



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

January 2025

President's Message

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. While December's festivities bring joy and togetherness, the whirlwind of activity can be exhausting. January offers a welcome opportunity to rest, reflect, and take care of ourselves. Whether it's playing in the snow, taking a solitary walk, or simply enjoying the quiet beauty of the season, this is a time to pause and recharge before diving into the year ahead.



As a club, we have an exciting year in store. The greenhouse is buzzing with activity as we nurture our seedlings for May's plant sale, thanks to the dedication of its strong leadership and committed members. Our committees continue to bring energy and vibrancy to our community: local grants will be delivered, inspiring garden visits await, programs to attend, and legislative initiatives both locally and nationally to be aware of. And let's not forget our Zone 1 flower show coming up in September!

The year ahead is full of potential, and before long, our calendars will be brimming with plans and activities. Until then, take time to care for yourselves and savor the peace of the season

~ Barb

Photo: Barb Brown

“The mission of the GCBB is to educate and inspire our members through horticulture, conservation, education, and community involvement. The camaraderie of our greenhouse fosters lifelong friendships and a deep love of gardening”

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Changing of the Seasons

Members share their arrangements inspired by the Floral Design presentation at November's meeting:



Anna Surma



Cathy Stone

Now that winter is here,
a simple reminder to help our
"neighbors"



Committee News

Greenhouse Committee

Submitted by Co-Chairs: Anna Surma, Cynthia Brown, Michel Jodoin, and Teresa Betit

The Greenhouse rapidly is filling with beautiful plant specimens and it's both amazing and gratifying to see how quickly we go from taking cuttings and inserting them in the warm cutting bench soil to only three or four weeks later transplanting the newly rooted plant to a 4" black pot. Now, at the beginning of winter, we already have an impressive array of annuals growing, including Zonal, Fancy Leaf and Scented Pelargonium (Geranium), Dichondra, Bacopa, many varieties of Coleus, Fuchsia, Plectranthus, Helichrysum and more. Tomatoes and other annuals will be started by seed in the new year. All this could not happen without the dedication and time of our Greenhouse Committee and volunteers.

Daily maintenance is crucial, and a recent experience illustrates its importance. The day after Thanksgiving, Anna stopped by to water and check the plants. Upon entering the greenhouse, she knew there was a problem. It was too cold inside. The boiler was broken. Luckily for us, she was able to reach Rick, Head of Maintenance for RJD and he was able to do a temporary fix while arranging a new boiler part. But what if no one had come by? ALL our plants would have died, with evening temperatures that day heading to near freezing. Since then, Anna has set up a new thermometer that has a phone app, allowing her to get an alarm if temps go too low and check the temperature remotely at any time. But the experience is a reminder of how reliant we are on the various systems – heat, ventilation & fans - required to nurture our plants as well as how important the daily maintenance visits are. Please continue to sign up for watering on the club's [website](#), and know you are doing an important job, one appreciated by all GCBB members.





Plant Sale Committee

Submitted by Teresa Betit

Please save the dates for the 2025 Garden Club of Buzzards Bay (GCB) Plant Sale. The Sale will be open to the public on Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., but we will be hosting a special reception and pre-sale for GCB and Rotch-Jones-Duff (RJD) members on Friday, May 2 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., so please join us for this festive event. This “sip & shop” will be a time when we can gather with friends, enjoy some treats, and choose from a beautiful array of annuals, perennials, succulents, herbs, and tomatoes for your garden.

The Sale will include a wide selection of propagated annuals from our greenhouse, including geraniums, coleus, cuphea, plectranthus, euphorbia, bacopa, alternanthera, and many others, lovingly tended by our greenhouse committee. We will also be offering a beautiful, curated selection of succulents, creatively arranged by Leslie Bernert and team. This year, we will continue to offer hanging planters and coleus topiaries (both new as of last year). We will again be looking for perennial donations in the week before the plant sale, so please start thinking about what you may be interested in contributing when Spring returns!

Additional offerings at the Sale will include some favorite annuals grown from seed, along with a delicious array of heirloom tomatoes and herbs. Note that the Plant Sale Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 7 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss our seed choices for 2025.

Closer to the Sale dates, we will be looking for full club participation to help set up and make the Sale a success, so please mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 29 through Friday, May 2 as volunteer days. Proceeds from the Sale benefit community projects through the Club's Grants program.

Thanks for all you do.

Grants Committee

Submitted by Gig Lang

Sarah Herman, Headmaster, and Georgiana Goulding, Director of Advancement, at Our Sisters' School invited Sue Daylor and me to tour the school. We visited classrooms in action, the library, and we were a part of the school meeting. The students are very knowledgeable on subject matter, comfortable speaking publicly, and respectful to guests. We then walked the outside campus, garden beds, a new pavilion site, and the greenhouse which is underutilized space.

We suggested that some members of our Greenhouse Committee come and give their expert advice. Anna Surma, Cynthia Brown, Michel Jodoin and I met with Margaret McSweeny, Advancement and Volunteer Coordinator and did a walk-through. The suggestions and advice we gave were very helpful to them. OSS will get back to us when they are ready to start the process.

The GCBB Grants Committee received 13 applications and will be meeting to discuss and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. With the help of member Laura Campbell, the application and grant information are now online for the Grant committee to review. The process is much easier. Laura was very patient to help an "old bird learn new tricks".

Holiday Greens Market

Submitted by Holly Barrows

Saturday, 12/7, was the culmination of the efforts of our GCBB community of creative, generous and talented individuals - truly I was overwhelmed by the support, dedication, good cheer, gorgeous holiday greens and time given by so many. THANK YOU is not a strong enough sentiment!

The Coach House and patio of the RJD were transformed. (I wish I had more photos - a designated photographer will be my suggestion for our debrief session!) Natalie Mello designed and built wreath holders (with her husband, David) which were placed on the patio:



The combination of beautifully designed wreaths, heaters and holiday music not only enabled us to quickly sell wreaths but created room in the Coach House for us to display and sell more product.

Sandy Hall generously and graciously donated hand-painted shells depicting an osprey nest holding three golden eggs - there is no

surprise that they sold out right away!

Tina Read donated beautiful boxwood centerpieces, shell trees and shell ornaments. And there was so much more...



Many, many thanks to Natalie Mello, Susan McLaren, BJ Pease and Caroline Wehner, the Co-Chairs and the HGM Committee for their time, dedication, talent and wonderful positive energy.

Gross sales were \$8,284; net after expenses - \$6,085. Proceeds will support the Club's Grants Program for Conservation, Civic Beautification, Sustainable Agriculture, and Scholarships.











Hostessing Committee

Submitted by Deborah Burke

I want to begin by thanking the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay for their very generous donation. My contact for Mercy Meals so appreciated the 6 1/2 large bags filled with men's socks. As you can imagine, giving something as small as a pair of socks lights up a person's face who literally has nothing.

There is not much to say that isn't already in the garden club handbook. The 2025 hostess update includes the greenhouse pop-up sale scheduled in March, Cultivating your brain-gut connection held on April 17th, Plant Sale Preview scheduled on May 2nd and finally the annual meeting to be held on June 19th. I am pleased to say that we have hostesses scheduled to host for all the up-coming events.

I received many positive comments on how much they enjoyed gathering at the yacht club for our holiday party. We will plan to hold next year's holiday party at the yacht club or another venue that can accommodate approximately 45 guests. Your suggestions are welcome.

Socks for "Mercy Meals". Generous offerings from the GCBB



Hauling the socks out...Margaret and Deb



Packing up the "Sleigh"



Margaret dressed up for the holidays:



Horticulture Committee

Submitted by Carol Collier

Mark your calendars:

February 25, 2025 – Soil testing in person in the Coach House.

We have invited a Massachusetts Master Gardener who is trained in the process of soil testing and can give us all a basic overview of our garden soils. Bring samples for testing! See link in the [Resources](#) section on the GCBB website: “UMass Soil Test” explaining the process. We will offer a basic soil test but encourage members to send samples to UMass for in-depth analysis of their soil. Please email Carol Collier at carolyn.collier@comcast.net if you'd like to participate in the soil testing so that our speaker can bring enough testing kits with her.

Floral Design Committee

Submitted by Carla Morey and Tina Read

Our vision for the new year would be to inspire more members to take part in a "Floral Design Adventure". More specifically, to learn what fun it is to design a “Functional Table” for a flower show. Carla is an inspiration at this and would love to show you how. Join us after Greenhouse one Tuesday this winter for a fun design session. Another adventure could be a line design or a mass design or even a mini design. We are putting our

heads together to offer you some winter and spring fun. We hope you will come and join us. Stay tuned.

Program Committee

Submitted by Tia Bullard

The Program Committee looks forward to welcoming some captivating speakers during the winter/spring of 2025:

January's meeting will be a Zoom presentation with Val Libby, former Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture at Temple University. Her topic will be "Designing Women: They Transformed Landscape Design."

In February, we will welcome, by Zoom, Jennifer Brown, Collection Manager, Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants (popularly known as The Glass Flowers) at Harvard University. What could be more inspiring than seeing these colorful gems in the depths of winter?!

Our March meeting will be in person (location TBD) and presumably by Zoom, with Bernadette Souza, Executive Director of Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.). Y.O.U. has received grants from the GCBP for several years so it will be nice for our members to see how their funds have been utilized in the community.

Our last speaker, in April, will be our very own new member Sara Englis, who will talk with us about "Cultivating Your Gut Microbiome." (Location is TBD).

For May, it's all hands on deck for our Plant Sale!

Finally, the Program Committee will meet in early January to plan the GCBP speakers for September 2025-April 2026.

Garden History & Design Committee

Submitted by Nan Sinton

The Garden History and Design committee is busy working on multiple projects. Ellen Weeks, Sandy Hall and Ruth Joliffe are interviewing our long-time members for the Members Remember: Gardens are Our Legacy web feature with Deborah Nutter as Editor for this project. Tia Bullard is getting input from Janet Coquillette as our re-documentation of the historic garden at the RJD is underway. Our next meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 15 at 10 am in the Coach House. If weather intervenes, we will go for a Zoom.

Website Committee

Submitted by Laura Campbell

We have a new Webmaster! It is with much relief and gratitude that I am passing the responsibilities of the GCBB website and GCBB Google Calendar to Jennifer Webb. Jennifer and I will officially make the transition on January 15th. Any requests for changes to the GCBB Google Calendar or the GCBB website should be sent to Jennifer at: jenww819@gmail.com. Holly McDonough will continue to be point person for the Sign-Up Sheets (Greenhouse Watering, Plant Sale, Holiday Greens Market, Hostessing, etc.).

I want to thank Jennifer for stepping up and volunteering. I also want to thank Holly McDonough for always being available to answer my questions. You both are amazing and exemplify the GCBB spirit of working together to get things done!

As a sign off, I will gently remind committee chairs to notify the Webmaster if any changes need to be made (new dates of events, updated graphics, membership roster updates). Thanks for doing your part to keep the website current.

Visiting Gardens Committee

Submitted by Caroline Wehner

As the Visiting Gardens committee (VGC) chair, I want to let you know that the committee plans trips to inform and educate members about garden history and design, horticulture, and the environment. Every year we plan and schedule trips for members to visit gardens, in our area, and beyond. In the past years we have toured member owned gardens in Dartmouth and gardens in Little Compton RI as well as local nurseries.

The committee is responsible for informing club members about Garden Club of America (GCA) sponsored trips. We promote member owned garden visits through the "[Share my Garden](#)" form found on our club's website.

For inquiries, check the members section on our club website or contact the Chair directly: carolinewehner2@gmail.com.

Features

GCBB Holiday Party at the NBYC!

Welcome from President Barb



Plenty of room to walk around, mingle, and enjoy the view of the harbor.



The “Red Table” complete with Iryna, Gail, Leslie, Helen, and Anne.



Carla and Ellen share the joy of celebrating the season together.





(Photos: Linda Cornell & Laura Campbell)



WINTER TREES

By [William Carlos Williams](#)

All the complicated details
of the attiring and
the disattiring are completed!
A liquid moon
moves gently among the long branches.
Thus, having prepared their buds
against a sure winter
the wise trees
stand sleeping in the cold.



Accolades

Judge Emeritus Tina Read

Submitted by Barb Brown

Searching for a community after moving to the Southcoast, I held a part-time job at Farm & Coast. Living in the neighborhood, Tina was a frequent customer. Her engaging smile and genuine nature made it easy to strike up conversation.



The subject of garden clubs arose—as it does while you are inventorying cheese—and before you know it, I was spending my Tuesday mornings at the greenhouse and found my true community. Tina's willingness to step up both here and with the GCA is apparent from her long list of club positions. From GCBB President (2008-2010) to her lengthy involvement with the GCA judging committee—a perfect fit for her attention to detail and love of beauty. (Photo courtesy of Farm & Coast)

But now, Tina has been granted Emeritus status after a distinguished career as a GCA Floral Design & Botanical Arts Judge and I was honored to present the GCA certificate of Judge Emeritus to her at our holiday party in December.

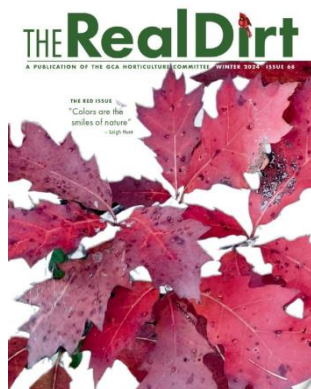


I know the GCA will miss Tina. We will not, however, because Tina is *never ever* allowed to retire from GCBB. We won't accept anything but her spirited engagement. Well done and congratulations, Tina!

Garden Club of America



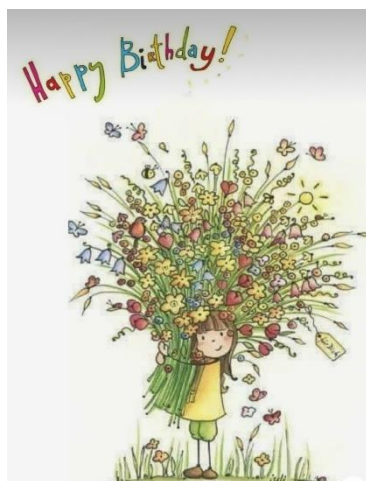
Check out the Winter 2024 issue of The Real Dirt



Don't miss the "Garden Gallery" section on **page 23** that features a stunning photo taken by **Ruth Furman!**



January Birthdays



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

-  Anna Surma – January 1st
-  Fran Levin – January 16th
-  Christel Phipps – January 16th

*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.

Resources

Discover the [Floret website and Newsletter ...](#)



• SHOP LIBRARY ▾ ABOUT ▾ WORKSHOPS ▾ RESOURCES BLOG BOOKS ▾ SHOW ▾ •

Floret Books

In my first book, *Cut Flower Garden*, you'll find easy-to-follow steps for planting, cultivating, and harvesting more than 175 varieties of flowers. My second book, *A Year in Flowers*, shows you how to create seasonally inspired arrangements using local flowers. And my third book, *Discovering Dahlias*, dives deep into the beauty and diversity of one of the most beloved cut flowers of all time. On the [Floret Books page](#), you can watch a short video outlining each one.

Floret Shop

We are currently working on breeding new flower varieties (we have more than 400 unique treasures in the works!) and won't have enough stock to do a big seed sale for quite some time. Photos, descriptions, and growing information for all of the varieties previously sold in the shop can be found in the [Floret Library](#).

If you're looking for some wonderful sources for seed, be sure to read [Floret's Favorite Specialty Seed Sources](#) for recommendations both here in the States and abroad.

Online Resources & The Floret Library

The [resources section](#) of our website is overflowing with photo-filled tutorials on dozens of topics including soil preparation, seed starting, variety selection, and so much more.

While you're there, be sure to check out the [Floret Library](#), which includes more than 1,500 unique cut flower varieties that have all been grown and tested here on our farm. You can search the library in a number of different ways—by plant collection, by color, by form, or by special features.

Floret Blog

In the early days of Floret, I decided to start a blog in an effort to become a better writer. It's hard to believe just how far it's come since my first post way back in 2006! The [Floret Blog](#) takes you behind the scenes here on the farm and is filled with hundreds of photo-filled stories about what I've learned along the way.

Mini Courses

Throughout the year, we offer a series of video tutorials called Mini Courses which demonstrate the techniques we use to grow and harvest flowers on a small scale. These online classes are free, but registration is required. [Click here](#) to sign up for our current mini course.

Floret Online Workshop & Scholarships

Each year we host the Floret Online Workshop, a 6-week intensive online course that covers everything I've learned about growing cut flowers and building a successful flower business on a small scale. Registration for the Floret Online Workshop opens in the fall and the class runs from January through mid-February. You can learn more about the workshop and our scholarship program, and join the waitlist [here](#).

Our TV Show

In 2021, season 1 of Growing Floret, a four-part documentary series about our farm, debuted on the Magnolia Network. Season 1 documents the transformation of the farm and the people of Floret for an entire year. Each episode is centered around a specific season and explores what it takes to grow a heart-centered, creative business.

Season 2 explores four special projects, including roses, flower breeding, education, and the natural world—all through the lens of legacy. Both seasons received Emmy nominations for "Outstanding Lifestyle Program." You can learn more on our [show page](#).

January 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Happy 2025!	2 Hanukkah ends 	3	4 National Spaghetti Day 
5	6	7 9:00 Greenhouse 2:00 Program Committee	8	9 9:00 Executive Committee	10	11
12	13 Full Moon FULL WOLF MOON 	14 9:00 Greenhouse	15 10:00 Garden History & Design	16 10:30 Monthly Meeting via Zoom*	17	18 Winnie the Pooh Day 
19	20 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day 	21 9:00 Greenhouse	22	23 National Pie Day 	24	25
26	27	28 9:00 Greenhouse	29 Chinese New Year 	30	31 National Hot Chocolate Day 	

*Monthly Meeting via Zoom: “Designing Women: They Transformed Landscape Design.” Speaker: Val Libby, former Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture at Temple University.

Just for fun...



On New Years Eve, an old Irish tradition is to open your door at midnight and let the Old Year Out and the New Year In. I think this year deserves the doors, windows, and garage doors to be open.



Until next time...

