



Lexington Field & Garden Club

140 Years of Making Lexington More Beautiful

Volume 7 Issue 7 • April, 2017

email: LFGC024@gmail.com

Letter from the President



A number of events will occur in April, including two general meetings, two opportunities for lunch, and an expanded Arbor Day ceremony in collaboration with the Conservation Stewards. More information is elsewhere in this newsletter. A few of us attended the Civic Development Workshop on March 30, and heard Kerry Ann Mendez tell us about plants for civic sites which are drought and salt tolerant and otherwise good for difficult environments. This event was sold out, so register quickly for things of interest to you. Potting days start May 1, so get your plant sale genes (and jeans) in gear.

At our April 12 meeting, we will be voting on our new officers for 2017-2019.

LFGC Slate 2017_2019

Co-Presidents: Ashley Rooney, Anne Lee

Vice President: Georgia Glick

Recording Secretary: Molly Nye

Corresponding Secretary: Jane Halverson

Treasurer: Leslie Sargis

Membership: Bridget Galdes, Mary-Beth Whiteside

Advisors: Peter and Pat Jensen

I am pleased to be leaving this club I love in good hands, and I know all of you will support them as they lead us into our one hundred and forty-second year. We are old, but we are wise!

— *Mary*



Calendar

- April 4** Civic Gardening Social
- April 6,7** Gardening Study School
- April 6** Button Flowers for Easter (reservations closed)
- April 24** Evening Meeting, Keilty Hall
- April 25** Scholarship Award ceremony and lunch
- April 26** Middlesex District Luncheon
- April 28** Arbor Day
- April 30** Dues are due [Do it now! LexGardenClub.org](http://LexGardenClub.org)

Mathewson to Discuss How Gardens Improve Our Understanding of Ecological Issues



On Wednesday, April 12, ecologist and photographer Brooks Mathewson will share the practical and philosophical insights he has gained through gardening to the Lexington Field and Garden club at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library at 10 a.m., refreshments at 9:30 a.m.

A backyard garden is more than a source of fresh, healthy food; it also improves our understanding of important ecological issues. He will discuss: soil conservation and how composting is one of our most powerful tools in fighting climate change; how growing our own food can reduce our carbon footprint; the value of growing plants directly from seed; the benefits of companion planting; how to encourage beneficial insects; optimizing small spaces through the implementation of “successional” gardening; nature’s deadlines; and what plant nutrition can teach us about living fuller lives

Brooks’ research has been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and his photography has appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *Providence Journal*, *Northeastern Naturalist*, *Arnoldia*, *Wildlife of New England*, and many other publications. In addition, Brooks’ work is sold at art galleries and natural history museums throughout New England and has been exhibited at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

The program is open to all. For further information, please visit LexGardenClub.org



Beyond Blooms: Creative Landscape Design with Color and Structure



On Monday Apr. 24, 7 pm, the Lexington Field & Garden Club will host Warren Leach of Tranquil Lake Nurseries at Keilty Hall, St Brigid's. He will describe woody and herbaceous plants with good garden foliage color, architectural structure, multi-season interest and stunning shape and texture characteristics that can be used in a diversity of ways to compliment flowers, provide structure and offer seasonal succession in the mixed border.

For more than twenty five years, Warren has been creating beautiful landscapes throughout New England as well as making captivating and educational display gardens at Tranquil Lake Nursery. He is co-owner of this specialty nursery that is a prominent grower of daylilies, iris and distinctive perennials and woody plants.

Warren is also an award-winning landscape designer, twice receiving the National Landscape Association Regional Certificate of Merit for Residential Landscape Design. Images of his garden design at Brigham Hill Farm in North Grafton, Massachusetts are archived at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. In 2009 the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association presented him the 1st Place Award for Residential Design and Installation for his ornamental vegetable garden at Brigham Hill Farm in N. Grafton. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society honored Warren in 2010 with a Gold Medal for his horticultural expertise, landscape design as well as years of forcing plants and creating exceptional displays in the New England Spring Flower Show.

Lexington Field & Garden Club General Meeting Minutes March 8, 2017

President Mary Nokes called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., thanking Greeters, Kitty Galaitsis, Harriet Hathaway, floral arranger Kathy Leva, those who brought food: Laurie Hugentobler, Christina, Gamota, Ashley Rooney, Shirley Bergey, Cecile Platek, and Ruthanne Igoe

Announcements included information about the bus trip to the flower show, the video at the library, the scholarship Presentation at Minuteman Regional, the Middlesex District Luncheon, dues, workshops, the annual luncheon, and the civic gardening social. A highlight was a skit by costumed Georgia Glick and Betsy Pollack advertising the upcoming plant sale and emphasizing the new date of Saturday. May 20

After these announcements, Robert Beaudoin, Superintendent of Environmental Services, and Kerry Weaver, Compost Facility Foreman, both employees of the Town of Lexington, gave the club an overview of resource management and development at the Hartwell Avenue Composting Facility. They explained in considerable detail various changes put in place over the years to turn composting into a highly profitable business for the town. In addition, an expansive solar panel structure has been constructed at this site that drastically reduces town energy costs. Furthermore, a comprehensive hazardous waste program runs smoothly.

Mr. Beaudoin announced that screened loam will now be available free to all residents and that the facility will also sell stones; the larger the stone, the more expensive. The hours of composting facility have been expanded to meet the demands of residents. He added that this facility is the envy of many neighboring towns.

—Deborah Thomson



March Financial Report

The month of March has been active on the financial front. We have collected \$3,400 of dues for the upcoming fiscal year as well as receiving donations from members with their dues payment of \$325. Our expenses for the month were \$1,150 which is comprised of the following: \$600 rent to the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, \$300 program fee, \$75 newsletter, \$60 publicity, and \$115 other administrative expenses. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

— Leslie Sargis

Welcome New Members

Hyonra Yang
Holly Samuels
John Igoe

Fun and Friendship at the Annual Luncheon



On Wednesday May 10, we will have our annual luncheon at Lexington Historic Depot at 11:30-2:30. The food will be great; the fellowship even better and then there's that swap! Sign up at LexGardenClub.org \$20.

Garden of the Month

Emery Park/Depot Square is the largest green space in the center of Lexington. This space contains an extensive collection of native ornamental trees, shrubs and perennials. It is our small Arboretum. It is designed in such a way that can be used by all ages during the year.

We take pride in maintaining this area April – October. We start on first Monday in April, weather permitting. We meet every Monday morning 10 AM in spring and fall, and 9:30 AM summertime. We are a small group of volunteers, members of the Lexington Field & Garden Club who are interested in the history of Emery Park and its beautification/maintenance.

We enjoy sharing information with those who are visiting Lexington from faraway places as well as those who live in Town and want to introduce native plant material into their landscape.

We always are looking for extra helping hands. If you are interested please call us or email us.

Thanks in advance

Christina Gamota, co-chair

Gail Harris, co-chair



Editor's note: Hope for the world is expressed in this photograph of Emery Park.

PLANT SALE 2017 INFORMATION



Our annual plant sale is Saturday, May 20. We hope all of you plan to join us to make this the best sale ever. As many of you who participate each year know this is a great opportunity for some camaraderie with old friends and a chance to meet new ones while working for the club.

Important dates

Potting dates: May 1, 3, 5, 8, 11, 12, and 15: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Come when you can and stay as long as you like within the scheduled hours.

Please bring clippers, a trowel, gloves, sunscreen, a bottle of water, and picnic lunch (optional) to potting. Also please label your tools before you come.

Sale set-up at DPW: Friday, May 19 at 1:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 20 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Sale day: Saturday, May 20 7:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Site breakdown, cleanup: May 20 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. after the sale.

Our location

DPW will host both potting and our annual sale at the Hadley Public Services Building on Bedford Street. **Potting will be done in the salt shed at the rear of the property, in a sheltered area, protected from rain and direct sun.**



The Dahlias have already been planted. We are always looking for new plants. If you have some ideas or if the house near you is being torn down, give us a call.

Too many pots in your basement.

The plant sale is looking for pots:
min size 6-8" square or 9" round.

You can bring your pots to potting days at the DPW
(see calendar above).

Leave to the left of the security gate.

4/26/2017

Middlesex District Annual Meeting

11:30 a.m.– 2 p.m.

Location: St. Brigid's Church, Lexington, MA

This is our own Kathy Leva's final year as our District Director, and the luncheon is in our town. I encourage you to attend to hear Marisa McCoy speak and to devour delicious food. You will receive a gift and a chance to win one of the arrangements. The cost is \$30. Contact Kathy for your ticket or see her at our meeting.



Twenty-eight members enjoyed a pruning workshop at the home of Barbara and Paul Shafer on a blustery Saturday, March 25. Noted arborist Jen Kettle gave video instructions and demonstrated techniques outside



**Citizens for
Lexington
Conservation**

Please join Citizens for Lexington Conservation for its annual meeting, held this year at the new Lexington Community Center, 39 Marrett Road. Our featured speaker will be Tia Pinney, Senior Naturalist at Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary. Tia's topic will be Climate

Change Impact on Native Habitats and Plants. Our New England flora and fauna have evolved over millennia to thrive in our particular climate. As weather and climate patterns continue to change, these organisms will be challenged to adapt and survive. How can we help to mitigate the impact and help ensure a healthy biodiversity in our area? We will talk about changes, predictions, and common sense regarding our local habitats and what we as concerned individuals can do in our own yards and in our communities.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Lexington Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Lexington.

This year we are combining our **Arbor Day** ceremony with that of the Lexington Conservation Stewards. The event will be on Saturday, April 29 at Cotton Farm on Marrett Road, with the LFGC dedication taking place at 9:30 am. This year the tree will be planted in loving memory of Dorothy Chapman, Charlotte Ford, Mary Gill, Eleanor Lane and Setha Olsen.

http://www.lexingtonma.gov/sites/lexingtonma/files/pages/cotton_farm_imp_final.pdf



Lexington Conservation Stewards

Caring for our public land



Lexington Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Cotton Farm

Sponsored by:

**Lexington Field and Garden Club
& Lexington Conservation Stewards**

SCHEDULED EVENTS: (all events at Cotton Farm except bird walk)

- 🌿 7-9 am: Bird walk at Dunback Meadow (Citizens for Lexington Conservation)
- 🌿 9:30 am: Arbor Day Dedication and Tree Ceremony (Lexington Field and Garden Club)
- 🌿 10 am: Home orchard care and pruning workshop (Parterre Garden Services)
- 🌿 11 am: Arborist Demonstration; how to plant a tree! (Foti Tree Experts)

THROUGHOUT THE MORNING:

- 🌿 “Ask an Expert”: free landscape and tree care advice with staff from Parterre Garden Services and Foti Tree Experts
- 🌿 *Free Arbor Day tree seedlings, native pollinator seeds, gardening tips, & more

“Fun and learning for the whole family!” Join us for part or all of the morning.

Parking: Please park along Marrett Road or at the Lexington Community Center

More information: <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/conservation>



Lexington Field and Garden Club is now collaborating with other conservation groups in Lexington. Following is a brief summary of who they are and what they do.

Lexington Conservation Organizations

Citizens for Lexington Conservation was founded in 1967 in response to the pressing need for a conservation land acquisition program in Lexington. The successful efforts of CLC members in this area over the years are manifested today in the over 1000 acres of protected parcels throughout the town.

While land conservation is still a core concern, CLC's range of activities includes both educational and advocacy efforts on a wide range of environmental issues. Some of the major activities that CLC engages in include:

- Conducting an annual schedule of guided walks on town conservation parcels to educate Lexington citizens regarding their environmental heritage.
- Publishing a semi-annual newsletter highlighting local environmental issues.
- Maintaining a CLC website as a repository of environmental information pertaining to Lexington and an up-to-date source of information about current and upcoming activities.
- Publishing a yearly candidate's newsletter in which candidates for local elected positions are allowed to present their views on environmental issues affecting Lexington.
- Supporting the acquisition, maintenance and preservation of open space in Lexington.
- Providing a forum for advocacy efforts on behalf of local, regional and state-wide issues affecting the natural environment.
- Formation of an action group focusing on the issue of lawn and other environmental pesticides.
- Conducting annual invasive species eradication efforts.
- Funding and supporting of a commemorative wildflower meadow in Lincoln Park

The Lexington Conservation Stewards is a group of over 230 volunteers who work closely with the Conservation Division to care for the town's conservation land. The Stewards continually improve the quality of Lexington's conservation land through efforts such as:

- building bridges and trails
- controlling invasive species
- cleaning up waterways
- hosting conservation events

A smaller group, the Steward Directors, meets monthly to coordinate stewardship activities.

The Greenways Corridor Committee identifies, actively plans and recommends the establishment of pedestrian, bicycle and other greenways corridors linking Town conservation, recreation and other open spaces. It also creates links to regional trail systems and other open space in neighboring communities. The primary project of the GCC is the development of the ACROSS Lexington project.

ACROSS Lexington, is a network of marked trails and paths for walkers, runners and trail bikers. Four routes totaling over 17 miles have been completed to date. Eventually, the trail system will span 40 miles. The routes use existing public ways to connect the town center with various historic sites, schools and conservation areas. Residents and visitors will gain enjoyment and fitness as they travel around town without a car.

Hot Green Tips

The month of April is our busiest month in the Garden. After the ground has dried up enough, the cleanup begins, sprucing up the flower beds and raking the lawn. Turn your Compost and spread it over flower and vegetable beds. Compost is your garden gold.

When the Forsythia blooms it is the signal to prune your unwanted twigs and broken limbs. You also might want to cast some Plantone 5-3-3 around groundcovers, flowering shrubs, Rose and Clematis.

Add Holytone to the base of Azaleas, Laurels, Holly and Blueberries. Spread some lime under the Lilacs and add some to the Compost pile. If your Lawn is patchy, scratch the spots, add a little compost and some good grass seeds before the trees leaf out so not to shade the spots. If there is little rain, keep the patches moist.

Remember your offerings for the PLANT SALE. Prepare them in pots or bags, marked and ready to go.

I just returned from the Philadelphia Flower show. Besides being stunned by the beautiful displays, I learned some things; for example, wild weedy plants that are good to eat. Did you know that you can make delicious Pesto out of invasive Garlic Mustard? Pick the young fresh leaves, before flowering and prepare like regular Pesto. The leaves can be used in Salads and combined with milder greens in a quiche.

Daylily flowers can be added to Salads and Pasta; they look pretty and have a mild flavor.

How about eating Japanese Knotweed? The young shoots, ca. 6" tall, are delicious steamed or sautéed, and baked they have a lemony flavor and can even be substituted for Rhubarb.

So get ready, your gardens are waiting for you, **Christel McCarthy**

But for this summer's quick
delight Sow Marigold and sow
the bright Frail Poppy that
with Monday dies But wakens
to a fresh surprise, Along the
pathway stones be set
Sweet Allyssom and Mignoette,
That when the full midsummers come
On scented clumbs the bees may hum
Golden Halliers and the wild Black bumble bee alike beguiled
And lovers who have never kissed
May sow the cloudy Love-in-mist — *Vita Sackville-West*



← After running this in the last newsletter, I found that some of you do not know what to do with them. Take them to the grocery store along with your returnable bottles and cans. You get no cash for your efforts, but you get the satisfaction of knowing that you are a Good Citizen.



Grow Native Massachusetts

Every garden matters ~ Every landscape counts

Evenings with Experts

A Public Lecture Series at the Cambridge Public Library

- First Wednesdays of each month, from February through May
- 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA
- Each talk will last about an hour with time for Q&A afterward.
- Doors open at 6:30 pm for general seating. Seating is unassigned and will be available on a first-come basis.
- Events are free and open to all.

April 5

How Native Plant Cultivars Affect Pollinators

Annie White, Ecological Landscape Designer & Adjunct Professor, University of Vermont

Initiatives to address pollinator decline are widespread and native plants are the preferred choice for pollinator habitat restoration. The growing demand for natives, coupled with a long-standing desire of horticulturalists for enhanced bloom, color, or other characteristics, has led to the increased selection and breeding of native cultivars. Although these cultivars are typically marketed for their ecological benefits, until now there have been no scientific studies to support or refute these claims. So are native cultivars as valuable in pollinator habitat gardens as the true native species? Annie White will help answer this question by sharing the results of four years of field data. Her research is groundbreaking and remarkable.

Annie White is the founder of Nectar Landscape Design Studio and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Vermont. She earned her MS in Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her recent PhD in Plant & Soil Science from the University of Vermont was focused on this exceptional new research on native plant cultivars.

\$\$\$ Dues are Due April 30 \$\$\$

Renew now! Do not delay!

Please be sure to pay your membership dues before the final deadline of **April 30**. The membership Co-Chairs strongly recommend that you **pay the dues electronically** since this expedites the renewal process. Instructions for doing the payments on-line along with a form have been e-mailed to you. Because of some successful fundraising events during the past year, we are able to keep our membership dues at last year's level. **Single membership is \$25; For Couple (at the same address) it is \$35.** Donations are also welcome.

Checks will also be collected at our April meeting. Please make sure that all your contact information is correct and up-to-date.



Lexfarm Seedling Prebuy Program

If you spend your winter flipping through seed catalogs and planning your garden, Lexington Community Farm's new seedling pre-buy program is a great way to make sure you get all your favorite varieties and learn some new ones as well! LexFarm grows all their seedlings in their greenhouse from organic or untreated seeds, using organic practices.

Here's how it works:

1. Read the Garden Guide to learn more about each vegetable variety and how to grow it.
2. Print and fill out an order form. Order forms are also available at the info kiosk at LexFarm.
3. Send your order form with a check to PO Box 554, Lexington, MA 02420 by April 1.
4. Pick up your seedlings at the farm stand at 52 Lowell St, Lexington. Seedlings are available May 20, 21, 27, or 28.

For more information on the Seedling Prebuy program, visit the website:

<http://lexfarm.org/prebuy-seedling-program/>.



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://massmastergardeners.org/> <http://www.massshort.org>
www.newenglandwild.org/ <http://gcfm.org/> <http://grownativemass.org/> lexgwac.org
<http://lexgardenclub.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/LexGardenClub>

Our annual award of \$1,000 will be given to a graduating senior in horticulture at Minuteman Regional High School at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 25.

The cost will be \$11, if you choose to have lunch afterward.

Marilyn Ryngiewicz will take reservations for the ceremony and checks for lunch.



CIVIC GARDENING SOCIAL



Members currently tending our civic gardens and those who might be interested are invited to the home of **Bonnie Rosenthal** at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 4



COGdesign annual auction



COGdesign

The on-line auction is a Community Outreach Group (COGdesign) tradition which supports our work in providing pro-bono landscape designs to underserved urban communities. We've designed parks, community gardens, school landscaping, and so forth, and assist the communities in arranging the installation. The auction items range widely from garden benches to wine to design software with many exciting items and something for everybody. The auction will run until April 5th. You can access it by going to www.cogdesign.org (note: "org", not "com"), after March 30.

COGdesign is an organization we support. Karen Longeteig, Co-President, landscape designer, is one of our LFGC members, as is Ellan Siegel.

Welcome new COGdesign Board Member: Ellan Siegel

Following an initial career working with adolescents with special needs, Ellan started her own business in recruiting for healthcare, biotech, and technology. All along she continued to take classes in floral design, gardening, landscape design principles, and environmental science. This led to volunteer work for the MFA's Art-in-Bloom, as well as joining the team that built and maintains PlayZone, an educational outdoor garden for the LABBB Collaborative in Bedford, MA. She looks forward to bringing her enthusiasm and organizational skills to COGdesign.

Boston Flower and Garden Show



Some of our members enjoyed a visit on Thursday, March 23. One of the exhibits was formed by our own Minuteman Regional High School, which won the New England Nursery Association Award for “exhibit that best utilizes a range of New England native plants, and their cultivars, in a visually appealing and environmentally sensible setting.”

