

September, 2026



Greetings from the garden chair.....

My guess is many of us are in the beginning stages of putting our gardens to bed for the winter. (I know. I know. It is too soon to utter that word!!!) Some are able to wrap autumn clean up rather efficiently, while some of us (I fall into this category) manage to drag it out as long as the weather allows. It will be sad to see the town flowers disappear. Many have remarked that the downtown gardens look the best ever this year. Thankfully, there was only one case of vandalism, but Lindsay was able to triage it back to health. There has been so much positive feedback from the community with exclamations of appreciation and admiration. Even though we have had rain, the dense foliage can often prevent the moisture from reaching the soil underneath. We do appreciate each one of you who drag gallon-jugs of water each trip to keep these thirsty plants blooming. Think of that – such dedication!! So, on that train of thought, I am going to pour you a few drops of information to keep our own efforts blooming!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, one of six (6) state garden clubs in New England will host:

The New England Garden Clubs 10th Annual Fall Meeting

October 13-14 (Tuesday and Wednesday)

Killington Vermont Grand Hotel Resort

228 E. Mountain Road, Killington, VT

Deadline for registration is October 2nd

A group of us will be attending on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. A carpool will leave Olli's around 7:15am to allow time for the drive and check-in before event begins. This link will lead you to the registration and further details of the day's events. <https://www.vermontfgcv.com/events/2026-negc-fallmeeting>

We would love to see our club represented, so the board has agreed to cover the \$75 registration fee for all those who **attend** the event. You will, however, be on your own for the \$45 buffet, or you may choose to pack a lunch. Payment is required at online registration, but all you will need to do is submit the receipt to Barb Riotte for reimbursement after attending the event. I will have copies of the Reimbursement Form with me. Below is a schedule for the day.

- 8:45 Call to Order - Polly Brooks
- Reading - Esther Cowles
- Pledge of Allegiance – Donna Davis
- Introduction of Honor Table – Polly Brooks
- Welcome – Martha Dale
- Response and invitation – Karen Rea, The Garden Club Federation of Maine
- First Credential Report – Esther Swett
- 9:15 Remarks = Gerianne Holzman, NGC President Elect
- 9:30 NEGC Awards – Vera Bowen, NEGC Chair
- 10:00 Break/Social Time
- 10:30 “In our Nature” movie and discussion - Esther Cowles, Jeff Maher
- 12:00 Meal Blessing – Esther Swett
- LUNCH / BUFFET
- 12:45 Breakout Sessions * See topics in attached brochure.
- 1:30 Winners of Raffles & Silent Auction – Becky Rizzi
- Final Credential Report
- 2:15 Announcements and adjournment

We will depart shortly thereafter and head back to Springfield with ETA *before* 5pm.

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE, THEN CLICK THE LINK TO JOIN US!!! Shoot me an email and let me know if you plan on attending so we will know who will be carpooling. AdrienneF56@outlook.com

OTHER EVENT DATES:

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 – Fall Potluck and update on Christmas Pop Up Market

***** **LOCATION CHANGE******* We will be meeting at the Congregational Church (instead of Cheryl Pierce's house)

Time: 9:30 a.m. Small Item Workshop for Pop Up.

11:30 Potluck, followed by project discussion on timeline and committees.

Hostesses: Pat Townsend and Barb Lacey

RSVP by Wednesday Sept 30 to Cheryl at 603-558-2674 / email: pierce83@vermontel.net

October 21, 2026 - Fall Clean Up

Time: 9:00 AM Report directly to your assigned cleanup areas.

All areas will be cleaned except for R10/106 which was cleaned up a week ago.

Contact: Bonny Andrews 802-885-3638, or email: bonnyandrews65@gmail.com

News and Updates

August Potluck – Lake Rescue

As always, we had a great day in August at Bonny and Peters on Rescue Lake. We had salads and dessert; Lynn presented a demonstration on arranging flowers from the garden. After which, Peter gave us a tour around the lake. We had an update on the milfoil problem in local lakes as well as a view of the resident eagles at their nest. It was a picture-perfect day.



September – Scott Farm

We carpoled to Scott Farm, where we were met by Simon Renault, General Manager. He gave us a fascinating history of Scott Farms, its connection to Rudyard Kipling and the Land Trust in the UK; shared his knowledge of heritage apples, apple cider, hard cider, their origins and the development of orchards in Vermont. We tasted a few varieties of apples and their apple cider. We sat outside with a view of stunning samples of stone walls constructed on site as part of ongoing stone wall workshops. It is beautiful drive, and a lovely place to spend the afternoon.



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NEWS AND UPDATES

We had a very productive Board meeting last week with a lot of potential changes and new ideas floated about for discussion. If you have never been to a Board meeting, please make a point to make it to the next one in January. With the by-laws being updated soon, we will be changing the name of these meetings to "Business Meetings". These have always been open to all members, but we hope the new name will invite you to join us. The agenda goes out a couple of days ahead of time and in the future, it will be sent to the full membership. Shortly afterwards, the meeting minutes will be sent out to complete the loop. Even if you cannot make the meetings, at least you will know what we are discussing. ANY time you have a question, an idea or a concern, we have an open door. Bring it to the meeting or contact any one of us. The executive committee (officers) will do what we can to find an answer for you. There must be new ideas percolating out there, and it would be great to hear about them.

ADULT DAY CARE CHANGE

As many of you may, we were saddened and disappointed to learn the Adult Day Care program in Springfield will be closed as of end of September. Ann Herrick has done a fabulous job of leading the participants once a month in a craft. She has already been thinking of a way the Garden Club can reach out to independent living facilities here in town. We are looking toward a similar program in each of these locations quarterly. There will be three teams preparing the same activity under her direction. Several of you have expressed interest in participating in this outreach program, and now is your opportunity. Once Ann has finished learning the needs from each location, we will be sending out requests for team members. Be watching for more news, as we look to begin in 2027.

MAP OF THE TOWN GARDENS

It has come to our attention that members may not be aware of the exact location of the gardens and planters that are tended to by the Garden Club. We have a few gardens that are off the main path through town, so we have enlisted Dewey Faulhaber to create a map for those of us who are not exactly sure, and for new members. The map is being finalized and will be emailed out soon.

SEASON OF THE POP-UP

The weather is just now turning cool, but our eyes are looking past the leaves toward the annual Christmas Pop-Up Market. This is our main fundraiser of the year that allows us to give back to the community. Every Pop-Up that goes by, we learn from wins as well as shortcomings to find ways to improve the process. One big change this year is we are adding more boxwood trees as those items are sold out within the first couple of hours. Late arrivals are always sad and disappointed to have missed the opportunity – so this year, we will change up the mix by adding more lighted boxwood trees. Again, we encourage all our members to join us – even if you can only do it for a day, or even an hour or two. If you have other commitments during the week, just stop by during your break from work to say hello and see how it all works! You will witness Santa's garden elves at the creative workbench using the tools of the trade - hot glue gun, florist wire and tape, layers of greenery, ribbons and all colors of bits and baubs. Our hostesses have daily breakfast treats; Mondays we have soup; Wednesday bring a bag lunch; and the club buys pizza for the crew on Thursdays. Please mark your calendar to join us on November 30, December 2-4, to help in any way you are able!!!

BE NOT AFRAID.....YOU ACTUALLY MAY BE AN EASY FIT FOR NEW OFFICER POSITION....

Yes, we are looking ahead to next year's election for new officers of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership. The President/Vice President roll can be viewed as Co-Presidents. If you are interested in any of these positions and have questions about responsibilities, ask one of us!!!!

Talk soon... *Adrienne*