



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

April 2023

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

Welcome Spring, at last, we are in our element!

The green buds are appearing on the tree branches, April showers and May flowers are on our radar. New beginnings and fresh starts are all around us. In the greenhouse, we are getting ready for our annual Plant Sale. What a wonderful job our members have done under the watchful eye of Anna, Barb and Caroline. We have a beautiful and healthy assortment of plants, vegetables, and succulents. I know the Plant Sale will be fun and a huge success! **May 5th and 6th** are the dates.



Work on **Autumn Joy**, the joint flower show with Little Compton, is well underway. Our committees from both clubs are hard at work putting together a wonderful show for September. I urge everyone to participate in any way you can. It's fun, educational and you'll get to meet some new and interesting people. Thank you to all who are working to make this a very special event.

Our April 20th meeting will be at my barn and the speaker will be Jason Burchardt from Little Compton Trees. Details to follow as we get closer to the date. April weather can be chilly, so bundle up.

Live life in full bloom!

All the best,

Sandy

Photo:
Stunning tulips at Linda Cornell's house

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Photo: Linda Cornell

Changing of the Seasons

Amaryllis flowers at Fran's



Photo: Linda Cornell



The first shy daffodils
Photo: Christel Phipps

Committee News

Horticulture Committee

Submitted by Barb Brown

The hort members anxiously await the sprouting of our native seeds which we sowed and placed outside the RJD in November. As you may have heard, nearly all 50 states have agreed to promote native plants by formally establishing a Native Plant Month to amplify the message of the critical importance of native plants in every state across the country.

Last spring, the hort committee was given the challenge to propagate and care for acorn seedlings. Hopefully, other hort members have had better luck than this member with their acorn babies. After undergoing "cold stratification" by spending the winter in my fridge alongside the butter and cheese and successfully germinating, some hungry and ambitious squirrel not only knocked the protective screen off my containers but ran away with each and every nut!

In preparation for September's GCA-sponsored Autumn Joy flower show (September 18-20), the hort committee and provisional members have planned a how-to for horticulture specimens led by Ruth Furman. GCA-sponsored flower shows are a big deal, and we are all excited to participate in this joint show with Little Compton.

Plant Sale

Submitted by Anne Heller and Iryna Priester, Plant Sale Co-chairs



With spring's arrival, we're all thinking about our gardens and the Club's plant sale in May. Anyone who has visited the greenhouse recently can attest to the beauty and bounty of the plants that we're nurturing for the sale.

We're building on last year's format and fine-tuning our plans to accommodate the larger inventory and more shoppers. We'll be in touch with more details, such as staffing needs and a request for perennial donations in the next few weeks. We'll be counting on you to spread the word!

Plant Sale Hours:
Friday, May 5, 3-6 p.m.
Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Plant Sale Location:
Coach House, Patio and Lawn
at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House

We're looking forward to gathering on the RJD grounds to enjoy the company of our fellow members, to purchase plants for our gardens, and to engage in an important activity that provides financial support for the Club.



An enthusiastic group of Club members (mostly Provisionals) gathered recently to begin the process of producing signs for the plant sale. *Photo: Barb Brown*

Floral Design Committee

Submitted by Tina Read

This invitation from Little Compton is a wonderful opportunity to learn about exhibiting in Autumn Joy Floral Design Classes. **Wednesday, April 12th at 9:30:**

"On behalf of the Little Compton Garden Club and our Floral Design Committee, we would like to invite The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay to join us on **Wednesday, April 12th, at 9:30 am at St. Andrews by-the-Sea Church, 182 Willow Ave., Little Compton, RI** for a Floral Design Demonstration with Kathy Michie. Kathy will demonstrate the designs in our upcoming Autumn Joy Flower Show schedule."

This is not to be missed. It will be an entertaining and informative morning.



The Autumn Joy photo show needs you!

Submitted by Margaret Forbush and Susan McLaren

Are you interested in becoming an award-winning photographer? Or simply learning about photo editing software and techniques? Having fun with your phone?

The Autumn Joy show this coming September includes a Photo Show. We will be holding a "how to" session in the coach house after greenhouse. Find out how to interpret the criteria for entering, editing software available for phone and PC, and how to get your photos printed and mounted for the show.

Samples of award winning (and not) photos will be on display. Handouts with all the information you may need will be available.

This will be a drop-in event, so you can spend as much time as you want. Experienced participants may just want an updated list of printing resources, and newbies may want start to finish information. We hope the session will be useful for all who are interested.

When: April 25, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Coach house

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Grants Committee

Submitted by Gig Lang

2023 GARDEN CLUB OF BUZZARDS BAY GRANT AWARDEES

MASS AUDUBON:

Funding to support pollinator habitat enrichment projects in Southeastern Massachusetts and to increase their capacity for Monarch Butterfly Watch programming and tagging.

BUTTONWOOD PARK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY:

Funding to support “Charlie’s Nature Play” location to grow this space into a thriving native plant habitat that is both an inviting play space for children, and a productive home for pollinators and birds alike.

COASTAL FOODSHED:

Funding to support two educational demonstrations/workshops that will teach customers how they can create simple gardens within their homes and how they can best utilize what they harvest.

YMCA SOUTHCOAST/SHARING THE HARVEST COMMUNITY FARM:



Funding to support the farm project at the Dartmouth YMCA. Sharing the Harvest requested supplies to engage camp participants in the newly redesigned children’s garden.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED (Y.O.U.):

Funding to support the purchase of building materials and supplies necessary to construct a composting system to not only enrich the soil quality and overall health of the garden, but to also act as a teaching tool to strengthen their STEM and gardening curriculums.

NEW BEDFORD ART MUSEUM/ARTWORKS!:

Support funding for the NBAM/Artworks has chosen the discipline of floral art as a major part of their long term exhibition and public program focus. The NBAM has invited leading lights in the floral industry to create unique exhibitions and conduct dynamic, participatory public programming. The objective of introducing floral art to the southeast sea coast include increased awareness and appreciation around the status of floral art as a legitimate media for conceptual and expressive means in a fine art context, to teach sustainable practices related to floral design to professional florists, and floral enthusiasts, and to create opportunities for multi-sensory educational aesthetic experiences for the local community and beyond.

ROCHESTER LAND TRUST, INC.:

To support funding to create a native plant garden to rejuvenate the overgrown stone foundation at George and Katherine Church Wildlife Conservation Area. The surrounding field is strewn with rock piles and invasives have taken hold of the edges of the foundation. Clearing a border around the foundation, planting native plants, mulching to control weeds and edging the garden with the stones from the piles in the field solves many problems. The result is a feature that will educate people on native plantings, beautify the property, facilitate mowing and provide plants for pollinators.

WESTPORT RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE:

To support funding for a new Westport High School Pollinator garden project. Funds will be used for supplies needed for students and volunteers to participate in the garden creation.

Features



2023 National Affairs & Legislation Conference

Submitted by Barb Brown

"I am the Lorax! I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues."

Dr. Seuss wrote in 1971 to remind us just how important our natural environment is and inspired a generation of environmentalists. 50 years later we are faced with the loss of biodiversity and disastrous climate change. Our ecosystems, the air, land, and water, and the species of plants and animals supported by them (including us!) need our voices now more than ever.



Last week, Ruth Jolliffe and I traveled to Washington DC to join over 300 of the 18,000 GCA members to "speak for our trees" at the 40th anniversary of the National Affairs & Legislation conference, or NAL. (True story: I had to google NAL when I first heard the acronym.) I was encouraged and proud to learn that the GCA has advocated for a healthy planet for over 100 years. Their first battles and success stories were banning

billboards on federal highways and fighting for our sequoias. Did you know there are unique ecosystems found in the canopy of sequoias with life found nowhere else on earth? And they are the most efficient at sequestering carbon out of our atmosphere. Go Sequoias!

NAL provided the forum for dedicated and passionate individuals with boots on the ground in Conservation and on Monday and Tuesday, we listened, learned, and met with our representatives to advance our collective interests. A GCA favorite, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, spoke of crafting policies to address climate

change particularly bipartisan legislation regarding marine plastic, carbon sequestration, and boosting the clean energy economy.

Governments wield incredible power to affect change and we the people—our government—need to let our voices be known. On Wednesday, along with a dozen fellow delegates from Zone 1, Ruth and I shared our concerns with a representative from Elizabeth Warren's office (we did see her darting about in her hot pink blazer) and were lucky enough to have Congressman Ed Markey take the time to meet with us personally.

Specifically, the GCA's conservation priorities include: support of full funding of the conservation title (this just means section) in the 2023 Farm Bill, support of RAWA—Recovering America's Wildlife Act, Save our Sequoias Act, Native Plant Month, RISEE—Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies & Ecosystems Act, Save our Seas 2.0 Amendment Act, and the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act. I even learned how to pronounce PFAS (PEE-Fahs) and what it stands for, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, commonly known as "forever plastics." In fact, while we were there it was announced that 2 components of PFAS were required to be eliminated from the country's drinking water. Yahoo!



We see changes in climate in our gardens, our farms, our waters, and the atmosphere. As we reach a tipping point in climate change, our individual and collective voices have never been more important. Email or write your local reps . . . the squeaky wheel gets the grease!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

P.S. We had a blast!

Wisdom from our resident hort experts - Spring Tasks in the Garden

Tips from Ruth Furman:

Anticipation – Spring! Usually, the busiest time of year with fingers itching to get working outdoors. On the “to do” list is soil preparation, seed sowing, and planting along with plenty of pruning to be done. Spring pruning makes for new growth, encouraging more flowers, foliage, and colorful stems on a wide range of plants. Firstly, remove the dead, dying, or diseased stems.

I don't do a fall cut back so it means many plants get pruned in spring. Ornamental grasses that have stood over winter can be cut back hard. Remove all the brown

growth, leaving any new green shoots. Buddleias which flower on the same year's growth can be pruned almost to ground level. Lavenders are best pruned in spring as the old stems and flowers help protect new shoots from winter snow and cold. Avoid pruning into old bare wood, cut only into stems bearing leaves as lavenders do not regrow from old wood.

Shrubs that flower on the previous season's growth, such as forsythia and weigelia, benefit from being cut back immediately after flowering to keep them in check.

Any herbaceous plants you didn't cut back in autumn, including plants with decorative winter seedheads or stems, can be cut back in spring e.g., sedums, coneflowers, or sea hollies. Remove the seed heads, stems and brown leaves. Once you've pruned, mulch the plants with a generous layer of compost or well-rotted manure to give them a boost. Avoid chemicals.

Prepare soil, sow seeds, and start planting your edibles. Key jobs are weeding, sowing seeds, and planting out. Only plant out when temperatures are above freezing. Ensure the plants are hardy, harden them off i.e., acclimatize them to the outdoors.

Top 3 Tips from Susan McLaren:

1. Buy a Gorilla Cart - I got one last spring for my birthday and love it. Great for hauling plants, pots, mulch and almost anything around the yard. Lots of models to choose from. Available at Ace, Lowe's, Home Depot or <https://gorillamade.com/carts/>
2. Plant peas and leafy greens directly in the soil in early April and start your favorite annuals from seeds indoors so they're ready to plant in the garden by late May or so.
3. Buy lots of great plants from the GCBB plant sale but resist the temptation to plant annuals outdoors immediately. Wait until the soil warms up and temps are consistently warmer.... especially important for tomatoes.

Tips from Janet Sherwood:

This has been far from a typical winter, with its seesaw temperatures and un-frozen ground. We can be grateful for the consistent rain that has probably saved many trees from drought death. So, after looking out the windows at our beloved evergreen plantings, we can address the question about their appearance. If they need to be pruned, thinned, divided, moved or put in a container, now is the time to get it done.. Hold off pruning those that blossom until the blooms have faded, e.g. Rhodis, Pieris, Cherry Laurel. Be sure to trim away the browned leaves of Epimedium so the blossoms can strut their stuff. Hellebores need browned leaves removed now, too.

Deer damage gets worse every year as they gobble up the Euonymus first, then the Arborvitae and hollies, but no Boxwood or Pieris. Then they eat crocus blossoms and next, the tulips, but never the daffodils. Without a fortress or a dog, resorting to one of the many liquid solutions is the only recourse until somebody is brave enough to give us an edible birth control for deer.

It's time to cut back grasses left up for the winter and rake out accumulated leaves lurking under shrubbery and get out the big can of cayenne pepper for the chipmunk and woodchuck holes. Time, too to be aggressive about those now blank places where daylilies will be poking up. As soon as they appear they can be moved or divided. And the same goes for the herbaceous perennials, currently out of sight.

Think: Dig, divide, pot, and label for the Plant Sale!



Spring Peepers!

Submitted by Linda Cornell

I may have missed the first day of the arrival of the Spring Peepers (chorus frogs) this year but on March 17th, St. Patty's Day, I took Nugget out for an early evening stroll. There was a cacophony of sound in the air. At first, I thought perhaps there was an Irish band playing a tune for me (of course knew that was the Irish beer I just had talking). In an instant I knew that spring had indeed arrived, and I was witnessing the seasonal transformation. The sound was loud, insistent, beckoning and it created a vortex around me. It is always a wonderful reminder that while you can be quiet, calm, cold and withdrawn for the winter season, there is always an awakening at hand. It can be melodious and alluring. Spring unfolds and the world is renewed and hopeful. These little Peepers are the first to notice the subtle changes in the weather. They draw our attention to the evolution of a new season. Enjoy their song.



Here are some interesting facts about our Spring Peepers...

DID YOU KNOW?

- Spring Peepers are small tree frogs. Their bodies have smooth skin in shades of tan, brown, green, or gray, with lines that form an X-shaped pattern on their backs. Spring peepers are well camouflaged to look like tree bark and have some ability to make themselves lighter or darker to better match their surroundings.

- "Peepers" are known for the males mating call—a high-pitched whistling or peeping sound repeated about 20 times a minute. However, the faster and louder they sing, the greater the chances of attracting a mate. They often congregate near water and sing in trios, with the deepest-voiced frog starting the call.

- Spring peepers are very tolerant of cold conditions. They can withstand freezing during winter hibernation due to a natural “anti-freeze” in their blood.
- These little frogs are said to have short lives, living 3-4 years at most.
- They are generally about one inch (2.5 centimeters) in length, or about the length of a paper clip, and their weight averages from 0.11 to 0.18 ounces (3 to 5 grams).
- These frogs are common and widespread. However, loss of wetland habitat poses a threat and populations are decreasing in some areas.

All the above facts came from the National Wildlife Federation



Holly Barrow's creation after seeing the

["Daffodils in Sand – Celebrating Spring"](#) link Tina Read emailed on March 7th.

Beautiful!

Save the Date
June 17TH, 2023



*“The Coastal Gardens
of Little Compton”*

Tickets Go on Sale April 1st, 2023
Proceeds to Benefit Local Charities

<https://littlecomptongardenclub.org/>



Garden Club of America



THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

Have 15 minutes and need a dose of color? Check out this video on **GCA Exclusive: Fresh Picks** – [_Making of a Flower Flash – Creating Goodwill with Lewis Miller.](#) What is a Flower Flash? A Street Art installation made of living flowers and foliage. **So much FUN!!!** At the 16-minute mark, the video shifts to Lewis demonstrating an easy holiday floral arrangement (worth a look to pick up simple tips for arranging no matter the time of year). Minute 35:48 are examples of GCA clubs “flashing”.



Accolades

Nan Sinton

Submitted by Carla Morey

Nan Sinton gave a lecture at the Chilton Club, to a packed house, last week and I was lucky to attend. There were many people in attendance from other GCA clubs in our zone, along with non-garden club affiliated folks. She had many splendid and unexpected examples of Secret Gardens from her travels all over the world, including Boston.



In attendance was Judith Tankard, a friend of Nan's and a GCA Honorary Member. Nan kept us entertained with her storytelling that brought the gorgeous photos to life. The above is a photo of a tapestry hand-stitched by the owner of one of the gardens. Thank you, Nan!





New Provisional Member

Welcome Deborah Burke!

I have always had a passion for creative endeavors and design. I attended Framingham State University and the Fashion Institute of Technology where I studied both textile design and fashion design. While I ultimately left the fashion industry for a more stable career as a clerk at the United States Postal Service for 24 years, I sought opportunities to follow my creativity whenever possible. I volunteered in my children's



classrooms, sometimes teaching art techniques; I designed and handmade custom drapery and bedding for my home; and I maintained a large organic garden. In 2001, I started a drapery design business while still working for the post office. My business expanded rapidly by word-of-mouth referrals, and I designed spaces from North of Boston to Cape Cod and Rhode Island. In 2007, my husband and I moved from Massachusetts to Arizona to care for our elderly parents. There I worked at Ethan Allen, first as a soft goods manager and then as a designer. Upon our return to Massachusetts, I became a kitchen designer until I retired in 2016.

In my retirement, I have enjoyed wholeheartedly pursuing my passions: oil and watercolor painting, spending time with my grandchildren, volunteering at our local food pantry, visiting art museums and gardens, and working in my own garden. Growing herbs and vegetables has become my passion and my garden is my place of solace.



April 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2	3	4 9:00 Greenhouse	5  Passover begins	6 9-12:00 Autumn Joy Show Planning Meeting*	7	8
9 	10	11 9:00 Greenhouse	12 9:30 Floral Demonstration with Kathy Michie**	13 9:00 GBCC Exec. Comm Meeting Passover ends	14	15
16	17 Patriots' Day	18 9:00 Greenhouse 10:00 Archives	19	20 10:30 Monthly Meeting Jason Burchardt Trees***	21	22 Earth Day 
23	24	25 9:00 Greenhouse 10:30 Autumn Joy Photography 'How to' ****	26 World Pretzel Day 	27	28 	29
30	1	2	3	4	5 GCB PLANT SALE 3-6:00 pm	6 GCB PLANT SALE 9am-1pm

To check the GCB Calendar online:

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

*Autumn Joy Flower Show Planning - Southworth Library, South Dartmouth

** St. Andrews by the Sea Church, 182 Willow Ave., Little Compton RI

*** Sandy Hall's Barn 115 Elm Street, South Dartmouth – Dress warmly!

**** Autumn Joy Photography Show “how to” in the Coach House

Links of Interest

Looking forward to Dahlia season? This video has some great tips:

[Dahlia Growing 101: How to Grow Great Dahlias](#)

Hmmmm. If you just watched the video on dahlias, you've learned that the pesticides used in the dahlias we buy (unless you buy organic) can have devastating effects on bees and pollinators that visit the plant (for years!). With that in mind, consider being a kinder, gentler gardener:

[Reducing Pesticide Use & Impacts](#) & [Buying Bee-Safe Plants](#)

March 14th has passed, but after reading this you'll realize that every day is **Save a Spider Day!**



I matter, and I want to live!

**March 14 is
Save a Spider Day**

Eight reasons to be kind to me

- 1**
Spiders are great neighbors! They are nature's "pest" control, eating more insects than birds and bats combined!
- 2**
They are good for your garden. Spiders eat tons of the aphids and beetles that can harm your plants.
- 3**
They're pollinators, too! Many species of spiders are helpful to flowering plants including vegetables and fruits.
- 4**
Spiders inspire scientists. "Spidernaut" is a robot designed for future extra-planetary equipment building.
- 5**
Spiderwebs are an important material for hummingbird nests!
- 6**
Since ancient Greece, spiderwebs have been used to bandage wounds. They contain vitamin K, which promotes healing.
- 7**
Spiders actually very rarely bite humans. Most bumps and rashes blamed on spiders are not spider bites at all.
- 8**
Spiders are one of the oldest land animals. They began evolving 400 million years ago.

Just for fun...

When asked to use the word “horticulture”
in a sentence, Dorothy Parker replied:



“You can lead a
horticulture but you
can’t make her think.”

facebook.com/DorothyParkerQuotes



Until next time...

