

136 YEARS OF MAKING LEXINGTON MORE BEAUTIFUL

Lexington Field & Garden Club



Dear Fellow Members:

Punxsutawney Phil's prediction that spring is right around the corner seems more than a tad optimistic, but let's hope he's not completely wrong. With Patriots' Day and the Plant Sale earlier than normal, we sure could use an early spring.

Fortunately we have lots of reasons to think about spring even if it's not outside. Sign-ups are now underway for many of our spring and summer activities: our trip to the Flower Show, the Plant Sale, the Garden Tour, our 300th Anniversary Garden, Emery Park, and other gardens we tend around town. As always, we need lots of volunteers for varied jobs. Most are not very time consuming but are extremely important. Please pitch in wherever you can. Be sure to stop by the sign-up table at the February 13 meeting or contact the various project leaders as soon as possible.

This also is a critical month for making recommendations or volunteering yourself for board responsibilities. To sum up what I've said over the past several months, being on the board is interesting and fun as well as a very valuable service; job sharing is possible in most cases; and it's absolutely not necessary to be a longstanding club member to be a terrific contributor. To share ideas and explore possibilities, please contact Mary Gillespie, head of the Nominating Committee, me, or any of the other board members. If you like Communications, try to attend the meeting on February 28.

Happy Valentine's Day wishes and repeated thanks for all you do for our Club!

Ann anniewebst11@gmail.com 781-862-1605



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Help Build our 300th Anniversary Garden

As you've heard, this spring and summer we will have a temporary garden to celebrate the town's 300th anniversary on a berm in front of the Town Office Building. Soon it will be time for us to finish forming the berm (with the DPW), install the first flowers spelling "300" and begin regular maintenance so the garden is always looking its best.

We aim for this garden to be a great LFGC team effort, with everyone doing a little maintenance or helping in some other way. Right now we are asking for volunteers for our 300th Garden Committee, whose primary responsibilities will be to install the plants (first pansies, later marigolds) and take turns coordinating/reminding maintenance volunteers. With many hands this should be light and fun work. And certainly it will be a "once in a lifetime opportunity"! Please sign up for the Committee at the February 13 meeting or contact Ann Webster.



FEBRUARY 13: National Heritage Museum
9:30 am refreshments, 10:00 am meeting/program

The Basics of Rose Growing

Irwin Ehrenreich, The Rose Man, will educate us on rose history and classification and take us through a year in the rose garden, from spring pruning to winter protection. This highly acclaimed speaker and rosarian grows over 600 roses in his garden and operates a rose care and garden design business on Cape Cod.



Welcome to our Newest Members!

Doris C. Freitag
43 Fair Oaks Dr, Lexington 02421-6931
781-861-0444 doris.c.freitag@gmail.com

Georgia and Jerry Harris
25 Parker St, Lexington 02421-4906
781-860-7214 georgia@harris.name

Congratulations!

The Garden Club Federation of MA has just released its slate of new officers for the 2013-2015 term. Caroline Nijenberg, LFGC president 2004-2006, is lined up to be Second VP of GCFM! Kudos also to outgoing GCFM President Heidi Kost-Gross, who also is a member of LFGC.

Conservation Moment Follow-Up

From Dorothy Martin

FREE SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED



Lexington homeowners now have a chance to have solar panels installed and maintained for free, reducing their electricity bills and helping the environment. Three neighbors and I recently had this done by Vivint Solar. To qualify, you must have a somewhat south-facing house (preferably in the back), minimal shading from trees on that part of the roof, and a fairly up-to-date electrical box (no fuses).

Vivint installs, owns, maintains and warranties the panels for 20 years. You remain connected to NStar for backup and will receive two electricity bills: one from Vivint and one from NStar for any power your roof didn't generate. (My NStar bill the first month was for 44 cents!) Vivint charges considerably less per kilowatt hour than NStar, with a 20-30% savings usual. If you need to replace your roof at some point, Vivint will store the panels for a charge.

For more information, contact Jordan LaPlace, the Lexington Vivint representative, at [440-781-2847](tel:440-781-2847) or jlaplace@vivintsolar.com. Other useful links are www.vivintsolar.com and the following article, which explains further how this arrangement can be a win-win-win for you, Vivint, and the utility: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/chelmsford/news/x1206141323/Renewable-energy-comes-to-Chelmsford?img=3#axzz2HLNifZrV>.



We Remember

We are sorry about the passing of former members Frances May Baskin on January 10 and Kitty Mead on January 28.

May celebrated her 100th birthday last spring, helping prove that gardening keeps us young. Her funeral was held last month.

Kitty was active in the Civic Improvement Committee and tended the traffic island at Adams and Hancock Streets for many years. A celebration of her life will be held in April, date and time still TBD.

Dahlia Swap

March 6, 9:30 - 11

20 Hancock Street

Bring some tubers and go home with different ones. What a great way to expand the variety in your garden!

Ashley Rooney and Peter Lund are kindly hosting this exchange. Park in their driveway or at the end of the Church of our Redeemer lot across the street. Bring pictures or other information about your plants if you have them. If you have tubers you'd like to donate to the Plant Sale, feel free to bring those as well.



Come Communicate with Us— about Communications!



Sue Harris and Joan Stoner, Co-Chairs of the Communications Committee, are holding a meeting on Thursday, February 28, for members interested in learning about and getting involved with promoting our

Garden Club's activities to the outside world. Joan and Sue would like others to join them this Spring, when the Club has several upcoming special events to be covered. No prior experience is needed, and new ideas are very welcome!

The meeting will be at 10am, at 23 Minute Man Lane. Please RSVP to Joan at jsstoner@gmail.com if you can come. If you can't make the meeting but would like to learn more, please call either Joan at 781-862-0671 or Sue at 978-610-6587.





March 13-17
Seaport World Trade Center



This year’s show theme is “Seeds of Change.” It will showcase how to embrace new plants, methods and materials to increase the beauty, bounty and ecological friendliness of our gardens and outdoor spaces.

♦ **Discount Tickets:** We have advance purchase discount tickets for you and your friends and family. They are \$16 (vs. \$20, \$17 Seniors at the door) and may be used any day of the show. Purchase them at our February and March Club meetings or by sending a check and stamped, self-addressed envelope to Barbara Morgan, 4 Chandler St, Lexington 02420. Please make checks payable to LFGC.

♦ **Bus to the Show:** Our Club bus trip will be on Thursday, March 14. We will depart Lexington at 9:15 am and return by 2:30 pm. Friends and family are welcome. The cost is \$13 per person. To reserve a seat, please pay at the February or March meeting, or by mail to Barbara Morgan. Please make checks to LFGC.

Part of the show will be organized by MassHort and the Garden Club Federation of MA. This is where top amateur floral designers, photographers, and horticulturists show off their beautiful arrangements, photos and plants. There’s still time to plan to show off a special plant, or many! Entry information can be found at www.masshort.org/Amateur-Horticulture-Competition.

For full details about the show, including the daily speaker schedule, go to www.bostonflowershow.com.

Learn the Inside Scoop on Garden Tour 2013 — Volunteer Now!



Become an important part of our upcoming Garden Tour, “Delightful Diversity: A Tour of Seven Unique Lexington Gardens.” Co-Chairs Ellan Siegel and Anne Lee have lined up a terrific assortment of gardens. Now they need committee captains, hostesses, and other volunteers to help shape the fun and success of this tour. Volunteer opportunities are available now and/or for Tour Day on Saturday, June 8. New members and master gardeners alike are encouraged to participate. Sign-up at the Main Club meeting February 13 and at Morning and Evening Group meetings beginning in March. Or simply contact Ellan at 781-861-6165 or ellansiegel@gmail.com to discuss your interest areas and availability.

Save the date and sign up now

Plant Sale Planning Meeting **Tuesday, March 26, 10 am, 12 Jean Rd**

Our Plant Sale co-chairs, Varda Haimo and Bonnie Rosenthal, invite you to a planning meeting for the 2013 sale. Last year’s sale will be reviewed and plans for this year’s, which will be on Wednesday, May 15, will be put in motion. As always, we need lots of help to make our largest fundraiser a success. And new ideas and volunteers are very welcome! Please join us on March 26 and/or share your ideas with Varda or Bonnie beforehand. Sign up at the February 13 Main Club meeting if you aim to attend or otherwise want to be involved.



2013 Gardening Study School — Register Now



This year’s popular National Garden Club Gardening Study School will be on April 4 and 5 at Tower Hill. It is Course IV (Series 9), with topics including Specialized Styles of Gardening, Techniques for Growing Fruit and Woody Ornamentals, Outdoor Identification of Plants, Home Irrigation Techniques, and “The Birds and the Bees.” Enjoy great speakers: Paul Rogers, horticulture consultant; Dr. Judith Sumner, botanist and author; Laura Eisener, horticulture consultant and landscape architect; and John Howell from UMass Extension. The fee is \$110 for members of GCFM clubs, \$100 for refreshers, and \$140 for non-members of GCFM clubs. For more information or a registration form, contact Caroline Nijenberg, 781-862-4465 or carolinen@rcn.com, or go to www.gcfm.org and click on Schools and Registration.

What's Going On?

- February 13** **Main Club Meeting: The Basics of Rose Growing, with Irwin Ehrenreich**
- February 14** Sensational Dahlias—Something for Everyone, Elm Bank, 7pm - 8:30pm masshort.org
- February 21 - 24** Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show. See flowershow.com.
- February 25** GCFM Horticulture Morning—Bring the Rainforest Indoors: Terrariums with Wanda Macnair, South Church, 41 Central St, Andover, 10am
- February 28** **LFGC Communications Committee Information Meeting See page 2.**
- March 2 & 3** 184th Annual Camellia Show, Massachusetts Camellia Society, Tower Hill, 9am - 5pm
- March 2** Barbara Paul Robinson, author of *Rosemary Verey: The Life & Lessons of a Legendary Gardener*, Lecture and Book Signing, Tower Hill, 1:30pm - 2:30pm towerhillbg.org
- March 6** **LFGC Open Board Meeting, National Heritage Museum, 9am**
- March 6** **LFGC Dahlia Swap See page 2.**
- March 8** Books in Bloom, Robbins Library, Arlington, 6:30pm - 9pm, \$25 advance/\$30 door, purchase tickets at the library or call Patsy at 781-858-8629
- March 14** **LFGC Bus to Boston Flower and Garden Show See page 3.**



Coming March 13...

Sugar, Sex and Poison: Shocking Plant Secrets Caught on Camera

Award-winning horticulturalist, author and photographer Bill Cullina will bring us up close and personal with plants' arsenal of chemicals, camouflage, spines, hairs, waxes, pollen, nectar, fruits and more that discourage herbivores and attract key partners in the amazingly complex and efficient natural economy.

Lexington Field and Garden Club
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