



# Leaflet

A MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

May 2019

**Spring is here!**  
Please consider a gift to help our gardens grow!

**DONATE NOW**



## Letter from the Interim President

Dear Members,

Today, Friday, May 3 is Opening Day at The Gardens at Elm Bank! There are exciting changes being implemented in the coming weeks.

First, we are extending our perimeter fencing. It has always been difficult for members of the public to differentiate between the Elm Bank Reservation and The Gardens at Elm Bank. This new arrangement will more fully define the boundaries of our leased property. It will have a positive impact on the gardens by keeping cars off of the grass and tree roots, and it will be a much more pleasing environment. The change will affect parking for everyone. There will be no parking or driving within the gardens. All vehicles will remain in the parking lots.

Second, everyone visiting The Gardens at Elm Bank this season will enter through the main gate and pay admission or show their membership at the Gatehouse. For those of you who attended 2018 Festival of Trees, you will recognize this process. The Visitors Center will not be used for Admissions. Memberships will also be available for purchase at the Gatehouse, along with information, maps, directions, bottled water and snacks.

Third, the Visitors Center has been transformed into an Exhibit space for botanical art, photography and community art. Our first exhibit opens May 3 from 10:00 to 4:00 showcasing *Wellesley College's Botanical Art and Illustration: 2019 Graduating Artist Exhibition*. Check it out!

## Upcoming Classes & Events:

### Early Season Gardening

Sunday, May 5  
10 a.m. - noon

### Potted Herb Gardens

Tuesday, May 7  
1 - 3 p.m.

### Gardeners' Fair

Saturday, May 11  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Members' Hour 8 - 9 a.m.

### Bird Bonanza

Saturday, May 11  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Tour: the Ouch House

Tuesday, May 14  
10 - 11:30 a.m.

### Success with Hydrangeas

Thursday, May 16  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

### Ikebana Course

Tuesdays  
May 21 - June 25; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

### Totally Terrific Tomatoes

Sunday, June 2  
10 a.m. - noon

### Wonderful Water

Saturday, June 8  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Wakefield Estate Tour

Tuesday, June 11  
10 a.m. - noon

All of these changes are made with the intent of improving the guest experience while visiting The Gardens at Elm Bank.

One thing that has not changed, is our Gardeners' Fair! We look forward to welcoming you on Saturday, May 11 for our annual plant and garden sale. Read on for details.

As we make these changes, we would love your feedback. To that end, we have a survey for you to complete at The Gardeners' Fair. Tell us about your experience and be entered to win a new grill!

We hope to see you at The Gardeners' Fair and in the gardens,

Suzanne Maas  
Interim President and Executive Director

### [Hands-On Floral Design](#)

Wednesdays  
June 12 - June 26  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

### [Lore and Science of Companion Planting](#)

Thursday, June 20  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

### [Eco Printing: Botanical Prints on Paper](#)

Thursday, June 27  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### [The Art of Planting Design](#)

Wednesdays  
July 10 - 24  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



**Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**Special Members' Hour 8 - 9 a.m.**

[Learn More Here!](#)

The Gardeners' Fair has everything you need to plan, dig, plant, and enjoy your home garden space! Find rare and unusual perennials, trees and shrubs; ready-to-plant herbs and vegetables; tomato varieties by the dozens. The Gardeners' Fair has everything you need for your home garden!

**Allendale Farm** will bring a wide selection of vegetable plants, and local plant societies including **The New England Unit of the Herb Society** will be selling a wide variety of specialty plants. The Herb Society will also be leading tours of the Herb Garden, and **Massachusetts Master Gardeners** will be hosting an info booth and collecting [soil samples](#).

Enjoy the day-- we'll have a **Pangea Cuisines** food truck, an afternoon bar cart, the **Wellesley Town Band**, and family activities celebrating International Migratory Bird Day. Get your gardening questions answered at the **Ask the Master Gardener** booth, or sit in on a talk highlighting: best practices for vegetable growing and plant choices for birds.

Sign up here to [volunteer!](#)

Admission is \$5 per car for the general public, free for Mass Hort members.

Vendors from around New England will be selling anything you can think of to help you plant your dream garden. [Click here](#) to see a list of last year's vendors.

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## **Bird Bonanza!**

**Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Enjoy family activities throughout the gardens celebrating International Migratory Bird Day! Kids can fill their garden passports as they complete different bird-themed activities, crafts, and games to learn about the life of a bird and what people can do to help them live. For all ages, there will be talks on gardening for birds, the life of owls, and attracting hummingbirds to your garden.



Activities will be throughout the gardens along with the Gardeners' Fair.

Admission: Members: Free; General Public: \$5 per car

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## **Wellesley College Botanic Gardens' Certificate in Botanical Art and Illustration 2019 Graduating Artist Exhibition**

**May 3 - May 12**

During construction of Wellesley College's science center and modernized greenhouses, we have been hosting the Friends of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens (WCBG Friends) and their botanical art courses at The Gardens at Elm Bank. It has been a pleasure to introduce their students to our gardens and to watch the creation of art grounded in botanical science.



This spring, Friends of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens celebrates the accomplishments of their tenth class of certificate recipients. The artwork of these four recipients, Marsha L. Helmstadter, Diane S. Piktialis, Doris Sheils, and Kaoru Takaishi, will be on display in our Visitors Center from May 3 to May 12. Please check our [website](#) for hours.

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## **Kiftgate Court Gardens: Three Generations of Women Gardeners**

**By Vanessa Berridge**

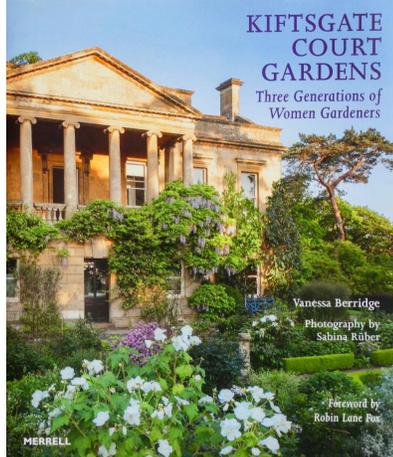
**Merrell, 2019**

*Reviewed by Patrice Todisco*

For one hundred years, Heather Muir, her daughter Diany

Benny and her daughter Anne Chambers, have gardened at Kiftsgate. None were writers or prone to self-promotion. Each gardened as a personal passion building upon the legacy of the previous generation. The result is one of England's finest country house gardens. *Kiftsgate Court Gardens: Three Generations of Women Gardeners* tells their story.

[Read More](#)



## Upcoming Education Programs

There's so much to learn with Mass Hort! To see a full list of classes and programs, check out our website and the [digital course catalog](#). This month we have incredible classes led by field experts, check them out: [here](#).

## Spring Volunteer Opportunities

Here are all the ways to get involved with us this spring:

**Spring Gardening:** Get your hands in the dirt and learn with us! No green thumb needed. [Sign up here](#).

### Plantmobile/Children's Outreach

**Opportunities:** Help cultivate the next generation of gardeners! Mass Hort Plantmobile volunteers work with kids to help them explore the plant world through activities at The Gardens at Elm Bank, at schools, and at community events. [Volunteer here](#).

**Gardeners' Fair:** Event volunteers are needed on Saturday, May 11 at our annual Gardeners' Fair. Join us as a volunteer and kick off your gardening season on this fun day! [Sign up here](#).

**Art Docents in the Visitors Center:** We are excited to welcome artists from the Friends of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens for an art exhibit that will run from May 3 - May 12. Art docent volunteers are needed to welcome visitors, answer questions, and provide general information about the gardens and Friends of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens. [Learn more and sign up here](#).

Stay tuned for more spring opportunities in the gardens. Or, contact Amy Rodrigues at [arodrigues@masshort.org](mailto:arodrigues@masshort.org) to set up a spring or summer corporate volunteer day. Details and opportunities are also listed on our [Volunteer Webpage](#).

Thank you for donating your time to our mission!



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## Let's Look Around: Frogs and Toads

By Kathi Gariepy,  
Leaflet Contributor



In the springtime you can hear them. It's the spring peeper or, if you're your little one wants to be very specific and likes big words, the *Pseudacris crucifer*. The little, about an inch long, frogs with the big voice are brown with a darker brown "X" on their back. They like to be near wet areas of the forest floor and this year they should be very happy with the approximately 6 inches of rain we have had. Spring is the perfect time to put on the rain boots and go out for a walk to look for frogs and toads with your little ones.

[Read More](#)

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## From the Stacks:

By Maureen T. O'Brien,  
Library Manager

"What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered."

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)



April showers and warmer days awaken our gardens and the weeds! Weeds are inevitable and one of the first signs of spring. Emerson takes a romantic view of weeds as does Winnie the Pooh who says "Weeds are flowers, too, once you get to know them." They can also be a nemesis that can consume you and your garden! Many weeds look like flowers. In fact many of the weeds we loathe today started out as imported ornamental plants. It is important to identify the unwanted plant and then how to safely and sustainably control or eradicate it. Books can help you do that.

[Read More](#)

Image: Hedge bindweed (*Convolvulus sepium*) is one of five portraits of this plant from our [Edwin Hale Lincoln Collection online gallery](#) at Digital Commonwealth. This image provides a whole new perspective of the plant that displays its gracefulness and beauty and proves the old adage "one man's weed is another man's flower." It is easily mistaken for its cousin the ornamental morning glory (*Ipomoea tricolor*) from the same family, *Convolvulaceae*.

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## Announcing a New Way to Help Mass Hort!

We have partnered with Charitable Adult Rides & Services (CARS)



to help people turn their unwanted vehicles into cash for the programs at The Gardens at Elm Bank. This program provides an easy way for you to donate your car, receive a tax deduction, and have the funds flow back to Mass Hort.

For more information on this exciting new program, visit our website: [car donation information](#) or call Elaine at 617-933-4945.



## 2019 Is Leap Year

*By Neal Sanders,  
Leaflet Contributor*

The gardening world is rich with mnemonics; simple rhyming catchphrases that help you remember important rules. How much sunlight does a vegetable need? “Leaf, root, flower, fruit” tells you everything you need to know. ‘Leaf’ vegetables like lettuce need the least light, ‘fruit’ ones need most.

[Read More](#)



## May Horticultural Hints

*by Betty Sanders,  
Lifetime Master Gardener*

**Tread Lightly** All the rain we received in April means some garden chores should be delayed until the soil dries out. If you find you are leaving impressions in the lawn or footprints in the garden, stop. Compacting soil is a bad idea because you are pushing out the air roots need to breathe (and yes, roots breathe) and preventing water from flowing through. It is very hard to get rid of footprints (or cart and tool tracks) once they have been made.



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