



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

May 2025

President's Message

Dear Members,

While June marks the end of our garden club calendar, May feels like the true moment of accomplishment. Since our first meeting in September, we have dreamed, planned, and hoped for this season. Now, our gardens are awakening, the birds are singing, and the sun is shining—it's time to celebrate spring in all its glory.



It is also the perfect moment to appreciate what makes our club so special.

A few weeks ago in San Diego, moments after a small earthquake, a herd of elephants was seen quickly forming a protective circle—facing outward with the youngest in the center. This powerful example of collaboration and camaraderie mirrors the spirit of our club and nowhere is this spirit more evident than in the

greenhouse, where countless members have propagated, organized, and nurtured not just plants, but each other. The result of this collective effort is the plant sale, which allows us to contribute to the community and support the greater good through our grants program—led by our conscientious and diligent club member, Gig Lang. Many thanks to everyone involved with the greenhouse, but especially to our hard-working three-year leader, Anna Surma, and her very capable partners in planning, Teresa Betit, Michel Jodoin, and Cynthia Brown.. And, when you're wowed by our succulent offerings you have Leslie Bernert—our succulent queen, and Michel to thank.”

~ 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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Welcome to the Greenhouse!



Changing of the Seasons

Beautiful tulips at Linda's



Committee News

Greenhouse Committee

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

IT'S PLANT SALE TIME! BRING A FRIEND!



Thanks to the time and efforts of so many GCBB members and Provisionals, our Greenhouse is now full of gorgeous, healthy plants, ready for our Friday, May 2 Preview Party & Saturday, May 3 Public Plant Sale. Now the most important thing we all can do is talk-up the event and help make sure we have lots of enthusiastic shoppers.

What can YOU do? Please, think of someone whom you think would enjoy attending and ask them to come with you! This could be a family member, neighbor, friends you haven't seen in a while, or a colleague. **CALL THEM!!** Invite a friend to come with you to our Friday Sip & Shop

Pre-Sale (3:00-5:00pm). We'll have light refreshments while shoppers peruse the wonderful variety of plants, we've grown including zonal, scented and fancy leaf Geranium, annual Salvia, many varieties of Coleus, Lysimachia, Helicrysum, Bacopa, Calibrachoa, Plectranthus, Nasturtium and many more plus succulents, perennials, tomatoes and herbs. The Saturday Plant Sale goes from 9:00am until 1:00pm; please make it a point to invite someone whom you think has never attended. Not only will we have stunning and good-sized plants, but this is also a wonderful opportunity for people to visit the historic RJD Greenhouse and its lovely gardens. Whether we reside in Dartmouth, New Bedford, Westport or Mattapoissett, we all can be proud of our connection, through the GCBB, to New Bedford's rich history and neighborhood. Proceeds from our sale support local community projects, another reason to ask your friends to attend.

Last minute reminders: If you haven't signed up to work yet, go to our online member sign-up sheets to see if there are openings on Saturday, May 3. Please bring in more cardboard beer flats. AND if anyone needs help getting to the plant sale, in other words if you need a ride, please reach out to either Cynthia Brown (914.462.0601) or Teresa Betit

(617.905.8474) and we can help pair you with a driver. No one should miss the fabulous 2025 GCBB Plant Sale!!! Thanks to ALL for the continued support and enthusiasm. It's going to be an amazing Plant Sale. We'll see you there! 😊

Plant Sale Committee

Submitted by Teresa Betit

Summary:

- Bring beer flats to Coach House ASAP
- Bring in your perennial donations no later than April 30
- If you haven't already, volunteer from April 29 to May 3 – sign-up sheets are posted on GCBB website. ALL HANDS ON DECK!! Link below:
 - <https://www.gardenclubbuzzardsbay.org/sheet/plant-sale-2025-april-29-may-3/>
- Come to Members-Only Sip & Shop Pre-Sale on Friday, May 2 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and bring your friends
- Come to Public Sale (and volunteer) on Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (with clean-up following)

Update:

By the time you read this, the 2025 Garden Club of Buzzards Bay (GCBB) Plant Sale will only be days away.

We are looking for full club participation to help set up and make the Sale a success. To help prepare for the sale, please sign up for volunteer slots 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 are various roles to fill at the pre-sale on Friday, May 2 and on Saturday, May 3, such as cashier, expediter, etc. We have added sign-up sheets to the GCBB website and there are still slots open, so we are looking forward to your enthusiastic support. As always, this will be an “all hands on deck” endeavor.

As noted in earlier communications, 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 and bring along some guests. 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 before the public 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 and the Town of Dartmouth Health Department has again agreed to host a table.

Don't forget to bring in your perennial donations starting the weekend before the Plant Sale, but please, no later than the morning of Wednesday, April 30 so we have time to price them. Your contributions are always popular items at the Sale and help us improve our bottom line since they are pure profit.

Please continue to bring in beer flats for the Sale. Please bring in as many flats as you can and drop them off in the Coach House. Last year, we ran out and so we need many more this year. We are looking to collect at least 500 flats and you can begin to drop them off immediately. Reminders have been posted in the greenhouse.

Our Facebook and Instagram pages have been updated (thank you, Barb Brown, Cynthia Brown, and Lisa Mellgard) and we will continue to post updates with photos, reminders, etc. If you use Facebook and/or Instagram, don't forget to "like" our posts and feel free to comment and share on your own home pages to increase viewership. The links are below:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gardenclubbuzzardsbay>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/gardenclubofbuzzardsbay/>

It will be a great Plant Sale, thanks to all the help we have received.



Love this color geranium at Beth Ladd's? You'll find them at the Plant Sale!

Standard Times Photographer and Fan Favorite [Peter Pereira](#) stopped by the Greenhouse to snap some photos.



Here is the photo that appeared in the paper:



Caroline Wehner, Michel Jodoin and Martha Yules tend to the various Germaniums which Garden Club of Buzzards Bay members grew at the greenhouse of the Rotch-Jones-Duff House on County Street in New Bedford as they get ready for their yearly plant sale. The yearly plant sale is scheduled for May 3, and the funds raised will support various community initiatives.

PETER PEREIRA/The Standard-Times

Boxwood Committee

Submitted by Marcie Damon

Happy troop of committee members with pruners in hand getting the RJD border spruced up for the coming season!



Conservation Committee

Submitted by Susan Rothschild

As previously reported, the Conservation Committee met with the Board of the Friends of Hazelwood Park on Sunday March 23, 2025, at the Community Center in Hazelwood Park, 553 Brock Avenue, New Bedford.

Friends President Laureen Lowney welcomed the group and introduced Friends members Secy & Treas Trina Borelli and Social Media Chair Sydney Hawes. The Friends board is newly recruited and plans to create a dues-paying membership similar to the Friends of Buttonwood Park, who have a large membership. At present they maintain a mailing list close to 150. Laureen explained that the City intends renovations to historic structures in the Park. The design phase has been completed; the construction budget will be released approx. June 2025. The Friends would like to expand and help the city in fund-raising for the renovations, and Sydney is currently working on designing a website for the Friends.

GCBB members introduced themselves. Susan Rothschild gave a brief overview of possible projects that she and Laureen had discussed beginning with their acquaintance in Nov 2024. These concerned Oaks, Native Shrubs, Dahlia Garden and Urban Food, as outlined on the agenda. The group discussed each one and concluded that the Oak project was most doable. This project will consist of 2 parts, one planting young oaks and the second, labelling present oak species in the Park, and putting together a visitor guide for an "Oak Walk" in the Park. This could take the form of a pamphlet and also have QR code media links for additional info.

The group affirmed an interest for our partnership to extend beyond this year, as we also be coordinating our project with the City of New Bedford in upcoming meetings. It was agreed to target planting of oaks to this Fall 2025, with the thought that oaklings would be transplants from gardens or GCBB horticulture. In the meantime, we will take up the project of the Oak Walk. After the meeting, the group convened outside and walked to the southern perimeter area of the park, so members could envision the walk area and oak planting area. It was a blustery but clear afternoon!

Our next meeting will be Sunday May 18th at 11 am at the Community Center at the Park. Please join us if you are interested in the project! We have put together a Project Description to guide us and our discussions with the City since this first meeting; if you are interested in a copy, please contact Susan Rothschild.

Horticulture Committee

Submitted by Carol Collier

Soil Testing Workshop in February:

Carol Rego, Master Gardener and Soil Testing Manager for Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association, gave an informative talk on understanding, testing and managing soil quality in our gardens. The talk was well-attended, and everyone present had a chance to have a sample of their home garden soil tested for Ph by Carol and Claire DeCusati, another MG friend. Carol noted that a more thorough soil analysis can be obtained by sending a sample to reputable test labs such as UMass or URI.

The Tool Sharpening Workshop in April was great fun!



Rita Miller, a Master Gardener, conducted a well-attended Tool Sharpening Workshop on April 1 in the Coach House. Rita is a pro when it comes to tool sharpening! She did a great step-by-step presentation for our members and adeptly took the mystery out of tool sharpening. Now let's get going in our gardens!

Hostessing Committee

Submitted by Deborah Burke

In May, the new committee sign up sheets will be available to sign up for the various committees. There will also be a sign up sheet to hostess a program. If you sign up as the head hostess for an event, the easiest way to get the ball rolling is to email everyone on your team about one month

prior to the event. Your team members can be found in the handbook under programs for that specific date. Meeting in person or doing all the planning online establishes who will do what. Starting with a theme related to the program topic can be helpful. I can recall some of the themes used in the past, such as a harvest theme for a September meeting, apple theme for the program on apple trees or simply breakfast foods or healthy foods or no theme at all. If you did not hostess this past year, I would encourage you to please sign up to hostess *next year. It is a fun and easy task and a great way to meet others.*

Yearbook

Submitted by Anne Heller

The Garden Club Yearbook – the go-to source for information about members, programs, and committees! The process of updating the yearbook has begun. As you know, the yearbook will list our members (contact information and status), the meeting schedule for the year, and committee membership among other things.

We'll be posting the sign-up sheets for committees, including hospitality, in May. Since committee chairs use this information to determine who will be on their team, it's important to sign up early so the names can be included in the yearbook. We'll let you know when the [sign-up sheets](#) are posted.

In the meantime, if you'd like to update your contact information or member status, let me know: heller.a@comcast.net.



In honor of May 20th's World Bee Day, learn about Native Bees!



[Identify the bees on the poster "Join the Conversation about Native Bees"](#)

Garden Club of America



THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA



Watch Event Videos:

[2025 National Affairs & Legislation Conference](#)

May Birthdays



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

Don't want to miss the summer birthday! Cheers!



June 5th – Holly Barrows



June 21st Janet C and Tia B



July 11th - Deb Burke (11)



August 5th – Janet S.

*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



— We Invite You To Join Us —



We Challenge You to Eat Food From a...

**200-MILE RADIUS FOR 4 WEEKS:
JULY 7-AUGUST 1, 2025**

How it works – when you register for the Eat Local Southcoast Challenge you will receive weekly emails full of tips and resources, including:

- Where to find local food and how to cook it;
- Learn about “The Journey of Food in the Southcoast” through suggested resources;
- Share your experiences with other participants via social media using the hashtags #EatLocalSouthcoast and #EatLocalSoCo and be sure to tag Marion Institute;
- Get involved in the local food system through volunteer opportunities.

Invite your family and friends to join you in the Eat Local Southcoast Challenge and let’s #EatLocal Southcoast together!

Sign up here: [Eat Local Southcoast Challenge 2025 - Marion Institute](#)

Miles Away

Susan Mead shares these photos from her trip to the United Kingdom.

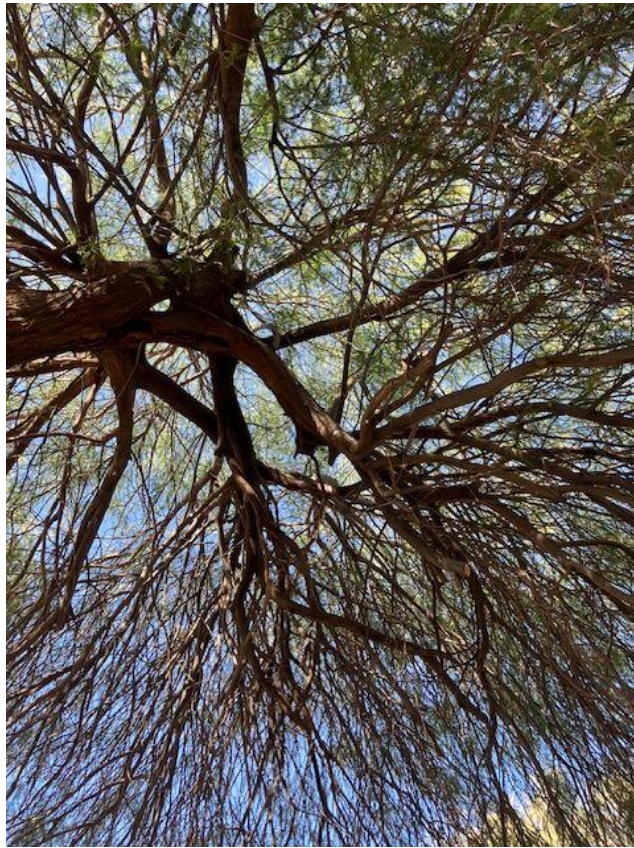


The Monk's House in Lewes which was the home of Virginia Woolf.



Deborah Burke sent these photos from her recent trip to Phoenix:





Mesquite Tree



In Memoriam



A gentle reminder that Joan Underwood's Memorial Service will be held at the
First Unitarian Church in New Bedford (71 Eighth Street)

at 11:00am on Sunday, June 29 (her birthday).

A reception will be held afterwards at the Wamsutta Club.

[Joan Underwood Obituary - South Dartmouth, MA \(dignitymemorial.com\)](http://dignitymemorial.com)

May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28 Drop off Perennials for Plant Sale	29 9:00 Greenhouse 9-12:00 Plant Sale Volunteers	30 9-12:00 Plant Sale Volunteers	1 9-12:00 Plant Sale Volunteers	2 9-12:00 & 2:30 – 6:00 Plant Sale Volunteers 3-5:00 Plant Sale Members Preview	3 8:30 - 3:00 Plant Sale Volunteers 9:00-1:00 Plant Sale
4	5	6 9:00 Greenhouse Clean Up	7	8 9:00 Executive Committee	9	10
11 	12 Full  Flower Moon	13	14	15	16	17
18 11:00 Conservation Committee Community Center at Hazelwood Pk	19 Happy Birthday to Gig Lang	20  WORLD BEE DAY	21	22	23	24
25	26  MEMORIAL DAY	27	28 Happy Birthday to Tina Read!	29	30	31

Plant Sale 2025 [Sign Up Schedule Online](#)

To check the GCBB Calendar online:

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

June 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Happy Birthday to Holly B!	6 11:30 Garden History & Design	7
8	9	10	11 Full Strawberry Moon 	12 9:00 Executive Committee	13	14 Flag Day! 
15 	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth 11:00 Annual Meeting*	20	21 Summer Solstice Happy Birthday to Janet C and Tia B!
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

*Thursday, June 19th – GCBB Annual Meeting 11:00 – 1:00
 Meeting at Sandy Hall’s Barn: 115 Elm Street then lunch next door at
 Teresa Betit’s (123 Elm Street).

Just for fun...

My emotional support dog after one day with me .



Until next time...See you in the Garden!

