



HOLDEN GARDEN CLUB

HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS | ESTABLISHED 1933

2025-2026

HOLDEN GARDEN CLUB

HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

NINETY-SECOND ANNUAL PROGRAM

2025–2026



holdengardenclub.org

The Holden Garden Club is a member of
the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts.

Visit their website at **www.gcfm.org**.

ABOUT THE GARDEN CLUB



The Holden Garden Club was founded in 1933 for the purpose of fostering an interest in gardening, horticulture and conservation. The Club is a member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, which expands the educational opportunities and the resources available to our members.

Most meetings take place in the evening (usually the first Thursday of each month, September–April) at the Holden Senior Center. Our Members' Garden Tour is held in June or July; afterwards at the last garden is a luncheon. Some years members prepare the meal, other years members bring their own lunch. We occasionally offer excursions that meet at Town Hall and carpool to noteworthy gardens or other horticultural sites. Because HGC is a member of New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, HGC members can receive two free passes upon request. (Contact Patty Jacobs.) A Tower Hill discount pass is also available from Gale Free Library.

Each member is expected to bring refreshments for one meeting per year, to serve on a committee from time to time, and to provide ten plants for the annual plant sale.

The May Plant Sale, our only fundraiser, provides excellent plants at very reasonable prices and supports our goal to enhance the beauty of Holden, one garden at a time. This successful fundraiser allows the club to support other organizations with a similar mission, and to provide outstanding speakers, high-quality workshops, and grants to Holden schools for horticultural projects. The Holden Garden Club also purchases plants and maintains plantings and gardens at the Town Hall, the Gale Free Library, the historic Hendricks House, and the Holden Senior Center.

The Club holds a membership in the following community organizations, which share our goals and work to conserve our natural environment: Friends of the Red Barn, Inc., New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, Wachusett Greenways, White Oak Land Conservation Society, and Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center/Wachusett Earthday.

Our membership is usually between sixty and seventy members. This is our ninety-second year and it is both an honor and a responsibility to be a member of the Holden Garden Club. New applicants are always welcome.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



For our evening programs, members arrive at 6:45 for refreshments and socializing. A short business meeting begins at about 7:00. The program begins at 7:30.

An asterisk (*) indicates an activity or excursion rather than a regular meeting. Please remember to chip in for gas when carpooling to out-of-town destinations.

The Refreshments Chair is responsible for reminding others on the dessert committee of their duties and is also in charge of bringing the dessert table centerpiece.

Thursday, September 4, 2025 6:45 pm

Holden Senior Center

Propagating Perennials

With **Joan Butler**. Joan is a Master Gardener and horticulturalist at Weston Nurseries. She will share techniques for growing from seed and cuttings, spring vs. fall planting, and other topics.

Program chair: Robin Van Liew

Refreshments: S. Jane Arntz, chair
Jackie Hutchings, Cyndy Janik, Lissa Kasakoff

Thursday, October 2, 2025 6:45 pm

Holden Senior Center

Invasive Plants

With **Jennifer Forman Orth, Ph.D.**, an environmental biologist with the Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources and THE expert in this region for invasive plants. She will help us to identify and combat the invasive plants crowding out our native plants.

Program chair: Mia McDonald

Refreshments: Patty Jacobs, chair
Eileen Clark, Kathy McFarland, Nancy Sechman



* **Thursday, October 23, 2025 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Hendricks House Fall Clean-up, 1157 Main Street,
and Senior Center Fall Clean-up**

Bring rakes, pruning shears, and gloves to help
prepare the Hendricks House and Senior Center
gardens for the winter.

Thursday, November 6, 2025 6:00 pm

(Please note: This is an earlier time than usual.)

Holden Senior Center

Harvest Potluck Supper – Spouses Welcome!

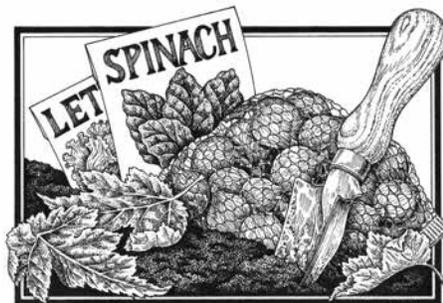
Please bring a dish for 8.

A–H Casseroles J–M Desserts N–Z Salads

After dinner, **Chuck Skillings**, president of the
Holden Historical Society, will regale us with a
slideshow of episodes from Holden’s history.

Program chair: Robin Van Liew

Set up: S. Jane Arntz, chair
Linda Lehans, Susan Marsh



Thursday, December 4, 2025 6:45 pm



Holden Senior Center

Winter Container Gardens for the Holidays

With **Deborah Nock**. Deborah is an award-winning container garden designer. She will present a slideshow on winter holiday container garden designs and then demonstrate a holiday container, inspiring us to design our own holiday centerpieces with paperwhites, birch, pine cones, and many textures of greens.

Program chair: Robin Van Liew

Refreshments: Helen Culver, chair
Beth Hunter, Carol Oliver, Lyn Stevens



Thursday, January 8, 2026 6:45 pm

Holden Senior Center

Rose Bowl Parade Decorating

With **Priscilla Chesna and Kathy McFarland**, who traveled to Pasadena, California, and helped decorate four "Tournament of Roses" Parade floats with live flowers.

Program chair: Mia McDonald

Refreshments: Nancy Riggs, chair
Sherron Carson, Merryl Havens, Leslie Walker

Thursday, February 5, 2026 6:45 pm

Holden Senior Center

England's Painswick Rococco Gardens

“Three Centuries of Revelry, Ruin, and Restoration” with **Roger Bridgeman**. This fabulous eclectic home and garden in England’s Cotswolds has seen revelry, neglect, and 20th century restoration by its current owners.

Program chair: Robin Van Liew

Refreshments: Dale Anderson, chair
Susan Ceccacci, Mia McDonald, Judy Pernice

Thursday, March 5, 2026 6:45 pm

Holden Senior Center

Getting to Know You

A night of sharing our interests outside of gardening. What else gives you joy? What are you passionate about? A night of show and tell.

Program chair: S. Jane Arntz

Refreshments: Priscilla Chesna, chair
Dianne Noyes, Joanne Owens, Donna Perkins

Thursday, April 2, 2026 6:45 pm

Holden Senior Center

Gardening Basics

Gretel Anspach, a Master Gardener and Trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. She will review some gardening basics for the benefit of our newer members.

Program chair: Mia McDonald

Refreshments: Susan Dresley, chair
Carol Manning, Mary Ann Pirani, Fred Schwartz





* **Thursday, April 23, 2026 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

Hendricks House Spring Clean-up, 1157 Main Street, and Senior Center Spring Clean-up

Bring rakes, pruning shears, and gloves to help prepare the Hendricks House and Senior Center gardens to shine for the summer.

* **Friday, May 15, 2026 1:00 – 7:00 pm**

Plant Sale Prep, Damon House

Bring your clean, labeled plants to the Damon House (across from the Gale Free Library). Help price plants and help set up for the following day's sale.

Note: Plants may also be dropped off on Thursday or on Friday morning. Just tuck them against the house or under the steps.

Saturday, May 16, 2026 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Damon House

Perennial Plant Sale

Our club's only fundraiser and best community service. All members are urged to contribute 10 plants (or more) and to share your expertise with our faithful customers by working at the Plant Sale.

Plant Sale chair: Susan Dresley



Thursday, June 4, 2026 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

Garden Tour, Luncheon, and Annual Meeting

This year's tour of three members' gardens will be followed by an open-air luncheon under tents, and the annual meeting.



At the annual meeting we will review highlights of the past year and preview our next program cycle. The slate of new officers will be presented and voted on.

Locations, cost, and further details to be announced.

Program chair:
Kathy McFarland

* **Thursday, August 13, 2026 10:30 am**

New England Botanical Garden at Tower Hill

Annual guided tour.

Please email S. Jane Arntz to register

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

(Note: Duties of the officers are described in the bylaws, starting on page 33 of this booklet.)

Ambassador to Federation: Serves as a liaison between our club and the GCFM and helps especially with the "Native Plant Challenge."

Blue and Gold Star Committee: A two-year Holden Garden Club project to install two memorials in front of Holden Town Hall in honor of both Blue and Gold Star Veterans.

Friendship Chair: Sends messages of friendship and sympathy to our members.

Grants Committee: Distributes and reviews grant applications to fund horticultural projects at Holden schools. Sets deadlines, selects winners, and decides on the award amounts with the approval of the Executive Board. Works with the Vice-President to ensure that this program and its recipients receive appropriate recognition within the club and in news media.

Historian: Keeps memorabilia, program books, and other items that relate to the history of the Holden Garden Club.

Horticulture Chair & Assistant: Share horticultural tips and environmental concerns with the membership at each meeting.

Hospitality Chair: Books the Senior Center well in advance and makes sure the meeting place is ready and set up for our monthly meetings. Notifies the Refreshment Chair for each meeting so that he or she can then notify and coordinate with members on the refreshment committee.

Membership Chair: Keeps a correct list of members, processes membership applications, and keeps a list of the date of members' admissions to the club. Recognizes and honors new Life members at the annual meeting, and purchases a thank-you gift for the outgoing President.

Nominating Committee: Seeks out members to fill officer and committee positions. Presents a written list of all candidates for election at the April meeting of the club.

Perennial Plant Sale Committee: Plans and runs the annual May plant sale, our Club's only fundraiser. Meets regularly in April and May to plan all aspects of the plant sale. Reviews the prior year's experience, organizes logistics, schedules volunteers, purchases and prepares special plants for the sale. Each Club member is expected to

contribute ten or more plants to the plant sale. Those who are physically challenged or do not have gardens are encouraged to make a contribution instead to support programming, town plantings, and charitable endeavors on behalf of the Holden Garden Club.

Program Book Chair & Assistant: Design and update the annual program book, and oversee printing.

Program Committee: Convenes in the spring to select speakers for the upcoming year. On the day of the meeting a committee member prepares the room for the presentation and introduces the speaker. The chair is responsible for procuring a signed contract from each speaker and paying the speaker at the end of the presentation.

Telephone Chair: Notifies members without email of upcoming meetings and other important information.

Town Beautification Committee: Plants and cares for plantings that the Chair deems worthy in the town of Holden. Sees that a watering committee helps to maintain plantings during the growing season.

Website Administrator: Keeps the website informative, engaging, and up to date.



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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS BY BART HILL, HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

