



NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
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President Ponderings

I promise that the PP (president's ponderings) will never talk about things that start with a "P" (pandemic, presidential politics and plants plagued by pests).



Have you noticed how wonderful the Hydrangea shrubs are blooming this year? The amount of hydrangea blooms can be determined by how and when you prune but also the weather. A gardening friend on the Cape once told me that it's not about the summer weather that affects the blooms, it's the winter weather. If we have a mild winter or one where the temperatures don't fluctuate the buds on the plants produced in the fall will survive. Hence living

near the ocean, which can provide less temperature fluctuations, will produce more consistent blooming hydrangeas. Maybe with global warming Harvard might someday be closer to the ocean.

Oops.

MaryAnn Piasecki

Business news update:

The 2020-2021 budget has been approved and passed unanimously.

Officers for 2020-2021

President	MaryAnn Piasecki, 978-844-1958
Vice President	Jessie Panek, 978-430-2238
Recording Secretary	Abby Besse 978-456-3025
Treasurer	Pauline Carroll, 978-456-8837

Committee Chairs

Corresponding Secretary	Stephanie Hooper
Historian	Carlene Phillips
Hospitality	Carol Hartman
Membership	AnaMaria Nanra
Newsletter	Marijke Vallaeys
Nominating	Margaret Murphy & Janice Rusiecki
Programs	Theresa Ledoux, Maria Walton & 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 Vallaeys
Bloom N Art	Marijke Vallaeys & AnaMaria Nanra



President MaryAnn Piasecki

Save our trees and stone walls by Carl Sciple

On Tuesday July 7 Marijke attended the Zoom Conservation Coffee

"A group of Conservation-oriented people meet once a month for an hour. Many ideas and community initiatives are discussed but first one I'll highlight deals with saving our mature, big, developed and full-grown trees. Why save them? They typically have a wonderful overstory providing shade and shelter for wildlife. Big mature trees encourage growth of similar trees, an ever-expanding family of trees, in their immediate area. They help to reduce the effects of climate change by holding carbon in their bodies and not releasing it to the atmosphere.

These Conservation-oriented people are encouraging people to cut down from these old mature trees on their private property, Bittersweet, Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper. It's best to cut them where they emerge from the ground, usually near the tree trunk. Also, since some people are allergic to Poison Ivy, it's best to wear clothes covering your whole body; long sleeve shirt; trousers, not shorts; gloves with cut off socks covering your wrists (cut a thumb hole near the end of your cut off socks, so your thumbs can stabilize them on your wrists); and covered on one end by your long sleeved shirt and on the other by your gloves). When you finish your removal work, wash your hands in cold water with soap. The cold water will keep your pores closed and the soapy water will wash the away the moisture from the Poison Ivy which could cause an itchy reaction."

"If you have stone walls on your property, you might want to remove poison ivy, bittersweet, Virginia creeper, burning bush from those stone walls to enable you and any people who pass by to see the beauty of those old walls."

Civic Beautification



*Whoever planted this on Old Shirley Rd.
Thanks*



Mary Ann Piasecki,
taking care of the plantings on Ayer Road



*We all made this happen and Scott (General Store) is very grateful.
Thank you all for your labor and plant contributions. (Kathy Jackson)*

Hear hear! Plus extra thank yous for Kathy's organization. Here's what the barrels looked like on opening day. Excellent considering the plants had no recovery time & the direct sun was hot all day.

*Still, good work everybody.
Kathy Hewett (who sent the picture)*

Meg Bagdonas a former Garden Club member shared her favorite blueberry cake

A recipe from Joan Dillard, Garden Club president 1987-1989

Joan Dillard's Very Blueberry Cake

1 cup sugar

1/3 cup butter

2 eggs, well beaten

1/2 cup sour cream – not commercial, but real cream that is soured with lemon juice or that has gone off.

1 tsp salt

1 tsp soda

2 cups all-purpose flour

3/4 to 1 quart of blueberries

Ground nutmeg



Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Prepare a 9" x 13" x 2" baking pan by greasing with butter and dusting with flour.

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar together.

Add well beaten eggs, salt, flour and sour cream in which soda has just been mixed.

Fold in berries.

Pour batter into pan and sprinkle fresh nutmeg over the top.

Bake 20 minutes and then reduce heat to 350 degrees for 25 minutes more.

The cake is done when a toothpick comes out clean after being inserted into the center of the cake.

Best served warm but great any time.

Picture by MVO at Mary Helan Vesenka Turners blueberry garden

A woodchuck story

Hi, fellow gardeners,



We have been asking the wrong question all these years.

It's not how much wood would a woodchuck chuck. It's how much sand!

This particular chuck chucked half a barrow full under my hosta plants. And the sand does not come from under that bed, but from under the deck at least 10 feet away. So somewhere there is a nice, long tunnel, waiting to cave in.

I hope this is the work of the woodchuck we recently assisted into a well-deserved retirement.
Marty Green

Nashua River in the Groton State Forest.



Spectacular views of nature untrodden, water lilies and the pretty blue native water plant Pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*). It almost looks invasive here but oh such beautiful blues and greens.

About a dozen ducks flew out of the plants as my dog made noises they didn't like.

Maria Day

The summer garden during the Covid-19 pandemic



*Pat Jennings:
“Clematis Made It
Through The Winter”*

*And:
“After the first
came a second
blooming!”*



Virtual Garden Tours, summer 2020



Entering the MaryAnn Piasecki garden



*The beauty of Theresa Ledoux's
wild flower meadow*

Hydrangeas and other beauties



Carol Hartman's Invincibelle Ruby

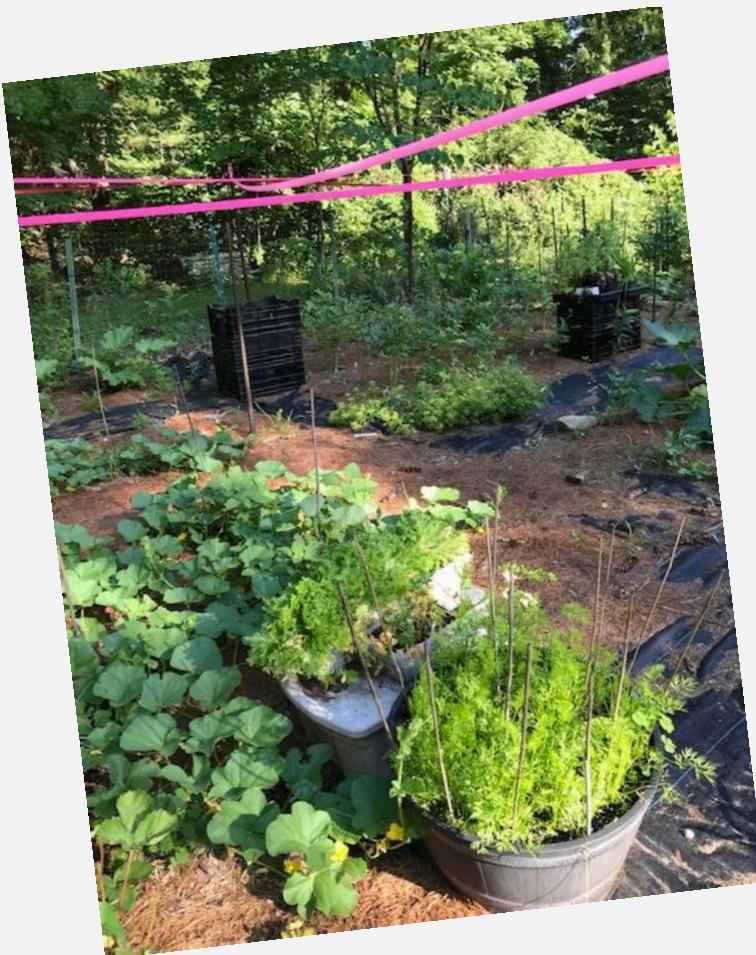


Margaret Murphy's confused hydrangea



Carol Hartman's Bengal Tiger canna with Lily

Veggies in pots



What a year to try growing vegetables in pots.

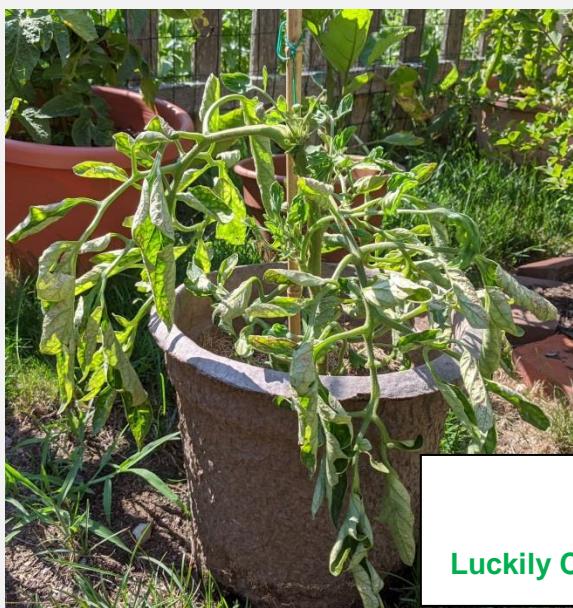
So much watering.

But also deer!

The criss crossed surveying tape is to discourage them from jumping the fence.

And on that photo, if you look closely, there are vertical bamboo stakes in an earlier planting of carrots which were pruned by deer.

Barbara Heim



Marijke learned the hard way: tomatoes and pots
don't go well together!

Luckily Charlotte's tomatoes are quite happy, planted deep in the soil

Into the garden of Kathy Jackson

These are her two new favorite flowers:

Photo 1 is a Proven Winner Dwarf Morning Glory, Blue My Mind



Photos 2 and 3 are Erodium x varialble Bishops's Form

