



# 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

Hello Everyone and Welcome,

I am your new co-president and I very much look forward to serving you over the next two years. It was a wonderful summer this year, highlighted by the wedding of my only child, Marisa. The wedding was at Fruitlands Museum, in Harvard, and I recommend this gorgeous location as a place to visit for its spectacular scenery and mountain views. Fruitlands is part of The Trustees of Reservations.

This morning I enjoyed my typical "weeding meditation" in my small garden in Lexington. It is a lovely way to start almost every day. Today was a special September day to still see flowers blooming in our garden—hydrangea, anemone, heliopsis, turtleheads, tall phlox, asters, and many more.

This afternoon our Monday Evening sub-group visited Cochato Nurseries in Holbrook. It is a very special place with beautiful pools, waterfalls and a breathtaking number of private gardens to enjoy. We gave the owners of Cochato a few presents from the HerbFest event that was held on September 12, including some lavender and the beautiful aprons made by Claire Bertucci.

Last week, LFGC had its first meeting of the season on Zoom and we enjoyed a lovely presentation on roses from **Teresa Mosher**. I have already used some of the tips in my garden. Looking forward to the fall, I am excited about doing a number of civic gardening days. It is a great opportunity in late October and early November to learn more about gardening from other

friendly and more expert gardeners. I also am pleased about the thoughts that are percolating on fairy houses, and encourage all of you to gather bright red and yellow leaves and seed pods that can be used for future fairy house events.

Enjoy this fabulous weather in New England and hope to see you soon . . . on Zoom or in a beautiful garden.

Warmest regards,

**Marlene Stone**

Co-President



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

**Our next meeting, on Wednesday, October 13, will be held on Zoom!**

Caring for Your Perennial Garden with **Jacqueline M. Clark**

Social time at 9:30 AM

Meeting and program begin at 10:00 AM

A Zoom invite email will be sent to members that week.



## Lexington Field and Garden Club Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2021 • Via Zoom

**Ruthanne Igoe**, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 10:00.

49 people attended the meeting.

### Announcements

- Guests were welcomed.
- Apologies were made for LFGC Yearbook errors and omissions.
- The October 13 meeting will be via Zoom. Announcements will be made regarding future meetings.
- Grants for Gardeners deadline for applications is today.
- The HerbFest on September 12 was a large success; there were many visitors at all three sites.
- There are several interesting programs offered by GCFM. Check their website.
- Many LFGC volunteer opportunities are available.
- **Ruthanne Igoe** will host a picnic at her home on Tuesday, September 21.

### Announcements from Ashley Rooney:

- There will be an exhibition of Fairy Houses June 6-10, 2022, sponsored by several Lexington organizations including LFGC.
- In 2025 there will be a Lexington Town Celebration, Rev250, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Revolution; LFGC will participate.

**Marilyn Ryngiewicz** introduced **Nancy Trautman**, LFGC member and a steward at the Munroe Tavern Antique Rose Garden. She showed slides of the roses and explained the necessary upkeep to maintain the gardens.

The featured speaker was Teresa Mosher, past president of the New England Rose Society. Teresa's slide show, Easy Rose Care, included suggestions for choosing, planting, fertilizing, winterizing, and pruning roses. Questions followed. Handouts are available on the September 15 LFGC Zoom invitation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jane Halverson**

Recording Secretary

## HerbFest 2021 — A Spectacular Success!



Over six months of hard work and over fifty volunteers resulted in the Lexington Historical Society and Lexington Field and Garden Club's joint event — HerbFest! Hours spent planning, organizing, sharing, creating...the list goes on and on. There were music, demonstrations, and amazing, beautiful, one-of-a-kind things to buy. There was a sense of camaraderie and happiness in the air as people visited, learned, and shopped throughout the town and our three historic houses. The newly-restored Buckman Tavern Garden, recreated by **Carla Fortmann** and **Elaine Doran** was dedicated in a lovely ceremony as the Helen Noyes Webster and Mary Milligan Memorial

Herb Garden. And over \$1,500 was raised, to be split between LFGC and LHS! This was a community event and there are many people to thank, but notables include **Christina Gamota, Anne Lee, Claire Bertucci, Carla Fortmann, Elaine Doran, Leslie Masson, and Gail Harris**. We are so fortunate to have these members and townspeople generously contribute so much. Thank you, all!



## Civic Gardening Work Days

The lovely gardens on Lexington's traffic islands, and at our historic and civic sites are the work of a dedicated group of civic gardeners who work through three seasons to keep the gardens looking their best. These gardeners need your help in putting the gardens to bed in the fall, renovating them again after winter, and maintaining them throughout the summer.

Work days are a great way to help out with this important Garden Club mission. If you want to participate in club activities, but don't have much time, try a work day—it could take as little as 2 hours once a season! If you are new to the Garden Club, work days are a great, informal way to meet other members. If you are new to gardening, work days are a great way to learn about putting a garden to bed or opening one in the spring.

Work days are generally 2 hours once a season, divided between weekend and weekdays. Fall work days are being planned for two days at the end of October and two days in the middle of November. If you are interested, email or call **Judy Minardi**, civic gardening committee member. Judy will provide more information about date, time and place.

Remember, as **Chris Kochanski**, one of our stewards and a gardener extraordinaire, wrote in a newsletter last spring, "a beautiful garden gives pleasure to all who view it. As garden club members we have an opportunity to contribute to the beauty of the town in which we live."



## Civic Gardening

By Sara Moorman

When my husband and I moved to Lexington in summer 2016, we rented a house. Our landlord hired a landscaper who came every Monday morning at 7:00 and who used an electric trimmer to cut the yew bushes into perfect spheres. I got involved with civic gardening to have some dirt to dig in! I tried never to miss a workday, and I got to get covered in the dirt of the Cary Library, the community center, and various traffic islands. Club members thought it was funny that I like to weed, but I do love it. There's no way to get your aggressions out like pulling crab grass up by the roots!

At the time, **Meg Himmel** and **Karen Boudreau** needed someone to take care of the island at Mass Ave. and Woburn St., which was just a block from my house. So that was my adopted garden for a couple of years and I enjoyed working there with **Ethel Ollin**. I learned to identify a lot of plants by sight, which made my mother proud. An avid gardener, she had given up on me as a hopeless case. I also managed to incur a high ankle sprain — a sort of injury that usually happens in the course of high impact running sports like football and soccer — by trying to hop over an echinacea, a feat which impressed my doctor.



When my husband and I bought a house in Arlington, I transferred my attentions to helping **Shelly Henderson** at the traffic island at Lowell and Summer streets. I find that when I'm working on an island, passersby want to talk. The California poppies are a popular topic at the Lowell and Summer island. This spring, a man rolled up to the stop sign in a giant pickup truck, talking on his cell phone. He put the caller on hold and held up traffic to ask me about the poppies. I'm sure the police department is thankful for our services in keeping Lexington's roads safe!

Another passerby once told me that the best people in town are the civic gardening ladies and the book sale ladies at the library. Since I have had both of those volunteer roles, I must be especially virtuous!



## News from the Burlington Garden Club



### Plant Auction

#### *Fabulous Perennials & Houseplants*

Saturday, October 2 • 11:00 AM Preview / 11:15 AM Auction

St Margaret's Church Hall, 111 Winn St, Burlington

For more information – visit [burlingtongardenclub.com](http://burlingtongardenclub.com)

## Wondrous Fairy Homes and Gardens Event Next Spring!

We all know fairies exist, but did you know there's a worldwide interest in creating homes and gardens for them? Fairy houses are small, whimsical outdoor dwellings for fairies to live in, ranging from simple houses made from natural materials to elaborate mansions made of metal or resin. At several museums and botanical gardens, visitors of all ages have been encouraged to build fairy dwellings and the results are as unique as each person is. Now we would like to bring fairy houses and gardens to Lexington!

The Lexington Council of Arts is proposing that organizations work together, drawing on different talents, using the various outdoor areas in Lexington to hold a week-long fairy-themed event June 6–12, 2022, called Fairy Homes and Gardens: Lexington. We view partnering as a way to strengthen our community, a means to create ties to connect to one another, and a vehicle for ideas, creativity, and activities. We like the theme of fairy homes and gardens because it emphasizes being one with nature, using our imagination, and reusing things. This would be a large-scale community event introducing our various organizations to Lexington residents and visitors. The benefit is friend-raising more than fundraising as costs would be minimal and easily recoverable.

Groups will develop ideas, source materials, and determine a site in the spring of 2022, then spend the week of June 6 actually creating fairy houses and engaging the community with lead-up programming. For example, the Lexington Field and Garden Club could create fairy houses in the historic house gardens and other civic gardens, and offer an illustrated talk. The Green Network and its many groups could discuss and encourage recycling in creating fairy homes. Cary librarians could help children create fairy houses from Legos, tell fairy stories, and encourage youth to write their own. LexArt guilds could create houses from clay, fiber, or wood. The list is only limited by the imagination!

The weekend of June 11–12 is intended as a family-friendly cross-town celebration, with a map to show locations of the homes, scavenger hunts for children, and opportunities for participants of all ages to create their own. At this point we are connecting with you to gauge your level of interest in participating in this exciting initiative. As we develop the event, we hope to engage as many diverse groups in our community as possible in the fun and creativity of building fairy homes and gardens! Please let us know by October 25 if we can count on you (contact **Ashley Rooney**). We will then follow up with more details and a form to begin coordinating the event.

With thanks,

**Ashley Rooney and Jillian Tung**

Fairy Homes and Gardens Event Committee



*The Primrose Fairy —  
Flower Fairies*



## Think Green Still

### E. Ashley Rooney

Worrying or fussing is difficult when gardening. Gardening keeps us going, charming us as we realize our dreams. During the month of October, there is plenty to do.

### Your Garden

You can start to plan next spring's garden. You will have the best selection from any grower if you order now. Both **Terry Hale** and **Janet Erickson** have spoken on the Cary Library's Gardening Series about their favorite perennials. Check the programs out if you want to know more about a specific plant.

([https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLc\\_eiw2LRQ5C-9x06wXbZfH-SwnZVWEGV](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLc_eiw2LRQ5C-9x06wXbZfH-SwnZVWEGV)).

As you review the catalogs, you might consider planting some pollinators. There is now a wealth of information on plants available via websites, both annuals and perennials that attract birds, bees, and butterflies (and sometimes bats). Check sites such as Grow Native Massachusetts (<https://www.grownativemass.org/Great-Resources/databases>), where you'll find links to New-England-centric resources (including Native Plant Trust's 'Go Botany' site).

Keep your garden looking its best by cutting back any plant that has finished flowering, leaving enough foliage to add energy to the roots but allowing space for the late bloomers (e.g., asters, Montauk daisies) to shine.

### Bulbs

Now is the time for all good gardeners to select and plant some beautiful new bulbs for the garden and for naturalizing. Most spring-flowering bulbs tend to go out and multiply, especially when they like where they are. Daffodils, scilla, and muscari are among the many bulbs that can be naturalized. If you do want them to spread, remember that bulbs are their prettiest when planted in natural clusters, looking as if they just happened to end up that way. When you plant, remember bulbs look best in groups; single bulbs spread out along a border or a walkway has little visual impact.

Most of the spring bulbs don't go into the ground until the soil temperature has dropped to 55 degrees, and you are wearing your favorite fall jacket.



Do remember that daffodils and hyacinths are deer resistant, tulips are deer (and rabbit) candy. And no animal likes allium!

For more information on planting bulbs, watch **Guy Doran** in the Gardening Series on YouTube on Welcoming Spring: Selecting and Planting Flowers.

### Perennials

Perennial plants return for so many years that they're a practical investment and timesaver for any gardener. Avid plant collector Terry Hale in a recent Gardening series showed us her favorite perennials from A-Z that can be the mainstay of your garden with their display of spectacular seasonal flowers as well as eye-catching foliage (see earlier link).

Consider dividing. Many perennials such as daylilies or iris 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 out of 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 sections; return the largest one to the original site, and plant the others wherever you want.



### Outside Decor

Now is the time to wash and repaint any painted areas such as fences, gates, and don't forget the lawn furniture! You can also clean the mildew off outside walls and fences with a bleach solution and do a final edging of the driveway and paths.

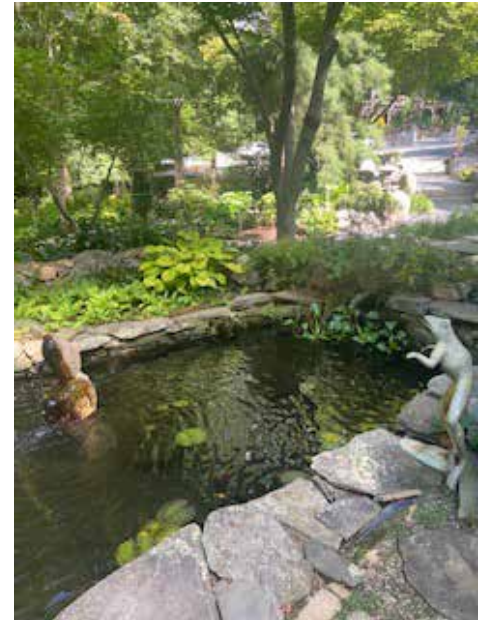


## Visit to Cochato Nursery in Holbrook, MA

September 2021

On September 20, the Monday Evening group spent a lovely afternoon at Cochato Nursery. The owners, Charles (Chuck) Doughty and Sue Ellen DuBrava, provided a delightful and informative private tour of their gardens and reviewed the history of their 31 years running Cochato. The area now home to the nursery was originally inhabited by the Cochato and Ponkapoag tribes, who called the land Cochaticquom; the Cochato River runs through Broad Meadows to South Braintree and the surrounding area.

Chuck and Sue grow and sell over four hundred varieties of hosta plants in addition to ferns, bog plants, alpines, rock garden plants, unique trees and shrubs, vines, and peonies. They have used these plants to transform their property from scratch into an elegant nursery and constantly-evolving, extensive, and peaceful display garden, complete with meandering pebble paths, a running brook, waterfalls, and ponds with koi and goldfish. Sue and Chuck shared details about the hard and soft-scaping, and pointed out interesting perennial shade plants and wildflowers, dwarf, and unusual species.



Chuck and Sue were gracious hosts and provided coffee, water, and freshly-made chocolate cheesecake brownies. We presented them with gifts from the recent HerbFest including homemade lavender potpourri and herb-themed aprons. Cochato Nursery is able to welcome small groups of around 12-15 and would love to see more members of the Lexington Field and Garden Club. The site is also used for weddings, engagement photos, and other events.

The website is <https://www.cochatonursery.com>.

We had a very special day with Chuck and Susan and came home with some of their beautiful plants! Visit this fall and you'll receive a 25% discount!

## Read about the Kominz's Spectacular Garden!

Many LFGC members have had the opportunity to visit LFGC members **Phyllis** and **David Kominz's** lovely garden in Weston. The Enchanted Gardens Blog has an article about their lovely oasis. Click on the link below and scroll to "A Collector's Haven."



<http://www.enchantedgardensdesign.com/blog/?category=Gardens+to+Visit>



## Halloween Hoots

What did the ghost teacher say to her class?  
Watch the board and I'll go through it again!



What did the carved-up jack-o-lantern  
say to the turkey?  
Laugh it up...you're next!

What do ghosts serve for dessert?  
I scream!

How old were you when you realized  
it's called candy corn because if you  
stack it up, it looks like corn?





## GCFM NATIVE PLANT CHALLENGE



### Native Garden Honors our Veterans

**The Garden Club of Norfolk** created a low-maintenance native plant garden thanks to funding received from the GCFM's Civic Development Grant and donations from local organizations and citizens.

The club received advice from consultants Amanda Sloan and Betty Sanders, and help from the Norfolk DPW with the placement of 40 boulders.

A formal dedication of the garden was held in September to honor our military men and women who served our country.



Twenty-two native perennials, grasses and shrubs were planted including *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Indian Summer', *Achillea millefolium* 'Strawberry Seduction', *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah', *Agastache* 'Blue Fortune' and *Asclepias tuberosa*.

Be sure to check out the GCFM Website for more events, news and special features!

[www.gcfm.org](http://www.gcfm.org)