



# NEWSLETTER



*Glorious Greenhouse*



*Annual Meeting  
Chez Timmy Shapiro*



## President's Message

Carolyn Willard



There is always music amongst the trees in the garden but our hearts must be very quiet to hear.

—Minnie Aumonier, 20<sup>th</sup> Century English poet and writer. Inscription in Sheila Converse's garden, Marion.

Gardens, trees, the ebb and flow of the ocean – these are sources of rejuvenation for me. I love the hum of activity in communal activities like the greenhouse, plant sale and monthly meetings; I also know that I need “down time” to regroup and regain my

equilibrium – and energy. I hope everyone has gotten some time “amongst the trees” and in the quiet before a busy GCBB year begins.

As a new president I am again struck by the vitality of this club, the can-do enthusiasm I see on so many fronts. We had a meeting of chairs in July where we discussed some goals for the year and tried to get a sense of what we could reasonably accomplish. Ideas were bouncing around the group at a breakneck speed. So be warned, plans are afoot! Conservation, Scholarship, flower and photo shows, and more.

One goal for me is promote better communication between members. All meetings, with the exceptions of Awards, Nominating, Grants and Membership, are open to all and I believe the more we make people aware of what is going on, the more participation we will get. We are lucky to have the combination of seasoned veterans still actively involved and marvelous newer members who bring new ideas and abilities to the club. We are small group, really, but we have and will accomplish big things.

Our website, [www.gardenclubbuzzardsbay.org](http://www.gardenclubbuzzardsbay.org), password “geranium” has had a wonderful beginning thanks in large part to Holly McDonough, our webmaster, and we are investigating ways to make it more attractive. We'll refer you there for photos, documents, articles, and even recipes. What's Ahead, our calendar newsletter, will be out every two months.

Feel free to give a call or send an email with any questions or concerns.

## Committee Reports

### Scholarship 101

Mary Schubert



When you receive your annual dues bill, please note the club has given you an opportunity to support the GCA Scholarship Fund. In recent years, the GCBB has donated between \$100 - \$150 to support this fund, helping to underwrite the costs of the best and brightest scholars through Scholarships and Fellowships having to do with Horticulture, Conservation, Garden History & Design, etc.

The Executive Committee's concerns about this year's budget needs brought about the suggestion that we ask for some additional help from you. I

am hoping that an insider's look will lead you to make a positive decision in this regard.

When recruited to take on the responsibilities of Zone 1 Scholarship Representative last year, I hesitated because of my lack of understanding of the committee's role. I was told that would be quickly remedied and, actually, my job would mostly be one of a cheerleader.

Fast forward to today... "mostly cheerleading" was a bit of an understatement. I have attended several meetings at NY Headquarters, and worked with and been inspired by all the committee members pictured here. I have met many of the Zone 1 Scholarship Chairs and heard of their generous contributions to the GCA Funds. I worked on a selection committee to offer many Summer Environment and Horticultural Study Scholarships to an amazingly talented group of young students, as well as an in-depth committee to select this year's GCA/Royal Horticultural Society Exchange Fellowship scholar in the UK.

Okay, now for the cheerleading:

The GCA is made up of 200 clubs across the United States. Since creation of the Scholarship Committee in 1989, brought about by the vision of the women pictured in the inset of the photo, these clubs have continuously contributed to the GCA Fund to provide an ever growing list of scholarships each year. This year, using the interest gained from the fund, over \$300,000 was available to assist 86 Scholars, pursuing studies in more than 15 different disciplines.

Won't you join me in helping to add a few more scholars to this list in the coming years?

P.S. Here's a bit of GCBB History. I am not the first Zone Scholarship Committee member from GCBB. Betsy McBratney was Vice Chair of Scholarship in 1987-89, and Timmy Shapiro was the Zone 1 Scholarship Representative in 1991-93.

## GCA Annual Meeting

Gail Davidson

With Leslie Bernert as our delegate, I attended the GCA 101st Annual Meeting in New Orleans the first week in May. We were wined and dined on the banks of the Mississippi in the hotel, and in various homes as well; toured plantations and the Nola



Botanical and Sculpture Gardens. The lectures focused primarily on reconstruction of Nola after Katrina, as well as ecology of the marshes and bayous, which protect the city, and efforts to save/

reconstruct these. The flower show was magnificent, and there were fairly spectacular installations lining the corridors to the halls, one involving a canoe on a bayou. Heidi Huguley most graciously gave us a wonderful guided tour of the city, and her Nola club's candidate for honorary membership was awarded with

one (R. King Milling - we sponsored him along with them).



## Ceramics in Bloom, April 24, 2014 Winners

### Class 1

Blue and Novice Award: Joan Underwood (top right)

Red: Susan Rothschild (middle)

Yellow: Holly McDonough (below)





**Class 2**

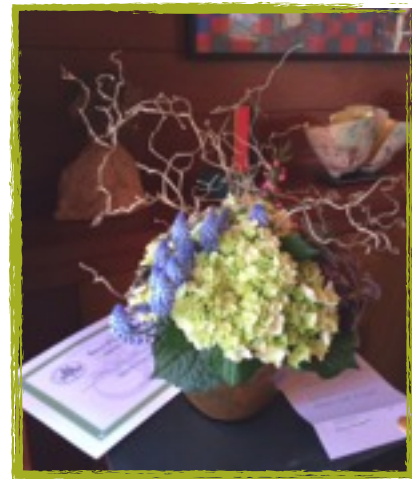
Blue to Barri Throop  
Red to Helen DeGroot (left)  
Yellow Anne Webb

**Class 3**

Blue to Tina Read  
Red to Debbie Tinay and Tammy Beckman  
Yellow to Celeste Penney.

**Class 4**

Blue and Best in Show to Mary Schubert (right)  
Red to Carolyn Willard (below)  
Yellow to Gail Davidson



**Plant Sale**



Returning to our usual morning hours, the Plant Sale made a new record in sales, which will support our outreach programs, including the 4<sup>th</sup> grade botany program. Thanks to Chairs Margaret Forbush, Susan McLaren and Lee Wheeler.

## Features

### **Betsy & Greer McBratney's Garden**

Laura McLean and Carolyn Willard



As gardeners we know that our plants, sparse and fragile, will change over time; plants and designs come and go and change with weather, age and our whims. We thought it might be fun to look at one of our member gardens now – and realize where it had come from.

Betsy and Greer McBratney built their house in Birchfield Farm 50 years ago. Peter Grinnell, a gentleman farmer with a dairy, was subdividing the land. Betsy, after at a cocktail party conversation with Grinnell, bought a lot the next day.

The foundation of the old cow barn became Betsy's sunken garden, with her signature orange palette undulating with color. First built with railroad ties around the edges and later with stone work by Chris Tracey, the garden has several hypertufa containers,

commissioned by Betsy after a GCBB workshop, filled with succulents and evergreens. A garden bench is covered in lichen after decades. It has the feeling of a secret garden, but it is wide open at the same time ... a wonderful place to read a book or become inspired. It's amazing to think that this was once just a pasture, without anything on it. "We've done it in stages," she explained. Allen Haskell helped Betsy design the original.



McBratneys have a division of labor – Betsy does the greenhouse, gardens and containers and Greer, a retired surgeon and an honorary GCBB member, the fruits and vegetables and bees. He bottles and sells his McB's Honey locally. High bush blueberries escape the ever-present deer and birds in a tall fenced enclosure. Espaliered apple trees line one edge of the vegetable garden,

corn stalk about chest high. In her greenhouse, still full in August, Betsy tends her many unusual cultivars of her impeccably healthy stock, a daily devotion that translates into knowledge and experience that she generously gives at the GCBB greenhouse.



Gardens have many stories-- a plant from a friend, a tree to match one in a childhood home, etc. The huge, magnificent beech in McBratney's front yard was a house-warming gift 50 years ago, with a trunk about three inches wide. A Martha Washington magnolia, with yellow blossoms, grew from a whip distributed by the Arnold Arboretum, matured and finally overcrowded the yard. Removed a few years ago, sold to grace another garden. A heather bed has been changed and replanted over the years, winterkill replaced. Daffodil bulbs fill one side of the property in the spring, a smaller collection than when Betsy hosted a daffodil day every spring for many years. "I should plant more," she says.



**Provisional - Mary Dewar**

In 2004 we left our 1850's Victorian with a very shady garden and moved into a brand new house on an empty sunny lot. I had lived, worked and raised our children in Winchester and the thought of moving was overwhelming. I said goodbye to hostas, rhododendrons and ferns that I have loved for over 30 years and began the challenge of gardening in full sun. Eight years later I can finally see the bones of a new garden beginning to emerge. After we put in the lawn my brother Paul and I dug a 200ft long border and started planting "long garden". Next came the vegetable garden, some fruit trees and a small herb garden. We have also added blueberries and strawberries. In 2009 we became beekeepers and this year I was talked into getting chickens by my granddaughter.



When not in the garden I can be found walking in the woods with Margaret Esmee my rescued yellow lab, reading, knitting, helping in my neighbors vineyard or volunteering with DNRT.

**Recipes - August Coolers****Rhubarb Punch - Carolyn Willard**

1 ½ lbs. rhubarb  
 4 cups water  
 1 cup sugar  
 1/3 cup orange juice  
 4 T. lemon juice  
 Few grains of salt  
 1 quart seltzer water to mix with rhubarb syrup (1 to 1 ratio).



Cut rhubarb into small pieces and cook in water until mushy. Strain, add 1 cup sugar. Heat to a boiling point. Cool. Add orange juice, lemon juice and salt. Chill  
 Just before serving add seltzer water. Pour over ice in a large pitcher or punch bowl. Serves 12.

**Iced Tea with Extras - Tina Read**

In one container put 5 tab lemon juice, 6 mint sprigs 1/2-3/4 cup sugar pour over 2 cups boiling water let steep  
 In another pitcher pour in 4 cups boiling water and add 4 tea bags let steep  
 After 1 hour. Remove mint and mix the two together chill and enjoy over ice  
 Easily doubled

## Photo Gallery - McDonough Lunch Converse Garden &



## After Lunch - Stone Gardens



### July Meeting - Sally Lutz

The July meeting was a Visiting Gardens tour that certainly lived up to its billing. It was a bright, sunny day with over 30 members in attendance.



The day began at the beautiful home of Holly McDonough, which is situated directly on the water in Marion. From there we walked to the Converse Estate and enjoyed a stroll through the Moorings Garden. The rest of the afternoon was spent at our member Cathy Stone's Great Hill Gardens. What a wonderful tour and event! Cathy's Uncle Galen gave us a little history of the Estate and Cathy took us on a guided tour highlighting the landscaping of Fletcher Steele and Warren Manning. A good time was had by all and we learned a great deal in the process.

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