



Lexington Field & Garden Club

144 Years of Making Lexington More Beautiful

Member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

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Br-r-r-r! Hope everyone is keeping warm in this chilly weather. Perfect time to cozy up with some seed catalogs!

Our next meeting will be on February 7 at Follen Church. It's an important meeting as we will be voting in person on the bylaws. Please make every effort to attend. You can find the amended bylaws on the last 6 pages of this newsletter. The program topic is *Save the Pollinators, Save the Planet*, by the popular Trevor Smith, see *below*.

Aaron Anderson followed up on the January meeting with resources based on the discussion from his *Managing Pests While Protecting Pollinators*. Details later in this newsletter. And a special thank you to Peter Jensen, for all his work on creating the first LFGC membership site.

Please consider submitting to "Grants for Gardeners." The deadline is **February 15th** so get started on this process now! The details are on the [website](#), and if you have any questions, contact **Ruthanne Igoe**.

Read on for so much more happening in the Garden Club!

Kathy Leva, President

Dates to Remember

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| January 31 | Executive Board Meeting, Lexington Community Center, room 217 |
| February 7 | Monthly meeting with Bylaws vote and Save the Pollinators, Save the Planet 9:30 AM see <i>details below</i> |
| February 15 | Grants for Gardeners deadline for submission |
| February 20 | Deadline for submissions to the March newsletter |

Save the Pollinators, Save the Planet

Wednesday, February 7, 9:30 AM social 10 AM meeting.

Follen Church, 755 Mass Ave

Trevor Smith is Design and Education Manager at Weston Nurseries. He holds several landscape certifications and is a past President and current Trustee of the Ecological Landscape Alliance. He is an award-winning regenerative landscape designer, specializing in green infrastructure, native plant design, habitat creation, and the implementation of ecological design principles. [RSVP here](#)



New Link to LFGC website

Do you have the Lexington Field & Garden Club website bookmarked? It makes finding the website quick and easy every time. Here's the link: <https://lexgarden.org>



Executive Board Meeting Summary

Wednesday, January 3, 9:00 am

Time: 9:00 am Social, 9:15 am Meeting

Location: Debra Heaton, 80 School St., Lexington MA

Attendance: Kathy Leva, Vicki Blake, Miranda Cohen, Kitty Galaitsis, Debra Heaton, Ruthanne Igoe, Nancy Trautman, Ann Webster, Ashley Rooney, Meg Himmel (special guest)

Absent: Greta Ljung, Leslie Masson, Leslie Sargis, Jane Halverson, Linda Walsh, Anne Lee

Kathy Leva called the meeting to order at 9:21 am.

1. Old Business-

The minutes from November were approved. The Treasurer's report was looked at by the board. Our current Certificate of Deposit (CD), which is expiring, will be rolled into a higher interest CD.

2. New Business

a. Topics discussed:

Budget timelines, Greens Party, By-Law committee updates, Plant Sale, Garden Tour, Arbor Day, Native Plant Sale and purchases, the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington

b. Decisions made:

The By-Laws will be moved forward for a vote at the February meeting.

The purchase of Native Plants was approved.

3. Committee Reports-

Reports were given/submitted by the Vice-President/Programs, Corresponding Secretary, Membership, Civic Gardening, Communications, Financial Advisory Committee, and Nominating Committee.

4. Sub-group reports-

All 5 sub-groups had reports. Please contact the sub-group chairs if you are interested in joining one – there are several openings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 am. Our next meeting will be at the Lexington Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Heaton

Recording Secretary





A Special Thank You to Peter Jensen

Peter Jensen helped the LFGC set up its first real membership database in 2016, offering invaluable technical support for the club administrators and especially the Membership Committee. He has helped the club along the way as we took small and then larger steps to enter the digital age, helping to evaluate the previous Little Green Light solution, building a successful prototype, and continuing with various complex tasks for seven years. And, he's not even a member – he is the husband of **Patricia Jensen**, a long-time member. Thank you so much, Peter, it wouldn't have happened without you!



Plant Sale Update

Please keep an eye out for the next weekly update. It will include details on a request for volunteers and potential changes to the plant sale. As a volunteer organization, the vitality of our club depends on our members!



PSA from Prairie Moon on Lupines

Prairie Moon has changed the common name of their Lupine – previously sold as “Wild Lupine.” They are clarifying which species is offered:

SUNDIAL LUPINE is *Lupinus perennis subsp. perennis*. This exact species is historically native and used to be prolific around the eastern perimeter of the U.S. The confusion stems from the fact that other species are often called “Wild Lupine.”

One particularly problematic species is *Lupinus polyphyllus*, or Western Lupine, which is native to the west coast but has been introduced in gardens across the country.

Because Western Lupine (*L. polyphyllus*) is a larger, showier plant and spreads rapidly, it has infiltrated the seed market as “Wild Lupine” and incorrectly as “*Lupinus perennis*.” It has been proven to be very aggressive, especially in the Upper Midwest and Northeast regions. Beyond its ability to spread and overwinter, *L. polyphyllus* is upsetting the balance of local wildlife in the eastern half of the U.S. – most notably for the federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly whose only larval host is Sundial Lupine. The Western Lupine is NOT a larval host for this beloved species, despite the marketing push; according to the National Park Service, the foliage is poisonous. Any Karner Blues that mistakenly lay their eggs on this plant have doomed their caterpillars. Sadly, *L. polyphyllus* readily hybridizes with Sundial Lupine; the resulting plants are also inhospitable.



Happy Lunar New Year

Saturday, February 10 will usher in the Year of the Dragon



Grants for Gardeners

The deadline for the next round of “**Grants for Gardeners**” will be **February 15, 2024**.



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

This exciting new program, now in its fourth year, funds innovative ideas developed by LFGC members. Some of the projects funded in past years include supporting the Lexington High School Bee Club, cost-sharing gardening lectures with another local group, developing a sensory-centered garden for elementary students, beautifying the Depot area and the Munroe Center for the Arts, and removing invasives at the Hancock-Clarke House.

Read more about the program and the process on our [website](#). Click through the site to fill out the application. We look forward to hearing from you! If you have any questions, please contact **Ruthanne Igoe**.



Membership Corner

Welcome to two new LFGC members this month, **Leslie Fagen** and **Beverly Kazickas**. Leslie is from Lexington and is interested in volunteering at the plant sale and town beautification projects. Beverly is an active gardener who is president of The Garden Club of New Jersey and on the board of The Nature Conservancy of New York. We look forward to their participation in our club.

Membership Benefits: New England Botanic Garden



The LFGC is an Organization Member of the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill (NEBG)! We have two membership cards, and each entitles us to free admission for three individuals to the NEBG. Other benefits that accompany this membership are a 10% discount at The Garden Shop at NEBG, savings on classes and workshops for up to six individuals, and free gardening advice through their Horticultural Help Line: hortline@nebg.org or by phone at 508.869.6111, X 104. Please contact **Marlene Stone** for the tickets.

ALERT: Membership renewal season is coming up in March! This year, renewing your membership will be a little different due to our new member site. Stay calm, think of spring flowers, and watch for details in the March newsletter. Remember, if you need help signing up on the member site, all you gotta do is ask!



♥ ♥ **Happy Valentines Day!** ♥ ♥

Follow-up by Aaron Anderson on his January 10 presentation, "Managing Pests While Protecting Pollinators"

Here are some of Xerces mosquito control resources:

[Mosquito Management at Home](#)

[Spring Into Action Against Mosquitoes](#)

[Supporting Ecologically Sound Mosquito Management](#)

[How to Help Your Community Create an Effective Mosquito Management Plan](#)

General home pesticide reduction/pest management resources:

[8 Pesticide Myths Every Gardener Should Know](#)

[Smarter Pest Management: Protecting Pollinators at Home](#)

Regarding cultural control of Japanese beetles:

UMass Extension notes:

"Eggs and larvae require moisture to develop, so reducing irrigation in August, during peak beetle emergence, may discourage females from laying eggs in the affected sod. This may be particularly effective during dry summers, but should be balanced with the benefits/costs of irrigating vs. not irrigating in that location."

Penn State has similar recommendations:

"Japanese beetles prefer moist soil for egg laying. One cultural practice that can be used is to allow the soil to dry out, making it unattractive to egg laying females. Dry soil can also cause the eggs to desiccate and not hatch; if the females lay eggs. This comes at a cost though, as the turf can also become weak from the drought stress. Removing and destroying the adult beetles can also help.

To combat drought stress when using this method, lawns can be mowed at a higher length and watered deeply in the spring to increase root mass of the lawn. Deeper roots allow the grass to survive better when the soil dries, and will also make the turf more resilient to any feeding by beetle larvae. (If the roots have feeding damage you may need to start watering a bit later in the summer to allow them to regrow).

Damage from green worms:

It would be good to verify when you can get photos this growing season, but it sounds like what you were experiencing in your yard may be hibiscus sawflies. Despite their name, sawflies are actually *Hymenoptera* (in the same family as bees and wasps).

The larvae feed on the bottoms of leaves when they are small, and then move to the tops of leaves as they grow larger. Check the undersides of the leaves to catch the larvae early! Extension resources recommend managing these sawflies by handpicking larvae, blasting them with water to knock them off a plant, or simply removing and disposing of leaves that are heavily infested.

The silky cocoons can be found on the base of the plants and you can also look for them and remove them when you observe them. If the above methods don't result in control, you can also try an insecticidal soap (though mature plants should be resilient to a good amount of feeding damage). Keep in mind since these are flies, Bt products for caterpillars won't work on them.



When You Want to Escape

E. Ashley Rooney

We were in the middle of the COVID crisis, and I was doing virtual gardening shows for LFGC and the library when LFGC member **Terry Hale** mentioned her plant-hunting trips. I was bored; I needed to get out of town (Peter agreed), so we called our friends, Harold and Priscilla and arranged a spring trip to the Connecticut River Valley following Terry's directions.



We enjoyed that first plant trip so much that I am planning our fourth trip this year. We travel in two cars because we buy more than needed, but the prices are great. It is such fun to shop somewhere other than the local places around here. We also get to wander around the beautiful Connecticut River Valley (we duck the odiferous candle shops), stay in some new areas, and get out of town!

This year, we will go north to Walker Farm (US Route 5, East Dummerston Vt). This place is heaven. Last year, it had tables marked "red perennials, sun" and "red perennials, shade." Priscilla loved it. We were assigned a worker who ensured we went home with more plants than we needed.

We will then head to South Deerfield, where there is a Polish Deli. Terry said it has "the best-ever pierogi and kielbasa to go." The men love it; I get a salad. We will visit the Nasami Farm, which is on 75 acres in the Connecticut River Valley. I should note that the Connecticut River Valley is lovely: many old barns and great green fields, which must have grown lots of tobacco. We will skip the enormous Yankee Candle factory store and go to The Botanic Garden at Smith College. Or at least Priscilla and I will. Our husbands often nap at this point.

In our first year of this gardening adventure, the B&B was so old that you could smell the dust. In the second year, we were the first visitors for new innkeepers. It took about 30 minutes of climbing mountain roads to get there, so we combined our food, the innkeepers made a tasty dish, and we spent the night. We will stay in the Old Mill Inn on a river in Northampton this year. Priscilla will love that she's staying in the Waterfall Room.

Following a good night's sleep, we will go to one of our favorite places, Skawski Farms in Hatfield. It is not much to look at, but this little nursery offers beautiful low-cost annuals and vegetable plants.

It's about two hours from Lexington. It's a fun trip and excites us to get out into our gardens with beautiful plants when we come home. The plants grow strong, and we have happy memories.

Walker Farm US Route 5, East Dummerston VT

Skawski Farms Hatfield, MA

Nasami Farm North St, Whately, MA

Baystate Perennial Whately, MA

Andrew's Greenhouse Amherst MA

That's all for now!