

Boxford gardeners receive special honors

By Boxford Village Garden Club

Two members of the Boxford Village Garden Club (BVGC) were honored at the Northern District luncheon meeting of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts in April at the Danversport Yacht Club.

Margery Hildebrand was presented with the Pauline Jensen Award, a beautiful silver tray that signifies a long-time commitment to both gardening and participation in a local gardening club. Avid gardener Judi Eisenberg was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation.



Boxford Village Garden Club members Judi Eisenberg, left, and Margery Hildebrand, received special honors recently for their lifelong dedication to gardening. Hildebrand won the Pauline Jensen Award and Eisenberg was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation at an annual meeting of local garden clubs. [COURTESY PHOTO]

Margery Hildebrand

For many years, Hildebrand has been an enthusiastic member of the BVGC, participating from 1971 to 1981, and then later rejoining the club in 1992.

Hildebrand has been an active member, tackling numerous challenges and responsibilities during her tenure. Among her several leadership roles were president, first vice president, corresponding secretary and she also chaired the Boxford Village Garden Club's 60th Anniversary celebration.

Hildebrand is credited with establishing the club's successful Garden Therapy Program at Four Mile Village, which is still ongoing. Several years ago, Hildebrand and the late Barbara Littlefield started this popular program that gives club members a chance to socialize with Boxford seniors and create special projects.

vice president, and chair of Civic Beautification, Hospitality, Trips, Workshops, Junior Gardeners, and Holiday Greens.

Noting that she has met some very nice people through garden club activities, Eisenberg quipped, "If someone is interested in flowers and gardening, they're usually a kinder bunch of people."

For many years, she created floral arrangements for the Holyoke-French House tours during the town's Apple Festival. She also contributed many flower arrangements for the Town Library, and she helped make the 2006 Garden Tour a great success by opening her garden for the community tour.

An excellent gardener

and flower arranger, Eisenberg rarely misses a program or a board meeting. BVGC members know "they can depend on Judi ... if she makes a commitment to provide an arrangement, she always keeps it," said BVGC members in nominating Eisenberg for the gardening honor.

How to join BVGC

The Boxford Village Garden Club, a member of the Northern District of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts and of the National Garden Clubs, is open to individuals interested in gardening or learning about gardening. If interested, contact Membership Chair Jan Maguire at janimaguire@yahoo.com or 978-887-9824.

"We decided to do a project every month for seniors at Four Mile Village," recalled Hildebrand. "When Barbara said, 'This is a great group, isn't it?' the name Great Group stuck."

While Hildebrand loves both outdoor gardening and indoor floral arranging, she greatly enjoys interacting with fellow club gardeners of all ages at club events.

"It's kind of nice to be with younger people too, and you see a cross-section of people you wouldn't normally see," she said.

A member of the Horticultural Advisory Committee, Hildebrand was the 2016-2017 chair of the club's Conservation Committee and was a main member of the Garden Club Tri-Centennial Park Project.

The BVGC Conservation Committee's main focus at this point is Pollinator Awareness. To that end, Hildebrand has assembled packets of wildflower seeds that she and other club members have distributed to residents on Earth Day and at the annual plant sale. After serving for six years on the club's Conservation Committee, Hildebrand reported that she will next work on the Remembrance Committee.

After she received the award, Hildebrand said, "I was amazed. I don't do any more than any other person in the club. But over the years, you serve on one committee or the other and it all adds up. The Garden Club is a great group of people."

Judi Eisenberg

Judi Eisenberg, an active member of the BVGC, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation at the luncheon in April. The Northern District presents Certificates of Merit annually in recognition of an outstanding civic beautification project within the community, a project that demonstrates a beneficial community impact and not just beautification.

Eisenberg has been a passionate member of the club since she joined in 1984. She has graciously stepped up over the years to serve as the club's president, first