

# Longfellow Garden Club\*

## Poet's Corner

Newsletter for April - June 2019

For additional information please visit our web site:  
<https://www.longfellowgardenclub.org/>

\*Member of National Garden Clubs,  
New England Garden Clubs,  
Garden Club Federation of Maine, Stroudwater District

*In all places, then, and in all seasons,  
Flowers expand their light and soul-like wings,  
Teaching us, by most persuasive reasons,  
How akin they are to human things.*

*And with childlike, credulous affection,  
We behold their tender buds expand;  
Emblems of our own great resurrection,  
Emblems of the bright and better land.*  
"Flowers" Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Almost there.....almost time to plant out our seedlings, almost time for Longfellow Garden workdays to begin, almost time to pot our plants for the annual LGC Plant Sale. After this snowy winter, we're all anxious to get back into our gardens and make the most of Maine's growing season. Fortunately, we're able to get a sneak peek at spring flowers "expanding their light and soul-like wings" at the always-inspiring Maine Flower Show.

Our program year is drawing to a close with just two meetings remaining, but they both promise to be noteworthy. In April, we will return to Maine Audubon for "*Bringing Nature Home*" in Maine presented by Eric Topper, Audubon's Director of Education. Our Annual Meeting will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Portland Country Club. We're delighted to welcome back Master Gardener Lisa Colburn as our speaker with her program on "*Art and Whimsy in the Garden.*" Consider inviting a friend to one or both of these programs.

I hope you will also seriously consider volunteering for a committee as you complete your membership renewal application. This is a great way to become more engaged in the Club while forming some wonderful friendships. On that note, I extend my sincere thanks to the Officers and Committee Chairs who have worked with me over the past three years to ensure that Longfellow Garden Club continues to thrive and blossom with new ideas.

Deb Gray

## CLUB CALENDAR

### April 9, Tuesday

Maine Audubon  
20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth

Note afternoon meeting time

- 1:00 Business Meeting  
2:00 Program: *"Bringing Nature Home" in Maine*  
Speaker: Eric Topper, Director of Education, Maine Audubon  
An introduction to native plants for the garden, which explores plants, practices and perks to restore native food webs in our garden, yards and communities.

### May 11, Saturday

Plant, Pie, and Garden Accessories Sale  
Woodford Congregational Church  
202 Woodford Street, Portland  
Parking lot or Memorial Hall if inclement weather

- 7:00 Set Up  
8:00 - 11:30 Plant Sale

### May 14, Tuesday

Annual Meeting  
Portland Country Club  
11 Foreside Road, Falmouth

- 9:30-10:00 Registration and Coffee  
10:00 Business Meeting  
Annual Committee Reports  
Memorial Service  
Election and Installation of Officers  
12:00 Luncheon  
1:00 Program: *Art and Whimsy in the Garden*  
Speaker: Lisa Colburn, Author, Master Gardener in Florida and Maine as well as member of Veazie and Orono, Maine, Garden Clubs and Allamanda Garden Club in Florida. Lisa recently received the GCFM Stella Dearborn Garden of the Year Award and the NEGC Perennial Garden Award

*Registration/Membership form attached.*

## STROUDWATER and GCFM EVENTS

### April 25, Wednesday

Stroudwater District Annual Meeting  
Italian Heritage Center  
40 Westland Avenue, Portland

*"Broadening Your Garden Horizons"* will be hosted by Osewantha and Scarborough Garden Clubs and feature a *Flower Show* with district member designs and horticulture, please contact Marilyn Traiser for information at [mkt@maine.rr.com](mailto:mkt@maine.rr.com). The morning program by Jana Milbocker is entitled *"The Garden Tourist."* Vendors will include district clubs.  
*Registration form attached.*

### June 18 - 19, Tuesday - Wednesday

Garden Club Federation of Maine Convention  
*"Bringing communities together through gardening"*

Village by the Sea Resort & Conference Center,  
Wells, Maine  
Hosted by Piscataqua District Clubs

For more information/registration:  
[www.mainegardenclubs.org](http://www.mainegardenclubs.org)

## LONGFELLOW ARBORETUM

Would you like to be more involved? We will be having a Longfellow Arboretum Meeting on **Tuesday, April 2**, at 10 am at the Portland Public Works Administration Building, 212 Canco Road, with City Arborist, Jeff Tarling. Please contact Linda Frinsko if you'd like more information or to receive information about the Arboretum Committee or workdays.

### NEW MEMBER

Longfellow Garden Club is pleased to welcome  
a new supporting member:  
Susanne Morin of Portland

## LONGFELLOW GARDEN

With the early March snow storms, the Longfellow Garden was under 10 inches of ice and snow. Luckily it has not been a harsh winter and other than that blanket of snow, the Garden escaped ill effects. That certainly doesn't prevent us from planning ahead and looking forward to the first workday in the Garden, which in the past has been in the last weeks of April.

We'll keep a close watch and schedule a workday accordingly. Maintaining the Garden is one of the primary missions of our Club and we encourage participation of as many members as possible. The workdays are scheduled on a bi-weekly basis and we go in to cleanup, weed and prune. We go in on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 am and are on hand on First Friday's Artwalks to greet and inform the public.

The Garden is in heavy use from May to October, from a quiet lunch retreat to poetry readings, weddings, children's reading hour and it is a point of pride to keep it looking inviting.

If you've been on my mailing list before, you will receive the workday schedule as soon as I've determined the start and end dates. If you are new and want to join us or have any questions, please let me know at [iaschaefer46@gmail.com](mailto:iaschaefer46@gmail.com) and I'll add your name. Imelda Schaefer, Garden Chair

## PLANT, PIE AND GARDEN ACCESSORIES SALE

Last year we added "Garden Accessories" to our annual Plant Sale fund raiser. This year we are adding LGC Backyard Chickens! Each chicken is approximately 8" X 7.5" (roosters 11" X 7.5") and will "stand" on an 18" orange colored fiberglass (plow marker) leg. They are cut from vintage floor boards removed from the Weatherbie home. Here are two of the latest chicks. Others in the flock were pictured in the last Poet's Corner.



## Eliminate Browntail Caterpillars Now!

Entomologists from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry would like to remind you that now is the best time to remove browntail caterpillars from trees that are accessible.

Browntail caterpillars cause a poison ivy-like rash and they are impacting a broad swath of Maine. Contact with this caterpillar's hairs can cause severe reactions for some individuals.

To learn more about how to identify browntail caterpillar infestations and safely remove them, including helpful step-by-step videos, please visit the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry website:

[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest\\_health/invasive\\_threats/browntail\\_moth\\_info.htm](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/browntail_moth_info.htm)

### OUR NEW WEBSITE

Check out The Longfellow Garden Club website!

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

## Neonicotinoids

Forty percent of the nation's honeybee colonies collapsed last year. The main reason is that Neonicotinoids (a type of insecticide) are used on farms, especially where corn is grown, and in some urban landscapes. Neonics are absorbed by plants and are then present in pollen and nectar, making these sprayed plants toxic to bees. The neonics are long-lived and stay in the environment for months/years after use. They are water soluble and get into the ground where bees are nesting. They are banned in Europe except in closed greenhouses and were banned in some US National Wildlife Refuges where farming is permitted but this ban is currently being lifted by this Administration's EPA. Neonics are not readily available for small gardeners to purchase but some garden plants we buy from garden retailers and hardware stores have been treated by them. The chemical company Bayer is the world's leading manufacturer of bee-toxic neonics. So you may see petitions for EPA to ban neonics or for Bayer to stop selling them.