



# Lexington Field & Garden Club

## 144 Years of Making Lexington More Beautiful

Member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

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### Co-President's Letter

Welcome to our December newsletter! We're feeling very grateful in this month of thanks and giving.

First and foremost, a very special thank you to **Judy Minardi**, who has once again organized the club's many cleanup days on our 23 historic sites and traffic islands. SignupGenius was a great success, and a big thank you to all the 40+ volunteers who signed up to help with the fall cleanup. Special thanks to **Christina Gamota** for her leadership of Emery Park and the Hancock-Clarke herb garden for many years. Lexington is looking beautiful now with the shining holiday lights and beautiful garden spaces around town that are ready for winter.

We are starting to make plans for the May 20th, 2023 Plant Sale (*Save the Date*) and have been contacting people who will be in charge of potting, digging, the

holding area, the retail table, the pollinator tables, cashiers, etc. Thanks to the many volunteers and to co-chairs **Sirinya Matchacheep** and **Marilyn Ryngiewicz**, who will be coordinating this big fundraiser and "friend raiser" with me in the spring. In the meantime, if you have items for the retail table, please contact [lfgc024@gmail.com](mailto:lfgc024@gmail.com).

Many thanks to **Marilyn Ryngiewicz** and her team for the outstanding programs we have been having at our new facility, Follen Church. Thanks to **Kitty Galaitsis** and her team for generating exciting programs for the 2023-2024 program year. The membership team, led by **Jackie Potdevin** and **Marilyn Ryngiewicz**, has been so helpful in guiding people at the new facility and providing a welcoming reception. I also want to thank **Ruthanne Igoe** and her team for their work on the Grants for Gardeners program.

Thank you to **Ann Webster** and **Jane Halvorsen** for leading us in a Winter Greens party for many years.

**The Greens Party** will be virtual this year on **December 7** at **9:30 AM** for Social time and **10:00 AM** Program. Please note the daytime time shift, as Lexington is having its Taste of Lexington that night. We want club members to be able to participate in both events, so LFGC graciously moved the time.



Most importantly, thanks to **Georgia Harris**, our co-president, for generating an informative and entertaining monthly newsletter, and **Vicki Blake** for making it look gorgeous!

I wanted to acknowledge the passing of a wonderful garden club member, **Dr. David Kominz**, who made it to the ripe age of 98! Many of you have visited the Kominz home and spectacular garden in Weston, MA. Phyllis, our hearts are with you in this time of sorrow. We appreciate your kindness and generosity in conducting garden tours and contributing to our plant sale.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy holiday season.

With utmost appreciation and gratitude,

**Marlene**



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## Winter Greens Party New Time!

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, December 7 at 9:30 AM Social, 10:00 AM Workshop** via Zoom. Learn to make lovely green arrangements for your winter gatherings at this workshop. Save money on purchasing evergreens by pruning overgrown shrubs. Grab your favorite container and work along with our arrangers.

The Zoom link will be sent to you next week.



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## Mark your Calendars

Wetlands in Lexington: Their Uses and Regulations with Amber Carr. Amber Carr is a trained ecologist specializing in land management for wildlife species. As Conversation Coordinator for the Town of Lexington, she will explain the various types of wetlands found throughout Lexington. This will be a live in person event on **Jan 11th 9:30 AM Social/10:00 AM Meeting at Follen Church 755 Mass Ave Lexington.**









ers enjoy getting creative with their containers using glass and hollowed-out rocks; others like old wheelbarrows, chimney flue pipes, and claw-footed bathtubs. Many like to coordinate the pot with the design of the space. A new pot brings out the artistic soul of the gardener.

A gargoye gutter cover. A fun holiday gift.

## Personal Goodies

Some gardeners take pride in their dirty hands, but their friends and family members don't necessarily appreciate those grubby fingernails. Many shops offer an array of herbal and botanical soaps. Natural-bristle brushes, insect lotions, lip balms, hand creams, and gloves might have prevented the dirty hand issue from the beginning.

Of course, we all need heavy-duty sun hats for those long days in the sun. Think waterproof boots, gloves, clogs, and a gardening apron.

## Tools

Gardeners are constantly losing their favorite pruners and trowels. You can give them another one – preferably with a brightly painted handle. One member says, “I love my Hori Hori knife. It feels powerful and sharp. I planted 200 miniature daffodils in my lawn, using the knife to dig small holes.” A Hori Hori knife is a supercharged garden trowel that cuts, digs, saws, tills, and measures, replacing the need for a full arsenal of gardening tools. What about a 6-in-1 pocket pruner with a sturdy belt pouch, a hose that never kinks, or a grow light for inside germination? And for those who need a little enabling these days, adaptive tools for gardeners such as long-reach trowels and watering wands. One warning: Most serious gardeners are not interested in gadgets. We want good sturdy tools, hoses, and implements that will last until the next generation.



Hori Hori

## Gift Certificate

A gift certificate provides access to the entire gardening world. It can be a magic wand to the frugal gardener or induce the timid to try something new or daring. My sister gives me one to Mahoney's, and I delight in going there on a chilly February day and bringing home some new unique plants. Or maybe you want to consider a gift certificate to the local hardware store. Your friend will delight in having their clippers and saws sharpened.





## Civic Garden Fall Clean-up

Jerry Harris

Recently, Georgia (my lovely wife) asked me to take photos of the volunteers cleaning up the Civic Gardens sprinkled around Lexington. I've seen these gardens for years, but to be honest, I viewed them as obstacles to drive around. However, looking at them through the camera has changed my perspective. First, the volunteers keeping these garden islands weeded, raked, pruned, watered, and maintained perform an incredible service to the LFGC and the Town. Second, the plants in these gardens are amazingly resilient as they thrive next to heavy car and truck traffic. The larger island at the intersection of Marrett and Lincoln is like a small park. Hat's off to all the volunteers who keep these gardens vibrant throughout the year.



## A Fun Trip Down Memory Lane

Harriet Hathaway coordinated a funny skit in 1992 called "Lexington Field & Garden Club: Our Growing Years 1876 - 1950". This is a fun YouTube video you can watch over the holidays during your quiet moments. **LFGC Our Growing Years 1876-1950**





## Estabrook Science Fair

On Wednesday, November 16, the LFGC hosted a table at the Estabrook Elementary School's Science Fair Kick-Off Event. The Estabrook Parent Teacher Organization organized this event to get K-5 students excited, invested, and ready to come up with project ideas for this year's Science Fair theme: My Green World. The Science Fair will take place in February. The PTO invited local organizations that focus on "going green" and sustainability, to explain their work and serve as a resource to answer questions. Other organizations present were Lexington Living Landscapes, Lexington Climate Action Network, Lexington Energize, Lexington High Student Group, Farmers to You, Citizens for Lexington Conservation, and the Estabrook Green Team.

LFGC did an interactive presentation entitled "*Milkweed, Monarchs, and Migration.*" The students had a great time learning about the plants that sustain Monarch caterpillars and butterflies. LFGC supplied seeds, pots, soil, and water. The students planted seeds and took them home to put in their gardens. Coloring pages of Monarch butterflies and caterpillars was an additional fun activity.

The Garden Club was honored to have been invited and to be top of mind in the community as a local organization focused on sustainability!

### Seeds for Monarch Butterflies and Caterpillars



Common Milkweed



Butterfly Weed



Showy Goldenrod



White Wood Aster





## Lexington Field and Garden Club ANNUAL SOCKS FOR VETS



*Message to all MSG members:*

Please bring **UNWRAPPED, 4 - 6 pack of white mens socks to:**  
*(Bundles of pairs available at Costco, Job Lot, Kohls, Marshalls & TJ Max)*

Ashley Rooney's home,  
**By December 15**

Please place the socks in the box next to the bear on the front porch.

Also requested are **2023 wall calendars**

These gift socks will be delivered to the Bedford Vets Home.

*With thanks in advance to all,  
Happy Holidays!*



## Great Gardening Books

Collected by **Georgia Harris**

When you can't garden, read. There are so many great gardening books around, something to please every interest. While this is not a complete list, it should keep you occupied during the cold winter months. I could write a synopsis of every one, but we don't have that much room! Please share your favorite garden books for a spring addition of Great Gardening Book to Georgia Harris at [i.am.georgia.harris@gmail.com](mailto:i.am.georgia.harris@gmail.com). Happy reading.



## Garden Design Books

- Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes by Thomas Rainer & Claudia West
- Planting: A New Perspective by Piet Oudolf & Noel Kingsbury
- Gardens of the High Line by Piet Oudolf & Rick Darke

## **Ecological Gardening**

- The Northeast Native Plant Primer by Uli Lorimer
- The Pollinator Victory Garden by Kim Eierman
- Garden Revolution by Larry Weaner & Thomas Christopher
- The Nature of Oaks by Doug Tallamy
- Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard by Doug Tallamy
- Native plants for New England Gardens by Mark Richardson and Dan Jaffe
- Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines: A Guide to Using, Growing, and Propagating North American Plants by William Cullina
- Any Bee or Wasp book by Heather Holmes

## **Dealing with Pests**

- The Deer Resistant Garden by Karen Chapman
- Garden Allies by Frederique Lavoipierre

## **Vegetable Gardening**

- The Backyard Gardener by Kelly Orzel
- The Healthy Vegetable Garden by Sally Morgan
- Sustainable Food Gardens by Robert Kourik

## **General**

- The Reindeer Chronicles by Judith Scharz
- A Way to Garden by Margaret Roach
- Uprooted by Page Dickey
- Farming While Black by Leah Penniman
- The Earth in Her Hands by Jennifer Jewell
- Iwigara by Enrique Salmón
- Wild By Design by Laura J. Martin
- A Year at Brandywine Cottage by David L Culp
- The Complete Gardener by Monty Don





## **News from Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts**

Last year, The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts had a banner year with four of the six First Place poems in the National Garden Clubs youth poetry contest.

This year's theme, "SEEDS, TREES AND BEES OH MY – Celebrating the Diversity of Nature" offers a tempting creative challenge for Kindergarteners through Ninth Graders to express their thoughts and feelings in poetry.

Learn more at [Poetry Contest | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

## **Interesting Articles, Podcasts, and Websites**

### **Garden Report 2022 – The Drought Phase**

Cathy Weston is an ecological gardener on Cape Cod. When Cathy retired from her business career, she decided to embark on a journey to become a garden ecologist and native-plant landscape designer. Read what fared well in Cathy's garden this year under severe drought pressure. Read more at [Goldenrod Garden](#)

### **Pollinator Safari**

Longing for summer, take this quick delightful pollinator safari brought to you by Tufts Pollinator Initiative. Watch the video at [YouTube](#)

### **Fighting Back Against Invasive Plants**

Invasive plants are one of the most well-known threats to the biodiversity of our ecosystems. Have you ever wondered exactly how an invasive plant is defined, and what can be done to combat them? Find out more at [Zoo New England](#)

### **Protecting Wild Rice in Wisconsin**

To protect wild rice, tribes and universities have formed an unlikely collaboration. Working with tribal scientists has pushed University of Minnesota researchers to think bigger about their research. Read more at [The Sierra Club](#)

### **Local Seed Collection**

Over the course of the last decade, native plants have garnered a place in the spotlight of popular horticulture. Some of the most robust and useful natives are easy to source and grow at home. Seed collection and propagation is a low tech, relatively easy endeavor that allows the home gardener to save a little money on plants. Read more at [Ecological Landscape Alliance](#)

### **Meet the Festive Flock In the 12 Days of Christmas**

Have you ever noticed how many gifts in 'The 12 Days of Christmas' are birds? Discover fun facts about the festive Christmas birds in the carol. Read more at [Birds and Blooms](#)



## Gardens & Classes Around New England



**December 6**, Cary Library, LLL and Mass Pollinators Network presents **Landscaping for Pollinators and Birds at Home** with Desiree Narango 7:00 PM via Zoom

**December 7**, Lexington Field & Garden Club presents Winter Greens Party via Zoom 9:30 AM.

**December 9**, Native Plant Trust presents **The Meaning of Gardens** – Native Plant Trust Live/Virtual 1:00 - 2:00 PM

**December 1- 31**, New England Botanical Garden presents **Night Lights**, times vary

**December 1-31**, Coastal Maine Botanical Garden presents **Gardens Aglow** | Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, times vary

**December 11**, The GreenWay presents **Candlelit Labyrinth Walk: In Peace and Harmony** – The Rose Kennedy Greenway 4:30 - 5:30 PM



***That's all for now, hope to see you soon!***