



HOLDEN GARDEN CLUB

HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS | ESTABLISHED 1933

2026-2027

HOLDEN GARDEN CLUB

HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

NINETY-THIRD ANNUAL PROGRAM

2026-2027



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.

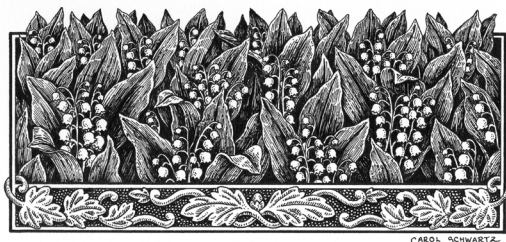
Each member is expected to bring refreshments for one meeting per year, to serve on a committee from time to time, and to provide ten plants for the annual plant sale.

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, the Bandstand rose bed, and the Blue and Gold Star memorials.

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-third 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 3, 2026 6:45 pm

Holden Senior Center

Landscaping Basics

With **Gretel Anspach**. Learn about the basic needs of your plants and find out how you can most easily meet the needs of your botanical companions for years of happiness in the garden. Gretel Anspach is a Trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a Lifetime Master Gardener with the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, and a recently-retired systems engineer for Raytheon.

Program chair: Nancy Sechman

Refreshments: S. Jane Arntz, chair

Jackie Hutchings, Dianne Noyes, Robin Van Liew



Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:45 pm

Holden Senior Center

Composting

With **Gretel Anspach**. In an unprecedented third visit in one year, Gretel will share her encyclopedic knowledge of gardening with HGC! Composting is a unique method of recycling. It uses existing microorganisms to decompose organic matter into usable and highly nutritious soil. It can be done in your backyard, under your sink or even in commercial settings. All you need is know the composting recipe for success, an open mind, and the desire to help the environment. Gretel established and maintains a 20,000 square foot food production garden that has provided fresh produce to the Marlboro and Maynard Food Pantries for the last ten years.

Program chair: Nancy Sechman

Refreshments: Priscilla Chesna, chair
Daryl Allen, Vanessa Bumpus, Eileen Clark



* **Thursday, October 15, 2026 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

Hendricks House, at 1157 Main Street,
and the Bandstand Rose Bed,
on the Main Street side of the Senior Center

Fall Garden Clean-up

Bring your gloves, pruner, rake, and a container for yard waste. Help prepare the Hendricks House and Bandstand gardens for winter!

Thursday, November 5, 2026 6:00 pm

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

Holden Senior Center

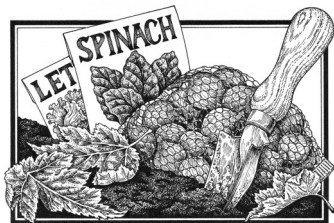
Harvest Potluck Supper — Spouses Welcome!

Please bring a dish for 8.

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

Followed by **Fantastical Folktales of Flowers**, narrated by **Diane Edgecomb** with **Margot Chamberlain** on Celtic harp. In this entertaining theatrical performance, award winning storyteller Diane Edgecomb celebrates flowers and the delightful stories that have been told about them through the ages, accompanied by song and the music of the Celtic harp.

Program chair: Robin Van Liew



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

Thursday, December 3, 2026 6:45 pm



Holden Senior Center

Christmas Centerpiece

With **Robin Van Liew**. Bring a container, or choose one from Robin's collection (\$25), to create a winner centerpiece that will last for weeks. All materials and decorations provided.

Program chair: Robin Van Liew

Refreshments: Kathy McFarland, chair
Susan Ceccacci, Carol Manning, Mary Ann Pirani

Thursday, January 7, 2027 6:45 pm

Via Zoom. Link will be emailed before event.

Plants that Bunnies and Groundhogs Don't Eat

Zoom program with **Maria Von Brincken**, certified landscape designer. Maria will share the details of her bunny experiment, including researched and tested list of animal-resistant plants. Featured plants start with May blooming and progress each month.

Program chair: Mia McDonald

Refreshments: Susan Dresley, chair
Nancy Sechman, Karen Shapiro, Leslie Walker



Thursday, February 4, 2027 6:45 pm

Holden Senior Center

Gardens of Splendor in the Netherlands and France

A slideshow talk by our own **Priscilla Chesna**.

The Dutch horticultural industry plants over seven million bulbs of tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths each year in its themed gardens. Experience spring in the Netherlands at Keukenhof Gardens, then take a peek at the Floriade, the largest international floral exposition, in Almere. Travel on to summer in the country gardens of Claude Monet in the village of Giverny, France.

Program chair: Robin Van Liew

Refreshments: Helen Culver, chair

Cyndy Janik, Patty Jacobs, Alison Ludden

Thursday, March 4, 2027 6:45 pm

Holden Senior Center

Women Floral Painters Through the Centuries

Art historian **Martha Chiarciaro** will explore with us renowned (but often overlooked in discussions of art history) women artists from the early 17th to the 20th centuries who featured flowers in their creations.

Program chair: Robin Van Liew

Refreshments: Nancy Riggs, chair

Mia McDonald, Ann Morrison, Carol Oliver



Thursday, April 1, 2027 6:45 pm

Holden Senior Center

Getting to Know You

A night of sharing our hobbies and interests outside of gardening. What else gives you joy? What are you passionate about? Set up a display. Tables provided.

Program chair: S. Jane Arntz

Refreshments: Beth Hunter, chair
Maria Marrero, Judy Pernice, Lyn Stevens

❖ **Thursday, April 22, 2027 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

Hendricks House, at 1157 Main Street,
and the Bandstand Rose Bed,
on the Main Street side of the Senior Center

Spring Garden Clean-up

Celebrate Earth Day! Bring your gloves, pruner, rake, and a yard waste container to help prepare the Hendricks House and Bandstand gardens to shine for the summer.

❖ **Friday, May 14, 2027 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 15, 2027 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 co-chairs:
Carol Manning and Leslie Walker

Garden Tour, Luncheon, and Annual Meeting

This year’s tour of three members’ gardens will be followed by an open-air luncheon-under-tents at the home of Kathy McFarland, 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, July 15, 2027 10:30 am

New England Botanical Garden at Tower Hill

Annual guided tour.
Please email S. Jane Arntz to register.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2026–2027

President	Nancy Sechman
Vice President	Helen Culver
Secretary	Jackie Hutchings
Treasurer	Wayne Dodge
Assistant Treasurer	Patty Jacobs2
Auditor	Kathy McFarland
Program Chair	Robin Van Liew
Members-at-Large	Karen Shapiro
	Priscilla Chesna
	Kathy McFarland

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS 2026–2027

August 20, 2026, 7 pm at the home of Nancy Sechman
November 12, 2026, 7 pm at the home of Helen Culver
January 14, 2027, 7 pm at the home of Nancy Riggs
April 8, 2027, 7 pm at the home of Karen Shapiro

Attendance by all officers is requested.
Attendance by committee chairs, and any member, is welcome.
Please RSVP to the hostess if you cannot attend.

COMMITTEES 2026–2027

Ambassador to Federation	Nancy Riggs
Blue and Gold Star	Nancy Riggs and Helen Culver (co-chairs); Samantha Armstrong, Carol Oliver, Emily Proulx
Friendship	Martha Liddy
Grants Committee	Cyndy Janik (chair) Susan Ceccacci, Patty Jacobs, Linda Lehans
Historian	Dianne Noyes
Horticulture	Eileen Clark
Hospitality	S. Jane Arntz
Membership	Mia McDonald
Nominating	Executive Board
Perennial Plant Sale	Carol Manning and Leslie Walker (co-chairs); S. Jane Arntz, Susan Dresley, Jackie Hutchings, Kathy McFarland, Nancy Riggs, Nancy Sechman, Karen Shapiro, Robin Van Liew
Program Book	Susan Marsh (chair), S. Jane Arntz
Program Committee	Robin Van Liew
Telephone	Helen Culver
Town Beautification	Robin Van Liew
Website Administrator	Judy Pernice

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

(Note: Duties of the officers are described in the bylaws, starting on page 36 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.

PAST PRESIDENTS

1933-1934	Mrs. John G. Leighton
1935-1936	Mrs. Harry W. Holton
1937-1938	Mrs. Franklin C. Hubbard
1939-1940	Mrs. A. Kirke Warren
1941	Mrs. Hastings Hawkes
1942-1943	Mrs. A. Kirke Warren
1944-1945	Mrs. Edward M. Dodge
1946-1947	Mrs. Fred A. Stone
1948-1949	Mrs. William D. Fraser
1950-1951	Mrs. A. Kirke Warren
1952-1953	Mrs. Willard W. Ware
1954	Mrs. Lewis W. Needham
1955-1956	Mrs. Herman A. Smith
1957-1958	Mrs. Clifford T. Appleton
1959-1960	Mrs. John A. Porter
1961-1962	Mrs. Kenneth A. Taylor
1963-1964	Mrs. Randolph C. Smith
1965-1966	Mrs. Grover A. Chenoweth
1967-1968	Mrs. Harold W. Smith
1969-1970	Mrs. Norman R. Ward
1971-1972	Mrs. Damon H. Wilman
1973-1974	Mrs. John E. Taylor
1975	Mrs. J. Addison Waddell
1976-1978	Mrs. Shirley Olsen-Hines
1979-1980	Mrs. Stanley Amons
1981-1983	Mrs. Edward Weathersbee

1984-1985	Mrs. C. Robert Laforme
1986-1987	Mrs. Wayne Prescott
1988-1989	Mrs. Edward Weathersbee
1990-1994	Mrs. Gordon W. MacPhee
1995	Mrs. Peter Liddy and Mrs. Edward Weathersbee
1996-1997	Mrs. Leon Ahronian
1998	Anne Ahronian and Debbie Levins
1999	Debbie Levins
2000	Mary Murray and Dale Anderson
2001-2002	Amy D'Aquila and Marcy Merzigan
2003-2004	Barbara MacPhee
2005	Cheryl Monroe
2006/07-2007/08	Christina Soderman
2008/09-2009/10	Robin Van Liew
2010/11-2011/12	Nancy Riggs
2012/13-2014/15	Jane Peck
2015/16-2017/18	Robin Van Liew
2018/19-2019/20	Nancy Riggs
2020/21-2021/22	Karen Shapiro
2022/23-2023/24	Kathy McFarland
2024/25-2025/26	Kathy McFarland and Cyndy Janik
2026-27	Nancy Sechman



HOLDEN GARDEN CLUB BYLAWS

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be The Holden Garden Club.

Article II. Purposes

The purposes of the Holden Garden Club are to foster an interest in and to support improvements to gardening, horticulture, and conservation.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Membership shall consist of Active and Life members. Members shall have the right to elect officers and transact the business of the club. It is expected that all active members will take part in the club activities and are encouraged to be on at least one committee. A Life member is one who has been in the club for twenty-five years. Payment of dues by Life members is optional but welcome.

Section 2. Application for membership shall be made to the membership chair.

Section 3. Eligibility for membership shall be limited to those who have an active interest in horticulture, conservation, and gardening.

Section 4. Each member shall acquaint her or himself with the bylaws of the club and conform to their requirements.

Section 5. Any member of the HGC may attend meetings of the Executive Board. However, they should RSVP to the host and may not vote.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. The officers of the club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Auditor.

Section 2. These officers, and the Program Committee Chair, shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at the annual meeting.

Section 3. No member shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive years. However, the executive board may make an exception when necessary.

Section 4. It is established that the Holden Garden Club Officers have no personal liability to debt, or obligation of the club and all persons having claim against the club shall have access only to the funds and property of the club for payment or restitution.

Article V. Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the club and of the Executive Board. The President shall fill vacancies with the approval of the Executive Board. She/he shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in case of the President's absence, disability or resignation. The other officers in their order shall assume such duties when the Vice President is unable to do so. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to handle the publicity of the club. The Vice President will assist the President in every way possible and prepare him or herself to succeed the outgoing president.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a full record of all meetings of the club and of the Executive Board. She/he shall present at the annual meeting a written report of the year's work. It will be the Secretary's responsibility to conduct all correspondence and to issue notification of all Executive Board meetings as called by the President. She/he shall receive and file all committee reports by the annual meeting. At the discretion of the President these reports may be read by the committee chair at the annual meeting.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall collect and deposit all money belonging to the club, and shall pay bills and make disbursements from the funds under the direction of the Executive Board. Any expenditures of \$300.00 or more must be brought before the Executive Board in person or by email. Upon approval by two-thirds vote of attending members or those who reply by email, the Executive Board may then approve the expenditure. The Treasurer shall keep a list of the members and date of admission. She/he will submit a current membership list to the Membership Chair. She/he will present a monthly statement at monthly meetings as well as at the

Executive Board meetings. At the annual meeting, the Treasurer shall render the accounts in writing, properly attested to by the Auditor.

Section 5. The Assistant Treasurer will perform the duties of the Treasurer in case of her/his absence, disability, or resignation and help the Treasurer in any way possible.

Section 6. The Auditor shall audit all accounts of the Treasurer at the end of the club's fiscal year, June 30. The Auditor will report in writing at the September meeting.

Article VI. Duties of the Executive Board

The Executive Board consists of the officers, all Committee Chairs, and three Members-at-Large, one of whom should be the immediate past President. The Executive Board shall manage the business of the club and have general control over its affairs. It shall bring any change of policy before the club for consideration.

Article VII. Committees

Section 1. Nominating Committee. This committee shall consist of three to five members appointed by the Executive Board. The committee will present a written list of all candidates for election at the April meeting of the club. These candidates will then be voted upon at the annual meeting.

Section 2. Membership Chair & Assistant. These members will be appointed by the President. They shall keep a correct list of members, process membership applications, and keep

a list of the date of members' admissions to the club. They will also keep records of anything else pertaining to new members in agreement with the President. It shall be their responsibility to recognize and honor new Life members at the annual meeting, and to purchase a thank-you gift for the outgoing President.

Section 3. The following additional committees have been formed to carry on the mission of our club: Club Ambassador (liaison to the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.), Friendship, Grants, Historian, Horticulture, Hospitality, Perennial Plant Sale, Program, Program Book, Telephone, Town Beautification, and Website.

Section 4. Other committees as may be required shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board.

Article VIII. Meetings

Section 1. Ten regular meetings of the club shall be held on the first Thursday of the month as determined by the Program Committee. The annual meeting and election of officers shall be held in June or July. The newly elected officers shall assume their duties following the annual meeting.

Section 2. Special meetings of the club shall be called by the Secretary by order of the President, or at the written (or emailed) request of ten members of the club. The purpose of all special meetings shall be stated in the call which shall be sent out at least five days before the meeting.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall meet four times a year. The President may call more than four meetings if she/he deems this is necessary.

Section 4. Members may bring guests to meetings and events of the club.

Section 5. The majority of regular monthly meetings and special meetings shall be held in person. Electronic meetings are permissible so long as members can simultaneously hear each other and participate. Votes can be taken and will be considered valid.

Article IX. Quorum

All members present shall constitute a quorum of the club for business meetings. Five members shall constitute a quorum for the Executive board meetings.

Article X. Dues

Section 1. The annual dues for members shall be \$25 per member and \$35 for a family and must be paid by July 1.

Section 2. New members who join after April shall have their membership extended through the following fiscal year. The fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30.

Section 3. Members failing to pay dues before the end of June shall be at once notified by the Treasurer and those who have not paid for one year shall forfeit all rights to membership and their names shall be taken from the roll.

Article XI. Bylaws

The Holden Garden Club bylaws will be published as part of the Holden Garden Club program book each year. They shall be reviewed every five years. Revisions will be emailed to members and a vote taken to accept at the next regular meeting. If an in-person meeting is not possible, the vote may be conducted by email. After acceptance, the new bylaws will be sent out by email. The date of review will be stated at end of bylaws.

Article XII. The Rule of Procedure

These shall be according to Robert’s Rules: Call to order; reading and approval of minutes; announcements; reports of committees; unfinished business; new business; adjournment.

Article XIII. Nondiscrimination Clause

The Holden Garden Club shall not permit in their conduct of club affairs any restriction or limitation whatsoever based upon race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or employment status.

Article XIV. Dissolution Clause

In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the organization shall, after payment of necessary expenses, be distributed to such organization as shall qualify under Section 501 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax law,

or to the federal government, a state or local government for public purpose, subject to the approval of a court of competent jurisdiction within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Article XV. Amendments Section

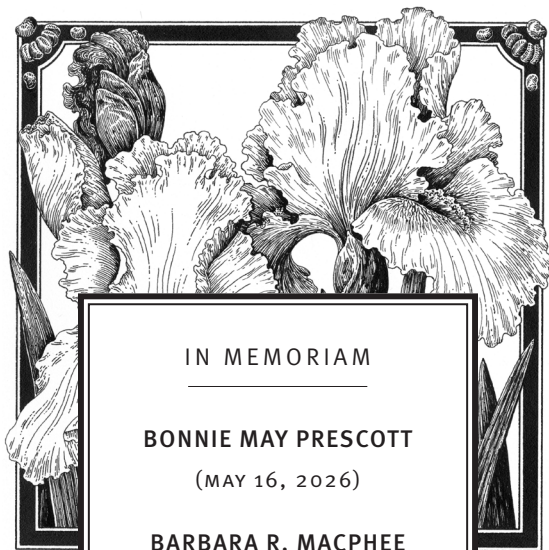
Section 1. These bylaws may be amended using the same procedure as that used for 5-year revisions.

Section 2. Amendments are to go into effect when adopted unless otherwise stated in the notice.

Article XVI. Bylaw Suspension

Any article of these bylaws may be suspended for not more than one meeting by a majority vote, except the articles on amendments and suspensions, which shall not be suspended.

*Submitted by the Bylaw Review Committee on March 7, 2021.
Approved by the membership on April 1, 2021. S. Jane Arntz,
chair. Susan Marsh, Jane Peck, Nancy Riggs, and Karen Shapiro.*



IN MEMORIAM

BONNIE MAY PRESCOTT

(MAY 16, 2026)

BARBARA R. MACPHEE

(JUNE 11, 2026)

RICHARD H. SIOUI

(JUNE 13, 2026)

BOOKLET DESIGNED BY SUSAN MARSH | INK DRAWINGS BY CAROL SCHWARTZ

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS BY BART HILL, HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS