

Northern Exposure



Newsletter of the New England Garden Clubs Inc.

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

August 2025

NEGC DIRECTOR'S

INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE

Forty-three years ago, I joined a local garden club in northwestern Connecticut to please my mother-in-law. I thank her for introducing me to Horticulture, Conservation and all the benefits garden clubs foster. I zeroed in on Conservation for over twenty-five years, too shy to invite myself to Horticulture or Design workshops. (Suggestion? Introduce yourself to new members. Nourish and encourage them.)

When I sponsored a friend, I insisted she attend all the committees' meetings and workshops for her first year. I joined her, learned in the workshops, began to enter club sweepstakes (what some of you call bench shows) and found I enjoyed the challenges. I won some Blues, had some dismal failures, and learned from both.

I chaired Environmental School for Connecticut's Federation for six years, and for eight more held the jobs which encompass Connecticut's Presidency.

My Theme, always, is: **We Grow Gardens & Gardeners.**

We're about to celebrate a century of garden clubs and are now fully forward in the second quarter of the

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21st century. I embrace both. Garden Clubs brought much to our six states. However, we don't garden the way our parents or grandparents did. We tour Historic Gardens, but plant 75% natives in our gardens for pollinators and cringe to see the invasives our predecessors embraced as novel species. Our mission: to educate our members and the public, is vital to our communities' futures.

What changes will we embrace as we move forward? One addition, I hope, will be inclusion of photography as a creative outlet for our knowledge of Horticulture and the natural world. There is a **major announcement** of a first in the nation photography judging program in this newsletter. There is a **Photography Workshop on Zoom** scheduled for Thursday, August 14. Are you signed up? There is a **Photography Competition** for all members of New England Garden Clubs members. Enter! You'll find both the Zoom Workshop and the Competition on the NEGC website www.newenglandgc.org.

I hope to encourage more classes such as the workshop we all can sign up for Thursday, August 14, 2025. It's a Zoom held from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at a token cost of \$10. Find out more on the NEGC website www.newenglandgc.org. I'm going.

Oh, please, join me.

Polly Brooks, Director, New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

Polly.brooks@ctgardenclubs.org

860-459-4279

P.S. Have you entered the **Photography Competition**? Again, go to www.newenglandgc.org. You should've just received **an email invitation to NEGC's 9th Annual Meeting in October**. Email me if you haven't. We want you to come! pb

New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs

New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs have given me the opportunity to lead them as NHFGC President for the next two years! I am looking forward to many wonderful experiences, meeting new club presidents and visiting other New England Garden Club clubs.



My theme has been and will continue to be 'Plant Seeds of Friendship;' Under the leadership of our Board, we have reached out and visited unfederated clubs, inviting them to join NHFGC. Our efforts have been successful with the addition of the Community Garden Club of Meredith and the Salem

Friendship and Garden Club. We have 18 strong and growing clubs now in NHFGC. We are spreading seeds of friendship to other clubs and hope we continue to grow. At the moment we have 946 members. I would love to report next year that we have reached a thousand members and perhaps another club.

We have added more resources available to the clubs by creating a group, professional Canva Account. We became aware of this through a webinar sponsored by

Vermont Clubs and the New England Garden Club. This is another example of how being closely connected helps all of us grow.

We changed our formal fall meeting to a casual Fall Gathering. This event has proven to be very popular with members providing a day in a beautiful outside venue where members from different clubs have the opportunity to come together and share ideas and create new friendships.

We are planting seeds of friendship with environment by educating others about current issues including the jumping worm threat, invasive species and, on the positive side, of planting for pollinators and birds. We encourage participation in workshops and inviting speakers to come to clubs to stay current with information on these topics.

A club member scholarship has been created to reimburse members for the cost of taking continue learning classes related to our mission. Many of our members are not aware of the many learning opportunities available to them as a result of also being members of the National Garden Club. NGC School information will be made available to members noting that many classes are now available on Zoom so they can learn in the convenience of their own home. This new scholarship and making members aware of the many learning opportunities will encourage continued learning going forward. Our new scholarship program is available to members who take and successfully complete these classes and complete the simple Continuing Education Reimbursement Fund application that will be available in our "Lilac Letter," the NHFGC newsletter.

Next year is the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country. I encourage clubs and individual gardeners to do what we did in 1976. Plan your gardens, public spaces, and window boxes around the colors of our flag. Celebrate this wonderful milestone and join in community activities to support the anniversary. At the recent meeting in South Carolina, we learned about "the Great American Cleanup" to keep America Beautiful for America's 250th. It is a nationwide program to create a cleaner, greener community by working together for America's birthday.

Our own Sue Miner former NHFGC State President and NEGC Region Director is now NGC Third Vice President. Sue will become the NGC President in 2031. The National Convention will be in New Hampshire that year. We as a state and region have the opportunity to work to create a National Convention to celebrate Sue as she is installed in 2031. This is a big job but as we work toward this goal, we will sow more seeds of friendship within the clubs and the region and National. We will work together to make this happen!

I truly enjoy what I am doing as NHFGC President. We thrive as we enjoy the many connections we participate in at the local, state, regional and national levels. Together we can help create a



Sue Miner, NGC Third Vice President (left), and Winnie Schmidt, NHFGC President, were excited to have the opportunity to attend a program presented by Doug Tallamy.

healthy environment necessary for everyone to thrive. That everyone includes birds, pollinators, native plants as well as a wonderful membership willing to spread seeds of friendship!

Remember if it is not fun, I do not want to do it, and we are having fun!

Winnie Schmidt
NHFGC President

Arnold Arboretum

**125 Arborway
Boston, MA 02130
(617) 524-1718**

Although the primary focus of the 281-acre Arnold Arboretum is trees, there are two periods in which a visit to this centerpiece of Boston's Emerald Necklace are highly recommended. In May, the arboretum hosts their annual Lilac Festival, featuring the springtime bloom of this renowned collection with over 407 lilac varieties. One can easily imagine the fragrance perfuming the air. Since 1908, Lilac Sunday has traditionally been scheduled for Mother's Day and only the lilac is chosen at the Arboretum for a daylong celebration. This collection is among the premier collections of these plants in North America.



In autumn, we are entranced by fall foliage throughout our region. It is one of the most beautiful times of the year at the Arboretum, with colorful foliage and many types of unusual fruits and seeds on the branches. Brilliant leaves of Bald Cypress, Japanese Maple, Northern Red Oak, Sweetgum (also popular for its seed pods which some use for holiday ornaments), elms and many more. Walk through the Arboretum at your own pace or take a guided tour with a docent and capture the essence of the magic of the Arboretum's fall allure.

Technically, its name is the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. It is a museum of trees teaching the public about plants. The land on which the Arnold Arboretum is located has been inhabited and used by diverse societies for over 7,000 years, most recently by the Massachusetts Tribe. Established more recently, in 1872, it is the oldest



public arboretum in North America. Its founder and noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted wrote about the benefits of urban public parks before the arboretum was designed and is recognized as the Central Park co-designer. He is considered to be the father of landscape architecture in the U.S., and designed or co-

designed many public urban parks, including Prospect Park in Brooklyn; Forest Park in Portland, Oregon; and Cadwalader Park in Trenton, NJ, as well as plans for many universities. Individual projects included the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC, and landscape work for the US Capitol in Washington, DC. His renown continues even today; a baby giraffe at the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester, NY, was recently named "Olmsted," in recognition of the designer of the park, and other parks in the city.

Related Book Review: Reading about the private lives of authors, artists, and yes, even gardeners, sheds light on these personalities beyond their public persona.

Landscape of a Marriage: Central Park was only the beginning is a biographical novel about the Olmsteds, Frederick and Mary. The husband of the author, Gail Ward Olmsted, is a distant relative of Olmsted, and while delving into family history, Gail became intrigued when she learned that he had married his late brother's widow, adopted her three children and was married over 40 years while having four additional children. What seems to have initially been a marriage of convenience appears to have grown into a meaningful and loving marriage. In their personal lives, their marriage, the births of their children, and notable projects such as Central Park, the Chicago World's Fair, and Mount Royal in Montreal, had significant impact on their lives. During their 44 years of marriage, they faced balancing the needs of family with professional goals, maintaining a close relationship during long separations, and dealing with loss.

Sandi Tinyk,
NEGC Historic and Public Gardens Chairperson
[*Editor's note: images courtesy of Arnold Arboretum*]

Hydrangeas

This has been a banner year for Hydrangeas. They have bloomed profusely in all around New England. Hydrangeas are very popular and easy to grow.

There are over 75 species of hydrangea, but only six major varieties grown in american gardens, big leaf, smooth, panicle, oakleaf, climbing, and lacecap.

These shrubs are rapid growers, averaging two feet of growth per year, and their blooms can last all summer and into fall. Care for hydrangeas by giving them full sun, rich soil and consistent moisture without waterlogging the plant.

Planting: Plant in the early spring or early fall in well-drained soil with some organic matter. This allows the roots to establish themselves before the cold weather



arrives. Dig a hole two times the size of the root ball and make sure it sits at the same depth it did in the nursery pot. Water deeply.

Fertilize once in the spring.

Prune: according to the species and the time of year when the plant sets its buds. Identify your species – some form flower buds on old wood, while others form their flower buds on new wood. Avoid pruning until spring, except dead wood, once the plant starts to leaf out.

No Blooms: If your hydrangea is not blooming, it may have been pruned at the wrong time, or its buds may have been damaged by a cold snap or it could have been over fertilized, or underwatered, or affected by high heat or weather which is out of your control..

With regular watering, fertilization, and proper pruning you can have beautiful hydrangeas all summer long.

Sue Redden
Horticulture Chairperson
sueredden@verizon.net
Riverside, RI

You Still Have Time to Enter the NEGC Photo Show



**New England
Garden Clubs
Photography
photo show
schedule
and signup form**



THE 2025 NEGC PHOTO SHOW



"WE GROW GARDENS & GARDENERS"

*Entries open April 1, 2025
and close August 31, 2025*

**Finalists' images will be displayed at the Annual Meeting of
The New England Garden Clubs, Inc.
October 14-15, 2025
at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel
100 Capitol Boulevard Rocky Hill
CT 06067-3575 tel 860-257-6000**

THE SCHEDULE

"We Grow Gardens & Gardeners"

*This is the theme for NER Director Polly Brooks(2025-27)
The Class Titles are the Themes of our NE State Presidents*

Class 1 "Bee Resilient: Garden for Nature" - CT

A **close-up or macro** photograph featuring pollination

Class 2 "Invasives Out - Natives In" - ME

A monochromatic **or black & white** photograph of New England native plant(s) or animal(s)

Class 3 "It Takes a Village" Communication, Cooperation and Working Together is Key" - MA

A **landscape** photo of an example of rewilding, wildlife corridor, homegrown national parks

Class 4: "Sharing: Plant Seeds of Friendship" - NH

A **creative** photo of mutualism in the garden, habitat, or ecosystem

Class 5: "Cultivate Your Strengths - Share Your Knowledge" - RI

A **nature** photograph featuring an example(s) of resilience and/or adaptation in nature

Class 6: "Gardening Fosters Connections" - VT

A **still image or still life** photograph featuring gardening tool

RULES:

Any member of a federated garden club in the New England Region may submit entries.

The images submitted are the exclusive work of this photographer.

Images submitted to this competition may be used by the Region to further the mission of National Garden Clubs, Inc. "The NGC mission is to provide education, resources and national networking opportunities to its members, to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility."

- please submit your digital photo by filling in [the registration page](#) including your name, email, garden club, address and telephone number.
- Please select the class you wish to enter and give each image a title.

Your registration goes automatically to Arabella Dane arabellasd@aol.com
Please contact her if you have any questions.

- Your Image file size should be no larger than 5 mb and no smaller than 1 mb. You may only submit 2 images.

· 6 images in each class will be selected to be **the finalists and will be printed by the committee and displayed at our October 14-15, 2025, Regional Meeting**

[Here is the link to the photo contest registration page](#)

Here are [the definitions](#) of the terms in the schedule

[Here is the link to our NE Garden Club website](#)

**NECCC - New England Council of Camera Clubs -
update from Susan Mosser, NECCC Steering
Committee Chair**

www.neccc.org

**To enjoy all the images here is the link to
the [NECCC's gallery](#)**



[Sign up for The NEGC Photography Group Newsletter](#)

All members of New England's federated garden clubs are welcome to participate in the NEGC Photography Group. We will showcase the

work of our garden club photographers, in furtherance of the mission and programs of National Garden Clubs.

Our NEGC garden club members will have access to learning about the art and science of photography thru our activities and publications.

Our New England Garden Club members will have access to online and in-person workshops with noted photographers, thru the Photography Group's membership in [NECCC](#) - New England Council of Camera Clubs, a member group of the Photography Society of America [PSA](#).

We will provide photographic educational information to our garden club members; opportunities for dialogue and discussion; image critique and evaluation of members' images; information about photography exhibiting opportunities; and information about photography judging.

Additional Photography Links - click on the icons below



Enjoy the NGC photography page! We will be adding photographic tips and articles here; hosting a facebook page and a blog featuring discussions about photography



The New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) is a nonprofit umbrella group for 70 camera clubs and photography groups in the New England states (CT, RI, ME, MA, NH, and VT).



Consider taking advantage of PSA's extensive educational opportunities and free programs that are exclusive to individual members.



This remarkable organization offers its members great opportunities for workshops, lectures and field trips for nature photography. They, like PSA, offer contests too.



**NEGC Photography Group
Coordinators
Arabella Dane,
arabellasd@aol.com, Chair
Susan Miner, Advisor
suzanne Bushnell, Assistant
Michelle Mensinger, Derry GC
Polly Brooks, New England Garden
Clubs, Inc. Director**



Garden Club Federation of Maine News and Notes



I am looking forward to serving as Maine's Federation president for the coming two years. Our state convention in Wells, Maine, was held on June 17 and 18, during which our new officers were installed by former NEGC Director Suzanne Bushnell.

For some personal background: I've gardened since I was about four years old and could tell a tomato from a weed in our family's very large vegetable garden. While my two daughters were growing up, I was a "stay at home" mom, or as my seven-year-old told her teacher, I was too busy to go to work! As the girls grew older, I took a job as assistant manager in a bookstore (negative income, according to my husband!) Since retiring to Maine in 2008, I've volunteered with our local land trust, Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership (a grass-roots volunteer group that battles invasive plants) and on several committees at my church.

I joined the Harpswell Garden Club when my husband retired, thinking that it would be a great way to meet people with similar interests. I have met folks from many parts of Maine in my years of attending various meetings and conventions. I was club president twice, chaired our club's programs committee and as co-webmaster, I add photos and post to our club's website. I served on our district's board for several years and was Protocol chairperson under two GCFM presidents. In my spare moments, I tend both my own garden and our local club's cutting garden.

Here in Maine, July was a busy month with open gardens galore! Our federation hosted two open garden events. The first featured a host of hostas along the Stillwater



From left to right: former NEGC Director Suzanne Bushnell, GCFM's President Becky Gallery, First Vice President Lisa Freeman, Recording Secretary Joan Toy, Treasurer Deb Gray and Asst. Treasurer John McClean

River in Orono, Maine. Our second event was a two-stop tour. First, we visited the beautiful gardens of a member in Rockport, Maine, then made a short trip to Merryspring Nature Center in Camden for our picnic lunch. After the meal, we were treated to a flower arranging demonstration by John Fromer, Merryspring's Director, followed by a tour of the nature center's gardens. Other events this summer included a garden tour and a garden expo ("Edible Gardens & Bountiful Tables") hosted by Boothbay Region and Camden Garden Clubs, respectively. Other garden clubs have hosted garden visits for their members taken field trips to visit farms growing flowers of all kinds.

Looking ahead, our Federation's annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22 at the Snow Pond Center for the Arts in Sidney, Maine. Maine Horticulturist Gary Fish will talk about the invasive "jumping" worms and answer our questions about this new garden pest. After that, we will all begin preparing for our holiday celebrations. Maine. Our second event was a two-stop tour. More on those next time!

Becky Gallery
President, Garden Club Federation of Maine

Judges Symposium 2025

Our Symposium committee has been hard at work studying the NGC Symposium Manual and reading all the notes and suggestions in Trish Manfredi's reports from the 2013 and 2018 Connecticut Symposia.





October will be a very busy month for The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. Flower Show School 3, the New England Garden Club Annual Meeting and the **Judges Symposium** taking place the week of October 13th at the Hartford Sheraton South in Rocky Hill.

Registration information is all on our website (ctgardenclubs.org) and ready for you to take advantage of several wonderful opportunities.

Although we imply that the Symposium is for Flower Show Judges, it is a great opportunity for anyone interested in learning about advanced design types and updating horticulture skills.

Our horticulture instructor, David Robson, will highlight succulents and cacti. His supplemental lecture will be "subdividing in a flower show." We will need to borrow as many examples as possible to augment David's examples. This is a good opportunity for judges who may need exhibiting credits. It is also an opportunity to share the great examples you have in your collections. As October draws near we will let those registered know exactly what we need. Cheryl Cappial Cheryl.cappiali@ctgardenclubs.org, our horticulture Chairperson would be thrilled to hear from you with questions or willingness to share!

We are fortunate to have Lynn Fronk share her expertise as our design lecturer. Assemblage and Abstract are the two designs Lynn has decided to share with us. Lynn's supplemental topic is Evaluating a Flower Show The design on the left is an Assemblage from the Basking Ridge, NJ Symposium in April of this year. Just to let you know, we were given permission to photograph the designs during our point scoring exam. Unfortunately, we don't have a name to attribute to the designer. Help will be needed with six designs for practice point scoring and six for the point scoring exam.



As with horticulture, you may earn an exhibiting credit for sharing with us. Also, as an accredited judge you may also earn a judging credit!

Suzy Fisher, our Design Chair, would love to hear from you! Suzy.fisher@ctgardenclubs.org

Space is limited so register soon! [Symposium Registration](#)

Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or your willingness to share horticulture or create designs!

Karin Pyskaty, Symposium Chairperson
Karin.pyskaty@ctgardenclubs.org

Carmelina Villani, Symposium Vice Chairperson

New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

9th Annual Meeting

October 14 - 15, 2025

Sheraton Hartford South Hotel
100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill, CT



“We Grow Gardens & Gardeners”

Hosted by:

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

Event Highlights:

- Tuesday, October 14: Unique Vendor Shopping, State Presidents-themed NEGC Photography Show, a Cocktail Reception honoring Polly Brooks, NEGC Director, and her guests Donna Donnelly, NGC President, and Susan Miner, NGC 3rd Vice President, followed by a delicious Dinner Banquet and an intriguing Conservation Program by Susan Quincy, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection.
- Wednesday, October 15: Insightful Roundtable Focus Groups, a captivating presentation by renowned floral artist and educator Michael Derouin, followed by a Buffet Luncheon with friends, next an engaging and interactive *Garden Jeopardy* game with horticulturist Renée Marsh, then the NEGC Achievement Awards Ceremony, and closing with exciting Drawings, including a Silent Auction for Michael’s designs!

Guest Speakers



SUSAN QUINCY

CT Department of Energy
& Environmental Protection



MICHAEL DEROUIN

AIFD - AAF - PFCI
Floral Artist and Educator



RENEE MARSH

Advanced Master Gardener & Horticulturalist
“Garden Jeopardy”

ONLINE



REGISTRATION



HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Group rate of \$149/night (+ taxes & fees) by Sept. 19
Call 860-257-6000 and mention Booking Code FGCFGCH.



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL!

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut

Connecticut has the honor of hosting the **New England Garden Clubs, Inc. 9th Annual Meeting** on October 14th and 15th at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill. The meeting's theme, "*We Grow Gardens & Gardeners*," celebrates our shared mission to promote horticulture, conservation, floral design and community beautification. We have arranged a very interesting agenda with notable speakers and are thrilled that NGC President, Donna Donnelly, and NGC 3rd Vice President, Susan Miner, will both be attending. All garden club members from CT, MA, RI, ME, NH and VT are invited. New this year - there will be a **Zoom NEGC Annual Business Meeting** on Thursday, October 9th. Information and Registration: <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/new-england-garden-clubs-inc-annual-meeting>. Also, check out the attached Annual Meeting flyer.

BEE RESILIENT ~ Garden for Nature! my President's theme, urges Sustainable Gardening, Planting Natives, Removing Invasives, Rethinking our Lawns, Avoiding Pesticides, Creating Habitats for Pollinators and also encourages Community Collaboration and Education. The Project employs clubs to enhance the beauty of their community and preserve nature in a changing climate by creating small native gardens in a public location with funding from The Federation. I am excited to announce that we have approved six marvelous Club Garden Projects so far! The President's Project page on our website has details and how to apply for project grants: <https://ctgardenclubs.org/projects/presidents/>.

We have several **NGC Schools and a Symposium** planned for the Fall which are open to you all. Details and Registration is available on our website: <https://ctgardenclubs.org/>

Environmental School (Series 4, Course 4) – September 18-19: via Zoom.

Gardening School (Series 9, Course 2) – September 25-26: via Zoom.

Flower Show School (Course 3 of 4) – Oct. 9, 14-16: Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill

Connecticut Symposium – Oct. 16-17: Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill

The purpose of the symposium is to provide opportunities for Accredited Judges to refresh their knowledge of judging procedures in all divisions of an NGC Flower Show and to remain in good standing. Student judges and those interested in advanced floral design are also welcome to register.

The Federation will conduct **Club Officers Day!** – A Zoom workshop on Thursday, September 11th. Our Board Members will present important information on a variety of topics, including: finances, insurance, applying for awards, social media, promotion, fundraising, website, youth and senior gardening, schools, resources from The Federation and NGC, and more. This is a good opportunity for our new and existing club officers to receive valuable information and to ask questions. You are most welcome to attend. Registration is on our website, <https://ctgardenclubs.org/>.

We will gather at the lovely Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville on October 22nd for The Federation's **96th Annual Awards Meeting and Luncheon**. This is always an

inspirational and pleasurable event, where over eighty Connecticut, New England Garden Clubs, and National Garden Clubs top awards, and over one hundred Certificates of Achievement, are presented to club members for the exceptional work they have accomplished over the past year.

Our Club members have the opportunity to participate in remarkable custom crafted FGCCT Tours. Currently a tour group is in the Pacific Northwest, visiting many magical gardens, the San Juan Islands and more. This fall trips are planned to New Hampshire and to Greece. In 2026 tours are planned to Yellowstone, Morocco and France. These tours are very popular and are always filled quickly.

Our Tri-Council plans very interesting trips to local gardens and sites. This summer they toured the grounds of Blau House in Westport and Oliver's Garden Center in Fairfield, which included a demonstration on hypertufa and container planting. The next trip was to New York City for the Hi-Line Park and Little Island at Pier 55, where landscape architect Signe Nielsen gave a private tour. Finally, they went to two member gardens that were on Garden Open Days of the Garden Conservancy. More trips are being scheduled for the fall.

Planning is well underway for the 44th Annual Connecticut Flower and Garden Show, which will take place at the CT Convention Center in Hartford, February 19 – 22, 2026. *"The Storybook Garden – Go into the woods; it is where your story happens"* is the theme of the NGC Standard Flower Show, which will be presented by The Federation. It delves into the beauty, mystery, and wisdom of the timeless myths, fables and fairy tales that have been passed down through generations. A draft schedule is available on our website: <https://ctgardenclubs.org/>.



The FGCCT Executive Committee, pictured at a Wickham Park Board Meeting.
Left to Right: Mary Ann Lynn, Assistant Treasurer; John Davis, Treasurer; Ginny Cassanova, Corresponding Secretary; Norma Jean Macauto, Second Vice President; Kathy Harris, Recording Secretary; Nan Merolla, President; Kelle Ruden, First Vice President; Terry Ruden, Finance Officer; Jean Stetz-Puchaliski (not pictured), Parliamentarian

We had a wonderful morning recently at the Federation's **REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE** information exchange program, which was hosted by the Branford Garden Club. 34 Club Officers and Committee Chairs attended, exchanged ideas and learned new things. Topics moderated by FGCCT Board members included: Membership and Leadership, Finances and Insurance, Fundraising Ideas, Programs and Events, Social Media and Promotion and FGCCT Resources. These engaging Roundtable events will continue this year and in 2026.

115th Plant Science Day on August 6th at beautiful Lockwood Farm in Hamden, is a very popular destination for gardeners. Sponsored by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) the day includes presentations by experts on CAES research on current issues, technical demonstrations, plant disease diagnosis, plant and insect identification, field plots and barn displays, questions answered and more.

<https://portal.ct.gov/caes/plant-science-day/2025/plant-science-day-august-6-2025>

The Federation has an information and membership table.

The FGCCT Board Meeting was held in mid-July at the beautiful Wickham Park in Manchester. The park contains 280 acres of gardens, open fields, woodlands, ponds, picnic areas and sports facilities. 39 Committee Chairs discussed their current and future plans in the lovely Emerald Banquet Room and then we enjoyed guided tours of the Park's pathways, gardens and landscapes.

Our 112 Clubs range in size from 11 members to 152 members and all do brilliant things in their communities. I continue to greatly enjoy visiting so many of our Clubs as they commemorate anniversaries, present flower shows, garden tours, tree plantings, officer installations and more. This year we presented twenty-two **NGC Certificates of Merit Honoring Clubs Celebrating Anniversaries**. There were seven clubs celebrating 100 or more years, eight clubs – 95 years, and seven clubs – 60 to 85 years!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the NEGC Annual Meeting in October.

Very best regards,

Nan Merolla

President, The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

The 87th Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Annual meeting was held on June 3rd at the Rutland Country Club. New officers for the term of 2025-2027 were installed by Sue Hinkel, past FGCV President and past New England Garden Clubs Director.



Martha Dale of Londonderry, a member of Green Mountain Gardeners, is the new President; Helen Hamman is Vice President; Gay Church is the Secretary; Esther Cowels is the Treasurer. Stepping down as FGCV President was Doris van Mullen, who received a recognition proclamation honoring her

copious contributions to the state federation during her two-year term. The event was also celebrated as "Sue Hinkel Day," noting

countless ways she had earned the respect and affection of garden club members in Vermont, New England and in the United States.



Sue Hinkel installing Martha Dale as incoming FGCV president

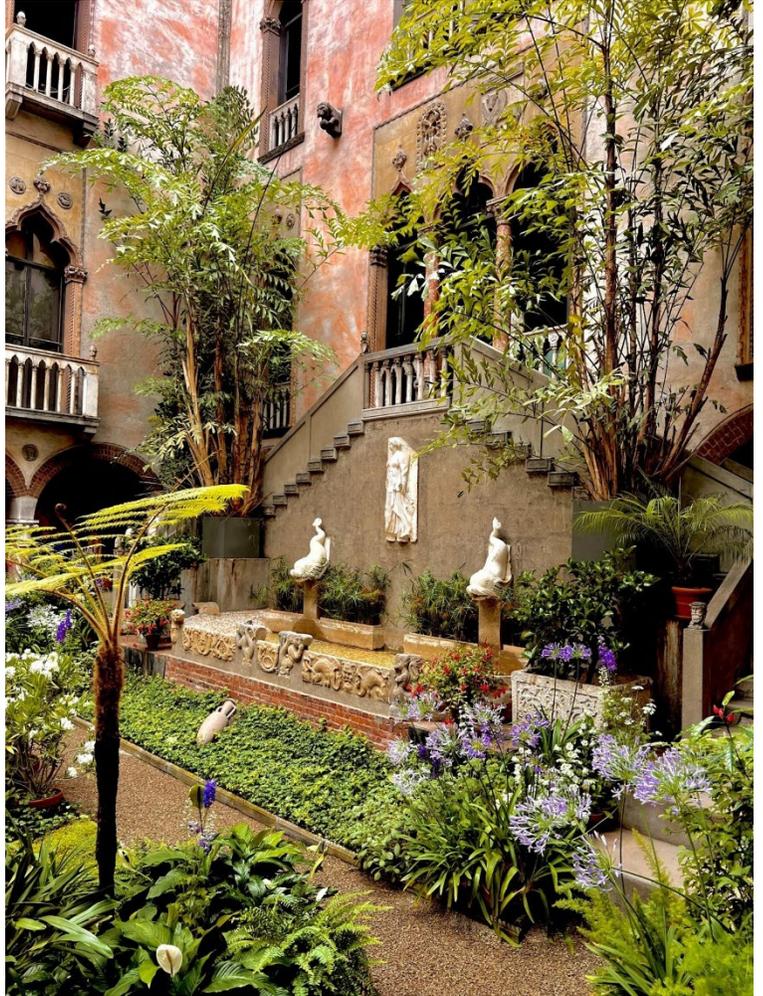
The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont's Boston Summer Garden Tour 2025 with host Charlie Nardozi

Thirty-five intrepid Vermont garden enthusiasts traveled on an exciting journey to Boston July 8th and 9th. The first stop on the tour was The New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill in Boylston. We experienced the wonder of plants and learned about the natural world. Opened in 1986, the garden sits on 200 acres and includes



conservatories, formal and naturalistic gardens, a café, Garden Shop, walking trails, accessible pathways and expansive views of the Wachusett Reservoir.

After a pleasant overnight in Boston, our group traveled to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum for a private tour. Isabella Gardner had chosen to site her museum on the edge of the (then) newly built Back Bay Fens, a part of Frederick Law Olmsted's Emerald Necklace, because she saw the potential for this new landscape to enable, inform and enhance the city of Boston. Today the museum continues to recognize the importance of landscape architecture through its landscape department, landscape lectures and landscape exhibitions. The gardens, both interior and exterior, are an integral part of the Gardner Museum experience today. She created an experience that was as much about flowers and plants, artfully arranged, as it was about masterpieces of art. The culmination of that vision is the Courtyard, but botanical images were enjoyed throughout the Museum.



Martha Dale
President, Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs



NEGC Calendar

Deadline for the **November 2025** issue of Northern Exposure is **October 25** – please e-mail articles or questions to editor Nancy Atwell at atwelln@aol.com – future issues of Northern Exposure will be published **November 1, February 1 (2026), May 1 (2026) and August 2026.**

Regional Meetings

October 14 and 15 – New England Garden Clubs Annual Meeting in CT, hosted by Federated Garden Clubs of CT.

Environmental Schools

September 19 – 19 - Environmental School Course 4 - Derby, CT (Virtual Zoom Course).

Flower Shows

August 15 -- New London Garden Club's "Weather or Not Flower Show" free admission, 165 Main St, New London, NH

Flower Show Schools and Symposiums

October 9 - 16 – Flower Show Course 3 – Rocky Hill, CT

October 16 - 17 - Flower Show School Symposium - Rocky Hill, CT

Gardening School

September 25 – 26 - Gardening School Course 2 - New Haven, CT (virtual course)

Landscape Design Schools

October 28 - 30 - Landscape Design School Course 4 - Waltham, MA (Virtual Course)

State Garden Club Meetings

September 24 - NHFGC Fall Gathering on Golden Pond Squam Lake Science Center

