

# THE EARTHWORM

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR (CT) GARDEN CLUB  
CELEBRATING **81** YEARS OF CONTINUOUS EXISTENCE



Co-Presidents: Debbie Baker and Patty Crowley  
Co-Vice Presidents: Florence Barlow and Maureen Vagnini  
Recording Secretary: Laurie Durant  
Treasurer: Lieba Bernstein  
Corresponding Secretary: Erin Bourdon  
Immediate Past President: Diane Bernier  
Earthworm Editor: Jim Bennett

## WORDS FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

It's Garden Mart time again! I just want to remind all club members, we once again are asking each member to contribute 6 plants. This year's sale will be May 11th, on Windsor's town green as always. Potting soil will be available and any one who is not able to dig plants up, there will be help to do that for you. There will be more information at April's club meeting along with a phone chain to keep all club members informed. Hope to see you all at the next Garden Club meeting **April 8th**.

Patty Crowley and Debbie Baker  
Co-presidents

**ATTENTION:** The Club's Executive Board is proposing to conduct a membership vote (during the April meeting) regarding a proposed technology equipment expenditure. Detailed information about this expenditure can be found on other pages within this edition of the Earthworm.



DO APRIL  
SHOWERS REALLY  
BRING MAY  
FLOWERS?

## **SHORT TERM FUTURE CLUB EVENT**

**April 8, 2019** - This is the Club's monthly business meeting. The meeting will feature Ms. Marilyn Smith, who is the current manager of Windsor's Northwest Park.

Marilyn has served as the Manager of Northwest Park in Windsor since December, 2016. She has had a long career in environmental education and conservation, developing programs and exhibits for people of all ages to foster a connection with the natural world. She began her career with a large city park system in Ohio before moving east to help plan and build a new nature center for National Audubon Society in Greenwich, CT. More recently, Marilyn enjoyed sharing her experience in an urban environment during 12 years as the Director of Children's Education at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. She has a B.S. in Biology and a Master's degree in Botany. In her free time, Marilyn seeks out new places near and far to hike and explore nature.

Tonight's Topic is: Nurturing Natural Landscapes

Marilyn Smith will present a virtual tour of Northwest Park's diverse plant communities and wildlife. Although these ecosystems are native to our region, they require maintenance and active guardianship to ensure ongoing health and survival for future generations. The presentation will include discussion of land management at the park, and how small choices made by individual homeowners can impact conservation on a larger scale.



## FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT
May 6, 2019	May 2019 business meeting – member plant swap and final preparations for the Garden Mart sale
May 11, 2019	<b>2019 Garden Mart fundraising event on the Town Green</b>
June 17, 2019	June 2019 summer social meeting – visit to Marci Martin’s home in Suffield
July 8, 2019	July 2019 summer social meeting
July 13, 2019	2019 Garden Tour fundraising event titled: <i>“A Midsummer Gardeners’ Dream”</i>
August 12, 2019	August 2019 summer social meeting

As the date of an event draws closer, more detailed information will be provided in upcoming issues of the EARTHWORM.

### 2019 FIELD TRIPS

The table below lists projected field trips that Club members have indicated as being of interest. During the April business meeting, there will be more discussion regarding possible field trips



Location	Remarks
Keney Park (Hartford) – <b>Summer of 2019</b>	Laurie Durant is working with Flo to determine a summer date for an afternoon or evening visit to see the gardens and potentially enjoy lunch or dinner at the club. This will either be a carpool or meet on site outing. Stay tuned for timing and in the meantime, let Laurie know if you are interested in going.

## **WGC EXECUTIVE BOARD TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE**

The Club's Executive Board understands that professional speakers expect to have laptop and projectors available for their use rather than bringing their own. The Senior Center has been generous in loaning us their projector for use, but we have traditionally asked speakers to bring their own laptop. There have been technical difficulties with laptops unable to connect to the Senior Center projector this year as the projector has not been compatible with laptops brought by our speakers. At the November meeting, it was suggested that the Executive Board investigate purchasing a projector and a laptop. We began with discussion and pricing from the local PC Development Group (**PCD**) and also conducted online comparison research including chats with the laptop manufacturer (Lenovo is the brand recommended by PCD.)

### Projector:

PCD provided information about two potential projectors. Online research on projectors was also conducted. Smaller, lightweight projectors may not have the best quality imaging but are very portable. Pricing ranged from \$500 to \$650 for a new projector, and \$75 or so for a projector case. PCD suggested that they would be able to provide adapters that would be compatible with the projector already available. It is essential that the correct input and output connections be made for the projector to be operational. PCD indicated that we would need to bring in a laptop to check its input connections and also check input and output cabling for the current available projector. The necessary adapters would cost approximately \$40.

### Laptop:

PCD provided two price quotes for the same brand laptops, with differing levels of processor speed (i5 v i7) and memory. Pricing was \$750 (i5, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) v \$1,150 (i7, 12 GB RAM, 512GB SSD).

We explored additional pricing for same brand laptop to those quoted by PCD and found one at regular price of \$799.99 and sale price of \$589.99 (i7, 8GB RAM and 1TB SSD). This increases processor speed and memory over the laptops quoted by PCD. We believe this will allow for plenty of photo and file capacity for many years. We then re-approached PCD to see if they would match that pricing, but they do not offer that option.

## **WGC EXECUTIVE BOARD TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (continued)**

The Software and Security:

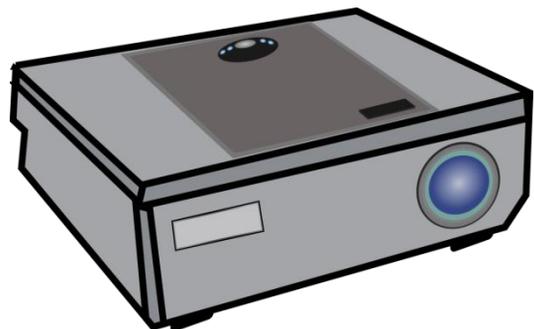
Microsoft Office for Home and Business is generally available for \$250.00  
An antivirus subscription ranges from \$25-\$50 (Avast, Norton, McAfee) annually

During the February 2019 business meeting, the Executive Board proposed spending approximately \$1,000 - \$1,250 to purchase a laptop, supporting software, security software, and connection adapters. There is also an identified desire to purchase a protective container for the lap top.

General Discussion about the Expenditure:

Questions were raised about the use and storage of the laptop, along with information published in the February 2019 Earthworm. Subsequently there was significant discussion during the March 2019 business meeting. The equipment would be used largely by members of the Executive Board, who operate on behalf of the WGC to maintain records including agendas, minutes, budgets, photos, website, and other functions. This allows the accumulated background data to be "given" to the new Executive Board during changes every few years in both technology format as well as with printed materials that are saved. One club member noted that Garden Mart and Garden Tour proceeds are often referred to as specifically supporting education. Use of the laptop is certainly used for member and guest education at every meeting for which there is a speaker.

The Executive Board would like to conduct a membership vote during the April 2019 business meeting. The vote would be about whether or not the proposed technology expenditure will be included in the 2019-2020 business year. Knowing that reliable technology will be available will be of benefit in providing quality programming for members as well as during speaker recruitment.



## **2019 SCHOLARSHIP**

For 2019, the Windsor Garden Club is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school senior, who is a Windsor resident.

The student must plan to attend either a two or four-year college with the intention of pursuing studies in agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, herbal medicine, landscape design or architecture, forestry, environmental science, environmental engineering, or a similarly related study.

One of the Windsor Garden Club's resolutions is to award a scholarship each year to a deserving Windsor student. The scholarship is funded through the Club's annual sale of plants at its Garden Mart in May, and by our club Garden Tour, held every other year. Thanks to the many dedicated and hardworking club members, and to all the enthusiastic townspeople who attend our fundraisers and make this scholarship possible.

Additional information and applications may be obtained from the guidance departments of the following schools: Windsor High School, Loomis Chaffee School, Northwest Catholic High School, Medina Academy, CREC: Academy of Aerospace and Engineering, Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, Academy of Science and Innovation, Metropolitan Learning Center Public Safety Academy and Two Rivers Magnet High School

Applications can be downloaded from the scholarship page of the Windsor Garden Club's website: [www.windsorgardenclubct.org](http://www.windsorgardenclubct.org)

**Deadline for receipt of applications is April 15, 2019.**

Completed applications should be mailed to The Windsor Garden Club Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 233, Windsor, Connecticut 06095.



## **2019 GARDEN MART**

Now that April is here, we are one month away from this annual fundraising event! During the month, the time has come to get outside, shake off the doldrums of winter, and identify the possible sale contributions growing in your garden. Our normal location on the Town Green has been duly reserved through the Town Clerk's office. Identification sticks will be available at both the April and May club meetings. The committee is hoping that everyone supports this activity as best they can.



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## **2019 GARDEN TOUR**

# SAVE THE DATE

## *"A Midsummer Gardeners' Dream"*

The above title is the theme for Club's 2019 edition of its self-guided tour of various gardens and landscapes of Windsor. Everyone is hoping that the weather on **Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**, will fully support the Club's effort.

In support of this event, there will be docent sign up sheets available during the Club's April business meeting.

Our docents check tickets, answer general questions, share any information from the Garden Host and gather feedback to help make our 2021 Garden Tour even better.

Questions can be directed to Cindy Daniels at (860-219-9489 )



The Windsor Garden Club

P.O. Box 233

Windsor, Connecticut 06095

## **GARDENING WARNING**

BUYER BEWARE!



**Mary Cour Burrows**

**Important!!**

I saw this at Home Depot yesterday!

Do not, I repeat, do not buy plants treated with neonicotinoids. Bees take the pollen back to the hive and feed it to the brood.

This is the number one cause of colony collapse!

Neonicotinoids are banned in Europe!

Please! Don't buy these plants! feel free to share!

## **CLUB MEETING INFORMATION**

- Business meetings are typically held at the Windsor Senior Center, 599 Matianuck Avenue in Windsor.
- Meetings during September, October, November, March and April feature guest speakers. Social hour begins at 6:30 PM and the guest speaker begins their presentation at 7:00 PM. The Club conducts its business portion of the meeting after the guest speaker has finished. These meetings are free to anyone attending.
- The December meeting is a member only meeting during which Club members construct holiday wreaths.
- The February meeting is the annual "soup talk" meeting where members bring soups and breads to share. During this meeting there is a round-table discussion of plant and horticulture related topics.
- The May meeting is a member only meeting during which final plans are made for the annual Garden Mart plant sale. Also, attending members can participate in a plant swap.
- There is no Club meeting in January.
- Meetings during June, July and August are deemed to be only social meetings. These three meetings are typically held at the respective homes of Club members.

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## **CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**



Club membership is open to anyone who has an interest in plants, landscaping, horticulture and other related topics. Annual membership dues are \$20.00 for an individual and \$35.00 for a family. Renewal memberships are typically due June 1<sup>st</sup> while new memberships are accepted at any time. The current membership application form is available on the Club's website.

[WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG](http://WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG)

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## **REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE CLUB**



The members of the Windsor Garden Club are able and willing to provide both the design and installation of landscape beautification projects within Windsor. If you would like additional information about obtaining the Club's assistance, please download the information document and application form from the Club's website. (Word and PDF formats are available.)

[WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG](http://WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG)