



Grapevine

March 2023

Volume 74 No. 7

Sudbury Garden Club

Flowers, Food, Friends, and Fun



"I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze."
- **William Wordsworth**, *Daffodils*

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, the 8th, 9:30 am
Memorial Congregational Church, Ames Hall
Joint Meeting with the Thursday Garden Club



Learning to Look: The Art of Garden Observation Presented by Patterson Webster

Looking for ways to take your garden up a notch? In this program, Patterson Webster suggests three simple steps to help you get the most out of a garden visit – and how to apply the ideas to your garden at home. You will discover:

- How to see what you look at.
- How to use photographs, garden journals, and notebooks to improve your garden design.
- How listening to your site and your plants can enhance the personality and character of your garden.

Until recently, Patterson Webster has led sold-out garden tours to England, Scotland, Wales, and Italy. She is a writer, visual artist, garden designer and speaker who lectures across Canada and the United States. She writes about the gardens she has toured throughout the world on her website, Glen Villa Art Garden, and in her memoir, *Autobiography of a Garden*. Her visual narratives reflect on the crossroads between art and landscape and explore how history and gardens color our view of the world. She holds a Master of Arts from Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec.

Setup and take down: Ann Boland, Coordinator. Barbara Baumgardner, Mike Hunter. Frances Shashoua

BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 22, 9:00 am

Location: Juju Lem Pang's Home, 50 Ridge Hill Road



CLUB NEWS AND UPDATES

Gathering of the Green Thumbs

- Date: Friday, March 3 at noon
- Location: The Local, 400 Boston Post Road, Wayland
- Please RSVP to Barbara Fay, 508-380-1607



Library Flowers

- Monday 3/6 Frances Gillespie
- Monday 3/13 Judy Handley
- Monday 3/20 Frances Shashoua
- Monday 3/27 Pat Drobinski



SGC Merchandise

Did you forget to order your Sudbury Garden Club merchandise?



We have extended the online store available from locally owned Graphic Connections. [Click here](#) if you would like to purchase anything. Store will close on **March 6**.

Dues Increase for 2023-2024

The Sudbury Garden Club Board has voted to raise the dues for members for the 2023-2024 year. We did not make this decision lightly, it was discussed over 2 meetings with many pros and cons brought forward. **See below** for an explanation of how we reached this decision.



The payment structure will be:

- \$50.00 Active Member
- \$65.00 Associate Member
- \$80.00 will remain for Supporting Member
- No dues raised for Family Members

Scholarships are available for those unable to pay the dues.

Please contact the President(s) for more information. sgc.president76@gmail.com

Awards and Grants Committee Seeks your Input

Our Awards & Grants committee is researching both funds and recognition that is available from the GCFM and other sources. If you have an idea for a future project or would like to help them get recognition for our club for a recently completed project, please email Leslie Lowe at leslie.lowe1776@gmail.com



Meals, Thank You!

A big thank you to the members who have been feeding us these many weeks every Tuesday and Thursday, tasty and thoughtful suppers. It is much appreciated when one has health issues which have been unexpected and I am getting adjusted too. Hopefully I will be on the mend after one more procedure end of February.



Thank you Sudbury Garden Club,
Lynn and Glenn Noland

Massachusetts Master Gardener Association

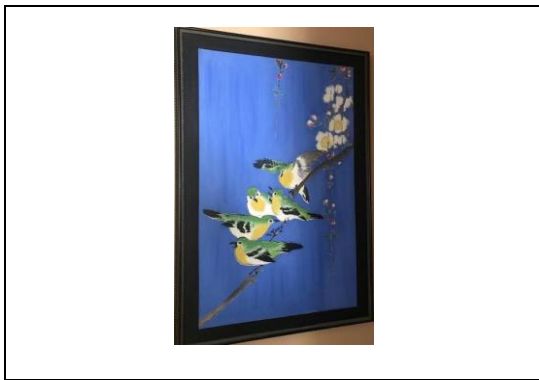
Check out this helpful website with resources for all gardeners. They also have a monthly email called The Dirt.
<https://www.massmastergardeners.org/home>



WORKSHOP/OUTREACH PHOTOS

February Color Me Floral Workshop

Here are some photos from the Color Me Floral workshop on February 1, led by Juju Lem-Pang and Carol Shapanka at MCC. We used the environmentally-friendly medium of AgraWool.



Community Outreach

The pretty Valentine arrangements were very much appreciated at Sudbury Pines and brought some joy and light to the recipients.

Thank you,
Diane and Pat





BIRDIE BITS

Heated Bird Baths

On February 4th while walking downstairs, I noticed a little Chickadee skating rather than drinking at the bird bath. Within a few hours I was able to remove the ice and add fresh water after adjusting the plug. In winter when all the natural sources of water are frozen, it can be very difficult for songbirds to find water to drink and keep their feathers clean.



Many songbirds need to drink water every day as they lose water daily through droppings, and they would quickly become dehydrated without replenishment. Birds also need the water to bath and keep their feathers clean. Keeping the feathers clean is vital to a bird's ability to stay warm. Birds puff up their feathers when the temperature drops and fluffing the feathers help insulate against the cold by adding layers of air around their bodies. To maintain these layers, a bird's feathers must be clean and healthy. Just a fraction of an inch of this insulation can help birds maintain a body temperature of 100 degrees or more in frigid temperatures. A Cardinal's normal body temperature is 106 degrees and a Chickadee's around 108 degrees.

Marilyn and I have often mentioned how important it is to have a heated bird bath available near your feeders. It is so entertaining to watch a bird taking a bath when the snow is falling. I watch the birds coming and going all day at the bath to drink and bathe. Interesting how they take turns. You will not be disappointed if you invest in a heated bird bath, and the birds will be very happy.

Marilyn and Karen

APRIL HAPPENINGS



April is Membership Renewal Month

We are trying something different this year, the month of April is now Membership Renewal Month. Instead of starting the renewal process later in April into May, we are hoping everyone will renew between April 1st-April 30th. The month of May is taken up with the Plant Sale and in June, members are thinking of their summer vacations. April renewals help us to know how many members have renewed before working on the budget and to finalize Committees earlier. Last year, the Yearbook Committee, Co-Vice Presidents, Flower and Hospitality Chairs spent too much of their summers working on the Yearbook. Renew in April so we can all have more fun in the sun!!



More information to come from your Membership Committee!

LS Adult Ed. Class offered by Jo Ann

Members can officially sign up for this class or email joann.forester@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer to be an assistant. Below is the description from the LS Adult Education brochure.

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, 7:00-8:30 am
Join Sudbury Garden Club Co-President Jo Ann Forester and other SGC members to try your hand at flower arranging with a twist... Make a creative arrangement for yourself and a few for neighbors in need! Brighten the day of some of Sudbury's senior citizens with these colorful arrangements. Learn elements of floral design as well as how to care for an arrangement to achieve long-lasting freshness. Come as you are, bring some clippers or scissors, and leave with a small floral design to brighten your home and a happy heart knowing you have made several arrangements to be delivered in town by the Sudbury Garden Club in partnership with Meals on Wheels.

Participants may be entered to win a free plant from the SGC spring sale <https://lsrhs.ce.elevo.com/>

FROM OUR FRIENDS

Engaging Youth and Ourselves in the Spheres of Nature and Gardening with John Forti

Sunday, March 5 @ 2PM at The Groton Center - 163 West Main St. Groton, MA 01450

Please join the Groton Garden Club for our **FREE** annual lecture. We will be looking at how you can make a difference in the lives of children while strengthening family ties AND habitat.

Author John Forti draws on his lifelong experiences as director for Plimoth Plantation Museum, Strawberry Bank Museum, Mass Horticultural Society, Bedrock Gardens, and the local food movement. He will also share stories from his book *The Heirloom Gardener: Traditional Plants and Skills for the Modern World*. This presentation provides inspirational practices we can use to engage kids, and plants we can grow to restore our own engagement with the natural world.

Books will be available for \$27.50, cash or check.

The Groton Garden Club is partnering with the Groton Public Library for Groton Reads and Gardens with programs throughout March. Visit www.gpl.org for more information. The Groton Channel will be providing a live stream on the day of the event.

This free lecture is made possible by a grant from the Groton Commissioners of Trusts Lecture Fund.

- [Sign up for the GPL registration for Lecture here.](#) Space is limited.
- [Link to Groton Channel for Live Stream here.](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email. Feel free to share the lecture information with friends and Garden Club members. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there.

The Groton Garden Club, Groton, MA www.grotongardenclub.org

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

**APRIL 2023 GRAPEVINE
MONDAY MARCH 27**



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Keep in Touch!



DUES INCREASE

The Sudbury Garden Club Board has voted to raise the dues for members for the 2023-2024 year. We did not make this decision lightly, it was discussed over 2 meetings with many pros and cons brought forward. Below are some of the factors that brought us to this decision:

Budget

We put forth a balanced budget meaning projected plant sale revenue plus membership dues equals our budget

- The projected 2023-2024 budget is about \$11,000 (to be presented to membership at Annual meeting on June 14)
- It is good practice to have at least 2 years' budget in reserves. We have a projected balance of \$25,000
- We cannot plan on the plant sale always generating a \$7000+ profit
- We have not increased the dues in 10 years

Club activities (Growth and expansion in the past 10 yrs)

- Membership has grown
- Our Community Outreach program assembles over 150 arrangements for local nursing homes and Meals on Wheels. The cost of materials, including flowers and oasis, has increased. This is a relatively new community-wide program.
- Our Civic Beautification committee works on an increased number of public gardens and containers. Though many of the plants used by our Civic Beautification Committee are donated, our other costs, including tools, hoses, soil, fertilizer, etc., have increased.
- Our Color Me Floral workshops have been attended by many members and have generated renewed interest in the Club participating in Flower Shows. Though attendees pay most of the fees, the club subsidizes a small amount. These workshops are also taught by SGC members, saving instructor costs.
- The cost of items associated with the plant sale has risen including soil, signs and the plants we buy from Brighams, Cavicchio's and Bartlett's.
- The price of flowers has increased 25-50%.
- The cost of our required insurance went up in 2023. ● The cost of speakers has increased. The cost of our required insurance went up in 2023
- We have increased interest in participating in Flower Shows amongst our membership
- In addition to sending cards, our Sunshine committee funds Memorial donations in honor of deceased members, (\$100 for a member and \$50 for family member)
- As another way of providing community support, the Scholarship Committee has expressed an interest in giving additional scholarships (\$2000 budgeted for 2023).

- Costs associated with the Holiday Brunch and Annual meeting have increased including food and paper products. Fortunately, we are currently saving on venue fees by holding events at the Memorial Congregational Church versus more costly venues.

Solution

The payment structure will be:

- \$50.00 Active member
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- \$80.00 will remain for Supporting member
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Scholarships are available for those unable to pay the dues. Please contact the President(s) for more information. sgc.president76@gmail.com

We, the Sudbury Garden Club board, take our volunteer job very seriously and strive to make the Sudbury Garden Club a quality organization worth every penny of your dues. We work hard to make responsible economic decisions while understanding that there are additional expenses and responsibilities associated with membership. We hope you consider this a valuable organization and that you benefit from both the community and civic contributions we make as well as personally enjoying and learning from all of our events. Please reach out with questions, comments, and concerns; sgc.president76@gmail.com. Jo Ann and Patti are also happy to talk to members.