



# WHAT BILL THINKS

## Never Done!



THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD  
VOLUME XXXI-ISSUE 2

Here's what Bill thinks...

Info: Bill Loehfelm

So, we head now into Fall...for many, their 'favorite time of the year'. For the gardener, Fall is a time of reflection, rededication and, for some, remorse.

How did it all go this year? What went the most right? What decision did I make in May that I would like to change? What can I/should I do differently next Spring?

Aaaah...next Spring...shall I do what I've always done?...grow what I've always grown? Upsize? Downsize? It's been said that if you want things to be different, you have to do different things.

One of the many joys of gardening is the planning and the inevitable fantasizing of what it will all look like. Even before the catalogs start arriving in January, the gardener has read and talked and downloaded and opined on what the future will bring.

A gentle reminder: Take time to live in the present. Enjoy the Fall coolness, the chores involved in putting your garden to rest for the winter. Make sure to leave some garden 'debris' for the bugs and beetles; notice how beautiful some of the (now) 'brown' plants are; sharpen the clippers; ask Santa for new garden gloves, shoes or tools. In other words, enjoy being you...a person who loves and respects their environment and loves to spend their time in the dirt...making things beautiful by growing beautiful things.

*SEPTEMBER 23*

Board meeting at 9:30  
at the Congregational  
Church

## A conversation with Bill

Over the years, the Garden Club has shed old conventions, ditching the white gloves, the hats, the silver tea set, using their husband's name, and the need to have a sponsor to join the club. And now, with the election of Bill Loehfelm, gone is the idea that only a woman can be president of the club. Bill said it was an honor to be asked to be president, and he jokes about having "broken the grass ceiling."

Bill said the Garden Club members are wonderful, and he enjoys their energy and passion. He has been very impressed at the body of knowledge within the club and he so respects all "the people who know a whole lot more about gardening than I ever will." What he sees as his contribution is to expand the sense of community in the club. He will encourage people not to go sit at a table when they arrive at a meeting but to "mingle" and meet people they don't know.

Bill wants the meetings to be fun and for members and guests to be actively engaged. He sees the best programs as those where people work together and learn from each other. He recalled a past speaker who gave a talk on trees and then set out samples of bark and leaves for groups to work collaboratively to identify.

Bill wants to raise the club's public profile, to have people aware of the many contributions the club makes to the community, from landscaping projects in public spaces to maintaining seasonal plantings to providing weekly flower arrangements for the library to monthly educational programs open to the public.

And as for all the women? He said he's not intimidated. "In fact," he said, "I find they can actually be easier to work with."

Carlene Phillips for the Harvard Press

## In the Field

So quietly, shyly, she'll rise from the soil  
And smile towards the sun, warm in her joy.  
She'll inch her way skyward at a pace hardly seen,  
Stems really thin, and leaves really green...

It starts with a seed maybe left from last year  
It's dry, dark and tiny... just barely there.  
It could have been lost under a rug,  
It could have been eaten by, maybe, a bug.  
But it wasn't lost, in fact, it was found  
And now, thanks to someone, it lives in the ground.

The magic is real, how she moves on from here.  
The rain and the sun nurture and rear.  
The wind and the bees and the mulch and the  
weeds  
All work together to provide what she needs

All through the summer she'll grow and she'll sway  
She'll live with her tribe by night and by day.  
And they'll dance in the breeze and bow down in the  
rain  
And they'll grow to their size again and again.

And then the day comes, the harvest is here.  
She's selected and gathered and bundled with care  
Is she a ripe veggie? Or a flower so fair?  
Will she be on a plate? Or pinned in gray hair?

It doesn't much matter, she'll be who she is  
She'll make someone smile, like a hug or a kiss  
And she gave it her all, on that we'll concede  
Well done darlin', Hey look! There's a seed...

Bill Loehfelm

# September 30, 2024 Women Floral Artists

Speaker: Martha Chiarchiaro  
Docent at the Worcester Art Museum



Martha Chiarchiaro has brought history to life through the art of the time for more than 30 years.

She loves sharing her passion for the history of art with a variety of audiences. From the first time she traveled to Europe as a college student through today, Martha thrives on visiting museums and historical sites to be able to bring these first-hand experiences to life in her presentations.

Whether strolling through Monet's gardens at Giverny or an exhibition at the Met, Martha always has in mind how she can share her enthusiasm with others.

Changed location!  
*HARVARD SENIOR  
CENTER  
16 LANCASTER ROAD*

## *Library Flowers in October*

Oct. 7: Mary Maxwell  
Oct. 14: Barbara Heim

Oct. 21: Meg Bagdonas  
Oct. 28: Kim Morton Halloween Diorama

## *Hospitality Team in September*

Team leader: Carol Hartman

Claudia Wesley  
Janine Andrews  
Nancy Hartshorne

Carol Hartman  
Lynda Herbolsheimer  
Maureen Remeika



# Civic Beautification

Info: MaryAnn Piasecki, Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello



Bill Loehfelm, Kathy Hewett, Kathy Jackson, Pat Jennings, MaryAnn Piasecki, Jane Vasta and Maribeth Marcello cleaning up around the Civil War Monument.

The Civil War Memorial was erected in 1888. On a granite pedestal stands a female figure draped in white marble, representing Memory in the act of strewing flowers for the dead.

Memory is impressive in her uniqueness.

*From "A Common History – The story of Harvard's Identity" by Carlene Phillips.*

# Garden Club Gathering in Jessie's garden



August 12, 2024



# Lois Frampton 1935-2024

An honorary member, Lois Frampton passed away on August 13 in Andover.

For many years she lived in a picturesque house in Still River. Lois was an avid flower arranger, and she encouraged inexperienced club members to learn the skills by setting up a series of workshops. Thanks to Lois, the number of talented arrangers in the club greatly increased over the years. Her experience and advice were helpful to arrangers participating in Bloom N Art.



## Civic Beautification [more pictures](#)



*Photos by MaryAnn Piasecki*



# Visit to Good Spirits Farm on East Bare Hill

Info: Special Projects: Nancy Hartshorne, Meg Bagdonas, Maria Day

*August 23, 2024*



*Photos by Ed O'Rourke  
and Marijke Vallaeys*





# Library Flowers in August

Info: Mary Jane Ellison



Thanks to:

Pat Cooper,  
Kathy Hewett,  
Suzan Osborn,  
Donna Guarino.

# Fivesparks Art Reception Flower Arrangements

Info: [AnaMaria Nanra](#)

[This is the link](#) if you would like to sign up to create a flower arrangement for Fivesparks' Art Receptions.



Details on drop-off/pick-up times will be provided later. Arrangements can be left at Fivesparks all week for visitors/staff to enjoy.

## Plant Sale? I thought we were done with that!!

Info: [AnaMaria Nanra](#)

Yes, we are, but the work is never done (right!?) and now is the best time of year to think about **houseplants** in relation to next year's Plant Sale.

If you have houseplants that are going gangbusters right now during peak growing season, or some that were telling you last year was the time to divide, now is the time! Summertime is perfect to divide large plants, repot/divide plants that are too large for their pots, or grow from cuttings/starts. The optimum summer daylight hours and warm outdoor temps (if you have the right spaces outside for houseplants) makes for effortless growing before the waning daylight of Fall triggers plants to begin going dormant. If you can do these activities now, the plants will have had time to grow roots and establish themselves nicely, which will inturn encourage hearty growth in early Spring, before the Plant Sale.

If you need help/guidance with dividing/cutting I'm happy to do so! Likewise, if you have plants you know you don't want to keep through the winter, I'll be happy to take them and nurse them until next year.



# Jessie's Horticultural Meander

Info: [Jessie Panek](#)

I hope you are all enjoying time in your gardens as I am. Maybe even sitting and doing nothing — for a short while at least! — just savoring the beauty of nature around you, with birds, butterflies, and all the other small creatures that we share our gardens with.

Of course, there are some species we'd rather not have in our gardens... In my garden I lost a lot of plants over last winter; I had an explosion of voles —they ate, and are still eating, many plant roots. I find plants wilted or falling over, and then discover either a hole where there should be soil around the roots, leaving the plant without either physical support of the soil or the ability to get nutrients and water, or sometimes no root left at all. The jumping worms are also loosening the soil so much in places that flowering stalks, for example of daylilies, are falling over.



*Since I want to promote a healthy ecosystem in my garden, I have been trying to see the holes in my plants' leaves as a good thing, a sign that they are feeding some of the insects that feed our native wildlife. However, I was recently 'introduced' (thanks, Kathy Dollard) to one of the culprits, the Asiatic garden beetle, a non-native beetle feeding at night. I have to hope some of the many holes in leaves are feeding native bugs! (Asiatic Garden Beetle Images from Wikipedia)*

There are certain insects we don't want around because of a more direct impact on us people, but don't forget that insects like mosquitos play an important role in our ecology. In addition, any pesticides you use

almost always impact more than your intended target. Spraying your yard for mosquitos will kill many other species, even if it is a 'natural' product that is applied. The bottom line is this: *If it is effective on mosquitos or ticks, it will also harm many other insects, which will in turn negatively impact other wildlife.* It is quite effective and much less harmful to protect yourself and your clothes with insect repellent. I highly recommend spraying your clothing with permethrin, which is said to stay effective through 7 washings. I have sprayed all of my gardening clothes: socks, shoes, pants, and shirts. This has greatly reduced the amount of bug spray I need to spray on myself, and I have found it to be very effective, especially for ticks. (Please note this is only for fabric: what binds the permethrin to fabric is bad for skin, while the active ingredient permethrin is used by dermatologists)

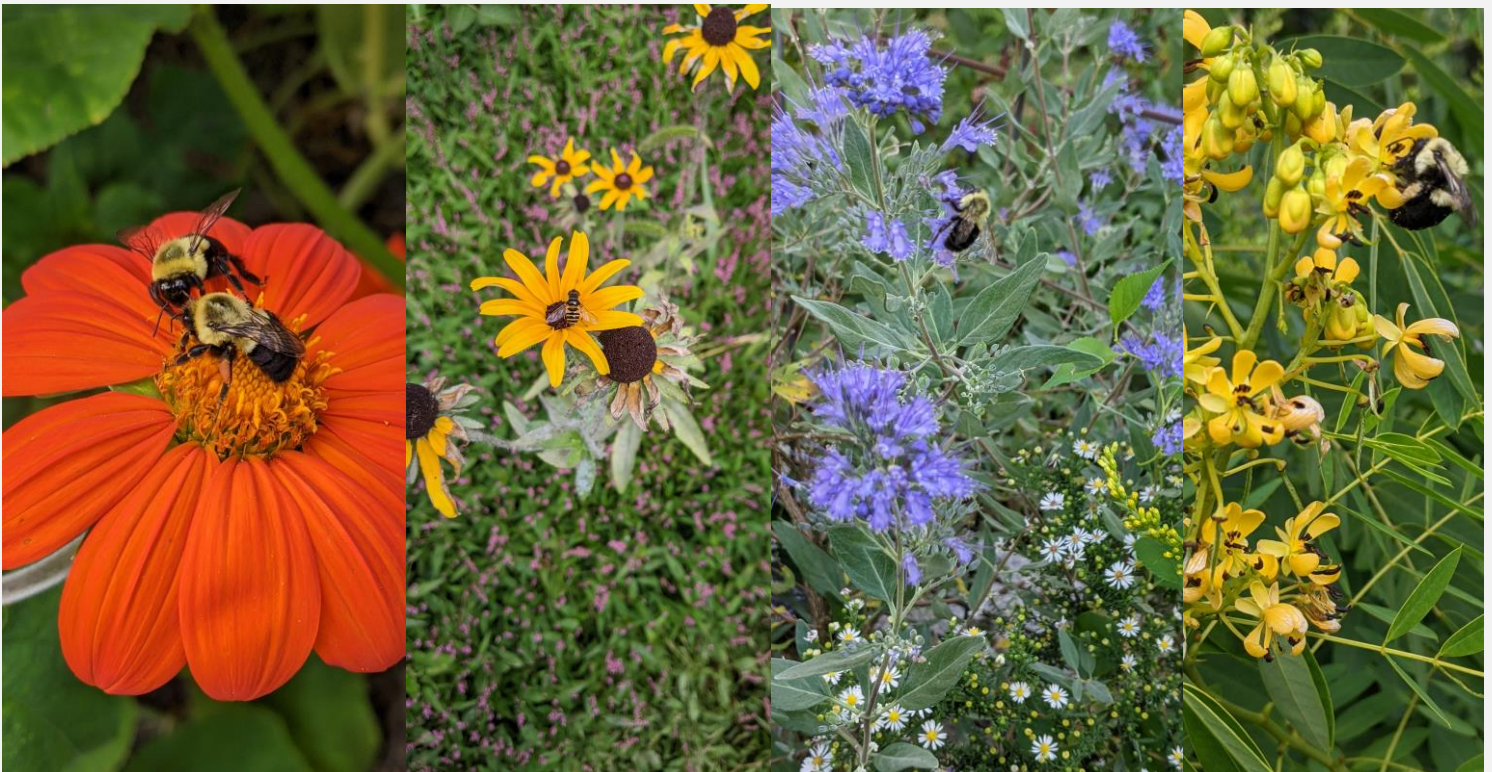




I expect you have all noticed the incredible display of hydrangeas this year. It even made the New York Times! We had almost no hydrangeas last year, so the abundance is all the more noticeable. The explanation seems to be the combination of our recent warm winter and a rainy summer and fall in 2023.

A little botany here: the 'mophead' hydrangeas that we are most familiar with are largely sterile, 'double' flowers, with all those showy petals having taken the place of male and female flowers. The 'lace-cap' hydrangeas have showy petals only around the outside, with fertile flowers in the middle. These provide something for bees and are a more delicate though still large flower. The lack of pollen (and seeds) is common to all double flowers, worth considering when selecting plants.

## Pollinators in my garden



MVO

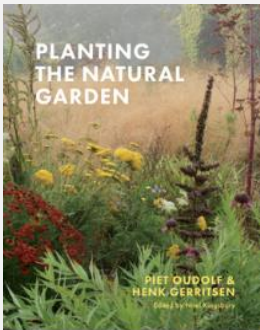


# Library Books

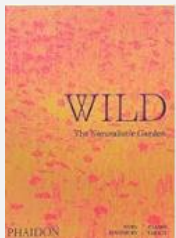
Info: Kathy Dollard

This year the Library Committee revived the tradition of selecting and purchasing books to donate to the Harvard Public Library. We chose books that fell into four categories – Garden Design, Native Plants, Conservation and Children’s books. There are, of course, many other types of gardening books that members are interested in, and we encourage you to recommend your favorite ones to us.

*This month we’ll focus on the Garden Design books – all of which fall into the sub-category of “natural design”:*



**Planting the Natural Garden** by Piet Oudolf. In the fall of 2022 Deborah Chud presented to us “Not Your Mother’s Garden” – her interpretation of naturalistic garden design using the “new perennials” favored by Piet Oudolf, a Dutch garden designer. Oudolf’s photos of gardens he describes as blazing, lush, airy, and even gloomy are stunning; also included are some of his garden design plans.



**Wild: The Naturalistic Garden** by Noel Kingsbury. Kingsbury is a British naturalistic garden designer who has also collaborated with Oudolf. **Wild** features photos and descriptions of 40 gardens around the world – a lovely coffee table book.



**Prairie Up: An Introduction to Natural Garden Design** by Benjamin Vogt. Vogt takes the naturalistic style a step further (and closer to us) by focusing on plants native to U.S. meadows and prairies. His matrix designs recommending specific plants make it possible for those of us without artistic talent to create a lovely garden.

Kathy Dollard and Heidi Siegrist (co-chairs),  
Kate Connolly, Maria Day, Marty Green, Lynda  
Herbolsheimer

OFFICE OF THE  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

15 ELM STREET, HARVARD, MA 01451

978-456-4100, ext. 428

[boh@harvard-ma.gov](mailto:boh@harvard-ma.gov)



Board of Health Update on EEE Risk in Harvard (9/6/24)

Mass. Department of Public Health (MDPH) raised the risk level for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) to HIGH in Harvard and several neighboring communities on 9/5/24.

The DPH will continue its surveillance activities, and they will work with Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH) and the Harvard Board of Health to provide additional recommendations.

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from mosquito-borne illnesses. MDPH, NABH and the Board of Health urge the public to take the following actions to mitigate the risk of contracting this rare, but dangerous disease.

- Use EPA-approved insect repellents any time you are outdoors
- Wear long-sleeved clothing
- Schedule outdoor activities to avoid the hours from dusk to dawn
- Repair damaged window and door screens
- Remove standing water from the areas around your home

The MDPH response to the elevated level also urges communities, schools and others involved in outdoors activities to consider rescheduling outdoor evening events to avoid the hours between dusk and dawn; [See the linked recommended hours for the curtailment of evening activities.](#)

The above-mentioned activities should continue until the **first hard frost** due to the current weather condition, mosquito activities and reported human cases. If you should have any questions, please contact the Board of Health, or our Health Agent, Jim Garreffo, at the office at (978)772-3335 x305 or (800)427-9762 x305.

Information about EEE and WNV, as well as reports of current and historical EEE and West Nile Virus (WNV) activity in Massachusetts, can be found on the MDPH website at [www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito](http://www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito). Resources are also available on the BoH website: <https://www.harvard-ma.gov/board-health/pages/mosquitoes>.

To read the communication of 9/5/24 from Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, click [here](#).

The Board of Health receives updates from MDPH. We will share more information as it becomes available.



## Spotted Lanternfly

Spotted lanternfly is an invasive sap-feeding insect from Asia that was first found in the United States in 2014, in Pennsylvania. While the main host plant of this pest is tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), SLF attacks a variety of trees, shrubs, and vines, and has the potential to impact a broad range of agricultural commodities, including grapes and wine, apples, peaches, and maple syrup. The first known infestation of spotted lanternfly in Massachusetts was found in 2021.

### Think you've Spotted a Lanternfly?

- Check [this map](#) to see if you are in an infested area.
- If not, [report it here](#).

Spotted lanternfly ID (Click on an image below to see the captioned full-size version)



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

[More info](#)

Barbara Heim

## ARE YOU BEING INVADED?

Fall is the ideal time to tackle those invasive plants in your yard or garden. The Harvard Conservation Commission has everything you need:



**Free booklets with information and instructions**



**Tools available for loan**



**FREE native seeds and plants\* for replanting**



**Books and videos to learn more**



Visit <https://www.harvard-ma.gov/conservation-commission/pages/clihp-clearing-invasive-harvard-plants>

or come by Hildreth House/email Liz Allard at [lallard@harvard-ma.gov](mailto:lallard@harvard-ma.gov)

\*Special thanks to Cavicchio Greenhouses, Inc. for the donation of native plants



# Officers Committee and Project Leaders 2024-2025

<b>Officers</b>	
President	Bill Loehfelm
Vice President	Marijke Vallaeys
Recording Secretary	Carlene Phillips
Treasury	Deborah O'Rourke
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Annual Lunch	Maria Day
Bloom N Art	Deb Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Donna Guarino, Patrick Vallaeys
Civic Beautification	Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello, MaryAnn Piasecki
Corresponding Secretary	Stephanie Hooper
Garden Therapy	Mary Maxwell, Janice Rusiecki, Nancy Webber
Garden Tour	Katie Gandek, Jud Ratliff, Maria Day
Graduation Flowers	Kathy Hewett
Greens Workshop	Nancy Webber, Kathy Hewett
Historian	Carlene Phillips
Horticulture	Jessie Panek
Hospitality	Meg Bagdonas, Margaret Murphy
Library Books	Kathy Dollard, Heidi Siegrist
Library/Meeting Flowers	MaryJane Ellison
Membership	Nancy Hartshorne
Nature Trails	Pam Durrant
Newsletter	Marijke Vallaeys
Nomination	Jessie Panek, Nancy Hartshorne, Member at Large
Plant Sale	Maureen Remeika, Jane Vasta, MaryAnn Piasecki
Programs	Janice Rusiecki
Publicity	Judy Warner, Meg Bagdonas
Webmaster	Betsy Howard
Yearbook	Carlene Phillips, Marijke Vallaeys

*Thanks to Carlene Phillips for proofreading, always much appreciated!*