



# Lexington Field & Garden Club

144 Years of Making Lexington More Beautiful

Member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

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email: LFGC024@gmail.com

Co-President's Letter

Season's Greetings!

What a year! No, seriously...**what a year** this has been! Viruses, masks, social distancing, remote learning, Zoom, quarantining...and yet the Lexington Field and Garden Club has weathered the storm, carrying out its mission of education, service to community and friendship. Our programs and meetings continue, most remotely and some in-person but very safely distanced. Members are reaching out to one another and new people are still joining every month! Remarkable. I'm so proud to be part of such a wonderful, vibrant and educational community!

So, do you remember when I talked about all the bulbs I ordered? Well, I would say that about 85% of them were still in their boxes until the past few days. Even though the temperature is dropping and the ground is hardening, I happily planted away, thinking of how pretty everything will look next spring. That's what I think is so special about gardeners...they are always looking ahead to the next season and anticipating beauty and joy in their future. A nice thing to remember right now!

And now it's time for the holidays. Christmas is a very big deal in the Igoe household. The season officially begins for us when a Christmas cake is served after Thanksgiving dinner along with the pumpkin pie! This is absolutely my favorite time of the year. We won't have as many around the tree this year, but I'm still looking forward to being with loved ones and enjoying the essence of the holiday. It will be nice to have some quiet time, maybe some snow, and again, to spend time with my family. I wish you all a joyous and healthy season as you celebrate your holiday, and I look forward to 2021 with hope and excitement!

Fondly,

**Ruthanne Igoe**

Co-President



## December 9th Program

Although we can't have the Annual Greens Party this year, we are planning on having a Zoom program on Wednesday, December 9th at 10:00. (Social time begins at 9:30!) You will be sent the link closer to the date so you can join us for some holiday merriment!

## Holiday Boutique

There are just a few items left in this year's extremely successful Holiday Boutique! We have such talented and generous members who created these lovely items to benefit the LFGC. Please contact **Christina Gamota** or **Regina Sutton** if you're interested in making a purchase. There are some lovely holiday decorative items as well as beautiful jewelry and knitted scarves at AMAZINGLY LOW PRICES!

## The Lincoln and Marrett Traffic Island Garden

**Dorothy Martin, Judy Minardi and Dorothy Smatlak**

Located on a large triangular piece of land between two sections of Lincoln Street and fronting on Marrett Road near Route 128, the Lincoln/Marrett Road traffic island is more of a small park than an island. It has been transformed radically through the past fifteen years.



In 2005, expanding on the daylilies originally planted by **Frances Gillespie**, volunteers **Dorothy Martin** and the late **Elinor Greenway** added irises, asters, sedums, monarda, echinacea, and balloon flowers.

Under Dorothy's stewardship, another bed was expanded featuring a PJM rhododendron. Huechera, hosta, tiarella, and hakonechloa were added. Unfortunately, most plantings there disappeared thanks to the voracious rabbits! We tried again, inspired by **Bonnie Rosenthal**, with native plants more suited to dryness

and not so susceptible to hungry mouths. In 2017, we put in baptisia, silky dogwood, summer sweet (Clethra), diervilla, more huechera, wild columbine, dicentra, and some of Barbara Shafer's pink mums. This year we added some hellebores and astilbe. They have been mostly rodent free!

We have had a major benefactor in Dean Curtin who lived nearby. He planted two lovely linden trees and a false cypress, and paid to have the grass mowed. We have also been helped by the Sunoco Station and Lexington Dental Associates, who have let us use their water. The DPW has now taken over the mowing.

Mr. Curtin's landscaper donated two Nikko hydrangeas, which we placed in the point garden. We enlarged the area with a tiny wine ninebark, daylilies, gaillardia, buddleia, and weigela. All are flourishing.

In 2012, the main bed, parallel to Marrett Road, was created. We added red knockout roses, peonies, autumn fire sedum, Montauk and Shasta daisies, candytuft, dornicum, heuchera, cosmos, fo-thergilla, daylilies, ruby slipper and white oakleaf hydrangeas, and Pinky Winky hydrangeas.

In 2011, we adopted an island at the intersection of School Street and Marrett Road, formerly maintained by a Girl Scout troop. Over the years we added irises, Russian sage, silver mound artemesia, asters, blue star creeping bellflower, amsonia, and goldenrod. Even in that tiny place, surrounded by hot asphalt, we fought voles, which seem finally to have moved elsewhere.

Those working on the garden include Co-stewards **Judy Minardi** and **Donna Smatlak**, **Dorothy Martin** (who resigned as steward in 2019) and new volunteer **Debra Heaton**. Many have enjoyed the plantings each season.





## An Interesting Read...

Linda Lindell shared this link from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment.

<https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/newsletters/hort-notes/hort-notes-2020-vol-319>



## Another Winter Garden

**Georgia Glick**

Over time, I have improved my backyard for winter viewing from our kitchen window. Against our neighbor's border of Arborvitae, we planted a few Cryptomeria, from the Cyprus family. In front of these are several red twig, and yellow twig dogwood, whose stems are brilliant in the sunlight. However, the major feature is our (now) large female hollies. By adding more males, we increased berry production. Also the bushes provide shelter for small birds.

In the foreground are smaller bushes for color: Dorothy Wykoff Andromeda with winter red buds, and Euonymus Silver King, plus Mugo Pine for form.

Our one ornament is a 14" diameter green glass fishing net float. Finally, we installed birdfeeders.



*Yellow Twig Dogwood with the female Holly behind; at the right, branches of Cryptomeria.*



*Red Twig Dogwood in front of neighbors' Arborvitae.*





## Holiday Homes Decked Out for the Season

Last year, two LFGC elves drove around Lexington, snapping photos of some beautifully decorated homes...have a look!



*Photos selected by Molly Nye and Ashley Rooney. Paul Doherty, photographer.*



## A Legacy from Morning Study Group

The Lexington Field and Garden Club, the oldest garden club in the country, was established in 1876. Morning Study Group (MSG) began in 1929 and joined LFGC in 1934. Members met biweekly, created their own programs, ran community projects, and wrote papers on assigned gardening subjects.


In the 1930s, MSG assembled An Anthology of Garden Poems by favorite authors. One member created watercolors of local flowers. Four of her paintings inspired these gift tags.

A gift tag packet includes 8 tags; 4 designs, 2 of each. Price: \$5. For purchase, contact **Kitty Galaitsis** to arrange a safe pickup or mail transaction.

MORNING STUDY GROUP *of the*  
LEXINGTON FIELD & GARDEN CLUB

**8 Botanical Gift Tags**  
*2 each of 4 designs (gold cord included)*


**\$5**



The image shows four botanical illustrations arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each illustration is enclosed in a thin black border with a small white circle in the top right corner. The top-left illustration depicts two purple orchids with green leaves. The top-right illustration shows two yellow sunflowers with green leaves. The bottom-left illustration features several white flowers with yellow centers and green leaves. The bottom-right illustration is a close-up of a single red flower with a yellow center and green leaves.

MORNING STUDY GROUP *of the*  
LEXINGTON FIELD & GARDEN CLUB

**8 Botanical Gift Tags**  
*2 each of 4 designs*  
*gold cord included*



The image shows two botanical illustrations side-by-side. Each illustration is enclosed in a thin black border with a small white circle in the top right corner. The left illustration depicts two purple orchids with green leaves. The right illustration shows two yellow sunflowers with green leaves.

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## Late Winter and Spring Virtual Garden Happenings

Lexington's Cary Library and LFGC are pleased to present year-round talks on a variety of topics. A reservation is required so you receive the program link. You can register for individual programs by clicking on the Cary Library calendar.

**Mon Jan 11, 7 PM** • Planning for the spring time with **Guy Doran** and **Ashley Rooney**. Getting started with the garden catalogs, learning what the new introductions are all about, answering all those questions.

**Thurs Feb 11, 7 PM** • Learn how to prune and when you need a professional Massachusetts Certified Arborist with Jim Harshbarger and **Ashley Rooney**. Jim's experience covers all aspects of trees and plants, plant health care, fertilization, irrigation, soil, safety and sustainability of landscapes.

**Thurs March 11, 7 PM** • Are you trashing the treasures in your garden? Join Food Link's Shoba Reginald and Ivan Basch along with **Ashley Rooney** for an informative discussion. Forty percent of food produced in the U.S. is wasted. Learn about plant parts that are often wasted, yet make delicious dishes so you can get a lot more out of your garden.

**Thurs Apr 15, 7 PM** • Enjoy a garden tour of a house right here in Lexington. Be inspired by a wealth of horticultural delights with **Janet Erickson** and **Ashley Rooney**. They will take you on a tour of mature gardens with lovely water features, garden ornaments, and incredible flowers. These images will certainly motivate you.

**Thurs May 13, 7PM** • Sow What — Starting Your Vegetable Garden from Seed. Do you struggle to raise seeds successfully? Are you a beginner gardener? Mary Rose Scozzafava, a veteran home gardener and board member of Lexington Community Farm, and **Ashley Rooney** will share tips on how start your vegetable garden from seed and how to avoid common mistakes when starting seeds.



## Holiday Ho Ho Ho's

I wasn't going to visit my family this December, but my mom promised to make me Eggs Benedict.

So I'm going home for the hollandaise.

What did Mrs. Claus say to Santa when there were clouds in the sky?

Looks like rain, deer.

What did one snowman say to the other snowman?

Do you smell carrots?

They say that New York has the best New Year's Eve party.

But I say it's overrated — every year they drop the ball!

What did the cat say on New Year's Eve?

Meow.



## What We're Reading

**Georgia Glick**

*The Kommandant's Girl* by Pam Jenoff

Nineteen-year-old Emma Bau has been married just three weeks when German troops invade her native Poland. Within days her husband Jacob must disappear underground to fight for the Jewish Resistance. Emma assumes the identity of Anna Lipowsky, a gentile, and is hired to be the personal assistant of a high German official based in Krakow. The Resistance persuades her to use this role to access critical information about the occupation. Emma must risk her safety and the sanctity of her marriage vows to help Jacob's cause. This is a riveting story about surviving in desperate conditions during WW II.

### New for 2020!

While spending so much time at home lately, we've certainly been doing a lot of reading! Thanks to all of you who shared book reviews with the membership. In addition to reading, many of us have been watching some wonderful television series, shows and movies. Starting in the January newsletter, we're going to highlight some favorite programs that members have been watching. If you'd like to share a recommendation, please send it to **Ruthanne Igoe** before December 15th. Thank you!



And finally,

**Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Holidays to All!**

