



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

Greetings Gardeners,



Ch-ch-changes

(Turn and face the strain)

Ch-ch-changes

(Just gonna have to be a different man)

Lyrics by David Bowie



Facing changes – that's what humanity needs to do if we want to reverse or slow the climate crisis. LFGC has just the ticket to educate ourselves on tangible actions we can take. Our sensational first speaker Quentin Prideaux will inform us via Zoom on September 14th about climate change. Quentin has created an overview of climate change to inspire hope and show a way forward. **Marilyn Ryngiewicz** has graciously agreed to host the entire club at her house for a brown bag lunch directly following the Zoom meeting. **RSVP to Marilyn Ryngiewicz no later than September 5th.**

We have had many obstacles in Lexington this summer, from massive tree cuttings to drought. This summer has proved a challenge in geographies both inside our gardens and in our town. Question: How do we move forward if many of our fellow citizens live in a place where the natural world takes a back seat to progress? Answer: We educate and gather together to have great discussions on new gardening ideas and techniques.



The summer luncheons in the garden have been a great success. Being in each other's gardens is undoubtedly a happy place. Thank you so much to all our hosts. You literally made these events happen. Something magical happens when you bring a bunch of enthusiastic gardeners together in their natural element. The camaraderie is palpable and just plain fun. Speaking of fun, that's our theme this year. Do we have themes? Well, this year, we do. Let's brainstorm and see if we can't make this a wicked fun year. We have weathered COVID. Let's celebrate when we can. We welcome ideas to continue this spirit going forward. What would you like to see, or how would you like to contribute to your garden club?

Even with the challenges of the drought, gardens can be a sanctuary. We marvel at all the critters that call our gardens home. I found a Virginia Tiger moth caterpillar on my Calycanthus 'Aphrodite.' It was a beautiful lemon yellow, and even though it was munching on my plant leaves, I know caterpillars are a tasty snack for the many birds that visit the garden. Have great pictures of your garden or a favorite container garden? Send them to **Georgia Harris**. Georgia will feature them in the next newsletters and the opening slide shows for our in-person meetings.

See you in the garden,

Georgia Harris, Co-President

Marlene Stone, Co-President

Dates to Remember

September 7	Executive Board Meeting
September 10	Herb Fest Buckman Tavern & Hancock-Clarke House, 12 - 4 PM
September 10	Lexington Living Landscape Native Gardens in Progress Tour
September 14	Quentin Prideaux on Climate Change Zoom 9:30 Welcome 10:00 Meeting
September 14	Brown Bag Lunch @ Marilyn Ryngiewicz's house, 11:30 AM
September 15	Grants for Gardeners Due



The deadline for the next round of “Grants for Gardeners” will be September 15, 2022.

Have you thought about a project that intrigues you and supports our mission of education, service, and friendship? Now is the time to get started on your application!

This exciting new program, now in its second year, funds innovative ideas developed by LFGC members. Some of the projects funded last year include supporting the Lexington High School Bee Club, cost-sharing gardening lectures with another local group, beautifying the Depot area and the Munroe Center for the Arts, and removing invasives at the Hancock-Clarke House.

Read more about the program and the process on our website here (www.LexGardenClub.org). **Click here** to download the application. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Financial Advisory Working Group



HerbFest!

Sunday, September 10, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Buckman Tavern, Hancock-Clarke House, Lexington *FREE*

Please join us for our second annual Herb Fest, organized by the Garden Club and the Lexington Historical Society to celebrate and showcase the Society's two beautiful herb gardens. At Buckman Tavern, home to the Helen Noyes Webster and Mary Milligan Memorial Herb Garden, sample and purchase items that integrate herbs and spices into foods, soaps, home décor and much more! Learn about the uses of herbs in food preservation and medicine from Historical Society staff and about the history of tea cultivation and ceremonies from members of CAAL (Chinese American Association of Lexington).



The Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden will be presented as an educational garden, with members of Morning Study Group's Herb Committee sharing histories of 18th-century herbs from the garden's three sections – culinary, medicinal, and aromatic/dye. View a display and documentation with images of the Herb Garden since 2010; crafts made using herbs from the garden; an extensive collection of books on herbs and how to use them; Herb-of-the-Month recipes from the Herb Committee; and demonstrations of stitches that can be used in making samplers. Brochures and recipes will be available to take home and try!



Herb-themed food will also be available for sale at both locations.

How Garden Club members can help!

Please contact **Anne Lee**, Herb Fest chair, for more information.

Before September 10:

- Join a workshop on August 31, 9 – noon to make Bouquet Garni, Three Sisters Stew packets, and kitchen herbal wreaths. RSVP to Anne for location.
- Post flyers around town and in the area (provided by Lexington Historical Society)
- Post/share on social media
- Provide information at a table at the Farmer's Market on Tuesday, September 6, 2 - 6:30 PM in shifts.

On September 10:

- Assist with setup and/or cleanup
- Host a Garden Club membership/information table at either location (12 - 2 PM, 2 - 4 PM or 12 - 4 PM)
- Be a greeter at either location (same time frames available)



Thank you for helping to make this family-friendly event a success!



Summertime Garden Gatherings A Huge Success

Back for the second year, LFGC declares summer gardening luncheons a huge success. Thank you to all our hosts who graciously opened their homes to everyone. **Ruthanne Igoe, Linda Walsh, Meg Himmel, Ann Webster, Christina Gamota, Marilyn Ryngelewicz, Ashley Rooney** and **Greta Ljung**, y'all rock!! Thank you to all the club members that braved the hot weather and gathered together.



"Picnic"-goers



Some past and present LFGC presidents; Ann Webster, Ruthanne Igoe, Bridget Galdes, Ashley Rooney, Marlene Stone



Vinegar as a Safe Weed Killer

Ashley Rooney

Barbara Mix told me about using vinegar solution as an effective weed killer that is not dangerous for the environment. I found it to be successful when working with tight pavers or bricks. It may require several applications to do the job; however, it does not discriminate between plants you have lovingly tended and weeds, so apply it with care.

You mix 1 gallon of regular white vinegar with 1 tablespoon Dawn and apply it on a sunny day. It works best on small, annual weeds that are less than two weeks old. This vinegar solution can kill them within 24 hours. With older weeds, you may need several applications to do the job.

Vinegar contains acetic acid, which attacks plant leaves and stems but won't kill a plant down to the roots. One treatment may kill the weed if the weeds are young annuals – like foxtail, crabgrass or ragweed. When sprayed on perennial weeds, vinegar will burn the leaves but seldom kill the plant.



Watering Wisely During the Drought

We are all wondering how to manage our gardens in our current drought situation. Luckily for us, [Outdoor Water Conservation | Mass.gov](#) has gathered a comprehensive list of everything a gardener needs to know about watering during a drought. The website provides links to drought-tolerant plants, tips on when you should water, ways to reduce your turf grass, and lists of plant native plants.

We should embrace the Golden Lawn. It is not dead; it is dormant and working to build a deeper root system. I am not watering my lawn, but I am watering my shrubs that seem droopy - deeply once or twice a week. Water only before 9 AM or after 5 PM, which is the only civilized time to be outside during a heat wave. When those autumn leaves fall, leave them on your garden beds. They provide free mulch, add nutrients to the soil, help retain soil moisture and provide winter homes for next year's insects. Another great watering resource is Watering – [Greenscapes](#).



Here's a short list of drought-tolerant plants to replace any plants that did not make it through this year's drought. For a more complete list visit [Drought Tolerant Plants for the Landscape | Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at UMass Amherst](#)

Asclepias tuberosa – Butterflyweed

Agastache foeniculum – Anise hyssop

Amsonia spp. – Amsonia

Aster spp. – Asters

Comptonia peregrina – Sweetfern

Coreopsis spp. – Coreopsis

Echinacea purpurea – Purple cone flower

Echinops ritro – Globe thistle

Erygium spp. – Sea holly

Geranium macrorrhizum – Bigroot geranium

Helleborus spp. – Hellebores

Hemerocallis spp. – Daylily

Lavendula angustifolia – Lavender

Panicum virgatum – Switch grass

Rosa virginiana – Virginia rose

Rudbeckia spp. – Black-eyed Susan

Schizachyrium scoparium – Little bluestem

Sedum spp. – Sedum

Phlox spp. – Phlox

Thymus spp. – Thyme

Vaccinium angustifolium – Lowbush blueberry



Gardens to Visit Around New England

Arnold Arboretum [The Nature of Art/The Art of Nature | Arnold Arboretum](#) through Sept 5th

New England Botanical Garden [Uprooted Land Art](#) by W. Gary Smith Until November 1, 2022.

Native Plant Trust Author Talk: [Lessons from Plants](#) September 8th, 6 - 7 PM

Rose Kennedy Greenway [Park Highlights - The Rose Kennedy Greenway](#) Visit any time

Fenway Victory Gardens [Fenway Victory Gardens](#) Visit any time



Photos by Corinne Steigerwald



Open Space Recreation Plan

Lexington is updating its 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). As we embark on the update, we invite you to join the planning process and share your thoughts...

- As a citizen of Lexington, what is your vision for open spaces and recreation areas in the Town?
- What do you like about the open space and recreational opportunities in Lexington?
- What are the current and future needs for open space and recreation?
- Share your thoughts here: [Open Space and Recreation Plan | Lexington, MA](#)



Farm Visit and Pool Party

A visit to Aldo Galinelli's farm and a Galaitsis poolside picnic party. Thanks to **Kitty** and **Tony Galaitsis** for organizing a lovely day.





Looking for My Owner!

Someone left their purple North Face jacket in my car last spring when we went to Tower Hill. Please contact **Ruthanne** to have it returned! Thank you...



Interesting Articles, Podcasts and Websites

The Human Body Landscape – An Eagle's Point of View

Gardeners and Landscapers spend hours stewarding the land but often at the expense of their own bodies. Take time every day to appreciate your hard-working body by practicing some deep breathing and easy yoga stretches to better align your spine and recharge your mind. Read the article at [Ecological Landscape Alliance](#)

Fireflies are Returning to the Northeast

Learn what you can do to attract these amazing creatures that delight all to your garden. Listen here at [WNYC](#)

From Parking Lot into Parklets

Across the UK and Europe, the 'parklet' movement is gaining pace, transforming dead spaces where cars used to be into pockets of green. Read more at [The Guardian](#)

Women Ecologist Rock

Native wildflower gardening is more popular than ever. But a century ago, this was not the case. Wildflowers persist in the numbers they do today because of the activism and research of a group of women ecologists who in 1901 defied gender norms and founded the discipline of ecological restoration. Get the book. [Wild by Design – Laura J. Martin | Harvard University Press](#)

Gardening for Mental Health

Most of us realize that gardening is good for us. New research suggests that many people may indeed reap mental health benefits from working with plants – even if they've never gardened before. Read more at [Medical Express](#)

Non-Native Invasive Removals

Everything you need to know about removing non-native invasive plants. Read more at [UNH Extension](#)



That's all for this month, hope to see you soon!