

# New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

## An Online Newsletter

Member of the  
New England Garden Clubs  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.



## Lilac Letter

## Summer 2026

Volume XXXV, Issue 1



Bloom event winners, left to right: Peer to Petal Award - Fiona McKenna and Pauline Bogaert (Manchester Garden Club); Winnie Schmidt (NHFGC President); Moody Currier Masterpiece Award - Carrie Dugan (Derry Garden Club); Pinnacle Petal Award - Joanne Dickie (Windham Garden Club);  
Not Pictured: Blooming Benefactor Award - Linda Pare (Ashland Garden Club) and  
Pinnacle Petal Award - Robin Heider and Cookie Santerre

## President's Message

As you read through this issue, please take the time to read what other clubs are doing for activities for their members. This is a great way to get program ideas for your club. NHFGC members appreciate and support the activities sponsored by other clubs. I hope to visit as many club activities as possible. Please invite me if you have something you would like to share with me. I truly enjoy visiting.

I am including the speech I gave at the Annual Meeting as my President Report. This is to provide an opportunity for everyone to receive information concerning federated activities this year.

### Annual Meeting Speech

I would like to begin by welcoming our newest club to NHFGC. Deerfield Garden Club has joined and will be part of District 2.



## President's Message

### Continued

Welcome, we all look forward to getting to know you!

As a retired US History teacher, I see this as a “state of the union” or state of the federation speech. Please do not feel you need to rise and applaud as they do in Washington. Relax and hear about our very active and productive year.

We BLOOMED!!!

Partnering with the Currier Museum of Art to create this event proved to be so very, very successful. It was wonderful seeing so many members attending and enjoying the event. The event had over two thousand attendees. All four districts in NHFGC were represented by designers, and members from all 18 clubs came to enjoy the beautiful art and floral designs. We have received many positive comments from visitors. If you have any comments or ideas about how to make the event even better, please let me know. Constructive criticism is welcomed. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to promote our federation. The weekend of March 18-21, 2027 has been set for next year.

We have finished updating the Standard Rules, Policy and Procedures book. This is a many-paged document that describes how we work as a federation. It is an incredible source of information. You can find this very helpful document on our website. The dedicated committee worked for TWO YEARS to complete this project under the guidance of Mary Kaltenbach, our wonderful resource and leader.

Last year our Annual Meeting was hosted by District 3, at the Keene Country Club. At this meeting we added the idea of inviting vendors to our meeting. This added an opportunity for local vendors, and to members at the meeting to shop. District 4 created the Annual Meeting we are enjoying today and District 2 has wonderful plans for our Fall Gathering. You will be hearing more about this later today! District 1 hosted the Fall Gathering in September at Squam Lake. The day included many guided and self-guided activities. A wonderful lunch was served by a local vender. Many took advantage of the opportunity to take a boat ride on the beautiful lake.

Clubs working together in the different districts create unique statewide gatherings. Every club has the opportunity to participate in the planning of our statewide gatherings and events. All members are invited to attend and enjoy a day of sharing ideas and growing together.

The Life Membership Award name has been changed to Life Recognition Award. The new pins are now ready. The criteria remains the same as well as the cost. The cost is \$50. Half of that supports the NHFGC scholarship and the other half supports the general fund. That fund is used to help finance the cost of doing business like renting venues for events such as the





## President's Message Continued

Annual Meeting and Fall Gathering. The board is committed to saving wherever possible and support of this is a very nice way to show both recognition of a member and support of the organization. A club might consider presenting one to their president as a thank you!

Today we are celebrating NHFGC and the semiquincentennial of our country. Please remember if you are planting public spaces it would be nice to include red, white and blue for the semiquincentennial year. If this is not possible, perhaps add a small flag or another patriotic emblem to a container to celebrate 250 years! The bicentennial in 1976 was wonderful. Celebrating brings us together.

To remind everyone, my theme is "Plant Seeds of Friendship" - friendship within our individual clubs and friendship between our federated clubs as well as friendship in our communities and, of course, friendship with nature. Keep smiling and enjoy this wonderful day.

Winnie

### Announcement: Life Membership Award is Now Life Recognition Award



The Life Member Award has been re-named as the Life Recognition Award to better reflect its true meaning and intent. Are there members in your club who go over and above in their commitment?

Would you like to recognize an out-going president for their hard work and for stepping up? Whatever the reason, you can bestow this honor on a deserving member (see Awards). The cost is \$50 with half going to the NHFGC Scholarship Fund and the other half pays for the pin and to defray the ever-growing costs of our meetings and operating expenses.

If you are currently a Life Member and would like to exchange that pin for the new Life Recognition pin now available, the cost is \$10. Contact Pat Mulone, email - [pmulone2@gmail.com](mailto:pmulone2@gmail.com) or phone - 603-553-4863, to make arrangements.



Donna Donnelly, president of the National Garden Club, presenting award certificates earned by the New Hampshire clubs to NHFGC  
President Winnie Schmidt



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# Club Recognition Awards Presented at the Annual Meeting

by Mary Kaltenbach, NHFGC Awards Committee member

Each club was presented with a certificate acknowledging them for a specific project or accomplishment in 2025. This acknowledgement is chosen by each District Director from their bi-monthly reports based on information provided to them by the club presidents throughout the year. Here are this year's recognitions for each club:

## District I – Sherry Norman and Fern Doucette, Co-Directors

**Ashland:** For your celebration of 40 years of flowers, friendship, laughing and learning at Memorial Park, the Community Gardens, and the spectacular gardens of a local gardener, all in Ashland.

**Community Garden Club of Meredith:** For your interaction with “Keep Winni Blue,” an organization focused on the preservation of the health of Lake Winnepesaukee, by incorporating the best practices that gardeners can do to help keep fertilizers out of the lake and algae blooms from forming, making the water uninhabitable for native marine life, as well as unhealthy for people to swim in.

**Littleton:** For your work with the Littleton Community Center to submit a grant application to AARP Livable Communities. The grant seeks funding to transform the front of the Community House property into a pocket park with winding pathways and gardens.

**Mountain:** For the Tea Party the club held at the “Preserve at Chocorua” in Tamworth, NH, along with a flower arranging presentation by Jennifer Xibrat Haffner. An incredible array of tea sandwiches and sweets filled 3 tables and the Board served the tea on fine china provided by the Preserve. This event was so well received that the club has voted to make it a yearly event.

## District II – Diane Beaudry, Director

**Bow:** For your successful Pajama and Book Drive which collected 421 pairs of pajamas and 405 books which were donated to the Bow Human Services Department, Forgotten Children, Family Promise of Greater Concord and Community Action Program, Merrimack.

**Goffstown:** For your continued support of the Odd Fellows Christmas Gift Program and donations of personal care items for women to the Goffstown local network.

**Hooksett:** For your support of the Tree Lighting Project in Hooksett by purchasing a tree and decorating it for the raffle. The decorations included food items that could be enjoyed by birds and animals.





# Club Recognition Awards Presented at the Annual Meeting continued

**Manchester:** For your extremely successful Pansy Bowl Sale which raised \$1500.00 towards your annual scholarship to a local high school senior.

## District III – Dian Mathews, Director

**Fitzwilliam:** For your innovative field trips and fun meetings to attract new members.

**New London:** For your publication of the “Resource Directory For Gardeners”, which was printed for your 2024 SECRET GARDEN TOUR by Echo Communications and which received an AWARD OF EXCELLENCE by Printing Industries of New England (PINE).

**Old Homestead:** For your concerted efforts towards the inclusion of new and old members in all your club activities.

## District IV – Alison Kennery, Director

**Atkinson:** For your exceptional holiday season of the Annual Greens and Gift Sale and the Holiday Luncheon that was a real treat for members.

**Derry:** For your increase in membership and completion of a review and update of the club’s bylaws.

**Epping:** For accomplishing many community activities, considering the small size of your club.

**Fremont:** For your club’s very informative monthly meetings and the Annual Plant Sale, which is well received by the town and surrounding communities.

**Salem:** Cheers to your club for the amount of growth in membership and the activities that have been offered to your members.

**Sandown:** Congratulations on your continued collaboration with The Laurels Farm.

**Windham:** For your floral design team that offered a beautiful design at Bloom at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester. This was one member’s inaugural design.

Congratulations to all the clubs for following the NHFGC Mission Statement by promoting the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.



# Awards Presented at the May 20 Annual Meeting

by Mary Kaltenbach, NHFGC Awards Committee member

Here is a list of the awards presented at the NHFGC Annual Meeting at Zorvino Vineyards in Sandown on May 20th.

## NHFGC General Awards

#1.A – Largest number of club members at the 2024 NHFGC Annual Meeting – Derry Garden Club

#1.B – Highest percentage of club members at the 2024 NHFGC Annual Meeting – Old Homestead Garden Club

#10 – Community Star for District IV – George Hosker-Boulay nominated by the Atkinson Garden Club. “George is thoughtful, generous, the ultimate host, and a more decent human being you will never find. He brings good feelings to everyone near him. He is an inspiration for our new motto: Cultivate Kindness.”

#15 – Silver Seal - Awarded by the club to members who have consistently contributed to the club’s work:

Atkinson: Linda Jette - “Linda is a continuing influence that improves the AGC.”

Derry: Mary Lea Daily - “Mary Lea has a long history of service to the club, and we would be lost without her!”

Manchester: Cindy Walsh - “Cindy consistently delivers performance that exceeds expectations, demonstrating exemplary dedication to all the projects she is involved in.”

#16 – Yearbooks

Category 3 club size: 1st Atkinson

Category 4 club size: 1st Bow, 2nd Windham

Category 5 club size: 1st Derry, 2nd Manchester

#14 – Scrapbooks

Category 5 club size: 1st Manchester, 2nd Derry

NHFGC Standard Flower Show Award

#1.A – Achievement Award: New London Garden Club



# NHFGC Clubs Celebrating Anniversaries

by Mary Kaltenbach, NHFGC Awards Committee member

There are two clubs celebrating their 75th anniversary and membership in the Federation in 2026 - **Atkinson Garden Club** and the **Community Garden Club of Meredith!** They received a certificate commemorating their Diamond Anniversary at the NHFGC Annual Meeting on May 20th at Zorvinos Vineyards in Sandown, NH. Please congratulate those members on their momentous milestone!

*Congratulations*



## Presidential Citations Awarded at Annual Meeting

by Winnie Schmidt

NHFGC President Winnie Schmidt presented 22 Presidential Citations on May 20th to all the members who created a floral design that interpreted one of the paintings at the Currier Museum of Art for their BLOOM event. The Citation to Linda A. Pare', Edith Nunn, Pauline "Peeps" Bogaert, Fiona McKenna, Casey Leach, Michelle Mensinger, Cindy Walsh, Sherry Richardson, Anne Wenniger, Sylvia Roberts, Beverly Gamlin, Joanne M. Dickie, Robin Heider, Cookie Santerre, Tracey Burhoe, Christine Carr, Blanche Garone, Mary Lea Daily, Susan Davis, Pat Bennett, Valerie, O'Reilly, and Carrie Dugan reads:

"In recognition of your support of NHFGC as we partnered with the Currier Museum of Art to present the inaugural BLOOM with your interpretation of *insert title of artwork, its painter, and date.*"

President Winnie Schmidt also awarded a Presidential Citation to these three individuals: Sherry Norman, District I Co-Director, in recognition of coordinating an outstanding 2025 Fall Gathering, Fern Doucette, District I Co-Director, in recognition of coordinating an outstanding Fall Gathering in 2025, and Dian Mathews, District III Director, in recognition of coordinating the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to all these awardees! Your effort is so appreciated!



# National Garden Club Presidential Citation Presented in Honor of Winifred Schmidt for Exceptional Leadership and Vision

In recognition of her more than ten years of steadfast dedication, leadership, and influential partnership with the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire, Winnie has been instrumental in bringing an “Art in Bloom”–style event to the Granite State.

Through her commitment to excellence, she worked closely with the Currier to establish event guidelines, ensured that participating floral designers were members of NHFGC clubs, and played a central role in sourcing designers, coordinating planning sessions, and guiding the strategic development of the program.

Her efforts culminated in the Currier Museum’s inaugural BLOOM! event, launched on March 12, 2026 – a four-day celebration featuring 18 floral interpretations of curated artworks throughout the museum. This landmark event not only showcased the artistry of NHFGC designers but also strengthened public awareness of the federation’s mission.

Under Winnie’s leadership, NHFGC welcomed significant interest from non-federated garden clubs, resulting in new contacts, expanded outreach, and the addition of a new member club on April 22, 2026. The Currier Museum achieved record attendance, increased memberships, and unprecedented sales in both the café and gift shop. Plans for a 2027 event are already underway, a testament to the program’s success.

For her tireless work, unwavering vision, and extraordinary contributions to the advancement of floral design and community engagement in New Hampshire, Winnie is hereby honored with this citation of distinguished service and achievement.



National  
Garden Club  
Presidential  
Citation  
awarded to  
Winnie  
Schmidt by  
Susan Miner





# Highlights from the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, May 20<sup>th</sup> at Zorvino Vineyards



The theme was a resounding red, white and blue!



Speaker John Forti, spoke about "The Evolution of Gardens in America"

New club member, Deerfield Garden Club, was represented at the meeting





# National Garden Club Annual Meeting 2026

Winnie Schmidt



NGC hosted the meeting this year at National Headquarters in St Louis, Missouri. The business of the organization was completed and workshops were available for continued learning.

Many of us are life long learners and really enjoy remaining current concerning everything having to do with gardening and environmental issues. An information workshop was hosted at the meeting by the Committee Chairs of the four NGC sponsored schools. The four schools are: Flower School, Landscape Design School, Environment School and Gardening School. The classes in the different schools can be taken in any order and you can find the course listings and registration material on the NGC website. The schools have a nationwide reputation of excellence and often partner with other like minded groups such as Master Gardeners to create courses of study. There are affiliations with different institutions of learning for instructors and research in different areas.

Many NGC Schools are now offered on line and at different times of the day and different times of the year. Information concerning school offerings and registration materials can be found on the NGC website. With this flexibility it makes continued learning easier by having it delivered to your home. I encourage you to visit the website [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org) and explore the many opportunities available to us as members of the National Garden Club.

## National Garden Club Award Recognition

Congratulations to Derry Garden Club and Mountain Garden Club. Derry Garden Club was given a Certificate of Commendation for their work of "landscaping of public or religious grounds "(Award CE8) and another Certificate of Commendation for "edible gardens" (Award G20).

Mountain Garden Club earned a Certificate of Appreciation in "Membership Awareness (Award MAE 1) and a Certificate of Appreciation for their "Social Media/ Website (Award MAE1). This is in recognition of their work during the 2025 gardening year! It was an honor for NHFGC to be represented this way at a National Convention.





## WELCOME to THE GARDEN CLUB of DEERFIELD

NHFGC is now up to 19 clubs and growing. Deerfield belongs to District 2 bringing that district to 5 clubs. We welcome President Robin McKinnon and the club's 30 members. You may have met some of them at this year's Annual Meeting at Zorvino Vineyards. They are very excited to join us and we are delighted to welcome them as new members of NHFGC!

*Heritage in Bloom*  
**A GARDEN TOUR**  
*Saturday June 27th*

EXPLORE GARDENS OF HISTORIC  
DEERFIELD HOMES & LOCATIONS.

Scan the QR  
code for tickets:

3pm-7pm

CARLSON  
FORGE

THE MESSINA FAMILY  
WILL & KATHY HUEBNER  
THE MCKINNON FAMILY

EFM TRAVEL  
Kimberly Stoddard  
Deerfield Veterinary Clinic  
Quartz Shire Farm

DEERFIELD  
VETERINARY CLINIC

QUARTZ SHIRE  
FARM

Our new club member, The Garden Club of Deerfield, is hosting an event exploring the gardens of Deerfield's historic homes and locations. Join in the excitement and welcome them to the NHFGC.



# NHFGC Scholarships

Audrey Vargish, Scholarship Chair



This year's response to the NHFGC Scholarship offerings was less than last year. I spoke with a Dean at UNH who told me that she had 100 less students ask for applications this year than in any other year. I was also surprised by the fact that we did not receive a single application from UNH which has always been the highest number in the past. However, we did receive applications from a few students at schools that we had not heard from previously. The applications we did receive were several from Plymouth State University and Paul Smith's College, plus Marist University and Nashua Community College. These scholarships provide financial support to either undergraduate or graduate students in programs and concentrations such as plant and environmental sciences, conservation, horticulture, sustainability and other closely related programs. Recipients must be New Hampshire residents and attend qualifying schools that are 2-or 4-year colleges and universities that are accredited and listed on the official website of the U.S. Department of Education. Recipients are selected based on academic performance, good character, service, and leadership ability in their fields of endeavor.

The New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Scholarship was awarded to Norah Conley of Windham, NH. She is in her junior year at Plymouth State University where she is majoring in Environmental Science and Policy and has a GPA of 4.0. Norah has been a student researcher for the NH INBRE program studying cyanobacteria in NH lakes and has been a regular farmhand at Abenaki Farm in Campton, NH. She is certified by NH Fish and Game as a Project Wild and Aquatic WILD educator. As such, Norah has hosted PSU guided tree tours, taught elementary students during their School to Farm Day at Rock Estates and facilitated school and town events such as annual visits to the Arnold Arboretum. Norah says, "I want to base my life around service – service not only to those around me, but to the Earth itself. I feel called to do everything in my power to protect the natural systems that sustain all life, as well as the rights of all their inhabitants." In her letter of recommendation, Dr. Rachelle Lyons has said "Norah remains driven to build her knowledge, skill and experience and put them to use serving others."

The Jean L. Thompson Scholarship was established in her honor by her daughters Lindsay Thompson and Elizabeth Thompson. Jean was a 40-year member of the Federated Garden Club and served from 2005-2006 as President of the NHFGC. This year's recipient is Jonas Robert Welch from Derry, NH. He is in his freshman year at Paul Smith's College where he is majoring in Forestry Ecological Forest Management and has a GPA of 4.0. As a child helping his grandmother in her gardens, Jonas first became interested in plants and their natural lifecycle. Now as a student, Jonas is developing scientific knowledge and practical field skills. Upon graduation, Jonas wants "to work as a professional consulting forester, helping manage private forests in a way that balances ecological health, sustainability, and the goals and





values of landowners” and “contribute to the protection and responsible use of forest ecosystems so that they can remain healthy and productive in an ever-changing world for generations to come.” In his letter of recommendation, Professor Don Radcliffe, PhD says Jonas “stood out for his enthusiasm, curiosity, and prior knowledge.” In one assignment, Jonas went way beyond the one page that was needed because “he said that it was too much fun learning about the subject to just stop there.”

The NHFGC Scholarship is funded through gifts from its members, clubs and friends. In order to continue to support the outstanding young people who are recipients of these scholarships, it is important for all clubs in NHFGC to participate in annual donations to the Scholarship Fund.

## New England Garden Club (NEGC) Awards Application Deadline is August 1st

Mary Kaltenbach, NHFGC Awards Committee

NEGC Award applications are due to the NHFGC Awards Committee no later than August 1st . These regional awards are based on work done during the regional awards year which is June 1 - May 31. Applications are only 3 pages long now unless otherwise noted on the award guideline. The preference is to have them submitted electronically to the NHFGC Awards Committee member listed on the NHFGC Roster (currently, that is Christine Carr using [awards@nhfgc.org](mailto:awards@nhfgc.org)). Or submit by snail mail to her if that is not convenient. The link to the NEGC Awards list and requirements is <https://newenglandgc.org/awards-5/>. Note that the NEGC applications MUST be sent to an NHFGC Awards Committee member first, by August 1. After review, it will be forwarded by September 1 to the correct regional awards chair. If you have any issues opening the application form or the list of awards, please contact us.

Let's get some recognition for your wonderful projects! Apply Now.

## New England Garden Clubs May Newsletter

Click on the link below to read up on the activities of the NE Garden Clubs in their May newsletter.

[Northern Exposure - New England Garden Clubs Newsletter - May 2026](#)

Here is the link to the NE Photo Group Newsletter for May

[New England Photo Group Newsletter - May 2026](#)



# Helen A. and Ernest S. Colprit Memorial Award

Fern Doucette and Sherry Norman, District 1

Each year, the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs recognizes a high school senior for outstanding work in a horticulture class with the Helen A. and Ernest S. Colprit Memorial Award. This \$1,000 award is given in order to encourage interest in horticulture and the beauty of nature.

This year the Award was given during the 96<sup>th</sup> Granite State FFA Association in New Hampshire Convention, held at the Mount Washington Resort on March 12<sup>th</sup> by Fern Doucette and Sherry Norman, District Directors for District 1.

This Association in New Hampshire is dedicated to fostering a supportive environment where all students are valued and met with dignity and respect. The Association is committed to ensuring that every student feels a sense of belonging and has access to the tools they need to become the best version of themselves. The Granite State FFA Association is part of the larger National FFA Organization, which is a dynamic youth leadership organization that strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education.

The young men and women of this group were incredibly bright, sharp, well spoken, well on their way to becoming leaders within our Country. We attended several presentations given before a panel of judges; all were very well done! During their evening meeting, they followed Robert's Rules of Order precisely, accurately, with quick military style precision. We were so impressed, we can't wait to go again next year!!

This year's recipient is a four year varsity athlete on her school's basketball team and a very active FFA member! She has been to the National FFA Convention three times, and holds three steady jobs. Our winner has focused much of her learning and FFA involvement on horticulture, competing in Nursery/Landscape, Turf and Landscape Maintenance and most recently, Forestry. Her Supervised Agricultural Experience centers around Christmas Tree production, which keeps her busy from summer into December. Although her career goal of electrical technology does not relate directly to horticulture, our winner says that her experiences through agricultural education and the FFA have made her truly appreciate horticulture, and she plans to ensure that it's part of her life going forward.

This talented young woman is a very active member of the Coe-Brown Much-to-Do FFA Chapter.



# Helen A. and Ernest S. Colprit Memorial Award

## Continued

The 2026 Colprit Memorial Award winner is Madison Taylor from Coe-Brown Northwood Academy!



Madison Taylor,  
Sherry Norman  
and Fern Doucette

## Plant A Tree

Formerly known as Penny Pines, Plant A Tree takes our donations and sends them to our partners in the National Forest Service who then plant tree seedlings to replace what was lost to fire, drought, or disease. Each planting replaces what was originally there. It is easier than ever to be part of this wonderful program. A \$50.00 donation will allow the Forest service to plant an area that needs regrowth. You may designate which National Forest you wish your donation to help. If we watch the news carefully, we know that our western forests have the most needs due to forest fires. Our NH National Forest has not suffered these losses. To find out how to participate, go to National Garden Club Plant A Tree Program 2026. All the information you need is there.



## Garden Conservancy



Preserving, sharing, and celebrating America's gardens and diverse gardening traditions for the education and inspiration of the public

The Garden Conservancy is the nation's largest garden visiting program! They are entering into their fourth decade and introducing a new generation to gardening throughout the country. Their "Open Days" season offers more than 350 garden visiting opportunities in 26 states (so far) that will host 10's of thousands of visitors where Garden Hosts share their garden passion.

To see the list of gardens in your area and viewing dates or to purchase tickets, check out their website [gardenconservancy.org](https://gardenconservancy.org). You might see a garden or two of someone you know.





# Join in the Summer Group Tour at Fuller Gardens



## One of the Last Working Formal Estate Gardens of the Early 20th Century.

Fuller Gardens is a public botanical garden that was once part of the summer estate of Alvan T. Fuller on the Seacoast of New Hampshire. It's a delightful oasis situated a stone's throw from the ocean. The gardens feature horticulture at the highest level, with thousands of rose bushes and hundreds of varieties that bloom all season long. Formal English perennial borders, a Japanese Garden and a tropical conservatory are all framed by sculpted hedges.

**RSVP:** This is an informal event. Please let me know if you are joining us. 603-340-0202 text, call or Email: [Bevnherbs@gmail.com](mailto:Bevnherbs@gmail.com), 'subject' Fuller Gardens. Give name, phone number and club name.

**CARPOOL:** This event is set up for carpooling. You may plan your carpool group or let me know if you would like to join a carpool in your area and I will try to arrange that.

**TIME:** 10:00 am arrival at Fuller Gardens. Wait in the parking lot to gather and pay the group rate if we have 10 or more people. Group rate is \$10 per person.

**DATE:** Thursday June 25, 2026

Bring your own lunch to enjoy at any of the garden areas.

Fuller Gardens  
10 Willow Avenue  
North Hampton, NH 03862

Questions: call Beverly at 603-340-0202

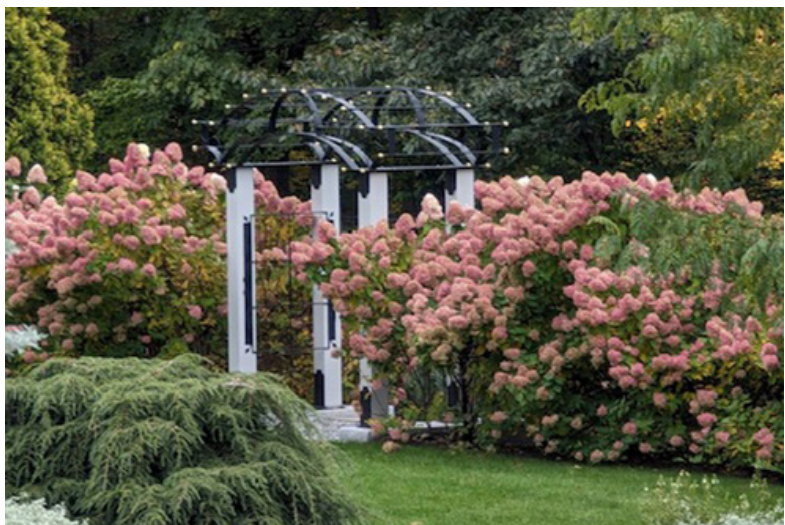
Group rate of \$10 per person.



# NHFGC 4th Annual Fall Gathering

The NHFGC 4th Annual Fall Gathering will be held at The Gardens at Uncanoonuc Mountain in Goffstown, NH on September 23, 2026, from 8:30am – 3:00pm. Lucky are we as the Gardens are no longer open to the public! Come join us to tour their beautiful gardens, learn the history of Uncanoonuc and enjoy a floral presentation. Registration fee is \$30.00. You may bring your own lunch or add a lunch provided by the Granite State Lunch Box for \$20.00. Deadline to register is August 21st. Fall in New Hampshire is so beautiful! We look forward to seeing you at The Gardens at Uncanoonuc Mountain! The registration form is on the following page (page 19).

Diane Beaudry, NHFGC District 2 Director





# New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Gathering

### *Autumn at Uncanoonuc Gardens*



**Wednesday, September 23, 2026**

**8:30am-3:00pm**

**452 Mountain Road, Goffstown**



☐ **Registration** **\$30**

- Coffee & Breakfast Pastries
- Guest Speaker
- Garden Tours
- Floral Design Presentation
  - Marie St. Onge from Paisley Floral Designs

☐ **I will bring my own lunch**

OR

☐ **Add lunch to my registration** **\$20**

- Sandwich (select below), chips, cookie & drink
  - ☐ Ham      ☐ Veggie      ☐ Cran-Walnut Chicken Salad
  - ☐ Turkey      ☐ Roast Beef      ☐ Make it Gluten Free

**Total Cost:**

**Please complete this form and return it to your club treasurer  
with your check made payable to your club by August 21st**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_





# 10th Annual Meeting of the New England Garden Clubs



**NEW ENGLAND GARDEN CLUBS ANNUAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 13 - 14, 2026  
KILLINGTON GRAND HOTEL RESORT, KILLINGTON, VT**

The New England Garden Clubs cordially invite you to the distinguished Killington Grand Hotel Resort, an exceptional destination renowned for its autumn foliage.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont (FGCV) welcomes you as your host.

Go to the FGCV website for meeting registration and link to hotel registration  
[Vermontfgcv.com](http://Vermontfgcv.com)

New England Garden Clubs Business Meeting Friday, October 9, 2026 via Zoom- 10:00 am  
All club members are invited to attend



"Vermont's Green Mountains:  
Fostering the Birth of the Republic"

**Reminders: Request each Garden Club to  
bring a raffle item from your club**

## **Features**

Educational Break-out Sessions  
NEGC Award Showcase  
Marketplace Vendors  
Networking  
Innovative Exhibits  
Speaker - Celebrating 250<sup>th</sup> America's Anniversary  
NGC President - "Fuel for the Journey"  
State, Regional, National Initiatives  
Interest Groups  
Raffles - delightful gifts



# NH Garden Clubs, Inc. Registration Form



**NEW ENGLAND GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**OCTOBER 13 - 14, 2026**



Killington Grand Hotel Resort, 228 East Mountain Road, Killington, VT.

## REGISTRATION FORM - PLEASE PRINT

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### TITLE - Circle One:

|                          |                        |                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| NGC Board Member         | Regional Board Member  | State Board Member |
| NGC Life Member          | State President        | Club President     |
| Regional Director        | Former State President | Club Member        |
| Former Regional Director | State Vice President   | Guest / Other      |

### REGISTRATION CHOICES

NEGC Annual Meeting Registration, October 13 - 14, 2026 Required  
Registration - Member - Guest (guests of members who wish to join  
us for meals are requested to pay a nominal registration fee)

**\$75.00**

**\$25.00**

#### Tuesday Dinner Banquet

Savor a Vermont Campfire - themed buffet dinner featuring cornbread, corn on the  
cob, smoked pork & beans, maple BBQ beef brisket, thyme-roasted chicken, stuffed  
portobello mushroom & dessert.

**\$75.00**

#### Wednesday Breakfast

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast with a friend at the hotel including muffins, pastries,  
yogurt, fruit, juice, and coffee (Note: There are no other breakfast options near  
the conference site.)

**\$25.00**

#### Wednesday Buffet Lunch

Soup & Sandwich Board Luncheon Buffet

Indulge in a terrific selection of soups, salads, sandwiches, cookies, brownies,  
and soft drinks. This buffet luncheon promises something  
for everyone.

**\$45.00**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED\_** \_\_\_\_\_

SEND THIS FORM AND CHECK MADE OUT TO FGCV TO  
NEGC ANNUAL MEETING - FGCV

c/o Esther Cowles 9 Birchwood E Barre VT 05641  
Fernwoodconsulting@gmail.com

Main link to Event: <https://www.vermontfgcv.com/events/2026-negc-fallmeeting>

Lodging link: [https://www.bookkillington.com/#/room?](https://www.bookkillington.com/#/room?group=35L2ZK&checkin=10%2F13%2F2026&checkout=10%2F14%2F2026)

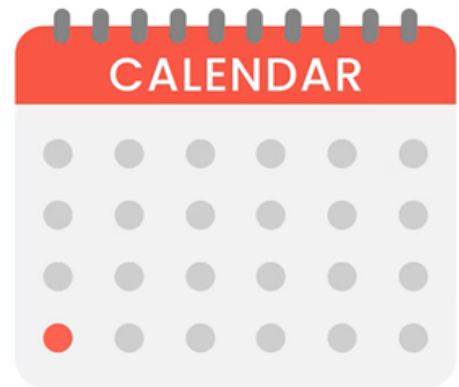
[group=35L2ZK&checkin=10%2F13%2F2026&checkout=10%2F14%2F2026](https://www.bookkillington.com/#/room?group=35L2ZK&checkin=10%2F13%2F2026&checkout=10%2F14%2F2026)

**Annual Business Meeting Virtual - Free - October 9, 2026 at 10:00am**

**Yes Interested** \_\_\_\_\_



# Calendar and Upcoming Events



## **2026      CELEBRATING 1776 -2026. It is a Red White and Blue Celebration!**

|           |                                                                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jun 16-19 | Garden Club Federation of Maine Convention, Atlantic Oceanside, Bar Harbor, Maine |
| Jun 19-21 | Newport Flower Show, Rosecliff Mansion, Newport, RI                               |
| Jun 24    | NHFGC Board Meeting                                                               |
| Jun 25    | NHFGC 5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Group Tour - Fuller Gardens, North Hampton, NH       |
| Aug 1     | NEGC Awards Deadline                                                              |
| Aug 7     | Lilac Letter Deadline                                                             |
| Aug 26    | NHFGC Board Meeting                                                               |
| Sept 23   | NHFGC Fall Gathering, Gardens at Uncanoonac Mountain, Goffstown, NH               |
| Oct 7     | Lilac Letter Deadline                                                             |
| Oct 13-14 | New England Garden Clubs Annual Meeting, Killington Ski Area                      |
| Oct 21    | NHFGC Board Meeting                                                               |
| Oct 31    | Plant License Information due                                                     |
| Oct 31    | Liability Insurance payment due                                                   |
| Dec 16    | NHFGC Board Meeting                                                               |

**\*\*\* Note:** Events listed may need prior registration. This list is for your convenience in planning. More information concerning cost, if any, and registration can be found on the NHFGC website on the CALENDAR page.





# Club News

## Ashland Garden Club

Susan Hendricks



In April, the Ashland Garden Club kicked off its season with a Seed Swap, Potluck Dinner and Business Meeting. We were excited to welcome three new members to our club that night. Local Ashland resident Kirby Bickford joined us for the first part of the meeting and spoke about tricks that are used to collect, store and start seeds. In addition to Kirby's vast seed collection, many garden club members brought seeds from their own collections to share. It was a great opportunity to learn about new plants from fellow gardeners.



Mary Guerino, Recording Secretary and Leslie Zimmer, Vice President, take part in the seed swap.



Kirby Bickford, Ashland resident, spoke about seeds and answered lots of questions from our members

Our talented member, Sue Cram, won the Blue in the Botanical Arts Division of the Philadelphia Flower Show. Her entry was a pair of art deco earrings with geometrical details. We are so proud of Sue and her amazing design talent.



Sue Cram's art deco earrings win the BLUE at the Philadelphia Flower Show



## Ashland Garden Club

### Continued



We have lots of events happening in May. Our Annual Plant and Pie Sale will be held May 16 from 9-noon in Ashland at Memorial Park. Our plant sale team has been working hard gearing up for this year's event. Members have been busy digging, dividing plants, and baking pies for this year's event. This year, there will be a few new attractions – A Dahlia Bar, Kids Corner, and a Garden Whimsy section.



Plant and Pie Sale

In May, we will get our community gardens ready for the Summer on Civic Beautification Night. Members come together to mulch, plant and weed all five of our community gardens in Ashland. We also have some fun workshops planned along with members' pop-up gardens throughout the summer.

New this year, the Ashland Garden Club will be having an online "Mums Days" Fundraiser during the month of August. We are excited to partner with 135 Thompson Street Farms in Ashland for this fundraiser. Mums can be purchased online and picked up at their Ashland Farm in mid-September. Tim Crowley will also host a pop-up garden in June to show members how he grows and cultivates his mums. Mums will be available for purchase at our September event in Holderness. This event titled "Growing a Pollinator Garden" with Jane Raymond from the UNH Master Gardeners Program will be free and open to the public.

Happy Gardening.

Ashland Garden Club





Tra la! It's May!  
The lusty month of May!  
That lovely month when everyone goes  
Blissfully astray!

We can imagine Julie Andrews singing and dancing with such delight and abandon in her Camelot role as Guenevere. It seems as if this year has been so full of inspiring events and shared activities with garden clubs everywhere.

Our March Installation Meeting was a perfect beginning to our year, once again held at the gracious home of AGC member, Michael Hosker-Bouley. (Even though it was delayed a day due to a surprise New England snow storm!) We thanked outgoing President Christine Leeds, for her leadership and accomplishments during her term, and welcomed new Co-Presidents Pat Bennett and Ann Reardon.



Members of our newly installed Executive Board (l-r): Ann Reardon - co-president; Christine Leeds - past president; Jeanne Vickery - corresponding secretary; Jeanne Geisser (kneeling) - membership director; Pat Bennett - co-president; Leann Moccia -vice president; Linda Jette - parliamentarian and director; Donna Robertson - director; Hedi Shikes - director; Marnie Finn - treasurer. (Estelle Halchak - recording secretary, not in photo.)

Hedi Shikes once again presided over our installation ceremony, replete with unique words of guidance for each office, and presentation bouquets for our new Executive Board. Joanne Krause was fondly remembered and honored as the creator and inspiration for our current Installation Ceremony.



Newly elected Co-Presidents Ann Reardon and Pat Bennett, are presented with their stunning installation bouquets.





## Atkinson Garden Club Continued



BLOOM at the Currier was such a happy and inspirational event for our club members. We are all looking forward to next year's NHFGC floral and art celebration! Kudos to President Pat Bennett, whose colorful and striking design perfectly captured the large abstract painting it was meant to interpret.



Pat's stunning arrangement of gerbera daisies, mums, statice and aspidistra

Atkinson Garden Club Members gathering at Bloom! (l-r) Kay Galloway, Pat Bennett (AGC's star floral arranger), Nina Gray, Marnie Finn, Sue Miner, Sue Carter

We were delighted to have Master Gardener, Ron Trexler, at our April open meeting. His presentation was full of humor and information. We and our guests had many questions on the best ways to prepare and maintain our gardens for the upcoming growing season.

Our May meeting was a collective clean up of Atkinson's planting areas, making them ready for planting later in the month. Our members came armed with rakes and shovels, trowels and clippers. When the work was done, we were treated by our refreshment committee to a fabulous luncheon feast with vases of beautiful spring flowers on each table.



Happily getting ready for a morning of town clean-up are Janet Snowdon, John Goulet, James and Nicole Cummings and Christine Leeds.



## Atkinson Garden Club Continued



Newest member,  
Debbie Maillette  
pitching in at the  
fire station.



Tanya Tsentalovich and Michael  
Hosker-Boulet demonstrating that  
you'll never know what you'll find in  
a Dow Common planter!



Tanya Tsentalovich and Sheri Turell weeding  
and dividing plants at the Fire Station  
Memorial.

It's that time of year when local plant sales pop up everywhere! We have all been digging, dividing, potting and planning for our Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m.~2 p.m., at Atkinson Town Hall, 19 Academy Ave. Come early for best selections!





# Bow Garden Club

Terin Voisine



On April 13th, we kicked off our 2026 season with our first monthly meeting of the year. Amy Cardello from Pleasant View Gardens joined us to talk about the Proven Winners brand. She shared some of the history behind it, what makes a plant earn that label, and introduced us to a few newer and especially popular varieties. As a bonus, she brought seven beautiful plants to raffle off to members in attendance — always a fun way to end the evening!



We were also fortunate in April to partner with Bow High School students for their Day of Service. Eight students spent the morning with us raking, cleaning up garden beds, and filling our containers with fresh soil so they'd be ready for planting. They tackled some of the heavier jobs with great attitudes and were a huge help in getting everything ready for the season ahead.

May has been busy. At our May 11th meeting, we welcomed Ruth Driescher, an Advanced Master Gardener with UNH Extension, who gave a helpful and informative presentation on container gardening. There's always something new to learn, even for experienced gardeners.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Annual Plant Sale, will be held on May 16th. We'll be offering annuals, hanging baskets, perennials from members' gardens, vegetable starter plants, and garden art. The proceeds support our scholarship program, allow us to host educational presenters, and help fund our civic beautification efforts throughout Bow, including the Community Center building, the Gazebo, Rotary Park Garden, Old Town Hall, and our town cemeteries.

In June, we're looking forward to our June 8th meeting, when we'll partner with Baker Free Library to host Dr. Pam Hunt, Senior Biologist for Avian Conservation. She'll be speaking about dragonflies and damselflies, which should be an interesting evening.

Although we don't meet regularly in July and August, we do have a couple of fun summer gatherings planned. In July, we'll enjoy our annual Cocktails in the Garden at a member's home, and in August we're planning a field trip to the public gardens at Pleasant View Gardens.





## Community Garden Club of Meredith

Charlene Malik



Together all things are possible and that's what has made the Community Garden Club of Meredith an integral part of the town for 75 years. The success of any organization depends largely upon the dedication of its members and that's what we are all about. The Meredith Town Report 2025 is dedicated to the club in recognition of its efforts beautifying the area- whiskey barrels, window boxes, roadside beds, intersections, gardens at town buildings. All have been tended to from spring to late fall/early winter. Daffodils emerge in the springtime, perennials and annuals add color summer through frost, and winter greens grace many of the public planters in the winter season. The efforts of these members, frequently in collaboration with the Greater Meredith Program, make an impression both within the community and far beyond. Currently the Weed and Feed committee is gearing up for the planting season and 250th celebration of our country.

Monthly open meetings take place on the third Thursday of the upcoming months through October. Topics have included preparing the garden for the growing season by Sue Dias of Moulton Farm. Workshops are an opportunity for creativity with members making botanical cards for community outreach.

The club looks forward to its 75th year recognizing decades of volunteer commitment to our community with a celebration in September.



The "secret" is out! Our dedicated members spent the day digging up and potting beautiful specimens from our very own local gardens. It was a day of sun, dirt, and a whole lot of teamwork.

When you buy from our sale on June 6th, you're getting plants that are tried, true, and locally loved. We can't wait to see you there!



## **Sowing Seeds & Waggle Dances**

The Derry Gardening Club is thrilled to be back in the dirt, partnering with the energetic youth at the Greater Derry Boys & Girls Club to kick off our new growing season! Our latest session was a hands-on whirlwind of activity, starting with the children preparing their own seed-starting kits in bags to watch the first signs of life sprout up close.

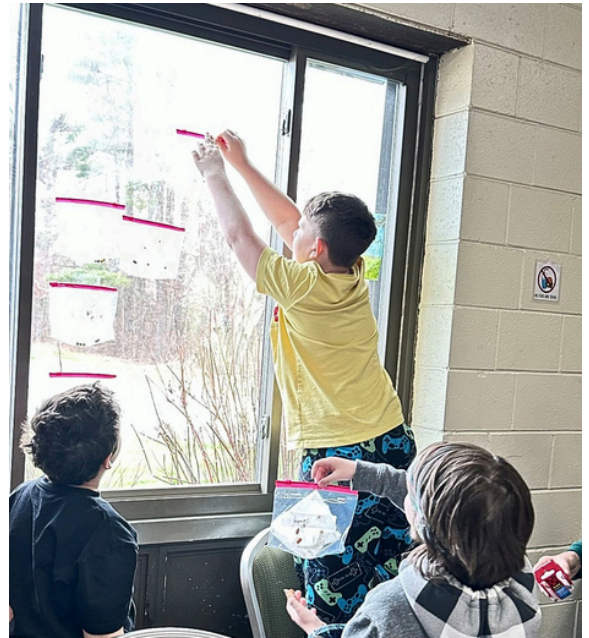




## Derry Garden Club

Demond Harris

Beyond the planting, we dove into the vital world of pollinators. Using colorful diagrams, stories, and even a friendly bee mascot, we explored how different animals help our gardens thrive. The highlight of the day was definitely the "waggle dance"—the clever way bees move to communicate nectar locations to their hive. Seeing the kids (and our volunteers!) get up to mimic the bee's wiggle brought the lesson to life with plenty of smiles. It's been a joy to watch these young gardeners' curiosity grow right alongside their new sprouts!



### New Year, New Skills: The Ladybugs Master Floral Design

A new year brings a fresh season for the Ladybugs, and we've kicked things off with some truly inspirational art of flower arrangement. This year is all about pushing boundaries and finding inspiration in unexpected places—like the pages of a favorite book.





The Fitzwilliam Garden Club's first program of the year had members paint mushrooms made from planters. It was a fun craft and we created something we can use in our gardens. We enjoyed being able to meet in person again and compare our creations.



In March, a group of members visited the floral exhibit at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester. Members of the NHFGC exhibited, and we were impressed by the talents of all the exhibitors. We were happy that Anne Wenniger of our club participated.

Club member, Michelle Davis Tarr of Michelle Davis Wellness demonstrated ways to prevent injuries while working in the garden with her program Yoga for Gardeners also in March. It was helpful and enjoyable, and we hope to use the positions she showed us while working in the garden.

We held a potluck dinner in April with Nicole Hertel of the NH Audubon Society. She showed us gardening practices to welcome and protect wildlife including ways to prevent bird collisions with glass windows and doors, planting native plants, and turning off lights at night so that nocturnal animals do not become disoriented.



In May we visited the gardens of Michelle Challice of Healthy Home Habitats in Keene. She is a local environmental educator who writes a column in the Monadnock Shopper News. Michelle demonstrated how to garden to harvest rainwater with and without gutters using three different approaches to highlight what aspects are most important to make this enjoyable, safe and satisfying.

Our spring plant and bake sale in May was a success. We enjoyed sharing plants and our knowledge about them with customers. It was good to see so many people return and update us on what is going on in their lives and in their gardens.

We do not meet in June or July so that our members can concentrate on their own gardens. It was a long winter, so we are looking forward to being outdoors and playing in the gardens.



## Fremont Garden Club

Leslie Milde



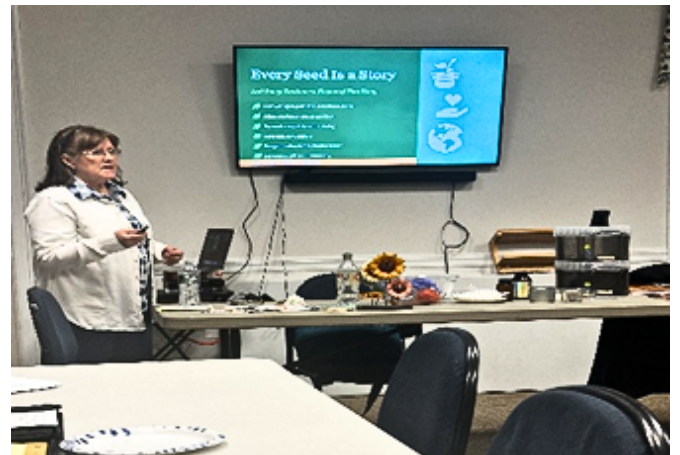
The Fremont Garden Club met in March at the Fremont Library enthusiastically anticipating spring to come. Mary Kaltenbach presented her vigorous and sturdy plants which she grew hydroponically using a Dryades growing system. This system worked unusually fast and, because of the lighting, resulted in strong, upright growth.

Donna Lussier revisited Fremont in April with a follow up presentation on seed saving. Our May meeting was hands-on, preparing plants for the Fremont Annual Plant Sale on Saturday May 16 on the front lawn of the Fremont Library.



Mary's hydroponic garden

Donna's seed saving story



Transplanting vegetables







Our March meeting was to attend the BLOOM Exhibit at the Currier Museum of Art. One of our members, Casey Leach, did one of the displays. For our April meeting, I created a slide show of the Bloom Exhibit to show for those who were unable to attend. Casey explained what it was like being an exhibitor. The second half of that meeting was a presentation by member, Pat Sullivan, about how to keep your gardens watered while you are away. The system is called Plant Nannies. May is our annual business meeting with a pot luck dinner and a plant exchange. We have some new members coming. Our Annual Plant Sale, Scholarship Fundraiser, will be on the Common on Saturday, May 16, 8 am - 12 pm.



Casey Leach at the Currier Bloom exhibit





# Hooksett Garden Club

Carolyn Taylor



The Hooksett Garden Club started off their first meeting of the year in February with a Yankee Swap and a small luncheon. It was good to be back meeting again after a long winter. In March we had member Mary Ellen Aleksza and her husband Tony give a very interesting program on having an AeroGarden in their home. They have had aerogardens in different configurations and brought in several pieces of their own equipment, discussing the pros and cons. Our April program was "Cardinals and Coneflowers" presented by the Magpie Apprentice (Willa Coroka) of Chester, NH. This program was of interest to all us bird lovers – basically telling us how to successfully attract birds to our yards in an ecologically sound way. We will not have a speaker at our May meeting as this will be in preparation of our upcoming plant sale on June 6 at the Hooksett Public Library. All our members are encouraged to participate in this fundraiser in some way. In lieu of a meeting in June we will hold a field trip for members to Blue Violet Botanicals in Manchester. Other programs throughout the summer are still being planned.



HGC member Elena Whitfield shows what she chose at the February Yankee Swap. But it may not be what she went home with.



Mary Ellen and Tony Aleksza present the program on AeroGardens for the March meeting.

## HOOKSETT GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE



SATURDAY JUNE 6TH  
AT THE HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY  
9AM-NOON (RAIN OR SHINE)

- ASK A MASTER GARDENER BOOTH
- GARDEN-THEMED YARD SALE
- RAFFLE WITH ITEMS DONATED FROM LOCAL CRAFTERS AND BUSINESSES
- CHILDREN'S TABLE



Hooksett  
Garden  
Club  
Plant  
Sale  
Flyer

We are very proud to announce that our member Karen Medeiros had the great honor of having her garden accepted by the Garden Conservancy. Our club has visited Karen's gardens twice for garden tours and we know how special it is. Karen has the only garden listed in Merrimack County, NH. She has named her garden Pages and Petals and it is a .5 acre wonder. The Open



## Hooksett Garden Club

### Continued

Days for this year is on July 18 (10-4) and Karen has invited us all to attend. This year we will be attending with people from all around the country who follow Open Days. To see her profile and to get tickets to Open Days go to [gardenconservancy.org](http://gardenconservancy.org), then to Open Days and she is listed under Pages and Petals.

We are working hard on our beautification sites around Hooksett. Our pansies are on the Memorial Bridge and we have already planted the plugs that will become our red, white and blue petunias on the bridge around mid June. We have had eight new members sign up since the beginning of the year, we feel a sign of a very healthy club!



L-R: Cindy Coburn, Carolyn Taylor, Rachel Sweeney, Christine Estes, Paula Harris, and Diana Proulx plant the petunia plugs that will eventually be on The Memorial Bridge in Hooksett in June.

Another beautification site the HGC tends are whiskey barrels filled with seasonal flowers in front of the Lilac Bridge in Hooksett, a walking bridge. These planters are tended by Brianna Bowden.



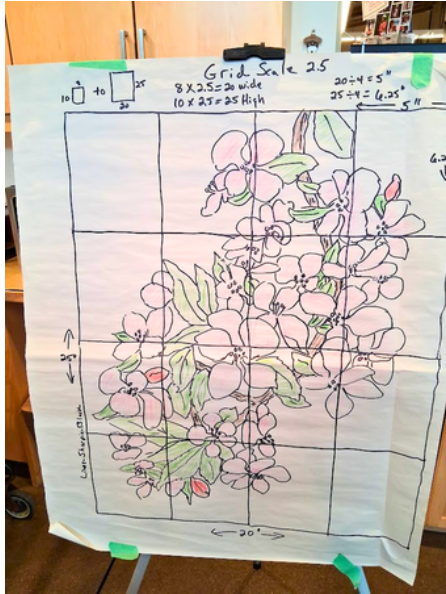


# Littleton Garden Club

Mary Bingman



Littleton Garden Club members started spring by doing community outreach. Our new garden series is sponsored by the local Littleton Food Coop. We've had workshops on houseplants, growing vegetable gardens and a watercolor painting activity involving New Hampshire flowers. A local artist/author (Lynn Bart) generously shared her talents with us as well as the proceeds from the sales of her book. We are thrilled that it has been well received with a chance to tell participants about what we do in the community.



Lynn's clever artistic grid to help paint local blossoms!



Past President Betsy Fraser at Watercolor Painting Session

Our club planted pansy bowls at our April meeting at the historic Littleton Community Center. Everyone enjoys this activity as members get reacquainted after the long winter. It was interesting to see snow in Lancaster as we picked up pansy trays from Sullivan's nursery. Springtime is frequently filled with surprises!



Getting Pansies in the snow for our activity!



## Littleton Garden Club Continued



We voted on a robust schedule of events including touring NEK grains in Waterford, Vt. They grow organic wheat and barley and have a stone mill operation. Their flour mixes are sold locally and we have taste-tested them in bread at our meetings.

Also, our club is planning to visit the Riverglen Senior Living facility to assist them with planting annual flowers. They are starting a small garden club with their residents.

May means we are mulching community gardens, planting window boxes and planning to participate in the Memorial Day parade. This year we are displaying a special handmade artistic metal wreath with red metal poppies. The White Mountain Community College welding classes are assisting us with it's creation. We look forward to it being used during the ceremony at the Veteran's Bridge this year; it will also be displayed at the War Monument in the "Let Freedom Ring" garden.



LGC VP Susan Retz's session on Planning a Garden was packed!







In March, our Club, along with other members of the NHFGC, participated in the first Currier Museum of Art “Bloom” event.

Club members Fiona McKenna and Peeps Bogaert were the winners of the “Peer to Petal Award.” Fiona and Peeps’ bloom display was a floral interpretation of Georgia O’Keefe’s “Cross by the Sea.”

Club members Cindy Walsh, Sherry Richardson, Elinor Terrell and Valerie O’Reilly also submitted beautiful floral interpretations.



Fiona McKenna and Peeps Bogaert with their award



Cindy Walsh and Sherry Richardson



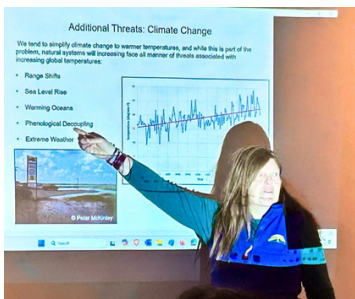
Valerie O'Reilly

The Club sold beautiful decoupage shells, decorated by our members, at the “Bloom” event. The shells were a big hit, inventory sold out in 2 days and we netted a profit of \$1,150!



Decoupage shells ready for sales at the Currier Bloom event

Our 2026 season opened with our March 19th meeting held at the Massabesic Audubon with Dr. Pam Hunt as our guest speaker. Dr. Hunt is the Audubon’s Senior Biologist for Avian Conservation. Her presentation was interesting and informative and focused on NH’s “State of the Birds.”





## Manchester Garden Club Continued



In April, the club's annual Pansy Bowl Sale was a wonderful success. We sold 175 pansy bowls and netted a \$1,597 profit.

A huge thank you to all the club members who participated in the planting and organizing of this fundraiser event and to those who supported us with your purchase.



The pansy bowls were getting prepared for pickup and delivery



Club members supported the Manchester Library annual seed swap. Lots of seeds were packaged for library patrons to take for free to help with their gardening endeavors.



Members at the Manchester Library preparing packets for the Seed Swap





## Manchester Garden Club Continued



Pulaski Park in Manchester was the recipient of a spring clean-up. Thank you to the club members who participated.



Pulaski Park gets spruced up



At our April meeting, club member Valerie O'Reilly, made a presentation about Dahlias. Valerie's presentation included care, pest prevention, disease and overwintering. Dahlia care, as with all flowers, teaches us to be patient, embrace failure and remain focused.



Valerie O'Reilly speaks  
about dahlias

Our plans for June and beyond are:

June 4th: Club members will participate at the Annual Tailgate Transport and Rescue fundraiser. The event will be held at Burger King, 737 Daniel Webster Highway, Manchester from 9-2 pm. A varied selection of plants and garden items will be available. 100% of the proceeds will go to the rescue. All are welcome and plant donations are also welcome. Contact Stephanie at [stephanieberlo@gmail.com](mailto:stephanieberlo@gmail.com) for plant donation details.

June 20th: Save this date for the Annual Palace Theater Garden Tour from 10-2 pm. The theme is "Red, White and Blue." Additional details will soon be available.

September 23rd: District II of NHFGC's Annual Fall Gathering will be held at the beautiful Gardens at Mt. Uncanoonuc in Goffstown, NH. The theme is "Autumn in the Garden." More information will follow.



# Mountain Garden Club

Joan VanLandingham



It's been a very long and cold winter up in the mountains, but we try to stay motivated for the activities coming in the spring.

In February we held our monthly meeting with 47 members attending and one new member. We had a special speaker, Cindy Sellers, from the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust. Cindy is a land steward where her work centers on managing the land trust preserves. She has a background in land surveying and geographic science. She talked to us about how the ecosystems function and how to manage them in our own gardening.



March is when our scholarship committee begins the process of selecting students to receive scholarships. The Mountain Garden Club established a scholarship program to encourage post-secondary education in plant science disciplines. So, we have students that are focusing on environmental studies, land management and other related fields. We select up to four students who will receive scholarships of \$1,200 apiece.

During our March monthly meeting we had a special presentation by Matt Maloney, Twin Mountain naturalist and author. Matt did a presentation titled "All About Mountain Laurel". Matt has been teaching about nature, science and natural history since 2016.

Each year in April our monthly meeting becomes an English Tea at the beautiful Preserve in Chocorua. We all look forward to this event where we bring out the fine china tea cups, don our special hats and enjoy wonderful tea sandwiches and sweets.

While enjoying our tea and treats we had a presentation from Jeff O'Donal, owner of the McSherry's nursery. Jeff did a great presentation about varieties of lilacs and how to maintain them.





## Mountain Garden Club continued



Our VP  
Wendy  
Ann Smith  
setting up  
our raffle  
items.



Wendy McVey  
talking about valley  
beatification plans  
for the summer.



Beautiful table setting and  
delicious buffet



Enjoying the treats.



And hats  
for the  
event.



Board  
members  
cleaning up  
and putting  
away the  
china in the  
tea closet.



### Upcoming Activities

June will be a very busy month for us. We don't meet during the summer since we have so many projects going on. We maintain a number of sites around the Mount Washington Valley to keep them beautiful for residents and visitors.

We will conclude our year with a luncheon at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson.

Cones for a Cause June 3

Storyland planting June 3 & 4

Plant Sale June 6

Daffodil Days September

Lilac Letter



## New London Garden Club is hosting:

### **June: Cocktail Hour Garden**

C.L. Fornari, is the “The Garden Lady” who has radio and TV shows on WGBH and WCAL. Her new book *Hydrangea Happiness* is due out in 2026. Her talk is based on her book of the same title.

### **July: The Pros and Cons of Using Water in Floral Designs.**

Lynne Merrill will explore how to select flowers and foliage to use in underwater designs and how to discern between choices that enhance and ones that detract from your artistic goal.

### **September: Autumn Wreath**

Susan Nock of Thistle Design is an award-winning container garden designer, author and presenter.

Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month. Presentations begin at 1:30. All are welcome!





## Old Homestead Garden Club

Christina Apgar



As we wind down our program year at the Old Homestead Garden Club, we want to celebrate an excellent lineup of programs—each presented by someone local. Our theme this year was cultivating community connections, and our Vice President Ann Marie Rizzuto, along with club member Barbara Bohannon, truly delivered. Programs included Companion Planting; Yard Scaping for Pollinators; and Goose Pond (history and information about a local city park, followed by a club field trip). We also learned about the red pine scale, which is impacting many trees currently being taken down in our area, and we heard about a local beaver family at a nearby nonprofit farm. In December, we held a hands-on workshop potting up amaryllis, hoping for winter blooms. Our biggest, unexpected surprise was a Nature Photography presentation by local photographer Andy Greenwood. His presentation drew in more than 28 guests.



Member feedback was that our programs were useful, informative, and engaging—and the information was relevant and applicable to our club and its members. These programs have strengthened our connections with the broader community while also helping us attract new members and raise awareness of our club: who we are and what we do.

Don't underestimate the value of your programs to the health of your club.





## Salem Friendship & Garden Club Inspires Young Gardeners During School Vacation Week

The Salem Friendship and Garden Club (SFGC) recently partnered with Create and Discover Learning Center to bring hands-on gardening and environmental education to local children during the school vacation week program held at Mary A. Fisk Elementary School.

Volunteers Lorie Ball, Lee Sheehan, Kim Santagati, and Florine LeComte from SFGC spent the morning leading a variety of engaging, age-appropriate activities for children in kindergarten through grade five. The program was designed to spark creativity, foster teamwork, and introduce young learners to the importance of gardening and conservation.

Children rotated through several interactive stations, where they painted rocks, created colorful bead bracelets, and planted marigolds in biodegradable paper pots they decorated with stickers. A highlight of the morning was a fun and educational presentation on the critical role bees play in our ecosystem, helping children understand the connection between pollinators and the plants we depend on every day.

After completing their indoor activities, the children worked together outdoors to clean up a raised garden bed and plant a variety of flowers, along with a “seed bomb” filled with mixed perennial seeds. The hands-on experience allowed students to connect what they learned indoors with real-world environmental stewardship.

As a special takeaway, each child received a bee-themed key ring and bracelet from SFGC. In addition, the Club presented Michelle Whittaker, owner of Create and Discover Learning Center, with the children’s book *The Bee Who Lost Her Buzz* to add to the center’s library.

“This was a wonderful opportunity to engage children in learning about nature in a fun and meaningful way,” said Lorie Ball, President of the Salem Friendship and Garden Club. “We were thrilled to see their excitement and curiosity throughout the morning.”

The Salem Friendship & Garden Club has a long-standing history of bringing together residents who share a love of gardening, conservation, and community beautification. Through educational programs, social gatherings, and local projects, the Club works to enhance the natural beauty of Salem while fostering friendships among its members.

Residents interested in joining SFGC are warmly welcomed. The Club offers a variety of





## Salem Friendship and Garden Club

### Continued

social activities, educational opportunities, and volunteer projects that allow members to connect, learn, and make a positive impact in the community. Whether you are an experienced gardener or just getting started, SFGC provides a welcoming space to build friendships while helping beautify Salem.

The SFGC looks forward to partnering again with Create and Discover Learning Center this June as part of the summer vacation program, continuing its mission to inspire the next generation of gardeners and environmental stewards.

The club will also kick off its new year with its first meeting on Monday, June 15, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., featuring a light luncheon. Those curious to learn more about SFGC or interested in becoming involved are warmly invited to attend. To help with planning, please text 603-770-7319 for the meeting location. Guests are always welcome.

To learn more about the Salem Friendship & Garden Club, including membership opportunities, please visit [SFGC-NH.org](http://SFGC-NH.org).



Florine LeComte, Lee Sheehan, Michelle Whittaker, Lorie Ball, Kim Santagati

Members of the Salem Friendship & Garden Club show their enthusiasm for pollinator education during a school vacation week program at Mary A. Fisk Elementary School



## Sandown Garden club

Alison Hartung



The Sandown Garden Club has been busy with spring cleaning for our award winning Monarch garden. Plants have been split, separated, and potted for our smaller informal plant sale this year. We also will be providing 10 plant pollinator starter gardens to two lucky recipients. The garden had been unmanageable and the last 2 years we have been thinning and relocating plants and working on mapping them for our members. Mulch has been spread and new stepping stones installed to delineate the paths.



We participated in our annual Earth Day/Arbor day outside of our public library where parents, who pre-registered their kids for free trees from Neighborhood Forests, could pick them up (70 trees!). And we also had free seeds and seed starting items for giveaways.





## Sandown Garden club

### continued

We continue to support our other civic groups, for example, a monetary donation to support the Annual Kids Fishing Derby.

We keep updating our website and adding pertinent information when needed.

#### Upcoming events

- Monday, June 1 - Attracting Beneficial Birds to your Garden, 6:30 PM at the Ed Garvey Rec Center in Sandown. Presented by the SGC, the program will include how to make suet cakes along with recipes and plans for nesting boxes. Several lucky participants will be able to make their own upcycled bird bath from donated vases, shallow dishes and/or bowls.

Saturday, June 6 - Our smaller plant sale will be held at a members home. More details will be posted on our web and Facebook.



Over the past several months, the Windham Garden Club has enjoyed a wide variety of engaging activities, inspiring speakers, and opportunities to connect with one another.

This membership year, we also introduced several additional workshops beyond our regular meetings. Our most recent workshops focused on creativity and hands-on fun. Members tried their hand at glass etching, decorating wine glasses and coffee mugs with garden-themed designs. In another session, we created Pennsylvania Dutch-style hex signs to enhance our homes and gardens using kits coordinated through an art center in Manheim, Pennsylvania. Both workshops were a wonderful chance to be creative, learn new skills, and share our finished pieces.



Glass Etching Workshop



Pretty Etched Glass



Pennsylvania Dutch Hex Sign Workshop



Participants' finished signs





## Windham Garden Club Continued



Our final round of guest speakers brought the year to a meaningful close. In March, Jane Raymond of Goffstown presented “Gardening in the Shade,” offering valuable recommendations for upland and wet shade plants, including native varieties. In April, Liz Barbour of Creative Feast (Hollis) delighted us with her talk on the “Edible Salad Garden.” Liz has been a frequent speaker at garden clubs and community events, and we were honored to host what she shared would be her final garden lecture as she moves on to new ventures. Our May meeting centered on the annual plant sale and raffle, along with club business and a special ice cream social that gave members time to relax and connect.

From March through May, much of our energy has been devoted to preparing for this important event. Proceeds from the plant sale directly benefit the Windham community, supporting scholarships, community grants, educational initiatives, and other local projects.

In March and April, members gathered for multiple potting sessions, planting bare roots and divided plants. Early spring weather kept us on our toes—after our initial planting, we had to quickly move everything into garages to protect against freezing temperatures. When the cold returned a couple weeks later, we carefully covered the plants with blankets to keep them safe. Despite the chilly start, the plants are now thriving.



Potting Up!



Small sampling of potted plants

Members have been growing a wonderful assortment of tomatoes, peppers, and herbs, and we’ve been collecting gently used gardening items for our popular “Garden Treasures” table. This year’s selection will include unique finds and a wide variety of pots. Our houseplant offerings have expanded significantly, and we are excited to offer donated dahlia and canna bulbs as well. Shoppers will also find multi-herb planters and festive patriotic themed flower pots in celebration of America’s 250th anniversary.



## Windham Garden Club

### Continued

Our raffle features 26 prizes, including member-grown herb and geranium planters, unique perennials, and an assortment of garden-themed baskets. We are deeply grateful for the continued support of the Windham community and look forward to a successful sale on May 16th (more pictures and results in the next issue).



Muli-tiered Herb Planter  
Raffle Prize



Patriotic Tricycle Flower Pot Stand  
Raffle Prize

Also in May, our Scholarship and Grants Committee met to select this year's recipients for the Nancy Surette Memorial Scholarships (2 - \$2000 awards) and the Arthur Baker Community Investment Grants. We did the cleanup at the Nesmith Library Butterfly Garden and other library areas and the gardens look wonderful! Just before Memorial Day we will take care of the Memorial Day plantings at the cemetery flagpole and the Windham Town Common flagpole in the veteran's area.

As we look ahead, we are preparing for our final event of the membership year: our Summer Solstice celebration. This gathering brings members, family, and friends together to share a light meal, reflect on the year, present awards, and celebrate the club's 35th anniversary. Our new membership year begins in July with the return of our popular "Coffee/Cocktails in the Garden" series, where members host informal gatherings at their homes. These events provide a relaxed way to enjoy each other's company while admiring the beauty and creativity of our members' gardens.

We wish everyone a wonderful and relaxing summer!





## Lilac Letter Newsletter Team Notes

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Lilac Letter. Submitted articles are subject to minor editing. The preferred formatting for your submissions is as follows:

- Font Calibri 12
  - Single spaced
  - Word program or .rtf (rich text format)
  - Type or paste your article into your email
  - Include the first and last name of the author
  - Email photos. **Do not insert them in your text. Photo captions must accompany the photos**
- Email your submissions to: LEditor@nhfgc.org.**
- Your **Club Name and Lilac Letter** need to be in the subject line of your e-mail to avoid classification as spam which is deleted without being opened.

**Deadline to submit articles for the September newsletter is August 7th.**



**The Lilac Letter is the official publication of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

website: (<http://www.nhfgc.org>)

and a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

### **Winnie Schmidt, President**

Donna Donnelly, President, National Garden Clubs, Inc.,  
Susan Miner, 3rd Vice President, National Garden Clubs Inc.  
Polly Brooks, New England Garden Club Director

### **Publication dates**

March, June, September, and November.  
Deadlines for submission of articles for publication are the  
7th of February, May, August, and October.

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### **Sponsorship**

One Issue - Full page \$100, half page \$60, quarter page \$40  
Four issues - Full page \$300, half page \$200, Quarter page \$140  
Sponsorship materials should be submitted in .jpg format.

