



# *Garden Club of Buzzards Bay*

## *From the Ground Up*

May 2023

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### **Presidents Message**

Dear Members,

It's the most wonderful time of the year... at least for us gardeners! The weather is warming up and all of those delightful little green sprouts are growing bigger every day. It is wonderful to be back in the garden. The month of May never ceases to impress.

I have put up my bee house and I am anxious to get my pollinators planted to attract them. I will be reporting regularly on my progress. It will be interesting to see who moves in. My neighbors have a hive, and I am hoping the neighborhood bees will also enjoy the flowers.

Meanwhile ... back at the greenhouse, we are getting ready for our plant sale. Anna, Caroline, and Barb did an amazing job. It is filled with beautiful, healthy plants that will be offered for sale. The dates are **Friday, May 5th, from 3 to 6 PM, and Saturday, May 6th from 9 AM to 1 PM.** Please remember, this is an all-club event. We need you to help with set up and sales. You can sign up on our website.



**Beautiful plants ready for the Plant Sale!**

Thank you to all of you who have helped make this plant sale happen!

All the best,

*Sandy*

(Photo: Linda Cornell)

## Table of Contents:

Letter from the President:	1
Changing of the Seasons	2
Committee News	
Archives	3
Horticulture	3
Plant Sale	4
Autumn Joy Show	5
Grants	6
Visiting Gardens	6-7
Features	7-9
Local Interest	9-11
GCA	11
Member News	12
New Provisional Member	12-13
Miles Away	13-16
May Calendar	17
Just for Fun	18
Until Next Time	19

## Changing of the Seasons

**The plants at the Greenhouse are ready for the Plant Sale!!**



Photos: Linda Cornell

## Committee News

### Archives Committee

*Submitted by Judi Sterns*

There is now a combination lock on the Archives cabinet at the RJD Coach house. The combination is: **Turn to the right 3 turns. Stop at 01. Left, one turn, just past 01 to 11. One turn to the Left stop at 5.**

We hope you will use the Archives!

### Horticulture Committee

*Submitted by Barb Brown*

You may remember that the Hort committee acquired native plant seeds last Autumn from the Wild Seed Project. <https://wildseedproject.net/> We sowed and settled them into their winter homes on the west side of the greenhouse and are happy to report that they are coming to life! Some more than others but we'll celebrate by making room in our gardens for these native plant babies. Three cheers for a healthy ecosystem!

On a national scale, Massachusetts has just given a verbal agreement to proclaim April as Native Plant Month bringing the total to nearly all 50 states in support of this important GCA initiative. As we plan our landscapes and gardens this spring, let's keep native plants in mind and please try to reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use for a healthier environment for our plants and pollinators.

The GCA announced the 2023 plant of the year, a perennial favorite: *Lonicera sempervirens* Coral Honeysuckle. This low-maintenance and beautiful native is a magnet for pollinators and a favorite with your local hummingbirds.

We hope you had a chance to examine our horticulture bench show at our meeting this



month. We are learning the protocol for displaying our favorite specimens in anticipation of our combined GCA show this Fall with Little Compton. Thanks to our local hort expert, Ruth Furman, her horticultural knowledge is endless and much appreciated.

Speaking of GCA flower shows, if anyone is interested in being a Horticulture Clerk at the Newport Flower Show on Thursday, June 22nd, please let me know ([bpb1011@gmail.com](mailto:bpb1011@gmail.com)).

Caroline Wehner and Holly Barrows (Photo: Barb Brown)

**Plant Sale**

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

**Garden Club of Buzzards Bay Plant Sale @  
the Rotch Jones Duff House**



Please visit the [GCBB website](http://gardenclubbuzzardsbay.org) to sign up for one (or two!) of the following shifts:

**Set-up Hours:**

**Tuesday, May 2, 9 a.m.-noon**  
**Wednesday, May 3, 10 a.m.-noon**  
**Thursday, May 4, 10 a.m.-noon**  
**Friday, May 5, 9 a.m.-noon**

**Sale Hours:**

**Friday, May 5, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. or 4:00 - 6 p.m.**  
**Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

## Autumn Joy Flower Show

Submitted by Ruth Furman



Planning for our Autumn Joy Flower Show is in full swing! Thank you to everyone who came to last week's meeting. We want to get as much accomplished as possible before the summer and full-time gardening weather is upon us.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9-12:00, UPSTAIRS** at the **Little Compton Community Center 34 Commons St., Little Compton RI.** You are invited to attend any part or all of this meeting if you would like. Everyone's input is helpful and important.

Here's the agenda:


**9 - 10am Horticulture Committee: RUTH FURMAN, LIBBY MOORE, KATHE PARKER, MARCY BUSCH, CATHY STONE, SUSIE EMERY, LYNN STEINER, BONNIE TROWBRIDGE**


**10 - 10:30 am Awards: ELLEN CHRISTIE and HEATHER STEERS**

**10:30 - 11:30 am Education/Conservation: SUSAN ROTHSCHILD and KATHY WATTLES**

**11:30am - Noon Publicity/Lawn signs/Posters: SUE DAYLOR, PAM FITCH, LUCY CHASE**

**Co-Treasurers are invited to any and all of the meeting: LISA MELLGARD and ANNE TILLINGHAST**

 We are looking for our members to grow any kind of sunflowers to be used to decorate Round the Bend Farm during our show!

 Please consider growing some and donating them to our show! Pumpkins of all kinds will also be welcome!

We are looking forward to keeping the excitement going! Happy Spring  !

## **Grants Committee**

Submitted by Gig Lang

The Grants Committee is collecting used garden tools. Do you have any used garden tools that have not reached the end of their useful life? Are you replacing some old shovels, rakes or hand tools with new ones, but have older ones that are still useful? The Grants Committee would like to recycle these used items to some of our regular grantees who have expressed a need for tools.

Please clean the tools and bring them to the Annual meeting in June or email Gig Lang ([giglang@yahoo.com](mailto:giglang@yahoo.com)) who will pick up your donations.



The Committee is excited to have this project. It's just another way to support organizations in the community.

Thank you,  
GCBB Grants Committee

## **Visiting Gardens Committee**

Submitted by Caroline Wehner

Garden Club of Buzzard's Bay (GCBB) Visiting Gardens Committee plans trips to visit one or more gardens each year to promote knowledge of garden history and design, horticulture, and the environment.

In early June, members are invited to join the owners of two private gardens in Little Compton, RI: Sakkonet Garden and Issimaworks.

Sakkonet is a garden embedded in a native coastal fields landscape; with the diminutive scale of a cottage garden, it is conceived as an intimate place to explore with multiple paths leading a visitor to unexpected experiences.

Issima is a nursery and garden, located close by. It represents a collaboration between Ed Bowen, formerly of Opus nursery, and Taylor Johnston, formerly of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Both the garden and nursery of Issimaworks will be on our tour.

Our visit is scheduled to take place on **June 6, 2023**, with a private tour of Sakkonet Garden starting at 10:30 am. Members will park in parking spaces at the Sakkonet Garden, located at 48 Long Highway, Little Compton, RI.

To reserve a space for yourself on the garden visit, the committee asks that you submit a check for **\$15 to the Treasurer of GCBB**. The check should be made out to the Garden Club of Buzzard's Bay (GCBB) and mailed to:

**Lisa Mellgard  
322 Smith Neck Rd.  
Dartmouth, MA 02748**

Space is limited, so please send your check no later than **May 31, 2023**, to reserve your spot on the tour. If it rains, we will reschedule the tour for the next day, Tuesday, June 7, at 10:30 am. Bring lunch for yourself. We will break for lunch at noon. Afterwards members will visit Issima nursery and garden.

## **Features**

### **Honey Bees at Salt Marsh Farm**

Submitted by Lisa Mellgard



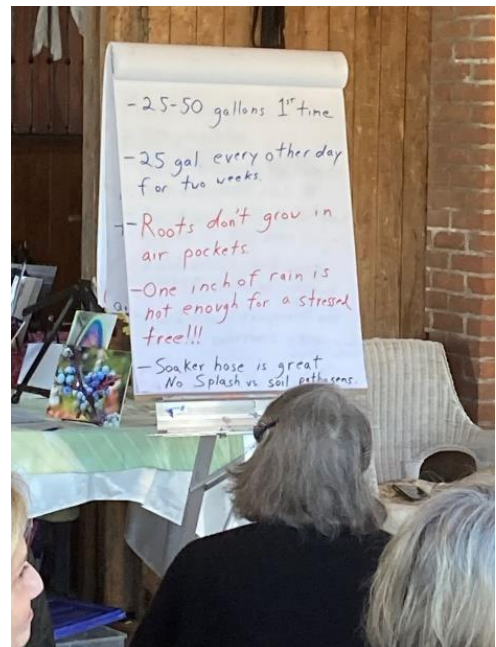
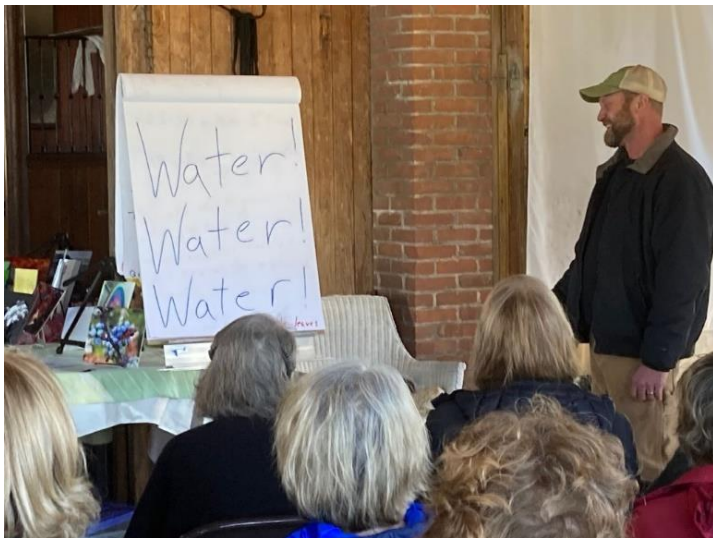
Springtime means native & honey bees are bursting out of their winter rest and looking for food. Activity at the hive entrance is once again buzzing on warmer days. One of the most important things happening in a hive in the spring is the production of new brood that will become the summer crop of bees. Most of the population in the hive dies during the winter. The queen must lay thousands of eggs over the Spring & Summer to build up the colony of nurse bees and foragers. The larva is fed what is called "bee bread" and it is made with pollen and nectar. **Two of the earliest sources of pollen are crocus and dandelions.** The bees can be found tumbling around in your dandelions right now. **Please, please don't use Round-Up or any other poisons that will harm the native & honey bees as they are looking for food.**

### **What is a bee safe alternative to Roundup?**

Consider using homemade products made from **Neem oil, vinegar, Epsom salt, castile soap, essential oils, and chrysanthemum**, as they are friendly to bees but will get rid of the weeds.



### April GCBB Meeting



On April 20<sup>th</sup> Jason Burchardt from Little Compton Trees regaled us with his wisdom and humor. We had a tea party set at Sandy's beautiful barn. The photos above are his insight on the initial planting of trees.

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

Top 3 tips from Gail Davidson:

1. Right now, bulbs are preeminent. I walk around with a bulb catalog (Brent and Becky's) looking for spots that need more, or just inspiration; then mark the pages with my ideas, so I can order them all at once. And put a reminder on the calendar to order in August, in case there are still some supply chain issues going on, causing the nursery to sell out early).
2. Weed early. Confessing: I use the phone app to make sure I'm only pulling goldenrod or weeds, and not my babies. Then, mulching ASAP.
3. Lately, I have to put cages around newly sprouting perennials, at least the ones I remember, or see, being eaten by animals. Cages can be removed later.

Top tip from Barb Brown:

1. I take inventory of the setting with its existing shrubs and flowers. I make a list in my Notes app noting the most important plants by location and add their needs i.e., prune in the fall, fertilize in spring, move to a sunnier location etc. Having the notes on my phone makes it simple and easy to find when I need it.

## **Local Interest**

**Spotted at DNRT Parsons Reserve amidst the daffodils:  
Susan and Leslie with their four-legged friends Poppy and Ellie.**



## Coastal Neighbors Network Garden Tour

On June 14, 2023, there will be a walking tour of 8 gardens in Russells Mills Village in Dartmouth. Russells Mills Village is one of Dartmouth's true gems. With many houses from the 18th and early 19th centuries, it has changed little in the past 100 years, earning it recognition as an historic district, on the National Register of Historic Places.

For tickets go to:

[Coastal Neighbors Network](https://www.CoastalNeighborsNetwork.org)

**Garden tour tickets sell quickly!**

COASTAL NEIGHBORS NETWORK  
**GARDEN TOUR**  
JUNE 14  
Morning 10 to 12:30  
or  
Afternoon 1:30 to 4  
Rain date: June 21  
TICKETS ARE LIMITED  
Visit 8 beautiful gardens nestled within the historic village of Russells Mills. Parking will be off Russells Mills Rd where guests will receive a map of the gardens on tour and historical notes about Russells Mills Village. Tickets go on sale May 1st. Visit the website [www.CoastalNeighborsNetwork.org](https://www.CoastalNeighborsNetwork.org)  
Illustration: Taylor Kane

Ruth Jolliffe's garden will be featured in the:



## Mattapoissett Women's Club Garden Tour 2023: *June in Bloom!*

**Saturday, June 24, 2023**

**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

*Rain or shine*

### **Tickets:**

\$30.00 Advance; \$35.00 Day of Tour

### **Location:**

**Mattapoissett Woman's Club Garden Tour Tent**

Parking next to *Ying Dynasty Restaurant*

24 County Road, Mattapoissett, MA

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club proudly announces their 2023 garden tour, ***June in Bloom*** on June 24, 2023, from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, rain or shine. The public is invited to view several fabulous gardens selected for a variety of gardening styles. Inspirations will await attendees who visit the various gardens— from formal to informal, woody to cottage, seaside to secluded. The gardens will highlight the use of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, shrubs, trees, and beautiful container plantings. For more information go to:

[Mattapoissett Women's Club](https://www.MattapoissettWomenClub.org)

[Haskell Public Gardens Plant Sale](#) – Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 12 am - 2 pm



## Garden Club of America



THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

The Great Healthy Yard Project is a way you, your family, and your community can improve your water quality without any extra time, work, or money.

The GCA encourages us all to [Take the Healthy Yard Pledge](#).



Please take **3 minutes** and watch the video with Diane Lewis, MD Founder of the Great Healthy Yard Project, and member of the Bedford Garden Club (Zone III).

Here are some not so fun facts:

Each year in America, about 80 million pounds of pesticides are used on 30 million lawns.

In a recent study, 44% of the people tested had the weedkiller glyphosate in their blood.

None of us would ever put these chemicals directly in our children's drinking water, but in effect that is what we are doing.

Click on the links below to learn more about how to change the way you garden:

- [Gardening Without Gunk](#)
- [GCA Guide to The New American Lawn](#)
- [Healthy Yard Pledge: Organic Lawn Care](#)
- [How To Care For An Organic Lawn & The Dangers Of Garden Products](#)

## Member News

Nancy Crosby recently broke her hip. She has had surgery and is in rehab. If you would like to send a note or a card, her address is:

**Nancy Crosby**  
**c/o Elizabeth Seton Residence**  
**25 Oakland Street**  
**Wellesley Hills, MA. 02481-5338**

She would love to hear from you!

## New Provisional Member

### **Kate Fentress bio**

I grew up in Greenwich CT, the oldest of 6 children. I attended Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia for two years and then took an extended break – it was the 60's after all. I moved out to Aspen for a couple of years, skiing, nannying and all the other things that children of the 60's were doing.

I moved back east to Cambridge where I lived the student life for many years. I completed college at UMass Boston, and received my master's in social work from Boston University. I met my husband in Cambridge and in 1982 he started to work in New Bedford. We moved here in 1985, and for the first time in our adult lives we had outdoor space. David dove into gardening, speaking mostly Latin when referring to plants! I had a new baby and didn't really get outside long enough to dig in during those first 2 years.

I worked with Psychiatric and Psychological Associates in New Bedford for several years and then switched gears to the non-profit world. I worked in Development for the Inter-Church Council, then became the Development Director at the Lloyd Center. In 2004 I was recruited to be the first employee at the Women's Fund of Southeastern MA (now Southcoast Women's Fund), became the Executive Director and helped build it into a respected community organization.

I retired from the Women's Fund after working there for nearly 10 years. In 2015 decided to run for a position on the Dartmouth Select Board, which was a tremendous



learning experience. I lost a close election which worked out for the best, as I was able to lead the charge in founding an “Aging in Place” organization, Coastal Neighbors Network, which now serves members in Dartmouth and Westport.

In the early 2000’s, after reading Barbara Kingsolver’s book, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* my neighbor Betsy and I established a gigantic vegetable garden, dug an asparagus trench, and grew a lot more food than we could possibly eat. We had great fun and learned a few things. Our first year we were thrilled that we had no bug problems – how lucky were we! In the ensuing years, surprise, the bugs, and slugs found us. We raised chickens, and eventually built the Fort Knox of chicken coops – too many predators and too few survival skills – not a great combo for free ranging.

Besides gardening I practice Tai Chi, yoga, and long walks with friends and dogs. I’m in a Book Group, love traveling, and most especially playing with my two young grandchildren. I’m looking forward to learning more about plant maintenance and care, organic solutions for plant issues, and getting to know a lovely group of women!



### **Miles Away**

Nan Sinton shares her photos from the island of Madeira and Lisbon, Portugal:



Fronds (crosiers) of tree ferns seen on a walk along the Levadas on the island of Madeira.



Blue hanging vine  
(*Strongylodon macrobotrys*).  
The Jade Vine is native in the  
Philippines seen here growing in the  
garden of Reid's Hotel on the island  
of Madeira. This rare, sub-tropical  
vine is a relative of our familiar scarlet  
runner bean!



Palm trees and conifers in the garden of [Reid's Hotel](#) (Funchal, Madeira)  
on a cliff high above the Atlantic.



A 18<sup>th</sup> century cartoon leopard seen in the azulejos (tiles) of the [Palace of Fronteira](#) in Lisbon, Portugal

Sue Daylor just returned from a trip to Southeast Asia. Here are some of her photos from the Orchid Garden at the [Botanical Gardens in Singapore](#):





May 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 May Day 	2	3	4 9-12:00 Autumn Joy Show Planning Meeting*	5 GCBB PLANT SALE 3-6:00 pm Full Moon	6 GCBB PLANT SALE 9am-1pm
7	8	9 9:00 Greenhouse Clean Up	10	11 9:00 GBCC Exec. Comm Meeting	12	13
14 Mother's Day 	15	16	17	18	19	20 National Rescue Dog Day 
21	22	23 World Turtle Day  <u>Skip the plastic Straw!</u>	24	25 Cheers! IT'S NATIONAL WINE DAY! 	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day  THANK YOU	30	31			

\* Autumn Joy Flower Show Planning – The Little Compton Community Center  
34 Commons St., Little Compton RI 02837 (401) 635-2400. Go up the stairs to the  
theater.

To check the GCBB Calendar online:

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

*Just for fun...*

My taste

My budget



*Until next time...*

