

# Longfellow Garden Club\*

## Poet's Corner

Newsletter for September - October 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

Fellow Gardeners--

I hope that you all are having a marvelous August; weather such as we are is a fine antidote to earlier rainy days. While we will not have the sun and the beach much longer, we will substitute superb program offerings and activities to occupy us through the fall and into the winter months.

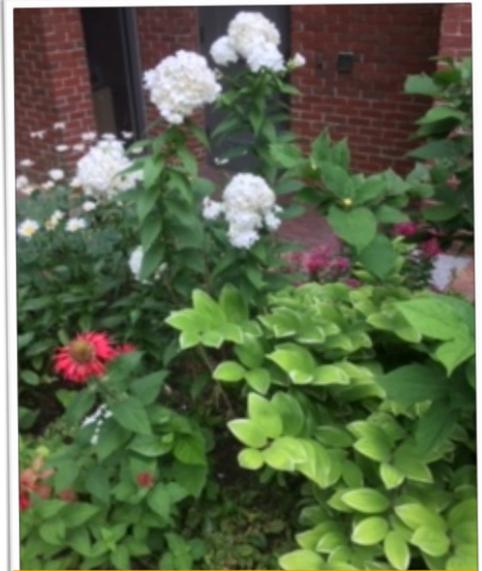
We are actually in a rather unusual period: Many issues of long-term concern were brought to a successful conclusion this past year. The list includes completion of the Longfellow Garden Club website; resolution of uncertainties about the Club's endowment, thus leading to greater stability and flexibility financially; acquisition of a new home at Maine Audubon; a more comprehensive array of communication options, including both electronic and print media; successful fundraising through an improved plant sale structure and scope; and, a diverse program agenda that offers educational and creative opportunities for members. All of the above make a strong platform on which to move forward with new initiatives.

There is one initiative in particular that demands our attention-- increasing membership. A 2017 survey of club members identified attracting younger members as the greatest challenge for the LGC (65% of respondents). I offer that as a focus for special attention this coming year. Fundamental to achieving this goal is continuation and refinement of all of those strengths that we have achieved in so many areas. We have much to offer, but we are a small club, facing the same changes as garden clubs generally: an aging membership (sorry to need to mention this) and insufficient numbers of members to carry out all of our projects. Plus, we benefit from the enthusiasm and skills new members bring.

I will appoint a committee to look at the various aspects of this issue—volunteers welcome! For example, I am interested in developing a structured orientation program that would include: the history of the Longfellow Garden Club (Karen Rea's slide show history of the Longfellow Garden would be the textbook); tours of both the Longfellow Garden and the Arboretum and an introduction to each by their caretakers (Imelda, Sylvia, Linda); a guide who would ensure that a new member knows they are welcome and would be responsible for introducing them to club members (Trudy is a superb example of a guide who has a laser-like sense of what is needed to make people comfortable and ultimately committed); and one more element-- an introduction to the committees of the club and an invitation to work with a committee that matches their interests. We do many of the items mentioned above, but not in a systematic fashion. I am sure that there are many other strategies to be identified and explored.

I want to share with you a couple of items of interest.

- Generally meetings will start at 1:00 p.m., continuing our practice from this past spring. This should help us during inclement weather.
- In addition to our monthly meeting, we have reserved our space from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on monthly meeting days in order to provide time for workshops or for committee meetings.
- We will enliven activities to the extent possible by offering our version of a "Flash Mob"-- without the Mob-- spontaneous presentations where there is a speaker of interest and unexpected availability, similar to our upcoming October 1, workshop with Donald Verger of Donald Verger Flower Photography who will offer tips on garden photography in the Garden.
- We will again celebrate Henry's birthday in style with a new design challenge and an invitation to our friends and colleagues to join us. Continued on Page 3.



Blooms in the Longfellow Garden

## CLUB CALENDAR

### Thursday, September 5

Longfellow Arboretum  
Payson Park  
755 Baxter Boulevard, Portland

9:00 - 11:00. Work in the Arboretum

### Tuesday, September 10

Home of Deb Gray, former president  
5 Stony Ridge Road, Cumberland

10:00 Deb will present a travelogue of her trip to Australia and New Zealand last winter, where nearly every place she visited featured a lovely botanic garden. Come experience the horticulture down under!

Also, Imelda Schaefer and Sylvia Sowles will give a tutorial on digging and potting your plants to prepare them for our annual Plant Sale in the spring.

Business Meeting

Sandwiches, drinks and desserts will be provided

### Thursday, September 12

Longfellow Arboretum  
Payson Park  
755 Baxter Boulevard, Portland

1:00 Tree Planting with Jeff Tarling and Linda Frinsko  
Refreshments will be served

### Tuesday, September 17

Longfellow Garden  
489 Congress Street, Portland

9:00 - 11:00. Work in the Garden

### Tuesday, October 1

Longfellow Garden  
489 Congress Street, Portland

9:00 - 11:00. Work in the Garden

Also,

9:00 Photography in the Garden  
Bring your camera, iPad, iPhone or any other picture taking device and get some tips from Donald Verger, award winning photographer  
This is a 1-hour event requiring pre-registration through the Maine Historical Society  
[https://www.mainehistory.org/programs\\_events.shtml](https://www.mainehistory.org/programs_events.shtml)



Blushing Bride

### Tuesday, October 8

Maine Audubon  
20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth

**Last date for Amaryllis Bulb Fundraiser orders**

1:00 GMOs and the Threat to our Food  
Caitlin Shetterly  
Caitlin is a Maine Author who has published "Modified" (2016)  
Through extensive research she exposes the wholesale genetic modification of our food supply.

Books will be available for purchase

2:00 Business Meeting

### Tuesday, October 15

Longfellow Garden  
489 Congress Street, Portland

9:00 - 11:00. Work in the Garden

### Tuesday, October 29

Longfellow Garden  
489 Congress Street, Portland

9:00 - 11:00. Putting the Garden to Bed

## STROUDWATER and GCFM EVENTS

### Thursday, October 31,

Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Drive, Augusta

GCFM Annual Fall Conference

*"Bountiful Maine - East, West, North and South"*

All day program includes business meetings and presentations by Jeff O'Donal of O'Donal's Nursery about Barth Daylilies and Kevin Leavitt, also known as Farmer Kev, speaking about trends in growing vegetables and meatless Mondays.

### Tuesday and Wednesday, June 16 – 17, 2020

The Atlantic Oceanside Hotel,  
119 Eden St, Bar Harbor

Garden Club Federation of Maine Convention and Annual Meeting "Gardens at First Light"

- And Much More!

I look forward to seeing you at Deb Gray's on *Tuesday, September 10*, for our first regular meeting of the year. Our speaker will be Deb Gray who will take us on an armchair tour of gardens and scenery of Australia and New Zealand. Imelda Schaefer and Sylvia Sowles will talk about digging and potting your plants to prepare them for our annual Plant Sale in the spring. Your new yearbook, many familiar faces, and lunch will also be there waiting for you.

See you soon. Anita Wihry, President

Longfellow Garden Club Yearbooks not picked up by the October 8 meeting will be mailed. If you are unable to attend either of the first two meetings, consider asking a garden club friend to pickup your personalized copy for you.

## ARBORETUM

Due to the wet spring, we will have our annual Tree Planting, *Thursday, September 12 at 1 pm* at the Longfellow Arboretum. Traditional cookies (Marilyn's) and lemonade will be served. There will also be a work day on *Thursday, September 5* which will involve weeding the River Birch Bed. Hope to see you there. Linda Frinsko, Arboretum Chair

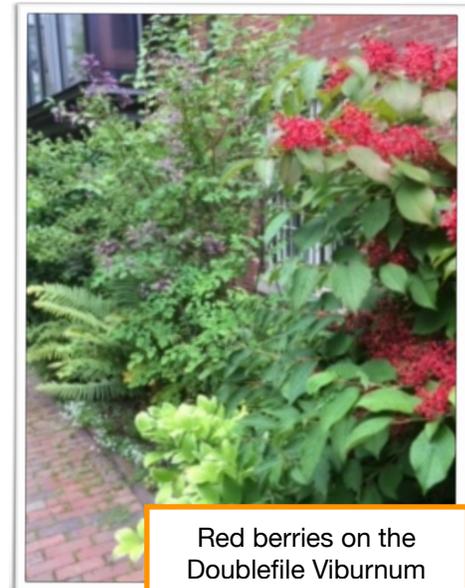
## LONGFELLOW GARDEN

Even in these last days of summer, the Longfellow Garden has many perennials, shrubs and planters in bloom and there is a flurry of events planned as MHS and the Club take advantage of this wonderful urban space. The sweet fragrance of the pink summer sweet shrub (*Clethra alnifolia*) permeates the Garden and contrasts nicely with the large white blossoms of the "Annabelle" hydrangeas (*Hydrangea arborescens*) while the bright cherry red fruit of the doublefile viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum* var *tomentosum*) reminds us that fall is fast approaching. This year the Mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) had an insect infestation and although Lucas Tree was called in, they offered no solution. So Steve Landry, the MHS's Facilities Manager, and I will be sure to treat the shrub with an organic insecticide next spring.

The Garden has matured rapidly and soon it will be time to thin out the ferns that have taken over the center beds, pot up lots of the Lilly-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*) among others for our spring plant sale and prune the witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*).

I want to thank all of you who came in during these busy summer months to make sure the Garden always looked inviting. Many hands make the work go faster and there's always something to learn from our fellow gardeners.

We have all of September and October to look forward to, so I hope to see you there soon! Imelda Schaefer, Garden Chair



Red berries on the Doublefile Viburnum

## 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)

## Amaryllis Bulb Fundraiser

Our Amaryllis Bulb Fundraiser proceeds will benefit our Scholarship Program. The bulbs will be supplied by Van Engelen Wholesale Flower Bulbs in Connecticut. We will order them for delivery by the end of October, plant them in pots and package them for delivery to the buyers during the first week in November.

They make wonderful gifts, and you'll want to order some for yourself too. Additionally, we're offering a special "Garden Angel" program. This provides folks with an opportunity to purchase bulbs to be distributed to residents/clients of a local food pantry, Meals on Wheels, nursing homes or an organization of your choosing—the perfect way to brighten someone's holidays.



Picotee

Please visit the password protected member side of our website or contact Deb Gray for order forms and pictures of all seven bulbs in bloom.

The deadline for placing our bulb order is October 8<sup>th</sup>, but you may begin accepting orders now from friends, co-workers, etc. (I've brought order forms to my hair salon.) Payment by cash or check needs to be made at the time of ordering. We will be promoting the sale on our website, Facebook page and the Stroudwater District newsletter.

Please bring any completed order forms to the September 10<sup>th</sup> garden club meeting. We will have extra order forms and pictures of the bulbs at the meeting if you need them. All order forms need to be returned *at the latest by our October 8<sup>th</sup> garden club meeting.*

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of this fundraiser! Margaret Boulos, Mary Calvin, and Deb Gray



Dancing Queen

## Photography in the Longfellow Garden

Engage your senses, discover hidden talents, and explore a more personal relationship with plants and the environment! This October, photographers of all skill levels have the opportunity to learn from critically-acclaimed Maine nature photographer Donald Verger who will demonstrate contemporary photography techniques and secrets that will make your photos sing! Bring your camera or smartphone to the Longfellow Garden on *October 1st*(rain date *October 3rd from 9:00 to 11:00 am* for a morning of discovery.

Donald Verger is recognized world wide for his stunning landscape photography, reminiscent of the legendary work of Ansel Adams. He is the Founder and President Emeritus of the Discovery Museums in Acton, MA, and his visionary work has been featured on PBS. Acknowledged for their spiritual and healing qualities, Verger's images grace the walls of hospitals across the country, including Northern Light Mercy Hospital and the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. His "Faces of the Camino" has been on display at the Glickman Library at USM.



Field trip to Fort Williams Children's Garden August 13, 2019

Registration required; class size is limited. Cost: \$15.00 general public, \$10.00 for Longfellow Garden Club and Maine Historical Society members. To register visit: [https://www.mainehistory.org/programs\\_events.shtml](https://www.mainehistory.org/programs_events.shtml)