



Grapevine

March 2024

Volume 76 No. 7

Sudbury Garden Club

Plant so your own heart will grow ~ Hafiz ~

“March is a tomboy with tousled hair, a mischievous smile, mud on her shoes and a laugh in her voice.” — Hal Borland



GENERAL MEETING



Thursday, March 14; 10:00am
Goodnow Library

Floral Designs for Entertaining
Presented by Maureen Christmas

Who cares how the food tastes if the flowers look great! BBQ? Formal Dinner? Flowers can set the mood for your dinner party, cocktail party, and special occasions. Maureen will demonstrate arrangements for various get-togethers using eco-friendly techniques.

This is our joint meeting with the Thursday Garden Club at Goodnow Library. Everyone in the Sudbury Garden Club is expected to contribute to the refreshments. Please sign up [HERE](#) to help make this meeting a success. Please include what exactly you are bringing.

Please arrive to the library by 9:30 if you are bringing food or drink.

BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 27 9:00 am

Location: Lynn Noland's home, 129 Taylor Road, Marlborough



CLUB NEWS AND UPDATES

Library Flowers

- Monday 3/04 Judy Handley
- Monday 3/11 Cathy Manwaring
- Monday 3/18 Ann Boland
- Monday 3/25 Kathleen Sawyer



If you need to reschedule your date for providing flowers, please find someone to trade with you and let **Bonnie Parri**, the Library Chair know. **Please remember to pick up your container when your week is up.** Thank you!

Please remember to ask the Librarians for permission to go behind the desk if you need to use that sink to water your display.

Please also send a picture of your display to Heather Halsey at **halseyh@mac.com**. The pictures will be added to our website! However, and wherever you want to take the picture is fine, either at home, or at the library.

Abandoned!

Help! Please help me return home! I was left at the library...abandoned. Now my flowers are gone and I've been left alone. Don't you want me anymore?

Contact [Barbara Baumgardner](#), she is taking good care of the vases and would love to return them to their owners!



APB (All Points Bulletin)

Heather Halsey's lovely flower display that she brought to the library on the week of January 29th is missing. She had been sick the week after she brought the flowers and she was not able to pick up the flowers. When she went to pick up the flowers on February 21st, they and the container were nowhere to be found. If you had picked this up by accident or know where it is, please contact Heather! Heather is disappointed because the container was special.

Thank you!



Gathering of the Green Thumbs Lunch Date

Date: Friday, March 8 at **noon**

Location: Oak Barrel Tavern, 528 Boston Post Road, Sudbury

RSVP: Barbara Fay: 508-380-1607

Join us for lunch! This is a **fun** and great way to get together with old and new members of the club without having to do any gardening!



FAM (Fitchburg Art Museum) 26th Annual Art in Bloom

SGC has been invited to interpret an artwork. The date to select artwork is Friday, March 8 at 12pm and they are due by Wednesday, April 3 by 4pm.



If any one is interested in representing the club, email the [Co-Presidents](#).

Color Me Floral - Flower Bar

Walk into a flower bar, select your prettiest flowers, and voila a beautiful arrangement to behold in front of your eyes! Of course, you are the mixologist and designer of your own arrangement...and we will show you how in this workshop. We will select flowers with colors and textures that complement each other. In this workshop, we will be learning about a sustainable mechanic, OshunPouch. Each participant will design their own flower arrangement to usher in Spring and receive a second OshunPouch to create another arrangement at home.



Last day to enroll will be: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Here are the details:

Designers: Juju Lem Pang and Carol Shapanka

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Time: 10 am - 12 pm

Place: MCC

Fee: \$47.00 payment by PayPal; \$2.00 surcharge, \$45.00 by check.

Please make checks payable to SGC and note on the check that this payment is for the "Flower Bar Workshop". Please mail your check to Juju Lem Pang, 50 Ridge Hill Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776.

Thank you!

Juju Lem Pang and Carol Shapanka
Co Chairs, Color Me Floral Workshops

Gathering of the Green Thumbs Dinner Date

Date: Wednesday, March 20 - 6:00pm

Location: Bella Costa, 147 Cochituate Road, Framingham

RSVP: Marilyn Hodges: 617-548-7080



Earth Day, Town Center (indoors)

We would like to be involved in the Earth Day celebration at Town Center on Saturday, April 20th from 10 AM- 2PM. We would like to educate the community on some aspects of gardening, recruit new members and advertise the plant sale. We will work as a group to create some materials. We need your happy faces!



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4EAAAD2BABFA7-47642498-community#/>

Art in Bloom at the MFA

Juju and Carol are excited to create their challenging arrangement. A field trip to the museum is in the works for Friday, April 26.



Save the date!

Are you Creative?

The Sudbury Garden Club is planning on participating in a few local fairs/festivals/gatherings over the next months and years. We would like to create some display materials including eye catching posters as well as family friendly handouts, activities to help communicate our mission of promoting gardening, protecting birds, native plants and other natural resources and civic beautification and community outreach. And of course, we would love to recruit new members!



We would sincerely appreciate your help creating these materials! This will entail 1-2 meetings and a bit of research. Please reach out to Jo Ann & Juju at sgc.president76@gmail.com if you would like to help with this new initiative.

BIRDIE BITS



Homegrown National Parks

After the excellent presentation about Aurelia's Garden last month, I feel the challenge to do something more to help the environment and climate change in my own backyard. Even if I don't have time to volunteer for Aurelia's Garden, I know that I'm going to work in my own garden, and there is a lot that I can do to help attract insects, birds, and wildlife to my own yard. According to one of my favorite authors, Doug Tallamy, if each one of us works to make our own national park in our own yard, we can do a lot to change the world for the better.

Among other things, Tallamy, in his prize-winning book, *Nature's Best Hope*, advocates for more messy yards, leaving leaves under the tree's drip line for the insects that fall from the tree and need soft soil in which to lay eggs or tunnel underground. That sounds easy, but it's not! I usually clean up and maybe mulch under the trees, but leaves look like I haven't done my job as a homeowner. My neighbors have cut down half an acre of oak trees to make lawns. They are young and ambitious as I once was myself. Now that I'm older and maybe getting wiser, I'm happy to know that lawns are a desert to wildlife and that leaving leaves in our gardens as nutritious mulch is much better than adding wood chips. Best of all, it's a lot less work. The trick is to "see" the leaves as

what you want your yard to look like, and that takes some time, because all of us are accustomed to looking at very groomed green lawns as the "right" choice.

After telling my young neighbor that I am not a "lawn" person, I also got our yard certified as a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat. I hope that neighbors walking by will know that I'm intentionally NOT working on a green lawn, but that I haven't completely lost my senses. To get certified, I had to certify that we have native food, shelter, and water for wildlife. I think most of us have that in our yards to some extent. Putting the sign up drew more animals to the yard, or so I like to think! I had no idea animals could read, but a yellow-bellied sapsucker appeared at my feeder for only the second time in 49 years. Last week a pileated woodpecker fed on something in the oak near the mailbox, not caring that I was nearby. This past week an opossum appeared under the deck after leaving scat on the doormat (several times!) Clearly, this is his territory now. We've had large flocks of red winged blackbirds recently that included a rusty blackbird, a new species to our yard.

Every morning, I share my bird friendly Birds and Beans organic fair-trade coffee with the bluebirds that land on the sunroom screens looking in at me. One male bluebird is still quite deluded into thinking that his image is looking back at him and is a challenge to the bluebird neighborhood. Lately, we've been taking long looks at one another as I try to convey that the sunroom window reflection is really not a threat. If any of you have bluebirds this winter, I would encourage you to put up a bluebird house. One couple just might stay and enrich your life with baby bluebirds this Spring and Summer.

We have two large brush piles in a landscaped area that I used to keep pristine, picking up every branch that fell. Now I hope they harbor beneficial insects and help to hide some wildlife from the hawks. Last summer we seemed to have a better balance in our yard with the red foxes hunting squirrels and chipmunks all summer until we had only about 3 squirrels and probably 2 dozen chipmunks. I hope that the brush pile won't harbor a woodchuck. I can't bring myself to love that poor creature that eats my lady slippers, hostas, and almost anything else in its path!

My goal is to follow Doug Tallamy's directions to plant more native plants and more closely so that I don't need to buy mulch. He says that if there are too many leaves in your yard in the fall, that means that you don't yet have enough gardens! The "lawn" is getting smaller, and "lawn" means clover, violets, ajuga, dandelions, and wild strawberries. So far, sadly, I can't say that I see more butterflies and bees, but I remain optimistic that it may happen if I garden with more natives and leave the yard more to the whims of nature.

Happy Spring!
Karen and Marilyn

Photos from Marilyn's yard

The hellebores are in bloom now. I took a photo of the sign and brush piles that I mentioned in Birdie Bits. The bird feeders and heated bird bath are beside leaf mulch that covers my trilliums and spring blood roots.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH - VALENTINE FLOWERS

A few pictures from Community Outreach Committee. Our thanks to Diane Kaplan and Pat Drobinski for making it all possible and fun too!



PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

APRIL 2024 GRAPEVINE
MONDAY, MARCH 25



Editor
Ann Boland
Phone: 978.460.1132
E-mail: ann755@gmail.com

[SGC Website](#)

Keep in Touch!

