

Haddam Garden Club  
“Gardening is Murder!”

A presentation by mystery writer Neal Sanders

Haddam Firehouse Complex, Higganum, CT  
April 12, 2023









*Chalcidius oxyacantha*







ownies  
with  
walnuts









Chocolate Chip  
Duke's Bakery











308

CHAIR STORAGE

Donations

Digging In

MASSACHUSETTS GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MAY 23-25, 2013  
FARMINGTON, MA

Gardens  
Gardens  
Gardens  
Gardens  
Gardens



Neal Sanders

[PrincipalUndergardener.blogspot.com](http://PrincipalUndergardener.blogspot.com)

[hardington-press.square.site](http://hardington-press.square.site)

QUELETTE





# Gardening Is Murder

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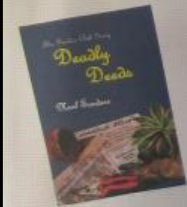
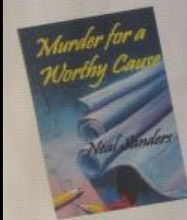
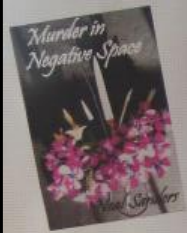
### Then What Are Benches For?



- Visual destination points?
- Their fortifying someday...?
- So that others can enjoy them? Sometimes, yes!







Fun, page-  
turning,  
intelligent,  
twisty-windy,  
fast-paced,  
thoughtful,  
can't-put-  
'em-down,  
addictive,  
horticultural

**MYSTERIES**  
by Neal Sanders

featuring  
strong,  
independent,  
women, some of whom,  
solve crimes, and some who  
commit them.

# Head of a Boston cultural institution is a con man... and dead

There's nothing gentler about the world of horticulture and flower shows. St. John Grainger-Elliott, head of the venerable New England Botanical Society, is found brutally murdered after the Flower Show's opening night gala. For newly minted Lieutenant Victoria Lee it's a high-profile investigation that will either accelerate or derail her mercenary career - and there are higher-ups who resent the promotion of a 30-year-old woman.

Lee learns that Grainger-Elliott was not what he claimed to be. He was a con man, and funds for his high-profile signature project, The Gardens at Government Center, are either missing or were never raised. Who killed him? A Society employee or trustee? A flower show exhibitor? A business partner whose reputation he ruined? And was Grainger-Elliott's wife a dupe or an accomplice? Horticulture and high tech will solve the crime.

# Who killed an acclaimed Russian floral designer in a Boston hotel ballroom?

Vladimir Ponn's favorite flower arranger has been found murdered in a Boston hotel ballroom hours before the opening of the prestigious International Floral Design Association conference. It falls to Lieutenant Victoria Lee and young, computer savvy Detective Jason Alvarez to find out who killed Valentina Zhukova, the innovative, globe-trotting "Queen of Negative Space".

Can flowers and design be grounds for homicide? The two detectives quickly learn Zhukova was both more and less than the woman she seemed. The proud granddaughter of a World War II hero, she was also an ancient matron who lived the American dream. Someone who refused suffering pain on those around her. Who killed her? With an international cast of suspects, Lee and Alvarez - aided by suburban garden club president, La Marlene in August - have what you need to solve the case. However can this high-tech investigation be solved?

# A Murder at the Flower Show

Neal Sanders



### The quiet town of Hardington hasn't had a murder in 15 years - until today. Leo Phillips is a homicide and knows his town well. John Flynn is a former Boston police detective who couldn't solve the death of Leo's friend, Sally Kahn, brings them together. Leo immediately sees that things aren't right, but Detective Flynn doubts a quiet town could have a murder in the first month on the job. Finding Sally's killer leads them on a wild chase through a maze of corporate intrigue, jealousy, and the desperate need for revenge. Can they solve the case before the next murder?



When the body of a 30-year-old woman is found in the town of Hardington, Detective Flynn is sent to investigate. The woman was found in a garden club house, the club she had just joined. The police find a note pinned to her chest that reads "I love you".

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### Who killed Fresh Woodley? And, who was Fresh Woodley?



# An 1889 murder leads to a present-day mystery in Hardington



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"My neurons kept looking at me. Then I realized I had been laughing now why for half an hour... This book is FUN!" - Susan DeLaney is so believable that I've ordered I know him... I can picture Joe Klein something like Paul Newman on every page... Just don't get the wrong idea, this is a great read... I've just had a first class, all-reprieve paid vacation back to 1967 and a world that has all but disappeared... Neal Sanders has brought it right back to me in all his glory... You know how you have books that you don't want to stop? This is one of those! 4.5/5 stars! 1/17

**Murder, mistresses and financial misadventures... You'll never think Webberly the same way again.**

"Thoughtful and intelligent... Neal Sanders presents a character of surprising nuance, a villainess. It should be read!"

"Highly entertaining... What have you read lately?"

"I've read a lot of books... Neal Sanders is a great author... I've just had a first class, all-reprieve paid vacation back to 1967 and a world that has all but disappeared... Neal Sanders has brought it right back to me in all his glory... You know how you have books that you don't want to stop? This is one of those! 4.5/5 stars! 1/17"

**"A Heart-pounding Roller Coaster Ride of a Story"**

I can't remember a book... the kind of pages to make someone... Neal Sanders has brought it right back to me in all his glory... You know how you have books that you don't want to stop? This is one of those! 4.5/5 stars! 1/17

**Get ready for a wild ride as one woman plots to get even with her contractor**

Anne Evans Carbone has a simple goal: to serve Thanksgiving dinner in the "rental home" she is building. What stands in her way is Joey McCoy, possibly the worst contractor ever to wear a tool belt.

This is the story of a battle of wits between Anne and Joey. Joey's goal is simple: stretch the job out and keep inventing "up-charges".

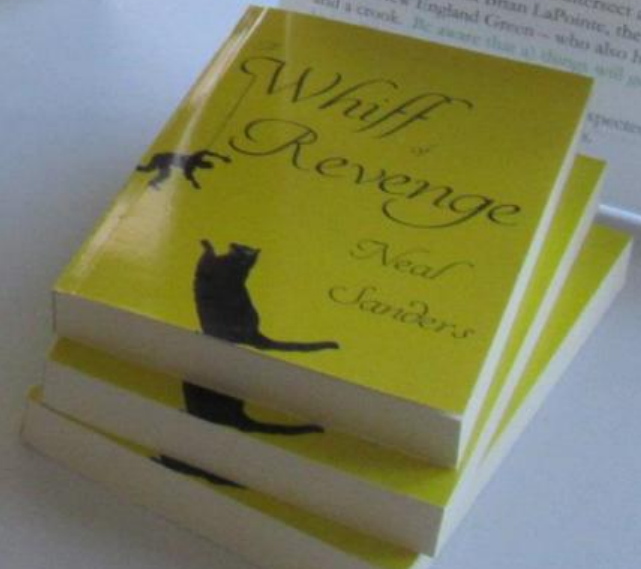
But Joey hasn't planned on Anne's determination, or her unusual circle of friends. They're multi-day football-captain jockeying champions, some deadly - in the task of either getting Joey to do his job right, or to get Joey out of the way.

"I've thought building my house was like riding a roller coaster. He's not wrong. I'm enjoying every minute of it. Let's just say that I can't wait to read the next one. I can make that statement with authority."

**Revenge is a dish best served unexpectedly.**

Penny Warden gained unwanted fame after writing a best-selling novel about revenge. Now, she loves being an anonymous research scientist. Albe is a brilliant teen who can't forgive her father for abandoning his family. Her mother, Helga, thought she had put the divorce behind her, but had only repressed her anger. Zoe and Tyler, stuck in dead-end, entry-level jobs that use none of their considerable journalism skills, desperately need a break. And Emily, wealthy and beautiful, has just found out that the man she planned to marry is a liar and a fraud.

A week ago these six women were strangers. Now, their lives will intersect as Penny plots real-life vengeance against Brian LaPointe, the handsome, revered head of New England Green - who also happens to be a cad and a crook. Be aware that a thirst will get complicated, and unexpected consequences.



**Fun!** thoughtful  
addictive twisty-windy  
page-turning  
intelligent fast-paced  
horticultural  
can't-put-'em-down  
Books