



# Lilac Letter

Summer 2024

VOLUME XXX

NO. 1

## President's Message

On behalf of all who attended, I would like to thank the District 2 Clubs for the splendid job you did in arranging the Annual Meeting. Program, food, centerpieces, venue, speakers and hospitality were all first rate. It was an outstanding success in every way primarily due to your organizational abilities and creativity! Again, thank you!

I am including the message I gave at the meeting to share my thoughts with everyone. We had nearly 150 in attendance that afternoon. With our two new clubs we have almost 1,000 members in NHFGC this year. I want everyone to have the opportunity to read what I said in my message that day. I wish everyone a bountiful and beautiful summer and look forward to seeing you at many of the activities planned by the different clubs!

### Annual Meeting Thoughts:

When I was President of the Manchester Garden Club, I referred to myself as their talking head. I had such a wonderful board who worked cooperatively planning club events and projects that I felt it was just my job to report to the club at our general meetings. I find myself in the same situation as President of the Federation. Our Executive Board and Committee Chairs are

an outstanding example of teamwork and creativity. The Federation is a larger group than the Manchester Garden Club so now I have the image of me being the Bus Driver!

I may be the driver, but we would not go far without all the other parts of my imaginary bus. I see the board as the engine that propels us forward. Our nearly 1000 members are the fuel that keeps the bus going. Every part of this image is important to every other part.

This past year, your team has worked to welcome two new clubs to the Federation! Welcome Meredith and Salem!! We are so happy you joined us!! Design Guild was reestablished, our Scholarship procedure has been updated and the amount given increased. This increase was made possible because our Treasurer has worked to invest money in ways that create more interest, resulting in our ability to increase the scholarship funds. The Speakers list has been updated and is available on our web site for clubs to use when planning programs.

We have successfully sponsored a bus tour to Tower Hill and are planning another trip to the Newport Flower Show this summer. The Fall formal meeting has been changed to an informal gathering that promotes

**President’s message- cont.**

friendship, sharing and fun in one of the many beautiful venues available in our amazing State. The By-Laws were updated to reflect changes made.

When I read the *Lilac Letter*, I am so proud of all the work that our 18 clubs do throughout the state to help with area beautification, give scholarships, and support other community organizations involved in mentoring youth with various projects and activities.

My theme for this year is to *plant seeds of friendship*. Thank you for supporting this through your many examples of reaching out to others and welcoming them to join us in celebrating gardening and environmental responsibility.

Attending Annual Meetings and Fall Gatherings gives us a great opportunity to share ideas and create friendships. I have had the opportunity to visit many clubs and install officers, and meet members. I love being your president and look forward to the next fun filled year. Traveling around the state and visiting you is one of my favorite jobs.

Let’s keep our bus rolling!

**Don’t forget to**  
***Plant seeds of Friendship***

*Winnie*

Winnie Schmidt  
**NHFGC**  
**President**



*Winnie and Sue having fun at the Annual meeting.*

**NEGC NEWS**

**New England Garden Club Annual Meeting**  
**October 23 And October 24, 2024**  
**Judy Gray, President, Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs**



Hosted By  
**RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS**

As President and on behalf of the members of Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, I am honored to announce the 2024 NEGC Annual Meeting will be held at the Crowne

## New England Garden Club Annual Meeting – cont.

Plaza in Warwick RI. Centrally located off the Rt 95 corridor and a short drive south of Providence, we are only minutes away from TF Greene International Airport and Amtrak Train Stations.

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

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

Registration forms can be found on the NEGC website, in the August NEGC Newsletter and from your State President.



## New England Photography Group Arabella Dane

Here is a link to the most recent New England Photography Group's newsletter:

<https://conta.cc/3KBZ9T2>

For helpful hints, watch this video on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhISLqJIZv>

## NHFGC NEWS

### NEGC Award Application Deadline Susan Miner, NHFGC Awards Chair

NEGC Award applications are due to the NHFGC Awards Chair no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>. Regional awards are based on work done during the regional awards year which is June 1- May 31. Applications are only three pages long now, unless otherwise noted in the award guideline. The preference is to have them submitted electronically to NHFGC awards chair listed on the web site (or snail mail to her if that is not convenient). The link to the awards list and requirements is [https://newenglandgc.org/?page\\_id=94](https://newenglandgc.org/?page_id=94). Note that the applications MUST be sent to NHFGC Awards Chair first, then after review will be forwarded to the correct regional awards chair. If you have any issues opening the application form or the list of awards, please contact me.

You are all involved in such wonderful projects so let's get some recognition for them!

## National Garden Club Awards Winnie Schmidt

We are so pleased to learn three of our clubs have received National Garden Club Awards:

Mountain Garden Club - MAE-2A Social Media/Website Certificate of Merit that includes a cash award of \$50.

Mountain Garden Club - MAE-1 Membership Awareness Certificate of Commendation

Derry Garden Club - YW-8 Horticulture Education for Youth Certificate of Commendation

Congratulations! It is wonderful to be recognized at the national level for the work that your clubs have done in your home communities! We are so very proud and happy for you!

## Presidential Citations Awarded at Annual Meeting Winnie Schmidt

The following Presidential Citations were given at the Annual Meeting on May 29th:

Keryn Anderson - for sharing all your skills and talents with NHFGC events and programs.

Peg Birch - for working to promote floral design.

Mary Kaltenbach - for all the work on the many documents that keep us running smoothly.

Fiona McKenna - for tirelessly coordinating so many wonderful NHFGC events.

Susan Miner - for your continued commitment to increasing membership and for mentoring new clubs.

Sylvia Roberts - for leading NHFGC to better capital investments.

Audrey Vargish - for your commitment to the NHFGC Scholarship Committee.

Congratulations to all and thank you for your extra efforts on behalf of the Federation!

## Awards Susan Miner, NHFGC Awards Chair

Many state awards were presented at the NHFGC Annual Meeting in Manchester on May 29th. Please join me in congratulating these clubs and individuals.

### New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., Awards

#### NHFGC General Awards:

#1.A – Largest number of club members at the 2023 NHFGC Annual Meeting – Derry Garden Club

#1.B – Highest percentage of club members at the 2023 NHFGC Annual Meeting – Atkinson Garden Club

#10 – Community Star for District IV – Margery Watkins nominated by the Atkinson Garden Club. Margery has been the Atkinson Cemetery caretaker for over 10 years. Aside from her duties related to selling plots and burials, she's in charge of all planting, landscaping, and hardscape (except mowing and trimming, which is subcontracted). In the last few years, Marge has planted over 1,000 daffodils throughout the

## Awards – cont.

cemetery. This is in line with the Atkinson Garden Club Daffodil Project. For the town and individual Memorial Day observances, she organizes plantings of 460 geraniums that are donated by a local nursery. Over the years, working with town veterans, she has installed a Veterans' area, comprised of flagpoles representing each branch of the military, several granite benches, a retaining wall with perennials and annuals, and a walkway. Marge works with the Atkinson Veterans Club that hosts Wreaths Across America, where over 300 wreaths are laid on Veteran's graves in December. The Atkinson Garden Club sponsors 10 wreaths for the cemetery each year. She designed a garden for our town's one Medal of Honor recipient's gravesite. She started and now maintains an Iris garden as well as a Hosta garden on the cemetery grounds. Marge is always planting, splitting, and moving around perennials throughout our cemetery. She gets plant donations from the Atkinson Garden Club, local gardeners, Veterans, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, homeschoolers, and others who appreciate our beautiful town cemetery and want to contribute in some way.

### NHFGC Scrapbook Award #14:

Medium size club: 1<sup>st</sup> Atkinson  
Large size club: 1<sup>st</sup> Derry and 2<sup>nd</sup> Manchester

### NHFGC Yearbook Award #16:

Medium size club: 1<sup>st</sup> Atkinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Old Homestead and 3<sup>rd</sup> Hooksett

Large size club: 1<sup>st</sup> Derry and 2<sup>nd</sup> Manchester

Ex-Large size club: 1<sup>st</sup> – Mountain

### NHFGC Silver Seal Award #15:

Ashland: Christina Tower is one of the BEST PLANT IDENTIFIERS other than our founder, Shirley Splaine! And she doesn't use an App on her phone either. Years of studying, working, and playing with plants make her one of the best. She has spent many hours hybridizing her large collection of Daylilies. Every year, weather permitting, she extends an invitation to her home in Campton, NH, to tour beautiful Daylily gardens. She has Chaired our annual plant sale for many, many years!! She often joins our Plant Sale Team lunch meetings from her boat in the Bahamas... and when she calls in, she's not so interested in what we're doing... BUT WHAT ARE THE PLANTS DOING??? She is up and excited to work on most anything we have going, from Plant Sales, to Flower Shows, and more! And always with a smile.

Atkinson: Estelle Halchak has given willingly of her time, talent, and expertise since she joined our club in 2013. She has cared for our American Chestnut Trees while they mature from seed to an appropriate size to plant on town property. She also starts multiple seeds for our annual plant sale and gives tomato plants to club members. She often overwinters plants for our club sale. She has given multiple programs to the club sharing information she received during Master Gardener Training. She is currently on the Executive Board serving as Recording Secretary.

## Awards – cont.

She is also co-chairing two of our main fundraisers – the Annual Plant Sale and our Annual Greens and Gift Sale. She has generously opened her home to host meetings and social events such as our Autumn Social.

Derry: Monica Turcotte is dependable and efficient when taking on tasks. Her honesty, and friendly, considerate nature makes her a leader who is easy to work with. As Vice-President, she projects a warm, cheerful attitude and brings remarkable patience to her projects. Her commitment to the Derry Garden Club is consistently on display through quiet confidence, honesty, and integrity. These are only a few reasons she is being nominated for the Silver Seal Citation..

Hooksett: Elena Whitfield has been a member of the club for 16 years and throughout the years Elena has contributed her knowledge and energy to the improvement of the club's projects. She has served as Chair of the Plant Sale Committee as well as Chair of Library Cleanup and Maintenance Committee for many years. She contributes to the Plant Sale every year by donating tomatoes that she grows from seeds and, needless to say, the community always looks forward to her tomato plants – they are always a crowd favorite. Elena also features a horticultural topic at every business meeting which nurtures discussion and input from the members. She continues to stay current by attending local educational events as well as the NHFGC offerings. Elena, a Master Gardener, has been a mentor to many of the club members and is always willing to help

whether it is to answer garden-related questions or to assist and guide them with the biannual cleanup of the library grounds.

Mountain: Laurie McAleer joined the club in 2015 and has been a true friend to everyone and a true Ambassador of the club recruiting new members at every turn! You have embodied the values of the Mountain Garden Club supporting horticultural education, civic beautification and conservation through volunteerism and friendship. In 2019, you took over for the previous President and continued to lead the club in that roll until 2023! You always brought joy, energy and commitment to every meeting and event. We appreciate that you have always been willing to assist with every task, big or small, and to offer a hand to anyone who needed it. You have shown us what it means to be a true gardener through learning and caring. We so appreciate you as a member, a friend and for all you do.

Old Homestead: Janice Parker has played a major role throughout the years at every single event our club held. When the Club cries "Help!," Janice's usually is the first hand raised. During Dian Mathew's first term as Club President, Janice was her Vice President until illness forced her to step aside. Since then, she has bounced back and into action. For several years she chaired the Tours and Trips Committee. She has managed the sales of our gloves, cloths and aprons, (an ongoing Club fundraiser). When we have a Green SALE, Janice creates and posts the advertising posters. She is currently in charge of Publicity and

## Awards – cont.

Marketing for the Club. She was responsible our participation in Swanzey Old Home Days for many years. Along with her husband, Jack Parker, she has revitalized the roadsides as Chair of the Swanzey Roadside Plantings Committee. As if all this isn't already enough, Janice is the Chair of both the Spring and Fall plant sales. If there is an activity happening, Janice is a part of it. She and Jack host a group of us every fall to pick partridge berries for our berry bowls to be sold at the Green Sale. At every meeting Janice assists the Hospitality Committee with set up and clean-up. There's not an accomplishment we've achieved without her help.

Congratulations to all the winners!

## Club Recognition Awards presented at the Annual Meeting Susan Miner, NHFGC Awards Chair

In 2019, the Executive Board, at the suggestion of then NHFGC President, Joyce Kimball, retired NHFGC Award #13, the President's District Award #13 and replaced it with "Club Recognitions". Since then, each club has been presented with a certificate acknowledging them for a specific project or accomplishment of the previous year. This information is gleaned from the District Directors bi-monthly reports based on the information provided to them by the club presidents throughout the year. Here are this year's celebrations for each club.

### **District 1 – Fern Doucette, Director and Sherry Norman, Assistant Director**

Ashland – For holding its Annual Plant Sale which included Special Daylilies of

different named varieties, perfect for collectors.

Littleton – For the development of a great relationship with the managers of the Lowe's in your area and the benefits received.

Meredith – We welcome you to NHFGC! District 1 looks forward to working with you on any future events and projects.

Mountain – For your quick-thinking leadership focusing on the safety of your members when your Christmas luncheon in December of 2023 was suddenly cancelled due to flash flooding forcing road closures and the Eagle Mountain House to be evacuated.

### **District 2 – Diane Beaudry, Director**

Bow – For being awarded a National Garden Club Grant to complete the Community Container Garden Project.

Goffstown – For your successful plant and container arrangement sales that raise money for your annual scholarship.

Hooksett – For your continued beautification project throughout the Town of Hooksett with new planters at the entrance of Lilac Bridge, Veterans Park, the Town Trough and Point Garden.

Manchester – For your fund-raising projects that have provided summer camp experiences at Girls at Work and The Granite YMCA for underprivileged Manchester children.

### **District 3 – Dian Mathews, Director**

Fitzwilliam – For maintaining planters and container gardens all around the Fitzwilliam Common. They plant, water and nurture. They inspire love of community with their efforts and service.

## Club Recognition Awards – cont.

New London – For maintaining 14 pocket gardens all around town. They divide into teams to split the amount of work done by any one person. They inspire community teamwork to make the amazing attainable.

Old Homestead – For their group which maintains the “Swanzy Plantings” on Old Homestead Highway. They inspire passion for PEACE in all who pass by their stone wall gardens.

### **District 4 – Alison Kennery, Director**

Atkinson – For your \$1000 donation to the Atkinson Conservation Commission for the new Slade Town Forest project to make the trail “Accessible to All”.

Derry – For continuing to add more civic projects to the town - they are getting noticed and appreciated.

Epping – For selling Spring Pansy Bowls and Fall Mums to keep the town looking pretty all year.

Fremont – For participating in the Fremont Library’s Scarecrow Cookout and gaining 3 new members. Well done!

Salem – Welcome to our newest club and so happy to hear you are making a difference in the community while promoting pollinators.

Sandown – For the care and work done at the Monarch Garden which is an inspiration to all.

Windham – For their “Coffee/Cocktails in the Garden Series” with members inviting the club to informal gatherings at their homes to enjoy each other’s company and their beautiful gardens. They enjoyed 9 gatherings over July and August.

Thank you all for your outstanding contributions to your communities and for promoting the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. You make me very proud!

## NHFGC Scholarships

### Audrey Vargish, Scholarship Chair

Each year, except for 2023, I have had the honor of announcing the recipients of two scholarships made available through the NHFGC. There were some changes made this year when the Executive Board doubled the amount offered by the NHFGC Scholarship to \$2,000.00 and qualifying schools were expanded from not only New Hampshire, but also 2-or 4-year colleges and universities that are accredited and listed on the official website of the U.S. Department of Education. 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 are selected on the basis of 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 Liliana Vornehm from Nashua, NH. She has completed her Junior year at the University of NH, where she is majoring in Community and Environmental Planning and Sustainability with a GPA of 3.96. Liliana has a very long list of accomplishments. Among some are leadership experience as a Youth Development Fellow at Madison Park helping inner-city youth; as a Changemaker



## NHFGC Scholarships – cont.

Coach researching UNH sustainability goals; as an Energy Efficiency Intern at Eversource. She also took part in distinguished programs such as a semester in the City Fellow building community engagement; a Hamel Scholar devoted to community improvement and leadership development; the UNH Global Experience fostering intercultural understanding in a global forum.

Hamel Scholars Program Coordinator Emily Schoonmaker says “ Few students can match Lili Vornehm for kindness and service with intention. She approaches every endeavor with enthusiasm and an unaffected openness to learning and growing.”

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 a Federated Garden Club and served from 2005-2006 as President of the NHFGC. This year’s recipient is Caden Thomas from Londonderry, NH. She is a sophomore at Clark University and is majoring in Environmental Science and Policy with a GPA of 3.75.

Caden holds several honors including the Derry Garden Club’s Environmental Career Scholarship, the New Hampshire Scholar Award: STEM Pathway for 2 years of STEM course work , the Red Cord Award for continued involvement in the school community through clubs, academic societies, extracurricular activities and community service, and the Scarlet Award Scholarship for an incoming Clark University student who has demonstrated remarkable devotion to their academics and community endeavors. Caden serves on the Clark

University Undergraduate Student Council’s Grants committee. She also volunteers in the Beautify Londonderry program and at Clark University’s Hadwen Arboretum Community Garden, helping to care for and maintain this public community garden.

Clark University Professor Ellen Foley says “Caden is highly motivated, hardworking and intellectually curious. She embodies the best of our academic values... creativity, genuineness, academic integrity, and the pursuit of learning to address contemporary challenges.”

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 by making annual donations to the Scholarship Fund.

## NHFGC Club Anniversaries

### Johanna “Holly” Talbot

#### First Vice President & Membership Chair

We’re happy to report that two clubs received certificates commemorating their anniversaries at the NHFGC Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Puritan Conference Center in Manchester.

Old Homestead Garden Club was one of the founding members of NHFGC and is celebrating 90 years!

Salem Friendship and Garden Club is celebrating 70 years since the original Salem Garden Club was founded in 1954. They had a short hiatus during the pandemic before starting up again in September 2023 and rejoining the Federation in 2024.

## NHFGC Club Anniversaries – cont.

Please join us in extending congratulations to both of these clubs on their milestone anniversaries!

### Program Resource Guide

Alison Kennerly

The Program Resource Guide has been updated and is now on the website. This is a great tool to use for those looking to find speakers, programs, and resources for our members. Check it out!!

### NHFGC Fall Gathering

Alison Kennerly

The 2nd Annual Fall Gathering will be held at Bedrock Gardens on Monday, September 23, from 8:30 AM to 3 PM. The Fall Gathering is designed to have more social time and more fun with our gardening friends. We will have a short business meeting followed by tours throughout the day. Please see the registration form in this issue for more information - (see p. 11)

### Designers Guild

Margaret Birch

Good news and bad news. Good news. Our group had our April meeting, with Federation members from four different clubs. There was a range of experience, and we studied and critiqued nine very good "Angular" designs. Our second meeting in May had some new faces from four clubs, and eight wonderful "Panel" designs to critique. We enjoyed the chance to get to know fellow designers from other clubs. Now the bad news. We can no longer use the site at Girls at Work: they need the space for school classes. Fortunately, we

have a location in Hooksett for our mid-summer meeting. We also have space for the September and October meetings, tentatively, in Bow. The ideal location would be a spot central to the 11 clubs in the southwest corner of the state. No place is perfect as we are widely scattered, and travel time is an issue. Attending a meeting is free and open to all and there is (no need to register. Please plan to come. Come as a designer. Bring a design. Come as an observer. Bring a fellow club member. Call me with questions or to double check the date/time/place.

Peg Birch, Organizer, (603-526-7657).

NEXT MEETINGS: NO MEETINGS JUNE/AUGUST

Mid-summer Meeting

JULY 25. 9:00-11:30 THURSDAY

Hooksett Public Library

31 Mt. Saint Mary's Way

Hooksett (just off RT 3, go round to the back basement door)

Assignment: Assemblage Design.

Three or more different recognizable objects and subordinate plant material.

SEPTEMBER 26. 9:00-11:30 THURSDAY

Bow Old Town Hall

Logging Hill Road, Bow

Assignment: Creative or Traditional Design, including three different fruits/vegetables

OCTOBER 24, 9:00-11:30 THURSDAY

Bow Old Town Hall

Logging Hill Road, Bow

Assignment: Collage design on a standard panel 20 x 30"

(Designs are on tables approx. 29" high, space 30 x 30. You can bring finished design or make designs on site. Arrival time 9:00-10:00. Designs placed by 10:00, Discussion 10:00-11:00.)



New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs  
Presents  
The 2nd Annual Fall Gathering

# ROCKIN' AT BEDROCK

September 23, 2024 -- 8:30am to 3:00pm

 **BEDROCK GARDENS**  
19 HIGH ROAD, LEE NH

## A Private Day for NHFGC Members

- Admission
- Welcome Coffee & Pastries
- Docent-led Tours

**Join -- Meet  
Learn -- Tour  
HAVE FUN!**

**Tours and Picnic Lunch: \$38**

Boxed lunch includes Beverage, Fruit, Cookie, Plain Chips, Sandwich or Wrap

SANDWICH OPTIONS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken salad: with lettuce  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ham & Cheese:<br><input type="checkbox"/> honey mustard<br><input type="checkbox"/> mayo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey: with lettuce<br><input type="checkbox"/> cranberry mayo<br><input type="checkbox"/> plain mayo<br><input type="checkbox"/> mustard | <input type="checkbox"/> Veggie (Wraps Only):<br>mixed fresh vegetables<br>vidalia onion vinegarett<br>dressing   |

BREAD OPTIONS

- Wheat
- Oatmeal
- White Wrap

BEVERAGE OPTIONS

- Water
- Lemon Tea
- Raspberry Tea
- Pepsi
- Diet Pepsi

Any Allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

**Tours Only -- I will bring my own lunch: \$18**

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

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

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

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

Title (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form and return it **to your Club Treasurer**  
with your check payable to your Club before August 30, 2024.

## Lasting Impressions

Diane Beaudry, District 2 Director

Thank you to all who attended and helped plan the annual meeting! “Lasting Impressions “ was a huge success! More than 120 members of the Federation came to the Puritan Backroom Conference Center for our business meeting, awards and speakers. Jane O’Neil’s presentation “Claude Monet: Impressions From Nature” and Arabella Dane’s presentation “How to make a lasting memory of your garden using your phone”, were so interesting and informative. We received many compliments on their presentations!

Two beautiful ‘petals to paint’ floral designs of Monet paintings were created and auctioned off to the highest bidder – one by Elinor Terrell of Manchester and one by Patty Sullivan of Goffstown. A big thank you to our designers as well as Apotheca Flower and Tea and Jacques Flowers for their donation of flowers for the designs.

Throughout the day numbers were chosen for gifts and tickets were sold for amazing prizes at the opportunity drawing tables.

A big thank you to the ‘driver’ of this event, Winnie Schmidt! I also thank the Bow, Hooksett, Goffstown, and Manchester Garden Clubs for all their hard work making centerpieces, running the raffle, creating name tags and the program book.

A special thank you to my committee - Keryn Anderson - Bow Gardens Club, Rachel Sweeney and Ron Trexler - Hooksett Garden Club, Rosalind Spiller - Goffstown Community Garden Club, Fiona McKenna, Jackie Rzasa,

Irene Nadeau , Winnie Schmidt - Manchester Garden Club, and Sue Miner - NHFGC Past President. We were a great team!

I’m looking forward to seeing all of you again at the Fall Meeting at Bedrock Gardens!



*Hooksett GC members at the registration table welcoming attendees*



*Elinor Terrell, Manchester Garden Club and Patty Sullivan, Goffstown Community Garden Club enjoying a Monet inspired floral design*



*Fiona McKenna Co President of the Manchester Garden Club, and Rachel Sweeney, President of the Hooksett Garden Club, enjoying the success of the day*

## CLUB NEWS

### Ashland Garden Club

Amanda Loud

The Ashland Garden Club has been busy since its annual spring meeting in April. We traditionally begin our year with a potluck and "sharing time," sharing garden tools, books, plants, and other items that we find interesting. One of our members, Jana Flores-Thomas, shared about her bees and how they hibernate in her refrigerator!

The Club quickly began engaging in both *The Dirt*, our new monthly newsletter, and the dirt – our civic beautification projects. We added a fifth town site this year, our Town Hall.



*Pictured with pink bucket in front of Town Hall are Sue Hendricks (vice-president), Leslie Zimmer (recording secretary), and Patti O'Hara (treasurer).*



*Sherry Norman, a civic beautification coordinator, who drove the truck.*

Despite a somewhat gray day, our annual daylily, plant, pie, and "vintage garden goods" sale on May 18 was another success. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the sale as well as our many patrons. Special thanks to Chris Tower and Sherry Norman for their planning and expertise.


Our annual plant sale benefits our Shirley Splaine Scholarship, and we had a special treat this year when Shirley, our founding member, was the first to open her garden to us as a "pop-up garden." We hold these events throughout the summer for our club to learn and simply enjoy the flowers and the fellowship.



*Shirley Splaine poses on her porch during the event.*

The Club is looking forward to touring the Kirkwood Gardens of the Lakes Region Science Center in June and a local lavender garden in July – and touring many members' gardens as "popups" throughout the summer.

Please note our major fundraiser: Judy Gray will demonstrate her floral designs at the Pease Library in Plymouth, NH, on November 17. A traditional English tea will also be served. Tickets are limited and will go on sale in late summer. Watch our website ([ashlandnhgc.org](http://ashlandnhgc.org)) for more information.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2024**

**2:00 PM**

**FLORAL FUN  
DESIGN  
DEMONSTRATION**

**Judy Gray  
Award Winning  
Designer**

Pease Public Library  
Plymouth NH

**FOR TICKET INFORMATION  
VISIT**

**[www.ashlandnhgc.org](http://www.ashlandnhgc.org)**

**Atkinson Garden Club**  
**Jeanne Vickery**

What better way to usher in spring than our first major undertaking of the season – *Petals and Palettes*, our ninth Biennial, Art in Bloom-like, flower and art show! Kudos to our three co-chairs Sue Carter, Marnie Finn and Leann Moccia, and the boundless creativity and hard work of all our club members and local artists who made the show a success.



*Petals and Palettes Co-Chairs Sue Carter, Marnie Finn and Leann Moccia, by Sue's floral interpretation of The Green Fish.*



*Petals and Palettes "Best in Show" Award went to Kay Galloway's interpretation of Dr. Robert Fortunato's Kingfisher.*

Once again, Spring joyously greeted our community with countless swathes of exuberant daffodils blooming throughout town and along Atkinson's Route 121 (designated as a NH Scenic Byway). Thank you, Linda Jette, Daffodil Program Chair, and all her assistants presently and throughout the years!



*One of our town's beloved Daffodil Hearts, planted as a memorial beside the Atkinson Historical Society.*

Much to the chagrin of our club members, our April Open Meeting was cancelled due to very inclement, wintery weather. But, by the time May came along, armed with gloves, rakes, shovels, weeders, and the like, we were ready for the annual Spring cleanup of all our pots and barrels and planting areas around town. A delicious luncheon, prepared by our members, and a business meeting followed at the Community Center.

We gathered again on a beautiful sunny and exceptionally warm (sweltering!) day to refill all the planters and flower beds with copious bright blooms – a spectacular display, just in time for Atkinson's Memorial Day activities. Our Civic Beautification Committee, led by Nicole Cummings, (from a lawn chair with foot elevated post-surgery), and President Christine Leeds, did an outstanding job choosing this year's plant selection and making quick work of all that needed to be done. Club members will be watering and caring for the plantings throughout the fall.



*Directing our Spring Planting activities are Nicole Cummings (in chair) and Christine Leeds.*

## Atkinson Garden Club – cont.

Organized by Janet Snowdon and the Parade Committee, the Garden Club was well represented in our town's Memorial Day Parade, (despite the need for occasional rainwear)! Some members walked while many more rode while proudly waving our country's flag. Nyk Lytle's wagon was the conveyance of choice for the day, adorned with patriotic embellishments, and pulled along by his remarkable antique tractor!



*Atkinson Garden Club's representatives to the town's Memorial Day Parade! Judy Godden, Ann Grogan, Estelle Halchak, Jeanne Geisser, Jane Kowalski, Ann Reardon, Pat Bennett, Janet Snowdon, and Kathy Bastek.*

Mother's Day ushered in another one of our favorite activities. Chair Hedi Shikes, along with many club members, joined with Atkinson Academy 3rd Graders, helping them to create charming floral arrangements to give as precious gifts to their mothers or mother figures in their lives.



*Mother's Day Chair, Hedi Shikes, assisting two young 3rd graders with their arrangements!*

Our Garden of the Month program, led by Janet Snowdon, is once again in full swing. AGC member Marta and her husband, Stephen Fabbrucci, were the first recipients of the season. They were recognized for their May Garde – all abloom with bright annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs, and groundcovers.



*Congratulations to Marta Fabbrucci (l) and her husband, Stephen, awarded May Garden of the Month Award by Janet Snowdon and Sheri Turell.*

Marnie Finn ensured that the Atkinson Garden Club was well represented at Atkinson's First Annual Forever Young Expo, with more than 30 vendors displaying their services and programs geared to ensure the health, well-being, and happiness of our community's mature adults.



## Atkinson Garden Club – cont.

Our Club is so looking forward to breaking ground for our new Pollinator Garden at the rear of the Atkinson Historical Society. Members Kathy Sadkowski and Nicole Cummings have been engaged in research for many months and are working with town administrators to ensure that this project comes to fruition soon.

Many of our members were able to attend this year's NHFGC Annual Meeting in Manchester and we felt so pleased to be recognized for our club's efforts. Margery Watkins, Atkinson Cemetery Caretaker for more than 10 years, was chosen for the Community Star award for District IV.

Estelle Halchak, AGC's Co-Recording Secretary and Master Gardener, was awarded our club's Silver Seal Award for her unbounded creativity and energy, and tireless contributions to our club on so many levels.



*Estelle Halchak (l) receiving her Silver Seal Award from Sue Carter at our June Meeting.*



*Christine Leeds, Pat Bennett, Sue Miner, Margery Watkins (our Community Star), Marnie Finn, Sue Carter, Nina Gray and Holly Talbot gathered together at the NHFGC Annual Meeting in Manchester.*

We were delighted at the number of visitors who attended our Annual Plant Sale, June 1, which ushered in National Garden Week, and that so many AGC members volunteered to make it a resounding success.



*AGC Member Geoffrey Wilhite with his daughter and grandchildren, who enjoyed shopping at the Plant Sale!*

Kudos to Co-Chairs Estelle Halchak and Janet Snowdon, and Ways and Means Chair, Marnie Finn.

As a celebration of National Garden Week, the Atkinson Garden Club's talented designers, Sue Carter and Nina Gray have once again created magnificent, Impressionist-inspired, floral arrangements for public display in Kimball Library and Town Hall. They outdo themselves each and every year!

## Atkinson Garden Club – cont.



*One of Sue Carter and Nina Gray's artistic arrangements in honor of Gardening Week!*

Following a long search by our Scholarship Committee, Chair Sue Carter announced this year's \$1,500 AGC Scholarship recipient. Congratulations to Connor Goudreau, a Timberlane Graduating Senior and Atkinson resident, who will be studying Environmental Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute!

Our June Meeting was held at the amazing home of Michael and George Hosker-Bouley. Following a sumptuous buffet prepared by June's Refreshment Committee, including our hosts, we were treated to, and thoroughly enjoyed, Michael's Garden Tour. While there is always so much to admire, this tour's highlights featured all the curly willow he has propagated and planted throughout his gardens (with cuttings graciously offered to interested garden club members).



*Michael Hosker- Bouley explaining the art of curly willow propagation to our club.*

There is more! Following dessert, we watched Pat Bennett, designer extraordinaire, create 3 stunning dried flower arrangements, all in her unique and impressive containers, using dried curly willow, painted hydrangea, eucalyptus, and peacock feathers in various combinations. Three lucky Garden Club members were the recipients of Pat's artistry!



*Pat Bennett creating a striking arrangement from dried curly willow and colored hydrangea.*

## Bow Garden Club

Keryn Anderson

For more than 3½ years, the BGC Monthly Newsletter continues to keep our 77 members informed of upcoming club events: items like the Bulletin Board of community events, book reviews, member recipes, a monthly garden calendar, the Club budget and many, many interesting article submissions.

In April, the club met for the first member meeting of the year with a presentation on "Container Gardening" presented by Ruth Droescher from UNH Extension. This event was held at Bow Baker Free Library and is the first of four events for 2024 that is a joint venture with the library which assists with

## Bow Garden Club – cont.

online registration and presenter costs. BGC provided a beautiful, large, donated planter that Ruth filled during her presentation and the planter was given to a lucky draw winner. The event was well attended by 45 people and resulted in five new members signing up to become Bow Garden Club members. Members also collected their new 2024 Yearbook.



*Container Garden Presentation*

Also, in April the club's Older Adult Enrichment Committee (Carole Barleon, Dawn Boyle, and Ami Guimond) met at White Rock Senior Living to create terrariums with residents. The committees' events are becoming very popular, and this event was attended by 15 registered participants who made a "beach themed terrarium" containing sand, shells, ornamental glass and rocks and a beautiful air plant.



*Creating terrariums at White Rock Senior Living Facility*

May has always been an incredibly busy month for the club. The club started with a member meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Old Town Hall with Presenter and Author Lisa Colburn's "Gardening for all Seasons".

The club's major fundraising event is the Plant Sale held on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Bow Community Building, and this year we welcomed two new nurseries providing our wholesale plants for resale – Newton Greenhouse and Pleasant View Gardens with their beautiful Proven Winners. Members also worked hard on their donated plants, and they were washed of all soil, with bare roots wrapped in damp paper and bagged and tied to avoid the AJW issue. The event was again a terrific success that is made possible by over 25 volunteers and their families who help set up and support the event throughout the day.



*Our Plant Sale set-up volunteers*

*Members washing plants prior to our Plant sale.*



## Bow Garden Club – cont.

During the Plant Sale more than 250 plants were put aside for the town's 19 Container Pots, seven rail boxes, as well as plants needed for the Rotary Park and Gazebo Gardens. After the plant sale a few volunteers (Erika Flewelling, Lisa Richards, Joyce Kimball, Della Flannagan and Carol Barleon) stayed behind for hours to organize and plant the container pots and gazebo rail boxes.



*Our planted containers*

May ended with a welcome addition to the Bow Garden Club. With permission from the Town of Bow, the club purchased and installed an 8' x 14' Tuff Shed onsite at the Old Town Hall. The Town prepared the area with crushed rock base and the shed was delivered and installed on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The shed allows the club to keep all supplies organized in one area and have a place to stack and store our empty container pots over winter.



*Photo shows the outside and interior of our new storage facility.*

At the end of June, the club is looking forward to a social event at member Marilee Nihan's house. Marilee and her husband Bruce will host "Cocktails in the Garden" for members and their families with dessert and beverages supplied by the Club.

On a personal note... this will be the last event attended by me in person as I leave USA and relocate back to Australia on August 1<sup>st</sup>. I've been 10 years in New Hampshire, six of them with Bow Garden Club. I will complete the remainder of my 2<sup>nd</sup> Presidential term as a Co-President with Michelle Fortin. Rest assured, I will not be going away and will remain active (albeit remotely) with our lovely little Bow Garden Club and the New Hampshire Federation, so you'll still be hearing from me regularly.

## Community Garden Club of Meredith Sandy Dodd

We kicked off our season in March with a "meet and greet" designed to recruit new members – happily, we've grown by more than 15 members so far and are now approaching a membership of 70. All of our area's plantings are complete and ready to greet all those visiting our town throughout the summer. Our plantings have the best views in the state!



## Community Garden Club of Meredith – cont.

We're taking to the road this summer – June will take us to Pumpkin Blossom Farm in Warner, to learn more about lavender. July will include a visit to Bedrock Gardens, including a private presentation for our club. We'll finish our summer travels with a trip to the New Hampshire Mushroom Company in Tamworth.

The outreach Committee of our club continues to spread cheer. What began as a simple project of crafting botanical cards has blossomed into a series of artistic works, along with the exchange and discovery of new card-making techniques through continuous workshops. Recently, two members of our Outreach Committee presented 40 distinctive handmade cards to Interlakes Community Caregivers, Inc. for the enjoyment and use of the community members they serve – some of whom are confined to their homes. This contribution has increased the total number of cards donated to ICCI to more than 140 during the last year. Additionally, we utilize these cards to convey warm thoughts and cheer through our Sunshine committee.



*Beautiful collection of handmade cards*

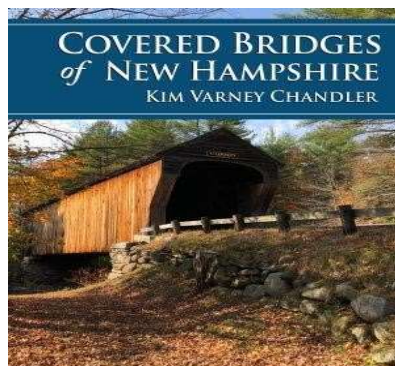
In August, the outreach Committee, in partnership with the Moultonborough Public Library, will offer a card-making workshop. Participants will learn how to create one to two botanical cards, which they will then keep.

Members of our Outreach Committee, along with member volunteers, recently conducted an after-school program in partnership with the Meredith Public Library. The students who participated learned to create seed balls, or "seed bombs," which are designed to be placed atop soil in sunny areas. These seed balls, when kept moist provide all that is necessary for the seeds to root and bloom. The program was perfectly timed for the kids to create Mother's Day gifts. Fittingly, the Garden Club dubbed this program "Boom and Bloom." This event furthers the Outreach Committee's ongoing mission to introduce gardening activities and knowledge to the community, fostering the club's commitment to volunteerism and friendship.



*Making seed "bombs"*

**Community Garden of Meredith September Presentation sponsored  
by New Hampshire Humanities:**



## “COVERED BRIDGES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE”

with Kim Varney Chandler

7:00PM, Thursday, September 19, 2024

Meredith Community Center,

One Circle Drive

Doors open: 6:30 PM

SPONSORED BY:



PRESENTED BY: MEREDITHGARDENCLUB.ORG



Community Garden Club  
of  
Meredith, New Hampshire

## Derry Garden Club Carrie Dugan

Our club is abuzz with activity, enjoying the vibrant and busy season of spring. Our members have certainly been busy bees! We have had so much fun celebrating our recent successes and seeing the beautiful blooms in our gardens around town. We've also enjoyed a few warm days, reminding us that summer is just around the corner.

In May, we celebrated our club with our annual luncheon at the beautiful Westbrook Inn in Derry where we all received copies of our award winning yearbook.



*Monica Turcotte handing out our award-winning new yearbooks at the annual meeting.*

The day was filled with delicious food and drinks as well as programming from Good for You Gardens, an urban farm in Manchester specializing in micro greens, edible flowers, and cut flower bouquets. Our programming committee always goes above and beyond to find new and interesting spots to meet and to provide members with interesting educational topics.



*Members at the annual club meeting and the beautiful setting of Westbrook Inn in Derry*

The main focus of the past few months has been preparing for our annual plant sale and our favorite day of the year - the day after the annual plant sale. Throughout the month of May, members worked together on digging teams and pricing teams to prepare and store plants for the sale. The sale is a true labor of love and a special day for our community with many Derry residents saying they look forward to it each year. The success of the sale is a testament to the amazing teamwork of our club. From large to small tasks, we couldn't do it without the cooperation of every single member. And as for the days after, we always enjoy time to relax and rest after putting together the biggest club event of the year.



*One of the many digging teams working to dig, plant, pot, and transport the donated plants for our annual Plant Sale*

## Derry Garden Club cont.



*Members pose with the giant art flowers at the end of the Plant Sale*

Speaking of teamwork and success, we are thrilled to have received several awards at the recent NHFGC meeting. We can always count on Susan Davis to create the most stunning yearbook, capturing the true essence of our club. Congratulations to Monica Turcotte for receiving The Silver Seal Award and to Sally Bertrand and Christine Carr for the award of NHFGC Life Membership. Congratulations are also in order for Sylvia Roberts, recognized for her contributions to NHFGC.



*Sally Bertrand, Sylvia Roberts, and Susan Davis having fun at the Annual meeting.*

In other community events, members have been busy planting veggies, fruits, herbs, and flowers with the children at the Derry Boys and Girls Club. The club hosted a fun craft at the Derry Derby Day where we assisted children and adults in making their own pollinator seed bomb to take home and plant in their gardens.



*Lolly Fleming helping the Miss NH ladies make pollinator seed bombs for their gardens at Derby Day*

In addition to maintaining community gardens, the club is in the process of collaborating with the local fire department to update gardens around some of the firehouses. The club is joining the Derry Farmers' Market on select days in the summer to provide education on club-related activities, opportunities for membership, and the chance to discuss all things garden with the local community.

As always in the summer months, we enjoy taking our garden club meetings on the road. Our June meeting was held at Harvard's Arnold Arboretum where we experienced an engaging tour with an arboretum volunteer. A pack-your-own picnic lunch was held afterwards at the park across from Franklin Zoo.



## Derry Garden Club cont.

*Learning about trees at the Arnold Arboretum*



*The Arnold Arboretum field trip crew stopping to smell the roses.*

We have additional field trips scheduled for the coming months as well as our eagerly anticipated weekly rotation of Gatherings in the Garden where members open their homes to allow us to relax and enjoy their beautiful plants.

## Epping Garden Club Eunice Miller

We had another wonderful Pansy Bowl fundraiser but are also looking forward to filling our containers with heat loving annuals which will happen by the 2nd week of June.

There are now a total of 17, two ft. by two ft. white self-watering containers set up right on Main Street between a business owner and a local church. It will be gorgeous by the 4th of

July. We will also fill the two containers at one of our fire stations and add one across the street from McDonald's and one along RTE 27 under our "Welcome to Epping" signs.



We had a nice turnout on the evening of May 2nd for the talk we sponsored with John Forte. Thanks to those local members from the Federation for joining us at our library. John has an engaging way about him.

Stay tuned as we are looking to have more talks in the future. If you have any great speakers to share please call me (Eunice) 603-300-0064 – or if you are also a speaker.

In August, we will begin to take paid orders for fall plants if you have any interest in Mums, Asters, Cabbage, and Kale.

Have a great summer!

## Fitzwilliam Garden Club

The Fitzwilliam Garden Club held a potluck luncheon with guest speaker, Tovah Martin, on April 25th. Tovah provided ideas to maximize space in our gardens while sharing pictures of her own gardens demonstrating how she minimized weeds and damage from wildlife. She is very entertaining and informative, and she brought some of her books to purchase.



*Tova Martin presentation*

Our club has been able to provide two scholarships to local high school students this year. This is one of our goals each year, using funds from our plant and bake sales. The awards will be presented to the students at an assembly at Monadnock Regional High School.

The planters on the Common and at the safety building have been stocked, and they are looking great. Members water and weed on a rotating basis. We will also have to weed and clean out the garden on Route 12 in the near future.

We held our spring plant and bake sale on the Fitzwilliam Common on May 18<sup>th</sup>. It was so good to see so many returning customers and to meet new ones. We also were able to attract a few new members to join us in our mission to beautify our town and provide scholarships for local students.



*Plant Sale*



*Bake sale*

A field trip to Bedrock Gardens in Lee is scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup>, and we also plan to visit Laromay Lavender in Hollis in July.

Our fall plant and bake sale is scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup>, and we will have Roger Swain speak at our potluck dinner on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

We are enjoying our own gardens, maintaining the gardens in town and meeting to learn more about plants and gardening.

## Fremont Garden Club

Leslie Milde

In March, Fremont Garden Club members, as well as four Girl Scouts and their mothers, enjoyed an inspiring presentation on growing a

## Fremont Garden Club – cont.

Pollinator Garden by Master Gardeners, Pam Appleton, and Doris Buco.

The next month members enthusiastically transplanted vegetable seedlings for the May Plant Sale. With great expectations members brought home the transplants to nurture.

May saw the process of town garden cleanups and division of members' garden plants for the annual sale. May 18th was a very busy day in Fremont and the Garden Club Sale was very successful despite clouds and afternoon rain. At the end of May the town gardens received colorful additions and were spiffed up by stalwart members.



*Members transplanting seedlings*

## Goffstown Garden Club Rosalind Spiller

Our April meeting focused on information about using natural ingredients in our personal care and our cleaning products. We had *Consumer Reports* information and then we made two products to take home – a sugar scrub for personal use and an air freshener for small spaces.



*Natural products that we made.*

Our May meeting was with a dahlia grower from New Boston, Susan Mackelwicky. She explained and demonstrated how to divide the tubers and gave lots of great information about growing them. Our August meeting will be a field trip to her farm.

I hosted a “make it and take it” at the Goffstown Library. Each person took a bamboo hoop and using natural twine and silk flowers created a small door or wall decoration.



*Hoop wreath with silk flowers*

Our plant sale in May was a huge success raising the money needed to fund our scholarship for a graduating senior.

## Goffstown Garden Club – cont.



*Eager customer at our plant sale*

Our June meeting was a lesson in watercolor flowers. Jody Ducharme took us through the steps for using watercolor. Each person created a card and a bookmark.



*Watercolor flowers*

## Hooksett Garden Club Carolyn Taylor

June is one of the busiest months for the Hooksett Garden Club. We hold our annual Plant Sale, which this year was on June 1st at the Hooksett Public Library. It was a beautiful day and the Library grounds, only our second year at that venue, provided trees and shade on a hot day. Many people

who came noted the ease of parking and how well marked out was each section. Members and spouses as well as several businesses in the area donated wonderful raffle prizes, 18 in total. Bonnie Pierce, Chair and Rachel Sweeney, Co-Chair did a fabulous job!



*On a rainy day in early May, HGC member, Michael St. Germain, was at the Library doing spring cleanup.*



*The Hooksett Library was busy with customers buying plants, raffle tickets and items from its garden-themed yard sale at the June 1st Plant Sale*

As part of District II, which was hosting the 91st NHFGC Annual Meeting at the Back Room Conference Center, the HGC was responsible for creating the 129 name tags and for being at the registration table the morning of the event. Elena Whitfield, a member since 2008 was a recipient of the Silver Star Award, which she truly deserved. Eleven members of the club attended, and everyone had a great time.

## Hooksett Garden Club – cont.



Eleven members (missing is Valerie Heidorn who had already left) from the HGC attended the NHFGC Annual Meeting. L-R: Connie Snair, Elena Whitfield, Linda Hoban, Irene Bergeron, Carolyn Taylor, Susan St. German, and Rachel Sweeney. Back Row: Diana Proulx and Ron Trexler

Part two of our Flowers on the Bridge project will take place in about a week. Pansies and spring flowers are on the bridge now but will be replaced by pink and white petunias that will stay on the bridge until mid-September. Members of the Bridge Committee met at the Flora Bella greenhouse a few weeks ago to plant the 52 flower boxes. The Flowers on the Bridge is the HGC's largest community beautification project, one of eight the club maintains.



The pansies on the Memorial Bridge in Hooksett will soon be gone and replaced by pink and white petunias.

We didn't plan any events for June as there were too many other projects already, but in July the club will have an evening tour of

Jane Beaulieu's gardens in Manchester. In August we will tour Hip Peas Farm and in September, we will be back at the library and the speaker for our meeting will be florist, Fran Bader. Several members also plan to do the Open House tour at Pleasant View Gardens, a big hit last year.

The club is proud to announce that since January we have added eight new members and are now up to a total membership of 48. In the past few years, we have gone from an extra-small club to a medium-sized club!

## Littleton Garden Club Betsy Fraser

At our April meeting members made pansy pots. The club provided pansies and potting soil and members brought a pot. Following the winter months, it was fun to get our hands in potting soil again and everyone went home with a cheerful pot of pansies to welcome spring.

Our May meeting featured a program on the History of Littleton Garden Club which is in its 86<sup>th</sup> year. This marked the culmination of digitizing and downsizing extensive paper records that had become increasingly challenging to store. Mary Bingman, Club Historian, directed preparation of a PowerPoint program that charts the history of the club with many photos.

A program was presented on Wildflower Identification followed by a wildflower walk at The Dells conserved forest in Littleton. Members were able to test their skills identifying a wide range of wildflowers using wildflower identification books and also apps on their phones.

## Littleton Garden Club – cont.



Members enjoyed a wildflower identification walk in The Dells, a conserved area in Littleton.



The club tends many municipal gardens and window boxes in Littleton. Mary and Cheryl are expanding a garden with new perennials.

We've added informal, drop-in visits to member gardens to catch "moments of beauty." Susan Retz extended an invitation to see her collection of more than 20 varieties of *epimedium* at their peak bloom. Ellen Greaves invited members for a walk in the woods near her home to see a cluster of pink lady slipper plants in bloom. Some of nature's events are so fleeting that you need to just stop for a minute and take the opportunity to see something special.

May is always busy as club members do spring cleanup and prepare municipal gardens and window boxes for the coming season. We are thrilled to be the recipients of a 2024 **Plant America Community Project Grant** awarded by National Garden Clubs, Inc. Our club requested \$960 to purchase mulch and plants for the 2024 season. During May we invested more than 100 volunteer hours and are on track to expend the funds as we outlined in the grant request.

Our weekly column called "Live Free And Dig – Musings by the Littleton Garden Club" is published in the Littleton Courier newspaper. The columns feature different members writing on an array of topics. We receive many positive comments about the column and it's a wonderful way to interact with the public on topics about gardening, conservation, and nature. The club participated in the Littleton Memorial Day Motorcade.



Betsy, Jill and Terri dressed in red, white and blue to represent the club in the Littleton Memorial Day Motorcade.

## Manchester Garden Club

Jackie Rzasa

Our third annual pansy bowl sale - our major fundraiser – was again a great success. With the help of our friends at Frizzhome Gardens in Bedford, who nurtured the plants in their greenhouse after helping us plant 160 bowls, we made a profit of more than \$1,200. Mother Nature had other ideas when there was an April snowstorm on the appointed day of our pickup. In anticipation of this inclement weather, a few members made phone calls and hand delivered all the pansy bowls a few days before.



Our April meeting was very informative with Kelly Dwyer, an award-winning environmental educator and naturalist, who gave a presentation about creating a backyard habitat for birds. Our May meeting was a hands-on workshop creating a shadow box frame depicting a tree using moss and rope for the tree trunk.

Our civic beautification committee organized a clean-up at The Gale Home, Pulaski Park, and The Manchester Historic Association building. The committee did some planting of colorful annuals at these locations. We purchased metal signs with our club’s name

engraved on them to place in the gardens that we maintain.



*Clean up crew at The Gale Home*



*Our new attribution sign at The Gale Home*

Our own Diane Beaudry, NH Federation District II Director, held meetings to plan the Federation spring meeting entitled “Lasting Impressions.” Our club created beautiful centerpieces designed by member Elinor Terrell who created a lovely “Petals to Paint”- type floral design depicting the Monet painting “Red Boats at Argenteuil.”

## Manchester Garden Club – cont.



*Elinor Terrell pictured with her beautiful Monet inspired centerpiece design*

Our club was well represented at this event, including Federation President Winnie Schmidt, and Fiona McKenna, Second Vice President, and Meetings Chair. All of the hard work and creative ideas in planning made for a very successful event.

For the second year in a row, many of our club members donated their own divided plants and helped out at the Tailgait Rescue plant sale held on June 1st. This was to benefit this organization which relocates animals from kill shelters down south. They were very appreciative of our help.

We are looking forward to our final event before we break for July and August. It will be a potluck luncheon courtesy of the Executive Board. The new Mayor of Manchester, Jay Ruais, will be our honored guest.

We wish all of our own club members as well as those of the NH Federation a wonderful summer.

## Mountain Garden Club

Sue Clark

The sun never sets on the Mountain Garden Club! We've been going at warp speed. Spring has a way of doing that.

We were so thrilled to host the sold-out Mary Ann Esposito event. Our sisters in gardens from Littleton and Meredith joined us. A year's worth of planning went off without a hitch!!! If the Mountain Garden Club wasn't on the map before, it sure is now!

Our May meeting introduced us to Native Plant Gardening in the Mount Washington Valley. Member Jane Sender gave a fascinating PowerPoint. It is always amazing at the amount of knowledge and talent we have in our Club.

May 31 we had an army of volunteers setting up for our annual plant sale. Not to pat ourselves on the back but we had beautiful plants and a plethora of unusual varieties. Two weeks before we held a potting party. We repotted plants with great soil and that improved the presentation. We also had a group of garden angels that went to folks' homes and divided right out of their gardens. June 1 was the sale at the North Conway Community Center. People started lining up an hour before kickoff! We also had a master gardeners table to answer any questions – a children's table where young gardeners could plant seeds, color pictures of plants, and play in the dirt! Our table of plant tools, books, containers etc., sold very well. All in all, a grand success made possible by our many volunteers!!

June 5 and June 6th finds us at Storyland. Each year our members descend upon the



## Mountain Garden Club – cont.

amusement park and plant more than 4,000 annuals. This is an enormous undertaking, and our members are always ready and up to the task. Who doesn't love planting beautiful annuals! The monies we receive go directly into our scholarship fund. We provide four scholarships a year for graduating seniors from the Valley. All with projected majors in horticulture, agriculture, and related majors. We always have a number of applicants!

We are looking forward to our June luncheon at the beautiful Eagle Mountain House! This is a wonderful event for members and guests and a great way to wrap up the year. It is always well attended and we in the MGC enjoy taking our garden gloves off and "playing" dress up 😊

Looking forward to July, we have our members and guests garden tour. We offer this free of charge and it is always well attended.

Happy summer to all and happy gardening.

## New London Garden Club Lynne Merrill

Even though New London Garden Club has a multitude of members who "go South" for the winter, the club continues to hold a varied and educational series of programs for those remaining.

In January, our own members participated in a novel instructive program called "Floral Geometry -thinking out of the box, triangle and circle." This is always a favorite program. In February we relaxed and enjoyed each other's company with a BYO sandwich, with

the Board providing salads, desserts and coffee or tea.

Come March New Hampshire's own Ron Trexler with UNH Ext., and an Advanced Master Gardener, spoke on the Asian Jumping Worms. It's a 'good thing' that wasn't the topic the previous month!

In April we do enjoy our arrangement with Grantham Garden Club to have a Joint Meeting. Charlie Nardozzi, our speaker, is a nationally recognized garden writer, radio and TV host who also conducts the program "All Things Gardening" on Sunday mornings.

Our May speaker, Henry Homeyer, who also writes columns for 12 newspapers around NE offered tips on navigating the Chelsea Flower Show.

"Structural Elements In a New Hampshire Garden" will be the topic for our June program. Dr. Michael Gordon is the Monadnock representative to The Garden Conservancy.

## Old Homestead Garden Club Christina Apgar

For our club, ninety years have passed, and we are still going strong in our community. Our fiscal year came to an end with our Annual Meeting on June 12th, during which we celebrated our history and looked forward to the future of our club. For fun, we dressed up! Many members shared tales from the past, including stories of our successful projects that are still being carried on to this day. Theresa Murdough, club member since the 80's, shared her passion for Garden Therapy. Martha Zimmerman

## Old Homestead Garden Club – cont.

spoke of the pride our club has in our civic plantings at Keene’s Ashuelot Park, and in our annual Greens Sale which funds our scholarships. Robbin Abbot shared that while doing some home renovations, she discovered hidden inside a wall an OHGC yearbook and a copy of the club bylaws. The date of the documents is unknown, but both were composed by use of a typewriter.

Other members shared memories and success stories, both personal and club related. It was a great occasion for reminiscing and celebrating our love for gardening and for one another. We look forward to the next 90 years!



## Salem Friendship and Garden Club Lorie Ball

The Salem Friendship and Garden Club extended a warm and heartfelt thank you to Salem Memorial VFW Post 8546 and the VFW-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 267 volunteers, who worked tirelessly on May 4 to clear the underbrush at the entrance of the Salem Town Forest. Clearing the underbrush was the first step in completing our *Operation Pollination* project, which aims to enhance the entrance to

the Salem Town Forest by planting native plants that will provide food and shelter for bees and butterflies. The SFGC received a grant from The Pollination Project Foundation, which offers seed funding for people driving transformational change in their communities, cultures, and countries. For more information about this exciting SFGC project, please visit: <https://thepollinationproject.org/helping-pollinators-in-new-hampshire/>

In April, the SFGC presented its proposal to enhance the Salem Town Forest entrance to the Salem Conservation Commission and received immediate approval. The club anticipates working on the project through the summer with a fall completion date. The VFW volunteers who kickstarted the SGFC project on May 4 were part of the worldwide VFW program titled '#StillServing.' This program encourages local veterans to participate in a 'Day of Service' campaign in their community, demonstrating a continuation of service beyond the military. It is a dedicated day of service led by VFW members around the globe.

The Salem Friendship and Garden Club is extremely grateful for the support received from numerous generous Salem residents and the Salem Rotary Club, which also donated funds to purchase the landscape timbers that will line both sides of the Salem Town Forest entrance pathway. To accomplish this project, the VFW volunteers generously offered to continue their volunteer efforts by installing the landscape timbers.

To donate to this and future SFGC projects and join the club, please visit [SalemFriendshipAndGardenClub.org](http://SalemFriendshipAndGardenClub.org)

**Salem Friendship and Garden Club – cont.**



*Barry, Heather and Curtis Hall, Thomas and Jacob Mitchell, Brian and Jaime Thornock, Tom Morgan, Lori Silva, Dan Appleton, Jim Houle, Lance Reynolds, John Boudreau*

On Saturday, June 1, the Club held its first fundraising event since its founding last year. Several volunteers, wearing their signature bee costumes, gathered at the Salem Transfer Station to collect donations from very generous Salem residents. The busy bees arrived at 7:00 am and graciously accepted donations until the Transfer Station closed at 2:45 pm.



*Busy Bees Susan Hopkins and Lorie Ball*



*Jaime Thornock, Cyndi Geiryn, Betty Gay, Paula Rickard*



*Jaime Thornock, Lorie Ball, Diane & Kristen Koczat, Karen Kluffs*

SFGC is dedicated to beautifying Salem by increasing the number of pollinator gardens within the town. Projects include enhancing the entrance to the North Salem Forest by planting native plants to provide food and shelter to bees and butterflies. The club also plans to enhance a previous Salem Garden Club project located at the entrance of Abnaki Park.

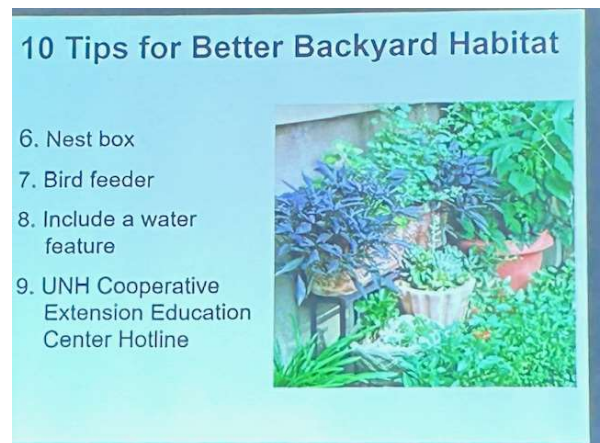
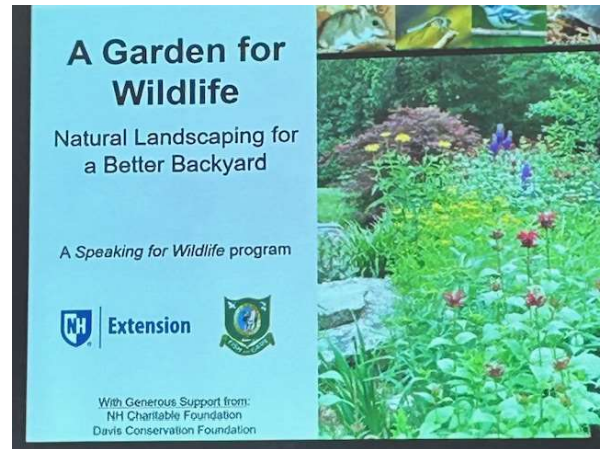
To donate to SFGC's mission of beautifying Salem and join the club, please visit [SalemFriendshipAndGardenClub.org](http://SalemFriendshipAndGardenClub.org).

## Sandown Garden Club Alison Hartnung

Sandown Garden Club continues to work on civic projects, maintaining our Town Hall Gardens and enjoying our public programs,



including this week's program, *A Garden for Wildlife: Natural Landscaping for a Better Backyard*, with Scott Kukshel.



Several of our members attended the NHFGC meeting in Manchester. A Monet presentation, *Lasting Impressions*, was very informative and quite enjoyable.

## Sandown Garden Club - cont.

Like other civic groups, we are confounded as to why no one is applying for our Scholarship!

Happy Gardening!

## Windham Garden Club Deb Drake

We had a wonderful spring! Our last set of meeting speakers rounded out our year of programs very nicely. In March, Marti Warren of the Amherst Garden Club presented "Jumping Worms, Ugh!" Marti shared facts about these invasive worms and the best way to minimize their spread and maybe contain them. We implemented several of the suggestions in preparing for our plant sale.

Enjoying the sights and sounds of birds returning to our backyard is one of the many joys of spring. Slater Roosa, Education Coordinator of NH Audubon, spoke at our April meeting and went over some bird identification basics, binocular use, some online tools, and some tips on how to encourage more birds to visit your yard/garden. This was a popular topic, and we had a good number of non-members in attendance as this was an open meeting.

Our May meeting was focused on the annual plant sale and raffle with the highlight being an ice cream social for members!

March through May was all about preparing for our annual plant sale and raffle. Proceeds from our Plant Sale go back to the Windham community through scholarships, community investment grants,

education, and other community projects. In March and April several digs were held in members gardens along with potting sessions to plant up our purchased bare roots and dug plants. Several members grew a wide variety of tomatoes and herbs.



*Early flow of customers*



*Plant sale crew.*

We were thrilled with the early flow of traffic and the many happy returning customers! Our members assisted customers in selecting perennials and answering gardening questions.

Customers perused the Garden Treasures table, enthusiastically shopped the many tomato varieties, and browsed the myriads of perennials.

## Windham Garden Club cont.



*Garden Treasures table*

It was a successful sale day, and we appreciate the support of the Windham community. We donated many of the plants we had left to several ongoing town beautification projects. Our raffle with 25 prizes from which to choose, was in an on-line format which has proven to be extraordinarily successful. In addition, we sold tickets during the in-person plant sale. Some of our more popular raffle prizes, all donated by club members, included the member grown herb planter A Chef's Favorite Herbs and a Victorian Bird cage planter, both top ticket selections!



*Herb bowl*



*Victorian bird cage planter*

We did the cleanup at the Nesmith Library Butterfly Garden and other library areas and the gardens are looking wonderful! In May one of our members also helped the children's librarian with a kid's gardening/ planting workshop.



*Workshop with kids at the Library*

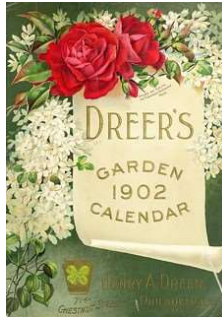
We also took care of the Memorial Day plantings at the cemetery flagpole. Also in May, our Scholarship and Grants Committee met to select this year's recipients for the Nancy Surette Memorial Scholarships (we made two \$2,000 awards) and the Arthur Baker Community Investment Grants.

The beginning of June included our yearly plant pot recycling drive at our town transfer station. Now we are preparing for our final gathering of the Windham Garden Club

## Windham Garden Club cont.

membership year, the Summer Solstice. We gather with family and friends to share a light meal, socialize, reflect on the Garden Club year, give some awards, and recognize our scholarship recipients. Our new year

which starts in July kicks off with our “Coffee/Cocktails in the Garden Series” with members inviting the club to informal gatherings at their homes to enjoy each other’s company and their beautiful gardens. Have a great summer!



## 2024 Coming Events!

- July 25 Designers Guild, 9-11 AM Hooksett Public Library
- Aug. 1 NHFGC Award applications due to NHFGC awards Chair
- Aug. 7 Lilac Letter Articles Due ([LLeditor@NHFGC.org](mailto:LLeditor@NHFGC.org))
- Aug. 9 Happy 80th Birthday to Smokey Bear!!!
- Aug. 28 NHFGC Board Meeting hosted by District 2
- Sept. 7 Derry Flower Show, 1-4 PM at the First Parish Congregational, 47 East Derry Rd., Derry , NH
- Sept. 19 Community Garden of Meredith hosts Kim Varney Chandler speaking on the Covered Bridges of NH. 6:30 PM, One Circle Dr., Meredith.
- Sept. 23 NHFGC Fall Gathering Bedrock Gardens
- Sept.26 Designers Guild 9 -11:30 AM Bow Old Town Hall
- Oct. 16 NHFGC Board Meeting
- Oct. 23-24 New England Regional Meeting, Crowne Plaza, Warwick, RI – app form p. 11
- Oct. 24 Designers Guild 9 -11:30 AM Bow Old Town Hall
- Nov. 17 Ashland Garden Club hosts Judy Grey Floral Design and Tea, Pease Library, Plymouth. 2 PM. Tickets available online this summer: [www.ashlandnhgc.org](http://www.ashlandnhgc.org)

### Editor's Notes:

We hope you enjoy this edition of *The Lilac Letter*. Articles are subject to minor editing. The **preferred font** is **Calibri 12**, single spaced. Use either a Word program or .rtf (rich text format). Alternatively, please paste or type your article into your email. Please make sure you **include the first and last name of the author**. Email submissions to TAMARGAL2@aol.com or [LLeditor@nhfgc.org](mailto:LLeditor@nhfgc.org). Please do NOT submit pdf files. Please do not submit files in pdf or Apple pages format. I cannot convert them.

The Fall edition will be published in early September. **Deadline to submit articles: August 7**. Please email photos – **do not insert them into your text**. **Include photo captions either in your article or in your email clearly matching them to your photos**. Sponsorship materials should be submitted in .jpg format.

**Most important of all, please ensure Club Name and Lilac Letter appear in the subject line of your e-mail to avoid classification as spam which is deleted without being opened.**

## THE LILAC LETTER

Official publication of the **New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.** (<http://www.nhfgc.org>)  
**Member, National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

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Brenda Moore, President, National Garden Clubs, Inc.,  
Susan Miner Director, New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

The *Lilac Letter* is published in the first week of April, July, September, and November.  
Deadlines for submission of articles for publication are the 7th of  
March, June, August, and October.

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Sponsorship rates	One seasonal issue	Full year – 4 issues
Full page	\$100	\$300
Half page	\$60	\$200
Quarter page	\$40	\$150