

Bios for C.L. Fornari – choose the one that best fits your needs.

Shortest Version

C.L. Fornari is the author of nine books, the host of *The Garden Lady* on CAI and GBH 89.7, and a frequent speaker to groups and green industry trade events. C.L. has worked for Hyannis Country Garden for 30 years as a writer, educator and design consultant. She grows vegetables, flowers and other plants at Poison Ivy Acres on Cape Cod. Connect with her at www.GardenLady.com

Short Version

C.L. Fornari is the author of nine books, and the host of *The Garden Lady* on CAI and GBH 89.7. She is a frequent speaker to groups nationwide, including green industry meetings, businesses and audiences with green or black thumbs. C.L. has worked for a family-owned independent garden center for 30 years as a writer and educator, and her favorite time of year is when she can go into the garden and ask, "What's for dinner?" C.L. grows hydrangeas, vegetables, flowers and other plants at Poison Ivy Acres on Cape Cod. Connect with her at www.GardenLady.com

Longer Version

Fornari is an artist, writer and speaker who knows from experience that life takes you down roads you never intended to walk. She has always loved plants and gardens, but early in life all she wanted to do is to "go into the studio and make stuff." In the mid 1990's she was asked to write a book about gardening, and she thought, "when opportunity knocks, don't be the person who says, 'Can someone else get that?'" Nine books later, C.L. is host of *The Garden Lady*, a live call-in radio program heard on Saturday afternoons on WCAI and WGBH 89.7. She speaks to groups nationwide, in person and virtually, and grows vegetables, flowers and numerous other plants at Poison Ivy Acres on Cape Cod. As someone who cooks every day, her favorite time of year are the months when she can walk into the garden and ask, "What's for dinner?"

Longest Version (Please do not read to the audience before I speak...it will put them to sleep before I take the stage.)

C.L. Fornari is an artist and plant geek who got pulled into garden communications in 1995. She is the author of nine books including *Coffee for Roses*, *The Cocktail Hour Garden* and *Sand and Soil: Creating Beautiful Gardens on Cape Cod and the Islands*. Her latest, *Hydrangea Happiness: Planting, Pruning and Blooming* will be out in the spring of 2026 from Brandeis University Press. These books are all fully illustrated with C.L.'s photographs.

C.L. is a regular columnist for *Garden Center Magazine*. She's also written for *Angie's List Magazine*, *Prime Time Magazine*, *Fine Gardening*, *Coastal Home*, *Country Gardens*, and *American Nurseryman*.

The Garden Lady, C.L.'s live, call-in radio program, is heard on WCAI and WGBH 89.7 every Saturday at 1 PM. *GardenLine*, her 2-hour radio program was heard on Saturday mornings on WXTK for 22 years; for two years she was the host of *The Garden Lady* on WRKO, and was a regular contributor to *The Cultivated Gardener*, heard on NPR stations nationwide. For six years C.L. and Ellen Zachos, produced the podcast *Plantrama*.

In addition to working at Hyannis Country Garden, a family owned IGC on Cape Cod, C.L. Fornari speaks to businesses, trade shows and garden groups nationwide, both virtually and in person.

C.L. was awarded the Garden Communicator award from the Perennial Plant Association, several awards from GardenComm and her book, *The Cocktail Hour Garden* was given a Silver award in the "How To-Self Help" category by ASJA. In 2019 the Plantrama podcast was given the highest award from GardenComm International, a Gold medal.

In 2015 C.L. launched the Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival, a ten-day regional celebration of gardens that typically raises over \$100,000.00 for local non-profits and draws public attention to Hydrangeas and horticulture. In 2021 and 2022 C.L. was interviewed by Mo Rocca in a segment about Hydrangeas and the festival for the CBS Sunday Morning program.

C.L. loves cooking, children and dogs. She has been married to Dan Fornari, a Marine Geologist, for over 50 years. Her favorite time of year is when she can walk into the vegetable garden that she and Dan cultivate every summer and ask, "What's for dinner?" Connect with her at www.GardenLady.com

