

LENOX GARDEN CLUB

CHRONOLOGY 1911–2023 & COMMUNITY DONATIONS 1991–2023



**Compiled by the
Archives & Yearbook Committees,
2024**

LENOX GARDEN CLUB CHRONOLOGY 1911–2023



1911–1919

- * Lenox Garden Club (LGC) holds its first meeting, John E. Parsons presents a paper on “Weeds and Their Nature,” and Richard Goodman is elected president; dues \$3.00, 1911.
- * LGC organizes program and plant committees, and joins the Garden Club of America; dues are raised to \$3.50 with 50 cents going to GCA, 1913.
- * LGC hosts GCA annual meeting; dues \$5.00, 1916.
- * WORLD WAR I: club members decide to devote the year to food production instead of floriculture.
- * LGC participates in the national effort to preserve the redwoods.

1920–1939

- * LGC organizes a community flower show in Lilac Park, designed by Daniel Chester French, 1922.
- * LGC members form “Roadside Committee” and conceive a plan to establish Pleasant Valley Bird and Wildflower Sanctuary, 1929–1930s.
- * LGC joins with seven other clubs to form the Berkshire Garden Center in Stockbridge, 1934.
- * LGC enters the New York Flower Show in Grand Central Palace and wins a blue ribbon for “Mexican Balcony,” 1938.

1940–1959

- * LGC raises more than \$1,700 to purchase mobile canteen equipment and a station wagon for the Berkshire County chapter of the American Red Cross by showing three Stockbridge gardens, circa 1940.
- * LGC opens members' gardens to benefit world famine relief efforts, 1940.
- * WORLD WAR II: LGC participates in "Seeds for England" project; victory gardens abound, 1940s–1950s.
- * LGC seconds the purchase of Bartholomew's Cobble in Sheffield, winning a GCA Founders Fund award, 1944.
- * LGC receives GCA Founders Fund grant to finance an expedition to Great Britain and Ireland in order to collect rare plants for introduction to the U.S., 1952.
- * LGC wins blue and a special horticulture commendation for "Plymouth 1640 Garden" at the International Flower Show in New York City, 1954.
- * LGC wins first premium award for its garden "Patio" in the Lenox Horticultural Society Show, 1956.
- * LGC members establish an herb cutting garden at Berkshire Garden Center, later turned over to the Herb Associates, 1958.



1960–1969

- * LGC plans and dedicates Proctor Garden in memory of past president Beatrice Proctor at the Berkshire Garden Center, 1960s.
- * LGC co-hosts 420 GCA members at the 49th GCA annual meeting in Lenox, June 1962.
- * LGC participates in Lenox Bicentennial Flower Show with “1776 Lenox Homestead” and enters a decorated “tub” pony cart in the parade, 1967.
- * LGC members are instrumental in saving “The Old Corner House,” Stockbridge, which later becomes the Norman Rockwell Museum, 1968.
- * LGC hosts the Southern New England Zone II meeting in June; joins Zone I in GCA’s new zoning plan, July 1968.

1970–1979

- * LGC holds annual plant sales at Hancock Shaker Village and donates proceeds to community projects, 1970s.
- * LGC does extensive work in helping to organize a clean-up of the Williams River, 1970s.
- * LGC organizes a massive daffodil bulb planting in Lilac Park, 1971.
- * LGC member Amy Bess Miller receives national recognition and a GCA Historic Preservation Award for her extensive work at Hancock Shaker Village, 1973.
- * LGC designs a miniature room replica of Herman Melville’s study with a tiny version of the life-size flower arrangement for GCA annual meeting, 1976.
- * LGC wins two cups for excellence in horticulture and design for “A Dooryard Garden” at Boston’s New England Flower Show, 1976.

- * LGC publishes “Aspects of Gardening in Berkshire County,” 1976.
- * LGC hosts the GCA Zone I annual meeting, May 1978.
- * LGC members contribute recipes to “Fifty Nifty Treats” I, II, and III cookbooks, 1970s–1983.

1980–1989

- * LGC sponsors the first “Daffodil Show” at the Berkshire Garden Center, 1983.
- * LGC conceives the idea and sponsors the first “Festival of Trees” at the Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, 1986.
- * LGC members hold a “Horticultural Therapy Workshop” with Kimball Farm residents, 1986.
- * LGC wins a GCA Webster Cup for excellence in design for “A Garden in Quito” exhibit at the New England Flower Show, Boston, 1987.
- * LGC enters the New England Flower Show with “Kitchen Window Greenhouse,” 1988.
- * LGC is one of three finalists and runner-up, receiving a \$2,500 GCA Founders Fund award for restoration of the Red Garden at Edith Wharton’s “The Mount,” 1989.



1990–1999

- * LGC co-hosts GCA Zone I Small Flower Show at Hancock Shaker Village, 1990.
- * LGC photographs and descriptions of seven notable Berkshire gardens are accepted into the Archives of American Gardens, a collaboration of GCA and the Smithsonian Institution, 1990s–on.
- * LGC hosts its first annual garden and house tour “Hidden Treasures of the Berkshires,” 1991.
- * LGC participates in ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the restoration of Lilac Park, 1991.
- * LGC designs “South Facing Plant Room” for the New England Flower Show, 1995.
- * LGC exhibits plants brought into the U.S. from England by Thomas Hall at the New England Flower Show, 1996.
- * LGC hosts the GCA Zone I annual meeting, June 1997.
- * LGC funds the rebuilding of the steps to the Chinese Temple Garden at Naumkeag, and later funds the restoration of its moon gate and tiled roof, 1997.

2000–2011

- * LGC members join in the annual Great Barrington “River Walk” clean-up along the Housatonic River, mid-2000s.
- * LGC displays members’ hand-painted daffodil plates at Ventfort Hall, 2006.
- * LGC hosts the GCA Garden History and Design regional meeting at The Mount, 2006.
- * LGC “What’s Growin’ On?” newsletter printed in color; 50% of members opt to receive it online by 2006.
- * LGC presents GCA flower shows “Bloomsday,” “Go Green I,” “Go Green II,” “Kooky Spooky,” 2006–2009.

- * LGC members make flower arrangements for Elder Services of Berkshire County’s “Meals on Wheels,” 2007.
- * LGC inaugurates its first photography show, “Passports,” 2009.
- * LGC donates funds in memory of past president Gertrude Burdsall to the GCA Zeller Summer Scholarship in Medicinal Botany, and a large planting of crocus at the Berkshire Botanical Garden, 2009.

Lenox Garden Club celebrates 100 years

- * LGC community donations and grants to 38 organizations surpass \$300,000 over two decades, 1991–2011.
- * LGC centennial committee assembles an exhibit of treasured club-history mementos at Ventfort Hall in Lenox, June 2011–January 2012.
- * LGC donates \$100,000 in proceeds from the annual garden and house tours—a sum matched by Berkshire Botanical Garden trustee members—to build and equip a state-of-the-art educational classroom; the club launches that summer’s tour with a cocktail party and dedication ceremony at BBG, July 2011.



2012–2019

- * LGC inaugurates its “Accessorize!” booth at the Berkshire Botanical Garden’s Harvest Festival, with all proceeds going to support BBG programming, 2012–on.
- * LGC welcomes 12 members of the former Berkshire Garden Club in Pittsfield, the first time two GCA clubs have merged, 2015.

- * LGC hosts “Bee Involved,” the Zone I annual meeting, September 2016.
- * LGC establishes a Lilac Park endowment and turns over its maintenance to the town of Lenox, 2016.
- * LGC donates 69 glass lantern slides (circa 1930s and earlier) to the Smithsonian’s Archive of American Gardens and designs note cards featuring the images, receiving the Zone I Garden History and Design Award, 2017.
- * LGC begins the process of organizing and digitizing archival materials to preserve and provide access to its historical record, 2017.
- * LGC is one of three finalists and runner-up for a Founders Fund \$10,000 award for Roots Rising, a local farm-to-table program for at-risk teens, 2018.
- * LGC reinstates the annual club flower show with “Name that Daffodil” at BBG’s Center House, 2018.
- * LGC celebrates Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary’s 90th anniversary with a “Birds, Blossoms and Brunch” gala, raising \$32,000 for an endowment to support the Berkshire Environmental Literacy Program in Berkshire County schools, 2019.
- * LGC establishes a five-year Ellen Greendale Campership at BBG’s Farm in the Garden Camp, 2019.
- * LGC receives the Rosie Jones Horticultural Award for Creativity for its woodland landscape of indigenous New England plants at the GCA annual meeting, 2019.
- * LGC conservation committee undertakes a two-year project to install a pollinator habitat at Parsons Marsh Reserve in Lenox in collaboration with Berkshire Natural Resources Council, 2018–2019.

2020–2023 and onward!

- * LGC organizes the GCA’s first-ever virtual club flower show, “Sheltering in Place with Daffodils,” during the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020; hosts three more virtual shows, 2020–2022; and resumes in-person shows with “Daffodil Derby” at BBG, 2023.
- * LGC addresses food insecurity exacerbated by the pandemic with a donation to Berkshire Bounty, 2020; club members organize three food drives to support the Lee Food Pantry, 2021–2023, and join in a planting workday at Gideon’s Garden, 2023.
- * LGC creates a pollinator–sensory garden at Muddy Brook Elementary School in Great Barrington, 2021.
- * LGC receives two GCA Partners for Plants grants totaling \$5,500 for the Sackett Brook Habitat Restoration at Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary in Pittsfield, a collaboration with Mass Audubon, 2021–2022.
- * LGC receives a \$10,000 GCA Restoration Initiative Grant to assist Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in repairing damage caused by a devastating windstorm, 2022.
- * LGC documents additional notable Berkshire-area gardens, including six club members’ own gardens, a total of 13 submissions accepted into the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens through 2022.
- * LGC solicits applications for a \$500 scholarship award to a Berkshire County graduating senior to aid postsecondary study in a field related to the club’s mission, 2022–on.
- * LGC designs and installs a new Pollinator Pathway garden at the Stockbridge Congregational Church and helps refurbish established pollinator–friendly plantings at the Stockbridge Library, 2022–2023.

LENOX GARDEN CLUB
Community Donations
1991–2023



LGC community grants to date exceed \$500,000
in support of horticultural, educational, and
civic beautification projects in and around
Berkshire County

Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Ashintully Gardens
Bartholomew's Cobble
Berkshire Botanical Garden
Berkshire Bounty
Berkshire Center for Families and Children
Berkshire Gateway Preservation
Berkshire Historical Society at Herman Melville's
Arrowhead
Berkshire Natural Resources Council
Bidwell House Museum
Chesterwood
Egremont Land Trust
Elm Watch
First Congregational Church of Sheffield
Peace Garden
Garden Club of America
Greenagers

Habitat for Humanity
Hebert Arboretum at Springside Park
Hillcrest Educational Center
Housatonic River Walk
Housatonic Valley Association
Laurel Hill Association
Lenox Community Garden
Lenox Library Association
Lenox Pedestrian Bridge
Lilac Park
Mass Audubon
The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home
The Nature Conservancy, Massachusetts Chapter
Naumkeag
Pittsfield Beautiful
Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
Project Connection
Project Native
Project Sprout
Richmond Elementary School
Roots Rising
Sheffield Historical Society
Southern Berkshire Youth Association
Stockbridge Library Association
Student Conservation Fund
Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center
Trinity Church, Lenox
The Trustees of Reservations
Ventfort Hall
Williams River Fund
Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation



—In bringing you the highlights of Lenox Garden Club history and its record of community engagement, we owe a note of appreciation for the stewardship of many who have served on the archives and yearbook committees and as club historians. Here's to the past and to the future!



— LGC member Helga Kaiser created these exquisite flower drawings for the club's 2011 centennial poster.