



# Northern Exposure

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

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

**November 2020**

### **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**



I would bet that many of you feel like I do as we head into late fall. With the loss of more daylight hours, I have to work a little harder to be upbeat as we move into the cold winter months. One thing I think we ALL can be happy about is that never-ending political ads are coming to an end! Now we can concentrate on staying healthy as we give thanks for family and friends as we approach the holidays.

You can tell from my photo that Halloween was around the corner as I prepared to

preside over my first-ever NEGC Virtual Awards Ceremony in mid-October! Even some of our state presidents, award chairmen and our special guest NGC President Gay Austin "dressed up" for the occasion (see related article and photo in this issue). I'm pleased to say all six of our state federations submitted award applications. NEGC Award Chairman Judy Stallworth and I presented "on the small screen" 40 award certificates to many clubs and individuals as well as several cash awards. These certificates and checks have been sent on to the states to be given to the winners. A list of all award winners has been posted to our website at [www.newenglandgc.org](http://www.newenglandgc.org) under the AWARDS tab. I'm hoping that next October we'll be able to have our NEGC Annual Meeting in Wells, Maine – and hand out next year's awards -- as scheduled.

Now that our growing season is basically over in New England, I'm requesting that any clubs or individuals who have yet to submit their donation forms reflecting

donations of produce to help fight hunger in their local area, send me their form ASAP! I'm also collecting forms from clubs who might have decided to take a different approach during the pandemic, and donated money or meals to fight food insecurity. In our next issue of *NORTHERN EXPOSURE*, I plan to list everyone who sent in Region Project Donation Forms and helped to make our Region Project such a huge success! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at [smbushnell@comcast.net](mailto:smbushnell@comcast.net). The Region Project Donation Form can be found on our website under the REGION PROJECT tab. I need to get our award application for the *NGC Region Award of Excellence*, highlighting our two-year project, submitted by the end of this year. Your forms are critical to this effort!

You'll see an article written by a member of the Derry Garden Club (NH) in this issue which spotlights the efforts one club has gone to in working with our youth to fight food insecurity. This same club was featured in the most recent issue of *THE NATIONAL GARDENER* where they wrote about their youth garden and the introduction of fruit trees along with their veggie garden. I'm so proud of our states who work with youth garden projects and have submitted donation forms during my term! Hundreds of pounds of produce grown by the children have been donated all across New England. Not only are we teaching them how to grow their own food, but we're teaching them life skills on how to feel empathy for those who are less fortunate than they are. As we close out 2020, I hope all of you stay safe and healthy, and continue to find ways to support your clubs and your communities as we all hope for better days ahead.

Suzanne Bushnell  
Director, NEGC

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## **Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.** and its members have been keeping very busy. The RIFGC has given away free trees to our clubs for Arbor Day plantings. Our Life Member group has awarded a student a \$6,500 scholarship toward her current studies at Stonehill College. The Penny Pine collection total of \$1,700.00 was sent to the NGC. This donation is enough for 25 plantations that equates to 500 seedlings that will be planted in our National Forests. Below are some of our club's busy summer stories.

Deb Ort  
President, RIFGC

### **Perennial Planters Garden Club**



This summer our Club received a Founders Fund Award of \$10,000 for our project with What Cheer Flower Farm for the Farm to acquire a CheerMobile. I am President of Perennial Planters Garden Club for a third year. Catherine Schneider and Nancy Compton met at What Cheer Flower Farm on July 31 where Shelby accepted our Perennial Planters Founders Fund check for their "CheerMobile."

They brought gifts from all of us: a key fob - a 1" silvery disc holding a print of the What Cheer Providence Seal and, of course, Champagne! The Fundraising continues. The Farm is looking beautiful. Our year's Program Calendar is almost done with flexible programming outside and virtual. Our Opening Meeting is set for outside in late September, and of course will be virtual if need be. A second October program is planned at a Farm, outside. Let us hope our State's Covid - 19 numbers go down and a fine vaccine is available as soon as possible!!

All the best to you, Nancy Compton

### **Jamestown Garden Club**

I am the President of the Jamestown Garden Club. Since we could not meet in person this year one of our members had the idea for our members to send in photos of their gardens to be made into a video. Member, Mary Hutchinson, put together this slideshow that we sent to our members on the date of our Annual Meeting, since we could not meet in person. I thought, perhaps, this video would be of interest and could be shared. Thanks! Betsy Moody

"Garden Glimpses 2020," just click on the link for our virtual garden tour: or (copy and paste) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkJQRMjb4Nw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkJQRMjb4Nw).

### **Sakonnet Garden Club**

#### **Earth Day Celebration 2020**

Although the official Earth Day celebration on April 25th was cancelled in Little Compton, the SGC still contributed by cleaning up our town during Earth Week. On Tuesday, April 21 the Conservation Committee met at the Brownell House parking lot to distribute bags and gloves. Members told us which street(s) they were going to pick up. We practiced social distancing, of course. We wore masks and gloves. SGC vests were worn while picking up the litter.

Nancy Dymecki and Jean Sunny, Conservation co-chairs

### **Barrington Garden Club**

Barrington Garden Club has been busy all summer in the town gardens. Members have truly enjoyed their experience in these gardens since spring. With Covid-19 restrictions, planting and weeding out of doors has been a welcome social activity! Social distancing and masks have been used effectively. One of our aging gardens, The MacIntyre Garden, was completely renovated this summer. It flanks both sides of the entrance to our beautiful Barrington Library. Stop by and visit this garden when in Barrington, it is lovely.

Our fall meeting schedule continues to be on Zoom. Programs include: September 15, The Barrington Land Conservation Trust: A Hidden Gem. The Trust preserves and protects the conservation and natural resources valued in the land they own and manage for future generations of Barrington.

October 20, Plant Propagation at The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Sean Halloran, Plant Propagator, Arnold Arboretum, will discuss the history, mission and future of plant propagation in a public garden setting.

November 17, Michelle Lariviere, floral designer from Studio 539, will create different holiday floral designs. She will discuss procurement of her stock along with fundamentals of her design work.

President Nina Kurtz

### **The Edgewood Garden Club**

The Edgewood Garden Club found a way to hold an in-person Annual Meeting, postponed from May, while adhering to social restrictions due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

Twenty-four members met on Thursday, September 10, for Afternoon Tea on the North Porch of the lovely Blithewold Mansion in Bristol. Observing health guidelines, the historic site had well-spaced tables and masked waiters in a covered, outdoor setting. After a few rounds of iced and hot tea, and delicious sweet and savory scones,



new officers were announced and installed for 2020-2022. Jackie Rizzi will serve as President, Sarah Lee, Vice President, Emily Grady, Secretary, Sadie Barran, Treasurer and Barbara Curry, Assistant Treasurer.



Members were also updated on activities that went on despite daily life curtailments. A "Socially-Distanced" Plant Sale, of members' donated plants as well as home-made cloth masks was largely self-service with an "honor" cashbox. Held in June on the porch and in the front yard of a member's home, it raised nearly \$1,000 over a few weeks. Three public gardens were also tended, although by smaller groups, who avoided

close contact and stayed masked as they weeded, mulched and performed other chores in the spring and summer.

By Jackie Rizzi

## Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

They say a picture is worth 1000 words, so FGCV would like to share some photos of our clubs practicing safe measures while carrying on with our programs.

The Green Mountain Gardeners from Londonderry and the mountain towns celebrate their Blue Star Memorial earlier this summer



Middlebury Garden Club's "SafeTea" Annual Meeting and social event held October 6, 2020





A member of the Garden Club of Manchester is ready to guide people through the gardens at Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home, during its Garden Tours in August. The club earned almost \$10,000 for this, one of its 100th anniversary projects!



The Garden Club of Burlington maintains one of its beautification projects during Covid-19.



The Rutland Garden Club members are seen planting some of the 60 planters they plant for their city. For this effort they were awarded the National Garden Club's Certificate of Merit for 1<sup>st</sup> place and overall winner award for Container Gardening.

The Springfield Garden Club visits a grove of chestnut trees being grown by one of its members who is involved in the American Chestnut Tree Foundation







The Brattleboro Garden Club celebrates the life of one of its members who passed away in the spring surrounded by one of the gardens she loved to work in.

Sue Hinkel and Caroline Frey  
FGCV Co-Presidents

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



## **New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. President's Report**

As I began writing this message, I lamented, if not for Covid, our NHFGC members would have all met at the Pat's Peak Ski Resort in Henniker, NH, for our 2020 Fall Meeting and some of us also would have attended the NEGC Annual Meeting in Wells, Maine. However, in the reality of 2020, none of this was to be. However, our Awards Chair, Elinor Terrell, and I attended the NEGC Virtual Awards Ceremony last week via Zoom where we were all encouraged to dress up for the Halloween season. Thank you to Judith Stallworth and Suzanne Bushnell for making this event so special in these difficult times.

I am encouraged by the many ways our clubs have found to continue functioning, with some even meeting in person safely during good weather. We are fortunate to

live in a state where the community spread of Covid is low and our citizens, for the most part, are acting responsibly. I am so grateful for the technology of Zoom, etc. that allows us to see each other, to enjoy presentations, and to conduct our club business.

NHFGC for many years each fall participated in the national non-profit "Pajama Program" where our club members donated new and warm pajamas and nature-themed books for children in need, which they distributed through a district representative to NH shelters and other charitable entities. They lost their NH rep and never replaced her, however some of our clubs continued the tradition on their own, selecting their own local charities to receive their donations. For instance, the Bow Garden Club collected and distributed over 300 sets of warm pajamas and storybooks in their community last year, dividing the donations between three separate charities.

The Derry Garden Club had a wonderful article in the Fall 2020 issue of The National Gardener about the "Reliance Peach" Trees that were planted as part of their youth edible garden at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Derry. This variety is a cold hardy, self-pollinating sweet freestone peach. In the third year of growth, the two trees produced a bumper crop of more than 500 peaches that were shared with the families of the youth participating in the program and at community dinners.

I performed my first virtual installation of officers via Zoom this October. The Fitzwilliam Garden Club had its annual meeting and installation of officers. It was different not being together to celebrate in person but it was nice to still make the change of administration a special event for the members.

The Goffstown Community Garden Club held an evening photo show "Beauty Through the Lens" in September for members and guests. Members submitted their photos and the committee arranged them by theme on display boards. Themes included Our Gardens Our Flowers, Close-Ups, Reflections, Landscapes, Growth/Change/Process, Wildlife, Motion, and Black and White. The exhibit will be placed in the community once the town buildings are open to the public.

The Sandown Garden Club established a community Monarch Garden several years ago. This year it was used as one of the sites in a recent study by Katie Galletta, a 2021 student at Bowdoin College. Katie met with SGC Co-Vice President Audrey Vargish and illustrated some points from her study on Monarchs and milkweed plants. There are ten other herbivorous insects that share the eating of milkweed with Monarch caterpillars. The milkweed leaf releases a white latex substance that is toxic to most others. Katie is trying to determine if the Monarch butterfly will lay eggs on leaves that have been disturbed or damaged by those insects. She will present her study next spring and will share the results with the SGC.

While several clubs have canceled their annual holiday fundraisers, many are modifying their plans to include COVID safety measures. The fund raisers include sales





of such things as DIY Wreath Kits, holiday greens, poinsettias and crafted items, most incorporating "Drive-Up" delivery of pre-purchased items.

We all look forward to the future that will allow us to gather and celebrate our common goals as garden club members. May 2021 be a great year for us all.

Susan Miner  
NHFGC President



The garden gnome reminded us all to wear a mask and socially distance while enjoying the photos display presented by the Goffstown Garden Club.

## **Garden Club Federation of Maine**

Fall greetings from the State of Maine! GCFM is in full swing, making up for lost time with outdoor meetings, garden tours, new community gardens and programs being offered through virtual technologies. All of these efforts benefit members and communities, but they have also encouraged even more participation between our clubs district-wide and throughout the state!

It has been exciting to see our club leaders take an active role in presenting and implementing new ideas to their members. Our clubs have found new ways to redirect much needed fundraising efforts and have been participating in the NGC "Plant America Theme" as well as the NEGC theme of "Planting the New England Victory Garden" with an enormous amount of food produced, harvested and shared within their communities!

The lack of a normal meeting structure over the last 8 months hasn't slowed our clubs down a bit; in fact, it has given us a little extra time to devote to things like community gardens maintenance, Blue Star Marker locations and even the creation of

new gardens! Providing these bright spots within our communities continue to bring enjoyment and a positive message of hope towards the future.

GCFM kicked off a new fundraising event, selling beautiful, locally made masks and quilted trivets bearing the GCFM Logo. We are in the infant stages of this project, but it has all the earmarks of a successful venture!

Holding the NEGC Awards Ceremony via Zoom, as opposed to just receiving notification of our Awards by mail, was a fantastic idea! There was a lot of thought put into the presentation itself, we had fun with Halloween costuming and it was an honor to have NGC President Gay Austin in attendance. It was great to be able to see everyone smiling and cheering as awards were announced! We owe NEGC Awards



Chairman Judith Stallworth and NEGC Director Suzanne Bushnell a HUGE “thank you” for their efforts in bringing this exciting and very successful event to all of us!

We are seeing more and more schools and educational programs opening up through virtual media. I believe this trend will be with us for some time, regardless of how things shape up in connection with Corona Virus issues. GCFM will continue to embrace these new avenues of learning; my hope is that these innovating new ways of conducting business will actually help to open up the educational network to a broader inclusion of student participation in the future.

Every single day, I am amazed and inspired by the way all of our members have responded to these current challenges as they continue to lend help and support wherever they find a need.

Stay safe and be well.

Barbara Longstaff  
President, Garden Club Federation of Maine

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

The adage of making lemonade out of lemons continues to be the mantra of the Connecticut Federation. As the state requirements for social distancing and the inability to gather in large numbers become deeper entrenched, we’re pivoting to find ways to forge ahead.

Rather than meeting in person, we’re using several technology platforms to remain connected. Clubs are meeting outdoors and in unique online environments that are

tailored to their individual clubs and members. Rather than shutting things down completely and going dark, clubs continue to make a lot of lemonade to ensure that they remain vibrant and a core part of the fabric of their membership. Afterall, as gardeners, we've always been resolute in our collective passion for growing. That's what we're experiencing now – totally new ways of growing together in this pandemic world.

Over the past two months, we've blazed new paths with online learning for one of our schools – Environmental, while concurrently having our President's Day shifted over to virtual. Faced with potentially having to postpone these events, the decision was made to proceed with a technological solution. We didn't know what the response was going to be. What happened reinforced how much people missed garden club meetings and events. There was a pent-up demand to experience all things garden club related. Rather than meeting in our traditional location at the Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, President's Day took place virtually through a multi-faceted ZOOM presentation. Content was presented in a concise package with each presenter delivering pertinent information about the Federation to Club Presidents. The response to the online format was overwhelming with close to 100 participants. This was over 30% higher than the usual attendance numbers.

Based on the success, many clubs directly asked for counsel on and help with technology training on ZOOM and other teleconference tools. Two training sessions have already been conducted with two more planned for the future. It's a direct example for how the Connecticut Federation is helping clubs to grow and thrive. The decision was made to proceed with a full-scale on time trial of shifting our Environmental School to online learning in September. This was a monumental undertaking that required considerable ongoing involvement with National Garden Clubs, proctors and the students themselves. The response was overwhelmingly positive as the online learning environment resonated across the board with all those involved. It was a direct example for how technology enhances an educational experience. It can't replace the magnetism experienced through face to face learning, but in the time of the pandemic, technology helped bridge the gap.

October brought one of most anticipated events of the year – The Awards Meeting. Initially, many were devastated to anticipate that the works of many wouldn't get recognized due to COVID19 constraints on large gathering. With the overwhelming success of President's Day and seizing on our increased proficiency in organizing and running online events, we moved ahead with a Virtual Awards Meeting. Much like Presidents Day, the response was beyond our wildest imaginations. Many clubs held "viewing parties" that brought members together in small groups. Participation was far higher than previous events which are the best attended events for the Federation. The best feeling was being able to recognize so many worthy award recipients. Technology has been the conduit that continues to keep the Federation connected with all the 126 clubs across the small state of Connecticut. The lessons we've learned with our events are being shared as best practices for individual clubs. Many clubs are employing similar technology solutions with their membership to stay together during the upcoming colder months.



Technology never will replace the magic of meeting in person and hugging your friends. The key is using it as a supplemental tool for everyone in clubs to remain connected and engaged socially. COVID19 brought an unexpected delivery of lemons this past March. Over the past six months, the Federation and CT garden clubs have delivered a lot of lemonade. Garden clubs are resilient as we continue to grow together much like we have for decades. We're advancing forward even in the face of the pandemic.

Arlene Field  
President, The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

## **Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts**

I have been privileged to serve as acting president since April of this year which has



given me an opportunity to interact with many of the garden clubs in Massachusetts through the worst (hopefully) of the pandemic. This unusual and challenging year has been met with grace and creativity on the part of most clubs. Zoom meetings, Youtube videos and online classes have become the norm for many, but gardening has been the greatest source of comfort and contact. Many clubs have held in-club garden tours following state mandated guidelines. Civic gardening projects have been popular as well. In fact, our Historic Preservation and Civic Development grant program received a record number of applications this year. Sadly, that may be due in part to the challenge clubs face on their usual fund raising efforts. Spring plant sales were largely cancelled but several clubs were able to move their sales to online with some strong results. As I said: creativity abounds. Can't wait to see how many

online green sales take place this winter.

The GCFM board has moved to Zoom meetings for the duration. This has had the unexpected benefit of increasing participation in these meetings. Our focus has been on keeping in touch with our member clubs to provide support and additional resources. Our website has become communication central and we revamped our quarterly Mayflower publication to a newsletter format that is more flexible and accessible. Over the next few months, we hope to provide online programs to supplement our member clubs' efforts. The challenges abound but it is amazing what willing hearts can accomplish.

Jill Malcolm  
1st VP and Acting President, Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

## Derry Garden Club Youth Garden Flourishes Despite Challenging Times

The Derry Garden Club (DGC) youth garden has weathered its share of challenges since its creation in 2009. Recently, drought conditions in summer of 2017 resulted in the installation of rain barrels for backup irrigation, and spring of 2019 was unusually wet and cold, forestalling planting in the garden until June. But hey, that's Mother Nature teaching us to become more resilient gardeners. Spring of 2020 arrived, and NO ONE could have imagined the challenges that COVID-19 would present!

Undeterred, a fearless group of DGC volunteers rose to the challenge, and in spite of the COVID-19 restrictions preventing children from participating alongside the adult volunteers, the garden was planned and planted. Every opportunity was seized to safely allow the children to observe what was growing in the garden and to sample the produce. (Peach sorbet and popcorn, saved from last year's harvest, were special treats provided to our "observers.")

From beets, broccoli and blueberries to potatoes, tomatoes and zucchini the produce list consisted of 27 different fruits and vegetables. Despite an invasion of rabbits and peach borers, over 300 peaches were picked, and (we suspect) a boost in the local



Youth Garden Co-chair Blanche Garone

rabbit population. A rough estimate of well over 600 pounds of fruits and vegetables was harvested this year from our 30 x 60 foot garden. We think that qualifies as a "Mega Harvest," and as in the past, the harvested produce was available for free to the families participating in the Derry Boys and Girls Club summer program.



Youth Garden Co-chair Diana Hill-Lowenthal



We all missed the contagious laughter and bug induced squeals that frequently occurs when gardening with the children. We hope, we can recover from this loss and regain some sense of normality in 2021. In the meantime, anyone care to sample some rabbit stew?

Jackie Dempsey  
Derry Garden Club member (AKA "the stealth gardener")



Left to right, volunteers, Jill Gendron, Kathy Lane, Cathy Guevarra, Edith Nunn, Sally Bertrand, Blanche Garone and kneeling, Diana Hill-Lowenthal. Susan Davis is also part of the volunteer group as gardener/photographer in the garden.



Drone's eye view of the garden





Garden observers in front of rows of corn and behind giant cabbages

Credit to Susan Davis for the ground pictures and to Wil Lowenthal for the drone shot.

## Massachusetts Garden Helps to Feed Needy Foreign College Students

My husband and I (Betty and Neal Sanders) manage our town's community garden in



*Produce donated to Wellesley College students by gardeners of Medfield Community Garden*

Medfield, MA. It's a New England community where most homes sit on large lots with mature trees – which means if you want a vegetable garden, you are probably a candidate to join the community garden. We run the acre-size, 70-plot garden with minimal rules. It's a friendly place where people regularly help one another out. So, when one plot grew up in weeds (our biggest no-no) because the family was moving, a request went out asking for anyone willing to put in time to get this garden under control. A dozen people stepped up and pulled weeds, watered, and returned the plot to pristine condition.

But where would the produce go? Every year, our gardeners fill bins with their excess vegetables to allow our local food cupboard to distribute to those in need. This year, however, COVID regulations prevented food cupboards from accepting unprocessed

produce. We asked our gardeners for suggestions and two quickly responded. One is a professor at Wellesley College; the other is on the staff of Babson College (both in the Boston area). Both told us of foreign students who had not gone home for the summer and were food insecure – all food service had been shut down for the summer. There were no stores near campus and no cars to drive to grocery stores. And so, hundreds of pounds of our vegetables “went to college!” This continued until the food services reopened in the fall.

We received “thank yous” and gorgeous photos of the food they had prepared with the produce. The donated food from the abandoned garden and the overflow from others gave the gardeners the satisfaction of sharing their bounty in a time when it was badly needed.

Betty Sanders

Former president, Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts  
Co-Manager of the Medfield Community Garden

## **Congratulations to Our NEGC Award Winners!**

For the first time ever, the New England Garden Clubs held its annual awards ceremony with a virtual ZOOM video call on October 14<sup>th</sup>! Hosted by Region Director Suzanne Bushnell and Region Awards Chairman Judy Stallworth from Judy’s waterside home in Maine, all six New England state garden club federation Presidents, their award chairmen, and National Garden Club President Gay Austin celebrated the winning clubs and individuals. To “lighten the mood” Suzanne had suggested all attendees dress up in festive Halloween attire. Many of those “attending” did just that - including Gay who was attired as a “garden gypsy”!

In all, 40 awards were presented. A list of the winners is posted on the NEGC website, [www.newenglandgc.org](http://www.newenglandgc.org) - under the AWARDS tab. A few of the winners are highlighted in this article.

Two states were the predominate winners because of the number of award applications submitted by each state federation – Maine and Connecticut. However, all six states went home with awards. In the area of flower shows, Massachusetts and Connecticut took home all awards as they were the only two states to submit applications for flower show awards. Three individual members took home not only award certificates, but also cash awards! They were Katy Gannon-Janelle (ME), recognized as the perennial gardener of the year, Jean Menze (CT), recognized for her table design award, and Vickie Hamet (CT), for a creative design exhibited in a Connecticut flower show. Also taking home an individual award was Beth Kline (MA) for her educational exhibit on plastic pollution and how it impacts our oceans. Finally, taking home an individual award was Becky Gallery (ME) as our Region’s Member Award of Honor recipient.

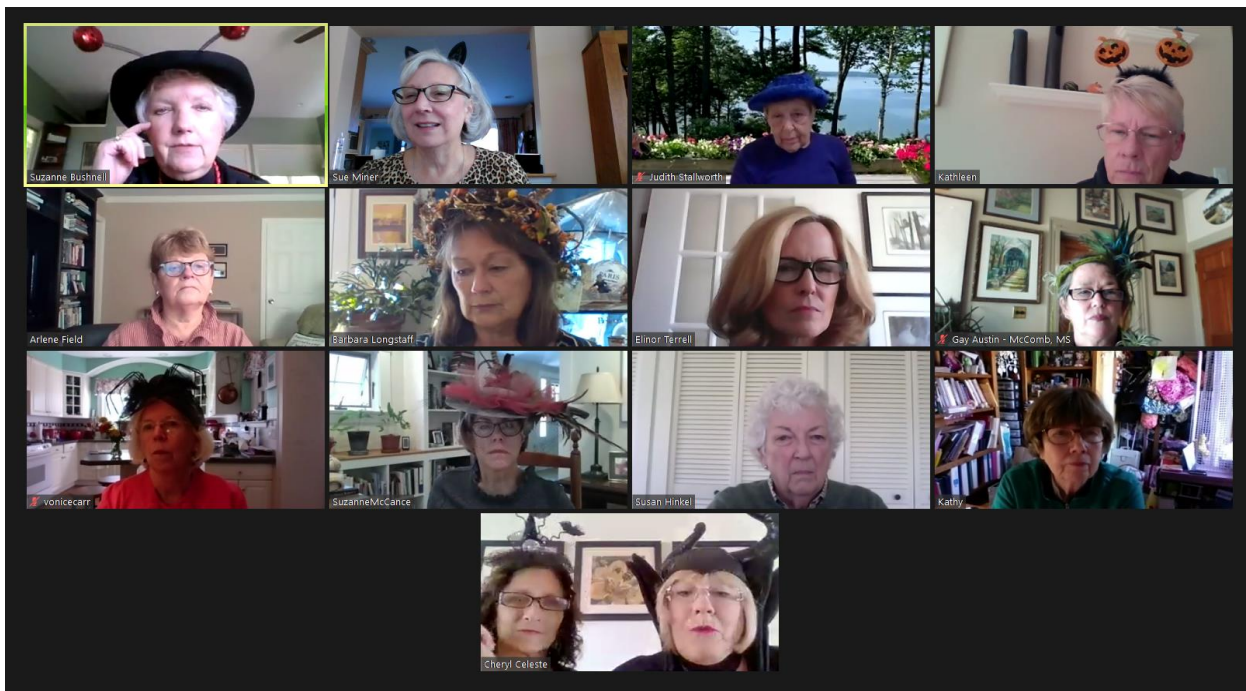
We had several clubs tie for awards this year because of their outstanding projects. In a couple of instances, clubs also shared a cash prize. This occurred with the award for container gardens with both the Rutland Garden Club (VT) and the North Haven



Garden Club (CT) taking home checks for \$25 along with award certificates. Youth garden awards were also hotly contested this year with clubs again in virtual ties. The Burlington Garden Club (VT) and the Atkinson Garden Club (NH) both took home checks for \$25 for their outstanding work with youth gardeners. A few clubs took home multiple awards. This year the Barrington Garden Club (RI) was awarded three different awards in the areas of civic beautification, conservation and historic preservation. The Garden Club Federation of Maine was recognized for winning the award for most new members (148) and for the highest percentage of new members based on their increased total in paid members from 2018 to 2019 (7.5% growth). This year the judges also decided to move one award application to another category because of its outstanding project which fit into multiple categories. The Farmington Garden Club (CT) was the winner for their project to redo the Village Green in their community – recognized as the outstanding landscape design project which also netted them a check for \$100.

Space doesn't permit us to mention every award. But be sure to go to our AWARDS tab to see the entire list of winners! We'd also like to thank our very generous donors who unselfishly provide cash awards for some of the winning entries. Some of our donors have long since left this world, but we'd like to recognize all those donors – both past and present: Mary Louise Marks Smith; Virginia Thurston; Virginia Kenney; Maureen Colton; Lina Wagner; Deanna Mozzochi; Pam Hebert; Joyce Kimball; and Maria Nahom. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Suzanne Bushnell  
Director, New England Garden Clubs



*Screenshot of virtual awards ceremony with participants in Halloween attire, courtesy of Susan Miner, President of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs*



## Farm Country

Fall's colors in New Hampshire's farm country are magical right now. Golden carpets of ferns highlight the woodlands. Dusty rose and bright copper edge the fields. Along the swamps, where the early morning frosts have already settled in, splashes of orange-red stand out vividly against tawny grasses.

From Plymouth to the Connecticut River Valley, small family farms and sweeping vistas are punctuated with picturesque crumbling barns, decaying dairy farms and aged farm equipment.

The majesty of those miles of standing corn - rigid and dry - waiting for harvest. Silage?, Biofuel?

Here is an interesting link. <https://nefb.wordpress.com/.../why-do-farmers-let-their.../> What does the future hold for our beautiful farms ? Change is in the Wind.







September 28, 2020  
 Arabella Dane  
 NGC Photography Chairman

## Zoom Environmental School a Success in Connecticut!

On September 22-23, 2020, The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc., presented **NGC Environmental School 3 - Air and Related Issues**, in a virtual format, for the first time. The course was originally scheduled to be held at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby, CT. In March, the team structuring the course had to pivot to bring professors and technical people together to deliver the course virtually. Sharon Bender, Environmental School Chair, along with committee members Ginger Casanova and Millie Legenhausen, organized a Zoom training program and Environmental School virtually, with tremendous help from Susan Quincy, Environmental Education Specialist, Kellogg Environmental Center, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The Zoom training and Environmental course were well received by the 5 presenters from Connecticut and 43 attendees from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Florida, Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri, Michigan and North Carolina.

The two-day course featured 8 one-hour modules on a variety of topics related to the natural environment and its effects on all living things. In addition, there was a 2-hour "virtual field trip" on Wildlife Migration Adaptations Due to Climate Change.

The program began with a module on "Air" - its composition, how it affects climate, and how its quality affects our environment and our health. Other modules addressed environmental ethics and stewardship. Endangered plants and animals were also addressed in several of the modules. The course ended with a module on how to bring environmental education into schools by partnering with industry, business and environmental groups, as well as garden clubs.

Very positive feedback was received from the attendees, who appreciated the quality of the presenters, topics and Zoom training. Five proctors volunteered from all over the country. A proctor was assigned to each student to provide assistance and support throughout the virtual school experience. Students working towards an Environmental Consultants Certificate took an exam at the end of each day. Exams and evaluations were all conducted online.

The mission of NGC Environmental School is "to teach environmental literacy; to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth." Environmental Schools are open to anyone interested.

Environmental School 4 – Water and Related Issues, is scheduled for September 22-23, 2021, either on Zoom or in Connecticut, depending upon Covid safety precautions and NGC course protocols.

Sharon Bender  
FGCCT Environmental School Chair





## Rutland Garden Club

### Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project

In the fall of 2019, Rutland Garden Club (RGC, VT) applied for a Plant America Grant to do some landscape work on a Habitat for Humanity House Project in Rutland. The RGC was not awarded the grant but the club decided to allocate \$300.00 to the project. Members also decided to offer an American Chestnut tree to the new owners for planting in their sunny backyard. The tree was one of ten (10) American Chestnut trees, owned by the club, that had been growing in the city tree farm for the past ten (10) years. The trees have been used for several of the club's projects. The club also had a member who donated many of her perennials for the project.

So, the project began:

- RGC members and a Master Gardener (Master Gardeners joined the project) dug peonies, hydrangeas, phlox, astilbe, artemisia, lady's mantle and hosta from a member's garden
- A local garden center donated four junipers and one Arborvitae 'Golden Globe' (\$700.00 donation) for the project.
- The club purchased a second arborvitae. The arborvitae would grow to cover the utility box on one side of the front porch and a heat pump on the other. The junipers would eventually provide a privacy screen.
- Master Gardeners secured a donated truckload of topsoil to build up the gardens since the soil was clay and rocks.
- The local garden center planted the six trees/shrubs which, along with the second arborvitae took up the club allotted \$300.00.
- Peonies, hosta, astilbe and phlox were planted, and more perennials will be planted in the spring of 2021.
- Master Gardeners planted iris as well as daffodil and tulip bulbs.
- The Rutland City Forester and his assistant planted the American Chestnut tree in the backyard for the RGC.

A side garden is framed in and ready to be planted as a vegetable garden in the spring. We will work with the owners to plant.



Planting the American Chestnut

This Rutland Garden Club Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project is a successful project. The couple and their three children are from Syria and are delighted with the result. They are so excited to see what pops up in the spring and look forward to planting their vegetable garden.

Kathy Perkins  
Vermont



Arborvitae and Hosta

## NGC Convention, Blog and Other News Tidbits

In another setback due to the COVID-19 virus, the NGC has decided to cancel the upcoming 2021 Convention in New Jersey. The convention was also to feature the installation of President-elect Mary Warshauer of New Jersey. With the uncertainty of the continuing pandemic, the limitations set by the State of New Jersey on the ability to have indoor meetings and not knowing how many members would feel comfortable in attending an event that usually draws several hundred people, the NGC Executive Committee decided to err on the side of caution and cancel the convention. If we hear more information on how Mary may handle her installation and the installation of the other elected officers and incoming Executive Committee, we'll let you know.

Have you taken the opportunity to check out the NGC's new website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)? When you do, you'll see a new feature – a BLOG! You can find it at the top of the website by clicking the BLOG link ([www.gardenclub.org/blog](http://www.gardenclub.org/blog)). When you do, you'll see a variety of short articles written by experts as well as NGC members. During the month of October, two articles were featured which were written by three of our NEGC members. The October 19<sup>th</sup> article, entitled "*Native Plant Trust's Seed Ark Initiative*" was written by Arabella Dane of New Hampshire (NGC's Photography Chairman) and Linda Jean Smith of Massachusetts (NGC Consultant's Council for Gardening Schools). The featured article for the week of October 12<sup>th</sup> was written by your Region Director, Suzanne Bushnell entitled "*Historic Preservation Blooms with Flowers.*" Be sure to check them out! You can find previous articles by looking at the bottom of the BLOG page and clicking on the links for the numbered pages.

We also want to let you know that the 2021 VISION OF BEAUTY calendars are now available from NGC's Member Services. Single copies are \$5.00 plus shipping. Discounts are available for orders of 50 or more copies. To order copies, just go to the NGC website and click on the link for OUR STORE ([www.gardenclub.org/our-store](http://www.gardenclub.org/our-store)). While you're there you may find other items you'd like to purchase to help support the NGC!

Finally, did you know that if you served at any time on the NGC Board of Directors (whether as one of our six New England state federation presidents or on any of the NGC Committees), you are eligible to wear a Board of Directors' pin? For the last few

years these pins have not been available for purchase. However, they're about to come back on the market and be offered for sale by NGC Member Services. After conducting an online survey of the current NGC Board of Directors (almost 300 people) by your Region Director (Suzanne), she was able to show that more than 50% of those who answered the survey were interested in purchasing a Board of Directors' pin if it were made available again. Once the pins are restocked, they'll be on sale for \$25 per pin plus shipping. Also coming back will be the NGC Executive Committee pin which is worn by the officers of the NGC and the eight Region Directors. This pin is similar to the Board of Directors' pin with the addition of a gold wreath on the outer edges. That pin will sell for \$30 plus shipping. We'll let you know when they're available – probably in a couple of months based on the factory's workload.



*NGC Board of Directors' Pin*

Suzanne Bushnell  
Director, NEGC

## **National Garden Club Youth Awards Information**

The NGC has been providing educational opportunities for students at the pre-school, elementary, middle and high school level. The Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest has a change this year. Since its Woodsy Owl's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, NGC will only accept posters from first through fifth grade regarding Woodsy Owl's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. No Smokey Bear posters will be accepted.

The deadline for the local winning Woodsy Owl posters must be received by your state youth chair by January 22, 2021. The deadline for the state youth chair to send to the Regional Chair is February 26, 2021.

The Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster contest rules and all other youth award rules are found on the NGC website ([www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)) under the NGC Youth & Scholarship Tab (see *Youth Contest* link on the drop down menu). National does not accept entries from past National grand prize poster winners. Posters that compete for the National grand prize are not returned to participants.

Other programs include scholarships and contests that encourage a sense of leadership/management in the next generation of gardeners. Information on these contests are also found on the NGC website under the same link shown above:

- Poetry Contest
- High School Distinguished Service Project Award





- High School Essay Contest
- Youth Pollinator Gardens Grant
- Youth Sculpture Contest

Thank you so much for your support and commitment to the National Garden Club Youth Awards and Scholarship contests.

Deb Ort  
NEGC Youth Chair

## A Scarecrow Contest Broke the Pandemic Monotony

The Town of Cheshire conducted a Scarecrow Contest for residents as well as for organizations to participate in. Some assigned spaces were on the Town Green; others either at their home or place of business. The deadline was October 5th. More than 50 entries were received, and a slideshow featuring each scarecrow will be available on the Cheshire Public Library's website later in the month. At the beginning of November the winner of the contest will be announced.



Cheshire Garden Club's  
entry 'The Lady'



Suburban Garden Club's  
entry 'American Gothic'



Ginni Donovan with  
her 'Carmen Miranda'

Both the Cheshire Garden Club as well as the Suburban Garden Club of Cheshire participated. And one member who belongs to both Garden Clubs, Ginni Donovan, made another entry on behalf of both clubs.

Inge Venus

former president Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut  
and former president Cheshire Garden Club

## **In Full Bloom for the Twelfth Year**

Back in 2008, a member of the Cheshire Garden Club who moved from his long-time residence to a Retirement Community, brought over a seedling from his favorite chrysanthemum 'Clara Curtis' to the home of Inge Venus and asked her to please take good care of it.

Inge was able to report to him – year after year - that it had survived and did so for the next twelve years. It is now almost three feet tall and just ever so pretty. And Inge's cat Kitty agrees.



Inge Venus

former president Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut  
and former president Cheshire Garden Club

Inge's October 21 photo of her 'Clara Curtis' chrysanthemums with a monarch butterfly stopping for a rest and refreshment







# NEGC Calendar

Deadline for the **February** issue of Northern Exposure is January 23 – this issue will cover the months of February, March and April - please e-mail articles or questions to editor Nancy Atwell at [atwelln@aol.com](mailto:atwelln@aol.com)

## Environmental School

**September 22-23, 2021 - Environmental School 4** – Water and Related Issues, is scheduled, either on Zoom or in Connecticut, depending upon Covid safety precautions and NGC course protocols.

## Regional Meeting

**October 12-13, 2021 - NEGC Annual Meeting** at the Village by the Sea Resort in Wells, Maine.

## Symposium

**August 16-18, 2021 -- Northern New England Tri-State Symposium** at the Double Tree Hotel, Manchester, New Hampshire.



Happy New Year!