

# The Community Garden Club of Cohasset



February 2019 Edition

## President's Message

Here it is, midday Saturday and a balmy 38 degrees! It's hard to believe that just four days ago we had to cancel our monthly meeting, because of frigid temperatures that had completely iced over the Lightkeeper's Cottage! Today there is not a remnant of ice or snow to be seen. But, let's admit it, we love living in New England, don't we?

Our ever-changing weather keeps us on our toes and, as gardeners, always keeps us challenged.

I look forward to seeing you during this wonderful month of February at Junior Gardeners, Garden Therapy, Senior Gardening at the Willcutt Center and, of course, our craft workshop ♥

Stay well and stay warm.

*Sue Reagan*



## February Calendar of Events

- 5 Executive Board Meeting:** Lightkeeper's Cottage, 9:30 a.m. Hostesses: Carol Groebel, Judy Dickstein, Mary Eisenhaure
- 7 Senior Center:** Willcut Commons, 91 Sohier St., 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. "Celebrate Winter"
- 12 Craft Workshop:** Lightkeeper's cottage, 9:30 a.m.
- 13 Garden Therapy:** Harborview Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, 2:00-3:00 p.m. "Hearts and Flowers"
- 19 Flower Design Workshop:** Lightkeeper's Cottage, 10:00 a.m. "Flower Design with Cynthia"
- 20 Tower Hill Fieldtrip:** Visit the indoor tropical garden called L'orangerie. Have lunch in their lovely restaurant with scenic views of Mt. Wachusett and visit their Garden Shop. Please contact Gretchen Sheets if you are interested or if you can drive. 339-235-0389
- 26 General Meeting:** Second Congregational Church, 43 Highland Ave; Coffee, 9:00 a.m.; Meeting, 9:30 a.m. **Flower Arrangement:** Ann Helbock **Hostesses** (Food, Set-up, Clean-up): K. Gray, A. Ferreira, M. Gjestby, A. Moody, C. Meers, D. Abbadessa, T. Kasperowicz **Program:** "Learning to Look-The Art of Garden Observation" Pat Webster will use her photos from gardens in Europe and N. America to help us see our gardens and to figure out what works and what doesn't.
- 28 Junior Gardeners:** Deer Hill School Cafeteria, 2:40-3:40 p.m. "Edible Arrangements"

*~Plan Ahead~*

**Saturday, May 18: Annual Plant Sale** contact Judy Dickstein  
**Thursday, December 5: Yuletide House Tour** contact Kelly Conetta

# *The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.*

April 11 & 12, 2019: Gardening Study School, course 2 Series 11  
Tower Hill Botanical Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA 01505  
Go to [gcfm.org](http://gcfm.org) to register.

## **Yuletide House Tour Preparations in Motion**

Yuletide 2019 will be on Thursday, December 5th. Preparations are beginning to take shape thanks to several members who have agreed to taking on important assignments. Yuletide is our major fundraiser. It requires participation of all the club members in whatever capacity you feel comfortable. The club needs your time and talent.

Craft workshops have already begun. We need help selling tickets and ads, hanging posters, hostessing, decorating houses, preparing food, helping with the marketplace and so much more. If there is a particular area in which you feel you would like to share your talent, **please contact Kelly Conetta by phone or e-mail.** We're looking forward to another successful Yuletide!

Thank you, *Kelly Conetta*



## **Sites to Explore On the Web**

There is so much information on the web. The following web sites relate to gardening and classes available to us:

- \* [www.MassHort.org](http://www.MassHort.org) Massachusetts Horticultural Society, The Gardens at Elm Bank
- \* [www.gcfm.org](http://www.gcfm.org) The Garden Club Federation of MA Inc.
- \* [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org) The Garden Conservancy
- \* [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) Arbor Day Foundation

Kelly Conetta suggests these on-line newsletters:

- \* [gardendesign.com](http://gardendesign.com) *Garden Design Magazine*
- \* [gardenclubbackbay.org](http://gardenclubbackbay.org) Garden Club of the Back Bay
- \* [avantgardensne.com](http://avantgardensne.com) Avant Gardens, Dartmouth, MA
- \* [awaytogarden.com](http://awaytogarden.com) *A Way To Garden* by Margaret Roach



## Conservation Corner

On these cold winter days I often like to reflect on warm summer days gone by and those yet to come. While walking on a beach in Washington State's beautiful Olympic National Park last summer, I saw a sign that really blew me away. I felt compelled to photograph it for future reference and want to share its contents with you. On it were pinned various items with a timeline for their decomposition.

Here's the information it contained:

A piece of paper:	2-4 months
Orange peel:	6 months
Wool sock:	6 months
Waxed paper cup:	5 years
Cigarette filter:	10-12 years
Disposable diaper:	10-20 years
Leather shoe:	25-40 years
Nylon fabric:	30-40 years
Sneaker sole:	50-80 years
Tin can:	80-100 years
Aluminum can:	200-400 years
Six-pack ring:	450 years
Glass bottle:	1 million years
Plastic bottle:	Indefinite
Monofilament line:	Indefinite
Styrofoam:	Indefinite

This chart reinforced for me how critical it is for us to make good choices every day in all the items we use and how important it is for us to follow the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" mantra for leading a sustainable lifestyle. Do we really need all the stuff we have to bring us joy in life? Is there an alternative item that might be more sustainable? Perhaps the "less is more" philosophy and a bit of Marie Kondoing (decluttering) might lead us on a better path to fulfillment. A raised consciousness in our buying might make us feel really good about our ourselves and our commitment to the environment.

Let's try it together!

*Susan Sardina*

### Junior Gardeners at Deer Hill School



The Junior Gardeners made bird feeders from seed coated bread pieces , cheerios on a pipe cleaner, and seeds in a cup- perfect for the cold snap that approached that week.

Thank you to Cam Chamberlain, Dana Roberts, Kate Farrington, Marlene Tabor, Kathy Gray, Carol Groebel, and Barbara Canney.



## Seed Starting for the Plant Sale coming up May 18

Welcome to February. Although the shortest month of the year, it often seems as though it will never end. To combat the cabin fever with which many gardeners are afflicted, I recommend a good seed catalog and the possibilities found there. And once selections are made, start some of the seeds and watch them grow. All you need is a pot, some sterile starting soil, and water: later, when signs of germination appear, you'll need a sunny window or some artificial light. Some seeds (especially perennials) require more time for germination than others, so the following starting guide may be helpful. This is just a small list of the possible seeds available for your tender care.

Counting back from our projected "last frost date" of May 15th:

11 weeks: heliotrope, candytuft, leek, viola, snapdragon

10 weeks: delphinium, onion, parsley, Greek oregano, impatiens, rudbeckia, broccoli

9 weeks: pepper, coleus, shallot, eggplant, cherry tomato

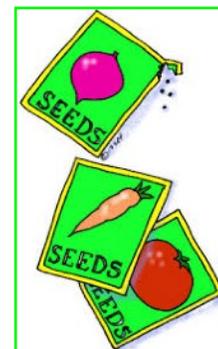
8 weeks: tomato, alyssum, cleome, salvia,

7 weeks: ageratum, zinnia, lettuce, radicchio

6 weeks: bachelor's buttons, agastache, aster, basil, marigold, sweet pea, calendula

5 weeks: cabbage, nicotiana, phlox,

4 weeks: morning glory, nasturtium, melon, cucumber squash



If my seeds aren't fresh, I always pre-germinate them in a moist paper towel inserted in a plastic baggie. Some seeds require a period of cold stratification prior to being able to germinate. If in doubt, take to the internet or library to determine what the needs of your individual seeds are. Above all, have fun.

*Judy Dickstein*



Bring the outside in for a burst of Spring! Trim your forsythia bush and put the cuttings in a vase.

## FEBRUARY GARDENING TIP

Crazy witchcraft -- or witch hazel shrubs? In the depths of winter, they brighten a New England landscape as few things will until spring arrives; and on warm winter days they even manage to attract insects, assuring the disheartened gardener that spring will come.

- Hamamelis mollis (Chinese witch hazel) offers a long bloom period starting in January and has large yellow flowers; but it has little fragrance.
- H. japonica (Japanese witch hazel) blooms in February and March with fragrant flowers.
- H. intermedia offers long-lasting flowers with moderate fragrance.
- Our native H. virginiana blooms in the fall with fragrant, rust-colored flowers.
- Another native, H. vernalis blooms in early spring, holding its blossoms over a long period, and covers itself in reddish purple leaves for a fall display.

Plan now to plant witch hazels this spring.

Article from "The Dirt" MMGA newsletter



- Early-blooming H. mollis (8)

## Garden Therapy at Harborview Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation



This month the residents made "Windy Wintertime" arrangements. Garden club members above: L to R: Ann Helbock, Denise Botts, Sue Reagan, Judy Nowak, Whit Leffel, Jeanne Boutross and Sheila Toomey.

## Craft Workshop



Come join the fun at the Craft Workshops where we are making all sorts of wonderful items for the Yuletide Marketplace. Next one is February 12th at 9:30 at the Light - keeper's Cottage.

## Wilcutt Commons, Senior Center Flower Arranging "Windy Wintertime"



# Our Sister Club The Garden Club of Nagoya, Japan



CGCC  
353 South Main Street  
Cohasset, Ma 02025

