



# 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

What is it they say? March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb? Are you all feeling itchy to get outside, dig in some dirt, and shed your winter coats? In typical New England fashion, we'll probably have a few days of spring and then pop right into summer temperatures! But while we're waiting for warmer days, there are a lot of wonderful LFGC events to look forward to! Our March 11 meeting will show us easy ways to improve our yards and gardens, and on March 15 we will learn all about the history and fascinating story of the Quabbin Reservoir, an event sponsored by LFGC and Cary Memorial Library. Plans and potting are underway for the Plant Sale, one of our biggest yearly fundraisers, held on May 16. Arbor Day, the Annual Luncheon, the field trip to see the amazing landscape at Encore Casino...and of course, all the fun sub-group activities! This club always has so much going on that spring will be here before we know it! And soon we can put down our seed catalogs, take out our rakes and clippers, and get to work!

**Ruthanne Igoe and Ashley Rooney**



## Programs

*Note: we have two programs this month! What a good way to get through March.*

### Principles of Landscape Design for the Home Gardener

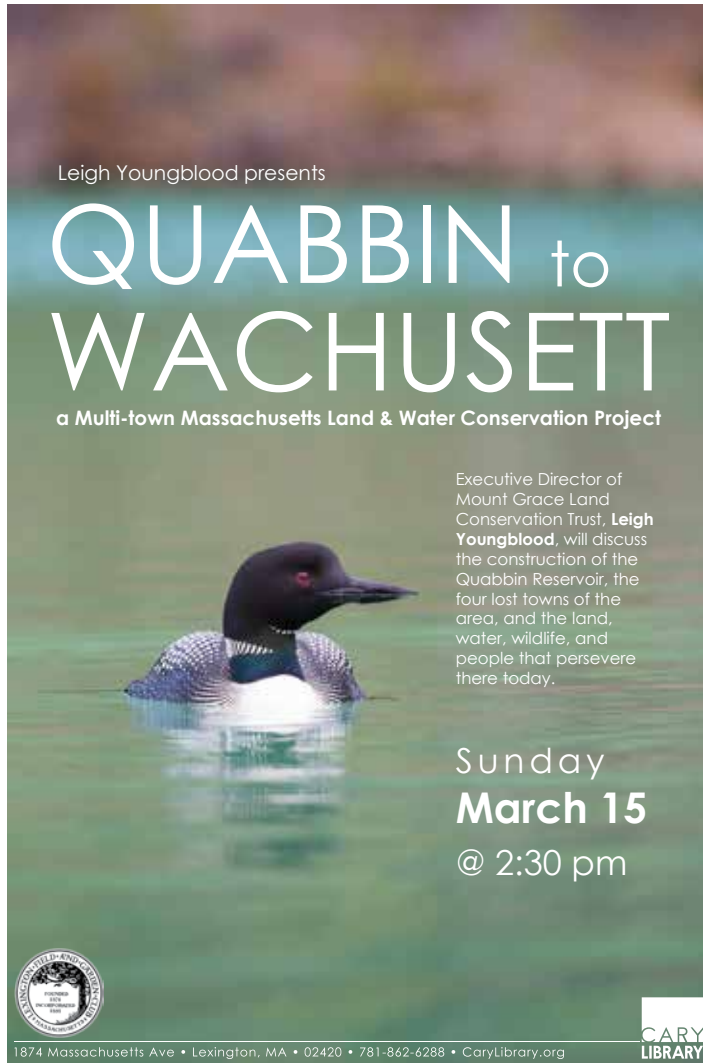
If your home's curb appeal makes a great first impression, everyone — including potential homebuyers — will want to see what's inside. In real estate, an attractive exterior can make or break a home, but a good landscape design can increase the value of your home by at least 5 to 11 percent. The best part is that even though landscaping is one of the most valuable home improvements you can make, it's also one of the easiest.

Gaele McCully, of Mahoney's Nursery in Winchester, a Massachusetts-certified Landscape Designer, will provide a fresh perspective on how to enhance the appeal of your property by selecting the appropriate shrubs, trees, plants, and flowers.

The open meeting is held at the Depot, 13 Depot Square, on Wednesday, March 11. Social time is at 9:30; the meeting begins at 10 AM.

## From Quabbin to Wachusett

The Quabbin Reservoir, the largest inland body of water in Massachusetts, was built between 1930 and 1939. Today, along with the Wachusett Reservoir, it is the primary water supply for Boston, some 65 miles to the east, as well as 40 other communities in Greater Boston.



Leigh Youngblood presents

# QUABBIN to WACHUSETT

a Multi-town Massachusetts Land & Water Conservation Project

Executive Director of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, **Leigh Youngblood**, will discuss the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir, the four lost towns of the area, and the land, water, wildlife, and people that persevere there today.

Sunday  
**March 15**  
@ 2:30 pm

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CARY LIBRARY

Executive Director of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Leigh Youngblood, will discuss the construction of the reservoir and the four lost towns it created. The immense project scope required relocating all those people, their homes, businesses, and the 7,613 bodies from local cemeteries.

The program will be on Sunday, March 15 at 2:30 PM in the large meeting room of Cary Library.



## Subgroup Programs for March

**Monday Evening Group, March 23.** Flower Design

**Morning Study Group, March 10.** Christchurch Botanic Gardens

**Garden Party, March 17.** Class at Formaggio Kitchen

**Wednesday Workshop, March 18.** Rock Painting Workshop

**Thursday Evening Group, March 12.** Creating Crepe Paper Blooms

Please contact the subgroup chair if you are interested in attending a program. Email addresses are in your Yearbook.

## Open Board Meeting

Want to know how the Garden Club works? Interested in being on the board? Please feel free to attend our open board meeting on March 4 in Room 230-232 at the Community Center. Bring your own coffee cup.

## Save the Date

### April 3 Celebrate Youth

On Wednesday, April 3, 11 AM, we are awarding a scholarship to a student majoring in horticulture and landscape design at Minutemen Technical High School. We will have a tour of the new high school, followed by a self-paid luncheon in the District Restaurant (cost will be \$8.95; the bakery is also fantastic). If you are interested in attending, please contact **Linda Lindell**. We will need names of those having lunch by March 27. Security will need the list for your entrance to building.

## We Contributed \$65.00 to the Penny Pines Program!

At our February meeting, members generously put their spare change and a bunch of bills in the collection bag that was passed around to help support the Penny Pines Program. The National Garden Club and the USDA Forest Service have joined together to help sustain our national and urban forests that have been damaged or destroyed by fire or other catastrophes. They work to replant replacement trees indigenous to the specified areas that are in need. Thank you LFGC for supporting this important program!

## April 24 Arbor Day, 11 AM, at the Community Center

All states have an official Arbor Day, usually at a time of year that has the best weather conditions for planting trees. Here in Lexington, the Garden Club and DPW holds an annual tree-planting ceremony to create community awareness and to honor the memory of those club members who passed way during the year. We also describe our works in school and enjoy some music in this poignant ceremony.

## Join Us for Art A-Blooming! 2020



An artful mix of talents of LexArt (LACS) and LFGC. It's a unique display of art with dramatic floral interpretations.

Enjoy the freedom of creative floral expression with no judging. Signups for the arrangers will take place at the March and April monthly LFGC meetings or by contacting **Kathy Leva**.

### Event dates:

**Monday May 4 from 2-5 PM** — LFGC members choose a piece of artwork created by LACS members to interpret with flowers.

**Thursday, September 24, 11-1**, set-up for the show.

**Thursday September 24, 7-9 PM**, arranger, artists, friends, and family reception.

Open to the public **Sept 25, Sept 26, Sept 27, 11-4 PM** each day. Free admission and parking.

**Pickup and take down after 4 PM Sept. 27.**

## **“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!”**

Yes, Ladies and Gents, it is time for the Plant Sale, Saturday May 16th! We would like to invite you to our “potting days” in preparation for the sale. The *tentative* schedule is as follows at the DPW Salt Shed behind the Main DPW, 201 Bedford St., Lexington. Pull up to the gate and push the intercom button. When asked, say, “I’m with the Garden Club,” and they will open the gate. We hope to have the final schedule by March 12th, and will have sign-up sheets at the evening Garden Club meeting on April 15th, or you may e-mail **Donna Moultrup**. It is REALLY helpful to know how many people are coming, but if your schedule opens up unexpectedly, join us anytime.

**Tentative Set-up: Tuesday, April 28, 10 AM** until finished; those who can, should meet at the Hosmer House next to the Lexington Police Station at 9 AM to pack up supplies. Vans and pick-up trucks are most welcome.

### **Tentative Potting Schedule:**

**Potting Day #1, Wednesday, April 29, 9 to 11:30 AM and 11:30 AM to 2 PM**

**Potting Day #2, Thursday, April 30, same times as Day #1**

**Potting Day #3, Friday, May 1, same times**

**Potting Day #4, Monday, May 4, same times**

**Potting Day #5, Wednesday, May 6, same times**

**Potting Day #6, Friday, May 8, same times**

**Orientation for new potters** will happen at both **9 AM** and **11:30 AM each day**.

Potters should bring a trowel, clippers, sturdy gloves, and water bottle, all well labeled. Drive up to the gate and press the button and talk into the speaker saying you are with the Garden Club. Then wait for gate to open. When leaving, one should pull car up close to the gate and wait for it to open.

**Do you have plants to share?** Bring to the Salt Shed during potting times or put in a plastic bag with a little water and deliver to the front porch of 10 Lockwood Rd., Lexington. NOTHING can be left at the DPW except during the potting sessions above. Please make sure all plant material is well labeled with as much identifying information as possible.

**Do you have plants to share, but cannot dig them yourself?** Contact **Georgia Glick**, the Plant Collection Chair.

**Do you have plastic pots to share?** We prefer green and black, 6 to 10 inches in diameter, with no logo or graphics on them. You can bring them to the next monthly meeting at the Depot; to the DPW during the potting schedule above; or to the front porch of 10 Lockwood Rd. Thank you for supporting our recycling.

**THANKS SO MUCH!!!**





*Potters in the DPW Salt Shed*



## Our Annual Lunch

**Do you have your ticket for the Annual Lunch?** This one is Inspired by Monet. The food is fantastic, the company scintillating, and the ambience marvelous. The date is Wednesday, May 13, after our annual meeting and presentation on Flower Arranging by the renowned Marisa McCoy.

The catered luncheon will be at St. Brigid's Church and will cost \$22. The board has embraced sustainability and no disposable products will be used. Each board member will be providing place settings for a designated table.

Sign up online ([www.LexGardenClub.org](http://www.LexGardenClub.org)) or give your check to **Kathy Leva** at the March or April meeting.



## Help Wanted!

Events Chair **Kathy Leva** is looking for a few more people to add to her committee to help out with the Annual Luncheon on May 13. People are needed to help set-up and then clean up afterwards, as well as be on hand that day to make sure all goes smoothly! Please contact **Kathy** to join this fun group of workers!

## Feeling Crafty?



**Christina Gamota** has held her first “Williamsburg” workshop and will be holding another one in April. If interested, contact **Christina**.



*Our Valentine's Day hostess with friends*



*Bridget made a chocolate fondue!*



*When we aren't gardening, we have fun with friends.*

## Past Presidents of the Lexington Field & Garden Club were honored at the February 12 meeting.



*Back row (l-r) Ann Webster, Sue Spicer, Joan Farr, Harriet Hathaway, Anne Lee.  
Front row (l-r) Julia Francis, Mary Nokes, Lillian Cohen, Nancy Hubert, Kris Burton.  
Absent: Joanne Fray and Joanne Plank.*



### April 30 Membership Renewal

Spring is on its way and it is now time to renew your membership. Please be sure to pay your dues before the final deadline of April 30 in order to be included in the Yearbook and receive a copy of it. As a result of careful stewardship of the club money, we can keep our membership dues at last year's level: Single membership \$25; Dual membership (couple at the same address) \$35. If you haven't already, we encourage you to include your spouse or partner in a dual membership for an additional \$10!

#### **Please do two things:**

**A. Update Your Information:** In your email for renewal, you will find a blue link. Click on it and it will take you directly to your individual page. Review the information we have on file for you and make any corrections. We've updated the areas of interest. Perhaps you've developed new interests and need to let us know! If you need to change any of it, simply overwrite the information you see in the fields needing correction. Be sure to click on **submit** when you are done, even if you did not make any changes, so that we know the record has been processed.

AND

#### **B. Make Payment**

**Either electronically:** Go to the [LexGardenClub.org](http://LexGardenClub.org) website and click on the **Renewing Members** page. Click the Paypal button to make your payment. (This is the preferred option since it simplifies administration work.)

**Or by check:** Make check payable to LFGC, and drop in Membership box on the membership table at the March or April meeting, or mail to LFGC Membership, PO Box 133, Lexington, MA 02420.





*Membership in LFGC is a prerequisite for membership in sub-groups.*

## Horticulture Help









March is a guessing game in the garden. Will it snow like it did two years ago or will it warm up? Will it be sufficiently warm so you can prepare your flower beds, prune shrubs, and generally tidy up the garden?

If you are like me, you are impatient to get going. Here are some things to do while you wait:

### Inside

-  March is a perfect time to give houseplants a new lease on life by transplanting them into a larger pot with fresh soil, especially if you see roots coming out of the pot's drainage holes. If the roots are growing in a tight ball, loosen them to encourage new growth. March is also a good time to prune houseplants that might have grown leggy over the winter. Pruning will also encourage new, more compact growth.
-  Cut branches from some spring-blooming trees and shrubs such as dogwood, forsythia, pussy willow, and quince and place in containers of warm water in the sun. In several weeks, they will be blooming.
-  Start seeds of warm-season vegetables and flowers indoors. In many areas of Massachusetts, the last frost date is usually around May 15. Count back the number of weeks from when they should be transplanted into the garden. That will tell you when to start your seeds indoors. Seeds of root crops should be sown directly into the garden.
-  Clean up and sharpen garden tools and inventory your supplies for the upcoming season.

### Outside

-  Avoid walking on wet soil in the garden. The soil can be wetter this time of year than during the deep winter months, and you can compact the soil by walking on it. That can result in poor root penetration, poor drainage, and lack of necessary air space between plants.
-  Get your soil tested. Buy a kit or send it to UMASS ([ag.umass.edu](http://ag.umass.edu) > services > soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory). Test results provide you with soil nutrient levels and fertilizer recommendations when needed.
-  Pick a warm day and turn your compost pile. Late March is soil- building month. Whenever it is dry enough, work compost into your vegetable and flowerbeds.
-  Replace plant crowns that the frost may have heaved out of the soil.
-  Remove mulch with a plastic leaf rake as the soil warms up. Metal garden rakes with sharp tongs can rip tender foliage from emerging plants.
-  Do not uncover your roses until the danger of freezing and thawing has passed. A good rule of thumb is to do it when the forsythia blooms. Remove all dead, damaged, and diseased rose canes, crossing branches, and thin the plant so the bush is open and ready to accommodate new growth.
-  Prune evergreen shrubs, such as juniper and yew, in late March or early April before new growth begins. Light pruning may also be done in mid-summer. Avoid pruning evergreen shrubs in the fall
-  Fertilize trees past their first year in the ground this month with time-released fertilizer or fertilizer stakes.





## Bee News

### Help the Bees



In an article entitled “Want to Help the Bees? Leave the Dandelions Alone” by Andy Corbley, Jane Memmott, the new president of the British Ecological Society reminded everyone that working to live in harmony with nature can be as simple as keeping your lawn pollinator-friendly.

Memmott explains a few general rules for planting pollinators—namely that one should “learn to love weeds,” and avoid planting too many pom-pom-shaped flowers that focus too much energy into petal production and not enough into producing nectar and pollen.

She says that any plant with nectar and pollen parts that you can see without pulling back the petals means that pollinators can see—and use them—too.

Pesticides are extremely harmful to bee health. They negatively impact bees’ physiological functions and their ability to forage for honey. Any amount of reduction in pesticide use is a step in the right direction.

### More Bee News

#### Katharine Galaitsis

The New York City Police Department has a beekeeping unit. The unit rescues or removes bee swarms that settle in unlikely spots or in places that disturb humans. Recently, the unit removed 25,000 bees at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal. Another time a bee swarm was removed from center field in Yankee Stadium. The bee officer from the 104<sup>th</sup> precinct took the Staten Island Ferry bees to his own beehive on top of his precinct building where he houses 30,000 bees. This is only precinct in the city with its own beehive. Good for him.



The giant Asian hornet has been seen in Washington state and British Columbia. It is thought to have arrived somehow on a ship from Asia. Although not hostile towards humans, their stingers are 6 millimeters long and can inflict considerable pain. They can be identified by their yellow heads, are nearly 2 inches long and have a wingspan of 3 inches. These hornets feed on insects and are bees’ worst nightmare. They can destroy an entire hive. Bees in Asia have developed a defense; if a hornet gets into a nest, it is mobbed by the bees and killed by the bees’ collective body heat. Let’s hope that Washington and B.C. are successful in eradicating them — and that the hornets never come here!

### Other News



GCFM President **Bonnie Rosenthal**’s Project is her *Native Plant Challenge*! In support of this goal, the Landscape Design Council is pleased to present a lecture “Designing with Native Plants” by Landscape Architect Amanda Sloan. The lecture will take place on Thursday, March 26 at 10:30 AM at Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Parkman Room, 900 Washington Street, Wellesley. Light refreshments will precede the lecture.

This lecture is open to all and is only \$15! Mail your check, payable to GCFM, to Mary Nokes, 35 Woodpark Circle, Lexington 02421. Write Native Plant lecture in the memo line and include your email address. Registration deadline is March 21.