



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

We are very happy to welcome everyone back to another year (our 149th!) of fellowship, learning, and gardening! A rainy summer helped gardens flourish and grow (sometimes to jungle-like proportions!) and the heat kept us under floppy hats with cool drinks in our muddy hands. A subtle change in the air has let us know that fall is right around the corner!

*'Every leaf speaks bliss to me,
fluttering from the autumn tree.'*
~ Emily Bronte

We want to take this opportunity to thank our recent Co-Presidents, **Marlene Stone** and **Georgia Harris**, for their enthusiastic leadership and for propelling the Club forward as we emerged from COVID. We are fortunate to have such dedicated leaders and we're happy they will be around, continuing to lend their experience and expertise to our endeavors.

LFGC has a full agenda of meetings and events coming up. Please refer to your new Yearbook to check dates and times, at the printer at this moment. Or check [the website](#). We'll continue to keep you informed through the newsletter and announcements at meetings. For example, September 13 is our first meeting this season and will be held at Follen Church. Doors open at 9:30 AM for socializing and the meeting will start at 10:00. Christie Dustman will discuss gardening design for drought, pests, and climate change. A very important and timely topic! We will also have an in-person vote on the slate of candidates for officers for the 2023-2024 term. And there will be a delicious luncheon served after the meeting for those who signed up by September 1. Please see the information in this newsletter on page 3 for information about voting for the candidates. See you there!

The 3rd Annual Herb Fest will be held on September 17, 12:00-4:00 PM at Buckman Tavern and the Hancock-Clarke House. We will have a booth at the event, with fun activities for kids and herbs for sale! Be sure to check out the Herb Garden at the Hancock-Clarke house, which is maintained by the Morning Study Group.

Upcoming events include a 2024 Garden Tour and the Lexington 250th Celebration! Plans are underway and there are many opportunities to participate.

There are openings in many of the sub-groups, so if you're interested, check the Yearbook and call the respective Membership Chair for information.

There are so many people to thank for keeping LFGC afloat during the summer. **Vicki Blake** and **Georgia Harris** kept us informed through the weekly newsletters. Many people offered their gardens for our popular "Picnic in the Garden" lunches. **Jane Halverson** reaches out to members who are going through difficult times. **Regina Sutton** organized the wonderful "Books in Bloom" event at the Cary Library. The Plant Sale, with its many volunteers, was amazing! **Miranda Cohen** keeps our finances in order. Civic Gardening and its army of workers kept all the beautiful islands and public spots looking gorgeous all summer long. **Meg Himmel** organized a lovely luncheon to honor some of our long-time Civic Gardening stewards. Please forgive us if we're leaving something or someone out...but we are indeed fortunate to have so many members care so deeply for the Club and work with a smile to fulfill our mission of education, service, and friendship.

Ruthanne Igoe and Ashley Rooney



Dates to Remember

- September 6** Executive Board Meeting 9 AM, Ashley Rooney's house
- September 9** Lexington Living Landscape Open Gardens Day 10 AM - 3 PM
- September 13** Christie Dustman on a Philosophy of Garden Design
Follen Church 9:30 Welcome 10:00 Meeting,
Lunch for members who signed up by September 1
- September 15** Grants for Gardeners Due
- September 17** Herb Fest Buckman Tavern & Hancock-Clarke House, 12 - 4 PM



Lexington Living Landscapes' Open Gardens Day

Saturday, September 9, 10 AM - 3 PM

Come Meet and Learn
from Other Lexington Gardeners

About a dozen residents have signed up to open their gardens to visitors on Lexington Living Landscapes' 2nd Annual Open Gardens Day on Saturday, September 9. This will be an opportunity for you to see their gardens and learn how to incorporate more native plants, use fewer chemicals, and implement more sustainable practices into your landscaping. Stop by the gardens to see the many different forms a native plant garden can take and to learn about alternatives to lawns that other gardeners have implemented.

Each of the dozen participating gardens are open to visitors either from 10 AM – 1 PM, or from 1 – 3 PM. Visit as many or as few as you wish. No tickets or pre-registrations required.

A detailed schedule and list of participating properties will be posted on the Lexington Living Landscapes website (www.lexingtonlivinglandscapes.org) by September 2.



September 13 Meeting at Follen Church 9:30 AM Social 10 AM Meeting

Listen to Christie Dustman discuss her philosophy of garden design for drought, pests, and climate change.

An important in-person vote will be taken for the slate of officers for the 2023 - 2024 season.

President:	Kathy Leva
Vice President:	Kitty Galaitsis
Recording Secretary:	Deb Heaton
Corresponding Secretary:	Jane Halverson
Treasurer:	Miranda Cohen
Membership:	Marilyn Ryngiewicz and Nancy Trautman

For those who don't know Kathy Leva, she has been an LFGC member for 13 years and has served two terms as the Middlesex director of the MA Federation of Garden Clubs. She lectures on floral design, is on the flower show judges' council, and has represented LFGC at Art in Bloom several times.



The deadline for the next “Grants for Gardeners” is September 15, 2023

Have you thought about a project that intrigues you and supports our mission of education, service, and friendship? Now is the time to get started on your application!

This exciting program, now in its third year, funds innovative ideas developed by LFGC members. Some of the projects funded include supporting the Lexington High School Bee Club, cost-sharing gardening lectures with another local group, beautifying the Depot area, the Cary Library and the Munroe Center for the Arts grounds, removing invasives at the Hancock-Clarke House, and developing an all-needs accessible pollinator garden at the Harrington Elementary School.

Read more about the program and the process on our website here (www.LexGardenClub.org). [Click here](#) to download the application. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Financial Advisory Working Group





Third Annual HerbFest!

Sunday, September 17, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Buckman Tavern, and Hancock-Clarke House, Lexington *FREE*

Join us for our third annual Herb Fest, organized by the Garden Club and the Lexington Historical Society to celebrate and showcase the Society's two beautiful herb gardens!

Buckman Tavern, home to the Helen Noyes Webster and Mary Milligan Memorial Herb Garden, will host a variety of demonstrations and vendors selling wares that integrate herbs and spices into foods, soaps, teas, and more. The Garden Club will sell potted

herbs and members of CAAL (Chinese American Association of Lexington) will present a history of tea cultivation and ceremonies.



The Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden will be presented as an educational garden, with members of Morning Study Group's Herb Committee sharing histories of 18th-century herbs from the garden. Activities and craft demonstrations for the whole family will teach about how plants have been used throughout history for food and medicine. Brochures and recipes will be available to take home and try!

How Garden Club members can help:

Please contact **Anne Lee**, Herb Fest chair, for more information.

- Join a workshop on September 14, 10 - noon to make Bouquet Garni, Three Sisters Stew packets, and kitchen herbal wreaths to sell. RSVP to Anne for location.
- Post flyers around town, including at your house, and in the area (flyers available at the Society office weekdays, 10 AM -4 PM
- Post/share on social media
- Provide information at a table at the Farmer's Market on Tuesday, September 5, 2 - 6:30 PM in shifts.
- Volunteer at the LFGC booth, [signup here](#).



Life as a Plant Raider

E. Ashley Rooney

A friend called the other day, asking for help dividing her plants. I responded that if she would share some of her day-lilies, I would bring Peter, who is much better with the shovel than I am. In turn, he would divide her plants. Four hours later, her lilies were divided. I got poison ivy that was hiding among the lilies, and Peter got his lily fans.

When we visited my friend John on the Cape, I weeded his garden and found infant specialty hostas, which we brought home and nursed along in pots until they could be planted in the garden.

Yes, I am a plant raider, swapper, and giver. Friends give me poppy seeds from Switzerland; save impatiens seeds for me; hand me purple loosestrife saying, "This is so lovely that we decided it was you." (I indeed love purple but purple loosestrife is invasive). I did have a lovely red nicotiana from seeds gathered at Tanglewood and rhubarb from a friend long gone. I have surreptitiously collected seeds abroad and brought them home.

Keep a sharp shovel, firm shoes, a plastic bag, and a bucket in your car to become a true plant raider. You also need friends who don't know what to do with their gardens. Then, you offer to weed and dig, thereby carefully removing one or two rare shoots. Or you may prefer to carefully lead the conversation in the direction of sharing or giving you a cutting of their irises, peonies, lilies, and rare exquisite plants. Having your tools available will allow you to jump to your feet, exclaiming, "Let's dig now. My tools are at the ready."

When my friend Jeff bought his house, he came over, armed with buckets and spade, to help me divide my large hostas; he took the other half of the hostas home with him. When my ornamental grasses get too large, I call my friend Mark. He divides them in half, and we celebrate with some red wine. After all, one of the pleasures of gardening is sharing what you have with others.

My friend Shirley says, "I look around my garden and think of you."

Dividing the Plants

Division, the simplest and most certain propagation method, can propagate many plants. The best time for dividing established perennials is early spring, when plants are 2-3" high, or in the fall, when the foliage starts to die. The job is easier if you cut back the leaves. Keep replanted divisions well-watered and provide shade if the sun is strong. When a mature plant needs transplanting, you could divide it simultaneously, saving yourself time. Dividing or splitting a single perennial into multiple plants helps the plant perform better. When perennials are divided, roots have more space to grow and absorb nutrients and water.

The easiest way is to section the plant into quarters with a sharp spade. The plant can be dug up or, in some cases, divided while still in the ground. With more delicate plants, you can slide your fingers around the clump to see if a rooted shoot can be detached and grown as a cutting.

Root Cuttings

You can make root cuttings of shrubs, vines, herbs, perennials, and even annuals. Use a sharp, clean knife to cut young 3-4" shoots that haven't bloomed from the lower part of healthy plants. My garden knife of choice is a **hori-hori knife**. Remove any buds and put a few cuttings into a colored jar filled with water. You can begin impatiens, celosia, begonias, geraniums, and mints this way.

With careful pruning and feeding, you can give these plants a new home and save a good deal of money. The best time to move them is in spring when plants are starting to grow and the ground is beginning to warm up.



Free Gardening Catalogs and More

Annie's Annuals carries some of the rarest annuals around. Request a catalog and discover a plant you haven't tried before. You can also watch instructional videos on the website.

Bountiful Gardens Request a catalog as well as take advantage of the seed calculator they offer on the site.

Burgess Seed Co. Request your catalog and when you order you get a variety of free gifts. Depending on how much you spend you can get free huckleberry, cherry tomatoes, ranunculus, or windflowers.

Burpee is one of the oldest companies in the business. Request your colorful catalog that includes over 100 new products, gardening tips, and great deals. Don't forget to sign up for the money-saving email list while you are there too.

Gardens Alive is an excellent source for seeds, fresh plants, fertilizer, and other gardening supplies. Request a catalog which also comes with a coupon good for \$25 off your \$50 order.

The Online Greenhouse Request a catalog as well as sign up for loyalty rewards. They even offer fundraising opportunities.

Park Seed Find a variety of flower and produce seeds sure to excite you. You will also be treated to a \$10 off coupon when you sign up. Sign up for their newsletter while you are there to get a free shipping coupon.

Pine Tree Garden Request a catalog, shop organic products, and even find plant based cosmetics. This is a unique gardening company.

Prairie Nursery is perfect for the person looking for grasses, wildflowers, and native plants. Head to their site to learn more about these products and request a catalog.

Raintree Nursery All 4-inch pots are on sale, you can get plenty of free gardening advice, and request a catalog too. Don't let poison ivy get you down this gardening season, check out the recipe for Homemade Poison Ivy Scrub.

RH Shumway is also one of the older names in the gardening business. Request a catalog and when you order, they will treat you to two free packs of seeds. They also offer an online garden planner.

Sow True Seed offers a beautiful catalog as well as 15% off your purchase when you sign up for their e-newsletter.

Territorial Seed Company ships live plants right to your door. Request their colorful catalog so you can enjoy all of the varieties they have to offer and enjoy a 100% money back promise on your purchase. Want butterflies to flock to your garden? Peek at these easy butterfly feeders you can make in minutes!

Wayside Gardens for all your planting needs. You can request a catalog as well as sign up for their e-newsletter.

White Flower Farm for seeds, bulbs, live plants, flower arrangements and more. Sign up for their newsletter while there and get gardening tips and advice. Also, request a catalog.

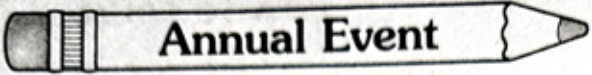


Lexington Council for the Arts: Grant Cycle to Open on Sept. 1

Do you have a project that enhances the cultural vitality of the Lexington community? The Lexington Council for the Arts (LCA), a Town of Lexington Committee, is pleased to announce that the 2023–2024 grant cycle will open on September 1, 2023

All applications must be submitted online through the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) website by October 17, 2023. [Learn more.](#)




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For spectacular floral results with minimal labor, try planting some annuals this year. Though an annual's life cycle is just one season, it is one filled with an abundance of seed-bearing blossoms!

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BLOOM
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 FLOWERS
 GARDEN
 GERANIUM
 GROW
 HARDY
 annuals
 IMPATIENS
 INDOORS
 LARKSPUR
 LEAVES
 MARIGOLD
 NASTUR-
 TIUM
 OUTDOORS

H R B W A Z D K U M T D Z K I

L A I I I C O L E U S T O O R

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P O T S E F E R T I L I Z E R

Z S N E I T A P M I E P N F O

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Interesting Articles, Podcasts and Websites

Keep Your Perennial Coneflowers Coming Back Year After Year

Multicolored superstars of the summer border thanks to their impressive flower power, echinaceas (commonly known as coneflowers) are beloved by gardeners, birds, bees and butterflies. Read the article at [Birds & Blooms](#)

Moving And Dividing Perennials That Don't Want Their Root Systems Disturbed

For some perennials, it is especially difficult to move or divide them. You plant them, they thrive, then you decide to uproot them and they just don't want to go there. Read the article at [WomansWork](#)

'Soil Your Undies' to Test Health of Your Yard

Got a pair of tighty whities you want to get rid of? Instead of throwing them away, bury them in your yard. No, really. Bury them in May or June next year, dig them up in about 60 days, and you'll have an accurate assessment of the microbial activity in your soil. It's part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Your Undies Challenge, according to Molly Allard, district manager of the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District. [Read more here](#)



What's Happening Around New England



Fall Noticing Walks

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and the Council on Aging welcome John Calabria back to Lincoln for the Fall 2023 Noticing Walks.

Gently paced, these walks are all about the journey, not the destination. The group will unplug from the busy world and let our senses come alive in nature. All are welcome to join.

Walks will be on Tuesdays September 5, September 26, November 7, and December 5 from 1:00-2:30 PM. Locations and parking details posted online.

Registration encouraged for those wanting an email reminder before each walk. Although gently paced, the walks cover rough terrain. Sturdy footwear encouraged and walking poles welcome. [Details and registration here](#)

Native Plant Trust

Late Season Plant Sale is on!

Members enjoy a 25% savings on plants, while nonmembers save 15%. Make your list of species for fall planting—and download our [plant list on this page](#).

Asters After Hours, Friday, September 29, 2023, 5-7 PM

An event celebrating magnificent fall blooms. Stroll the Garden in the Woods after hours amidst the best of the season's stunning asters (Asteraceae), goldenrods (Solidago), and cardinal flowers (Lobelia cardinalis). Garden admission and light refreshments from Decanted Wine Trucks--a local, women-owned business--are [included with registration](#).

That's all for this month, hope to see you soon!