



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

May 2024

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

There is so much inspiration to be found in May. Flowers are blooming, the sun stays up longer and the energy is festive and bright. There is so much going on this month, May baskets, GCBB Plant Sale, Cinco de Mayo, the Kentucky Derby, and Mother's Day. Enjoy the warmer weather, plan a picnic, buy yourself flowers every week and go out for ice cream.



This will be my last Presidential letter. I can't believe two years have passed so quickly. I want to say a special thank you to a wonderful board who have shared their knowledge generously and have supported me in every way. I also want to thank all our members who have helped me with decisions and information about the club. Here's to found friendships, to sharing stories about our lives and families and in general, helping each other in any way we can. So tells the tale of GCBB. No wonder we all love it so much. I look forward to enjoying this community for many years to come and I warmly welcome Barb Brown as our new President, we are in good hands!

With Love and Thanks,

Sandy

Photo of arrangement Tina Read made for the April meeting at Sandy's
(Holly Barrows)

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Changing of the Seasons

Getting ready for the Plant Sale!



Photos: Holly Barrows

Committee News

Plant Sale Committee

Submitted by Iryna Priester and Anne Heller

Annual Plant Sale – It's Almost Here!



Our greenhouse beauties are ready to be moved to the Museum patio. The succulents and perennials from our members' gardens have been arranged for easy shopping in the coach house. With over 2,000 carefully curated plants and new offerings like hanging planters and gently used gardening books, we have plenty to offer our discerning shoppers this year.

On Friday afternoon from 3-5 p.m., Club members will have an opportunity to shop and socialize before the public sale. Each member will be able to purchase up to 10 plants at the preview with the option to continue shopping at the sale on Saturday. We'll be treated to an array of refreshments and finger foods while we shop.

It's not too late to remind family and friends about the sale. We'll be opening the patio on Saturday at 9 a.m. sharp and hope to have all the plants on their way to someone's garden by 1 p.m.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the sale this year – the greenhouse crew, the members who have donated perennials from their gardens and who will be working at the sale, and everyone who has helped to spread the word about the sale.

If you have any questions, contact Anne at (617) 893-8491. Hope to see you at the preview and the sale!



Greenhouse Committee

Anna Surma, Caroline Wehner and Holly Barrows

Submitted by Holly Barrows

Our 2,000+ plants are almost ready for their debut at the 5/4 Plant Sale. On a personal note, I brought my 5-year-old grandson, Lucas, to the greenhouse when he visited over the Easter weekend. He stepped in and with a look of joy exclaimed “This is paradise, Mimi!”. I heartily agree with his sentiment.

The geraniums have blossoms in colors ranging from white and light pink to darker shades of salmon and dark crimson. The coleus (including Michel’s beautiful topiaries) come in beautiful hues. The many varieties of tomato plants are thriving. There are hanging baskets, pre-planted pots, glorious succulents ... the Greenhouse Committee Members have worked hard; we thank them and appreciate their time and creativity!



Leslie Bernert and Gail Davidson potting up succulents.

(Photos: Holly Barrows)

From The Greenhouse
Submitted by Michel Jodoin

Geraniums and Pelargoniums



The plant that most people think of as a Geranium is actually a Pelargonium, with that name coming from the Greek word Pelargos, which means stork. As far as actual Geraniums are concerned, they are commonly referred to as either “True Geraniums”, “Hardy Geraniums”, “Cranesbills” or “Storksills”. Geranium comes from the Geek word Geranos, which means crane. The seed pods of

Geraniums remind one of the long bills of both cranes and storks. For simplicity’s sake, let’s just call them all Geraniums.

The Geranium is a native of South Africa, and made its way to England and Europe in the 1600’s. It made its debut in America via Thomas Jefferson when he returned from France in 1786. There are over 300 varieties of the plant, and depending on the variety, it can grow between two to four feet in height. They thrive best in pots and planters and love full sunlight.

Many Geraniums are scented, with scents such as apple, lemon, lime, almond, nutmeg, peppermint, rose and cilantro (which is thought to repel mosquitos). These plants are often processed for their scented oils. The scented varieties work well in herb gardens, and some can even be used to flavor tea by placing a



few fresh leaves in the cup. Dried leaves can be used to scent potpourri, talcum powder and even sugar.

We have a nice collection of Geraniums in the greenhouse this year, which includes both Classic and Commemorative varieties, such as Vancouver Centennial and Crystal Palace (named for the Great Exhibition of 1851).

We hope that you can make it to our Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 4th on the Roach-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum Terrace. The sale runs from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM, and proceeds benefit horticultural and community projects through The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay's grant program. We hope to see you there!

Boxwood Committee

Submitted by Marcy Busch

This year we hired a landscape crew to mulch the Boxwood Gardens (and plant nursery) at the RJD. They raked the beds and weeded before applying 6 yards of mulch. The crew also removed and disposed of the debris. It has been a few years since we mulched, and we are all pleased with the results! It will look lovely for our Plant Sale visitors.

The Committee has also completed the Boxwood Mapping and ID project, and it is now in the hands of the RJD intern, Kennedy, who has been updating and helping to design the brochure in a file online. Now that we have this electronic map, noting the location and varieties of boxwood, we can revise and make changes in real time, and reprint the brochure as the garden evolves. There are a few boxwoods we have not been able to identify, and these will be noted as TBD in the trifold brochure for now. Our goal is to have the brochure printed and ready by the Annual Meeting. We will continue to research and ID the mystery boxwoods.

Conservation Committee

Submitted by Susan Rothschild

The Oak exhibit at the Westport Land Conservation Trust, that was based on our Autumn Joy exhibit, closed at the beginning of April. A small display of information was put together by Ned Daniels and Kathy Wattles at the Westport Library, where it will be for a month or so. Libby Moore made a presentation about the availability of exhibit materials recently to Zone 1 club presidents. Stay tuned for the exhibit that keeps giving!

Garden History & Design Committee

Submitted by Nan Sinton

I am delighted to let our members know that the Garden Club of America Archives of American Gardens at the Smithsonian has accepted two submissions from our club! Janet Coquillette documented "Bluefish", the garden of Ruth Jolliffe and Nan Sinton prepared the re-documentation of the last twenty-five years of Fran Levin's garden. These are lengthy and involved projects and we are happy that they met the criteria of the GCA and the Smithsonian.

Be sure to check out the recently added interview Fran Levin on the GCBB website: ["Gardens are our Legacy"](#).

Hostess Committee

Submitted by Debrah Burke

As the Hostess Committee...*the committee of one*, I wanted to thank everyone who signed up to host at this past year's GCBB events. Each event was a great success due in part to you...Thank you!!! For those of you who have never hosted an event, it really is a lot of fun and a great way to become better acquainted with fellow members. Next year's sign-up sheet will appear on the members page once the events and dates have been determined.

Thank you in advance for signing up to be a host in the coming year and I look forward to working with you!

Scholarship

Submitted by Ellen Christie, Zone I Scholarship Rep

On March 4, I went to New York City and met with the rest of the Scholarship Committee—a great group of women! I learned that we were able to award 99 scholarships totaling \$459,000! These scholars are working in fields of study that

align with the GCA mission to protect and improve the quality of the environment. We were able to award 8 Corliss Knapp Engle Scholarships in Horticulture. One recipient is Allyson Gibson. This young woman is a second-year grad student at the University of Virginia. Her background is in landscape architecture, arboriculture, and horticulture. She hopes to help create spaces that confront climate change. Her focus is on an interdisciplinary approach to develop holistic and sustainable forest management. She is doing her research at the Morven Sustainability Lab at UVA. Another Engle recipient is Landon Erbrick, a first-year graduate student at Auburn University. His major is horticulture, and he is exploring the use of battery powered landscape equipment and its impact on the environment. He hopes to work either hands-on in nursery and greenhouse horticulture or in research.

As for the second scholarship I worked on, The Garden Club of America Montine M. Freeman Scholarship in Native Plant Studies, we were able to award 4 scholarships. One of the recipients is Richard Hull. He's a PhD candidate at Indiana University. He's studying ecology, evolution, and behavior. His project centers on characterizing the impacts of anthropogenic climate change and exotic species on the native flora of the lower Indiana Wabash River corridor over the last century.

The energy and enthusiasm these scholars have for their research projects is wonderful. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call/email me.

A Note from the Treasurer
Submitted by Lisa Mellgard

This spring we (the board) did an analysis of our dues and how far they cover or exceed all our operating expenses. We found that we have run fairly close to covering our budget, but that a few items have begun to consistently go over budget - our social costs have gone up (our holiday party and our annual meeting), the boxwood garden expenses have been going up since we had to start treating the plants for disease, and our program costs have been going up.

At GCBB, we have always structured our budget to make sure our fundraising dollars are not used to cover our operating expenses, that is what our dues are intended to do. But ... there is usually a "but" ... we now believe, for the first time in 10 years, it is time to raise our dues. We believe we can raise the dues by \$20 per year to cover our increasing budget items while still keeping all our fundraising dollars for grants, gifts, and unusual expenses like our recent greenhouse renovation. The new dues amount will be reflected in the statement you receive in June for next year. I am very happy to answer questions about this decision. Please reach out if you would like more information. (Lisa - 508.991.1835 or lisa.mellgard@gmail.com).

Features

NAL Conference, Washington DC March 17-20, 2024

Submitted by Barb Brown



As a member of the GCBB, you are one voice in a collective group of 18,000 members that comprise the GCA. For over 40 years, the National Affairs & Legislation Conference (NAL) has met in Washington DC to celebrate firsthand conservation in action. Since the 1920s when the GCA was the “Wildflower Preservation Committee,” through the 1970s’ promising declaration of Earth Day and the passage of the Clean Water Act to the sweeping Great American Outdoors Act of 2020, the GCA has advocated for our environment.

As gardeners, we know the simple pleasure of seeing the first daffodils joyously announce the beginning of growth and renewal. And, as gardeners, we know firsthand the changes occurring

in our backyards due to climate change. The NAL provides the opportunity to educate ourselves and our community with the latest scientific research, to form alliances with experts and activists and promote bi-partisan legislation to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Just as the daffodil is a harbinger of hope, so too is the array of brilliant and passionate minds working to protect our Earth’s natural resources.

Nationally, in addition to hearing from a select crew of senators and meeting with local state legislators, these are just a few hardworking and passionate individuals who took the time to share their stories and efforts to understand and protect our environment:

- President Biden’s National Climate Advisor (Ali Zaidi)
- a litigator (successfully!) suing big oil (Dr. Benjamin Franta)
- a local activist fighting to protect her beloved Boundary Waters from mining (Rebecca Rom)
- a photographer (Tine Freeman/New Orleans) whose vision is beautifully portrayed in the photos on her website: <https://tinafreeman.com/>
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute director Peter B. de Menocal with fascinating first-seen images of activity in the belly of our world, the ocean.

Locally, ways we can put our advocacy to work back home:

- Help your club plan an event, make yourselves known.
- Involve community partners.
- Post on social media.
- Plant natives in your yard.
- Talk to friends and neighbors.
- Visit your state legislature; pursue permanent legislation.

Photos to share...

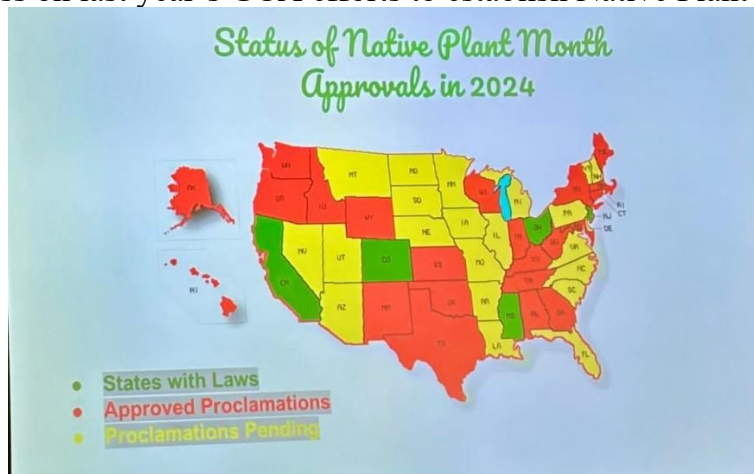


Making connections with Cohasset member, Sandra Durant at the Tidal basin.



Fan favorite, Rhode Island Senator, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Success on last year's GCA efforts to establish Native Plant month:



To learn more or watch videos from the conference, visit: [2024 National Affairs & Legislation Conference \(gcamerica.org\)](https://www.gcamerica.org/2024-national-affairs-legislation-conference). For current updates on legislation and policy see: [National Affairs & Legislation Committee \(gcamerica.org\)](https://www.gcamerica.org/national-affairs-legislation-committee)



Outgoing & Incoming

As we welcome a new president it is time to say *Thank You* to our outgoing president Sandy Hall for her years of directing the GCBB membership.

Sandy has been steadfast in her duties and always with enthusiasm and grace. We wish her well as she passes the baton to Barb Brown. Thank you for all you do not only in the line of duty for the GCBB but in life.

Now Sandy, you can get into your gardens and your studio and find balance and peace there.



From our incoming President



1982



2024

Hi, my name is Barb Brown. I am a visionary. I am creative. I am friendly. I am hopeful. I am a communicator. I am a hard worker. I am playful. I am open minded. I listen well. I am organized (mostly.) And, as of June, I am the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay's next president. As the incoming president, I was asked to write a bio by our wonderful, hard-working newsletter crew (TYTYTY) I could enumerate my life as though it were a grocery list, but, seriously, does anyone really enjoy a grocery list? Intangibles have always intrigued me—truly, it is these qualities that ultimately lead to success.

In keeping with my vision for the club (let's face it, we are all volunteers, we should have some fun while doing good, right?) I'd like to play a game with you, a unique way to get to know me. It's called "Never Have I Ever." Just one of these items is true; can you guess which one?

- Never have I ever...broken a bone
- Never have I ever...birthed four babies in six years
- Never have I ever...walked off a job
- Never have I ever...worked for a government agency
- Never have I ever...hugged a redwood tree
- Never have I ever...frisked a Hollywood celebrity
- Never have I ever...been skinny-dipping in winter
- Never have I ever...spent time in the wilderness
- Never have I ever...traveled to Africa
- Never have I ever...seen St. Elmo's fire
- Never have I ever...been published
- Never have I ever...dated a cowboy

A good writer leaves the reader hanging. If you're interested in which statement is true, let's chat, go for a hike, grab some tea, or simply watch a sunset together. Otherwise, you'll find out this Fall. I am honored and excited to lead this amazing group of talented and passionate gardeners into the future. Let's have fun and do good together. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you, afterall we are so much more than our resumes. See you in September!



Carla Morey, Barb Brown and Ruth Furman enjoying the GCA's Annual Meeting in Hartford, CT on April 26-28th. For more information on the conference, visit:

[GCA 2024 Annual Meeting](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

That planting mint around your house, or growing mint in your house can prevent ants from coming into your house? Mint destroys ants' sense of smell, making them less likely to risk the possibility of entering. Grow them near doors/windows and place mint leaves in pantries.



New and interesting ways to recycle:

Don't throw out that broken rake!



Recycle overripe bananas by hanging them up in the garden.
Butterflies love them!



Accolades

Anna Surma

This is a personal shout out to Anna from me, Linda Cornell. I was delivering boxes of books to the Coach House Sunday afternoon and decided to take a peek inside the greenhouse. I had not been there in months. It looked lush, full and vibrant, all ready for the plant sale this coming weekend. Anna has done an amazing job at the helm. While I *know* there are *many* who have stepped up and done fabulous work without someone in charge it would not be the same. So, accolades to Anna from a past greenhouse co-chair.

Ellen Christie

The GCA Scholarship Committee met recently to determine our Class of 2024 Scholars. It's been a busy and rewarding scholarship season, and I am pleased to announce that 2024 is a banner year. A record 99 students will be funded and a record \$459,000 will be awarded through the GCA's 29 different scholarships and fellowships.

Committee members and I have learned firsthand the many moving parts of the Scholarship Committee. As you know, Garden Club of Buzzards Bay's Ellen Christie serves on the committee as Zone I Scholarship Rep, and the work we do could not have been accomplished without her contributions.

Ellen played an integral role in this year's scholarship process, helping update our outreach list and serving on selection committees where she read, scored, and discussed applications. Donors to GCA Scholarships trust Scholarship Committee members to be stewards of their gifts, and Ellen was thoughtful when she and fellow application readers decided which students should receive GCA funding.

Ellen is working diligently to raise awareness among club members in Zone I about the tremendous impact of GCA Scholarships. I am grateful for her dedication to the committee's purpose and work, and I look forward to working with her for another scholarship season.

I want to let you know what a joy it is to work with her. Your club has a true gem in Ellen, and the Scholarship Committee and the GCA are better because of her.

Most sincerely,
Sid Hancock, Scholarship Chair, Paducah GC

Garden Club of America



The purpose of *Focus* is to enhance the knowledge and enjoyment at all levels of involvement in the art of photography and to appreciate its unique blend of technical skill, knowledge of composition and creativity. Articles which are written by GCA club members, are for the purpose of clarity and education about the photographic process, exhibiting, and judging. Winning images from GCA flower shows, formerly included inside Focus, are now showcased in this gallery.



Holly McDonough encourages everyone to take a few minutes to scroll through the [Winning Images from 2023](#).



Each month, we at the newsletter love to acknowledge our members who are having birthdays. [May Birthdays to celebrate:](#)



Gig Lang – May 19th



Tina Read – May 28th

We don't have any June, July or August birthdays noted (yet*) but we have one in September:



Laura Campbell - September 18th (the big 60!)

*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.

Local Interest



A selection of vegetable seedlings and culinary herbs will be for sale in 4-inch pots, plus perennials and choice varieties of rhododendrons and hydrangeas in gallon-sized pots. The edibles for sale will include tomato plants -- heirloom, cherry, slicers, container and paste varieties, as well as peppers -- from sweet and juicy to hot and spicy - plus squash, zucchini, pumpkins and other vegetables and herbs.

Master Gardeners grow seedlings at home, transplant them into 4-inch pots, then transfer them to greenhouses for further growth. Volunteers have been busy preparing labels and descriptions for each plant to support buyers' success in their gardens.

[Annual Plant Sale - Master Gardeners Association \(mastergardenerscc.org\)](http://www.mastergardenerscc.org)

Questions about the sale? Please email gardeners@capecod.gov.

SAVE THE DATE
SOGKONATE GARDEN CLUB

PETALS & MEADOWS
...not your typical Garden Tour

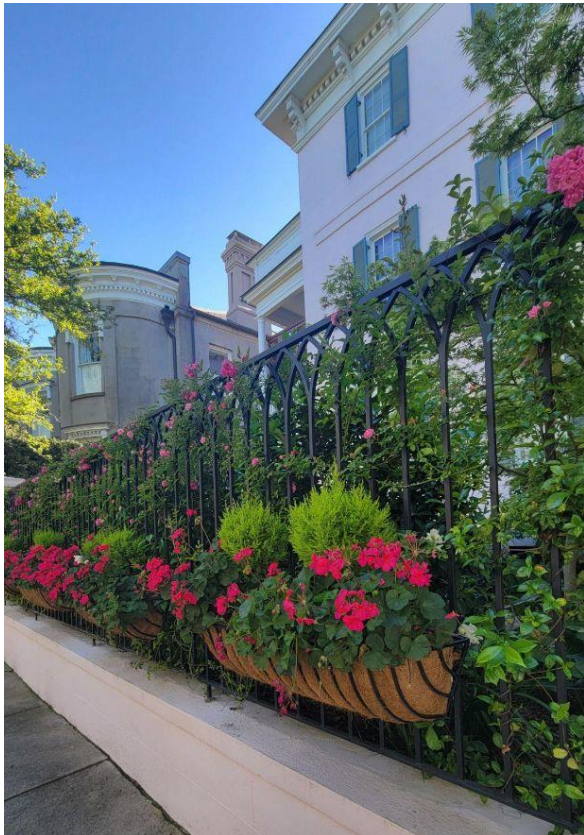
Saturday, July 27th
9am ~ 5pm \$35. Rain or Shine
(\$45. on tour day)

15 Fantastic gardens in
Little Compton, Tiverton, and Westport!

...for more info:

Miles Away

On a recent trip to Charleston, Susan Mead captured these photos of windowboxes





Trip of Interest



Travels to Portugal with the Little Compton Garden Club

Oct 1, 2024 - Oct 12, 2024

\$5,559.00 based on double occupancy per person.

For more information, email Little Compton's Ginny Greenwood at:

randggreenwood@gmail.com

May 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 May Day 	2	3 Plant Sale Preview 3-5:00 pm	4 GCBB PLANT SALE 9am-1pm
5 	6 NURSES DAY 	7 9:00 Greenhouse Clean Up	8	9 9:00 GBCC Exec. Comm Meeting via Zoom	10	11
12 Mother's Day 	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Happy Birthday to Gig Lang!	20 World Bee Day 	21	22	23 Full Flower Moon 	24	25 National Wine Day 
26	27 Memorial Day  THANK YOU	28 Happy Birthday to Tina Read!	29	30	31	

Plant Sale 2024 [Sign Up Schedule Online](#)

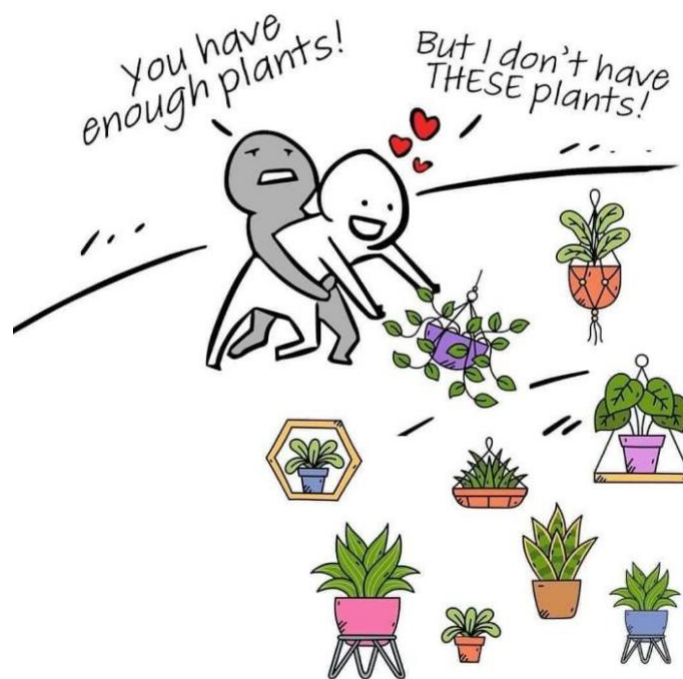
Just for fun...

When you go to the store for things that aren't plants but you see plants over there.



Be safe on the roads today.!!
My car just slid into the garden center's parking lot again.





Container Gardening Tip:

When you plant a puppy, make sure the container can comfortably accommodate the full grown dog.



Until next time...

