



[Chipping sparrows](#) are relatively early migrants that typically arrive in our area in mid-April. This year, some have been already reported in Plymouth County. Read more about this little fellow [here](#). *Photo by Rusty Briggs.*

From the Archives: The Old Dahlia Farm

Charles W. Redding was born in 1870 in the neighborhood of Boston known as Charlestown. He later moved to Plymouth and worked as a carpenter, building several houses in the area, including Dr. Harvey's house at the "Narrows" on Bloody Pond in 1900. He married Miss Louise

Thomas and finally built his own house at the junction of two dirt roads (Long Pond Rd and Halfway Pond Rd), with fertile land and shorefront on Bloody Pond. The Redding home at 780 Long Pond Road dates back to 1920 but the land had been in the family since the late 1800s. This camp-style farmhouse was built by Redding about the same time as the Davis Douglas Farm, now the Wildlands Trust Headquarters. The two houses bear strikingly similar architectural features right down to the stonework seen at the base of the Wildlands Trust water tank. Redding apparently worked on both structures, and they were completed within a year or two of each other.

In 1930, he built another house behind his, down the hill on the shoreline of Bloody Pond for his niece Ruth Whiton, who had married Quincy citizen Samuel Ripley. Ruth and Sam had 4 daughters: Joan, Carol, Sylvia and Gail. Daughter Joan Ripley married Walter Morrison, Jr. and eventually bought Uncle Charlie's house at 780 Long Pond Road, where they summered for years with their three sons. The house on the shoreline of Bloody Pond was eventually sold to Kathy and Gary Marks, who also had three sons.

Charles W. Redding was a cranberry grower, too, and most notably a flower farmer. The fields surrounding this house, both on the east and west sides of Long Pond Road, were teeming with hundreds of varieties of dahlias and gladiolas. With dirt roads and summer cottages, life in the Ninth Great Lot of south Plymouth was still the stuff of pioneers.

His flower business thrived, growing cut dahlias and gladiolas for the Boston Flower Exchange and

summer residents from New York who summered around the Six Ponds, and he had a thriving mail-order business shipping dormant bulbs and tubers across the country. It's hard to imagine fields of flowers at that intersection now, the same intersection that will have a traffic signal installed soon to accommodate the increasing population coming from the south.

Uncle Charlie's grand-nephew, Walter Morrison III, is still cultivating this land along with the more recent owners of 780, and dahlias will be planted again soon, however on a much smaller scale than back in the 1930's!

Both Charlie and Louise are buried in what the Town of Plymouth calls the Redding Cemetery a bit further south on Long Pond Road. A local Boy Scout who lives across the street from the cemetery has elected to refurbish the fence, as well as research the genealogy of those buried there, so look for improvements coming soon.

Below: Charlie's catalog cover from 1927 and his personal greeting, and grand-nephew Morry in 1971 arranging gladiolas for his mother, Joan. Further below, the fields of gladiolas on the south side of the Redding house.

6234

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BOURNEDALE, MASS.

Dahlia Grower

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GOLD ORE

TO MY CUSTOMERS — GREETINGS
for
A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

I take great pleasure in presenting this, my 17th annual catalog of UP-TO-DATE DAHLIAS, containing as it does so many wonderful new varieties, many of them my own creations, several of which have been pronounced as fine as any, by visitors in my gardens this season.

Thanking you for your generous orders, friendly letters, and the many new customers received through you by your kindly recommending of my roots to your friends, I am,

Yours very truly,

CHAS. W. REDDING,

Gardens located in Plymouth, Mass.

Mail address, Bournedale, Mass.

Member of
Dahlia Society of New England,
The Dahlia Society of California,
The American Dahlia Society,
Mass. Horticultural Society.



FIREWISE USA

Over the past few years, the Six Ponds community has been spreading the word about wildfire safety. The national program called [Firewise USA](#) is a recognition program that empowers residents to work collaboratively in reducing wildfire risks. To date, we have organized 2 residence clean-up days, submitted countless hours of individual "[worksheets](#)" to the authorities, and hosted [Alex Belote](#) (Fire Program Coordinator for MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation) to speak to members at our annual potluck dinner. We want to keep going with this program, as we recognize [we live in a very fire-prone ecosystem \(pine barrens\)](#) and fire is in our history.

Acknowledging that we have no fire hydrants in our neighborhood is key to understanding why fire is a real risk to us. Yes, we have ponds, but access is not guaranteed and our neighborhood has hundreds of dwellings. Keeping informed about how to minimize your risk of damage in the case of a wildfire is a responsibility each one of us bears. The Firewise USA program has [informative videos to help us](#). Take a look; it might just save your home! None of us want to see a fire like what roared through our woods [in the past](#). Through the Firewise USA program, we hope to help you prepare and be aware.

Have you been working on your property, picking up fallen limbs, clearing brush from around your home, hiring arborists to thin your trees? If so, please help Six Ponds out with our [Firewise USA certification](#). It's easy: just [fill out the FORM here](#) and send it to [Six Ponds President, Hampton Watkins](#). He will make sure the forms are forwarded to Alex so we can maintain our status as a Firewise USA neighborhood! Thank you!

Save the Date for the Annual Meeting

The Six Ponds Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday evening, June 3**. Location, time and details are coming soon. Join friends and neighbors for the annual meeting plus a potluck supper.



Spring is Membership Renewal Time!

Keep an eye out this spring for a membership renewal letter in your mailbox. The Six Ponds Association is *totally* supported by you -- your donations and memberships. Your contributions *do* make a difference to our neighborhood! Thank you.

TAKE NOTE: Our Six Ponds website has much to be discovered! Take a look again and check the Resources link [here](#) for book recommendations and more, or look back on old newsletters [here](#), and water quality reports [here](#). If nothing else, surf around and see what else you can find. We'd love to expand the [descriptions of each of our six ponds](#). If you have some comments, please let us know! Email Caroline at carochapin@gmail.com or Susanne at susannelucas@gmail.com.

Roadside Clean Up Day

Saturday morning, May 13

Mark your calendar and help keep our roadsides clean! All ages are welcome to join this town-wide clean up initiative.



Epigaea repens (Trailing Arbutus). We are fortunate to have these fragrant, native Mayflowers on trails in our Six Ponds area. Keep an eye out for them this spring. Learn more about our state flower [here](#).

2023 Six Ponds Executive Committee

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