



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,

Happy New Year! It was a good year for the Garden Club! Back to in-person meetings. Civic gardening fun. A new website. Our 'green' Greens Party with Ann Webster describing the new biodegradable floral foam called Agra-Wool. We'll start off the new year with our zoom meeting on January 10, *Managing Pests While Protecting Pollinators with Aaron Anderson*, details below. *Read on for so much more!*

Kathy Leva, President



Dates to Remember

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| January 10
7 PM Zoom | Managing Pests While Protecting Pollinators,
<i>see details below</i> |
| January 20 | Deadline for submissions to the February
newsletter |



Managing Pests While Protecting Pollinators with Aaron Anderson



Wednesday, January 10 – 7 PM Virtual

Aaron is a Pesticide Program Specialist with The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. He works with the public and Xerces staff to reduce pesticide use in residential landscapes. Aaron has researched pollinator conservation in urban landscapes, restored habitat for several endangered butterfly species, and worked in insect biocontrol.

Aaron will address how we can manage pests while protecting pollinators and other beneficial invertebrates in our home yards. He will discuss some key pesticide concerns while managing habitats for beneficial insects. He will also include ideas to make your garden more resilient to pest pressure and give resources to identify and respond to any pests that arrive.

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 879 2404 1717

Passcode: 780812



Garden Tour Volunteer Opportunity

Please consider being a greeter for the upcoming garden tour on Saturday, June 8, 2024, to welcome visitors and check that they have purchased a ticket. There will be 2 time slots: 10 AM to 1:30 PM and 1:30 PM to 4 PM. We need 32 greeters for this fun and important activity, two greeters per garden per time slot.

As a special thank you, greeters are eligible to purchase a tour ticket for the reduced rate of \$10. More details on purchasing tickets will be available on the LFGC website in March.

To sign up, please contact **Susan Cass**. Please indicate if you prefer the 10 AM or 1:30 PM time slot. Thank you!



Greens Party!





Member Corner

Even though our gardens are dormant, gardeners are always thinking about plants, planting, and design! The catalogs are starting to arrive! This month, we welcome three new members and look forward to meeting, learning, and working with them in person soon. They are:

Joanne Routenberg

Debra Ann Hankins & Kristina Hankins



'Bonus' membership months

Individuals who join the LFGC from January until renewal time May 1 are granted membership that begins when they join and then continues until the following year's renewal time, which is a bonus membership period of up to three months.



Subgroups

Once again, **Morning Study Group** remembered our veterans, collecting 136 pairs of white socks and well over 100 calendars for the Edith Nourse Rogers Veterans Hospital (Bedford).

Thank you, Morning Study Group!



From the Wayback Machine!

Patti Manhard, Barbara Estey, and Linda Walsh decorating at the Hancock-Clarke House many years ago.



A Bit of History

Ashley Rooney

In researching the Town's history as part of my work on the Semiquincentennial Commission (Lex250), I am discovering that the Lexington Field & Garden Club played a central role in beautifying our town. What will the club's role be in the future? And how will we celebrate the 2025 anniversary?

The Lexington Field & Garden Club (LFGC) was incorporated in 1891, but long before that date, the club preserved and enhanced the town's streets and parks. And they needed work. For example, in 1855, a big cattle show was held on the Common. That certainly would have made walking difficult there.

Club members planted "additional trees and ornamental plants" in public spaces like the Common and the town's historic burying grounds. When too many fine old trees were taken down indiscriminately, LFGC "secured the annual election of a tree warden, with authority in the matter of cutting," according to Charles Hudson in History of the Town of Lexington. Moreover, the May 1917 report of club President Frederick L. Emery states that "yearly campaigns have been conducted against the tying of horses to trees and the use of unmuzzled horses that make a habit of gnawing trees." (Lexington Minuteman, 5/3/1990).

A 36-year-old patent attorney, Frederick L. Emery, assumed the presidency of the garden club in 1904. In September of that year, the club acquired the land now known as Hastings Park and raised the necessary funds to grade and plant the park with trees and shrubs before giving it to the town.

Emery began petitioning the railroad to sell the land surrounding the Depot to the town during his tenure. In 1922, LFGC was instrumental in helping the town raise twenty thousand dollars to purchase the land. The area first became known as Depot Square, but after Emery's death, it was renamed in his honor. In his will, he left five thousand dollars to the town, with the income from the endowment to be spent by the garden club to beautify Lexington. His legacy endures to this day in the many parks and traffic islands around Lexington that benefit from the garden club's attention and care.



New Plant Hardiness Zones from USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has just issued an update of its plant hardiness zones map that's familiar to many gardeners, showing the average minimum winter temperature at locations across the U.S, an indicator of what species will do best. Older Lexington gardeners will remember that in 1990 we were in Zone 5b (-15 to -10 deg. F). In 2012 Lexington was split between 6a (-10 to -5) and 6b (-5 to 0). The 2023 update shows all of Lexington solidly in Zone 6b.



Say No to Rat Poison

A local initiative has been launched here in Lexington. Called **Save Lexington Wildlife**, its goals include raising public awareness of this issue and convincing Town Meeting to take action to prohibit such poisons on town property.

SaveLexingtonWildlife.org



Nature Protects, Restores, and Heals

Watch how Mass Audubon, along with its partners, is harnessing the power of nature in our cities, along our coast, and everywhere in between to benefit people and wildlife.

https://www.massaudubon.org/our-work/power-of-nature?utm_source=luminate&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20231205-video-for-non-donors

Books Worth Reading

The Comfort of Crows by Margaret Renkl is a collection of 52 essays, one for every week of the year, describing what is happening around her in nature. *"According to birding tradition, the first bird you see on the first day of the new year sets the tone for your next twelve months."* Can't wait to see into my future!



Upcoming Community Events

January 7, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Winter Seed Sow Workshop at Verrill Farm with Isabel Bailey. Hosted by Verrill Farm, Concord Pollinator Health Committee, CCHS Green Team, and Concord Free Public Library. In person. [More info here.](#)

January 16, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Converting Lawn to Meadow: Design & Management with Robert Graham. Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Fee. [More info here.](#)

January 16 (and three successive Wednesdays), 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Principles of Native Gardening with Kim Eierman. Mass. Horticultural Society. Fee. [More info here.](#)

January 19 and nine successive Fridays, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Home Gardener Boot Camp with Master Gardeners from the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association. Fee. [More info here.](#)

January 25, 1:00 – 2:00 PM

In the Life of Beetles: Superstars of soil health, pollination, and more! With Jennifer Hopwood. Xerces Society. [More info here!](#)

Happy New Year

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

