

Northern Exposure



Newsletter of the New England Garden Clubs, Inc.



**Connecticut – Maine – Massachusetts
New Hampshire – Rhode Island - Vermont**

November 2024

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all members who attended the NEGC Annual Meeting hosted by the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs on October 23 and 24 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI. For a second year, we welcomed NGC President Brenda Moore from West Virginia. It was a wonderful two-day event with several speakers, a short business meeting, and plenty of time for networking, socializing and shopping. Thank you to Vera Bowen, meeting chair; Judy Gray, RIFGC President; and the Rhode Island team for their great planning, smooth implementation, and gracious hospitality.

For those who were unable to attend, below is the director's message I delivered at the meeting:

It has been an honor for me to serve as your Director of New England Garden Clubs this term. As Director, I represent our six New England States on both the NGC Executive Committee and the NGC Scholarship Committee. These committees have given me a greater appreciation of the work being done by National to enhance our garden club experiences.



The theme for my term is GROW GREEN...PLANT AMERICA. I chose this theme to encourage our clubs and members to take on specific horticulture activities that will help support the environment such as planting trees, making pollinator corridors and encouraging home-grown national parks. In support of that, my Director's project is to

increase donations to Penny Pines (now called Plant-a-Tree) from the clubs and states within the New England Region. The minimum donation for the program has been reduced to \$50 and certificates will be distributed electronically. Please check the NGC website for details. I would certainly appreciate your support in this endeavor.

The NEGC photography group, spearheaded by Arabella Dane, has been very active this year. Two wonderful webinars were held, and we have another in the works for early 2025. There were 101 entries to the 2024 photography show and, after judging by an outside camera club, four amazing photos were chosen in each of the six categories. They are on display at this meeting (and shown in this newsletter on pp. 20-22). Great job by all who entered!

Membership growth is critical to the success of our organization. I am proud of the strides our states have made in this area. Between clubs growing their membership and states adding formerly non-federated clubs to their federation, the results are very encouraging. Let's keep this trend going.

At our last Annual Meeting, several members suggested that we should offer an updated region tote bag as a fundraiser for the region. After researching suppliers, we settled on one and had 50 units created. I am pleased to say that over the past year we have sold all 50 bags and raised over \$500 in profit. Thank you to everyone who participated.

This unplanned income created funds that the Executive Board could allocate to participate in NGC's fundraiser - Path of Success. In July, the board voted to purchase a Region Paver for the project. On September 19th, Brenda Moore cut the ribbon at the dedication of the Path of Success which was held on the grounds of our national headquarters in St. Louis. It was wonderful to see our region, states and clubs represented on the walkway. (Shown in this newsletter on page 24.)

I enjoyed visiting your states to attend meetings, flower shows and events. And each time, I come away with much pride and great ideas to share with others.

In conclusion, thank you for all you do for your state and for your Region. Working together I know we will continue to accomplish great things! Please reach out to me if I can help in any way.

Susan Miner
NEGC Director 2023-2025

The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Inc.



The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, North District presents a National Garden Club Small Standard Flower Show: "The Story of the Garden." Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Inc. is excited about the Vermont Flower Show held every two years. The show scheduled for March 7-9, 2025, will feature **The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, North District presenting a National Garden Club Small Standard Flower Show: "The Story of the Garden."**

Congratulations to the Rutland Garden Club in Vermont who completed a successful Flower Show.



Esther Swett discussed the overall success with tips and information for organizing a Flower Show at the October 1st Fall Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Meeting in St. Johnsbury, VT.

**ESTHER SWETT
CENTRAL
DISTRICT
DIRECTOR**

Rutland Garden
Club





Members socializing and networking at the 2024 Fall FGCV Meeting Judy Reed (past president Mountain Gardeners), Janet Ellison (President of Mountain Gardeners) and Karen Villanti (North District Director FGCV).



Enjoying the Fairbanks Museum at the Fall 2024 FGCV Meeting Sue Miner (New England Garden Club Director), Martha Dale (VP FGCV), Abbie Ruffner (President of Seed and Weed Garden Club), Doris Van Mullen (FGCV President).

Blue Star Memorial Marker – Vermont

Flora Bell FGCV BLUE STAR MARKER CHAIRPERSON



Naturalizing Bulb Plantings

(adapted from my recent All Things Gardening Broadcast on Vermont Public)



To get that more natural look from spring flowering bulbs, begin by checking out all the possible places to plant in your yard. Ensure that those areas will get full sun in spring and have well drained soil. There are three places where you can consider naturalizing bulb planting this fall; the lawn, under large deciduous trees or in a meadow. First, select the right bulbs for each. For lawns, look for small bulbs such as crocus, scilla, and chionodoxa. These bulbs won't grow very tall, but they will spread quickly. After they're done flowering, they are easy to mow down and can spread throughout your lawn. For deciduous tree areas, select some bigger bulbs, like daffodils and camassia. These can really stand out. In those settings, bigger bulbs mean bigger flowers, plus they're really tough bulbs and can take some of the plant competition in a forest. For a meadowy area, grow these small bulbs already mentioned and some species of tulips and narcissus.

If you have problems with rodents, like chipmunks, voles or mice or even deer, eating your bulbs, select bulbs they don't like such as daffodils, scillas, camassia, chionodoxa, snowdrops and winter aconite. To achieve a more natural appearance, drop bulbs randomly around and wherever they drop, plant them there!

Make sure you don't mow naturalized areas for 4 to 6 weeks after bulb flowering to ensure the foliage and seeds will begin to spread to create even more naturalized bulb-plantings.

Charlie Nardozi, radio and TV personality with shows in Vermont and Connecticut and Regional Emmy Award winner Mr. Nardozi is a member of the Burlington Garden Club

The FGCV 2025 Fundraising Trip to Boston

New England Botanic Garden
AT TOWER HILL

Experience the wonder of plants at a botanic garden in the heart of New England.

- conservatories, formal & naturalistic gardens, garden shop, café, expansive views of the Wachusett Reservoir.
- irreplaceable collection of plants & place sustainability & environmental stewardship at the forefront of our work
- **200** acres of land
- **VOTED BEST** Botanic Garden in the U.S in 2023

ANNOUNCING 2025 TRIP

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont
MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW
AND ON THE FGCV WEBSITE

Boston

New England Botanic Garden
Isabella Gardner Museum

Travel to Boston – visit Isabella Gardner Museum, evening free, next day drive to New England Botanic Garden

Fundraising trip
<https://www.vermontfgcv.com/>

DATES TO BE DETERMINED
AN OVERNIGHT IN BOSTON

Isabella Steward Gardner Museum
<https://www.gardnermuseum.org/>

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER
AN UNCONVENTIONAL LIFE

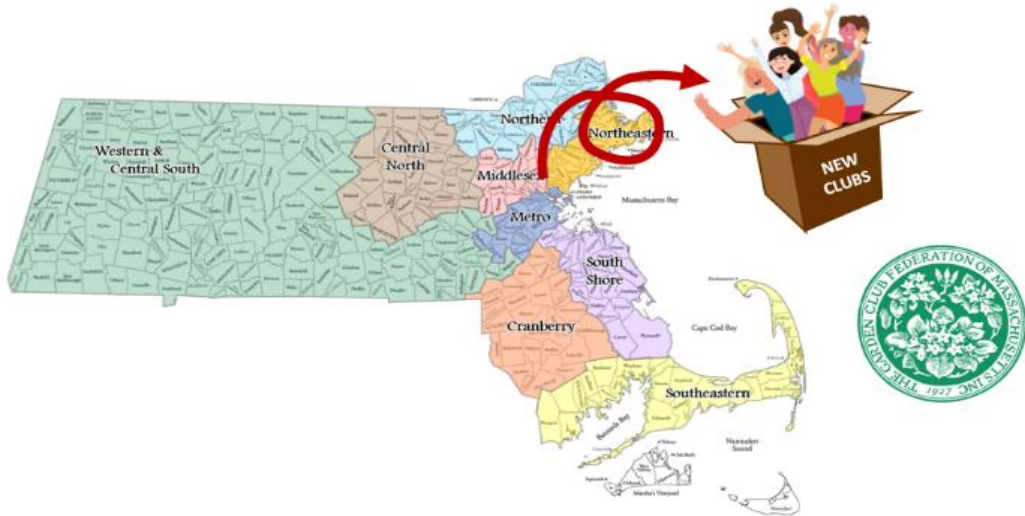
Doris Van Mullen
President, Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

Things are happening at GCFM. We saw an increase of 460 new members this year bringing our membership close to nearly 11,000. We are busy! There seems to be renewed excitement about our organization and it's contagious. We will bring onboard another garden club next month with 2 more in the wings and a few wanting to start up a club and then join our Federation. It must be something in the water.

All kidding aside, I think it has a lot to do with the effectiveness of sending out a weekly Monday Memo keeping our members informed of not only what we offer, but also what NE Region and National offers, having Roundtable discussions around how to attract new members and keeping the lines of communication open. We





encourage all of our members to reach out to any Executive Board member directly at any time.

Having a website that is interactive and easy to use helps significantly. We had 1000 new visitors to our website last month, an uptick of over 27% usage from the previous month. Through our website, we offer many webinars about state awards, flower show awards resulting in an increased awareness of clubs wanting to apply for awards. We have webinars for treasurers and junior gardening, speakers bureau and a page dedicated to every resource a garden club member would need to know. We've hugely expanded our Environmental page which has drawn a lot of attention.

Images From the Topsfield Fair Flower Show



First image: Bastille Day Category, Debbie Stashis-Douglass, Danvers Garden Club Honorable Mention Second Image: Winter Solstice Category, Joy DiMaggio, Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury, First Prize

We have come to realize that members want quick, easy and readily available information and the goal of the website committee is to do just that. This is the first

image and introduction to our organization. People will linger on the site if it's interesting and they find what they need. Our webmaster designed a state map which shows where all of the garden clubs are located and it's a way to find a club in your town or neighboring town. This has attracted new members to our garden clubs.

Attendance at our schools and workshops has increased as well as attendance at the Annual Meetings. I am so proud of our clubs and the dynamic people who run them. Our success depends on all of us working together. No one can do this alone. I'm grateful for the team members who make this happen and their spirit of collaboration.

As GCFM is approaching our 100th Anniversary in 2027, I want to announce that we are having a Fundraiser on April 30, 2025, you won't want to miss. Our presenter will be floral designer Michael Derouin, AAF, AIFD, PFCI. Michael is a second-generation floral industry designer and educator. His fresh approach to design, paired with his natural ability to entertain while teaching, makes his programs fun and informative. He will share some of his favorite tips and techniques that he has learned throughout his career. Michael's design style is best described as Modern Sophistication. This is the perfect special gift for your gardening Mother, sister, friend and YOU to celebrate the Holiday Season, Christmas, Hanukkah, Valentines Day, Birthday, etc. Come join us for this wonderful presentation. The function will take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Milford, MA. Please click here for more information.



Marjorie Dienhart
GCFM, President

New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs is Thankful for. . . .

We have so many blessings that we are thankful for and at this time of the year it is time to reflect on our many blessings both personal and in relation to our Garden Clubs.

New Hampshire is very thankful that our club membership has increased from 16 to 18 clubs, with other clubs asking for information about federation membership.

We are thankful that Design Guild has been reestablished. It was a victim of Covid and this year under the leadership of Peg Birch, one of our Judges, we have revived the Guild. We are hoping to increase interest in floral design and encourage more flower show involvement.

We are thankful that our Scholarship Committee, under the leadership of Audrey Vargish, has worked tirelessly to revamp the scholarship procedures as a result of a change in our relationship with the University of New Hampshire. Now New Hampshire students may attend colleges and universities other than UNH. NH students who meet our parameters may use the scholarship money at the college or university of their choice.

We are very thankful for our idea of changing our Fall Meeting to an informal Fall Gathering for all our clubs. This is our second year of celebrating NHFGC at a beautiful

venue and giving our members the opportunity to learn and enjoy the company of members from other clubs in an outdoor setting. The district in charge supplies coffee and breakfast items and an optional catered box lunch is offered to members. The number of members attending this event keeps growing and many attending really enjoy the opportunity to network and share gardening ideas with members of different clubs.

We are thankful that so many members of the Board and many Club Presidents are serving on committees to update our Standard Rules because of the changes in the way we are offering so many events and opportunities for members.

We are thankful that we have a full slate of officers to lead the Federation for the 2025 - 2027 biennium. We have a strong group of dedicated leaders willing to keep us going forward.

We are thankful for the nearly 1000 members of NHFGC! Every member contributes to the success of the Federation. We are a state that has great distances between the different clubs. It takes commitment and enthusiasm by leaders and members to keep us connected and growing. As I travel around the state, visiting clubs, I personally am so very thankful for all that our members contribute to the beauty of NH. Our clubs create and maintain public garden areas throughout the state. Beautiful public parks and gardens, plantings in special areas, and seasonal decorations in the different communities create a welcome feeling for both residents and visitors.

We are very thankful that Susan Miner, our NHFGC Past President and our current New England Director is now the Third Vice President of the National Garden Club and will be installed as National Garden Club President 2031! We are so very proud of Sue. She is a wonderful mentor, leader and friend. NGC has chosen very wisely! We look forward to welcoming Members of NGC to our beautiful state in May, 2031! We will celebrate!

I personally am very thankful to have this opportunity to lead NHFGC as their President. I enjoy meeting members around the state. My theme is to "Plant Seeds of Friendship." In my travels I feel we can celebrate a wonderful harvest from the planted seeds!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the new year at our many meetings and events. I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Season!

Winnie Schmidt
NHFGC President

Limax maximus - Leopard Slug

What a surprise when I placed my hand on this big guy, as I was turning over a clay pot.

Limax maximus grows between 3.9"-7.9". I measured the one in the photo to be 6". Native to Europe, this species was accidentally introduced, first discovered outside its native range in Philadelphia, USA in 1867.

Slugs are gastropods, distantly related to mollusks such as squids, mussels, snails and oysters. Their lifespan is 2.5-3 years.

The slug is almost always found near human habitation — usually in lawns, gardens, cellars or in other damp areas.

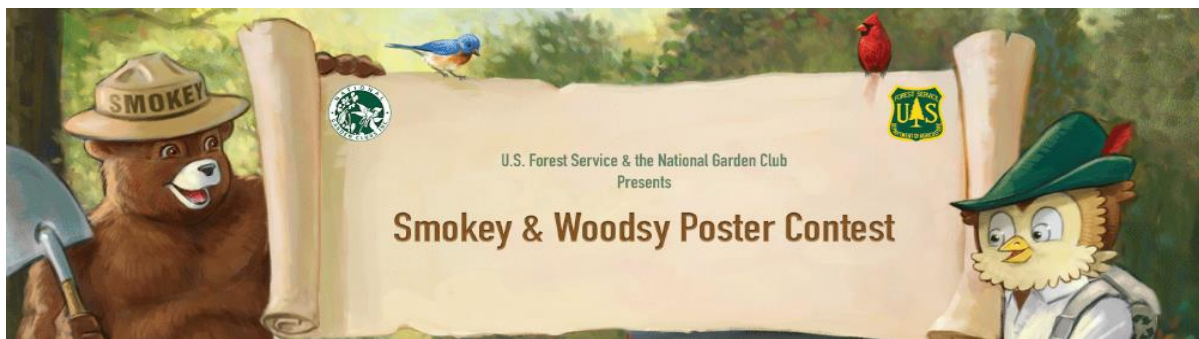
It is a detritivore, cleaning up dead plants and fungi, and a carnivore known to pursue other slugs at a top speed of 6 inches per minute. Doesn't mean it won't snack on living plants, hosta being one of them.

The mating is considered unusual among slugs: the slugs court, usually for hours, by circling and licking each other. After this, the slugs will climb into a tree or other high area and then, entwined together, lower themselves on a thick string of mucus, evert their white translucent mating organs (penises) from their gonopores (openings on the right side of the head), entwine these organs, and exchange sperm. Both participants will later lay hundreds of eggs.

They appear to do no harm to gardens. In Florida they are considered invasive.



Judy Gray
RIFGC President



NEGC Youth Contests

Garden clubbing is ramping up as we come into fall with kids and grandkids back to school. Please ask your state youth chairperson to research contest details on the gardenclub.org website - choose the Youth and Scholarships drop down menu on the main page, then access "Contests and Activities" Or click this link [Contests and Activities | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#) I have listed the deadlines below.

To see the 2023-24 NGC winners go to gardenclub.org, choose the drop down menu 'Youth & Scholarships' then choose the specific contest: Poetry, Woodsy Owl, Sculpture.

Deadlines:

Woodsy Owl/Smokey Bear Poster Contest 1st - 5th grade:

January 20, 2025 - local club winners are due to the State youth chair

February 24, 2025 - state winners due to the Regional Youth Chair

Poetry Contest K - 12th grade:

January 20, 2025 - local club winners due to the State Youth Chair

February 24, 2025 - state winners due to the Regional Youth Chair

Sculpture Contest 4th -8th grade:

January 20, 2025 - local club winners due to the State Youth Chair

February 24, 2025 - State winners due to the Regional Youth Chair

Essay Contest 9th -12th grade:

January 20, 2025 - local club winners due to the State Youth Chair

February 24, 2025 - state winners due to the Regional Youth Chair

Please have fun with the youth contests and look around the NGC Youth and Scholarships menu to learn more about contest details and other youth opportunities and garden grants.

If you have any questions, feel free to text or call me at 401-639-8952
You can expect Youth Contest regional winners April 1, 2025, via email. The email will also include a blank PDF of the NEGC Youth Contest Certificate for your use and distribution.

**Sheryl Hanson, RIFGC
NEGC Youth Chairwoman**

Garden Club Federation of Maine

So many interesting things are happening around the state that I wish I could write about them all. But alas, space doesn't allow for that so I'm highlighting GCFM specific events as well as some of the more unusual events around the state.

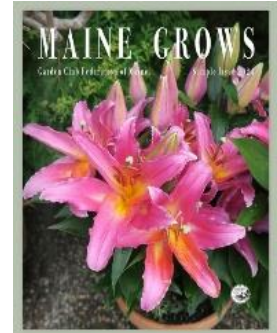
GCFM sponsored an "Open Gardens" day in early August featuring two gardens close to each other in Cape Elizabeth.



GCFM President Karen Rea with garden owner Jim Schultz and Andrew Tufts of ME Audubon

Andrew Tufts, the *Bringing Nature Home* Program Manager at Maine Audubon, spoke in the morning and Flower Show Judge Molly Foster and Horticulture Chairwoman Sabrina Warner created floral designs using flowers from the garden in the afternoon. Seventy members enjoyed a beautiful day in the two lovely gardens.

GCFM is now starting the 4th year of *Maine Grows*, the horticultural newsletter for members only. Editor Lisa Colburn has created a sample issue that is now posted on the public part of our website, with articles drawn from past issues. Posted under the "Join a Club" section (<https://www.mainegardenclubs.org/join-a-club>), we are hoping this will encourage readers to join a garden club. Take a look!



This is the time of year that our clubs finish up their summer gardening season, enjoy club gatherings in their private gardens, and start putting their community gardens to bed. Several clubs in the Kennebec District around Augusta have engaged with the Kennebec Jail Service Team to handle the heavy work of edging, moving gravel, and putting down stone in their gardens. This is a novel way of managing tasks that are difficult for aging club members and a win-win for everyone. The inmates love the opportunity to be outside in the community and immediately see the results of their work.

This is also the time of year for local fairs. Three of our clubs had booths at the fairs in their town. The Topsham Garden Club's theme was "*Celebrating our 90th year at the 170th Topsham Fair.*" The Mt. Blue Garden Club's booth was "*Companion planting for beauty and abundance*" at the Farmington Fair. And the Surry Garden Club's booth at the Blue Hill Fair was titled "*By the Bay flower market.*" This is an excellent way of getting the word out about their club and its activities.



Mt. Blue GC at the Farmington Fair

The Longfellow Garden Club participated in another unique community outreach project. The Duluth Trading Company, a store featuring gardening and outdoor wear, asked the club to decorate its 1930's instore pick-up truck for the fall. The club banner and brochures are prominently displayed next to the truck.

The Bar Harbor Garden Club has what are perhaps two of the most unusual community outreach projects. They worked with the Bar Harbor Food Bank to plant and harvest green beans throughout the summer. The Food Bank specifically requested green beans as they are its most popular vegetable. The Club harvested 125 pounds in five "pickings" throughout the summer. The club also partnered with several community organizations to create the MDI Food Compost Program Pilot. Funded from its 2023 Garden Tour, the club provides up to 50 compost buckets to families on the island who wish to participate in the program. At this point, they have 40 households signed up. See their website for the specific details of this innovative program

(www.barharborgardenclub.org/mdi-food-waste-compost-pilot/). We all know that food waste is a significant contributor to the release of methane gas. A recent study (2024) by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection estimated that in Maine 40% of the solid waste in Maine consists of food and yard scraps. If you aren't already composting your food scraps, now is the time to start.



Suzanne Bushnell with a complete wedding arrangement

What are gardens without floral arrangements? The Harpswell Garden Club has specialized for years in providing wedding flowers using flowers from members' gardens as well as the club's community gardens. This year they provided floral arrangements for six weddings. That's a *lot* of arrangements! And the Garden Club of Wiscasset created floral designs as a part of the Wiscasset Art Walk in August. Again, the flowers were from members' gardens. We know that many more clubs provide floral arrangements for their own meetings as well as holiday arrangements for their communities.



The GC of Wiscasset at the Wiscasset Art Walk

Fundraising is always on every club's mind. This fall two clubs – Cape Elizabeth and Gorham – were very successful in raising money by selling fall bulbs.

The Harpswell Garden Club held its annual Fall Fest this year auctioning off a donated quilt as part of its fundraising. The quilt was donated by a quilter friend of the Fall Fest Co-Chairwoman Annette Dunn. An unexpected benefit was that Lisa Scott, the winner of the quilt, joined the club. The Old York Club held a "Garden Party Yard Sale" early in the summer featuring a wide variety of garden-related items. It started with one member who was dramatically downsizing, and others joined in. They raised \$1,900 for their Scholarship Fund. And an unexpected benefit was it brought in twelve new members!



Lisa Scott, winner of the Harpswell Quilt

Looking ahead to the holiday season, the Old York Garden Club is planning to decorate a truck with garden-related items for the York Festival of Lights parade on December 7th. One of the items being planned is a raised watering can with twinkle lights looking like water being poured – what an interesting idea! The parade is a BIG deal in southern Maine and draws hundreds of spectators. The Boothbay Region Garden Club members are busy making soup to sell at its Holiday Fair December 6th and 7th. The soup is packaged into gallon bags and frozen to be sold at the fair. It is ready to take home to put in the freezer or thaw and use for dinner the same night. I had some last year, and it was delicious – and a welcome, easy meal after a full day of visiting club fairs.



The GCFM clubs all offer a palette of interesting programs with speakers, field trips, and hands on activities at their meetings. I wish that I could get around to them all to meet members and see what they are doing.

Karen Rea
President, Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc.

Rhode Island Federated Garden Clubs



The whirlwind of the 8th Annual Meeting of NEGC has concluded and we were delighted to serve as your hosts. A heartfelt congratulations and thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the past two days. It was a pleasure to welcome you amidst the vibrant colors of autumn and summer-like weather. There were numerous highlights and as I write my president's message, I have the joy of sharing these experiences with you.

The centerpieces were crafted by the talented Floriculture students from the FFA (Future Farmers of America) Chapter at Narragansett High School. NEGC provided all the necessary materials, while RIFGC sent two award-winning designers to guide the students. The students had little trouble with the task, having been well-prepared, although they faced the challenge of using chicken wire instead of single-use floral foam.

As we entered the Atrium where meals were served and programs presented, we were greeted by a captivating New England Garden Club Photograph Show. Our guest speakers on the first evening included Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of RI who spoke on "Caring for the Earth" and NGC President Brenda Moore, who presented "50 Shades of Green," detailing the 50 different ways NGC offers information, awards, grants and more that are available to all of us as garden club members. On Thursday, I welcomed everyone, and the day was filled to the brim with business discussions, conversations, reports from the six NE State Presidents vendors, raffles and silent auction. My

RIFGC President Judy Gray during her design presentation at NEGC Annual Meeting

presentation, "Green is the New Black," focused on sustainable floral design techniques that avoid the use of single-use floral foam. The event culminated in the highly anticipated Awards Ceremony, hosted by Vera Bowen and Sue Redden.

A total of 28 club or individual awards were presented, along with 18 Youth Winners recognized earlier this year.

Now, let's look at what Rhode Island has been up to since our last NEGC Newsletter. While weekly emails may sometimes feel overwhelming for both you and me, they serve as a reminder that our clubs and federation are thriving. We've enjoyed a wealth of summer activities, including plant sales, garden tours, club luncheons, flower shows and more.

Two highly successful garden tours were conducted by the Sogkonate and Quononoquott Garden Clubs. Five garden clubs celebrated significant anniversaries of 60th, 75th, 85th, and two 90th years.

With only two days' notice, due to the illness of the speaker, former RIFGC President Blakely Szosz, current President Judy Gray stepped in to present a floral demonstration for the Plum Beach Garden Club at the Dunes Club. This event was well-attended and supports their civic beautification efforts.

We also had three members enrolled in Course 1 of Flower Show School. The prospect of new judges in Rhode Island fills me with joy, and our Judges Council shares this excitement.

As summer transitions into fall, we have begun planning for the 2025 RIFGC Design Specialty Flower Show, aptly titled "Dance Through Design." It's time to lace up your dancing shoes! If you haven't received an email from me, as the Design Entries Chairwoman, over the past few months, and wish to be included on my list of designers, or if you're unsure whether you're already on it for the schedule announcement, please email me at judy.gray123@gmail.com.

Sadly, no Monarch Butterflies this year in my garden where I usually have a handful flitting about. I also realized earlier this year my gardens did not host many native plants. Garden club plant sales were my source to start switching out non-natives to plants like Joe Pye Weed, Swamp Milkweed, Liatris and more. As the seasons change, I remain thrilled by the abundance still blooming in my garden, from Sheffield Pinks to Zinnias and the last of the lettuce (which has gone to seed). I look forward to tidying up the gardens and planting garlic. Tidying up doesn't mean getting rid of all your leaves, and dead stalks. Please let's be kind and be mindful of all the pollinators that make your leaf litter home till spring emerges.

Judy Gray
President, RIFGC

New England Garden Clubs Awards 2024

The Sears Civic Beautification Award for work done to beautify their community, **Gentian Garden Club, RI** won this award for its excellent project to create the Bell Garden situated behind the club's meeting place.

Acton Garden Club, MA receives an **Award of Recognition** for its revitalization of the Oval Garden in front of the Town Hall.

2. The Laura Wetmore Conservation Award, for work done in Environmental Education and Conservation. The winner of this award is the **Sogkonate Garden Club, RI** for Initiating a curbside composting program in Little Compton and Tiverton.

4. The Marie E. Lewis Conservation of Natural Resources Award is given to **the Atkinson Garden Club, NH** for its project to restore the American Chestnut tree to the eastern woodlands. This special tree will benefit the environment, wildlife and society.

5. The Cornelia Williamson Watson Award for Historic Preservation is awarded to **Four Seasons Garden Club, VT** for its beautifully renovated gardens around the historic library.

An Award of Recognition is given to **Riverside Garden Club, CT** for the restoration of a colonial kitchen and herb gardens at Putnum Cottage.

7. The Helen Hussey Champlin Award: for the largest number of new members in a state garden club. **The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts** is the winner of this award with 455 new members.

8. The Mildred Black Petit Award for the largest percentage increase in new members. **New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs** wins this award with an 8% increase.

12A. The Mary Louise Marks Smith Flower Show Schedule Award for the best schedule in a Standard, Small Standard, Design Specialty or Horticulture Specialty Flower Show presented by an individual garden club. The winner is **Western Cranston Garden Club, RI** for their neat and concise schedule for "America the Beautiful."

12B. The Mary Louise Marks Smith Flower Show Schedule Award for States, Districts and Judges' Councils. The winner is **The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs** for its innovative schedule for "Rhode Island in Bloom," A Design Specialty Flower Show.

13. The Virginia Thurston Landscape Design Award for a project using good design for the public benefit. **Barrington Garden Club, RI** wins this award for the well-designed restoration of the gardens surrounding the historic town hall.

15A. The Virginia Kenney/Maureen Colton Award for the best Horticulture Division in a Standard or Small Standard Flower Show presented by an individual club,

Western Cranston Garden Club, RI wins for the high quality Horticulture in its Small Standard Flower Show "America the Beautiful."

15B. The Virginia Kenney/Maureen Colton Award for the best horticulture in a Standard or Small Standard Flower Show presented by States, Districts and Judges' Councils. **The Federated Garden Club of Connecticut** wins for the excellent horticulture exhibits in "*Bursting into Spring*," a Standard Flower Show.

16. The Nancy H. Atwell Award for the most outstanding publicity incorporating NGC and NEGC objectives. **Hameho Garden Club, RI**, is the winner of this award.

17A. The Jeanne-Marie Parkes Award is given to **Jen Dahler**, of Barrington Garden Club, RI, for her excellent exhibit on the Black Swallowtail Butterfly at the RIFGC state show "*Rhode Island in Bloom*."

19. The Lina Wagner Perennial Garden Award for creating and maintaining a perennial garden by an individual club member. The winner of this award is **Rena Naomi Bidney**, Hameho Garden Club, RI. Her beautiful eclectic gardens in Barrington include unique artwork, some created by Rena.

20. The Deanna J. Mozzochi Creative Design Award is given to **Candace Morgenstern**, Newport and Tiverton Garden Clubs, RI, for her exquisite design exhibited at the RIFGC State Flower Show "*Rhode Island in Bloom*."

22. The Pamela C. Hebert Garden of Youth Award, Groton Garden Club, MA, wins this award for its excellent and innovative "Gardening at the Library" project for preschoolers.

24. Excellence in Teamwork Award, The Leete's Island Garden Club, CT, wins this award. The club's conservation Committee, the Guilford Task Force and college graduate students, have planted 2000 plugs of American Beach Grass to help stop erosion at Chitterden Park in Guilford.

25. An Award of Recognition is given to **Hameho Garden Club** for its "Art in Bloom" project at the Barrington Public Library, involving artwork by the high school students and floral designs by club members and library personnel.

26. The Joyce Kimball Container Gardening Award for the most outstanding container garden display designed for a public place. **Rutland Garden Club, VT** wins this award for its wonderful project to beautify the streets of Rutland with seasonal floral containers.

27. The Maria J. Nahom Table Design Award For her creative, colorful Exhibition Table "Stripes and Plaids" **Paula Iglese**, Branford Garden Club, CT is the winner of this award exhibited at the CT Standard Flower Show "Bursting into Spring."

YEARBOOKS 2023-2024

	Club size	
Class 1	under 20	Hatte Ide Chaffee GC, RI
Class 2	21-29	Hameho Garden Club, RI
Class 3	30-44	Garden Club of Norfolk, MA
Class 4	45-69	Kennebec Valley GC, ME
Class 5	70-99	Seacoast GC, ME
Class 6	100 +	Mountain GC, NH

NEGC YOUTH WINNERS

Sculpture Contest

1st place 4th Grade Adelyn Bush, Barrington GC, RI "Garden in a Box"
1st place 5th Grade, Evelyn Ward, Barrington GC, RI "Sloth in a Tree"

Poetry Contest

1st place 1st Grade Benjamin Sawyer North Reading GC, MA "Things I see in I My Garden"
1st place 2nd Grade Melanie Dean, Franklin Garden Club, MA "Spring Green"
1st place 3rd Grade Skyler Ehrlich, Bar Harbor, GC ME "A Hopeful World"
1st place 4th Grade Joseph Buteau, Sharon GC, MA "A Walk in the Garden"
1st Place 5th Grade Vivian Vigneault, Barrington GC, RI "Blossom Bloom Fever"
1st Place 7th Grade Isabella Calvo, Framingham GC, MA "Spring & Summer"

Smokey Bear Poster Contest

1st Place 1st Grade Bak Arot, Taunton GC, MA
1st Place 2nd Grade Persiah Figueiredo, Taunton GC, MA
1st Place 3rd Grade, Vera Vigneault, Barrington GC, RI
1st Place 4th Grade, Adelyn Bush, Barrington GC, RI
1st Place 5th Grade, Vivian Vigneault, Barrington GC, RI

NGC WINNERS – Poetry

1st Place For 2nd Grade, Melanie Dean, Franklin Garden Club, MA "Spring Green"
2nd Place for 5th Grade, Vivian Vigneault, Barrington GC, RI "Blossom Bloom Fever"
3rd Place for 3rd Grade, Skyler Ehrlich, Bar Harbor GC, ME "A Hopeful World"

Thank you to all six New England states for their award applications. This year there were some truly wonderful applications which is reflected in the fact that several clubs received Awards of Distinction because their applications scored very high seconds.

Vera Bowen

NEGC Awards Chairwoman

We and I have enjoyed a very busy summer and fall season! Our Board of Directors met at The Mark Twain House in Hartford in July with an amazing tour of the Mansion. Connecticut is fortunate to have a number of Historic, Memorial and Public Gardens that welcome The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut to their treasures.

My summer adventures included a tour of the Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs. A trip to the Chelsea Flower Show is on my calendar for May 2025! This fall Winnie Schmidt invited me to Bedrock Gardens in Lee, New Hampshire, for their Fall Gathering. I had a chance to explore a site I have driven past for years ... what a treat.

FGCCT has been busy planning and executing all four schools. Last March, Landscape Design, Gardening and Environmental in September and Flower Show School this month.

Our Annual Meeting, held in April, drew close to 300 members to hear Art Chadwick speak about Orchids. Well over 300 members convened for our Annual Awards Luncheon last week. Vonice Carr and her committee presented over 130 Connecticut and NGC Honors.

During the course of the year, I have had the privilege of presenting eight 100-year Anniversary NGC Certificates of Merit! Clubs celebrated with creative luncheons, teas and flower shows.

Historically we have welcomed club presidents to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven for PRESIDENTS' DAY. Although



The
Federated Gar
of Connecticut

presidents could visit with other presidents, we as the FGCCT Board of Directors tended to "talk at them." This year we changed things around a bit and created a traveling Roundtable presentation. The clubs in five towns from the southeast to the northwest volunteered to provide a venue and

The Federated Garden Clubs of CT Inc. Presents

Signs of Spring

An NGC Standard Flower Show



February 20-23, 2025



refreshments. The discussion topics, moderated by FGCCT Board members ranged from membership challenges, fundraising ideas, finances and insurance, programs and committees, social media, website and promotion and FGCCT resources and Awards. In the interest of saving time, the moderators moved from table to table. The attendance ranged from 30-45 at each meeting. Our final roundtable of 5 will be held in Goshen Connecticut on November 7th. This format provided an opportunity for meaningful conversations.

Our next big project is the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show which will be held in Hartford from February 20th to the 23rd, 2025. The Schedule title is "Signs of Spring." It is not what you think. . .I'm a Virgo! Vonice Carr is our Show chairwoman this year and has things well under control. The schedule is being finalized and will be ready to accept entries any day now. A draft copy is on our website so you can get an idea of the classes being offered.

Karin C. Ohr Pyskaty
President FGCCT

The NEGC Photography Group

Spearheaded by Arabella Dane, the photography group has been very active this year. There were 101 entries to the 2024 photography show and, after judging by an outside camera club, four amazing photos were chosen in each of the six categories. They were on display at the NEGC Annual Meeting on October 23 and 24 in Warwick, RI. Here is a link to a PowerPoint of all the finalists and their beautiful work. [NEGC 2024 RI Annual Meeting Photo Show Finalists](#) Great job by all who entered!

Photos are
for sale
\$10 each

CLASS 5

*"The Creation of a Thousand Forests
is in one Acorn" - Ralph Waldo Emerson
A monochromatic photograph celebrating Trees.*



CLASS 5
ENTRY # 204
"Winter Solitude"
Holly Pigeon
Edgelyield CT



CLASS 5
ENTRY # 202
"Autumn's Embrace"
Sharon Cleveland
Portsmouth CT



CLASS 5
ENTRY # 208
"High for Me"
Sharon Fitzgerald
Farmington CT



CLASS 5
ENTRY # 211
"Wood Swallow"
Beth Peterson
Trumbull CT

CLASS 6

*"All things share the same breath - the beast,
the tree, the man...the Air shares its spirit
with all the life it supports." - Chief Seattle
A photograph celebrating Air and sky*



CLASS 6
ENTRY # 201
"Where the sea, the sky, and
land meet"
Joan Smith
Cheshire CT



CLASS 6
ENTRY # 203
"Dusk at a Midcoast
Retreat"
Jill Cox
Newtown CT



CLASS 6
ENTRY # 205
"More Storms"
Sharon Fitzgerald
Farmington CT



CLASS 6
ENTRY # 212
"Ocean's Gentle Sky"
Joan MacDonnell
Trumbull CT

GALLERY

Photos are
for sale
\$10 each

CLASS 3
"Allow Nature to teach you Stillness"
- Eckhart Tolle
A still photograph or still life photograph
celebrating Nature's quiet moments



CLASS 3
ENTRY # 306
"Holiday great egret in
Plymouth"
Robin Turnbull
NHGC Member at Large
Manchester NH



CLASS 3
ENTRY # 308
"Family of Tortois"
Vicki Saltentall
Chestnut Hill GC
MA

CLASS 1
ENTRY # 305
"Pomarine Jaeger"
Doreen Charnoff
Plymouth GC
MA



CLASS 3
ENTRY # 310
"Snoaring Cathedral"
Margaret Eastace
Ridgefield GC
CT



CLASS 3
ENTRY # 317
"A quiet Place"
Shari Sprung
Bridgewater GC
MA

CLASS 3
ENTRY # 311
"Red Towhee"
Bob Palmer
Wauket GC
MA

CLASS 4
"Water is the driving force of all Nature"
- Leonardo da Vinci
A photograph celebrating Water
using creative techniques



CLASS 4
ENTRY # 401
"Rushing Tranquility"
Doris Van Mullen
Burlington GC
VT



CLASS 4
ENTRY # 402
"Frozen Water in a
Dream"
Janet Zunzlyn
Wareham GC
MA

CLASS 4
ENTRY # 403
"Flowing Water"
Doreen Charnoff
Plymouth GC
MA



CLASS 4
ENTRY # 405
"Fountain at Villa D'Este"
Maureen Morse
Country Lane GC
MA



CLASS 4
ENTRY # 406
"To be the water that spills
onto the shore"
Shannon Hippelich
Framingham GC
MA



CLASS 4
ENTRY # 407
"Flowing Water"
Doreen Charnoff
Plymouth GC
MA



CLASS 4
ENTRY # 408
"To be the water that spills
onto the shore"
Shannon Hippelich
Framingham GC
MA

Photos are
for sale
\$10 each

CLASS 1

"Look Deep into Nature, and Then You will Understand" – Albert Einstein
A closeup or macro image of a moment in Nature

**2024 NEGC
PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW**
*"Trees are the Poems that the
Earth writes upon the Sky"*
– Khalil Gibran



CLASS 1
ENTRY # 104
"Nature's Gold Gatherer"
Helen Glanzer
North Shore GC
MA



CLASS 1
ENTRY # 110
"sweets for the sweets"
Michelle Messinger
Derry GC
NH



CLASS 1
ENTRY # 112
"Pretty On Pink"
Judi Macdonald
Acton GC
MA



CLASS 1
ENTRY # 113
*"Life's Beginnings and
Endings"*
Renee Marsh
Old Wilton GC
CT

CLASS 2

*"If you don't live on the edge, you will never
see the view." – Anonymous*
A landscape, seascape, or intimate landscape
featuring a place where ecosystems meet



CLASS 2
ENTRY # 206
*"If you don't live on the
edge, you will never see
the view"*
Helen Glanzer
North Shore GC
MA



CLASS 2
ENTRY # 207
*"Intersections - A Hidden
Paradise"*
Jill Case
Stoughton GC
CT



CLASS 2
ENTRY # 211
"Opening Windows"
Margaret Eastman
Bridgford GC
CT



CLASS 2
ENTRY # 213
*"Thoughtful Singsong of
the Seagulls"*
Beverly Gamelin
Brew GC
NH

New England Garden Clubs Meet in Rhode Island

The NEGC 8th Annual Meeting was held in Warwick, RI, on October 23 and 24. The amazing RIFGC team headed up by Vera Bowen (meeting chairwoman) and Judy Gray (RIFGC President) hosted a wonderful two-day event. On Wednesday, after the cocktail reception to honor NEGC Director Susan Miner and her honored guest NGC President Brenda Moore, attendees were educated by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse about climate issues and the work being done in the US Senate Environmental Committee.

After dinner, Brenda Moore presented "50 Shades of Green" which highlighted 50 different benefits and programs for our clubs from NGC. After a short business meeting on Thursday morning, Judy Gray, RIFGC President and innovative floral designer, shared her "Green is the New Black" demonstration focusing on being more environmentally aware and creating floral designs using sustainable mechanics, upcycled and reusable materials.

Awards were presented after lunch - all six NEGC states submitted applications this year. Thank you to all who attended. We will see you next October in Hartford, CT.



Back row, left to right: New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs President Winifred Schmidt, NEGC Director Susan Miner, Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts President Marjorie Dienhart, Garden Club Federation of Maine President Karen Rea, Federated Garden Club Connecticut President Karin Pyskaty, Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs President Judy Gray,
Front row, left to right: Doris Van Mullen, President Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, National Garden Clubs President Brenda Moore.

Pathway of Success at NGC Headquarters in St. Louis

At the September 19th NGC Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis, the newly installed NGC Pathway of Success was dedicated and the ribbon cut by NGC President Brenda Moore.



NEGC Members attending the ribbon cutting ceremony: L-R Sue Hinkel (VT), Susan Miner (director), Marjorie Dienhart (MA), Winnie Schmidt (NH), and Karen Rea (ME)

Roughly 1/4 mile long, the Path of Success is a walking path located on the grounds of NGC's headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri, and links to the Missouri Botanical Gardens, spreading more awareness of NGC than ever before.

This project also serves as an educational platform, showing the rich history and mission of NGC. The pavers are organized by region, then states within the region and then clubs, individuals, memorials, etc. within each state's area.



There is plenty of room to add new pavers as this fundraiser continues. You can purchase a paver for the new pathway as an individual or as a club, inscribed with your or your club's name, etc. For more information visit <https://gardenclub.org/ngc-path-success>



Save The Date

An NGC Design Specialty Flower Show

Presented by

Rhode Island Federation
of Garden Clubs, Inc.

President Judy Gray

April 10-13, 2025

RI Convention Center

1 Sabin Street, Providence RI

NEGC Calendar

Deadline for the **February 2025** issue of Northern Exposure is **January 25** – please e-mail articles or questions to editor Nancy Atwell at atwelln@aol.com
The February issue will cover the months February, March and April 2025.

National Garden Club Meetings

May 18-23, 2025 – NGC Convention, North Charleston, South Carolina.

Regional Meetings

October 14 and 15 2025 – New England Garden Clubs Annual Meeting in CT, hosted by Federated Garden Clubs of CT.

Flower Shows

November 1-3 – NGC Standard Flower Show “Moments of Joy,” New England Botanical Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA. See [Tower Hill FS Schedule](#) [All Flower Show Events](#)

November 22 - GCFM Floral Design Workshop with Kay Vosburg
“Constructing a Creative Design,” St. Susanna Parish, 262 Needham Street, Dedham, MA. See [Flyer](#) for more information.

February 20-23, 2025 – CT Flower Show, CT Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT.

March 1-9, 2025 – Philadelphia Flower Show, Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA.

March 7-9, 2025 – Vermont Flower Show, Champlain Valley Expo, Essex Jct, VT.

April 10-13, 2025 - RIFGC Design Specialty Flower Show "Dance Through Design," RI Convention Center, Providence, RI.

Environmental Schools

March 24-27, 2025 – Virtual Environmental School Course 2, via Zoom hosted by NGC.

Flower Show Schools

September 10-13, 2025 – Course 3 - hosted by FGCT.

Landscape Design Schools

March 25-26, 2025 – SAVE THE DATE hosted by FGCT.

State Garden Club Meetings

November 1, 2024 – GCFMe Fall Conference, Sidney, ME.

November 20 - Seed Saving Workshop led by the Wild Seed Project. 2 – 4 p.m. at the Viles Auditorium, Augusta. Fee: \$20. Pre-registration required:

www.mainegardenclubs.org/event/gcfm-seed-saving-workshop

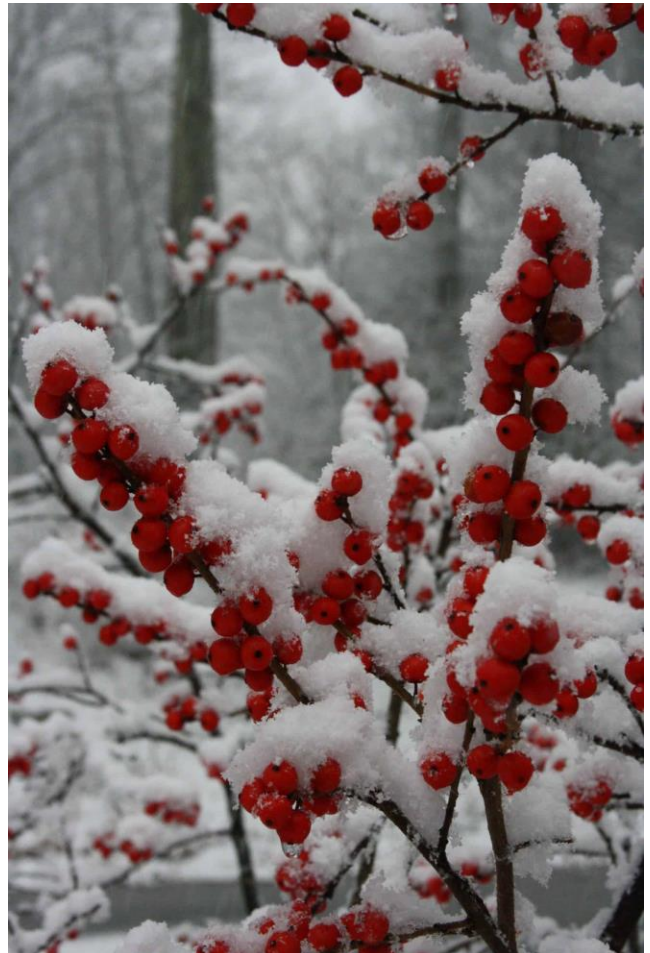
December 5 - Blaine House Holiday Social sponsored by the Kennebec District Garden Clubs. Theme: *Winter in Maine*. Times: 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m.– 11:45 a.m., or 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.. RSVP to make reservation to attend one of the specific times by contacting Shelly Hanson (shellyhans21@aol.com). The Blaine House is the Maine Governor's mansion in Augusta.

December 6 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) and December 7 (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.) - Boothbay Region Garden Club Holiday Festival, St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 32 Emery Lane, Boothbay...

December 7 - Bath Garden Club Annual Festival of Greens 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., The Winter Street Center, 880 Winter Street, Bath.

December 7 - Town of York Festival of Lights Parade 4:30:p.m., with a float decorated by the Old York Garden Club.

December 7 - Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Centennial Hall, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., 936 Harpswell Neck Road, Harpswell, sponsored by the Harpswell Garden Club.



January 29, 2025 -7:00 p.m. via Zoom: Marie Chieppo "*Allowing your landscape to work for you: Designing for resiliency and sustainability.*" Fee: \$10 for GCFM and NEGC club members; \$20 for guests. Registration will be available in December on the GCFM website: www.maine-garden-clubs.org/events.

April 16, 2025 - FGCCT Annual Meeting. Plantsville, CT.

April 24, 2025 – RIFGC Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon.

May 28, 2025 – NHFGC Annual Meeting, Keene, NH.

June 3, 2025 – FGCVT Annual Meeting.

June 19, 2025 – 98th GCFMa Annual Conference, Danvers, MA.

State Garden Club Fundraising Trips

December 28 - January 2 - Trip: Rose Bowl Parade with Road Scholar Tours, GCFMa, Hilton Hotel, Woodland Hills, CA. [Rose Bowl Parade Flyer](#)

January 8-23, 2025 – Vietnam and Cambodia Tour, FGCCT.

February 8-15, 2025 – Madeira "Floating Garden of the Atlantic" Tour – RIFGC.

March 31-April 6, 2025 – Texas Wildflowers Tour, FGCCT.



Texas Blue Bonnets



Madeira

May 12-22, 2025 – Best of English Gardens