



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

Dear Gardeners,

April is a busy month in the Garden Club with lots of activities to choose from. As a volunteer organization, the vitality of our club depends on our members. We offer a wide variety of opportunities for involvement, such as attending workshops and programs, helping with our Plant Sale, participating on a Civic Gardening team, or volunteering for a program such as the Garden Tour. Looking forward to seeing you and having you **renew your membership!**

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

Happy Spring,

Kathy Leva, President



Dates to Remember

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| April 3 | Executive Board Meeting, 9 AM, Nancy Trautman's house |
| April 5-13 | Spring cleanup of Civic Gardening locations |
| April 10 | Monthly meeting with Bill Gette, Backyard Bird Sanctuaries
9:30 AM, Follen Church |
| April 15 | Patriot's Day Parade |
| April 20 | Deadline for submissions to the May newsletter |
| April 26 | Arbor Day, 11 AM, Antony Park |
| April 26-28 | Art in Bloom, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston |
| April 30 | Renew your membership before this date or you'll turn into a pumpkin |



Remember, April showers bring May flowers

April Events

April 5-13, Spring cleanup of Civic Gardening locations

Spring cleanup at many Civic Gardening locations will start on Friday, April 5 and end on Saturday, April 13. Saturdays and Sundays are included.

Whether you're a new or a long-time member, this is a wonderful way to meet people in the Garden Club and get some good outdoor exercise. Working in Civic Gardening is a great way learn more about how these spaces are cared for and keep these gardens looking great for all to enjoy.

Sign up here to join in the fun for an hour or two.



Please bring gardening gloves, a rake in case there are leaves at the site, a shovel and possibly a bucket to carry and spread the mulch/compost.

Are you a photographer? We'd love to have you take some pictures to update our website <https://lexgarden.org/civic-gardening>. Check the signup sheet for dates and times and respond to lfgc024@gmail.com when you are available to take some photos.

Joyful camaraderie provided. Don't miss it.

Thank you for your participation!

Marlene Stone and The Civic Gardening Committee

Great news! If you haven't renewed your membership yet, don't worry.

Vicki Blake and **Francesca Paik Leonin** will be at the April 10th morning meeting with computers to help members **renew their membership** and update their contact information. Don't miss out on this chance to stay connected with our community. Bring your cell phone or laptop to verify your account on the membership site. Light refreshments will be served. After renewing your membership, stay to hear Bill Gette speaking about bird species typically seen at local feeding stations and backyard sanctuaries.

Monday, April 15, Patriot's Day Parade

Exciting News! LFGC is participating in the Patriot's Day Parade again this year on April 15th. We will walk with our LFGC banner and wear our decorated gardening hats. Plan on having lots of fun. The parade route is a two mile walk. Start time is 2PM. Please let us know at lfgc024@gmail.com if you want to join us for any part of the walk.

Friday, April 26, Arbor Day

The Arbor Day Celebration will take place Friday April 26, 11:00 AM at Antony Park located on Mass Ave., Lexington. All LFGC members are invited to attend. There will be two trees planted by the Lexington Department of Public Works. Tree seedlings will be distributed to guests attending. This musical celebration will honor LFGC members that have passed away in the last year: **Eleanor (Ellie) Fritz**, **Mary Seman** and **David Williams**. Light refreshments will be served. If you would like to volunteer please contact **Kathy Leva**.

Friday–Sunday, April 26-28, Art in Bloom, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



LFGC President **Kathy Leva** will be interpreting a painting titled *Boston Harbor* by Gloucester MA native Fitz Henry Lane. Lane was at the height of his career by 1850 when he executed this grand and tranquil scene of the bustling port of Boston. It is located in the Art of the Americas wing # 235.

What is Art in Bloom? Garden clubs and professional designers across New England create floral arrangements inspired by the MFA's art, a rite of Spring that pairs fine art and floral design. There are free guided tours, workshops, demonstrations, and lectures. This is a huge fundraiser for the MFA.

Art in Bloom | Museum of Fine Arts Boston



Renew Your Membership

It's time to renew your membership **with this super convenient link**. Membership Co-Chairs **Nancy Trautman** and **Marilyn Ryngiewicz** urge all members to update their membership. Need help? Email lfgc024@gmail.com for personal support. We are willing and happy to help! Renewing online is the safest, cheapest, and most efficient way for the club to process payments. No more checks getting lost in the mail. Forgot to renew online? Bring your credit card or check and phone to the April 10 meeting and sign up then. Please help us by processing your renewal online since the deadline is April 30—thank you!

Lexington 250 Birthday Celebration

Lexington's 250 celebrations will be in 2025. How should LFGC (the oldest garden club in the nation) mark the birth of our nation? We are looking for interesting ideas. Is it a skit about the founding of the club and the clearing of hay from the Common, or should we plant rows of daffodils? Please send all your fun ideas to us at LFGC024@gmail.com.



Membership Corner

LFGC Board Positions

The election of Club officers will take place both online and in person at the April meeting, and the new board members will assume their duties in May. [A link to on-line voting is here.](#)

The three new candidates for the board are:

Vice President: Deb Heaton. Deb joined the LFGC in 2019. She is a member of the Thursday evening group, has served as recording secretary for two years, and is also the steward of the Cary Library garden.

Recording Secretary: Susan Cass. Susan has been a member since 2016 and is active in the Wednesday Workshop. She was Membership Co-Chair from 2020-2022 and also works on the Colonial Flower Garden at Munroe.

Treasurer: Lauren Foohey. Lauren is a new member, having joined in the fall of 2023, and has already demonstrated her commitment to the Club when she saved Greens Party supplies from going to the dumpster during a St. Bridget's basement clean-up.

In addition, two positions are renewing:

Kathy Leva will be continuing as President, and,

Nancy Trautman will be continuing as co-chair of Membership.

A note on the nominating process:

The candidates have been selected from across the roster of both new and veteran members by a nominating committee, which was headed by **Linda Walsh** and included **Judi Minardi**, **Terry Hale**, **Nancy Trautman**, and **Raya Gildor**. Historically, the entire board was elected at the same time and assumed duties together. Officers serve a term of two years.

Welcome New Members!

Pamela Tames, **Karen Morse**, and **Swapna Chakrabarti**. If you see them at a meeting or event please reach out to say hello!



Lexington Field & Garden Club Meeting Minutes March 13, 2024

Follen Church

Social time began at 6:30 pm.

Kathy Leva, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Participants: 34 members

Announcements:

1. Kathy Leva brought a lovely flower arrangement which was to be given to the person who had the most recent major life event. It was divided between Susan Mason (anniversary) and Jane Halverson (birthdays).
2. Plant Sale-It is on! Both Kathy Leva and Ann Webster asked for more volunteers and reminded everyone of our mission. The date is May 18. Please contact Ann if you would like to volunteer.

3. Garden Tour-Susan Cass passed around a list for volunteers for the tour, to be held on June 8.

4. Nancy Trautman reminded all of us to renew our memberships. Since the process is new this year, there was extra technical help on hand.

5. Other upcoming events-

Arbor Day is April 26 at Tower Park near the Antony section. There will be 250 seedlings given away and our members who have passed this year will be remembered.

Patriots Day-We will march in the parade on April 15. Details will be forthcoming.

6. Kathy Leva thanked Jane Halverson for the hospitality at the meeting and Vicki Blake for the weekly email reminders she sends out.

Kitty Galaitsis, Vice President, introduced our speaker, Russ Cohen, with the topic of “Please Do Eat the Daisies: The Comestible Virtues of Non-native Weeds and Invasives In and Around Lexington.”

Russ’s talk focused on the non-native weeds and invasive species in our midst. Lexington is home to hundreds of these plant species. There is a growing awareness among gardeners of the need to plant more ecologically valuable native plants to address the decline in native birds and beneficial insects. What should we do with all those non-native weeds and invasives? The answer could be, for many of them, to eat them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Heaton

Recording Secretary



The Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden

The Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden is maintained each year by members of Morning Study. It is a significant part of our country’s history as supported by several documents:

The Lexington Historical Society writes, “The award-winning Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden contains traditional herbs of the 18th Century. It is divided into culinary, medicinal, and aromatic/household sections, with 42 carefully researched herb species. In addition, there is an heirloom Roxbury Russet apple tree at the rear of the house. The Lexington Field & Garden Club’s Morning Study Group maintains the garden from April through November and began the project over 50 years ago.”

Freedom’s Way, is an organization identified as a “facilitator, host, and guide,” to “connect people to the region’s natural, cultural, and historical resources,” featured The Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden ([here](#)) as one of the country’s treasured places!

Lexington’s “Wicked Local,” wrote about the Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden ([here](#))



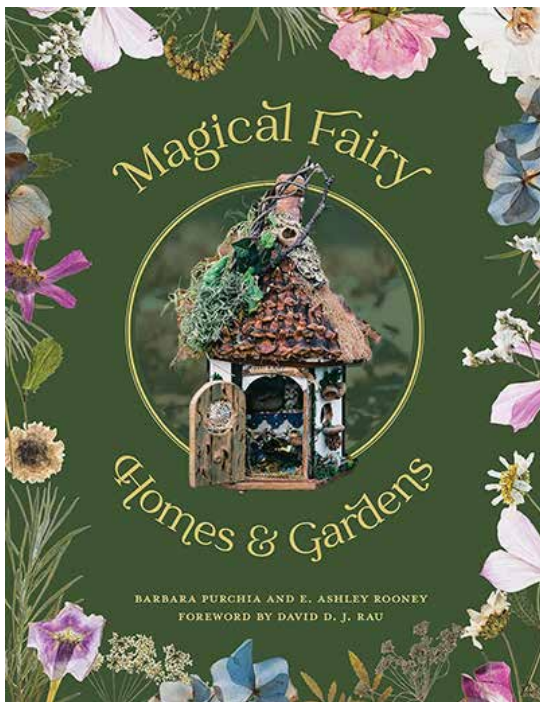
Trip Advisor featured a photo of the Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden on their website [\(here\)](#)

Another site (adventuresofshadowandwilma) speaks about the Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden [\(here\)](#)

“History Quester” writes about the Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden as, “A historic herb garden that surrounds the roadside sign, with different markers next to the carefully selected plants.” [\(here\)](#)

This document from the Lexington Town Government describes notable parts of Lexington and lists The Hancock-Clarke House Herb Garden.

Morning Study and the Lexington Field & Garden Club are proud to support The Hancock-Clarke Herb Garden because it is a uniquely engaging educational piece of history. The garden is a connection to the natural resources of our region, as it fosters a commitment to the stewardship of a treasured piece of our nation’s history for future generations. Please contact Morning Study if you would like to support The Hancock-Clarke Herb Garden in any way!



Explore Magical Realms

Designing, creating, and maintaining fairy dwellings and gardens has become popular as an artistic endeavor, family activity, or form of meditation. **Ashley Rooney** and Barbara Purchia are excited to announce a sequel, **Magical Fairy Homes and Gardens**, to their best-selling book **Fairy Homes and Gardens**. This new book has images and stories of more than 50 inspiring projects encompassing various fairy dwellings – from communities to cottages to castles. It includes a chapter on fairy accessories, including furniture, doors, swings, and other creature comforts, and an appendix spotlighting plants ideal for incorporating into fairy gardens.

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