

Why is our garden club a member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts and the National Council of Garden Clubs?

GCFM BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- The opportunity for free advertising and PR for our fundraisers to over 11,000 like-minded folks, through listings in the Federation calendar (as is Christina's event) and networking with fellow GCs in the vicinity and beyond.
- Provides a speaker's forum to introduce clubs to program presenters. Some of our members who are speakers participate in this and can buy advertising in the *Mayflower*.
- Makes the club eligible for state, regional, and national awards.
- Keeps members in touch with civic, state, and national horticultural and conservation affairs.
- Provides factual information and practical advice.
- Acts as a guiding force for disseminating garden club information and ideals.
- Sends free to each garden club president the Federation Yearbook, with calendar of events, listing of state officers and chairmen, list of member clubs, state and national awards and how to apply, and the *Mayflower*, our state publication.
- Offers the services of qualified chairmen in all phases of garden club work.
- Arranges committee conferences with state chairmen to aid club programs, projects, and activities.
- Offers scholarships and youth education.
- Presents programs by outstanding lecturers beyond an individual club's budget to which all members are invited.

- Automatically makes the garden club a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. which makes available the many services rendered by them.
- Provides nationally accredited judges for club flower shows.
- Identifies the club with the larger movement for civic, state, and national garden club projects and activities and gives it a part in that work.
- Provides cooperation and coordination with other garden clubs.

For an individual garden club member:

- Provides education opportunities in Landscape Design School, Gardening Study School, Environmental Study School, and Flower Show School.
- Offers workshops, such as Civic Development, flower arranging, garden history, Environmental and Horticultural mornings.
- Affords the opportunity of attending two annual state conferences and participating in the informative and entertaining programs planned for these events.
- Gives the privilege of attending national conventions and regional meetings.

Information

The National organization covers all states and includes 5,000 member garden clubs, 175K members, 60 national affiliates and 330 international affiliates. The alternative organization, Garden Clubs of America, covers just 200 clubs and 18K members nationally. There are not many GCA clubs in MA and many of those still choose to belong to GCFM as well.

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts offers a variety of Educational opportunities available to all its members.

Environmental Studies School covers all aspects of

environmental issues and advocacy.

Flower Show School is a complete program for growing, showing and judging horticulture and design.

Garden Study School presents basic garden information by specialists in their field.

Landscape Design School is a comprehensive overview of landscape design and its history.

All courses are accredited and taught by National Garden Club approved instructors.

Upon successful completion of two courses, you may become a provisional member of Landscape Design Council, Gardening Study Council, or an Environmental Studies Council. After completing three courses of Flower Show School successfully, you become a Student Judge and a provisional member of Judges' Council. After passing all of the prescribed courses in a subject area, you become a full member of these study groups and a Certified Consultant.