

Climate Change Special Edition



Gardening in a Changing Climate: Reflections – Connections – Actions July 2025



Gardening in a changing climate is unpredictable. We guess about conditions next week, next year, next decade. We watch our plants in spring to tell us when to plant, but plants can be fooled, too. Our INCH committee asked our Master Gardeners to ‘Express Themselves’ about gardening in these uncertain times. Here we share those thoughts with you. Enjoy!

In this special edition issue:

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- Connections with Nature through Art, Photos, and Crafts
- Actions: Sustainability and Creating Habitat
- Hope

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Reflections



Climate Change. Those two words become both a complicated statement and fiery political talking point when put together, wouldn't you agree? Being a scientist, I have long believed in climate change much the same way I believed from the start that there were holes in the ozone layer at both polar regions. I couldn't see the ozone holes, but I trusted other scientists - especially when so many were sounding the alarm...

"Climate Change"
by Maria Davis, CMG
[Read in full here](#)

1 Mostly Cloudy Actual: 65° 52° 0.06 in	2 Mostly Cloudy Actual: 71° 52° 0 in	3 Mostly Sunny Actual: 70° 56° 0 in
4 Mostly Cloudy Actual: 85° 60° 0 in	5 Partly Cloudy Actual: 87° 63° 0 in	6 Cloudy Actual: 79° 61° 0 in

I'm doing it again. On a daily basis. It takes only three taps to see the chances: 20% today, 40% tomorrow, morning, noon, middle of the night. The black plastic device that remains my constant companion, despite my best efforts to shed its addictive claim, has become my laser-focused source for both anxiety, hope, and bitter disappointment. Constantly I check to determine: will it rain and how much and when?...

"Obsession"
by Ann Aaberg, CMG
[Read in full here](#)



In Somerville MA, one of the densest urban metro areas of the country, where we garden, we are living through year three of a municipal project to separate stormwater from wastewater backup in the case of ever more frequent flooding. Mitigation of climate change has become part of the daily workings of this neighborhood, affecting all the creatures that call this place home...

"Climate Change is Just One Part"
by Ruchika Madan, Class of 2025
[Read in full here](#)



Wildfires raging in the West
Hurricanes fiercely blowing
Floods submerging homes and
cars and
Tornados upending people's
lives
As they upend their
communities:
Rubble where shops
and churches once stood.
Nightly news is full of the latest
weather catastrophe
In Somewhere, USA...

"Ode to Climate Change"

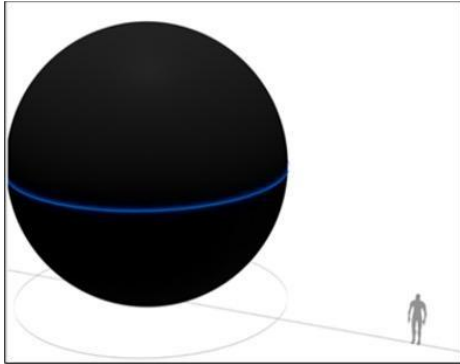


"We do not inherit the earth from
our ancestors; we borrow it from
our children"
- Native American proverb

Like many, I have struggled to
convince myself that I can have
any impact on reversing climate
change. This watercolor painting
by [Jill Peltó](#) shows the same
despair...

by Terry Harrison, CMG
[Read in full here](#)

"We Borrow from our Children"
by Amy Wilson, LMG
[Read in full here](#)



It was one of those fun things, take a quiz and see what your style is. That kind of thing. So I did. I took a moment to fill in the form that would tell me what my carbon footprint is. It should be good. I don't even own a lawnmower and we have no air conditioning. My husband has followed me around for years turning out lights until I was finally trained. Bring it on!...

"How to Measure Your Foot"
by Sandy Parker, LMG
[Read in full here](#)



There was an old pine forest near a river that flowed a half-mile from my grandmother's house. We were playing there one day, though it was not one of the usual haunts of our bike-riding adventures. I was about 9 years old, and this was a time when children ran free while playing outside, with their mother's (and grandmother's) blessing...

"The Old Pine Woods"
by Lynne Larson, PMG
[Read in full here](#)

Connections with Nature through Art, Photos, and Crafts



My year of study to become a Certified Massachusetts Master Gardener has influenced both my work as an artist and as a gardener. Several of my paintings from series 2024 and 2025 have been awarded places in National and International Art Expositions and Journals due, in part, to my discussion of the wildflowers and Native Plants depicted. Here are a few...

*"The Influence of Nature
on Art"*
by Margie Florini, CMG
Fine Artist & Illustrator
[Read in full here](#)



Volunteering in the gardens brings more than the joy of working with plants—it creates space to connect with others who care about the land and community. While weeding, planting, and tending together, conversations naturally bloom. I often find myself talking about my artwork, and these exchanges remind me how curious people are about the creative process...

*"From Garden to Gallery: How
Gardening Nurtures My Artistic
Practice"* by
Laura Petrovich-Cheney, CMG
[Read in full here](#)



It seems like the crocuses came up early this year and did not last very long. I have seen plants have a shorter spring season and earlier bloom this June. A quirky year or global warming? I am leaning towards the latter...

*"The Crocus" Original artwork
by Doris Sheils, LMG,
watercolor & graphite
on paper, 2024
[Read in full here](#)*



I've been obsessed with trees and do lots of watercolor meditations on trees. I think I look to the wisdom of the old trees and their steady presence and resilience, with hope, that they will help shepherd the flora and fauna through this period of climate change...

*"Obsessed with Trees"
Original artwork by
Jean Theurkauf, PMG
[Read in full here](#)*



This bracelet was inspired as I got to know the other members of the Intersection of Climate Change and Horticulture Committee from the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association...

"Upcycled Bracelet"
by Monica Foley, SPMG
[Read in full here](#)



The Question is not When to remove stems and leaves

The Question is why?

Pycnanthemum muticum
Rudbeckia hirta
Hypericum punctatum
Penstemon digitalis
recycled window screen
old cabinet door...

*"The Question is Not When
but Why?"*
by Sandy Parker, LMG
[Read in full here](#)



A planted meadow at AgInnovation Farm in Rhode Island.

AgInnovation Farm is a student-driven community farm education program where students problem solve during authentication learning and community collaboration...

"A Renewed Vision of Beauty, the Meadow"
by Sandy Parker, LMG
[Read in full here](#)



Nature's architectural wonder...

"Admiring the Amazing Architectural Wonder of a Milkweed Seed Pod"
by Sandy Parker, LMG
[Read in full here](#)



My daughter and I love to capture the nature around us in artistic ways...

"Capturing the Nature Around Us"
by Dee DeRuyck, Class of 2025
[Read in full here](#)

Actions: Sustainability and Creating Habitat



In response to a changing climate, which is one of several factors negatively impacting a variety of pollinators, I have established a monarch waystation to help stabilize the eastern migratory monarch butterfly. The monarch butterfly has been negatively impacted by rising temperatures, shifting weather patterns, and habitat loss...

"A Monarch Way Station"
by Dustin Maciver,
Class of 2025
[Read in full here](#)



I was raised by a gardener, my mom. Our small house and postage stamp lot in Ipswich were packed full of plants (both outdoors and indoors). My dad put in a solar water heating system in the 1970s. We had a composting bin while I was growing up and a garden full of veggies. I was raised to be conservative with resources, appreciate what we have, and respect the environment. I was raised by hippies!..

"Let's Go Native"
by Chloe Peterson,
Class of 2025
[Read in full here](#)

1. Take a full sheet of newspaper, tear it in half lengthwise.
2. Use one of these halves.
3. Lay a 5 to 7 inch width of craft paper in the middle of the newspaper.
4. Fold all 4 sides of newspaper onto craft paper.
5. Roll this paper up using a wine bottle with a dent in the bottom of the wine bottle.
6. Fold newspaper around bottle and push extra overhang of newspaper into the dent to create a secure bottom.
7. Tie a piece of string raffia around the paper pot while it is still on the bottle.
8. Measurements may vary based on size of wine bottle...



"How to Make A Paper Pot"
 by Monica Foley, SPMG
[Read in full here](#)



Karen Walton, MMGA class of 2024, proposed to her town of Chelmsford, a pollinator garden that was approved and installed at the edge of the town forest. Here is a summary of her experience in creating habitat for at risk bees and more...

*"Creating Habitat
 in Public Spaces"*
 by Karen Walton, CMG
[Read in full here](#)



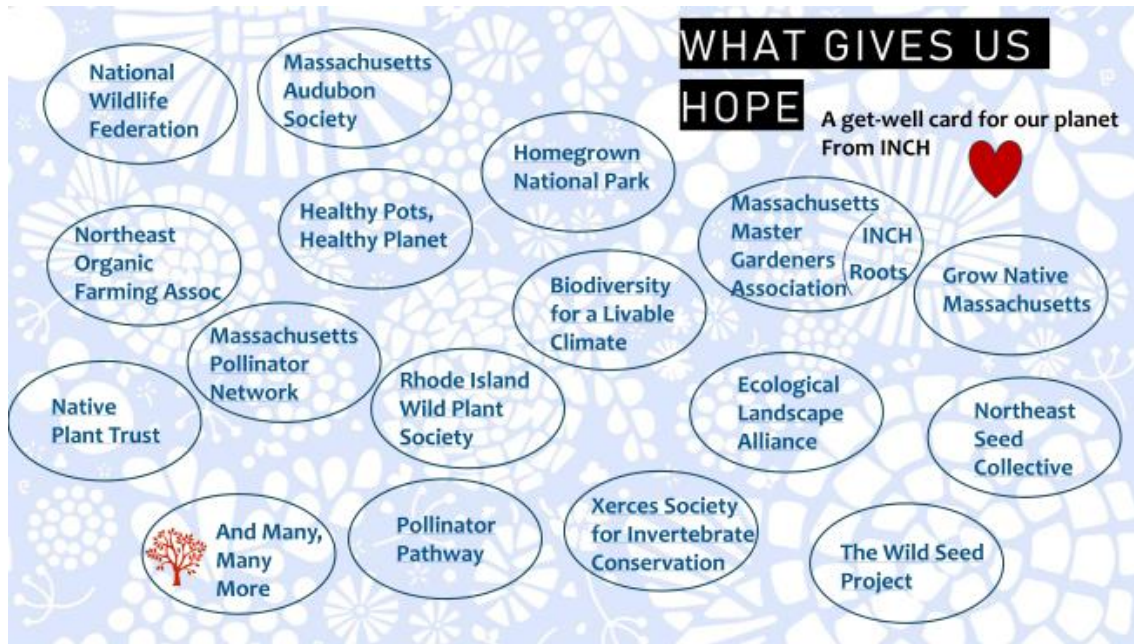
I converted my 200 sq foot curb extension (bump-out) in Watertown into a thriving pollinator oasis with >50% native plants...

*by Melinda Dennis,
 Class of 2025*



[*Read about Master Gardeners reaching out to communities here*](#)

Hope



[*Interactive “Get Well” card here*](#)

Credits

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Who We Are

The Massachusetts Master Gardener Association is an independent non-profit organization whose mission is to share research-based horticultural knowledge and experience with the public. We meet that goal through Master Gardener Certification, outreach, education, volunteering, and public gardening programs for the advancement of best practices in sustainable, regenerative horticulture.



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