

Volume VIII Summer 2023

Mayflower

The Newsletter of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts



June 2023

Please forward the *Mayflower*
to your club members -
they're counting on you!

** Looking Ahead **

July 19-21, 2023 - - **Southeast District Flower Show** at the Heritage Museums and Gardens, Sandwich MA

This is a wonderful flower show in its own right, but if you have never gone to the Heritage Museum, July is a perfect time. Hydrangeas and Daylilies galore.

August 18-22 2023 - **South Shore District Flower Show**, Marshfield Fair Grounds, Marshfield, MA

This show may still have some openings to do a design or bring horticulture from your garden. Check out the **Schedule** [here](#).

Sept 29, 2023 -Oct 9, 2023 - **Topsfield Fair Flower Show** Topsfield, MA
Another wonderful opportunity to challenge yourself in floral design or horticulture, or just a really nice show to visit. Check out the Fair **Website** and we'll keep you posted on the Flower Show Schedule.

The GCFM Grants deadline July 1, 2023

The **Grants deadline is July 1st**. To date, there is only one applicant. This is the last opportunity for clubs to participate. We will be giving out \$3000 this year: \$2000 from GCFM for a Civic or Historic project and \$1000 in a special grant to honor Sandra M. Joyce, former President for a special Civic project with emphasis on Horticulture.

Please contact Leslie Frost (978 475 8400) if you have any questions or need assistance or more detail. <https://www.gcfm.org/civic-development-grant>

GCFM Yearbook Awards

Winners for Yearbook Award

Left to right: Danvers Garden Club, Waltham Garden Club, GCFM President Jill Malcolm, Village Garden Club of Andover, and Boxford Village Garden Club.



District News

Central South District Salutes Its UNSUNG HEROES

What is an Unsung Hero?

Members, who are generous with their time, encourage others, and step forward to fill a job that is needed without being asked. These individuals are the heart of our clubs and are examples of creativity and dedication without expecting recognition.

We salute these members:

Holliston GC - Nikkie Hafele
Springfield GC- Bob Pellin and Maria Fatima
West Springfield GC- Patricia Garbacik
Pinefield GC- Carol Warren
Framingham GC – Marilyn Pugh
Medway GC – Naomi Price
Hopkinton GC-Martin Bayes
Westborough GC Glenn Hong
Southbridge GC- Mary Sansoucy
Northborough GC – Kathleen Devericks
Norfolk GC – Susan McCarthy
Franklin GC- Jan Cederquist

Cindora A Goldberg Award

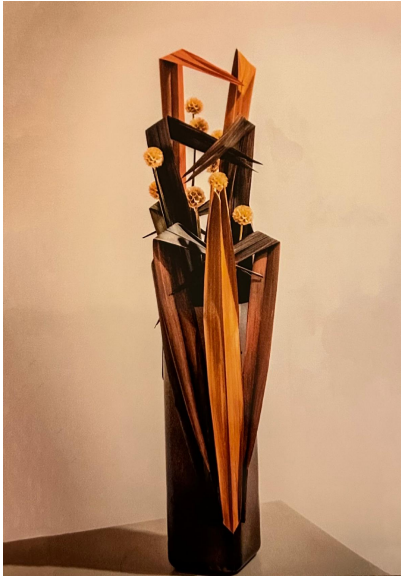
The Cindora Goldberg Award was established in 2002 as an annual award to be given in tribute to the memory of Cindora A Goldberg, a distinguished National Garden Clubs' flower show judge and designer. This award honors the ability Cindora had to continually see and create in an innovative manner.

This year's winner skillfully exemplifies the qualities we associate with Cindora's designs. The design, exhibited at the Worcester Art Museum's Flora in Winter, 2023 was an impressively innovative interpretation of a three-dimensional wall-art object, Torso, by James Tillet. In this design the simplest and fewest elements are used to create the maximum effect. The New Zealand Flax has been used in a creative way and Crespedia completes the design.

This design truly reflects the imagination and skill that was continually exhibited in Cindora Goldberg's designs.

It is my pleasure and honor to award the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts' 2023 award to **Ruth Evans of Framingham Garden Club.**

Minal Akkad, Chairman



Tribute to Toni Todesco

Tony Todesco was honored at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Judges Council by having designers do designs that he had created for NGC.



Yvonne Capella



Elaine DiGiovanni



Diane Cochran



Nancy Costa



Kaye Vosberg



Thelma Shoneman



Linda Ladd



Ruth Evans



Joyce Girvin



Gail Hubacker

A Note about the *Mayflower*

After this issue I am passing the helm of the *Mayflower* to the very capable and creative **Emily Hooper** of the **Greenfield Garden Club**. Welcome Emily! I look forward to seeing the *Mayflower* grow and evolve under her direction. Working on the *Mayflower* has been such an honor. I have loved getting to know so many of you. Thank you all for your infectious enthusiasm for promoting and celebrating gardening.

The Mayflower is published four times a year in March, June, September, and December. This newsletter is only as fun and as useful as its submissions. Please submit your articles in the body of an email or in a google document. Please do not attach as a PDF. Photos should be attached to your email as a .jpg or .png file and any descriptions included in the text portion of your submission and sent to Emily Hooper at hooper.es@gmail.com by September 10 for the Fall issue which will publish on or around September 15th.

Thank you!

Shout out to our *Mayflower* Sponsors

Thank you to our two *Mayflower* sponsors this Edition (scroll down to see their beautiful ads):

[Roosevelt Campobello International Park](#) "is a singular example of international cooperation - jointly administered, staffed, and funded by the peoples of Canada and the United States. Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's magnificent summer home is preserved here in a combination indoor museum and outdoor nature park on Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada." I have been meaning to explore the land up North and just may start with a trip to Campobello! Open all summer!

Suzanne Faith of [The Nature of Design](#) is the author of [Flowering Your Mind](#), which "combines research with practical suggestions and ideas to help you fully understand the flower-brain connection and learn to reap the cognitive and emotional benefits of creatively incorporating flowers into your life." She also has a wonderful speaker series. "Long considered an expert in the field dementia care, Suzanne's unique ability to comprehend the often-complex needs arising from this diagnosis has helped guide thousands of families over the past 30 years. Her expertise has led to the development of numerous Alzheimer's and dementia-based curriculum aimed at training professionals. Suzanne's unique designs, which combine her pen & ink illustrations with flowers grown and pressed from her garden on Cape Cod, resulted from her exposure to various pressing techniques used around the world."

Please support our Sponsors!

GCFM Design Workshop

On April 12, Middlesex District Director and Master Flower Show Judge, Kathy Leva instructed students on how to create a creative sunny floral table arrangement. The GCFM Design workshop was held at St. Mark's Church in Southborough. Instructions, flowers, foliage and container were included in the workshop. Participants were thrilled and energized with their bright, colorful and cheerful designs.



Holy Moly - A NEW Flower Show!!

Massachusetts Horticultural Society announces a NEW Flower Show!

Since March, 2020, when the last 'Boston Flower and Garden' Show shut down hours before the 2nd entry day, many have wondered if it would return. Thankfully, a new Flower Show is being planned for September 19-22, 2024! The show will be held at Elm Bank in Wellesley, MA and will be a Standard Flower Show with multiple classes in Horticulture and Design. Much of the grounds will be used for vendors, displays, educational workshops, and more! The theme is still undecided but will likely be a look back to the Society's historical roots.

Though the schedule and particulars are still in planning stages, there will be a great need for volunteers in many diverse areas. Please contact suzannebmcance@gmail.com for more information.

Garden Clubs at Work



The **Nauset Garden Club** readied the Lyn Peabody Wild Flower Garden on April 4th with the help of some husbands and three truck loads of mulch. The garden is adjacent to the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on 6A in Brewster. The garden was established by the NGC in 1987. Attached is a picture showing the initial clearing that had to be done by the club in order to get the ground plantable.



1987



The **Lexington Field and Garden Club**, the oldest garden club in the nation held its 90th plant sale on the front lawns of the Lexington DPW on Saturday, May 20.

This is a major fundraiser for the club.



On Friday, May 5th, the **Reading Garden Club** members met with some Junior Girl Scouts.

The fourth grade girls are from Joshua Eaton School in Reading and are members of Troop 67423. Together they planted spring flowers in front of the Reading Town Hall. The girls were excited to help with this

Civic Beautification project and planted pansies and verbena to brighten up the grounds at Town Hall.



The **Nauset Garden Club** held a two day event called *Celebrate Your Garden at Art In Bloom* at the Crosby Mansion in Brewster. Well attended, we had entries from the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School, the 4th Grade at OES, Latham Center and the Cape Cod Technical School. We held informative sessions both days which included C.L. Fornari, Kristen VanDijk (Agra Wool replacement for Oasis), Cocktails/Mocktails with herbs and flowers with John Shaw; along with club members showing creative design, Ikebana and table artistry using herbs/fruits and flowers. We also had a plant sale on the porch.



The **Reading Garden Club** held its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 20, 2023, on the Reading Town Common. We had a large selection of annuals, vegetables and perennials from a local plant supplier. One of the biggest successes of the day was our always popular member's perennials that members divide and dig from their own gardens. Various town associations also set up booths to provide information to

townspeople. We managed to complete the sale just before the heavy rain began! Pictured in the photo are: Priscilla Maher, Nancy Reid (President of the RGC)and Justine Carrigan.



Thursday morning early on May 25th in the brisk coolness and wind the **Nauset Garden Club** along with the Orleans Improvement Association and planting help from the Orleans Public Works Department, finished up the planting project in the Village Green of Orleans. This past winter caused a lot of damage to the established plantings, so the volunteers had to prune, dig up and replant several areas.



Sue Meisinger, Beth Murphy and Carol Alper



Gary Bowden placing new plants to be added to areas



Ladies getting started with Gary overseeing



Teaching Preschoolers About Gardening

The **Groton Garden Club's** 100th Anniversary takes place in 2023. In the summer of 2022, the 100th Anniversary planning committee wanted to be sure the local community was involved in our celebration. Plans were already in place to have

the Groton Public Library's annual community reading project held in March, be titled Groton Reads and Gardens. With the Garden Club's help, there were many library based events planned for children and adults.

100th Anniversary Committee members Claire Wilson and Kim Daly suggested a school based program to involve preschoolers to teach young children about gardening. They set out to connect with two Groton preschools to discuss what

would work. Groton Community School and Boutwell Early Education Center were eager to collaborate and echoed the March timeframe as a perfect lead in for their Spring curriculum plans, Arbor Day, and for one school's "Be kind to..." theme-- in this case, Mother Earth. They reviewed the club's vision of reading aloud a book about how flowers grow. The Garden Club provided sailcloth material to each preschool to create an art banner to celebrate our birthday. The teachers were very enthusiastic and welcoming.

After talking with librarians, parents, and grandparents and reading many children's books, we settled on *The Reason for a Flower* by Ruth Heller.

A three-part program was born:

1. *Reach everyone.* The selected book was read to 100% of the classrooms. This was a great book about flowers, pollen and seeds, the author uses big words and brightly illustrative graphics to explain concepts with fun stories everyone can understand.
2. *Provide a take-home experience.* Families and staff received a packet of marigold seeds with information on the Groton Garden Club, its annual plant sale, and instructions on how to grow the seeds at home.
3. *Allow the children to create a school-wide art project for the club's birthday.* The priority was to highlight the children's chosen artwork and messages. The banners were displayed at our successful Plant Sale on May 13, 2023 where children, parents and customers could admire the art work and Anniversary wishes.

Spring was blooming in the classrooms at the Boutwell Preschool and Groton Community School on 4 days in March. Eleven Groton Garden Club members enjoyed reading to the children in 17 classrooms, answered questions, and distributed marigold seeds with directions on how to grow these on a windowsill at the homes of the 267 families reached.

More importantly, the children loved having new enthusiastic faces read to them and answer their questions with fun props. The readers were touched at the 3–6-year-olds' intense interest. The administration was glad for the community collaboration and refreshed to have visitors back in their buildings again. We were enthusiastically invited back to read to classes again next spring. A joyous experience was had by all.



Once again the **Waltham Garden Club** collaborated with the senior class to do the flowers for the prom. Waltham High School Senior Prom - A Masquerade!



The seniors voted for a "A Masquerade " theme with centerpieces made of royal blue, white and silver. Our four man team of Mary Ellen Donovan, Rita Cutroni, Evelyn Polli and Kathy Hines shared ideas, divided up tasks and created something quite beautiful.

With the help of many generous Garden Club members: Courtney Ogg-Mancuso, Elizabeth Noonan, Patricia Vasquezi, Diane Boudrot, Shakeh Iskenderian, Laura Cooper, Marie McKenzie, and Kathy Church, we were able to produce 40 striking centerpieces for our seniors of Waltham.



To the right is Paula Sarli Co Chair of Programs with our May speaker Kathy Connolly, at the **Nauset Garden Club** Meeting held at the Brewster Baptist Church. The topic was Emerging Trends in Landscape Foundation Gardens that say WELCOME HOME to Native Plants. It was very well presented and her hand outs were very informative.



To the left are the Spring Pots done by 24 students from the Latham Center under directions from the Nauset Garden Club Ladies; Tina Williamson, Bev Tenhor, Carol Zenke and Diane Szeber. Each pot was decorated with stickers and planted with annual plants.

On Tuesday evening May 8, 2023, the **Crystal Garden Club** and the **Reading Garden Club** enjoyed a joint meeting together. The presenter was Michelle Fronk Scuckel and she discussed the use of native plants in our gardens. As a master gardener and garden designer she had many tips for how to attract insects and birds to our yards. Natural plants are defined as species that occur naturally in the space they evolved and provide beauty and visual interest as well as being beneficial to the environment. The Crystal Garden Club served a lovely assortment of desserts and refreshments. It was nice to see familiar faces and to make new friends with both clubs.



Kathy Leva represented the **Lexington Field and Garden Club** at the Museum of Fine Arts fundraiser, Art In Bloom that was held late April.

It is easy to participate! Garden club members sign up late Fall and then are assigned an object in the museum in February. They are given the task to interpret and create a fresh floral arrangement. Designers are inspired by rhythm, style, patterns, colors, and textures of the art piece.

It was a busy Spring for the **West Newbury Garden Club**. Our annual Plant Sale featured over 600 native plants (over 30 varieties) and shrubs which were sold out within the hour. A wide variety of sun and shade perennials also contributed to the success of the sale. The club would like to thank the greater gardening community as the sale was attended by customers from as far as Lynnfield.



Club members are also “penny hoarders”. Our Penny Pines drive in April brought in \$1,088 of which \$680 was sent to the NH White Mountains and

\$408 to California for reforestation. As a result of the club member's generosity, these two forests will be planted with 3,022 seedlings.

The club's participation in the West Newbury Memorial Parade was well attended. Members marching in the parade wore hats in remembrance of Dot Cavanaugh, a 25-year member of the club, who passed away this May.

Although meetings will cease for the summer, members will be busy attending to the 7 gardens the club maintains in West Newbury. Two summer field trips are also planned: the Steven-Coolidge House in North Andover on June 3rd, and then Long Hill House and Gardens in Beverly on June 17th.



The Southbridge Garden Club had a busy spring, beginning with a "Dig and Divide Perennials" program with Suzanne Mahler in April. In May, Heather Brunelle, owner of Bee Present Lavender Farm, demonstrated how to make beautiful arrangements with dried flowers.

Also in May, our club held its second annual Spring Plant Sale. We had more than 700 plants, which were donated by members, for sale. The sale was a tremendous success, in spite of the weather.



The club awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Tantasqua High School graduate Rance Kenji B. Jumawan. He plans to pursue studies in climate mitigation and carbon removal at Assumption University.

The **Falmouth Garden Club** hosted its first ever Committee Sign Up Fair in April. Rather than sign up for committees electronically, members interacted with current committee chairs who explained the commitment required for a specific committee, answered questions and recruited new members to their committee. The Fair was such a hit that we plan to continue to sign up in this manner in the future.

Falmouth garden club member, Suzanne Buzanoski along with the help of her husband, Dave, a local excavator and a dedicated committee have resurrected and enlarged the Blue Star Highway and Byway which was originally installed in 1989. Once hidden by a large overgrown tree, the memorial marker is now a prominent feature along Katherine Lee Bates Rd. and a true tribute to men and women who serve(d) in the United States Armed Forces.

In May, the Falmouth Garden Club was entertained and inspired by speaker extraordinaire Deb Trickett. The June annual meeting was a luncheon held at the Flying Bridge Restaurant that featured the presentation of four scholarships to local high school students seeking to further their education in horticulture, landscape design, environmental science or related fields. The meeting also ushered in a new slate of officers for the club.



The club will participate in the Cape-wide Hydrangea Festival on Friday, July 14. A member of the club has offered the use of her picturesque garden on Bourne's Pond to benefit the club. In addition, we will be offering hydrangea notecards for sale that have been painted by Ruth Craffey, a longtime member of the club.

Gary Bowden, a member of the Master Garden Association will speak to the club on August 7 about the Cape Cod Pollinator Pathway. We intend to make this a community-wide project by encouraging other members to partake in the project along with the greater Falmouth community.

The **Garden Club of Norfolk** has had a busy spring. We enjoyed a presentation by Andi Ross on Hydrangeas in April, held our Plant, Bake, & Garden Treasures Sale in May, and gathered for a potluck dinner at the home of member and iris expert, Stephanie Markham, in June. We'll be wrapping up the year with participation in Norfolk's Community Day and our Books in Bloom show the week of June 12.



The **Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury** and the **Sudbury Garden Club** came together to establish a Watering Tank for the islands and containers in Sudbury, MA. We are very grateful to the Water District of Sudbury and Vincent Roy for making this possible. The Water District has offered the use of a truck for 14 weeks. We go weekly and water 6 of our gardens in town. Each club chose 3 gardens or containers that have no excess to water and/or are Dangerous for us to service. The Tank, pump, battery, hose and nozzle were purchased by the clubs. The water district supplies the truck and 1 staff member to go with us 1 day a week for 2 hours.



Water District of Sudbury, Sudbury Garden Club



Taking care of our Gardens in Sudbury.

The **Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury** held our annual Fairy Garden Trail Fundraiser. We had over 900 attendees at our event. It was held at the Wayside Inn historical site in Sudbury, MA on the Innkeepers Trail: a woodland walk that has lots of places to tuck 40+ fairy houses and gardens.

We had over 95% of club member participation. Members helped by creating fairy houses, baking fairy themed cookies and treats, and helping with children's craft activities. We held a raffle and 5 special people went home with creative fairy houses.

We even had fairies in attendance! A very fun and successful fundraiser!



Evening Garden Club of Plymouth celebrated Presidents Day at our March Meeting. Our speaker, Suzanne Mahler, shared her knowledge of gardening for creatures. Refreshments and desserts were enjoyed by all.

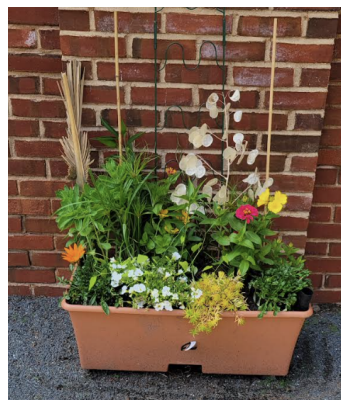
We held our annual plant sale On Mother's Day. In addition to lovely perennial plants from member's gardens, we sold organic tomatoes grown by a member from seed, and our big seller were the garden related gifts on our Mother's Day Table.



We will be holding a small garden tour and concert Saturday August 12. Three member's gardens will be open from 10:00-12:30. At the last garden, we will serve refreshments, and enjoy the country, rock and blues sounds of the duo Monterey County Line, <https://www.montereycountyline.com>.

All of the proceeds are reserved for our many community projects.

Our club is working with the Plymouth Public Library, in their efforts to raise funds to renovate the Shiff Garden. In addition, we are planting and maintaining eight planters in the garden to add color to the current space.



The **Nauset Garden Club** held its April meeting at the Brewster Baptist Church on April 12th with Speaker Betty Szymczak. Her topic was "A Begonia for any Season" which was very informative with handouts to help our members when buying, growing and propagating Begonias.

First picture is Paula Sarli, co-chair of programs, our speaker Betty Szymczak, and Chris Schwartz co-chair of programs.

Second picture are our guests from The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Marjorie Dienhard First VP and Donna Garrabrant SE District Director.

Third picture is a table of our members Begonias.



The **Garden Club of Hyannis** held An NGC Small Standard Flower Show along with their Annual Meeting on June 13, 2023. The Show, “Honoring...Remembering” paid homage to three members who recently passed. Judges gave their comments orally to the Membership; everyone learned very much during this special Program.

Table Designs



Creative Designs



Hogath/S-curve Design



The **Burlington Garden Club** partnered with the Parks & Rec Dept at Springalooza 2023 to celebrate all things Spring. Children stopped by our table to plant sunflower seeds.

The nine large planters on the town common were planted with summer annuals including Cordyline species, Calibrachoa, Osteospermum, and Ipomoea batatas. Dedicated watering teams take care of the planters all summer and fall.



A newsletter was created for the Dept of Health to hand out at the annual Hazardous Waste Day. The article by our Master Gardener Peter Coppola gave residents ways to reduce water consumption.

Thanks to the Chairpersons and members for their dedication, we were awarded a Certificate of Merit for our expanded Garden Therapy program at the annual meeting recently. Garden therapy brings flower arranging to the local senior community (home bound and assisted living) to help brighten their day. Just this week, members created floral arrangements with donated flowers, cups with saucers, and mugs for the home bound. Flags were added for Flag Day and delivered to Meals on Wheels to be added to the seniors' lunch trays.

Club members and guests enjoyed several interesting programs including creating floral arrangements using supermarket flowers, identifying and removing invasive plants, and adding more native plants, trees, and shrubs to

our gardens. We are looking forward to the upcoming June Dinner Meeting and several July field trips. Have a great summer!



Framingham Garden Club ended its 90th Anniversary year with the successful launch of the Community Giving Garden at Framingham's Earth Day celebration, followed by a fantastic plant sale, and a wonderful Annual Luncheon filled with a fun singing competition, a living history lesson from 7 past presidents, our guest, Jill Malcolm, beautiful décor, a meaningful induction ceremony, and a great meal with friendly garden club chatter (and a little fire drill too)!

The **Nauset Garden Club** held its last general meeting of the calendar year as a picnic at the home of President Jeanne Berdik in South Orleans on 6-21-2023. About 50 members were able to attend, bylaws accepted and 2023-24 board members were voted in. Among the festivities the Flora Abunda was awarded to Peggy Sheehan for outstanding service and dedication to the Nauset Garden Club, her second time receiving the prestigious award.

Pictured: Marjorie Dienhart, First VP of the The Garden Club Federation Jenne Berdik, Peggy Sheehan and Donna Garrabrant SE District Director; Other Pictures are of the group on Jeanne's lovely porch.

Denise Prindiville and Chris Swartz arranged the food and beverages; Bonnie Roy for her outstanding help with Art in Bloom and Peggy Sheehan were awarded Bunnies that won't eat their native plants!





The **Garden Club of the Back Bay's** membership has blossomed to over 175 active members this year. The Garden Club of the Back Bay Instagram Account (@gardenclubbackbay), expertly managed by Stephanie Fletcher, has nearly 4000 followers who are enriched each day with beautiful nature photography and interesting facts about various flora and fauna.

The Twilight Garden Party

Recent GCBB events include the annual Twilight Garden Party, held at the St. Botolph Club on April 26th. The TWGP was a festive and successful affair with over 100 registered attendees. The club successfully raised more than \$25,000 which will be used for Back Bay Tree Care and Green Community Projects. Many thanks to all involved and particularly to the chairs: Maura Harty, Martha McAllister and Faith Perkins. Huge thanks to Jody Weisman who organized and created the gorgeous flowers. The Magnolia Award was presented to Bob Loree of Boston Tree Company for his years of service to the city and our club, caring for our trees.



MARATHON DAFFODIL PROJECT
GCBB members helped decorate the Commonwealth Avenue Mall with Boston Strong daffodils for Marathon weekend, organized by Doris Hearty. It was great fun arranging all those plants. We repurposed some plants for the Charles River Esplanade, The First Lutheran Church and for the Twilight Garden Party. Our club received a shout out in a Channel 5 Chronicle episode: "The Story behind the daffodils at the Boston Marathon finish line."

Magnolia Tour on Commonwealth Avenue



Stephanie Fletcher and Claire Corcoran created another successful self-guided Magnolia tour this spring highlighting the beautiful trees along Commonwealth Ave. in the Back Bay which included tree specific facts and history. This guide was available to the public and hundreds of people downloaded the tour. And we received donations which brought in some income for the GCBB and brought new focus on our mission of tree care for the Back Bay.



MFA Art in Bloom

The club was represented at the MFA's Art in Bloom by floral designer, Bonnie Theise and her assistant Kate Murray. The art object interpreted was John Wilson's Maquette for Eternal Presence. The colors of the floral arrangement reflect the bold colors in the gallery and the commanding presence of the sculpture as you enter the gallery. The container was painted to match the color of the bronze sculpture. King Protea was chosen as a focal flower to reflect how the artist was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King. The manipulated Ti leaves, succulents, thistle and protea all reference the contrast of smooth and rough textures of the piece. The Garden Club of the Back Bay was honored to have the privilege to interpret such an important sculpture for the MFA!



The Public Garden Border Brigade

GCBB volunteers organized by Sherley Smith and Bonnie Rup work hard each third Thursday of the month during the Spring, Summer, and Fall to maintain the borders of the Boston Public Garden, including pruning, pulling weeds, and planting new plant materials. This activity is a wonderful opportunity for both new and old members to work together to beautify the lovely park.



On March 25 and 26, the **Norwood Evening Garden Club** ushered in spring with its 17th presentation of Art in Bloom at Norwood's Morrill Memorial Library. Eighteen members provided

floral interpretations of 20 pieces of art created by students of Norwood and Walpole High Schools. Past President Sheela Venkatesh and outgoing President Lois Walsh also participated in Art in Bloom at the MFA in Boston, interpreting a 13th century kondika, an ancient Korean water vessel (see photo). First Lady Kim Keon Hee of the Republic of Korea toured the Korean gallery and admired their lovely interpretation.



In April, two entry beds located at the Norwood Town Common, which were designed by the club 18 years ago, were completely renovated using native trees and shrubs. Norwood's Public Works Department assisted with the renovation. The new planting included: *Cornus alba* 'Bailhalo' (Ivory Halo), a variegated red twig dogwood; *Ceanothus virginicus*, a white fringe tree; *Pinus strobus* 'Stowe Pillar', a columnar white pine; a multi-stem serviceberry; and high bush blueberries.



In May, the club toured Mount Auburn Cemetery and Miyawaki Forest, and held another very successful plant sale.

The Cary Awards

The Cary Awards and the Plants

Each year since 1997-2019, Worcester County Horticultural Society has gathered a group of the region's best plant people to select a list of outstanding plants to receive an award, the Cary Award. The purpose of the award is; "to inform home gardeners which plants would be good choices in their landscape, to instill confidence in the home gardener's selection, and to increase the diversity of plant material used by gardeners, landscape designers and architects."

The Cary Award is named in honor of Shrewsbury plantsman Ed Cary, and highlights landscape plants which have a proven performance across New England. Each year from 1 to 5 plants were selected out of the following categories, shrub,s vines, groundcovers and trees. These plants are woody perennials, and most can be seen growing at New England Botanic Gardens formerly Tower Hill Botanic Garden. Over the years 62 different plants have been selected.

These plants share key qualities which make them outstanding plants for New England gardens. They are reliably hardy to Zone 4, they have exceptional pest and disease resistance, they have multi-season interest, they are adaptable to a range of cultural conditions, and they are available for home gardeners and landscape professionals to purchase from local garden centers and nurseries. By

identifying specific "foolproof" choices for the landscape, this program helps instill consumer confidence in the selection of plants.

Some of the past selections are: weeping Alaska cedar, Japanese Stewartia, red-sprite winterberry, cornelian cherry, ruby spice summersweet, Kousa dogwood, paperbark maple, fringe tree, golden Hinoki false cypress, dawn redwood and American smoke tree. A complete list of the winners can be found on the New England Botanic Gardens website under Cary Awards.

In 2020, WCHS changed the focus of the Cary Award to recognize the contributions of individuals in the field.

2023 Gardeners Consultants Council Cary Award/Linda Jean Smith

Youth Poetry Contest 2023 Winners

**NGC THEME: "SEEDS, TREES AND BEES ... OH MY!
CELEBRATING THE DIVERSITY OF NATURE
GCFM Results**

Grade 3

2nd Lizzie Adelman, "The Willow Tree"

3rd Giovanna Hurtado, "Seasons"

HM David Tejada Rivera, "When it is Winter, I Feel Like a Tree"

Sponsor: **Framingham GC**

Grade 4

2nd Tessa Martin, "My Dad's Potatoes Don't Grow on Trees"

3rd Beatrice Randell, "Save the Bees"

HM Maria Eduarda Assuncao, "A Little See for Me to Sow"

Sponsor: **Framingham GC**

Grade 5

2nd Fiona Laprel, "The Night Time"

3rd Jack Fanous, "Walking in the Rain"

HM Genevieve Johnson, "Trees, They Never Change"

Sponsor: **Framingham GC**

Grade 7

2nd Kerolos Maximus, "Live-Giving Trees"

3rd Jasmin Sheikh, "The Weeping Willow"

HM Victor Nguyen, "The Seed That Sprouted a Tree"

Sponsor: **Chelmsford Country Lane GC**

Top State, Regional & NGC Results

HANNAH GELLER, 7th Grade, "The Garden"

Sponsor: **Framingham GC**

First Place: The GCFM, Inc.

First Place: New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

First Place: National Garden Clubs, Inc.

HARPER BREEN, 5th Grade, "A New-bee's First Spring Flight"

Sponsor: **North Reading GC**

First Place: The GCFM, Inc.

First Place: New England Garden Clubs, Inc.
 Second Place National Garden Clubs, Inc.

MADELYN BROWN, 4th Grade, “How My Garden Grows”

Sponsor: **North Reading GC**

First Place: The GCFM, Inc.

First Place: New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

Second Place National Garden Clubs, Inc.

TATUM BREEN, 3rd Grade, “My Wide Awake Dreamworld”

Sponsor: **North Reading GC**

First Place: The GCFM, Inc.

First Place: New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

First Place National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Her Shirley Farm Landscape Project Pt 5

by Juliet Silvieri

The juneberries are almost ready for the birds, on my three Serviceberry trees in the lower garden. (See picture). I have heard that flocks of cedar waxwings may descend on the berries and devour them, all at once. I hope I am at home to watch, when that happens. I had planted this lower garden to attract birds. With a year-round heated birdbath, and with, in addition to the Juneberries, eight highbush blueberry bushes, two bearberry shrubs, a ‘golden shadows’ pagoda dogwood tree, and three ‘arctic fire’ red twig dogwood shrubs, this garden will produce plenty of berries and attract plenty of birds. My land continues to develop into a pastoral place of wide open and sometimes wildish spaces, and also of gardens that now appear more formal, but will become wilder as they grow. The gardens are close to full, and my sugar maples need staking. The front foundation area of my house is full of two different kinds of strawberry plants that have begun to bear fruit—very small strawberries, and larger ones, that I will eat for months.

These past few months have been about acquiring 89 ilex crenata ‘green lustre’ and ilex crenata ‘hoogendorn,’ planting them, and putting down a network of soaker hoses to keep them watered. (See picture). Note the hedges should not exceed four feet tall, so that above them, from outside the gardens, I will be able to see the tops of some plants and shrubs, when they all get a lot bigger. But the gardens will still have the feeling of privacy, when the hedges grow together and form a taller wall around them.

My allee of sugar maples, planted last May (see photo)—some of them are now growing on a slant, so I plan to have them all staked—all fourteen of them. I had been told they didn’t need staking; now I know better. They are all doing gloriously well, and are outfitted with tree protectors, since I caught a porcupine chewing bark off a couple of them, making oozing sap run down the trunks. I believe I have saved those two, and hope the porcupine instead feasts on the numerous pines around my woods, that I don’t care for.

I have been acquiring and planting perennials for my upper garden—all carefully chosen by a designer to create delightful color and texture

combinations. It is too early to include photos of them, but I will include those in my autumn installment. A few interesting selections, though:

- My designer and I discussed putting ‘Hillside Black Beauty’ clematis in full sun all day, and thinking of last year’s very dry, hot summer—decided instead to plant a ‘panther’ ninebark. The foliage is very similar—a fascinating purple/black/brown, and the ninebark likes hot and dry.
- Although delphiniums don’t last long in this climate—I planted a ‘Bluebird,’ which will get to six feet tall. It may return next year, or I may keep planting the same thing as an annual. It bloomed a saturated blue/purple already.
- And the flowering sea kale—that will make a statement, maybe even this year. You must return to witness its fountain-like display.
- There is a sitting area at the back of my upper garden that will have two chairs and a small table, and there must be scented plants close by. I have Casa Blanca lilies behind the chairs, and was going to have a lonicera ‘harlequin’ growing up on a trellis, but I have decided to instead try a ‘Betty Corning’ clematis. This is a type 3, so pruning will be easy, and Betty is supposed to be lavender scented, and to bloom prolifically.

To bewitch me, I have wanted a twilight garden for years—there was not room in the lower garden, since that features bird trees and shrubs, and a winter section (with juniper, ilex, and red-twig dogwoods). In my upper garden, I am planting a river of silvery gray, luminous plants—salix ‘iceberg alley’ (Sageleaf Willow), Russian Sage ‘denim and lace,’ a lot of lamb’s ears, and my lavender (not sure what kind it is) will achieve this effect. I also have two foothergilla ‘blue mist’, and in the other, lower garden, four foothergilla ‘blue shadows’. The luminosity of these plants will work well with my silver river, and make glowing beauty in the twilight. Commonly called “witch alder,” these two species will add a bewitching twilight luminosity to the gardens and landscape.

For the future is a wildish wide grass path, leading from the exit of my upper garden, down to the back of my property. But for now, it is good planting weather, in the 60s and 70s, with some rain—I am planting little by little, the way I like it, and on a gardener’s high.



Allee of sugar maples



The juneberreries



gardens with hedges and soaker hoses



witch alder, or fothergilla, 'blue shadow'

Spotlight on Big Bluestem

by Linda Jean Smith

Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) is a perennial warm-season bunchgrass, native to much of the Great Plains and grassland regions of central and eastern North America and can range from Canada to Mexico. It is native to low meadows and prairies, rare in extreme west and most abundant in the central plains but also a



prairie component in moist grasslands all the way to the east coast. It is also known as tall bluestem, bluejoint, and turkeyfoot. Its genus name comes from the Greek words aner or Andros meaning man and pogon meaning beard in reference to the hairs on the spikelets of some species in the genus. Specific epithet honors Louis Gerard (1733-1819), a French physician and botanist, who had first described the plant from specimens that had been cultivated in Provence, France. The name was given in 1792 by Fulgenzio Vitman.

Big bluestem blooms in the summer and seeds into the fall. It features an upright clump of stems with flattened leaves, which emerge gray to blue green in spring, mature to green with red tinges in summer and turn reddish bronze with lavender tones in autumn after frost. Flowering stems rise in late summer above the foliage clump bearing purplish 3-parted, finger-like flower clusters. The clusters of flowers are narrow spike-like racemes alternately arranged along the top of the stem. It somewhat resembles a wild turkey's foot. Each raceme contains pairs of spikelets. Each pair has a stalked spikelet with another stalkless. The stalkless spikelet has perfect floret (with both female and male parts) and an awn (bristle), and the stalked spikelet is awnless, and is sterile or has a staminate (male) flower.

Big bluestem grows in Zone: 4 to 9. It gets 3-6 feet tall by 2-3 feet wide. It tolerates a wide range of soils and growing conditions, but is easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. It freely self-seeds in optimum growing conditions and develops an extensive root system. The main roots are 6–10 feet deep, and the plants send out strong, tough rhizomes. It is somewhat slow to establish, but once established, it has excellent drought tolerance. It is also moderately tolerant of acidity and salinity and can withstand periodic flooding and high water tables. If used in a garden, too much water, shade, or fertilizer can cause it to get top-heavy and fall over.

Big Bluestem may be propagated by root division or by seeds during winter dormancy. Seeds are best collected in October or November and need dry stratification as well as cold-moist stratification. There are no serious insect or disease problems. It is easy to maintain. It may be cut back, mowed, or burned in late winter before new shoots appear, but should not be mowed during the growing season, as that could kill it. However, in areas where it gets aggressive, mowing can help limit its expansion.

Big Bluestem is best massed in wildflower meadows, prairie or naturalized areas. It is also effective in border rears or native plant gardens as a screen or accent. The extensive root system makes this a good grass for erosion control. It provides cover for at least 24 species of songbirds and nesting sites or seeds for many more. It is of value to beneficial insects and provides nesting materials for native bees. It is a host to the larvae of several species of butterflies. It is often grown for wildlife gardens, natural landscaping, and grassland habitat restoration projects. Due to its high biomass, big bluestem is being considered as a potential feedstock for ethanol production.

Three Items of Environmental Interest by Maria Bartlett



American Beauties Native Plants

These native plants are well-grown without harmful chemicals and insecticides. Check out their webpage for more information. You can filter for many different characteristics. Here is the link to the local nurseries carrying this brand:
<https://abnativeplants.com/>

Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus Mosquito and Tick Repellent

For those not wanting to use DEET, this is a natural product that has been determined to be as effective as DEET. It has a somewhat strong odor and is not recommended for children younger than 3, but keeps those bothersome bugs at bay. Another non-DEET product is picaridin.



GrubGone for your lawn

This product is a Bt (bacillus) product and only targets white grubs in the lawn. As such, it is organic and much preferable to the harsh chemical grubX products that kill everything in the soil, including all the good things necessary for a healthy soil. Order online.

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Did you know...

...that GCFM board member, Suzanne Mahler, has a lovely hosta named for her?

It has bright yellow leaves in spring on red petioles.

- Wide growing medium size hosta with bright yellow leaves in spring.
- The bright yellow leaves in spring are held on dark red petioles.
- The red from the petioles does come up into the leaf margins.
- The leaves do turn more lime-green in summer.
- Lavender flowers in mid to late summer.



Blue Star or Gold Star Memorial photos wanted!

Does your Garden Club or town have a Blue Star or Gold Star memorial plaque or sign? We would like a photo of it. We are going to start a photo section on

the GCFM website of All the towns who have a Blue Star or Gold Star memorial. Please send a photo to: Joy DiMaggio at jmarykay2@outlook.com and Lynn Noland at lbn923@gmail.com. If you have any questions call: Joy at 978-460-0851 or Lynn at 508-624-6772

Thank you for your help!
Joy DiMaggio and Lynn Noland

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