



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

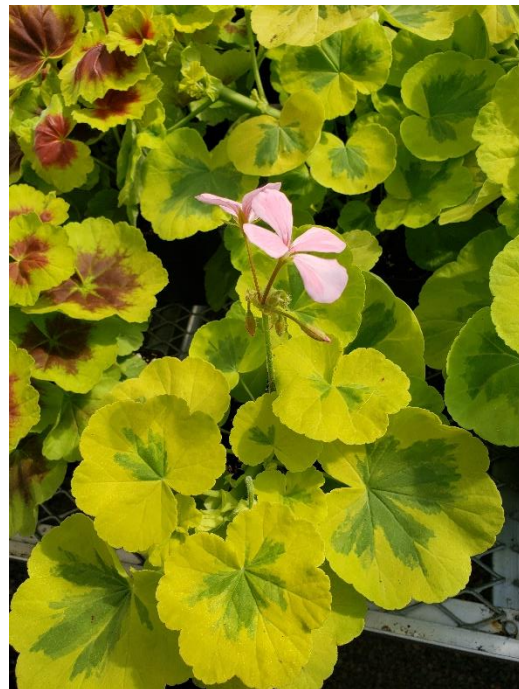
April 2024

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

April is in the air! Maybe it's the arrival of daylight savings time last month, but I'm feeling like spring came a little early and I welcome it. I checked my bee house today, no activity yet but it is still a little chilly.

The birds have been busy. There are several birdhouses on the side of our barn and on the porches. Their selection of a summer home has been going on for at least two weeks. Lots of chirping and looking things over. We feed the birds all winter, so we have a large flock that stays with us. I look forward to new families moving in and raising their families here. We provide nesting material in the form of cotton batting and hair from brushing the dog outside. Cozy and warm.



I would like to extend a special thank you and well done to the greenhouse crew for doing such a wonderful job with their Pop-up Plant Sale! It was a beautiful event with great goodies and a preview of the Plant Sale in May. I hope the people who came enjoyed their sneak peek of the amazing plants our very talented members have grown.

Enjoy your daffodils and tulips and soon lilies and hostas. It's an exciting time of the year as we watch the flowers come back after a long winter's rest.

Happy Spring!

Sandy

(Photo: Laura Campbell)

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Changing of the Seasons

First signs of spring at Christel's



Breathtaking amaryllis flowers at Fran's



Wonderful photos heralding the coming of spring taken by Michel Jodoin.



Committee News

Grants Committee

Submitted by Gig Lang

HAPPY SPRING GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS!



When shopping for new garden tools this Spring please remember the Grants Committee has a program that recycles tools, fencing and pots to organizations. In 2023 Lisa Mellgard donated fencing to Our Sisters' School and Ellen Christie donated fencing to Youth Opportunities Unlimited. Both organizations were very thankful.

Just send me an email or give me a call and I will be happy to pick up your donation. The Grant Committee thanks you in advance for your generous donation. Happy planting.

Grants Committee: Gig Lang, Sandy Hall, Janet Coquillet, Lisa Mellgard, Sue Perry, Tia Bullard, and Nancy Watson

Committee member and club Treasurer Lisa Mellgard adds the following:

With our greenhouse activity buzzing and the plant sale coming up, I thought I would give you some background on the finances of this work.

Every year, the budget for the greenhouse includes about \$2,000 for soil and plant supplies, \$500 for maintenance items such as fans, screens, tags etc., \$600 to pay for the electricity and \$5,000 to cover the oil bills. This totals over \$8,000 and we do sometimes go over budget. It's a lot of money. But our activity in the greenhouse is so much a part of what and who we are as GCB, and we love being there. Recent years plant sale expenses generally range between \$1,500 and \$2,500. Our plant sale in May each year generally raises between \$10,000 and \$16,000. This allows us to pay all of our bills and give away the rest in grants to local organizations. You've been able to read about some of our local grant recipients in recent newsletters. If you ever have a question about their programs or want to suggest a new potential recipient, you can contact Gig Lang, me, or any of the Grants Committee members.

Plant Sale Committee

Submitted by Iryna Priester and Anne Heller

PLANT SALE 2024...Something for EVERYONE!

April is a BIG month for all of us as we make final preparations for our Annual **Plant Sale on May 4th!** Gratefully, we know that we can count on each of you to contribute to our success by stepping up and taking on a task or two or maybe even three! To help make your choices easier, below is a menu of ways you can help.



- ♥ **Attractive publicity flyers have been printed and are waiting for YOU to help distribute.** A clipboard with past Plant Sale sign locations will be available in the Coach House. Kindly put your name next to the location where you intend to post the flyer and take the appropriate number of flyers. We printed a limited number. If you have other good suggestions not already on the list, feel free to add them. We have found that 3 weeks in advance is about the right time for advertising.
- ♥ **Sign-up sheets for working the Plant Sale have been posted on our website.** Sign up will be online ONLY. Shifts are available from Tuesday, April 30 through Saturday, May 4. We need ALL of you who are able to volunteer to sign up and lend a hand. This is a wonderful way to work shoulder to shoulder with fellow members in a beautiful setting surrounded by what we all love...plants!
- ♥ As you have read in the prior Newsletters, **this year we are collecting gently used gardening books** from our personal libraries, to share with other gardeners, both seasoned and novice. We are hoping that it will bring you joy to share some of your old favorites, as well as earn additional funds for the Garden Club's grants programs.
- ♥ Once again, we are asking members to share from their own gardens. **Perennial drop-off** will be on **Monday, April 29 (all day) and Tuesday, April 30 (9-11am)**. Please bring in a few well-loved perennial plants, with a focus on native plants. Plants should be neatly separated and repotted, clearly labeled including their need for light. If you need help creating your

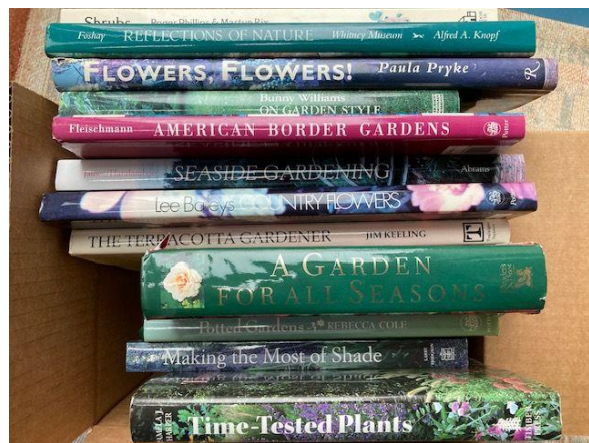
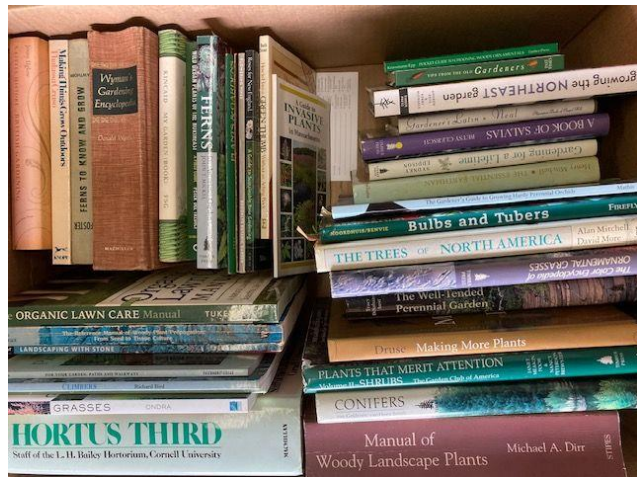
label, a knowledgeable member will be on hand to assist. Please do not wait until the day before the sale to bring in your donation. Esthetically organizing the display of perennials takes effort, thus extra time is needed.

- ♥ This year we are providing yet another opportunity for members to gather and socialize. On **Friday, May 3**, after set up is completed, members are invited to a **"Preview Party" from 3–5 p.m.** Each member will be able to purchase up to **10 plants at this time**. You may of course continue shopping to your heart's content the following day after we have opened to the public. Please, no early bird shopping for members on **May 4**.

Enjoy the longer and warmer days! See you at the Plant Sale.

Here we are a month away from our plant sale and our collection of plant-related books is growing. Zoom in and see what might spark an interest as these books will be up for sale at incredibly reasonable pricing (think under \$5 and some "Free to good home"!). These will be available to members first.

Please consider adding to our loot as the money raised will help to deepen the pockets for our scholarship program. Contact Linda or Laura with donation and questions. All books not sold will be donated to local book sales.



Greenhouse Committee

Anna Surma, Caroline Wehner and Holly Barrows

Submitted by Holly Barrows

The Greenhouse is filling up bursting with color, growth, and fragrance! Over 2,000 plants are awaiting the Annual Plant Sale which will be held on May 4th. Morning Glory, Nasturtium and many varieties of Tomato seedlings will be potted soon.

Holly checking on cannas under the bench.



(Photo: Christel Phipps)



Take a look at the West side of the Greenhouse.... you will see a beautiful Tuteur designed and crafted by Anna and her husband John. Thunbergia will soon be gracing this beautiful structure. Thanks to Anna and John for their generosity.

Since the Greenhouse is fast filling up and the days are warmer and sunnier, the task of watering is more time-consuming. If you haven't signed up to water, please do so [online](#). Thank you!

(Photo: Holly Barrows)

Thanks to our hosts, Deborah Burke and team, the Pop-up Houseplant Sale on Tuesday, March was filled with plants and delicious food:





Cynthia Brown & Teresa Betit



Michel Jodoin & Anna Surma

From The Greenhouse
Submitted by Michel Jodoin

Coleus - (Herbaceous Perennial)



Coleus plants are wonderful annual plants that add bold colors to any garden. Unlike many plants, they are not sought after for their flowers. Rather, it is their leaves that are admired, whether it is their brilliant colors with striking patterns or their varied textures ranging from soft and velvety to deeply ribbed. The plant originated in China, and made its European debut in 17th century Holland, following the tulip craze. Like the artists Monet and Van Gogh, adherents of the Impressionism art movement of the 19th century, Coleus can be seen as the Impressionist plant of the garden.

The Coleus is from the same family as Mint and has been used for its medicinal properties despite the foul taste. It is most suited for either container or bedding plantings and can typically grow from one to three feet in height and spread from one to two feet wide. It is predominantly a shade plant, but some varieties can tolerate more sunny exposure. Coleus flowers are not attractive, and they should be pinched off which would promote branching out from the main stem and will result in a fuller and more desirable plant.

In the greenhouse this year, in addition to 19 varieties we are also growing Coleus Standards (topiaries) for the first time and will be available to share with you during our Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 4th on the Roach-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum Terrace. We hope to see you there!

Garden History & Design Committee

Submitted by Nan Sinton

The Garden History and Design committee has had the re-documentation of Fran Levin's Garden accepted into the archive of American Gardens at the Smithsonian! The official catalog number will be processed in about 6 weeks. This re-documentation covers the years from 1998 -2023 and includes 108 images from five photographers showing views through the years. A copy of this submission is being given to the club's Archives.

The documentation of Ruth Jolliffe's garden has been sent to our Zone I Garden History representative. We hope to have more news on that shortly.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for April 17th at 2pm at Nan's house, 1170 Russells Mills Road.

The interviews with Ellen Christie (see below) and Fran Levin have been added to the "[Gardens are our Legacy](#)" page on the GCBB website.

ELLEN CHRISTIE



***Joined GCBB 1999,
President Garden Club of Buzzards Bay 2006 -
2008; Co-Chair GCA Zone I meeting 2010;
Recording Secretary GCBB 2015 -2017
Conservation/NAL Club representative 2019 -
2020; In club awards: President's Bowl 2006; The
Club's Most Valuable Member Award 2018; GCA
Club Appreciation Award 2019; GCA Medal of
Merit 2020: GCA National service: Member***

***Library Committee: 2013/2014. Representative: Awards Zone I, 2015-2017; Vice
Chair: Awards: 2017-2019; Zone Chair for Club Presidents, Zone I 2021;
Representative: Scholarship, Zone I, 2023-2025***

Interview by Fran Levin; edited Nan Sinton.

It is her membership in garden clubs and learning from other members that has inspired Ellen Christie's enthusiasm for all things verdant. Growing up in Milton, Massachusetts, Ellen and her sister Kathy enjoyed the tomato harvest created by her father and her mother's development of a rock garden, but both were too involved with school and other activities to take part in hands on gardening. After college, marriage and graduate school, a house in Boston's South End was followed by a move to Belmont, Massachusetts where Ellen began to raise her two children. One day, when walking with the dog and the babies, she met a neighbor who suggested she join the local garden club – and from there her gardening activism flourished. Although Belmont Garden Club activities focused on flower arranging, the companionship of other plant lovers encouraged Ellen to work on her own properties both in Belmont and in Westport.

A newly built house on twenty-two acres fronting the Westport River offered woods, meadows and a vernal pond for the dogs and children while Ellen concentrated her energies on the garden around the house. The center entry colonial came with a pre-designed front garden where Ellen met designer Beth Mercer who came to install the garden plan. It was a meeting of the minds and Ellen went on to learn practical gardening with Beth and to herself develop the land surrounding the rest of the house. Then in 1999 she joined the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay, proposed by Celeste Penney (GCBB President 1996-1998). In the greenhouse and in all the club's activities Ellen discovered a lively and engaging group of new friends. In her first year of membership, she was tapped to co-chair the plant sale with Nancy Crosby (founder of Partners Village Store in Westport). With Nancy as a mentor and her own enthusiasm for the club, Ellen thrived. She became active on many committees and was chosen to serve as Club President for 2006-2008.

Her BA degree in Sociology and master's in education set the direction for Ellen to develop her gift for nurturing positive personal interactions, especially among older and retired groups. Together with Shaleen Barnes she co-founded The Second Half: A Lifelong Learning Institute and became its first director. She was also previously director of the Franklin Square Day Care Center and a member of the board of directors of the Franklin Square House Foundation.

Barely was her term as club president finished when Ellen, along with Ruth Furman, was asked to organize and co-chair the 2010 Zone I meeting for the Garden Club of America –a daunting level of organization. Skillful planning combined with beautiful weather to make it a hugely successful event. Ellen has

also served as Recording Secretary for the Club 2015 -2017 and as a delegate to the GCA/NAL Conservation in 2020

Attending annual national meetings of the GCA – in Denver, New York City, Norfolk VA, Minneapolis, and San Francisco --as well as serving as a delegate to the GCA/NAL Conservation meetings in Washington DC -- has increased Ellen’s admiration for the energy and dedication of the members of the GCA’s all-volunteer clubs. “They are beacons of the power of learning by doing” she says and points to their work in Education and Conservation. Ellen has also served as a member of the GCA’s national Library committee, on the awards committee as both a Zone representative and as Vice-Chair, and as Zone Chair for Club Presidents in Zone I. She is currently Zone I National Representative for Scholarships.

Away from the meetings and paperwork Ellen travels widely to explore gardens and what makes gardeners in other lands “tick” – Chile, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Italy and England. She also enjoys her own gardens, including a recent one she herself designed at her condominium in Dartmouth as well as at her newest home in Waltham where her naturalistic focus is encouraging neighbors to look differently on garden management. And she has influenced her children to share her pleasures in the pursuit – “it’s all about team playing – whether you are selecting plants for a garden or being a member of a club – that’s the real key to a great result”.

Visiting Gardens

Submitted by Caroline Wehner

[Garden visit plans for this year include a visit to Nan Sinton's gardens on July 11th. More details to follow.](#)



Feature

Flora in Winter is a floral design show hosted every year by the Worcester Art Museum. Three amazing GCA members of the Worcester Garden Club have been the face of the show for years: Kim Cutler, Kathy Michie, and Sarah Ribeiro.

Carla Morey shows her skills and interpretation of a child's mummy case, no name, Roman/Egyptian period, Egypt.

CARLA MOREY PRESENTS AT WORCESTER ART MUSEUM ART IN BLOOM

PHOTOS BY CARLA MOREY AND SOISIC BRILL



Links of Interest


Submitted by Susan McLaren



Where in the world is the tulip a beloved national symbol, with more than 30 million blooms on display each spring? (Hint: [It's not the Netherlands.](#))

Local Interest

Submitted by Linda Cornell




The Sogkonate Garden Club
Proudly Presents

DR. CHARLES CLARKSON,
*Director of Avian Research for the
RI Audubon Society.*


Migratory Birds and our local refuges,
climate change, patterns, and future
strategies to assist our feathered friends.

Please join us at the
Little Compton Community Center
on Wednesday, April 3rd at 7:30 pm
Free and Open to the Public!

For more information, please visit
www.sogkonate.org



Member of Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
and National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Accolades



Michel Jodoin deserves our appreciation; it is clear that working in the greenhouse is a lifelong dream of his! He calmly tends to the plants in the greenhouse almost every day and has depth of gardening knowledge which he graciously shares if asked. Michel is the creative force behind the coleus topiaries and the hanging plants.

His artistic abilities shone as he created wreaths for the Holiday Greens Market.... quietly and generously sharing his skills with those around him. Michel is a treasure; his contributions are many.

From a kind GCCB member:

“Laura and Linda deserve huge ‘thank yous’ and much appreciation for the countless hours it takes to produce the GCBB newsletter. I look forward to this monthly gem not only for updates on the workings and accomplishments of our members but also for the witty and creative pieces which make me smile. You are appreciated!!!!”

Garden Club of America



[Seed Share](#) is an initiative of the GCA Horticulture Committee. Sharing seeds is easy, educational, and fun!





Each month, we at the newsletter love to acknowledge our members who are having birthdays.

April Birthdays to celebrate:



Betts Howes Murray - April 3rd



Iryna Priester - April 6th



Carla Morey - April 13th

If you would like to participate in the fun, please send along the month and date of your special day to lindyc@davecornellcharters.com or lcampbell64@comcast.net.

View From My Window

Betts Howes Murray shares snow drops and seasonal decorations. Over the years she has blown out 10-11 dozen eggs.



Beautiful photos of bees from our Beekeeper, Lisa Mellgard:



Various amaryllis plants in bloom in Fran's greenhouse:



and look at the Clivia blooming (from under the bench)!

Miles Away






Holly McDonough went to the [Philadelphia Flower Show](#).



The theme was “United by Flowers”. She said it was one of the best shows and she encourages everyone to go to the show in 2025.

Sue Daylor is just back from a fantastic trip to Ecuador (the Galapagos) and Peru. She shares photos of Ginger, Orchids, a Cactus tree, and a flowering succulent.



April 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  APRIL FOOL'S DAY	2 9:00 Greenhouse  Autism Awareness Day	3  National Walking Day Happy Birthday to Betts Howes Murray!	4	5	6 Happy Birthday to Iryna Priester!
7	8	9 9:00 Greenhouse	10	11 9:00 GBCC Exec. Comm Meeting	12 National Grilled Cheese Day 	13 Happy Birthday to Carla Morey!
14	15 Patriots' Day 	16 9:00 Greenhouse	17 2:00 Garden History & Design Committee	18 10:30 Monthly Meeting*	19	20
21	22 Passover Begins  Earth Day	23 9:00 Greenhouse  Full Moon	24	25	26  Arbor Day	27
28	29	30 9:00 Greenhouse Passover Ends				

* Monthly Meeting
 APRIL 18 – 10:30 a.m. (Sandy Hall's Barn, 115 Elm Street, South Dartmouth) Speaker: Joseph Ingoldsby, River Rise Farm.
 Topic: Apple trees

[Greenhouse Watering Schedule – Sign Up online](#)

[Plant Sale 2024 Sign Up Online](#)

Just for fun...



Until next time...

Linda and Laura taking advantage of National Napping Day on March 11th



(Sleeping Sea Lions photo taken by Sue Daylor during her recent trip to Ecuador)