

# Westborough Garden Club Programs 2025-2026





## *Westborough Garden Club*

Ninety-three years ago, the Westborough Garden Club was founded by Mrs. Kenneth Craig. The Club has seen many changes over the years, but our commitment to community beautification, education and scholarship has been consistent. It is the contributions of each member that makes the club successful. We need every member to participate to the best of their ability to keep our club going strong.

The Westborough Garden Club generally meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Westborough Senior Center, 4 Rogers Road, in Westborough. Our meetings typically start with social time at 6:30 pm; at 6:45 the business meeting begins; and at 7:00-7:15, we start our scheduled program. Meetings are open to the public where noted.

Executive Board meetings are generally held on the second Wednesday of the month. Members are always welcome. If you wish to attend a meeting, please contact an Executive Board member.

The Westborough Garden Club maintains a membership to the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill. There are 2 membership cards (each good for 2 members) that may be borrowed by garden club members for free general admission. Please contact Gina if you wish to use them.



Proud member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

## *Co-Presidents' Message*

Welcome to our 93<sup>rd</sup> year of collaborative gardening! This year we will continue our efforts to optimize the member experience and fulfill the club's mission. After trying October last year the fall potluck dinner will move back to September as that seemed a better fit. The Holiday Festival will remain on Thursday night but be modified to a simpler format, and we will again focus on creativity as opposed to quantity for our holiday greens arrangements. For the spring plant sale we will continue to stress greater plant diversity in our offerings. In addition to a variety of speaker programs, the most popular activities will continue to be emphasized including field trips and garden visitations.

Last year we tested out a school grant program that was highly successful, with eleven grants awarded for a variety of projects such as pollinator gardens and a nature trail. The grant program will continue this year in conjunction with our traditional scholarship program.

*Happy Gardening to all!*

-Glenn Hong and Robin Fleming





## ***2025-2026 Executive Board***

Co-Presidents: Robin Fleming and Glenn Hong

Past President: Leslie Buffo

Treasurer: Radhika Chintapalli

Assistant Treasurer: Carrie Bourke

Recording Secretary: Gina Hoeffler

Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Carleton

Membership: Suzanne McCullough

Member at Large: Ted Kolota



## ***Committee Chairs***

Community Beautification: Karen Kinnard, Maureen Johnson

Hospitality: Laurie Carleton, Hanli Lipke, Suzanne McCullough

Field Trips/Garden Tours: Suzanne McCullough

Nominating Committee: Leslie Buffo, Robin Fleming, Glenn Hong

Publicity: Ted Kolota

Programs: Robin Fleming, Julia O'Neil Welch

Scholarships and Grants: Karen Kinnard, Hanli Lipke, Glenn Hong

## Our Purpose

- ❖ To educate the public about gardening and horticulture.
- ❖ To develop and encourage community spirit by promoting interest and involvement in the community's beautification.
- ❖ To promote ecosystem preservation through public education and the planting of native species.
- ❖ To provide scholarship assistance to worthy students pursuing a course of study in horticulture, ecology, or environmental science.
- ❖ To provide grant assistance to Westborough public schools or affiliated organizations for horticulture-related projects.



## *The 2025-2026 Calendar Year at a Glance:*

<b>Wed 9/24</b>	<b>Potluck, Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Members Only</b>
<b>Wed 10/22</b>	<b>Flower Arranging Basics</b>	<b>Members Only</b>
<b>Wed 11/19</b>	<b>Bullet-proof Perennials</b>	<b>Public Invited</b>
<b>Tues 12/2</b>	<b>Greens Workshop</b>	<b>Members Only</b>
<b>Thurs 12/4</b>	<b>Holiday Festival (Mill Pond School)</b>	<b>Public Invited</b>
<b>Sun 1/? TBA:</b>	<b>Social</b>	<b>Members Only</b>
<b>Wed 2/25</b>	<b>NE Garden Slide show tour</b>	<b>Public Invited</b>
<b>Wed 3/25</b>	<b>Low-Maint., High-Impact Gardens</b>	<b>Public Invited</b>
<b>Wed 4/22</b>	<b>Ikebana-style Flower Arranging</b>	<b>Members Only</b>
<b>Sat 5/16</b>	<b>Plant Sale</b>	<b>Public Invited</b>
<b>Wed 5/20</b>	<b>End of Year Potluck Social</b>	<b>Members Only</b>



**SEPTEMBER 24, 2025**

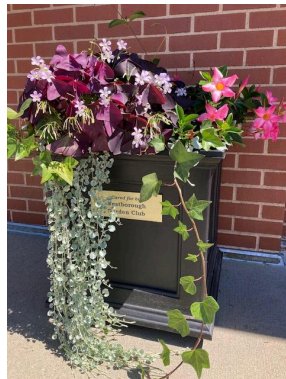
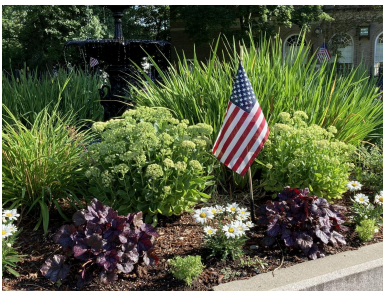
## ***Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner***

**Westborough Senior Center, 4 Rogers Road**

**6:00 pm social time & dinner**

**6:30 business meeting**

Join us for a fun potluck, as we talk about our gardens and our summer adventures. Our delicious meal will be followed by our annual business meeting, a review of the WGC's year's events, and a vote to approve the 2025-2026 budget. Don't forget to bring your annual dues, sign up for a committee, and pick up the new program book.





**OCTOBER 22, 2025**

## ***Flower Arranging Basics***

**Westborough Senior Center, 4 Rogers Road**

**6:30 pm social time**

**6:45 business meeting, 7:15 program**

Usha and Robin will share the knowledge they gained from a summer Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts class. This will be an introduction to the design principles and procedures utilized in creating any floral arrangement, with useful tips and handouts. Among topics covered will be:

- Considering the setting for the arrangement
- Choosing the shape and style of arrangement



**NOVEMBER 19, 2025**

## ***Bullet-Proof Perennials***

***With Donna McDonald***

**Westborough Senior Center, 4 Rogers Road**

**6:30 pm social time**

**6:45 business meeting, 7:15 program**

Our speaker, Donna McDonald of Perreault Nursery in North Grafton, will discuss low-care perennials for specific soil types. She will also discuss and provide handouts for garden plans for sun and shade, deer and rabbit resistant plants, as well as favorite shrubs for all-season interest and color.





**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025**

## ***Greens Workshop***

**Westborough Senior Center, 4 Rogers Road**

**6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Members will share materials for crafting holiday swags, centerpieces and wreaths, which will be prepared for sale at the upcoming (Thursday again) Holiday Festival. We will get creative, help and be helped by our experienced member-arrangers, and draw inspiration from one another.

Remember to bring your gloves, clippers, wire, and greenery from your yard, as well as any unique containers, ribbon and decorations that you can share or donate. Be prepared to arrive a little early, and stay afterward to help with cleanup, if possible.



**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025**

## ***Holiday Festival***

**Mill Pond School Cafeteria**

**6 Olde Hickory Path, Westborough**

**Set-up beginning at 3:30,**

**Open to the public 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

**Public invited with admission fee**

This year we are scaling back, and will hold our regular event, with greens for sale, refreshments provided by the club, and a fabulous raffle of gifts, certificates and items donated by Westborough businesses and individuals. However, there will be no break in sales for a speaker.

All members are expected to help in the preparation, as well as helping with set up, selling at the Festival, and cleaning up afterward. Those who cannot attend will still be expected to donate greens and refreshments, or help in some capacity... all hands on deck! This fund-raiser requires a little effort from all of us, but is great fun!



**JANUARY 2026**

## ***Members Only Social***

**Date, Time and Place to be determined**



**FEBRUARY 25, 2026**

## ***Touring New England's Gardens***

***With Jana Milbocker***

**Westborough Senior Center, 4 Rogers Road**

**6:30 pm social time**

**6:45 business meeting, 7:15 program**

Jana Milbocker, an avid gardener, designer, and lecturer, will once again inspire us with slides from her recent tours of New England curated gardens. She is the author of four books, which are wonderful guides to eastern U.S. gardens.



**MARCH 25, 2026**

# ***Creating a Low-Maintenance, High-Impact Garden***

***With Leisha Johnson***

**Westborough Senior Center, 4 Rogers Road**

**6:30 pm social time**

**6:45 business meeting, 7:15 program**

Award-winning Garden designer and Principal of “Gardens By The Yard,” Landscaping Inc., of Wayland, MA, will guide us through her plant selection rules for maintenance-free gardens, including:

- How simplifying your plant palette leads to a healthier, easier-to-manage garden
- How to define and manage “wild” zones for tougher species and volunteers
- Why timing your mulch matters—and what materials truly feed your soil, and so much more!



**APRIL 22, 2026**

# *Ikebana-style Flower Arranging*

## *With Mary Beth Hayes*

**Westborough Senior Center, 4 Rogers Road**

**6:30 pm social time**

**6:45 business meeting, 7:15 program**

Mary Beth is the owner and principal creator of ***Semper Virens Flowers***, in North Chelmsford. Mary Beth has studied Ikebana (Ohara School), which helps her to see and express the essential nature of each flower. Ikebana design favors asymmetry, with great attention to the lines and negative space created within the arrangement. She is looking forward to using local Spring flowers, and inspiring you to use your own blooming flowers in simple, thoughtful arrangements.





**SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026**

## ***WGC Annual Plant Sale***

**Hastings Elementary School**

**111 East Main Street (front lawn, rain or shine)**

**Open to the Public, 9-11:30 am**

Beloved of local gardeners, our year's primary fundraiser commences long before this date, as we divide our own plants for the sale, and care for them in pots beforehand.

Plants will once again be transported to Robin Fleming's house starting on Sunday, May 10, and brought to the sale early on the morning of the sale.

We need participation by all, in whatever way you can help. Signups will commence at the February/March meeting. Don't forget to wear your apron, your hat, and your smile!





**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026**

***Year-End Social,  
Meeting, & Pot-luck Dinner***

**Westborough Senior Center, 4 Rogers Road**

**6:30 pm social time**

**7:00 pm business meeting**

This is the evening we relax, congratulate ourselves on another successful plant sale, and take stock of the year's successes, as well as those that are "learning opportunities." Be on the lookout for a signup for dinner, and come and catch up with your gardening buddies!



## Westborough Garden Club Past Presidents

Patricia Blois	1975*
Charlotte Bramley	1977*
Ellen Turnage	1979
Diane Haagensen	1980
Joan Houston	1981
Judi Cutts	1982
Francine Block	1983
Nancy Quick	1984
Alyce Crowley & Judy Dippert	1985
Paula Haskell	1986
Carol Ayres	1987*
Linda Reger	1989*
Janet O'Neil	1991*
Sara Trimmer	1993
Caroline Santospago	1994*
Susan Abladian	1998
Marcia Patten	1999
Jan Towne	2000
Carol Baker	2001*
Diane Maguire	2003*
Bev Linnane	2005*
Linda Maloy	2007*
Linda Maloy & Sue Hathaway-Blois	2009
Ann Hoover & Lisa Rowe	2010*
Lisa Carlson	2012*
Alyce Luippold	2014*
Beverly Linnane	2016*
Linda Reger	2018
Julie Reilly	2019
Karen Kinnard & Leslie Buffo	2020*
Leslie Buffo	2022
Glenn Hong & Hanli Lipke	2023*
Glenn Hong & Robin Fleming	* denotes multi-year term 2025



# Westborough Garden Club

PO Box 74  
Westborough MA



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[www.westboroughgardenclub.org](http://www.westboroughgardenclub.org)