



# MAYFLOWER

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Newsletter



## 2025 SPEAKERS PROGRAM ISSUE



A Joyful Adventure

- Tales of a Gardener's Journey
  - Victory Gardens: Then and Now
  - Spiny and Spectacular: A Cactus Chronicle
  - Unhidden Gems**
    - Be whisked away to remarkable gardens
    - Discover engaging facts and stories about plant life, their gardens history, and surprising exhibits
    - Delight in the wellness benefits and supporting research of gardens and green spaces
- [Savedbythegarden.org](http://Savedbythegarden.org)

From Museum Galleries to Floral Artistry:  
**Floral Arts Workshops,  
Demonstrations,  
Weddings & Special Occasions**



### Artistry Floral

[Artistryfloral4@gmail.com](mailto:Artistryfloral4@gmail.com)

339-927-3929

Mary Lou Ashur and Lorraine Walsh



Todd Breitenstein – The Grateful Gardener  
Professional Speaker | Conservationist | Ecological Restorationist

Todd Breitenstein brings over three decades of experience in sustainable gardening, permaculture, and ecological restoration to engage and educate audiences, sharing practical wisdom and transformative insights on topics like:

- Regenerative Gardening & Permaculture Design
- Land Healing & Conservation
- Vegetable Gardening for Abundance & Wellness
- Health, Wellness & the Power of Nature



With a passion for Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Share, Todd blends science, spirituality, and hands-on expertise to inspire action toward a healthier planet and community

Keynote Speaker | Workshop Leader | Garden Mentor  
Book Todd for your next event!

[WEBSITE](#)

[EMAIL](#)

[LIST OF PROGRAMS](#)



## BOSTON IKEBANA

The Japanese Art of Floral Arrangement  
Demonstrations and lectures by  
Russell Bowers, Certified Master Instructor  
of the Ohara School of Ikebana in Japan



[russell.bowers@bostonikebana.com](mailto:russell.bowers@bostonikebana.com)

### Joan Butler



Joan Butler is an avid gardener and plant collector, who believes gardens should invite you to linger in the world outside your door. She has presented programs at botanic gardens, horticultural societies, flower shows, and numerous libraries and garden clubs in the northeast.

Joan has long been interested in the natural world. She holds a degree in Geology from UMass Amherst and a Certificate in Landscape Management from UMass Extension Green School. She is a Master Gardener, a retired Horticulturalist and a backyard birder. She is a former Chairman of the Massachusetts Landscape Design Council, a member of the Garden Consultants Council and is an Accredited Flower Show Judge. Joan is a past president of the Holliston Garden Club.

Email: [joan.butler331@gmail.com](mailto:joan.butler331@gmail.com)



### England's Painswick Rococo Garden

Three Centuries of Revelry  
Ruin and Resurrection

A pictorial garden guide, wrapped in the story of a 16<sup>th</sup> century British aristocrat's *pleasure garden* - and his 20<sup>th</sup> century heir who spent decades - and his fortune - to resurrect England's last surviving Rococo garden.



For a flyer or more info please contact Roger Bridgeman at [Roger@Bridgeman.com](mailto:Roger@Bridgeman.com)  
781-223-4895

## Naturalistic Gardening




New Perennials: A Love story  
Not Your Mother's Garden  
Reimagined Gardens



# Seeing

HISTORY

Exploring the Past through Landscape and Floral Art



*The National Academy Society (Academy of Arts) Sudeben's Birds of America*

**Martha A. Chiarichiaro**  
Lecturer of Art History



## Sheilagh Cruickshank

Community Herbalist

- Herbal educator, writer, urban gardener
- Lectures & workshops on using common garden plants for health & wellness

Learn the fundamentals of herbalism and how to incorporate healing herbs into your daily life.

Artemisia Botanicals  
3 Hawthorne Blvd  
Salem, MA

 **Witchcityherbalist**  
 [witchcityherbalist@gmail.com](mailto:witchcityherbalist@gmail.com)

## Story and Music Performances



Oracle-award winning storyteller  
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& harper Margot Chamberlain  
Entertain with World Myths and Seasonal Songs

[www.LivingMyth.com/gardens](http://www.LivingMyth.com/gardens)

Hands-On Fun,  
Take home your artwork

## PAINT NIGHT

### or Nature Sketchbook

Engaging in Art is:

- Fun, interactive
- Economical
- Good for all abilities
- Everyone takes their work home




**PAINT NIGHT:** Choose your own theme, drawing/painting to copy. Landscapes, flowers, gardens, you decide or I share ideas with you for approval. *Individual easels, variety of brushes and paints provided! Session is economical because the infrastructure is of no cost to your club.* Easy set-up and clean-up with recyclable products.

**Nature Sketchbook:** Each person receives a small sketchbook and drawing pencil and is led through creative exercises to capture animals and/or plants in quick sketching format. Charcoal Pencils and/or Pastels can be added to session with practical lessons on use. Set of pastels to keep may be included with presentation if selected.

Call or text Lisa Doucett at 978-973-3377 or email [natureartwithlisa@gmail.com](mailto:natureartwithlisa@gmail.com)

## C.L. FORNARI

### THE GARDEN LADY

Informative, humorous talks about plants and gardens.



In person or virtual.  
Science-based & fun.  
Inspiring images.

See a list of topics, references/raves, and contact info:  
[www.gardenlady.com](http://www.gardenlady.com)

## RoseSolutions

A Landscape Consulting Company  
Specializing in Roses

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[www.RoseSolutions.net](http://www.RoseSolutions.net)  
[www.therosejournal.wordpress.com](http://www.therosejournal.wordpress.com)

Authors of *Roses for New England: A Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening* & *Rose Gardening Season by Season: A Journal for Passionate Gardeners*

Publishers of the e-newsletter  
*The Northeast Rose Gardener*

## Christie Dustman

Christie Dustman Garden Designer, Speaker, Pruner  
[Christie@christiedustman.com](mailto:Christie@christiedustman.com)

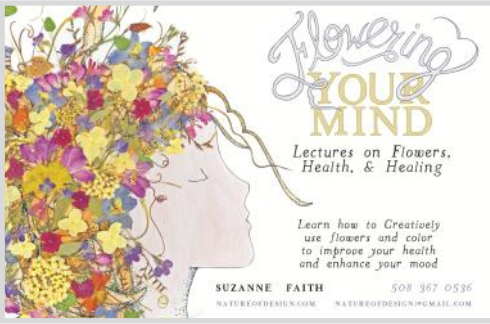


TOPICS OF EXPERTISE

- Japanese Style Gardens
- Containers as Sculptures or a Passion for Containers
- Balance in the garden
- Use of objects in the garden - for function & art
- Design principles for pleasing outdoor spaces
- Planting design
- Landscape solutions for outdoor problems
- Hands-on: Pruning workshops

**EMAIL SPEAKER**





**Flowering YOUR MIND**  
Lectures on Flowers, Health, & Healing

Learn how to Creatively use flowers and color to improve your health and enhance your mood

SUZANNE FAITH 508 367 0536  
NATUREOFDESIGN.COM NATUREOFDESIGN@GMAIL.COM



**MMGA Speakers Bureau**

- Over 20 subject matter experts
- 40+ gardening/horticulture topics: many new this year
- Flexible scheduling
- Affordable pricing

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL  
[Speakers@MassMasterGardeners.org](mailto:Speakers@MassMasterGardeners.org)

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
<http://MassMasterGardeners.org>



**Launching a Pollinator Pathway Group in Your Community**

Andover Pollinator Pathway shares how-to tips based on their successful experience. In-person and virtual programs available. Increase awareness, connect a community of native plant gardeners, and build a biodiverse ecosystem in your town or city.

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Dynamic presentations customized for your club:

- Gardening for Birds & Wildlife
- Hummingbirds -Rewilding
- Butterflies -Creating a Pocket Forest
- Native Plants of New England
- Invasive Plant Removal
- Creating A Wildlife Sanctuary



Lisey Good

Extensive TV + international public speaking experience  
Editor, "The Real Dirt" national magazine  
Founder, WildCohasset  
[contact@WildCohasset.org](mailto:contact@WildCohasset.org)



**Mary B. Hayes**  
2025 Programs and Workshops



- Ikebana-Style Arrangements
- Tulips Tulips Tulips!
- Create Your Own Cutting Garden
- Green Alternatives to Floral Foam
- Embellished Pumpkins!
- May Day Posies
- Artful Bud Vases

Happy to create a custom program for your club!  
Call or text: 978-758-9924

**NATURAL SELECTIONS**  
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**Leisha Johnson**  
Lectures, Workshops & Tours  
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The Mini-Meadow  
Less Lawn, More Life  
The Butterfly Dance  
Birds, Bees & Blooms  
Planting for Climate Resilience  
A Garden's Purpose



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NATURAL GARDENS



Safiyat Hamiss

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"Just a little note saying that our residents enjoyed your workshops very much! Thank you for 3 awesome workshops!"  
Eileen

Food Garden Coach | Educator | TV Chef | Mom of 3 | Author

Native to a premiere Food Garden Coach and TV Chef dedicated to empowering busy moms and families to grow their own food and cook with fresh harvests. Through Tasty Harvests, she provides hands-on workshops, live classes, and digital courses that teach people how to plan, plant, and nurture their food gardens - no matter their space or schedule.





Kathy Leva presents  
**Fun With Flowers**  
 A Floral Demonstration

Learn how to make simple and elegant designs to impress guests and beautify your home.

Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judge  
 Kathryn.Leva@gmail.com  
 (781)266-8454




**Forest Bathing**  
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with Nadine Mazzola, certified forest therapy guide & award-winning author

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- Presentations on forest bathing, or
- Designing spaces for forest bathing



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**The Garden Tourist**



**JANA MILBOCKER**  
 AUTHOR • SPEAKER • DESIGNER

Lectures on horticulture, design and travel

**Meet The New Garden Society**



Presentations on 10 years of prison gardens

Visit: [TheNewGardenSociety.org](http://TheNewGardenSociety.org)

Learn about therapeutic, educational horticulture-- and how gardens transform our social landscape. Make connections between gardeners from all walks of life

Email: [Development@TheNewGardenSociety.org](mailto:Development@TheNewGardenSociety.org)

**Trevor Smith**  
 MCH, NOFA A&LCP, LEED GA, and IPCI

Writer, Educator, Podcast Host and Award-Winning Designer

Topics include:

- Native plants
- Habitat creation
- Climate Change
- Designing with the seasons
- Pollinators
- Water features
- Soil 101
- Stormwater maintenance
- Pruning Basics
- Raised Bed Farming



**Garden Lectures**

Lively, informative & inspiring talks illustrated with stunning professional photography



Joanne Pearson  
[joanne@joannepearson.com](mailto:joanne@joannepearson.com)  
[www.joannepearson.com](http://www.joannepearson.com)  
 508.397.6440

**Kerry Ann Mendez**

**Perennially Yours, Gardening Services**  
 Kennebunk, ME  
 207-502-7228  
[pyours1@gmail.com](mailto:pyours1@gmail.com)  
[www.pyours.com](http://www.pyours.com)

*Kerry Ann Mendez is an award-winning garden educator, author, design consultant and proprietor of Perennially Yours. As an exceptionally popular educator and communicator, she has presented hundreds of lectures to thousands of gardeners in 23 states. She offers over a dozen inspiring lectures including:*

- \*Gardening Simplified: Plants and Design Solutions for Time-Pressed and Maturing Gardeners
- \*Power Up Garden Beauty: Power Down Garden Maintenance
- \*Small Landscapes with BIG Attitudes!
- \*Remarkable Natives for Beautiful, Planet-Friendly Gardens
- \*Clever Design Tips for Everblooming, Low-Maintenance Gardens
- \*The Art of Shade Gardening - Seeing Your Way Out of the Dark
- \*Time-Saving, Mighty-Mite Shrubs that Outshine Perennials

**The Joys of Composting - Turning Garbage to Gold**

Virtual or Live Presentations

From this...



... to this!



Ann McGovern MacAdam  
 Compost Specialist  
[annmacadam@msri.com](mailto:annmacadam@msri.com)

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**Tovah Martin**

Announcing three new info-rich, light-hearted lectures from my gardens & windtowers to your homes

- Bringing the Outdoors Inside Your Home & Onto your Windowsill
- Issues & Answers: Harnessing Plants to Solve Problems
- Essential Houseplants Ever, With Style

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Website: [www.tovahmartin.com](http://www.tovahmartin.com)

**Why can't horticulture and humor go together?**



Whether it's a speaker for your special meeting (offering, in the words of one club, "a horticultural lecture unlike anything we've ever heard"), an open meeting to attract new members, or that first meeting of the year when you need members in their seats; Neal Sanders ought to be at the top of your contact list.

'Gardening Is Murder' is equal parts humor and gardening wisdom: a husband's point of view of what goes on in the garden. There's a 'part 2' of that program titled, 'Gardening Is Painless (and other lies we tell ourselves)', which mines the same vein of wisdom and observations about gardeners and the way they garden. In 2024, Neal introduced 'How to Create Your Own Home-Grown National Park', which is the true story of how he and his wife, Betty, both in their sixties, turned a 1.5-acre plot of barren land into a spectacular garden with nary a blade of grass on it. It, too, is told with humor.

To book Neal write [Neal02052@gmail.com](mailto:Neal02052@gmail.com) or call 508-359-9453.

Jana Harris of Essex Forays presents

**MYCO EDUCATION**

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**Garden Club Presentations by Kirsten Torkelson**

Photographer, [KTImages.net](http://KTImages.net)

**Presentations** (face to face or by Zoom)

- Bridge of Flowers, MA
- Magic Wings (*Butterfly Conservatory*), MA
- Longwood Gardens, PA
- Birmingham Gardens, AL



**Photography Demo or Workshop**



**Maria von Brincken Garden Design**

Award-winning Design and Published Gardens

**Zoom Slide Lectures\_ Design How-To's to Create Your own Beautiful Gardens**

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- 2) Color Gardens: Perennials Combinations from Spring to Frost
- 3) Expand Your Bloom with Flowering Shrubs & Trees
- 4) Classic Vertical Gardening: Plants that Flower Up and Around
- 5) Creating Winter Gardens & Beyond using Lay-out Design

To Book Lectures: email [MvonBrinckenLGD@gmail.com](mailto:MvonBrinckenLGD@gmail.com)  
[www.mariavonbrincken.com](http://www.mariavonbrincken.com)  
See website for full descriptions & lecture flyer

**Seeds2Plate**



Judith Taylor  
Garden Coach & Speaker

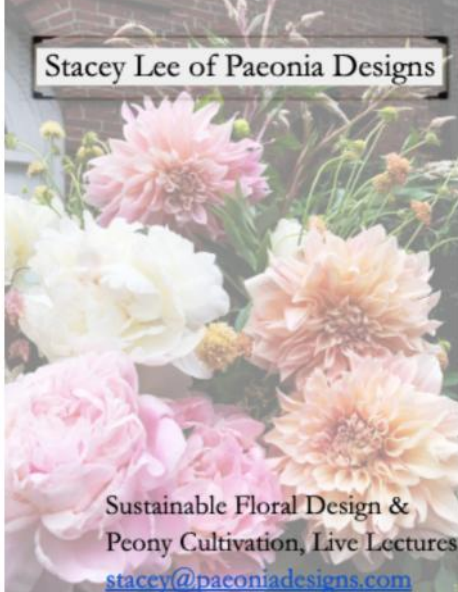
Gardening advice & presentations from seed to plant to harvest to plate

For more information or to book an event:  
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978-273-1636

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- And lots more!

**Stacey Lee of Paeonia Designs**



Sustainable Floral Design & Peony Cultivation, Live Lectures

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