



# Never Done!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD  
VOLUME XXXI-ISSUE 9



## Here's What Bill Thinks

Bill Loehfelm

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

[www.harvardgardenclub.org](http://www.harvardgardenclub.org)

[Garden Club of Harvard on Facebook](#)

<https://bloomnart.harvardma.org>

# Annual Meeting / Luncheon

June 9

Info: Maria Day



*A festive, happy event with good food, lovely flower arrangements,  
and some hats to keep the tradition going.*

*Welcome back Pauline!*

# Membership

Info: Nancy Hartshorne and Pat Jennings

## *WELCOME Clare Perry!*

Clare Perry  
303 Littleton Road  
978-505-1000  
[ctperry27@gmail.com](mailto:ctperry27@gmail.com)

### *Who's who*



My name is **Patricia Lomando** and I am originally from Nashua, NH. My husband Zach and I moved to Bolton in March of 2020 as everything was shutting down due to the pandemic. This is when my love of gardening began. We still have much of our 5-acre yard to fill with native plants to attract more pollinators and invite wildlife. Our owl box is currently a squirrel box and our bat box is housing wasps, but we'll get there. We hope to dig a large nature pond and would love advice if anyone has been through the process.

I work in eCommerce now, but went to school for industrial design at SCAD and interior architecture at RISD. Gardening is the best outlet for my creativity. Animals are my passion. When I'm not working or in the garden, I am one half of the Stow Kittens adoption team, working with Red Clay Animal Rescue in Savannah, Georgia. We find homes for roughly 200 rescue kittens per year. Our permanent pack includes 5 special needs cats (blind kitties are the best!) and a dog. I think my animals would say my love is a suffocating love.

# Going Once, Twice, Three Times...

## 2025-2026 Annual Membership Drive Ends Soon!

### 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.**

*Can it be — another year of Garden Club is coming to a close? And, you know what this means: **now is the time to renew your membership as the final deadline of June 9th is almost here!***

If you haven't yet renewed, please fill out the form (also as attachment) and mail it to Nancy or bring it with you to the Annual Meeting Luncheon and Garden Club tour on June 9th. We will have the card reader at the meeting in case you wish to pay with a credit card. Extra forms will also be available.

Thank you everyone for all that you do to make this garden club vibrant, welcoming, and lively!

It is this way because of you!! I read this African proverb earlier this morning in an email from the Native Seed Project: "sticks in a bundle are unbreakable".

We, the Garden Club, are strong because of the support of You, our individual members. Thank you!

## **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.?

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## GCH PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2026

CATEGORY	BUDGET	2025	VARIANCE
Affiliations / gifts	\$ 2,710.00	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 1,485.00
Annual Luncheon	\$ 300.00		
Community Support: Bloom N' Art	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 200.00
Community Support :Civic Beautification	\$ 950.00		
Community Support: Garden Therapy	\$ 500.00		
Community Support:Graduation Flowers	\$ 200.00		
Community Support: Holiday Greens	\$ 350.00		
Community Support: Library Books	\$ 325.00		
Community Support:Library Flowers	\$ 50.00		
Correspondence	\$ 100.00		
Federation Dues	\$ 550.00		
Flower Arranging	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)
Garden Tour	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)
Grants:Educational	\$ 500.00		
Historian	\$ 100.00		
Hospitality	\$ 100.00		
Insurance	\$ 675.00		
Membership Maintenance (for our Club)	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)
Technology Service Fees	\$ 600.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 250.00
Plant Sale	\$ 8,000.00		
President's Fund	\$ 200.00		
Programs	\$ 2,400.00		
Publications:Newsletter	\$ 200.00		
Publications: Website	\$ 400.00		
Publications:Yearbook	\$ 600.00		
Publicity	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00
Rent-	\$ 1,700.00		
Special Projects	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Treasurer/Administrative	\$ 850.00		
<b>TOTAL values, excel calculation</b>	<b>\$ 27,560.00</b>		<b>\$ 3,585.00</b>

**2025 BUDGET**

**\$ 23,975.00**

(prior fiscal year for comparison)

# Civic Beautification

Info: MaryAnn Piasecki, Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello

## Graduation Flowers

Info: Kathy Hewett

June 8, 2025  
To Members of the Harvard Garden Club:  
A warm thank you for the extraordinary banks of blooms at the Bromfield Graduation. They welcomed us as we approached and made the stage a focus of beauty and festivity. How fortunate we are!  
Sincerely,  
Judith Schutman



A Thank You email from a graduate's family member. View all the pictures:  
<https://www.smugmug.com/app/organize/Harvard-Garden-Club/Graduation-2025>



# Garden Therapy

Info: Mary Maxwell, Janice Rusiecki, Nancy Webber

# Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison

Last year we expanded the calendar to include summer dates. You can sign up for dates in June, July, and August as the mood strikes you and you have abundance in your garden.

Last year folks grabbed these dates and we had beautiful flowers in the library all summer. The more formal sign up is for September thru May. Please deliver the flowers as close to 10:00 AM on the Monday (or the Tuesday if Monday is a holiday). Please remove your arrangement the following Saturday by 4:00 pm . If you sign up for the last Monday of the month, please bring your arrangement to the meeting at the COA first to grace the brunch table. After the meeting, bring the flowers to the library.

Folks at the library, staff and patrons, are very happy to see these beautiful contributions. After years of service, the black poster board we place the flowers on has retired. Patrick is fashioning a new one for us. Thanks, Patrick.

Questions to Mary Jane Ellison: [mary.jane.ellison@gmail.com](mailto:mary.jane.ellison@gmail.com)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B49A9A629AAF85-57250086-library#/>

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All the summer slots are taken, except for July 7th.

MANY MANY regular slots are available for September to May.  
Please sign up soon, so we can have all the names and dates in  
the yearbook.  
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# Hospitality

Info: Eileen Gorss and Mary Maxwell

Signup genius will be available in July.



**Plant Sale  
May 17, 25**

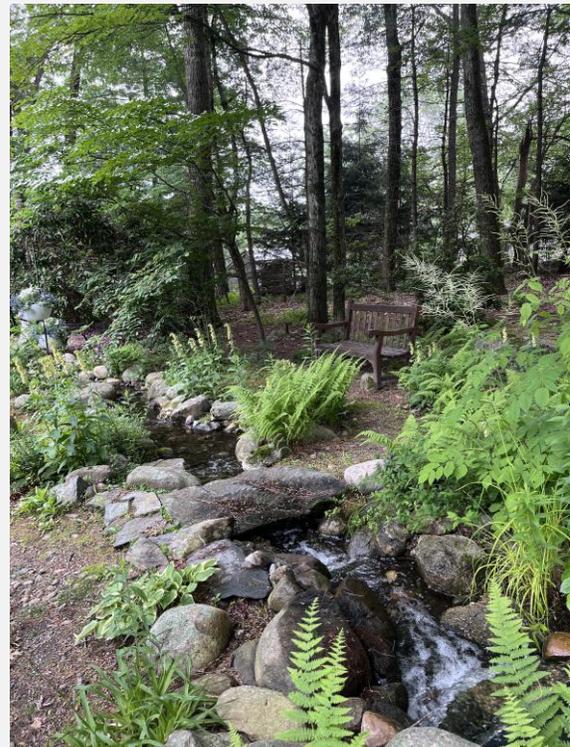
*Info: Jane Vasta and  
Maureen Remeika*

# Garden Tours – June 9, 2025

Info: Katie Gandek



***PAM AND DAVID DURRANT GARDEN, 159 EAST BARE HILL ROAD*** (pictures by Marijke Vallaey)



***VIRGINIA THURSTON HEALING GARDEN, 145 BOLTON ROAD*** (pictures by Denyse Cox)

# News from Mary Helan

I haven't become a member of the Magnolia Garden Club in Brunswick GA yet, but I took the Master Gardener Extension Volunteer class this spring, courtesy of the UGA Extension Service in Glynn County. I learned a whole bunch—the text book is 987 pages long because it covers zones 6a-9b in Georgia—including more than I really want to know about lawns and chemicals (aaaargh, my eyeballs were bleeding). As an Extension Volunteer in Southeast Coastal Georgia I am supposed to be knowledgeable about all kinds of horticultural stuff related to our zone, 9a. Some of my required volunteer hours are in a community of tiny homes for formerly unsheltered people encouraging them to grow vegetables in raised beds, as well as the Extension demonstration garden where the harvest goes to one of the many food banks in Brunswick, population 15,000. About 31% of the population lives below the poverty level here.

Speaking of spring, before selling our boat at the end of June 2023, we had spent the sailing season (effectively Jan - June) in the Bahamas for the previous two years, so I had never spent a spring season in Brunswick. I was pretty ignorant that spring goes from February to April here and completely missed spring planting for 2024. 😞 I did better this year, and finished harvesting the last of my sugar snap peas at the end of April and harvesting potatoes by the end of May, and now planting sweet potatoes which will take about four months to mature. I'm still figuring out what will thrive in the summer heat of 95° temps and 94 % humidity. Answer: not much, including me!

The environment is quite friendly to a large variety of ornamental shrubs, scented flowering vines such as star jasmine, as well as a zillion perennials and some bulbs. (Ahem, it is not necessary to remove dahlia tubers from the ground here for the winter.) Masses of red-, white- and salmon-colored azaleas were stunning in April, giving way to big blooms from blue and oak leaf hydrangea in May. Alas, neither peonies, rhubarb nor lilacs grow in zone 9a although these thrive in Atlanta, five hours away.

Lots of folks have tropicals in the ground here including bananas, bougainvillea, bromeliads, citrus, ginger, hibiscus, lantana, palms, plumeria as well as epiphytes (air plants) growing on the trunks of ginormous live oaks. Then below freezing temperatures will arrive for three days or even an ice storm, and the blackened stumps of frozen banana trees will remind us that a humid subtropical climate is not the same as a tropical climate. After trying desperately, but ineffectively, to cover tropical plants for a winter or two, most of my gardening friends now shrug and say to their plants: "You're on your own. If you come back, that's great." I'm almost at that point, except I will continue to haul my potted six-foot tall plumeria inside, and cover the lovely lemon tree whose fruit I use to make some pretty potent limoncello.

Do we have invasives? Oh my, yes, but that's a subject for another day.

Lots of folks come to the Golden Isles (Brunswick, St. Simon's Island, Jekyll Island, Sea Island) to vacation, so if any of all y'all are headed down this way, please do look us up. We live in a lovely 1920 Craftsman bungalow, and will always be pleased to sit on our porch with you and a cold beverage, and catch up. aloha, Mary Helan

# Officers Committee and Project Leaders 2025-2026

<b>Officers</b>	
President	Bill Loehfelm
Vice President	Marijke Vallaeys
Recording Secretary	Carlene Phillips
Treasury	Deborah O'Rourke
<b>Committee and Project Leaders</b>	
Annual Luncheon	Maria Day
Bloom N Art	Deb Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Donna Guarino, Patrick Vallaeys
Civic Beautification	Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello, MaryAnn Piasecki
Corresponding Secretary	Stephanie Hooper
Garden Therapy	Mary Maxwell, Janice Rusiecki, Nancy Webber
Garden Tour	Katie Gandek, Jud Ratliff
Graduation Flowers	Kathy Hewett
Historian	Carlene Phillips
Holiday Greens Workshop	Kathy Hewett
Horticulture	Jessie Panek
Hospitality	Eileen Gorss, Mary Maxwell
Library Books	Kathy Dollard
Library/Meeting Flowers	Mary Jane Ellison
Membership	Nancy Hartshorne, Pat Jennings
Nature Trails	Pam Durrant
Newsletter	Marijke Vallaeys
Nomination	Jessie Panek, Nancy Hartshorne
Plant Sale	Maureen Remeika, Jane Vasta, Beth Conlon-Smith
Programs	Jeanie Colony, Maria Walton
Publicity	Judy Warner, Meg Bagdonas
Special Acitivities	Meg Bagdonas, Nancy Hartshorne
Webmaster	Betsy Howard
Yearbook	Marijke Vallaeys, Carlene Phillips

