



About me: I am the author of 14 mysteries, most of which use garden club settings or horticultural plots. I write 'The Principal Undergardener' blog, which addresses gardening as a non-gardener who loves gardens. Adaptations of these essays can be found monthly in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's *Leaflet* magazine. Also, for three years, I ran Mass Hort's activities at the Boston Flower & Garden Show, including the building

of a major landscape exhibit that is the subject of 'Flower Show Confidential'.

My Fee is \$150 if I have the opportunity to sell books (I give 10% of sales back to sponsoring non-profit organizations). If no book sales are permitted at a venue, my fee is commensurately higher. No travel fee if you are within an hour's drive (roughly 35 miles) of Medfield; \$25 fee up to 75 miles; negotiable thereafter. If my fee seems suspiciously low, it's because my goal is to attract new readers to my writings.

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"I've received so much positive feedback from our garden club members, as well as from the Harvard Women's Club with which we had our joint meeting for 'Gardening Will Kill You'. Your presentation was exactly what we hoped for. You nailed it!"

Theresa LeDoux
 Harvard (MA) Garden Club

Programs by Neal Sanders 2020-2021

Gardening Is Murder

A laugh-out-loud presentation on gardening

Gardening Will Kill You

More hilarious stories drawn from my gardening escapades

Flower Show Confidential

Behind the scenes as a major flower show landscape exhibit is built

Strong Independent Women

The source of the inspiration for my books, told humorously

She Said / He Said

Presented with my spouse, Betty Sanders, a four-decade-long walk through changing garden trends

Murder with a Smile

Why murder, laughter, and a believable plot are not mutually exclusive

'Gardening Is Murder' has been presented to more than 400 organizations since 2014. It is a 'spouse's point of view' of gardening and is filled with humor and insight from someone who gardens less from



an abiding love of horticulture than for the love of a spouse. Good horticultural advice is dispensed, bad advice is debunked. Your members will leave with a better appreciation of what is going on in the mind of their helpmates. The talk is adapted from my widely read blog, 'The Principal Undergardener'.

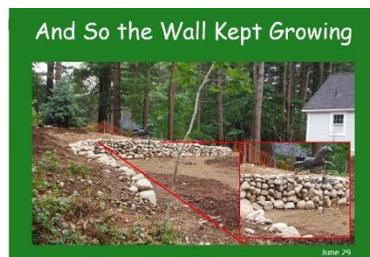
Some of the topics I cover include:

- Why so much gardening advice on the internet is awful
- Why you *never* compute the value of your gardening labor
- Proof that wildlife don't watch Walt Disney movies
- Why it requires digging three holes to plant one thing

Comments from those who have seen my talk are uniformly enthusiastic. "Our members see themselves" is a consistent theme. This is an ideal program for 'spouse night' and member recruitment.

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If your organization enjoyed hearing 'Gardening Is Murder', then they'll love **'Gardening Will Kill You'**. Continually updated, it is in the same format and mines the same rich vein of gardening as a source of 'drawn-from-real-life' humor.



I cover revelations such as 'rock walls grow to consume all available building material'. I provide reasons why you should never hesitate to pay a delivery charge for trees or 'enable' a gardener; why Slinkys won't stop squirrels from raiding your feeder, and why giving a flower show ticket to a gardener can injure your back.

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'Flower Show Confidential' takes an audience from the inception of a major flower show exhibit (ten months before the event) and into the intense, three-and-a-half-day 'build'. Not just a dry recitation of facts, it's an eye-opening look at the meticulous planning that go into every aspect of an exhibit, such as showing how plants are 'forced' to be at the peak of perfection on a certain day. It is also a story of the volunteers



who give hundreds of hours to ensure every detail is correct, and every plant groomed to perfection.

This richly illustrated talk centers on the building of a 1200-square-foot Massachusetts Horticultural Society exhibit at the Boston Flower & Garden Show. By

the close of the presentation, the audience will feel like they helped build the exhibit – but without the aches and pains.

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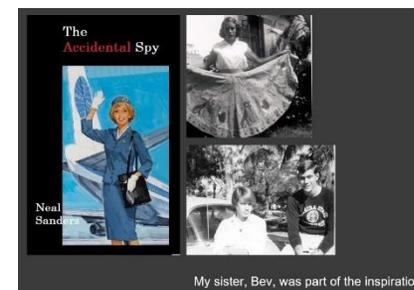
"He Said/She Said" is a program I do with Betty Sanders, a noted gardening lecturer who happens to be my wife. It is a talk about gardening through more than four decades and eight gardens in five states. The talk is very personal and very funny. Special pricing applies.

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I also have two talks about books and how I came to write 14 mysteries.

'Strong Independent Women' describes how my background shaped my writing subjects. I speak about the writing process; especially about the 'aha' moments that inspire a book.

'Murder with a Smile' discusses how to write a humorous mystery that doesn't also demand suspension of disbelief. I dissect some of my own books to explain how laughter, murder, and a good plot are not mutually incompatible.



These last two talks are not garden club talks, but have found resonance at libraries, Councils on Aging, and civic groups. While never wandering too far away from the subject of writing and inspirations, the talks are laced with humor.

All presentations are approximately 45 minutes in length and are richly illustrated.

"Our members laughed until their sides hurt. No one had ever heard a gardening lecture like this one ('Gardening Is Murder')! Does your talk 'translate' beyond New England? Absolutely!"

Teresa Walker, Kentucky Garden Clubs Inc.