

2025-2026 Programs

All meetings are at the Pleasant Street Center unless otherwise noted.

Guests are welcome except where
“Members Only” is specified.
Suggested guest donation is \$10.



September 9, 2025 — “Backyard Treasures”

Social 6:30P / Program 7:00P

Connie Filosi of Stoneham Garden Club will create arrangements with materials from your home and backyard. She will demonstrate several styles, from minimalist to large, including table and ikebana-style arrangements and also give personalized tips. Optional: bring something from your garden or your neighbor's garden—greenery, flowers, seedpods, etc.—clippers, and a container to practice with.

Theme: Apples / Hostesses: Sorrentino—Coordinator, Bergstrom, Bourget, Feagley



October 16, 2025, Thursday — “Guided by the Season”

Social 6:15P / Program 7:00P

Location: St. Joseph's Church, 173 Albion Street, Wakefield

Joint meeting of 5 garden clubs (Host: Wakefield G.C.)

Michael Derouin, floral artist and educator, will demonstrate floral artistry inspired by autumn, created in real time. Michael describes his creations as a “quiet conversation between design and nature—edited with purpose, composed with restraint.” Simply stated, Michael shows how floral designs can be improved by eliminating rather than adding more.

Hostesses: Fopiano, Hale, Jolly-Kay, Nemergut



**November 18, 2025* — “Sweet & Petite” Floral Design Workshop with Terry Hale
Social 6:30P / Program 7:00P**

Create a charming floral arrangement in a teacup using Ilex greens as a sustainable mechanic. Bring a favorite teacup (or two), floral snips, and a carrying box. Terry will supply the greenery and fall flowers. Bring your own flowers if you prefer.
**Note this is the third Tuesday due to the 11/11 holiday.*

Theme: Fall / **Hostesses:** Cohen—Coordinator, Occhiuti, Panek, Ream



**December 9, 2025 — “Unique Holiday Floral Designs”
Social & Holiday Bazaar 6:15P / Program 7:00P
Guest Night — Shared meeting with Wakefield Garden Club
Location: First Baptist Church, 8 Lafayette Street, Wakefield**

While creating arrangements, Mary Beth Hayes of Semper Virens Flowers will talk about floral design principles, where to source flowers, foliage and supplies, and how to take care of the arrangements so they last longer. She will be demonstrating five early winter/holiday floral arrangements: holiday centerpiece, porch pot, pot et fleur design, bud vase

set and an Ikebana-style arrangement. Please invite your friends to join our gala evening.

All members are asked to donate pre-priced holiday or garden-related items for the holiday bazaar.

Theme: Holidays / **Hostesses:** Mastrocola—Coordinator, Landini, Redfearn, Redford

January 13, 2026 — “Gorgeous Gardens of New England”
Zoom Social 6:30P / Zoom Program 7:00P

Enjoy a visual tour of some of the most gorgeous gardens in New England by professional photographer Joanne Pearson. This lively presentation features Joanne's favorite public and private gardens in the region as well as examples of the transformation from farmland to fashionable estates that transpired in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Her story includes rose gardens, Preservation Society of Newport properties, and the unique Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls, MA.



February 10, 2026 — “Forcing Bulbs”
Social 6:30P / Program 7:00P

Forcing bulbs is easy and fun. In the depths winter we all long for a little color and sunshine. Forcing spring bulbs lets us enjoy the beauty and fragrance of spring a few weeks early and helps to make the last weeks of winter bearable. Kathi Garrity will speak about the history of bulbs, which bulbs are best for forcing, and how and why they are able to be forced.

Theme: Valentines / **Hostesses:** Chapin—Coordinator, Bergeron, Bergstrom, Bourget



**March 10, 2026 — “Genetically Modified Plants”
Social 6:30P / Program 7:00P**

Gretel Anspach is a Trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a Lifetime Master Gardener with the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, and a recently-retired systems engineer for Raytheon. She won the MMGA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. Gretel established and maintains a 20,000 square foot food production garden that has provided fresh produce to the Marlboro and Maynard Food Pantries for

the last ten years. Her primary interest and focus is always on the science behind horticulture.

Theme: St. Patrick’s Day / **Hostesses:** Clopper—Coordinator, Cohen, Feagley, Fopiano



**April 14, 2026 — “Pocket Forests”
Social 6:30P / Program 7:00P**

Did you know that it’s possible to build a forest in the same amount of space it takes to park two cars? The “Pocket Forest” technique upends traditional planting advice, yet has proven highly effective at restoring degraded land. Lisey Good, founder of Wild Cohasset, will give examples of the amazing benefits to wildlife that these mini woodlands attract—sometimes as quickly as the first growing season.

Theme: Think Spring / **Hostesses:** Occhiuti—Coordinator, Jolly-Kay, Keane, Landini



May 12, 2026 — Dinner and Annual Meeting
Dinner 6:30P **Members Only**

Join in a celebratory potluck dinner to conclude our season! Following the annual meeting we will view a members' collective slide show. Please gather digital photos of your garden or gardens that you have recently visited.

Theme: Let's Celebrate / ***Coordinator:*** Keane

2025-2026 Membership List

for Crystal Garden Club Use Only



Honorary Life Members

★ Judy Currie ★ Barbara Tewksbury ★ Mary Daly

SUSAN BERGERON, 64 Main Street 17B, Stoneham 02180
susan.bergeron@gmail.com 617-291-3714

➤ **ALICE BOURGET**, 52 Oak Street, Reading 01867
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★ **JUDY CURRIE**, 18 Timberneck Drive, Reading 01867
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★ **MARY DALY**, 163 Woburn Street, Reading 01867
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KAROL LANDINI, 59 Johnson Woods Drive, Reading
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MICHELE OCCHIUTI, 562 Pearl Street, Reading 01867
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MARIE PANEK, 18 Belmont Street, Reading 01867
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CHRISTINA RANDOLPH, 43 Starbird Street, Malden 02148
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LAUREN REAM, 972 Main Street, Reading 01867
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CARMEN REDFEARN, 194 High Street, Reading 01867
redfearnfamily@gmail.com 781-771-7292

CHRISTINE REDFORD, 18 Maple Ridge Rd., Reading 01867
credford@massed.net 781-944-0185

BEVERLY SORRENTINO, 16 Alden Circle, Reading 01867
bevrig2@verizon.net 781-944-0891

★ BARBARA TEWKSBURY, 21 Crescent St. #326, Wakefield 01880, barbaratewksbury@comcast.net 617-967-0311

- ★ Honorary Life Member
- New Member



2025-2026 Events



Virtual Board Meetings	First Tuesdays
Hartshorne Holiday Open House 41 Church Street, Wakefield	Dec. 7, 2025
Landscape Design School — Zoom	Oct. 28-30, 2025
Garden Design School — Zoom	April 9-11, 2026
For GCFM events see calendar at: www.gcfm.org/upcoming-events	



Civic Contributions

Install and maintain gardens at the Pleasant Street Center

Decorate a room at the Hartshorne House for the Holiday Open House

Present environmental and relevant educational programs that are open to the public

Provide floral centerpieces for the Town of Reading's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and the Mother's Day Brunch for senior citizens

Participate in Lucius Beebe Library's "Blossoms at the Beebe"

2025-2026

Committees



ARCHIVIST

The Archivist(s) is responsible for preserving the history of the Club through photographs, collected paperwork, clipped articles, and digital media, and filing them appropriately.

Ellen Mastrocola, Michele Clopper

BUDGET & FINANCE

This committee consists of the Treasurer and a past president who will meet to plan the year's budget and finances, and monitor operating expenses.

**Joanne Jolly-Kay—Treasurer, Erin Fopiano,
Ellen Mastrocola**

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION

This committee consist of chairperson(s) and members. They will design, install, and maintain plantings at the Pleasant Street Center garden. The chairperson will be

responsible for communicating with the appropriate civic authorities concerning such plantings.

Carmen Redfearn—Chair, Jan Feagley, Joanne Jolly-Kay



COMMUNICATIONS

This committee consists of a chairperson, editor, webmaster and members who will provide communiqué to club members through a monthly newsletter and the Club's website. The webmaster will submit up to three updates per year to the GCFM who will maintain the site. Members will be responsible for gathering news items and selecting information for the newsletter and website. Local communities will be contacted through newspapers, flyers and other appropriate media channels when publicity is needed.

Erin Fopiano—Chair & Webmaster, Joy Nemergut—Editor, Pauline Bergstrom, Michele Clopper



HANDBOOK

This committee consists of an editor who is responsible for preparing the Handbook for publication and member(s) to gather information and proofread the final copy prior to printing. The Program Committee will research, compose and submit the program descriptions.

Terry Hale—Editor, Beverly Sorrentino



HARTSHORNE OPEN HOUSE

This committee consists of a chairperson and members who will plan and implement the holiday decorating of one room in the Hartshorne House, Wakefield. The Open House is usually held on the first weekend in December. The committee will meet prior to December to choose a theme. Two members will be available during the Holiday Open House to assist in serving refreshments, if needed.

Lauren Ream—Chair, Erin Fopiano



HORTICULTURE & CONSERVATION

This committee consists of a chairperson and members who will present a monthly report to the Club, either verbally or via the newsletter. The report can include items related to gardening, wildlife, environmental and horticultural developments, or other relevant data.

Ellen Mastrocola—Chair, Marlene Cohen, Terry Hale, Cathie Keane, Michele Occhiuti, Christina Randolph, Lauren Ream



HOSPITALITY

This committee consists of a chairperson and members who will communicate with the assigned Coordinator of each meeting regarding upcoming hostess duties and will check for general supplies. The assigned Coordinator will contact the hostesses to plan the needs for the evening. The committee is responsible for setup and breakdown of the meeting room. See detailed Hospitality Guidelines on page 24.

Jan Feagley



MEMBERSHIP

This committee consists of a chairperson and members who will maintain and update membership lists and name tags, distribute and collect name tags at each meeting, maintain membership applications and guestbook, notify the Club of new members, provide new members with the Club Handbook, notify members who failed to pay dues by May 15 and confirm their resignation. The chair will assign greeters to actively welcome members and guests at all meetings.

**Marie Panek—Chair, Sue Bergeron, Diane Chapin,
Marlene Cohen, Michele Occhiuti, Christina
Randolph**



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This committee consists of two past presidents and one member who will nominate the officers for alternating years. The committee will present the slate of officers one month before the annual meeting.

Chris Redford—Chair, Jan Feagley, Beverly Sorrentino



PROGRAMS

This committee consists of the elected Program Director who will act as chairperson and members who will plan the programs for the following year. They will attend the GCFM Speakers Workshop, review speaker information and obtain presenters within the allocated budget. The committee will contact guest speakers, send out contracts, confirm speakers' requirements and assist Club members who are presenting to the Club.

Cathie Keane—Chair, Terry Hale, Ellen Mastrocola, Chris Redford, Beverly Sorrentino



WAYS AND MEANS

This committee consists of a chairperson and members who will plan projects for fundraising either during a regular meeting or other specified time. A member will collect money when needed. The chair will report any plans and projects for fundraising at regular Club business meetings.

Chris Redford—Chair, Alice Bourget

Past 50 Years' Presidents



2023 – 25	Michele Clopper
2021 – 23	Cathie Keane
2019 – 21	Mary Mehringer
2017 – 19	Chris Redford
2015 – 17	Donna Gray & Beverly Sorrentino
2013 – 15	Carmen Redfearn & Carol Ross
2011 – 13	Chris Redford
2010 – 11	Wendy Robbins
2007 – 10	Terry Hale
2005 – 07	Michele Occhiuti
2003 – 05	Ellen Mastrolcola
2001 – 03	Donna Gray
1999 – 01	Kathy Tobin
1996 – 99	Nora Angelo † & Joyce Langone †
1994 – 96	Mary Daiopoulos †
1992 – 94	Audrey Thompsen †
1990 – 92	Corinne Martinage
1988 – 90	Peg Plansky
1986 – 88	Barbara Tewksbury
1984 – 86	Joan Tine (+ 1972–74)
1982 – 84	Nora Angelo †
1980 – 82	Mary Daly
1978 – 80	Anne Kenney
1976 – 78	Elaine Connare †
1974 – 76	Betty Hudson †

† Deceased

The Crystal Garden Club Bylaws

Revised 2021



ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization is “The Crystal Garden Club.”

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Club is to study all aspects of the fine art of horticulture, landscape, conservation, floral design, and to participate in civic beautification.

ARTICLE III – ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Opening
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Approval of the Treasurer’s Report (thrice yearly)
4. Unfinished Business
5. New Business
6. Program

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1

1. The elected officers are: president, vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer and program director.
2. Officers will serve a minimum two-year term.

Section 2

1. The Board consists of the following: the elected officers, the most recent past-president in a one-year advisory role, and the following committee chairs: Budget and Finance, Hospitality, Membership, and Ways and Means. When the Club is involved in a special project, other chairs will also be included.
2. The Board meets virtually or in person the first Tuesday of each month prior to a meeting and as needed.
3. If a committee board member cannot attend a board meeting, an appointed representative from that committee must be present.

ARTICLE V – NOMINATION & ELECTIONS

1. The Nominating Committee consists of two past presidents and a member at large. The Committee presents a slate of officers one month before the annual meeting.
2. Election of officers takes place at the annual meeting. Incoming officers are installed at the close of the annual meeting.
3. When a vacancy occurs among the officers, the Board will fill it before the next meeting.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 President

1. Presides at all meetings of the Club and is a member ex-officio of all committees.
2. Has the power to call special meetings of members and committees for the transaction of business.
3. Appoints chairs of special project committees as needed.
4. Maintains a book of standard operating procedures.
5. Can spend \$100 or less with approval of the Board. The general membership must approve checks over \$100.

6. The Club Treasurer pays registration fees for conferences at which the President's presence is appropriate.

Section 2 Vice President

1. Assumes all duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President.

2. Will assume the role of President after a two-year term as Vice President.

Section 3 Recording Secretary

1. Records and types the minutes of the regular meetings and Board meetings.
2. Reports the minutes via email prior to the next meeting, or at the meeting.
3. Retains the previous four years' records in the Secretary's book. All other records are to be filed with the Archivist.
4. Records all motions, discussion and subsequent voting in the minutes and in the Motion Book.

Section 4 Corresponding Secretary

1. Handles all correspondence on behalf of the Club members including thank-you notes to speakers.
2. Acknowledges special occasions or ailing members with a greeting and/or gift.

Section 5 Treasurer

1. Collects all dues, receives all money, maintains an accurate account of income and disbursements, and reimburses members for appropriate expenditures on behalf of the Club.
2. Signs checks and reconciles bank statements.
3. Presents a Treasurer's Report to the club thrice yearly.
4. Has the Treasurer's books reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee and by the outgoing President.
5. Is a member of the Budget and Finance Committee.
6. Files renewal information for the 501 C (3) with the Federation annually by October 1 and with the state and the IRS by November 15.

Section 6 Program Director

1. Chairs the Program Committee.
2. Plans the programs for the ensuing year with the committee.
3. Presents proposed programs and expenditures to the Board for approval.
4. Submits the finalized program descriptions to the handbook editor by June 30.

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERS & DUES

Section 1 Number of Members

Membership is limited to 49 residents of Wakefield, Reading or surrounding towns, exclusive of honorary life members.

Section 2 Active Member

1. Members in good standing should have an active interest in gardening, are current in their dues, and participate in events sponsored by the Club.
2. Members are strongly encouraged to join a committee.
3. Members are required to attend five meetings a year. If a member is not present at five meetings without appropriate cause, their membership will be reconsidered by the Board.
4. Members are required to participate in fundraising events and to sell a specified number of tickets whenever necessary.
5. A resigning member must confirm to the Membership Chair in writing or email their intention to resign.

Section 3 Honorary Life Members

1. Honorary Life Members will be those chosen and elected by the Board according to years of service and outstanding contributions made to the Club.
2. Are entitled to all club privileges and are not responsible for hostess duties or dues.
3. May elect to serve on a committee.

ARTICLE VIII – VOTING PROCEDURES

Section 1 Voting Guidelines

Presenting motions and voting will follow Roberts Rules of Order to the best of the club's ability. Voting virtually and/or by email is allowed.

Section 2 Club Decisions

To approve general decisions a quorum constitutes 50% of the Club's members.

Section 3 Bylaw Amendments

Club bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Club's members, provided the proposed amendments have been presented at a previous meeting, or submitted in writing to the membership at least two weeks prior to voting.

ARTICLE IX – GCFM COMPLIANCE

Section 1 Dissolution Clause

In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the organization shall, after payment of necessary expenses, be distributed to such organization as shall qualify under Section 501 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal Tax Law or to the Federal Government, a State or Local Government for public purpose, subject to the approval of a court of competent jurisdiction within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Section 2 Nondiscrimination Clause

The Crystal Garden Club shall not permit in their conduct of club affairs, any restriction or limitation whatsoever based upon race, color, creed, disability, gender inclusivity, national origin or employment status.



Standing Rules & Procedures



Dues

1. The yearly dues are payable by the March meeting.
2. The dues are \$45 for single membership, \$60 for joint membership and \$20 for members joining after February 1.
3. Two weeks following the annual meeting, a reminder is sent to members in arrears. Failure to pay dues is equivalent to a resignation.
4. A resigning member must confirm their intention to resign to the Membership Chair via email or in writing.
5. There is no refund of dues to an active member resigning from the Club.
6. Payments by members for any additional club-organized activities, such as workshops, meals, field trips, etc., are non-refundable.

Meeting Time and Place

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May, at the Pleasant Street Center in Reading at 7:00 PM, Social at 6:30 PM, unless otherwise noted.

Guests

Guests may attend two meetings per season, excluding fundraisers. The suggested guest donation is \$10. Members should notify the Hospitality Chair when bringing a guest.

Civic Beautification Donation

Crystal Garden Club may donate a tree or shrub to either Wakefield or Reading on an annual basis.

Hospitality Guidelines



The Hostess Team will work together to plan a festive and welcoming presentation. Each meeting will normally have four hostesses who are assigned in a rotating, alphabetical order. For joint meetings and fundraisers, a Coordinator(s) will be appointed and all members will be asked to contribute.

Prior to the meeting date —

- **Any member unable to serve as an assigned hostess must find a replacement and notify the Coordinator.**
- The Hospitality Chair will contact the assigned Coordinator and appoint committee members to set up and break down the meeting room if needed.
- The Coordinator will verify what supplies are on hand.
- The Coordinator will contact the hostesses to plan the needs for the evening including: table centerpiece, decorations, paper goods, tablecloth, beverages, appetizers or desserts.
- At large joint meetings or fundraisers that the Club hosts the Coordinator will circulate a sign-up sheet for members to provide refreshments and hot and cold beverages.

The evening of the meeting the Hostess Team will —

- Arrive between 6:00 & 6:15 PM to set up the refreshments.
- Be available during refreshment time to replenish goods.
- Clean tables and kitchen at the end of the meeting.



Reading / Wakefield

Membership Application

The objective of The Crystal Garden Club is to study all aspects of the fine art of horticulture, landscape, conservation and floral design, and to participate in civic beautification.

The Club will meet on the second Tuesday of each month from September to May at the Pleasant Street Center in Reading at 6:30 PM, unless otherwise noted. Meetings are open to the public.

A member is required to:

- Attend five scheduled meetings a year.
- Help provide refreshments for one or two meetings annually.
- Actively participate in a committee and events sponsored by the Club.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

How did you learn about the Crystal Garden Club?

What are your hobbies and/or interests?

Are there ways you can contribute to the Crystal Garden Club?

ANNUAL DUES: Payable to Crystal Garden Club

- \$45 Single Membership \$20 if joining after February 1
- \$60 Joint Membership (same household)

Mail to: Joanne Jolly-Kay, Treasurer

Crystal Garden Club
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Reading, MA 01867
(781-690-1881)