



# *Garden Club of Buzzards Bay*

## *From the Ground Up*

February 2023

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### **Presidents Message**

Dear Members,

Hello February, our shortest month of the year. The days are getting longer, and we have Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day and of course the Super Bowl coming up. The seed catalogs have arrived, and Spring is on the horizon! Have you noticed the buds on the trees and bushes? I know I am hoping for an early Spring.



Meanwhile, back at the greenhouse, we are filling up the space under the watchful eyes of Anna, Caroline, and Barb. We have 900 plants from cuttings, the seeds have been ordered and the plugs arrived on January 23rd. We have had wonderful participation in the form of able workers and water volunteers. Thank you all so much for making a great team effort toward a very successful plant sale.

It was so good to see everyone (even if it was Zoom) at our meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. I hope you all enjoyed Ellen Ogden. She is an amazing speaker and quite an inspiration. I want to dig up my whole back yard and start again!

Here's to planning our Spring gardens, it's the perfect time of the year to think about making changes and trying new ideas.

All the best,

Sandy

Photo:  
Beautiful sunset at Linda Cornell's house

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A treasure found in winter – a bird's nest  
in a dormant trellis plant.  
Photo: Linda Cornell

## Changing of the Seasons



White Flower Farm White Amaryllis  
Two bulbs, six stems  
Photo: Tina Read



Spotted in Dartmouth:  
A daffodil on 1/22/23 Yikes!  
Photo: Ruth Furman

## **Committee News**

### **Winter Greens Market**

Submitted by Lisa Mellgard, Treasurer

The final tally for the Winter Greens Market is pretty awesome: just under \$5,000. Here are the numbers:

Gross Sales:	\$7,132
Expenses:	<u>\$2,201</u>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$4,931</b>

### **Horticulture Committee**

*Submitted by Barb Brown*

What can I say, the horticulture committee is taking its cue from mother nature and along with our native seeds is hibernating. A batch of 25 northern red oak seeds (*Quercus rubra*) is in my refrigerator alongside the meats and cheeses—with a DO NOT EAT! sign on them—undergoing a process called cold stratifying, a technique used to mimic mother nature. Once they show signs of action, so will we.

Once they DO show action, we will plant them in 1/2-gallon containers like milk cartons. Only one acorn per container as they don't want to be disturbed until they are ready to find their forever homes. Container donations are appreciated, you can drop them off at the Greenhouse. Thank you!

### **Plant Sale**

*Submitted by Anne Heller and Iryna Priester, Plant Sale Co-chairs, and Barb Brown, Anna Surma, and Caroline Wehner, Greenhouse Co-chairs*

Plans for the Club's annual plant sale have been germinating, and we're excited to share the details. This year's sale will once again be a combination of traditional features and pandemic-related innovations.

The sale will be held in the Club's coach house and greenhouse and on the patio and lawn of the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum on Saturday, May 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Currently, the greenhouse team is nurturing an interesting array of cuttings donated by members and has selected additional plants (soon to be added to the collection). The goal is to offer a variety of plants that will appeal to our discerning shoppers. (See *below for a list of our current greenhouse residents.*)

The inventory will include annuals, tomatoes, and succulents grown in our greenhouse, herbs, and perennial donations. Members will be free to purchase as many plants as they wish at the sale.

We plan to continue offering members the opportunity to pre-order perennials from Sylvan Nursery (stay tuned for more details on this). Thanks to Tina Read, members have already had a chance to place their herb orders.

You'll be getting regular updates on the sale in the next few months. If you have any questions in the meantime, let us know. We'll be hanging out in the greenhouse!

Current greenhouse inhabitants include:

*Alternanthera*  
Boxwood (Buxaceae)  
*Coleus* (assorted)  
*Fuchsia*  
Geranium (assorted including many scented)  
*Gomphocarpus physocarpus* (Hairy balls)  
*Helichrysum* 'Lemon licorice'  
*Iresine* (Bloodleaf plant)  
Jasmine  
*Mandavilla*  
Orchid  
*Passiflora incarnata* (Passionflower)  
*Plectranthus*  
*Salvia elegans* (Pineapple sage)  
*Salvia rosmarinus* (Rosemary)  
*Strobilantes dyerianus* (Persian shield)  
Succulents (assorted)

Recent additions from North Carolina Farms include:

*Abutilon*  
Geraniums (yes, more!)  
*Heliotropium*  
Lotus vine  
*Salvia guaranitica* 'Black & Blue'

**Photos from the Seed Selection meeting:**



**A glimpse of the progress of the cuttings and succulents in the greenhouse**



## Visiting Gardens

Submitted by Carolyn Wehner

I invite members to **Save the Date** for a garden visit in Little Compton, R.I. We are going to be visiting **Sakonnet Garden and Issima Works on June 6<sup>th</sup>**, with a **rain date of June 7<sup>th</sup>**. The garden and nursery are exquisite, and the owners look forward to hosting our visit.

## Floral Design Committee

Submitted by Tina Read

A “little” tease about the flower show in September: “Miniature Design” This diminutive design is class 1 in our Autumn Joy Flower Show in September. It doesn’t exceed 5” in H. W. D.



Pre Flower-Show design Class 1.

Directions:

1. Cut a 5” Square for your frame of reference, design not bigger than 5” in any direction.
2. Use a tiny container of right proportion, I used a salt dish with oasis
3. Plant material needs to be small in proportion to container just as a large design
4. Use same principles and elements of design,
5. I used: Limonium, mini carnation, Tet-a-tet, hypericum and Chamaecyparis
6. IMPORTANT: Send me a picture for constructive comments: [tparkerread@gmail.com](mailto:tparkerread@gmail.com)

Have Fun! Try It. There is no bad design! Then you will be ready for the September Flower Show.

Hele DeGroot's comment: "Fun and easy to do inside on the counter on a wet, cold day!"



Hey Shutterbugs!

Now is the time to take glorious photographs for the GCA Flower show in September "Autumn Joy". For instance, **one** of the classes is, *Architecture of a Tree* - image emphasizing form and structure, in both color and monochrome.

Go to our website for more information, under the members section, click on "[Autumn Joy](#)" there you will find the show [Schedule](#) and [Guidelines](#).

If you have any questions do not hesitate to call or email me. Keep clicking!

**Holly McDonough 781-223-6876 or [Holly.mcdonough@me.com](mailto:Holly.mcdonough@me.com)**

## Features

### **Why I bought a Bee Hotel**

by Sandy Hall

Pollinator nesting boxes to help native bees is a very fun and helpful idea. I spent a weekend last November with a beekeeper and a woodworker. The conversation was great, and the woodworker had a beautiful [Pollinator box](#), or bee hotel that I purchased for my garden. We as gardeners know how important our pollinators are. They include Mason bees, Carpenter bees, Bumble bees, butterflies, and many other species. What I learned that weekend is that many native bees are solitary, they live alone rather than nesting in colonies or hives.



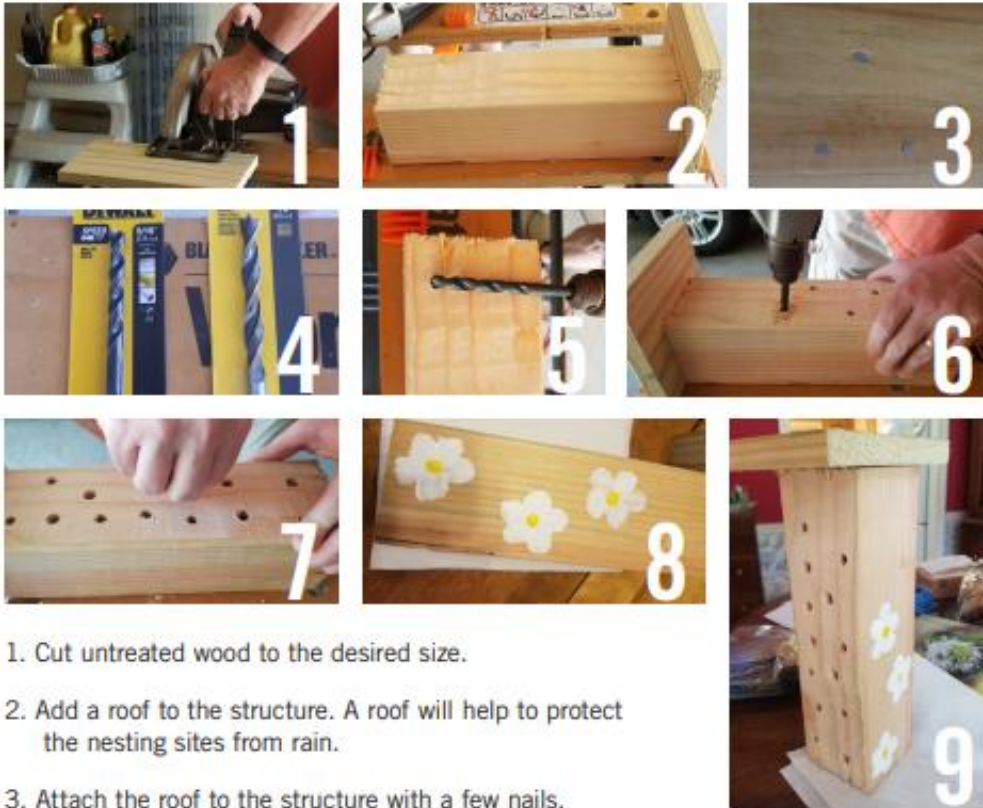
Also, if left undisturbed, native bees will not sting. They lay their eggs in above ground plant material, dead brush, flower stems or wood debris. We all try to leave our gardens neat and clean, but this is affecting not only bees but some little creatures who lose their habitat! We don't have to have messy gardens; nesting boxes or bee hotels can be a very attractive solutions. The nesting boxes contain hollow twigs, small logs with holes drilled in them, pine cones and even paper tubes!

I am planning to place my bee hotel on the south side of my Carriage House and plant native pollinators in the bed around it. I can't wait to see what happens with this and will be reporting periodically our progress. I have included a DIY instruction sheet (see next page) in case you feel

like building a hotel for the local bees. If you prefer not to build your own, I can share information from the woodworker who built mine.

That's the buzz...

# BUILDING A BEE HOTEL



1. Cut untreated wood to the desired size.
2. Add a roof to the structure. A roof will help to protect the nesting sites from rain.
3. Attach the roof to the structure with a few nails.
4. Select the appropriate drill bit size, from 5/16 to 3/8 of an inch. Holes can be drilled in various sizes.
5. Check the depth of the holes, which should be about the length of most drill bits.
6. Begin drilling the holes. The number of holes depends on the size of the nesting box, but a dozen should suffice for a small nesting box.
7. Gently sand the nesting holes. Splinters can remain after drilling, but removing splinters will make the nesting box more appealing for bees.
8. As desired, paint the sides that do not have holes.
9. The nesting box is ready to be placed in your yard.

To view the pdf, go to: [Pollinator box.](#)

## Local Interest

Submitted by Mimi Gardner (Board of Advisors YMCA South Coast) and Linda Cornell

Many of our members might be surprised to learn about our little YMCA right here in Dartmouth. Big things come out of this Y. It creates a sense of community for all those that participate on many different levels. Be it farming, manning the food bank, taking advantage of everything the YMCA offers inside their building.

As a farm, this facility educates all ages and encourages groups to take part in the actual hands-on work learning to tend the earth and seeing the benefits of their labor.

The GCBB has given various grants in support of their good work to educate youngsters and adults alike. We thought you might enjoy knowing the YMCA from the Farm Director, Ashley's perspective:



January 10, 2023

Sharing the Harvest (STH) Community Farm, a program of YMCA Southcoast, was established in 2006 as a grassroots effort to alleviate hunger for children and families in Southeastern Massachusetts. Specifically, its primary purpose is to produce fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables for distribution by the United Way of Greater New Bedford Hunger Commission.

Sharing the Harvest has three major objectives:

1. Alleviate hunger for families and individuals in need of food assistance throughout Southeastern Massachusetts by growing and distributing nutritious food to emergency feeding programs from Fall River to Wareham.
2. Promote volunteerism and awareness of hunger and healthy diets in our region and build our community through neighbors helping neighbors.
3. Educate our community about ecological farming, nutrition, and food insecurity.

All the food grown on the farm is donated to 22 human service agencies that provide hunger relief. Food assistance programs include food pantries, residential treatment programs, Councils on Aging, veterans' associations, and Salvation Army and Red Cross sites. Since its inception, STH has donated 750,000 pounds, the equivalent of 62,500 meals of fresh, nutritious produce, to our neighbors in need, which in 2022 included 50 kinds of produce, among them 2,675 lbs. of potatoes, 3,587 lbs. of tomatoes, and 2,124 lbs. of onions.

This success has been possible because of thousands of volunteers, who have contributed over 90,000 hours of service since 2006. The community of STH volunteers comprises recent retirees, high school and college aged students, and groups from local churches, civic organizations, and businesses. In addition, we are especially proud of our partnerships with local organizations that serve at-risk youth, differently abled adults and teens, and homeless and formally homeless adults. Through these partnerships, we provide meaningful service opportunities for these often-overlooked populations.

Finally, after a hiatus from our educational programming for children during the pandemic, we revitalized our children's garden and engagement opportunities for youth between the ages of 5 and 14 in 2022. With the recent addition of a Farm Education Coordinator, we began afterschool cooking classes for the youth attending the Dartmouth Y's afterschool childcare program, welcomed 300 elementary school children to the farm for field trips, and engaged 350 campers in farm and garden activities during the summer.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact [sharingtheharvest@ymcasc.org](mailto:sharingtheharvest@ymcasc.org) for information about current and upcoming opportunities for individuals or groups.

Would you like to support our work with a donation? Please send a check made out to YMCA Southcoast with STH in the memo to the Dartmouth Y, 276 Gulf Road, Dartmouth, MA 02748, or check our website for other ways to give. <https://ymcasouthcoast.org/ways-to-give/>

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Ashley Brister  
Farm Director  
Sharing the Harvest Community Farm  
Dartmouth YMCA

## Sharing the Harvest Community Farm at the Dartmouth YMCA

A Division of YMCA SOUTHCOAST · 276 Gulf Road Dartmouth MA 02748 · 508.993.3361 · [ymcasouthcoast.org](http://ymcasouthcoast.org)



### ***Local Garden Tour***

Mark your calendars for **June 14<sup>th</sup>** when [Coastal Neighbors Network](#) is having a walking tour of the **Gardens of Russell's Mills**. Tickets will be on sale soon.

## Garden Club of America



Submitted by Carla Morey, GCA Awards Committee Representative Zone I

Have you opened this month's eNews or logged on to the GCA website to find the announcement of the 2023 GCA Medalists and Honorary Members? Zone I has both! When you open eNews (in your inboxes today) you can read about these worthy recipients and many others from around the zones. All the winners have contributed their time, talents and treasures to make the world a better place.

Our appreciation goes to the Garden Club of Chestnut Hill, Proposer of the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** for the Amy Angell Collier Montague Medal. This is a special win made more special because the medal was named for a past member of the Garden Club of Mt. Desert. The Medal is awarded to a person or organization for outstanding civic achievement. From the beginning the BSO insisted its music be enjoyed by everyone, no matter who they were or where they were from. Its mission is to "foster and maintain an organization dedicated to the making of music consonant with the highest aspirations of the musical art, creating performance and providing educational and training programs at the highest level of excellence". Their community outreach programs have touched many in Boston and beyond.

**History:** The Amy Angell Collier Montague Medal was designed in 1950 by Miss Gertrude K. Lathrop and presented and endowed by Mr. Gilbert Holland Montague in memory of his wife, a member of the Garden Club of Mount Desert. Mrs. Montague derived great happiness from horticulture, music, and involvement in civic improvement. Her beautiful garden at Seal Harbor, Maine, has been preserved for public enjoyment and is renowned for its magnificent delphiniums.

### **BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (BSO) BLENDING THE POWER OF MUSIC AND NATURE**

*The Amy Angell Collier Montague Medal presented for outstanding civic achievement will be awarded to the Boston Symphony Orchestra for its outstanding community programming showcasing the power of music and nature.*

Founded in 1881, the Boston Symphony Orchestra believes in music and nature's transformative power. As the second oldest of America's five major symphony orchestras, its work has had a multi-faceted positive impact on the community.

The orchestra's programming includes performances in outdoor parks, horticultural education, and conservation of Tanglewood, its renowned music center in The Berkshires for emerging music professionals. BSO has also supported Frederick Law Olmsted's Emerald Necklace, the chain of parks that stretches from Boston Common to Franklin by commissioning and performing a 15-minute chamber symphony composed by Andrew List. Each of its three movements is named after a portion of the park system. BSO community engagement programs demonstrate a deep dedication to building community through collaborative, mutually beneficial relationships and shared artistic experiences that connect people of all ages and musical backgrounds.

It is clear the Boston Symphony Orchestra has had a remarkable and lasting impact on the civic life of Boston for 141 years.

*Proposed by Chestnut Hill Garden Club, Zone I*



## Honorary Member 2023

I am pleased that someone who has given considerable time to our zone and beyond, **Dr. Michael Dosmann**, Keeper of the Living Collections, at the Arnold Arboretum, has been selected as an Honorary Member of Zone I. Dr. Dosmann joins, Ned Friedman, Director of the Arnold Arboretum, recipient of Honorary Membership in 2021 and the 2022 recipient of The Garden Club of America's, Medal of Honor. What a dynamic duo!

Proposed by Fox Hill Garden Club and seconded by Milton Garden Club.



<https://www.gcamerica.org/members/committees-awards#resourceid=8124>

What a wonderful way to begin the new year. Join me in raising a glass of your favorite beverage and toast the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Dr. Michael Dosmann for their contributions to our zone and beyond.



## GCA 2023 National Affairs & Legislation Conference



All GCA club members are now invited to register for two key events of The Garden Club of America's [2023 National Affairs & Legislation Conference](#) that will be offered virtually and free of charge.

**Virtual Advocacy Workshop**  
**on February 23, 2023**  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Eastern  
and the  
**Education Day - Live Stream**  
**on March 13, 2023**  
8:30 am - 4:00 pm Eastern

## **Member news**

Our former member, [Joyce Signorella](#) passed away on January 8th. She was a member of GCBF from 2002 – 2009. She will be missed by her family and friends. If you would like to send a note or a card to the family, the address is:

Dr. Albert Signorella  
16 W. Rockland Farm  
South Dartmouth, MA. 02748



## **Notebook updates**

Please correct Susan Perry's email in your notebook. The correct email is: [susanLperry28@gmail.com](mailto:susanLperry28@gmail.com).



## **Welcome to our new Provisional member:**

Deborah Burke  
20 Sunset Lane  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748  
508-566-1007  
[burke.deb1@gmail.com](mailto:burke.deb1@gmail.com)

## February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Groundhog Day 	3	4
5 	6	7 9:00 Greenhouse	8	9 9:00 GBCC Exec. Comm Meeting	10	11
12 	13 Galentine's Day!* 	14 9:00 Greenhouse Valentine's Day	15	16 10:30 Monthly Meeting via ZOOM David Michener: Peonies	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day 	18
19	20 Presidents Day	21 9:00 Greenhouse 10:00 Archives	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 9:00 Greenhouse 10:00 Archives				

*\*Galentine's Day is a day to celebrate women and their friendships*

**To check the GCBB Calendar online:**

**<https://www.gardenclubbuzardsbay.org/gcbb-google-calendar/>**

## *Links of Interest*

From the **GCA Garden History and Design** January 2023 Featured Garden:  
**A virtual Tour of Hilcrest Farm, Center Harbor, NH:**  
<https://www.gcamerica.org/members/news/get/id/4057>



### **Beth Chatto's Plants & Gardens**



*Beth Chatto with Queen Elizabeth II at Chelsea Flower Show*



In celebration of Beth Chatto's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday year, recordings of the [2022 Beth Chatto Symposium](#) are now available online – Free of Charge

*Just for fun...*



(New Yorker Magazine)



Everyone needs a  
friend who they  
probably shouldn't  
be allowed to sit  
next to at a serious  
function.

@aunettcom

*Until next time...*

## Wintering

You may think yourself lazy, or flawed. Yet your body is made of almost exactly the same elements as the stars. Your bone composition matches the coral in the seas and you, my friend, are ruled by the moon and the sun. Whether you like it or not. So no, you are not lazy, Nature is simply pulling you to slow, like the life, floral and fauna around you. It is not your moment to rise. It is winter, you are **wintering**. And you are right on time.

*Donna Ashworth*

