



Never Done!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
VOLUME XXXI-ISSUE 7



Here's What Bill Thinks

Bill Loehfelm

General Meeting and Program: Growing Dahlias Speaker: Gayle Joseph



From tuber or seed, dahlias are a fun (albeit addictive) addition to your garden. This demonstration will give you a quick tour of the dahlia forms, and then we'll dive into the growing process. We'll discuss growing dahlias from tubers and from seed, covering the requirements for planting, care, and feeding of these fast-growing, fall-blooming beauties.

Hospitality Team on April 28

Team leader: Meg Bagdonas

Dee Lee

Lisa Brown

Suzan Osborn

Maria Day

Marty Green

HARVARD SENIOR
CENTER
16 LANCASTER ROAD
AT 9:30 AM

Membership

Info: Nancy Hartshorne
Pat Jennings

WELCOME Maura, Thomas and Patricia.

They jumped right into Bloom N Art!



Maura Visconsi
23 Fairbank Street
Harvard, MA
mvisconsi@gmail.com
203-909-2663

Thomas Robinson
17 Oak Hill Road
Harvard, MA
tom@trobinson.org
617-571-3236



Patricia Lomando
plomando@gmail.com

Introduction of Ally Zhu who also made a flower arrangement for Bloom N Art!



Hi, my name is Ally Zhu. We moved to Harvard two years ago with our chicken, geese, dog, cat and peony plants from Newton. I am an ardent fan of nature and have always enjoyed the "cultivation of my own garden", (assuming I understand Voltaire correctly).

My other serious interest is art.

I am very excited to join the club and look forward to making new friends here! (Ally)



Members share!

“I once watched an accomplished English gardener absorbed in weeding and could not help asking him if he liked what he was doing. Yes, he said, it’s such a mindless task. Therein lies the therapy of gardening.”

Green Thoughts and Memories, Marina Schinz, Scheidegger & Spiess, 2024

From Dee Lee

Maybe this is interesting to others who wonder what to do with winter damage to their rhododendron bushes, as I have to mine by the street.

We had colder than normal temps for longer than normal this winter, at least by the standards of recent winters. The ground froze deeply and was still frozen in a few places in our garden as of a few days ago. When the snow came, the ground was solidly frozen. Warm sunny days meant light was reflected off the snow onto the foliage, adding to moisture demands on those leaves. Additionally, however, the stems/leaves could not draw water from the frozen soil, leading to leaf desiccation. These conditions occur about once every 10 years in my experience.

We have thousands of rhododendrons. Some have already recovered from (apparent) desiccation once the ground thawed out, with leaves returning to normal or near normal. Others look permanently desiccated. In some cases the stems are also desiccated (they are crinkled) and will have to be cut back. In other cases it is just the leaves that are toasted and will be replaced when the vegetative buds begin to grow. I wait until July to prune as often times dormant buds erupt along the stems of otherwise dead-looking branches.

I have not noticed a distinct pattern among which plants are affected, and which are not. About 5-10% are affected either a little or a lot. It seems to be somewhat random among species and hybrids in our garden, and also not related to the size/age of the plant

Joe Brusio, Boulderwoods Nursery, Hopkinton, MA

From Maria Day

Meet Karen Green

Marty Green brought me into the Garden Club back in 2017. It wasn't long before I realized there was another past president who shared her last name – **Karen Green!**

General meetings introduce you to one another but the April potting sessions is where you truly connect with your fellow garden club members. Right now, the potting workshops are in full swing! Of course, we're at **Westward Orchards** – it's where we keep all our gear for the plant sale, the holiday greens workshop and for the graduation flowers.



KAREN WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE GC IN 1997-1999. AND AS IT'S TYPICAL OF ALL GC PRESIDENTS, SHE WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES OF OUR CLUB. BACK IN 2018 KAREN AND HER HUSBAND WERE KIND ENOUGH TO LET US USE THEIR BARN AS OUR WORK SPACE FOR THE PLANT SALE AND FOR OUR POTTING WORKSHOPS. AFTER YEARS OF HAVING THE PLANT SALE AT THE COMMON, WE WERE THRILLED NOT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE PLANT TRANSPORT ANYMORE.

Since it's a working farm, we can show our appreciation by supporting their **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program** they started 14 years ago. It's a fantastic way to enjoy fresh, local, seasonal produce – think of it as a farm share- all while giving Westward Orchards a boost. **Freedom Share** is another possibility to support. It's a preloaded card starting at \$250- to use towards Westward Orchards purchases. Members qualify for a 15%-member discount of any Westward grown produce sold in the store.

For more info, go to westwardorchards.com.

With gratitude, The GC Board

RENEWAL IS IN THE AIR ...WELCOME TO THE 2025-26 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

What better way to celebrate Spring than by renewing your commitment to the Garden Club of Harvard for the upcoming membership year, starting on July 1, 2025 and running through June 30, 2026.

The membership form is also attached. Please complete and bring with you to our next meeting on March 31. In addition to checks (payable to *Garden Club of Harvard*), we now accept credit cards at all meetings this spring.

If you prefer snail mail, please send the form and check to
Nancy Hartshorne

Membership, Garden Club of Harvard
160 Prospect Hill Road, Harvard, MA 01451

Let's get this done by June 1st!

The Garden Club of Harvard 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

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. Time commitment ranges from 'one & done' to coordinating a year-long activity. Please choose at least one Service Committee to PARTICIPATE in OR one Service Activity/Project to LEAD or Co-LEAD.*

Service Committees to PARTICIPATE IN:

__ **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 a 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 to LEAD or CO-LEAD:

__ **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 a 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.

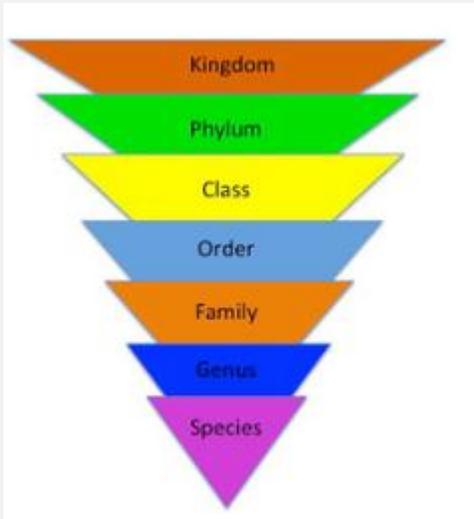
__ **Yearbook:** Publishes the yearly program and membership contact information.

Any special skills like finance, technology, graphic design, desktop publishing, grant writing, proofreading, book club coordinator, etc.?

What we learned at the March general meeting

Charlotte Vallaeys explained the importance of Regenerative agriculture and how we can apply regenerative methods in our own gardens.

If you are concerned about getting a product that was grown or raised according to specific standards, avoiding synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, and genetically modified organism in your grocery store, know which label to look for:



Jessie Panek took us on the tour of plant nomenclature.

Horticultural Meanders

Jessie Panel

Nature Trails

Info: Pam Durrant

On April 3 Pam, together with Eileen and Lee, walked the Sprague Land. They really enjoyed the views of Mt. Wachusett and the Bare Hill Pond overlook.

Plant Sale

Info: Jane Vasta, Maureen Remeika, MaryAnn Piasecki



April 3: Jane Vasta, MaryAnn Piasecki, Janice Rusiecki, Jessie Panek and Maureen Remeika working on the labels. (Photo by Marijke)

We started potting on April 15! It's fun to play in the dirt and learn about plants.

Sign Up to help with potting

May 16 set-up at Westward Orchards (this includes transporting herbs, annuals, and veggies from local vendors) Sign Up to help with potting

May 17 - Plant sale at Westward Orchards and cleanup after the sale (this includes "check-out" duties as plant talliers a cashiers) **Sign Up to help**



We didn't have many plants the first week...that week's early snow hadn't been encouraging for our plants to break through the soil...

On Wednesday the cold wind was not very friendly for the potters, who were all freezing!

Hoping for warmer weather!

Library Flowers

info: Mary Jane Ellison



PAM MARSTON, CAROL HARTMAN, FAY CHILDERS, DEE LEE

Library flowers in May

May 5 : Lisa Li

May 12: Kathy Jackson

May 19: AnaMaria Nanra

May 26: Phyllis Clawson

2024-2025 Officers Committee and Project Leaders

Officers	
President	Bill <u>Loehfelm</u>
Vice President	Marijke Vallaey
Recording Secretary	Carlene Phillips
Treasury	Deborah O'Rourke
Committee and Project Leaders	
Annual Lunch	Maria Day
Bloom N Art	Deb Dowson, <u>AnaMaria Nanra</u> , Donna Guarino, Patrick Vallaey
Civic Beautification	Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello, MaryAnn Piasecki
Corresponding Secretary	Stephanie Hooper
Garden Therapy	Mary Maxwell, Janice Rusiecki, Nancy Webber
Garden Tour	Katie <u>Gandek</u> , Jud Ratliff, Maria Day
Graduation Flowers	Kathy Hewett
Greens Workshop	Nancy Webber, Kathy Hewett
Historian	Carlene Phillips
Horticulture	Jessie Panek
Hospitality	Meg Bagdonas, Margaret Murphy
Library Books	Kathy Dollard, Heidi Siegrist
Library/Meeting Flowers	MaryJane Ellison
Membership	Nancy Hartshorne
Nature Trails	Pam Durrant
Newsletter	Marijke Vallaey
Nomination	Jessie Panek, Nancy Hartshorne, Member at Large
Plant Sale	Maureen Remeika, Jane Vasta, MaryAnn Piasecki
Programs	Janice Rusiecki
Publicity	Judy <u>Warner</u> , Meg Bagdonas

Thanks, Carlene Phillips for proofreading, always much appreciated!

www.harvardgardenclub.org
Garden Club of Harvard on Facebook
<https://bloomnart.harvardma.org>

2022