

# Northern Exposure



## Newsletter of the New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

**Connecticut – Maine – Massachusetts  
New Hampshire – Rhode Island - Vermont**

**May 2020**

### **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

*"Sometimes you will never know the value of something, until it becomes a memory."*

This quote from the late children's author Dr. Seuss sums up my mood today. I wonder if life as we knew it just a few short months ago will ever be the same – or if it too will be just a memory. When I first found this quote, I was thinking of the new normal of "social distancing" and "flattening the curve." But now, the value of memories has been brought into sharp focus as we mourn the loss of the husband of one of our State Presidents (Fred Miner),



beloved husband of Sue Miner, our New Hampshire Federation President. If you would like to send a card to Sue, her address is 19 Town Village Drive, Salem, NH 03079. A link to his obituary and to donations in his memory can be found at

[www.douglasandjohnson.com/obituary/frederic-miner](http://www.douglasandjohnson.com/obituary/frederic-miner).

This month I'd hoped to be visiting with my mom in South Carolina for Mother's Day before heading to Wisconsin for the National Garden Club's Convention in Milwaukee. Because of the COVID-19 virus, all of us have had to postpone or cancel events that we looked forward to. Many of us are finding the way to move forward is to

work in our gardens. I hope that most of you have a garden to tend – even if it's a container garden. If you have space in your garden or even in your containers, please think about planting a little something extra to donate to our food banks. If ever there was a need to put the spotlight on food insecurity, this is the time! If you watch the news you see the plight of our seniors and families, with little to no money coming in during this crisis, waiting in long lines to pick up donations of food and prepared meals. Donations are going to be necessary for many months to come before we hopefully see the light at the end of the tunnel. To help remind you of our Region Project of donating to organizations who help feed our families, I've had our newsletter editor Nancy Atwell put our Region Project donation form in this issue. Print it off and keep it handy when you donate some of your early season vegies! You can also find it on our website [www.newenglandgc.org](http://www.newenglandgc.org) under the REGION PROJECT tab.

While many events have been cancelled, we still hold out hope that others may go on as scheduled. Two of those are the Northern New England Tri-State Symposium currently scheduled for August in Manchester, New Hampshire and our New England Garden Clubs' Annual Meeting in Wells, Maine in mid-October. We are sharing news about those events in

this newsletter and will keep you updated as plans develop or change. If our world begins to get back to some sense of “normalcy” we sincerely hope you’ll consider attending these events!

Finally, in this issue you’ll read about one Maine club pitching in to help first responders. I’d love to hear from other clubs who’ve found ways to be involved in their communities during the pandemic. And while you wait in anticipation of your favorite garden opening for visitors, you can take virtual tours of a few famous gardens in this issue as well. In the meantime, everyone be safe while enjoying the reawakening of our gardens this spring!

Suzanne Bushnell  
Director, New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

## **Making Plans for a Meeting in the Era of COVID-19**

As you’ll see in this issue, our Region has two very important events coming up – our Northern New England Tri-State Symposium in August and our NEGC 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in October. None of us has a crystal ball that will tell us what the future holds, but rest assured that those who are planning these two meetings watch the news just as the rest of you do. We hold out hope that we’ll be able to go ahead with both events knowing that attendees will want to feel safe in their surroundings. Right now, it’s very difficult to even talk to the meeting planners at our venues as they are closed. And who knows if we’ll ever see a buffet meal offered as an option at a group meeting again. We ask that you please bear with us as we too try to maneuver through the pitfalls of meeting planning in the era of COVID-19. We will pass on news of any changes to our meetings or any cancellations as we move forward. SMB



## **Table of Contents**

### **NEGC Presidents’ Reports**

- President, Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. – page 3
- President, New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. – pages 4 and 5
- Presidents, Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Inc. – pages 5 - 7
- President, Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc. – pages 7 and 8
- President, Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. – pages 8 and 9
- President, Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. – pages 9 and 10

Update on Native Plant Trust – pages 10 and 11

Congratulations to NEGC Plant America Winners! – pages 11 and 12

The St. Mary’s Garden Club Face Mask Project – pages 12 and 13

New England Garden Clubs Region Wide Project Reporting Form – page 14

2020 Northern New England Tri-State Symposium – page 15

Symposium Information and Registration Form – pages 16 - 18  
Take a Virtual Garden Tour of World Gardens – page 19  
New England Garden Clubs 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – page 20  
2020 Member Award of Honor Winner – page 21  
NGC Announces Photo Winners –pages 22 and 23  
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller Mansion – pages 23 and 24  
RIFGC Virtual Flower Show – pages 24 and 25  
Ginni Donovan Artistic Craft Designs – page 26  
NEGC Calendar (with newsletter deadline date) – page 27

## Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs is marking our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. For the past few months, we have cancelled meetings, luncheons and our Flower Show because of the coronavirus. But we are looking ahead. Spring has arrived! I love Spring with the budding trees, blossoming flowers, and so many beautiful birds returning. Our love of gardening has brought us together and will continue to keep us together.

We continue to update our Bylaws, prepare our new Budget, plan fundraisers, organize our Awards Ceremony and our Life Members Group Luncheon that provides funding up to \$4000 annually to a winner of this scholarship.

The RIFGC offers free trees to our clubs in honor of Arbor Day. This has been moved to the Fall this year. We are planning a Habitat for Humanity planting of trees, bushes and flowers. We just don't have dates for these great events currently.

As the Flower Show was cancelled for this year, we invited all the designers who so graciously entered our flower show to be a part of this new "Virtual Adventure"! We threw caution to the wind, in the comforts of our home where all the creativity begins. See what we as designers can do in our time of social distancing. *RIFGC Virtual Flower Show' Class 1 "In Jail"-- Class 2 "Freedom" (A design using what you have on hand! Must include some plant material: fresh, dried and/ or treated. Any size and design type. Take a photo of your completed design with a plain background.)* Please see the results on [page 20](#).

The RIFGC has sent out notes of encouragement and words of good health to our club members and their families as they stayed home and prepared their summer gardens.

Great stories shared by members of the RIFGC: The Hameho Garden Club of Barrington president asked the members to share their personal stories of happy moments during this time at home to be sent to all club members. One member wrote of a small tube feeder that hangs outside her kitchen window. She enjoyed the steady visitors of Purple Goldfinch, American Goldfinch, Tufted Titmouse, Black-capped Chickadees, and so many more beautiful birds.

A Sogkonate Garden Club of Little Compton member shared some beautiful and peaceful nature videos that helped reduce anxiety that families may have been experiencing.

A member of The Barrington Garden Club continued to volunteer at a food pantry helping others while taking a chance with her own health.

Stay healthy.

Deb Ort  
President, RIFGC

## NEW HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

We started the year with great plans for a variety of wonderful activities for 2020, however as with the rest of the country, everything came to an abrupt standstill.

In February each year the University of NH Cooperative Extension, the NH Division of Forest & Lands and the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Foods sponsor the "New Hampshire Farm & Forest Expo" that is held in Manchester. Billed as "NH's Greatest Winter Fair" the Expo is a family-friendly event with over 100 exhibitors representing agriculture, horticulture, animals, vegetable farming, etc. NHFGC has historically volunteered to help out at the NH Governor's Lilac and Wildflower Commission's booth there as our current state president customarily serves on the Commission. This year, after being in existence for 37 years, the Expo was renamed to the "New Hampshire Farm, Forest & Garden Expo". . . . Yay for us, and we were very pleased to see a special booth all about pollinators on exhibit, hopefully with many more to come in future years.

In April, NHFGC presents "The Helen A. and Ernest S. Colprit Memorial Horticulture Award" to a deserving member of the Granite State Future Farmers of America at their annual convention (postponed to a future date this year). The monetary award is given to a "graduate student who intends to further educate themselves in the pursuit of a career in Horticulture or related fields" and the recipient is selected on their advisor's recommendation. A trust fund was established in 1967 for this purpose by the Colprit family. Helen Colprit was a long-term member of one of NHFGC's founding clubs. The current State President, often with another member of the Executive Board happily make the trip up north where the Future Farmers Convention is generally held because it is so worthwhile, witnessing these dedicated and talented young people conducting their business meetings so professionally and being so dedicated in their pursuits of a future in all aspects of agriculture from floral design to farming.

Normally by this time of the year, our judging panels have already met to review the scrapbooks and the NHFGC award applications that were submitted by our member clubs. Due to the pandemic it was a universal decision of the NHFGC Board to present certificates of accomplishment to each of the clubs who submitted a club scrapbook for judging. It was also decided to have a small group of experienced members individually review the award applications submitted, passing them on to a second and third reviewer by email with the Awards Chair compiling the scale of points, etc.

The NHFGC 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was due to be held in Manchester on May 20<sup>th</sup>, however, for obvious reasons it has been postponed — until May of 2021. We felt that it would be best to take the efforts that were already expended along with the great ideas brought forth by our District II clubs for this year's meeting and simply transfer them to a meeting to be held next year. Happily the venue and our speakers are totally on board with this plan.

The continuing popularity of the Newport, RI Flower Show, and knowing that some of our NHFGC members' would be participating as either judges or exhibitors at this beautiful flower show, NHFGC had decided to sponsor a bus trip to the Newport Flower Show on June 19<sup>th</sup> this year. Since we do not know what lies ahead for us relative to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, we are tentatively keeping this date "on the books," however this could very well change with the outing being cancelled and re-considered for 2021.

Also in June, we had planned to hold a "Garden Club Day" where we would invite garden clubs from all around the state to attend a reception with workshops, information booths, etc. at Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH. Bedrock Gardens was formerly a private entity and it is re-opening as a public garden this year — hopefully late this spring. John Forti is the garden's Executive Director. Many of you undoubtedly know John, from his service as the Director of

Horticulture and Education at MA Hort, Curator/Director of Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, etc. The event would be open to non-Federated clubs in the hope of opening up a dialogue with their attendees pertaining to the possibility of their joining our organization. We are hoping to postpone that event to late summer or early fall.

Some “good news” is that two of our clubs received “Plant America Grants” this time around — the Derry Garden Club for developing their pollinator garden at the Boys and Girls Club in their community and the Manchester Garden Club for their restoration project involving the gardens at Pulaski Park in downtown Manchester. “Congratulations” Derry and Manchester GC’s!

As the days get longer (in many ways), let us not lose our sense of hope and purpose. The sun will rise again, the flowers will bloom again and we will be meeting with each other again.

Susan Miner  
NHFGC President  
and Joyce Kimball  
NHFGC Immediate Past President



NHFGC Immediate Past President Joyce Kimball (center) chatted with FFA members who were manning a booth at the Farm, Forest and Garden Expo in February.

## Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

There’s something soothing knowing that we’re all in this together, even if we can’t get together and enjoy a great speaker or work as a group in our town gardens. We know that FGCV is no different than the other five NEGC states, so we won’t bore you with numerous cancellations and other sad tales.

The good news is that we’ve learned how and mastered the new “norm” of meeting by teleconference. We had three conference calls earlier this month with our district directors. It was a perfect time to express and share our disappointments and to plan for some busy months later this year. Just talking with other members had a calming effect which we all appreciated.

Our Annual meeting was to be in early June with Gay Austin, NGC President, as our guest. This was one of the hardest decisions that our board had to make: to cancel that meeting. However, we’ll plan a bigger and better meeting in the fall.

Sue’s club, the Garden Club of Manchester is celebrating its 100th year anniversary this year and we had many special events planned, including a huge cocktail party, a two-day garden tour and a plan to plant 95 trees in our towns to honor our members. . . . NGC’s Plant America. . . .Each One Plant One project. We’ll just have to wait and see when we’ll be able to reschedule these events.



Every club is concerned about where they will garner funds for their treasures since at this time of year almost every club holds fund raisers, such as a plant sale. The money we've collected in the past helped to pay for our beautification projects and our scholarship program. We had some interesting brain-storming around this topic.

So we'll hang in there with every other gardener and patiently wait until the quarantine is lifted. We can always go outside and marvel at the reappearance of our wonderful daffodils and tulips! They give so much pleasure!

Susan Hinkel and Caroline Frey  
FGCV Co-Presidents

[editor's note: Vermont has co-presidents for 2019-2021]

Burlington Garden Club has added a Children's Page to their Facebook page. A great idea for our young gardeners, grandchildren, or just us!

### Burlington Garden Club Children's Page

**Burlington Garden Club  
members welcomes your art....**

- Draw or paint a picture that would lift the spirits of someone who is sick, or someone who is just sick of staying home because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). If you sign your artwork, please write only your first name. Send your drawing to [djvanmullen@gmail.com](mailto:djvanmullen@gmail.com). Thank you for bringing joy to others.

**ART TAKES NATURE AS ITS HOPE**  
Children of all ages are invited to share a drawing or painting on the Burlington Garden Club's Facebook Children's Page



The Garden Club of Manchester celebrated our annual "Cabin Fever" lunch in February at the Equinox Hotel in Manchester. Little did we know it would be our last gathering for weeks to come!



## **Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont**

Social distancing, masks everywhere  
No groups more than 3, this I cannot bear!  
No garden club meetings  
No hugs or special greetings  
Group teleconferencing, do we dare?

The new norm is restrictive and scary to boot  
But to say we won't do it is definitely moot  
Delays and cancellations  
More email communications  
All we can say about this is, "oh shoot!"

So into our own reviving gardens we wander  
Seeking quiet and beauty easing our dander  
It is what it is, how long we don't know  
But our gardens will thrive and continue to grow  
Bringing hope and pleasure to each and every gardener.

## **Garden Club Federation of Maine**

These are difficult times for all of us. It is inspiring to see the many ways our Clubs and Districts have chosen to help in our communities. There is an outpouring of help for community residents with shopping when necessary, helping with spring gardening, volunteering to run errands and even participating in the making of the much needed medical masks needed by our front line medical defenders, these are just a few of the things we "Mainers" are doing to help our nation get back on its feet.



The recent cancellations of our local, district, state and national meetings has indeed added to the stress of the times, but GCFM has risen to the challenge and has been bringing business "not as usual" to bear at all levels! I have learned a lot in the last few weeks about the many different types of electronic communications available to help us continue to accomplish the important business transactions necessary to keep this organization running like the well-oiled machine that it is and I have many people to thank for helping to make this happen! As GCFM President, I am committed to seeing that we continue to move forward by putting in place decisive measures that will help address some of these issues in a more organized and timely manner in the future, should anything like this ever happen again.

The decision to cancel the 2020 GCFM Annual Convention was the hardest I have had to face since

stepping into this position. I am pleased to announce that the St. Croix District has volunteered to "postpone" the planned 2020 Convention until 2021. I cannot thank the GCFM Convention Chairman Jane Sanderson, her dedicated Committee and the entire St. Croix District enough for volunteering – unsolicited, I might add -- to continue their work on the wonderful Convention they have been planning, to be able to present it in June, 2021!

We do still have many things to look forward to in 2020! I am anxious to receive the NGC Awards that should be in my hands sometime in May. I know many of you are interested in attending the Northern New England Tri-State Symposium, scheduled to take place August 10th-12th in Manchester, NH. The Judges Councils from the three states joining in this effort are Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The Garden Club Federation of Maine is still on course to host the New England Garden Clubs Annual Meeting October 13th and 14th. Information in this newsletter on page 20!

Congratulations to Becky Gallery of the Garden Club Federation of Maine, the recipient of the National Garden Clubs' Member Award of Honor representing the New England Region (article and photo on page 21)! AWESOME! I also congratulate the Wiscasset Garden Club for adding 25 new members in one month, outstanding! I understand that an Ice Cream social might have been a catalyst to this achievement and I know they are more than willing to share the secrets of their success!

In closing, I am most thankful to all of you. Mere words cannot express the pride and gratefulness I am feeling, knowing how this organization has pulled together to address an unimaginable situation head-on, securing a bright and promising future for GCFM.

Barbara Longstaff  
President, GCFM

## Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

In an effort to mitigate the COVID-19 risk to our members and follow State and National mandates about group gatherings, all GCFM Programs and Events for the remainder of the 2019-2020 calendar are cancelled including: Landscape Design Workshop, Gardening School, Designing Workshop, Flower Show School, Environmental Workshop, SE District Spring Meeting, Middlesex Spring Meeting, Wallack Lecture, Horticulture Morning, Garden Consultants, Landscape Design Consultants and Judges Council Meetings.

**The GCFM Annual Meeting scheduled for 6/3/2020 is also cancelled.**

Lyn Hoyt will be available by email: [gardenclubfedma@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubfedma@gmail.com) or phone 781-237-0336, 9am-2pm, Tuesday-Thursday.

We will be working to reschedule any and all programs whenever possible. For refunds please contact the Program Coordinator associated with the event and/or mail a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) to her with your details.





Wallack Lecture refunds will be administered upon receipt of the tickets and SASE.  
Mail items to: Ann Webster 16 Brent Road Lexington, MA 02420.

Thank you for your patience. Please refer to [gcfm.org](http://gcfm.org) for additional updates. We hope that you will put your new found extra time to good use in your gardens and **remember to join the Native Plant Challenge!**

Reputable Resources for the latest information:

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

**The World Health Organization (WHO)**

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)**

The GCFM Executive Board  
[bonnie.rosenthall@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.rosenthall@gmail.com)  
[gardenclubfedma@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubfedma@gmail.com)

## **Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.**

It's hard to believe that it was just two months ago that we were celebrating a fantastic Connecticut Flower Show in February. "Spring into Connecticut" set the stage for the anticipation of what spring delivers in the form of plants awakening from their winter slumber by breaking through the soil. Under the leadership of Flower Show Chair Ginni Donovan, the 2020 show was one of our best ever. The looks of amazement and delight on the faces of visitors to the show brought a sense of accomplishment to the many volunteers and exhibitors who participated in delivering such a great show.



Mary Ellen Unger, Designer. First Place Winner, Division II, "Fly Fishing Fun" and People's Choice First Place Award



Deborah Osborne, Designer. National Garden Club's Award of Design Excellence, FGCCT Designer's Choice Award. First Place, Section D, Kent Falls

The elation and the highs we realized from the success of the show were short lived as the reality of the COVID-19 virus hit head on in early March. Cancellations began as clubs across the state struggled with how to move forward in this new paradigm. Suddenly the health and safety of club members became front and center. Clubs were forced to cancel all of their spring programs and luncheons. Plant sales and garden tours fell victim to the virus, forcing

clubs to rethink how to handle finances without the revenue derived from these tried and true events. Clubs are thinking differently and broader about how to move forward. We're working with clubs on how to continue to thrive in this difficult environment. New ideas are bubbling up and being shared. There is optimism about coming back strong starting with meetings in September.

The impact on The Federation at the state level was no different. Landscape Design School in March and our 91st Annual Meeting in April were canceled. This is a real disappointment as many circle this event on their calendars as a must-attend event. A wonderful tour to the Brandywine Valley, widely known as America's gardening capital, had to be postponed. That trip has been rescheduled to August 27-30. Contact Kathy Lindroth at [tours@ctgardenclubs.org](mailto:tours@ctgardenclubs.org) if you're interested. It's likely that our Board meetings are going to be virtual for the time being, yet will keep all of us connected. It's much like what many are doing personally with Zoom conferences. Staying connected has never been more paramount.

While all this is going on, there is much to anticipate for the future. Good things are happening. National Garden Club's 2021 Vision of Beauty calendar is going to feature the creations of many Connecticut designers. Kudos to Ginni Donovan (with two designs), Dee Mozzochi (with four designs), Peg Townsend, Peggy Fedun, Trish Manfredi, and Mary Lyons for your exceptional designs. In addition, Ginni Donovan was recognized with the top award – "Arranger of the Year" (photos of Ginni's artistic craft designs appear on [page 25](#)).

Kudos also to Diane Roberts of the Garden Club of Madison. Diane was the overall winner in the photography contest section of the Perfect Vision 2020 NGC Convention cancelled in Milwaukee this spring - photo with article on pages [22 and 23](#).

As we head into the growing season, we're all growing as individuals and clubs, looking forward to what fall brings when we begin to get together again. The key is looking forward and not looking back at the effects of COVID-19 this spring.

There is no question that, as with our plants and gardens, that keep coming back year in and year out, to offer us great pleasure and a sense of tranquility, our members are a resilient group. When I talk with clubs everywhere, there is a sense of optimism about what the future holds. We hope, the effects of COVID-19 are temporary and won't last much longer. We're all going to come back strong because, as gardeners, we're used to adversity every year. There is no question that we're stronger together.

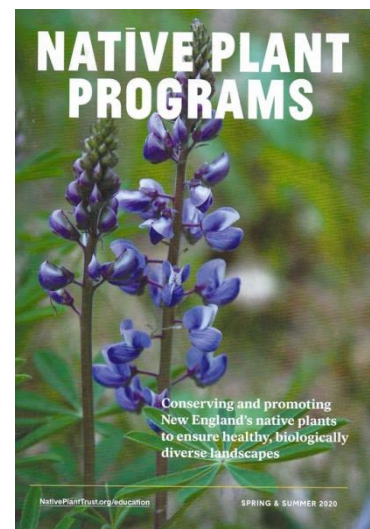
Arlene Field  
President, FGCCT

## Update on Native Plant Trust<sup>1</sup>

Now that Nat and I are housebound, I'm finding time to actually read some of the amazing printed materials that Native Plant Trust (formerly New England Wild Flower Society) has circulated.

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<sup>1</sup> **Native Plant Trust Headquarters and [Garden in the Woods](#)**  
180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701  
508-877-7630; (FAX) 508-877-3658; (TTY) 508-877-6553



When I was at Garden in the Woods, in February, I collected a stash of the spring/summer course catalog from NPT's education department. The breadth and depth of the offerings is mind boggling.

With the COVID-19 crisis, many of the on-site programs have become webinars and joined the already interesting line-up of online learning opportunities.

Although this is very sad for the folks who would have loved to attend these programs in person, the good news is that more of us can attend them now by tuning in from home-- and NPT staff will be protected too.

To keep up with the status of all these activities, do visit NPT's web site. The link to NPT's public programs is <http://www.nativeplanttrust.org/education/> I'm really enjoying their Facebook e-news which will keep us updated on the changing status of courses, events, and the opening of Garden in the Woods for the season:

[https://www.facebook.com/nativeplanttrust/?\\_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARBGpjiIWbcpNdQ2YmPwHABOpU\\_8ilRf-UC34YeS9H\\_2W-Zbd\\_Fp23qYtoH0IKQgx0Mzyh-WGgn0sVm1](https://www.facebook.com/nativeplanttrust/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARBGpjiIWbcpNdQ2YmPwHABOpU_8ilRf-UC34YeS9H_2W-Zbd_Fp23qYtoH0IKQgx0Mzyh-WGgn0sVm1)

Although Nat and I are still enjoying the glories of NH's mud season, with ice everywhere trimmed with ankle deep mud, the spring migrant birds are arriving, the goldfinches are turning yellow again and the sap is running. Spring will come, and with it, some of our most beautiful threatened and endangered native wildflowers will appear.



*Trillium erectum* – Threatened Endangered - pollinated by flies and gnats and propagated by ants.

Please stay safe and healthy in this precarious time.

Arabella Dane  
Board Member, Native Plant Trust

## Congratulations to Plant America Winners!

Five clubs from the New England Region recently found out they are winners of grants of up to \$1000 awarded by the National Garden Clubs (NGC) through its Plant America Community Project Grants. David Robson, NGC Chairman of the committee overseeing the grants, made the announcement in the most recent issue of *The National Gardener* (Spring 2020 issue). A total of fifty-four clubs across America are grant recipients. The NGC hopes to be able to award grants each fiscal year. Originally, they had proposed giving the grants only once during a President's two-year term.

Start planning your project now, and plan to apply for a grant when the 2021 application is released (watch for it on the NGC website [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)). Those clubs winning from the New England Region are:



Dracut Garden Club -- (Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts)  
Driftwood Garden Club -- (Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts)

Fox Hill Garden Club -- (Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts)  
Derry Garden Club -- (New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs)  
Manchester Garden Club -- (New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs)

## The St. Mary's Garden Club Face Mask Project

It's incredible how an idea to help out a relative on the front lines of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic can grow into a major project. That is exactly what happened when Katy Gannon-Janelle of the St. Mary's Garden Club of Falmouth, Maine jumped into action making face masks for her brother-in-law who is a doctor at Boston Medical Center. It's no secret that hospitals are running out of PPE (personal protective equipment) as they fight to save the lives of patients afflicted with the coronavirus. And now that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has suggested that every American wear a face mask when out in public, the demand for them has shot through the roof. While doctors and nurses need much more elaborate protection when working with patients afflicted with the virus, a face mask is an item that every health care worker can use when not on the front lines of patient care. So, armed with the idea to do her part to help, in late March Katy started enlisting help first from her own club, and then spread the word beyond just club members. By the first few days of April, club members had made more than 120 masks. By mid-April the number had grown exponentially! Even a member who winters in California had jumped on the band wagon and made 60 of her own to give to a local hospital in California. The masks from St. Mary's have been sent to Brigham and Women's Hospital and Boston Medical Center in Massachusetts, and to Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine.

*Katy models her mask in this photo.*



We asked Katy if she could offer a few tips for those thinking of making their own masks. Because she has a small sewing machine, she can't make masks with pleats using any type of heavy material. However, she CAN use a fine layer of quilt batting in the middle of a layered mask which provides extra germ protection. Those members with heavy duty machines are able to use a material such as duck or denim without an interlining in the middle. Katy tells us that even members without sewing machines are sewing masks by hand. All fabrics are pre-washed and dried before being cut for the masks.



*See the mask collection at right.*

Because so many people across the country are now trying to make masks, there's a shortage of elastic which is used for holding the mask against the face (used for circling the ears). While the recommended width of elastic is ¼ inch, she's now using 1/8" because the larger size is unavailable. Her sewers are also using bread ties to use for a nose contour piece! This is necessary so the mask will more readily stay

snugly on the wearer's face. Katy tells us that she's been able to find fresh, unused plastic twist ties at her local Hannaford Supermarket in the fresh produce area. She says that her band of sewers wear masks as they make those for health care providers and wash their hands often as they work. When the masks are done, she sprays them with Lysol, puts them in a sealed plastic bag and then puts them in either a box or shipping bag to send to her brother-in-law in Boston. When the masks arrive, they are kept in the box for an additional three days. The masks are made of material that can easily be washed. We've provided some links for those of our readers who'd like to try to make them at home.

St. Mary's recently donated 130 of their masks to the Women's Center of the Maine Correctional Facility in Windham. The Falmouth, Maine, centered garden club has made and donated more than 500 masks at this time.

<https://www.craftpassion.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern/>

<https://www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask> this site has a list of organizations needing masks, searchable by state



*Doctors at Boston Medical Center wearing masks made from Boston Bruins fabric*





## New England Garden Clubs Region-Wide Project

### Reporting Form for Donations from Gardens to Local Food Banks, Soup Kitchens, Etc.

Donation Covers Period From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Donations made on behalf of (fill in appropriate line with name):

A Club \_\_\_\_\_

An Individual \_\_\_\_\_

If you're a member of a garden club, please state name of garden club and State Federation affiliated with:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you're donating on behalf of a Community Garden, please state name of Community Garden, town and state:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Organization your donation was given to:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please state what was donated from the garden:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please estimate what you donated by using one of the following methods:

Total Value \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Weight \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Servings \_\_\_\_\_



Please send completed form to:

Suzanne Bushnell, 133 Gurnet Landing Road,  
Harpwell, ME 04079, or, scan page and send to  
[smbushnell@comcast.net](mailto:smbushnell@comcast.net).





## **2020 Northern New England Tri-State Symposium**

We are all concerned about the COVID-19 and social distancing. It is hoped that by August, it will be resolved. God willing, our Northern New England Tri-State Symposium will be up and running on August 10-12 at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Please view our brochure and registration information. All checks will be refunded if conditions prevent us from hosting this Symposium. We are all in this together! Looking forward to another wonderful Symposium in New England.

Stay well,

Michelle Mensinger  
Symposium Chairman



# **2020 NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND TRI-STATE SYMPOSIUM**

**AUGUST 10-12, 2020**



**GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF MAINE**  
President, Barbara Longstaff

**NEW HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION  
OF GARDEN CLUBS (HOST)**  
President, Sue Miner

**FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS  
OF VERMONT**  
Co-Presidents, Caroline Frey  
and Sue Hinkel

**NEW ENGLAND GARDEN CLUBS**  
Director, Suzanne Bushnell

**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**  
President, Gay Austin  
President Elect, Mary Warshauer

**NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS**  
Chairman, Jan Warshauer

**NGC SYMPOSIUM**  
Chairman, Julia Clevett

**2020 NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND  
TRI-STATE SYMPOSIUM**  
Chairman, Michelle Mensinger

## **We Welcome our NGC Instructors**

Mary Huntoon is an accredited Master Judge for NGC and is a NGC Flower Show School Instructor in Design and Symposium. She is also an accredited Judge for The Garden Club of America in both Design and Horticulture and currently serves on the NGC Flower Show Accrediting Committee, as well as serving at both the Regional and State levels. For MA, Mary serves as the State Flower Show Schools Chairman and the State Credentials Chairman. She is a Life Member of GCFMA, Inc. and NGC, Inc. and is a 5-star recipient. Active with the GCA, having just served as Co-chairman of the 2019 Boston Annual Meeting Flower Show in Boston in May, Mary is a past President of the Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club and a past Chairman of MA Judges Council. She is a member of North Shore Garden Club, Creative Flower Arrangers, National Flower Arrangers and North Shore Horticulture Society as well as other organizations.

Darlene Newell is an NGC Master Flower Show Judge, Horticulture, Flower Show Procedure, Symposium Instructor and Daffodil Judge. She has lectured in over twenty states. A life member of West Virginia Garden Club and NGC, she is a member of the American Horticulture, Hosta, and Daffodil Societies. She serves on the NGC Board of Directors as the Horticulture Instructors Chairman and on the state level as the WV Flower Show Chairman. In 2001, she founded the annual Community Thanksgiving Meal Project. To date, hundreds of volunteers have provided over 25,000 hot meals on Thanksgiving Day. Special interests include growing plants from seeds, gardening with



her five grandchildren, and creating stained glass and concrete projects.

Judges must bring their copy of Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 revised and updated.

### **HOTEL REGISTRATION**

Hotel Registration Deadline is July 31, 2020. Reservations must be made directly with DoubleTree Hotel Manchester. 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101 603-625-1000

Room Rates \$154.00, single/double plus tax. To receive special rate ask for "2020 Northern New England Tri-State Symposium" when making reservations.

### **DIRECTIONS TO HOTEL**

Rt. 93N or S to Rt. 293N or S  
Exit 5 Granite St. toward W.  
Manchester.  
From North: follow signs for Elm St. Left onto Canal St., right onto Pleasant St. Hotel on right.  
From South: keep right at fork, follow signs for Elm St./The Millyard/Canal St. Left onto Canal St., right onto Pleasant St. Hotel on right.

### **CREDENTIALS**

Lectures are open to all garden club members and to the public upon payment of fees. **To keep in Good Standing** all Accredited, Life and Master Judges and NGC instructors must continue their judging education by auditing or refreshing a symposium every three years. **Submit complete application for renewal or audit to the Judges' Credentials Chair of your state for approval at least**

**FOUR weeks for in-state judges, SIX weeks for out-of-state judges, prior to the symposium.** Include exhibiting and judging evidence as applicable, and other information on applications forms for Accredited and Life Renewals and Master Judge Audits. Please request that the chairman notify the Northern NE Tri-State Symposium Credentials Chairman of your eligibility, mail to: M. E Sienkiewicz, 125 Cross Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467, 603-399-4453 meedsienkiewicz@myfairpoint.net

No credentials will be approved at the symposium

## **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

### **Monday August 10, 2020**

2:30 p.m. Registration begins  
4:30 p.m. Allied Subject  
"Latest Handbook Updates"  
Instructor Mary Huntoon  
Dinner on your own

### **Tuesday, August 11, 2020**

7:00 a.m. Registration/Coffee  
8:30 a.m. Welcome/Announcements  
8:45 a.m. Design  
"Angular Designs"  
Instructor Mary Huntoon  
9:45 a.m. Break  
10:00 a.m. Design  
"Abstract Creative Designs"  
Instructor: Mary Huntoon  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Design Practice Point Scoring  
2:45 p.m. Break  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Design Point Scoring  
Exam

Dinner on your own

**Wednesday, August 12, 2020**

7:00 a.m. Registration  
7:30 a.m. Announcements  
7:45 a.m. Allied Subject  
"Botanical Arts Horticulture"  
Instructor: Darlene Newell  
8:45 a.m. Break  
9:00 a.m. Horticulture  
"Hosta"  
Instructor: Darlene Newell  
10:00 a.m. Break  
10:15 a.m. Horticulture  
"Collections and Displays"  
Instructor: Darlene Newell  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Horticulture Practice Point  
Scoring  
2:45 p.m. Break  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Horticulture Point  
Scoring Exam

=====

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Symposium August 10-12, 2020

Please register early

**Deadline:** July 31, 2020

PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Check your current judging status:

Student Judge (No Exam) \_\_\_\_\_

Accredited or Life (Exam) \_\_\_\_\_

Master Judge (Audit) \_\_\_\_\_

Year of last refresher or audit \_\_\_\_\_

FULL COURSE (CREDIT) \$185\_\_\_\_\_

Includes lectures, exam or audit fee and two (2) lunches.

FULL COURSE (AUDIT) \$185\_\_\_\_\_

Includes lectures, exam or audit fee and two (2) lunches.

FULL COURSE (NO CREDIT) \$180\_\_\_\_\_

Includes lectures, two (2) lunches

Tuesday, August 11 - Design \$90\_\_\_\_\_

8:00 a.m.—5:15 p.m. Lectures & Lunch

Wed., August 12 – Horticulture \$90\_\_\_\_\_

8:00 a.m.—5:15 P.M. Lectures & Lunch

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

\$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:  
2020 NO NE Tri-State Symposium 2020

Mail registration form and check to:  
Kathy Perkins, Registrar  
12 Catherine Dr., Rutland, VT 05701  
Phone: (802) 775-3280  
Email: ksheaperk@comcast.net

No phone reservations accepted  
**Deadline:** July 31, 2020. There will be  
a \$10.00 **late fee** for registrations  
postmarked after July 31, 2020  
**No refunds after July 31, 2020.**

## Take a Virtual Garden Tour of World Gardens

As we sit home sheltering-in-place, we thought it might be a great idea to let our members take *virtual garden tours* of some of the great gardens of the world! Just



think -- no travel delays, no standing in long lines, and free admission! In this issue of *NORTHERN EXPOSURE*, we give you the links to four of the most well-known gardens in the world: the *Keukenhof Botanical Gardens* (the Netherlands – *photo of the gardens in spring courtesy of Suzanne Bushnell*); *Kew Gardens* (England); *Hampton Court Palace Gardens* (England); and the *Gardens at Versailles* (France). You'll also see we've included a special link to a short video highlighting what many consider the top ten most

beautiful gardens in the world! With some of the videos you also have music to accompany the virtual tour. To get to each garden, just click on the link and follow the directions (such as clicking on ALLOW) to start the video (you may have to close a pesky ad first). And in case you don't have a lot of time to spend watching all five tours at one sitting, we've given you the total time for each video (given in minutes and seconds). If you'd like to take a tour of more gardens, just do an internet search using the terms "virtual garden tours" and let the beauty of the world's gardens unfold on your screen.

*KEUKENHOFF BOTANICAL GARDENS* – This video is taken one spring showing their massive spring bulb display. Play time: 2:49 <https://haarlem.ca/video/index.html>

*ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AT KEW* – Behind the scenes at Kew Gardens to see the top 10 attractions. Play time: 6:32 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioG\\_Vfh0Kxw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioG_Vfh0Kxw)

*HAMPTON COURT PALACE GARDENS* – Entitled "A Year in the Life...", all four seasons are featured in this video narrated by long-time staff members discussing the preparations for the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hampton Court Palace in 2015. It's well worth seeing the gardens and Palace grounds in all four seasons.

NOTE: Scroll down the page to find the video "A Year in the Life." Play time: 20:53 [www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/history-and-stories/the-gardens-at-hampton-court-palace/#gs.2yuttx](http://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/history-and-stories/the-gardens-at-hampton-court-palace/#gs.2yuttx)

*GARDENS AT VERSAILLES* – With the 1812 Overture playing in the background, you'll see the massive gardens on the grounds of the Palace at Versailles. Play time: 8:54 [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjRPG7sRHQw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjRPG7sRHQw)

*THE 10 MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDENS IN THE WORLD* – See how many you've visited and which ones you'll want to put at the top of your garden "bucket list"! Play time: 7:47 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SujATAF9VPs>

Suzanne Bushnell  
Director, New England Garden Clubs

# *Save The Date!!*

## *October 13-14, 2020*



*New England Garden Clubs 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*  
*Village by the Sea Condo Hotel & Conference Center*  
*Wells, Maine*

*Hosted by the Garden Club Federation of Maine*

Make plans to spend time on the beautiful coast of Maine this Fall! Our venue features **condominiums** offering special lodging rates -- **stay one night and get a second night at half price** -- with large two-bedroom, two bath units available to share with a friend, or stay in a half suite or one bedroom unit by yourself ([www.vtbs.com](http://www.vtbs.com)), 1-800-444-8862. Plan to welcome **NGC President Gay Austin** to our Region! Special guest speaker is **Jessie Banhazi, CEO of Green City Growers** (developers of the veggie gardens at Fenway Park). Plans for a workshop are in the works (***using social media and virtual meetings to connect in these uncertain times***). We'll also be featuring a ***celebration of scarecrows*** for your garden! Stay an extra night to enjoy the area (beautiful Kennebunkport, Ogunquit and York are close by or take a drive north to Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens). **More details will be released soon through your State President and on our website ([www.newenglandgc.org](http://www.newenglandgc.org)).**



## **2020 Member Award of Honor Winner: Becky Gallery of Harpswell, Maine**

We are pleased to introduce this year's New England Garden Club winner of the *National Garden Clubs' Member Award of Honor* – Becky Gallery of the Harpswell Garden Club, Harpswell, Maine. Becky was nominated by the Garden Club Federation of Maine and was one of the outstanding applicants put forth by federations from our Region.

When clubs label someone as “indispensable,” they had Becky in mind! In the years since she and her husband Pat moved to Maine, Becky has served in many key roles -- not only for her own garden club, but also for a few other organizations



involved with protecting our environment. She is about to take over a second time as Club President, and has served as the chairman of key club committees: Program Committee; the Harpswell Historic Park Gardens Committee; and the Fall Fest Committee (her club's largest fundraiser). She maintains the Club's website and Facebook page, and is a volunteer on the Club's Wedding Committee, the Naval Aviation Museum Gardens, the Harpswell Town Office Gardens, and the Gold Star Marker and Gardens Committee. She is also the Club's representative to the Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership where she now serves as the Chairman of the Steering Committee. In this role, she makes herself available to homeowners, telling them what might be invasive on their property, how to rid the

property of the plants, and suggests native plants to replace them. She also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust. With this group Becky has played a leading role in numerous projects, including serving as the Land Trust's Board Secretary, the Sunset Cruise Planning Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Stewardship Committee where she helps maintain public trails. Among her other talents, she also writes a column for the local newspaper on invasive plants.

At the District level, she is serving her second term as Recording Secretary and has also served as one of the District's representatives to her Federation's Nominating Committee. At the State level, Becky served two terms as the Protocol Chairman under two different State Presidents. She's also a master gardener and helps design arrangements for her church. If there's any time to “chill out” Becky does needlepoint projects which she often donates to organizations to use as a fundraising tool! Congratulations to Becky for all her contributions to our Region! SMB

## NGC Announces "*Seeing is Believing*" Photo Winners

One of the events that many members looked forward to at this year's NGC Convention in Milwaukee, with the theme *2020 Perfect Vision*, was to have been the Petite Horticulture Specialty Flower Show. A division of this year's show was to have been the annual NGC Photography Contest with the theme "*Seeing is Believing*." The Coordinator of the photo contest was Arabella Dane, also a member of our Region from New Hampshire and one of three judges for the contest. More than 150 individuals entered the competition – many with multiple entries which came from 27 states as well as Peru, Venezuela, and Mexico.

We are proud to say that nine photo entries from New England made it to the finals,



and that the overall winner of the *NGC Botanical Arts Award* to the highest scoring Blue Ribbon winner was one of our own members – Dianne Roberts of the Garden Club of Madison, CT (Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut)! Dianne was happy to share her prize-winning photo. The class she entered that won the top prize was: Class 1A Near Sighted – *Close-up and/or Macro*. She was Entry 73 and named her photo

*"Within a Water Drop."* Judges' comments were *"Using the drops as lenses to put the blurred background flower into the foreground was fantastic! Great color and contrast work."*

We reached out to Dianne to get a little background on the photo and the technique she used. The water drops are on the stem of a Flame Lily (*Gloriosa rothchildiana*). Nearby she had a pot of pink Dipladenia (in the Mandevilla family). Dianne said that when she looked through her viewfinder at the stem, she was awed to see what was reflected in the water drops. If you look closely at our reprint (especially at the two large drops on the far right), you'll see what Dianne saw – the drops act as an aspherical convex lens forming real images only upside down! Reflected in the drops were the inverted sky, the grass in her meadow, and the pink flower that ALSO acted as the pink background color you see. She tells us this is the FIRST TIME she's ever noticed this phenomenon!

Congratulations to Dianne (who also picked up a 1<sup>st</sup> place in one of the other photo categories) and to the other finalists from our Region (with a notation of their awards): Nancy Reid (Honorable Mention, Reading Garden Club – Massachusetts); Penelope Ross (1<sup>st</sup> Place and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Fairfield Garden Club – Connecticut); Michelle Mensinger (3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Derry Garden Club – New Hampshire); Anne Green (a finalist in two categories and the winner of the judges' *Most Distinctive Award*, Greenwich Garden Club – Connecticut and the Garden Club of Mt. Desert – Maine); and Kathleen Marty (finalist with her *Rushing Water* photo – Boothbay Region Garden Club – Maine). SMB

## Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller

### Mansion/National Historic Park

Lavish Victorian furnishings, Tiffany stained glass windows, wallpapers and fabrics, ornamental brickwork, and Adirondack-style summerhouses are reason enough to visit the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller Mansion in Woodstock, Vt. But it is the entire property, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1967, which entices gardeners, environmentalists and conservationists to peruse this magnificent example of the importance of conservation and sustainability espoused by three prominent families.



George Perkins Marsh (1801-1882) grew up on the property and was deeply affected by the deforestation he witnessed during his lifetime. A graduate of Phillips Academy and Dartmouth College, Marsh was active in the founding of the Smithsonian Institution and following the publication of his 1864 work, *Man and Nature*, was known as The Prophet of Conservation. Instrumental in the founding of the environmental and conservation movements, the book had a profound effect on the property's second owner, Frederick Billings. Although a native of Woodstock, Billings made his fortune as a lawyer and businessman in California. Not unlike Marsh, his return home to Vermont was characterized by dismay at the continued deforestation of the hills and mountains of Vermont. He purchased the



farm, began renovations of the house and bought acreage surrounding the property to begin a life-long project to replant the forests of local Mount Tom. Woodland trails were added and using the latest scientific advancements, he created a template to support local farmers while simultaneously protecting the land.

Billings' granddaughter, Mary French, and her husband, Laurence Spelman Rockefeller, inherited this property in 1954. Rockefeller, like his famous grandfather, John D., believed in safeguarding the land and was a dominant figure in the conservation of numerous natural spaces





throughout the country. The Rockefellers, whose sense of heritage resulted in the preservation of the property, donated what became the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park, including 555 acres of Mount Tom forests, to the National Park Service. Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson traveled to Woodstock to rededicate the house with a plaque honoring all three generations of conservationists who have lived on the site.



The grounds were designed by numerous prominent landscape architects whose work featured adding formal gardens. In 1899 Charles Platt enhanced the gardens with a fountain, seating and terrace gardens that still exist today. A waterfall garden and rock gardens were later additions. Today rhododendrons and azaleas provide a welcome setting in spring, and cutting gardens planted with sweet peas, snapdragons and zinnias grow along the greenhouse. Sculptures and roses adorn the first and third terraces. The pride of the garden is the formal flower garden on the bottom terrace, which sports beds of bright blue delphiniums, bee balms, yarrows, daisies, astilbes and lilies around a white marble fountain.

*Sandi Tinyk*

NEGC Historic & Public Gardens Chairman



## **RIFGC Virtual Flower Show**

These were the only rules for the "RIFGC Virtual Flower Show":

Class 1 "In Jail"

Class 2 "Freedom"

A design using what you have on hand! Must include some plant material: fresh, dried and/ or treated. Any size and design type. Take a photo of your completed design with a plain background. Indicate Class 1 or Class 2 and post. May enter 1 design per class. Post by Friday, April 10. Resulting designs shown on page 25.





De Feldman "In Jail"



Judy Gray "In Jail"



Elaine DiGiovanni "In Jail"



Tracey Banksia  
"Freedom"



Raymonde Boisseranc  
"In Jail"



Mary Lorusso-DiBara  
"Freedom"



Marjorie DeAngelis  
"Freedom"



Marie Salix "In Jail"



Claire Erny "In Jail"



Blakely Szosz "In Jail"



Judy Evelyn Polli "In Jail"



Candace Morgenstern  
"Freedom"

**FGCCT's Ginni Donovan *Vision of Beauty Calendar*  
"Arranger of the Year" for her Artistic Craft Designs**



This necklace photo won the calendar award. It was originally entered in our 2019 show and I renamed it Breakfast at Tiffany's for the calendar.

I entered this purse called Purrs in the Rhode Island Flower Show last year. This photo was accepted into the calendar.



# NEGC Calendar

**Deadline for the **August 2020** issue of Northern Exposure is July 24 – please e-mail articles or questions to editor Nancy Atwell at [atwelln@aol.com](mailto:atwelln@aol.com)**

[Editor's note: for additional dates, please check the New England Garden Clubs web site: [www.newenglandgc.org](http://www.newenglandgc.org) and click on **My Calendar**]

## Environmental School

**September 22-24** - Environmental School, Course 3, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, Connecticut

## Flower Show School

**October 20-22** - Flower Show School, Course 1, Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby, Connecticut.

## Regional Meetings

### Symposium

**August 10-12** - The "Northern New England Tri-State Symposium" will be hosted in New Hampshire at the DoubleTree Hotel in Manchester, NH. The states of Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire have joined to organize this symposium. Details and registration information will be available on the NGC website after all topics are confirmed. Design Instructor and Allied subject: August 10-11, Mary Huntoon of Massachusetts. Horticulture Instructor and Allied subject: August 12, Darlene Newell of West Virginia.

## NEGC Annual Meeting

**October 13-14** – New England Garden Clubs' 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Garden Club Federation of Maine at the Village by the Sea Condominium Hotel and Resort in Wells, Maine. NGC President Gay Austin is tentatively scheduled to attend. Guest speaker will be Jessie Benhazl, founder of *Green City Growers*. Watch for more details this summer.