in order to understand how they may look and behave in your garden.

Besides appreciating their beauty, Pam notes the environmental benefits of native plants – for example, they sustain more diverse birds and pollinators than do non-native ornamentals, and so use less water and grow well organically.

Officers for 2021-2022

President: MaryAnn Piasecki
Vice President: Jessie Panek
Secretary: Stephanie Hooper
Treasurer: Pauline Carroll

Committee Chairs

Historian: Carlene Phillips
Hospitality: Pending Covid Restrictions
Membership: AnaMaria Nanra
Newsletter: Marijke Vallaes
Nominating: Margaret Murphy, Janice Rusiecki
Programs: Margaret Murphy, 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 and Kathy Hewett
Holiday Greens Workshop: Deborah Dowson, Denyse Cox
Horticulture: Connie Grabow
Library Books: Helen Berry
Book Discussion Group: Helen Berry
Library and Meeting Flowers: Mary Jane Ellison
Nature Trails: Pam Durrant
Plant Sale: Claudia Wesley and Bill Loehfelm
Webmaster: Betsy Howard
Yearbook: Marijke Vallaes
Bloom N Art: Marijke Vallaes, AnaMaria Nanra