

Mayflower

The Newsletter of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts



December 2021

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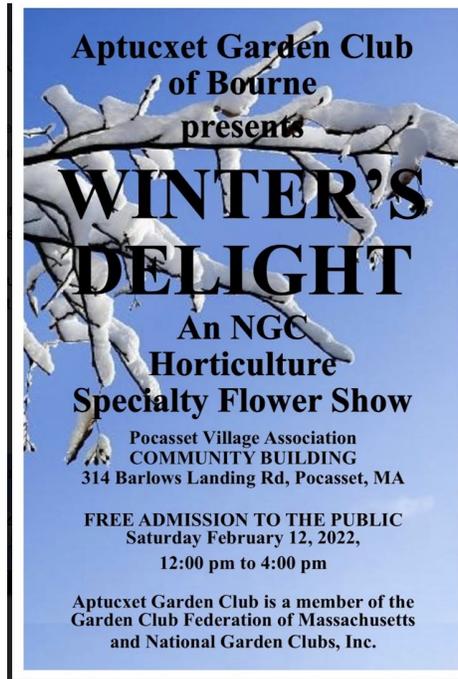
Please forward this to your membership.



Looking Ahead

- [Flower Show School Course II](#) will be held April 12-14 at the Double Tree by Hilton 11 Beaver Street Milford. To register, email Ruth Gorman at ruth.gorman3@gmail.com.
- **Aptuxet Garden Club of Bourne** 2022 Horticulture Specialty Flower Show (FREE) Feb 12. 314 Barlows Landing Road, Pocasset 12-4pm [Winter's Delight NGC Horticulture Specialty Flower Show](#) Sat Feb 12
- [Connecticut Flower Show](#) February 24-27
- [Maine Flower Show](#) March 24-27
- [Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show](#) April 7-10
- [Art in Bloom](#), MFA, April 29- May 1
- [Boston Flower Show](#) March Date and Location TBD

- [Andover Garden Club Garden Tour](#) Sat Jun 11
- Save the Date Weston Garden Club Spring Tour June 4



The President's Letter

Dear Members,

We had the first snow of the season last night. It was a wind swirled snow with big flakes that looked so pretty and left little behind to deal with. Oh, if only all the coming snow storms would be that way.

This pretty little storm made me realize that the holidays are upon us. And unlike last year, we have the opportunity to be with friends and family and enjoy those warm relationships that make our lives so wonderful. I'd like to take a minute to thank all the people in the Federation that have made my life richer these past few months. I have a wonderful executive board and board of directors who make my life easier. Our district directors are an amazing team that have taken my theme of *Plant Together, Play Together, Grow Together* to their clubs. And I have special thanks to all the clubs who have invited me to their events. I am so amazed at the energy and creativity that these clubs have in keeping their garden clubs vital and fun. I wish you all happy holidays and a healthy new year.

I want to share with you a funny, wonderful thing that happened a few months ago. Lynn Norland, the Central North District Director, called me to ask what she should do with some embroidered quilt squares she had received from a friend. The friend is in a quilt group and a man donated the squares which he had found while cleaning out his wife's possessions. No name was given but the squares were all embroidered with the names of area garden clubs. There were 32 of them, from clubs all across the state. The only clue we had about them was the dates of 1985-1986 on a couple.

One thing I've learned as president is if you need a history lesson go to the past presidents. At our next board meeting I relayed the story and showed some photos of the squares. And of course, the mystery was solved thanks to Diane Bullock, Leslie Frost and Linda Jean Smith. In 1985, GCFM ran a fund-raising project. Every club in the state was invited to embroider a quilt square representing their club. A number of the squares were assembled into a quilt that was raffled off to benefit the scholarship fund. We are still digging in the archives to see if we can find out more

about the original quilt but the squares Lynn received were the unused ones from the original project. As you can see, they are lovely.

So the next question was what to do with these little pieces of history? The first step will be to send each club represented a photo of the square for their archives (see the photos below as examples). Then we decided to create a second quilt with the squares. Not sure if we will raffle it off or keep it for posterity, but either way you will all get an opportunity to see the final result. And if anyone reading this remembers the original quilt, please let me know. I'd love to find out where it went.

Best wishes to all of you and your families!

Jill Malcolm



Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury



Framingham Garden Club



Cohasset Garden Club

GCFM Board Members Receive MHS Honors

On November 4, 2021, Massachusetts Horticultural Society held its 119th Honorary Medals Dinner at Elm Bank. This continues a 190 year old tradition of awarding medals to individuals and organizations for their contributions to excellence in horticulture. Three honorees are GCFM present or past board members.

In the photo from left to right are: Penni Jenkins, Kathi Gariepy and Heidi Kost Gross.



Receiving a Silver Medal was Kathi Gariepy of the Attleboro Garden Club. Kathi has served on the Federation board in the past on the Youth Committee. Kathi is a Master Gardener and was a nursery school teacher. Mass Hort. is honoring her for 26 years of working with youth for them from leading tours at the New England Spring Flower Show, taking charge of Weezie's Garden at Elm Bank, teaching Junior Master Gardeners and teaching 500 programs to children on plants and seeds with the Plantmobile to name a few. She received the Silver Medal "in recognition of her many years of volunteering her varied talents to the Society."

Receiving Gold Medals were Heidi Kost-Gross and Penni Jenkins. Heidi is a former GCFM President (2011-2013) and a member of the Wellesley Garden Study Group. Heidi has been a member of Mass Hort. for 50 years and on the Board of Trustees, Overseers and Library. As Chair of the Library Committee, she provided guidance and advice on many projects. She traveled to Mass Hort.'s warehouse in Connecticut to go through material to create exhibits and

to preserve its collections. She received the Gold Medal for “decades of service to Mass Hort. and intense involvement in countless activities that benefit the organization and its members.”

Penni Jenkins has served the Federation as Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee. She is a member of the Beth Shalom and Norwood Evening Garden Clubs and is also a Master Gardener. For more than a decade she has been involved with Mass Hort.’s special events; Mass Market Place, the Gardeners’ Fair, Arts on the Green, Festival of Trees and the Honorary Medals dinner. She is an Overseer and a member of the Finance Committee. She was given the Gold Medal “in recognition of her longstanding dedication of time, energy and talents to MHS finances, operational programs and major events.”

GCFM is proud of the work and dedication of its members to all organizations.

by Linda Jean Smith

Garden Clubs at Work



The Wellesley House and Garden Club was setting up their Paper Flower tree for the Mass Horticultural Society Festival of Trees at Elm Bank when President Jill Malcolm walked in!

Cindy Jaczko, Jill Malcolm, Deanne Szeto, and Carrie Benet.



The **Groton Garden Club** began its year with a program featuring three members sharing their knowledge and expertise in Conservation, Pollinator Gardens, and Garden Design. Jodi Valenta presented the Surprising Story of Conservation in America, spotlighting the history of conservation and exploring how individual gardeners can make a positive impact. Alan Donald demonstrated how to create a pollinator oasis where there was once a patch of lawn. Lisa Theall discussed her colorful gardens and explained how to design beautiful planting areas. Photo: Jodi, Alan, Lisa

This fall, the **Garden Club of Concord** has kept up with our usual busy roster of public works:

maintaining three public garden sites, soliciting community grant applications, and planning for continued civic outreach during the Holidays. While our educational programming remains over Zoom, our membership has been especially interested in small social gatherings out of doors. From a visit to Tower Hill Botanical Garden and member-guided walks through Concord's many trails, to a session of apple picking and cider-making, we are finding creative ways to get together safely. Plans are in the works for an outdoor version of our annual party in December, and for winter walks on finer days until spring returns.



Keeping Orleans beautiful has become a semi-annual event of **the Nauset Garden Club**, the Orleans Improvement Association (OIA) and the Master Gardeners Association. It is an education event to demonstrate how invasive plants are affecting our environment. On September 29th, a large pile of invasive plant material was removed from the beautiful Village Green. In the fall the Nauset Garden Club was awarded \$1000 from the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. This award will be used for the improvement of the Orleans Village Green in the spring of 2022.

The Lyn Peabody Wildflower Garden at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster is a great example of the networking the Nauset Garden Club provides for the exchange and spread of new ideas and inspiration in our community. The Nauset Garden Club continues to work in this beautiful wildflower garden on Tuesdays throughout the growing season. Keeping our pollinators in mind, the “fall clean-up” was skipped. We will leave the leaves until spring- many pollinators overwinter in leaf matter.

Speaking of pollinators, the Nauset Garden Club initiated a new community focused effort in 2020, Pollinator Pathway Cape Cod (PPCC) -- [pollinator pathway](#). The steering committee (with garden club, community organization, and town government representation) launched a web page, designed a flyer and logos for distribution, determined demonstration garden locations in 2021, drafted a proposed resolution for possible adoption by participating towns, and developed a list of suggested native plants. The Orleans Conservation Commission has approved the attached resolution which will be presented to the Town of Orleans Select Board soon. In addition, the PPCC Steering Committee has just approved the attached list of native plants that you might find helpful as a resource. In September the PPCC was asked by the Orleans Pond Coalition to participate in the Celebrate Our Waters event in Orleans. As a result, the Nauset Garden Club volunteers offered a ‘Family Native Plant Potting Workshop’ on September 18th. About 86 native plants were potted up and sent home along with PPCC brochures. It was a fun active for young gardeners (youngest was about 2 years old) and older gardeners (oldest was a 105 year old).



The Waltham Garden Club had a very exciting start to the year. Our meetings are now being held at the historic Carriage House at Gore Place. It's an incredible venue and everyone is delighted. Our first presenter, Nancy D'Erocle, a former WGC President, gave us at tour of some tiny gardens found in and around the Gingerbread Houses in Martha's Vineyard. Everyone had a great time!

In late October, **Kalmia Garden Club** of Needham, held our fall clean-up of the two civic garden sites we maintain. The Anniversary Garden at the Needham Housing Authority's Chambers Street complex acknowledges Kalmia's 25th year in 1985. Our second, The Island Garden, was conceived and planted to honor Kalmia's 50th anniversary, which happened to coincide with Needham's town-wide Tercentennial celebration in 2011. Entering Needham Center from the east along Great Plain Avenue, it welcomes townspeople and visitors alike. Our civic outreach efforts also included providing fifteen table arrangements for the Council on Aging's Thanksgiving Luncheon.

The Aptucxet Garden Club of Bourne held meetings outside for September and October. Our first meeting was a tribute to one of our members Sally Zeghibe, where fellow member, Bobbie Lingard did a floral presentation. In October featured speaker Katherine Tracey of Avant Gardens lectured on 'What's not to love about succulents?' It was a fascinating demonstration of succulents in pumpkins. In November we held our annual fundraiser by selling 'opportunities' for us to decorate your house for the holiday with 5 different holiday arrangements from Boxwood trees to centerpieces.

It was a busy fall, as we continued the clean up of the many gardens the club maintains and held a Greens Sale at the Briggs House in Bourne Village on December 3rd and 4th.

The North Andover Garden Club continues to be very busy and active in town civic beautification projects. Some of them are coming to a close as winter approaches.

One of the endeavors accomplished this year was a joint venture with the Field Inspector of the North Andover Conservation Commission. Our goals were to remove overgrown garden beds at the Town Hall and replace with plantings that would attract pollinators, and set an example for local residents to copy. With help from some town employees, we



planted 250 echinacea, butterfly weed, rudbeckia, and little Blue Stem grasses. Signage was included in the beds that included links to information about what we were doing and how those interested could follow suit.



After we tackled the highly-successful pollinator beds, we then removed Hosta from other beds, enhanced the soil and then added plantings to add beauty and interest to the Town Hall entrance until covered in snow. Our work continues next year as we intend to add sod or low-maintenance ground cover to two additional beds sadly in need of some TLC. by Norma Lochmann

Pinefield Garden Club of Framingham celebrated the holiday season by holding a “hands on” creative workshop in early November. In preparation some members taught themselves to make wreath bases using grapevines vines from wisteria and bittersweet. (YouTube was our inexpensive instructor). The day of the workshop was a warm and sunny November afternoon enabling us to work both indoors and outdoors at long tables. Many beautiful wreaths of enormous variety were created, and members enjoyed the socializing that came along with this activity. It was enjoyable to have a daytime Saturday program, rather than our usual evening program.



The **House and Garden Club of Wellesley** works tirelessly to bring beauty to Wellesley's seven elementary schools.

In the photo, Katalin Brown planting in Schofield School's garden.



The **Garden Club of Norfolk** members have been preparing for their Winter Fundraiser – selling decorated sleds, and skis. Each item receives a handmade bow accent. Members also sold bows at the Lions Club tree sale the weekend after Thanksgiving.



Framingham Garden Club welcomed back in-person meetings in September with our annual Hort display where Members shared the bounties from their gardens! Members were also presented with ideas to ready their doorways and yards for 'Curating Curb Appeal', a drive-by of displays to spread



seasonal joy in the community. The club is also proud to be one of the local garden clubs invited to decorate the Wayside Inn in Sudbury. This year's theme is "On the Farm". Ten FGC members decorated the Ford Room with greens, garlands, and handmade ornaments.



On September 7, 2021, the **Northborough Garden Club** held an outdoor "Remembrance Meeting" in our Memorial Garden. The meeting honored 4 members who passed away in 2021. During the presentation each member's name was compared with a flower growing in the memorial garden and a reference was made to the meaning of that flower. The presentation was a wonderful way to remember those members we have lost.



At their November 2 meeting club members participated in a Journal workshop. The workshop was led by club members Dale Schofield and Sue Hogan. Using a wide variety of scrapbooking materials, members and guests made customized journals. These journals will be perfect for our garden to do lists, keeping tracking of plants, sketching garden designs, saving recipes and photos, and so much more.

The **Springfield Garden Club** held a garden tour titled "Springfield, City of



Gardens" on Saturday, August 21. The tour included 6 private home gardens and 2 public garden spaces. The public spaces included our ongoing projects at Forest Park as well as the gardens at the quadrangle on the grounds of the Springfield Museum.

It was a warm, sunny late summer day and we had an overwhelming number of visitors enjoying a variety of beautiful and late summer blooming gardens." Picture shows a member's garden.



Danvers Garden Club

The prestigious Georgia McHugh Award was given to Danvers Garden Club member, Debbie Stashis-Douglass, pictured in the center. The Georgia-McHugh Award is given annually to the novice with the highest point score in the design division at the Topsfield Fair.

This fall, **Hopkinton Garden Club** focused on getting back to in-person activities. In lieu of our Holiday Green Sale, a Workshop was held on Nov. 21 with refreshments and music, members enjoyed getting together to make holiday arrangements for their own homes. On Nov. 6, a tour at Tower Hill with lunch was enjoyed by many.

The **Southbridge Garden Club** initiated Wednesdays in the Garden, At the beginning of the summer, member Karen Ballou instituted "Wednesdays in the Garden," bi-monthly informal get-togethers during which attendees are invited to different members' homes to relax, enjoy conversation, and have an opportunity to explore the hostess's garden.



Club members also visited Wickham Park (pictured above) in Manchester, CT, Ragged Hill Orchard in West Brookfield and Oakholm Brewery in Brookfield. The Club held its annual luncheon meeting at Avellino's. In preparation for the annual Green Sale, the Club is sponsoring workshops on wreath making and bow making.

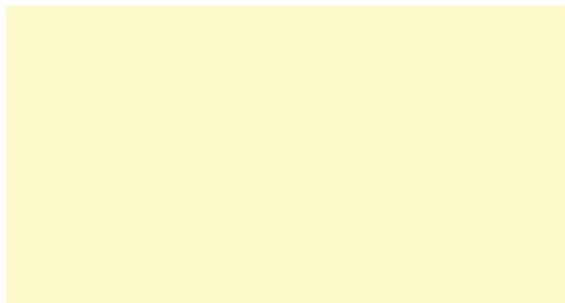
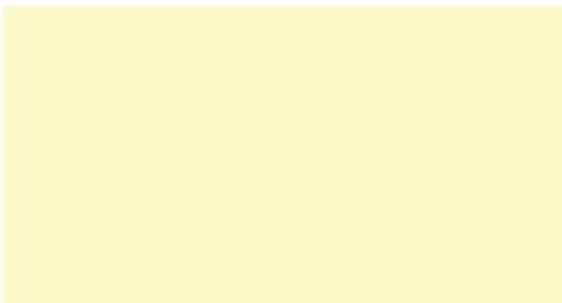


To help Holliston Historical Society celebrate the holidays, **Holliston Garden Club** members decorated the Society for their annual open house and held a holiday bazaar to benefit the club's activities roster. The house's festive setting welcomed visitors all afternoon on December 5th, showcasing the club's talented membership and helping the historical society spread good, old-fashioned holiday cheer.



The Burlington Garden Club hosted a welcome-back garden party; held a successful fundraiser; sold perennials from our gardens at the second annual plant auction; created a new perennial community garden; after a 21-month delay, held a well-attended in-person garden therapy session at a local retirement community, replanted the planters on the Town Common for the fall with mums, kale, and pumpkins, and just recently with greens, lights, and white branches for the winter. The first half of the year ended with our holiday greens workshop and get-together!

In addition to our usual activities, the **Weston Garden Club** has spent the past year collaborating with Weston Media to create educational programming that is available to all online ([videos](#)). As of early December, we have launched 16 episodes of **Cynthia's Garden and Flowers!** along with an **Introductory Video** about our garden club (westongardenclub.org). We are currently working to produce a video about our town's iconic watering trough which has been maintained with plantings from the Weston Garden Club for over 73 years as well as a series of short video teasers to announce our upcoming garden tour (June 4th, 2022). Feel free to enjoy!





As part of the 2021 annual Marblehead Christmas Walk, **Driftwood Garden Club of Marblehead** members helped decorate the historic King Hooper Mansion for the holidays. Built in 1728, DGC members decorated the mansion's Hendrick Gallery's fireplace, mantel, and windows with a Winter Woodlands interpretation of the "America The Beautiful" theme. Ginny Von Rueden and Laurie Boggis created and directed the installation of this festive winter design.



In October, Driftwood Garden Club of Marblehead members gathered for a "Putting Your Garden to Bed" demonstration led by member and landscape architect Kathy Bradford. We learned what to cut, what to save for visual interest, and what to leave for wildlife over the winter. In November, Deborah Trickett from the Captured Garden presented a talk on creating beautiful containers for the winter months. Members had the option to Zoom. Photo - Kathy Bradford.

The Garden Club of Harvard held their annual holiday greens workshop on December 7th. Members created flower arrangements to share with the shut-in community a little bit of green holiday cheer. This year's event was held outdoors and in a large open room indoors.



Every newsletter will feature the doings of GCFM garden clubs. Please submit any events, workshops, field trips, community service, fundraisers that you would like to share with the wider GCFM community to joanminklei@gmail.com for inclusion in the Mayflower.

Topsfield Fair Flower Show RESULTS

Topsfield Fair Flower Show Day 1

Division II: Design

Section A: FAIR OF FACE

Class 1: LOVER'S FARE Table Artistry Award An informal Functional Table for two
1st -Debbie Stashis-Douglass, Danvers Garden Club

2nd -Joan Mason, Hamilton/Wenham GC

3rd - Cindy McEachern, Scituate Garden Club

HM - Julianna Kallas, Hamilton/Wenham GC

Class 2: A FAIR MORNING Table Artistry Award A Functional Breakfast Tray for One

1st - -Robin Kallfelz, Easton Garden Club

2nd - -Pat Lee, Bridgewater Garden Club

3rd - -Janice Todd, Community GC of Cohasset, Cohasset GC

HM -Kathy Hawes, Sharon Garden Club

Class 3: PICNIC---FAIR WITH Table Artistry Award NO CHANCE OF RAIN An Exhibition Table

1st - Ginger King, Scituate Garden Club

2nd - Lisa Pattinson, Community GC of Duxbury

3rd - Nancy Walke, Danvers Garden Club

HM - Abby Ann Lavoie, Arrangers of Marblehead & Winter Garden Club

Section B: FAIR ADVENTURE

Class 4: FAIR ELSA Designer's Choice Award A low profile design fit for a Queen

1st - Joan Pesola, Danvers Garden Club

2nd - Blanche Garone, Derry NH Garden Club

3rd -Julianna Kallas, Hamilton/Wenham GC

HM - Becky McKernan, Winter Garden Club of Marblehead

Class 5: IN PORT – FAIR HAVEN Designer's Choice Award An Angular Design

1st LuBeth Kummerle, Hamilton/Wenham GC

2nd Mariette Wooden, Community GC of Duxbury

3rd Fran Lucas, Peabody Garden Club

HM - Rita Delollis, Village GC of Andover

Class 6: LET'S GO TO THE FAIR Designer's Choice Award A design inspired by splendor of autumn

1st - Joanne Kennett, Hamilton/Wenham GC

2nd - Evie Fraser, Danvers Garden Club

3rd Lee MacNeil, North Reading Garden Club

HM - Pat Fleming, Hamilton/Wenham GC

Topsfield Fair Flower Show Day 2

Division II: Design

Section A: FAIR OF FACE

Class 1: LOVER'S FARE Table Artistry Award An informal Functional Table for two

1st - Suzanne McCance, Reading Garden Club

2nd Rita Delollis, Village G.C. of Andover

3rd Kirsten Alexander, Hamilton/Wenham GC

HM - Kim Edwards, Nahant Garden Club

Class 2: A FAIR MORNING Table Artistry Award A Functional Breakfast

Tray for One

1st - Jeanne Whitman, Hamilton/Wenham GC

2nd - Priscilla Curda, Danvers Garden Club

3rd - Nancy Donaldson, Arrangers of Marblehead, Hamilton/Wenham GC

HM - Terri Taskey Turner, Danvers Garden Club

Class 3: PICNIC---FAIR WITH Table Artistry Award NO CHANCE OF RAIN An Exhibition Table

1st - Judy Colburne, North Reading Garden Club

2nd - Fran Lucas, Peabody Garden Club

3rd - Susan Guest, Hamilton/Wenham G.C.

HM - Judy Morgan, East Wareham Garden Club

Section B: FAIR ADVENTURE

Class 4: FAIR ELSA Designer's Choice Award A low profile design fit for a Queen

1st - Suzanne McCance, Reading Garden Club

2nd Nancy Walke, Danvers Garden Club

3rd - Pat Fleming, Hamilton/Wenham GC

HM - Abby Ann Lavoie, Arrangers of Marblehead, Winter Garden Club

Class 5: IN PORT – FAIR HAVEN Designer's Choice Award An Angular Design

1st - Karren Cummings, Hamilton/Wenham G.C.

2nd - Fleur Hynes, Winchester Home and Garden Club

3rd - Kathy Leva, Lexington Field and G.C., Town and Country G.C. of Ipswich

HM Betty Anderson, Danvers Garden Club

Class 6: LET'S GO TO THE FAIR Designer's Choice Award A design inspired by splendor of autumn

1st - Carrie Podmostka, Danvers Garden Club

2nd - Kathy Leva, Lexington Field and G.C., Town and Country G.C. Of Ipswich

3rd - Cindy McEachern, Scituate Garden Club

HM - Pat Lee, Bridgewater Garden Club



LuBeth Kuemmerle Class 5
All its Fair
Blue Ribbon



Judy Colburne Class 4
Fair Elsa
Blue Ribbon



Ginger King Class 3
Fair with No Chance of Rain
Blue Ribbon

This fall has been particularly warm allowing many of the annuals planted for the summer to linger. Perhaps this was an opportunity to take a second look at our gardens in order to create more color for the fall. Below are some suggestions of plants that can tolerate cooling fall temperatures.

There are a number of summer blooming annuals that can stay blooming well in to fall both in the garden beds as well as in containers. Heliotrope, alyssum, begonias, coleus, impatiens, nasturtiums, snapdragons and zinnias along with sweet potato vine are all still blooming in my garden. I now check them every few days to see how they are doing and they are still showing lots of color. Perennials can also have an extended bloom time right in to fall. Among these are roses – surprisingly hardy, Dahlias that usually begin blooming the end of August and last well in to the fall. The perennial ‘Rozanne’ Geranium blooms all summer long and keeps on going until a hard frost. Sedum and Montauk Daisies are fall blooming and brighten the garden with lots of blooms.

Of course Chrysanthemums with their variety of colors can be dispersed around the garden in the fall to brighten entry ways and open spots in the otherwise fading landscape. Unless you wish to replant your Chrysanthemums after they fade in the still warm days, I like to wait until October to plant them when it is a bit cooler to extend the time for my flowers to bloom usually well in to November using this timeline. With a warming climate it is time to rethink what we plant in our gardens that will last well in to the fall for us all to continue to enjoy.

by House and Garden Club of Wellesley

Featured Native Plant: American Witch Hazel

Hamamelis virginiana

American witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) also known as Witch-hazel, American Witch-hazel, Common Witch-hazel, Winterbloom, Snapping Hazelnut, Striped Alder, Spotted Alder, Tobacco-wood, Water-witch is a deciduous shrub or small tree in the Hamamelidaceae family that is native to woodlands, forest margins and stream banks in eastern North America. The name comes from the Greek words *hama* meaning at same time and *melon* meaning apple or fruit in reference to the occurrence of both fruit and flowers at the same time on this shrub. It is a common component of the understory in forests throughout the eastern United States.



Fruits are greenish seed capsules that become woody with age and mature to light brown then split open in fall of the following year, exploding 1-2 black seeds for up to 30 feet. Lettuce-green, deciduous leaves up to 6” are oval with wavy margins and maintain a rich consistency into fall when they turn brilliant gold. Bark is smooth and gray.

To propagate, pick fruits from late August to September (nearly a year

American witch hazel grows 15 to 20 feet high by 15 to 20 wide. The large, crooked, spreading branches form an irregular, open crown. It is easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. However, the best flowering is in full sun where it is able to form a fuller, more symmetrical plant. It prefers moist, acidic, organically rich soils, but tolerates heavy clay soils. Avoid extremely dry situations. Remove suckers promptly to prevent colonial spread. Very little pruning is necessary, but if pruning is required prune in early spring.

One interesting characteristic of American witch hazel is that it produces both flowers and fruit in the fall, when stem-hugging clusters of spindly, fragrant, bright yellow flowers, each with four crinkly, ribbon-shaped petals, appear along the branches from October to December, usually after leaf drop but sometimes at the time of fall color. Fertilized flowers will form fruit over a long period extending through winter and into the following growing season.



after flowering) before they completely dry and snap open. Put closed capsules in a paper bag and, and as they dry, the seeds will pop out. Seeds can be stored in sealed, refrigerated containers or directly stratified over winter in moist sand and peat at 41 degrees. Seeds sown immediately after collection will be exposed to a period of warm temperatures to complete after-ripening. Pretreated seed must be double-stratified seed (Stratify at 86 degrees for 60 days followed by 41 degrees for 90 days.) Witch hazel can be layered from new wood.

Witch hazel serves as host to 68 species of butterflies and moths, is deer & rabbit resistant, and attracts birds & bees. It can be used in a shrub border, woodland garden or a screen or tall hedge. Witch-hazel oil has been used in medicines, eye-washes, after shave lotions and salves for soothing insect bites, burns and poison ivy rashes. The aromatic extract of leaves, twigs, and bark is used in mildly astringent toilet water. Commercial witch-hazel, an astringent liniment, is an alcohol extract of witch hazel bark. A myth of witchcraft held that a forked branch of witch-hazel could be used to locate underground water. First Nations used witch-hazel leaves for tea. There are no serious insect or disease problems. Occasional insect galls (small wasps) appear on the foliage. Japanese beetles may chew on the leaves in some areas.

by Linda Jean Smith

Important Forms and Links

- [GCFM Awards for 2021](#)
- Scholarship Winners - to come next issue
- [GCFM Scholarship Application](#) (due March 1)
- [GCFM State Awards Application](#)
- [Blue Star Memorial Information](#) - ornament [order form](#)
- [Presidents Pins Form](#)

- Club Insurance Information - to come

[Click Here for the main GCFM Website](#)

Tab-ulation 2021

By Margot Eckhert, Springfield Garden Club

The gardeners of Massachusetts have “pulled” through again this past year. This summer, over 60 pounds of pull-tabs were collected and delivered to the Shriner’s Hospital in Springfield, a new record.



For those of you new to the Pull-Tab Project, here is some background. Shriners Hospitals for Children, located throughout North America, have been serving children with complex and specialized healthcare needs since 1922. These include orthopedic and neuromuscular conditions and burn injuries to name just a few. As part of that commitment, all care and services are provided regardless of a family's ability to pay or insurance status. We are indeed fortunate to have a Shriners Hospital here in Springfield. To provide the care and research to accomplish its mission, the Shriner’s network has fundraisers and accepts donations. Aluminum pull-tabs are among the donations accepted.

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2021 Program Workshop Speakers' Gallery

Attention Program Chairs

Click the link below to access the 2021 Program Speakers Gallery on the GCFM website.

[Click here for the GCFM Speakers' Gallery](#)

Youth Poetry Contest

Dear Club President,

The GCFM Youth Poetry Committee invites your club to encourage participation in the 2021-2022 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Youth Poetry Contest. This year's theme, ***Sing with the Songbirds - Exploring the Glory of Nature***, offers an inspiring creative challenge for youth in Kindergarten through Ninth Grade to express their thoughts and feelings in poetry.

We appreciate any club efforts to spread the word to teachers, parents, grandparents and budding young writers. This contest is a project your club can do in your town to encourage care for nature and the environment. The details for this year's contest are attached. They are also available on the NGC website for Youth Contests. *The NGC Release Form for Publication and Website* is also attached for all youth under 18.

Winners at each grade level will be selected by the state committee. First place poems will be forwarded to the New England Regional Chairman. First place regional winning poems will then be submitted to National Garden Clubs. National winners will be announced in the spring and the poems will be printed in a booklet of winning poems.

All entries, once reviewed by your club to assure all criteria have been met, should be mailed to me by **Friday, January 14, 2022:**

Marisa McCoy, Youth Poetry Chairman
7 Parker Road
Wellesley MA 02482

For questions, please Email me at marisaflowers@comcast.net or you may text my cell: (781) 910-8423

Best wishes for many great poems from Massachusetts.

Marisa McCoy, Chairman
GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC
YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

New England Garden Club Annual Meeting Notes

On October 12th through 13th, several members of GCFM attended the New England Garden Club Annual Meeting in Wells, Maine. This meeting was a great opportunity to meet our counterparts in the other New England states.

The meeting included a small standard flower show with a "Country Fair" theme. Several members of the

Massachusetts delegation participated and made us proud both in floral design and horticulture. States also participated in Scarecrows on Parade. The amazing scarecrows were raffled off. Vana Nespor, president of the Springfield Garden club, created the scarecrow voted best in show (see photo above right). Vana's Husband Alfred Whitehouse also took high honors in the Horticulture division of the flower show for his magnificent Iris.



The keynote speaker was Drew Dumsch, Founder/President of The Ecology School, a non-profit environmental education program started in 1998., located in Saco, Maine, the school is an innovative school for students of all ages to learn by their natural inclinations—engaging all five senses to discover the inner workings of the world around them.

Our own Suzanne McCance, the new Regional Director for NEGC, presided over the business meeting on the second day. Included in the committee reports was the announcement of the 2022 Annual meeting which will be held in Manchester NH October 18-19. Attendees participated in a Photography Workshop presented by Arabella Dane of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, a nationally recognized photographer and judge. Several attendees had sent in their own photos and Arabella offered gentle advice on how they could have been improved. All of this article's photos were provided by Arabella.



Vana Nespor Design Entry



Jill Malcolm, Suzanne McCance, Diane Bullock, Penni Jenkins, Anne Webster, Carol Hartnet



Suzanne McCance, Drew Dumsch, Mary Warshauer, and outgoing New England Garden Club president, Suzanne



Diane Bullock Design Entry



Alfred Whitehouse Iris

National Garden Club News

MEMBERSHIP MONDAYS

is a new program launched by NGC to help clubs

LEARN, GROW, CONNECT, AND SERVE TOGETHER

We do this by bringing members together on the 2nd Monday of each month for a one-hour program. The first 15 minutes is a presentation on a club-related topic like recruitment, member retention, leadership, etc. After each presentation, we open the floor to our members for questions, suggestions and success stories. This is the real gem because clubs get to work out issues with each other by sharing information of what works and what doesn't.

The 3-Rs series started on November 8th and the first video and information can be found on our website at <https://www.gardenclub.org/member-resources> under the Member Resource Library.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

DECEMBER 13TH – HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, GARDEN CLUB STYLE -- a fun holiday celebration featuring clubs across the Americas decorating in local style and flavor.

JANUARY 10TH – 3-Rs:RETAIN GREAT MEMBERS – this workshop will focus on mentorship, member orientation, member education and the tried and true methods to keep members happy and engaged.

FEBRUARY 14th – 3-Rs:REVITALIZE YOUR CLUB – this workshop will focus on how to restore energy and enthusiasm within your club so that all members feel revitalized and new members are begging to join in the fun.

MARCH 14th – LEADERSHIP – this workshop with Robin Pokorski will focus on how to groom great leaders.

Space is limited to 500 but all workshops are recorded and posted on the Member Resource page of the website <https://www.gardenclub.org/member-resources>

Virtual Resources: Workshops and Programs Upcoming:

Starting January 2022 Workshop Wednesdays

Third Wednesday, every month. 10 and 2 PM EDT

30 Minutes, Novice and UP, skills.

Learn software skills: ZOOM, PowerPoint, CANVA, PDF's and more.

2022 PROGRAMS HOSTED BY President Mary Warshauer

SEE Next issue of KIT for dates, time.

The National Gardener magazine is published (online) quarterly.

To view current and past issues, or subscribe to this free publication, visit [The National Gardener](#) page.

A variety of gardening books are available to order through NGC's [ONLINE STORE](#).

The Native Plant Challenge



Native plant resources to check out:

[Hilltop Native Garden](#)
[Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary Gardens](#)
[Grow Native Massachusetts' Experts Videos](#)
[Native Plant Trust Online Classes](#)

Environmental Awareness Report

by Maria Bartlett

Holiday “Green” Ideas, a compilation of ideas for sustainable celebrating and gift giving, will be on the GCFM website. Use this link to check out all the terrific ideas: <https://www.gcfm.org/environmental-awareness>

COP26, the UN Glasgow Climate Change Conference, was held for 2 weeks in November to update commitments to the Paris Agreement to keep the increase of global warming below 1.5°C. Independent assessments agree progress has been made but not nearly enough. Let's take comfort in several steps forward:

- For the first time, reference was made to phasing down coal power and fossil fuel subsidies.
- Emphasis on halting and reversing forest loss and degradation.
- Passage of Global Methane Pledge to reduce methane emissions.
- Carbon credit tracking to counteract “green washing.”
- More \$ commitments from developed nations for loss and damage to developing nations.

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