



# Lexington Field & Garden Club

140 Years of Making Lexington More Beautiful

Volume 7 Issue 9 • August, 2017

email: LFGC024@gmail.com

## Letter from your Presidents

Our garden club certainly allows people to reaffirm themselves and their talents and give back to the community. Through our work within the club, we also can influence the next generation and maybe the one after that. Just think, our plant sale is 85 years old!

In a meeting with Kerry Brandin and Ann Webster to discuss Strategic Planning for the next year, we agreed that we needed to develop leaders within the garden club. It can be discouraging when there are so many wonderful members with such great talents and interests only to find that few want to actually lead an event. Our last garden tour was over two years ago because no one has volunteered to organize the next one. We were particularly discouraged when so many turned us down to be the 2018 plant sale chair. Was the plant sale also going to be dropped?

There is a bright side, however! Many newer members are asking to be mentored. They want to learn. Ruthann Igoe and the Membership Committee are developing a plan to facilitate our newer members in learning about our many opportunities and taking an active role in the club.

We are thrilled that some of these newer members are already stepping up. Donna Dennison has spent much of July working on the Yearbook. Georgia Glick will chair potting for the Plant Sale once again. Shelly Henderson, a relatively new member, will take the lead on the setup/takedown of the plant sale. And brand-new member Ethel Ollin will chair the plant sale! So while we still don't have anyone (yet!) to organize a garden tour, we are encouraged with this show of enthusiasm and support.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said,

To leave the world a bit better, whether by  
a healthy child, a garden patch  
or a redeemed social condition;  
To know even one life has breathed  
easier because you have lived;  
This is to have succeeded.

— Anne and Ashley



## September is Coming Soon

On Wednesday, Sept 13, 9:30 am, at the Lexington Depot, bring a bird-watching friend to our first meeting and hear landscape designer Nanette Masi talk about designing gardens with native plants to attract birds, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. She works with organic materials and techniques and designs gardens to be beautiful from spring through winter.

## Art in the Garden



*Christina integrates artistic treasures with natural greenery.*

to your face. Her flair for color and design is evident wherever you look.

Christina points out, “We all know that art beautifies the home, but it doesn’t only belong inside the home” — and her garden shows that.

Since 2004, LFGC members, under Christina’s leadership, have been committed to the ongoing maintenance of Emery Park, the largest public space in Lexington Center. People of all ages enjoy it daily. From the inception of the park, LFGC has focused on improving the appearance of the town, including the disreputable train and freight area, caring for and protecting the trees and shrubs in town, and beautifying the traffic islands.

A 36-year old patent attorney, Frederick L. Emery, assumed the presidency of the garden club in 1904-1917 (a dedicated man, he also was president in 1918-1928 and 1930-1933). During his tenure, Emery began to petition the railroad to sell the land to the town. By late 1921, Boston & Maine Rail Way agreed to sell the railroad depot area to the town for \$20,000. In 1922, the area became known as Depot Square, but after Emery’s death, it was renamed in his honor. In his will, he left \$5,000 to the town with the income from the bequest to be spent by the garden club to beautify his Lexington.

Christina points out, “Emery’s passion for beautification was evident. With him, civic improvement in Lexington was born. That is why I care so much and this is why we have the responsibility to maintain this space.” For the last thirteen years, Christina and garden club members have carried on his legacy by working in Emery Park every Monday morning from April-October.

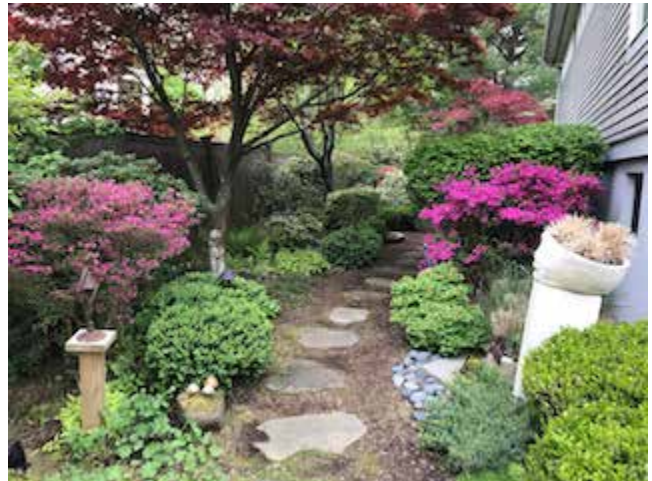
Art in the Garden, Sunday, September 10, 3 - 5 PM. Rain date is September 24, 3-5 PM. Tickets \$25 members/\$30 nonmembers, available at [www.LexGardenClub.org](http://www.LexGardenClub.org).

### Artists’ links:

**Theresa Deible** [www.clayfulexpressions.com/](http://www.clayfulexpressions.com/) • **Tracy Fischer** [www.artslexington.org/directory/Fischer.html](http://www.artslexington.org/directory/Fischer.html) • **Ronnie Gould** [www.ronniegould.com/](http://www.ronniegould.com/) • **Alison Lauriat** [www.artslexington.org/directory/lauriat.html](http://www.artslexington.org/directory/lauriat.html) • **Molly Nye** [www.artslexington.org/directory.html](http://www.artslexington.org/directory.html)

On September 10, LFGC will sponsor Art in the Garden, an event to raise funds to maintain and replenish the plantings at the town’s Emery Park. Held in the Gamotas’ gorgeously landscaped private Lexington garden and surrounded by beautiful artwork by five local artists, this promises to be a treat to share with friends and family. The artists include Teresa Deible, Tracy Fischer, Ronnie Gould, Alison Lauriat, and Molly Nye.

Christina’s garden is an oasis in busy, bustling Lexington that she meticulously maintains. Surrounding the manicured lawn are sensitive wetlands that she has shaped into a green textured paradise of hostas, ferns, and other shade-loving plants. Along the path are delightful garden ornaments that bring a smile



*The flowering plants and bushes choreographed for color and texture are intermixed with fascinating pieces of sculpture.*

## Wanted: Mentors and Mentees

The idea of gardening has always been a romantic notion for me. I envision myself wearing a lovely straw hat, carrying an antique straw basket, and wandering up and down the rows of my perfectly appointed flower beds carefully clipping the beautiful blossoms that I will magically transform into a gorgeous centerpiece.

The reality is that I garden in old ratty clothes sprayed with bug repellent with a headband on trying to prevent the sweat from stinging my eyes as I chase the dogs who find it pure joy to run off with various tools, plantings, and pots while I wonder why I can't get the climbing rose to grow beyond two feet.

I never saw myself as a knowledgeable, capable, or reliably successful gardener, so I always felt that joining the prestigious and oldest-in-the-nation Lexington Field and Garden Club was way out of my league! But one day, I met a member of the LFGC who told me all about the group. I learned about the club's mission, the meetings, the civic programs, the study groups, the social events, the workshops, the fundraisers.... and then she said the magic words..."and you don't even need to know anything about gardening to join!"

And so I did... And it's one of the best decisions I've ever made.



I felt warmly and enthusiastically welcomed. I attended the monthly meetings. I joined a study group. I volunteered for several committees. And I'm learning so much! But best of all, the LFGC's greatest gift to me has been the wonderful new friends I've made.

To continue in that spirit, we are revisiting the "Mentoring Program" initiated recently by the Membership Committee. The purpose is to provide an anchor of sorts that will help new members navigate all the opportunities the club provides. When we spoke to members about chairing the Plant Sale, several specifically asked for a mentor - so clearly the need is still

there! While many newcomers in the club have had an experience similar to mine where another member helped them find purpose, connections, and even positions, others fall between the cracks.

Mentoring is a proven approach that provides rich learning and development for both mentees and mentors. We plan to develop a list of people who are willing to be mentors and those who wish to be mentored. If they desire, mentees can have a say in the matching process by choosing from a list of possibilities. Each pair will have different goals. Many of those mentored may want to know more about gardening, but others may want to learn more about the club, its structure, or specific events such as the Plant Sale. Questions can be answered, programs explained, ideas discussed, and new friendships made. We are in the early planning stages, but I hope you will consider becoming a mentor. It would be a very special way to welcome new members so that the LFGC can continue to grow and flourish!

For further information or if you would like to be a mentor or a mentee, please contact **Ruthanne Igoe**. You can also contact LFGC directly at [lfgc024@gmail.com](mailto:lfgc024@gmail.com), attn. Mentoring Program. We will keep you updated as this program moves forward.

— Ruthanne Igoe



## Technology and Us

Having received some questions about the new technology being used by our growing Club, we asked Barbara Shafer to tell us more about our member database, Little Green Light (LGL).

### For Your Information....

LFGC collects certain contact information from members in order to notify them about events, committee meetings, and activities of interest. We ask members for their name, mailing address, phone number, and email address. We also ask them to indicate interests (e.g. flower arranging, horticulture, walking group....) and preferred times (day, evening, weekend) to participate in Club activities.

### How do we handle this information?

Member information is stored in a password-protected, encrypted database (LGL) that organizes the data for easy use. It provides lists of new members for the Board, email lists for distributing the Club Newsletter, and Directory information for the LFGC Yearbook. In addition, the database is used for the annual dues renewal process and for tracking donations and ticket sales for events like Home for the Holidays. (The database stores only an amount paid or donated, not credit card or banking information. PayPal keeps your account information private.)

### Do we sell or share member information with other groups?

The Garden Club does not sell member information or share it with other organizations, except the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. Membership in the local Club is a pre-requisite for participation in certain GCFM schools and programs, just as it is for participation in LFGC's four sub-groups (Monday Evening, Morning Study, Wednesday Workshop, and Thursday Evening). The database enables us to quickly tell these groups whether or not a member's dues are current.

### Where do we publish member information?

We publish member contact data in the Directory portion of the Yearbook every September. Members can indicate a preferred phone number to be published, and/or they can choose to have no email address or phone number listed. Bear in mind, however, that without an email or phone contact, other members may not know how to reach you! The Yearbook is published in hard copy and is provided only to current LFGC members.

### How often are contact information and publication preferences updated?

Both contact information and preferences are updated at least annually. As the first step in the dues renewal process, members are asked to confirm or change their contact details. At the same time, they are asked to confirm whether or not it is "okay to publish" phone and email. Members can also provide changes at any time during the year by sending an email to [LFGC024@gmail.com](mailto:LFGC024@gmail.com) and then verifying the request.

### Going green....

LFGC makes a concerted effort to be environmentally responsible. We use email and the [LexGardenClub.org](http://LexGardenClub.org) website (rather than paper) whenever practical to distribute Club materials and for most Club communications.

— Barbara Shafer

## LFGC and the Historical Society Team Up

One of our goals for the future is to develop more collaborations with other town groups and organizations. It's a wonderful (and simple!) way to cross-pollinate, learn more about each other, and develop new connections. And, it's free publicity!

Six of our members will represent the Garden Club in the upcoming Lexington Historical Society House Tour scheduled for Sunday, October 15, 11 AM – 5 PM. "The Golden Age of Merriam Hill, 1865-1940" will feature six architectural gems ranging from a classic early Italianate to a stunning Tudor Revival estate. To recreate the era, there will be antique cars at each house, costumed volunteers, music, and an optional walking tour.

Our LFGC group will create a fall flower arrangement at each house. In return, the Garden Club and designer's name will be listed with the arrangement, and membership rack cards left at the home for visitors to take. The program booklet, given to each house tour participant, will also thank the Garden Club and list its website.

We hope to see many of you on the tour, enjoying beautiful homes enhanced with lovely arrangements. If you have any questions or are interested in helping before or on tour day, please contact **Anne Lee** at [lfgc024@gmail.com](mailto:lfgc024@gmail.com).



## New Membership Cards

We are fortunate that our Lexington nurseries, and some nearby ones, offer LFGC members and/or Seniors (65+) a discount. In the past, the only proof of membership was the Yearbook - which many of us don't always have with us when shopping!

To remedy that issue, we have developed a credit-card sized membership card that can fit in your wallet. You will find it on the back cover of your 2017-2018 Yearbook; just cut it out, sign it, and use it!

### Nurseries in Lexington

Members receive a 10% discount at each of the Lexington nurseries. See below for their specific policies:

**Seasons Four** • 10% discount for LFGC members for everything for the garden except fountains and statuary • 10% off garden purchases on Wednesdays for Seniors

**Wagon Wheel Nursery** • 10% discount for LFGC members for all plants and materials for gardening, such as fertilizer, mulch and loam • 10% discount on Wednesday mornings (until noon) for Seniors

**Wilson Farm** • 10% discount for LFGC members for outside plant materials, items in the Garden Shop, and cut flowers. • Purchases must be made at the Garden Shop register • 15% discount on Wednesdays for Seniors

### Nurseries in Nearby Towns

**New England Nurseries, Bedford** • 10% discount for LFGC members and Seniors, not including sale items and bulk purchases

**McCue Garden Center, Woburn and Billerica** • No discounts for garden club members. • 15% discount for Seniors on Mondays

**Mahoney's Garden Center, Winchester, Concord and other locations** • No discounts for LFGC members except in conjunction with special programs at a garden center • 10% discount with a MassHort member ID • 10% discount on Tuesdays for Seniors, not including sale and bulk items

**Russell's Garden Center, Wayland** • No discounts for garden club members. • 10% discount for Seniors on Wednesdays, not including sale items. • 10% discount with minimum \$25 purchase for card-carrying members of MassHort, NE Wildflower Society, Tower Hill, Arnold Arboretum, WBUR and WGBH

—Anne and Ashley

## Civic Gardening

From its inception in 1876, LFGC has focused on improving the aesthetics of public spaces around Town including the disreputable train and freight area, caring for and protecting town trees and shrubs, and caring for and beautifying the traffic islands throughout town. To this day, the LFGC maintains these islands and many of the public gardens (Emery Park, Minuteman Statue, Cary Library Garden, Hancock-Clark House Herb Garden, Munroe Tavern Colonial Garden, St Brigid's Mary Garden Lexington Post Office) around town.

Maintaining traffic islands presents its challenges, from working in a small space with traffic on all sides, to toiling in full sun. Nevertheless, a dedicated and caring group of people make this a priority, working collaboratively with DPW staff, who provide plant material, remove debris bags, maintain irrigation lines, etc.



Should you be passing by and see anyone working on a public island, please stop and thank them and consider offering your help. Some people living near the islands already contribute their time by performing helpful tasks such as mowing the lawns at various islands. If you would be interested in participating, please contact the garden club at [LFGC024@gmail.com](mailto:LFGC024@gmail.com)

— Karen Boudreau & Meg Himmel



### Designing Principles in Floral Design

The GCFM is holding **Back to Basics: Designing Principles in Floral Design**, a three-session series for \$45 at the Espousal Center, Waltham, 10:30 AM–12:30 PM.

**Mon Sept 18**, Thelma Shoneman presents on Balance and Rhythm

**Mon Nov 13**, Andrea Little presents on Proportion and Scale

**Mon Feb 26** (snow date Tues Feb 27), Julie Lapham presents on Color

**Make checks payable to GCFM, Inc.**  
Please mail check and registration to:  
Ruth Evans, 11 Willowbrook Drive,  
Framingham, MA 01702.

**Registration deadline:** September 15, 2017.  
Include your contact information, including email and garden club.

### Recycle Your Plastic Pill Containers

To prepare bottles:

- **Sort** bottles by color and type and ensure they have an all-plastic lid.
- **Remove labels**, leaving no glue or residue.
- **Wash** bottles in very hot water and dish soap.
- **Replace lids** on clean, dried bottles.

Leslie Masson has volunteered to handle this. You can drop your containers off at her house or bring them to the Wednesday meetings.