



# Lexington Field & Garden Club

## 144 Years of Making Lexington More Beautiful

Member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

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Hello Garden Club Friends,

The holiday season has begun! Our November full club meeting featured Jana Milbocker speaking about and showing Autumn and Winter Gardens. We won't have a December meeting and will get together on January 10 with Aaron Anderson, who will speak on Managing Pests While Protecting Pollinators. We've got two new LFGC websites. One to promote the club to the community and another to promote fellowship within the club. The image on the right shows many LFGC elves who gathered to prepare a broad range of decorations members can choose at the Greens Party on December 11. Don't miss the fun. *And read on for so much more!*



**Kathy Leva, President**

### Dates to Remember

**December 11**      **Holiday Greens Party, 11 AM - 7 PM – see details on the next page**

**December 20**      **Deadline for submissions to the January newsletter**

### Kathy Leva wins the prestigious Pauline D. Bowden Award

Each year, the Pauline D. Bowden Award – a silver English teapot – goes to the highest-scoring Blue Ribbon design at the Topsfield Fair. The award was presented to Kathy Leva at the Flower Show Judges Symposium Nov 2 in Milford by the GCFM President Marjorie Dienhart.



Kathy's class theme was a creative reflective design with a class title of "*Catching the Sunset at Halibut Point*"

Pauline Bowden was a member of the Danvers Garden Club. She touched many lives through her lectures, teaching, and mentoring. Her hands were scars of her passion for gardening and flower arranging and reflected the kind of person she was, full of life and passion.





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## Holiday Greens Party: Monday, December 11, Church of Our Redeemer Great Hall (lower level) 11 AM - 7 PM

### What is it?

An open workshop and festive gathering of fellow garden club members (**members only, please**), where we'll have assorted greens and other materials to make holiday arrangements to take home.

A perfect place to get new skills and ideas, share greens from your yard, and recycle holiday decorations and containers

**NEW:** We're going **GREEN** by eliminating the use of "Oasis" floral foam, which puts toxic microplastics and chemicals into our water ways. We'll use some alternatives.

### Where and when?

**Church of Our Redeemer** Great Hall (lower level)

### NOTE NEW PLACE

6 Meriam St, enter on the left side of the building

### AND NEW DAY

**MONDAY, December 11**

Drop in between 11 AM and 7 PM

### What to bring?

**Your pruners and wire cutters**, ideally labeled with your name

Traditional **floral arranging mechanics** you have and may find useful (such as pin frogs/kenzans, chicken wire or plastic floral pillows, stones or marbles)

**Decorations and containers** you want to use or donate/recycle

Some **food or drink goodie** to share on our refreshments table

**Greens from your yard** (no hemlock, please)

**And for the greens, please plan ahead!** If the weather forecast, or your schedule, is not good for pruning right before our party, please cut your greens earlier and keep them fresh in buckets of water or dark trash bags in your garage or a corner of your yard. We have run short on greens when not enough members planned ahead.

**If you have a large quantity**, drop off before the party begins (9 - 11 AM) would be especially helpful, if possible.

### How to help?

Our fun also will depend on many LFGC elves willing to help with:

**Workspace set-up** on Monday morning, December 11, 8 -10:30 AM

**Clean-up** Monday evening, December 11, 7 - 9 PM

If you are able to help in any of these ways, please sign up with co-chairs **Jane Halverson** or **Ann Webster**.

Also, we would be delighted to receive advance donations of decorations or containers. You can drop them off at your convenience on Ann's front porch, (16 Brent Road).



# Executive Summary – Lexington Field & Garden Club Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 1

Attendance: Vicki Blake, Miranda Cohen, Kitty Galaitsis, Jane Halverson, Debra Heaton, Ruthanne Igoe, Anne Lee, Kathy Leva, Ashley Rooney, Nancy Trautman, Linda Walsh, Ann Webster

Meg Himmel (Special Representative for the Lexington 250 Celebration Committee)

Absent: Greta Ljung, Leslie Masson, Leslie Sargis

Kathy Leva called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

## I. Old Business

- 1.The September minutes were amended and approved.
- 2.Treasurer’s Report – Miranda Cohen presented the current budget and requested that all committees have a direct contact for her so she can confirm expenditures and reimbursements.

## II. Ongoing Business

Meg Himmel gave a report on the current state of the LFGC’s participation in the 250th Celebration of the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

- 1.Meg, along with Kathy Leva, will be the chairs for the LFGC committee and will directly work with DPW and the Celebrations Committee.
- 2.They will be seeking direct input from the LFGC members about how much the LFGC would like to participate. There will be a survey in the winter.

## III. New Business

- 1.The Greens Party will be held Monday, December 11 at the Church of our Redeemer. See the article on the previous page for details.
- 2.Garden Tour – This will be in June 2024 and will be for one day only. Houses and artists have been secured and the committee is working on the details.
- 3.Plant Sale – The committee is working on collecting pots and other items for the sale in May.
- 4.Bylaws update – Ann Webster updated the Board on the progress of the committee. They hope to have it finalized in January for potential presentation to the full club in February/March.
- 5.High School Scholarship – The Board decided to stop giving this award due to low participation and issues with the local high school's lack of cooperation.

## IV. Board Reports

There were reports from the following committees:

Vice-President/Programming, Corresponding Secretary, Membership, Civic Gardening, Communications, Financial Advisory Committee, Nominating

There were no motions or votes.

## V. Sub-group reports

There were reports from all 5 groups. No issues were discussed.

Respectfully submitted, Debra Heaton, Recording Secretary

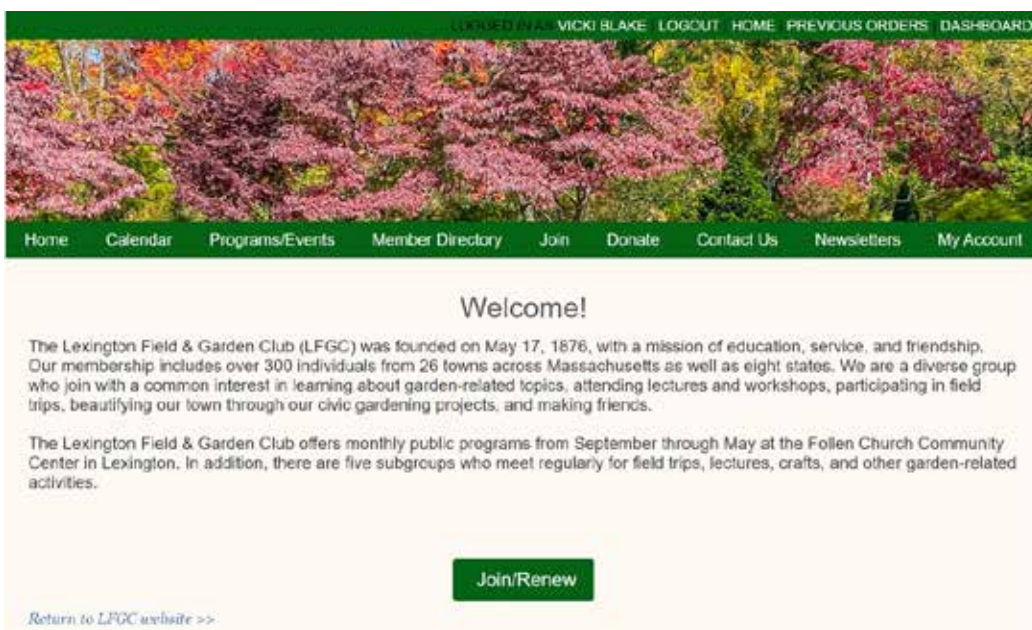


## New Websites for LGFC

Last year a committee was formed to refresh the LFGC websites. You may have known we had a public site, but did you know we also had a membership site? Probably not, as it wasn't really open to the community. We decided to change that.

The new public site can be found at <https://lexgarden.org>, and it looks like the image to the right. Be sure to check out the Civic Gardening page.

The new membership site can be found at <https://lexgardenclub.membershiptoolkit.com>. This platform will be familiar to those of you with children in the Lexington public school system, as the PTO uses the same tool to manage parent members. The new LFGC member site looks like this:



The membership site has some features that are only available to members, so you will need to login to see everything. These include a directory of members, member-only events & signups, and soon, the revised club bylaws. A simple guide is attached along with this newsletter to help you navigate the login process. If you would like some help with navigating the login, please reach out to **Vicki Blake**, **Nancy Trautman**, or **Francesca Leonin**. We're happy to help, and we're very excited to share these new sites with you.

## An Upcoming Online Native Plant Sale - Indigenous Landscapes

A 2023 Online Native Plant Sale will open on Saturday, December 2, 8:00 A.M. at this website: **December Sale for March Shipping** - currently the website is password locked but will become unlocked 8:00 AM Saturday, December 2nd, Eastern Time. Plants that are bought now will be shipped this upcoming March.

## Civic Garden Fall Clean-up

LFGC volunteers participated this November in the yearly fall clean-up. These volunteers worked tirelessly, keeping these garden islands weeded, raked, pruned, and watered, performing an incredible service to the club and the town of Lexington. Plants in these gardens are chosen for their resilience to thrive despite heavy traffic. Emery Park, at the Depot, under the nurturing presence of volunteers, is a shining example of LFGC's commitment to beautifying the town. We appreciate all of the volunteers and look forward to seeing the beautiful bulbs blooming in the spring.

Please check out the new LFGC civic gardening page at <https://lexgarden.org/civic-gardening>.



## Membership Corner

The Lexington Field & Garden Club has over 300 members! One of the best ways to get to know your fellow gardeners is to attend an event. How about creating holiday décor with expert help at the all-day Greens Party on **December 11** at the Church of Our Redeemer?

You could also join one of the many subgroups or sign up for a one-time or ongoing civic gardening activity. Check out this newsletter or the website for more ways to be involved and meet other members.

As the name suggests, subgroups offer education and experience on a smaller and more intimate scale. Choose the group that works best for you.

**Monday Evening Group** 7 PM on the fourth Monday of the month - Contact **Anne Lee**

**Morning Study Group** 9:30 AM on the second Tuesday of the month - Contact **Ruthanne Igoe**

**Garden Party** 7 PM on the third Tuesday of the month - Contact **Leslie Masson** and **Leslie Sargis**

**Wednesday Workshop** 9:30 AM on the third Wednesday of the month - Contact **Ann Webster**

**Thursday Evening Group** 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of the month - Contact **Linda Walsh**

### *Directory update*

**Shelly Quezada** has a new email address



## Growing Your Own

### Ashley Rooney

Why do gardeners plant seeds indoors? Probably because we are impatient (get it?) types who can't wait for spring. Or maybe it is because we are frugal and, like the many plants we get so inexpensively, or perhaps we just long for spring.

If you are considering purchasing seeds from one of those tempting catalogs, be sure your seeds come from a supplier catering to our area. A Louisiana company usually sells products for a very different region. The catalog should contain facts about the plant (e.g., zone, the light and moisture required), not just wax poetic about the beauty of the plant. It should also supply the plant's botanical name (e.g., Solidago rather than Goldenrod) so you don't end up with the same plant you already have.

Reviewing catalogs is like eating M&Ms: Oh, just one more packet, I tell myself. My father-in-law used to say spring came thrice: 1. When the catalogs arrived. 2. When he ordered. 3. When he planted.

If you have heavy shade, don't get plants that require lots of sun. How many eggplants do you need? Do you have room for all those lilies? Make your order, let it sit, and then review it several days later.

### ***Sowing seeds indoors requires:***

#### **Timing**

Before starting your seeds indoors, do some research. Ask your local garden center for your area's last expected frost date or consult [Massachusetts's last frost dates map](#).

Memorial Day weekend (e.g., May 30) is the traditional planting day in New England, although, with these warm winters, my friends and I have taken the chance and planted earlier, say Mother's Day. If the packet says "sow six weeks before the last frost," count backward from Memorial Day weekend. Plants such as lettuce or broccoli, which do well with cold weather, can be planted outdoors in April and started indoors earlier.

If you plant indoors too early, your seedlings will outgrow their containers before you can transplant them outdoors. Too late, and you'll have small plants that require lavish pampering to survive.

#### **Containers**

Seed-starting containers range from Styrofoam coffee cups to yogurt containers to homemade newspaper pots. Almost any type of container is possible if it holds one to two inches of soil and permits drainage.

Individual containers result in the least disturbance to the root systems when the plants are eventually transplanted. We find the small peat pots set into large rectangular plastic flats without drainage the easiest. The Jiffy-style soil pellets don't require any soil. You can plant both



types of pots directly in the garden without disturbing the seedling's roots.

## Medium

You can create your own potting mix, but as James Underwood Crockett, the original host of the PBS series *The Victory Garden*, points out, "the commercial products are more convenient, free of disease organisms, and improved with such materials as vermiculite, perlite and peat moss." Because of the relatively shallow depth and limited container volume, growing media must be amended to provide the appropriate physical and chemical properties necessary for plant growth.

## Planting

Germinating seeds require a delicate balance of moisture and oxygen. Fill your planting pots 1/4 inch from the top with your soil mixture and place them in a flat. Fill the flat with water and let the pots stand in the water to moisten the mix evenly.

## Lighting

We like standard fluorescent light fixtures with a reflector. First, hang the lights about 3 inches away from the pot. Once you have seedlings, the lights can be raised to four to six inches above. Turn your seedlings frequently so they don't become lop-sided. Your plants will delight in 12 – 16 hours of light. You will delight in an automatic timer.

## Request for Missing Pamphlet

David Hathaway loaned a pamphlet to a garden club member visiting his wife, Harriet. It was a guidebook on Athens. He believes he had a note in the front that read, "***Please return to me.***" It has not been returned.

Would the member please return the pamphlet to David. Thank you.

***That's all for now, enjoy the holidays and hope to see you soon!***


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WIZARD WORDS 1
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*Loop in the diagram all the words listed below; then read the leftover letters from left to right, top to bottom, to discover the Wizard's Words.*

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<input type="checkbox"/> BEGONIA	<input type="checkbox"/> FOXGLOVE	<input type="checkbox"/> HYACINTH
<input type="checkbox"/> COSMOS	<input type="checkbox"/> FREESIA	<input type="checkbox"/> IRIS
<input type="checkbox"/> CROCUS	<input type="checkbox"/> FUCHSIA	<input type="checkbox"/> JONQUIL
<input type="checkbox"/> DAFFODIL	<input type="checkbox"/> GARDENIA	<input type="checkbox"/> LARKSPUR
<input type="checkbox"/> DAHLIA	<input type="checkbox"/> GERANIUM	<input type="checkbox"/> LOBELIA
T A N S Y G A A T L U P I N E	<input type="checkbox"/> MARIGOLD	<input type="checkbox"/> LUPINE
E U A F P A H I L O W E R J S	<input type="checkbox"/> ORCHID	<input type="checkbox"/> PANSY
L H L O P R Y S C O S M O S W	<input type="checkbox"/> PETUNIA	<input type="checkbox"/> POPPY
O W T I O D A H L I A N E I Y	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIMROSE	<input type="checkbox"/> TANSY
I H E F P E C C I R Q S S L V	<input type="checkbox"/> TULIP	<input type="checkbox"/> VERBENA
V G E R A N I U M U O T I S E	<input type="checkbox"/> VIOLET	<input type="checkbox"/> WISTERIA
S T M P R I N F I R E L R U R	<input type="checkbox"/> ZINNIA	
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