



NEVER DONE!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD
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President Ponderings

MaryAnn Piasecki

November is the month that one can look back at the year and think about all the things you are thankful about. This year of 2020 has been trying for many of us but in between the lows there have been some heartfelt achievements and a stronger sense of purpose for our garden club.

I am thankful for all those that contributed in making our club fun, educational and for strengthening our connections to our community. We did this with our schools in Bloom 'N Art, in our love of gardening in civic beautification and our "private" plant sale, and working with our local business.

Most of all I am thankful for all the members who have tried to stay engaged in our club while caring for family, teaching our children, and caring for the sick and elderly. A garden club is about collaborating with other enthusiasts to learn about plants and growing techniques but it is also about staying connected to one another.

(On the next page MaryAnn is sharing a poem)

A Gardener's Thanksgiving - Max Coots

Let us give thanks for a bounty of people:

For generous friends, with smiles as bright as their blossoms.

For feisty friends as tart as apples;
For continuous friends who, like scallions and cucumbers,
keep reminding us that we've had them.

For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;

For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of
corn; and the others as plain as potatoes and as good for you.

For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as
parsley, as endless as zucchini, and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you
through the winter.

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time.

For young friends, who wind around like tendrils and hold us.

We give thanks for friends now gone,
like gardens past that have been harvested,
but who fed us in their times that we might live.

In Loving Memory: Arly Waldron



Those of us who knew her were very sad to hear of Arly Waldron's death. She was such a sweet, kind, and gracious lady. I think of her with a smile on her face, always positive, cheerful, and willing to help however she could. Arly was a petite woman, but she had a big heart and a lot of energy. To say she was active in the Garden Club is an understatement.

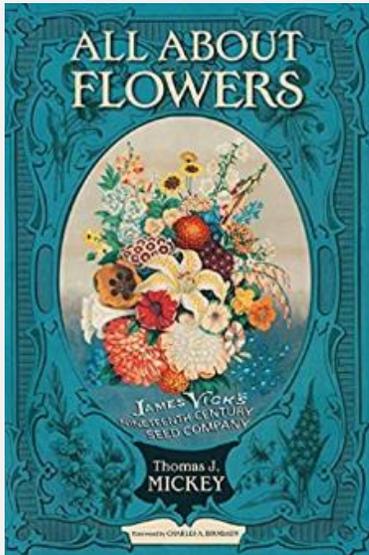
Five years after moving to Harvard Arly joined the club and immediately became recording secretary. Three years later she was the co-chair of programs; then she headed up hospitality. After a short break from holding an office, in 2005 she became corresponding secretary. That's the position in which I knew her. Arly was perfectly suited for the role because of her genuine concern for people and for always putting others before herself.

As she got older, she became quite stooped and used a cane, but she never complained and wanted to get around on her own. When she had a board meeting at her home, she was always gracious and usually refused offers of help. Arly had moved here from Acton and she remained a member of that club as well as ours. We used to joke that she was our spy and would keep us informed on the goings-on there. It was impossible not to feel a fondness for Arly, to admire her cheerfulness, and respect her independent spirit.

Carlene Phillips

Zoom

Victorian Flowers Still the Favorite



On November 30 at 9:30 am

Program: "Victorian Flowers - Still the Favorite"

This talk is based on his new book.

Speaker: Thomas Mickey

December 7 program: Holiday Greens

The club gathers each year to make baskets of greens for shut-ins and arrangements for themselves.

The Greens Workshop Committee will meet outside the Harvard General Store on Monday, December 7th from 9:30AM-12PM to make arrangements for home bound seniors who could benefit from some holiday cheer. To comply with the Governor's mandate of ten people gathering at one time, we have to limit participants so have invited some of the members who indicated they wanted to help with this activity on their membership form to make and deliver the arrangements this year.

There will be a tarp set out for all members to donate/exchange greens near the picnic tables at the General Store during the same timeframe. Please wear a mask and maintain social distancing if you plan to join us.

We will only have dry oasis for sale. If the weather is inclement, we will meet the following day, Tuesday December 8th at the same time.

We hope you will all stop by to share your greens, as greens from your gardens help make the arrangements so special, AND it will be nice to say hello from a safe distance, even if we can't gather as we usually do.

Have a happy Thanksgiving, Deb Dowson & Denyse Cox



Pollination: Birds, Bees, Flowers and Seeds October 26, 2020 by Judith Sumner

Plants Go to War
A Botanical History of World War II
Judith Sumner
June 2019
McFarland

- War gardens, victory gardens
- Agriculture, crops, land armies
- Rationing, food preservation
- Civilian diets, military rations
- Vitamins
- Medicinal plants, malaria, typhus
- Timber and forestry
- Paper, Japanese balloon bombs
- Combat habitats, bombing and vegetation
- Coal mining
- Fibers, cotton, hemp, cloth from wood
- Rubber, resins, and oils
- Survival, camouflage
- German botany, herbalism, Lebensraum, agriculture
- Botanical collecting and discoveries
- Botanical gardens at war
- Vegetation after bombing, Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the war

Native plants and nativars



- Cultivated varieties of native plants
- Selection and hybridization
- May differ in color, scent, the shape or number of flowers and petals, phenology, foliage color; research needed to learn how these plants fit in to ecosystems—growth rate, attraction of pollinators
- Sharing genes/alleles with local populations??

Seed Saving

- store dry and cool, away from rodents
- vernalization?
- possible hybridization?



Pollinator Gardening

- Plant native and/or single-flowered non-native varieties
- Plant in masses
- Avoid pesticides



Pollination: Birds, Bees, Flowers, and Seeds

Judith Sumner



Some crops pollinated by bees³

Alfalfa
Apple
Almond
Artichoke
Asparagus
Blackberry
Blueberry
Broccoli
Brussels sprouts

Cabbage
Cacao
Cantaloupe
Carrot
Cashew
Cauliflower
Celery
Cherry
Citrus
Dill
Eggplant/Aubergine
Fennel
Garlic

Kale
Kola nut
Leek
Lychee
Macadamia
Mango
Mustard
Nutmeg
Onion
Passion fruit
Peach
Pear
Plum
Pumpkin

Raspberry
Sapote
Squash
Sunflower
Tangerine
Tea
Watermelon



A chrysanthemum to remember Becky Shives.



In memory of Becky Shives, a beloved member of the Garden Club who died two years ago this month, the 2019 Plant Sale sold a limited number of the Becky Jane chrysanthemum.

This pink, hardy perennial was given to Becky by her good friend from church, Jane Knight, so Becky always called it the Becky Jane.

Becky's husband, Lindsay, told us it was one of her favorite plants among all those in her beautiful gardens. The club will continue to have divisions of Becky Jane at its plant sale and to take joy in knowing the plant will thrive in gardens throughout Harvard in Becky's memory and in tribute to friendship gardens.



Article: Carlene Phillips.

Picture: Marijke Vallaeyes, in Carlene's garden on October 30.

The other 'Becky Jane' comes from the camera of Kathy Hewett.

Remembering Shirley Boudreau



She always grew flowers better than vegetables but loved to come by and take what she wanted from the dining room table. Sometimes she took them for her art, more often to eat.

We miss that and her sense of humor that cheered us all.

(Article and picture Barbara Heim)

Civic Beautification

Info: Kathy Jackson



AnaMaria Nanra, Marijke Vallaey's and Kathy Jackson were enjoying beautiful fall weather while creating huge heaps of acorns and oak leaves.

Thank you notes from Mark Mikitarian and Cary Browse :

"Thank you Garden Club for the fall cleanup!"

"Thank you Harvard Garden Club, on behalf of Fivesparks!"

Book Club

Info: Helen Jean Berry

Helen Jean looks forward to the possibility of bringing a book club group together for our garden club!

Books will be based on the love of gardening and our first selection was “Animal, Vegetable, Miracle – A year of Food Life” by Barbara Kingsolver.

Please contact Helen Jean at hberry@asrsd.org if you are interested in joining the book club.

Helen Jean will be setting up the book club Zoom meetings with members that join.
Next meeting will be in January.

Nature Trail Walks on Conservation Land

Info: Pam Durrant,pbdurrant@gmail.com



Willard Poitras Land (Denyse Cox)



Walk at Horse Meadows Knolls (Claudia Wesley)

Members find beauty close by and far away!



A Franciscan monastery in Washington DC on a visit in October. (Denyse Cox)



The view from Prospect Hill in Harvard (Denyse Cox)



This is patio water garden from Chanticleer Gardens, near Philadelphia. (Marty Green) who went there with Carlene in 2016



*Silly view of Mr Stripey tomatoes ripening in spare bedroom
view down Lovers Lane in September and last backyard color at 3 Elm St, during October snow (Kathy Hewett)*



Jessy's favorite view of Westward Orchards

Native witchhazel in Jessie Panek's garden.



*Chinese Lantern
Plant
at Tower Hill
(Mary Maxwell)*



*"I'm ready for my close-up, Mr.DeMille" and
a close-up of the same praying mantis in Kathy Hewett's
summer garden.*



From: The Garden Club of Harvard Want to know more about what's going on?



Theresa Ledoux updates “The Garden Club of Harvard”’s Facebook pages. She posted a picture of Schlumbergera cacti from the Old Farmers Almanac (Nov 5) and added:

“This is my Thanksgiving cactus after bringing it in from the front porch before the hard frost last week. It would be bigger, but was "trimmed" by our local squirrels and chipmunks. It was originally a tiny plant, bought at Trader Joe's years ago. Next to it are the rosemary plants also rescued from the frost. I'm hoping for the best this year, as I've had successes and failures trying to keep rosemary alive over the winter.

Click on “ Moving Forward” and discover our excellent HGC website, created by Betsy Howard.

Moving Forward: 2020

Over the years, the club has worked to maintain and enhance the beauty of our town, both in public and private spaces. Club members stay current with the times and provide service to the community (see [What We Do](#)). Our annual plant sale is still a place for treasures and is the club's major fundraiser. Our monthly meetings feature varied and interesting programs. Conservation remains a priority for us.



Our President, MaryAnn Piasecki

Officers for 2020-2021

President MaryAnn Piasecki, 978-844-1958
Vice President Jessie Panek, 978-430-2238
Recording Secretary Abby Besse 978-456-3025
Treasurer Pauline Carroll, 978-456-8837

Committee Chairs

Corresponding Secretary Stephanie Hooper
Historian Carlene Phillips
Hospitality Carol Hartman
Membership AnaMaria Nanra
Newsletter Marijke Vallaeyes
Nominating Margaret Murphy & Janice Rusiecki
Programs Theresa Ledoux, Maria Walton & Janice Rusiecki
Publicity Marty Green

Projects

Annual Luncheon Maria Day
Civic Beautification Kathy Jackson Garden
Therapy Mary Maxwell
Garden Tour Suzan Osborn & Carlene Phillips
Graduation Flowers Jessie Panek
Holiday Greens Workshop Deborah Dowson & Denyse Cox
Horticulture Connie Grabow
Library Books Joanne Williamson & Helen Berry
Library and Meeting Flowers Kathleen Turnbull
Nature Trails Pam Durrant
Plant Sale Abby Besse & Mary Jane Ellison
Webmaster Betsy Howard
Yearbook Marijke Vallaeyes
Bloom N Art Marijke Vallaeyes & AnaMaria Nanra