Volume III | March 2021

Mayflower

Spring 2021

Visit our Website

FEATURE PLANT
Morella pensylvanica

Morella pensylvanica is also called bayberry, Northern bayberry or candleberry. Where their ranges overlap, northern bayberry may hybridize with wax myrtle (*M. cerifera*) and southern bayberry (*M. heterophylla*). Native to North America, it is primarily found growing along the eastern coast from Newfoundland to North Carolina in zones 3-7.

Bayberry is a dense-branching, deciduous, rounded shrub, which grows 5-10 feet tall and wide. Narrow, glossy, grayish-green leaves are up to 4 inches long and dotted with resin and are aromatic when crushed. It is dioecious, with male and female catkins on separate plants. The catkins appear in May, but can last to early summer. Neither catkin, female nor male catkin, are showy. The male catkins are a drab yellowish-green color and generally longer than female catkins. Catkins on female plants, if pollinated by the wind, are followed by attractive clusters of tiny, grayish-white fruits in late summer and last through the winter. The fruits are covered with an aromatic, waxy substance which is used to make bayberry candles, soaps and sealing wax. The fruits are attractive to many different birds.

Bayberry grows most vigorously in sandy or peaty and slightly acidic well drained soils receiving full to partial sun. It will tolerate both drought and wet soil. It will also tolerate a wide range of Ph including acidic, neutral and slightly alkaline. It's growth rate is slow. It spreads naturally via rhizomatous growth to sandy soils free of vegetation. It is well adapted to stable dune environments. To propagate, sow seeds outdoors in the fall or stratify. You can collect seeds from a bayberry plant in mid– to late fall. Semi-hardwood cuttings root moderately well with hormone treatment.

Best in groups or massed, bayberry is a versatile shrub that can be used in woodland gardens, shrub borders, as a screen or informal hedge, in wet or shady sites, or on a bank for erosion control. Salt tolerance makes it appropriate for locations near roads that are salted in winter. It is an interesting plant for grouping in a corner of a large herb garden. There are no serious insect or disease problems associated with this shrub.

Winter persistent fruit and late season leaf retention make bayberry valuable food and shelter for wildlife. The fruit is typically above snow accumulations and available throughout the winter to bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, turkey, ring-necked pheasant, woodpeckers and numerous songbirds. It is highly deer resistant. It attracts pollinators such as butterflies and is the larval host for the Carolina silk moth

John Forti to Receive NGC Award of Excellence

National Garden Clubs presents an Award of Excellence to recognize exceptional individuals, organizations or institutions that have made significant contributions to their communities in such areas as environmental and civic responsibility, conservation or community beautification through gardening projects. This award is their highest honor for non-members.

In 2020 NGC selected three recipients for this award and will present them at their 2021 Annual Convention in May (if held). One of those selected to receive this honor is New England's own, John Forti. John is an award-winning garden historian, ethnobotanist, and local foods advocate. He is an author and frequent contributor to gardening, lifestyle and food publications. He hosts "The Heirloom Gardener – John Forti," a daily blog visited by more than 60,000 people around the world. At present he is the executive director of Bedrock Gardens in Lee, New Hampshire.

John began his gardening career here at Plimoth Plantation Museum in Plymouth, Mass, where he served 12 years as director of horticulture. While there he researched, designed and led on-site classes in Native American and colonial gardens. He also developed an historic seeds program that got international attention for the preservation of the Pilgrim and Wampanoag heirloom crops. John left Plimoth Plantation to become curator and director of the historic landscapes at Strawbery Banke Museum in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. There he created an ethnobotanical herb garden; and award-wining historic landscape app; a Victorian hothouse exhibit; a World War II victory garden restoration and the first living history children's garden in the nation.

From there John took on the task as director of horticulture for the Massachusetts Horticultural Society at Elm Banke in Wellesley. While there he transitioned the society's grounds into a public garden, restored a beloved children's garden and spearheaded a statewide school garden collaboration.

When John left Elm Bank, he became the founding director for Bedrock Gardens in Lee, New Hampshire, guiding the transition of this 37-acre site from a historic farm and private garden to a public oasis of art, and horticulture. Bedrock integrates unusual botanical specimens and unique sculpture into inspiring landscapes. The garden areas include an acre of native grasses designed like a painting; an extensive espaliered Belgian fence, a serene Japanese teahouse garden; elegant lotus rill; rock garden; pinetum; apiary; wildlife ponds; pergolas; and two miles of garden and woodland trails.

In addition to all this, John is a regional governor and biodiversity specialist for Slow Food USA, a national chapter of Slow Foods, a global organization and international grass roots movement that connects food producers and consumers to local agriculture, farmers' markets and traditional, regional cuisine.

John's name was submitted for this award by the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, but his name has also been submitted in the past by GCFM. We congratulate John on this well-deserved award

Calendar of Events

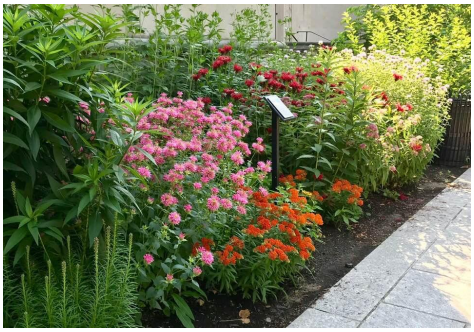
March 24 - Zoom Webinar "Gardentopia" sponsored by GCFM Register here
March 29 - Zoom Program Workshop 10:30 AM
April 8-10 - Gardening School see below
April 15, 2021 - Deadline, Club Insurance
April 22 - GCFM Zoom Lecture Save the Date
May 1, 2021 - Deadline Club Dues
May 12 - GCFM Zoom Lecture - Save the Date
June 16 - LDC Webinar, Kathy Connolly - "Create Foundation Gardens that Say 'Welcome Home' to Native Plants," 11:00 AM

GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.
Gardening School Course 3, Series 11 - April 8, 9, & 10, 2021
Zoom Virtual Offering Only

Subjects covered:
Thursday, April 8. 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
· Factors That Influence Plant Growth – Dr. Judith Sumner
· New Plant Development and Evaluation – Dr. Judith Sumner
Friday, April 9, 8:45 am to 1:30 pm
· Container Gardening – Betty Sanders, Master Gardener
· Houseplant Basics – Betty Sanders, Master Gardener
· Native Trees and Shrubs – Betty Sanders, Master Gardener
Saturday, April 10, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Email test for those becoming consultants follows

· Supporting the Wild: Plants for Birds and Pollinators – Joann Vieira, Horticulturalist
· Teaching Tour – Joann Vieira, Horticulturalist

There will be a review at the end of each session for those taking the exams
Suggested Reading: *Botany for Gardeners* by Brian Capon maybe purchased through Amazon.com
Permitted Equipment: Desktop, Laptop, IPad or Tablet
Operating System that meets Zoom.com system Requirements: Microsoft Windows, Apple MacOS, Apple IOS on Ipad, Android on Tablet
Click here for Registration form - deadline for all is March 26, 2021 **No refunds:**



NATIVE PLANT CHALLENGE has been extended!

See the latest newsletter here:
February NPC Newsletter

To learn more about the challenge, look on the GCFM website

Do you plan to include native plants in your 2021 plant sale?
If so, we are here to help. Click to contact BONNIE ROSENTHALL for more information.

Neonicotinoids: Will They be Banned? By Maria Bartlett

The Department of Agricultural Resources's Pesticide Board was directed to do a scientific literature review about the evidence that neonicotinoid insecticides are harmful to bees. The results of that review were released in the fall and showed unequivocally that neonicotinoids DO harm bees. A public hearing held in December heard testimony about this review and about asking DOAR to restrict the use of these insecticides in MA. The Executive Board of GCFM voted to have our Vice President Jill Malcolm and Maria Bartlett submit testimony and support restrictions. The Pesticide Board will be considering this topic and perhaps ruling on restrictions at their February 16 meeting....STAY TUNED!!

CLUB ACTIVITIES

The Plymouth Garden Club had a very active fall and winter schedule. Their Civic Beautification Committee redesigned the 10 garden beds fronting The Plymouth Public Library (*picture at left*) and at Plymouth's Brewster Gardens, planting tulips in the spring and daffodil bulbs & chrysanthemums this fall. The Club has been planting and maintaining these gardens and at other sites throughout town for the past 30 years.

Their Annual Holiday Greens Sale was a profitable success netting almost $3000 despite the challenges of the pandemic and a wild winter storm. It was held under the portico at Plymouth Public Library and inside by appointment. To streamline their workshop, the greens, cones and decorations were selected and pre-bagged ready to be quickly wired onto the wreaths. The cemetery boxes and table arrangements were decorated pre-sale at members homes.

Plymouth GC has created a Facebook page to stay in touch and showcase members gardens and arrangements. They have added a Shopping Cart to the Club website for the public to purchase by PayPal and credit card their forever wreaths and club swag.

The Bridgewater Garden Club scheduled zoom meetings with speakers for January, February and March. They are also planning for an outdoor Plant Sale in May or June.

The Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club held their Conservation Expo with Mike and Angie Chute on February 24th via Zoom. It was free and open to the community at large. Attendees were able to ask questions of each presenter. Speakers represented local conservation organizations and shared local resources on composting, the watershed and dealing with invasive plants.

Acton Garden Club is looking ahead to spring and gardening. Their remote programs include; "A Sequence of Bloom" with Laura Bibler (pictured left); a horticulture workshop on fruit growing in February and a program on "Growing Iris, Daylilies and Hosta" by Suzanne Mahler in March.

Garden Club of Harvard has held regular zoom meetings. In January they had a cooking demonstration with Liz Barbour (*photo right*) and in March they will have "Getting Ready for Spring" with Suzanne Mahler.

They have also been sharing gardening advice on their Facebook page including; "Growing Clivia" and a winter native tree walk.

Norwood Evening Garden Club has been holding member only meetings at a local church, practicing social distancing and mask wearing. They had Robert Gegear in January on "More than Just the Buzz: Gardening for Biodiversity." In February, they featured Hannah Traggis on "Container Vegetable Gardening.

"Enjoying Neighborhood Gardens, Celebrating our 90th Anniversary"

A Garden Tour presented by
The Danvers Garden Club, Est. 1930-1931

Saturday, June 19, 2021
9:00 am to 3:30 pm (rain or shine)
Please follow all State pandemic guidelines in effect

Garden Tour Tickets $20 in advance
$25 on Tour day (sold at all Tour locations-cash/check only)
Make your check payable to Danvers Garden Club

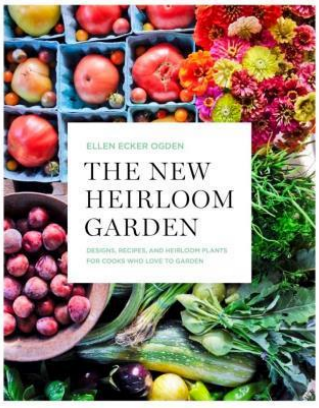
Please provide your Name, Address, Tel. #, & Email
Mail to: P.O. Box 167, Danvers, MA 01923
Questions? Email us at danversgardenclub@gmail.com

IN MEMORIUM
SANDRA SEARS
July 25, 1937 – December 17, 2020

The Federation has lost a past board member and dear friend, Sandra Sears. Sandy, as she was called, had been a math teacher at St. John's Prep in Danvers for 18 years and was a member of the Danvers Garden Club.
Sandy was a flower show judge and enjoyed doing designs and participating in the flower shows whether exhibiting or judging. She also helped with the Topsfield Fair Flower Show for many years. She also loved to garden and share her plants.
Sandy served many positions for the Federation over the years. She was Northern District Director from 2005-2007. She served on Garden Therapy Committee, Awards Committee, Scholarship Trustees, Horticulture Committee-Outdoor Gardening and Children's Gardens, and Advisory Committee. Her skills in math led her to being the GCFM Treasurer from 2007-2009 and then on the Finance & Budget Committee and Investments Committee in the years following. Sandy left the board in 2015 when she moved back to Camden, Maine.
For those who knew Sandy, you will remember her beautiful smile, soft voice, boundless energy and friendliness towards everyone. She was always willing to help, always there with a kind word or thoughtful gesture. We will miss you Sandy!

Lesson in Design: A Kitchen Garden

Maureen T. O'Brien
Master Consultant & Chair
Landscape Design Council



On January 27, 2021, almost 200 GCFM members attended a Zoom Lecture, *The New Heirloom Garden*with Ellen Ecker Ogden. The event was sponsored by the Landscape Design Counsel (LDC.) Ogden, an artist by training, is a food and garden writer, whose books feature European-style potager designs and recipes for cooks who love to garden. Ogden's lecture, her designs and books reflect her background as an artist. She was engaging, informative and inspirational.

Ogden opened with a brief overview of kitchen garden history. She gave examples of historical kitchen gardens such as the Garden of Eden, four-square Islamic gardens, Medieval monastic gardens, Renaissance gardens, colonial gardens and contemporary gardens, both large and small. These historical gardens clearly inspired her own garden and designs.
She encouraged visiting gardens to learn and get inspired. She suggested that you take a feature from a garden that you love and adapt it in your own kitchen garden design. She illustrated this

with her own garden, a garden that the ordinary gardener can relate to and easily create. Ogden's six steps for Designing the Kitchen Garden are:

- The Site
- Garden Paths
- Garden Beds
- Boundaries
- Plant Materials
- Add Personal Touches

She gave examples of each of these steps with an engaging narrative and concrete examples.
Ogden favors the geometrical, four-square garden, an ancient form that lends itself to beauty, accessibility and plant health. Yet she demonstrated that the four-square garden can take many forms and you are not limited to any strict design. She emphasized that the garden experience is the essence of good kitchen garden design the – physical – visual – sensual and spiritual. Reflecting your personality in your design creates a sense of place that is all yours.
Ogden is an excellent cook and she credits that with her transition to creating kitchen garden designs. She ended her talk stressing the importance of the quality of the food you grow – what you grow should be a sensory experience and look and taste great. She advocated seed saving and heirloom plants for the best tasting and healthiest food while preserving our food history.
The takeaway ~ observe, adapt, personalize, think green and if at first you don't succeed, try again.

Ogden's new book, *The New Heirloom Garden*, Rodale Books, 2021, is beautifully illustrated and contains garden designs and recipes. You may purchase an autographed book on her website. It is a great reference book for any bookshelf. You can view Ogden's lecture on GCFM's. YouTube channel here.

The LDC members have completed the Landscape Design School, a series of four 10-hour courses, and passed the required examinations, entitling them to become accredited Landscape Design Consultants and members of the Council. The Council provides continuing education programs, bestows awards and provides grants to the community. Visit LDSMA.org