

Northern Exposure



Newsletter of the New England Garden Clubs, Inc.



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

February 2024

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



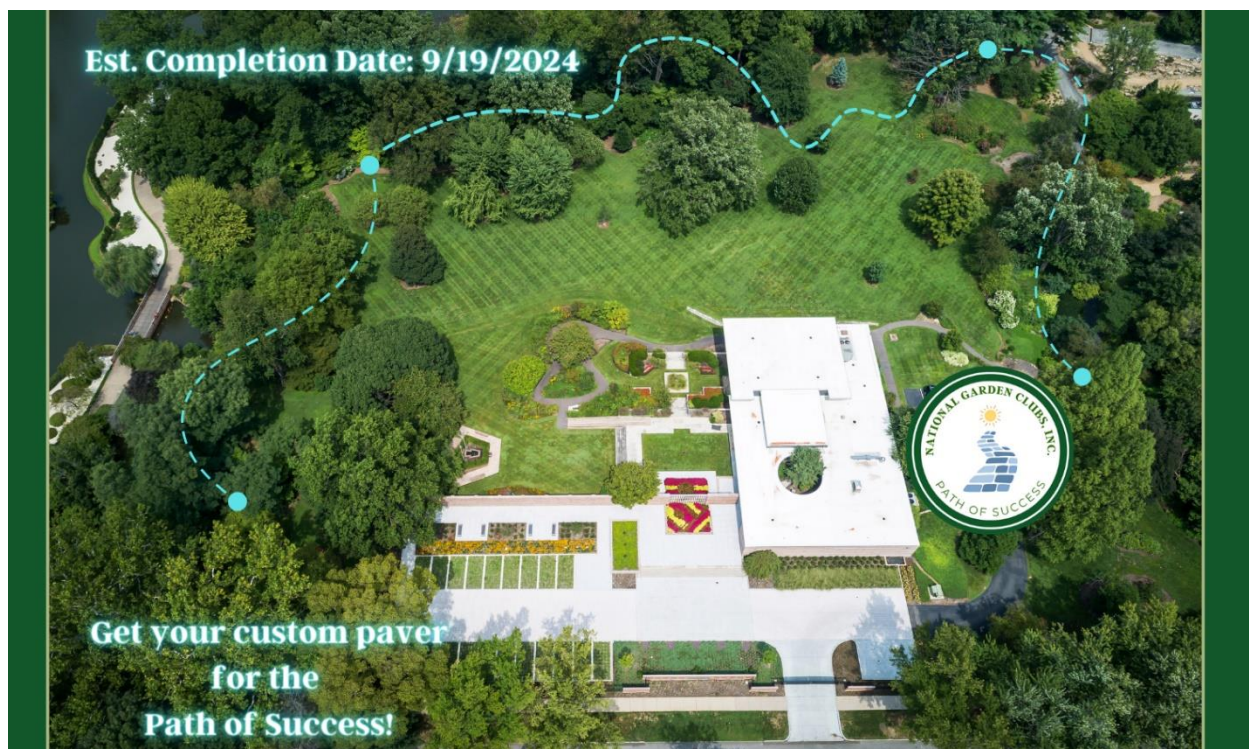
Happy New Year!

I am so looking forward to attending some of the exciting and interesting meetings, activities and events being held within the six New England states in 2024. You have all been so welcoming; I enjoy seeing and learning about the wonderful contributions you are making to your communities and states.

Please save the date for the 2024 NEGC Annual Meeting being hosted by the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. in Warwick, RI, on October 23 and 24. RIFGC's planning committee has some great speakers and presenters in the wings for us, so stay tuned! The venue will be the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, a beautiful conference center and hotel that is centrally located just off I-95. I hope to see you there!

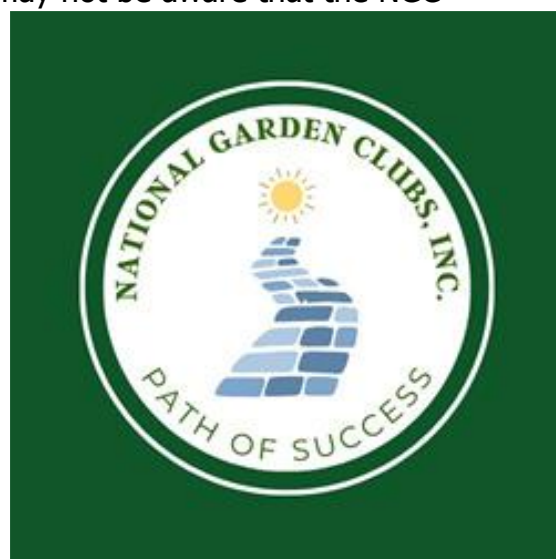
At the annual meeting that was held in Plymouth last October, I was approached by a few members about offering a new tote bag for the region as a fundraiser and to serve as a replacement for the previous one that was printed with the outdated name of "New England Region." This idea was discussed and after some research, the board approved a new version for NEGC, Inc. and the tote bags are now available. If you are interested in purchasing one, please see the flyer in this newsletter or go to the NEGC website.

Speaking of the NEGC website, a "Thank You" goes out to Lisa Theall of Massachusetts for stepping up to serve as our new webmaster. Lisa has suggested several changes to make the site easier to navigate with input from Suzanne Bushnell



and me. It remains a work-in-progress, but please do check it out and let me know if you have any suggestions. The list of NEGC officers and committee chairs is now there so you can readily find the contacts for youth projects, the newsletter and many other committees.

And if you have been on the National Garden Clubs, Inc. site recently, you will have seen a new link on the top drop-down menu – “NGC Pathway of Success.” Since most of you have not been to headquarters in St. Louis, you may not be aware that the NGC property abuts the beautiful Missouri Botanical Garden. There is no fence dividing the two properties, and visitors to the garden often wander onto NGC’s property. NGC decided to capitalize on having such a beautiful neighbor and has recently begun renting their property out for functions – their first event having been a wedding last fall. The “Path of Success” undertaking serves several purposes -- to utilize NGC’s physical assets more fully, to create a new revenue stream, and, most importantly, to educate the public about NGC garden clubs and our mission. The project includes creating a ¼-mile walking path on NGC’s grounds enabling the Missouri Botanical Gardens visitors and other members of the public to view NGC’s beautiful gardens and trees, and adding signage to educate visitors about the rich history and purpose of National Garden Clubs, Inc. You can purchase a paver for the new pathway as an individual or



as a club, inscribed with your or your club's name, etc. For more information visit <https://gardenclub.org/ngc-path-success>

In conclusion, I want to thank you for all you do for your club, your state and for the New England Region. Working together I know we will continue to accomplish great things! Please reach out to me if I can help in any way.

Susan Miner
NEGC Director 2023-2025

Skylands, Mount Desert Island and Beatrix Farrand

"In this fortunate place of mountains, sea, and forest, plant lovers have unequalled chances for study." - Beatrix Farrand, 1917

"Martha Stewart and historic gardens" may sound like an oxymoronic phrase, but the historic Seal Harbor estate, Skylands, has found a champion in Stewart, who considers herself a "caretaker of an American treasure," who respects its every detail and gracious amenity.

Deeply tucked into the far reaches of the Northeast, Stewart visits her Maine "summer place" on Mount Desert Island only during the summer months. Completed in 1925 for the visionary automotive executive Edsel Ford by architect Duncan Candler, the 3-story house sits high on a hill that looks over Seal Harbor, just outside Acadia National Park.

Candler and Danish-born landscape designer Jens Jensen created the 63-acre retreat for Ford and his wife, Eleanor. The Detroit-area couple and their four children summered here until another family acquired the estate in 1980, after Eleanor Ford's death; they, in turn, sold Skylands to Martha in 1997.

Constructed of the same local stone as the drive, Skylands emerges from the surrounding pink granite and is engulfed by maples, kiwi vines and ferns. Unlike so many historic homes that appear to be plunked in the middle of a lawn, it is surrounded by ledges and terraces.

Beatrix Farrand, that great lady of landscape gardening, also owned property on Mount Desert, knew the island in childhood and loved it for nearly 80 years. Unlike



Stewart, she came from New York society, and was a niece of Edith Wharton. From the 1920s onward she worked for John D. Rockefeller, Jr., planning a landscape of native



plants along the roads he was laying on the island. She also worked on a walled garden with his wife, Abby Aldrich, one of 50 gardens she created on the island. Farrand was the first landscape gardener appointed to a college campus, starting in Princeton, then Yale.

Today, Martha Stewart has fully embraced the property she calls "my favorite place," appreciating its history of a love of the arts and a sensitivity to native plants and natural beauty.

Sandi Tinyk
NEGC Historic & Public Gardens Chairman

Editor's note: very few people can visit Skylands but, if you or your club would like to visit Beatrix Farrand's home farm and last garden, Garland Farm in Bar Harbor, The Beatrix Farrand Society opens the farm in the summer. For information, please visit [Gardens \(beatrixfarrandsociety.org\)](http://Gardens.beatrixfarrandsociety.org)



Summer lilies at Skylands

NEW ENGLAND GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

NEGC Tote



Take everything you need to meetings with this customized tote. Multiple pockets provide a space for all of your necessities.

- Material: 600D polyester
- Handles: Dual 25" length
- Zippered main compartment
 - Front slip pocket
- 2 pen pockets and one card pocket in front panel
 - Left side mesh pocket
 - Right side slip pocket

- Size: 14" H x 17" W x 5" D

\$20 plus shipping via USPS \$6.85 total \$26.85*

Send order form and check made out to "New England Garden Clubs, Inc." to:

New England Garden Clubs, Inc.,
19 Town Village Drive, Salem, NH 03079

Questions? Contact fmotion@aol.com



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Totes: _____ at \$20.00 each \$ _____

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*If ordering more than one to go to the same address, contact fmotion@aol.com for a multi-unit shipping fee.

Total: \$ _____

The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Inc.

FGCVT held its first Photography Series in the Fall of 2023. More than 35 entries were submitted by garden club members.

Karen Vatne, a well-known garden club photographer from the Springfield Garden Club selected the top three entries depicting the theme. A \$25 monetary gift was presented to each winner's club.

"Fall in its Glory" FGCV 2023 Photography Series

Overall Best Winner

Patricia Armetta Haubner

The Garden Club of Manchester

The photographer's use of the brilliantly backlit red vine to "frame" the beautiful golden tree and mountain peak is surprising and, combined with an excellent composition and vibrant color combination, makes for a winning photo.



Honorable Mention Barbara Gulino
Burlington Garden Club

A beautiful orange tree and beckoning field in the foreground, brilliant foliage in the middle ground and a stunning background make this photo worthy of an honorable mention.



Best Theme Margie Larson
Burlington Garden Club

This photo best epitomizes the theme "Fall in All Its Glory" with its not-too often-seen orange mushrooms sprouting like jewels from a forest floor of fallen beech leaves which frame them beautifully.



The Fall Theme Series 1: "Fall in its Glory," was a photo with yellow/orange color in the photo.

The April 2024 Series 2: "Spring Unfolds its Beauty – a photo with blue and green color in the photo.

The August 2024 Series 3: "Summer Garden Surprises – TBA
Guidelines for the photo and submitting the photo are on the FGCV website
<https://www.vermontfgcv.com/fgcv-photography-series>

Doris Van Mullen
FGCV President 2023-2025

FGCV Sponsors a Two-Day Garden Tour in June

The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont is sponsoring a bus trip to the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens hosted by *Charlie Nardozzi, radio and TV personality with shows in Vermont and Connecticut and Regional Emmy Award winner.* Details at the website: www.vermontfgcv.com/2024-coastalmainebotanicalgardenstour

Stops during the trip will include travel to the historic city of Portsmouth, NH, in time for lunch at a local restaurant with a tour to the **Moffatt-Ladd House** and Garden (website: www.moffattladd.org), dating from the Colonial era. The home is beautifully decorated with rich carvings, hand-blocked wallpaper and period furniture. The lovely, terraced gardens feature historic perennials and arbors smothered in roses.

Tour participants will stay overnight at a hotel in Portland, ME, and the next day will visit The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, a grassroots effort that began as a casual conversation between friends and evolved into the largest botanical garden in New England. Located on more than 300 acres along the coast in Boothbay, CMBG is a true Maine experience with all buildings and the central gardens ADA compliant, making them fully wheelchair and stroller accessible.

On the way home, there will be a stop at 30-acre Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH, which began as the private garden of sculptor and horticulturist Jill Nooney and her husband Bob Munger (web site: www.bedrockgardens.org). We will enjoy a tour through the series of imaginative gardens highlighted with Jill's whimsical sculptures.



Cypripedium reginae – in bloom at CMBG. June 2023

Doris Van Mullen
FGCV President 2023-2025

January 2024 Photo Newsletter Director Message

Happy New Year! As I write this message, we are finally getting some snow. Already 6-8 inches have accumulated, and the forecast is for a foot. I have always loved the winter with the snow creating a beautiful white coating on the trees, plants and ground. The bird's color pops against a background of snow and the night doesn't seem quite so dark when the moon is reflecting on snow.

But how to capture this beauty? Often my winter photos are uninteresting as it is difficult to catch the nuances of the wintery landscape. By attending the presentations on photography that have been offered to our NEGC Photography Group, I am learning techniques that add more interest to my photos.

I am looking forward to the photography tips and tricks from Rick Sammon via a Zoom presentation in March. Link to Photography Newsletter with register link:
<https://conta.cc/3tHXtm5>

Who can attend:

the members of our New England Garden Clubs -i.e., the federated clubs of CT MA ME NH RI VT and their invited guests

Where: On-Line! via Zoom

Price: USD \$10

Note: Register even if you can't attend the live session. The webinar will be recorded and if you're registered, you'll receive a link to the recording of the webinar that you can view for at least 30 days

Please note the change of date for the NEGC Webinar with Rick Sammons to March 11,

Many thanks to Arabella Dane for coordinating this and making us aware of other opportunities to hone and perfect our photography skills.

Wishing you a blessed and adventure-filled 2024!

Susan Miner
NEGC Director
2023-25

Photo from a screen shot from the photo contest PowerPoint in October 2024



Winter Beach

Jill Corr
Stonington GC - CT

Three NGC President's Projects Now Being Promoted

During her talk at the New England Garden Clubs' annual meeting in Plymouth, MA, NGC President Brenda Moore highlighted her three projects which she hopes members will support. The first one, which was introduced during summer 2023 and is being coordinated by Garden Club Federation of Maine member Suzanne Bushnell, encourages those of us who have vegetable gardens, or who volunteer at community gardens, to donate excess produce to organizations that help fight hunger in our communities. It's called the *PLANT AMERICA – Feed America Project*. Donation forms are available on the NGC website at

<https://gardenclubwebsite.wufoo.com/forms/zsknpl11e4aocl/>.

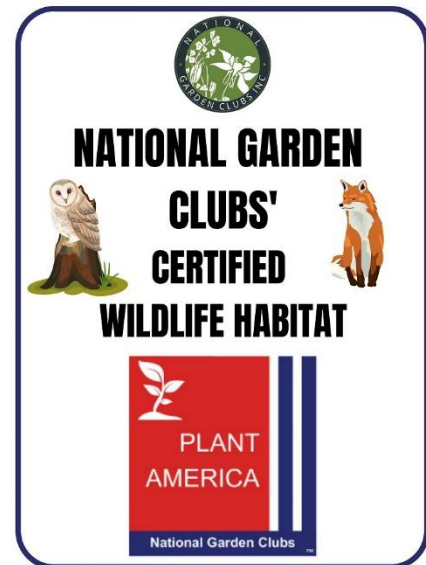
As far as donations from our Region are concerned, four of our six states have actively participated by having members or clubs send in donation forms. Those states are Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Suzanne hopes to get donation forms soon from Vermont and Rhode Island members! As far as a breakdown of donations from our New England Region, members and clubs have three different ways of reporting donations – by the value of the food donated, by the weight of the donation, or by the servings provided. And if the donation is a financial donation to a local organization that helps to fight food insecurity, then the amount of the donation can be stated on the form.

To date, from our Region, the value reported of both fresh-grown produce as well as some non-perishable donations is \$2,830. The weight reported is 2,827.35 pounds. Those reporting servings provided is 110. And a total of \$1,250 has been donated by Region members to various organizations that help to feed the hungry. For those who still want to report donations, you have until near the end of Brenda's term as NGC President. April 30, 2025, will be the final reporting date. For those of you who don't have a vegetable garden but still want to participate, Suzanne is accepting donation forms to report non-perishable items which many clubs donate during the winter months.

Two more President's projects have recently been introduced. The first project is called the *PLANT AMERICA – Plant for Pollinators Project*. With this project, Brenda is encouraging members to provide everything pollinators need to thrive in a garden. This includes food sources such as native plants, a water source (such as a bird bath, a pond), and an area where pollinators can raise their young. Members who fill out a form provided on the NGC website can also order a sign that designates their garden as a certified pollinator garden.



The President's third project focuses on creating gardens that help sustain the habitat of our wildlife. The project is called *PLANT AMERICA – Landscape for Wildlife*. You get to select the wildlife that you want to encourage to visit your garden. This might be birds, frogs, insects, or any other small mammal that visits your property. Again, you're encouraged to provide a source of water, food, and a cover place for wildlife to raise their young. With this project you will also fill out an application form and later can order a sign that designates your garden as a certified wildlife habitat. To read information on all three projects, go to the NGC website www.gardenclub.org and click the link to the President's projects at <https://gardenclub.org/programs>. If you have a question about the *PLANT AMERICA – Feed America* President's Project, don't hesitate to contact Suzanne at smbushnell@comcast.net.



Suzanne Bushnell

Garden Club Federation of Maine member and coordinator of the NGC PLANT AMERICA – Feed America President's Project

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts



I love reading books, and after a jam packed two quarters of being the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts President, during the Christmas break, I was able to quietly sit and catch up on a few books that I have wanted to read, aside from those that my other book clubs required. I don't always read garden related books because I love biographies and history, but here is what I read over winter break. In a few days, I plowed through the latest

Elon Musk biography by Walter Issacson. **Powerful Mothers, Powerful Sons** by Charlotte Gray. **Late Migrations: a story of loss and love** by Margaret Renki wrote about her description of the natural world of her backyard in Tennessee and ties it in with the loss of her parents. It is a simple but rich description of the pattern of wildlife that faithfully returns each season to enrich our lives and do all the hard work that needs doing to keep our complex ecosystem functioning, and robust, for generations.

I watched a GBH webinar on the book **Chasing Bright Medusas: the Life of Willa Cather** by Benjamin Taylor where he described Willa's colorful description of the Nebraska landscape. I did not read the book because the reviews were poor. However, since the discussion was so fascinating about Willa, I decided to dig up one of Willa's books out of my library and reread **My Antonia**. As the author best

described Willa, while the landscape was flat and relatively nothing was happening around her in the late 1800s, Willa wrote in technicolor and her descriptions of the prairie as a young girl are remarkable. But the holidays were not that long, and I also contracted COVID so that put a damper on things for a week.

I bring up books because of my love of words. Here's one for you. APRICITY (n.) The warmth of the sun in winter. Not that I need to give you a weather report for Cape Cod, but it has truly been a mild winter here. So, when apricity occurs, it is usually most welcome as one sits on a bench at the seashore and the temperature is a bit raw, but the winds are gentle. I hope the temperatures do not take a dip because I already see budding from the ground for hydrangeas. Yes, it has been that warm. The ground hasn't frozen.

I am so proud of our 172 Massachusetts garden clubs. I read the newsletters that each club sends to me, and I am continually impressed by the amount of civic landscaping that is done to beautify the towns. I also admire the number of clubs who are going 'Native'. We have a club member, Carol Alper, who initiated the Pollinator Pathways of Cape Cod, and she has been giving lectures on how to grow a native plant garden and it's catching on. The state of Massachusetts is peppered with gardeners who implemented these natives and have registered with www.pollinator-pathway.org. Club members are becoming more and more environmentally aware and native plants relieve the stress drought creates thereby avoiding a water crisis or water ban during the hot, dry summers. Native plants and shrubs keep the biodiversity in your garden and they welcome pollinators. It was disheartening to hear members tell me that they never saw a bee in their garden this past summer. Well, if you are surrounded by neighbors across and on each side of you who have a green lawn, it is hard to fight the battle. But we must. Large green lawns remind me of the comment made by Neil Diboll, Native Plant Ecologist, "Everybody says they love Mother Nature, but if you look at their yard, you see they don't invite her over."



Although winter has put a bit of a pause on things and many New England club members are Snowbirds, the robust Yankees, those who endure the winter, have kept the light on and held Zoom meetings so all members can join in, regardless of their location. Board meetings are happening as usual, and Chairpersons are getting their committees ready for the notorious May plant sales. There is a quote from Rumi I find so true: "Don't think the garden loses its ecstasy in winter. It's quiet, but the roots are down there riotous." This is so relatable to the club members and the workings of a healthy garden club. We are all busy working in the winter to prepare for spring events.

Each week I write to our members in what I call a "Monday Memo." It comes out only on Mondays and it is usually the only communication I have via email. It is a message saying this week "you need to know" memo and it keeps all our members well informed. I happened to mention that National had grant money available and I sent them the link. We have clubs that acted and applied. Hence, I received a wonderful email from National notifying me that three of our garden clubs were recipients of Plant America Community Project grants. They are the Acton Garden Club, Littleton Country Gardeners and Scituate Garden Club. I am so excited for them and so very proud of them. I will certainly showcase their projects at our Annual Conference in June.

Seed catalogs are in the mailboxes and being devoured by gardeners everywhere. It's such a fun time to dream and plan our gardens. We are eternal optimists and get excited, almost giddy, at the thought of peeping Hellebores, Winter Heath, Snowdrops, Dwarf Iris, Crocus, and Early Silla about to pop through the earth as early as February and March.

We will host our popular Speakers Bureau in March where we invite speakers from around the New England area to present on a Zoom call, a 2-minute clip of programs they offer. That always draws a great audience. We offer webinars to our 10,500 members in the winter months for free, for an educational experience. The rest of our Board members are working hard on website updates, our Yearbook, Finance and Budget meetings, Awards, Grants, Scholarships and Bylaws. So much to do, so little time in the day. But the daylight is lasting longer and soon enough, the clocks will change and spring ahead.

One thing I know for sure, we all tolerate winter but anticipate a wonderful spring. Now that we are in the new year, we know we get closer to more green in the garden each day. Enjoy the experience and Nurture Nature.



Early Snowdrops

Marjorie Dienhart
GCFMa President 2023-2025
Nurture Nature

New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs

Greetings from beautiful snowy New Hampshire! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is ready for another fun filled year. We have many events on our calendar for the year and are very excited that two of our clubs will be hosting flower shows. Clubs are planning or helping to plan garden tours around the state. The NHFGC Calendar is full of great events for both members and guests.

We have firmed the decision to change the Fall Meeting to a Fall Gathering and focus on a more casual day at a venue that is interesting to our members and provides opportunities for members to have time to network with other club members. This supports the idea of being part of a Federation when we meet, share and create new ideas. Venues we have used in the past are the beautiful Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH, and The Fells, a historic estate and gardens once owned by John Hay and located on Lake Sunapee.



Second Vice President, Fiona McKenna, and club members enjoy the gardens at The Fells. In the background is Lake Sunapee!

Members are given the opportunity to order a boxed lunch or bring their own lunch from home. Tours were available or members could choose to just relax and enjoy the venue. This has been very enthusiastically received by all who have participated. Our New England states have so many beautiful areas that we all plan to go to "someday." This idea gives a definite time and date to that "someday."

There is a very short business meeting involved as well as our annual memorial service to remember members who have died within the past year. It is a wonderful



Lynne Merrill, District III Director and Johanna "Holly" Talbot First Vice President NHFGC conducting a memorial service for members at the Fall Gathering.

and welcome change. We invite non-federated clubs near the venue to send two representatives from their club at our expense. Others are welcome at their own expense. One club sent 8 members and this club has now joined NHFGC! It has also become a way to recruit more members as they enjoy the day with us in an informal setting! NHFGC is also excited about the return of Design Guild. This

activity encourages more members to increase their awareness of NGC floral design types and encourage participation in flower shows. This activity was a victim of Covid, and we are very happy to have the support of many as we restart this in April.

Best wishes to all as we begin our New Year! I am looking forward to a wonderful year and hope to see many of you as we celebrate the many activities planned by clubs.

Winifred C. Schmidt
NHFGC President 2023-2025

Rhode Island Federated Garden Clubs

As I sat to write this message, I thought winter would never arrive, silly me. It has reared its ugly head with snow, rain, ice and not so friendly cold temperatures. On the other hand, weather has a way of changing course and soon the pendulum will swing in the other direction. While I take a reprieve from the gardens for a short spell, this is the time at my house when we gear up to start our seeds for this year's harvest. Over the years we started to collect our own seeds from heirloom and organic varieties from our gardens with great success. I rarely have the need to order seeds, but I find myself curled up in a chair on a cold winter day to thumb through the endless catalogs and it warms my soul.

As we end our holiday break, RIFGC meeting plans are gearing up for another fruitful year of activities, programs, garden tours and, yes, our annual state flower show. The Federation once again is in partnership with the RI Home Show April 4-7 at the RI Convention Center. The 2024 RIFGC Design Specialty Flower Shows theme is "Rhode Island in Bloom." The schedule is a vibrant interpretation of our diverse state, Rhode Island. The schedule inspires our creative and artistic talents to shine through floral design. It is geared for novice and seasoned designers featuring an array of design types. We highlight 60 floral designs exhibited by NGC members throughout New England Garden Clubs, along with youth floral designs and botanical crafts and educational exhibits. There is truly something for everyone. We are highlighting the Industrial Revolution, mansions, shorelines, bridges, epicurean fare and more that makes "Little Rhody" so special. Plan a trip whether it's by bus or carpooling and you will enjoy the beginning of the spring season that awaits by getting a big dose of fresh flowers at our show.

We have just finished the big push for the youth contests in conjunction with the National Garden Club, celebrating Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday. We are looking at Guest Reader Programs during Reading Week at the local elementary schools or libraries featuring the books written by Brenda Moore, President of NGC.

Who doesn't love to go on a trip? This year we are featuring at least three trips to suit everyone's purse size. Some will be whisked off this spring to Europe for a Chelsea Garden and Flower Tour, others are taking a short-day trip to the Flora in Winter



RIFGC Judges Council design workshop.

Show at the Worcester Art Museum, and/or heading west to view the NY Botanical Gardens in June.

New membership requests from NGC have been increasing each month. It's thrilling to see those emails land in my inbox. Membership is so important. As president living in such a small state, I am most fortunate to be available to all the membership, visiting their club meetings, participating in their events and to include everyone in our monthly business meetings. Inclusion is so important for our membership. Starting back up is our Wet Your Whistle open forum discussion meetings following our business meeting, where we have a captive audience. My motto is "One Man Gathers What Another Man Spills," (Robert Hunter) topics on awards, membership, dues, insurance, mentorship, floral mechanics, etc. -- you get the idea -- it's what anyone wants to bring to the table to share.

As my calendar seems to be filling up, I take a moment to pause and reflect on all that has happened since I was installed in April 2023. Wow! I should be exhausted but my spirit is renewed because of what a great organization I have been asked to represent.

Judy Gray
RIFGC President 2023-2025



As President and on behalf of the members of Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, I am honored to announce the 2024 NEGC Annual Meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick RI. Centrally located off the Rt 95 corridor and a short drive south of Providence, we are only minutes away from TF Greene International Airport and Amtrak Train Stations.

I am originally from NH, and I am not a meteorologist, but the weather here is usually warm with a cool breeze off the ocean and the colors of fall still gracing us in October. Though we are the smallest state we offer a staggering 400 miles of shoreline with spectacular views, walking trails, Newport Mansions, Museums, the Famous Federal Hill in Providence, and a mecca of incredible dining options- truly something for everyone.

Whether you are here only for the meeting or may stay a bit longer, we hope you enjoy everything Little Rhody has to offer. We look forward to seeing you in October.

Judy Gray
President of RIFGC

New England Garden Club Awards

Our Region gives out several awards at its Annual Meeting each October. For in-depth information as to rules and for an application form, check at [Awards | NEW ENGLAND GARDEN CLUBS \(newenglandgc.org\)](#). You also may contact the Region Awards Chairman Vera Bowen, 11 Dolly Drive, Bristol, RI 02809-1578, Email: VeraBowen9092@gmail.com, or your State President to get information about the awards.

REGIONAL AWARDS GENERAL RULES – Revised 2023

1. All awards are based on work done during the regional awards year which is June - May 31.

2. The awards are competitive between the six New England states.

SEND APPLICATIONS TO: New England Garden Clubs Regional Awards Chairman, (information on Application Form) **postmarked on or before September 1st.**

Electronic submissions are highly recommended. Include an NEGC Award Application Form for each award. Each award application is limited to three pages, one side only. The application form counts as one page. Exceptions: Speech and Essay Contest and Smokey Bear Poster are to be sent directly to regional representative for Youth Activities.

For the rest of the rules and the application form: [Awards | NEW ENGLAND GARDEN CLUBS \(newenglandgc.org\)](#)

Garden Club Federation of Maine

During the past few months, the Garden Club Federation of Maine clubs focused on holiday activities. Many clubs created holiday greens for shut-ins in their community. Others focused on offering holiday fairs and "Festival of Trees," and clubs report that these have been very successful fundraisers. Key to the success of the fairs has been

offering small, decorated trees, wreaths and table arrangements, as well as craft projects from natural materials and delicious baked goods.



Seacoast Garden Club making Christmas Trees as part of the Annual Community Workshop in Kennebunk



GCFM President Karen Rea with Governor Mills at the Blaine House Tea

One club had a booth offering frozen soups and pasta dishes for sale – a unique offering that was very popular. And, of course, many clubs had holiday parties for their members.

The Kennebec District decorated the Blaine House, the official residence of the Governor of the State of Maine, and then hosted a special day of teas for GCFMaine members prior to opening the decorated “Peoples House” to the public. The theme this year was Maine Authors, with each room on the ground floor of the House focused on a different author. Governor Mills made an appearance and mingled with guests. Kennebec District Members have been decorating the House for 35 years, and they always do an outstanding job!

As a part of my theme “*Rethinking the Yard*,” in January we partnered with Maine Audubon to sponsor a Zoom presentation by Doug Tallamy on his *Homegrown National Park*. This was successful beyond our wildest dreams, with more than 275 members and public guests participating. The second presentation in this series will be March 19 at 6 p.m. with Owen Wormser. His topic will be *Lawns into Meadows*, a subject many members have expressed an interest in. Registration for this is up on the GCFMaine website (www.mainegardenclubs.org). It will be free for our club members; if any of you wish to participate, it is also free. When you are asked for your garden club name, just put the state after your club’s name. The public is invited for a \$10 fee.

As a result of the back-to-back storms in January, some of the gardens supported by our clubs underwent significant damage. For the first time ever, we may be applying for NGC National Disaster Grant. I imagine some of our other New England states may be in the same situation. This is a wake-up call for everyone to take an active part in saving our environment!

Those of us not affected by the storms are enjoying a bit of down time from gardens, but busily looking at catalogues and websites to plan the 2024 gardening season. It's always exciting to dream about new plants – new colors – new combinations – more pollinators!

Karen Rea
GCFMe President 2023-2025

Editor's note: as Karen mentioned in her article, the National Garden Clubs have a Natural Disaster USA Fund. The following is a brief description of the fund.

The Natural Disaster USA Fund was established by NGC in 1997 to receive monetary contributions from states, clubs and individuals for the purpose of assisting local and state clubs with their garden-related restoration efforts. This fund has helped to replant parks, municipal gardens and other garden related sites due to natural disasters caused by floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, ice storms and wildfires.

Grants up to \$5,000 per project may be awarded in a fiscal year to local or state clubs. The application form can be downloaded from the link below. The application must include the location of the site involved, nature and severity of the disaster, proposed restoration plan by the garden club, estimated itemized cost of the project, as well as funds received from outside sources. A scale of points guideline is used for determining the grant to be awarded.

Link: [Natural Disaster Grant Application](#)

For more information or questions concerning the application process, contact:
[Debra Turner](#), Natural Disasters Grants Chairman
1199 N Memorial Dr. #104 Lancaster, OH 43130-1749
Email: ohiodebra@icloud.com

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

Gift of Beauty to Barre Main Street Businesses

In July 2023, historic, catastrophic, and unrelenting rain swamped cities and towns in Vermont. In Barre, the home of the of the Granite Center Garden Club (GCGC), the city government had closed Main Street through an emergency health order. Roads were impassable, landslides and mudslides destroyed homes and businesses and search

and rescue operations were in place. President Biden approved an emergency disaster declaration for the state.

The North District of the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont went into action. They contacted the GCGC to find out what help was needed.

They discovered the intense floods had washed away the thirty plus flower containers placed that spring outside Main Street businesses by GCGC in collaboration with Barr Partnership Resplendent and the three town gardens maintained by the FCFC were destroyed.

Through the generous donations of local flower nurseries, the Burlington Garden Club potted over 30 beautiful flowering pots, and with multiple flower flats, transported and placed them outside Barre's Main Street businesses. The overwhelming generous support and donations from local nursery for the project came



Photo courtesy *Peter Hirschfeld*

from Adams Farm, Claussen's Greenhouse and Perennial Farm, Paquette Full of Posies and Red Wagon Plants.



Below: Karen Villanti project coordinator & employees at Paquette Full of Posies with flower donations. Granted permission for photo.

Left: Flowers donated and potted.





On a rainy Thursday afternoon in July, Barre's Main Street was busy with garden club volunteers replenishing and replacing thirty plus flower containers. The color of new flowering plant containers and visits to merchants were heartwarming after a time of heartbreaking loss.

The coordinated effort was orchestrated by Diane and Ed Blodgett, Co-Presidents of the GCGC; Doris Van Mullen,

President of the Federation Garden Clubs of Vermont, along with Karen Villanti, FGCV North District Director and Burlington Garden Club members.

The flats of flowers were planted at the site of the granite statues entering Barre as well as in small flower gardens in the main section of the town. Despite this challenging time, we wanted Barre residents to know we went there to stand with them and help brighten their days. They have shown incredible strength in the face of this flood.



Doris Van Mullen
FGCV President 2023-2025

L-R Granite Center Garden Club members (Diane Blodgett and grandchildren, Burlington Garden Club members (Karen Villanti and Rose Godard and Doris Van Mullen)



'RHODE ISLAND IN BLOOM'

An NGC Design Specialty Flower Show
Presented by Rhode Island
Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

President Judy Gray

April 4 - 7, 2024

RI Convention Center. Providence, RI

Design classes include 'Beaches' a Traditional Line/Line Mass, 'Lighthouses' an Illuminary Design, Assemblage, Panel, Petite Designs and more.

We have added a Division II Botanical Arts Design which includes Pot et Fleur, Hanging and Collage Designs.

All NGC Members Are Welcome To Enter

Schedule: <https://rigardenclubs.org/flower-shows/>

WORKING TOGETHER Saving Forests \$68 At A Time

The National Garden Club and the USDA Forest Service partnership to sustain our national and urban forests through this reforestation/forest education program. Many garden clubs in the New England Region participate in this heartwarming project. Thank you.

For other clubs, your club can participate in a meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing \$68 to a Penny Pines plantation as part of the costs of planting replacement trees indigenous to a particular damaged area. Whether destroyed by fire or by other natural catastrophe, pine trees and other trees are replaced. You may

designate a specific state you wish to benefit from this contribution.

<https://www.gardenclub.org/penny-pines>

Reforestation represents a public concern for conservation and the environment. Support countless species of animals, plants and insects and provide vital organic infrastructure and diverse, dense collections of life. The forest mitigation helps to combat climate change because of its capacity to remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it.



Let us work to do our share by taking on and continuing in the responsibility to restore, maintain and protect forests. Let us treasure and nurture our forests.

Doris Van Mullen
Penny for Pines NEGC

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut

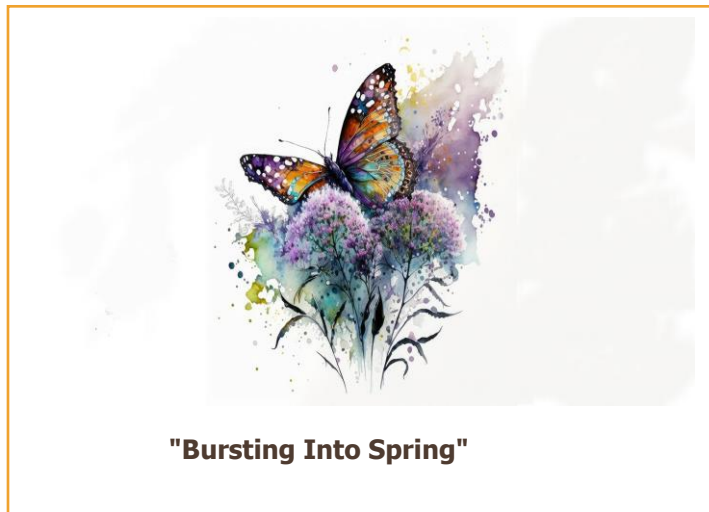
The winter season is finally upon us. Historically, this is the time we are inundated with seed catalogs, but there haven't been as many this year. I miss the opportunity to peruse them and make my list for the upcoming planting season. We are all using our computers more so fewer catalogs mean fewer trees being cut down to make paper! Ah, my theme "Care for Our Air, Plant a Tree" or in this case save a tree.

The President's reports have been the impetus for several FGCCT programs this year. Our Treasurers' Zooms produced by John Davis and MaryAnn Lynn were great successes as well as the Awards Zoom organized by Vonice Carr. The 2024 Presidents report will be updated, streamlined and available by February 1, 2024. Who knows what new indicatives may come out of this year's reports. The Annual Reports are found under forms on the FGCCT website.

Plans are underway for "Bursting Into Spring," the 2024 Connecticut Flower and Garden Show, which runs from Thursday, February 22 through Sunday, February 25 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Everyone on the committee is hard at work preparing for the show.

The FGCCT has scheduled our newest group of Regional Round Tables for 2024. Local club Board of Directors are invited to exchange information and ideas on topics including Membership, Fundraising, Finances, Programs and Events, Social Media and Promotions and more. Our first meeting will be on March 7 from 10 to noon in Waterford, CT.

FGCCT's virtual Landscape Design School is March 26 and 27 via Zoom. This year we are doing Course 1 of NGC's new curriculum. Everyone is welcome to attend (whether they are garden club members). Each day runs from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is on the FGCCT website, ctgardenclubs.org. Flower Show School, Course 1 will be held in person at Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby, CT. Procedure will be held via Zoom on April 18. Design, Horticulture and the exam will take place on April 24-26 at Kellogg.



"Bursting Into Spring"

I take any opportunity on hand to tout my theme, "Care for Our Air...Plant a Tree." This time of year, we should also be caring for our indoor air with houseplants. Spider plants, Pathos, Philodendron, Parlor Palm, Aloe Vera, Ficus and Peace Lily all help clean the indoor air from several or all the following chemicals: benzene, formaldehyde, toluene, carbon monoxide and xylene. Of course, we all know houseplants also improve our mood! We may be stuck inside for another couple of months, so take some time to visit Doug Tallamy's Homegrown National Park website at <https://homegrownnationalpark.org> and seriously think about a tree you can plant this spring.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Flower and Garden Show, "Bursting into Spring" in only a few weeks. It proves to be a winning show!

In friendship,

Karin

Karin C. Ohr Pyskaty
President FGCCT

NEGC Calendar

Deadline for the **May 2024 issue of Northern Exposure is April 25 – please e-mail articles or questions to editor Nancy Atwell at atwelln@aol.com**
The February issue will cover the months May, June and July 2024.

National Garden Club Meetings

June 2-5, 2024 - NGC Annual Convention, Denver (Westminster), CO. For more information: www.gardenclub.org/2024-ngc-convention-details Registration deadline May 24.

Regional Meetings

October 23 and 24 – New England Garden Clubs Annual Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI, hosted by Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs.

Environmental Schools

February 2 - 3 – Course 3, via Zoom.



March 11 -12 - Course 2, via Zoom.

March 18 - 21 – Course 1, Via Zoom.

Flower Shows

Feb 22 – 25 - Connecticut Flower and Garden Show, CT Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT

April 4 -7 – “Rhode Island in Bloom,” a NGC Design Specialty Flower Show, presented by Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs at RI Convention Center, 1 Sabin St., Providence, RI. Open to all NGC members. FMI: rigardenclubs.org/flower-shows/

April 26-29 - Art in Bloom Show Hameho GC of RI held at Barrington Public Library
FMI: rifgc.sfs@gmail.com

May 18 - America the Beautiful A Small Standard Flower Show Western Cranston G.C. of RI. FMI: info.rifgc.sfs@gmail.com

June 13 - RIFGC Judges Council Horticulture Show, Riverside, RI. FMI: rifgc.sfs@gmail.com

June 21-23 - Newport Flower Show Rosecliff Mansion title "At Home"
FMI: www.newportmansions.org/events/the-newport-flower-show-at-home/

Flower Show Schools

April 10 -12 - Kellogg Environmental Center, 500 Hawthorne Ave., Derby, CT.

Garden Study Schools

March 4 – 5 – Course 3, Virtual Classroom

April 25 – 27 – Course 2, Chelmsford, MA via Zoom.

Landscape Design Schools

February 7 -9 - Course 4, via Zoom.

March 26 -27 - Course 2 via Zoom.



State Garden Club meetings

April 17 - FGCCT Annual Meeting.

April 25 - RIFGC Awards Luncheon.

May 29 - NHFGC Annual Meeting, Manchester, NH.

June 11 – FGCV Annual Meeting - Southern District, Inn at Manchester, Vermont.

June 13 - GCFMa Annual Conference, Double Tree Hotel, Andover, MA.

June 20 and 21 - GCFMe Annual Convention, University of Maine Orono campus.

October 16 - Connecticut Annual Awards Meeting.

Other events

April 26-28 – “Art in Bloom” at Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.

May 3 – 4 – NH Farm, Forest and Garden Expo, Deerfield, NH.

May 15-23 - RIFGC Tour, Great Gardens of Southern England including, Chelsea Flower Show.

June 24-26 - Bus Trip to Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. All gardeners - friends throughout New England are welcome to join us. Registration on Federation Garden Clubs of Vermont website www.vermontfgcv.com

