



Never Done!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
VOLUME XXX-ISSUE 4



President's January Ponderings

Well, it is finally winter, for a short while anyway! Although it may not last long, I am hoping that this week of good, cold ('normal' winter) temperatures will help limit some pests in our gardens and landscapes, pests like the wooly adelgid that is killing our hemlocks. Sadly, when cold kills off most, but not all, of an insect population, it only helps the population evolve to be more cold-hardy. My hope is that science will soon find a natural predator we can use to protect those lovely trees that are so critical to our forests. The race is on, as we see less cold weather at the same time the adelgid becomes better adapted to the cold, giving the insect a double advantage. As our only native evergreen that grows up in shade, the hemlock has a very special role in our forest ecology. The hemlock has been a personal favorite ever since I played under them as a child, and I still love their miniature cones. Do you have a memory of trees that were special to you growing up?

It is the season of seed catalogs, and I hope you are all enjoying dreaming of next summer's garden. If you have extra seed/plant catalogs, bring them in to our meeting on Jan 29 and share them with everyone. It's always fun to discover a new catalog or nursery.

I've been asked whether the Club might put in a 'shared' order for the red plastic mulch that MaryAnn talked about last fall, that gave her excellent results with her tomatoes. Several sources offer a 100' roll, or a 30' roll, both 48" wide. If you are like me, you probably don't need even 30', and of course it is cheaper to buy a larger quantity. So, if you would like a smaller amount, let me know exactly how many feet you want, and I'll see if I can coordinate buying a larger roll and dividing it up between us so we can split the cost (including shipping). If you are interested, please get back to me *before the end of February*. If you want to read about it, or just buy a whole roll for yourself, here is the source MaryAnn used, plus a few others:

<https://www.totallytomato.com/product/T53322/31>

<https://www.gardeners.com/buy/red-tomato-mulch/8586839.html>

<https://www.johnnyseeds.com/tools-supplies/mulches-and-weed-barrier/mulch-films/srm-red-mulch-4-x-100-9470.html>

I am really looking forward to our program on soils next week. It is a fascinating subject and I know I have a lot to learn. See you then!

Best wishes, jessie

Preparing the Soil for Gardening

January 29, 2024

Speaker: Gretel Anspach

Trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society,
a Lifetime Master Gardener with the Mass. Master Gardener Association

The quality and make-up of your soil has a huge influence on how well your plants will do. Unlike sunlight, air, and water (the other 3 requirements), you can't tell whether your soils are right for your plants by looking at your soil or even by looking at your plants. Learn about soil structure, compaction, fertility, and pH, and learn how you can modify these qualities for a more successful garden.

Library Flowers in February

Feb. 5: Kathleen Turnbull
Feb. 12: Denyse Cox

Feb. 19:Carolynn Luescher
Feb. 26: Deb Dowson

GENERAL MEETING
St. Theresa's Church
15 Still River Rd.
9:30 am

Followed by the
program

Hospitality Team at the February meeting

Team Leader: Margaret Murphy
Jessie Panek
Deborah O'Rourke
Nancy Hartshorne

Maureen Remeika
Katie Gandek
Judy Warner
MarijkeVallaeyes

GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD TREASURER'S REPORT

31-Dec-23

CATEGORY	BUDGET	EXPENSE	INCOME	NET
Affiliations / gifts	\$ 1,225.00			\$ -
Annual Luncheon	\$ 300.00			\$ -
Community Support: Bloom N' Art	\$ 1,800.00		\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Community Support :Civic Beautification	\$ 950.00	\$ (401.72)		\$ (401.72)
Community Support: Garden Therapy	\$ 200.00	\$ (39.82)		\$ (39.82)
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			\$ -
Flower Arranging	\$ 100.00			\$ -
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	\$ -		\$ 546.21	\$ 546.21
Membership Income	\$ -		\$ 835.00	\$ 835.00
Membership Maintenance (for Our Club)	\$ 100.00			\$ -
Paypal	\$ 250.00			\$ -
Plant Sale	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
President's Fund	\$ 200.00			\$ -
Programs	\$ 2,400.00	\$ (393.30)		\$ (393.30)
Publications:Newsletter	\$ 200.00			\$ -
Publications: Website	\$ 400.00			\$ -
Publications:Yearbook	\$ 500.00	\$ (543.60)		\$ (543.60)
Publicity	\$ 150.00	\$ (34.99)		\$ (34.99)
Other Fundraisers	\$ -	\$ (545.93)	\$ 325.00	\$ (220.93)
Rent-	\$ 1,700.00			\$ -
Special Projects	\$ 1,000.00			\$ -
Treasurer/Administrative	\$ 850.00	\$ (95.48)		\$ (95.48)
TOTAL values, excel calculation	\$ 23,350.00	\$ (2,560.62)	\$ 2,256.21	\$ (304.41)
Quicken reported values (proof)		\$ (2,560.62)	\$ 2,256.21	\$ (304.41)

Holiday Greens Workshop

Info: Nancy Webber and Kathy Jackson



It was a festive morning!

A big thank you to Nancy Webber and Kathy Jackson for organizing, as well as supporting actors Deborah Dowson, Margaret Murphy, Meg Bagdonas, and the various other folks who brought cookies and brought in a wonderful variety of greens. (Jessie Panek)

Pictures by Jessie and Barbara Heim

Civic Beautification

Info: Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello and MaryAnn Piasecki



Frozen Finger days!

General Store arrangements.

The trough under a snow cover.

Trough at the Historical Society

A new holiday look for the town hall.

Thank You Maria Day for the help at the Town Hall.

Pictures by MaryAnn Piasecki, Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello and Marijke Vallaeyes



In the Community



Please bring your green bag filled with much needed items for the food pantry to the general meeting on Monday, January 29.

Save the date: May 5th for the 2024 Spring into Action 5 K

Membership

Info: Nancy Hartshorne

Welcome!

Li-Shiang Liang & Georgia Sassen

PO Box 35
258 Bolton Road
Harvard, MA 01451
LSLIANG258@gmail.com
617-645-3539

PUBLICITY

Info: Kate Guthro



Horticultural Musings

Info: Betsy Morton

Make a 2024 commitment to impact Climate Change.

- For a start:

Plant perennials and natives

Compost; reduce food waste, (thus reducing methane from our landfills)

Use rain barrels for droughts

Replace grassy areas with native plants

Buy energy efficient appliances and gardening tools

Solar

Take on alternatives to using plastic are a few practical ways to start

Think twice before cutting down mature trees.

- Check out websites, lectures and community groups, such as:

Harvard Community Conference, Saturday March 2nd, 2-4 pm, Volunteers Hall. ([Arm in Arm](#))

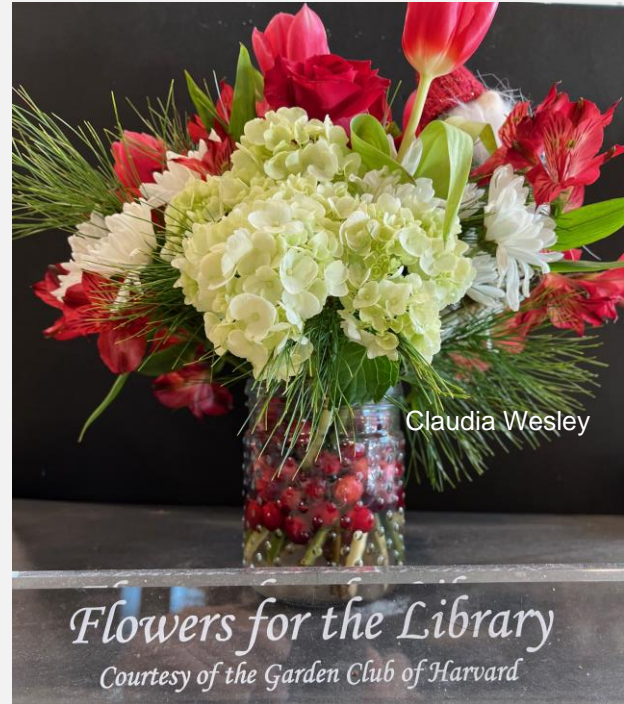
Harvard's Climate Initiative (massenergize.org)

Also check out greenamerica.org for examples of how each one of us can affect change.

Together our individual actions on climate change can make a real difference. We should be encouraging ourselves, neighbors, friends and the younger generation to make changes. The more gardens we have, the better we feel and every bit helps against climate change.

Library Flowers

Info: Mary Jane Ellison





Kathy Hewett



Kathy Hewett



Marijke Vallaey



Maria Walton

The white papers next to Maria Walton's arrangement: these are the beautiful bookmarks designed by Kate Guthro (see on page 6)

Nature Trails

Info: Pam Durrant



Thursday November 16: **Prospect Hill conservation land – Community Harvest Orchard**



Thursday, November 30: **Prospect Hill conservation land**



Thursday, December 7: **Pin Hill conservation land** (steep climb up Pin Hill where we encountered the quarries and could enjoy the views.)



Thursday, January 4, 2024:
Ohlin conservation land.
The trail starts off Ohlin Lane and descends steeply to cross an intermittent stream, passing by rock ledges through hemlocks and witch hazels on the way to Bowers Brook.



How do we know this is a pitch pine tree?
Pam: Find some needles on the ground; the needles of a pitch tree come in clusters of three.



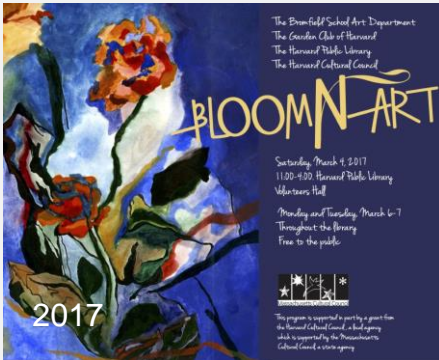
Thursday, January 18, 2024
Kaufman Conservation land.

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.

Pictures by Patrick & Marijke Vallaeyes and Judy Warner.

Bloom N Art

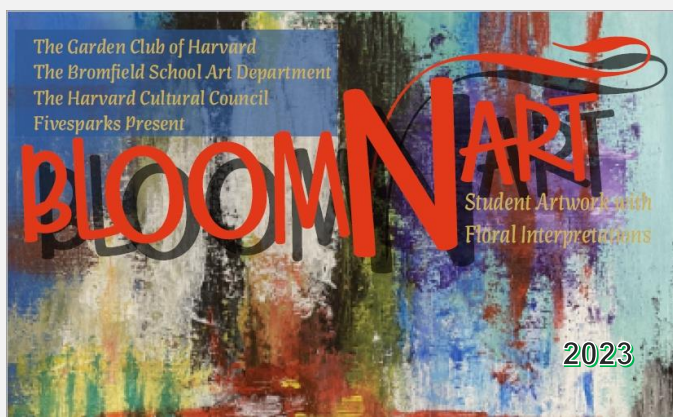
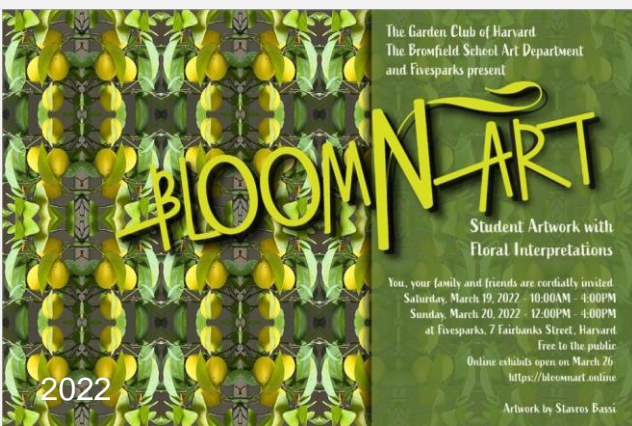
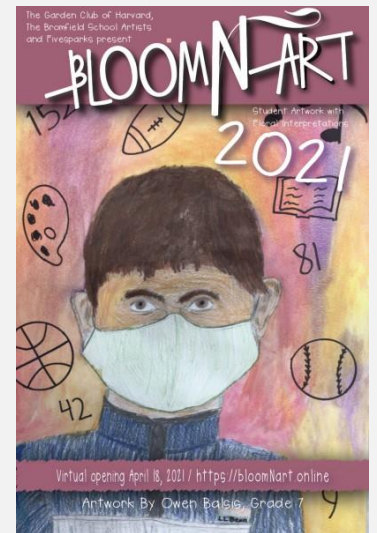
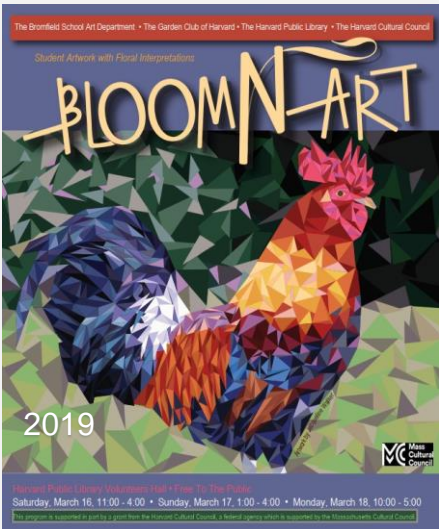
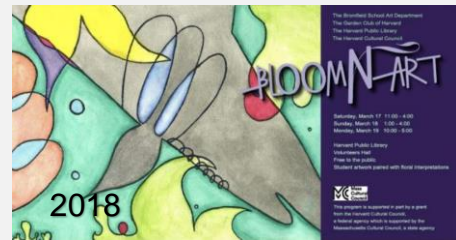
Deborah Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Marijke Vallaeys



The 8th anniversary of Bloom N Art is on March 23-24, 2024. Once again, the Garden Club of Harvard, the art department of Bromfield High School and Fivesparks will work together to make this the highlight of early spring.

Please sign up as an arranger! We will have demonstrations and mock-up sessions in the two months leading up to the BNA exhibit!

Signup



Bloom N Art explained

The art teachers of the Bromfield High School select artwork and get it to Deb Dowson who sends it to the volunteer arrangers.

The arrangers pick 5 of their favorites. Deb has the difficult task to match art with a volunteer taking in account the ranking of their choice.

Once a volunteer knows his/her work, he/she can start planning. What color of flowers? Which container? On March 1 Deb will enlighten us in a presentation full with tips and methods on how to make the arrangement. That day the artwork will be on display. A week before the exhibit we'll go to Fivesparks to experiment, AnaMaria will open the gallery for us, we'll bring some flowers, and the arrangers will bring some possible containers. Then the fun starts!

EVERYBODY CAN DO IT! Some of the seasoned arrangers act as mentors (You can ask for a mentor!) and help the people who don't yet feel confident to work on their own. We learn a lot from one another!

Garden Therapy at Rivercourt

Info: Mary Maxwell and Janice Rusiecki



(Phyllis Clawson with the yellow scarf) Picture by Meg Bagdonas

Winter in our gardens



“Winter wonderland on South Shaker”
Marijke Vallaeyes



“Bluebirds enjoying the winterberry”
Kathy Jackson



“A bluebird eating winter berries outside my window.”
Maribeth Marcello

Plant Sale: May 18

Info: Marijke Vallaeyes and Carol Herbin



Know it to use it: Lemongrass

Lemongrass likes it hot, so grow it in an area with full sun and fertile, well-drained soil with a pH of 6.5 to 7.0. Space plants 24 inches apart.

We use lemongrass to flavor broths, marinades or use it to make curry pastes. If you want to make an Asian-inspired dish, add some grated lemongrass.



Help wanted!

You could be of help by looking through your garden photos, and identify the plant that thrives in your garden.

Comes April and potting season it will be very helpful to know what you are bringing.

We have very skillful people who identify a plant on a leaf or a root but most of us haven't reached that level of competency and need all the help we can get!

(The color in the photo is not a flower but the flag identifying the day of potting)



Officers 2023-2024

Officers	
President	Jessie Panek
Vice President	Bill Loehfelm
Recording Secretary	Denyse Cox
Treasury	Deborah O'Rourke
Committee Chairs	
Historian	Carlene Phillips
Hospitality	Meg Bagdonas
Membership	Nancy Hartshorne
Newsletter	Marijke Vallaey's
Nomination	MaryAnn Piasecki
Programs	Margaret Murphy, Janice Rusiecki
Publicity	Kate Guthro
Projects	
Annual Lunch	Maria Day, Bobbie Taylor
Civic Beautification	Kathy Jackson, Maribeth Marcello, MaryAnn Piasecki
Garden Therapy	Mary Maxwell, Janice Rusiecki, Nancy Webber
Garden Tour	Katie Gandek, Jud Ratliff, Maria Day
Greens Workshop	Kathy Jackson, Nancy Webber
Graduation Flowers	Kathy Hewett
Horticulture	Betsy Morton
Library Books	Heidi Siegrist
Library/Meeting Flowers	MaryJane Ellison
Nature Trails	Pam Durrant
Plant Sale	Carole Herbin, Marijke Vallaey's
Webmaster	Betsy Howard
Yearbook	Carlene Phillips, Marijke Vallaey's
Bloom N Art	Deb Dowson, AnaMaria Nanra, Marijke Vallaey's

<https://www.harvardgardenclub.org>



Garden Club of Harvard

[Bloomart.online](https://www.bloomart.online)

Thanks to Carlene Phillips for proofreading, always much appreciated!