



# 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

Happy New Year!

What did LFGC do this fall? We brought back in-person meetings this September. Together we learned actions to make a difference in climate change, discovered best practices to bring more pollinators and birds to our gardens, and learned that the best dirt makes the most productive gardens. We had a blast at Lexington Discovery Day and found inspiration from young folks at Estabrook Elementary School in their curiosity to create Monarch butterfly habitats. We cleaned twenty-four civic gardens and planted countless bulbs to grace Lexington in Spring 2023. We were a busy group.

This upcoming year I look forward to spending more time with members at our in-person meetings and updating our digital presence and best practices. Most of all, I look forward to being out in the garden together this spring. Meanwhile, I find solace in familiar winter routines. I am contemplating last year's garden (the good, the bad, and the "well, that totally didn't work"), perusing seed catalogs, and generally trying to jigsaw more plants into my small suburban lot.

Life begins the day you start a garden. – Chinese Proverb

Be well. Happy New Year,

**Georgia Harris**  
Co-President





## January programming

Wednesday, January 11th

### Wetlands in Lexington: Their Uses and Regulations with Amber Carr

Amber Carr is a trained ecologist specializing in land management for wildlife species. As Conservation Coordinator for the Town of Lexington, she will explain the various types of wetlands found throughout Lexington. This will be a live in-person event on **January 11th at 9:30 AM Social/10:00 AM Meeting** at Follen Church, 755 Mass Ave., Lexington.



## Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday, February 8th

### The Arboretum Sensory Garden with Scott Stanley and the Sensory Garden at the Lexington Community Center with Rita Pandey and Barbara Tarrh.

Mr. Stanley will give us a brief history and background of the Arboretum, the design intent for the garden, partners that utilize the space, and how this differs from other sensory gardens.

**Rita Pandey and Barbara Tarrh**, both LFGC members, are the Co-Chairs for the Sensory Garden at the Lexington Community Center. Rita will give us an overview of the garden from the initial concept to the finished garden. We will learn about plantings and why a sensory garden is important. **Wednesday, February 8th – via Zoom. Social at 9:30 AM, Meeting at 10:00.**



## Welcome to LFGC

The Lexington Field & Garden Club is thrilled to welcome twelve new members this fall. Please join me in saying a friendly “hey” and make them feel welcome.

Carol Miller  
Suzanne Cherson  
Rosanne Barbacano  
Jack Taranto

Linh Vong  
Anwell Tsai  
Katherine Amodeo  
Amy Pullen

Natasha Zeb  
Kip Connor  
Frank Smith  
Jill Ward



## Grants for Gardeners Awarded

### Ruthanne Igoe

The Financial Advisory Working Group (FAWG) is happy to announce the three applications that were approved this fall:

**Greta Ljung** submitted an application on behalf of Lexington Living Landscapes and was awarded funding for Trevor Smith to speak at the Cary Memorial Library in March. Next month's newsletter will provide more information about attending this program.

**Debra Heaton's** application, "Replanting the Cary Memorial Library Front Garden," was also approved. Her plans to add shrubs and new plants will undoubtedly improve and beautify this much-used and highly visible area.

And finally, new member **Sam Catherine Johnston** submitted an application titled "A Garden for Everyone: Enhancing the Harrington Elementary School Garden." This unique project focuses on building raised garden beds (supplementing and improving Harrington's existing garden beds) to provide beds of varying heights to address accessibility for students with various mobility needs, ages, and heights. The pathways between the beds will safely accommodate wheelchairs and walkers. The new beds will also allow for multiple students and teachers to work and collaborate together in hands-on learning. In addition to its local population, Harrington Elementary School also provides for disabled students throughout Lexington. This will truly be an inclusive opportunity for many to learn and enjoy.

The FAWG Committee thanks all who applied, and we encourage more members to participate in the Grants for Gardeners Program. Information is on the [website](#), and our next deadline is **February 15, 2023**. Please get in touch with Ruthanne Igoe if you have any questions!

Happy New Year!



## RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

It's as easy as ABC to renew your garden club membership online. Membership Co-Chairs **Jackie Potdevin** and **Marilyn Ryngiewicz** urge all members to update online this year. This hassle-free online sign-up is easy. PLUS, it's the safest, cheapest, and most efficient way for the club to process payments. No more checks getting lost in the mail. Please help us by processing your renewal online and never miss a newsletter or garden club event.





## Greens Party a Success



Many thanks to **Ann Webster** and **Jane Halverson** for bringing us the zoom holiday greens party. **Kathy Leva** shared how to make elegant arrangements for festive holiday displays. Kathy's simple tips and tricks gave participants creative ideas to produce florist-level arrangements. Using nature as her theme, **Georgia Harris** gathered greens and found objects to make catchy, whimsical outdoor planters. Ann and Jane finished the program with spot-on tips for turning everyday objects into holiday containers using ribbons, candy canes, and other upcycled materials

easily found around the house. Would you be interested in helping with next year's in-person greens party? Contact **Ann Webster** or **Jane Halverson**.



photo by Joan Howard



## Be Inspired

Georgia Harris

*“My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.” – Claude Monet*

Inspiration and creativity. What inspires you, and how do you provoke inspiration in gardening and living a beautiful life? This time of year, when the garden feels bare and dormant, one might presume

creative ideas go dormant too. What wintertime offers, aside from the much-needed respite of hard physical labor, is a chance to slow down and observe. Creativity in all forms is not something that you can program. Creativity comes from hours of observation and filling your mind and body with different experiences. While basking in the quiet after the holiday bustle or hunkering down in a big snowstorm, I fill my creative bucket to the brim.

After COVID, virtual gardening offerings have proliferated; far-flung speakers are a click away. This year I find myself searching out experiences slightly different from the ecological lectures that usually capture my attention. Having always dreamed of being a painter, I'm drawn to museums, galleries, and books about how visual artists see the world. I am so curious about how artistic shows are curated. The curator leads you through an exhibit to convey a unique experience. I create similar concepts in my garden; the feeling of being in the garden is something I can ponder for hours. Of course, there are individual plants and fun planters, but my goal is to invoke an emotional response to being in my garden. Thumbing through photographs of Renoir's paintings or looking at pictures of Monet's garden gives me ideas for color combinations and new feelings to evoke with plantings. Last year I added a new garden bed—my goal is an airy impressionist painting of a colorful cloud of flowers. I will keep you posted if this year's garden is an impressionist painting or just a random group of plants.



Another great source of inspiration is cookbooks. I love to read cookbooks and this year brought a plentitude of new books that revolved around eating locally and seasonally. **The Lost Kitchen** and **Deep Run Roots** are two of this year's favorites. Learning from chefs who challenge my favorite recipes by combining acid, sweetness, and a little heat to bring freshness to old favorites. I find this dovetails very nicely into the ecological low-impact gardening I'm trying to create. I search for local purveyors of veg, meat and wool products. It turns out that gathering a better understanding of the land and how to best nurture

the earth provides better nutrition and stewardship for all.

In searching out new techniques and best garden practices, I often find myself jumping across the pond and having a gander at English gardening blogs. Being short on land and natural resources, the English are sometimes ahead of American gardeners regarding challenging climate issues. Since they aren't in the same gardening zone as Lexington, I don't necessarily follow their plant list. Still, I find creative solutions to common garden problems. I was especially drawn to articles about using all types of recycled material, including old mannequins, to add whimsy to a garden tableau. One of my favorite garden blogs is [The Middle-Sized Garden](#). Here, I keep abreast of the latest gardening trends, including [12 very attractive contemporary garden ideas from RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival](#).

What inspires you, and what feeds your spirit? I invite you to take this slow time of year to practice activities that fill your creative bucket.



## In Memoriam

**Elizabeth "Betty" Clark**, a wonderful garden club member, died peacefully on October 13. Betty was a Lexington Field & Garden Club and Morning Study Group member.

**Joanne Plank** passed away in late November. She was a past president of LFGC from 1978-1980 and was a long-time Morning Study Group member.

Our condolences go out to both Betty's and Joanne's families.

## Subgroups

Again this year, **Leslie Sargis** opened her lovely house for Morning Study's annual holiday gathering. The group enjoyed gathering in person, laughing, and sharing a meal.





## News from Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

Last year, The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts had a banner year with four of the six First Place poems in the National Garden Club's youth poetry contest. This year's theme, "SEEDS, TREES AND BEES OH MY – Celebrating the Diversity of Nature," offers a tempting creative challenge for Kindergarteners through Ninth Graders to express their thoughts and feelings in poetry. **Deadline January 18th**. Learn more at [Poetry Contest | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

**Gardening School Course 1** will be held on **April 13th, 14th & 15th, 2023**, in the morning via Zoom. The school is open to anyone wishing to take the course, but credit is only given to a garden club member. You do not need to take the courses in any specific order and each course is self-contained. If taking the course for credit, an exam is given each day at the end of the school. You can also attend any single day of the school that interests you but will not get credit. A registration form and course list can be found at [National Garden Clubs Gardening Study School](#)



## Gardens & Classes and Events Around New England



**January 11th:** Lexington Field & Garden presents **Wetlands in Lexington** in person at 9:30 AM, at Follen Church, 755 Mass Ave., Lexington.

**January 12th:** Garden Conservancy presents **Small Space Gardening** at 2 PM, Zoom

**January 18th:** New England Botanical Garden presents **Managing Deer in Your Garden** at 6:30 PM, Zoom

**January 21st:** Cary Library, Lincoln Land Trust, Lexington Living Landscapes presents **Silent Earth Saving Our Insects** at 2 - 3:30 PM, Zoom





## Interesting Articles, Podcasts, and Websites



### **Woodpeckers are Wicked Cool**

Woodpeckers have a unique way of drumming up attention. Learn why woodpeckers peck wood, trees, and metal and how to stop woodpeckers from pecking your house. Read more at [Birds and Blooms](#)

### **Bringing The Garden Inside**

Plants bring life and beauty into an indoor room. They add a comfortable feeling to an otherwise sterile or lifeless setting. Placing plants in various locations makes our homes a more inviting setting for guests and does a lot to soothe the winter blues of us house-bound gardeners too! Read more at [The National Garden Association](#)

### **Maryland Couple Redefines the Suburbs**

After their homeowner association ordered them to replace their wildlife-friendly plants with turf grass, a Maryland couple sued. They ended up changing state law. Read more at [The New York Times](#)

### **Free Garden Classes**

Garden MasterClass has been running pro bono broadcasts since the first lockdown in April 2020 as a service to the global garden and landscape community. They have interviews or presentations with personalities from the garden, landscape, or botanical world: some famous, some not, some professional, some amateur, all of them interesting people with things to say or achievements to celebrate. Access the Free Recordings here [Garden MasterClass](#)

### **Documenting Gardens on Film**

The Suzanne and Frederic Rheinstein Garden Documentation Program at the Garden Conservancy seeks to capture and share the essence of something that is largely experiential—the beauty and stories of a garden. Read more at [The Garden Conservancy](#)



*That's all for now, hope to see you soon!*