



Lexington Field & Garden Club

144 Years of Making Lexington More Beautiful

Member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

Volume 14 Issue 9 • May 2024

email: LFGC024@gmail.com

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

Spring is a busy time for the garden club. We are excited to see new plants emerging in our gardens. LFGC has enjoyable events scheduled for May and June and engaging programs in the works for the fall.

We had a blast participating in the Lexington Patriot's Day parade, and our spring clean-up was a resounding success. Thanks to our collective efforts, our islands and sites now boast a stunning beauty.

If you haven't renewed your membership, this is the last newsletter you will receive from us. Renew today, see details later in this newsletter or contact **Nancy Trautman**, 617-697-3611.

Our annual meeting to close out the year is at Follen Church community center starting at 9:30 AM on May 8. I will show you how to create fresh, spring flower arrangements.

Please send your content for the 2024/2025 Yearbook to **Vicki Blake** no later than June 1.

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

Happy Spring,

Kathy Leva, President



Dates to Remember

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| April 26 | Arbor Day, 11 AM, Antony Park, light refreshments will be served |
| April 26-28 | Art in Bloom, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston |
| May 1 | Executive Board Meeting, 9 AM, Community Center room 217 |
| May 8 | Monthly meeting with Kathy Leva, Seasonal Floral Arrangements 9:30 AM, Follen Church, light refreshments will be served |
| May 18 | Plant Sale, 8:00 – 11:30 AM, DPW lawn, 201 Bedford St |
| May 20 | Deadline for submissions to the June newsletter |
| May 25 | Discovery Day, 10 AM – 3 PM |

May Events

May 8 at 9:30 AM, Monthly meeting with Kathy Leva, Fresh Seasonal Floral Arrangements, Follen Church

Kathy will show you how to create an elegant fresh floral arrangement using spring flowers and how to choose the right size and shape container to showcase seasonal colors. Come and learn how to prepare long-lasting creative designs.



May 18, 8 – 11:30 AM, Plant Sale

Our annual Plant Sale is on the morning of Saturday, May 18, at the DPW lawn, 201 Bedford St.

Potting times and dates are 9 AM – 3 PM Thursday & Friday, May 2 & 3 and May 6 & 7 Monday & Tuesday at the same time.

Signing up to work at potting has never been easier. [Simply click here](#) for dates and times, and enter your name and email on the date you wish to join us.

If this is your first time potting, Pwe pot behind the DPW gates in the back at the salt shed. Drive up to the gates, ring the buzzer, say you are with the Lexington Field & Garden Club, and the gate will open. You can park inside there. Bring: clippers, gloves, plant root saws, if you have them. Plants for donation to the sale may also be delivered at this time.

Plant sale setup is Friday, May 17, from 12:30 – 2:30 PM. [Use the same link to volunteer.](#)

Any questions on the plant sale please email lfgc024@gmail.com.

May 25, 10 AM – 3 PM, Discovery Day

Join us in Lexington Center to chat with folks about gardening and our club. Activities for children and adults. Contact [Vicki Blake](#) if you would like to volunteer an hour or two at the table.

Renew Your Membership

If you have not yet renewed, we have made the process easier!

[Follow this link](#) to check out without a password. Choose Single OR Dual membership by selecting “1” under Quantity in the pull down menu and follow the check out instructions. A receipt will be emailed to you. Please choose if you want a Single OR Dual membership. A receipt will be emailed to you. **Nancy Trautman** and the Membership Committee urge all members to renew online – it is the safest and most efficient way to process payments. Thank you for your patience with this new process!

| Membership | Price | Quantity |
|--|---------|----------|
| Single Membership | \$25.00 | 1 |
| Dual Membership (couple at same address) | \$35.00 | 1 |

| Donation | Price |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Donation of Your Choosing | \$0.00 |



Why I Like Garden Tours

Ashley Rooney

When I first began gardening, I tried to be like my mother and plant neat rows of flowers with soil or mulch in between. But that's not my style, I quickly discovered. I am the type that has her plants elbowing each other, nodding their blooms at each other, and concealing the weeds growing beneath. I now see that gardeners fall into one of these two categories.

This year's Lexington garden tour is taking place just before the Semiquincentennial begins in July. It features many 19th-century houses with antique gardens that may have been neglected over the generations and that today's gardeners are bringing back to full beauty. Incidentally, that's one of the great points about being involved in the garden tour over the years. I have seen some of these gardens at their most overgrown pathetic state. Now, years later, these gardens are thriving.

Several make full use of paths winding their way through garden beds. With one, I felt like I was in a lovely scented fairy tale, not knowing what would come around the next bend. Another takes you from formal gardens to a velvet green moss garden that I want to wallow in. One has become a shaded hydrangea palace.

Not only will you see these stunning gardens on the tour, but participants will also watch a plein air artist paint the garden scene during the tour. Whether you are a dedicated gardener or just a lover of beautiful natural spaces, take advantage of this chance to experience the private worlds behind these antique homes—the proceeds from the garden tour fund LFGC community gardens and educational lectures. Members and non-members of the club are welcome.

Purchase your **Saturday, June 8** tour ticket now for twenty-five dollars. On tour day, tickets will be thirty dollars. [Purchase tickets here](#)



Lexington Field & Garden Club Meeting Minutes April 10, 2024

Follen Church

Social time began at 9:30 am.

Kathy Leva, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Meeting Participants: 45, along with 3 visitors

Kathy welcomed us all and asked new members to stand up and introduce themselves. She also asked guests to identify themselves.

I) Business

1. Election of new Board Officers

Linda Walsh from the nominating committee read the slate of officers and Nancy Trautman from the membership committee explained the voting process.

Slate:

President: Kathy Leva

Vice President: Debra Heaton

Secretary: Susan Cass

Treasurer: Lauren Foohey

Membership Chairs: Nancy Trautman and Marilyn Ryngiewicz

The voting was conducted pre-meeting electronically and at the meeting on paper.

All voting to accept the slate of officers: 76 (50 online, 26 in person)

All voting to reject the slate of officers: 0

Abstentions: 0

The slate passed.

2. Renewing Membership - Nancy Trautman asked us to please renew electronically. She explained the procedure as needed.

3. Kathy thanked the following for their help and hard work:

- a. Refreshments- Jane Halvorsen. Please contact Jane if you would like to help with this moving forward.
- b. The Membership Committee-They worked hard to create the ability to vote online.
- c. Vicki Blake, Francesca Leonin and the Communications Committee-Thank you for everything computer related! They create weekly updates, the newsletter, and the Garden Tour and Arbor Day programs.

4. Floral arrangement-Kathy Leva created a floral arrangement and offered it to a member with a significant happening today.

II) Activities

1. Patriots Day Parade April 15- The parade has a 2 pm start time and Kathy encouraged members to walk. If members have them, they should wear their LFGC apron and a garden hat.
2. Arbor Day April 26- 11 am, Antony Park on Mass Ave. All LFGC members are invited to attend. The DPW will be planting two trees. Tree seedlings will be distributed. A musical celebration will honor LFGC members that have passed away in the last year. Light refreshments will be served.
3. Plant Sale-Ann Webster and Linda Walsh spoke about the need for volunteers for the May 18 sale. Please contact either of them for details and to volunteer.
4. Garden Tour-Regina Sutton updated us on the tour. They need 4 volunteers. Contact Susan Cass if you can help.

III. Program

Kitty Galaitsis introduced our speaker, Bill Gette, who spoke on "Backyard Bird Sanctuaries." He reviewed bird species typically seen at local feeding stations and backyard sanctuaries. He highlighted how ranges and populations of many bird species have changed due to climate, land use, and development changes. Bill discussed planting flowers and shrubs that provide food and cover for birds, managing your garden during the growing season to provide food for the birds you want to attract, and aiding in field identification.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Heaton, Secretary

Recent Presentations

LFGC Presentation for March: Russ Cohen, *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten*

We had a wonderful presentation by Russ Cohen in March! He shared recipes and brought tastes of delicacies such as his Sour Cream Knotweed Crumbcake. More recipes are here: <http://users.rcn.com/eatwild/recipes.htm>. Russ's book on foraging wild plants and making delicious treats from the proceeds, *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten*, is available from the Essex County Greenbelt Association; contact Anna Fletcher at afletcher@ecga.org, or buy from Essex County Greenbelt Associations' online store: <http://ecga.org/store>

LFGC Presentation for April: Bill Gette, *Backyard Bird Sanctuaries*

Bill Gette talked about bird species typically seen at local feeding stations and backyard sanctuaries. He highlighted birds now returning from migration, which ones spend the winter with us, shared with us some mnemonics to identify their calls, *teakettle, teakettle, teakettle* (Carolina Wren) and suggested plants to encourage birds to your garden.



Let Your Garden Grow Wild

Many gardeners work hard to maintain clean, tidy environments ... which is the exact opposite of what wildlife wants, says ecological horticulturist Rebecca McMackin. She shows the beauty of letting your garden run wild, surveying the success she's had increasing biodiversity even in the middle of New York City — and offers tips for cultivating a garden that can be home to birds, bees, butterflies and more. [Rebecca McMackin: Let your garden grow wild | TED Talk](#)



No Mow May: A Starting Point, Not The Finish Line

Tired of mowing your lawn? We have good news — you don't have to, and the bees (and fritillary butterflies) will thank you for it! Mowing your lawn less frequently can provide habitat for pollinators, especially in early spring. But, is that enough? What can we do to turn No Mow May into meaningful conservation of pollinators and other wildlife? [Listen to this Xerces Society conversation.](#)



Lexington 250 Birthday Celebration

Lexington's 250 celebration 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.

Happy Mother's Day, May 12!

Member Corner

It's been a busy time for the membership committee! If you have already renewed your membership, THANK YOU THANK YOU!

And if you haven't renewed yet, see the **Renew Your Membership box** in this newsletter for information on the simplified process. Once we've worked out a few more details, we will invite members to login to the "Members only" portion of the new website where you can access the online directory, find details about upcoming events and subgroup activities, and access past newsletters. Thank you for your patience as we transition to our new LFGC website.

Along with renewals, we welcome the **new members listed below** and look forward to getting to know more about them, their interests, and their gardening adventures. They join us from Lexington, Winchester, Belmont, Arlington, Haworth, and Lynnfield. A welcome coffee will be held in June – stay tuned.



Anne Perticone

Dorothy Gilman

Karen Doyle

Mary Burnell

Matthew Tierney

Martha Dwyer

Laura Ehrlich

Cindy Woods

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