



# Lexington Field & Garden Club

## 144 Years of Making Lexington More Beautiful

Member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

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Hello Garden Club Friends,

September is the beginning of our programs and events calendar. Our first event was held on September 13 with a presentation by Christie Dustman, who spoke about ornaments in the garden, green or otherwise. She showed her favorite non-green ornaments – rocks and rusted objects! We met our new president, **Kathy Leva**. Welcome, Kathy! To finish the day, we had a lovely luncheon. A great way to start the "year." It was fun to participate in the Herb Fest on September 17. We had lots of conversations about all things gardening. **Christina Gamota** hosted a garden party for civic gardening stewards. And we had a new member coffee on Saturday, September 30. The subgroups have started their monthly meetings. All in all, a terrific start to our fall happenings.



*Kathy Leva*



### Dates to Remember

- October 4 Executive Board Meeting, 2:00 PM Meeting @ Greta Ljung's house
- October 10 Visit Kominz's Weston Garden, 10 AM-11 AM – below
- October 11 Full Club Meeting: Bioplanning a Garden for Lexington, MA with Diana Beresford-Kroeger – Zoom 7 PM. – Page 2
- October 20 Deadline for submissions to the November newsletter



### An Invitation to Phyllis Kominz's Beautiful Weston Garden



Tuesday, October 10. The Morning Study Group will hold its October meeting amidst the fall splendor of **Phyllis Kominz's** beautiful garden at 233 Glen Road in Weston. Viewing the garden will come first, followed by the group meeting. Thanks to Phyllis's kind hospitality, all members of LFGC are welcome to visit her garden at this time. Christie Dustman, our September big club speaker, will be with Phyllis at her garden to answer questions about the garden.

Carpooling is highly encouraged. All LFGC members who plan to carpool will assemble in the Hayden upper parking lot in Lexington at 9 AM and depart sharply at 9:15. Morning Study members can expect to be back

in Lexington by 12:30. Other LFGC members should be back in Lexington closer to 11:30.

We ask everyone planning to come to **Phyllis Kominz's** garden to RSVP to **Marlene Stone** or **Ann Webster**. In your reply, please indicate if you are interested in being a carpool passenger or driver. Morning Study Group members, please reply even if you cannot attend.



## Full Club Meeting: Bioplanning a Garden for Lexington MA, with Diana Beresford-Kroeger – Zoom

Wednesday, October 11, 7 PM Co-sponsored with CARY LIBRARY

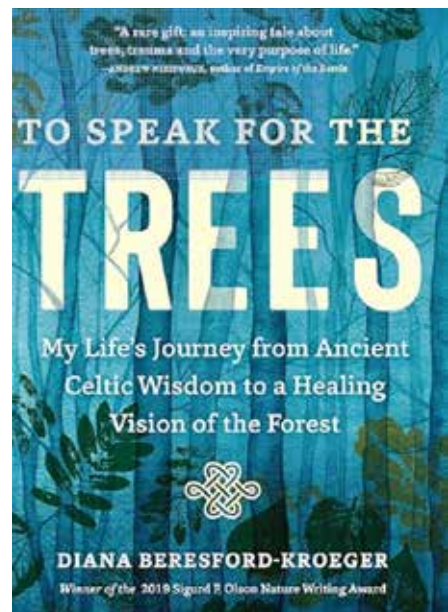
**Registration is required for this event**

<https://caryllibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/virtual-diana-beresford-kroeger-talk/>

Botanist, medical biochemist, and author Diana Beresford-Kroeger has a unique combination of Western scientific training and an understanding of various traditional ideologies. Born in Ireland, she now lives in Ontario. She has written several books on the global forest and has been featured in an award-winning documentary. Her latest book is *To Speak for the Trees; My life's Journey from Ancient Celtic Wisdom to a Healing Vision of the Forest*.

Diana will talk about the plants and trees that are beneficial for planting in Lexington and the surrounding area for the health and well-being of Lexington residents and the long-term sustainability of life on Earth.

Whether you are a gardener or not, everyone can play a role in replanting the global forest by starting locally.



## Executive Summary – Lexington Field & Garden Club Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 6

Attendance: Debra Heaton, Ruthanne Igoe, Ashley Rooney, Jane Halverson, Anne Lee, Linda Walsh, Vicki Blake, Greta Ljung, Kitty Galaitsis, Anne Lee, Nancy Trautman, Ann Webster

Absent: Miranda Cohen, Leslie Sargis, Leslie Masson

Special guest – Meg Himmel

I. Old Business:

Approval of June Board minutes: Approved

Treasurer's report: No vote

II. New Business:

There were reports on the election process for the new President and on the luncheon

scheduled for September 13. Reports were given on Herb Fest, the June 2024 Garden Tour, and the May Plant Sale. All of these events are moving forward well.

There was discussion of the venue and the dates for the Greens Party in December. No decisions have been made.

There were updates on the Bylaws Revision committee, led by Ann Webster, and the Lexington 250 Anniversary of the Battle events, led by Ashley Rooney. Meg Himmel attended to give more information about the town's plans and our part in them.

III. Board Committee Reports - Reports were given by Programs, the Corresponding Secretary, Membership, Civic Gardening, Communications, the Financial Advisory Committee, and the Nominating Committee.

IV. Subgroup Reports - Reports were given on the Monday Evening, Morning Study, Wednesday Workshop and Thursday Evening Groups. There appear to be openings in most if not all of the groups.



## Purchase Those Bulbs, Tubers, Corms - NOW!

### E. Ashley Rooney

Don't agonize in January wishing you had bought that bag of daffodils. Now is the time to purchase them. And if you are tired of looking at your beheaded tulips and vanishing crocus, go for those **varmint-resistant flower bulbs** such as daffodils, allium, and snowdrops.

Don't look just for color or size in the tulip, daffodil, or other listings. Consider bloom time, too. You can have extra-early bulbs (e.g., crocus, snowdrops) and extra-late bulbs (e.g., allium) to expand your garden bloom time. Moreover, some bulbs will naturalize, giving you increased joy as they spread throughout your landscape over the years.

Be adventurous. Order something unusual — like a deer-resistant *Eremurus stenophyllus* (foxtail lily), *C. quamash* (*Camassia*), or its varieties, 'Orion' and 'San Juan.' It is perfect for naturalized plantings along streams or in moist, well-drained soil. And don't forget the charming miniature bells of the *S. campanulate* (*scilla*), which come in blue, pink, and white on 10-15-inch spikes.

Excellent in both naturalistic plantings and formal displays, bulbs thrive in free-draining, sunny locations in the garden. The easiest way to create a naturalistic planting is to toss a handful of bulbs on the ground and plant them where they land. Groups of 12 bulbs or more work best. In a mixed-bulb planting, plant groups of 5-7 bulbs in drifts, ensuring different varieties intermingle and overlap. Formal displays should be laid out in advance to ensure a uniform structure.

### Planting Bulbs

Plant your bulbs about four to six weeks before your area's expected first hard frost, giving your bulbs enough time to grow roots. After sufficient time in cold temperatures, they'll grow leaves and flowers the following spring.



A showstopper when in bloom, 'Jetfire' blooms in early spring.



Bulbs should be firm and plump. If they cave in when you squeeze them, are full of mildew (a little is fine), or are soft or rotting, throw them out.

Most bulbs do best in full sun (at least 6 hours a day) and well-drained soil rich in organic matter. The best time to fertilize bulbs is when you are planting them. Mix the fertilizer into the soil before placing the bulb in the hole. A good watering will eliminate air pockets in the soil that could cause your bulbs to dry out and encourage them to send out roots.



*Allium comes in rich colors like white, purple, blue, pink, and yellow and many sizes.*

The general rule for planting bulbs is to plant twice as deep as your bulb is high. For instance, if the bulb is 3 inches tall, dig a hole and plant the bulb 6 inches down. Space them three times their width. Be sure to plant the bulbs with the top side/pointed side up. If you aren't sure, lay the bulb on its side, and it will find its way. You can add a couple of inches of garden mulch on top of the soil after planting without hindering the bulbs when they emerge in spring.

If you want to fertilize an existing planting, apply it once the foliage has emerged and then again following flowering.

Once the bulb has flowered, let the foliage yellow and die back on its own. This is where you can find another plant that will conceal those fading leaves. Bulbs need six weeks for the foliage to photosynthesize and put energy back into the bulb for the following year's flowers. Remember,

if your bulbs are planted in the lawn, do not mow the area during these six weeks.

### **Protecting Bulbs from Varmints**

Varmints usually do not like flowers or bulbs that have an aroma. So consider narcissus, hyacinths, fritillaria, snowdrops, and allium.

If planting just a few bulbs, build a mesh wire or cage to prevent them from being devoured by squirrels and voles. You can toss a handful of sharp grit to the holes when planting tulips and bulbs to prevent voles from tunneling. Of course, you can plant those tulip bulbs in a ring of narcissus, which voles despise. Cover newly planted beds with plastic bird netting, window screens, or hardware cloth to prevent squirrels and other animals from digging up newly planted bulbs. Alternatively, spray the newly planted area with hot pepper sauce.

### **Getting Ready for Winter**

Many perennials benefit from being divided every few years. One of the best times to divide and replant is after plants have finished blooming so the transplants can become established before winter comes. The plant will benefit from discarding its dead center.

To divide a day lily or iris, dig as deeply as possible around the outer edge of the plant. Use your pitchfork to pry the clump from the ground and shake off the excess soil. The plant will benefit from discarding its dead center. Use a spade to divide the perennial into smaller plants.

When you have more than you need, consider saving them for LFGC 2024 PLANT SALE. This year, I planted the divisions right into my garden to be dug out next spring for our crew. The divisions seem very happy.



*Give your garden the royal treatment with crown imperial (Fritillaria imperialis). Crown imperials have been nicknamed the "stink lily" for their pungent odor. But this smell repels deer and other pests that eat bulbs.*



## Message from the Plant Sale Committee

The plant sale committee is NOT collecting pots at this time. Please do NOT drop pots off anywhere for the plant sale until requested in the spring. Thank you for your understanding.



## Thank you, Civic Gardening Stewards and Helpers

The annual thank you celebration of civic gardening stewards and their regular helpers was held on September 24 at the beautiful home and garden of **Christina Gamota**. Please visit [these sites](#) to see the work of the Lexington Field & Garden Club. We maintain twelve historic sites and fifteen traffic islands throughout the year to beautify Lexington.



## Sign Up for Civic Gardening Fall Clean Up

Fall clean up at many of these locations will be from November 1 to November 12. [Sign up here](#) so you can join in the fun. Working in the fall clean up is a great way to meet fellow gardeners, learn more about how these spaces are cared for, get a bit of exercise and keep these gardens looking great for all to enjoy. Plan to bring gloves, clippers, and a rake.





## Subgroup Reports

**Monday Evening Group** met Monday, September 18. There was a pot luck dinner and a show and tell of favorite garden tools, books, plants, nurseries, and gardens. The food was so delicious and the conversation so fun, everyone was too busy to take any photos!

**Morning Study Group** met Tuesday, September 12. They had a private tour of the Clock Barn Gardens of Maureen Ruetters in Carlisle Mass. There were 22 attendees, and they were guided by the lead gardener Kristen and her assistant David.



**Wednesday Workshop** met Wednesday, September 20 for a creative rock painting party.



*If you are interested in joining a subgroup contact the following chairs*

**Monday Evening Group** 7 PM on the fourth Monday of the month - **Anne Lee**

**Morning Study Group** 9:30 AM on the second Tuesday of the month - **Ruthanne Igoe**

**Garden Party** 7 PM on the third Tuesday of the month - **Leslie Masson & Leslie Sargis**

**Wednesday Workshop** 9:30 AM on the third Wednesday of the month - **Ann Webster**

**Thursday Evening Group** 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of the month - **Linda Walsh**



**Happy Halloween!**