



OFFICERS: 2023-2024

President

Mary Wheeler

1st Vice President

Mary Ann Hoar

2nd Vice President

Maura Costa

Recording Secretary

Sharon Safferstone

Corresponding Secretary

Lynne Drummond

Treasurer

Cy Howe

Assistant Treasurer

Linda Hampson

STANDING COMMITTEES

Sub-Committees

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Susan Bliss

Blooming Bouquets

Jill McGrath

Mary Hastings

Chamber Liaison

Sharon Safferstone

Library Flowers

Irene Mitchell

Scholarship/Grants

Mary Anne Kinum

MEMBERSHIP

Maura Costa Shirley Knowles Mary Meyer

Mentoring New Members

TBA



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

t's Marathon Monday and I suspect all of us are enjoying the sunshine, the daffodils and the hyacinths that are blooming and even the racket the birds are making outside. We have suffered through a tremendous amount of rain in March and early April but the price we paid for that is well worth it. Happy gardens, blossoming trees and the anticipation of more flowering things to come.

We are on the countdown of our biggest fundraiser of the year. May 25 promises to be a great success as always (with or without rain and hopefully warm temperatures!) We are veterans of all types of weather and nothing stops the excitement of our garden club members from selling plants, buying tickets for our drawing and enjoying the baked goods! I get a kick out of the gentleman who comes each year with his Frequent Flyer in tow, buying out tons of goodies to stock his freezer for his summer houseguests. Nothing like planning ahead!

And plan ahead we do! With the trip to Mount Auburn, with Alice in Harwich land on Mother's Day weekend, our Plant Sale on Memorial Day weekend and closing out the season with our year end luncheon on June 5, we are a well tooled group of worker bees!

Hoping you all enjoy the fresh spring scents and the sounds of growth!

Mary

What's Inside the Thymes?			
Get Ready for the Plant Sale!	2 & 3	Blooming Bouquets	11
Earth First Teacher Grants	4 - 6	Parks & Gardens News	12
Composting is Almost Here	7	Programs	13
Streetscapes & Corresponding Secretary Note	es 8	Book Reviews	14
Harwich Gold	9	Coming Up!	15
Membership & Luncheon & Garden Design	10	Bloom in June Luncheon Flyer	16

MEMBERSHIP cont.

Newsletter

Aileen Demeusy

Telephone

Barbara Brown-Street

Yearbook

Denise Schultz*

Mary Hastings

Aileen Demeusy

Peg Erdlen

Sheryl Stewart

PARKS AND GARDENS

Nancy Pollard Alice Marcus Krieg

PROGRAMS

Pam Latimer

TBD

Conservation

Diane DiGennaro

Design Workshops

Robin Lofgren

Annual Luncheon

Donna Coveney

Mary Anne Kinum

Horticulture

Diane DiGennaro

Marcia Tyler

Meet & Greet

Elaine Sampson

Paula Turner

Barbara Williams

STREETSCAPES

Barbara Harrison

Judy Martindale

Civic Beautification Awards

Lee Bathelt

Martha Gallant

Jeanne Keefe

Container Gardens

Barbara Harrison

Judy Martindale

Project G-Litter

Judi Sitkin



"Harwich by the Sea" PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 25, 2024 9 am to 12 pm (rain or shine!)

GARDEN CLUB MEMBER EXPECTATIONS:

- 1. MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. MEMBERS FROM 6:30 12:00.
- 2. Use Sign Up Genius and commit to a specific role for the Plant Sale.
- 3. Divide/replant 6-8 perennials from your garden OR purchase 1 hanging plant (5-6 herbs/smaller plants) at a value of \$35. See handout for ideas. Drop off at Diane DiGennaro's house (16 Cross St., HP) on Thursday, May 23rd, 9-4 or Friday, May 24th, 9-4.
- 4. Bake a sweet treat for the Bake Sale Table and bring individually wrapped baked goods (3-4 cookies wrapped together are okay); only fruit pies to Diane DiGennaro's house when you drop off your plants.
- 5. Put tape with your name on Wagons, Canopies and Shepherd Hooks:
 - Bring Canopies, Shepherd Hooks and Wagons to Doane Park on Saturday, May 25th no later than 6:30 as plants arrive at 7:00.
- 6. Show up at Doane Park at 6:30 on Saturday, May 25th to help unload plants and set up canopies.
- 7. Purchase Drawing tickets for wonderful prizes from local nurseries.
- 8. Members may purchase items at **full price after 9:30**.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Questions, please contact Co-Chairs: Diane DiGennaro 802-922-4353 Sharon Safferstone 540-220-1589





"Harwich by the Sea" Saturday, May 25, 2024 9 am to Noon (rain or shine)

WHEN shopping for your donation to our Plant Sale (if you aren't sharing plants from your garden), please consider buying three native pollinator perennials such as:

- Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberose)
- Hyssop (Agastache foeniculum)
- one of the Milkweeds
- Carolina Rose
- Ox Eye (Helopsis helianthoides)
- Tiarella cordifolia (foam flower/ground cover)
- Baptisia (false indigo)

Also, please remember that vegetables and herbs are big sellers. NO PANSIES.

WHETHER YOU ARE PURCHASING YOUR PLANTS FOR DONATION or shopping for your own garden, PLEASE CONSIDER ONE OF SEVERAL LOCAL NURSERIES AND SPREAD YOUR BUSINESS AROUND! Each carries different plants and our customers like the UNUSUAL, along with the old standbys. Check out:

New England Gardens on Rte. 28, Cape Coastal on Great Western Road, The Farm in Orleans, Crocker's, Snow's in Orleans, any of the three Agway locations, Hart Farm or Cape Abilities. Our club receives donations from most of these places and it is important to show our appreciation with our patronage. Be sure to say you are a member of our club and thank them.

Please prep your plants by filling out the small white info card and taping it (clear packing tape works well) to the wooden bee stick and stick one in each pot. The cards and sticks will be available at the May meeting.

Thank you in advance for all of your help. Co-Chairs Diane DiGennaro and Sharon Safferstone

STREETSCAPES cont.

Public Building Wreaths

Debbie Ferry Barbara Harrison Carole Hebb

Town Pole Wreaths

Sharon Safferstone Nan Rorty

SUPPORT

Carole Hebb

Historian

Sally Smith

Properties

Sharon Safferstone

Publicity

Carole Hebb

Website Maintenance/

Denise Schultz

WAYS AND MEANS

TBD TBD

Holiday Boutique

Susan Bliss

Maura Costa

Holiday House Tour

Barbara Harrison

Judy Martindale
Harwich Gold

Karen McLaughlin

Gerie Schumann

Harwich-by-the-Sea Plant Sale

Diane DiGennaro Sharon Safferstone





Greetings from Delaware amidst the farms! Gerie

SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS

"Earth First" Teacher Grants were awarded in January.



This spring, 18 students from the Harwich Elementary School Garden Club and their mentor, Harwich Elementary School technology teacher, Liz Hoff, worked together with families, community groups, staff, PTO, and local businesses to spruce up the school's courtyard garden. This year's goal was to create a sensory garden to increase outdoor classroom instructional and social-emotional learning opportunities. Bird feeders were replaced or cleaned and filled; windchimes were added; and raised beds and landscaped areas were weeded and filled with compost, soil, flowers, herbs, vegetables, berry plants, and mulch in accordance with the National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat distinction. Students started many plants by seed and watched them grow indoors before they were ready to be planted outside. The Garden Club of Harwich granted the HES Garden Club funds toward their project, donated Harwich Gold compost, and continues to support and offer guidance. The Harwich Elementary School Garden Club wishes to thank everyone for their support! Friends can follow the HES Garden Club's progress at https://tinyurl.com/ms8khabz or on Facebook. The Scholarship Committee is excited to see the progress that has been made in the Harwich Elementary School garden.

Annie Haven at the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School received money to purchase microscopes to be used to study sand collected from Pleasant Bay beach. Following protocol of the EPA and 5 Gyres, the students gathered, sifted and then analyzed their samples. Our donation enabled students to work in small groups of 3, 4, or 5. Much to their surprise, no microplastics were found, although there were many, many examples of macroplastics.

Please see the photos of both Grants on the following two pages.

One of the Garden Club's missions is to reach out to the community through education. Keeping students in touch with our environment and nature is an important goal we strive to support. Our Teacher Grants, Toolships and Scholarships support this endeavor.

The committee will also be offering a \$3,000 scholarship to a graduating senior and two \$500 Toolships given to two students at Cape Cod Tech.

Mary Anne Kinum, Chairperson Donna Coveney, Celeste Mahoney & Carolyn O'Leary, Committee Members



Harwich Elementary School Monday Garden Club



Harwich Elementary School Tuesday Garden Club

SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS

Busy gardeners working together at Harwich Elementary School!





Group photo in front of cherry tree



New azaleas, salvia & forsythia



Loam & grass for new Reading Garden





Gnome Bed Before and Gnome Bed After



Weeding the Herb Garden



Tuesday Garden Club



Harwich Girl Scouts planted in the raised bed donated by GCH



Thornless raspberry & blackberry bushes

SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS

Students from the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School went to Pleasant Bay and collected sand, then sifted

and analyzed their samples.









Harwich Elementary School ~ Rock Painting for Rock Garden















Rain chain with finished bowl Worm Farm donated by Harwich EL PTO

PROGRAMSConservation

GOT FOOD SCRAPS??????

Harwich is about to go greener with a new composting program!

In the last issue of the Garden Thymes, we promised more news about working with the town to establish a means to separate food scraps from our trash and put them to good use as compost. Well, that day is getting closer. We are joining many other Cape towns who are already using or considering similar programs.

We learned from the composting survey conducted since March that over 60% of respondents favored some form of composting and would likely use the Transfer Station. Others are already composting what they can at home using various methods. More about that in the future. BUT for many of us, home composting is not a viable option for a variety of reasons: space, time, effort and fear of critters among them. Instead, all of our food waste is tossed together and carted off Cape to landfills which are rapidly running out of space and charging higher dumping fees. Everything is wasted, spewing noxious gasses into the atmosphere...even stuff that can be recycled, processed and turned into compost to enrich soil and sequester carbon.

If it sounds daunting, it is not! If you currently take your trash and recycling to the Transfer Station, you can continue to do the same and make one more stop to toss your food scrap collection. There are several ways you can store your food scraps neatly, safely and without offensive odors until your next trip to the Transfer Station. We will offer suggestions and you can figure out as you go along what system works best for you. Whatever system you use will probably depend on the amount of prep work you do in your kitchen, the size of your family, the number of picky eaters and available storage space. We are lucky in Harwich to have our Transfer Station open long hours, seven days a week.

Another advantage to this system is the type of food scraps you can toss: veggies and fruits, meat, bones, dairy, certain paper goods and solidified grease among them. Signs at the Transfer Station will list what is ACCEPTABLE and what is NOT. We hope everyone will be diligent and comply! We think you will be amazed at just how much of your trash consists of food waste; the going estimates are about 30%!

Look for more information about the program and methods that suit your situations at our Plant Sale. We hope you are as enthusiastic about taking advantage of this opportunity as we are! It has truly been a learning process and will continue to be.

Gerie Schumann for the Conservation Committee

STREETSCAPES

Container Gardens

The town of Harwich requested that we move some of our containers in Harwich Port because they were enforcing zoning laws for sidewalk safety. We complied; so if you are wondering why many Harwich Port containers have new homes, it was at the town's request. This year we used Cat's Paw Marina Blue petunias from Hart's Farm in our containers.

We are always looking for help maintaining our containers. Changing the look for four seasons in 51 containers requires plenty of juggling with many members heading south during the winter and spring. If you think you could lend a hand, please let Barbara Harrison or Judy Martindale know. We like every container to have a buddy.



Let's get out there and clean up our streets and roadsides. Go out for a walk with a friend and bring your trash bag or bucket. Wear gloves, bright colors and enjoy the outdoors.

Judy Martindale and Barbara Harrison, Streetscapes Co-Chairs





Corresponding Secretary Notes

Sympathy Cards:

1/20/24 sent to Bill Otis on the passing of his wife Margaret, a Past President 3/20/24 sent to the Family of Kim Conner on her passing

Thank You Cards:

3/06/24 sent to Paul Doane on a donation of \$1,000

4/20/24 sent to Susan Donnelly on a donation of \$100

4/20/24 sent to Jeff Handler & Sara Handler on a donation of \$150 toward Community Centers
Annual fee

4/20/24 sent to Judi Sitkin in memory of Kim Conner on a donation of \$100

Get-Well Cards:

4/28/24 Get Well card sent to Mary Wheeler

Respectfully submitted, Recording Secretary, Lynne Drummond



WAYS AND MEANS

HARWICH GOLD 2024



The Harwich Gold fundraiser was held on April 5 & 6. After a snow alert in the area of the farm and lots of frantic phone calls and texts it all came together. Jake, the compost maker, was great. I called Susan Bliss in a panic and she said "just beg" (about the delivery date.) And I did! Jake got the compost to us in two shipments and the tea in a third. Who knew the compost delivery guy was also the snow plow guy in their town?

thank you

And no rain!!! A few sprinkles on Saturday, all in all the weather was good. We even had sun on Friday. We sold a record number of bags and teas, due in part to The Conservation Trust. They graciously sent our email out to their subscribers and got us placement in the Chronicle.

Thank you to all our club volunteers. You were great. I've heard from those who bought, that everyone was so efficient, kind and welcoming. Smiling faces. So important. It was fun for me to get to know members and have a chat. Gerie at the entrance saying Hi! and directing everyone along.

And the Americorp kids. OMG. They were wonderful. More smiling faces. Can't say enough good things about them. Such an amazing group.

Gerie got her signs out and her pot of daffodils at the entrance, as well as vests, cones, pizza, water and that wonderful nutty snack that she makes...well, all the stuff I didn't even think about.

And Pam. Thank you, thank you, thank you. That property works so well for this event. The space, the ease of the drive through, makes it all work. Thank you!

Funny aside, I thought they would arrive with the bags and stack them. I had no idea it would be a giant dump truck that literally "dumped" the bags.

And Cy, collecting those checks and orders. It gave me piece of mind when tallying those numbers, holding my breath to see if our numbers agreed. We delivered 1674 bags and 196 teas. Wow!

Word has spread, I've already received calls from those who missed the sale and want to be on the list for next year. Nice.

Thank you to club members for your orders. May your gardens bring you joy. Sudos to all. Thank you to everyone.

Karen & Gerie, Co-Chairs







Helpful Club Members









MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Every person you meet has a story to tell, a lesson to teach, and a dream to share.

Ryunosuke Satoro

Once again, the Membership Committee has been happy to welcome four new members: Beth Diane, Kimberlyn (Kim) Adams, Susanne (Susie) Hughes, and former member Nancy Resteghini.

Along with being invited to a "Spring Fling" at the lovely home of our President Mary Wheeler, there is a Mentoring Workshop planned for early May to be held at the home of Jeanne Tassinari. The focus of the workshop will be to help new members prepare for plant donations for our upcoming Plant Sale on Saturday, May 25 from 9-12 at Doane Park in Harwich Port.

Maura Costa, Co-Chair of Membership

BLOOM IN JUNE LUNCHEON

Don't forget to buy your ticket for the luncheon at the May meeting or you can send the form with your check to Donna Coveney. See details in the flyer on page 16.



Photos Plants Design Ideas 2024 Webinars Garden Tours

The following hopes to offer a new source for garden design and plant information for club members. I have been a member for a number of years.

Garden Design was a wonderful design magazine with amazing photography and articles. Several years ago, the magazine stopped publication and came out in email/online only. So. I joined; it's free, no charge! It has proven to be a great source of garden design and plant information. It also hosts articles and podcasts of all kinds from gardeners located around the world.

I thought how perfect for our Garden Club members!! If you are looking for a great gardening inspiration join: https://www.gardendesign.com/

Cathy Elliott

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Blooming Bouqueto

Blooming Bouquets will meet again on **Tuesday, May 21st**. We meet monthly on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month from **1:30-3:00** at the **Harwich Community Center**. We would love for you to join us to make beautiful mini bouquets for our Harwich community in nursing homes and Meals on Wheels recipients. Please bring greens to supplement our donation from Stop and Shop. We also would appreciate donations of small, plastic bottles, which really work the best.

The ladies and lovely bouquets that they prepare for Meals on Wheels recipients and seniors in residential housing.



Bottom: Karen McLaughlin, Jill McGrath, Mary Hastings & Judy Martindale. Top: Aileen Demeusy, Amy Natiello, Gail Stone, Anne Ekstrom, Pat Howe, Lee Bathelt, Sue Mills, Cathy Dillon & Nancy Pollard. Gerie Schumann got out of this one, because she took the photo!









Lots of Love!

Pat

Anne, Amy & Gail

Cathy, Jill, Lee, Anne & Sue







Beautiful April Bulbs enhanced all of our bouquets.

Cathy, Shirley & Karen

Parks & Gardens News ~

Alice Marcus Krieg hosted the spring Parks & Gardens meeting at her home. There was a chair person or garden member present from most of the gardens that we maintain. We discussed the needs of each park and put them on a list to

"The garden reconciles human art and wild nature, hard work and deep pleasure, spiritual practice and the material world. It is a magical place because it is not divided."

—Thomas Moore

share with the town DPW, when we meet with them on May 1st. They will let us know what they can do in the coming months to fulfill our wishes. Budgets have been increased for each park and garden to reflect nursery increases in labor and transportation industry wide.

The gardens have come alive with so many beautiful spring bulbs blooming and it is quite nice to see when driving around town. We appreciate the hard work and dedication our Parks & Gardens crews have put in around the year. It really shows the town off beautifully.

Thanks to All and Happy Gardening!

Nancy Pollard & Alice Marcus Krieg, Co-Chairs



Millennium & Albro Gardens ~ The Dynamic Duo ~ Mary Hastings and Marcia Tyler



Exit 82 (10) in beautiful bloom.







Brooks Park Entrance ~ Shouting Spring is Here!

PROGRAMS February Meeting

At the Meet & Greet Table, members enjoyed Amy Natiello's homemade heart-shaped cookies and her gorgeous Valentines Day floral arrangement. Sheryl Stewart provided heart-shaped chocolates and water to round out the offerings.





Our February speaker, Joyce Williams, certified professional landscape designer and owner of Joyce K. Williams Landscape Design, presented a program about landscape master planning and design. She gave a slide show presentation of several of her projects for wetlands mitigation and restoration and also featured her ideas for sustainable and native garden design. For more information check out her website ~ http://www.chathamlandscapedesign.com



March Meeting

Speaker: Cherie Bryan: Water Solutions for the Home and Garden ~ This master gardener presented a slide show giving examples of how gardens could be arranged to benefit naturally from rain and showed us other creative ways to conserve water.



Meet & Greet St. Patrick's Day tea, treats and decorations were provided by Barbara Harrison and Judy Martindale. Judy took the centerpiece to new heights complete with Leprechauns hiding in the "trees"!

April Meeting

Speaker: Dr. Carole Marcy ~ Forest Bathing. Members enjoyed peaceful meditation as she read poems from her book, *Nature Opens the Door,* available at Cape Cod Museum of Natural History & Amazon. For more info, her website is: www.drcarolmarcy.com/



Meet & Greet Spring treats were provided by Peggy Tringale and Liz Dubuque. A beautiful cherry blossom sprig was displayed for all to enjoy.



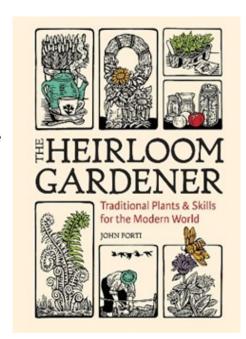
Nature

Dear Readers ~ If you have recently read an interesting book that you would like to share with club members, please send me the title, author and a short write-up and I will include it in the newsletter. Thank you, Aileen

Book Reviews

THE HEIRLOOM GARDENER by John Forti

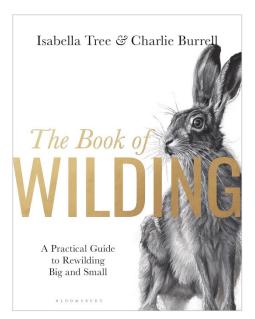
John Forti has won numerous awards for historic garden preservation, children's garden design, herbal and historical education and the 2021 Award of Excellence from National Garden Clubs, one of the nation's most-recognized nonprofits and largest volunteer gardening organization in the world. John is presently the Executive Director at Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH. Bedrock Gardens is an emerging public garden that integrates unusual botanical specimens and unique sculpture into an inspiring landscape journey. (www.Bedrockgardens.org). His book, The Heirloom Gardener, is part essay collection, part gardening guide, and encourages readers to embrace heirloom seeds and traditions, serving as a well-needed reminder to slow down and reconnect with nature." -- Modern Farmer Modern life is a cornucopia of technological wonders. But is something precious being lost? A tangible bond with our natural world--the deep satisfaction of connecting to the earth that was enjoyed by previous generations? In The Heirloom Gardener, John Forti celebrates gardening as a craft and shares the lore and traditional practices that link us with our environment and with each other. Charmingly illustrated and brimming with wisdom, this guide will inspire you to slow down, recharge, and reconnect.





The Book of WILDING by Isabella Tree & Charlie Burrell

The Book of Wilding is a handbook for how we can all help restore nature. It is ambitious, visionary, and pragmatic. The book has grown out of Isabella Tree's mission to help rewild Britain, Europe, and the rest of the world by sharing knowledge from her pioneering project in Sussex, England. Rewilding is a spectrum. Whether we have a garden, a pond, or a window box, there is no space too small. It is learning how to contribute to a living landscape, the life-support system that will save our planet from calamity and deliver us a prosperous and sustainable future. Deeply researched and beautifully illustrated, the book explains how every one of us can play a part in rewilding our world. It is both a practical guide and a call to action. Above all, it is a manifesto of hope. Isabella Tree is an award-winning journalist and author of five books. Her first bestselling book, Wilding tells the story of the daring wildlife experiment she began in 2000: rewilding her and her husband Sir Charlie Burrell's 3,500 acres of unprofitable farmland at Knepp Estate in West Sussex, UK. In less than twenty years their degraded land has become a functioning ecosystem again, wildlife has rocketed, and numerous endangered species have made Knepp their home. What has happened at Knepp challenges conventional ideas about nature, wildlife, and how we manage and envisage our land. It reveals the potential for the landscapes of the future.





Peonies

By Mary Oliver

This morning the green fists of the peonies are getting ready to break my heart as the sun rises, as the sun strokes them with his old, buttery fingers

and they open —
pools of lace,
white and pink —
and all day the black ants climb over them,

boring their deep and mysterious holes into the curls, craving the sweet sap, taking it away

to their dark, underground cities — and all day under the shifty wind, as in a dance to the great wedding,

the flowers bend their bright bodies, and tip their fragrance to the air, and rise, their red stems holding

all that dampness and recklessness gladly and lightly, and there it is again beauty the brave, the exemplary,

blazing open. Do you love this world? Do you cherish your humble and silky life? Do you adore the green grass, with its terror beneath?

Do you also hurry, half-dressed and barefoot, into the garden, and softly, and exclaiming of their dearness, fill your arms with the white and pink flowers,

with their honeyed heaviness, their lush trembling, their eagerness

to be wild and perfect for a moment, before they are nothing, forever?

Coming Up!

The Calendar can be viewed from our website home page. Click on this link ~ https://www.gardenclubofharwich.org

Then click on the green button:

NEW --> Click here for Our Monthly Calendar of Activities

Scroll down to month you want to view and click on it.

Tuesday, May 7th

Meet & Greet 1 pm /General Meeting 1:30 pm

Harwich Community Center

Speaker: Kelsey Harris ~ Founder and Lead Floral Designer of American Stems in Harwich Port



Wednesday, June 5th

Cocktails 12 pm / Luncheon 12:30 pm

Annual Meeting & Luncheon at Eastward Ho! in Chatham

HAPPY SUMMER!

Happy Mother's Day
to all women who have
given from their heart to
anyone who needed it.
Even if you've never raised
a child, you've given from a
mother's spirit that's in
every woman.



