

Kathleen Devericks

As a property casualty insurance professional and certified Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter, Kathleen Devericks spent thirty-eight years with The Travelers Companies in senior claim management, customer experience and training positions as well as five years as a Commercial Casualty Property Agent with Bender Hatch Insurance in Boston. She has served in the roles of chairperson, director, vice-president, and instructor with Commonwealth Auto Reinsurers, Worcester County Insurance Institute, and Edward Street Child Services in Worcester.

In the early 2000s, Kathleen enrolled as a student at the Garden's New England School of Gardening. She earned her Massachusetts Master Gardener certification post retirement before becoming active as a Garden volunteer and docent. Kathleen was the recipient of NEBG's Annual Volunteer of the Year Award in 2023. She joined the Mission Committee in 2025.

Kathleen currently resides in Northborough and is a member of the Northborough Garden Club.



Maria Heskes-Allard

Maria Heskes-Allard is SVP, Relationship Manager at Fidelity Bank. She has spent her career in the Banking Industry, which began at Worcester County Institution for Savings over 40 years ago, being a trusted financial advisor to businesses throughout Worcester County. Maria graduated from Becker College, Southern New Hampshire College, and received an MBA from Assumption College. She currently serves as Chair Elect of Greater Worcester Community Foundation, in addition to serving on Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Investment Committee. Maria serves as Treasurer of New Garden Park, the development entity for Worcester Business Development Corporation. Maria is currently a member of Finance and Investment Committee for New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill. Maria resides in Princeton, MA with her husband, Roger, and their family.



Aimee Goodwin Lombardo

Aimee is Managing Principal and Director of Operations at a 40-person design firm, bringing decades of leadership across hundreds of projects throughout New England. Her work is recognized for thoughtful, site-responsible design and a strong commitment to sustainability, including multiple LEED Gold project and designs on university campuses, science laboratories, and civic, library, and senior center spaces.

She holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Syracuse University, is a registered Architect, and is a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Accredited Professional. Aimee has served on the AIARI Board and is active in several professional planning organizations.

Raised on a working family farm in Rhode Island, Aimee maintains a lifelong connection to land stewardship. As a recreational gardener now, she brings a practical, grounded perspective on cultivation, environmental responsibility, and the long-term care of landscape.



Matt Mattus

Matt Mattus has been involved with horticulture since he was a kid, working in his parent's garden along with his brothers and sister, raising vegetables, cutting flowers, and tending to trees, shrubs, and even a golf putting green. After a 29 years creative career in global design and development roles at toy and entertainment giant Hasbro, Matt today sits as the Senior Director of Horticulture for the American Horticultural Society (AHS) in Washington, DC.

Matt and his partner maintain two acres which includes a glass greenhouse, camellia collections, a formal and natural garden, a fish pond, and poultry. He has written two books with a third planned for a 2026 release. Matt is also a popular lecturer focusing on his botanical travels and plant collections.

Matt is a former Vice President (FY2017, FY2018, FY2019, FY2020, FY2024, and FY2025) and Secretary (FY2022 - FY2023) of the Society.



Lisa McDonough

Lisa McDonough is a community volunteer in Worcester where her family is based. She is the proud mother of six adult children and is married to Neil McDonough, CEO of FLEXcon Company. She is on the Hanover Theater of the Performing Arts Board and the GBH Board of Advisors. Lisa is a former President (FY2022-FY2023) and Vice President (FY2016, FY2021, FY2024, and FY2025) of the Society.

