



Nurture Nature

Monday Memo

February 5, 2024

Hello Everyone,

Save the date! Thursday, June 13, 2024 is the day of our **97th GCFM Annual Conference** which will take place at the Doubletree Hotel on 132 Old River Road, Andover, MA. Please place this in your newsletters, on your website and however else you communicate with your members. Please get the word out there. We did a site visit on Friday and we are putting more structure into the registration form to be posted soon. I am encouraging every club president to attend as well as other Board and club members. It will be a good experience and engaging conference. More details to follow.

If your eyes are seeing a new look and feel about things on our website, they are not deceiving you. Lots of exciting changes have been happening and I hope you will enjoy the ease of navigating on it. The district map has been posted and I think you will have a lot of fun poking around on that page. Your districts are like a pop out on the map of Massachusetts. You will find your garden club listed in the state of Massachusetts database of cities and towns. It's an exciting advanced feature that is pretty nifty to use. We have a search button on the page for anyone new visiting our website to find out if there is a garden club in their town. Very handy for visitors but also a great search for current members who might want to join a neighboring garden club in addition to their own. [Check it out!](#) Please feel free to send me your feedback and of course, if you find something that might need an edit.

The New England Region newsletter, [Northern Exposure](#), was issued last week. I have embedded the link for your convenience. Please pay attention to the opportunity you have to get a **New England Region Award** on page 17. Pages 24 - 26 list the NEGC calendar of events, schools, trips, etc. Each state president has written about the 'goings on' in their state as well. Lots to read there.

GCFM is offering a field trip to the [Rose Bowl Parade 2024!](#) Please read the flier for details.

The NGC Path to Success! At the GCFM Board of Directors meeting on 2/1/2024, it was voted in favor of having the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. purchase a state paver for \$500 to support the walking path at NGC's Headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. Their property abuts the beautiful Botanical Gardens and oftentimes visitors to the Botanical Garden wander onto Headquarters property, which, by the way, is also exquisitely landscaped. NGC thought it would be a nice idea to create a pathway around their property and have the pavers engraved with all of the state names and affiliated garden clubs. They encouraged the states to participate and the Federation of MA would like to support this effort. Any state garden club across the country can also participate for \$250 per garden club paver. The paver would have your garden club title engraved on the stone and it would surround the MA state paver in the order they are received at NGC. No club is under any obligation to participate. I have included the link so you can read more details about the project and decide for yourselves. The deadline for this is 11/26/2024. After that date, no other participants will be eligible. [PAVERS](#)

Also at the Board of Directors meeting, Maria Bartlett, our Environmental Chairperson, asked the Board to support a Bill called **An Act Establishing the Municipal Reforestation Program**. The purpose of this bill is to expand the tree canopy in Massachusetts municipalities, prioritizing the use of native trees. This program will enable MA to:

- plant trees and provide jobs for youth in all MA cities and towns, prioritizing Environmental Justice communities
- improve public health and climate adaptation and mitigation
- increase biodiversity and habitat.

It also includes a proposal to grow native trees from seed in Massachusetts to make more of them available for municipal planting. This would provide trees that are already acclimated to local conditions in order to increase climate resilience and biodiversity. The Board voted to send a letter supporting this bill to the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. We will let you know how the bill progresses.

Municipal Reforestation Program

Two page fact sheet:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LMVB_Df3hk3gMVkIdUMosIJQNFnOPC2U/view?usp=sharing

The entire bill:

<https://legiscan.com/MA/text/S452/id/2737089/Massachusetts-2023-S452-Introduced.pdf>

Enjoy each day.



Marjorie Dienhart
GCFM President

In the depths of winter, remember that the first frost-laden is a step closer to spring's gentle thaw. -Garden Tabs