



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

November 2025

President's Message

Dear Members,

How is it possible that November is upon us? The greenhouse is off to a strong start—the sound of chatter and laughter as we begin propagation is a balm for the work ahead.



Committees are busy with plans for grants, boxwoods, garden design, flower shows, garden visits, the holiday greens market, scholarships, and more. It's an exciting and uplifting time of year. All of these plans are underwritten by the structure of our club, led by the Executive Board. Last week, the provisionals met with the board to learn about their roles, an idea proposed and carried out by the Membership committee. During this meeting, VP Holly Barrows shared a brief synopsis of the historical timeline of our club, along with anecdotes, like drinking sherry at the meetings, and memories of her mother (president 1980-82) and friends on the floor collecting recipes to produce a club cookbook. Along with sharing our budget, Treasurer Lisa Mellgard, made us proud of our GCA connection, explaining where our dues go and the good they do. Carla Morey, our GCA Floral Design representative, echoed that message and reminded us of the remarkable organization to which we belong. At the risk of running on like an Oscar acceptance speech, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the tireless work of Marcy Busch, our Recording Secretary, who

keeps us honest; our Communications Secretary, Anne Heller, who holds us all together; and Sandy Hall, our past President, whose wisdom continues to guide us, Jennifer Webb, managing both our website and GCA administration, and Janet Coquillette, previous past president and now GCA representative for Civic Engagement. As this year's members fill in the year with purpose and spirit, your board is quietly working behind the scenes to support us all. I could not do my job without them by my side—my sincere thanks to each one of you.

Warmly,

~ Barb

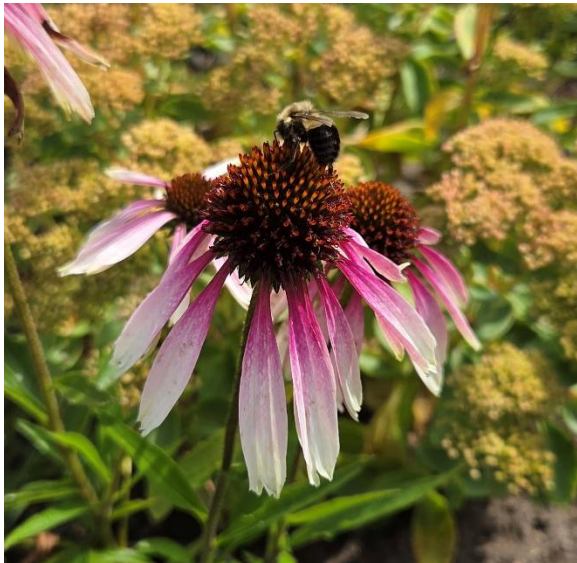
Photo: Laura Campbell

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Changing of the Seasons



Photos:
Flowers - Laura Campbell
Beach Rose Hips - Linda Cornell

Committee News

Conservation Committee

Submitted by Susan Rothschild

In the last issue, I mentioned that a meeting was in the works with Mary Rapoza, Director of New Bedford Parks & Recreation Dept. This issue I am happy to report that Friends of Hazelwood Park Pres. Lauren Lowney, Treas. Trina Borelli and I were able to meet with Mary at the Park in the early afternoon about 3 weeks ago. It turned out to be a cozy meeting in my car, where we took refuge from wind and rain. We did steam up the windows in an animated discussion on our Park project plans and Mary's love & knowledge of trees and park history. Mary advised us to seek funding from the New Bedford Cultural Council to cover the cost of a landscaper to provide and plant the 5-7 oaks we envision. In a quick sequence, Trina and I and Friends' member Manuela DaCosta (formerly a professional grants reviewer) used the Project Plan that we had adopted last year to guide the application, due Oct 16th. Ruth Furman obtained estimates of tree planting costs for the proposal, and since the City of NB only requires a contractor to be licensed and bonded, we have some discretion in our selection. The max amount of the grant is \$4000; we asked for \$3800 for tree planting and \$200 for publicity. Trina attached a letter of support from Mary Rapoza to the proposal and was in touch with Ward 6 City Councilor Ryan Pereira to submit a supporting letter to the NBCC. We will know in December if our project will receive an award which will go to the Friends as they are the grant applicant. We also indicated this was the first phase of our project, which includes an "Oak Walk" and "Why are Oaks Special?" public educational exhibit (version of the Sept 2023 one we created with the Little Compton Garden Club).

The discussion with Mary Rapoza was very illuminating with possible other GCBB projects at Hazelwood. She told us that the Park was a weekend destination for residents, making the trek there by horse & carriage to spend a pleasant afternoon strolling through extensive flower gardens. Right now, renovations are taking place in the Park, but helping to re-establish a public flower garden in the future has a lot of appeal.

As you may know, the Friends also manage garden plots that are made available free of charge to the public. I recently met Friends' Sarah Hope an ardent plant person, seed saver and volunteer with the garden plot initiative who welcomes our involvement. She is currently working on an M.S. at SMAST concerning seafood supply chains, a project that integrates economics and fisheries. If you are personally interested to be involved, I can give you Sarah's contact number; you can contact the Friends at their email fohp1902@gmail.com. And you can also subscribe to their emails (without becoming a member) for notices of events there, e.g. local farm market days.

I attended the first Zoom meeting of the Zone I Conservation Committee Chairs, led by Zone I Chair, Phyllis Pollack (cell: 508-849-9777). The free 40 minutes went in a flash. If you are interested in what other clubs are doing in conservation, I am glad to share Phyllis's entire minutes. Here are the announcements and MA club highlights including 2 important ballot initiatives for MA:

Conservation Study Conference - Jan. 25-28, 2026, in the Everglades.
NAL 2026 - March 15-18, 2026, in Washington D.C.
ConWatch - upcoming issue includes featured project from Zone I
Cohasset GC - Bee a Pollinator Pal.

Milton GC hosted a speaker, Spencer Glendon on Climate Change which was open to the public as well as other GCA members from Fox Hill and Noanett. He has a website, Probable Futures, including a newsletter. Seta and Peggy attended. <https://probablefutures.org/about/team/spencer-glendon/>

Lenox GC has an active committee working on signatures for a ballot initiative in MA, Nature for All to commit state funds from sporting goods sales tax to conservation (water, land, rec reaction, etc.). Deadline Nov. 19. Check out the website: <https://www.natureforma.org/>

Worcester - conservation focus for the coming year TBD. S.2182 bill in MA to make May Native Plant month permanent is progressing. We need support from anyone who lives in the districts of the 15 legislators on the committee to help "report the bill out favorably". Phyllis will solicit names shortly from the MA Clubs with a list of legislators and their districts and will forward a template letter.

Greenhouse Committee

Submitted by Co-Chairs: Bianca Bator, Teresa Betit Cynthia Brown, and Michel Jodoin

We're Back! It's Greenhouse Time!



October brings cooling temperatures interspersed with glorious Indian Summer days; for some summer's end is bittersweet while for others autumn brings a renewed sense of energy and purpose. At the Garden Club's RJD Greenhouse, it's the beginning of a new year, a time to renew our propagation project. And aren't we fortunate to have this beautiful place in which we can come together to grow plants and friendship while digging in the dirt!

Our first regular Greenhouse Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 14. This year's Provisional class, seven women strong, attended an Orientation on the 30th of September, so they were up to speed on our techniques for taking and preparing plant cuttings. We're thrilled to have the Provisionals working alongside our regular committee members as, over the coming months, we grow tend more than 2,000 individual plants.



The net result of our weekly gatherings, the GCBP Plant Sale (this coming year it will be held on Saturday, May 2), is becoming well known for beautiful and healthy Pelargonium. We feature Zonal, 'Fancy Leaf' & Scented Geranium; other popular annuals include Verbena, annual Salvia, Bacopa, Dichondra, Coleus, Helichrysum (both the pale green and gray varieties), Calibrachoa, Lantana, and Lobelia. All these and more have been started from cuttings generously contributed by GCBP members and are being tended by the Greenhouse Committee members.



We are still accepting cuttings, so if you want to contribute, please attend one of our regular meetings, or contact one of us for assistance. And if you haven't been to the Greenhouse recently, come visit! Michel spent hours this summer tending both his prize-winning Coleus standards (wow are they gorgeous) AND our resident succulents. All are beautiful, as you can see from the photos.



Lastly, please note that [sign-up sheets](#) for greenhouse watering during October & November (one person per day) have been posted on the GCBB's website. Please sign up to help check on our growing plants. When you arrive at the Greenhouse, do check the instruction sheet for reminders of what we need you to do.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed cuttings and to our hard-working committee and volunteers.



Holiday Greens Market

Submitted by Holly Barrows, Carole Griffith, Susan McLaren, Natalie Mello, B.J. Pease, Jan Tattelbaum

Greens Needed for Holiday Greens Market on Saturday, December 6, 2025



Please deliver your donated greens and leave them outside the coach house door during Thanksgiving week (Nov 24-30). We need all types of decorative greens in good condition. Ideally cut branches 18-24" long, or shorter pieces (e.g. Boxwood) can be used to make boxwood topiaries and decorate wreaths. Please condition greens by soaking in water for 24 hours (especially important for boxwood). If you need help cutting or delivering greens, let us know. Help is available! Contact Susan McLaren at 339-927-1007.

Types of greens needed:

- Boxwood – all types including variegated. We need lots this year because we didn't buy any.
- Pine branches – all types with or without cones
- Hemlock
- Spruce

- Cypress
- Arbor vitae
- Pieris (andromeda)
- Cedar
- Fir
- Holly (evergreen) – all types including variegated, preferably with berries
- Winterberry - Branches of deciduous holly with red berries
- Juniper – with short, green or silver-blue foliage and blue berries
- Leucothoe
- Magnolia leaves and branches
- Mountain Laurel
- Rhododendron
- Inkberry
- Eucalyptus
- Anything else that's beautiful or interesting!

Thank you in advance for your donations!

Please bring your glue gun and clippers for the workshops which are held in the Coach House at 10:30 after Greenhouse:

11/4 - Moss tree-making

11/11 - TBD, a "Pop-Up"

11/13 (Thursday 10:30) - Fire starters and twinkle light jars

11/18 - Milkweed pod angels and updating of pinecone angels

Garden History & Design Committee

Submitted by Nan Sinton



November 13 from 11am – 2pm is the GCA virtual conference on Garden History and Design. Everyone can register and we urge you to do that: [2025 Garden History & Design Conference](#). The conference promises some excellent information with top presenters. The last day to register is Wednesday, November 12th.

And on another note, the droughty summer weather has resulted in some bumper crops of

fruit on ornamental shrubs. Be sure to reward those plants with extra buckets of water before winter sets in!

Here are some of my favorites:



Viburnum nudum 'Brandywine'



Viburnum setigerum



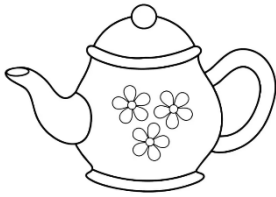
Symplocos paniculata



and a planting of Autumn crocus seen in Denmark last month.

Hostessing Committee

Submitted by Deborah Burke



The club now owns an electric tea kettle for use at the Coach House on those cold winter days and for use at the monthly meetings.

Floral Design Committee

Submitted by Carla Morey and Tina Read

Fall Foraged Fun: No need to shop for materials outside of your yard and pantry!



Tina's arrangement



Carla's arrangement:



Feature

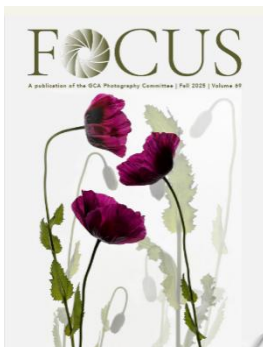


This is a photo of Angela Brown, the speaker for October GCBB Monthly meeting at the Southworth Library. She showed us how to take better “flower” photos on our iPhones. Floral arrangement by Barb Brown.

Garden Club of America



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA



Want to learn more about taking fabulous photos? Check out the GCA Photography Committee’s publication *Focus*. In particular, “The Best Camera is the One in Your Pocket: Using Your iPhone to Create Extraordinary Photographs” by Yoni Mayeri, Orinda Garden Club, Zone XII

[Focus Fall 09.24.2025.pdf](#)

Miles Away

From Lisa Mellgard:

Long Live the Trees

We do have wonderful trees in New England, mighty oaks, beautiful pines, cedars and spruces. This past April I got the chance to see the incredible forests of California for the first time, and they left me in awe.



Beginning with the weirdly funny Joshua trees that remind you of a Dr. Seuss landscape. These trees are arranged so interestingly around the 1.5 billion year old metamorphic & volcanic rocks and they can be several hundred years old.

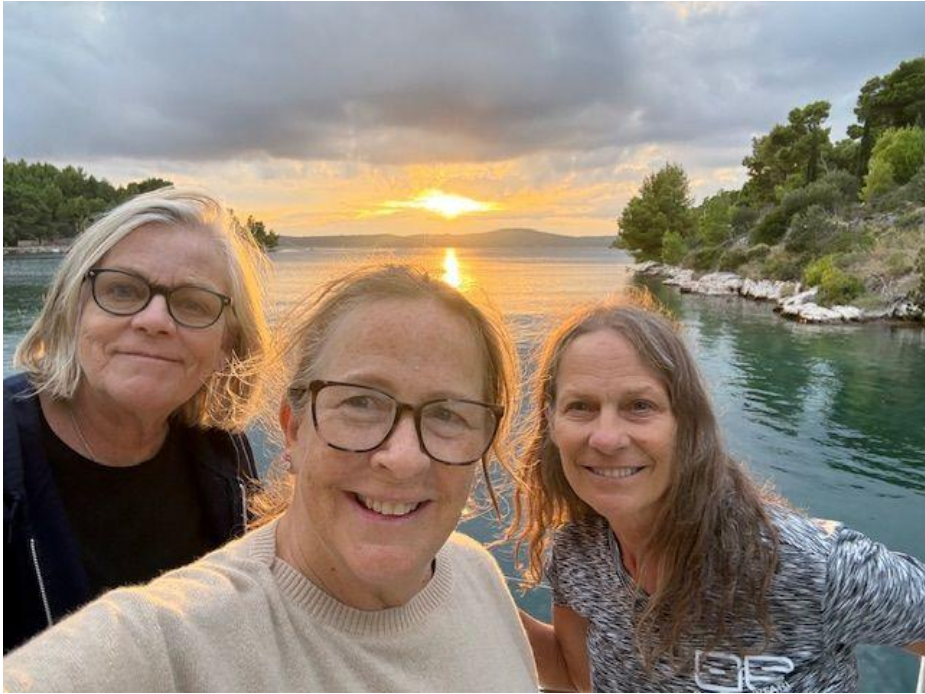


Near the town of Big Pine, CA we drove up into the mountains to see the amazing bristlecone pines. These pines grow in isolated groves at over 10,000 ft elevation. They are the true ancients, some are over 4,000 years old! That means these trees were growing before some of the pyramids were built in Egypt.



Then of course, we visited the redwood forest on the northern California coast. It was an incredible experience to walk among these giants. I feel so grateful to have gotten the chance to visit these special places and understand how important it is to continue to protect them for future generations. Can you imagine the stories these trees could tell if only we could hear them.

From Barb Brown's trip to Croatia:





Something delicious from Sue Perry's trip to Spain:



This beautiful landscape is actually a dessert course from [Azurmendi](#), a 3-star Michelin restaurant in Spain's Basque Country. You can probably identify the petite ice cream cones in the center. It's entitled "Honey and a Thousand Flowers".

From Laura Campbell's trip to Scotland:

Edinburgh Castle at sunset



The stunning Inveraray Castle and Gardens, winner of the Historic Houses Garden of the Year in 2024



Click [here](#) to watch a short video about the garden.

If you are a Downton Abbey fan, you may recognize [Inveraray Castle](#) as 'Duneagle Castle' from the "Journey to the Highlands" (Season 3).



November Birthdays



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

🌸 Ruth Jolliffe – November 16th

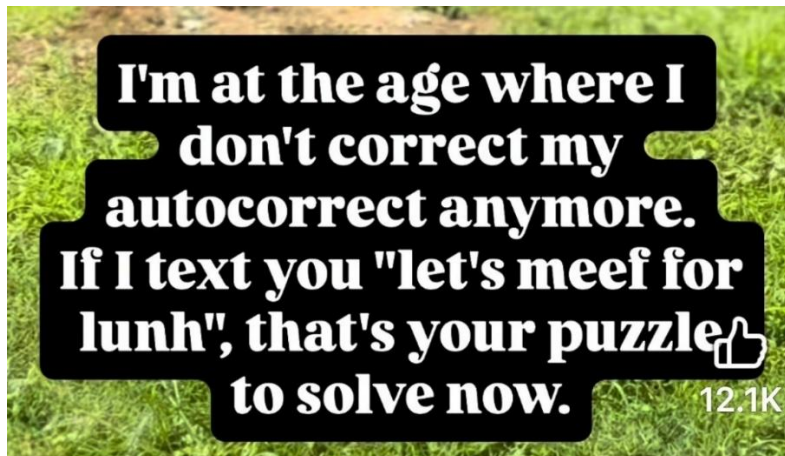
November 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Daylight Savings Time Ends 	3	4 9:00 Greenhouse 10:30 Holiday Greens Mkt Prep	5  Full Beaver Moon	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veterans Day 9:00 Greenhouse 10:30 Holiday Greens Mkt Prep	12	13 9:00 Executive Committee 10:30 Holiday Greens Mkt Prep	14	15
16	17	18 9:00 Greenhouse 10:30 Holiday Greens Mkt Prep	19 11:00 Boxwood Plucking @ RJD	20 10:30 Monthly Meeting*	21	22
23 <hr/> 30	24 **Please bring donated Greens to Coach House this week**	25 9:00 Greenhouse	26	27  HAPPY THANKSGIVING	28	29

*Monthly Meeting Topic: Thanksgiving Floral Centerpieces
 Speaker: David Gregory, Floral Designer
 Hostess: Sally Lutz, Marcy Busch, Cheryl Gamsby, Carla Morey, Tina Read.

** November 24th to 30th Please deliver your donated greens and leave them outside the coach house door during the Thanksgiving week. Thank you!

[GCBB Google Calendar](#)

Just for fun...



Until next time...

