

HOW TO SUBMIT *MAYFLOWER* ARTICLES

Mayflower, the official quarterly news magazine of The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. (GCFM) All federated clubs are invited to submit short write-ups for this section. Typical topics include club speakers, anniversary celebrations, field trips, beautification projects, fundraisers, awards, etc.

This is a great way for you to celebrate your club's activities, recognize members' hard work, and inspire other garden clubs with your imaginative and successful programs and projects.

Keep your articles brief and try to add photos for interest.

- **SHORT:** No more than 50 words
- **Send to:** Emily Hooper Alston Her email is: [hooper\[dot\]es\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:hooper[dot]es[at]gmail[dot]com) (typed this way to prevent hacking)
- **TIMELY:** Please try to avoid writing about a spring happening for the winter *Mayflower* issue.
- **ACCURATE:** Please make sure that your club name is correct according to your bylaws (e.g., The Country Lane Garden Club...and not "Country Lane Garden Club"). If your event includes members' names, please double check spellings and include titles if any.
- **INTERESTING:**
 - Interesting: "The Happy Gardeners Club held a workshop on 'Making Herb Gifts' at the home of member Fennela Coriander, a former New England Herb Society president. Participants learned how to make herb-infused vinegars and herbal teas."
 - NOT interesting: "The XYZ Garden Club met on June 12 and enjoyed refreshments."

Here are the answers to a few frequently asked questions:

Q: When do I need to submit my club's articles?

A: Submit your articles to directly to Emily Hooper Alston [hooper\[dot\]es\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:hooper[dot]es[at]gmail[dot]com) by the dates shown below in **GREEN**.

Mayflower Issue	Deadline	Appear in <i>Mayflower</i>
Spring (Mar/Apr/May)	March 10	March
Summer (Jun/July/Aug)	June 10	June
Fall (Sept/Oct/Nov)	September 10	September
Winter (Dec/Jan/Feb)	December 5	December

Q: What **format** do I use?

A: Submissions can be sent via email in a MS Word document or Google doc. Images should be sent as separate JPEG files.

HOW TO SUBMIT Article for the *MAYFLOWER*

Q: Can I submit **photographs**?

A: Photos help bring interest to your article. Email digital photographs (jpegs) to Emily. If possible,

provide a caption, describing what is going on in the photo and listing the names of any club members. To ensure good reproduction of your photo, please try to send a high resolution image: either the original digital photograph or one that is at least 1000 x 1000 pixels. NOTE: For reasons of privacy, *Mayflower* will not publish photos of children unless the club provides us with written consent from the child's parent or guardian. That form is found on the Mayflower website page.

Q: Will my club's articles be **edited?** Is it certain to be **used?**

A: In most cases, the Mayflower Assistant Editor will re-work all submitted articles for length and writing style. If for any reason we cannot use your article or need to make major changes, you will be notified.

Q: What if I have a story that is **too long** for the Mayflower?

A: Send it to your District Director, and he/she will work with the *Mayflower* staff to see if it can be accommodated elsewhere in the magazine.

A HANDFUL OF EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENT "Articles" Short, in the Past, Timely, Accurate and Interesting

- **Falmouth Garden Club** worked with the Falmouth Historical Society to decorate Wicks House for their Colonial Christmas Program. Several club members visited local nursing homes and entertained residents with the sounds of the season.
- **Ipswich Garden Club** members participated in a tour of the Essex County Greenbelt Association, guided by Russ Cohen, author and foraging expert. The club also hosted Don Cheney, biology professor emeritus at Northeastern University, for a sobering preview of Ipswich's future as a coastal community in the age of global warming.
- In December, **The Nahant Garden Club** held a holiday celebration featuring seasonal music, a sing-along and a presentation on growing pineapples by member Suzanne Hamill. Member-donated centerpieces and amaryllis plants were auctioned off, with proceeds going to the club's scholarship fund. Members also contributed items for Toys for Tots and Teens.
- Speaker Bonnie Pedersen entertained **Springfield Garden Club** members with "Sailors' Valentines - A History, Demonstration, and Workshop." Participants learned about how 19th century sailors created sentimental gifts for their ladies using tiny seashells. Bonnie also displayed her own shell creations and taught club members how to make their own small shell flowers.
- **Wareham Garden Club** marched in the town's Veterans Day Parade, passing out red carnations and driving the car carrying WWII veteran Captain John Kelenosy, who gratefully accepted the thanks he received along the parade route.

How to Submit to Mayflower
November 2023