



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

March 2025

President's Message

Dear Members,



Like March—that most fickle of months. We await spring's arrival on Thursday, March 20 at 5:01 AM—but who's counting? One day it can be sunny and warm, and the next stormy and cold. We've spent winter dreaming and planning, and soon, harbingers of spring will emerge: witch hazel, crocuses, snowdrops, daffodils, forsythia, and hellebores. After months of gray, their colors have never looked so vibrant.

The first day of spring also brings our next all-club meeting. We'll gather at the North Dartmouth Library at 10:00 AM—half an hour earlier than usual. Our guest speaker is a grant recipient, Bernadette Souza, Executive Director of Youth Opportunities Unlimited along with a brief talk from our friend and colleague Dawn Salerno, director of the RJD.

March is also the time to review our committees and look to the future of our club. This quote jumped out at me: "Good communities don't make themselves. We've got a lot to be grateful for, and we all have to do our part to keep it going." I thank those of you in leadership positions and hope to see more of you guiding our club. If you have a particular interest, please reach out.

Cheers!

~ 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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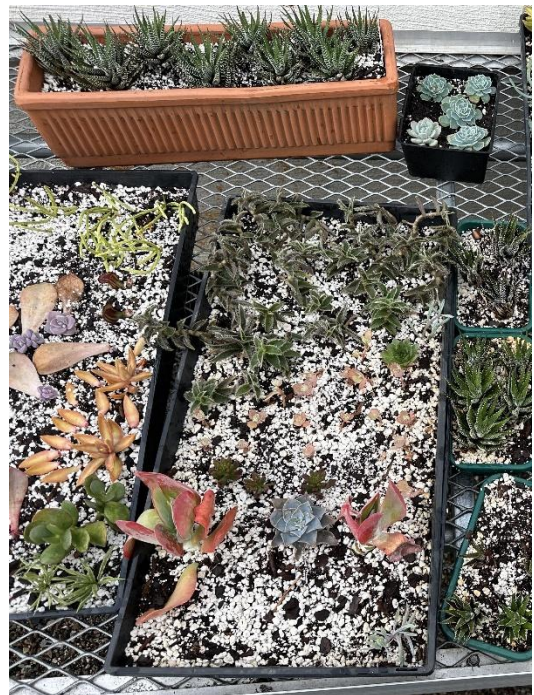
Greenhouse Committee putting the **Green** in Greenhouse!



Changing of the Seasons



An idea for an Easter centerpiece



Greenhouse photos: Teresa Betit

Committee News

Greenhouse Committee

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

We had a great turnout for Rick Peckham's informative visit on February 4 and enjoyed learning more about caring for our many varieties of plants. Rick reviewed proper pruning techniques, and discussed pest control, soil, and fertilization. Rick has been a long-time resource to GCBB and continues to share his valuable time and insights to help us succeed, so many thanks to Anna Surma for making this happen.

We continue to be blessed with a dedicated and talented team of Greenhouse Committee members. None of the amazing progress that has been made could have been accomplished without all of you pulling together and stepping up. Helping to keep the greenhouse healthy, Michel Jodoin cleverly created a fungus gnat catcher that has been very successful in helping keep the gnats at bay. The sumptuous flowers are thriving under everyone's care.



Rick Peckham

The Greenhouse Committee is continuing to care for an extensive array of propagated annuals, including geraniums, coleus, cuphea, bloodleaf, lantana, lobelia, salvia, plectranthus, euphorbia, fuschia, bacopa, calibrachoa, alternanthera, and many others. We are starting to create hanging planters, as well as coleus topiaries. Additionally, there is 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 include three varieties of petunia, four varieties of nigella, eight varieties of nasturtium, nicotiana, tithonia (Mexican sunflower), moon flower, and sweet pea. Tomatoes will include several long-time 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 customers who have smaller space considerations. The patio varieties are Bush Beefsteak and Bush Champion II Hybrid.

Many thanks to all the Committee members for your hard work, helpful suggestions, and continued good cheer. Working in the greenhouse is a true joy.

Plant Sale Committee

Submitted by Teresa Betit

By the time you read this, there will be only nine weeks until the 2025 Garden Club of Buzzards Bay (GCBB) Plant Sale. Please refer to the Greenhouse Committee article for additional details on some of the specific plants that will be available at this year's Plant Sale. The Plant Sale will be open to the public on Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This year, all of the plants will be displayed under the tent on the patio at the RJD to improve customer flow. The Horticulture Committee will also have a table at the Sale to showcase its work.



As a reminder, we will be hosting a special reception and pre-sale for GCBB and Rotch-Jones-Duff (RJD) members and our guests on Friday, May 2 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please make every effort to 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. We have a record number of plants this year, so we hope that you can take advantage of the broad selection for your garden.

As noted in last month's newsletter, we will be looking for perennial donations from your gardens 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 and help us improve our bottom line.

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 the patio, move plants, install signs, and make sure everything is in tip-top shape. Additionally, there will be various roles to fill on Saturday, May 3, such as cashier, expeditor, etc. We will soon be adding sign-up sheets to the GCBB website, so we are looking forward to your enthusiastic support.

The Provisionals will soon be busy preparing plant identification signs for the Sale which will include photos, specific plant traits, and preferred growing conditions to help educate the shoppers.

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

Thanks for all you do.



Grants Committee

Submitted by Gig Lang

The Grant Committee just completed the 2025 Grant cycle. We would like the members to know more about the organizations and projects the GCBB funded:

MASS AUDUBON

1280 Horseneck Road, Westport

For 2025 MASS AUDUBON asked the GCBB to support pollinator habitat enhancement projects in Southeast Massachusetts and to sustain their outreach capacity for Monarch Watch programming and tagging. With this

grant they will expand their native pollinator garden at Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary. Funding will improve the visitor experience by extending the length by doubling the garden's size. They are planning to create additional pollinator habitat at their Stone Barn location. MASS AUDUBON was awarded \$500.00

YMCA SOUTHCOAST – SHARING THE HARVEST

276 Gulf Road, Dartmouth, Massachusetts

For 2025 YMCA SOUTHCOAST-SHARING THE HARVEST asked the GCBB to cover 20% of the annual seed budget, supporting the growth of seedlings for the Children's Garden at Dartmouth YMCA and urban gardens in New Bedford. Each growing season STH produces at least 50,000 pounds of nutrient-dense produce to feed those who need it most.

Through their partnership with the United Way's Hunger Commission they distribute fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs to approximately 150 households weekly from July through October. SHARING THE HARVEST FARM'S three primary objectives are:

Alleviate Hunger, promote volunteerism and educate volunteers.

YMCA SOUTHCOAST-SHARING THE HARVEST WAS AWARDED \$800.00

We hope you enjoyed reading about the organizations and the projects they will be implementing in 2025. More to come in the March newsletter.

Boxwood Committee

Submitted by Marcie Damon

The Boxwood committee met at the RJD coach house on December 17 to discuss our mission as stewards of the garden and our goals for the next few months. Beth Ladd gave us some history of the garden as her mother was quite involved in this endeavor. We are attempting to find copies of the green pamphlet past members assembled on all boxwood aspects. It's an invaluable and impressive resource so let us know if you have one you can share! I have spoken with Bartlett Tree to schedule routine inspection and spraying. This will occur mid-April. We are planning to have a pruning and plant care "workshop" for new members of the committee before we begin our early spring plant maintenance. Our next meeting is March 6th at 11:00 in the coach house.

Of note: If you are thinking of using boxwood in your spring planting, check out the chart on the [Bartlett Tree website](#). It lists so many varieties and their disease resistance.

Membership

Submitted by Anne Heller and Cheryl Gamsby

Nominations Anyone?

The Membership Committee will be reviewing applications for GCBB membership in the next few months, and we'd like to invite nominations for promising candidates. New members will be announced at the annual meeting in June and begin their provisional year as a group in the fall.

This timetable will allow provisional members to work together in the Greenhouse throughout the year and at the plant sale as a way of building a connection with the Club and making individual friendships.

To give the Committee time to process applications and meet the candidates, we'd like to ask that proposers and seconders submit their applications by May 1st. Membership guidelines and the application can be found in the Membership section of the Club's yearbook and on the [website](#).

Visiting Gardens Committee

Submitted by Caroline Wehner

On September 2, Horticulture and Visiting Gardens Committees are planning a tour to visit the Allen C. Haskell Public Gardens in New Bedford.

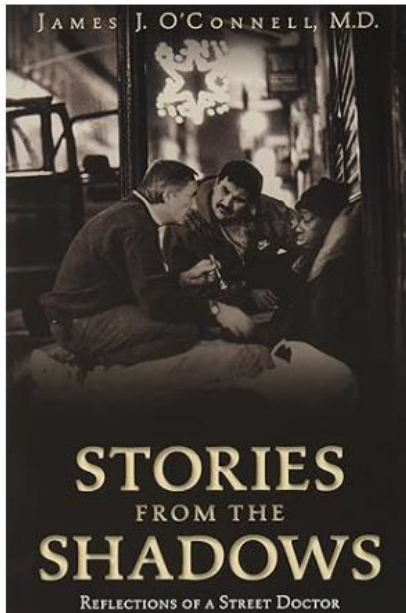
Important changes and reinterpretations of Allen's beloved property have occurred in the interim since his death in 2004. His heirs had planned to sell the property, but in 2012, the Trustees of Reservations intervened and persuaded the City of New Bedford to save the six-acre property with its greenhouses, landscaped gardens, and buildings as a public garden.

Our visit will focus on the recently installed spiral garden. Our visit will be hosted by Kristin McCullin, the resident horticulturalist and superintendent of Haskell, who designed and implemented the contents of the spiral garden, a lovely space for meditation and quiet reflection. She will be giving the tour. The Massachusetts Master Gardeners and other volunteer groups helped to plant this garden under her direction.

The objectives of the Horticulture and Visiting Gardens committees are to educate members. The shared commitment to education aligns with the committee's goals.

Feature

THANK YOU from Mercy Meals and More
Submitted by Holly Barrows



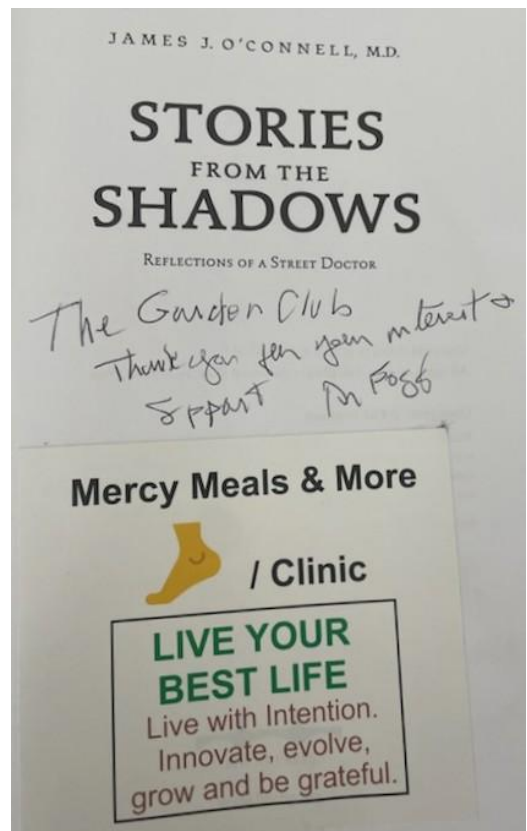
It seems ages ago that we donated socks to Mercy Meals and More at our Holiday Party! Dr. Fogg is a co-founder of Mercy Meals and More; I am acquainted with him through church. In appreciation of our donation, he gave me a copy of [“Stories from the Shadows” by James J. O’Connell, M.D.](#) Many of the programs at Mercy Meals and the Foot Clinic are loosely based on ideas from this book.

I read “Stories from the Shadows” and found it to be tremendously insightful and inspirational. Dr. Fogg’s hope is that the book will be read by those of us interested in knowing more about their worthy mission.

Please let me know if you would like to read and pass it forward. I am happy to deliver!

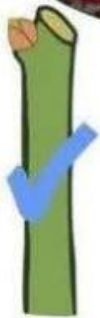


**“Donate Your Used Shoes!
Mercy Meals and More:
634 Purchase Street
New Bedford, MA
Foot Clinic on Thursdays
Dr. Fogg: dugfogg@gmail.com”**



Think Spring!!

Rose Pruning Tutorial:



Correct

Water runs off easily. Wound heals quickly



Wrong direction

Water runs onto bud causing rot



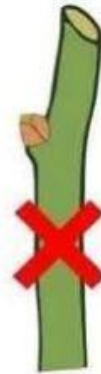
Too close to bud

Bud damage



Too flat

Water remains on cut causing rot



Too long Stump

Wound healing is too slow. Possible infection

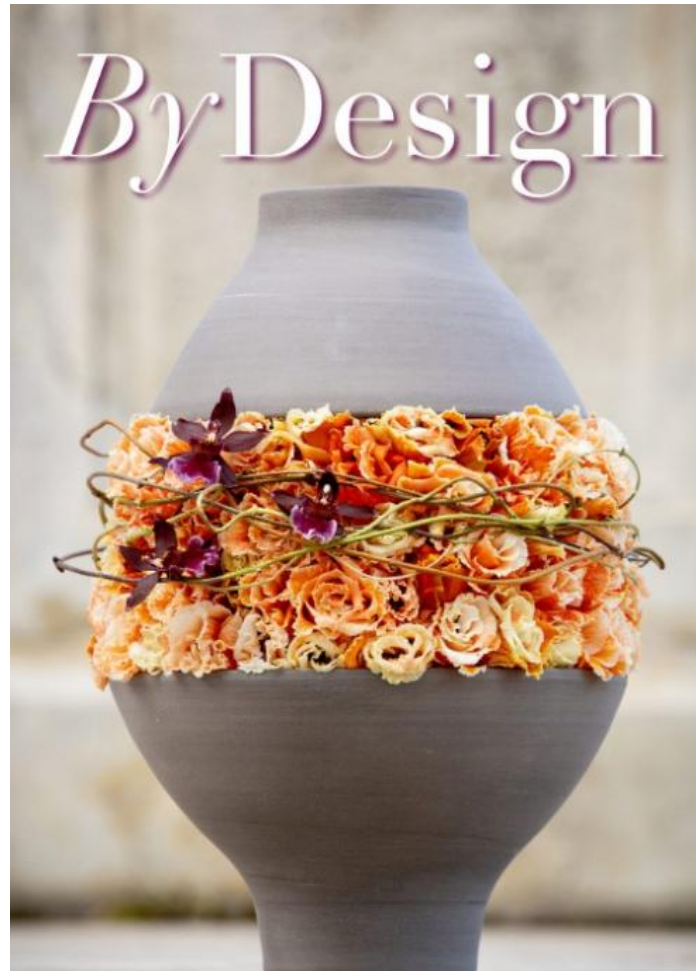


Too sharp angle

Too large wound. Infection enters easily



Garden Club of America



The shift from late winter to early spring is more than just a change in season; it is a rebirth of the spirit, a time for new beginnings, a fresh start. It provides us with an opportunity to rejuvenate our passion for floral design. After the long days of winter, rejuvenate yourself by enjoying the pages of *By Design*, which offers fresh inspiration for designing in 2025:

[2025 Winter Spring By Design.pdf](#).



March Birthdays



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

♣ Beth Ladd – March 7th

♣ Mary Schubert – March 9th

*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.

Local Interest

Eclipse Dates to add to your Calendar:





YOU ARE INVITED

Sakonnet Garden is excited to present in Rhode Island a day with three amazing gardeners speaking about what they love:

PLANTS ! PLANTS ! PLANTS !

Saturday 29 MARCH 2025

TROY SCOTT SMITH · EDWARD FLINT · DREW SCHUYLER

Troy usually speaks about Sissinghurst where he is head gardener but will take us behind the scenes with plants that inspire him. Ed is the brilliant head gardener at a plant-rich private garden, rarely opened but one of England's greatest. Drew is one of America's best young gardeners and promises thoughtful insights and practical growings. They will share their plant picks, propagating tips and best combinations. Join us for a pre-spring wander through the excitement of spring to come.

Wilbur & McMahon Schools, 28 Commons St, Little Compton, RI 02837

TICKETS and MORE INFO:

[Events — Sakonnet Garden](#)

Miles Away

Susan McLaren shares the following photos of her recent trip to New Zealand



Coastal view from Abel Tasman National Park



Agapanthus grow everywhere like a weed...and they're beautiful!



Another coastal view - Cook's Beach



Cocksbur Coral tree (Erythrina)



Matchstick bromeliad



Flowering Gum (*Corymbia*)



Grove of California Redwoods
planted in 1927



Tree ferns are ubiquitous.



Golden Spaniard (*Aciphylla aurea*)

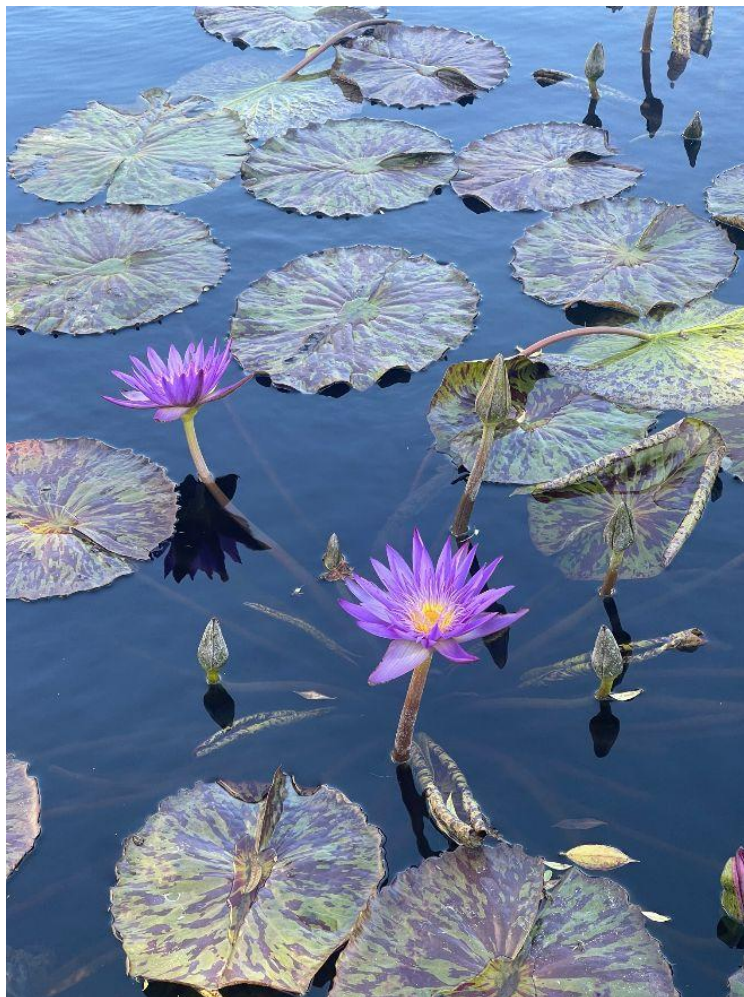
Anne Heller shares photos of her recent Moroccan adventure:



Solandra



Ruth Jolliffe shared some photos of her recent visit with Sally Lutz at the [Naples Botanical Garden](#) in Florida.



March 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 9:00 Greenhouse	5	6 11:00 Boxwood Committee	7	8
9 Daylight Savings 	10  National Napping Day	11 9:00 Greenhouse	12	13 9:00 Executive Committee 11:57 pm Full Blood Moon Eclipse begins	14 11:30 Garden History & Design  Full Worm Moon	15
16	17 🍀 🍀 🍀 🍀 St. Patrick's Day 🍀 🍀 🍀 🍀	18 9:00 Greenhouse	19 9:30 GCBB Succulent Workshop	20 10:00 Monthly Meeting via Zoom* Spring Equinox	21	22
23 national PUPPY DAY! 	24	25 9:00 Greenhouse	26	27	28	29 6:38am Partial Solar Eclipse begins
30	31					

3/13 at 11:57pm Full Blood Moon Eclipse begins. With good weather conditions in New Bedford, the entire eclipse is visible! For more details and specific time info, see: [Total Lunar Eclipse on March 13–14, 2025 – Where and When to See](#)

*10:00 (not 10:30) Monthly Meeting: Bernadette Sousa, Executive Director of Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.). North Dartmouth Library.

3/29 at 6:38am [Partial Solar Eclipse](#) begins, 6:38 Maximum, Ends at 7:06am.

To check the GCBB Calendar online:

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

Just for fun...

SNOW ALERT

Expecting:

Zero (0) to 85 inches of snow.

Starting:

Saturday or Sunday or Monday maybe, but probably not happening at all.

Recommendations:

Stock up on all necessitates immediately and prepare for a snowpocalypse or a beautiful weekend, either one is possible.

HOW WE SPEAK IN MASSACHUSETTS

Very Awesome - Wicked Awesome

Basement - Cellah

Dinner - Suppah

Living room - Pallah

Chowder - Chowdah

Water Fountain - Bubblah

Liquor Store - Packie

Purse - Pockabook

Turn A Round - Bang a uey

Traffic Circle - Rotary

Turn Signal - Blinkah

Water - Watah

Car - Cah

TV Remote - Clickah

No Way - No Suh

Crazy Situation - Wicked Pissah



Until next time...



What if today, we were just grateful for everything?



IF YOU WANT TO FLY,
GIVE UP EVERYTHING THAT WEIGHS YOU DOWN.