

NEVER DONE!



THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
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President Ponderings

MaryAnn Piasecki

Winter Gardening.... Indoors

We live with this very large (18lbs) tuxedo cat named Frank. Frank likes to caterwaul around 5:30 AM outside the bedroom door. I listen to his song for about 15 minutes then I get up in the dark cold morning to start my day.

Once I reach the kitchen my Aero garden's timer is set to turn on at 5:50 and a wonderful bright full spectrum of light glows across my kitchen sink. I get the wonderful smell of basil, mint and thyme while I feed Frank.

I own an Aero garden Harvest and it holds up to six plants. The garden grows extremely well. I have plenty of basil, Thai basil and enough dill to make 3 batches of pickles. The thyme is okay but it's a slow grower and when I use thyme in cooking I want a big bunch of sprigs. The other challenge is keeping taller plants pruned so they don't keep hitting the light. This week I pulled the mint out and started another batch of Genovese basil using my own seeds.

The Aero garden is a fun distraction until we can get outside again and work the soil in the garden. The club has started the initial planning of our in club only plant sale. Abbe Besse is working diligently to set up an ordering and pay process, Barbara Heim has placed the order for vegetable plants and Theresa Ledoux is updating her herb list. Margaret will once again be selling the herb and flower hanging pots for Mother's day.

So stay tune.... Spring is almost here. I may someday tire of the Aero garden but never the call of Frank. He's a charmer.



Aero Garden w/ mint on the side



Frank Piasecki

March 1: Joint Meeting with the Woman's Club

Beyond the Lens – Visual Storytelling **Speaker: Kelly Fitzsimmons**

The Zoom meeting will be at 12:15 pm

Kelly has been a photographer more than half her life.

Her unobtrusive approach elicits natural and spontaneous images that are classic, compelling and timeless.

A visual storyteller with a compassionate perspective, Kelly's work spans the globe - including families from California to Boston, politicians in New York, entrepreneurs in Jordan and displaced populations in Colombia.

Keep an eye on your inbox: The link will be sent via email

Membership

Info: AnaMaria Nanra

Welcome to a new member: Catherine Warner



“Hello, I’m Catherine Warner. I am excited to join the garden club this year as I eagerly anticipate the new growing season. My husband Pradeep, son Ellis, and I moved to Harvard in 2019. I’m originally from Virginia, and my husband is from Nepal.

I am particularly interested in ecological gardening, native plants, and conservation. Our house is located on 1.5 acres, almost all of which is shallow bedrock. My soil tends to be thin and dry, although I have a few nooks and crannies with a higher moisture profile. The previous owners of the house left a really nice rock garden in back that incorporates a natural rock outcropping. It’s a fun area to try to landscape. I am determined to get rid of autumn olive and tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) that I also inherited with the yard. Currently, my major project is to turn a dry area of my yard into a meadow border with native grasses (mostly Midwestern prairie grasses) and native flowers. I look forward to learning from the members of GCH.”

In the garden



Hellebores,
daffodils,
snowdrops, all are
hiding under a
thick, white carpet
of snow.

But look up in the
air and find beauty:
birds are stealing
the show!



In Loving Memory: Pat Shaw



Patricia S. (Flanders) Shaw, 85, died peacefully Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at Apple Valley Center in Ayer, surrounded by the love of her family.

Pat was very active in the Garden Club of Harvard, participating in many garden tours and the annual plant sale on Harvard Common and earning the lifelong membership award.

Pat worked alongside Grace Cummings for many years, transplanting seedlings for the sale.

“Pat had many amusing stories about what “the rules” were there. How many current GC members know that the tomato plants the GC was famous for were grown in soil sterilized in a metal drum with a fire under it? The only fertilizer allowed was shredded dried ‘horse biscuits’ under the peat pots. We eventually talked Grace into Promix.” (B. H)

She also planted and maintained the flowers at Harvard’s fire station and the watering trough. For many years Pat assisted Dorothy Andrews and Bob Reed in documenting, measuring, and cataloging some of the giant and ancient living trees of Harvard.

“Most of the delightful early clumps of double bloodroot in town came originally from Pat. They grew wild at her daughter Kathy’s property in Maine. Pat gave some to us, we subdivided and grew them to increase the numbers over time, then potted a few of them each year for the Plant Sale, a ‘Choice Plant’. This way we always had backup plants. Voles sometimes feast on them.” (B.H)

Excerpts from the Harvard Press and fond memories by Barbara Heim



Slideshow through edible gardens Cooking Demonstration by Liz Barbour

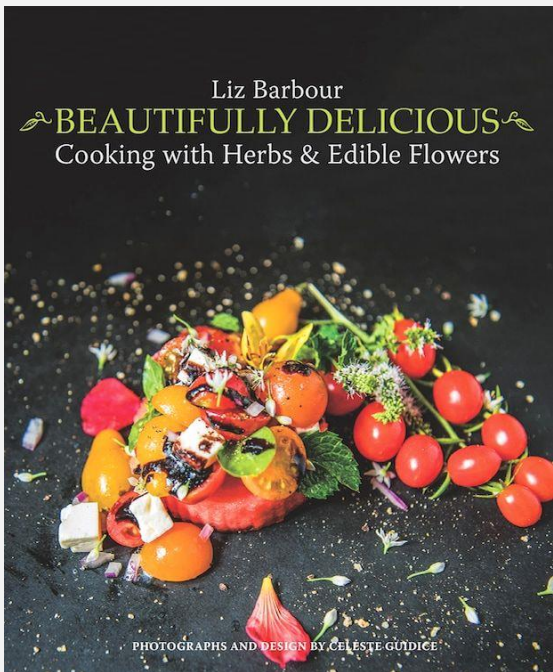
Amazing, fantastic, inspiring...

More than 40 members joined the Zoom meeting and we were in for a treat!

If you want to see more of Liz's beautiful garden, want to check out her classes and her recipes go to <https://www.thecreativefeast.com/>



- Winter Vegetable Soup
- Artisan Grilled Cheese Sandwich



Dr. Mark Hyman: Why Vegetable Oils Should Not Be Part Of Your Diet
(a link Liz shared with us)

Liz Barbour's cookbook

Bloom 'N Art: April 9, 2021

Info: Marijke Vallaey and AnaMaria Nanra

As of today 23 arrangers are eagerly waiting for the teachers (see picture) to send Deb Dowson the selected artwork of their students.

Once Deb has made the match Margaret Murphy will set the Zoom info sessions in motion.

And then...

We will study the artwork, we'll think about the various colors and shapes of containers and flowers. Then we will try out our ideas and see if it looks good. And maybe start over until we are happy and ready to make the final arrangement on the last days of March.



*“Fivesparks, and its board of community members, is pleased to collaborate with the Garden Club to support this year's **Bloom 'n Art** event. The artwork will be in Fivesparks for the arrangers to view and AnaMaria will organize this. Fivesparks has a photographer lined up and they have arranged a video-taping by HarvardCable. On March 28 the arrangers will bring their floral design to Fivesparks, ready for photographs and video-taping! (By Mark Mikitarian and AnaMaria)*

The big day will be April 9 with the official launch of the online exhibit.

Excerpt of the invitation by Theresa Ledoux: *“Bloom N Art 2021 will definitely look different from years past, with this online exhibition. Despite this necessary change, our goal of bringing together our student artists with our Garden Club floral interpreters still remains. We reaffirm our commitment to bridge the generations and celebrate the common bond between all artists in the Harvard community.*

Our association with the Bromfield Art Department teachers continues to be an essential element in bringing this vision to life every year. We also welcome our new association with Fivesparks, an integral partner in making this new platform possible.

We also remember the founder of this initiative, Shirley Boudreau. She was inspired by other local garden clubs that dabbled in this concept. She was also aware of the great museums, who invited floral artists into their galleries for this enchanting celebration of spring. She is always in our minds and hearts.”

The Harvard Conservation Trust Speaker Series

The Eco-Garden Revolution featuring Rochelle Greayer
at 7 p.m. on February 23, 2021

Join the Eco-Garden Revolution!

During this one-hour, online event, Rochelle Greayer will discuss how we can evolve our garden design aesthetics to create unique, beautiful spaces here in New England and support more resilient landscapes at the same time.

She will present a framework for how you can think differently about the ecosystem that is your garden and how to be more ecologically and climate friendly.

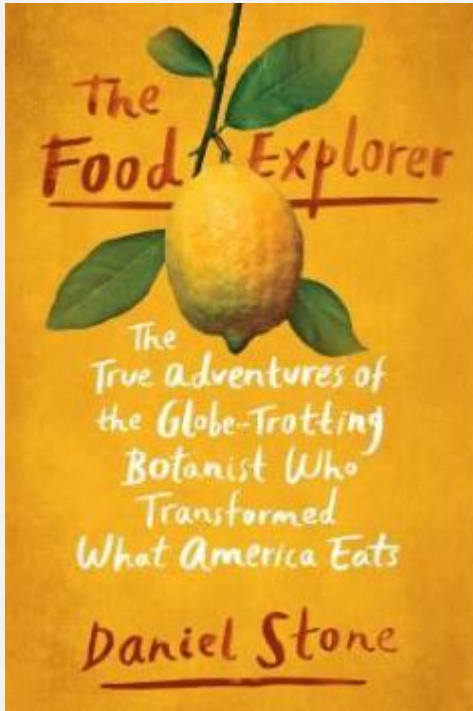
About Rochelle Greayer

A designer, author and television host, Harvard resident Rochelle Greayer believes that garden design can help to save the planet. Rochelle is the host of HSN's Cottage Hill Nursery television series, and also is Editor and Founder of Pith & Vigor magazine (<http://www.pithandvigor.com/>) that shares the grit & beauty of gardening. She also teaches homeowners and aspiring garden makers how to create their own designer gardens through her online garden design courses. Prior to her garden design and writing career, Rochelle was a physicist rocket scientist, riding in the cockpits of F-14s and F-18s and helping launch Russia's first commercial satellite.

How to Participate:

Spots are limited! Register for "Join the Eco-Garden Revolution" at <https://tinyurl.com/HCTRegister>. If the event is not full, you will receive an online invitation with Zoom login details. Priority will be given to Harvard Conservation Trust members and Harvard Garden Club members. To join, visit <https://harvardconservationtrust.org/join/>.

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.)

We plan to hold the meeting for this book at the end of March/early April (working around other HGC events). 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.

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

Officers for 2020-2021

President: MaryAnn Piasecki
Vice President: Jessie Panek
Recording Secretary: Abby Besse
Treasurer: Pauline Carroll

Committee Chairs

Corresponding Secretary: Stephanie Hooper
Historian: Carlene Phillips
Hospitality: Carol Hartman
Membership: AnaMaria Nanra
Newsletter: Marijke Vallaeyes
Nominating: Margaret Murphy & Janice Rusiecki
Programs: Theresa Ledoux, 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
Holiday Greens Workshop: Deborah Dowson & Denyse Cox
Horticulture: Connie Grabowy
Library Books: Joanne Williamson & Helen Berry
Library and Meeting Flowers: Kathleen Turnbull
Nature Trails: Pam Durrant
Plant Sale: Abby Besse & Mary Jane Ellison
Webmaster: Betsy Howard
Yearbook: Marijke Vallaeyes
Bloom N Art: Marijke Vallaeyes & AnaMaria Nanra