



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Annie Dean, Director of Programs and Exhibitions  
[adean@highfieldhall.org](mailto:adean@highfieldhall.org), 508-495-1878 x. 313

Ashley Weik, Communications Manger  
[aweik@highfieldhall.org](mailto:aweik@highfieldhall.org) 508-495-1878 x 2

### **Highfield Hall & Gardens Introduces New Garden Volunteer Program**

Highfield Hall & Gardens announces its new Friends of the Garden volunteer program. Interested community members are invited to attend a volunteer orientation on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Highfield's recently appointed Landscape Director, Terry Soares, will greet interested volunteers, discuss the various components of the program, introduce the new Friends Garden Shed and volunteer kiosk, serve light refreshments and offer Highfield t-shirts to all attendees.

The Friends of the Garden program has three components: weekly volunteers who tend the grounds and gardens on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays; a new Adopt-a-Garden program centered on the two primary cultivated gardens at Highfield; and a series of five workdays scheduled for Saturdays from March through November. All three programs will be coordinated by Ms. Soares who joined the staff at Highfield in January. Ms. Soares is a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist and co-owner of Soares Nursery and Landscape with 30 years of experience in Landscape Design.

"Highfield Hall & Gardens has always had a cadre of dedicated volunteers and the goal is to make it as easy as possible for new people to join our existing team by providing the tools, training, guidance and support they need," explained Ms. Soares. "We've established opportunities for people who want to make a weekly

commitment, help during high impact times of the year, or maintain an entire part of the garden working on their own schedule within established guidelines.”

Ms. Soares explained that the new gardening shed will be a meeting place for the volunteers and will be open daily and stocked with basic gardening tools and wheelbarrows to be used on site. The shed will house volunteer sign in sheets, information on gardening tasks, a work /garden schedule and gardening information.

The newest component of the volunteer initiative is the Adopt-a-Garden program. The West Garden and Sunken Garden are Highfield’s two most cultivated and highly visible areas and an Adopt-a-Garden volunteer or group will be assigned to each of 20 sections. The volunteers will work under the supervision of Ms. Soares and Brian and Nicole Litchfield of TNB Landscaping who maintain the Highfield property. The Adopt-a-Garden volunteers will commit to designated garden tasks to such as planting, weeding, deadheading and seasonal clean-up.

The weekly Tuesday volunteers will have an opportunity to work side by side with Ms. Soares from 10:00 am to 11:30 pm. On Wednesdays, TNB Landscaping will be on site.

The Saturday workdays will occur on March 28, April 18, July 11, October 24 and November 21.

“TNB Landscaping has been in charge of the landscaping at Highfield since the very beginning and has done a spectacular job developing, installing and maintaining our gardens. But as these community gardens grow, we recognize a need to support their efforts through a stronger volunteer work force,” explained Highfield’s Executive Director Peter Franklin. “People often tell us how much they love the gardens and that they would like to be a part of it.”

Those interested in the new programs should call Highfield Hall & Gardens at 508-495-1878 x2 or contact Terry Soares at [tsoares@highfieldhall.org](mailto:tsoares@highfieldhall.org).

**CUT LINE FOR PHOTO OF BRIAN LITCHFIELD IN GARDEN:**

Photo credit: Elizabeth Forbes Armstrong

Brian Litchfield of TNB Landscaping, the firm that developed, installed and maintains the Highfield gardens, works in the Sunken Garden.

Highfield Hall & Gardens, a restored 1878 mansion and estate, is located at 56 Highfield Drive in Falmouth. Surrounded by spectacular gardens and woodlands, Highfield hosts art exhibitions, music concerts, culinary classes, family events and public programs. The mansion is open 7 days a week from April through October and year-round for programs and functions. For more information visit [highfieldhall.org](http://highfieldhall.org) or call (508) 495-1878.

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Highfield Hall & Gardens

P.O. Box 494, Falmouth, MA 02541 | [www.highfieldhall.org](http://www.highfieldhall.org) | 508-495-1878