



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,

I want to take a moment to express how happy and humbled I feel stepping into the role of LFGC Co-President. My predecessors are a fantastic group of women, and I have much to learn. I am looking forward to meeting you all in person at summer picnics in the gardens and our big club meetings in the fall.



Spring is a whirlwind of activity to get the gardens up and running. So many chores to do, so little time.

When I'm zipping about in my garden, I'm distracted from everyday life and lose myself in the garden. I notice all the different variations of green and thrill at the tiarella having a most outstanding year.

We look forward to the signs of spring and the continuation of the yearly cycles. Shrubs take center stage this time of the year, and my stars are Carolina allspice (*Calycanthus floridus*), doublefile viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum*), chokeberry (*Aronia*) and high bush blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). In my meadow, pollinators buzz around the golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*) and the blue star (*Amsonia*). Last year black swallowtail butterflies laid their eggs on the golden

Alexanders. I will keep you posted if I see any this year.

Marlene will speak later on the plant sale, but can I say "color me impressed" with our club's group effort. Kudos to all volunteers; whether digging, planting, moving plants, or watering them, your group effort made the plant sale a huge success.

Special Note: I will be out of the country in late August if you can please send me newsletter articles and pictures by August 5th that would be amazing.

Happy Gardening and Happy Summer!

Georgia Harris

Co-President



Lexington Field and Garden Club Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2022, Via Zoom

Marlene Stone, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Announcements:

- Potting Days are going well; 500 plants so far. There are three more potting days and we are hoping for 500 more plants.
- All LFGC meetings for 2022-2023 will be in person at Follen Church. Zoom will not be offered at this time.
- The June Newsletter will be available early in the month; send information to **Georgia Harris** by May 20th.
- The yearbook is scheduled to be distributed by the end of June.
- 290 members have renewed.
- The budget was approved by the Executive Board. The major changes are: Grants for Gardeners (\$3,000 to \$7,500); Civic Gardening (\$8,000 to \$10,300); and Scholarship Fund (\$2,000 to \$4,000).
- Summer Lunch Picnics are being planned for Wednesdays and Saturdays from June 8th to August 31st. **Georgia Harris** will send the information.

Marilyn Ryngiewicz, Program Chair, introduced Lisa Green. Lisa is the owner of Beach Plum Flower Shop in Newburyport, MA. She gave practical, useful suggestions while creating a variety of arrangements. Questions with helpful answers followed.

44 people attended the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Halverson, Recording Secretary



Get your Free Pennisetum 'Hameln' Grass Today!!!

'Hameln' Fountain Grass is a smaller variety with three seasons of stunning display in full sun or part shade gardens. First, fine-textured green grass blades are tipped with soft wheat-shaped seed heads. Foliage turns rust gold in autumn and blonde in winter. 'Hameln' is a favorite for birds and shrubs in the mixed border and cut or dried flower arrangements. (Pennisetum alopecuroides)

**Yours today, First come, first serve
until all grasses are gone**

25 Parker Street Lexington in the Driveway



The Plant Sale Was a Great Success!

So many of you were involved in the plant sale this year. It was a great success, and we raised over \$9500! Many of you donated beautiful plants from your gardens. The tables were filled with a stunning variety of plants, including four tables of native plants. The perennials that we grow in our gardens are a bountiful gift. One person noted that the line at 7:30 am was the longest line this person had ever seen. (Thank you for the excellent publicity from both regular and social media) .

We were blessed with great weather....mainly in the 60s and 70s, and the team spirit of the *Lexington Field & Garden Club* was palpable.

Thank you to so many people who donated items for the retail table. Thank you to the people who dug plants from their own or others gardens. Thank you to the people who potted over six fun potting days, and thank you to the people who moved our paraphernalia from Hosmer House to the salt shed at DPW. Thank you to the people who valiantly set up the tables and the plants for the setup day, and of course, the wonderful people who worked during plant sale day – helping our customers have a very positive experience. We were so lucky to have many extra grass plants from Site One, and we had the tremendous benefit of leaf mulch provided by the DPW.

We all learned a lot about plants and had fun working with each other. We hope to have another successful plant sale next year!

With utmost appreciation,

Marlene Stone and **Sirinya Matchacheep**



Summer Picnics are Back!!!

Here are the dates and hosts for our summer lunch gatherings. RSVP no later than three days before the gathering to let the host know you will be attending. Don't forget to bring your own bagged lunch. Water provided. These informal gatherings take place from 12 pm to 1 pm.

I can't wait to see y'all in the garden.

Date	Host	Email RSVP
June 8 Wednesday	Ruthanne Igoe	
June 15 Wednesday	Linda Walsh	
June 25 Saturday	Meg Himmel	
July 6 Wednesday	Ann Webster	
July 23 Saturday	Christina Gamota	
August 3 Wednesday	Shirley Ament-Bergey	
August 17 Saturday	Ashley Rooney	
August 31 Wednesday	Greta Ljung	



What's blooming now? American ginger



What's blooming now? Packera aurea



Thank You LFGC Arbor Day Remembrance

Isham Peugh

About 2018 Diane Boyle and I attended the LFGC Garden Tour. One of the last gardens on the tour was **Ashley Rooney** and Peter Lund's. I remarked that I appreciated the LFGC tour and had attended many through the years, and also left my name and contact information. Ashley happened to be president at the time, handed me a brochure inviting membership, then hassled me until I sent my dues in for Diane and me. She had us over for late afternoon wine and cheese a few times, and I have had them over here. We exchanged Irises and Ashley has included me in various endeavors regarding the Garden Club or other interests.

The Lexington Field & Garden Club tries to hold Arbor Day remembrance annually, but COVID caused it to be postponed once or twice.

I knew Don Snodgrass listed here along with Diane. He was an Economist at Harvard University and did projects in developing countries, then would create a class around that theory until he did something similar in another culture. He and his wife, Ann, attended Follen Church where I've been a member since 1977.

After it was over, it dawned on me that I had not been able to attend any formal "remembrance" for Diane ever since September 2, 2020, when she died.

It was very special to me.

We held an Arbor Day celebration on April 29th to honor 12 previous members of the Garden Club. Over 40 people attended this event and people really appreciated the music and the remembrances.

All photos by Isham Peugh



Dedication at Tower Park

The Lexington Field and Garden Club is invited to the dedication of John Frey's memorial at Tower Park.

Details: John Frey Memorial Dedication

Date: Monday June 13, 2022

Location: Tower Park, Lexington East End – Just above Antony Park

Time: 11AM

This effort was initiated by the Tree Committee and Bicycle Committee on April 7th, 2021 Installation of the three Red Oaks and Granite Memorial were completed December 1, 2021.



Thinking Out of the Box

Ashley Rooney

Your choice of plants is much larger and generally more colorful in a sunny garden than in a shady one, but on a hot summer day, a shade garden can be lovely. You can easily transform an unused, shady spot in your yard into a cool and stylish shady retreat by adding a bench and some plantings. You just need to think out of the box when it comes to shade.

The more moisture that's provided and the lighter your shade, the more choices of plants you will have. "Part shade" is usually defined as three or four hours of direct sunlight, which is what a garden planted against the east or west side of a building usually receives. Part shade also describes the dappled light under some trees, especially if their lower limbs are gone. One nursery describes part shade as 4-6 hours of direct sun and full shade as less than 4 hours of direct sun. Very few plants will survive dense, dry shade.

Most shade plants require rich, well-drained soil and regular watering. Add organic matter to your soil before you begin planting so it retains more moisture.



The most popular perennials for shade gardening are the many varieties of astilbes and hostas. The feathery blooms of astilbes come in many shades of pink, white, red, and purple. Their main drawback is that they require regular irrigation or a naturally moist location. Hostas are grown primarily for their foliage, which can be green, blue-green, or yellow-green, often with variegation. The yellows get more yellow if they are in the light; the bluer hostas become bluer when in the shade. If you mix the big-leaved hostas with more finely textured plants, such as ferns, you can create variety in your garden.

But you don't have to stop there.

You can add color with shade lovers such as Hakone grass or Goats Beard. Drought resistant when established, this lacy perennial can survive with less water than most shade plants. It is similar to Astilbe in looks but more drought tolerant. Award-winning *Actaea simplex*

Janes Compton is a striking bronze-leaved bugbane variety. Opening with pink buds in late summer, the white flowers bob and sway over other smaller plants.

Shade-tolerant annuals such as Autumn Joy sedum, coral bells, yellow corydalis, small pink native bleeding hearts, impatiens, begonias, caladiums, torenia, and coleus can provide bold color throughout the season in your shade garden. Shade-loving ground covers such as heuchera and ajuga can help fight the weeds.

If you create layers in your landscaping, you can keep your garden interesting. For example, many shade gardens feature relatively low perennials, such as hosta, Solomon seal, and astilbe, underneath a canopy of tall trees. If you add some shrubs or interesting architectural features such as a column or birdbath and then your plants, you can create a layered effect.



MFA Art in Bloom

LFGC member **Kathryn Leva** represented our club at the MFA's Art in Bloom show from April 28 - 30. Kathryn says it is a "fabulous show with so many new volunteers to Art In Bloom and the MFA this year." She was assigned the round silver tray in the picture, also called a Salver. Up close you can see it has lots of carnations and greenery around the edge. The round shape and the use of greenery and carnations of the floral arrangement nicely match the silver tray.



Attention All Gardeners!



The deadline for the next round of "Grants for Gardeners" will be September 15, 2022.

Spend some time this summer thinking about a project that intrigues you and supports our mission of education, service, and friendship.

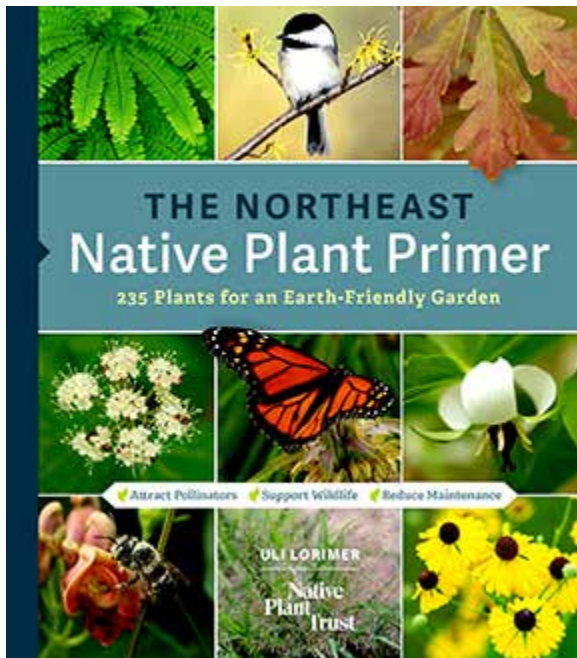
This exciting new program, now in its second year, funds innovative ideas developed by LFGC members. Read about the program and the process on our website here [Grants for Gardeners](#).

Click here to download the application [Grants for Gardeners forms](#). We look forward to hearing from you.

The Financial Advisory Working Group



Grants for Gardeners Spotlight “Native Plants for Your Garden”



Many of you had an opportunity to listen to Uli Lorimer’s seminar on “Native Plants for your Gardens” given via Zoom on April 20. The seminar was organized by Lexington Living Landscapes (LLL) and co-sponsored by the Lexington Field and Garden Club. The presentation highlights our region’s spectacular plant diversity and varied habitats. Uli noted that the decision to plant natives in the garden is one of the most impactful and important choices we can make. With so much under threat from a changing climate, invasive species, habitat loss and fragmentation, and declining numbers of birds and insects, planting natives in our gardens can really make a difference. Native plants have the power to heal our landscapes, welcome wildlife into our gardens, and inspire us. In terms of specific plant selections, Uli made several recommendations based on material covered in his upcoming book entitled *The Northeast Native Plant Primer: 235 Plants for an Earth Friendly Garden*. The

book is expected to be released in mid-May 2022.

Uli Lorimer is director of Horticulture at Garden in the Woods in Framingham, MA. Before that, he was curator of Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Native Flora Garden. The Delaware native grew up with an interest in all things green. After receiving his degree in landscape horticulture from the University of Delaware, he moved to New York City to become the woodland gardener at Wave Hill. At BBG, Uli tended the historic Native Flora Garden and was instrumental in expanding it to include a coastal plain meadow and pine barrens habitat. In his ongoing efforts to collect seeds from the wild and bring to the garden rare and unusual indigenous species, Uli worked closely with other botanists in the New York region to document and study the biodiversity of our area.

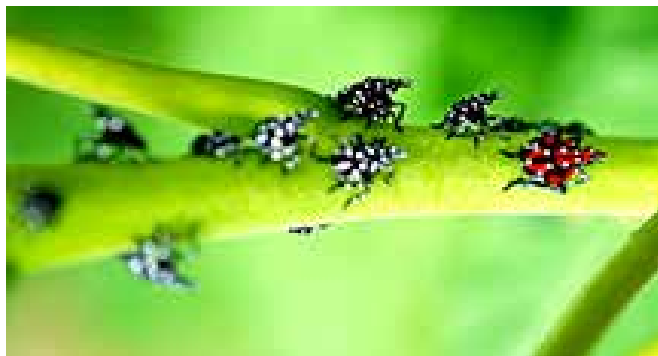
In case you missed Uli’s presentation on April 20, a recording is available here: [Native Plants for Your Garden](#)

We hope you’ll all have a chance to visit Garden in the Woods this summer. If lucky, you may even have a chance to meet Uli along the trails. They also have a plant nursery where you can purchase a variety of native plants grown at their plant nursery Nasami Farm in western Massachusetts. The work at the nurseries is focused on the propagation of and research on New England native plants.



Be On the Lookout: State Agricultural Officials Ask Public to be on Alert for Hatching of Invasive Spotted Lanternfly Eggs

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is asking the public to keep an eye out for the invasive pest known as spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) during the spring planting season due to the risk of egg masses being accidentally brought in on shipments of trees imported from other states. MDAR recently received reports that nursery stock from SLF-infested areas may have been sent to Massachusetts growers. Due to this, anyone who has recently purchased trees or shrubs or had them planted on their property, particularly maple or crabapple trees, is being asked to inspect the trunk and branches to ensure there are no SLF egg masses or any hitchhiking nymphs, and to report any finds to MDAR. Landscapers and plant nurseries are also being reminded to stay



Spotted Lantern Fly nymphs emerging from egg case

on the lookout for this pest.

Spotted lanternfly is a sap-feeding insect that has caused significant impacts to vineyards, orchards, and other agricultural commodities in states where it has become established. SLF not only harms grapevines, maples, hops, blueberries, and over 100 other host plants, but has been observed to impact outdoor recreation in other states where populations are high and adult lanternflies swarm in large numbers during mating season. If you see any signs of spotted lanternfly, please report it to MDAR at <https://massnrc.org/pests/slf>.



Egg case SLF



Gardeners Just Wanna' Have Fun!!



At the Hancock-Burlington islands, while cutting back the large plant with the yellow flowers we discovered a hidden evergreen. Three of the volunteers decided that the best way to save the evergreen was to dig it up, remove the flowering plant, and replant it.



A graphic of a spotlight beam shining from the top left corner onto the title.

Long-Time Member Spotlight

Christel McCarthy

I was invited to become a Member probably in 1984/85. In those days, you had to be invited by someone that knew you into the Club. We lived at the time on Forest Street. I had a young son and a very small but charming garden. The person who invited me might have been Harriet Hathaway, who at the time was working for the old Lexington Gardens Nursery. I was a frequent visitor to Lexington Gardens with our son, especially once PBS, Jim Crockett's Victory Garden, was set up. It was a great escape from the daily routine and enjoyable to look at the plants and flowers, and one could always learn something new there.

I was new in the Club when we still had the annual NEW MEMBER TEA. It was usually held at the current President's home and was a fancy affair. The President sat at her dining room table and from a silver tray and silver teapot, poured a fancy cup of tea, with homemade cookies, of course – very British or colonial.

It was made clear membership meant you are expected to help in some way within the Club, although I have to say that our goals were smaller then. In the very beginning, I was assigned to the Membership Welcoming Table. It gave me great pleasure and the opportunity to meet so many people and say some personal words to them. I did this for a long time. It never got old.

Barbara Lucas and I, who were both new, took on the task of making sure there were weekly bouquets in Munroe Tavern during tourist season. We eventually had a list of very faithful ladies to help us. At the end of the season, we had a tea party in our home, and the list went around to cover next year's season. I think we did this for 20 years, it was quite enjoyable, and we all became friends.

I am also thinking of the wonderful private Garden Tours that were offered. The organizers had a great deal of work, but it felt so good when it was a successful tour.

And then the Plant Sale, all the potting going on in Members' backyards, sometimes in icy wet weather before the DPW took us into their barn. Some people knew a lot about plants and growing conditions; there was so much to learn and friendly people to be with.

One of my favorite events was Arbor Day. It covered old and young literally. Saplings were handed out to first graders and our Members that had passed on that year were memorialized with a tree planting, and a choir sang; it was all very dignified. Also, the Scholarship event is so worthwhile in the Minuteman School.

I think around the year 2000, someone had the idea that Traffic Islands, community spots in town, and Emery Park needed help. The Park was newly landscaped, which in my view was desperately needed. The design was lovely and enhanced the whole Center. As luck would have it, **Christina Gamota** took on the project, and she and her helpers produced wonderful results. It is an attractive oasis in the heart of Lexington enjoyed by young and old.

I took on a traffic island close to our house across from the Inn at Hastings Park. Initially, I had a neighbor help me for some years to maintain it. About ten years ago, we moved into a condo – so no more garden – I was happy to have that little Traffic Island to be creative in. Often working there, people stopped their cars to say hello and thank me for the effort. One was appreciated. One day a lady stopped to take a photo of me working on the Island, the next day, the photo was in the Boston Globe in the metro section. This lady lived in town and had seen me working there many times.

I do not want to forget **Mary Nokes**, who herded me and others into the Landscape Designers program. We learned so much from a friendly group of teachers and had the opportunity to take many trips for enjoyment and learning and made many friends along the way.

I am looking at my desk lamp, and attached is a prize ribbon for 2nd place for a beautiful flower in a competition in 1984. I was so afraid to enter, I was new. But Harriet Hathaway talked me into it, and I

am glad she did.

I wish you all the most pleasant experiences in our Club.



Depot Beautification Project

Last week, **Christina Gamota** and **Chris Kochanski** placed the last few plants in the ground to complete the Depot beautification project. Initiated by **Anne Lee** and supported by funds from the Garden Club in the first Grants for Gardeners cycle, the project turned neglected, weed-infested areas in front of the Lexington Historical Society's headquarters into a welcoming and appealing spot. A careful selection of perennials and shrubs provide year-round interest, color, and variety. Do stop by, take a seat on the benches, and enjoy!



Sub Group Reports



Monday Evening Group

Anne Lee

Despite being a bit cool and wet on Monday, May 2, a large group of us enjoyed an engaging and informative walk at **Wright Farm** with Adam Green, a Conservation Land-Use Ranger for the Town of Lexington. Adam led us around the newly-acquired town property to discuss topics such as invasive plants, tree identification tips, and wildlife (we spotted three white-tailed deer)! The 14-acre property is at 241 Grove Street.

Sub Group Reports *continues*

Morning Study Group

Georgia Harris

Morning study group had a field trip to Tower Hill Botanical Garden (now called New England Botanical Garden at Tower Hill) on May 10. Members were delighted with a 45-minute tour by a very experienced guide and were impressed with how much the garden has evolved. It's a lovely day trip any time of the year.



Openings in Sub-groups

If interested, get in touch with the contacts below to get further information. You can ask to attend a meeting to see what you think! This is a great way to learn more and make new friends. You can also look at each sub-group section in the Yearbook to see when meetings are held and what kinds of programs are offered.

Morning Study Group has space for new members. Morning Study Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Social time starts at 9:30 AM; the program begins at 10:00 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.

Morning Study – **Georgia Glick**

Wednesday Workshop has openings as well. We offer very nice programs with field trips coming up for 2022-2023. Join any time, even mid-year. Join now to participate in our welcoming September program.

Wednesday Workshop – **Ellan Siegel**

Garden Party also has openings

Garden Party – **Leslie Masson**



What's blooming?

Pitcher plant (left)

Mayapple (right)

People, Places & Plants

Saving the World's Threatened Trees

The State of the World's Trees, published in September 2021, shares the results of the Global Tree Assessment—the first conservation audit of most of the world's nearly sixty thousand species. The results show that 30 percent of all tree species—more than 17,500 species—are threatened with extinction. Read more at [Harvard Arnold Arboretum](#).



Birds inspire Art, Awe, and Action

The Aviary is an evolution of The Illustrated Aviary, which ran from 2013 to 2021 and invited artists to reinterpret John James Audubon's original watercolors through their own unique style. In its new iteration, we've widened the series to include artists in any medium who are motivated to educate and inspire people to take action on behalf of birds.

Navigating Nurseries this Spring

A significant challenge for local garden centers with regional horticultural experience is that big-box stores have cut their profit margins and have jumped into the market with cheap plants. Across the country, from the steamy South to the cool North and the arid West, the same mass-produced plants are offered for sale with no hint of their place of origin. Read more at [Wild Seed Project](#).

For Gen Z, Climate Change Is a Heavy Emotional Burden

Britt Wray is a leading researcher on the mental health impact of climate change. In an e360 interview, she talks about the rise of climate anxiety in young people, how social media exacerbates this trend, and why distress about the climate crisis can spur positive change. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#)



Superbloom in Tower of London

This summer, a visit to the Tower of London will be even more special as we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee year of HM The Queen. Over 20 million seeds have been sown in the famous moat which will develop and morph over the course of the summer. The Tower's superbloom is the first stage of a legacy project that will turn the moat permanently into the biggest resource for bees and other pollinators in central London. Read more at [Historic Royal Palaces](#).

Support Spring Pollinators: Think Big

How can you support pollinators in April and May? Think big. Plant native flowering shrubs or trees. In New England, you'll be hard-pressed to find better forage for insects than these woody plants. Not only do these larger plants produce copious amounts of flowers, but they are often important host plants for caterpillars of moths and butterflies. Read more at [Tufts Pollinator Initiative](#).

That's it for the June newsletter, hope to see you at a summer picnic!