



## ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**The VNLA's** mission is to support and strengthen the horticulture industry of Vermont through programming and certification as well as create greater awareness of the benefits of landscaping and the professional services and products our members offer to the buying public.



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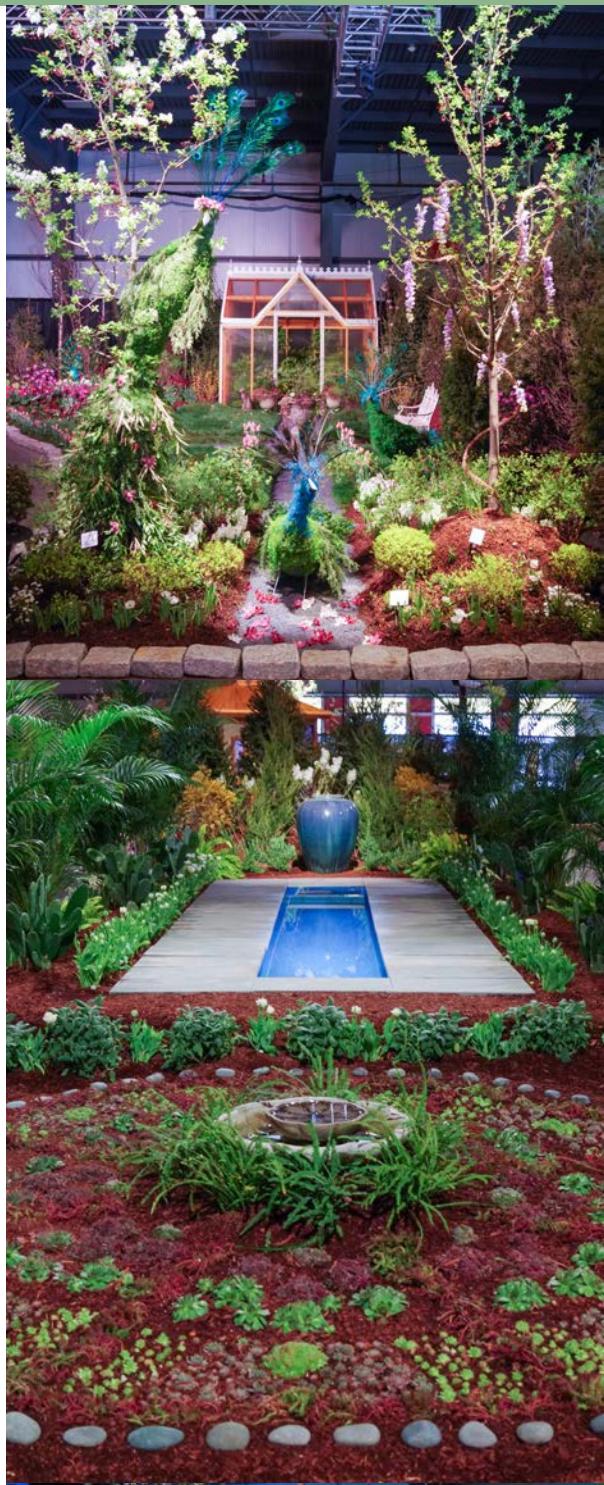
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# 2025 Board of Directors

## PRESIDENT



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**Mike Lizotte**  
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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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# 2025 VNLA Committees

## BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Bruce Gagne

## EVALUATION & PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Gabe Bushey

## INDUSTRY AWARDS COMMITTEE

Tanya Retz

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ralph Fitz-Gerald

## MARKETING & EDUCATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Gabe Bushey & Tanya Retz

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

Aaron Smith

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Ralph Fitz-Gerald & Marijke Niles

## RESEARCH & AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Marijke Niles

## STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mike Lizotte

## VERMONT CERTIFIED HORTICULTURIST COMMITTEE CHAIR

Linzy Vos

## VOLUNTEER PROJECT OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Linzy Vos

## VNLA Past Presidents

1964	- Fred Abbey
1965	- Lewis Hill
1966	- T. Harold Johnson
1967-68	- Richard Stevens
1969-70	- Thomas Haddock
1971	- Stanwood Wollaston
1972-73	- Elmer Brown
1974-75	- Emerson Holcomb
1976	- William Horsford
1977	- Klaus Weber
1978	- Ned Davis
1979-80	- Dennis Bruckel
1981-82	- Chris von Trapp
1983	- Ralph Knox Sr.
1984-87	- Joan Hulbert
1988-91	- Earl Welch
1992-93	- Jane von Trapp
1994-95	- Charlie Proutt
1996-97	- Thamasin Sullivan
1998-99	- Chris Conant
2000-01	- Connie Gardner
2002-03	- Charles Siegchrist
2004-06	- Layne Tharp
2007-09	- Tim Parsons
2010-12	- Rebecca Lindenmeyr
2012-2016	- VJ Comai
2016-2020	- Ed Burke
2019-2023	- Ashley Robinson
2023 - Present	- Gabriel Bushey

## 2026 VNLA Board Meeting Dates

March 12, 2026

June 18, 2026

September 10, 2026

November 19, 2026

January 7, 2027

Board meeting are from 9:30am-3:30 pm; locations to be determined. Contact the VNLA office to confirm.

## How to find us!



Facebook: @vnla.vt & @VermontFlowerShow



Instagram: @vnla.vt & @vtflowershow

[www.vnlavt.org](http://www.vnlavt.org)

[hello@vnlavt.org](mailto:hello@vnlavt.org) | 802-425-5117 (phone/text)

# Committee Reports

## Budget & Finance Committee / Treasurer's Report

In 2025 we were able to budget and fund our programs, events, educational and research grants, marketing and administrative expenses. We were able to add to assets due in large part to a very successful 2025 Vermont Flower Show.

Our balance sheet is sound due to the efforts of our members, board, and our executive directors. The 2025 Vermont Flower Show was a success and has placed us in a good cash

## Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025

ASSETS	2025	2024
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Bank Accounts</b>		
Capital One Money Market	40,615	
Community Bank CD #271	20,458	
Community Bank CD #270	61,376	
Community Bank Checking	15,837	51,905
Community Bank Money Market	24,985	74,971
Community Bank Non-Profit Cking	2,021	1,186
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>165,292</b>	<b>128,062</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>165,292</b>	<b>128,062</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Equipment	4,144	4,144
Less Accumulated depreciation	<u>-3,318</u>	<u>-2,767</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>1,377</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>166,118</b>	<b>129,439</b>
<hr/>		
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Current Liabilities	0	0
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	165,030	105,179
Net Revenue	<u>1,088</u>	<u>24,260</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>166,118</b>	<b>129,439</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>166,118</b>	<b>129,439</b>

Bruce Gagne, Treasurer, 1/30/26

## VNLA 2026 Budget

	Income	Expense	Net
<b>Membership Dues</b>	<b>31,000</b>		
Less CC fees		(600)	
<b>Total Membership Dues</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>(600)</b>	<b>30,400</b>
<b>Programs &amp; Events</b>			
Annual Meeting	11,200	(8,000)	
Summer Meeting	12,000	(12,000)	
Workshops & Twilight Mtgs	500	(2,500)	
Plastic Pot Recyl. Program		(200)	
Vermont Flower Show			(200)
<b>Total Program &amp; Events</b>	<b>23,700</b>	<b>(22,700)</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>VCH Program</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>(1,500)</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Education</b>			
Summer Meeting Auction	2,000		
Awards (Assoc & Student)		(2,000)	
Industry Awards Program	480	(2,500)	
Research Grants		(2,000)	
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>(6,500)</b>	<b>(4,020)</b>
<b>Publications</b>			
Qrtly <i>The Dirt</i> -digital	4,000		
<b>Total Publications</b>	<b>4,000</b>		<b>4,000</b>
<b>Marketing &amp; Promotion</b>			
Marketing Other			
Marketing Development		(5,000)	
Income (hats)			
Print Materials		(3,500)	
Social Media			
VCH		(1,000)	
VNLA Booth			
Website		(4,000)	
<b>Total Marketing &amp; Promotion</b>		<b>(13,500)</b>	<b>(13,500)</b>
<b>Dr. L.P. Perry Grant Fund</b>	<b>700</b>		<b>700</b>
<b>Administration</b>			
Professional Services		(45,500)	
Administrative expenses		(11,950)	
<b>Total Administration</b>		<b>(57,450)</b>	<b>(57,450)</b>
<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>2,000</b>		<b>2,000</b>
<b>Total Income (Loss)</b>	<b>65,580</b>	<b>(102,250)</b>	<b>(36,670)</b>

Bruce Gagne, Treasurer, 1/30/26

position to fund the VNLA in 2026. The show had a net profit of just over \$100,000.

We incurred additional administrative costs related to the early dismissal and termination of our previous executive director. We hired Deanna Smith, who served as our bookkeeper in 2025. We appreciated her service.

The Dr. Leonard Perry Scholarship Fund continues to grow and will allow us to support our future members.

I'm tremendously thankful to our members for all their hard work and willingness to volunteer. I would like to thank the board for their thoughtful planning and budgeting. I would like to thank Kristina for her faithful dedication to carry out the daily goals of the VNLA.

*Bruce Gagne, Treasurer*

## Evaluation & Planning Committee

2025 brought some new challenges for the evaluation and planning committee to tackle. We worked as a team to thoroughly address these challenges and find a solid path forward. The main areas we focused on were integrating new board members, assessing and adjusting the executive director position, and planning around the Vermont Flower Show. Some difficult decisions were made, and I am confident we have set the organization on a path that will be stable both in the long and short terms.

We added three new board members this year. Tanya Retz, Mike Lizotte, and Gavin Boyce-Ratliff have all brought their experience, expertise, and hard work ethics to the team. They each have unique strengths and points of view that I am very impressed by. I am excited to see all they do for the future of not only this organization but also the industry as a whole.

This year we made the very difficult decision to postpone the next Vermont Flower Show from 2027 to 2028. This was the hardest decision I can remember as a board member and it was not a unanimous vote. The last show was so successful that it seems counter-intuitive to make this choice. However, with some longtime leaders stepping down, we did not see the future leadership necessary to move forward with a 2027 show. There is such a risk involved with the event that we need to feel confident that we have the people in place to pull it off. Luckily with the success of the previous show we have the funds available to delay a year.

Last, but certainly not least, we made a change with the executive director position in March, 2025. Unfortunately, Jasmine Darland did not work out, and we wish her the best. Kristina MacKulin has come back to help us through this transition period. We are very lucky to have someone like her who is willing to help us. We are now in the process of searching for a suitable replacement. We welcome anyone to come talk to us either with a suggestion or questions about

the process. If you know someone who could be a good fit, please let us know. Someone connected to the industry is ideal but not a requirement.

*Gabe Bushey, Chair*

## Industry Awards Committee

The Industry Awards Program began in 2008 and over the years has included a variety of projects from both the public and private sector. This program continues to serve as a vehicle for members to learn, challenge themselves and showcase their work. It is an impressive demonstration of effort by the applicants, award winners and the judges who dedicate their time to review, evaluate and award these projects. We **thank everyone** for participating in the program, showing support of the organization, and valuing the VNLA mission to help strengthen the horticulture industry in Vermont.



We received six entries for 2025. The judging took place on January 12, 2026 and all six projects earned an award. The awards will be presented at the VNLA's 2026 annual business meeting. Congratulations to the following winners:

### Excellence Awards

Gavin Boyce-Ratliff - GBR I Landscape Design, LLC  
Brett Towle - Dicot Land Studio, LLC

### Honor Awards

David Burton - Ginkgo Design, LLC  
Gabriel Bushey  
Nate Carr - Church Hill Landscapes, Inc.  
Caroline Dudek - Landshapes

The award winning projects will be featured on the VNLA website, on VNLA social media platforms, and in a full color insert in **Seven Days** newspaper (print and digital) in April 2026. They will also be featured along with previous winners at the next Vermont Flower Show and at the VNLA Summer Meeting and Trade Show.

Participation in this program is key to its continued growth and success. We are constantly reviewing and examining the process, considering changes for improvements and we welcome feedback. We encourage everyone to consider entering and sharing your thoughts.

*Kristina MacKulin*

## Legislative Committee

In 2025 the Vermont Legislature did very little that directly impacted our industry. Of note, however, is as of July 1, 2025, the Neonicotinoid Bill (H.706 - Act182) was fully

enacted. You can read more about the law/ban here: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/neonicotinoids-vermont>. The 2026 legislature has just returned to the State House, and we will keep our members posted on any impending new legislation that could impact our industry. Some VNLA board members attended the VT Ag Producer Association Day last year that the Legislature hosted and they will do so again in February 2026.

Another item of note is the VT Agency of Agriculture conducted a survey of last year's drought and has published a report on agriculture losses. Here is the link to the report. <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/vermont-agriculture-drought-impact-survey-released>.

This past year we have begun strengthening our relationship with the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and have had several meetings with the Plant Industry Division team working on ways to promote our industry and provide education and information for our members. This winter we have collaborated with them on a 4-part webinar series on varying topics that will be offered to our membership.

Lastly, the VT Invasive and Exotic Species Council held several meetings in 2025, and they are in the process of reorganizing how the council functions, who is on the council, as well as reviewing the existing plant quarantines and adopting new language on how "invasives" are spoken about. This new group will be introducing Quarantine #3 Regulated Introduced Plant Species Quarantine in early 2026. In December, at a Regulated Introduced Plant Species meeting, the group voted to recommend banning the sale of Hook Hair Hops (*Humulus japonicus*) and tentatively Amur Cork Tree (*Phellodendron amurense*). We will continue to monitor future developments and keep our members informed on any changes to the Regulated Introduced Plant Species Quarantine.

*Ralph Fitz-Gerald, Chair*

## Marketing & Education Committee

This year the Marketing and Education Committee focused in on updating the VNLA website. We received and reviewed three proposals for a full website overhaul. The committee members all strongly agreed that it is time that the website receive a full facelift in the future. However, with the Flower Show on pause for now, we ultimately decided to be fiscally cautious and commit to a homepage refresh for the time being. This will be up and running in the near future and we are excited for a fresh face on the website.

Regular communications with members via email resumed this year and we thank Kristina for keeping up with that. These emails keep our members informed of VNLA and other local and national opportunities to gather, learn and grow. Thank you, Kristina.

Our social media presence continues to be an area of opportunity that we continue to pursue. If you use social

media, please like/share our posts. When a new executive director is hired, a focus will be for that person to help us grow our social media presence.



The VNLA's quarterly newsletter "The Dirt" was published exclusively online this year. We all get overloaded with information, emails, and news these days but please do take some time to read and enjoy good news about our industry. "The Dirt" includes stories about horticulture happenings around the state and beyond, contributions from regular columnists, plant features, pest and disease information and much more!

Lastly, our yearly insert in *Seven Days Newspaper* that featured our 2025 VNLA award recipients was published in April 2025. Congratulations to all our award winners. The awards are a fantastic way to spread the word about our stellar members, and the VNLA!

*Tanya Retz, Co-Chair*



## Membership Committee

The end of the season reports might be perhaps the most glamorous part of this job.....so here we go. 2025 was a mostly steady year in membership with 145 continuing members and adding 14 new members giving us an ongoing total of 159 members. This number is slightly lower compared to the 150 members from 2024. The Membership Committee has been working with the Program Committee on selective programming that adds value to the membership in the interest of attracting new membership.

A great deal of time was spent getting renewals finalized--work continued well into the horticulture season getting everyone renewed. We have added an "auto renew" feature, and we would encourage you all to take advantage of this--

this reduces administrative time and postage and helps the organization run as seamlessly as possible.

Finally, our best membership ambassadors are our members. We know that you all collectively know colleagues and vendors in the horticulture trade that would benefit from the education and camaraderie that the VNLA offers. Before COVID, our membership numbers ran in the 180's per year--this annual revenue helps cover the baseline operating expenses of the VNLA so that we can continue keeping everyone on the cutting edge of the industry--whether that is legislative updates, weather updates, plant introductions, pests and disease updates--the VNLA is the hub for the horticulture trade. Let's make it our goal to encourage our friends to join to bring the membership over 180 for 2026.

*Aaron Smith, Chair*

## Program Committee

The year 2025 was a productive one for the Program Committee. Thank you to the 2025 VNLA Education Sponsors: Prides Corner Farm and Tuckahoe Turf. We are grateful for their financial support!

We started with the winter meeting in a new and welcoming location at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, VT. Our keynote speaker, Julie Moir Messervy, shared her landscape design experiences with a beautiful slideshow presentation. Afternoon sessions were well attended. A big thank you to the exhibitors for making the trek to VT.

Our twilight series started out in early June with a tour at Johnson Arboretum, which was begun in 2020. It is hard to believe the site was once completely underwater. Plantings include hardy and unusual trees and shrubs. It is definitely worth checking out and there is a dedicated group working to fund and grow the Arboretum.

In mid-July, we visited Hidden Gardens in Hinesburg. Owner Peter McNaull welcomed us to the stunning gardens designed by his wife Marcia Pierce and garden designer/builder Paul Wieczoreck. Paul treated us to a detailed tour and the history the gardens.

These first two twilights set the tone for the rest of the season: Great turnout and attendees staying around until dark to enjoy the different gardens.

Our next twilight brought us to the famous von Trapp Greenhouse Gardens in Waitsfield. Always gracious hosts Sally and Tobi guided us on separate tours through their spectacular gardens answering many garden practice and history questions.



We visited Taylor Park in St. Albans, where Kelly Wakefield, garden designer/builder along with the assistance of her husband Keith, has created beautiful and thoughtful gardens, planters, and hanging baskets in the historic space.

Our annual summer meeting was held at Horsford Gardens and Nursery. Keynote speaker Dr. James Rouse was well received. He touched all of us in a special way! Our own auctioneer Ralph made the auction successful as well as entertaining. We all enjoyed the tours led by staff members and owner Charlie Prout! Thank you, Charlie and staff for an outstanding and memorable summer meeting!

Our next twilight brought us to Verterra Tree and Shrub Nursery. David Berg gave us a fascinating account of how he, Nick Kierstead and Sam Gignoux started growing native trees and shrubs, partnering with conservation organizations. The last twilight brought us back to Middlebury College, where Tim Parsons took us once more on a terrific mature tree tour on the beautiful campus. We closed the Twilight year with 'Beers and Cheers' at the Burlington Beer Company in early November. We enjoyed each other's company and had the opportunity to network in a relaxed setting.

In late August, we collaborated with North Branch Nature Center on their 2-day Biodiversity University Course, Gardening for Diversity, which was open to the public to attend and was fully enrolled. Three VNLA members, Ashley Robinson, Sarah Hoffmeier, and Sarah Salatino, were presenters.

I would like to thank Ralph Fitz-Gerald for chairing the Program Committee in a dedicated way for so many years. Ralph will be stepping down from the board but fortunately, he will continue to be a member of the committee in the coming year!

*Marijke Niles, Co-Chair*

## Research and Awards Committee

**Research:** In 2025 the VNLA awarded a \$2,000 research grant to Margaret Skinner and Cheryl Sullivan, UVM Entomology Research Laboratory for research on “*Habitat Hedges and Tick Repellency through Habitat Manipulation*”. We awarded \$1,000 to the Vermont Biodiversity Alliance to fund their initiatives and shared commitment to a strong, coordinated conservation network across Vermont. Other organizations that have made pledges are as follows: The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Vermont and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.

**Awards:** The following awards were presented at the 2025 VNLA Annual Winter Meeting and Trade Show at Saint Michael's College on February 13, 2025:

### Horticultural Achievement Award

Peter Hausermann  
Shelburne, VT.

### Environmental Awareness Award

Marijke Niles  
Marijke's Perennial Gardens Plus  
Starksboro, VT.

### Retailer of the Year Award

Golden Russet Farm  
Shoreham, VT.

### Young Nursery Professional of the Year Award

Danielle Norris  
Greenhaven Gardens & Nursery  
New Haven, VT.

### Allen B. Crane Horticultural Employee Acknowledgement Award

Todd Bailey  
Cobble Creek Nursery  
Monkton, VT.

The **University of Vermont student merit award** of \$500 was given to Stella Shaw.

The **Vermont State University student merit award** of \$500 was given to Kaleb Swett.

You can read all nominating paragraphs/testimonials [HERE](#).

Kristina MacKulin

## Strategic Planning Committee

### Looking Ahead

As the Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association celebrates 61 years in 2025, the Strategic Planning Committee is focused on positioning the organization for long-term stability, relevance, and growth. Our goal is not only to honor our history, but to ensure VNLA remains strong, adaptable, and valuable to members for decades to come.

The purpose of strategic planning is to develop a clear timeline, outline measurable goals, and identify strategies that support the evolving needs of our industry. The Committee continues to meet and evaluate key areas critical to VNLA's future success.



### Strengthening Annual Meetings

Our summer and winter meetings are vital opportunities for education, networking, and community building. The Committee is exploring ways to enhance these gatherings by:

- Increasing the relevance and variety of educational programming.
- Encouraging greater member participation and attendance.
- Creating more opportunities for networking, mentorship, and leadership development.
- Evaluating formats, locations, and schedules to better meet member needs.

### The Future of the Vermont Flower Show

The Vermont Flower Show remains one of the VNLA's most visible and impactful events. Strategic discussions are underway to:

- Clarify the long-term vision and purpose of the Vermont Flower Show.
- Evaluate its role in public outreach, education, and industry promotion.
- Explore opportunities for growth, partnerships, and sustainability.
- Ensure it continues to provide value for members, exhibitors, and the broader community.



### Membership Growth and Engagement

Growing and retaining membership is essential to the VNLA's future. The Committee is focused on:

- Identifying opportunities to attract new members across all sectors of the industry.
- Improving onboarding and engagement for new and existing members.
- Encouraging leadership development and volunteer participation.
- Ensuring all members feel supported, invited, and involved.

### ***Modernizing Communication and Online Presence***

A strong, updated website and clear communication tools are key to member engagement. Strategic priorities include:

- Updating and modernizing the VNLA website
- Improving access to resources, event information, and member benefits
- Strengthening communication channels to keep members informed and connected

### ***Maximizing Member Benefits***

The VNLA exists to serve its members. The Committee is reviewing current benefits and exploring ways to:

- Enhance the value of membership
- Expand educational, networking, and professional development opportunities
- Better highlight and communicate available resources

### ***Identifying Future Challenges and Opportunities***

To ensure long-term stability, the Committee is proactively assessing potential challenges facing the Association and the industry, including:

- Workforce and labor issues.
- Economic and regulatory changes.
- Shifts in industry practices and member needs.

By identifying these challenges early, the VNLA can position itself ahead of change—remaining resilient, relevant, and prepared for the future.

### ***A Collective Effort***

The VNLA represents a wide range of businesses within Vermont's green industry. Our strength depends on active member participation, shared communication, and collaboration. Every member plays a role in shaping the future of this Association, and involvement at any level is encouraged and valued.

The Strategic Planning Committee will continue its work in the coming year, guided by member input and a shared commitment to ensuring the VNLA remains strong for the next 61 years—and beyond. We thank all members for their continued support, engagement, and dedication to the Association.

*Mike Lizotte, Chair*

### ***Vermont Certified Horticulturist Committee***

In 2023 we had 43 certified participants in the VCH program. We administered the exam at the 2025 Annual Winter Meeting, and we sold 9 VCH study manuals.



VERMONT CERTIFIED  
HORTICULTURIST

Toward the end of 2025, the VCH and Program Committees began conversations on how to better prepare people for the VCH exam. The exam review sessions, once held to help aspiring VCHers hone their studying approach, had been discontinued due to the retirement of Dr. Leonard Perry, professor of Horticulture at UVM and long-time VCH exam proctor, and also the long seclusions of Covid were also a factor.

In preparation for the next scheduled exam, a plan was put into place to once again offer an exam prep session to anyone who has purchased a manual and/or is planning to take or retake the exam in the future. With the generous guidance of Dr. Perry, Linzy Vos (committee chair) and Kristina MacKulin (executive director), a presentation was created so we could host a virtual review session in January 2026. The session was held live on Zoom and recorded. That review session can be viewed [HERE](#).

Additionally, discussion and assessment for a VCH manual update began in 2025. The current manual has not been updated since 2014. Research has begun and in 2026 we hope to move forward with discussions and implementation for this update. As always, we will keep our community informed.

*Linzy Vos, Chair*

### ***Vermont Flower Show Committee***

The 2025 Vermont Flower Show was held on March 7-9 at the Champlain Valley Expo. The theme, ***A Story of Gardening***, weaved together a collection of different types of gardens/landscapes that spanned a variety of continents, cultures, climate and history. The design team outdid themselves this show. I am happy to report we broke a record with approximately 13,250 in attendance, a slight increase over 2023.

According to our survey, visitors hailed from all over Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and even Wisconsin with 65% of respondents returning and 35% coming to the Show for the first time. The most visited day of the show was Saturday and even though there were some long lines to get into the display, I have never seen people so happy to be waiting in a line.

One thing is for certain – there is no other flower show like ours. We are grateful and fortunate to have a large group of volunteers, many of which are VNLA members, that come together, collaborate on every aspect of the show, and create the public showcase we call the Vermont Flower Show. This group effort truly speaks to what Vermont is all about and why we are all a part of the VNLA!

In addition to breaking attendance records, we also broke another record. The show's net profit was \$101,102, which was a 32% increase compared to the 2023 show. We attributed this in part to increased attendance, slightly higher ticket prices, and selling Flower Show merchandise. These proceeds go back into the VNLA coffers and continue to make the educational events, VNLA programs, research grants and student merit awards not only possible but increasingly better. These proceeds also help build up the VNLA reserves, help fund the next flower show, and for the first time in a while the VNLA has set aside funds in two interest earning CDs. This revenue stream would not be possible without our sponsors and the many, many in-kind donations of plants, labor, and equipment that enable the show to continue in such a successful manner.

#### Here are some of the highlights from the 2025 Vermont Flower Show:

- The Grand Garden Display recreated a medley of gardens over time and place which included a tribute to the opulent gardens during the Regency era complete with a Victorian glasshouse. The Rocky Glen featured stones and water followed by a Cottage Garden. The display next meandered to the Dutch Tulip Field, complete with a working windmill, a Green Wall, an Islamic Garden, a replica of a Victory Garden, a Medieval Garden, a stone “masterpiece” replica of a Shepherd’s Hut, and a Japanese Teahouse Garden. Upon exiting, the VNLA display was nestled under an elaborate gazebo structure. The team truly outdid themselves! I know we say this every show, but it is true.
- 100 vendors offered their products/services; 16 were VNLA members.
- 41 seminars and workshops were offered over 3 days, many of which were presented by VNLA members.
- The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont held a “Small Standard Flower Show”.
- The Family Room was packed all weekend with entertainment from Magicians Without Borders and No Strings Marionettes. There were planting and hands-on activities all 3 days.
- There was a variety of food options from 5 food vendors.
- We handed out free wildflower seed packets and had Flower Show tote bags for sale.
- We held a plant sale at the close of the show which is always greeted by very excited customers.



The formula in creating a successful show starts with the two Flower Show Committees who spend hundreds of hours organizing and planning this signature event long before the doors ever open. A big thank you and deep appreciation to all the committee members. They often are taking away time from their own businesses and home life to meet monthly/ weekly, coordinate donations, build structures, send so many emails, texts, and see to all the aspects of planning the show.

VNLA members, UVM master gardeners, students, and community members – literally hundreds of volunteers - offer their time to build and staff the show and, of course, we cannot forget the amazing clean-up crew who swoops in when it is all over and has the place broom clean by noon the next day.

This year's student volunteers hailed from the Center for Technology at Essex, UVM Hort Club, Northland Job Corp and the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center. Association members and supporters also donated much of the plant material, hardscaping materials, provided labor, trucks, tools, gasoline, and expertise. This amount of support is paramount to the success of the show. **We are so very grateful for this team effort and collaboration!!**

#### Thank you to our Committee Members!

**The Grand Garden Display Committee:** - Gabe Bushey, Committee and Kristina MacKulin, Co-Chairs. *Designers and Builders:* Aaron Smith - S & D Landscapes, Ashley Robinson,

Landscape Design, Ben Chatrand, CW Stageworks, Brady Sackett, Green Mountain Green Walls, Brett Towle, Dicot Land Studio, Caylen Padua, Cobble Creek Nursery, Dan Snow – Dan Snow Stonework, Guinnevere Hand-Boniakowski - Perseid Gardens, Hannah Decker - Fairfax Perennial Farm, Jamie Masefield - Masefield Dry Stone Masonry, Jared Flynn - Jared Flynn Stonework, John Padua - Cobble Creek Nursery, Katie Richard, Keith Porter - Cedar Goods, Lezlee Sprenger - Narrow Path Wedding & Event Florist, Liam Murphy - Murphy Landscape Design & Siteworks, Linzy Vos – Rocky Dale Gardens, Marijke Niles - Marijke's Perennial Gardens Plus, Michelle Brunell - UVM Greenhouse Facilities, Nate Carr - Church Hill Landscapes, Inc., Ralph Fitz-Gerald, Horsford Gardens & Nursery, Sam Chicaderis, VCH, Sarah Holland - River's Bend Design, LLC, and Tanya Retz - Mama's Gardens.

**The Vermont Flower Show Committee:** Kristina MacKulin, Flower Show Committee Chair, Leslie Pelch and Karen Forbes - Delaney Event Management (vendor and site coordinator), Ann Bowers – (food coordinator), Cheryl Dorschner – Vermont Gardener (seminar coordinator), Dan Steinbauer, (volunteer coordinator), Doris Van Mullen and Kathy Perkins - Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Marijke Niles- Marijke's Perennial Gardens Plus (plant sale coordinator), and Terry Skorstad – Waterfront Events (family room coordinator).

**The Bringing Plants to Bloom Committee:** Ali Lapierre, Brett Wilbur, Chris Conant, Mark Storch, and Staff - Claussen's Florist, Greenhouse, & Perennial Farm, Center for Technology Essex students, Caylen and John Padua, Cobble Creek Nursery, Hannah Decker - Fairfax Perennial Farm, Tanya Retz, Mama's Gardens, Lezlee Sprenger - Narrow Path Wedding & Event Florist, Russ Knowles, Pleasant View Gardens, Dr. Mark Starrett, UVM Associate Professor & UVM Horticulture Club students, Michelle Brunell, UVM Greenhouse Facilities, and Nate Carr - Church Hill Landscapes, Inc.

**Thank you to our Monetary Sponsors:** We are so very grateful to our monetary sponsors. The success of the show truly depends on their generosity. Here they are:

- **Presenting Sponsors:** Best Western Plus/ Windjammer Inn, *Seven Days Newspaper*, and WCAX.
- **Grand Garden Display Sponsor:** Claussen's Florist, Greenhouse & Perennial Farm, Gardener's Supply Company, and American National.
- **Bag and Seed Packet Sponsors:** Marijke's Perennial Gardens Plus and American Meadows.
- **Family Room Sponsor:** VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and Carpenter & Costin.
- **Supporting Sponsors:** L.D. Oliver Seed Company, Inc., Proven Winners, and North Country Federal Credit Union.
- **Seminar Sponsor:** McElwain Equipment Rental.



- **Contributing Sponsors:** Livingston Farm Outdoor Products & Excavation and Sommers Chiropractic.
- **Media Sponsors:** 98.9 WOKO, KOOL 105.1, 99.9 the BUZZ, 106.7 WIZN, WJOY AM1230, and O'Rourke Media.
- **Equipment Sponsors:** Church Hill Landscapes, Inc., Greenhaven Gardens & Nursery, J. Labrecque Land Management, McElwain Equipment Rental, Milton CAT, and Wood's CRW Corp.
- **Other Sponsors:** UVM Extension/Master Gardeners and the UVM Horticulture Club.

We are also extremely appreciative to the over 90+ in-kind sponsors that donated time, labor, equipment, plants and materials. We could not continue to produce the Vermont Flower Show without all this OVERWHELMING SUPPORT. Please take a moment to view the very long list on our website ([HERE](#)).

The VNLA has been staging some sort of Flower Show since it became an organization in 1964. A lot has changed since then but one thing has not - our members' willingness to join a group, work together, and build each show. We do these shows to inspire, to educate, and to entertain the future stewards of the earth - one flower show at a time, one plant at a time, one landscape at a time. We do these shows to promote every VNLA member, our Association as a collective group, and the green industry in Vermont and beyond. Who

could have ever dreamed back then it would become the collaborative, joyful and beautiful show it has evolved into today. We have something unique here that brings people of all ages and walks of life together. The Vermont Flower Show is a true gift to our communities, thanks to the many, many hands it takes to bring it forward. With deep appreciation to all who keep making it all happen show after show!

In conclusion, I am overjoyed to report the 2025 Vermont Flower Show was our most successful show yet and I cannot wait to see what the next group of amazingly committed people will bring forth.

As we look to the future of the Vermont Flower Show, a decision was made in September 2025 to postpone the next show until 2028 as we are facing a transition in the future leadership of the show. We have been at this crossroads before and the VNLA board is committed to exploring all options and the future of the show. Mark your calendars for March 3-5, 2028!

One thing does remain constant, the Vermont Flower Show is nothing short of spectacular. It has been an honor and a joy to be a part of the show these many years.

*Kristina MacKulin, Flower Show Committee Chair*

### Volunteer Project Outreach Committee

2025 kicked off our volunteer project year with an evaluation for a possible install site at a Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity project in Burlington. Special thanks to Holly Greenleaf and Ashley Robinson for their coordination with GMHH and the City of Burlington to determine the scope of this project. Unfortunately, due to the constraints of the city development board and the precise nature of the planting and materials being requested, it was finally established that the initial phase of this project was not something VPOC had the means to tackle.

Not one to be defeated, Ashley once again proved her mettle as one of our most dedicated organizers, and the committee shifted efficiently to complete a project at the North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier. On a damp but bright morning in October, fifteen volunteers came together to reset and revive a pollinator garden near the entrance to the Center.

The team arrived with native plants, soil amendment materials, and mulch as well as tools and trucks donated by American Meadows, Kristina MacKulin, Mama's Gardens, Rocky Dale Gardens, and Verterra Tree and Shrub Nursery.



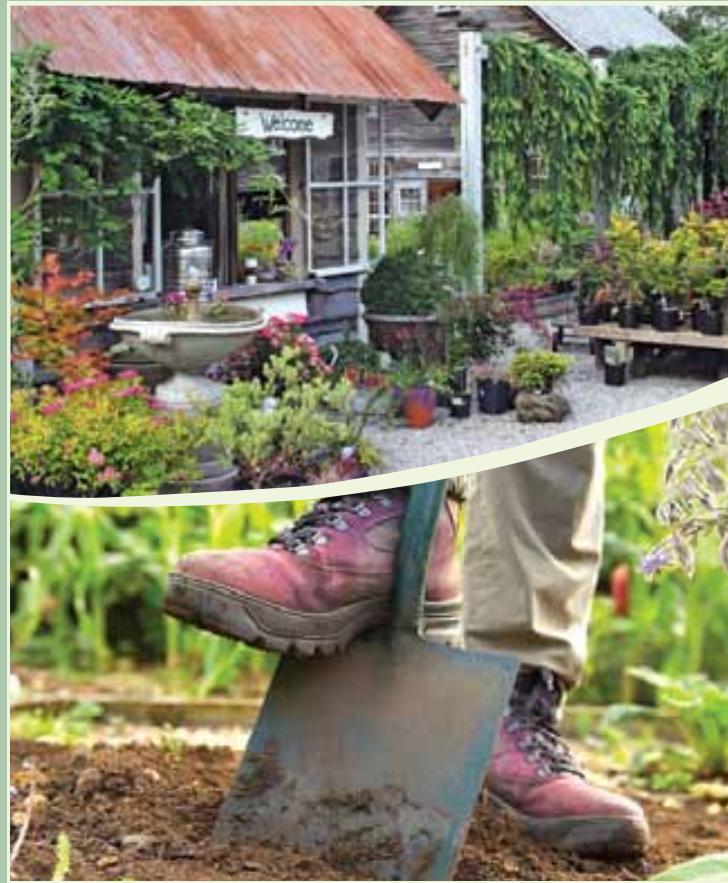
Quick work was made to thin out aggressive species, enrich the soil with compost, and to lay out and plant a wide variety of exciting natives. A good time was had by all, with some light entertainment provided by two of our littlest helpers who came along for comedic relief and wheelbarrow rides. Including time for snacks, planting lessons, and garden camaraderie, the project went smoothly and quickly. Our team was cleaning up by noon, with some participants staying to take advantage of the beautiful trails at the center afterwards.

Many thanks to all who participated, and we look forward to future volunteer initiatives in 2026. Please reach out with any project ideas by contacting the VNLA office or emailing Linzy Vos (committee chair) at [linzyvos@gmail.com](mailto:linzyvos@gmail.com). You can also approach a board member at any number of the exciting program events we are planning for the coming year. See you out there!

*Linzy Vos, Chair*



# Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association



The Vermont Nursery & Landscape Association mission is to support and strengthen the horticulture industry of Vermont by creating greater awareness of the benefits of landscaping and promoting the professional services and products of our members.