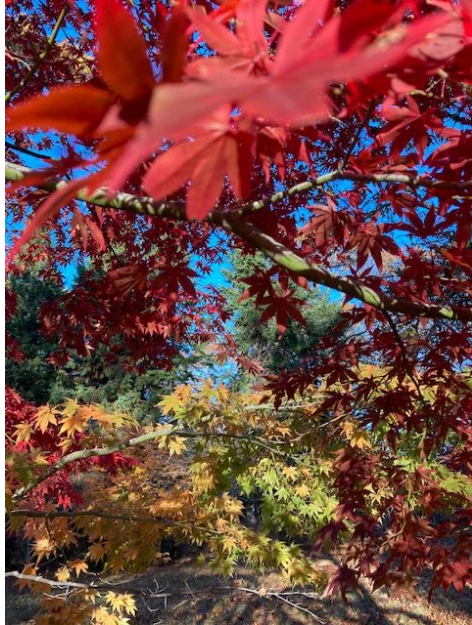




Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

October/November 2021



Welcome everyone!

I would like to introduce this new Newsletter. For those that have gone before us, we have a tough act to follow (bear with us). Laura Campbell is my right hand woman as she navigates the computer, while I organize the content and offer my own Yackety Yak. We both are walking blindly but hand in hand into a new endeavor. We are referring to this new newsletter “Garden Club of Buzzards Bay ~ From the Ground Up” because Laura and I feel like we are starting fresh and the only place for us to go is up. We hope it’s fun, interesting and worth a few minutes of your time. As Jackie Geeson used to say “ And away we gooooo....”

~ Linda Cornell

Presidents Message

Dear all,

I am so excited to be writing this for our very first issue! It will be such a good thing for us to have a newsletter back up and running, and I am so grateful to Laura and Linda for taking on this project. I know we will all enjoy it.

Welcome to a new club year. As we begin, we are still adjusting to the effects of the pandemic, but things are better. Last year, we had to close down so much. This year, although we will continue to hold our larger all-member meetings via Zoom for the fall and winter, we are able to have small-group meetings outside, in the coach house and elsewhere. We hope to be back in the greenhouse soon (in smaller groups) and to be able to gather for a holiday lunch in December (final decision to be made closer to the time). Our Winter Greens Market will proceed as planned, with an emphasis on fresh-air shopping. Members who have confirmed to Holly McDonough that they are fully vaccinated can participate in all our in-person activities to the extent they are personally comfortable. Our full COVID protocols are posted on the [website](#) — please check them out.

Speaking of the greenhouse, we all regret the construction delays...but then again that's often how construction projects work. We are getting there, and it will be great! The Fund for the Greenhouse now stands at \$33,268, getting closer to our project estimate of \$36,000. We sincerely thank all 58 of you who have so generously supported the effort. Gift acknowledgements have gone out to all donors.

A note on programs: By the time our notebook pages were published, we already had had several changes in our programs for the year. Please do not rely on your notebooks for scheduling—rather, use the calendar on our website for up-to-date information. We also will alert you to any additional changes via emails and the newsletter.

We have many great programs coming up, lots of committee activities underway, and four new provisionals to welcome into our fold, so please join in and enjoy. I am looking forward to seeing everyone around the GCBG.

Take care,

Janet

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Leslie Bernert making a friend at a garden tour following the GCBG annual meeting.

At the Greenhouse

Greenhouse Renovation

Written by Janet Coquillette for an upcoming issue of the RJD Bulletin

The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay used the quiet of the pandemic to design and carry out a major interior renovation of the greenhouse on the RJD property. GCBB has been in residence in the greenhouse since 1982 when, as part of the effort to preserve the RJD property as a museum, the club agreed to rehabilitate the then-abandoned greenhouse and raised the necessary funds from its members. Greenhouse restoration specialist Mark Ward supervised the work. The club's historic collection of boxwood specimens was subsequently installed in the gardens outside the greenhouse door.

A greenhouse was originally added to the RJD property by Edward Jones before 1872. Records are unclear about the specific uses of the greenhouse at that time, but it is known that the section of the property that included the greenhouse and surrounding gardens was regarded as a "service" area and was clearly distinguished from the ornamental gardens by fencing and other screening. The surrounding gardens likely included fruit trees, a grape arbor, family kitchen and cutting gardens and an apiary.



The current renovation project includes replacing wood-and-cinder-block greenhouse benches with sleek galvanized ones; putting new tops and shelves on the two long potting benches; replacing the overhead vent and fan systems; building a custom base for the vintage sink and adding new steel tables on each side; and interior painting. Vintage fans, brackets and other historic appointments will be preserved. Funding is again provided from GCBB member donations. The result will be a more functional and energy-efficient greenhouse.

GCBB has used its love and knowledge of horticulture, nurtured in the greenhouse, to support many community projects throughout the New Bedford area. At the RJD, GCBB led the 1985 restoration of the woodland garden in the southeast quadrant, winning a national Garden Club of America award to support the work. GCBB is currently engaged in a renovation to reflect the tastes of the Jones era and enhance the visitor experience. GCBB also supported development of the Olmsted Center's Cultural Landscape Report for the RJD and installation of the orchard and rose parterre in the RJD gardens. The greenhouse renovation is a natural extension of a forty-year collaboration between the RJD and GCBB.

Greenhouse Renovation Update

Written by Linda Cornell

At this writing our little greenhouse is finally getting the facelift it deserves. After close to a three week delay due in part to the “Covid slowdown” of deliveries of materials, we are underway. This glitch along with the busy contractor and subcontractors kept us in irons for a while. Today our general contractor Will Traubel is with the electrician who will rewire all of the previous unusable outlets. It will require a little finesse because the supports that currently hold the outlet boxes will be eliminated. This will allow a few more inches of bench space for plants. Along with that update, he will be wiring our new venting system.

After the electrician performs his magic the new benches will be installed. Unfortunately, there was a small glitch: we are short one bench. It has been ordered and will be delivered when it becomes available. The good news about our benches is that they are moveable. We can now configure our workspace and growing space in any way that makes sense. As it stands, we have simply kept the same pragmatic design that has worked for us for forty years.



By early next week the new ipe (pronounced ee-pay) wood will have replaced the plywood tops of our potting benches and shelves below. No more splinters from scooping up soil from the old wooden tops. Was I the only one who got the “pleasure” of a splinter? Ipe is a hardwood decking that is so heavy it actually sinks in water. Ipe is also long lived and naturally resistant to bugs, fungus and mold. With that kind of criteria we thought it was the best and most affordable choice for potting bench tops.

Two stainless steel units (think commercial kitchen) are on order. These will bookend our cool old sink which will get a literal ‘up-lift’ of its own so that drainage will no longer be an issue. Having stainless steel around the sink area made sense to us. No more continuously wet wood as the newly washed pots dry. That wood must be harboring a plethora of diseases, mold and pests — “Oh My!”. We will be state of the art. Sleek, clean and slightly modern. Our sink keeps us historical though.

Since the wooden growing benches have been replaced by metal benches, our mist system which relied on the depth of the old wooden bench, has also had to undergo a transformation. It is a work in progress and Will is designing and installing a new system for us. A surprise for me as well because I do not know how he will configure it. I love a surprise...mostly.

There are numerous smaller but no less important steps that will be underway. The thought is that our members will be in and working and enjoying a party of celebration the first part of November. I will leave that announcement up to your Greenhouse Chair Margaret Forbush to alert you.

I hope you are all as excited as I am to see the final result of this endeavor. It won't be long before we gather together again on Tuesdays and enjoy this much needed makeover. A sincere thank you goes out to those who helped make this possible. You are the champions behind this project. With gratitude.

Committee News

Winter Greens Market

Our VP Sandy Hall has supplied us with information regarding our very first **Winter Greens Market being held on November 19th and 20th** just in time for holiday decorating. The offerings will include wreaths and bunched greens for you to use to create your own arrangements and wreaths. There will also be topiaries and oasis boxwood trees and a selection of bows for you to purchase. There will surely be some fun surprises thrown in knowing our own Tina Read who along with Sandy are the creative forces behind this event. Details on what members can do:



Please consider donating greens and holly. If you are thinking about pruning now, waiting until closer to the sale would help out enormously. **Donations may be brought to the RJD and left outside starting on Tuesday November 16th.** From there they will be sorted and priced.

We will be having a couple of workshop days on **November 9th and 10th** in the Coach House to do some of the preliminary work, preparing for topiaries and oasis boxwood trees as well as making bows. On the 15th, Tina will pick up and deliver boxwood and 24 wreaths to the Coach House. The following three days will be spent assembling everything. If you have any questions on how you can help, please call **Sandy at 608-965-6053.**

Boxwood Committee

Written by Marcy Busch



Recently Warren Leach worked his magic on the Boxwood Collection - relocating approximately 10 crowded boxwood to various strategic locations in the beds. He also removed 2 boxwoods that the Committee and he deemed sickly (they did not improve after fertilizing and miticide application this spring). Two large boxwoods were also transplanted to the Woodland Walk to incorporate into the new design plan for that area. His design

recommendations, along with Nan Sinton, Ruth Furman and our committee's recommendations have resulted in a beautifully rejuvenated Boxwood Collection garden.

Janet and I spent the day with Warren and crew, and were very impressed by their professionalism and knowledge. Nan Sinton also participated, lending her design expertise. In addition, Janet and I labeled all of the boxwoods that were missing tags or transplanted. There are 2-3 still in question about their identity!

All of the boxwoods that have been moved are now marked with a tall green stake. They need to be watered heavily for 5 minutes each, once a week, through October- regardless of how much rain we get.

Archives Committee

Written by Judi Sterns

As many know the GCBB Archives are located behind the glass cabinet doors in the Coach House. We are always collecting historical articles and memorabilia. If you are cleaning or sorting through your own collections and find any GCBB memorabilia that might be of interest, please do not throw it away. When the greenhouse reopens we will designate a space for it. If in doubt, save it and if it duplicates anything we have, it will be recycled. Many thanks.

Features

Succulent Story

Written by Margaret Forbush



As the growing season wound down a few weeks ago, Fran Levin graciously invited members of the club to come and collect cuttings from her vast collection of robust and unusual succulents. And a spectacular collection it is! Where to begin? So many choices, and so little sunny indoor space. Linda Cornell recognized that we need to preserve some specimens for the club in the greenhouse. However, it is not quite ready for prime time (all good things are worth waiting for), so Libby Eustis kindly volunteered the use of her greenhouse until ours is good to go.

One recent morning, Linda invited me to join her in choosing plants, and we created a tray's worth of noteworthy little beauties. They were destined for Libby's greenhouse in a couple of days. Enter Marcy Busch, who came to Fran's to choose some succulents. It pained her to see all of these prime specimens (some with flower stalks three feet tall) remaining unclaimed in large planters, facing certain death in the winter winds. So, she and I transplanted some large succulents to large plastic tubs Fran had stored out in the back forty. Now the question – where could we find a home for these very large plants? Libby to the rescue (again). Fortunately, Libby has space and volunteered to take them for a season in her new greenhouse. Linda and I drove over hill and dale to Libby's lovely homestead that she designed and built in Westport.



As Libby describes it, her home is a “gardener’s home”, built surrounding a southward facing courtyard, anchored with an old mill wheel fountain in the center. The space is a vibrant oasis, still in full bloom, and alive with pollinators. The modern greenhouse and barn, situated nearby, are every grower’s dream: all the storage space we crave, fresh veggies all year ‘round. The interior space of the greenhouse is efficiently used by virtue of the vertical surfaces which accommodate judiciously pruned

vines, below which can grow low lying plants such as lettuce.



The sweet potato vines shared their trellises with green beans in an intermingled tangle of lush greenery; peering closely we found the tender green edibles nestled there.



Thanks to Fran, Linda, Marcy and Libby for making it all happen. I may speak for all of us when I say enjoy the experience of getting to know friends in the GCBB through their gardens.



Accolades



Garden Club of America Awards

Join us in celebrating the GCBB members recognized at the Garden Club of America's **Zone I Meeting** (July 12-13, 2021). Our heartfelt congratulations to these two amazing women. You make us proud!!



The **Medal of Merit** was awarded to Ellen Christie:

"With deep appreciation for her many contributions which have made membership in our club, our community, and the GCA a more enriching and valued experience."



Ellen was one of three Medal of Merit recipients in 2020. She was honored with this award at the 2021 Zone I Meeting.



Tina Read was honored with the **Nell Schwartz Mentor Award:**

“With appreciation for her gracious enthusiasm as she shares her knowledge of floral arranging, gardening, and judging. She exemplifies the collaborative spirit of a true mentor”



The [Cocktails and Awards Ceremony](#) can be viewed online on the [Zone 1](#) page of the [GCA website](#) and is well worth your time.

“What?! You have never logged in to the Members Area of the GCA website?!”

The site has a wealth of information and resources (GCA and Club news, virtual trainings, videos of GCA and Zone meetings, online access to the GCA Bulletin and other GCA publications). If that wasn't enough to inspire you to visit the site, the Zone 1 Meeting recipe for [Maine Blueberry Mojitos](#) is a must see...Cheers!!

Here are the simple steps to access the Members Area:

1. Go to the GCA website at <http://www.gcamerica.org>
2. Click on the link entitled "**Members Area**" in the upper right corner of the screen.
3. In the **Username** box, type in your **email address**.
4. Click the green link at the bottom of the login screen: **Forgot your password?**
5. Once logged in, please follow the prompts to create a **new password (at least 6 characters long with no spaces)**.
6. Update your email/contact information if necessary. Fill out the additional sections to personalize your profile in the Members Area. (You can also revisit these tabs at a later time.)
7. Click the "**Save**" button towards the bottom of the screen.
8. Important Note: Upon completing the steps above, you will always use the following to login: USERNAME: your email address; PASSWORD: the new password you've created.
9. If you ever forget your password, simply click on the Help link at the bottom of the login screen: **Forgot your password?**

Any questions? Contact: websupport@gcamerica.org

Need help navigating the website? The GCA has a terrific [Members Help](#) page. Check it out!

Welcome two new Provisional Members!

Iryna Priester

Iryna calls their modest 1935 Craftsman cottage on Point Connett her “Happy Place.” Living between Wayland, MA and Mattapoisett for the past 20+ years, formerly with a sailboat in the harbor, and now with a home, she feels fully-rooted in the South Coast. Through the GCBB, she anticipates expanding her connections and friendships in the area.

Trained as a lawyer, Iryna has had extensive leadership positions in both the state and local levels. She has a passionate commitment to the environment and land conservation and held a leadership position in Sudbury Valley Trustees, a regional Land Trust, for 20 years.

She has been married to her husband, Richard, for 42 years. They have two daughters and five energetic grandchildren ranging in age from 4 ½ years to 11 weeks old.

Iryna loves to travel, sail, cook and learn. She is an enthusiastic gardener and an admirer of all things beautiful. She is grateful to be welcomed by the GCBB and looks forward to many future in-person interactions.



Anna Surma

I arrived from Poland in 1977 shortly after graduating from Krakow Polytechnic with a Masters in Architecture. During my first year here, before I could speak English I was working as a draftsman for the Office of Historic Preservation documenting historic buildings in the city.

Since then, while working in a few local architectural firms I took part in restoration projects of many historic structures which include Grace Episcopal Church, Rodman House, Grinnell Mansion, Art Museum building and many others. As a partner in Wise Surma Jones Architects I worked designing many new houses and house renovation projects located often in the nearby seaside communities or Boston suburbs.

After about two decades in the firm, I gradually retired and closed my practice at the end of 2017.

Now I serve as a member of the New Bedford Historical Commission. My husband John and I are members of WHALE and RJD. We both deeply care about preserving the historic character of our City.

Landscaping and gardening at our historic house was always my hobby, but visiting botanical gardens on every trip we took in the US and abroad was a highlight of each trip. I am looking forward to spending time in the greenhouse this winter and developing new friendships and comradery while working together on many club's projects.

Tips & Tasks for the October/November Garden

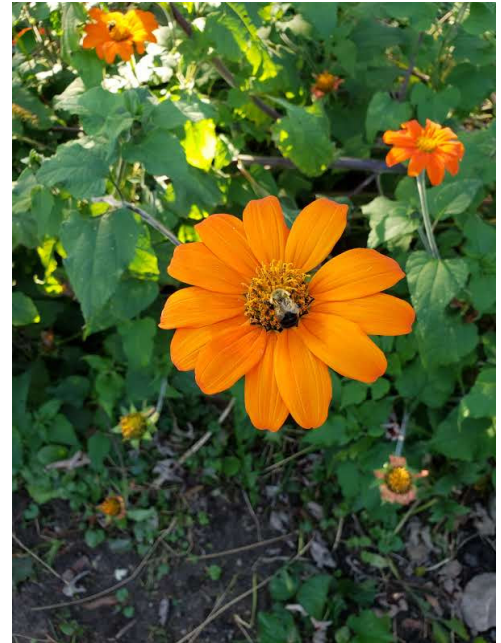
OCTOBER:

- Plant spring bulbs.
- Scatter slow-release fertilizer (formulated especially for bulbs) on top of the soil after planting.
- Fertilize both lawn and garden.
- Lift dahlias.
- Bring plants in containers inside for the winter. If they are to remain outside all winter, tip pots on their sides so water will drain out.
- Bring clay pots inside so they don't freeze and crack.
- Reduce feeding houseplants
- Give the compost pile a final turn.
- Be sure that you have removed any foliage from Iris as it can harbor Iris Borers over the winter.
- Clean and oil tools so they don't rust over the winter. Drain and store hoses inside.
- Put rodent protection around new tree trunks.
- Keep watering the shrubs and evergreens.
- Remove leaves of roses that have signs of black spot or other foliage diseases so it doesn't recur next year.
- Cut back perennials and compost non-diseased foliage. (I like to keep mine up for winter protection for critters)
- Leave about 4 inches of stem on cut back lilies.
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Use evergreen boughs over shrubs to provide winter protection. Do not use plastic.
- Pull out and compost annuals.



NOVEMBER:

- Plant paperwhite narcissus, hyacinths and amaryllis (indoors) for color and aroma.
- After a few freezing days, begin to mulch roses and other shrubs.
- Put wire guards on the bases of tree trunks to prevent mouse/rodent damage.
- Wrap plants in burlap for winter protection.
- If you haven't fertilized your lawn or garden yet, do it now.
- Use anti-desiccant to prevent water loss during the winter especially on broadleaf evergreens.
- Add leaves and the last cut grass to compost.
- Cover your compost heap or bin with plastic to keep the nutrients from being leached out from winter rain and snow.
- Water trees and shrubs until the ground freezes. Check and remove diseased foliage.
- If you have any leftover bulbs, plant them now.



With thanks to:

<https://www.andovergardenclub.org/a-new-england-garden-by-the-month>

Links of Interest



Lantern Bugs:

[**Massachusetts Asks Residents To Report Signs Of Invasive Spotted Lanternfly**](#)

Upcoming Events:

October 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Program Committee 2:30 at the Coach House	20	21 Monthly Meeting 10:30 am via Zoom Page Dickey	22	23
24	25 Boxwood Committee 10:00 at the RJD	26 ** 9:30 Master Gardeners - RJD Conservation Committee 2:00 RJD Tent	27 Horticulture Committee 9:30 at the Coach House	28	29	30
31 	Monthly Meeting October 21 – 10:30 am via Zoom Speaker: Page Dickey, “Uprooted: A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again” (book published September 2020)					

Program Committee – Tuesday, October 19, 2:30 pm @ Coach House

Boxwood Committee – Monday, October 25, 10:00 am @ RJD

Conservation Committee – Tuesday, October 26, 2 pm @ RJD Tent

Horticulture Committee – Wednesday, October 27, 9:30 am @ Coach House

**Last session with master gardeners for the year – Tuesday, October 26, 9:30 am @ RJD

NOTE: November Committee Meetings dates and times were not yet available when Newsletter was finalized - Please check with the committee chairs for details.

November 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Board Meeting 9:00 am via Zoom	12	13
14	15	16	17 GCA 2021 Conservation Study Conference: "Saving Salmon" (Virtual)	18 Monthly Meeting 10:30 am via Zoom Kathleen Biggins	19 Holiday Greens Market @ RJD	20 Holiday Greens Market @ RJD
21	22	23	24	25 Happy Thanksgiving! 	26	27
28	29	30	Monthly Meeting November 18 – 10:30 am via Zoom Speaker: Kathleen Biggins, President and Founder, C-Change Conversations, "C-Change Conversations Primer"			

Holiday Greens Market - November 19 & 20 @ RJD - Details to follow

Garden Club of America National Conference:

2021 Conservation Study Conference "Saving Salmon" November 17th - [Virtual Meeting](#) -

Free for all club members (click on link to register).

Until next time...

Be sure to spend some time outside with a friend!



Just for Laughs...

Courtesy of The Standard-Times:

'Goatscaping'? Check out how New Bedford is getting rid of weeds at Riverside Park



NEW BEDFORD — Dozens of goats were spotted on Wednesday morning at Riverside Park. And none of them were wearing Tom Brady football jerseys. Instead, they were busy munching on weeds and overgrowth at the park to clear the way for a native pollinator garden.

[Goats To Go](#), based at Great Rock Farm in Georgetown, Massachusetts, let the goats have at it, getting rid of invasive plants and weeds along the northern bank of the park property. Called “goatscaping,” the endeavor was marked the first time the city used goats to remove overgrowth from city property.

Related: [New Bedford residents pitch in to plant wildflower garden at Victory Park](#)

One goat can eat about 100 square feet of vegetation daily and can work in rugged terrain. The Environmental Protection Agency says using goats to clear areas for landscaping cuts down on the amount of chemicals used to kill weeds or carbon emissions from power equipment.



“Goats are efficient workers, environmentally-friendly, and able to work safely and easily in areas that may be dangerous or difficult for humans and heavy equipment,” the EPA stated.

Making room for a pollinator garden

Clearing of the weeds and overgrowth is part of the city’s project to create a pollinator garden in the park.

According to the EPA, many types of plants, including fruit and vegetable crops, depend on animals for pollination. In addition to honeybees, many other types of animals pollinate crops and wildflowers, including butterflies, bats, birds, lizards and more.



Save the bees: [Newly opened Greer's Garden hopes to teach visitors the importance of native planting](#)

A press release from the city noted the invasive plant clearing along the north bank will be followed by grading and seeding for a native plant garden. The garden will support pollinators and keep the water view open for park visitors. The follow-up work is being performed by [Groundwork Southcoast's Green Team](#) with support from the City of New Bedford Department of Public Infrastructure and Parks Recreation & Beaches.

Funding for the project comes from the Community Preservation Act.

Standard-Times digital producer Linda Roy can be reached at lroy@s-t.com. You can follow her on Twitter at [@LindaRoy_SCT](https://twitter.com/LindaRoy_SCT). Support local journalism by purchasing a digital or print subscription to [The Standard-Times](#).