



NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE 02

October 28 Confessions of a Garden Fanatic Speaker: Linda Lipton

An avid do-it-yourself gardener, Linda's greatest challenge was planting a garden from scratch in the 70 by 30 foot asymmetric sliver of a backyard that came with the historical home she and her husband purchased in Salem, Mass.

Despite many challenges, they were able to create a spectacular urban garden, with a distinct focus on the site's historical roots. In this presentation, Linda will take us through the process: researching time and place, optimizing the best use of small places, creating garden rooms, and using design elements and principles to create a cohesive landscape. Her garden was featured in the article "Salem's Secret Garden" in the summer 2018 issue of North Shore Home magazine

Hospitality Chair Oct. 28: Mimi Dorward

Joan Chu
Pam Durrant
Donna Fuller
Theresa Ledoux
Arline Marteney
Ani McCoy
Joanne Williamson

Library Flowers for November

Nov.4: Denyse Cox
Nov.12: Marijke Vallaeys
Nov.18: Pat Cooper
Nov.25: Marty Green

Check out our new website

Thanks to Betsy Howard

<https://www.harvardgardenclub.org/>



President's Ponderings

What a busy start we have had for our new Garden Club year! Hats off to Betsy Howard for our newly revised and expanded website, which includes a special section for members only. Keep your eyes peeled as articles and photos are added!

The month also brought to completion the landscaping project at Fivesparks (aka the old library). Kathy Jackson led a team of planting elves who completed the majority of the planting in record time, to the amazement of landscape designer Mamie Wyrwal who helped execute her plan design. The hard-working elves were Kathy Hewett, Mary Maxwell, MaryAnn Piasecki, Jessie Panek, Pat Jennings, Bill Loehfelm and Fran Maiore. Check out the photos, and stop by to see the work in person!

The first meeting was a wonderful and comprehensive presentation by Michael Wojtech on the intricacies of buds, flowers, leaves and bark. This was followed by a great interactive quiz where each table group got the opportunity to identify the characteristics of supplied photos. Michael had his books for sale, and graciously made a donation back to our garden club!

Finally, the newcomers' coffee was attended by 11 new members and a 12th person who joined the club that day. AnaMaria will be introducing them to us over the next few weeks – they bring a wonderfully diverse set of backgrounds and great enthusiasm for our mission. Each newcomer has a flower on the nametag – please be sure to seek them out and welcome them personally to the club.....

See you at the October General meeting on Monday, October 28th, where we will hear **CONFESSIONS OF A GARDEN FANATIC**.

Margaret Murphy

Board meeting at Jessie Panek's on October 21

16 West Bare Hill Road

November Program: Instructions for “baking” pinecones and acorns



We have all been asked to gather materials for our November 25 wreath-making meeting. It's been a banner year for collecting acorns and pinecones. To insure that they are all free of insects, and for pinecones, that they are sap-free and fully open, follow these instructions.

If your pine cones/acorns are very dirty, place them in a bucket of water and vinegar for no more than 30 minutes, and use a soft brush to remove the dirt. Place them on newspaper to dry for at least 24 hours, and then bake.

Preheat oven to 200 degrees.

Place acorns/pine cones in a single layer on a rimmed cookie sheet lined with parchment paper or aluminum foil.

Bake for approximately one hour, but make sure to check that nothing is burning!

Add extra time if the pine cones are not fully open, or still feel sticky. Throw away any acorns that have split, or pine cones that are not firm to the touch.

If there are any questions, contact Theresa at ledoux3@gmail.com



Program of September 30: The Growth of Trees: A Journey Through Time Speaker: Michael Wojtech



Pictures of the meeting
Michael Wojtech with
Theresa Ledoux
An article in the Harvard
Press of October 11
by Carlene Phillips

Page 10 The Harvard Press October 11, 2019

Complexity and variety: Garden Club experiences the wonders of leaves

by Carlene Phillips

It is safe to say that for most members and guests who attended the Sept. 30 Garden Club meeting, it was the most fun they've had with leaves (other than jumping in a pile of them) since the grade school project of tracing leaves between waxed paper and mounting them on a poster board with labels. The audience members were perhaps even more receptive than they were back then to the delights of discovery and the rewards of close observation. Naturalist, writer, and educator Michael Wojtech, who lives with his family in Western Massachusetts, was the featured speaker at the club's first meeting of the new season. In his presentation Wojtech led the audience to see that, in the words of writer Anne Dillard: "In complexity are the fringes of beauty, and in variety are generosity and exuberance."

Wojtech grew up in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, a dense expanse of forest near the coast where sandy soil welcomes such things as pygmy pines and orchids. In 2001 he left a job in business to get a master's degree in conservation biology from Antioch University-New England. It was an immersion into a totally new landscape, he said, but he felt at home. Realizing that buds form on trees in the fall and remain all winter, he became fascinated with them and spoke to his advisor about doing his thesis on buds. Yikes! That the subject had been heavily explored, Wojtech decided instead on a field guide to bark. Over the next seven and-a-half years, that thesis developed fully formed miniature with characteristic species, traits. Through a series of slides Wojtech discussed the many characteristics of a tree bud and the variety within each characteristic. The bud position on a twig may be terminal, lateral, or both. The shape may be pointed, blunt, or rounded; the scales that cover it are most likely overlapping; and its protection is half or a coating of a resinous substance. Wojtech similarly went through characteristics of leaves and the variation within each one.

Then came the more fun—the practice of looking. It was also an exercise in critical thinking and collaboration, skills applicable to so many of life's challenges. The audience split up into teams, and Wojtech gave each team four laminated sheets describing a particular species of tree. Two of the sheets were about buds, one a close-up of the bud of the species, and the other a chart showing the characteristics of buds in general. The other two sheets did the same for a leaf. The task of each team was to observe and

that the buds were covered by overlapping scales, protected by a waxy-looking substance.

Observing our leaf and choosing the best description for each of its characteristics, we decided we had a simple type, ovate shape; pointed tip; toothed margin; heart-shaped base; and pinnae venation, which Wojtech pointed out that red oak is distinguishable from white oak by its pointed leaf tip as opposed to rounded ones.

On his website Wojtech states that his goal is: "To engage people in a process of curiosity, discovery, and wonder that they can take with them and continue to practice in the languages where they live and

Garden Club members use critical thinking and collaboration to determine a tree species by the characteristics of the bud and leaf. From left: Pauline Carroll, Chloëa Vesely, Mary Ann Pawelek, Theresa Ledoux, and Beth Lehou. (Courtesy photos)

Hort Corner: Fruits

Connie Grabowy

I've been checking out some fruits in my yard this month. I brought in fruits of winterberry and beautyberry last month. These fruits are colorful and add ornamental value to the shrubs. A bit of botany to give a little more detail to that ornamental value. A fruit is defined as a structure that develops from the ovary portion of the pistil (the female structure of a flower). The ovary contains the seeds. Here are some examples of fruit types:

Drupe: fleshy indehiscent (not opening regularly), seed enclosed in a hard layer

Examples: winterberry, beautyberry and kousa dogwood

Drupelet: small drupe

Example: raspberry

Nut: dry indehiscent - one seeded hard inner layer with an outer layer that can be fibrous

Examples: acorn and walnut

Capsule: dry indehiscent from multiple pistils

Examples: red buckeye, Carolina allspice

Samara: dry indehiscent with wing

Example: maple

Berry: fleshy indehiscent pulpy single seed or multi seeded resulting from a single pistil

Example: tomato, avocado

Follicle: dry dehiscent

Example: milkweed, columbine

(editor's note: indehiscent = (of a pod or fruit) not splitting open to release the seeds when ripe.

Civic Beautification

Kathy Jackson



Wherever you go in Harvard, and admire the landscaping or the planters filled with flowers: know that it's the result of the creative gardeners of the HGC! Last month they especially worked on Fivesparks. See Margaret Murphy's president article for the names of all the people who were not afraid of some dirt! (Pictured: ready to cut the ribbon, Kathy Jackson and Mark Mikitarian, Fivesparks and the new landscape)



Membership

Info: AnaMaria Nanra

New Members' Coffee on Friday October 11



Members share

This dahlia somehow arrived in my herb garden on its own. I never have dahlias anywhere near this area.

Kathy J.



A chimney is not our usual spot to grow sunflowers.

Marijke V



My Becky Jane chrysanthemum from our plant sale, dug from Becky Shives' garden, started blooming a few days ago. It is quite tall, and its pretty, light pink blossoms nod happily above the stems. It is a lovely reminder of Becky, so full of goodness and smiles. —Carlene P.

Library Flowers

Info: Kathleen Turnbull



Claudia Wesley



Barbara Heim



Maribeth Marcello



Bobbie Taylor



Mary Ellen Ellison

Upcoming Event Sponsored by the Harvard Conservation Trust

Thoreau and the Language of Trees
An illustrated talk by Richard Higgins

Organized by the Harvard Conservation Trust

When: Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Where: Volunteers Hall in the Library

Trees were central to Henry David Thoreau's creativity as a writer, his work as a naturalist and his inner life. He loved their beauty, studied their growth, took them as spiritual companions and wrote about them as few have. Author and photographer Richard Higgins examines Thoreau's deep connections to trees in this illustrated talk. Using Thoreau's words and his own photographs of trees today, he explores Thoreau's keen observation of trees, the poetry he saw in them, what they meant to him and how they nourished his soul.

RICHARD HIGGINS is the author of *Thoreau and the Language of Trees* (University of California Press, 2017). A writer, lecturer and photographer, he is a former longtime Boston Globe staff writer and co-author or editor of several books. His work has appeared in the New York Times, Atlantic Monthly, Christian Century, and Smithsonian.

*Thanks to Carlene Phillips
for proofreading!*