

Mayflower

The Newsletter of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts



March 2023

Please forward the *Mayflower*
to your membership.

** Looking Ahead **

- **The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs** will be sponsoring a design specialty flower show “Galleria – Living Artfully” March 30 - April 2 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. There may still be openings for interested designers, so here is the schedule for your reference. [RIFGC Schedule Galleria](#)
- **North Reading Garden Club** Silver Tea Spring Fling. Wed Apr 12 7:00pm. Moose Lodge 140 North Street. North Reading. Gift Basket Raffle. \$15; \$20 door.
- April 12, 2023 Southborough, MA. Join Kathy Leva who will instruct students on **Creative Designs**. Please see registration information [here](#).
- May 10 **Topsfield** Fairgrounds “**What's your Line?**” Students will be taught the basics of line design. Please see registration information [here](#).
- **Gardening School Course 1** April 13, 14, 15 in the morning via ZOOM.
- **Laurelwood Garden Club's** 25th Art in Bloom. April 27 - 30, 11:00am - 5:00 pm. Fitchburg Art Museum. 185 Elm Street. \$15 adults. \$10 seniors.

- **Holliston Garden Club** 90th Anniversary Garden Tour. June 3, 9:30am - 3:30pm. Rain or Shine. Featuring 8 gardens in Holliston and Millis. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day.
- **New England Garden Club Annual Meeting**. October 10 & 11. GCFM will host in Plymouth, MA.

The GCFM Annual Meeting

June 1, 2023

9:00am - 4:00pm

Please join us for the 96th Annual Meeting
of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts.

June 1, 2023, 9:00 AM to 4:00 pm
Doubletree by Hilton
287 Iyannough Rd, Hyannis, MA 02601 **(508) 771-1700**

This is a very special meeting! We will be saying goodbye to our 2021-2023 officers and welcoming our incoming 2023-2025 slate. It is important for you as president to attend this meeting as a representative of your club. And the members of your club are also very welcome to attend.

The Agenda is still a work in process, but a preliminary version is available here along with registration information.

GCFM Annual Meeting Program Draft

Annual Meeting Registration

Hotel rooms are available for a special event rate. Please contact the hotel directly to make your reservations. Please mention that you are part of the GCFM group.

Garden Club Spring Plant Sales

- **Fairbanks Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 13, 9:00am - 12noon. At 511 East Street, Dedham.
- **Groton Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 13, 9:00am-12 noon. Rain or Shine. Legion Field 75 Hollis Street.
- **Hamilton Wenham Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 13, 8:00am - 12 noon. Rain or Shine. Hamilton Council on Aging, 299 Bay Road.
- **Holliston Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 13, 9:00am - 12 noon. Congregational Church Green.
- **The Evening Garden Club of Plymouth** Plant Sale. Sat May 13, 9:00am-1:00pm. Lawn at Plymouth Library, 132 South Street.
- **Boxford Village Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 13, 8:30am - 1:00pm. 2 Elm Street, Boxford.
- **Concord Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 13, 8:00am - 2:30pm. Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street.
- **Acton Garden Club Annual Plant Sale and Raffle** Sat May 20, 9:00am - 1:00pm. Rain or Shine. The Red House Acton Center 468 Main Street,

Rte 27, in Acton.

- **Pepperell Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 20, 8:00am - 12noon. Albert Harris/ Pepperell Senior Center, 37 Nashua Road, Rt. 111.
- **Brockton Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 20, 8:30am. Brockton Parks Dept. 45 Meadow Lane
- **Falmouth Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 20, 10:00am - 2:00pm. Museums on the Green, 55 Palmer.
- **Mattakeesett Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 20, 9:00am til 12noon. At The Herring Run on Route 14 (142 Barker Street), Pembroke, MA.
- **West Newbury Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 20, 8:30 am at the Training Field on Rt 113, West Newbury, MA.
- [Scituate Garden Annual Plant Sale](#). Sat May 20, 9:00am - 12noon. Rain or Shine. Mann Farmhouse and Wildflower Garden on the corner of Stockbridge Rd and Greenfield Lane in Scituate.
- **Southbridge Garden Club's** Plant Sale. Sat May 20, 9:00am - 12noon. Sturbridge Town Common.
- **Hull Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 20, 9:00am - 3:00pm. Rain or Shine. The Town Sign, 100 George Washington Road.
- **Ipswich Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 20, 9:00am. Hall Haskell House Green, Ipswich.
- **Garden Club of Mansfield** Plant Sale. Sat May 20, 9:00am - 12 noon. Mansfield Town Hall.
- **The West Newbury Garden Club** Plant Sale. Sat May 20, 8:30am to 11:30am at the Training Field on Rt 113 across from the Town Hall in West Newbury.
- **North Andover Garden Club's** Annual Plant Sale. Sun Jun 4, 10:00am-2:00pm. Rain or shine. North Andover Middle School, 495 Main Street, North Andover.

In Memoriam

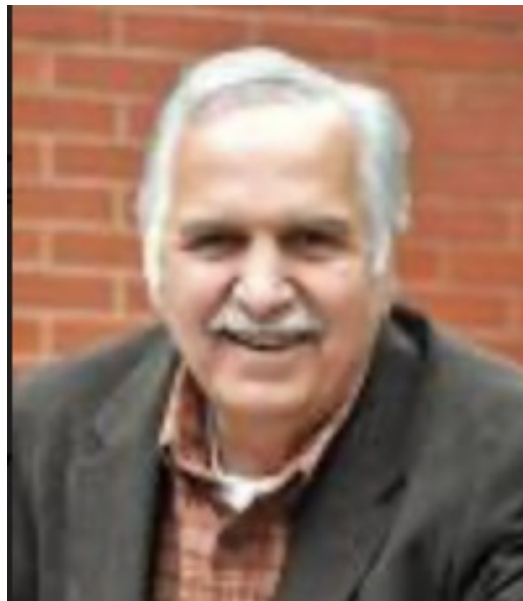


Meredith Chase
1943-2022

Meredith was born in Norwood, and raised in Dedham. She graduated from Dedham High and went to study to be a dental assistant at Boston University. Upon graduation, she worked with a dentist as his assistant and office manager for over 40 years.

She married and moved to Newton and had two children. There she was involved in church and community activities, anything that gave her an opportunity to meet new friends and to be involved. After her boys graduated from college, she moved to Sagamore Beach. Here she again became involved in community activities. She managed a bed & breakfast, was the membership Chairman of the local neighborhood club, Chairman of the town recycling committee, and Chairman of the committee to save the local grammar school. She also volunteered at the town food pantry.

She was twice president of the Falmouth Garden Club. She served as the Southeastern District Director for GCFM 2005-2007 and as Awards Chairman 2009-2011 Awards Advisor 2011-2013, Meetings Committee Raffles Chair 2013-2015 and Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chair 2015-2017. All of these activities gave her a chance to make new friends. She had a gift for remembering names which served her well in all of her jobs and activities. All of her family and many friends will miss Meredith's friendly smile and welcoming personality.



Clement 'Tony' Todesco
1942-2023

Tony was an extraordinary Floral Designer running his studio out of his home in Stow for over 50 years. He was a Master Flower Show Judge, whose vision for floral design was imaginative. He was a member of the Stow Garden Club. He served on the board of GCFM as on the Wallack committee 2015-17, Cindora Goldberg Committee 2017-19 and Meetings Committee Program Consultant 2013-15. He served National Garden Clubs as well. He was instrumental in creating NGC's illustrated design book, "Design by Types." Tony's designs were a regular feature at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts for Art in Bloom, and the Boston Flower Show. He loved giving design lectures and workshops and encouraging new designers. He was in demand; so traveled all over the country to other state garden clubs to lecture on his design concepts.



Gardening School Course 1 will be held **April 13, 14 & 15, 2023**, in the morning via ZOOM. The school is open to anyone wishing to take the course, but credit is only given to a garden club member. You do not need to take the courses in any specific order and each course is self-contained. If taking the course for credit an exam is given each day at the end of the school. You can also attend any single day

of the school that interests you, but will not get credit. A registration form and course list can be found [here](#).

Topics:

Basic Botany, Composting, Soils, Techniques for Growing Outdoor Flowers, Plant Propagation lecture & demonstration.

Lecturers:

Dr. Judith Sumner, Professor of Natural Sciences, Assumption College, Author
Kathi Gariepy, MA Master Gardener, NGC Master Gardening & Landscape Design Consultant, Garden Lecturer & Writer & Educator

Joann Vieira, Horticulturalist, former head of horticulture Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, current head of horticulture for MA Trustees of Reservation

MFA Art in Bloom

The 47th Art in Bloom
will be held at the
MFA Boston April 28-30, 2023

GCFM-sponsored Club Insurance Sign up by April 15, 2023

For coverage effective June 15, 2023 through June 14, 2024, sign up no later than April 15, 2023 using [this form](#).

***Please note this is the only time of the year
you may purchase or renew
insurance through GCFM.***

What it Covers: The policy offered to clubs through GCFM is a premises liability policy. It covers clubs, members and visitors as well as the meeting space. In addition, the policy covers club sales and events as long as alcohol is NOT served. Clubs planning special events should contact our agent at Corcoran & Havlin Insurance, Gary Nagle, at (781) 235-3100 ext. 261

(GNagle@chinsurance.com) prior to the event.

GCFM Dues are DUE May 1, 2023

[Use this Form](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAYMENT BEFORE MAY 1, 2023.

Make your check payable to GCFM, Inc.
and mail it with the form to GCFM's Second VP:
Ann Webster
16 Brent Road Lexington, MA 02420

A Note about the *Mayflower*

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 them as a PDF. Photos should be attached to the email and any descriptions included in the text portion of your submission and sent to me at joanminklei@gmail.com by June 10 for the Summer issue.

Thank you!

Garden Clubs at Work

Members of the **Pepperell Garden Club** have been busy dividing plants and repotting them for their annual plant sale on May 20, 2023. As always there will be perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, hanging plants, shrubs, and trees.

Pictured are members Paul Correnty, Susan LaRocco, Carol Canning, and MaryAnn Hagan



After a brief hiatus in January, the **West Newbury Garden Club** kicked off 2023 with a presentation to over 50 members and guests by club member, Alison Reyes. Alison, a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist shared her knowledge on plant health, soil health and optimizing nutrients in Your Vegetable Garden. The program was well received by all.

Our March meeting will feature Michele



Frnk Schuckel who will share her knowledge and expertise about gardening in a warming world. Michelle is the founder and principal designer of Natural Selections Gardens where she works with clients to advocate and protect our ecosystem and incorporate native plants into their gardens. Sustainable gardening and landscaping techniques can slow warming by reducing carbon emissions and home gardeners can be a important part of the solution. Michele will discuss rain gardens, veranal pools, accelerating the carbon cycle, and shifting planting zones, all efforts to halt climate change.

As Spring is approaching, the Scholarship Committee is accepting applications from students in the Pentucket School District. This year the club is pleased to offer two (2) \$3,000 scholarships to students interested in environmental sciences and other related fields.

Our Plant Sale, on May 20th, at the Training Field (Rt 113) in West Newbury will again feature a great assortment of sun and shade perennials as well as a huge selection of native plants. Over 20 varieties of native perennials will be for sale. We have picked them because of their flowering period, some blooming early and some into the fall. In addition to the 350+ native perennials, the club will over 45 native shrubs for sale. All are welcome. The sale begins at 8:30 am.



Louise Morrison, Jane Fiore, Jeanne Cashman–Scales and Mary Ann Higgins

The Reading Garden Club participated in the town wide “Festival of Trees” in December. The club decorated and donated a tree to the event organized by the Reading Educational Foundation which raises funds for educational opportunities in the town of Reading. Our theme was “Gnomes in the Garden” and the tree was adorned with some handmade gnomes and mushrooms and we hung “gnome “decorated ribbon. Gift cards to a local nursery were also attached to the tree. It was a fun filled community event.

The winter may be here and outdoor gardening curtailed but members of the **Stoneham Garden Club** participated in the set up and clean up of the annual “Christmas at Whip Hill” event, sponsored by numerous community groups. Some members participate in weekly preparation of floral arrangements which they then distribute to local nursing homes and the Stoneham Senior Center. Members are also participating in GFM events and classes during these dark days, getting ready for the arrival of early spring. Spades ready!

A lovely spring tea was held on March 9th by the **Reading Garden Club**.

Past presidents were honored and a new president was welcomed.

Many guests were in attendance from the GCFM, from clubs throughout the Middlesex district and local officials. Everyone enjoyed a presentation on how to make floral arrangements

by Lisa Green from Beach Plum Florists. She arranged fresh flowers in many creative containers which were then given away with an opportunity drawing.



The **Waltham Garden Club's** February meeting - Hands-on Springtime Topiary Workshop- proved to be a big success! Our presenter, Gayle Moran has an extensive background with flowers dating back to her childhood. She shared her expertise on the Elements of Design (space, light, line, form, size, pattern, color and texture) and Principles of Design (balance, dominance, contrast, rhythm, proportion and scale). For some floral arranging is a hobby but for others who want to take it to the next level, as she has, this information is important to know. It was fun to walk around and see everyone actively engaged. Topiaries are unique in design and pleasurable to look at. Everyone came out great and adorned many a dining room table afterward.



The **Southbridge Garden Club** held its annual Greens Sale on December 2nd and 3rd. Club members created a staggering number of gorgeous items

to sell: 96 wreaths, 42 swags, 52 arrangements, 4 cemetery boxes, 5 candles, and many additional miscellaneous items. The Greens Sale net profit exceeded \$4000, which will be used for scholarships, programming, and community outreach. The Club's Plant Sale committee held its first meeting on March 1 st to prepare for the sale, which will take place on May 20 on the Sturbridge Town Common from 9 am to noon. Last year's inaugural sale was a tremendous success.



The **North Andover Garden Club's** Annual Plant Sale will be held Sunday, June 4, 2023, 10:00am-2:00pm, rain or shine, at the North Andover Middle School, 495 Main Street, North Andover.

A tool sharpening service will be on site for a nominal fee with payment made directly to the vendor. A wide selection of reasonably priced, nursery quality, perennials will be available, along with some shrubs and perennial herbs. The plants are all locally grown and hardy to this area. Shop early for best selection! Sale will start promptly at 10am with no early bird shopping or purchasing. Cash, check and credit card accepted.



The **Evening Garden Club of Plymouth** is growing and, with additional new members, is in the process of creating a warm and welcoming place for all to enjoy, learn, share, from our personal gardening knowledge, and our professional speakers.

2021-2022 was our club's Twentieth Anniversary. We are celebrating at



February is the month we traditionally make petite arrangements for the Plymouth Meals on Wheels program. Each year we receive such amazing responses from the recipients. This meaningful project brightens the winter days to so many. We created 158 arrangements this year! This spring we look forward to our Annual Plant sale held at the Plymouth Public Library Saturday May 13th on the lawn. Join us for

our March meeting this year. In conjunction with President's Day, members are busy planning and prepping for this exciting meeting.

We reinstated a community service project this year, which was waylaid during covid. Members create a floral arrangement monthly to brighten the reading area at the Manomet branch of the Plymouth library.

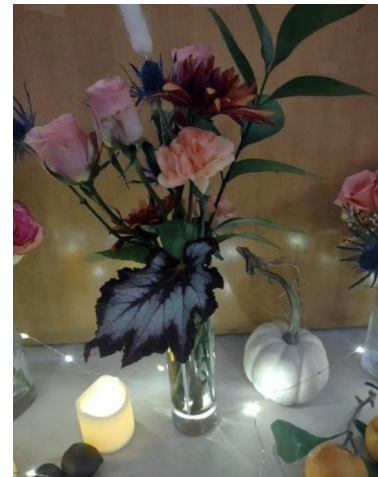
During December we held a wreath sale, celebrated the winter holidays at ThreeV Restaurant in Plymouth, then in January learned about seed starting from Master Gardener, Gretel Anspach at our monthly meeting.

perennial herbs, some seed starts of vegetables, and even house plants!



The Kalmia Garden Club is a small club, founded in 1960 with 30-35 members. Throughout its history, the club has focused both on civic projects and on providing opportunities for members to increase their knowledge about horticulture, garden and floral design, and environmental advocacy. Our garden club also is involved in the beautification of our gardens, planting and maintaining them for the entire town of Needham to enjoy.

We kicked off our season with a lovely luncheon on Barbara H.'s patio, overlooking her spectacular and colorful gardens. In October we hosted a wonderful guest speaker, Peter Hauschka, who gave a very knowledgeable talk on, "Flower Pollination and the Bees that Feed the World." Peter explained the full cycle of honeybees and presented a terrific slideshow of his hives and how he produces the honey for the spring and fall seasons.



In December we held our annual swag event for the Linden Street Housing community, which was well attended by the residents. Kalmia Garden Club members made delicious, homemade holiday treats for all to enjoy. The swags were hung on all of the entrances of the residents' buildings for everyone to enjoy.

Other highlights of the year included a program on making artful bud vases, with colorful flowers and different-sized vases. Everyone had a fun evening! Our wonderful holiday dinner was enjoyed by many members and was held at The Needham Golf Club. In January, we hosted a zoom meeting on "Color Gardens: Beautiful Perennials from Spring through Fall" presented by Mary Von Brinken. Mary showed us beautiful garden pictures and educated us on planting ideas and how to use different color combinations in our gardens.

We are all looking forward to Spring and enjoying our gardens!

Submitted by Marcia Pansuk, Publicist



The Nausett Garden Club has been very busy this year. At the September general meeting we arranged "Cheerful Bouquets" as a group project. Once completed we brought them to libraries, nursing homes, fire stations and various other places the arrangers thought to be enjoyed A postcard was attached in case the recipient wanted to send back a note.



For December we had a luncheon at Wequassett Club attended by several members. Our January zoom speaker was Lisa Oberholzer-gee who demonstrated her creative floral design with tips.



In December our Garden Ladies had their program at Latham School where their clients decorated holiday masterpieces. Tina Williamson, NCG leader at Latham for the past 11 years was recognized by the Latham staff.

We also collected gift cards to local super markets to donate to the Lower Cape Outreach Council, the club matched the amount, donating over \$2000 to the LCOC.

The October meeting had speaker Dave Scandurra from Edible Landscaping talk about planting perennial edibles, "Foodscaping" (pictured above)

The November Meeting had Deb Trickett present her award winning container garden designs. (Deb Trickett and President Jeanne

We also had six mini grant applications accepted by our club from schools in the area, along the pollinator outlines of our club. Over the holiday the six schools received their checks. Including Eastham Elementary School, Monomoy Regional High School, Provincetown's Baccalaureate School, Nauset

Berdik pictured below.)



Integrated Preschool of Stony Brook Elementary, Harwich Elementary School and Nauset Regional Middle School.

Peggy Sheehan, Historian/Publicity Co Chair of the communication Cell of the Nauset Garden Club

Burlington Garden Club

The first months of 2023 were very instructive while we wait for spring to arrive. During January's zoom meeting we learned about invasive plants from R. Wayne Mezitt, Chairman of the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group. He discussed what criteria is used to define an invasive and what is a nuisance plant but doesn't meet invasive criteria, showed us local invasive plants to help us identify them in our yards, and, how to eradicate them. Our Master Gardener Peter Coppola gave a talk on cleaning and maintaining garden tools as now is the best time to do so. In February we learned about houseplants and how to propagate them by a variety of methods from our speaker Betsy Szymczak. The in-person March meeting will be about British author and floral designer to the Royals Constance Spry and how her design and flower arranging principals still apply today.



Driftwood Garden Club

Marblehead current president Ginny von Rueden presented highlights of the group tour she organized of Great Houses and Gardens of Yorkshire and the Lake District of England. Planned in honor of Driftwood Garden Club's 70th Birthday, the travelers were led by head gardeners in such exquisite sites such as York Minster, Littlethorpe Manor, Castle Howard (of 'Brideshead Revisited' and 'Bridgerton' fame), Harlow Carr Gardens, Parcevall Hall, Levens Hall, Lowther Castle, and Holker Hall. Tour members enjoyed a private lakeside cruise along Windemere and a visit to Beatrix Potter's home at Hilltop Farmhouse. While DGC members were touring the English countryside, the beloved Queen Elizabeth II passed away. Those on the tour were able to witness firsthand the grief of British citizens, and several members were interviewed by British journalists.



Laurelwood Garden Club of Fitchburg in partnership with the Fitchburg Art Museum extends an invitation to all garden club members to attend the 25th ART IN BLOOM event being held April 27 - 30, 2023. Doors open each day from 11 am to 5 pm. at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg, MA. The Julia Casey Lecture series will be held on Saturday at 1 pm. Demonstration by O'Hara School of Ikebana and on Sunday at 1pm. Artist talk by May Babcock - Paper Town Exhibition. Visit website: fitchburgartmuseum.org. If interested in being an interpreter e-mail Julie Palioca at paljuliejulie@verizon.net



The Wellesley Gardeners' Guild's Deck the Halls Holiday Fundraiser was a resounding success again this year.

The Grand Prize included \$2500 worth of outdoor holiday décor by NatureWorks Landscape. Second Prize was \$600 of planters from A Blade of Grass, and third prize featured a \$200 indoor holiday arrangement from Posies of Wellesley.

photos by Beth Shedd

The **Holliston Garden Club's** 90th Anniversary Garden Tour will take place on June 3, 2023. 8 gardens in Holliston and Millis. Rain or shine. 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. Tickets are \$25 pre-sale and \$30 day of the tour. Tickets will be available on our website hollistongardenclub.org as of April 1, 2023. Tickets can be picked up at the Holliston Library on the day of the tour.

Please contact Lee Guertin lguertin1457@gmail.com or Karen Pinkham, kpinkham0810@gmail.com for more information.

Flora in Winter

Worcester Horticultural Society held its annual "Flora in Winter" March 2-5, 2023 at the Worcester Art Museum. Twenty-four designers interpreted museum art work with a floral design. Ten of the designers were from the Worcester Garden Club, which has supported the event for many years. There were also 14 professional floral designers that created designs for the public areas. Each day also had events from floral design to musical performances. Maureen Christmas gave a demonstration on "Eco-Friendly Designing",

Thelma Shoneman gave one "Fun with Foliage" and Kaye Vosburgh did one on "The Garden Awakens".



Nancy Martin , Framingham GC,
John Farnham, Gentleman-
Pensioner to Elizabeth I. by Steven
van der Meulen 1563



Andrea Little, Westborough GC, Henry
Wadsworth Longfellow and his
daughter, Edith by George P.A. Healy
1869



Maureen Christmas, Acton GC, The
Repentant Magdalen, by El Greco
1577



Thelma Shoneman, Acton, GC,
Ritual wine container, from Chinese,
Eastern Zhou Dynasty



Ruth Evans, Framingham GC, Torso
by James A. Tellin 1999



Susan Dewey, Worcester GC A Gran
Landscape, by Thomas
Gainsborough, 1760s

The West Newbury Garden Club Plant sale will be held May 20, 2023 from 8:30 to 11:30 am at the Training Field on Rt 113 across from the Town Hall in West Newbury. The sale will feature a large assortment of sun and shade perennials as well as a large selection of NATIVE plants. We will have over 350 native perennials (20+ varieties) and over 45 native shrubs for sale. All are welcome. Credit cards are accepted. Please visit our website, wngc.com, for a listing of native plants for sale.

Cindora A Goldberg Award Deadline: May 10, 2023

An annual award is to be given in tribute to Cindora A. Goldberg. The award honors the ability she had to continually see and create in an innovative manner. The award is in the form of framed certificate, and will be given to the

most outstanding floral design submitted by a member of The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.

The entries should represent the very best examples of a designer's work and must be in the form of photographs and digital images. The entries will be judged by The Cindora A. Goldberg Award Committee. The winner must be present to receive the award at the Annual Meeting of The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. A full color photo of the winning design will appear in the Fall issue of the *Mayflower*.

Check it out [here](#).

Penny Pines Club Competition

We will be wrapping up the Penny Pines Challenge on May 1. Don't miss out on this opportunity to maximize your donations to this worthy cause. All donations to PennyPines sent in to Aparna Kumar, aparnakum34@gmail.com, our Penny Pines Chair, by May 1 will be eligible to win the challenge.

[Penny Pines Web info](#)

Her Shirley Farm Landscape Project Pt 4

by Juliet Silvieri

As I continue my ambitious ongoing landscape project, converting overgrown but flat and sunny farm space into beauty, I start to feel a sense of structure that helps guide the rest of the design of my Shirley farm project. A feeling, a home, a belonging is evolving for me. The intense joy of nature ties in with the joy of an alluring landscape, as in the warm sun shadows of hawks and eagles pass overhead while my eye travels to my three 20-foot-tall arborvitae corner "room", and then around and to the left, to the allee of Green Mountain sugar maples now bordering the cart road on the edge of my property, then moves down and left toward the last arborvitae (see picture), then to the back wilder sections—this progression, of the trees that lead and lure you on, is pulling the structure together. Working with nature, it is possible to create perfect joy.



(above) Lower and Upper Gardens. View from above in winter.

Think about having endless short and pleasant journeys whenever you please, with focal points and different types of garden interest along the way, in a place where there is always another and a different path to look forward to. It was

important to me that while designing this landscape I would have multiple paths and other ways to lead and enchant people. I have in the past discussed and diagrammed another path and progression that leads from my driveway in front down my side yard, across my patio, and through my two formal gardens. At the exit from the upper garden, this and the other path discussed above merge, and will become one path upon exiting the garden.

Nature works with me, as birds frolic in the heated birdbath and perch on the trees in my bird, or lower, garden, which is visible from many windows, and is the closest garden to my house. The first thing to ever bloom there is the witch hazel, *Hamamelis vernalis*, late-winter-blooming, red and yellow flowers. (At least I think it is blooming—I've never had witch hazel before, so I don't know if the flowers are fully open—see picture).

Everything in the bird garden was planted in late June, then had to survive the blistering hot summer, so this is their first real season to bloom. After witch hazel, and I'm not sure of the order, but will bloom the fothergillas 'blue shadows', the *Amelanchier laevis* 'lustre' trees, the high-bush blueberries, the red-twig *Cornus* 'arctic fire' shrubs, the pagoda dogwood *alternifolia* 'golden shadows' tree, and the bearberry. I have ordered a *hypericum prolificum*, shrubby St. John's Wort, which grows to 4 or 5 feet tall, has many bright yellow small flowers, and is good for pollinators. And it has attractive peeling bark in winter. This is the only shrub that will bloom in summertime, in that garden. And it will bloom for along time. These native shrubs and trees will support birds and pollinators, which will delight me.



(above) *Hamamelis vernalis* (witch hazel) in early March of 2023, first year here

Not pictured here is the plan for my second, or upper, garden—the perennial garden at last! I've been waiting for two years, as we first created the structure and the plan for my entire yard. Last fall I hired a new designer, who seems an expert at plant selection and combinations. The layout of this garden is very similar to the layout of the lower garden, but it will be full of perennials, with paths and a peaceful spot saved for two chairs and a small table. I am planning a water trough with bright green duck weed for the focal point in the center. For the future, I plan on creating a wide green path, from the exit of the perennial garden, following the line of sugar maples, down to the wilder back portions of my property, keeping it pastoral, with big open spaces with lots of green. There will be nothing "cute and suburban" about it. That is to come for the future, as is a view of my allee of sugar maples, a spring view, then a fall view...please join me.



(above) *Cornus alternifolia*, pagoda dogwood 'golden shadows' that shows horizontal branches, with *ilex crenata* 'green lustre,' in winter

Spotlight on New Jersey Tea

by Linda Jean Smith

New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) also known as Jersey tea ceanothus, and variations of red root, mountain sweet, and wild snowball is a low, compact, upright, dense, rounded, deciduous shrub, which can be found on dry plains, prairies, or similar un-treed areas, and on soils that are sandy or rocky. It can often be located in forest clearings or verges, on banks or lakeshores, and on gentle slopes. It ranges from Manitoba and western Quebec to western Maine, south to western Georgia, west to Alabama, Arkansas and Texas. The genus name comes from keanothos, which is an ancient Greek name relating to some plants in the buckthorn family. Specific epithet means from America, North or South.



The base of the plant is woody, while the upper portion of the plant is made up of herbaceous, spreading branches. Toothed, broad-ovate, medium to dark green 4in. long leaves are gray and hairy below. The young leaves give the entire plant a grayish cast. Young twigs are noticeably yellow and stand out in winter. Small white flowers occur on 2 in., branch-tips or upper leaf axils in cylindrical clusters occurring on long stalks in late spring and bloom May to July. Flowers are showy, fragrant, and are good as cut flowers. The fruits are dry, seed capsules that break open upon hitting the ground.

New Jersey Tea grows 3-4 ft. high by 3-5 ft. tall and is a low maintenance plant that can be easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade, but best in sandy loams or rocky soils with good drainage. It is hardy in zones 4-8. Its woody, red roots go deep into the ground and help the plant withstand drought conditions, but make established shrubs difficult to transplant. It also has thick fibrous root hairs close to the surface. New Jersey Tea blooms on new wood. It can be cut back to the ground in early spring to encourage new growth, or it can be left to grow naturally. This shrub tends to form suckers as it grows and becomes established, so plan on pruning them

away early if you do not want the plant to spread. There are no serious insect or disease problems. However it is susceptible to leaf spot and powdery mildew.

New Jersey tea can be used in shrub borders or native plant gardens. It is also effective as shrubby ground cover for hard-to-grow areas such as dry rocky slopes and banks. New Jersey tea is not invasive and is sometimes a good alternative to an invasive. Deer and rabbits will graze on its twigs, leaves and flowers. Its seeds are consumed by wild turkeys and quail. It attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. The shoots host the larvae of butterflies and the flowers are used as food. Some butterflies that are attracted to New Jersey tea are spring and summer azures; and mottled and dreamy duskywings. The root and flower extracts can also be used as dyes.

The red roots and root bark of New Jersey tea were used by Native Americans for infections of the upper respiratory tract. The leaves have a fresh scent of wintergreen and were later utilized by the European colonizers as a tea substitute and stimulating caffeine-free beverage, thus the common name New Jersey tea. If you wish to make a tea gather the leaves when the plant is in full bloom; spread them out to dry fully, out of direct sunlight before using them. The root bark of the plant is used by herbalists today in remedies for problems of the lymph system. The root contains astringent tannins and a number of peptide alkaloids, including ceanothine A-E, pandamine, zizyphine, scutianine, and the adouetines. They have a mild hypotensive effect.

YIKES: Mosquitos, Ticks, Grubs **by Maria Bartlett**

What is the Problem?

Spring has sprung...mosquitoes cannot be far behind. Ticks are a problem because we are outside more often. And, grubs may be coming along to invade our lawns over the growing season. How can we protect ourselves and our lawns from these pests in ways that are safe for us and for the environment instead of using harmful pesticides?

What Can You Do About Mosquitoes?

- **MOST IMPORTANT:** Remove all sources of standing water/moisture. Mosquitoes can breed in something as small as a bottle cap of water. Check tires, gutters, tree holes, drains, toys, tarps, wheel barrows, dripping faucets, even low moist areas of the lawn or driveway.
- It takes an egg a few days to mature to a flying insect, so change standing water sources such as bird baths every 3 days.
- For ponds, use solar-powered fountains or pumps to keep water moving since eggs can only be laid in still water. Try filling the pond with mosquito eating fish such as minnows and bluegills...they eat mosquito larvae, do not require any special sand, and are self-sustaining.
- Keep these natural mosquito predators around: birds, dragonflies, beetles, frogs, snails, bats.
- Use mesh screens on windows and doors. Cover rain barrels with fine mesh screens on top to prevent egg-laying on the standing water inside.
- Stay indoors during dawn and dusk.
- When sitting outside, set up a fan at low speed: mosquitoes are not

strong fliers and will be

- kept away by the breeze. Burn citronella candles.
- “Mosquito Dunks” are used specifically to kill mosquito larvae when placed in standing water. They contain BTi (bacillus thuringiensis, strain israelensis), a bacteria that is eaten by mosquito larvae and kills them. They can be used where standing water is inaccessible and/or cannot be removed such as with in-ground drains covered by grills.
- Set play equipment in sunny areas of the yard. Mosquitoes congregate in the shade.

How to Avoid Ticks?

- Do not let your pet go into tick-infested areas and/or use safe pet collars/medications.
- When hiking in wooded areas, wear loose, light-colored clothing that covers your body, including your legs so ticks are easy to see. Tuck pants into socks and wear a hat.
- Be sure to always monitor any abnormal bug bites and always conduct tick checks!
- Throw clothing into the dryer for 20 minutes on high heat to kill ticks.
- Ticks will generally not move from wooded areas across mulched/gravel areas so surround your lawn with such a barrier if you have children and pets using your lawn.
- Control field mice in/near your home. Snap traps are a humane non-hazardous method of control. Avoid rodent poisons that also kill mice predators like eagles, foxes, opossums.
- Set bird feeders away from areas you and children use.

Products To Repel Pests

- Both mosquitoes and ticks can be repelled by using products containing Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus which is a natural and effective product (one brand name: REPEL). It is DEET- free, so it is safe for children over three. (Do not use the oil by itself, only as part of Repel or a similar product.
- Avoid DEET. It is a ground water contaminant and may be harmful for humans.

Spraying Services

There are many such services advertising now...the yard signs and mailed flyers are everywhere! PLEASE RECONSIDER before contracting for one of these services.

- Many use pyrethrum, derived from chrysanthemums, and advertise these sprays as “natural.” Pyrethrums from mums and synthetic pyrethroids are both highly toxic to fish, tadpoles, bees and other beneficial insects and are NOT organic compounds. These products should NOT be sprayed across a property as they kill all insects, including pollinators/other beneficial insects.
- Many services are now offering alternative products which are less toxic but still carry risks for the environment as they too harm beneficial insects in addition to ticks and mosquitoes. These products usually contain cedarwood oil in combination with other herbal oils. Garlic oil by itself seems to be the least harmful and has some efficacy.
- All these sprays are done many times during the season and these

services are quite expensive. Try the other suggested methods instead!!

Using the Bucket Method of Mosquito Control

Doug Tallamy and others have suggested the ["bucket method"](#) of controlling mosquitos, but some have suggested this merely attracts them to your yard.

Dealing with Grubs

Often a grubx-type product is applied to lawns preventively each spring. This contains a chemical highly toxic to the microbial life in the soil. A new product is available that uses a Bt species of bacteria that kills grubs without causing other harm. It is sold under the trademark grubGone. The spraying of nematodes used to be considered a safe method but there is now evidence suggesting it is harmful to bumblebees and the method is not now recommended.

Featured places and events



Experience nature's playground
CAMPOBELLO
the island the Roosevelts so loved !



- 5 observation decks
- Miles of stunning seacoast
- Open daily thru late Oct
- *FREE Admission*
- Guided cottage tour
- Eleanor's Tea twice daily
- 9 hiking trails



**Roosevelt Campobello
International Park**

A Legacy of Friendship

New Brunswick, across the bridge from Lubec

877-851-6663

RooseveltCampobello.org



Save The Dates

MAY 13, 2023

PLANT SALE

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GREEN
9 AM - 12 NOON

JUNE 3, 2023

90TH ANNIVERSARY
GARDEN TOUR

8 GARDENS IN HOLLISTON AND MILLIS
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
RAIN OR SHINE

HOLLISTONGARDENCLUB.ORG



**Acton
Garden Club**

**Plant Sale
and Raffle**

May 20, 2023
9am - 1pm
Rain or Shine

The Red House - Acton Center
468 Main St
Rte 27

Fairbanks Garden Club

Plant Sale

Saturday May 13, 2023

Pollinators, herbs, 9-12
climbers, perennials, Rain or shine
flowering shrubs, trees &
more!

511 East st Dedham , MA Fairbanksgarden.club

*NORTH READING GARDEN CLUB
SILVER TEA*

SPRING FLING!

Presented by Maureen Christmas



**Wednesday, April 12th
7:00pm**

(doors open at 6:30pm)

Moose Lodge

140 North Street

North Reading MA

Guest Donation: \$15.00 in advance; \$20.00 at the door

Delectable Desserts & Gift Basket Raffle

For Tickets: Call or text:

Cathie DeCola @508-572-1072

or Anne Lundell @ 781-799-1936

National Garden Club News

LEARN, GROW, CONNECT, AND SERVE TOGETHER

The 3-Rs (Recruit, Retain, Revitalize) series started on last fall and all three videos can be found on the [website](#) under the Member Resource Library.

For more educational videos, drop into the

**Video
Cafe**

Follow GCFM on Facebook

