

OVER 130 YEARS OF MAKING LEXINGTON MORE BEAUTIFUL

Lexington Field & Garden Club



My Dear Fellow Members,

Can it really be two years gone already? So the calendar says and this will be my last newsletter. I would like to thank all of you who have been so supportive and complimentary of my efforts. My apologies to those committees and sub-groups who I failed to visit during my term. I tried to focus my energy on changes and projects I felt would most help the Club, and while I'm a social kind of person, I can only stand so many meetings, get-togethers, and such before I become, well, less social.

I must give my Executive Board credit and great thanks for always being there for counsel and acting as my biggest fans. They never refused a request, and went out of their way to help me in any way I asked. I truly would not have had the smooth term I did without their constant support.

And, I would like to thank all of you who have volunteered your time and effort during these two years. There is no way a President and Executive Board can make the Club successful without membership participation. This brings me to a pesky issue that has bothered me since I first joined, why are those who are not active, not?

My estimate is that about one-third of the club gets involved in yearly events, attends meetings and volunteers when asked, and my observations have confirmed this. I don't want to harp on this issue, and I certainly am not talking to those who've given many hardworking years to the club and are now entitled to watch and see how this generation of Club members do. I just wonder why people join, come to the new member social and seem so enthusiastic at first, and then fade away. This year especially, since our Membership Co-chairs have worked so hard instituting outreach measures to try to get new members to be greeters, help at the Membership table and with Hospitality. We've decided we really don't want to set requirements in this Club, but it is hard on the members who constantly step up to work at events and on Committees. Once I'm back to being just another member, I hope some of you who have been reticent about participating will tell me-are we doing something wrong?

Regardless, I know we are a very active Club and have contributed a great deal to the town for over 134 years, in fact. Our traffic Islands are remarkable for their beauty. Emery Park, Cary Library, the Minuteman Statue plantings, the Museum grounds and Atrium are all sites we can be proud of. But there are also the Colonial Flowers and Wildflower gardens at Munroe, the Herb garden that will be replanted at Hancock-Clark, and the recent work that has begun on the Mary garden at St. Brigid's in gratitude for the meeting space they have given us. But wait, there's more!! The Civic Improvement Committee's yearly Arbor Day ceremony is a big event to plan and honors

General Meeting
May 12th
"Our Growing Years"
 By Marge O'Keefe and Kris Burton featuring Club Members
 9:30 AM Refreshments
 10:00 AM Annual Meeting
Farr Room at the Museum
 12:30 PM Annual Luncheon to Follow
 (See inside)

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our past members in a very inspiring way. The scholarship award that Althea Phillips wanted the Club to provide has now become a yearly event implemented by those in the Club who saw what a great idea it was to promote the love of environmental care in future generations. And what about the Plant Sale, the Greens Sale, our Garden Tour, Art-A-Blooming, and Holiday Decorations at the Museum? What about the generous members who make up the committees for Communications, Horticulture, Hospitality, Conservation and Nominating? We have members who manage our archives, web page, various properties, create arrangements for Art In Bloom, and keep track of our by-laws and policies, write job descriptions and advise the President on financial matters. Their names appear on pages 6-9 of the Yearbook. Oh, and I forgot about those who help to edit and compose that Yearbook every summer. I thank them all, and they deserve your thanks too. And what better way to thank them then to call those Chairs and ask if there is some way you can help?

Nothing I've done as President for these two years can match the contribution that you as a member can make by joining us-I mean *really joining us*. Honestly, being part of this club has been among the most rewarding experiences I've had, and I am grateful to you for the lessons I have learned and the blessings I have received as a result. As time goes by, may your thumb get greener and your back get stronger! Love and blessings to you all.

Kate

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**“Our Growing Years”
Attention Members!!!**

“Our Growing Years” by Marge O’Keefe and Kris Burton, will be presented by some of our members, at 10:30 AM, in the Farr Room. The skit, **open to all members**, consists of a lighthearted history of the first 75 years of our club. Did you know that in 1875, Ulysses S. Grant, then President of the United States of America, visited Lexington? He came to help commemorate the Battle of Lexington in 1775. The residents called a meeting to clean up the Battle Green and the Depot Area. Out of this group came our Field and Garden Club.



The “Mad Hatter’s Luncheon” follows ½ hour after the program finishes, around 12:30. in the Farr Room at the Museum. If you want to attend the Luncheon after the program, you must make reservations with Priscilla McDewell by May 1st for \$15.00.

Looking for Great Gardens!

We will have our bi-annual Garden Tour next June, and need suggestions of gardens you feel that our committee should view while in bloom this year. Please call Ann Webster with addresses or phone numbers for gardens you admire and would like to see on the tour in 2011.

Thanks for your help!

Tree Committee



LF&GC

The Tree Committee has given our Club a gift of three Gold Crabapple Trees in thanks for our past contributions for town trees. One will be planted on the Hancock/Revere Street Traffic Island, one on the Massachusetts Ave. side of the National Heritage Museum, and one at Emery Park. Thank you Tree Committee, we can’t wait to see them in bloom next spring!



**Horticulture Tour of Bedrock Farm Gardens
Tuesday, June 15**

Bedrock Farms, a 30-acre garden in Lee, NH is known for its innovative landscape design, horticulture and sculpture. The beds include many unusual specimens of perennials, trees and shrubs. Special elements include, water features, a spiral garden, a parterre formal garden with pool and, a half-acre ornamental grass "painting." Owner Jill Nooney has been called, "the most imaginative and energetic force in modern American garden ornamentation." Lee is near Durham/UNH. We'll carpool, leaving at 9:00 am. After visiting the gardens, we'll lunch at a nearby restaurant.

The gardens are open to the public only a few days a year. Our visit is by special appointment. The admission fee is \$15. Sign up at the May main club meeting or by contacting Sandra Natale at sandra.natale@rcn.com or 781-861-8066.

**Help Us Win the Native Tree Planting
Contest**

If you have planted a native tree on you property, a public space or in cooperation with a school or civic group since Nov., 2009, you can help us win a contest sponsored by the Garden Club Federation of Mass. The contest runs until April 30, 2011, so please let Jewel Kuljian know about any trees you’ve planted within this time-frame. Our Club will win a prize of \$200., but more importantly, besides Lexington being first in liberty, we can be first in LIBER-TREE! HA!



Dues are Due!

If you’re reading this and you haven’t yet paid your dues-you’re OVERDUE! You need to bring a check over to Mei Shei, our Membership Co-Chair **PRONTO**. Otherwise, you will see your name listed amongst those who have not paid in the special letter we are mailing to all members the week of May 5th. There will be no further calls to remind you. If you still don’t pay by May 15th, you will not appear in next year’s Yearbook. I am sorry for the rash measures, but the kindness approach did not seem to be working out.



Annual Plant Sale Wednesday, May 19, 8AM to 1PM
Let's Make This the Best Ever!!

My dears, I ask all of you to help in whatever way you can for the plant sale. Here are samples of tasks that need to be done: bringing plants to Jessie's, potting up plants, transporting plants to the Museum, setting up and breaking down the site. There will be sign-up sheets at the May meeting if you have not yet committed, or you can call or email Jessie, the Plant Sale Chair, to sign up. Jessie Foster: Foster863@rcn.com

I sent a copy of the flyers to all of you who have email, and I will bring more to the May meeting. Please post them in your car windows, bring them to your place of work or worship, and email them to your friends. We need everyone's help in getting the word out about the Sale.

If you plan to pot your own plants please refer to the directions in last month's Newsletter. Ready-potted plants must be brought to Jessie's home by Friday, May 14th, so they can be priced and labeled before being brought to the Museum.

PLANTS THAT NEED POTTING: We will be potting up plants on the days listed below. Please bring your plants to Jessie's (6 Coach Road) just before a potting session. When dropping your plants off, please be sure to attach the: **name (common and Latin if you know it), color, bloom time, conditions (sun, part-shade, shade)**. The success of the Sale depends on us offering a wide variety of good quality plants to our customers.

HOUSE PLANTS will be for sale again this year. Please bring your houseplants, especially unusual varieties, to *Harriet Hathaway's glassed-in porch, 66 North Street, 781-862-2977*. Please include a card with each plant giving its name and the care you suggest.

GENTLY-USED TOOLS- Do you have unwanted or surplus garden tools? Harriet will also collect these for the Plant Sale. They too may be dropped off at her porch. (No baskets, please.) Any questions, call **Harriet**.

POTTING DAYS are a fun opportunity where you can learn about dividing and potting plants or share your knowledge with those less experienced. We need volunteers to dig and collect plants from people's gardens, pot plants, groom already potted plants, and water plants. Here are the rest of the Potting days in May. Come out and join the fun at **Jessie Foster's home, 6 Coach Road**.

Be sure to bring clippers, a knife, small saw, trowel and gloves. We could also use 6-inch and 2-quart pots.

Saturday	May 1 st	12:00 – 2:30 PM
Tuesday	May 4 th	9:30 – 12:00 PM
Friday	May 7 th	9:30 – 12:00 PM

SEE YOU THERE! Kate

Society Benefits for LF&GC Members

Some of the organizations we support offer free admission and assorted discounts to our members--outlined below. **To take advantage of these benefits, you must borrow the Club's membership card or obtain special certificates we have received.** Please contact Ann Webster or Sue Hays to do so. Membership cards may be reserved in advance and must be returned promptly.

Tower Hill (Worcester County Horticultural Society) towerhillbg.org 508-869-6111

We have two membership cards. Each card provides:

Free admission to Tower Hill for two people and a 10% discount at the gift shop Discounts at participating nurseries. We also are entitled to discounted rates (approx. 10%) for WCHS classes, tours, and workshops, for up to four LFGC members/program.

Garden in the Woods (New England Wildflower Society) newfs.org 508-877-7630

We have four membership cards, each of which provides free admission for one person. We also have 5 certificates for discounted rates (approx. 15%) on NEWS courses. Preregistration is required.

Massachusetts Audubon Society massaudubon.org 781-259-9661

We have a supply of free family admission passes through June 2010 (not valid for special fundraising events).

What's Going On ?

Events and Happening to Mark On Your Calendar

May 1st, and June 5th, first Saturdays of the month, LexFarm offers tours of the Busa property the town has purchased 12:45-2PM. Limited to 20 people. Register at Lexfarm.org or email for info at info@lexfarm.org

May, Minuteman High School Plant Sales. Mother's Day Sale, May 6th and 7th, Plant Sale days May 17th-28th. Both at 10:30-2pm at the Main School Entrance. 781-861-6500 x239.

May 12th, Annual Meeting, featuring the presentation of "Our Growing Years" by Marge O'Keefe and Kris Burton, dedicated to the memory of member Marge O'Keefe.

May 12th, Annual Luncheon at 12:30 with reservation of \$15.00 made by May 1st. Call Priscilla McDewell, 781-862-6584.

May 18th, Tuesday, setup for the Plant Sale. 2:30 at Jessie's to pick up tables. 3:00 to transport plants from Jessie's house at 6 Coach Road to the Museum. PLEASE, WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!

May 19th, Wednesday, 7:00 AM Final preparation for Plant Sale, 8 AM – 1 PM. Teardown help needed at 1PM.

June 15th, Tuesday, Horticultural Tour to Bedrock Farms. Call Sandra Natale for more info.



April 30th, Club dues are due.

See inside for POTING DAY DATES IN MAY.



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