



*Nurture Nature*

## **Monday Memo**

September 18, 2023

Hello Everyone,

We have good news to share! Congratulations to all of the GCFM clubs who participated in the Penny Pines challenge last year. We came in 2nd place in the country! According to NGC's records GCFM had 161 donations equaling \$10,948 for the calendar year June 2022 - May 2023. We trailed behind Florida who made 213 donations equaling \$14,468. Hats off to Aparna Kumar for promoting this program and for her passion for this cause. We applaud her for her success in a well run program this past year. This year she is urging all clubs to participate by making at least one \$68 donation or more in the upcoming year. Let's make it happen!

More Congratulations are in order for our 2023-2024 Grant winners!

**Haverhill Garden Club winner of the Sandra Joyce Award of \$1000** to create an edible/medicinal avenue on the Haverhill Rail Trail. An innovative, educational project featuring many different types of plant material.

**Cohasset Garden Club winner of a \$1000 GCFM Grant** towards creating a garden with plantings appropriate to a residential garden of the era, featuring educational signage attained through research and identifying plants which would have helped to sustain a Cohasset family between 1810 – 1820.

**Fox Hill Garden Club of Westwood winner of a \$ 500 GCFM Grant** to improve the gardens around a transitional housing unit of a non-profit, A Family Promise MetroWest, with shrubs, perennials and containers on the patio with tomatoes and herbs.

**Falmouth Garden Club winner of a \$ 500 GCFM Grant** towards renovation of a Blue Star Memorial

By-way, a National Garden Club project to memorialize those who served and serve in the USA Armed Services. A star shaped garden with a professionally restored plaque creates an oasis of serenity.

We thank Chairperson, Leslie Frost, and her committee for their hard work and sincere efforts in taking all of the club applications under serious consideration. We also want to thank the many clubs who applied for grants. There were so many, which is wonderful. The Grant Committee is working on posting guidelines and a sample of a winning grant for clubs to see how one is written up and how points are awarded in each category. Although each club and town has a different scenario for why they are requesting a grant, an overall model may help understand the basic requirements necessary for consideration. Please look for that in the spring on our website.

The Executive Officers of GCFM have hit the road traveling across the state to visit the various districts. We just completed our tour of the Southeastern and South Shore districts hosted by Donna Garrabrant and Cindy Dunn, the respective District Directors. The turnout was very good and the feedback has been excellent. We are heading up to Middlesex tomorrow, hosted by Susan Shealy, District Director, and we are looking forward to meeting the Presidents and Treasurers from that area of the state.

GCFM does not have Environmental School courses offered this year but NGC Environmental School Course 1 is being offered via Zoom on October 30-31, 2023. You can register at: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

Enjoy each day.



Marjorie Dienhart  
GCFM President

Despite all of our accomplishments, we owe our existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains. -Grow Food Not Lawns