



# *Garden Club of Buzzards Bay*

## *From the Ground Up*

April 2026

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### **President's Message**



*Spring is a season of new beginnings—the lengthening days, warming temperatures, and emerging flowers. It's hard not to feel inspired by nature's beauty. But for gardeners, our work is just beginning—clearing winter's debris, raking the leaves we left for our insect friends (but not until temperatures are steadily in the 50s!), cleaning and planting. But the effort now will be repaid in the ease, beauty, and abundance of summer's leisure and harvest.*

*As a club, we too are moving toward the culmination of a year's worth of planning and care. The visions we shaped over the winter are beginning to take form as we prepare for our May plant sale and club flower show, and look ahead to our final meeting in June, when we will celebrate our community of gardeners.*

*But, before we are swept up in the work of the season, take a moment to appreciate and embrace spring's spirit of renewal and hope.*

*Wishing you all a wonderful spring!*

~ Barb

Photo: Linda Cornell

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Photo: Linda Cornell

## Changing of the Seasons



Photo: Linda Cornell



Photo: Teresa Betit

## Committee News

### Conservation Committee

Submitted by Susan Rothschild

Last month I reported that our proposal to the New Bedford Cultural Council for our oak planting project at Hazelwood Park in New Bedford made under the aegis of the Friends of HP was not funded. Unfortunately, our subsequent, substantive letter requesting reconsideration and funding at a lower level was not fruitful, as the Council in its deliberations decided to limit its funding to arts projects.

However this may seem a setback, we do have some resources in the Conservation budget and oaklings from the Horticultural committee as well as members to direct to a smaller initial planting at the Park. The Conservation Committee will be considering this action this spring in coordination with the Friends of Hazelwood Park and the City of New Bedford. So more to come on this next time.

More to come next time too will be Susan McLaren's report on her activities at the NAL in Washington, D.C. convening at the end of March.

### Greenhouse Committee

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



The greenhouse is thriving. If you haven't visited recently, please do. You will be amazed at the wide variety of healthy, beautiful plants. The Greenhouse Committee is continuing to care for a gorgeous array of propagated annuals, as well as tending to our sweet seedlings of flowers and tomatoes. Additionally, Michel Jodoin and team are growing some unique succulents for the Plant Sale and have already created many planters for the sale. Speaking of Michel, he deserves a special shout out for his faithful tending of the greenhouse during the biggest snow event we have had in decades. If it weren't for Michel, the outlook for the greenhouse would be quite desperate!

We are appealing for help as we enter into the final stretch prior to our Plant Sale which is only weeks away! Please volunteer by signing up for April watering/tending slots on the GCBB website (link is <https://www.gardenclubbuzzardsbay.org/sheet/april-greenhouse-watering/> ). Our workload is increasing as the weather warms and the plants get bigger and bigger. We have a bumper crop of beautiful plants, and we are excited about offering them at the Sale.

We can't sufficiently thank all the Committee members for your hard work,



helpful suggestions, and continued good cheer; there is a wealth of knowledge from which we all benefit. We particularly want to call out the hard work of our Provisionals who have shown their gardening mettle and impressive dedication over these many months: Cristy Ballou, Cindy Carey, Lucy Edson, Gay Gray, Jean Herbst, Leslie Longfield, and Jan



Tatelbaum. It's been a true pleasure to work with them.

Included are some recent photos of our happy committee in the greenhouse, hard at work, along with gorgeous plants. We look forward to being in the greenhouse and sharing our love of gardening.





### **Plant Sale Committee**

Submitted by Bianca Bator

**The Greenhouse is humming along as our members prep for the Plant Sale on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you Greenhouse Committee!**

**This year we are excited to host 3 new tables: Rare and Unusual Plants, Dahlias, and Planters. Leslie Knowles generously donated over 100 mixed Dahlia tubers, and Dartmouth residents Sheri and Jay Thomas have gifted us a potted Jade Tree and a Christmas Cactus, each about 3 feet tall and wide. They are stunning!**



In addition, they passed along a fig tree, a white Mandevilla, and several smaller Jade plants. We also have a small Magnolia, brought up from the down South. Our committee is planning to purchase several unusual plants to include on this table: Natives, small shrubs like Blueberries, and some perennials from Sylvan Nursery (at wholesale cost), and resell them at a profit (we hope!) We are getting guidance from members regarding specialty plants not typically sold at “big box” stores that might be popular with our shoppers. We will set up baskets of Dahlias, sorted by variety on another table, and offer a “How to grow Dahlias” flyer.

A third new table will be Planters (containers, statuary, garden ornaments, etc.) We would like to offer about 15 donated items for sale as inspiration for our customers to fill with our plants. We are currently collecting these planters and other items which can be dropped off in the Coach House anytime. Ideally, the planters will be on the larger side, pottery preferred over plastic, but interesting resin pots are welcome. Please take a look in your barns and basements- is there something you no longer need? (Think Marie Kondo!). Cynthia Brown will be coordinating this effort.

Every year our members dig and donate perennials for the sale. Please think about what you would like to donate. Plastic pots for donated Perennials are in high demand for the sale, as are cardboard “beer flats” that customers use for shopping and at check out. These too can be dropped off at the Greenhouse and will be greatly appreciated. If you need help digging perennials or dropping of planters/pots, or flats, please contact Marcy Busch or Bianca Bator.

Sign-ups on our website for volunteer slots at the Plant Sale will be posted by early April. We look forward to every member’s participation to make the 2026 Plant Sale fun and successful.

## SAVE THE DATES!

**GCBB & RJD Members Preview Party**  
**Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00**



**Public Plant Sale:**  
**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 to 1:00**



The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay  
**PLANT SALE**  
Saturday, May 2, 2026  
9 am - 1 pm

Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum  
396 County Street | New Bedford, MA

Beautiful plants grown in our greenhouse and members' gardens: Annuals, perennials, tomatoes, herbs, natives, succulents.

New this year: Rare Plants, Dahlias and Planters!



Visit our Website: [gardenclubbuzzardsbay.org](http://gardenclubbuzzardsbay.org)

The poster features a green background with a white border. At the top is a circular logo with a leaf and the text 'THE GARDEN CLUB OF BUZZARDS BAY'. Below the logo, the text 'The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay' is in a serif font, followed by 'PLANT SALE' in a large, bold, black serif font. The date and time 'Saturday, May 2, 2026 9 am - 1 pm' are in a yellow sans-serif font. The location 'Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum 396 County Street | New Bedford, MA' is in a smaller white sans-serif font. A paragraph of text describes the plants available, and another line highlights 'New this year: Rare Plants, Dahlias and Planters!'. At the bottom, there is an illustration of several potted plants in various colors (pink, red, white) and a blue-handled garden tool. The website URL is at the very bottom.

## Hospitality Committee

Submitted by Deborah Burke

I've purchased a 45-cup coffee maker for use at our monthly meetings. This coffee maker belongs to the club and will be stored in the Greenhouse storage area



## Membership Committee

Submitted by Anne Heller and Cheryl Gamsby, Co-Chairs

*The Garden Club Yearbook – the go-to source for information about members, programs, and committees! The process of updating the yearbook will begin soon. 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 plan to hand it out at the annual meeting in June.*

*We'll be posting the sign-up sheets for committees, including hospitality, in mid-April. 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. Thanks! Anne Heller ([heller.a@comcast.net](mailto:heller.a@comcast.net))*

## A Barn Full of Blooms Flower Show

Submitted by Ruth Furman

**WE WANT YOU!!!!** 🌷 🌸 🌿 🍀 🌺

May is not that far away and now is the time to consider entering our club flower show. You have a garden; your garden has plants - Show off what you are growing and share it with the rest of the club by entering the Barn Full of Blooms Flower Show with a horticulture specimen. For those craving a design experience - floral design is the way to go. You can do both if you so choose. This will be fun!!

**A BARN FULL OF BLOOMS** will be held in Sandy Hall's barn on Wednesday, May 13th. Members can view the show at 12:30.

To help you prepare for the flower show (ALL provisionals should

A BARN FULL OF BLOOMS



A GARDEN CLUB of BUZZARDS BAY  
FLOWER SHOW  
MAY 13, 2026

participate), we will be holding another workshop on April 15th, at 9:30am at the Coach House.

**For Horticulture workshop:**

Attendees will bring in a cut specimen or 2 from their garden and we'll go through a "how to", learn how to fill out an entry card, and other flower show pointers will be reviewed. More details and a reminder will be sent in April. This will also be a refresher for those who have entered a flower show.

**For Floral Design:**

Entry cards are attached to the Schedule; we will show you how to fill it out. You will do one hands on design. We will provide flowers and containers. For the actual show you can buddy up and 2 people can work on a design.

If you are attending Floral Design, please contact [moreycarla13@gmail.com](mailto:moreycarla13@gmail.com) so we know how many containers to buy.

#### **TIMETABLE FOR EXHIBITORS AND FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE**

**April 7: Floral Design opens**

**May 6: Floral Design deadline**

**May 12: Show Committee helps set up Show staging in Sandy Halls Barn**

**May 13:**

**8:00 - 9:30 - Floral Designs and Horticulture accepted and passed**

**10:00 - Judges briefing**

**10:15 - 12:00 - Judging begins**

**12:30 - Show open to members**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Tina or Carla for Floral Design, and Ruth for Horticulture.

Tina Read [tparkerread@gmail.com](mailto:tparkerread@gmail.com)

Ruth Furman [ruthfurman01@comcast.net](mailto:ruthfurman01@comcast.net)

Carla Morey [moreycarla13@gmail.com](mailto:moreycarla13@gmail.com)

#### **Program Committee**

Submitted by Tia Bullard

The Program Committee is plugging along with contacting speakers for our 2026-2027 year, and we look to attract a diverse population of local, state, and even national presenters!

Everything will be in place by April 1 so that our amazing yearbook editor, Anne Heller, can have all of our programs listed in the 2026-27 yearbook that we will receive at our Annual Meeting in June!

**Visiting Gardens Committee**

Submitted by Martha Yules and Tia Bullard

The Visiting Gardens Committee is excited to share several wonderful garden outings for the upcoming season.

Two group visits are currently being planned, and we hope you'll join us. Please review the details below and respond by the listed deadlines, as we need to confirm attendance numbers with each event. Closer to each date, we'll follow up with details about payment, carpooling, and lunch plans.

**Newport Flower Show: *The Pearls of Newport***

Friday, June 19 | Noon

Tickets: \$32 per person (20–50 tickets reserved)

Point person: Anne Heller

Please contact Anne by April 30 if you plan to attend.

**The Blue Gardens**

Dates: Thursday, August 6 or August 13

Tickets: \$20 per person

If more than 25 people attend, we may request a private tour.

Point person: Tia Bullard

Please RSVP to Tia by April 24.

(The Blue Garden is open Thursdays from June 11–October 8. Tours are offered at 11:00, 12:30, and 2:00 and last one hour.)

In addition, we've compiled a list of Open Gardens and Events you may enjoy visiting with fellow garden club members, friends, or family. Some dates are not yet available, so links to their websites are included:

Events to Explore	INFO	Discovery	Notes
<b>APRIL</b> Lilacs at Arnold Arboretum	<a href="https://arboretum.harvard.edu/events-2/lilacs-at-the-arnold-arboretum/">https://arboretum.harvard.edu/events-2/lilacs-at-the-arnold-arboretum/</a>	Lilac Sunday: May 10, 2026 10:00am–3:00pm	To avoid crowds, visit during the week.

Nantucket Daffodil Festival, April 24-26, 2026	<b>Martha Yules</b>	<a href="https://daffodilfestival.com/">https://daffodilfestival.com/</a>	The 50th Annual Daffodil Show by the Nantucket Garden Club will be held at The Nantucket Inn on Saturday, April 25 from 2-5pm & Sunday, April 26 from 10am to 3pm. This year's theme is "50 years of sunny faces, 50 years of smiles and cheer, 50 years of daffodils - still blooming year on year."
<b>APRIL</b> -- U Pick Tulips, Golden Hour Tulip Farm, Berkely MA	<a href="https://goldenhourtulips.com/">https://goldenhourtulips.com/</a>	20 Acre U pick farm, 250,000 tulips. Timed Entry, Must buy tickets in advance. Sunflowers later.	Presale Tickets are good for 1 day of Admission on any day the farm is open for the 2026 Tulip Season.
<b>MAY</b> Art in Bloom, MFA May 1-3	<a href="http://www.mfa.org/artinbloom">www.mfa.org/artinbloom</a>	During Museum hours, included w/ general admission	
<b>JULY</b> Stone Pony Gardens, Westport	<b>Private lavender farm</b> in Westport. Open 1 weekend. July 5,6,7? Could be an old post... <a href="https://stoneponygardens.com/">https://stoneponygardens.com/</a>	Confirm for dates on FB.	Great with kids, learn about growing lavender and small lavender plants for sale.
<b>JULY</b> Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival July 10- 19	<a href="https://www.capecodchamber.org/events/cape-cod-hydrangea-fest/">https://www.capecodchamber.org/events/cape-cod-hydrangea-fest/</a>	Private garden tours are self-guided, Admission is \$5 per person per garden. You can pay cash at each garden on the day of the tour. Each garden is open from 10 am to 4 unless otherwise specified and only on the days specified. All garden tours are rain or shine and nonrefundable. *** = Different prices apply.	Gardens are only one part of the festival. Enjoy workshops and lectures presented by leading international horticulturalists, discover promotions at participating nurseries and home centers, take a class to learn proper hydrangea pruning techniques, or even watch a painting demonstration by renowned local artists.

<p><b>SEPT</b> -- U Pick Sunflowers, Golden Hour Tulip Farm, Berkeley, MA</p>	<p><a href="https://goldenhourtulips.com/">https://goldenhourtulips.com/</a></p>	<p>While we are open rain or shine, the weather and conditions in the field will determine the date and time of our opening.  <b>Angling to open August 11th this year!</b> Open Wednesday-Sunday each week 10-6pm. 6 pm being the last admission time as they close at 7. Must purchase tickets ahead.</p>	
<p><b>Anytime:</b> Marsh Island, Fairhaven</p>	<p>Tia Bullard</p>	<p>Open after a 3 yr restoration.</p>	

**We are also interested in visiting the gardens of our own members. If you would be willing to host a visit this summer, please contact Martha Yules or Tia Bullard.**

**Finally, dates for Garden Conservancy Open Days in our area have not yet been released. In past years, gardens such as Nan Sinton’s and Ruth Jolliffe’s have participated—we look forward to seeing what this season brings.**

**As always, we welcome ideas and suggestions for future garden visits. As a committee of six, we are eager to discover more special (and secret!) gardens in our region. Happy spring!**



## Feature



Ruth Furman, Tina Read, and Carla Morey held a wonderful Hort and Flower Arranging session at the Coach House. Thank you, ladies! (Photo: Holly Barrows)

**From Sally Lutz in sunny Florida:**

“This is a photo of a design I did for the Naples Garden Club House & Garden Tour. Most of the leaves came from my back yard or the Botanical Gardens.”



## Local Interest

From Barbara Pease:

“I was just at Sylvan's and House 2 is filled with in-bloom hellebores, many varieties, hundreds! I thought you'd like to know) for those who can't get enough).”



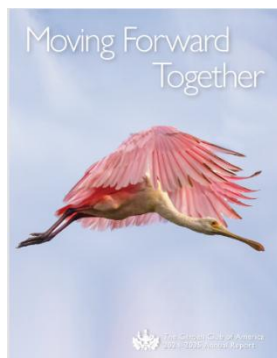
“Snow Love”



## Garden Club of America



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA



To read the GCA's 2024-2025 Annual Report go to:  
[2025ARPublic Page.pdf](#)

Thanks to Carla's post on [GCA's CONNECT](#), GCA members will know about our upcoming Plant Sale!

Carla Morey 21 hours ago

The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay  
**PLANT SALE**  
Saturday, May 2, 2026  
9 am - 1 pm  
Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum  
286 County Street | New Bedford, MA  
Beautiful plants grown in our greenhouse and members' gardens: annuals, perennials, tomatoes, herbs, natives, succulents.  
New this year: Rare Plants, Dahlias and Planters!  
the our Website garden BuzzardsBay.org

The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay will hold its annual Plant Sale on May 2nd at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum. The club nurtures thousands of cuttings and seedlings in the greenhouse we are fortunate to manage. Here are some photos...

[Read or Comment](#)

Here is Carla's full post on [GCA Connect](#).  
It features photos from last year's Plant Sale:



21 hours ago

**Carla Morey**

*Garden Club of Buzzards Bay, Zone I*

The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay will hold its annual Plant Sale on May 2nd at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum. The club nurtures thousands of cuttings and seedlings in the greenhouse we are fortunate to manage. Here are some photos from last year's sale.



[Copy Link](#) | [Share](#) | [Save](#) | [Report](#)



April 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Passover begins 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Good Friday	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>  Easter	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 Greenhouse 10:30 Membership 11:15 Plant Sale Committee	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 Executive Committee Passover Ends	<b>10</b>  National Siblings Day	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00 Greenhouse 10:15 Plant Sale Committee	<b>15</b> Tax Day 9:30 Flower Show Workshop at the Coach House	<b>16</b> 10:30 Monthly Meeting*	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Patriot's Day	<b>21</b> 9:00 Greenhouse 11:00 Plant Sale Committee	<b>22</b>  Earth Day	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Arbor Day	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:15 Plant Sale Committee	<b>28</b> 9:00 Greenhouse All Hands on Deck for Plant Sale	<b>29</b> All Hands on Deck for Plant Sale	<b>30</b> All Hands on Deck for Plant Sale	<b>MAY 1<sup>st</sup></b> 3-5:00 Plant Sale Members Preview	<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 9:00 Plant Sale!

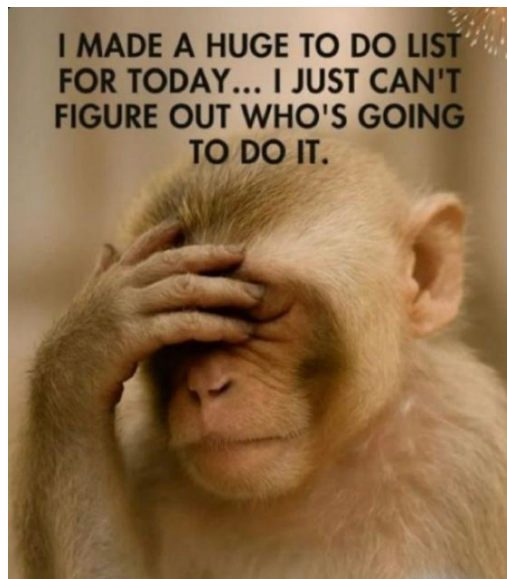
**\*Monthly Meeting**  
**Topic: Drought Tolerant Gardening and Landscaping**  
**Speaker: Warren Leach, Tranquil Lake Nursery: [Tranquil Lake Nursery](#)**

**Don't forget:**  
**Greenhouse Watering Schedule – [Sign Up online](#)**

**Plant Sale 2026 [Sign Up Online](#)**

**[GCBB Google Calendar](#)**

*Just for fun and giggles...*



**I'm thinking of getting a pet to go jogging with me.**

**Maybe a turtle**



*Until next time...*

