



NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD

VOLUME XXIX, ISSUE 1



President Ponderings

Info: Jessie Panek

Welcome back, everyone! Please join me in especially welcoming our new members, and those who are new to the Club's leadership this year. I hope you and your gardens have managed to survive this summer of drought. I know I will be looking anxiously for survivors next spring, as I hope some plants that shriveled are not dead but just went into early dormancy.

I want to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who watered for civic beautification this summer, an endless task, on top of taking care of their own gardens! I am proud we were able to field a team (thank you Maria Day, Carole Herbin, and MaryAnn Piasecki) at the last minute to clean up the overgrown yard at Bromfield House for our new Afghan neighbors. Special thanks also to Janice Rusiecki and Margaret Murphy for their hard work over many months setting up our programs for this year, with the special challenges and uncertainty of the pandemic. We have a promising lineup of presentations.

As we enter the fall, the Garden Club starts up its regular schedule of activities, although since the pandemic lingers it's not completely 'normal'. At this time, we still strongly encourage people to wear masks at our meetings, and we will not be serving food or beverages (though you may bring your own beverage).

Despite these limitations, it will be wonderful to be in person for most of our meetings, including outside at Marijke Vallaey's house for our first meeting on Organic Gardening. One silver lining of the pandemic has been exploring options outside our traditional venue for meetings: we will be taking advantage of Zoom to have presentations from speakers who are not able to come to Harvard, and if needed to meet despite bad weather. Make a note that our November 28 and our January 30 meetings will be only on Zoom.

As for silver linings, can you think of some positive results of this summer's weather in your yard and garden? Maybe we can spend a few minutes at our first meeting talking about how our gardens fared this year and what we learned. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

Jessie

ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 JESSIE PANEK, PRESIDENT OF THE GARDEN CLUB, ORGANIZED AN INFORMAL GARDEN CLUB GET-TOGETHER IN HER BEAUTIFUL GARDEN.

THIS WAS THE PERFECT WAY TO MEET NEW MEMBERS AND GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO KNOW SOME OF OUR CURRENT OFFICERS AND OTHER LEADERS.



Pictures: MaryAnn Piasecki

Membership

IN MEMORIAM

In June Steve Darby passed away.

We extend our sincere condolences to Marge Darby and family.

WELCOME!

Lisa Brown

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My name is Lisa and I am so happy to be involved with the Harvard Garden Club. I have been encouraged for years to join, but it just became a possibility with my recent retirement.

I have been a resident of Harvard for 23 years. I am a retired nurse and love gardening. I have many perennial gardens that I inherited with our home. Some I have transformed, some are still the same. It is constantly a work in progress and I found this year to be extremely challenging with all the drought.

I love hiking/walking and look forward to attending the Thursday walks when I am able. I am also an avid golfer, which takes up a great deal of my time. I have 7 grandchildren and like to spend time with them.

I have been a member of the Lexington Field and Garden Club for over 30 years and still belong to 2 subgroups.

I am looking forward to learning more about gardening in Harvard and meeting women with the same interests.

We also welcome Janine Andrews!

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General Meeting on September 26th

Board meeting is on September 19 at 9:30 am

NEW LOCATION!

The meeting will be held upstairs at the Parish Hall of the Harvard Congregational Church, 5 Still River Road.

Program: Garden Tour at 101 South Shaker Rd with Charlotte Vallaeys, Organic Expert at General Mills



Charlotte is the Organic Expert at General Mills, one of the largest manufacturers of certified organic foods (with brands like Annie's, Cascadian Farm and Muir Glen). As the impacts of industrialized agriculture on planetary health are becoming increasingly clear and hard to ignore, General Mills remains committed to supporting organic farmers and is also advancing regenerative agriculture on 1 million acres.

Regenerative organic agriculture is about fostering and harnessing ecological processes to produce abundant and healthy food, by working with Nature rather than attempting to overcome it with intensive practices, chemicals and other external inputs.

Charlotte will talk about how she applies the principles and practices of regenerative organic agriculture in her own garden.



Meet our new officers

Bill Loehfelm, vice-president



Bill is relatively new to the Garden Club having moved to Harvard in 2015. He lives with his wife Karin on Stow Road where he has vegetable and flower gardens along with a collection of farm animals including goats, pigs, chickens and geese...and bees. He considers himself 'of the earth' and would happily live his entire life outdoors.

Bill had a long career working on the psychological side of the corrections industry. He designed and delivered programs for inmates in several states and

managed re-entry programs in the County system in Massachusetts. He is retired and works part-time at Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry as a Counselor.

He is very happy to be in Harvard and grabs any opportunity to 'play in the dirt'.

Deborah O'Rourke, treasurer



I learned to appreciate and revere the natural world from my parents, especially my dad. He was extremely knowledgeable about flora and fauna and never missed an opportunity to point things out to me and identify them. I have carried these seeds to my numerous gardens literally and figuratively.

My own gardening began after moving to New Hampshire to raise a family in my late thirties.

Prior to that I had been living and working in NYC as Director of Operations for a Talent Agency that represented some of the greats in contemporary music. Among other things, I oversaw contract administration and Artists' payments. Once in New Hampshire I had a wonderful mentor in a friend that grew up in Vermont on a dairy farm. Roberta introduced me to almost everything I know about gardening. I remember her every time I am in my garden. While in NH, my husband and I owned a small environmental Consulting firm where I directed the business administration.

After moving to Groton in 2000, my husband and I spent 18 years improving the landscape and gardens of a neglected antique home in the center of town, bringing the first chickens to Main Street in a long, long time. I was a member of the Groton Garden Club for several years. We purchased Joan & Rob Dillard's extraordinary Harvard property in 2018 and have done our best to restore, steward, and contribute to it.

While raising my family, I had a few part time jobs that involved financial records keeping. I retired in 2021 after working for 7 years for a small web-based event and ticketing platform handling financial matters, including bookkeeping, and client services.

I look forward to supporting the Garden Club of Harvard as Treasurer.

Bromfield House project!

Cleaning up a very neglected and overgrown area in the front of Bromfield house.



Maria Day, MaryAnn Pisaeccki, Carole Herbin and Jessie Panek.

They did an amazing job of selected pruning and cutting of the neglected landscape.



Before



During



After

Nature Trails: Sprague Land - 09/01/22

Info: Pam Durrant



Pam, MaryAnn, Patrick, Deborah, Maria with Anne and Edwin from Belgium.



Maria, MaryAnn and Rosemary with her son who was collecting pinecones.



We learned how to identify the leaves of *solidago canadensis* (goldenrod)

Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison



Oct. 3: Bobby Taylor
Oct. 10: Suzan Osborn
Oct. 17: Deborah Dowson

Oct. 24: Halloween Diorama
Oct. 31: Halloween Diorama

Summer of 2022: the challenges of gardening!



Melon leaves in Jessie Panek's garden on August 30.



At the same time a basket with produce from her vegetable garden.

A stroll in the garden of Phyllis Konop

The front yard became a perennial garden several years ago with a Kousa dogwood, peonies, and a rose bush, blooming in May.



Shade garden in the back.

Officers for 2022-2023

President	Jessie Panek
Vice President	Bill Loehfelm
Recording Secretary	Stephanie Hooper
Treasury	Deborah O'Rourke

Committee Chairs

Historian	Carlene Phillips
Hospitality	Suzan Osborn
Membership	AnaMaria Nanra
Newsletter	Marijke Vallaeyes
Nomination	MaryAnn Piasecki, Janice Rusiecki
Programs	Margaret Murphy, Janice Rusiecki
Publicity	Kate Guthro

Projects

Annual Lunch	Maria Day
Civic Beautification	Kathy Jackson, MaryAnn Piasecki
Garden Therapy	Mary Maxwell, Janice Rusiecki
Garden tour	
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, Margaret Murphy, Marijke Vallaeyes
Web Master	Betsy Howard
Yearbook	Marijke Valleys
Bloom N Art	Deb Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Marijke Vallaeyes