



# 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

Welcome Back Everyone!

September is right around the corner as I write this greeting to you all, but I've yet to detect any sign of cooler weather or falling leaves. But this is New England, so we know the weather can change in an instant. I hope you all had a wonderful and healthy, happy summer. Sadly, COVID is still with us and we will continue to follow state guidelines. However, an important announcement...

## OUR SEPTEMBER 15th MEETING WILL BE HELD ON ZOOM!

Despite what is listed in the new Yearbook, we have decided to start the year with a Zoom meeting. Safety guidelines are constantly fluctuating, the Follen Church is working to determine their protocols, and Marlene and I felt that we had to make a decision so that our September presenter could plan accordingly. We will keep you updated about future meetings. Gardening people are known to be flexible, so please bear with us!



My summer experience was quite different this year. It became a season for reflection and remembrances. My mom passed away in July. She had a long, happy and very full life, and in the quieter, calmer, summer months, I had the opportunity to think about all the important things I appreciated about and learned from her. My mom loved flowers. She never came home from the market without at least one bouquet. She always had a garden and collected floral jewelry. One of her favorite pastimes was sitting at the kitchen counter arranging flowers either from the store or her garden. She frequently said that vases, large and small, filled with sweet-smelling blossoms really made a house a home. Her friends loved flowers, too, and they enjoyed talking about gardening. She was thrilled when I joined LFGC and relished the stories I told about all my new friends and our activities together. Another wonderful thing about my mom was that

she had many friends and loved entertaining them. My parents hosted lots of parties, dinners, and evenings just sitting around and visiting with friends. I could see the closeness and bonds these special people shared with each other and the happiness and fun they brought to each others' lives. And so now, I'm reminded of the value of friendships and how important it is to nurture and make time for them. I think about the wonderful people in the LFGC, many of whom I now think of as close friends. The Club offers so many opportunities to meet new people and make new friends: monthly meetings, sub-groups, workshops, picnic lunches, plant sales, Greens Party, committee work, civic gardening, to name a few! Even though COVID still has us in its grip, I am hopeful that we can continue to gather, reach out to one another, laugh, learn, and make new friends!

"In joy and sadness, flowers are our constant friends."

—Okakura Kakuza

Fondly,

**Ruthanne Igoe**

Co-President

## Important Notice

### Coming Up Roses on September 15th!



**Our September 15th meeting will be held on ZOOM and not at Follen Church!** You will be sent an email with all the ZOOM information the week of the program. Social Time starts at 9:30 AM and the program begins at 10:00.

Join us for a presentation on Easy Rose Care with Teresa Mosher. LFGC member **Nancy Trautman** will also be giving an update on the Munroe Tavern Antique Rose Garden.



### Dear Members,

Please note, that unless otherwise noted in the Yearbook, all monthly Club meetings begin at 9:30 AM with social time. The meeting and program will begin at 10:00. Sorry for the omission in the Yearbook!



## The Lexington Field and Garden Club announces the new “Grants for Gardeners” program!

The Lexington Field and Garden Club announces an exciting, new program called “Grants for Gardeners”! This program will fund innovative ideas developed by you, our members, over the next fiscal year. If you have a new idea that promotes our mission of “education, service and friendship” or that benefits the Town of Lexington, please go to the website ([www.LexGardenClub.org](http://www.LexGardenClub.org)) for more information. All details are provided. The first round of grant applications must be submitted by September 15, 2021.



## HerbFest!

Sunday, September 12, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

At Buckman Tavern, Hancock-Clarke House, and Munroe Tavern, Lexington



We are thrilled to announce HerbFest, presented by Lexington Field and Garden Club and Lexington Historical Society! Scheduled rain or shine, this celebratory event will include garden tours at the Society's three historic sites, which are maintained by LFGC, as well as herb-related demonstrations, crafts, refreshments, and sales at each site.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the world of herbs, meet and learn from some amazing gardeners, and purchase lovely herbal items.

At 2:30 PM, join us as we dedicate the newly installed Helen Noyes Webster and Mary Milligan Memorial Herb Garden at Buckman Tavern in the Center. Originally planted in 1950, it has been revitalized by longtime Historical Society members and volunteers with support from the LFGC.

Free admission to all activities and tours; donations welcome!



Congratulations to LFGC member **Kathy Leva** as the new GCFM Middlesex District Director. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication, Kathy!



## ADVICE FROM A GARDEN



Cultivate lasting friendships  
Sow seeds of kindness  
Listen to sage advice  
Don't let the little things bug you  
Be outstanding in your field  
Take thyme for yourself

Thank you to **Christel McCarthy** for sharing these sentiments from a card she received!

### Hi Fellow LFGC Members,

I am looking for someone/anyone who has, or knows of, a sour cherry (pie cherry) tree from which the fruit is not going to be used. I want to make my own Maraschino cherries, and would be happy to share the bounty with the owner. You can contact me via email.

Thanks,

**Dave Boccuti**



**Christina Gamota has a new email address. To find it, check the newsletter emailed to you.**

Please update your Yearbook!



## From the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

TheGCFM website (<https://www.gcfm.org>) is our main source of information on all things Garden Club. Click the link at the top of the Events page: Events. We also hope you take some time to noodle around the site to learn about schools, events and important deadlines. Your input is welcome so let GCFM know where they can improve.



In addition, the Ikenobo, Ikebana Society of Boston is offering a program in September.

More information here: <https://www.ikenobobostonchapter.org>.

## An Invitation to...

### Picnic in the Garden!

Bring your lunch and a beverage and come to **Ruthanne's house** in Concord for an outdoor visit with fellow LFGC members! If it rains, we can eat in the barn! Park in the driveway or along the side of the road.

**Tuesday, September 21, 12:00 PM**



## Civic Gardening — Mass Ave. at Woburn St.

(Also known as The Woburn/Fletcher Island)

**By Ethel Ollin**

My love of gardens began when I was a child in Midtown Manhattan. My parents came to America from Finland in 1948 and settled in a railroad flat apartment on East 62nd Street. Both my parents grew up in the Finnish countryside and always had a vegetable/flower garden. When they heard about a municipal garden with plots on York Avenue and 61st Street in Manhattan being offered by the Rockefeller Institute for the city children, they jumped at the chance of creating a vegetable/flower garden. I started working on the plot with my folks when I was 7 years old, and we continued the tradition for a number of years. Mom and I would go to the garden after school and weed the plot, pick our vegetables and flowers, and then head home. I never thought about gardening again until my husband Harold and I moved to Lexington in 1982. We had our vegetable garden in the farthest section of our yard since it was the sunniest spot. As I grew more familiar with Lexington, I noticed the traffic islands with flowers and plants and saw the signage for the Lexington Field and Garden Club. After I retired from my career as a corporate librarian, I joined the club and started working on the traffic island by the “basketball” courts. **Sara Moorman, Martha Sandler** and I were asked to become the new caretakers of the island you see pictured — The Woburn/Fletcher Island — or, as I call it, the “directional sign island.” It is also known as the Island at Mass Ave. and Woburn St. It is a beautiful island, and the picture shows how lovely it is with all the different plantings. One never knows what one will find on the island. I once found a packaged chicken that must have fallen off a passing truck. This past weekend there were about 8 blue latex gloves and a large heavy lock. One time I found a dirty \$5.00 bill!



Many people have worked on this island, and it always strikes me that it takes a village to create beauty. It is such a pleasure working with the Garden Club team in creating and maintaining these islands. So many people honk their horns and yell “Thank you!” and I always get a kick when I hear that. Often a woman sits on the Woburn side wall watching us work, and she always offers encouragement and water for us to drink. You can’t get much better than that for recognition of a job well done!



## How a Garden Flower is Creating Second Chances for Destroyed Land and its People

### Kitty Galaitsis

Boone County, West Virginia was once the home of strip mines that provided the main source of employment in a desperately poor area of Appalachia. As the US turned from coal to natural gas, the strip mining companies closed, leaving acres of pitted barren hillside and people without much hope. The pictures of the bare, desolate, poor, rocky mountain areas are heartbreaking.

Enter Jocelyn Sheppard with an idea. Very little can be grown on reclaimed strip mine soil but one plant thrives in rocky poor soil — lavender.



With a grant and a 15-year agreement with the mine owner of the land, Ms. Sheppard started the Appalachian Botanical Company in 2019. As of spring 2021 the company had a 35 acre lavender farm and apiary. She has 30 employees and plans on increasing that to 60.

It is a second chance for the land as it is restored to productivity and a second chance for people born in poverty with no skills, little education and, in the case of many, addiction to opioids. The company invests in its employees, in training and education and even provides mental health care to help them become productive members of society.

Every part of the lavender plant is used in the production of Appalachian Botanical's products. Information on its product line can be found at <https://appalachianbotanical.com/collections/catalog>

We gardeners can hope this hardy little flower will make this new company successful and that the company will continue to grow. The transformation of desolate land into beautiful lavender fields is inspirational.



## Newsletter Submissions

We love to get submissions from Club members for the monthly newsletter. If interested, please note that the deadline is always the 20th for the following month's newsletter. If you are submitting photos, please make sure that the Image number is included. (This is a number assigned in your subject line when sending a photo via email, such as IMAGE 0154.) This is very important!

Thank you!



## September Shenanigans

Why do gardeners plant bulbs?  
So worms can see where they're going.

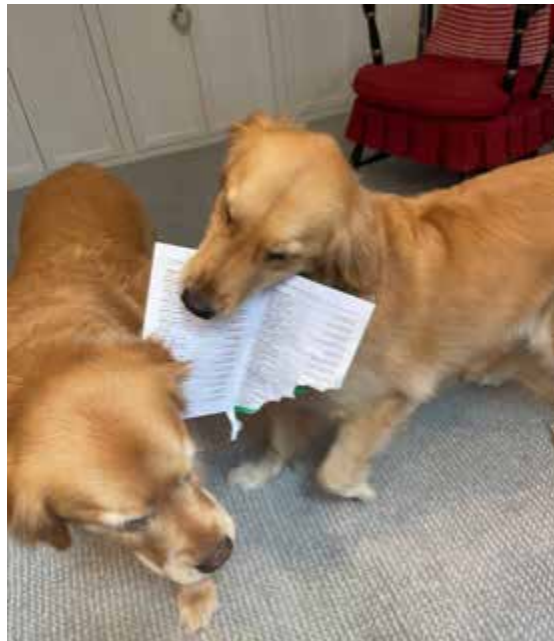
I was offered a job as a gardener, but I  
didn't take it.

What do you call a cheerleading herb?  
An encourage mint.

The celery was too low.

Knee: a device for finding rocks in your garden!

And remember...the only way to ensure rain is to  
give the garden a good soaking!



*Don't let the kids tear up your Yearbook!*

