



MAYFLOWER

The Newsletter of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts
Spring 2020



NATIVE SHRUBS: American Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)



Iron Tree[®] **S E R V I C E**

*Start to Finish...
It's All About the Experience*

978.468.6688
IronTreeService.com

Tree Removal

Tree Pruning

Land Clearing

Stump Grinding





MAYFLOWER

Official Publication of The Garden Club Federation
of Massachusetts, Inc.

GCFM OFFICE

400 Fifth Ave., Suite 110

Waltham, MA 02451

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

781-237-0336

Email: gardenclubfedma@gmail.com

Website: www.gcfm.org

Volume 26

10,952 members

Number 3

174 clubs

Organized in 1927 and Incorporated in 1949

PRESIDENT (2019-2021)

Bonnie Rosenthal

7 Ponybrook Ln.

Lexington, MA 02421

973-557-6186

bonnie.rosenthal@gmail.com

Theme: “Plant Massachusetts With Native
Shrubs and Trees”

Charter Member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

4401 Magnolia Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63110

Gay Austin,

President 2019-21

601-684-3952

headquarters@gardenclub.org

Theme: “Plant America”

Member of

New England Region Garden Clubs

Suzanne Bushnell,

Director 2019-21

Maine

133 Gurnet Landing Road

Harpswell, ME 04079

207-729-5285 (H)

smbushnell@comcast.net

Theme: “Planting the New England
Victory Garden”

EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING DEADLINES

June 10th – Sept./Oct./Nov. Issue

September 1st – Dec./Jan./Feb. Issue

December 1st – March/April/May Issue

March 1st – June/July/August Issue

ADVERTISING RATES

Cover \$250 Full page \$220

Half-page \$125 Quarter-page \$75

10% discount is given for a full year contract.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc., is dedicated to assisting our member clubs with education and appreciation of Horticulture, Landscape and Floral Design, Gardening and Environmental concerns.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to a new year at GCFM! Spring is just around the corner and with it comes an abundance of new possibilities in our gardens.

My President's Project: *Plant Massachusetts with Native Shrubs and Trees!*

In 2007, Doug Tallamy's groundbreaking book ***Bringing Nature Home*** alerted us to the crisis of habitat loss and most importantly the critical link between native plant species and native wildlife. I want to share with you my excitement about Doug Tallamy's newest book, ***Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard***. This is the message that I urge you to pay attention to; ***YOU and I*** are nature's best hope because it is our combined efforts that will add up to counteract the fragmented landscapes and many other environmental challenges facing the survival of our critically important native wildlife.

We make a difference when we include keystone plants in our gardens and landscapes. **Keystone plants** are the ones that do the most work to build food webs and support habitat because they host more native insects and as a result, create maximum ecological impact. To **find out more** and the keystone plants in your county visit **NWF.org**. Follow the prompts for Native Plants and simply enter your zip code to see a ranked listing of plants native to your region.

Our GCFM **Native Plant Challenge** was inspired by Doug Tallamy's research. I hope that you and your garden club have committed to taking up the Challenge. It is as easy as bringing more native plants into your gardens. Native shrubs and trees create the biggest impact, but perennials are just as eligible. Each District has its own Native Plant Ambassador who will keep track of all the projects and plantings within their District. We also highly encourage each club to identify their own NPC Ambassador to help encourage participation by all of our members. Visit **GCFM.org** to find more information about the Challenge.

Please join the Native Plant Challenge this spring. Ask your favorite Garden Center to increase the number and variety of native plants that they sell. If enough gardeners demand it, they will pay attention. Together, in the Spring of 2021, we will gather to celebrate the remarkable number of native plants that have been brought back to Massachusetts.

I can't wait!

Happy planting everyone,

Bonnie

**The LANDSCAPE DESIGN COUNCIL
&
GCFM President Bonnie Rosenthal's**

NATIVE PLANT CHALLENGE

**Join us for a Lecture on
"Designing with Native Plants"**

**at Massachusetts Horticultural Society
Wellesley, Massachusetts**

Amanda Sloan, RLA, ASLA

**Thursday
March 26, 2020
10:30 AM
\$15 Open to all**

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....	4
--------------------------	---

FEATURED EVENTS AND ARTICLES

Cover Story.....	6
Blue Star Memorial.....	8
Harwich Community Wildlife Certification.....	8
A Few Basics for Entering the Native Plant Challenge.....	9
Planting Natives for Wildlife.....	10
Landscape Design Council Lecture - Designing with Native Plants.....	20
Wallack Lecture.....	22
So You are Entering a Flower Show.....	24
Putting on a Hort Specialty Flower Show.....	28
Aluminum Tab Collection.....	2
GCFM Annual Meeting.....	34

DEPARTMENTS

Board of Directors Meetings, Directions to Elm Bank.....	7
District Doings.....	12
Horticulture Mornings.....	21
Earth Day Workshop.....	23
Garden Study School.....	26
Flower Show School Registration & Program.....	30
Presidents Pins.....	34
Calendar of Events.....	39

The *Mayflower* will not publish information on any youth under the age of 18 without the signed permission of the child's parent or legal guardian. A release form is available at:

<http://www.gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-publication-release-fillable-01.pdf>.

The completed form must be submitted to the GCFM, Inc. Office,
400 Fifth Ave., Suite 110, Waltham, MA 02451,
gardenclubfedma@gmail.com

To list an event in the Calendar:

Send date, time, location, sponsoring club, event or program title, cost (if applicable) and contact person's name, email and/or telephone # to:

CalendarEditor@hotmail.com

COVER STORY

Sambucus canadensis

Sambucus canadensis, commonly called American elder, is native to eastern North America. The genus name comes from the Latin name *sambuca*, a kind of harp, and the second part refers to Canada.

With wandering branches, fluffy white flowers, and a late-season crop of dark berries, this shrub is pleasing to wildlife and humans. It is a deciduous, somewhat sprawling, suckering shrub that typically grows to 5-12' tall. It occurs on streambanks, moist woodlands, thickets, fence rows and roadsides. Tiny lemon-scented white flowers appear in large flat-topped clusters in June. Flowers give way to clusters of black elderberry fruits in late summer.

Grow in medium to wet, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Tolerates a wide range of soils, but prefers moist, humusy ones. Spreads by root suckers to form colonies. Prune suckers as they appear unless naturalizing. Some horticulturists recommend a hard spring pruning for maintaining best foliage and habit. Elderberries produce fruit more quickly than other fruit trees -- usually within one or two years of planting. The shrubs thrive in full sun, full shade, or anything in between. This makes them great companion shrubs for shorter, shade-loving plants and also for taller trees. If you already have tall trees in your yard you can plant shade-loving elderberry under them. No serious insect or disease problems. Some susceptibility to canker, powdery mildew, leaf spot, borers, spider mites and aphids. Branches are susceptible to damage from high winds or from heavy snow/ice in winter.

You can eat the dark ripe berries and flowers of the *Sambucus canadensis*. However, some people may experience nausea from the raw elderberries, so best to cook and/or separate the pulp from the seeds, which contain trace amounts of cyanide. American elder was

widely employed as a medicinal herb by many native North American tribes who used it to treat a wide range of complaints. It is still commonly used as a domestic remedy to boost the immune system to help the body fight off colds, flu, and other respiratory infections. The berries are also used to make elderberry wine.

It attracts songbirds, bees, butterflies and also acts as a host plant.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lyn Hoyt
400 Fifth Ave., Suite 110
Waltham, MA 02451
781-237-0336
gardenclubfedma@gmail.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Linda Jean Smith
23 Bentley Lane
Chelmsford, MA 01824
lindajeane.smith@comcast.net

PROOFREADER

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Donna Lane
19 Manchester Road
Norwood, MA 02062
781-769-3854
donnaamlane@verizon.net

PROOFREADER

Betsy Swartz
135 Island Beach Rd
Wells, Maine 04090

ADVERTISING

gardenclubfedma@gmail.com

CALENDAR EDITOR

Susan Leach
18 Deer Hill Lane
Pinehurst Village
Plymouth, MA 02360
calendareditor@hotmail.com

CIRCULATION/FINANCES

gardenclubfedma@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

ATTENTION GCFM BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Wednesday, March 4, 2020 10:30 AM Elm Bank, Wellesley
- Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:30 AM St. Bridgid Hall, Lexington
- Wednesday May 6, 2020 10:30 AM Elm Bank, Wellesley

Hazel Schroder, *Corresponding Secretary*

DIRECTIONS TO ST. BRIDGID PARISH CENTER HALL, 1995 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., LEXINGTON MA 02421

From the North:

Take exit 31A from I-95 S. Continue on MA-225 E/MA-4 S/Bedford St. Drive to 1995 Massachusetts Ave. 02421.

From the South:

Via 95/128 North, Take exit 30 to merge onto MA-2A E/Marrett Rd. toward E Lexington. In a half mile, take Lincoln St to Massachusetts Ave. to 1995 Massachusetts Ave. 02421.

Best entry into the parking lot is from the back side, on Worthen Road, immediately across from Douglass Funeral Home (51 Worthen Rd).

Handicapped parking and entry is available along the side of the Parish Center across from the Church. If necessary, additional handicapped access is available by parking on Mass Ave in front of the Parish Center building and entering via the front door

DIRECTIONS TO MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

900 WASHINGTON ST., WELLESLEY, MA 02482

Enter the address above into your navigation device

From the East / Boston

Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Route 90 West) to Exit 16 (West Newton Exit). Follow Route 16 West 4.7 miles to Wellesley Center (5-way intersection with stop light); stay left at the intersection to remain on Route 16 West (Washington Street) for another 1.6 miles to the entrance of Elm Bank Reservation (look for a small green sign on the left).

From Points North

Take Interstate 95 South (Route 128 South) to Route 16 (Exit 22-21B). Follow 21B (left fork of exit ramp) onto Route 16 West. Follow Route 16 West for about 2.9 miles to Wellesley Center (5-way intersection with stop light); stay left at the intersection to remain on Route 16 West (Washington Street) for another 1.6 miles to the entrance of Elm Bank Reservation (look for a small green sign on the left).

From Points South

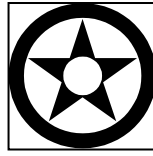
Take Route 3 North to Interstate 95 North (Route 128 North) to Exit 21B (Route 16 West). Follow 21B -See above

From Points West

Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Route 90 East) to Exit 14 (Weston). Take Interstate 95 South (Route 128 South) for 1/2 mile to Route 16 (Exit 22-21B). Follow 21B - see above.

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL LANDSCAPING

Please consider working on and applying for



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB AWARD #29

“Blue Star Memorial Landscaping”

Participation in this most worthwhile program is encouraged

*THERE IS NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW
TO HONOR OUR ARMED FORCES.*

For Information Contact:

Celeste Wilson, Blue Star Memorial Chairman

7 Berry St.

Billerica, MA 01821

978-667-5211

dandcwilson@gmail.com

Harwich Earns Community Wildlife Habitat Certification

Effort Led By Garden Club Of Harwich

HARWICH - The town of Harwich has been officially designated as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, making it the first on the Cape and only the second in Massachusetts to earn that recognition. The designation acknowledges that the town and its people have created multiple habitat areas in backyards, schoolyards, commercial properties, community gardens, farms, parkland and conservation lands.



Congratulations to the Harwich GC on this tremendous achievement!

A Few Basics for Entering the Native Plant Challenge

And for improving our environment

by Betty Sanders

The first question is how should you get started? Begin by identifying an appropriate site: a sunny, large public container, a sunny space in a public garden, a corner of an existing sunny garden, a new sunny site for club garden, or in your home garden. (Why the emphasis on sun? Sun is required to attract bees and butterflies.)

Next, take photos of that space from different angles. Share those photos with anyone who will be working on the site with you, to tease out their ideas. Continue taking photos every time you work at the site—when you plant the plants you've chosen, when you water, manicure or tend the site. And take more photos when the garden is completed. Why all the photos? You'll need them to apply for state and national awards (some of which come with money).

Once you have the space, you next have to decide which pollinators you want to attract to your garden: bees, butterflies or other pollinators. Calculate the amount of space you have and consider what else may be attracted to the site. Helping bees is wonderful – but not necessarily appropriate if you place that garden where people will congregate. If it's a public space, it may be best to focus on butterflies and birds. If you have a space for bees to gather without being too close to people, then by all means attract bees.

Next decide the type of garden you want to create. Do you want to plant flowers, shrubs or trees? Even a single native tree can have a large effect when it is one that feeds and shelters many insects and birds, such as an oak or an amelanchier. But trees take years to grow. Your goals may call for you to consider other plantings. A clump of native shrubs may provide food and shelter the very first year — and certainly by the second, and for years to come. Clumps of perennials also provide food for bees, butterflies and birds the very first season and, in subsequent seasons, shelter. Even annuals offer benefits as the longer-lived plants grow into the available space.

Good choices for information are websites from [Grow Native Massachusetts](#) and the [Native Plant Trust](#). Do the research to make certain that what you are choosing appeals to your intended audience. Luckily, the web abounds with good information. Just be certain you use sites that are offering reliable information, are not a sales pitch, and that the information is pertinent to your specific site.

Look at the first photos you took. What sort of plants are already growing there? Do you have permission to remove existing plants that are not appropriate for the new garden—invasives, those too large for the space, or who are potential maintenance problems? How much square footage will you have to work in when you are ready to plant? Get a soil test so you don't waste time and money trying to grow in unsuitable soil. Correct it before you begin.

Remember plants will look best when planted in multiples. And they attract more visitors when their fruits and flowers are easy to spot. Unless it's a tree, don't plant one of anything. Work in multiples of 3, 5 or 7 or what the space and your budget allows. Be honest in assessing if the garden has full sun, part sun or shade.

Think about color—pollinators are partial to strong, bright colors. Everything doesn't have to be red or yellow. Flowers that are blue, purple, violet, white, and yellow are especially attractive to bees when planted in clumps. Butterflies head for red, orange, yellow, and purple flowers, particularly those that produce nectar instead of pollen.

Native plants are drought hardy, adapted to our weather, and disease resistant. Pay attention to their likes and dislikes—sun or shade, wet or dry—and you will have a long lived, environmentally sound garden populated with attractive visitors.

PLANTING NATIVES FOR WILDLIFE

For the next two years, garden clubs across Massachusetts are joining an initiative to encourage the planting of native plants. There are some great reasons to choose native plants for our gardens. Native plants are adapted to our local climate and soil conditions and thus can be easier to grow. They are also a very important part of the local food web, providing seeds, pollen, nectar, and forage for our wildlife. The leaves of native trees and plants play host to many butterflies and moths, and many birds rely on those caterpillars for food, especially for their babies.

While most might think that a garden full of plants with pristine, uneaten leaves is prettier and more desirable, this is a detrimental environmental landscape. We actually need leaf-munching caterpillars and other insects in our garden. Dr. Doug Tallamy, the author of *Bringing Nature Home*, found that a pair of Carolina Chickadees feed their babies up to 9,000 caterpillars before they fledge. Most songbirds do not reproduce on a diet of berries and seeds, but instead need a protein-rich diet of caterpillars and insects during the breeding and nesting season. And the vast majority of our native, plant-eating insects only feed on particular plant species that they have adapted to over time – which means they need native plants. Our native oak trees are hosts to over 550 different species of caterpillars, for example, while the non-native ginkgo only hosts 5. Our native trees and shrubs act as giant birdfeeders in addition to being hosts for our butterflies and moths. Unfortunately, it is estimated that the average urban/suburban American garden is made up of only about 20% native plants – far less than the 70% that birds such as the Carolina Chickadee need to provide enough insects to sustain their population.



So what are the best plants for wildlife to put in your garden? The National Wildlife Federation has built a database of plants and the number of butterfly and moth species that use them as host plants. You can go to their website at www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants to see which plants support the highest number in your zip code. For example, here are the top five plants listed in each category for Holliston, Massachusetts, along with the number of butterfly and moth species that they host:

Flowers and Grasses:

1. Goldenrod (*Solidago*) – 125
2. Strawberry (*Fragaria*) – 81
3. Sunflower (*Helianthus*) – 58
4. American Trefoil (*Lotus*) – 32
5. Joe-pye Weed (*Eupatorium*) – 31

Trees and Shrubs:

1. Oak (*Quercus*) – 473
2. Beach Plum, Cherry, Chokecherry (*Prunus*) – 411
3. Willow (*Salix*) – 399

4. Aspen, Poplar (*Populus*) – 335

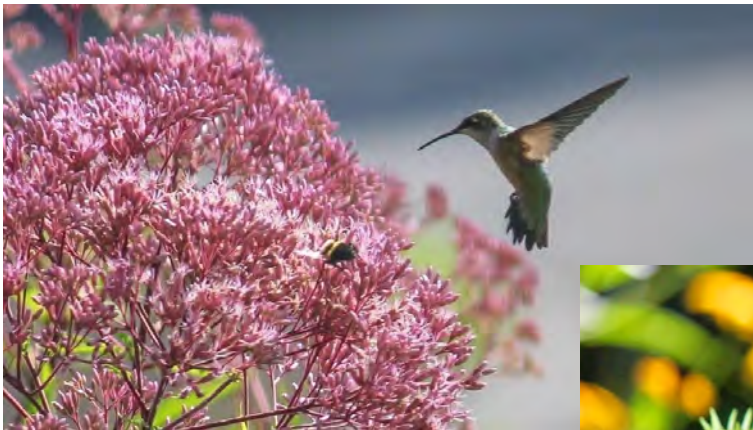
5. Crabapple, Apple (*Malus*) – 291

What about cultivars? Many of the native plants we find at nurseries are not straight species, but are instead cultivars, often called ‘nativars’. These nativars can be a particular variety found in the wild, or they can be bred for a particular feature. But are they as attractive to wildlife as the straight species? Research is ongoing, but they have found that it really depends. Plants that were bred to have different leaf colors, such as leaves altered from green to red, were found to deter insect feeding, as different colored leaves have different compounds in them. Also plants that were chosen for showier flowers or doubled flowers with more petals were often found to be less attractive to visiting pollinators. Take for example the ‘Annabelle’ Hydrangea. ‘Annabelle’ is a naturally occurring cultivar of our native *Hydrangea arborescens* that was discovered in the wild near Anna, Illinois. It was chosen for its huge flowers, but those ‘flowers’ are actually full of sterile bracts and even the few fertile flowers they have are very poor in nectar. It is found that pollinators visit ‘Annabelle’ and other mophead varieties much less than they do the lacecap varieties that more resemble the straight species and are full of tiny, fertile flowers in the middle of the showy, non-fertile bracts.

Another issue is that some of these nativars are developed by European breeders, and resistance to North American plant diseases is not considered. This is how we end up with Bee Balm (*Monarda*) varieties that are so prone to powdery mildew. Researchers at several botanical gardens are now starting to investigate which varieties of nativars are best for our gardens and for wildlife. Many of the cultivars that are chosen for size or compactness are found to be just as beneficial, but much more information is needed about plants bred for different flower sizes or colors. Many nativars still support more local wildlife than a lot of non-native plants, however.

So should you tear all of the non-natives out of your garden and plant only straight native species? While some may choose that route, I am personally taking a more balanced approach, as it was the non-native *Clematis* ‘Rooguchi’ that sparked my gardening passion in the first place. When choosing new plants for our garden, however, we should consider native varieties that will benefit our local wildlife and ecosystem.

Trista Ashok is past president of the Holliston Garden Club.



DISTRICT DOINGS

Berkshire District

Williamstown Garden Club

The Williamstown GC has a very active Facebook page with gardening tips and pictures and jokes, which is updated regularly. Take a peek.

Egremont Garden Club

Egremont GC is pleased to announce the Egremont Agricultural Commission is moving forward with the club's Pollinator Plan. They held a stakeholder meeting on October 23, at their Town Hall with Evan Abramson from Landscape Interactions and invited town residents to come and voice their opinion about where a project site could occur and hear about things already happening in Egremont towards the goal of increasing pollinator habitat.

Central North District Laura Semple, Director

Littleton Country Gardeners

In December, Littleton Country Gardeners held a Holiday Bazaar. Below is a picture of their craft table.



Hudson Garden Club

In January, the Hudson GC meeting was held at The Red Twig, a local floral design studio. The owner and floral designer Michelle Touve-Holland presented "Introducing Elements of Spring Into the Home."

Franklin Garden Club

In December, the Franklin GC held their Garden Club Holiday Auction at the Franklin Senior Center. Items included seasonal arrangements, decorative items, and gift

baskets. Proceeds benefit club activities (*see photo below*).



Central South District Karen Ballou, Director

Garden Club of Norfolk

The GC of Norfolk Hospitality Committee, led by Liz Davey, accepted the GCFM's "Go Native Challenge" by using only native plants and eco-friendly items as they decorated their annual holiday dinner. Instead of plastic tablecloths, the table was covered with biodegradable, recycled, natural brown wrapping paper made



from 100% recyclable materials. Native plants were collected and used to decorate the table. These included eastern hemlock, eastern white pine, pitch pine, common yarrow, American holly, Christmas fern, eastern red cedar, sensitive fern, butterfly milkweed, common milkweed, balsam fir, and northern red oak. Place settings were natural, compostable, plant fiber plates made from unbleached, chlorine-free,

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

pesticide-free, dye-free, natural wheat-stalk and sugarcane fiber. And the biodegradable, unbleached eco-napkins were adorned with a spray of white pine, a homemade gingerbread owl cookie, and a sachet of lavender collected from member gardens.

Southbridge Garden Club

The Southbridge GC held their annual green sale fundraiser in December with over 80 percent of membership participating *(see photo right)*. It was well attended. The club also designed the Lancaster Street Lobby for a 2nd year in a row at the Worcester Art Museum's Flora in Winter program. This venue offers the club the ability to showcase the talents of the group as well as share in memorable experiences.



Springfield Garden Club

Each year Storrowtown Village Museum in West Springfield invites area organizations to decorate a room in one of their period buildings and each year members of the Springfield GC jump at the chance. The club decorated the sitting room in a circa 1794 farmhouse using natural decor that was consistent with the era. The rooms are on display to the public during the museum's yuletide celebration each year.



Metro District

Joan Minklei, District Director

Fox Hill Garden Club

Each year Fox Hill members provide small flower arrangements for the VA Hospital in

West Roxbury. The arrangements are small enough to fit a cafeteria tray, *(see photo below)*. Flower arrangements have followed different themes and have been distributed for Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and during the December holidays.



Fairbanks Garden Club

Nine members of the Fairbanks GC (Jeanette Evans, Annette Eddy, Carol Cook, Loretta Larraga, Joan Hartzel, Rose Favret, Nancy D'Attilio, Holly Dixon, and Janet Holmes) spent two Wednesday afternoons decorating 30 real and artificial pumpkins for the club's Pumpkin Patch. The pumpkins were set up at the club's October meeting where members visited the pumpkin patch and purchased the ones that caught their attention.



Medfield GC

The Holiday Home Sale is a Medfield GC tradition held on the first Saturday in December. Club members gather greens and
(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

spend the week before the sale preparing table top displays, festive arrangements, porch and doorway decorations, gift ideas, specialty wreaths and swags. During the week before the Holiday Home Sale, the club also prepares and donates three large wreaths for the Medfield Town House, creates and decorates smaller wreaths for all the Library doors and festoons the Town Gazebo with swags and red ribbons. Medfield GC planters and containers on the town's highways and byways are transformed with crisp evergreens and holiday flourishes.

Middlesex District

Cynthia Chapra, District Director

Wakefield Clubs

Crystal GC joined with the Wakefield GC to host The Museum of Fine Arts Roadshow program. Michele Lord and Carolyn Ellis presented a beautiful lecture and demonstration on how artwork is interpreted through floral design *(see photo right)*. Cynthia Chapra, Middlesex District Director, attended the event. Highly recommend these speakers to other clubs!



Wayland Garden Club

The Wayland GC was busy working to beautify their community in December. Members participated in making wreaths for town buildings *(see photo right)*, decorating the Grout-Heard House for the annual town-wide



open house, and decorating a room in the Wayside Inn for the holiday season. Members also participated in the Giving Tree through Parmenter. Members selected tags to help make local children's holiday wishes come true.

Reading Garden Club

Reading's historic Parker Tavern was built in 1694. Every other year the Tavern has a holiday Open House and the Reading GC decorates it with seasonal greenery and plants from everyday colonial life. The decorated hearth *(below)* evokes all the generations who prepared meals in the massive brick fireplace.



Temple Shalom Garden Club

Temple Shalom GC of West Newton had a December Holiday Potluck dinner, where attending members interpreted the theme "Art in Book". Each team collaborated on a floral design portraying their particular book title. The lovely arrangements graced the buffet and tables at dinner. *(Pictured above "Where the Crawdads Sing" Meredith Smith, Pat Slate, Elsa Lawrence)*



(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Northeastern District

Susan Anderson, District Director

Ipswich Garden Club

Sue Andersen, Northeastern District Director, attended a lecture sponsored by the Ipswich Agricultural Commission with support from the Ipswich GC. Caro Roszwell, Education Director of the Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA), addressed "Soil Health" and the importance of carbon rich soil in a changing climate (see photo below). Also attending, members of the Town and Country GC of Ipswich and GCFM 2nd Vice President, Ruth Ecker.



Driftwood Garden Club

Driftwood GC of Marblehead members helped decorate the historic King Hooper Mansion for the holidays. Built in 1728, the mansion's front parlor fireplace, mantel, and windows were decorated with the Christmas Songs theme of "Silver Bells." DGC members Ginny Von Rueden and Laurie Boggis created this festive winter design (pictured right).



Hamilton/Wenham Garden Club

Hamilton/Wenham GC offered programming consistent with their mission to "aid in the protection and conservation of natural resources." In November, Kevin Gardner educated them on building/preserving stone walls. The January program was a Conservation Expo highlighting landscaping practices, protecting clean water, wildlife conservation, improving soil quality, composting, sustainable growing, beekeeping, and goat grazing (see photo below).



Manchester Garden Club

Manchester GC participated in an "Old-Fashioned Christmas" at the Crane Estate. Members were excited to once again bring together club designers to transform a room in the historic estate for their holiday open house. Efforts included floral arrangements as well as design work to create the feeling that Mrs. Crane had just stepped away to join festivities.



Nahant Garden Club

The Nahant GC held its Holiday House Tour on December 7th. The theme was "Songs of the

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Season," and each house had a holiday song and corresponding decorating theme associated with it. More than 280 people toured the 8 homes, monastery, and chapel on display. The Holiday Boutique and Cafe featured holiday plants, centerpieces, boxwood trees and decorated wreaths made by garden club members.



Peabody Garden Club

Peabody GC decorated the Felton Jr. House located at Brooksby Farm. Done in conjunction with the Historical Society and open to the public, they kept to the year 1683 decorating with natural greenery, handmade decorations and elegance. Members take great pride in this seasonal community endeavor.



Seaside Garden Club of Manchester

The Seaside GC has a strong commitment to community service. Each year new volunteers step forward to add their special touch to community landmarks such as the planters (see photo right) as well as beds at Manchester town hall, the flower boxes



at Beverly Bootstraps and the Manchester Community Center.

Salem Garden Club

Salem GC held its annual Christmas Boutique on December 7. It was both successful and full of good cheer! Shown in the photo are Julie Andrews, Kathie Ballou, Roberta Clement, Judy Bonaiuto, Cindy Stevens, Gnome Guy, Patti Crane, Judy Conner, Meg McMahon, Nancy Arrington, Paula Contilli, Claire Gauthier, and Tracy Rubin.



**Northern District
Susan Schumacher, Director**

Chelmsford Open Gate Garden Club

For 20 years the Open Gate GC has decorated the historic Barrett-Byam House for the Chelmsford Historical Society's Open House.

This year the theme was "Walking in a Winter Wonderland" and lines from the song were used in each room. The dining room was "sleigh bells ring, are you listening."



Haverhill Garden Club

The Haverhill GC held their 15th annual Spring Gardening Forum on February 18th at Nunan's Garden Center in Georgetown. The speaker was Rebecca Warner, who spoke on Sustainable Gardening, making beautiful gardens that are environmentally sustainable.

North Andover Garden Club

The North Andover GC got ready for the holidays with a gourds workshop in October, a holiday arrangements program by Deborah Trickett in November, with the Andover Village and Methuen GCs joining them and a greens workshop in December.

North Reading Garden Club

The North Reading GC enjoyed focusing on design this fall. In October they enjoyed a joint meeting with the Stoneham GC having floral designer Thelma Shoneman do a program on "Decorating for the Holidays." In November the members made an arrangement of fall flowers and in December a boxwood tree (*below*).



Southeast District Doings Marjorie Dienhart, District Director

Plymouth Garden Club

The Plymouth GC planted over 800 bulbs in November at the new Municipal airport building and the Plymouth Main Library. Some were tulips developed in 1620 in Holland in

honor of the 400th celebration this year in Plymouth. The Plymouth GC volunteers helped arrange 42 centerpieces (*below*) with the residents of the Newfield House for their rooms. The club members visit all the nursing homes during the year to work with the residents.



Attleboro Garden Club

In October, the Attleboro GC constructed succulent/pumpkin centerpieces under the direction of one of their members. In November the club learned about growing orchids by Sasha Crotty, Past Pres. of Mass. Orchid Society. A representative from a local nursery discussed selecting holiday plants at an evening meeting. A small group decorated the Attleboro Public Library and the club donated a book to the library of each public school in the district. They were chosen based on reading levels for elementary, middle school, and high school and had to do with gardening, planting seeds, using remedies from plants, and starting a school garden. December saw members helping members to create natural green decorations for the holidays and constructing silk centerpieces under the direction of one of our members.

Wareham Garden Club

The Wareham GC was invited by club member Bob Powilatis of the Friends of the Wareham Veteran's Council to participate in "Wreaths Across America", locally known as "Wreaths Across Wareham". The seven memorial wreaths placed at the monuments across town were created by members Kathleen Coyle and Linda Glennon. An eighth wreath was placed at the

National Cemetery in Bourne. These wreaths were decorated with a patriotic red, white and blue striped bow and with a yellow ribbon which traditionally symbolizes “bring our troops home.” A wreath laying ceremony was held at Center Park in Wareham on December 13th. The club also placed decorated wreaths on historic buildings across town, delivered wreaths and poinsettias to Tobey Hospital and to the Town Library, and made beautiful “all natural” tray favors for patients who were at Tobey Hospital on Christmas Day. Lastly, our Civic Beautification Committee enhanced the holiday look of downtown by filling the Main Street barrels with festive greens and by decorating the Lighthouse Gates with a seasonal pine-rope flair.

Garden Club of Hyannis

The GC of Hyannis presented a program called ‘Dressing Your Home for the Holidays’ given by member, Cheryl Baer. It was a big hit. Members made an herb gift for the holidays. The club decorated 6 trees at the Cape Cod Hospital and decorated the Hyannis Library.

South Shore District

Susan MacPherson, Director

Hull Garden Club

In December The Hull GC held its Eighth Annual Seaside Signature Wreath Sale. Seeing the wreaths adorn the doors of Hull's neighbors and local businesses reminds the Club of its ongoing community support. The proceeds of this fundraiser are used to fund the Club's community projects. Members also gathered for their annual holiday luncheon where each member brought an ornament from their own collection or a newly purchased one to decorate a Seas & Greetings themed tree. After the Club's luncheon, the tree and its ornaments were gifted to the Club's friends at the Anne M. Scully Senior Center in Hull for their enjoyment during the holidays and so that at the conclusion of their holiday luncheon the following week, each Senior attending was

invited to take an ornament from the tree to add to their own collection at home.

Community Garden Club of Duxbury

The Community GC of Duxbury had a very successful wreath and greens sale. There was one wreath design pre-sold to the merchants in Duxbury before Thanksgiving so it could be displayed in time for Holly Days, the weekend after Thanksgiving. 150 wreaths were sold (See



photo right). On December 7th, the club held their annual greens sale which includes fresh greens from their own gardens. Overall the 2 events produced a net profit of \$7,500 used to fund 12 town beautification sites, other mission related activities and scholarships. These have been ongoing events for the club for many years.

Norwell Garden Club

Located in Norwell, Massachusetts, Friendship Home provides respite care and support services for people with developmental disabilities and their families. On November 1, 2019, six members of the Norwell GC worked with Friendship Home members to create arrangements for Friendship Home's 20th anniversary. Friendship Home floral designers received many compliments as guests participated in the celebration! The garden club and Friendship Home members will collaborate again in February and again in the spring when they work together on a native plant garden.

Mansfield Garden Club

The GC of Mansfield enjoyed a December Holiday party where members had a Yankee swap and some participated in a holiday container challenge. In January members learned about bees, hives & plants for pollinators with Warren Leach. The club thanked the Town's public servants (DPW, Police & Fire) with cookies. This is the 5th year giving the cookies in memory of founding member Cheryl Collins. Pictured right is one of our town gardens with winter interest.



Seaside Gardeners of Marshfield

On December 9th, Master Flower Show Judge and international lecturer and floral design instructor, Tony Todesco, spoke to the Seaside Gardeners in Marshfield. He created six holiday arrangements, which he graciously donated to the club for an opportunity drawing. His wit and expertise were enjoyed by all who attended! On Jan 20th, MLK Day, a spectacular winter brunch was held at the Bridgeway Restaurant with 25 people attending. Pictured below is the Seaside Gardeners Holiday Wreath Sale in December.

Community Garden Club of Cohasset



The Community GC of Cohasset held another very successful biannual Yuletide House Tour in December. Over 600 people toured five

houses decorated with evergreens, flower arrangements, and holiday cheer. The Yuletide Marketplace sold items all created over the past two years by members of the club. Yuletide marketplace: (Below) Marlene Tabor, Elizabeth, Yuletide Chairman, Kelly Connetta, Marketplace Chairman, Kate Farrington, Julie Hess, and CGCC President, Sue Reagan.



Weymouth Garden Club

Under the guidance of Weymouth GC member Jean Berg, a program highlighting Ikebana, the ancient art of Japanese flower arranging, was demonstrated. A workshop followed and WGC members created their own Ikebana floral arrangements.



The LANDSCAPE DESIGN COUNCIL
&
GCFM President Bonnie Rosenthal's
NATIVE PLANT CHALLENGE

Join us for a Lecture on "Designing with Native Plants"
at Massachusetts Horticultural Society
Wellesley, Massachusetts

Thursday
March 26, 2020
10:30 am
\$15 Open to all



Image: Amanda Sloan

Accept the President's Challenge!

"It's important that if you're going to plant native gardens, that they be beautiful – because no one's going to be convinced of their value if they're not." Charles Kingsley.

The GCFM President's Challenge encourages all of us to re-design our garden projects with 50% native plants. We need to communicate the ecological importance of using native plants but, designing with natives can be challenging. Come and be inspired by the possibilities and learn how to create a beautiful and stellar native landscape for your communities and your own back yard.

Amanda Sloan, RLA, ASLA

has been a fan of native plants since growing up in woodlands in Lexington, Massachusetts. Amanda earned a Certificate in Landscape Design from the Landscape Institute and then became a registered landscape architect. Her projects include the design, with Julie Messervy, of Weezie's Garden at Mass Hort; and miles of native plant restoration along Route 95 for the bike and multi-use path at the new Whitier Bridge in Amesbury. She was president of the Sharon Garden Club and served on the boards of COGdesign, the Community Design Resource Center of Boston and Grow Native Massachusetts. She is currently on the board of trustees at the Ecological Landscape Alliance. Amanda specializes in civic native plant rain gardens.



For more information contact: Georgia Papavasiliou @ logganiko@verizon.net

Mail your check, payable to "GCFM" to:

Mary Nokes, 35 Woodpark Cir., Lexington, MA 02421

Please write 'Native Plant Lecture' in the memo line and include your email address.

Please Note: Registration Deadline: March 21, 2020

**THE GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF MA PRESENTS
HORTICULTURE MORNING**



SAVE THE DATES

Thur. Oct. 3, 2019 *Rain Gardens* with Kristin Andres

LOCATION: PLYMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY - OTTO FELLOW ROOM
(182 SOUTH STREET, PLYMOUTH, MA 02860)

TIME: (10:30 - 12:00PM)

Thur. Mar. 12, 2020 *Design-Less Gardening: A Natural Approach* with Dan Jaffee

LOCATION: MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY THE GARDENS AT ELM BANK
(800 WASHINGTON STREET, WELLESLEY, MA 02482)

TIME: (10:00 - 11:30AM)

Thur. May 14, 2020 *Garden Tour* with Ellen Sousa

LOCATION: TURKEY HILL BROOK FARM (SPENCER, MA)

TIME: (TBD)

***REGISTRATION WILL BE REQUIRED**

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$5.00/AT THE DOOR

QUESTIONS & RSVP CONTACT: MISTY FLOREZ (MISTYFLORAL@YAHOO.COM)

www.gcfm.org

**A favorite small dish or simple snack to share is greatly welcomed
and appreciated!**

The Garden Club Federation of MA. Inc. Ruth A Wallack
Fund
Presents

"Enchanted F(L)orest"

with

Brenna Quan AIFD



Award winning Designer from Vancouver, Canada

TUESDAY, MAY 5TH, 2020 at 10AM
Regis College Fine Arts Center, Weston, MA

"LIMITED SEATING – DON'T MISS OUT"
Tickets \$20.00

Send stamped, self-addressed envelope & check
Made out to: GCFM

To: Penni Jenkins, 241 Elm Street, Walpole, MA 02081

For Ticket Information, Call or Email:

Fawn Hurwitz: 914 907-3184 or fhurwitz@aol.com
Ruth Ann Feinberg: 617 835-5153 or ruthfeinberg@gmail.com

EARTH DAY WORKSHOP 2020

Sponsored by
GCFM Environmental Awareness
Wednesday, April 22, 2020
to be held at
MA Horticultural Society, Elm Bank
Parkman Room
900 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA
Time: 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Speakers:



Quentin Prideaux
Climate Change--
What it Means
for the Northeast



Suzanne Mahler
Native Plants
and
How to Grow Them

REGISTER to pay \$15:

or by check payable to GCFM mailed to:

Maria Bartlett, 26 Jenkins Rd. Andover, MA 01810

Questions? Contact Maria Bartlett at

maria_bartlett@verizon.net

So You Are Entering a Flower Show

By Maureen Christmas

So you are entering a flower show – good for you! It's an exciting yet nerve-wracking process even for the most seasoned of designers. This article focuses on what the judges are looking for when they judge your exhibit and suggestions for success.

So many considerations. Logistically, start with your design space/staging. Do you have a 42" tall pedestal with a 12" round top or perhaps your pedestal is only 24" high but 36" long by 18" wide? The same design will look quite different on these! Make a mockup of your exhibit space so you can practice your design at the height at which it will be viewed. Do you have a wall behind your pedestal or is it freestanding with the judges and the public able to walk around it? In either case, it's important to finish the back of the design. This gives depth and keeps the design from being front heavy thus looking off-balance. How long does the design have to last...can I refresh it each day? This will affect the flowers you select and the mechanics you use. What is the lighting...natural, LED, fluorescent, spotlight? This will affect color as well as what is visible. If a spotlight will be added after you are done, mechanics not previously visible may show. You can bring a flashlight to mimic the effect and check your work.

Whenever I enter a competition, I want to know what are the judges looking for. In a Standard NGC Flower Show, your Exhibit will be judged from three feet away. You may have heard of point-scoring. This is a form the judges use to make the process as objective as possible. Think back to school days where you received a rubric of what was expected and what points each aspect of your report was worth. The judges' form is divided into five sections with the design portion worth the most points (48).

Conformance – Divided into 2 sections, Conformance to the design type dictated in the schedule (as described in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*) and to the other schedule requirements is worth 14 points (7 points each). It is usually the first item considered and is an

all or none proposition with regard to design type. Partial deductions may be made for staging, frame of reference and other infractions of requirements dictated in the schedule.

Design - The judges already started evaluating the physical balance as they approached your exhibit. Is it top heavy? Leaning forward? Have a backward thrust? Once they reach your exhibit, they will continue to evaluate balance of the elements present such as color, texture, and pattern. Is the right side in balance (either symmetrical or asymmetrical) to the left side...the top to the bottom? They will also be looking at how the elements are used with regard to the other principles of design – Contrast, Dominance, Proportion, Rhythm and Scale. These will be discussed in a future article.

The other areas of consideration are **Selection, Organization, Expression, and Distinction** - each are worth eight points. What is the class title? This will help guide the selection of your components. You're not likely to choose pale pink and baby blue to interpret a football theme. Roses, orchids and lush flowers sound perfect for an opera themed class. Did you just learn a new technique? It may not be appropriate for this design. Don't overdesign by choosing to use every technique you know! The **Selection** of components will be evaluated for their originality, how they work with the design style, and whether they enhance or take away from the design.

In evaluating **Organization**, the creativity, uniqueness, abundance of components (is it cluttered?)...is there a plan?...and, obviously, placement of components are among the considerations. An example of organization gone wrong is my first foray into the New England Flower Show where my friend and I did a table for two in Design Division 2. We chose Christopher Columbus as our guest. The boat shaped container had a lovely arrangement and we thought we were so clever to have three white calla lilies rising above for sails! Great for

Expression is a measure of how well the class title is expressed/interpreted to the viewer. Is it too literal? Does it communicate an idea or mood? Does it create an emotion?

Distinction is where you will lose points for mechanical faults. While interpretation is one of the fun aspects of the challenge, using the perfect components will not save a design that is poorly executed. One area the judges are particularly picky about is visible mechanics. Is your green floral foam visible? A BIG no-no! Foam comes in other colors that are okay to be visible. The latest color foam is black which can actually be used as a design element or even be sculpted. Are you using wire to secure items? Decorative wire and paper-covered wire can be visible. Always twist it the same number of times if used in multiple locations. Consistency is key. If you're using a glass or mirrored container – clean the fingerprints. Wearing gloves is a good preventive measure. Are there hot glue threads? Is there foliage under water? Is there visible cold glue or pieces of uglu? The condition of plant material, the hard-goods and quality of craftsmanship are all taken into consideration.

Comments – the judges will write a positive comment and a constructive criticism for your design. Trust me – they agonize over the wording. Referencing the elements and principles of design while trying to translate 'design speak' into language the public will understand is a challenge. It is meant to be a learning opportunity.

For those entering the Boston Flower Show – Kudos to you and best of luck! I hope this article has been helpful in your preparations and sheds some light into what the judges are thinking after you leave the show floor.

References - The Handbook for Flower Shows 2017 available from www.gardenclub.org

A Fresh Look at Judging Floral Design Hitomi Gilliam AIFD, Kathy Whalen AIFD 2013 available on Amazon, Google and other on-line sites.

Checklist

- Does your design conform to the designated design type and to the schedule requirements?
- Make a mockup of your exhibit space.
- Finish the back of the design.
- If you omitted a component, would your design be enhanced or diminished? Don't use every technique you know!
- Decorative wire can be visible. Consistency is key.
- Have impeccable craftsmanship with clean mechanics.
- Be sure mechanics not meant to be seen are well hidden.
- Does your design create an emotion and avoid being too literal?



Caption – This petite design was created for a desk top. You can see what changing the location of the design does for how it is viewed. I used exaggerated height differences for demonstration purposes.



GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.

Garden Study School
Course 3 Series 11
April 2 & 3, 2020
Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French Drive, Boylston, MA 01505

Subjects covered:

Thursday, April 2 (Tested subjects) 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

- ◆ Factors that Influence Plant Growth – Dr. Judith Sumner, Botanist
- ◆ New Plant Development & Evaluation – Dr. Judith Sumner, Botanist
- ◆ Teaching Tour of Tower Hill – Joann Vieira, Horticulturalist
- ◆ Supporting the Wild – Joann Vieira, Horticulturalist (*non-tested*)

Friday, April 3, (Tested subjects) 8:15 AM – 12:45 PM

- ◆ Container Gardening – Betty Sanders, Master Gardener
- ◆ Houseplants – Betty Sanders, Master Gardener
- ◆ Test for those becoming consultants begins at 1:45 PM

Suggested Reading:

1. *Botany for Gardeners* by Brian Capon maybe purchased through [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Make checks payable to:

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. (GCFM).

Mail registration form and fee to:

Linda Jean Smith, Registrar, 23 Bentley Lane, Chelmsford, MA 01824

Registration deadline is March 25, 2020. No refunds:

For further information please contact Chairmen: Joy DiMaggio
(978) 460-0851 or jmarykay2@outlook.com

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

GARDEN CLUB _____

NGC, Inc. Life Member # _____ - _____

Please check one:

_____ \$110 – GCFM Garden Club Student Member, exam fee included.

_____ \$100 – Refresher

_____ \$140 – Non-member (2 day fee)

_____ \$70 – One Day Registration (non-member & make up exam)

_____ \$18 a day with beverage – Box Lunch fee: *Indicate choice if applicable*

Choice including chips, a baked good & drink – Sandwich/wrap

Chicken tarragon salad sandwich

Roast beef sandwich

Vegetarian wrap

Select choice for each day

Thursday _____ Friday _____

_____ **Total**

Putting on a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show

By Suzanne Reed & Jamie Risley-Hall, Springfield Garden Club

HOW EXCITING!!

When your club decides to put on a Horticulture Specialty Flower show, the rewards are many and you will find out just how easy it is to accomplish. This type of show informs and educates your members and the viewing public of the beautiful and intriguing world of horticulture.



First, decide on the time of year that would best suit your gardening members, AND satisfy the restrictions in The Flower Show Handbook, i.e., all trees and shrubs and arboreals must be in the possession of mem-

bers for 6 months; combination plantings (except troughs) for 6 weeks; and annuals, bulbs, houseplants, perennials, vegetables and fruits for 90 days (*page 55 of Handbook*). With these restrictions in mind, choose a date that allows enough time for members to plant, grow and enter within the various categories of your Schedule. Then have fun deciding on a title or theme for your show.

Next, locate a venue determined by the size of your show. A club may choose to host a small in-house show as a program for their meeting, or, choose to have a much larger scale show and need to find an available, convenient, affordable space nearby. This type of show could be a wonderful fund-raising event as well!



Writing the Horticulture Division Schedule comes next and will become the “law” of the show for your members to follow and refer to! It must include the Horticulture Rules, and Horticulture Sections and Classes determined ahead of time by the Schedule Committee. Referring to the Handbook for Flower Shows again (*pgs. 58-61*), will provide possibilities to consider: cut specimens, container grown plants; combination plantings including dish gardens, hanging gardens, planters, terrariums, troughs, collections and displays, etc. The Schedule should include the Education Division Rules (*see photo below*) and the NGC Standard System of Awarding, all found in the Handbook.



The Horticulture Division Top Exhibitor Awards should be decided and included, as well as the Education Top Exhibitor Awards. In addition to the above, an exciting Challenge Class (*see photo below*) or two might be considered in which case the committee would provide seeds or bulbs in advance for participating members to grow in time for the show.



Be creative!

Please remember to follow the rules in the Handbook for Flower Shows. All requirements for a Standard Flower Show/Small Standard Flower Show must be met. A Horticulture Specialty Show must contain a minimum of 10 (ten) horticulture classes, a minimum of 40 exhibits is required, may offer all NGC Top Exhibitor Awards, must have at least 2 (two) exhibits in any combination of Education, Garden and/or Youth must be included. Botanic Arts Division: Botanical Arts Horticulture and/or Photography exhibits are permitted. Eligible for the Horticulture Specialty Achievement Award No Design exhibits are permitted.”

Our club found our Horticulture Specialty Flower Show to be extremely rewarding, involving many of our members, forming many new friendships, and learning directly from each other. It truly allowed members to express their love of the world of horticulture to a larger audience. Try one! I guarantee you will enjoy it.



Pictured: top to bottom

- Section D 'A Family Affair' Perennial collections grown for foliage Class 20 Hosta
- Section E "Bountiful Valley" Vegetables Class 22 Capsicum (pepper)

Pictured top to bottom

- Section I 'Potting It Up' Container grown plants Class 42 Any other Worthy Specimen (2)
- Section A 'Last Blooms of Summer' Flowering Annual, Single cut stem Class 1 Dahlia
- Section J 'Growing Together' Combination plantings (no more than 10” diameter container) Class 44 Planters

Registration for Flower Show School Course II April 14-16, 2020

Name: _____

(Please Print)

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Garden Club: _____

Full Course with Exam/LUNCH \$140.00 _____

Two-day instruction NO exam/LUNCH \$135.00 _____

Tuesday, April 14 instruction NO lunch \$ 80.00 _____

FS Procedure, Design

Wednesday, April 15 instruction NO lunch 80.00 _____

FS Procedure, Horticulture

Tuesday, April 14, ONLY Box Lunch \$ 24.00 _____

Wednesday, April 15, ONLY Box Lunch \$ 24.00 _____

Total Remittance _____

Food Allergies: _____

Do you require Vegetarian _____

Please make CHECK payable to GCFM Inc.

No refunds for canceled registrations will be made after April 1, 2020.

Call Diane Bullock, FSS Chairman, 207-361-1818 or Dbull29441@aol.com

With questions.

Mail completed REGISTRATION with CHECK before April 1,2020 to:

Jill Malcolm, Registrar

33 Bonney Drive

Holliston, MA 01746

Contact Jill Malcolm

508-429-4395

jillyjill07@comcast.net

THE GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.
www.gcfm.org

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL - COURSE II

Growing, Staging, Exhibiting and Judging

APRIL 14-16, 2020

Bonnie Rosenthal, State President

Diane Bullock, Chairman

Location:

Double Tree by Hilton

11 Beaver Street

Milford, MA 01757

Accredited by:

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

www.gardenclub.org

April 14, 2020 – Tuesday

Flower Show Procedure - Kaye Vosburgh, Instructor

Design - Kaye Vosburgh, Instructor Table Designs: Functional and Exhibition Tables

Petite Designs

Written Point Scoring Exam

April 15, 2020 - Wednesday

Flower Show Procedure continued

Horticulture - Catherine Felton, Instructor

Horticulture and Practice Point Scoring

Written Point Scoring Exam

April 16, 2020 - Thursday

8:30 am Registration

9:00 – 12:00 pm Written Exam *The exam includes ten questions on each of the three subjects.

Required Reading:

The National Gardener Magazine . TNG Online (Digital PDF Version)

Handbook For Flower Shows, 2017 Edition

Outline of Period Flower Arrangement - Hannay

Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging

Recommended Reading: Guide to the New Petite Floral Designs

Hortulana the 21st Century Edition -Heber

Plants and Their Respective Families

Designing by Types - Osborne

Table Settings for All Seasons - Wood & Smith

Plant Families for Designers

Constructing Monobotanic Designs

All required reading is available for purchase at: www.shopgardenclub.org/shop

PHONE: (314) 776-7574 Email: headquarters@gardenclub.org

Aluminum Pull Tab Collection for Shriner's Children's Hospital

by Margot Eckert, Springfield Garden Club



The Springfield Garden Club collects aluminum pull tabs from all of the members of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts for donating to the Shriner's Children's Hospital in Springfield. The local chapter of The Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America Helma Court No. 64 oversees the recycling tabs project for the Hospital.

The process is simple: tabs from all of the donating organizations are collected in barrels at the Hospital and weighed and sold to an aluminum recycling company. Based on the weight of the tabs times the value of aluminum on that particular day, a check is sent to the Helma Court which contacts the hospital's administrator to find out what items are needed for direct patient care. For the past 30 years, the proceeds of the tabs project have funded the purchase of many medical and non-medical items for the patients at the Shriner's Hospital for Children, including wheel chairs; a Computerized Pressure Mapping System used in evaluating pressure distribution for patients requiring customized wheelchair seating; balance pads; an Arthrometer used to measure the degree of instability in the knee; and supplies for the Child Life Department to help keep the children's spirits high during their treatment stays.

How can a tiny, almost weightless, pull tab be worth the effort? First, it doesn't take much to save pull tabs which add up quickly. By contrast, cans take up space, smell, attract bugs, and require a storage facility. Just the pull tabs, however, collected in bags and boxes from all of our garden clubs, are clean, and many thousands can fit in the back of my car. Remember, the cans may still be returned for deposit even after the tabs are removed.

Here's the "Tab-ulation":

About 1,640 tabs equal one pound

1 Gallon milk jug holds about 3 pounds

1 Large oatmeal container = 2 pounds

1 Sandwich sized Ziploc bag = .5 pound

1 copy paper box = 24 pounds

I personally delivered about 53 pounds of pull tabs to Shriner's Children's Hospital in Springfield that were collected at the October Garden Federation meeting. That means over 87,000 tabs were donated from our gardeners. Thank you all, and thank you, Suzanne Reed, for transporting the boxes and bags back to Springfield.

Think of each tab as a small act of kindness which helps recycle a valuable metal and helps a child in need at the Shriner's Hospital. Big things can be accomplished with the tiny tabs if we all "pull" together!

Shriners Hospitals for Children and the members of Helma Court No. 64 appreciate the efforts of every organization that collects tabs to benefit the care and treatment of children.

For more information, go to: <https://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/springfield>

Thank you for your support of the Aluminum Tab Collection & Recycling Project to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children. For the past 30 years, due to your support, the tab project has funded the purchase of many medical and non-medical items for the patients at several of our Shriner's Hospitals for Children.



Save the date
and plan to attend

GCFM ANNUAL MEETING
June 5, 2019

"Keynote Speaker: Uli Lorimer,
Director of Horticulture, Native Plant Trust"

Hilton Dedham

25 Allied Drive,
Dedham, Massachusetts, 02026

Presidents Pins/Past Presidents Bars

GCFM offers sterling silver Presidents Pins with the Federation Seal and/or a Past President Bar.

The Pin alone is \$50.00 plus \$3.13 tax and \$3.66 shipping

The bar alone is \$30.00 plus \$1.88 tax and \$3.66 shipping

The Pin and Bar combo is \$80.00 plus \$5.01 tax and \$3.66 shipping

To order, please complete the form below and mail to:

Jill Malcolm

33 Bonney Drive

Holliston, MA 01746

Questions? Contact Jill at 508-429-4395 or jillyjill07@comcast.net

Garden Club: _____

Mail to: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Item Description	Quantity	Unit price plus tax & shipping	Total
Presidents Pin		\$56.79	
Past President Bar		\$35.54	
Pin/Bar Combo		\$88.67	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2020

- 4 GCFM Board of Directors Meeting 10:30 AM Elm Bank, Wellesley
- 7 Needham GC, presents "Needham's Art in Bloom 2020" 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Needham Free Public Library 1139 Highland Ave, Needham Heights, 70+ mixed medium pieces of artwork by talented Needham High School students and creative, colorful, floral interpretations of their artwork by members of Beth Shalom Garden Club and participants from Needham Garden Club & Kalmia Garden Club. Roche Bros. and Shark/Ninja are generously sponsoring this FREE event.
- 8 Needham GC, presents "Needham's Art in Bloom 2020" 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Needham Free Public Library 1139 Highland Ave, Needham Heights
- 11 Boston Flower and Garden Show Seaport World Trade Center Seaport Lane, Boston, MA
- 11 Pepperell GC presents, "Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening" with Susan Hammond, 6:45 PM Pepperell Senior Center 37 Nashua Rd, Pepperell, Ma
- 12 Horticulture Morning; "Design-Less Gardening: A Natural Approach" with Dan Jaffee, 10:30 AM Elm Bank 900 Washington St, Wellesley, Cost is \$5.00
- 19 Program Workshop, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Dr, Boylston
- 23 Brockton Garden Club presents, "Path of the Daff" an award winning film, 6:00 PM, Harbor Health, 479 Torrey St., Brockton. A documentary focusing on the journey of one daffodil bulb from the soil of Netherlands through a greenhouse in Massachusetts and onto the finish line of the Boston Marathon honoring the memory of the survivors and victims of the bombings. - free of charge and open to the public For additional information email the Brockton Garden Club at brocktongarden@gmail.com or call Claire Lineberry at 508-587 3972.
- 24 Program Workshop 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Elm Bank 900 Washington St, Wellesley,
- 26 "Designing a Native Plant Garden", 10:00 AM, Elm Bank 900 Washington St. Wellesley,

APRIL 2020

- 1 GCFM Board of Directors Meeting 10:30 AM St. Brigid's, Lexington
- 2 Framingham GC presents, "Say it with Flowers" with Thelma Shoneman, 6:15 PM - 9:00 PM Boston Church of Christ, 14 Concord St, Framingham, Tickets \$20, Contact Pam Keeney @ 508-405-0331 or Andi Saari 508-877-1091 for tickets. Refreshments & Raffle prizes!
- 4 Topsfield GC presents, Grow Spring! Expo, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Proctor Elementary School, 60 S Main St, Topsfield
- 7 Designing Workshop, 10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON, Elm Bank 900 Washington St. Wellesley
- 8 Pepperell GC presents, "Those Delightful Dahlias! How to grow and love them" by Emily "The Dahlia Lady" Cleaveland. 6:45 PM, Pepperell Senior Center, 37 Nashua Road, Pepperell. For more information visit: www.pepperellgardenclub.org

MAY 2020

- 1 **Deadline for GCFM member clubs to remit membership dues.** Questions maybe directed to: Pat Ratay, 978-352-2592, pattay25@aol.com
- 2 - 4 "Art in Bloom", 10:00 AM, Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave, Boston
- 5 Wallack Lecture - "Enchanted F(L)orest" with Brenna Quan AIFD Award winning Designer from Vancouver, Canada, 10:00 AM, Regis College, 235 Wellesley St., Weston
- 6 GCFM Board of Directors Meeting, 10:30 AM Elm Bank, Wellesley
- 8 Elm Bank Flower Show, 10:00 AM, Elm Bank 900 Washington St., Wellesley
- 9 Open Gate GC of Chelmsford, "Plant Sale," 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Unitarian-Universalist Church, Chelmsford Center, Master Gardeners present, herbs, Daylily Society member plants
- 9 GC of Concord, "Plant Sale", 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Trinitarian Congregational Church 54 Walden St, Concord
- 9 Easton GC, "Plant Sale" 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Center School/Yardley-Wood Skating Rink, 388 Depot St., South Easton
- 9 Fairbanks GC, "Plant Sale", 9:00 AM - 12 NOON, Fairbanks House, 511 East St., Dedham
- 16 Weymouth GC, Plant Sale, 8:00 AM – 12:00 NOON, Weymouth Public Works, 120 Winter St., Weymouth
- 16 Reading GC, "Plant Sale", 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Reading Town Green, Reading
- 16 The GC of Mansfield, 27th Annual "Gardening on the Green Plant Sale & Raffle", 9:00 AM - 12 NOON, Mansfield Town Hall Parking Lot, 6 Park Row, Yard Sale, baked goods, children's activities
- 16 Scituate GC, "Plant Sale", 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM, Mann Farmhouse, 108 Greenfield Lane, Scituate, For further information contact: Betty Steverman at 781-799-5743 or stevermanr@aol.com
- 16 Tewksbury GC, "Plant Sale", 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Tewksbury Public Library 300 Chandler St, For more information please contact: Rose O'Neil at 978-397-1740 or oneilrose@aol.com
- 17 North Andover GC, "Plant Sale", 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, North Andover Middle School, 495 Main Street, North Andover, THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE
- 19 Design Workshop, 10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON, Elm Bank, 900 Washington St., Wellesley, MA
- 20 LDC presents, "Garden Tour of Long Hill", 10:30 AM, The Garden Tour of Long Hill is limited to 25 people, \$5.00 per person, A tour of the house is also included.

JUNE 2020

2-8 National Garden Week

3 GCFM Annual Meeting, Dedham Hilton

8 GCC Annual Meeting Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11:00 AM

10 GCFM Board of Directors meeting, 10:30 AM

Upcoming Plant Shows

APRIL–MAY

Bay State African Violet Society Show & Sale

Saturday, April 25, 10AM–5PM

Sunday, April 26, 10AM–4PM

Seven States Daffodil Show

Saturday, May 2, 1–5PM

Sunday, May 3, 10AM–4PM

Massachusetts Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society Show & Sale

Saturday, May 23, 12–5PM

Sunday, May 24, 10AM–4PM

TOWER HILL
BOTANIC GARDEN
TOWERHILL.ORG



art in bloom

Saturday, May 2–Monday, May 4

Friday Preview, May 1, Noon–10 pm

Enjoy art from across the MFA's collections paired with floral interpretations.

Plan your visit today

mfa.org/artinbloom



Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Sponsored by



Sponsored by

