



NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE 05

Monday, February 24
Gardening Will Kill You
Speaker: Neal Sanders

Back by popular demand, and a treat for those who have not heard him before, Neal will present yet another chapter of his experiences as the spouse of an avid gardener. Filled with anecdotes and “drawn from real-life humor,” Neal will explain, “How rock walls consume all available building material,” and “Why Slinkies won’t stop squirrels from raiding your bird feeder.”

We welcome the members of the Harvard Woman’s Club to join us for this entertaining presentation. Neal will have his unique and delightful mystery books available for sale.

Hospitality Chair : Fran Maiore

Rosemary McKeever
Maria Day
Carlene Phillips
Pat Cooper
Abby Besse
Denyse Cox
Maribeth Marcello

Library Flowers for March

March 2: Nancy Gasser
March 9:
March 16: Anni McCoy
March 23: Pam Marston
March 30: Phyllis Clawson



President's Ponderings

Margaret Murphy

We hope that groundhog was right! Today is another grim gray day awash in ice and slush, a bit of a harbinger of our much awaited spring season. In the meantime flowers give good cheer. Worcester Art Museum's Flora in Winter was marvelous, and Tower Hill's orchid graffiti show provocative. All of these inspire arrangers including our own team of BLOOM N ART arrangers. The artwork images came, the arrangers browsed and chose, and matchmaker Deb Dowson worked her usual magic in pairing art and arrangers. The next step is the first workshop looking at various pairs of art and floral designs, complimenting and critiquing them while developing a guiding set of principles that facilitate the floral design plan and its implementation. This will occur right after our next General Meeting concludes on Monday February 24th – all are welcome!

Our last Board meeting occurred this past Monday. Thankfully, our hostess (the gracious Stephie Hooper) had heat, light, and water, and patiently hosted a delayed start of the meeting! Thank you, Stephie! Of course, we did discover a few improvement opportunities, the easiest to remedy being an incomplete set of cell phone numbers. If you have not done so, please consider sharing your cell number with AnaMaria Nanra. Also please make sure we have your email – we did send out a message, which would have been accessible to those with smart phones. Plus, if this list is improved, it may help to ward off future disaster type challenges.:-)

Visit our website: <https://www.harvardgardenclub.org>
Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GardenClubofHarvard/>

January Program

Info: Theresa Ledoux, Maria Walton, Maribeth Marcello



On January 27, 2020, Jana Milbocker took us on a Garden Tour.

Her beautiful slides and lecture invited us to explore outstanding gardens and nurseries in the six states of New England.

In the picture she and Margaret Murphy show us the two books Jana published, the first in 2018, the last one in 2020.

“The Garden Tourist: 120 Destination Gardens and Nurseries in the Northeast”

“The Garden Tourist’s New England
A Guide to 140 Outstanding Gardens and Nurseries”

Conservation Land Walks with Pam Durrant

On the walk in Bowers Springs, we took a picture next to an interesting rock formation. Shown here are Pam with Carole Herbin and Judy Warner.

Two weeks later Pam went with Kathy Jackson, Maria Day and Jessie Panek to Prospect Hill. Sorry, no pictures here.

Pictures by Marijke Vallaeys



Bloom N Art: March,14-15-16

Info: AnaMaria Nanra and Marijke Vallaey

When Deb Dowson sent the artwork out on January 31st 23 arrangers made their five choices and from that day on we were impatiently waiting for OUR assigned piece. When it arrived in February the fun began: “How can I make a flower arrangement that represents the spirit and the ideas the students had when creating their art.” And more practically “What flowers can I use? “Colors?”

From that day on the arrangers live with the art for at least a month and I can assure you that the artwork stays with them long after the exhibit of Bloom N Art.

We feel so grateful to Shirley Boudreau for starting Bloom N Art. Not only does it give us, arrangers, so much satisfaction but it also gives joy to the students, their teachers and the Harvard community.

Latest update: One arranger dropped out but was immediately replaced by three others and we are happy to say that 25 students will have their work shown at the exhibit.

Deb Dowson has finished the matching magic, but she keeps involved in designing the poster and other publicity material. Here Theresa Ledoux is the HGC leading force, closely working together with the Bromfield art teachers Cindy Fontaine, Elizabeth Hoorneman and Cindy Harris.

Save the dates:

- “How To” workshop organized by Margaret Murphy: **February 24 at St. Theresa immediately after the general meeting**
- Workshop organized by Barbara Heim: **March 4, 10:00am at Friendly Crossways**
- **Friday March 13, 10:00am:** workshop to finalize our arrangement.
- **Saturday March 14, Sunday March 15 and Monday March 16: BLOOM N ART**

Hort Corner

Info: Connie Grabowy



I've included copies of 2 tables from the book I showed you at the last meeting "Forcing, etc." by Katherine Whiteside. One titled "Potting and Cooling Chart for Hardy Bulbs" includes a column about a "cooling light period" used when you first remove bulbs from dark cold. I am not particular about that transition time and will just place pots away from direct sun until they start to green up and then put them on display. The

second is titled "Branch-Forcing (zone 5 conditions)". I cut branches when temperature is above freezing. The chart gives an idea of bloom time after bringing in cuttings. A more extensive list of possible cutting material can be found in "Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia". The PJM rhododendron that I cut 4 weeks ago is now blooming. I have a lot of fun with this activity. I went out and cut a branch of Mock Orange just to see what happens. All my branches are placed in north facing window over kitchen sink so I can observe daily progress,

In the bouquet I brought in last meeting someone pointed out the ruscus had a flower bud on the surface of a "leaf". That seemed odd to me so I did a little research and found that those "leaves" were in fact modified stems. These flattened modified stems are called cladodes. I would expect to see floral buds along plant stems.

I am starting to think about starting some seeds. If I plant too early I risk having to transplant out of six packs into individual pots and I don't want to do that. I plan on last frost around Memorial Day. I know that is wicked conservative. Most seed packets give info on timing of germinating seeds inside to get an early start. It's hard to wait but experience has taught me to follow those directions.

Branch-forcing Timetable (zone 5 conditions)

Shrub	Blooms when cut at end of January	Blooms when cut in mid March
Forsythia	Third week of February	Last week of March
Witch Hazel	Mid-February	Blooming outside
Redbud	Early March	End of March
White Forsythia	Late February	Third week of March
Spirea	Early March	First week of April
Pussy Willow	Mid-February	Blooming outside
Bittersweet	Mid-March	End of March
Wild Cherry	Mid-February	End of March
Staghorn Sumac	Late February	End of March
Pieris	End of February	Third week of March
Fruit Trees	Early March	End of March
Maple	End of February	End of March
Weeping Willow	End of February	End of March

Potting and Cooling Chart for Hardy Bulbs

Bulb	Potting depth	Cold, dark period	Cool, light period
Crocus	1 inch deep	10 – 12 weeks	2 – 3 weeks
Hyacinth	Top of bulbs out	12 – 15 weeks	2 – 3 weeks
Narcissus (hardy)	1 inch deep	12 – 15 weeks	2 – 4 weeks
Tulip	Top of bulbs out	14 – 16 weeks	2 – 4 weeks
Iris	½ inch deep	12 – 15 weeks	2 – 3 weeks
Scilla	1 inch deep	10 – 12 weeks	2 – 4 weeks
Puschkinia	1 inch deep	10 – 12 weeks	2 – 3 weeks

Library Flowers

Info: Kathleen Turnbull



Kathleen Turnbull



Lindsay Burke



*Kathy Hewett's 2 arrangements
The horse was a favorite in the
Children's Room*



Members share

These plants are good for a person's health:

1. **Peace Lilies** "they help to purify air, removing toxins such as trichloroethylene, found in paint and varnish."
2. **Orchids** "these are good gifts for hospital patients. Seeing plants during recovery can reduce pain and anxiety."
3. **Rosemary** "the scent of this herb may assist with memory by increasing a neurotransmitter called acetylcholine."
4. **Lavender** "Grow this plant in your bedroom, as it's said to improve sleep quality and promote relaxation."
5. **Spider plants** "These hardy plants can help to remove formaldehyde from your home's air."

(From Stephanie Hooper - AARP December, 2019 magazine)

Bird of Paradise
in Mary Maxwell's daughter's garden
Big Pine Key, FL



*Some plants are invasive and crowd out native species!
'The town of Groton MA Invasive Species Committee'
has created flyers*

INVASION ALERT! ***Multiflora Rose***



You will find info online about

[Black Swallowwort](#)
[Asian Bittersweet](#)
[Japanese Knotweed](#)
[Burning Bush](#)
[Japanese Bayberry](#)
[Multiflora Rose](#)