



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

October 2022

Presidents Message

Dear All,

I hope you all had a wonderful Summer. It's always a treat to welcome a new season and look forward to what it brings.

Our annual meeting and lunch were held at Lisa Mellgard's beautiful farm. It was a time of remembrance for those who have left us and their families. Awards were given to those who richly deserved them and we even shared some happy tears. Thank you, Christel Phipps and your team, for all of your hard work. A good time was had by all and I am still loving my "Green Goddess" award!



On August 18th we had a great visit to Our Sisters School, thanks to Betsy Lawrence for making it happen. Thank you to Caroline Wehner for collecting all the details and information and making it available to all of us. We were met by an enthusiastic group of faculty and staff who got us almost as excited about the outdoor classroom as they are. We have put our energy into a great place where it is appreciated and well used. September 15th found us visiting the gardens at Blithewold in Bristol, R.I. A beautiful place with inspiration everywhere.

My first Summer as President has been fun and productive and has made me appreciate all of you. Our committee chairs have been amazing, and everyone has been so helpful. We have a meeting at the home of Fran Levin on October 20th, and I hope I will see you all there. Here's some good news, the greenhouse is due to open in October!!!

Happy Fall,

Sandy

Photo: A lovely Hydrangea at Blithewold.
(Holly McDonough)

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Succulents basking in the sun at Fran's



Committee News

Greenhouse

Submitted by Anna Surma

We are planning to open the greenhouse a little later this year. **October 18th** the doors will swing open in welcome.

This year, like the years before Covid we will be propagating cuttings. On opening day we ask our greenhouse members to begin bringing in “rough cuttings” that can be cleaned up and placed into the cutting bench which will already be setup and ready. If you decide to bring in the plant from which the cuttings will come from, we ask that that “mother plant” be taken out of the greenhouse at the end of the morning.

What are we interested in? Scented geranium, fuchsia, a new coleus perhaps or whatever you have found to be successful and interesting that you grew this summer. We are hoping for only those plants that have a *healthy constitution* and will not bring in pests and disease down the road.

As we are opening later than usual, please remember that if the weather gets too cool consider bringing your plant indoors for protection against frozen and unusable cuttings.

We are looking forward to the season ahead!

Winter Greens Market

Submitted by Tina Read, Sue Daylor and Linda Cornell



DECK THE HALLS!

Although the holidays are a couple of months away, we all know how time speeds by and suddenly we find ourselves in the middle of the festivities. *Whew...where DID the time go?*

This year our **Winter Greens Market will be on Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00 - 2:00.** As in the past, we would like to ask our members that all of the pruning you might schedule for fall and winter be done closer to our Market time so that we might create wreaths, swags, centerpieces from the trimmings. Your donated greens have always been the backbone of our holiday projects. We are hoping for more donations than last year so we will have **lots** of material to create beautiful decorations.



We have lots of fun ideas and we will need volunteers to be elves!
More to come next month, stay tuned!

Horticulture Committee

Submitted by Barbara Brown and Committee

For the first time in three years, there was an in-person seed share at the Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference in Boston. The Hort committee was tasked with collecting seeds for the GCBB donation. It was a rough summer for gardens but taking advantage of a late summer visit to Our Sisters School, we were able to merge our need for seeds with

Jocelyn (Joce) Chin's need to teach. Joce is the Science Chair and Teacher for Grades 5 & 6 as well as the school's garden coordinator. She and her students collected a plethora of seeds to supplement our collection and word is they all had a blast and learned something too! Win-win. The seeds were sorted and cataloged and



delivered with hopes that we'll find some unique seeds in return. Below is a pic of Joce with some of her students enjoying the fruits (lol) of their labor—their very first melon!



Our September 2023 plant show with Little Compton is calling and we are involved with the plant show challenge to grow oak trees. Oaks are one of the best eco-beneficial plants providing essential food and habitat for all sorts of living things. Our seedlings are being nurtured and protected by our committee from the creatures who eat them, which are several. Who knew they'd be so tasty?

If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact me (bpb1011@gmail.com).

Plant Sales (Yes, SaleS!)

Submitted by Anne Heller



A Good Day for a Plant Sale ... and the Club!

It was a beautiful day for our plant sale at Janet Sherwood's home on September 24th. We're happy to report that we had a steady stream of shoppers and made almost **\$650** for the Club. A special thanks to Janet for her donations and careful preparation (all the plants were potted, priced, and identified) and her salesmanship at the sale – her expertise and advice closed many of the sales.

A big thank you to Janet!

Sandy Hall and Cheryl Gamsby

SAVE THE DATE!
Garden Club of Buzzards Bay Plant Sale
@ The Greenhouse
Saturday, May 6, 2023, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Visiting Gardens

Submitted by Sandy Hall, Holly McDonough, and Tina Read



The front door of the mansion

Sandy Hall

It was a Top 10 New England weather day for the trip to [Blithewold](#)...



Incredible view

Holly McDonough



The Moon gate to the Rose Garden. It is said that good luck follows you when you step through it.

Sandy Hall

From Tina Read: A bamboo arch in the Pollinator's Garden and a Water Lily



From Holly McDonough:
A Giant Sequoia



A waning Lotus blossom



Archives Committee



Submitted by Judi Sterns

The Archives Committee will meet Tuesday, October 25th at 11:00 in the Coach House.

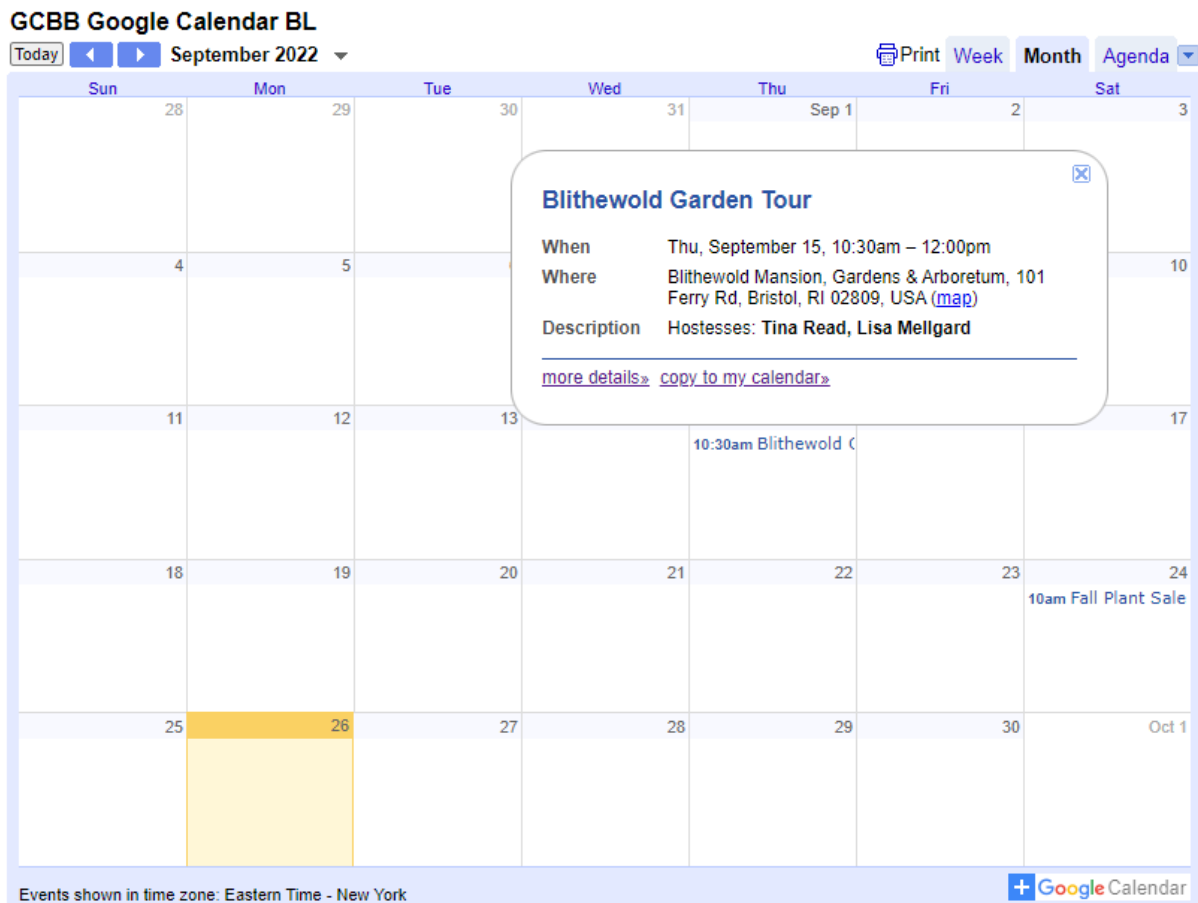
Website Committee

Submitted by Holly McDonough



Betsy Lawrence and I have successfully embedded a Google [calendar](#) on our Members section of the [GCBG website](#). Committee chairs, please let Betsy (Betsylawrence678@gmail.com) know when and where you are having a meeting and she will post it on the calendar. We are hoping this will organize the use of the Coach House and that our provisional members can view the committee meetings and help them to pursue their GCBG interests.

You can scroll between months using the blue arrows   .

If you click a date, a window pops up with more details about the event:



GCBG Google Calendar BL

Today   September 2022 Print Week Month Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2	3
4	5					10
11	12	13		10:30am Blithewold C		17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 10am Fall Plant Sale
25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1

Events shown in time zone: Eastern Time - New York Google Calendar

Please let us know of any snags or difficulties you have with the calendar.

Features

A MYSTERY SOLVED

by Margaret Forbush

We purchased the Chenille Firetail (Acalypha) along with other plugs this past January. It came as a tiny, but healthy looking, plant. Note the uniformly green leaves.



Some weeks later, the plants began to look unhealthy. Note the yellowing leaves.



Even the ministrations of Judi were not helping.

A number of us puzzled for weeks; mea culpa, I was among that group. Too much water? Not enough water? We had the instruction sheet from the nursery, but it seemed to offer no clues.

For obvious reasons, the plants weren't a big seller, so I purchased a couple to take home. I was determined to get to the bottom of the mystery. Turns out it was not such a big mystery. The instructions we had been looking at clearly say:

If the plants develop yellowing at the tips of the leaves, pH level is the first thing to check. A pH of no more than 6 is important to prevent iron deficiency. As I sat at home studying this, I realized we probably had a classic case of chlorosis on our hands. This is often caused by high alkalinity in soil. This impedes a plant's ability to absorb iron and thus produce enough chlorophyll. Further investigation found one website that said Acalypha can handle a pH as low as five - quite unusual since most garden plants in my experience prefer something closer to a neutral pH.

I immediately began fertilizing the plant with some Miracid that I had on hand. (I also use Hollytone for acid loving plants). Over time, the leaves began to improve, still a little yellow around the edges, but better.



This is what the plants look like now. The leaves are a deep, uniform green.



The moral of the story (and I include myself in all of this) is that we cannot assume too much. We have never tinkered with the pH in our greenhouse soil as far as I know. Therefore, we were completely blind to the possibility that we could have a problem and ignored what was right in front of us.

Wouldn't it be nice if all our greenhouse "failure to thrive" issues were so easily resolved.

Nonnie's Library

Submitted by Linda Cornell

Ladies, I have been asked by Nonnie's family to find homes for many of her gardening books.

As of this writing, I have several boxes of inspired garden reading and design books ready to be yours. It will be on a first come first served basis.

For the convenience of all Laura will bring them to the meeting on October 20th at Fran's house.

Everyone should take a piece of this amazing plants woman's legacy home!

From Dorothy Holley's book
***The Garden Journals:
Poems and Garden Notes***

To Lisa:

Six decades difference
in age, we sit
on the porch and talk,

view the garden,
Watch the chickadees,
Sip our tea iced with mint

And the clematis deepens
Its roots, ready to flower.
When I say, *I should start*

*giving things away, and ask,
What would you like?
You reply, Your garden diaries.*

Horticultural Highlights

Fabulous Fuchsia

Submitted by Linda Cornell



So, you think you can't grow a topiary from a rooted fuchsia cutting? Think again. Anna Surma has done just that and will teach us all how to do it. Pretty fabulous, I'd say! The hummingbirds must love to visit her yard.

Goodness Gracious Great Balls of...

Submitted by Susan McLaren

This summer I grew two very interesting plants that were really fun! Both came from seeds that Cathy Stone gave me last fall (thanks, Cathy); I started them indoors in April.

First is *Gomphocarpus physocarpus* aka balloon plant, giant swan plant, Bishop's balls and hairy balls. It's a type of milkweed native to South Africa, easy to propagate from seed but grows slowly at first and has a long growing season. By mid- August it was 5-6 ft tall and flowering, and the large green inflated looking balls began appearing shortly after. Bees and butterflies love it, and it's great in floral arrangements.... a real conversation piece.



Another dramatic plant is *Ricinus communis* or Castor Bean. But beware! All parts of this plant are extremely poisonous, especially the beans (which really aren't beans but look like them); ingesting 3-4 beans can kill you. Don't grow this if you have pets or kids around. However, the plant is beautiful and exotic looking.....a very tall 8-10 ft annual with large, palmate leaves, bright red stems and red spiny seed capsules containing the deadly beans. It's a showstopper!



Let me know if you'd like to grow one or both of these plants. Lots of seeds to share!

Fran Levin's Succulents take a vacation outside this summer

Photos by Margaret Forbush





Christmas in July

Margaret, Ruth J., and Tina each had holiday flowering amaryllis. Different varieties. Each amaryllis decided that once wasn't enough, so they bloomed again in July!

Margaret's:



Ruth's:



Tina's:



Passings

We have received word that our former member Carolyn Mason has passed away in Virginia. Carolyn joined the Garden Club in 1983. She moved back to Virginia Beach in 2000 and resigned from GCBB in 2015. If you would like to send condolences to her husband Scott and family, the address is:

**Mr. Scott Mason
207 50th Street
Virginia Beach, VA 23451**

Remembering Betsy McBratney

By Carolyn Willard

Betsy McBratney was the first person I met when we moved to Birchfield Farm 16 years ago. I went to the house after we closed and started pulling weeds, of which there were many. As I worked to discover the sad remnants of a perennial bed under bittersweet mounds, Betsy would help me to identify plants, dig up things from her garden and drop them off as a surprise- a rainbow mix of astilbe and Autumn Joy sedum. I would come home and find vegetables on the kitchen table she'd delivered from Greer's garden. All thoughtful, spontaneous acts of a kind and generous friend. Why plant a vegetable garden, my husband Winn said, you live next to the Garden of Eden.



Quiet and unassuming she was a mentor to many of us in the Garden Club and my proposer with Timmy Shapiro. As her memory faded, she would apologize that she couldn't recall a Latin name or might confuse a clethra with a similar shrub. The truth is that even then she knew and remembered much more than any of us did, especially a novice like me. Leslie Bernert (whose mother was a close friend of Betsy's) told me she learned everything she knows about succulents from her. Her greenhouse was full of them and other specimen plants. She'd propagate begonias from the leaf (what is that called?). At the Greenhouse, she'd groom plants, replant, and wash pots endlessly.

She wasn't keen on flower arrangements in the house but showed her artistic prowess creating the most beautiful outside garden in her palette of oranges, apricots and deep purples (this may be why I got gifts of dark and light pink astilbes). Her Christmas wreaths were exquisite, those she made during GCBB workshops but especially the one she'd hang on the front door on Grinnell Road. She's work outside in her garden with her helper Trish almost every day. In the last year, as her health declined I'd see less of her, fewer walks and less gardening, which was sad.

She and Greer would walk around the neighborhood, inviting people to the spontaneous cocktail party. When I would be giving Betsy and Timmy Shapiro a ride to meetings I'd walk into the garage and find her sitting in the car, giving me a fright. She introduced me as a new neighbor for the first six to eight years I lived across the street. She was endearing, sweet and always kind.

Over the years she accumulated several GCA honors and served on the national level in the 1980's. At our last major flower show in 2013 she won a Beatty Medal for horticulture excellence.

I miss her as I am sure others do as well.

Garden Club of America

Over \$354,000 Awarded to GCA Scholars!

The Garden Club of America has awarded over \$354,000 for the 2022-2023 year recognizing 78 scholars to support a variety of academic endeavors ranging from summer environmental study and field work, to graduate level research. Their unique passions include the healing properties of the Senegalese bitter melon, adult education post natural disaster, and ground-nesting bee communities.



The scholarships cover study in the fields of botany, coastal wetlands, ecological restoration, desert studies, garden history and design, international studies, landscape architecture, conservation horticulture, horticulture, native plant studies, native bird habitat, pollinator research, environmental studies, and urban forestry. Since 1928 when the first GCA scholarship, the Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture was established, the GCA has funded more than 1,400 scholars. The GCA offers twenty-eight merit-based scholarships in twelve areas. To explore GCA scholarships and the application process please visit [GCA Scholarships](#).

Accolades

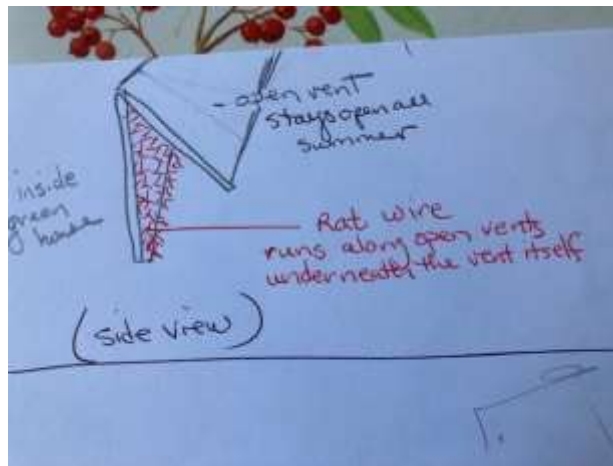
Anna Surma

Submitted by Linda Cornell

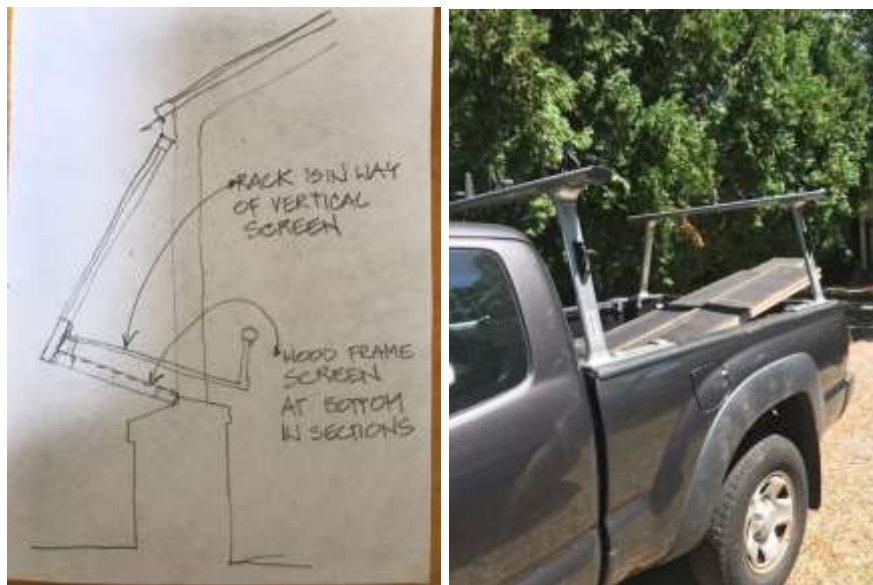


While everyone was enjoying the hot sunny weather of this past summer, our little renovated jewel of the GCBB was sweltering under the weight of excessive heat. In past years it was decided that sweltering was good for killing off pathogens, mold and insects leaving a greenhouse that was relatively “clean” as we re-entered in October. This summer we were faced with a new dilemma. After the very expensive control unit was installed next to the sink, inside the walls of the greenhouse it became clear that extreme heat could be harmful to that unit.

Our new intrepid leader Anna Surma contacted Margaret and Linda to discuss alternatives to ventilate the greenhouse more successfully than the overhead fans could handle. There was no cross ventilation for any of the hot air to go. Anna is an architect and when she asked me, Linda, to draw my idea and text it to her, I was fearless in the face of insurmountable odds of rejection and ridicule. For those of you who did not know that there was a west side vent along the lower part of the greenhouse this may not make sense but bear with us. Here is my quick drawing:



Anna followed up with a precisely drawn plan. One that made more practical sense (guess who is NOT an architect or an artist!)



So, ladies while we were enjoying this summer, Anna, and her husband, on one of the hottest days of summer, added a mesh screen to the open side vent to allow more air into the greenhouse while keeping out four legged visitors and nesters. Problem solved. Meltdown avoided!

Anna, thank you for your early detection and keen observations for starters and the execution of the plan all to protect our investment in our greenhouse.

Welcome two new Provisional Members!

Holly Babbit Barrows



I am delighted to be “back home” on the South Coast after many years in Westport CT and Atlanta GA. My husband and I moved to a new home in Dartmouth 1/2022; we are enjoying the planning and implementation of a brand new garden and outdoor space.

I grew up in Westport with many fond memories of accompanying my mother (Charlotte Babbitt) to the GCBB greenhouse in Nonquitt (!!) and learning through her the positive impact of the GCBB on the community at large.

Now that I have retired, I look forward to having the time to contribute to GCBB through participation in its many worthy projects and to enjoying the camaraderie of this very special organization.

Natalie A. Mello

Before moving to Fairhaven fulltime in 2015, Natalie and her husband, David, lived in central Massachusetts outside of Worcester. There, over many years, they painstakingly renovated a 1730’s home that was difficult to leave. Natalie and David have a combined family of four sons and six granddaughters ranging in age from 17 to 2 years old.



Natalie retired in 2021 from a career in higher education – most of that time focused on international education and study abroad in particular. She served as vice president for The Forum on Education Abroad for the last ten years and before that spent most of her professional life at Worcester Polytechnic Institute as Director of Global Operations. As a recognized leader she made significant contributions to the development of risk management in her field.

In addition to gardening, now Natalie spends her time serving on the boards of the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum, the Fairhaven Historical Society, as a commissioner on the Town of Fairhaven's Historic Commission, and as a part time substitute teacher in the Fairhaven elementary schools. Summers will find her either on her sailboat or in her garden. Colder weather lends itself to other creative activities. She's an accomplished quilter and artist and is currently learning how to weave. She looks forward to meeting and learning from the members of the GCBB.

A gentle reminder...



Miles Away

Photos taken by Susan Mead on her recent trip to Croatia:



Herb planters on the island of Brac and a small family garden within the walls of Dubrovnik

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Yom Kippur	5	6 Boxwood Committee 9:30-10:30 RJD Coach House	7 World Smile Day 	8
9 Full "Hunter's" Moon 	10 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day	11	12	13 Executive Committee 9:00-10:00 via Zoom	14	15
16	17	18 Greenhouse Opens! 9:00	19	20 Monthly Meeting 10:30 Fran Levins' home*	21	22
23	24	25 Archives Committee 11:00 Coach House	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween 	*Fran Levins' home: 441 Slocum Road, Dartmouth				

This just in...but act quickly!

82nd New England Rose Society Founders Day

Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

at the Wamsutta Club in the James Arnold Mansion
427 County Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740



Come and celebrate the New England Rose Society's 82nd year of sharing roses with the world at our 82nd Founders Day event. Our Guest Speaker will be Steve Scanniello, world renown expert on roses. He will be speaking about "Preserving our Rose History." ALL are welcome to come and listen to Steve. You *DO NOT* have to be a New England Rose Society Member to attend.

A plated lunch will be served (\$35-\$38.00 depending on meal selected).

RSVP by completing the registration [form](#) and returning it by *Tuesday, October 4th.*

For more information go to: [New England Rose Society](#)

Just for fun...

