



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

April 2022

Presidents Message

Dear all,

Happy April to you! Spring is surely coming, and it's very welcome. As the bulbs start to pop, we at the GCBB are busy, busy, busy – let me share some highlights.

This past month we kicked off preparations for “Autumn Joy,” our upcoming GCA Flower Show to be held jointly with the Little Compton Garden Club in September 2023. This is a major undertaking for the club (the last one was held in 2012), the kind of project where everyone pitches in to work together toward a collective triumph. Yes, it will have its moments of frustration, as all big projects do, but, more importantly, it will speak to our creative selves, challenge and educate us, give us the opportunity to know the LCGC members better, and provide a community service. There will also be a chance to party!



(Photo: Christel Phipps)

Ruth Furman is our fearless Co-Chair, working with Libby Moore of LCGC as the other Co-Chair. Further on in this issue is a recap of show information and a reminder to go to our website and sign up for committee positions – we need all hands on deck, and this is your opportunity to choose your position up front.

Not to be outdone, our Plant Sale committee, chaired by Anne Heller and Cheryl Gamsby, has been hard at work putting all the pieces in place for a delightful sale in May. As we ease out of the pandemic, this year's sale will be bigger than last year's but still a “boutique” kind of sale – we are trying this out as a potential model for the future with the idea of building volume over time. Please let us know what you think!

In other news, the Conservation Committee will be back in Buttonwood Park working to install a pollinator garden for the public and as a potential model for other such gardens in New Bedford parks. The Boxwood Committee is greeting spring by getting back out in the collection to finish up their mapping project and establish good records for the future. The task force for The Woodland Garden at the RJD is pursuing plans for year 2 (to include planting trees and shrubs and repairing the walkway, among other things). We will again be working with the

Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association to provide experienced volunteer help for the Woodland Garden project.

Whew! Just one last reminder:

Please note the date of our April members meeting is **Tuesday, April 26**. This date is a bit unusual for us but was necessitated by the speaker's schedule. Plan to join us at Sandy Hall's barn* to hear Adam Wheeler, owner of Broken Arrow Nursery, talk to us about deer-resistant plants. He's also bringing plants.

Take care,
Janet

*115 Elm Street, South Dartmouth. If the weather is chilly, bundle up!

Table of Contents:

President's Message	1-2
Changing of the Seasons	2
Committee News	
Conservation	3
Plant Sale	3
Garden History and Design	4
Autumn Joy Flower Show (2023)	5
From the Archives	6
Membership	7
New Provisional Members	7-8
Features	8-12
Accolades	13
GCA Website & Info	14-15
View from My Window	16-19
Tips & Tasks in the Garden	20
Link (s) of Interest	21
Miles Away	22
Just for Fun	23
April Calendar	24
A Gentle Reminder	25
Until Next Time	26

Changing of the Seasons

Behold the signs of spring!!



(Photo: Barbara Brown)

Committee News

Conservation Committee

Submitted by Ruth Furman and Ellen Christie

The Friends of Buttonwood Park and the New Bedford Parks Department have agreed to let GCBB proceed with installing a pollinator plot at Buttonwood after a series of misadventures last year.

We'll refresh your memories on **Thursday, March 31 @ 9:30** when we plan to lay the plastic on the plot for step one of the project. Meet at Buttonwood Park (not the zoo!) Brownell Ave/Court St area. There is parking near the old warming house building (now a senior center) behind the pond and we'll meet in front of the building. Wear your work shoes/boots and bring a leaf rake. We are not requiring masks as we will be outdoors. Looking forward to seeing you later this month. Please reply to Ruth (ruthfurman01@comcast.net) or Ellen (echristie247@aol.com.)

Plant Sale Committee

Submitted by Cheryl Gamsby and Anne Heller, 2022 Plant Sale Co-chairs

Now that spring has arrived, we're all thinking about our gardens – what survived the winter and what improvements we can make this year. We hope that part of your garden plotting included taking advantage of the perennial and herb pre-order offerings and, more importantly, that it will include a visit to the Club's plant sale in May.

We have the dates, times, and location worked out (see below) and are fine-tuning our plans. We'll be in touch with more details, such as pre-order pick-up times, staffing needs, and a request for perennial donations, in a couple of weeks. Offerings at the sale will include the annuals and tomatoes we've been nurturing in our greenhouse, succulents, orchids, herbs, and perennial donations.

We're looking forward to gathering on the RJD grounds in May to enjoy the company of our fellow members, to purchase plants that have been grown in our newly renovated greenhouse, and to engage in an important (and fun!) activity that provides financial support for the Club.

Plant Sale hours:

Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 3:00-6:00 pm.

Friday, May 13, 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Location: Greenhouse, Coach House and Patio
at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House**

Garden History and Design Committee

Submitted by Nan Sinton

On Monday ON Monday, April 4 at 4pm the Garden History and Design committee will be meeting via Zoom. As well as updates on current projects we will share and discuss "signs of spring " -- plants, bulbs and "problem areas" that we see in our gardens -- members will send pictures to Nan in advance of the meeting and then comment on them in a brief PowerPoint. Prospective members of the club are invited to join the group!

A note of gratitude for the Greenhouse renovation:

THE ROTCH-JONES-DUFF HOUSE & GARDEN MUSEUM

March 3, 2022

Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

Dear Members of the GCBB,

On behalf of the board and staff, we'd like to acknowledge and thank you for all the hours spent on and donations made to the recent renovations to the RJD Greenhouse. What's more, we're so happy these renovations and the waning of the pandemic allow a return to "normal"! As you can imagine, preservation of this nearly 200-year old site is costly and never-ending. We recognize the GCBB as a valuable partner in the stewardship of this historic site.

Janet notes that, in the end, the club will have invested about \$38,000 on the interior. We also understand that this fundraising effort was highly successful, involving about 60 club members. You are certainly keeping the spirit of our original partnership alive, and we look forward to the next plant sale, unencumbered by a pandemic, or malfunctioning vents.

See you soon,



G. Stewart Young
President, Board of Trustees



Dawn E. Salerno
Executive Director

Autumn Joy Flower Show

The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay & Little Compton Garden Club
Flower Show Planning Meeting - March 17, 2022

WHY? A Flower Show is an opportunity to showcase the GCA's mission statement.



The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence, and publications, and to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.

It gives all of us the opportunity to have FUN while cultivating bonds and friendships between our two clubs. It encourages and sets standards for horticultural and artistic excellence and provides an opportunity to share the show with the public, showcasing the skills of our clubs and educating the public. The conservation/educational exhibit highlights the importance of protecting, restoring and improving the environment around us while broadening the knowledge of all show attendees. A flower show celebrates the skills and talents of ALL club members who participate by exhibiting, planning or using computer/other skills. There are many opportunities for diverse capabilities and talents — there is something for every single one of you.

WHEN? September 18, 19, and 20 of 2023

September 18th - Set up and passing.

September 19th - Passing, judging, open to the public and preview party.

September 20th - Open to the public and knock down

WHERE? Somewhere local for both clubs!! TBD

DETAILS Floral Design Horticulture (hope to have an oak theme) there will be an oak challenge class and everyone is invited to take ONE package of acorns when leaving and start growing Photography Educational/Conservation — hoping to showcase the importance of oaks

COSTS: a Preview Party is planned for the evening of September 19th, which should cover show expenses.

VOLUNTEERS we can't do it alone; club members please sign-up.

SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE ON THE [WEBSITE](#). Any questions? Contact Ruth Furman.

Photos From the Archives.... A Trip down Memory Lane.

The photo on the top right is the Greenhouse when the GCBB took it on!



Look closely...Can you name any of these members?



Membership Committee

Submitted by Carolyn Willard

Over the last year, the Membership Committee has been working to provide better mentoring to new members.

We've asked proposers and seconders to make sure that Provisionals are familiar with the club activities. Committee chairs will be in touch (and hoping to enlist some manpower?). Now that Covid is waning a bit, the committee is looking forward to meeting the newest members in person and will have a casual meeting in late April or early May. Susan Mead is our mentoring chief.

We have four members who will soon go to Active status: Anna Surma, Deborah Nutter, Iryna Priester, and Jane Rheame (contact info in the handbook and on the website). There are three "newbies:" Tia Bullard (tiabullard9@gmail.com), Ellen Walsh (ESWOW@gmail.com) and Sue Perry (susanperry28@gmail.com) and maybe soon a fourth. Two wonderful, talented recruiting classes, especially during a pandemic. Thanks to all those who proposed and seconded.

New Provisional Members

Tia Bullard retired from UMass Dartmouth in January 2021 after working there for 32 years.



She looks forward to moving on from her work life to a life of new adventures. She is delighted to be a Provisional Member of the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay and hopes to carry on in her late mother-in-law's footsteps (a virtual impossibility...there is only one Kay Bullard!). She has been married to Peter C. Bullard for 44 years. Peter refers to himself as a "country lawyer." Peter and Tia have two daughters, Anna and Kate, who are both married. To date they have one grandson who is 18 months young, and another on the way to arrive in October.



Ellen Walsh

I have had the good fortune to have been surrounded by gardeners and painters of flowers all my life. My grandmother had beautiful flower gardens, and during the war, she kept a victory garden that my sister and I helped her cultivate. My mother loved arranging bouquets of flowers and painting them. My husband is a consummate gardener. His passion is gardening in every possible manner. He researches plants, experiments in his greenhouse with bonsais, orchids, herbs, and every imaginable plant. Some of his gardenias (that bloom every spring) are over 55 years old. He can't wait to plunge his hands into the soil in the spring to plant his (now our) garden, and to sew his wildflower seeds.

So where am I in all of this? So far, I have mainly reaped the bounty of flowers and plants all year long, and delicious vegetables all summer. I have always been interested in conserving the beauty of nature. Now I have decided to be a part of the process of growing and conserving. Over the years I have absorbed a lot about gardening. Now I want to learn more about this special world by working with a group of interesting and knowledgeable women. I believe that it is never too late to learn, and to give back to my community.

Features

[Resident honors Japanese doll celebration with display at Southworth Library](#)

Christopher Shea editor@dartmouthweek.net Mar 4, 2022



Helen DeGroot with some of the Asian dolls she brought to the Southworth Library to honor the Japanese celebration of “Hinamatsuri.” Photos by: Christopher Shea

Patrons at the Southworth Library on March 3 may have noticed a new, special shelf while browsing for books.

Instead of the usual literature to check out, this shelf was filled with a collection of Asian dolls as

a way to recognize the Japanese holiday “Hinamatsuri” — a day to celebrate young girls’ growth, good health and happiness.

The dolls on display were collected by 92-year-old Dartmouth resident Helen DeGroot through gifts given from Japanese researchers who worked with her husband at the University of Chicago and during her own trips to the Land of the Rising Sun.

“It’s the most magical place,” she said, adding that she’s visited the country three times.

Figurines of a Japanese couple.

DeGroot said the display was inspired by a conversation she’d had recently with a Japanese friend, who mentioned that her daughter was displaying her dolls at home.



DeGroot wanted to showcase that same custom to the people of Dartmouth at her favorite place in town: the Southworth Library.

“As far as I’m concerned, it’s the best library in the country,” she said.

On March 1, the Dartmouth resident arrived with her collection, including traditional fans and replicas of geta — a traditional Japanese sandal. The display was set up by fellow Dartmouth resident Blair Walker. “She did such an excellent job,” DeGroot said. “The way she put things up — everything’s in perfect shape.”

Along with traditional Japanese dolls, DeGroot also brought figures from other Asian countries including China, Bali, Thailand, India, and Afghanistan — where she lived for eight months back in 1955.

This doll holds the fabled "magic hammer," which is believed to "tap out" anything wished for.

The Dartmouth resident's collection first began after her mother returned from a trip in Poland in 1939 with three dolls.

"They were beautifully dressed," she recalled.

DeGroot said what she appreciates most about collecting dolls is their ability to give a glimpse into the cultures of the countries that they came from.



A fan featuring a geisha.

The dolls are also able to tell stories, she said. One of the dolls, DeGroot explained, holds a fabled "magic hammer" which can "tap out" anything wished for.

"They all have a purpose," she said of the dolls.



Figurines from India.

While the display was only up for Hinamatsuri, DeGroot said she's already looking forward to additional showcases at the library.

"With Blair Walker's help, of course," DeGroot said.

DeGroot also brought in a couple of dolls from Afghanistan dressed in traditional garb.



Arbor Day Celebration!

On **Friday, April 22nd**, the newly launched **Dartmouth Tree Committee (DTC)**, in partnership with The Dartmouth YMCA, will celebrate Arbor Day's 150th anniversary from **12:30 to 1:30 at the Dartmouth Y on Gulf Road**.

Join us for: the planting of a mighty white oak, a brief history of Arbor Day, the reading of poems & sharing of kids' artwork, and cookies too! Fifty oak seedlings will be given away, along with planting instructions. April 22 also marks Earth Day. What better way to honor our planet!

DTC's mission is to promote the protection, planting and care of trees and forests, as well as to raise awareness of the many benefits that trees have for our community.

Arbor Day Celebration!!

at the Dartmouth YMCA on

Friday, April 22, 12:30 to 1:30

The Dartmouth Tree Committee and Dartmouth YMCA request the pleasure of your company for the planting of a mighty oak and celebration of Arbor Day's 150th anniversary. Oak seedlings will be handed out; poems read; and planting instructions shared.



*"Trees exhale for us so that we can inhale them to stay alive. Can we ever forget that? Let us love trees with every breath we take until we perish." —
Munia Khan*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dartmouthtreecommittee>

More news on the dreaded Spotted Lanternfly



A message from your Bartlett Arborist Representative,

David Mendell

dmendell@Bartlett.com



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY UPDATE

The invasive spotted lanternfly was first discovered in the U.S. less than ten years ago. Now spreading in our area, the lanternfly has few natural predators here and is a serious threat not only to agricultural crops but also to trees on residential properties.

A sap-sucking insect that feeds on sap and other tree nutrients, spotted lanternfly will attack several types of deciduous trees with Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus) and native red maple being favorite hosts.

Eggs laid last year will begin hatching in May. The young nymphs will be black with white spots and will later develop red coloring. Insects will reach adulthood as early as July when they will have their distinctive spotted wings and bright red patches.

We have been actively assisting clients in management of this pest. To have your property inspected for signs of spotted lanternfly, please call me at 508-406-9656 or [contact me online](#) for a consultation.

Tree of Heaven is an invasive plant that also attracts spotted lanternfly and should be removed. Other trees should be inspected for signs of an infestation. Call me at 508-406-9656 or email dmendell@Bartlett.com.



Accolades



Tina Read has once again risen above and beyond in supporting the greenhouse and all of us who work there. A regular Tuesday participant, Tina doesn't let up when she walks out the door. She is always on the lookout for new ways to handle tasks we have been doing for years; we grow in our expertise and maintain a fresh perspective as a result. Recently, when we inadvertently overheated (and destroyed) seeds we had planted, Tina came across some similar seeds and started them at home, to bring in as substitutes as needed. Tina has lived up to the Mentor Award she was granted a few years ago as she has taken many of us under her wing this season. If we had a Miss Congeniality Award, Tina would earn that also – With her upbeat personality (and corny puns), Tina has made our winter in the greenhouse a brighter experience. Thank you, Tina!

We need to have a shout out to our resident Garden Designer, Nan Sinton. Nan has used her vast knowledge to help the GCBB with perennial choices for the upcoming plant sale. Between her design prowess and encyclopedic mind of plant requirements, Nan has chosen the perfect perennials and has written descriptions for us all to understand the charms as well as the needs of each offering. With her connections to Sylvan Nursery of Westport, Nan's sway has allowed us access. This is a time-consuming endeavor for which we all are grateful. For those who are new to the GCBB, Nan is an energetic, savvy, internationally known garden designer. She co-wrote *Taylor's Guides to Ground Covers* with David Michener. She leads garden tours worldwide and writes for [Horticulture](#) magazine. We are fortunate to have her vast expertise. Thanks, Nan for all you do behind the scenes that often goes unnoticed...Cheers!





Garden Club of America website

Winter/Spring 2022 issue of *ConWatch*



<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:publications/publicationdetails/pid/934>

See page 12 for the **2022 NAL Conference Summary: Advocacy in Action!**

Think what kind of coffee you drink makes a difference? Check out the article on **Bird Friendly Coffee** on page 21. Page 22 includes resources on how to find bird friendly coffee. One local source is [Farm & Coast Market!](#)

Loved watching the Oscars? Here is another reason to hum a catchy tune from Disney's *Encanto*. See: [A GCA Scholar's Journey to the Academy Awards](#)

Interested in watching any of the videos from the 2022 NAL conference? Go to the [NAL page](#) on the GCA website.

The GCA Plant of the Year: Montine McDaniel Freeman Horticulture Award Looking for new ideas on what plants to consider? Be sure to look at the GCA's Plant of the Year. The Montine McDaniel Freeman Horticulture Medal is awarded annually to acknowledge the

cultivation and use of native plants: trees, shrubs, ground covers, vines, and perennials that are little known but are deemed worthy to be preserved, propagated, promoted, and planted.

Phlox divaricata 'Blue Moon', commonly known as woodland phlox has been named the **2022 Plant of the Year**: Freeman Medal winner by The Garden Club of America! Annually, the GCA identifies a stellar North American native plant to receive this special award. *Phlox divaricata* 'Blue Moon' was discovered by William Cullina while he was working at the New England Wildflower Society.

This plant is mildew resistant with vibrant blue long-lasting blooms along with winter interest. The cultivar 'Blue Moon' has the largest petals of any of the *Phlox divaricata* cultivars with fragrant, billowy tufts of lilac-blue flowers throughout April and May creating a spectacular and long-lasting show in early spring. It's also a valuable early-season pollen source for bees and swallowtail butterflies as well as a nectar source for hummingbirds.

This phlox is suitable for shade gardens, woodland gardens, cottage gardens, rain gardens, low-maintenance gardens, and perennial borders and is also an excellent groundcover. Give it a try and see what you think!



To see the **GCA Plant of the Year** (including Honorable Mentions and Special Recognitions) from **1995 to present** go to:

[The GCA Plant of the Year: Montine McDaniel Freeman Horticulture Award](#)

A View from my Window

As the seasons change, please share your photos!

Email photos to Linda (lindyc@davecornellcharters.com) or Laura (LCampbell64@comcast.net)

Stunning view at Beth's:



Beautiful flowers at Fran's:



Signs of spring outside at Fran's:



Mary's first attempt at forcing a Magnolia bloom...SUCCESS!!



Barbara Brown's pictures of the Hellebores from the RJD Woodland Path:





From Susan McLaren:

One of my favorite trees in Florida is *Pseudobombax ellipticum* with common names like shaving brush tree, Dr. Seuss tree and amapolla tree. Native to places like southern Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Cuba, it's grown as an ornamental in Florida.

The tree is deciduous and grows to 60 feet tall with succulent greenish branches and large pink Pom Pom type flowers.



Tips & Tasks for the April Garden

- If you haven't, get a [soil test](#).
- Edge flower beds to rid yourself of invading lawn rhizomes. Toss the edgings into the compost.
- Time to stake garden plants. Rebar makes great garden stakes. It's cheap, strong and durable and available in many sizes. You can find it in building supply stores.
- Start the lawn mower to see if it needs a tune-up or repairs before grass cutting time. Be sure the blades are sharp. Sharpen your other tools while you are at it.
- The lawn will appreciate a good fertilizing at this time.
- Avoid working in the garden unless the soil breaks up in your hand when you squeeze a lump of it.
- Turn compost (assuming it is no longer frozen).
- Hummingbirds begin appearing this month in some places. Clean their feeders and hang them for the "early birds".
- Sow peas as soon as the frost is gone.
- Continue pruning trees of dead and diseased limbs.
- Prune shrubs as well as soon as they're done blooming.
- Berry bushes can be pruned. Check a reference guide.
- Pull out weed trees and old bramble branches as they come out easily because the soil is still soft and moist.
- Remove mulch from strawberries. Put trellis systems and peony supports in place. Plant pansies and other cold weather annuals.
- Divide and plant perennials and cut away last year's growth.

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

Links of Interest

From our friends at Avant Gardens:



Remember your gorgeous succulent containers from last summer? Did you take the time to bring in and care for all those tender plants over the winter? And, now, do they look overgrown and leggy, or a little scruffy to say the least? You have company...mine do too! Here are some suggestions on what to do to give these babies a new lease on life...[Spring Succulent Rehab](#)

Looking for a handy reference chart for soil temperature conditions for vegetable seed germination? See: [Garden Notes](#)



Check out [Joe Gardener](#) (from PBS's Growing a Greener World) to find links to information on Organic Garden Resources, Birding, Butterflies & Invertebrates, Beekeeping, Weed ID, Pest and Insect ID, Disease ID, Growing Guides, Plant Lists, Invasive Plant Info, and Podcasts.

Miles Away

Ellen Christie shared these beautiful photos of her recent visit to [Vizcaya Museum & Gardens Miami](#):



The Mangrove next to the formal garden:



Just for Fun



April 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				March 31st Conservation Committee 9:30 at Buttonwood Park Warming House (not Zoo) Work boots and rakes required	1 	2
3	4 4:00 Garden History & Design Committee meeting (via Zoom)	5 Greenhouse (Sign up online)	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Greenhouse (Sign up online)	13	14	15 Passover 	16 Full "Pink Moon" * 
17 Easter 	18 Tax Day 	19 Greenhouse (Sign up online)	20	21	22 Earth Day 	23
24	25	26 10:30 GCBB Monthly Meeting (Sandy Hall's Barn)	27	28	29 Arbor Day 	30

April Members Meeting - Tuesday (yes, Tuesday), April 26th at 10:30 am at Sandy Hall's barn 115 Elm Street, South Dartmouth.

Speaker: Adam Wheeler, owner of Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden, CT

Topic: "Like It, Love It, and the Deer Won't Eat it" (plus plants!)

* April's full Moon often corresponded with the early springtime blooms of a wildflower native to eastern North America: *Phlox subulata*—commonly called creeping phlox or moss phlox—which also went by the name "moss pink." Thanks to this seasonal association, this full Moon came to be called the "Pink" Moon!



A gentle reminder...



Until next time...

Laura's Monty follows Nugget's lead in patiently waiting for spring. Sometimes you just need to curl up in a fluffy bed to pass the time:

