



# Lexington Field & Garden Club

144 Years of Making Lexington More Beautiful

Member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

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Dear Members,

Here, I thought I would give my farewell speech to many friends and then we would have a wonderful lunch, but life has changed — just like our garden club has in these past three years. So let us celebrate the designers, planters, potters, builders, diggers, thinkers, givers, creators, fearless risk takers, and steadfast believers who have made our Garden Club great.

And, personally, I think it is stronger, happier, and a better place to be.

We have a new meeting place — the Depot — and thus more money in our bank account. We have a money market account and a solid bank account thanks to our hard working treasurer, Leslie Sargis and the advice of former presidents and Nancy Hubert. Two years ago we were feeling poverty stricken; thanks to Leslie's financial acumen and some great fundraisers we are in much better shape.

We have had some wonderful programs and developed a way to involve all the smaller clubs in planning for these programs — thanks to two Vice Presidents, Georgia Glick and Marilyn Ryniewicz, and to those who came to their meetings.

Jan Avallone, the head of Nominating, carefully paved the way to our new Executive board. Thanks to Molly Nye and then Jane Halverson, we have maintained our records, which get kept in the Library Archives under Mary Bicknell's supervision. We have a place to store our stuff — Hosmer House — and a property manager — Ethel Ollin — who keeps it ever so orderly. We have designed several small garden spaces in town — the raised Sensory Gardens at the Community Center thanks to Donna Moulthrop; the Library and Hartwell Composting Facility — thanks to Betsey Weiss; and a restoration of Munroe Tavern — thanks to Holly Samuels and Jeff Limerick. And let's not forget Ann Webster and Jane Halverson, who step up at every Holiday Greens Party and Anne and Mary Beth Whiteside who are always present at Arbor Day.

We have had several socials and a thriving Membership committee under Bridget Galdes and Marilyn Rudick. We have established a coherent and attractive public image — thanks to Donna Dennison and Anne Lee. Donna makes our newsletters ever so attractive; Anne has fine-tuned and now maintains our website, revises my sentences, and was a co-president for the first year. We see partnering as a way to reinforce our presence and broaden our appeal — a win-win! We worked with the Lexington Historical Society on the Munroe Tavern grounds and to cosponsor a presentation on herbs; with Cary Memorial Library to sponsor several well-attended presentations; with the Community Center to build a sensory garden on a grant; and with the DPW — thanks to Meg Himmel and Karen Boudreau and all those Civic Gardeners - in beautifying Lexington.

Last year we created a Director of Events; previously, it was Ruthanne Igoe; this year it has been Kathy Leva, who has helped in planning and implementing such events as backyard socials, art a blooming, and local tours.



We had a wonderful Garden Club tour after a long hiatus and are planning a new Home for the Holidays for 2020 — thanks to Regina Sutton. And although she wasn't the official chair, Meg Himmel watches over the Plant Sale and ensures that all goes well.

We have become a more caring community. We are giving to others, helping others, and learning to speak the truth in love rather than just criticizing. And I believe that my dear friends Ruthanne Igoe and Bridget Galdes are just the people to take us into the future.

My wish for the club is that we would continue to grow in our mission and make a difference within and beyond ourselves.

It has been a pleasure to serve. Meanwhile please keep safe in these difficult times.

With love

**Ashley**



Dear LFGC Members:

In a few weeks, you'll be receiving an email asking you to vote on candidates for our open positions on the Executive Board. This vote would have taken place at our regular May meeting, but due to the quarantine, this will not be possible. Those who do not use a computer will receive a ballot in the mail. We will provide thorough instructions. We thank the Nominating Committee, under the leadership of **Jan Avallone**, for putting together this wonderful and qualified slate of candidates.

Our current Executive board is:

**Co-President** Ruthanne Igoe and Ashley Rooney\*

**Vice President** Marilyn Ryngiewicz

**Treasurer** Leslie Sargis\*

**Recording Secretary** Jane Halverson

**Corresponding Secretary** Georgia Glick

**Membership Cochairs** Bridget Galdes\* and Marilyn Rudick\*

Those who are marked with the asterick will be retiring after their dedicated service and commitment.

The Nominating Committee has put forth this slate for the remaining positions, as announced at our March meeting (3/11/2020):

**Co-President** Bridget Galdes

**Treasurer** Miranda Cohen

**Membership Co-Chairs** Susan Cass and Marlene Stone

Thank you everyone and stay well,

**Ruthanne Igoe and Ashley Rooney**



*Our Potting Chairs were all set, but along came the pandemic.*



## Plants for Sale

We may not be holding our 88<sup>th</sup> Plant Sale, but **Donna Moulthrop** and **Ashley Rooney** do have some plants intended for it that are looking for new homes. We can only take cash or a check to the Lexington Field & Garden Club or you use our Paypal donation on our website. Yes, tell your friends. Prices range from \$5–10.

### At Ashley's

Please call or email to see them.

- 7 Dahlias — Far into the fall, your dahlias will be full of extraordinary blossoms
- 8 Cannas — Flamboyant tall beauties that bloom all summer -
- Hyperion yellow lilies — originally from Seawright. 36–40" yellow fragrant
- Hostas small
- Sweet woodruff
- Pink Veronica
- 2 Liatris spicata
- 1 Pink soapwort
- 1 Nepeta
- 3 Pink, white, and red Dwarf Dianthus: (8" tall; different colored flowers on one plant) — \$5
- 8 Creeping Jenny — great undercover for plants — \$5
- Japanese fern — large — \$8

### At Donna Moulthrop's

Please call or e-mail for an appointment to view and purchase the plants below.

Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, 2 to 5 PM, Starting May 3 until plants are gone. Prices between \$5 and \$8 each. Houseplants and Blue Baptisia will be less. Please bring small bills so there is no money exchange; money goes straight into an envelope.

### Shade/Part Sun:

- 13 Astilbe, pink, white, red, dark pink, one unknown
- 1 Hosta — green leaves with white edges
- 3 Ferns — might be Lady Ferns
- 6 Dicentra — Modern Bleeding Hearts — pink flowers
- 7 Japanese Painted Ferns

### Sun-Loving:

- 2 Scabiosa Blue — blue to lavender pincushion type flowers
- 2 Evening Primrose — yellow flowers (probably more than 2)
- 1 Geranium of unknown color
- 4 Diatolavi — blue flower — blooms late in the season - spreads nicely
- 9 Sarah Barnhart light pink peonies
- 2 Yellow/Orange star-like flower Daylillies — really spectacular flowers
- 8 Coreopsis Grandiflora — yellow flowers loved by Goldfinches (probably more than 8)
- 11 Daisies — usual white flowers, spread easily — good for naturalizing
- 18 Blue Baptisia— raised from seed, quite small, will grow to be 3 feet high, blue flowers

### Houseplants:

- 2 Aloe
- 5 succulents



## Togetherness Takes Many Forms

With all this social distancing, we can do gardening work in our masked capacity. Peter Mackie was raking the pebbles out of Munroe's lawn yesterday while Mary weeded. Meg and Jon Himmel and Karen and Bob Boudreau dug compost at Hartwell and spread it at the Community Center.



***Peter Lund and Jim Jones before we dug up Jim's hellebores for Emery Park and some of the civic islands.***



***Meg Himmel spreading compost at the Community Center.***

## Civic Gardening is Looking Ahead...

We are missing our fun get-togethers working to clean up and beautify Lexington's public spaces... and we're thinking ahead to the times we can get back out there, enjoying the sunshine and camaraderie. Would you like to be part of a designated island squad? Are you already involved but want to expand that involvement? Are you available for periodic workdays? How about providing some refreshments for our hard-working crews? Please be thinking about all the ways you can help. Civic Gardening provides education, new ideas, and a way to gather with new and old friends!

A survey will soon go out asking about your interest in participating in this endeavor. And, **Karen Boudreau** and **Meg Himmel** are always available to answer questions. Hope to see you all soon... in the meantime, stay well!



## 2/3 of the Club Has Subscribed, Have You?

We will meet again; we will plant, weed, prune, picnic and enjoy the company of each other. Please send your membership check to Bridget Galdes (see address below).

- A. 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. 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 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 mail to LFGC Membership, PO Box 133, Lexington, MA 02420. Membership in LFGC is a prerequisite for membership in the sub groups.



## Annual Minuteman Scholarship

**Linda Lindell**

Our annual Minuteman High School Landscape Management Scholarship is given to a deserving student with interests in the Horticultural Field. This year the committee voted to give \$1,000 to Charles Lovett. He has devoted his time managing Greenhouses and working in Plant Sciences for the last 4 years. His co-op job as a Greenhouse assistant and Groundskeeper at Newton Cemetery has brought him much experience in management and operation of various machinery. His goal is to spend many hours maintaining healthy plants and beautification of the lawns. This scholarship will assist him in a career in Horticultural Industry.

Congratulations Charles Lovett... We wish you the best in your future endeavors...

## Horticultural Happenings

### Splish-Splash

I believe in water gardens. Not only do they delight our sensibilities with the colorful plant and insect life, they invite daydreaming and musing about life and love and happiness.

Many install a water garden for effect. Others want to create a natural focal point. I may visualize iridescent koi and brilliant pond lilies, but I am just as happy with the frog with its croaks, the shining dragonflies and swooping birds.

A water garden is a fluid piece of sculpture with changing moods and sounds just waiting to be enjoyed. A water garden is not difficult. It is not expensive. It consumes some of that lawn that you would regularly mow. It attracts birds and other wildlife.

And it is easy to install — a perfect solution for cabin fever during the pandemic. If you have done your planning, a water garden is a one-day job, and you can enjoy pattering with it for years.

### Siting

A water garden should blend easily into the surroundings yet be visible enough to be enjoyed. Most experts recommend a level site that receives 6–10 hours of full sun. The more sunlight, the more your water plants will grow.

On the other hand, small gardens (i.e., containing less than 100 gallons of water) do best if provided with light shade during the hottest part of the day. Most fish appreciate a shady area in which to shelter.

In designing your site, consider where your electrical connection for the pump and/or any lights will be. Although you may not install a pump in the beginning, you are sure to want one eventually when you add that cascading waterfall or night lighting.

To prevent problems, do not place a water garden in a low-lying area or near driveway/roof run-off flows. If you place it somewhat away from deciduous trees, you will have less mess.

### Designing

You have several options in designing your water garden. A natural-looking water garden should have sloped sides with planting terraces that step down toward the deepest area of the pond. That way you can plant several plants material and create different habitats.

The easiest one is to use pre-formed, polyethylene plastic or fiberglass pools, which can be obtained in many different shapes and sizes. Another choice would be to create a pond, using a versatile and flexible rubber liner. The third would be to construct one from concrete.



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To design a free-form pond, use a garden hose and move it around until you have a natural-looking shape. Ponds and water gardens are better when they appear as natural as possible.

The one exception is when they are located in a formal garden where geometric lines might work best.

You need to provide adequate depth to protect fish and plants in winter. The USDA says 18 inches is good in hardiness zone 6. Having frozen several frogs and many fish over the years, I now wish I had dug 24 inches deep in the beginning.

In developing your design, remember you have to remove the fill and put it somewhere. This is the time to invite your strong, strapping children or grandchildren for a little afternoon digging.

Even a small pond can generate several dozen wheelbarrow loads, which, in turn, can be used to build raised-bed gardens or a sloped berm around the pool. Building one area higher than the other may give you a waterfall, say, and a place to conceal the cables, pipes, etc., that make the pond function.

Your excavation must not have any stones, roots or other objects that could pierce the liner under the weight of the water. You can use any such objects to build a coping around the pond. Before installing your liner, pad the pond bottom with roofing felt or two inches of sand to protect the liner.

## Pumping and Filtering

To enjoy the sound and motion of flowing water (and remember that moving water means clearer water which means reflections of the sky), you need a pump. Choose the pump according to your need.



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A statue or fountain requires less water flow than a waterfall. Once you install the initial pump, you can always upgrade it.

Filters require frequent cleaning. They are most useful when you have a lot of well-fed fish or too few plants. Some water gardeners say you just need to get the right type of floating plants to keep the pool clean.

Normal maintenance consists of removing yellowing leaves and spent flowers once a week. A pond skimmer can help to capture leaves and other floating debris before it settles.

## Stocking

Plants establish the conditions necessary for the control of algae and the health of the fish. By shading the water from above and within the pond, they help to control the water temperature.

Water gardens should include floating plants, submerged plants and edge plants. *Floating plants* such as hardy water lilies shade the water and absorb dissolved nutrients. By doing so, they help to suppress algae and keep the pond clean. *Submerged plants or oxygenators* grow beneath the surface of the water, competing with algae and keeping the water clear by consuming dissolved nutrients. *Edge plants*, such as Japanese water iris, grow on a “shelf” 5 to 10 inches below the surface of the water or in the moist soil next to the pond, providing shelter plant life. They also can provide drama and height.

Fish need to wait for the water to age (just like fine wine), which is about four weeks. As a general rule you should have no more than one goldfish per 3 square feet of surface area of pond or one guppy per gallon in a tub. (With an active filtration and aeration system, the number can be much higher.) Plants provide the necessary bacteria and conditions to eliminate the pond of fish waste. Failure to put the plants in first may result in fish illness and loss.

Finally, you might want to procure some comfortable lounge chairs. You might as well be comfortable as you enjoy your new garden.



## Lexington Happenings

Don't forget to applaud the health care workers, first responders, doctors, nurses, grocery store employees, truck drivers and many more who are working on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic on Friday night at 7 PM.



**Regina Sutton** is looking for cotton fabric to make masks, which are being donated to nursing homes, hospitals, clinics, Pine St Inn, Rosie's Place, etc. Any cotton fabric will do including old sheets and pillowcases. If you have anything you would like to donate, put the material in a bag (with Regina's name on it) and leave it on your front porch or front steps. Send her an email when it is ready for pickup.



This past week the Food Pantry (Church of Our Redeemer, 6 Meriam St) served 67 families, representing over 200 people. Over the last weeks, they have almost 50 new families. Currently, it is in desperate need of vegetarian soup and tuna. It also needs clean paper bags as we are not bringing the client's reusable bags into the Pantry. Donations can be dropped off in the Stop and Shop or in the shiny new storage shed by the Meeting room door. Monetary donations can be mailed to Lexington Food Pantry, P O Box 635, Lexington, MA 02420 or electronically on our website <https://www.lexingtonfoodpantry.org>.



Lexington Remembers WWII wishes to honor our WWII vets. Do you have any information, photos or other "treasures" about WWII veterans who lived in Lexington? The group is compiling an eAlbum and files. For more info, contact [WWTWOLexington@gmail.com](mailto:WWTWOLexington@gmail.com). This May, the Interfaith Garden will open up as an example of a Victory Garden.



## Other News

Flower-lovers can now enjoy the Netherlands' amazing tulips online. Keukenhof is sharing a series of videos online showing what its famous tulip gardens look like this year: <https://apple.news/AeVV2A1rJSseGVUlyyQxtXA>





*Donna Moulthrop's Double-Bloodroot from last year's Garden Club sale next to the fairy door that her granddaughter gave her. The fairies move often so they are always near the prettiest blooming flowers.*



## Learn How to Make Your Garden a Haven for Pollinators!

It is exciting to watch as interest in landscaping for pollinators becomes more widespread. But not all resources that purport to teach people about pollinator gardens are created equal. The **Best Books** page on <https://grownativemass.org> recommends the best print resources on all aspects of ecology and landscaping. As spring arrives and many of us find ourselves with a bit more time to read here are some of the Federation's favorite guides to pollinators and gardening with pollinators in mind. Enjoy!



## LFGC Zooms with the Library

We have one quick program on how to start a vegetable garden <https://youtu.be/oNpPPDXPT0> and have been asked to do a second on Container Gardening.

<https://www.libraryinsight.com/eventdetails.asp?jx=gxp&lmx=%CF%60b%24%A8%ADr&v=3>