



# Lexington Field & Garden Club

140 Years of Making Lexington More Beautiful

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November 2016 newsletter

This issue is so full of coming events and previous happenings, that I am not writing a letter this month. I wish all of you a joyful season, however you celebrate it!



— Mary



## Explore Holiday Floral Design. The Lexington Field & Garden Club will host Holiday Floral Design on Wednesday, Nov. 9.



Two nationally accredited master flower show judges, Linda Ladd and Elaine DiGiovanni, will teach us how to make six beautiful floral arrangements for the season. Linda is the owner of Petals and Posies, and Elaine is co-owner of the floral design firm The Cutting Garden. Their award-winning work is well known throughout New England. They will raffle off their six arrangements. Held at the Scottish Rite Museum, the meeting is free and open to all. The program begins around 10:20.

We will be selling Herb note cards and Home for the Holidays tickets that day also

For more information, visit [www.LexGardenClub.org](http://www.LexGardenClub.org)





# Home for the Holidays



**Join us for the Lexington Field and Garden Club's first house tour, on Sunday, December 11th, from 1–5 PM.** Go behind the doors of six lovely Lexington homes, each beautifully decorated for the holidays to celebrate our diverse holiday traditions. This will certainly put you, your family members, and friends in that holiday mood!

- Advance tickets: \$25 Lexington Club members ~ \$30 nonmembers ~ \$10 students (ages 5 - 18) at [www.lexgardenclub.org](http://www.lexgardenclub.org)
- **Interested in volunteering?** Sign up at the November meeting or contact **Ruthann Igoe**. A 2-hour shift at a house or helping at tour headquarters entitles you to a \$15 ticket.
- The self-guided tour begins at The Church of Our Redeemer, 6 Meriam Street, Lexington. Enjoy light refreshments and peruse our holiday boutique there.

## **Spread the word!**

Please invite your friends, book group, bridge club, church volunteers...

## **The Sponsors are:**

Wagon Wheel Nursery and Farms,  
Wilson Farm, The Inn at Hastings Park, Robin Gannon Interiors,  
William Raveis Real Estate, and Barrett Sotheby's International Realty.



**Wanted: small flower pots, Christmas mugs, pie tins to turn into gifts at the members-only Holiday Greens party for the holiday boutique. Bring to the November meeting or to the Greens party on Dec 7.**



# Holiday Greens Party



Wed, December 7, Noon - 9 pm

## What is it?

**An open workshop and festive gathering of fellow garden club members.** We will have assorted greens, containers and decorations for you to use to make something to take home and something for the Club to donate or sell. Our donated arrangements will decorate the Community Center and the offices of St Brigid's staff who generously provide our workspace. A selection of small arrangements will be offered for sale in conjunction with our Home for the Holidays tour.

**All participants are asked to contribute to the refreshments and, as much as possible, to the assortment of fresh greens and recycled decorations and containers. We also welcome small financial donations to cover some of our expenses for this event.**

**Where and when?** St. Brigid's Parish Hall Basement (same workshop space as in the past)  
Wednesday, December 7  
Come anytime between 12 and 9. (Snow date is December 8.)

## What to bring?

Some **food or drink goodie to share with everyone**

Your **pruners and wire cutters**, ideally labeled with your name

**Decorations and/or containers** you want to recycle

**Plastic containers** of all sizes to line baskets, metal pots, etc.

Your own container or plain wreath, if that's what you want to decorate

**Greens from your yard** to use yourself and/or to share (no hemlock, please)

And for the **greens, please plan ahead!** If the weather forecast, or your schedule, is not good for pruning right before our party, please cut your greens earlier and keep them fresh in buckets of water or dark trash bags in your garage or a protected corner of your yard. We have run short on greens when not enough members planned ahead.

## How to help?

As in the past, our success depends on having many elves who are willing to help with preparations and clean-up. We need volunteers who:

- Have greens to donate or will clip and gather greens from donors around town
- Will help with set-up of our workspace on Tuesday afternoon, December 6 and/or clean-up on Thursday morning, December 8
- Will help wire decorations at a couple of workshops, on November 15 and 17

If you are able to help in any of these ways, please contact **Jane Halverson** or **Ann Webster**. They will be at the sign-up table at the November 9 main club meeting. Also feel free to drop off at either of their homes any containers or decorations you'd like to donate in advance.

**We're looking forward to another very fun day and hope you can join us!**

## Lexington Field & Garden Club Evening Meeting Minutes October 19, 2016

President Mary Nokes called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and welcomed ten guests: Maggie Sun, Molly Chen, Lina Faller, Lydia D'Andrea, Linda Levin, Susan Schiffer, Natalie DeNormandie, Marvin Mason, Ping Shen, and Mark Gabrenya. She thanked our greeters as well as the Monday and Thursday evening groups for providing refreshments. Attendance was 72. Vice President Ashley Rooney told about the December house tour, "Home for the Holidays." Tickets are on sale, available on the web site and people can pay by PayPal. Volunteer hosts and hostesses are needed for stints at the six houses and at the starting point, Church of Our Redeemer. Volunteers can each receive a discounted ticket for \$15.

Ann Webster announced the Greens Party for Wednesday, December 7, from noon to 9 p.m. at St. Brigid's. Participants are requested to bring clippers or other necessary tools, potluck refreshments, and any containers. There will be two pre-workshops, at Ann's house (16 Brent Rd) on the 15th (afternoon) and Jane Halverson's house (2210 Mass Ave) on the 17th (morning). At these houses people can bring containers, baskets, liners, decorations and such at any convenient time to leave at the front doors or elsewhere protected from the elements. Also, items can be brought to the next main club meeting on November 9.

Janet Kern announced the GWAC Sustainability Fair coming on Saturday, Oct. 29, at LHS. The LFGC will have an information table there.

The September meeting minutes, printed in the newsletter, were approved.

As there was no new business, President Nokes adjourned this morning's meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Vice President Mollie Nye then introduced our speaker, Tim Hynes, and presented the Lexington Community Farm with a donation from the Ruge fund (in memory of late LFGC member Florence Ruge, mother of Claire Bertucci). Tim, manager of the Lexington Community Farm, presented **Your Community Farm: Adventures in Organic and Sustainable Agriculture**. He explored the history of farming on the site since the early 1900's then described its mission as a 'community' farm including community education, food donations given and the CSA. He went on to describe good organic practices such as soil improvement and growing selected cover crops.

—**Jane Beswick**, for Deborah Thomson, Recording Secretary.



### Treasurer's Report

Here is a brief summary of the financial transactions for the month of October. Expenses exceeded income by \$1,985.

New Member Dues \$125	Liability Insurance \$500
Community Projects Expenses	Donation to St. Brigid Church for facilities use \$250
Traffic island signs to replace missing and damaged signs \$625	Web/Technology Fees \$120
Traffic island gardening expenses \$150	Miscellaneous Administrative Expenses including publicity \$155
Post Office gardening expenses \$110	Total Expenses \$2,110
Total Community Project Expenses \$885	
October Program Fee \$200	

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

**Leslie Sargis**



This month the Civic Gardening Group would like to highlight the Munroe Tavern Colonial Flower Garden, featuring exclusively traditional colonial-era flowers.

**Kristine Burton** is the Garden Steward. She says "It was a derelict garden when we started in 1984. The Historical Society told us they wanted a 'pretty flower garden for the tourists to enjoy". Some of us from the Garden Club thought it was important to build and care for a garden that would be appropriate at a small country tavern built in 1735, especially one with the history that Munroe Tavern has.

Present-day American gardeners grow plants from all around the world and the hybrids created from them in the labs of plant scientists who create sturdy, long-blooming plants in a wide variety of colors. Colonial gardeners grew plants from a much smaller world; basically, they grew the wildflowers found growing in the English countryside or from across Europe and the Middle East. We decided to build a collection of these old plants, most of which (by the middle of the 1700s) had been growing in English gardens for centuries, and now these old plants are the ones we are growing at Munroe Tavern. We are very lucky that our garden was on the site previously created by Ned Munroe, because some of our most cherished plants were inherited from his garden. They have now become irreplaceable because these old plants and seed are disappearing from nurseries as gardeners demand the new hybrids. One of our biggest challenges is in learning how to take care of these old treasures, and keep them alive from year to year."

Tourists and residents alike enjoy visiting this garden. There are many different varieties of flowers planted in the garden. Every Tuesday afternoon a group of dedicated LFGC members come to tend the flowerbeds. "Every time we come back, it's different," says Kris Burton. "Nobody expected that, it's just kind of a bonus."

Many thanks to Kris and her team of volunteers for their years of hard work at the magnificent Munroe Tavern Colonial Garden. Joining Kris in making this garden special are **Jan Avalone, Lil Cohen, Dede Downey, Sue Harris, Sue Hays, Mary Mackie, Barbara Morgan, Pam Northridge, Regina Sutton, and Carol Tepper.**



**Useful links:** Our area is rich with programs, lectures, and workshops of interest to gardeners. Rather than take space in this newsletter, we urge you to do your own detective work. Remember that we have passes to New England Wildflower Society and Tower Hill Botanic Garden.

[WWW.TOWERHILLBG.ORG/](http://WWW.TOWERHILLBG.ORG/) <http://massmastergardeners.org/>  
<http://www.massshort.org> [www.newenglandwild.org/](http://www.newenglandwild.org/) <http://gcfm.org/>  
<http://grownativemass.org/> [lexgwac.org](http://lexgwac.org)



**The Evelyn D. Cronin Horticultural Award**, a certificate, to the Lexington Field and Garden Club, for their program and hands-on workshops on fairy dish gardens presented to club members, to children at a local daycare, and to a womens' club.



## Welcome New Members

**Jessie Chen**

**Lydia D'Andrea**

**Jodi Scarbrough**

and

**Peter Lund, Joe Nye, Kevin Sargis,**  
husbands of members



Former President

**Marjorie Blanchard**

celebrated her

**103rd birthday**

on October 4, 2016!

Magnetic name tags can be ordered through the end of the year. Cost is \$8. Order through **Sue Spicer** or at a meeting.

# Hot Green Tips

Thankfully we have had a little rain and the gardens picked themselves up, only for us to put them slowly to bed again.

✓ Like every year, we rake leaves. If you have bushes or a forgotten corner in your garden, rake them there, or add them to your compost, the winter will break the matter down nicely.

✓ By the end of November, you should clean up your flower and vegetable beds. Do not forget to set aside plants, names attached, for the Garden Club Plant Sale next spring.

✓ While doing all this, you might notice some invasive plants in your garden. The ones I am talking about here are rampant in Lexington like Knotweed, Norway Maple, Multiflora Rose, Bittersweet, Japanese Barberry, and Burning Bush. Be careful of Poison Ivy though. You can learn about invasive plants on a self-guided walk through Lincoln Park put in place by

the Lexington Stewards of Conservation. Plants on the trail are marked with a short description and this will be in place till the end of fall.

✓ Back to the garden, Spread lime over bulb-planted areas and at the foot of Clematis and Lilacs, they will thank you in the spring.

✓ It is a good time to plant bare root Roses now. The graft knot should be 2" below grade with a good helping of compost around the stem.

✓ At this time, you might like to add some more bulbs to your garden. Here are a few good performers for a naturalistic setting. Daffodils, Tete-a-Tete and Minnow are nice. Some lovely small species Tulips are Eastern Star, Lilliput and Persian Pearl.

✓ Would you be interested in visiting a new urban Park? Go to North Point Park in Cambridge. You can park near the Cambridge Galleria Mall and enter the Park across from the Museum of Science. Have yourself a wonderful walk and marvel at what can be done with urban wasteland. You can walk all the way to Charlestown under the Zakim Bridge and back again. Stop for lunch along the way at the EF Education First Building for a great fresh meal inside or on the lovely outside terrace, all very enjoyable.

✓ Finally, Guess what? There are 7.500 varieties of Apples grown worldwide.

The Roxbury Russet is named for Roxbury, MA, and was the first apple cultivated in the Colonies, in the early 1600's

—Christel Mc Carthy



## POWER OF FLOWERS WORKSHOPS

Nov. 17, 6:30-8 p.m., Pumpkin Centerpiece, Weston Nursery, Chelmsford--nursery will be open for folks to shop

Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m., Lighted Boxwood Tree, Tewksbury Senior Center \$60

Dec. 7, 6-8 p.m., Kissing Ball Workshop, Weston Nursery, Chelmsford--nursery will be open for folks to shop #45

Dec. 19, 6-7 p.m., Holiday Centerpiece and Raffle, Tewksbury Senior Center \$25

We will be serving substantial appetizers, soft drinks and wine at all of these workshops..... thanks again.


— **Linda Conrad**, Power of Flowers Project

<http://powerofflowersproject.org/special-events/>



**Be sure to check Lexington Field & Garden Club on Facebook for gardening tips and news**

### SignUpGenius tip of the month:

 More and more members are using online sign ups, but occasional problems pop up as we're learning.

If you have difficulty, please send an email to [LFGC024@gmail.com](mailto:LFGC024@gmail.com) or call Mary Nokes to let us know the details (what you tried, what did or didn't happen, what device you were using.)

#### Here's one tip...

— Have trouble signing up from your mobile phone? Try clicking "go to full site" and see if things are easier.

— Or, look for a Sign Up Genius User at a future meeting and go through it together.

— We'll appreciate your teaching us what's going wrong. We can solve the problems if we understand what they are. And when it works, it's so easy! Thanks for supporting this new tool to make event organizing easier for the Club.





**Dahlia removal:** When the frost comes, dig up your dahlias. Let them dry outside for no more than a day. If you want someone else to divide and store them, please label them according to color and height, remove the foliage, and deliver to 20 Hancock St. We will be looking for potters in late March.

*In order to keep your yearbook up to date, please add new members as they appear in the newsletter.*

**Important Notice:** If you have a change in your email, mailing address or phone number, please send this to **LFGC024@gmail.org**

Lexington Field & Garden Club

### **The Civic Gardening Group Fall Social**

was held on

Tuesday, October 18th

at **Bonnie Rosenthal's** house.

It was well attended and enjoyable.



### **LFGC at Landscape Design School at Elm Bank**

**Front row** l-r, Mary Nokes (registrar), Carol Tepper, Nairi Havan

**Back row** l-r, Pat Jensen (Hospitality) Maureen O'Brien (school chairman), Bridget Galdes, Liz Haines, Joan Whalen, and Ellan Siegel



**Harriet Hathaway representing LFGC at Global Warming Action Coalition Sustainability Fair, October 29.**

**Let's go green to get our globe clean**



**Presentation of National Garden club Poetry Award.**

**Caroline Nijenberg, First VP of GCFM, winner's parents, Mary Czajkowski, superintendent of Lexington Public Schools Winner Sreenidi Dharmaraj, and Mary Nokes, President**