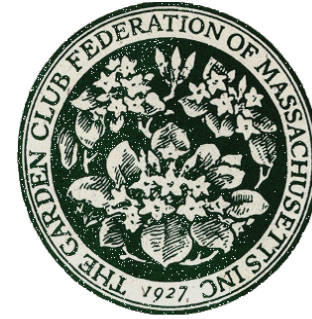


This year in addition to the many awards offered annually, there are two special contests being run.

The first is an effort to expand the use of wonderful “**heirloom**” plants that may have been mainstays of your grandmother’s garden, but have been forgotten in the rush of new plants annually turned out by the garden industry. New can be good, but these heirlooms are proven, dependable performers. The Historic Preservation Committee has selected eight plants that they think are worthy of a place in your garden. You might choose one or two, maybe go for all eight, but the goal is to preserve these plants by incorporating them into home gardens and club maintained civic sites. Go to GCFM.org, click on the Awards tab and go down to the contest on the bottom of the list. You’ll be pleased with how easy it is to put your club in the running for the nursery gift certificates to be given out next year to the winning small, medium and large clubs.

Our second contest is **Plant a Native**. Too many people think natives are weed-like plants best left for untended meadows and roadsides. But you probably already have many natives in your garden—rudbeckia (black eyed susan), monarda (bee balm), heuchera and tiarella (foam flower), the red and yellow columbine. Looking for shrubs that are low maintenance—fothergilla and itea offer spring blooms beloved by pollinators and fall color that out does burning bush. Want a shrub that always stands out—try Phystocarpus (Devil’s Nine bark) with one of its spectacular colors—purple, red orange, gold and more. All of these plants are a food source for native pollinators as well as a delight in any garden. Plant these beauties in your garden or civic site and your club qualifies to win the cash awards that will go to the small, medium and large clubs with the highest percentage of native plants in your home and civic sites. Again go to GCFM.org, click on the Awards tab and look for the native pollinator contest at the bottom of the list.



**President Betty Sanders
and
The Board of Directors
invite you to join in
“Growing Together”
The 88th Annual Meeting
of the
Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.
June 1, 2016

At the Holiday Inn – Boxborough
242 Adams Place
Boxborough, MA 01719**

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. – Registration

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, invocation, introductions, credentials and registration report

9:30 a.m. “Floral Designs for the Home” Shirley Minott

10:15 a.m. Cindora Goldberg and Flower Show Awards

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Workshops

- 1. Creating a Pollinator Garden – Cathy Felton**
- 2. Growing the Next Generation of Leaders for Your Club – Kathy Thomas**
- 3. The Unexpected Container Garden**

11:30 a.m. – Shopping, networking and educational displays

12:30 p.m. - Lunch

Including a memorial tribute to Garden Club members by Pat Artis

12:45 p.m. - State and National Awards

1:20 p.m. – Landscape Design with Toby Wolfe

2:30 p.m. – Credential Report & Fund Raising Report

3:00 p.m. – Adjourn

***Directions to the Holiday Inn Boxborough are available at
<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/boxborough/boxma/hoteldetail/directions>***

***When booking your room ask for the GCFM or Garden Club rate -
\$99.00 double occupancy.***

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Annual Meeting Registration Form June 1, 2016

Fill in one form per person and mail in before May 15, 2016

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Telephone (Home/Cell)_____

Email_____

Club_____District_____

Please check all that apply:

___Garden Club Member ___Club President ___State Officer
___State Board ___Former State President ___Regional Board
___National Board ___Life Member___National Life Member
___Guest (Non-Member)

Lunch selection: Soup, Caesar Salad with Chicken, including rolls & butter, coffee & tea and dessert

MEDICAL ALLERGIES _____

WORKSHOPS – please check the one you wish to attend:

- 1. Creating a Pollinator Garden**
- 2. Growing the Next Generation of Club Leaders**
- 3. The Unexpected Container Garden**

Mail your registration and check for \$55.00 made out to GCFM, INC. by May 15, 2015 to Betsy Howard, 21 Hynes Lane, Harvard, MA 01451

\$20.00 LATE FEE IF REGISTERING AFTER May 15, 2016