



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

January 2025

President's Message

Dear Members,

Like the month of February, this note will be short and sweet. As the days slowly lengthen and we await the first signs of spring, consider setting aside social media and diving into something inspiring instead. A GCA photography workshop I took a few years back reignited a hobby I'd let wither—maybe one of these conferences will spark your imagination, too!



The following workshops are free (although registration is required) and are open to all GCA club members:

Photography workshop Feb. 6 (registration deadline is Monday, Feb. 3)

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:calendar/ereventdetails/id/536>

Floral Design Workshop Feb. 11 (registration deadline, Monday, Feb. 6)

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:calendar/ereventdetails/id/537>

GCA videos

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:videos>

And don't forget, you're always welcome to stop by the Greenhouse! Whether it is on a Tuesday to tend plants or plant seeds, or just to inhale the fresh, humid air and soak in the beauty, it's a space to nurture both plants and spirits.

Keep on growing!

~ Barb

“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

Beautiful photos from Linda's:



A bird's nest nestled in the trees.



Closer inspections show the berries in the nest:



Committee News

Greenhouse Committee

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



Please come and visit our beautiful greenhouse! All members are always welcome, and it is a delightful respite from the cold and dark winter weather. At the greenhouse, you will be greeted by warmth and a gorgeous green collection of healthy plants. Here, you will enjoy a wide selection of propagated annuals, including geraniums, coleus, cuphea, plectranthus, euphorbia, fuschia, bacopa, calibrachoa, alternanthera, and many others, lovingly tended by our Greenhouse Committee. You will also see a beautiful, curated selection of succulents, which are rapidly expanding and will be creatively arranged by Leslie Bernert and team for the Plant Sale.

The Greenhouse Committee has also begun to plant some favorite annuals grown from seed, along with a delicious array of heirloom tomatoes. Flower choices this year will include petunia, five different varieties of nasturtium, nicotiana, tithonia (Mexican sunflower), moon flower, and sweet pea. Tomatoes will include several favorites, such as Sungold, San Marzano, Kellogg's Breakfast, and Cherokee Purple, as well as some new introductions this year: Neves Azorian Red and two patio varieties for folks who have smaller space considerations.

As you can see by the photos, the Committee has been hard at work making the plants flourish! It's been an amazing group effort with wonderful results. Thanks for all you do.



Plant Sale Committee

Submitted by Teresa Betit

By the time you read this, there will be only thirteen weeks until the 2025 Garden Club of Buzzards Bay (GCB) Plant Sale. As noted in last month's newsletter, the Plant Sale will be open to the public on Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and we will be hosting a special reception and pre-sale for GCB and Rotch-Jones-Duff (RJD) members and guests 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 to gather with friends, enjoy some treats, and choose from a beautiful array of annuals, perennials, succulents, herbs, and tomatoes for your garden.

Please refer to the Greenhouse Committee for additional details on some of the specific plants that will be available at this year's Plant Sale.



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! Your contributions are always popular items at the Sale.

Closer to the Sale dates, we will be looking for full club participation to help set up and make the Sale a success. To help prepare for the sale, please mark your calendars now for Tuesday, April 29 through Friday, May 2 to set up, and there will be various roles to fill on May 3, such as cashier, expeditor, etc. We will soon be adding sign-up sheets to the GCB website, so we are looking forward to your enthusiastic support.

Proceeds from the Sale benefit community projects through the Club's Grants program.

Grants Committee

Submitted by Gig Lang

In the beginning of January 2025, the GCBB Executive Committee approved the recommendations of the Grant Committee for 2025 grants. The Committee received 11 applications. All 11 applications were fully funded. Total amount of grants given: \$10,000.

Listed below are the recipients:

- Mass Audubon
- YMCA Sharing the Harvest
- Nativity preparatory school
- YWCA Southeastern MA
- Dartmouth Middle School
- Community Boating Center
- Buttonwood Park Zoo
- Youth Opportunities Unlimited
- Coastal Foodshed
- Our Sisters' School
- Westport River Watershed Alliance.

The grant committee is very thankful for the hard work of all GCBB members that worked diligently to raise these funds. These grants touch many lives in the community. We live true to our mission! Thank you all.

Conservation Committee

Submitted by Susan Rothschild



With the winter season upon us, we are necessarily paused in our partnership with the City of New Bedford to plant oaks in Hazelwood Park and other city sites in New Bedford. However, it is a time when it is easy to spot all the little oaks that have colonized along our roads, like Route 140, by their habit of holding onto their leaves—marcescence—which we learned about in our Autumn Joy oak exhibit research. Also paused is our committee's consideration of

planting a tree to honor Joan Underwood's dedication to conservation in our club.

So, I thought it might be of interest to report on a review of two books by Michelle Nijhuis in the November 2024 issue of the New York Review of Books. Long paused as a subscriber, I recently capitulated to a subscription offer—the problem being I couldn't ever bring myself to throw out issues...Anyway, life is short and art is long, as my Latin teacher said, "Ars longa est, vita brevis." The books are The Burning Earth: A History by Sunil Amrith and A Natural History of Empty Lots: Field Notes from Urban Edgelands, Back Alleys, and Other Wild Places by Christopher Brown.

Professor Amrith, an historian at Yale who grew up in Singapore, relates how humans have transformed landscapes to their needs and desires in various epochs and realms, destroying natural environments in their quest for food security (e.g. agriculture), fuel (industry), and shelter. This is not news to most of us, but the historical and geographical reach of the book as reflected in the review makes a compelling argument to read it.

The second book by Christopher Brown, is inspired by his acquisition of an abandoned Chevron tank farm outside Austin, Texas as a cheap place to live which he undertakes to make habitable. As explained in the review, Brown applies the terms "edgelands", coined by ecologist Marion Shoard, to describe his industrial landscape and the animals and plants, native and introduced, that seek to colonize it. Given our local experiences in habitat restoration of industrial sites, this seems an instructive read. Mr. Brown is described as a newly divorced, co-parenting attorney and science fiction novelist.

From off my bookshelf, is a foundational text in ecology, published in 1950: Principles of Animal Ecology by four Professors of Zoology at the University of Chicago: W.C. Allee, Alfred E. Emerson, Orlando Park and Thomas Park and Chief Curator of Zoology at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Karl P. Schmidt. Their objective was to discuss underlying principles of ecology and present the evidence supporting them. Of particular value is their History of Ecology chapter which reaches back to the Greeks, Aristotle and Theophrastus (who we met in our oak study—considered the first ecologist) and forward over 72 pages to the 1940's. Of course, in the last 80 years the field of ecology has broadened into new disciplines with the development of more tools to investigate and analyze our world. But here I quote from part of D'Arcy Thompson's translation of Aristotle (p.14) to suggest we hold a mirror of ourselves up when we consider nature,

“Animals differ in character:

- a) Good-natured, sluggish
- b) Quick-tempered, ferocious
- c) Intelligent, timid
- d) Mean, treacherous
- e) Noble, courageous
- f) Thoroughbred, wild, treacherous
- g) Crafty, mischievous
- h) Spirited, affectionate, fawning
- i) Easy-tempered
- j) Jealous, self-conceited

Many animals have memory.”

Horticulture Committee

Submitted by Carol Collier

Mark your calendars:

**February 25, 2025 – Soil testing in person in the Coach House.
Bring samples for testing!**

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.

Please email Carol Collier at carolyn.collier@comcast.net if you'd like to participate in the soil testing on February 25th so that our speaker can bring enough testing kits with her.

This will be a basic soil test but we encourage members to send samples to *UMass Amherst* for in-depth analysis of their soil (see link in the [Resources](#) section on the GCBB website: “*UMass Soil Test*” explaining the process).



Soil Learning Library



How to Take a Soil Sample for MMGA pH Testing

Click [here](#) to learn how to take a soil sample.

Garden History & Design Committee

Submitted by Nan Sinton

Hurrah for February and a short month after January seemed to go on forever... The members of the Garden History and Design committee met on Wednesday, January 15 and will meet again on February 12 at 10 in the Coach House.

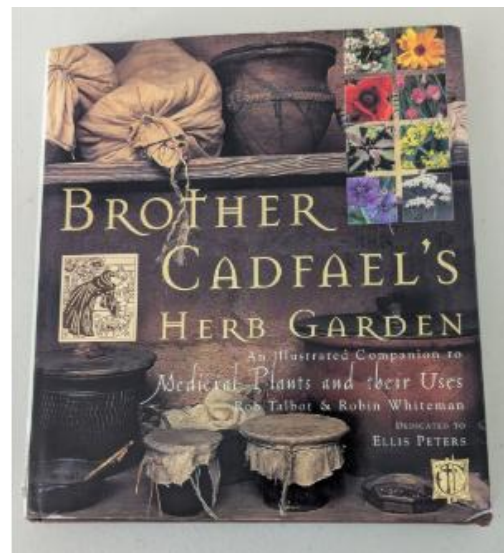
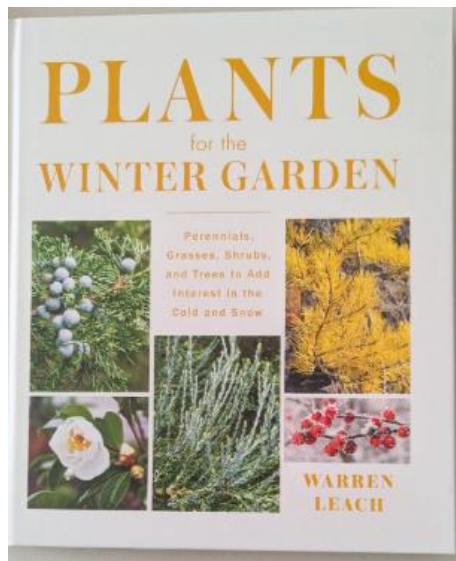
In the spirit of "mind gardening" we would like to share with you our group recommendations for winter reading -- that is when all of us are not deep into plant catalogs. Attached is our book list and some cover pictures to spur your enthusiasm. Cheers!

Feature



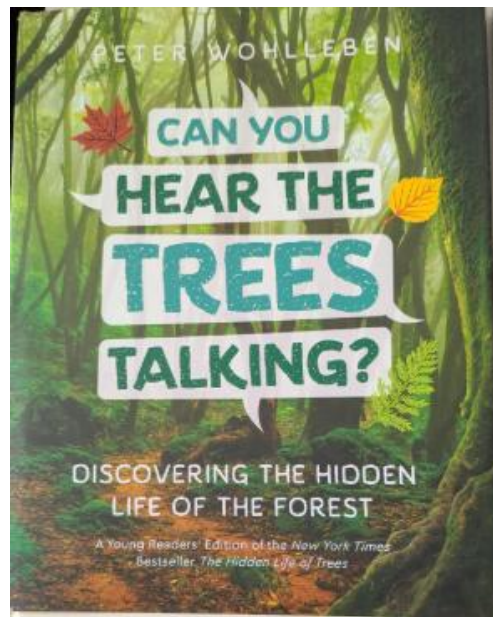
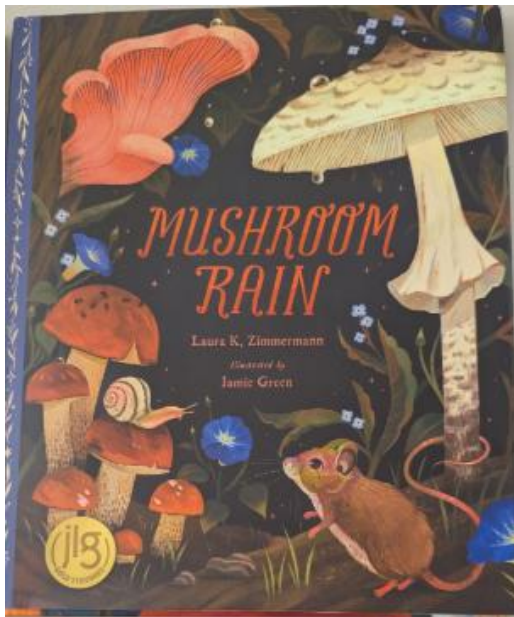
Mastering the Art of Flower Gardening: A Gardener's Guide to Growing Flowers, from Today's Favorites to Unusual Varieties by Matt Mattus

The Garden Against Time: In Search of a Common Paradise by Olivia Laing



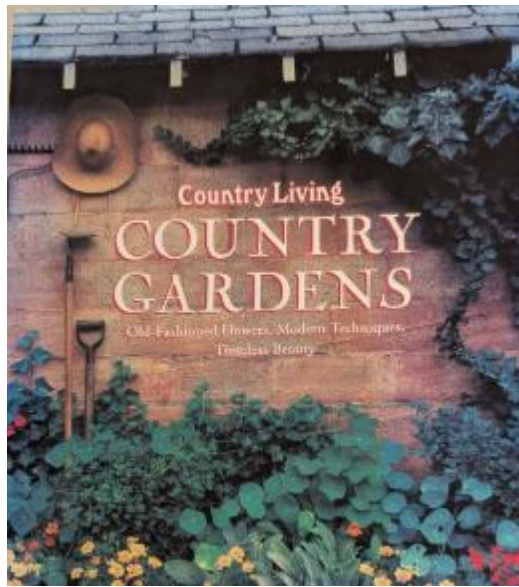
[Plants for the Winter Garden: Perennials, Grasses, Shrubs, and Trees to Add Interest in the Cold and Snow](#) by Warren Leach

[Brother Cadfael's Herb Garden: An Illustrated Companion to Medieval Plants and Their Uses](#) by Robin Whiteman, Rob Talbot

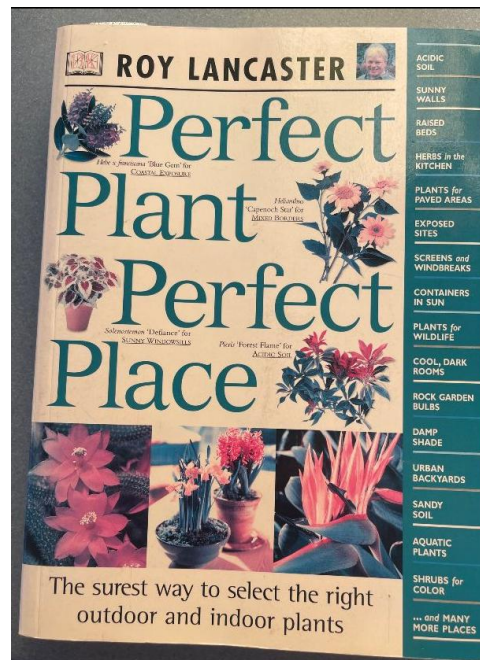
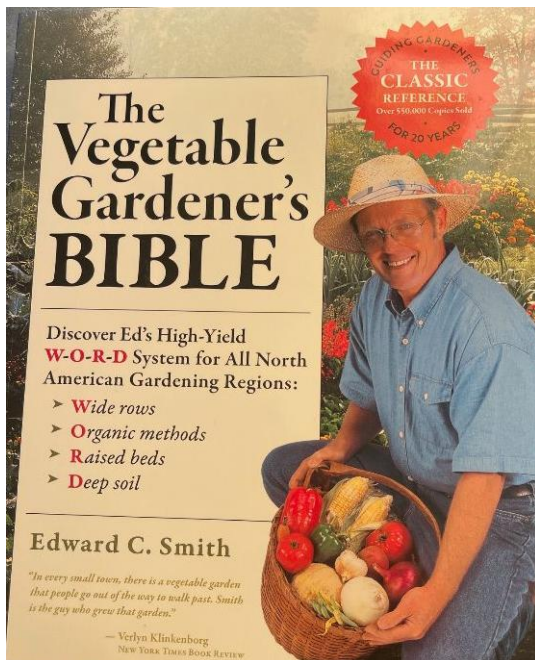


[Mushroom Rain](#) by Laura K. Zimmermann

[Can You Hear The Trees Talking?: Discovering the Hidden Life of the Forest](#) by Peter Wohlleben



Country Living Country Gardens by Nina Williams, Rebecca R. Sawyer



The Vegetable Gardener's Bible, 2nd Edition: Discover Ed's High-Yield W-O-R-D System for All North American Gardening Regions: Wide Rows, Organic Methods, Raised Beds, Deep Soil by Edward C. Smith

Perfect Plant Perfect Place by Roy Lancaster



Time Sensitive Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 5, 2025
9:30 am to 1:30 pm



UMass Extension's Periodical Cicada Conference: Brood XIV is Coming to the Bay State!

Join UMass Extension to learn more about periodical cicadas, what you can expect in 2025, and what to do if you live or work in an area of Massachusetts that will experience this incredible event!

Cost: \$35

Pre-registration is required

Register [here](#)

Registration Deadline:

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 - 9:00am

***Magicicada* species are just what their genus suggests - magical!** While there may be some concern for the health of small, newly planted trees, land managers and community members should be aware that these insects are nothing to be feared and very rarely need to be managed. In fact, the footprint of periodical cicadas in the US is shrinking and they need our help to preserve and protect them!

Please note: scientists as well as the MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources want to know if you see periodical cicadas in MA in 2025! [Please report them at this iNaturalist project](#): Take a photo, note your location, and help us track these native insects!

Upcoming Orchid Shows:



Amherst Orchid Society Show February 22-23, 2025

Ruth Furman says this is a good show to purchase orchids, especially if you are just starting. More info [here](#).

N.E. Botanic Garden at Tower Hill Annual Orchid Show February 8 – March 23, 2025

Pixels + Petals: An annual orchid exhibition that combines retro video games with orchids: February 9-Mar 16

Orchids After Dark: Friday and Saturday evenings during Orchid Show. Evenings of music, refreshments and wondrous light displays in the conservatories. Advance ticket purchase required.



GCA Founders Fund Finalists and Voting *Submitted by Holly Barrows*

The Founders Fund was established in 1934 in memory of The Garden Club of America's first president - Elizabeth Price Martin who served from 1913-1920. The fund for this award grows through gifts from clubs and individuals and provides monetary awards to projects proposed by GCA member clubs. The first Award in 1936 was for \$700; currently the winner receives \$30,000 with \$10,000 going to each of the two runners-up.

The Founders Fund has saved many acres of land and trees, restored historic landmarks and made significant contributions to communities. Please find descriptions of the 2025 finalist projects below. Full articles on the grant finalists appear in the winter issue of the GCA Bulletin.

The GCA requests a vote from each club's members. Please review the finalist projects (described below) and e-mail your vote for your preferred project to me by 2/28/25 (hollybcobb@gmail.com). Barb Brown will provide the results of GCBB's vote to the GCA by 4/1/25. The winner and two runners-up will be announced at the GCA annual meeting.

Marshlands Conservancy – Remediation of the Critical Meadow Habitat

Proposed by: Little Garden Club of Rye, Zone III

Seconded by: Rye Garden Club, Zone III

Marshland Conservancy is designated as a critical habitat and bio-reserve for the preservation of species. It is a natural laboratory for ecology, botany, and conservation. To nurture more native, slower growing plants and repel invasives, the cataloging of these species is critical to the overall remediation. The planned trailside herbarium will require tools such as high-resolution equipment and reference library storage files for vouchered reports to be published in the NY Floral Atlas to document re-established species as the meadow is remediated.

The Virginia War Memorial Green Space Project

Proposed by: The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, Zone VII

Seconded by: The James River Garden Club, Zone VII

The Virginia War Memorial is located on five acres of property adjacent to downtown Richmond. The Memorial welcomes 100,000 visitors each year paying tribute to the nearly 12,000 Virginia veterans from WWII to present day who have died during their service in the military. The grounds have been barren of shade trees, native plantings and pollinators. The landscape plan developed for the Public Green Space Project includes more than 1,000 trees and shrubs.

Forsyth Park Educational Shade Garden

Proposed by: Trustees' Garden Club, Zone VIII

Seconded by: Peachtree Garden Club, Zone VIII

Savannah's historic Forsyth Park presents an exceptional opportunity to showcase a private/public partnership in urban planning focused on shade for a densely populated community. A Founders Fund grant will help establish an educational shade garden within the park to provide cooler temperatures, human health care and environmental benefits, and an extension of those benefits to millions of users - especially residents most affected by heat, stormwater and lack of green space.

Garden Club of America



**The GCA invites you to the
2025 Virtual Photography Conference
Thursday, February 6, 2025
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM ET**

Registration is free and open to all GCA club members.

See: [2025 Photography Conference: Details](#)



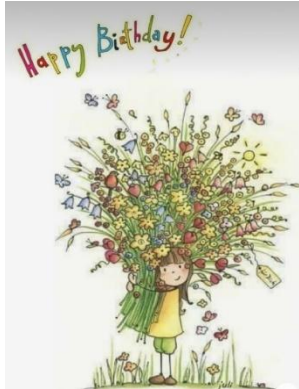
**The GCA invites you to the
2025 Virtual Floral Design Conference
Tuesday, February 11, 2025
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM ET**

Registration is free and open to all GCA club members.

See: [2025 Floral Design Conference: Details](#)

February Birthdays

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



Linda Cornell – February 25th

It is a biggie: 70! Keep those cards and letters and presents coming!!

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



Resources



Dreaming of Dahlias? Check out: [Recommended Dahlia Sources - Floret Flowers](#)
Floret Farm also has two beautiful books: [A Year in Flowers](#) and [Cut Flower Garden](#)



Local Interest



In Laura Campbell's search for something delicious and worthy of Susan Mead's 60th birthday, she discovered a wonderful shop in New Bedford:

[Coastal Provisions](#)

**142 Arnold Street, New Bedford 508-264-9200 Open daily 8am-7pm
Free [Wine Tastings on Fridays 4:00-6:00](#)**

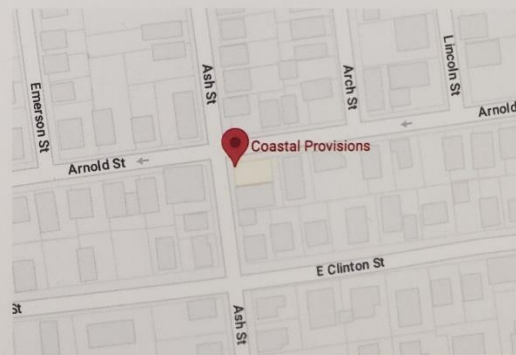
Coastal Provisions - Now Open!

142 Arnold St., New Bedford, MA, 02740 • www.coastalprovisions.us

📷 📘 @coastalprovisions.us • contact@coastalprovisions.us

We are a new specialty market that is excited to welcome you, offering:

- Unique & local groceries, dairy, meats, and produce from the South Coast and beyond
- Prepared meal items such as coffee, breakfast cups, baked goods, sandwiches, salads, and dinner entrees
- Fine wines, beer, and other beverages
- Home decor, gift items, and fresh flowers
- Gift cards as well as custom gift bags & baskets
- Wine & beer tastings and other community events
- Custom catering and charcuterie boards
- Delivery via DoorDash



Please visit to say hello and check us out. See you soon!



[Owner of Coastal Provisions hopes market will be a go-to destination](#)

February 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Groundhog Day 	3	4 9:00 Greenhouse 2:00 Program Committee	5	6	7	8
9 Super Bowl 	10	11 9:00 Greenhouse	12 10:00 Garden History & Design Full Snow Moon	13 9:00 Executive Committee	14 Valentine's Day 	15
16	17 Presidents' Day 	18 9:00 Greenhouse	19	20 10:30 Monthly Meeting via Zoom*	21	22 National Margarita Day 
23	24	25 9:00 Greenhouse 10:30 Hort Committee Soil Testing**	26	27	28 National Tooth Fairy Day 	

*Monthly Meeting via Zoom: Herbaria a.k.a. Harvard's Glass Flowers
Speaker: Jen Brown, Collection Manager, Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants, Harvard University

** if you'd like to participate in the soil testing, please email carolyn.collier@comcast.net so that our speaker can bring enough testing kits with her.

To check the GCBB Calendar online:

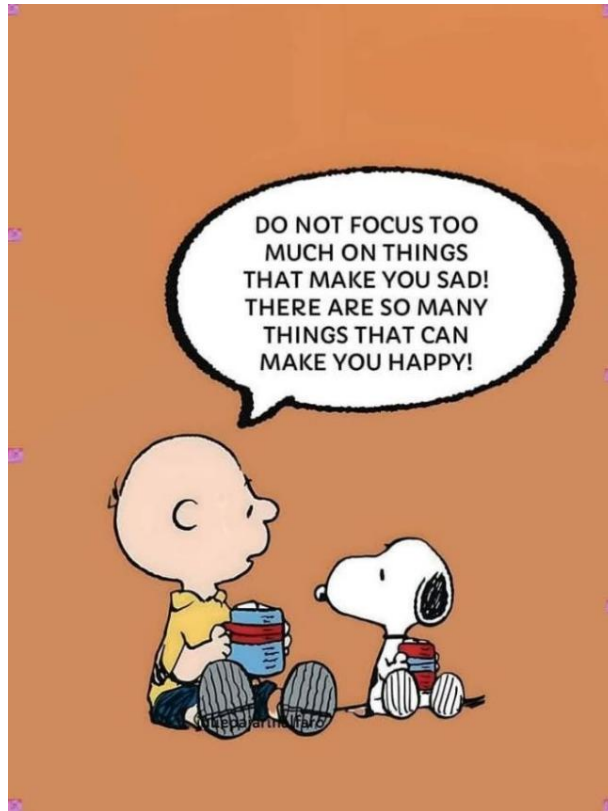
<https://www.gardenclubbuzardsbay.org/gcbb-google-calendar/>

Just for fun...

**I'm giving up eating
chocolate for a month.
Sorry, bad punctuation.
I'm giving up. Eating
chocolate for a month.**



Until next time...



"If you see
someone
without a
smile, give 'em
one of yours."

-Dolly Parton

