



Never Done!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
VOLUME XXX-ISSUE 8



President's May Ponderings

Congratulations to all for a wonderful Plant Sale! We had an impressive variety of plants, and we sold almost everything we had. We raised over \$8,000 for our various community projects! Thank you to everyone for contributing to the effort, but we are especially indebted to Marijke Vallaey's and Carole Herbin for chairing this year. Special thanks go to Patrick Vallaey's who did many jobs, and to our financial team (Meg Bagdonas, Margaret Murphy, and Claudia Wesley) who stepped in for our treasurer who was out sick. Everything went remarkably smoothly, even though Mother Nature decided the plants and people all needed extra watering.

The Garden Club is starting to wind down from our very busy spring season, but we still have two wonderful events ahead: Bromfield graduation, for which we make a number of large flower arrangements to celebrate the day, and our Annual Meeting Luncheon and Garden Tour.

I have seen impressive and widespread talent in our club for flower arranging, so I encourage those of you who have not yet participated in graduation flowers to at least stop by the library lawn during the hours prior to the graduation ceremony and see what fun it is. Or jump in and sign up to help! (there's a Signup Genius for that) It's amazing what can be created with the masses of peonies, rhododendron, iris, deutzia, dogwood, Solomon's seal, and more that you share from your gardens.

We are adding to our schedule of providing flowers at the town library this year to allow impromptu arrangements with flowers you pick from your garden or from local farms. So anytime you are inspired to make an arrangement – which might be a simple vase of flowers-- sign up on the library flowers Signup Genius. This doesn't need to be ahead of time. The signup just lets others know there is currently an arrangement there. (but if we have more than one, that's fine, too. There are several places in the library we can brighten up with flowers!)

Another chance to 'play' with flowers: In addition to library flowers this coming year, we have the opportunity to make an arrangement for the opening reception for each of the exhibits at Fivesparks. You will see the dates on the same Signup Genius as the library flowers. (This arrangement only has to last for a day, so you can experiment more than usual!)

I hope everyone who can will come to our Annual Meeting Lunch and enjoy the gardens on our Annual Tour on June 10. The day will start with the lunch at the Senior Center, followed by the garden tour. You must sign up ASAP (there's another Signup Genius for that!) so the caterer will have enough food! Don't forget to send your \$25 check for the lunch to Maria Day.

By the way, in case you have trouble keeping track of the various Signup Genii: if you create a (free) account with Signup Genius, all the signups you have been invited to will show up when you sign in... which makes it much easier.

Many of us have trouble remembering names and putting them to faces, so the Board has talked for a while about putting photos into our yearbook directory. We are excited to finally be doing this for the 2024-25 yearbook. Please rest assured that for privacy and security reasons, photos will not be going up anywhere on the website, even in the members only section. They will be included in the pdf of the yearbook we send out to all members; they may be included in the print version of the yearbook, depending on the cost. Patrick Vallaey's has offered to take photos of everyone at our Annual Lunch so we will have quality photos in front of a simple background. I hope you will all be willing to let him take your photo!

We will collect bags of groceries for Loaves and Fishes at the Annual Meeting as we do at our monthly meetings, either in your 'green bag' or any grocery bag. I am hoping we will be able to collect fresh produce to donate during the summer from anyone who has extra from their garden. More on that later.

During the summer we hope to have a couple of times when whoever is available and interested can get together. A trip to Gaining Ground is in the works, and maybe we'll visit a garden or special nursery later in the summer.

I will be inviting you all to an informal gathering in my own garden sometime in August. You'll be able to see and hear about how I have been dealing with the garden challenges of the year. (Right now, I have some critter who has taken a particular liking to the taste of trillium stems and decimated several clumps!!) I trust there will be some successes to balance the tribulations. Maybe it will be my tomatoes on their new red mulch!

It is hard to believe almost two years have gone by since I stepped up to be the President of this wonderful group of gardeners, flower arrangers, and general plant lovers. Thank you all so very much for your support and encouragement!
Wishing you much joy in your gardens this summer,

Jessie

Treasurer's Report - 4/30/2024

Info: Deborah O'Rourke

CATEGORY	BUDGET	EXPENSE	INCOME	NET
Affiliations / gifts	\$ 1,225.00			\$ -
Annual Luncheon	\$ 300.00			\$ -
Community Support: Bloom N' Art	\$ 1,800.00	\$ (1,179.19)	\$ 500.00	\$ (679.19)
Community Support :Civic Beautification	\$ 950.00	\$ (401.72)		\$ (401.72)
Community Support: Garden Therapy	\$ 200.00	\$ (179.66)		\$ (179.66)
Community Support:Graduation Flowers	\$ 200.00			\$ -
Community Support: Library Books	\$ 325.00			\$ -
Community Support:Library Flowers	\$ 50.00			\$ -
Contributions/Donations to GCH	\$ -			\$ -
Correspondence	\$ 100.00			\$ -
Federation Dues	\$ 550.00	\$ (506.00)		\$ (506.00)
Flower Arranging	\$ 100.00			\$ -
Fundraisers	\$ -	\$ (545.93)	\$ 486.00	\$ (59.93)
Garden Tour	\$ 200.00			\$ -
Grants:Educational	\$ 500.00			\$ -
Historian	\$ 100.00			\$ -
Hospitality	\$ 100.00	\$ (34.98)		\$ (34.98)
Holiday Greens	\$ 350.00	\$ (202.80)		\$ (202.80)
Insurance	\$ 550.00	\$ (268.00)		\$ (268.00)
Interest Income	\$ -		\$ 910.67	\$ 910.67
Membership Income	\$ -		\$ 2,552.00	\$ 2,552.00
Membership Maintenance (for Our Club)	\$ 100.00			\$ -
Paypal	\$ 250.00	\$ (2.76)		\$ (2.76)
Plant Sale	\$ 8,000.00	\$ (460.00)	\$ 50.00	\$ (410.00)
President's Fund	\$ 200.00			\$ -
Programs	\$ 2,400.00	\$ (1,497.50)		\$ (1,497.50)
Publications:Newsletter	\$ 200.00			\$ -
Publications: Website	\$ 400.00	\$ (20.99)		\$ (20.99)
Publications:Yearbook	\$ 500.00	\$ (543.60)		\$ (543.60)
Publicity	\$ 150.00	\$ (34.99)		\$ (34.99)
Rent-	\$ 1,700.00			\$ -
Special Projects	\$ 1,000.00			\$ -
Treasurer/Administrative	\$ 850.00	\$ (277.48)		\$ (277.48)
TOTAL values, excel calculation	\$ 23,350.00	\$ (6,155.60)	\$ 4,498.67	\$ (1,656.93)
Quicken reported values (proof)		\$ (6,155.60)	\$ 4,498.67	\$ (1,656.93)

Annual Meeting/ Luncheon June 10, 2024

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Annual Meeting with lunch is at the wonderful renovated building which is the Harvard Senior Center on Monday, June 10th, starting at 11:30 am.

The Harvard Senior Center is located at 16 Lancaster County Road (978-456-4120)



Festive, unique hats are encouraged! We want to keep this Garden Club tradition alive!



Program on April 29, 2024

GOOD SPIRITS FARM

Speaker: Christiane Turnheim



Members sampling the goodies from Good Spirits Farm (raspberry jam, dandelion jam, aronia jam, and garlic mustard greens dip.) Nanc Hartshorne and Dee Lee, picture taken by Jessie



Plant Sale on May 18

Info: Marijke Vallaeyes and Carole Herbin



May 10: Just in time for Mother's Day:
Margaret Murphy selling herb baskets



There is so much we can say about the plant sale, how much fun we had, our struggles with setting up and taking down tents, the rain, nonetheless all this...it was a great success! Thanks to all the GC members, Westward Orchard and volunteers from the Harvard community! (Jane Vasta with grandson)

I'll send out more pictures later.

Today, let's talk about the children! They are nature lovers and our future GC members!



Lindsay Burke came with James (2nd grade) and he was pulling a red wagon. It was filled with tomatoes. "Will you plant those?" I asked. He nodded his head. Then I saw the marigolds. "What will you do with these?" He became all excited and explained: "The marigolds are good companions to the tomatoes, and they will protect my tomatoes!" I was flabbergasted and very impressed! (James in his garden)

(Pictures by Maria Day, Jessie Panek and Lindsay Burke)

Note of the plant sale co- chairs

Jessie thanked a lot of people in her Ponderings but we would like to add some more! We couldn't have done it without the specialists who at every single potting day identified even the smallest plants.

A big thank you to Jessie Panek and Pam Durrant!

The Garden Tours - June 10, 2024

This year we will visit the gardens of Simon and Richard; Katy and Spencer, Betsy and Terry, You are welcome to start your garden tour after the annual meeting and lunch.

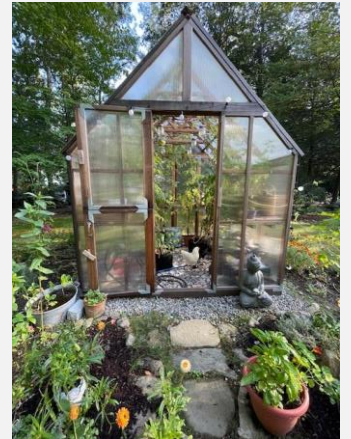
Simon and Richard's Garden: 45 Westcott Road (617-771-0433)



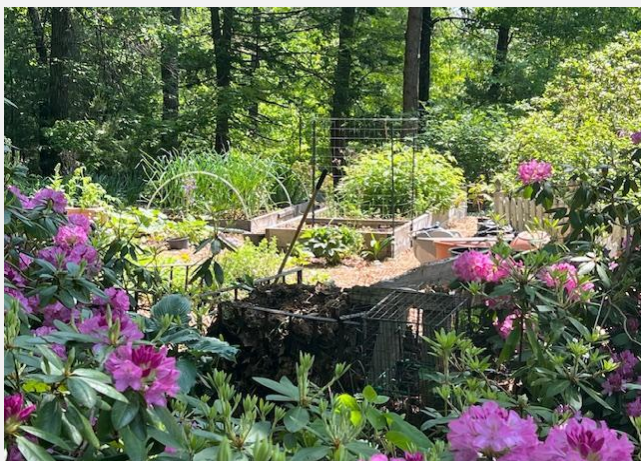
Simon and Richard have been gardening at 46 Westcott Road since the spring of 2008. Many of the garden borders existed, but they made the beds larger and also created new borders. The perennial gardens include the “Barn Garden”, “Office Garden”, “Shade Garden”, “Bog Garden”, “Rock Garden” and “House Garden”. There is also a “Shrub/Tree Border”. The property includes Blueberry and Raspberry patches, raised vegetable beds and cut flower beds. They have tried to use plants and flowers that attract, bees, butterflies and birds to the gardens.

Katy and Spencer's Garden: 83 Bolton Road (617-640-4809)

The gardens and greenhouse at 83 Bolton Road have been lovingly created over the past decade, with the most recent addition being a redwood greenhouse built during the height of the pandemic in July 2020. This greenhouse has become Katy's happy place, where she nurtures the majority of her plants from seedlings each spring, later moving them to the garden beds when they are ready.



Betsy and Terry's Garden: 87 Bolton Road (978-456-0121)



“My Garden in the Woods”.

Moving from Annapolis, MD to Harvard brought challenges, with so many of the plants here which were new to Betsy. The garden flourishes with yellow evening primroses, spring celandines; mountain laurels, plentiful andromedas and lilacs

They installed their first of 5 rain barrels and 3 compost piles. They don't have much sun, but cutting down mature trees didn't seem like a good idea. Developing a shade garden has become a fun endeavor. It's coming along slowly which is just fine.

Permission to Take Your Photo for Yearbook Purpose Only

Info: Nancy Hartshorne and Marijke Vallaeyes

THIS YEAR'S YEARBOOK WILL BE THE BEST YET!

We will include a photograph next to all member's name and contact information. We think this will help everyone put names and faces together!

To this end, Patrick Vallaeyes (yes, Marijke's husband) will set up a mini studio at the Annual Meeting and will take a quick picture of each member.

This photo will only be used for the printed Yearbook and the pdf version that is sent to each member at the beginning of the year.
The photos will not be used on our website.

If this is okay with you, please see Patrick at the annual meeting. He will be the one with the camera!

Please complete below if you'd like the pdf version of the Yearbook exclusively and email it to Marijke at mvallaeyes@gmail.com.
Thank you!

_____ PDF Yearbook only

Name _____

Email _____

2024-25 Membership Renewal Ends June 30th

Info: Nancy Hartshorne

We are winding down to the last month of this Garden Club year. And, what an incredible year it has been! Our presentations ran the gamut from learning how to have a more sustainable lawn and garden using native grasses, perennials, shrubs, and trees; how to prepare our soil; and how to best enjoy our local conservation lands. We had two garden panels with our own talented members covering successful growing techniques, seed recommendations, and how to make your dream garden a reality. We finished the year with a visit from our neighbor at Good Spirits Farm where we tasted jams made with foraged berries and herbs and a delicious garlic mustard spread. (We will definitely visit here this summer so stay tuned for more information!)

If you haven't done so yet, please complete the attached Membership form and bring it along with your check, payable to the Garden Club of Harvard, or your credit card to our annual meeting on June 10th at the COA. If you are not able to make this last meeting, then please mail it to me at

Nancy Hartshorne

Membership, Garden Club of Harvard
160 Prospect Hill Road
Harvard, MA 01451

*Deadline for membership renewal is June 30th!! All members who submit
their forms and dues by this date will appear in the July 2024-June 2025
edition of the Yearbook!!!*

Let's get this done so that we can wrap up the year in style and turn our attention to the carefree days of summer!

Take good care,

Nancy & Pat

FINAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Membership Renewal Form

An **Active** member attends Garden Club meetings, participates on a service committee, serves on one hospitality committee per year, and helps with the annual plant sale. An active membership may include a second family member living at the same residence.

A **Supporting** member may attend meetings but need not take part in other activities, although many volunteer to do so.

Please check the level of membership you're interested in:

Active \$35

Family \$40

Supporting \$50.00

Name(s) _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Address _____
Street Address AND Post Office Box, if applicable. Town and Zip Code if other than Harvard.

Email Address: _____
Information in the Yearbook is used for intra-Club correspondence only.

Please make your dues check payable to **The Garden Club of Harvard.**

Send your check AND this completed form to:

Garden Club of Harvard Membership
c/o Nancy Hartshorne
160 Prospect Hill Road
Harvard, MA 01451

ACTIVE MEMBERS REQUIREMENTS (Optional for Supporting Members)

Club activities and service projects give members hands-on opportunities to meet new people, learn, be creative and give back to our community. Our Garden Club thrives best when everyone is involved.

Hospitality: *All active members are expected to provide refreshments and to help with set-up/clean-up at one meeting each year. Please circle your preferred month. If blank, you will be assigned as needed.*

Sept. Oct. Nov. Jan. Feb. March April

Plant Sale: *All active members are required to help with the Plant Sale, our major fundraiser. Helping opportunities include donating plants, digging, potting, pricing, setting-up, and picking up annuals/vegetables/herbs from suppliers, as well as working on the day of the Sale.*

Service Committee and Project Involvement: *Active Members should choose at least one additional way to serve our community or our members. The level of involvement ranges from 'one and done' to coordinating a year-long activity. Excellent training and guidance is provided. Interactions with amazing people guaranteed!*

Please choose at least one Service Committee to PARTICIPATE in OR one Service Activity/Project to LEAD.

Service Committees

- Bloom N Art:** Arranges flowers for, helps with planning or publicity, and/or volunteers at the annual (March) exhibit showcasing artwork from the Bromfield School students paired with flower arrangements created by our club members.
- Civic Beautification:** Participates in planning, planting, upkeep, and watering of public landscapes and containers in Harvard.
- Garden Therapy:** Works with groups of elders at assisted-living facilities, using plant materials and garden projects as therapy.
- Graduation Flowers:** Helps make floral decorations for Bromfield graduation.
- Holiday Greens Workshop:** Participates in workshop creating winter arrangements for homebound residents.
- Library and Fivespark Flowers:** Provides an arrangement/plant for a week at the Harvard Public Library, Garden Club meetings, or special events for Fivesparks.

Service Projects and Activities Please check below if you would like to LEAD or co-lead one of our Projects and Activities.

- Programs:** Plans and organizes speakers/programs for monthly Garden Club meetings.
- Special Activities:** Plans and organizes a variety of field trips of interest to members.
- Annual Luncheon:** Secures luncheon site and coordinates the June annual meeting.
- Garden Tour:** Organizes tour (for members) of local gardens to visit after our annual meeting in June.
- Historian:** Saves appropriate materials for Club Archives at the Harvard Public Library.
- Horticulture:** Shares information about plant cultivation at meetings and/or in newsletters.
- Library Books:** Works with the director of the Harvard Public Library to choose books related to horticulture or nature for the Club to donate to the Library.
- Membership:** Keeps records of members, provides name tags, organizes the annual membership drive, greets and provides outreach to new members.
- Nature Trails:** Leads nature walks on trails, usually on Thursday mornings.
- Newsletter:** Publishes/distributes a monthly Garden Club of Harvard digital newsletter.
- Nominating:** Nominates new officers, committee and project chairs to fill vacancies. (one member-at-large needed to assist Board)
- Publicity:** Provides information to the public about the Club's meetings and special events via the Harvard Press, the Federation website, and social media (e.g. Facebook and Nextdoor.)
- Webmaster:** Maintains the official website of the Garden Club of Harvard.
- Yearbook:** Publishes the yearly program and membership contact information.

Any special skills you would like to share with us, like finance, technology, graphic design, desktop publishing, proofreading, grant writing, running a book club, etc.? Please list below.

Civic Beautification

Info: MaryAnn Piasecki, Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello

Civic beautification team met last week to plan the summer flower arrangements throughout the town and to put together a watering schedule.

Many thanks to Jane Vasta for arranging the Townhall urn this year and to Maribeth Marcello for Still River arrangements and for “recycling” the mandevilla plant for the fire station!

Also, a big hug and thanks to Pat Jennings and Jane Vasta for helping to weed the Civil War statue before Memorial Day!

The troughs in town look fabulous!



Graduation Flowers

Info: Kathy Hewett

You gotta see this (Graduation Flowers transformation) if you never have! Come get involved or see what the process looks like. (Hint: it's arranging in action and never the same from year to year)

Graduation will be outdoors Friday afternoon, June 7th, 5:30 pm on the field between Bromfield School and the new library (if rain, postponed or held Cronin/Bromfield time TBD).

Flowers brought to field: Friday June 7, 9-11:30 am.

Friday morning 10 am at the soccer/hockey field between Bromfield and the new library there will be buckets and buckets of freshly picked and conditioned flowers, shrubs, branches, grasses, all collected and waiting to be considered for arrangements: hosta, phlox, peonies, ladies' mantle, kousa dogwood, mock orange, deutzia, rhodos, lupine, leucothoe, Solomon's seal, mountain laurel, iris, or whatever our member gardeners have available.

Arrangements made: Friday 12-2 pm.

From 5 to 7 arrangements emerge from the many buckets: in huge vases on either side and in front of the graduation stage; in long low window boxes for the entrance where graduates walk in; special arrangements for the diploma table and, sometimes, you'll find them on other places where inspiration and extra flowers have met.

We have some experienced arrangers who have been doing this for years; we have new volunteers with different and exciting ideas. If you have flowers, branches, grasses to contribute, you can let me know by:

- 1) signing up on the [SIGHUPGENIUS](#);
- 2) emailing or texting me, hewettkathy@gmail.com, or 978-456-3112.
- 3) bringing your contributions to the field on Friday morning between 9:00 and 11:30 (10:00 is even better!).

Donated flowers should be cut Thursday early morning or late evening and conditioned in deep water (think kitchen wastebasket) before bringing Friday morning.

Come see what the fun is about!

Kathy Hewett: hewettkathy@gmail.com, or 978-456-3112.



Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison



Deb Dowson



Arrangements from:
Carol Hartman, Pat Cooper, Kathy Jackson, Margaret Murphy, Maria Day, and Dee Lee,

May 2024

Nature Trails

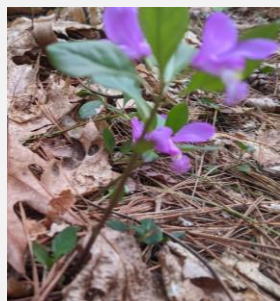
Info: Pam Durrant

Trail walks provide an opportunity to walk with friends and become familiar with the wide variety of Harvard conservation land trails and their unique features and plants.

April 25: Muller Conservation



May 9: Willard-Poitras



We looked for and found fringed polygala, nodding trillium, huckleberry and anemone

Horticultural Musings

Info: Betsy Morton

This month I've decided to write about some of the things I do that actually work. Many of you already know these helpful hints.

1. If you put a penny in a vase before you put in tulips, the tulips won't droop, but stay upright.
2. To get the full aroma of the flowers of witch hazel, blow on the blossoms from the mouth and then sniff the bloom. Try before and after smell.
3. When bringing home new flower purchases put in a container of hot water with 1-2T of Clorox and 2T sugar/ pint/quart of water. Then leave overnight. Arrange in your container that has warm water with Clorox and sugar. For peonies 2T sugar + 2T vinegar per pint of water.
4. To revive flowers on woody stems, like roses, place in boiling water and leave for a day.

Surely others have tips they find effective.

Let's share them among ourselves.

In the Community



Please bring your green bag filled with much needed items for the food pantry to the Annual meeting on June 10. Ex. : Jelly & Jam ; Coffee & Tea; Nuts; Grains (quinoa, barley, millet etc.) ; Snacks ; Apple & Fruit Pouches...

Garden Therapy

Info: Janice Rusiecki, Mary Maxwell, Nancy Webber



We visited River Court in April and we had a wonderful time! Phyllis, Carole, Jeanie So far, our volunteers have been Meg B, Carole H, Phyllis C, Maria W, Maria D, Suzan O, Jeanie C. and I helped the ladies in making their arrangements. We used pink, white, & yellow daisies & carnations. Phyllis cut greens from her home to complete them. The arrangements were lovely & the ladies were happy with the results. So far, our volunteers have been Meg B, Carole H, Phyllis C, Maria W, Maria D, Suzan O, Jeanie C.

Proposed Slate 2024-2025 Officers Committee and Project Leaders

Officers	
President	Bill Loehfelm
Vice President	Marijke Vallaeys
Recording Secretary	You?
Treasury	Deborah O'Rourke
Committee and Project Leaders	
Annual Lunch	Maria Day
Bloom N Art	Deb Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Donna Guarino, Patrick Vallaeys
Civic Beautification	Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello, MaryAnn Piasecki
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
Library Books	Kathy Dollard
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, Maribeth Marcello
Publicity	Kate Guthro
Webmaster	Betsy Howard
Yearbook	Carlene Phillips, Marijke Vallaeys

Thanks to Carlene Phillips for proofreading, always much appreciated!