



NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
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President Ponderings

MaryAnn Piasecki

November Presidential Ponderings

I have never met a houseplant that I haven't destroyed so far. I have what I call seasonal plant disorder. The winter brings on this funk and anything green fades from my purview. But this year is different. At our October meeting Sarah Tate's talk has inspired me to reach in (doors) to my green thumb. I have actually performed propagation on my Christmas cactus. I took Sarah's advice and purchased hygrometers for 2 different rooms in my house to measure humidity and began to set my plants on beds of watered stones.

As many of you know, house plants provide a tremendous benefit to air quality, help reduce stress (may reduce blood pressure) and even improve your mental well-being. Our plan next spring is to add house plants to our annual plant sale.

On December 7th we will be having our annual holiday greens workshop. It is our opportunity to share with the shut-in community a little bit of green holiday cheer. The benefits of fresh greens for the holidays help to bring natural scents into your home and may generate memories of holidays past. Each of our arrangements is made with thoughtful care with most of the greens coming from our gardens.

I am thankful this season for all the members who encourage one another to share their knowledge and participate in club activities that benefit our community and our well-being.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your love ones!

Teddy Coffin's Halloween diorama

General Zoom Meeting on November 29, 2021

Gardening Ergonomics

by Nancy Brais, Principal Master Gardener

Keep diggin' what you love in comfort and safety.



Gardening is the number one pastime in America, but four hours in the garden can create more stress on our bodies than a full work week at most jobs.

Ergonomics is about fitting the task to the person. Nancy is passionate in the belief that ergonomic principles are core elements to any performance improvement effort.

Learn how to apply these principles of form, process, and tools to enhance our gardening experience and protect your most valuable gardening tool- your body!

This will be a Zoom meeting!

Login time: 9:30 am on November 29, 2021

FYI

Adaptive Tools and Assistive Devices for Gardening
Thursday, December 2, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

A lifelong love, or a newly discovered leisure activity of gardening, should not have to end as we age. Join Deborah Krause, Horticulture Therapist, to learn how to make gardening more accessible depending on your physical abilities. Learn about adaptations for limited mobility, arthritis, vision loss, or low stamina. You will leave with creative solutions to stay comfortable, active and joyous.

This free webinar is offered by Tower Hill Botanic Garden and sponsored by AARP Massachusetts.

Houseplants Are Your Friends by Sarah Tate Monday, October 25



“There is a plant for every dark room”

“Plants don’t need to be in a sunny windowsill”

“A philodendron will thrive in indirect, low light”

“Ferns love humidity”

“Tips on how to propagate”



Membership

Info: AnaMaria Nanra

Welcome new members!

Jennifer Finch
165 Codman Hill Road
617-642-9631
Jennifer.finchie@gmail.com

Heidi Siegrist
38 Lancaster County Road
978-772-4784 / 774-275-0384
hhsiegrist@yahoo.com

*Please put this in your yearbook
info: Marijke Vallaey*



My husband Nate and I moved here in 2010, we're the only Harvard house on Codman Hill Rd. We started vegetable gardening in 2008, we have good years and bad years. This year I'm hoping to do more, but I say that every year. I have a background in computing but mostly I'm on kid duty. We have 3 children, Lily age 10, Zoe age 8, and Eli age 6 almost 7, and we love to garden with them. We are a very craft loving family. All of us have hobbies we like to try out and share.

Holiday Greens Workshop

Tuesday December 7

9:30am – 11:30am

St. Theresa's Holy Trinity Church

If you don't feel comfortable to work inside, a couple of tables and all the materials will be outside.



Last year, our dedicated garden club members met beside the General Store and created holiday arrangements atop snow and ice-covered picnic tables! This year we will be back in the comfort of our usual meeting place at Holy Trinity to share our holiday greens and create simple arrangements to deliver to homebound area seniors.

Please join us for this wonderful holiday event on Tuesday December 7, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am. You can help by donating greens, making an arrangement (instructions are provided), and/or delivering an arrangement. We will wear masks and practice Covid safety protocols inside. **Outside**

arranging will be possible.

Once the arrangements for delivery are completed, you will have ample time to create arrangements for yourself or to give as gifts. You are welcome to use the greens that have been donated to share, and in addition, there will be supplies such as containers and floral foam and decorations to purchase. You may also bring your own containers if you prefer and please remember to bring clippers to use.

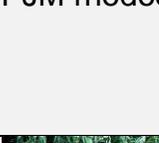
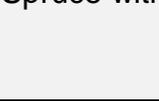
Please come to the Greens Workshop to make an arrangement or deliver one. It is one of our favorite activities of the year! You can let Denyse Cox Denysecox@gmail.com or Deborah Dowson deb@dowson.us know if you have someone to suggest who would benefit from a delivery of a little holiday cheer.



Greens for Winter Arranging

*Bringing greens to share is vital to the success of our Greens Workshop.
Without these contributions, our arrangements would be dull indeed!*

Here's a list of good choices:

	White pine		Arborvitae
	Blue holly (Meserve), both green and with berries		Incense cedar
	Chamaecyparis (hinoki cypress)		Mountain laurel
	Small leafed rhododendron		Andromeda/pieris
	PJM rhododendron (nice red color now)		Yew
	Boulevard Cyprus		Variegated euonymus
	Gold-thread cyprus		Variegated vinca vine
	Spruce with soft needles		Seedpods of many kinds
	Winterberry		
Umbrella pine		(Don't use hemlock; it dries out quickly and drops its needles.)	

Nature Trails

Info: Pam Durrant



November 4: Sprague Land

November 11: Clapp Scorgie Tufts Smith
Conservation Land

Let Pam know
if you want to be on her mailing list.
pbdurrant@gmail.com

Library Flowers Good News!



Teddy Coffin has found Dr. Kim Morton to inherit her collection of Halloween figures and to carry on the tradition of setting up the diorama in the library for two weeks at the end of October. Kim is the daughter-in-law of Betsy and Terry Morton. Teddy has met with Kim to pass on her collection and to give Kim tips on storage and setup.

Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison
(pictures Marijke Vallaey)



Carol Hartman



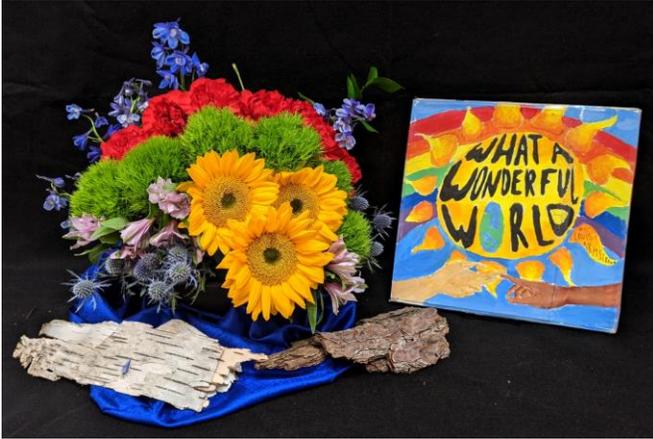
Meg Bagdonas



Marty Green

Bloom N Art

Info: Marijke Vallaey's and AnaMaria Nanra



There are no more fall activities in the garden, the leaves are raked off the lawn, the dahlias are out of the soil, and fragile plants have been moved into the house. We are prepared for the coming winter and already hoping for spring when the first flowers will appear. Snowdrops will remind us of warmer weather...and of the event that brings Bromfield School, The Garden Club of Harvard, the Public Library, and Fivesparks together in **BLOOM N ART!** (March 19, 20, 21, 2022)

This looking forward to the 6th edition of Bloom N Art is exciting and it fills us with energy. Are you looking on the web how museums pair their art with flowers? I do and wherever I go, when I notice a colorful flower arrangement, it catches my attention and I take notes!

Sign up as an arranger; it's the beginning of the fun.

SignupGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b49a9a629aaf85-bloom2>

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Youth Poetry Contest

The GCFM Youth Poetry Committee invites garden clubs to encourage participation in the 2021-2022 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Youth Poetry Contest.

This year's theme, **Sing with the Songbirds - Exploring the Glory of Nature**, offers an inspiring creative challenge for youth in Kindergarten through Ninth Grade to express their thoughts and feelings in poetry.

This contest is a project our club can do to encourage care for nature and the environment.

Send entries to MaryAnn Piasecki by the end of December. All entries, once reviewed to assure all criteria have been met, will then be mailed to Marisa McCoy of the Garden Club Federation of MA by Friday, January 14, 2022.

The Horse Trough on Ayer Road

We always wondered about the origin of the horse trough on Ayer Road. Carlene Phillips gave us the answer in her book [A Common History – The Story of Harvard's Identity](#).



“In 1915 Edwin [Hildreth] and his wife Mary, donated land across Ayer Road from their home for a town horse trough – a cast stone bowl set into a fieldstone wall. Its location was convenient for passing horse-drawn school barges on their way to and from the 10-year old elementary school on Mass. Ave.”

Horses on the road side,
cows on the Hildreth pasture.

This is an old picture of the other side of the fieldstone wall near the watering trough. Stanley Hildreth engineered a system to bring water to town center and his home from the reservoir on Bolton Road. This same water supply would have provided water for the trough as well.

(courtesy of the Harvard Historical Society)



. Another trough is at the Harvard Historical Society.
It would have been used when the building was the Baptist Church.
Now it too is a planter.

Both planters are cared for by the Civic Beautification Team.

Nancy Gasser is taking excellent care of the Historical Society trough.

Kathy Jackson and MaryAnn Piasecki keep the Ayer trough beautiful all year round.

In Our Gardens



*"Rocky" sits on the stump
of the Japanese maple we had cut down last spring.*



*This summer avocado pits sprouted in my compost.
Just couldn't let them succumb to winter.*

Phillys Clawson



*Surprise!
My Thanksgiving
hellebore surprise
and a cute little new
pet in a bluebird box.*

Maria Day



Officers for 2021-2022

President: MaryAnn Piasecki
Vice President: Jessie Panek
Secretary: Stephanie Hooper
Treasurer: Pauline Carroll

Committee Chairs

Historian: Carlene Phillips
Hospitality: Pending Covid Restrictions
Membership: AnaMaria Nanra
Newsletter: Marijke Vallaey
Nominating: Margaret Murphy, Janice Rusiecki
Programs: Margaret Murphy, Janice Rusiecki
Publicity: Marty Green

Projects

Annual Luncheon: Maria Day
Civic Beautification: Kathy Jackson Garden
GardenTherapy: Janice Rusiecki
Garden Tour: Sarah Tate, Suzan Osborn
Graduation Flowers: Kathy Hewett
Holiday Greens Workshop: Deborah Dowson, Denyse Cox
Horticulture: Connie Grabowy
Library Books: Helen Berry
Book Discussion Group: Helen Berry
Library and Meeting Flowers: Mary Jane Ellison
Nature Trails: Pam Durrant
Plant Sale: Claudia Wesley and Bill Loehfelm
Webmaster: Betsy Howard
Yearbook: Marijke Vallaey
Bloom N Art: Marijke Vallaey, AnaMaria Nanra