



**Elizabeth (Betty) Sanders**  
**47<sup>th</sup> GCFM President**  
**2015-2017**  
***"Growing Together"***  
**178 clubs – 11,147 members**



New England Regional Symposium and New England Regional meeting were held in Milford, MA. Eleven college scholarships were given out each year. GCFM clubs won eleven NGC awards and thirteen NER awards. Schools were held each year in judging, environment, gardening and landscape design.

Workshops were held to increase knowledge for club members. A one day Civic Development workshop was held in March to help garden club members with their civic projects. Two other civic workshops were held in March as well. Suzanne Mahler spoke on what we can learn from public garden spaces and how we can apply those lessons in our own communities. Kerry Ann Mendez spoke on "Tough Roadside Plants." There was a one day environmental workshop to introduce garden club members to specific environmental issues and solutions. Two program workshops were held; one at Elm Bank and another at Tower Hill to let clubs speak with possibly program speakers. The Horticulture Morning workshop offered three programs each year on various horticulture topics for anyone for free.

Interest in floral design was encouraged with the Wallack Lecture and designer J, Schwanke. Design Morning and Back to Basics offered three workshops each year on floral design for a small fee. There were 10 major flower shows over the two years and clubs participated in the MFA "Art in Bloom" and Mass Hort's "Festival of Trees." The Natalie Wolfe Forum was held at an annual meeting and designers interpreted a painting and other floral design programs were held at the fall and spring state meetings.

At the two state meetings each year, three workshops were given on topics ranging from garden therapy, working with youth, social media, photography, club finances, and gardening topics such as shade, container and pollinator gardening. Speakers at the meeting gave information on native plants, pollinators, fabulous foliage and a naturalistic approach to gardening. Around 200 people attended each meeting.