



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

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

Spring is here; seeing new plants and hearing constant bird-song is exciting. In March, several groups held fun events: one decorated birdhouses at Christina Gamota's, another made floral arrangements at McCue's, and a third visited the Wellesley Global Flora Conservatory. There are openings in some groups. Email lfgc024@gmail.com to find a group that fits your schedule.

Many activities are starting up again. Please join us for any or all of them! We are walking in the Patriot's Day parade on April 17 and organizing Arbor Day with the Tree Committee, DAR, and DPW.

Other opportunities to get involved: from April 1st to April 12th, Spring Clean-Up events (including Saturdays) are a great way to make and renew friendships. Email us to sign up at lfgc024@gmail.com. We still have an opening for Cary Library on April 6 at 10 AM.

Our evening April meeting is at Follen Church on Wednesday, April 12, at 7 PM. We will elect our Officers Slate and learn about "Edible Landscaping" from our speaker, Charlie Nardozi. You can pay for your membership that night or renew your [membership online](#). The renewal deadline is April 15.

Finally, our annual plant sale is on May 20, with more natives, perennials, and annuals than ever before. Help pot donated plants from May 1-12. [Sign up here](#).

We hope you will donate gently used tools, garden ornaments, baskets, books, and house-plants for our retail table.

Spring means new beginnings and new growth. Think of a new way to connect or learn with the Garden Club.

See you soon and happy Spring!

With great appreciation,

Marlene Stone

Co-President

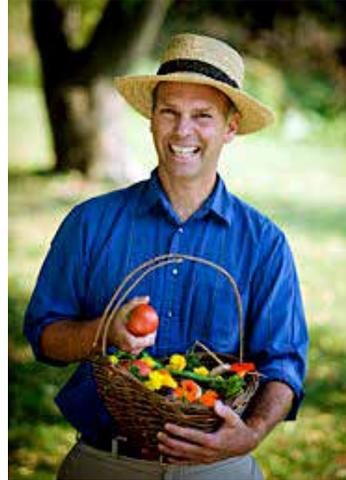


April Events

Wednesday, April 12th, 6:30 PM Social/7:00 PM Meeting

Edible Landscaping with Charlie Nardozzi & Voting For New LFGC Officers

Charlie Nardozzi is a nationally recognized garden writer, speaker, radio and television personality, and former host of PBS's 'Garden Smart.' Many gardeners want to grow vegetables, herbs, and fruits in their yards but don't want to sacrifice the beauty of their landscape. Foodscaping allows you to do both. In this talk, he will cover some design tips for organizing your yard, how to plant in succession, and interplant to keep a garden looking great even as you harvest.



Great news! If you haven't had a chance to renew your membership yet, don't worry.

Miranda Cohen and **Francesca Paik Leonin** will be at the April 12th evening meeting with credit card readers and computers to help members **renew their membership** and update their contact information. Don't miss out on this chance to stay connected with our community!

LFGC Elected Officers Nominations Slate

Drumroll, please...

I am happy to share with you the following slate of candidates who have graciously agreed to lead our club beginning in May.

President: **Marlene Stone**

Vice President: **Kitty Galaitsis**

Treasurer: **Miranda Cohen**

Recording Secretary: **Debra Heaton**

Corresponding Secretary (for final year): **Jane Halverson**

Membership Committee: **Marilyn Ryngiewicz** and **Nancy Trautman**

This slate of candidates will be presented at our evening meeting on Wednesday, April 12th, at 7: PM. We will then vote on the slate at the meeting. Taking on these positions is a big commitment, and we are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated, enthusiastic, and hard-working people to continue the mission and work of LFGC! I will be stepping down at the end of my term this year. I have learned a lot during my year being a Co-President and will be aiding the board during my transition.

Thank you, everyone, for your willingness to volunteer.

Georgia Harris, Co-President



Monday, April 17th Patriot's Day Parade

Exciting News! LFGC is participating in the Patriot's Day Parade this year on April 17th. We will walk with an LFGC banner, perhaps in gardening flower hats, and plan to have lots of fun. The parade route is a two-mile walk. Start your get-in-shape training now.

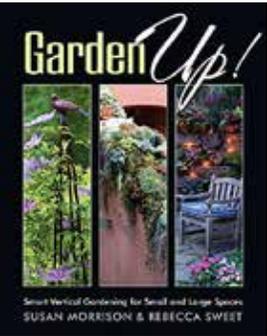
Please let us know at lfgc024@gmail.com if you want to join us.



Wednesday, April 19th Garden Up!

Smart Vertical Gardening for Small and Large Gardens with Rebecca Sweet

Rebecca Sweet's passion is teaching gardeners of all skill levels how to transform their gardens and design like professionals. Vertical gardening is the latest garden trend. This Wednesday Workshop event is open to all LFGC members and will be via Zoom on Wednesday, April 19th. **Social at 9:30 AM, Meeting at 10:00 AM.** The Zoom link will be sent separately closer to the event.



Wednesday April 26th from 7pm to 8:30pm

Turning the Soil: The Dirt on Tillage and No-till

A presentation by Sam Glaze-Corcoran from Umass about what tillage is and a discussion with local farmers about what that means at the Harvey Wheeler Center in West Concord center. For more information, or to submit a question in advance for our speaker or farmers, please see the [Concord Ag Day website](#).

Friday, April 28th, Arbor Day 11 AM program See details below in Ashley Rooney's article

Friday, April 28th - Sunday, April 30th: Art In Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston

LFGC member **Kathy Leva** will be interpreting the 'Tewa Buffalo Dancer' by Mateo Romero, a Native American painter and a member of the Cochiti Pueblo. It is acrylic on canvas and located in Gallery 327 of The Americas.

What is Art in Bloom? Garden clubs and professional designers across New England create floral arrangements inspired by the MFA's art, a rite of Spring that pairs fine art and floral design. There are free guided tours, workshops, demonstrations, and lectures. This is a huge fundraiser for the MFA. [Art in Bloom | Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#)



Lexington 250 Birthday Celebration

Lexington's 250 celebrations will be in 2025. How should LFGC (the oldest garden club in the nation) mark the birth of our nation? We are looking for interesting ideas. Is it a skit about the founding of the club and the clearing of hay from the Common, or should we plant rows of daffodils? Please send all your fun ideas to us at LFGC024@gmail.com by June 1.





Native Cercis canadensis, the eastern redbud tree.

Celebrate Arbor Day

By Ashley Rooney

On Friday, April 28, at 11 AM, on the grounds of Buckman Tavern, Lexington Field & Garden Club (LFGC), Lexington Tree Committee, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and the Department of Public Works (DPW) will celebrate Arbor Day, an event for all who love nature and Lexington's beautiful open spaces. This morning will include an official Arbor Day ceremony and tree planting to recognize Ellen Andersson, Betty Clark, lone Garing, David Kominz, and Joanne Plank, LFGC members who have recently died. It will commemorate the DAR's gift tree to celebrate Lexington's Semiquincentennial or 250th celebration.

J. Sterling Morton initiated the first American Arbor Day in April 1872, when an estimated one million trees were planted in Nebraska. All states have an official Arbor Day, usually in the spring, the time of year with favorable weather conditions for planting trees.

For decades, the LFGC, the oldest garden club in America, has held an annual tree-planting ceremony to create community awareness and honor the memory of those club members who passed away during the year. The club's recognition of the importance of trees in the environment goes back to its 1876 constitution. In April 1887, those forward-thinking garden club leaders proposed that the Town appoint a Tree Warden. By 1889, they were talking about planting a tree for Arbor Day. Our forebears were always ahead of the times!

To learn more about trees, here are some handy links.

[Tree Committee | Lexington, MA](#)

[Lex Tree Committee Recommendations for Tree Planting](#)

[Landscape: North American Plants for New England Gardens | Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at UMass Amherst](#)



Halesia carolina, commonly called Carolina silverbell. Photo by Jerry Harris





Renew Your Membership

It's time to renew your membership with this super convenient link. Membership Co-Chairs **Jackie Potdevin** and **Marilyn Ryngiewicz** urge all members to update their membership with this **digital link**. Renewing online is the safest, cheapest, and most efficient way for the club to process payments. No more checks getting lost in the mail. Forgot to renew online? Bring your credit card or check to the April 12th meeting and sign up then. Please help us by processing your renewal online since the deadline is April 15th—thank you!

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, May 6 New LFGC Member Coffee

The Membership Committee will hold a new member coffee on May 6, starting at 9:00 AM. We will meet in the garden of **Marilyn Ryngiewicz**, 72 Meriam Street, Lexington. All new members since April 2022 are welcome. Please RSVP to **Marilyn** by **April 25**.

Wednesday, May 10th – 9:30 AM Social/10 AM Meeting

Container Gardens: Jaw Dropping, Traffic Stopping, Get Your Neighbors Talking Containers with Deborah Trikett

Following our Annual Meeting, Deborah Trikett, an award-winning container garden designer who has worked in the gardening industry for over 30 years, will present her program. Deborah shows you how to take your container garden from “blah” to “ahh.” She will start with the basics, including appropriate containers, soil mixes, and plant choices for different site conditions. She then proceeds to new and unusual plant materials and uncommon, even “green,” container choices.

Saturday, May 20th, Annual Plant Sale 7:30 AM -10:30 AM details in the Plant Sale article

Saturday, May 20th, Art in the Garden Party!!

Everyone's Invited to join **Christina Gamota** in her lovely garden on Saturday, May 20th, from 2 PM to 4 PM at 17 Solomon Pierce Road.

Art in the garden will feature local Lexington artists, including paintings, sculptures, and crafts for sale. A highlight will be reasonably priced garden sculptures to add a touch of whimsy to your garden.

Put on your glad rags, enjoy light refreshments, and mingle with friends old and new in this beautiful serene garden—rain date **May 21st from 2 PM to 4 PM**.

Monday, May 22, Plant Sale party at Ashley Rooney's from 4 to 6 PM.



Photo by Jerry Harris



Annual Plant Sale - Saturday, May 20th

Our annual Plant Sale is on the morning of Saturday, May 20th. The set-up day will be May 1, and potting days are May 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12. We hope all of you plan to join us to make this the best sale ever! As many of you who participate each year know, this is an excellent opportunity for camaraderie with old friends and a chance to meet new ones while working for the club.

Signing up to work at the plant sale has never been easier. Simply [click here](#) for dates and times, and enter your name and email on the date you wish to join us.

Cleaning Out Your Attic, Basement, or Garage?

Consider donating your garden stuff to this year's Plant Sale.

The Garden Shop, one of the many tables at the plant sale, hopes you can donate your used/unused garden items for sale this year. We're looking for old tools, including shovels, trowels, clippers, and pruners! We'll take kneelers if you have any. Small metal buckets, for sure! How about that old watering can in your garage corner collecting spider webs? Or the old rake or the edger that's never been used? Don't forget sculpture, pottery, and any ornamental items suitable for a garden. If you'd like to donate any of these items, please contact Marlene Stone for drop off/pick up.

All proceeds from the plant sale benefit community projects and town beautification.



Introducing Native Plants at the Annual Plant Sale

Good news for native plant gardeners: this year, LFGC has added even more native plants! In addition to all the native plants our members generously donate, LFGC will offer an excellent selection of native plants purchased from a New Hampshire nursery. About thirty varieties will be available. These include favorites such as *Iris cristata*, *Chelone glabra*, *Eupatorium dubium*, native ferns varieties, *Vernonia noveborasensis*, *Veronicastrum*, and little beauties like *Jeffersonia diphylla* and *Tiarella cordifolia*. All are good-sized plants in one and two-quart containers. These plants will be straight species, not a cultivar among them.

Another exceptional offering this year will be rooted cuttings of six native willow species. Willows are excellent keystone plants for caterpillars.

We need a few folks to help prepare the native plants for sale and maintain them from arrival in early May until sale day. Please contact **Meg Himmel** to help out.



LFGC Tackles Invasive Plants

By Meg Himmel

Although we still have patches of snow on the ground, there is also subtle evidence of spring in the air. Some of the new sprouts emerging in our gardens are most welcome; others are not. Invasives often are the first to leaf out in the spring, making spring a good time to look for **invasives**. If you are unsure what Japanese knotweed and lesser celandine are, here's your opportunity to learn.

To briefly summarize the project, the property at the rear of the Hancock-Clarke House contained a very robust stand of Japanese knotweed. Fortunately, it did not extend onto adjoining properties. As we began the difficult task of removing the vast root system of this aggressive invasive, we observed several other invasive species, including **lesser celandine** and **garlic mustard**. Lesser celandine will likely be the most challenging to eradicate.

Some 30 of your fellow garden club members spent numerous workdays laying down cardboard and covering it with a deep layer of wood chips. The intent is to deprive the invasive species of sunlight for the entire growing season. If successful, it eliminates the need for herbicide use. The process can take several seasons, whichever method is used.

Please consider joining us this spring. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about invasives, their growth habits, and control methods. Invasive management is one of the most critical challenges we face as gardeners and environmental stewards. Please indicate your interest in participating in this and other invasive control projects by emailing **Meg Himmel**. You'll then receive email updates and workday information. Learn more about invasives at **Invasive Plants in Massachusetts**.



Invasive Lesser Celandine



Invasive Knotweed



Third Annual Herb Fest, Sunday, September 10, 12 – 4 PM, free

Lexington Historical Society and LFGC are again partnering to present Herb Fest, celebrating the two beautiful herb gardens at Buckman Tavern and the Hancock-Clarke House. As before, we will host a variety of demonstrations and talks, and vendors will sell wares that integrate garden herbs and spices into foods, soaps, teas, and more! Both herb gardens will be open for tours and activities for the whole family to learn more about how plants have been used throughout history for food and medicine. We rely on volunteers from both organizations to make the day a success!



How you can help at the Herb Fest

- Do you know interesting vendors who might want to participate?
- Do you have an herb-themed item to make and sell?
- Do you have an herb-based craft to share with families?

If so, please contact **Anne Lee**.

More information and requests for volunteers to come in future newsletters. Thank you!



Subgroup News



Monday Evening Group-Christina Gamota Birdhouse Workshop

How lucky were we to have been in the lovely home of **Christina Gamota** and learn about and decorate birdhouses? First, Christina prepared an in-depth overview of how birdhouses were first used in the US and the different types of birdhouses that have been popular over the years, then discussed how best to attract different types of birds in our own gardens. She had many books for us to peruse about birdhouses, and showed us many examples of birdhouses she has done in the past to get our creative juices flowing. Then we all sat down with a birdhouse we chose and lots of different colored paints and decorative shells, buttons, and natural materials to decorate our birdhouses. We had delicious home-baked refreshments, thanks to Grace. What a memorable evening in a beautiful home. Thank you, Christina! Would you like to join the Monday Evening Group? Email **Anne Lee**.



Morning Study Group has space for new members. MSG meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Social time starts at 9:30 AM; programs begin at 10 AM. A typical program is an illustrated talk on special plants, gardens or nurseries, conservation of nature, or possibly a field trip! We care for the Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden. We have holiday parties and collect socks at Christmas time for the Veterans at the VA hospital in Bedford. Contact **Georgia Glick** or **Jane Halverson**.

Wednesday Workshop(WW) is recruiting new members. If you want to have fun and socialize while learning about gardening, WW is for you. WW has been fortunate to have a superb lineup of speakers this year, two of which were available to the entire garden club. For any questions or to join, please contact the chair of WW, **Ellan Siegel**



The New Lexington Native Plant Nursery

By Holly Samuels

For several years, some of the Lexington Conservation Stewards considered creating an enclosed nursery area to grow small native plants and shrubs to restore Lexington conservation areas, provide support to pollinating insects, and perhaps to sell to the public. That idea became a reality at the Lower Vine Brook conservation area, which had an existing water source. With Lexington Conservation Commission permission, the stewards' work to develop a small plant nursery at this site began in the winter of 2020-21.

Constructing the Nursery

The growing area had to be enclosed because of the hungry rabbits and other herbivores. The Commission received a donation from Lexington residents Meg and John Himmel of ten large hoops originally salvaged from the former Lexington Gardens Nursery. That donation allowed the stewards to envision the possibilities.

Preliminary work to prepare the site began with a workday on April 10, 2021, the first Stewardship Saturday of the season. Boy Scouts, LHS Conservation Club members, and some adults (21 people in total) cleared weeds and brush, laid out cardboard covered with wood chips to suppress future weed growth, moved some small trees, and outlined the footprint of the hoop house with landscape fabric. The Lexington DPW brought a dumpster loaded with wood chips and removed the collected brush to the composting facility. Temple Isaiah families cleared invasive Garlic Mustard from the area on another Stewardship Saturday that May. The area will require annual garlic mustard and bittersweet removal, but the hoop house area was cleared and ready.

In June 2021, the Commission used the proceeds from the first sale of Pollinator Plant Kits to acquire the supplies needed to install the

hoop house. Volunteer Conservation Stewards Don Grant, Stephen Perkins, and Barbara Katzenberg, volunteer Jim Constantine, LHS Conservation Club students, and the Conservation Summer Work Crew worked to erect the structure. Subsequently, they enclosed the hoop house with poultry wire and shade netting, installed a custom-made door, and created an enclosed "backyard" to establish in-ground plantings for seed stock.

The first native seed planting began in January 2022 with seed that requires overwintering before it will sprout through a process called cold stratification. The hoop house remains open to the elements, so the plants grow in natural conditions, supplemented by water only during the summer months when needed. Those first seed flats were stored at the nursery over the winter and sprouted with a fantastic success rate in spring 2022.

Many Hands Make Light Work

Many volunteers helped to transplant the seedlings into larger containers. There were so many seedlings that there was no more room,



Hoop house under construction



and many were overwintered to be repotted the following year. To get more of these native plants into the local ecosystem and to help cover expenses, plants were sold to the general public at the Lexington Living Landscapes sale at DPW, which will be true again on Saturday, May 13, in the morning. Plants were also sold to the public at the Lexington Farmers' Market last September, which will also be an annual event.

Improving Our Conservation Sites

The other purpose of growing plants in the nursery is to restore and enhance the native plant varieties in our conservation areas. This is particularly true for areas undergoing restoration by removing non-native species such as bittersweet, knotweed, garlic mustard, and multiflora rose.

The area along the edge of Arlington's Great Meadow (within Lexington) on either side of the Minuteman Bikeway is currently being restored. Boy Scout Troop 160, the Aylus Youth Leadership Group, and the LHS Conservation Club students are helping transform this area, revealing more expansive views of the Great Meadow to the north and Mill Brook to the south. The volunteers planted young plants from the Native Plant Nursery (NPN) in a test patch along the path's north side across from the Great Meadow. You can see blue flags in that area along with white tags to track which plants thrive. Volunteers also planted NPN stock at Parker Meadow and Dunback Meadow. Look for the white tags. Once the plants are established, the tags will be removed.

Interested in volunteering at the nursery, learning how to sow seed, or transplanting seedlings into larger pots or restoration sites? Contact Holly Samuels, volunteer Lexington Conservation Steward, at lexplantnursery@gmail.com.



Holly Samuels with the hoop house



Interesting Articles, Podcasts, and Websites

Curated by Georgia Harris



Spring Bulb Secrets

Spring's early blooming plants don't come into flower simply to fill us with joy, although that is an added bonus. These plants are opportunists and now is their moment. All across New England's gardens, forests, wetlands, and meadows, the plants leading the charge into spring possess enterprising adaptations that enable them to make the most of the warmer temperatures and the increasing amount of light. Read the article at [New England Botanical Garden](#).

All Things Trees

Dr. James Nardi says you can tell a lot about a tree by the company it keeps. From life in the soil around their roots to the action up in their canopies, trees are swarming with engagement—unseen microbes and fungi, countless insects and other arthropods, and vertebrates like birds, squirrels, and even porcupines. Read the article at [A Way to Garden](#).

Pollen Specialist Native Bees

You can learn all you ever wanted to know about bees from author/speaker Heather Holm. She has created a story map of specialist bees and the native plants that are key to their survival. Read the article at [Story Maps](#).

Leaves, the Gift that Keeps Giving

As deciduous trees begin to green up with spring, it is worth considering the ecological importance of their predecessors. Some fall leaves find their way into streams and create a watershed tea on which many tiny organisms depend for survival. Read the article at [The Stroud Center](#).

Astonishing Salt Marsh Mussels

Because I'm an ecological geek, and this is super cool. The world's coastal marshes provide a critical—and embattled—meeting place between the sea and the shore. Researchers transplanted 200,000 mussels and tracked the elevation of marshlands over three years; the mussels contributed to new land at 5x the predicted rate. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

Garden Classes and Events Around New England

April

Thursday, April 6th, [Full Moon Owl Prowl at Fruitlands - The Trustees of Reservations 7 - 9 PM](#)

Saturday, April 8th, [Easy Rose Care - NEBG 1 - 2:30 PM](#)

Sunday, April 9th, [Flipping the Script: The Women of the Manse 2:30 -3:30 PM](#)



Wednesday, April 12th, [The Language of Flowers: Understanding Pollination Ecology 7:00 - 8:30 pm IN-PERSON at the Cambridge Public Library 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA](#)

Friday, April 14th, [Meadows 1-2-3 - Native Plant Trust 10 AM - 4 PM](#)

Saturday, April 22nd, **Earth Day**, marks the anniversary of the modern environmental movement's birth in the 1970s, which ushered in the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. Here are some [Eco-Actions](#) you can take for Earth Day. Let's celebrate Earth Day Every Day and get Started with these Eco-Actions!



May

Saturday, May 6th, [Middlesex County, MA Open Day :: Events : The Garden Conservancy 10 AM - 4 PM.](#)



That's all for now, happy spring and hope to see you soon!