

THE EARTHWORM:
NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB
DECEMBER 2015

PRESIDENT: LAURA JARY
VICE PRESIDENT: CINDY DANIELS
TREASURER: JIM BENNETT
RECORDING SECRETARY: LAURIE DURANT
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: ERIN BOURDON
DIRECTOR: ERIN BOURDON
EARTHWORM EDITOR: ROSE STEPNIK

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**“GREAT THINGS ARE NOT DONE BY
IMPULSE, BUT BY A SERIES OF SMALL
THINGS BROUGHT TOGETHER” ~
VINCENT VAN GOGH**



Happy Holidays!

I hope that you enjoyed this past November's beautiful days...I finally got my garden to bed - of course not before it had gotten very cold outside. I hope that you all got your clean ups done for your gardens.

December is a busy month and I wanted to remind you of what is coming up. **December 6th, 2015**, we will gather at **The Nutmeg**, a local restaurant, at 12 Noon for our annual **“WGC HOLIDAY BRUNCH”** which is a bountiful meal to help usher in the holiday season. The Nutmeg is located at 297 South Main Street (Route 5) in East Windsor. Then on **December 7th, 2015**, as one of our ongoing civic endeavors, we will create holiday wreaths and floral arrangements that will be given to local service agencies, nursing homes, and other Windsor organizations. **Please bring your greenery, pruning shears, gloves, and other seasonal crafty goods that you may have to help create a beautiful wreath.** Diane Bernier has offered again to make bows for all of our wreaths. There will be no business meeting tonight, just creativity, food and fun! Bring your favorite hors-d'oeuvres, baked goods, or snacks to share.

Please welcome to our newest membership **Suzanne Urban**, who is looking forward to attending our December holiday wreath civic endeavor gathering. Please add her name to our membership information to your membership booklet. You will be able to get her mailing/email information from Diane Bernier.

Please also don't forget to bring a non-perishable item for our monthly donation. Many thanks to all of you and good wishes for a lovely Thanksgiving!

Laura

LAURA JARY, WGC PRESIDENT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER 7th MEETING

There will be no business meeting in December, just creativity, food and FUN!

The Windsor Garden Club Celebrates Community Giving

The December 7th meeting of the Windsor Garden Club will carry on our tradition of community giving. Club members and visitors at this meeting will decorate wreaths, purchased by the club to be given to and hung at public buildings throughout Windsor.

The WGC will purchase already made fresh wreaths. All we need is for members to bring your **GREENERY, PRUNING SHEARS, GLOVES, RIBBONS, ORNAMENTS, and OTHER SEASONAL CRAFTY ITEMS** you may have.

Bring your favorite snacks to share and help us in bringing the holiday season. This meeting is free of charge and runs from 6:30-8:30.

Coming Up In 2016

JANUARY 16th MEETING

Executive Board Meeting – No regular meeting

10:30AM – 12:30PM – Location TBD

FEBRUARY 9th MEETING

“Soup Talk”

A special informational garden meeting held while warming up with a variety of homemade breads, soups and more shared by our members. Those crock pots ready!

MEETING INFORMATION

- Club meetings are *typically* conducted on the second Monday of the month.
- Meetings begin at 6:30 PM with social time, followed by the evening's guest speaker beginning at 7:00 PM. The business portion of the meeting completes the evening.
- New members are always welcome.
- Meetings take place at the L.P Wilson Community Center, 599 Matianuck Avenue, Windsor, CT, in the Senior Center Room, which is located on the front left side of the building.
- During the months of June, July and August, club meetings are informal and are typically held at member's homes.
- Please check the calendar page to verify all meeting dates.
- These meetings are free of charge. The programs will begin at 7:00PM.



FIELDTRIP INFORMATION

The October private, guided tour of the Governor's Mansion Sculpture Garden was cancelled until Spring of 2016. Please watch for further announcements.

WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG

THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB HOLIDAY BRUNCH

DECEMBER 6, 2015

Twenty Five members are gathering at **The Nutmeg**, at **297 South Main Street (Route 5) in East Windsor** at Noon for a bountiful brunch to help usher in the holiday season.

42nd ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES & TRADITIONS” December 4-13*

Museum open 10am – 5pm

*Closed Monday, December 7 & Tuesday, December 8

A \$3 surcharge is added to regular admission during FOTT. Ticket includes admission.

The Wadsworth Atheneum is holding its **42nd Annual Festival of Trees** this month. Festival donations will be sold throughout the event, and the profits help fund the museum’s special exhibitions, educational programs, and operating expenses.

COMMITTEES:

Please review their purposes and consider signing up for one of the important committees in our club. Members are encouraged to participate in one committee, if possible.

GARDEN MART COMMITTEE

Volunteers are being asked to sign up for the 2016 Garden Mart held on May 7th, 2016.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE

- As a future project, the Deerfield Globe, located in the Deerfield area of Windsor, is in need of a spruce up in the spring. Volunteers will be sought when a date is arranged.
 - A proposed civic endeavor is a bench from the WGC for Northwest Park.
-

GARDEN TOUR 2017 COMMITTEE

July 15, 2017 Garden Tour:

Down Memory Lane, And Still Growing - Celebrating 80 Years of the Windsor Garden Club

The committee decided on the pattern for the stakes that will be put at each tour participant's home for the 2017 tour. They will be made by students from Windsor High School Technology Wood Shop.

The committee will also seek members for various jobs that need to be done for the tour.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We have several new members since the publication of the 2015-16 booklets, so please update your Directory with the latest information from Diane Bernier at each meeting.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Food Donations: Please remember to bring a non perishable food item for the Windsor Food bank. Donations can be left at the table where you check in.

Thank You Hospitality Volunteers for December 7th: Judy Linton,

Margaret Lagan, Cindy Daniels, Jim Bennett, Laurie Durant and Joan Lynch



Town of Windsor Information for Homeowners

Home Repair Loan Program

The Town of Windsor is providing low interest loans for homeowners in Windsor who need to make repairs to their homes. Home improvement loans include items such as new roofs, boiler/furnaces, siding, waterproofing basements, plumbing, hot water heaters, electrical upgrades and other miscellaneous repairs. The program is income based, and for a family of four the maximum income allowed is \$65,800. Please call Diane McDougald for more information at (860) 285-1984. Ms. McDougald will be happy to assist with the paperwork.

WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG

The October presenter Stacy Wood gave a very informative talk on the topic titled FROM FARM TO PHARMACY. Stacy explained how different herbs blended together can be beneficial in a healthy, happy, spiritual, as well as physically healthy lifestyle. These herbs are grown organically in herb gardens located in Hampden CT.

The program was well attended, with a tasting of the various teas along with a good question and answer session.

Hydroponics, Gardening for the Future

Our November presenter George Elliott, a professor from the University of Connecticut, gave us a very detailed and entertaining presentation and demonstration on hydroponic research and gardening. He showed us how hydroponics is used in agriculture and also how we can experiment with growing with water at home. He shared some fun, small scale projects, as well as research being done at the University and farms around the state using hydroponics.



GARDEN TIPS

New England Gardening Advice By the Month -December thru March.

Short days and long nights now dominate the horizon. The ground is probably frozen and may be covered by a fresh blanket of snow, too. Great for skiing and sledding, bad for the avid gardener! So what can you do to keep the gardening in New England dream alive during the winter months? Start thinking early Spring! Hit the books and the internet to start planning your early spring garden. Now is the time to order seeds for lettuce, peas, onions and other early spring vegetables so that they arrive on your doorstep in January or February for inside planting. Remember, you can start your spring seedlings inside the house or in a cold frame weeks before they will be set outside. The benefit for you.... earlier yields and a little something to keep your green thumb occupied during the long cold winter! Lastly, don't forget to pot up your next batch of spring blooming bulbs for forcing. You can keep the show going non-stop until your garden begins to show signs of life in March/April! We'll see you next month for more tips and advice for gardening in New England! - See more at:

<http://www.gardeninginnewengland.com/displayArticle.aspx?id=31#sthash.gQ4ujmm0.dpuf>

Submission Deadline for January 2016 Earthworm: December 27th.

If you would like to include one of your garden or event photos, an announcement, or any suitable information, please email it by this month's deadline.

Thank You! Rose
Rosenick10@yahoo.com

UConn Extension offers December gardening tips - don't let the cold weather stop you from having a productive spring.

1. Replace the plants in hanging baskets, containers, and window boxes with evergreen boughs, berries and pinecones.
2. Disinfect, oil, and sharpen lawn and garden tools. Keep them in a dry storage area.
3. Recycle your fresh Christmas tree by using cut branches as insulation over perennials.
4. Gently clean the leaves of large-leaved houseplants like dracaena, philodendron and ficus. Check for insect pests and treat accordingly.
5. Continue to harvest Brussels sprouts. They'll typically keep even when buried in snowdrifts
6. Use garden notes, photos and sketches to plan out your garden for the upcoming season.

For more information visit the [UConn Home and Garden Education Center](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/) website at <http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/>

Christmas Cactus - Growing and Caring for Christmas Cactus

Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera x buckleyi*) seem to thrive on neglect. They don't even need you to manipulate their light exposure to set buds for Christmas blooms. They are especially long lived and propagate easily from cuttings.

Light: They prefer a diffused light, although I have seen them sitting in a bright chilly window blooming profusely.

Water: Allow the soil to dry completely between waterings. Never let the soil sit wet.

Fertilizer: Feed monthly with a diluted water soluble fertilizer during spring and summer. Withhold fertilizer when the buds set and resume after flowering.

Temperature: Christmas cactus aren't fussy about temperature. Ideally they like it warm 70 - 80F during the growing season and cooler 55 - 65F while setting buds. But unless you're having difficulty getting your plant to bloom, I wouldn't worry too much about temperature.

Additional Tips: They don't like sudden drafts and will drop their buds or flowers if exposed. Keep away from frequently opened doors.

Pruning lightly after flowering re-energizes the plant.

TIPS: If anyone has any helpful gardening hints, horticultural places to recommend, or links worth sharing, please send the information to me at rosenick10@yahoo.com. They will be listed here and will be most appreciated. Share those new and old ideas with other members.



Hanukkah is December 7 - December 14, 2015.

The Holiday of Lights - celebrating the miracle of a little oil that lasted eight days

A HAPPY HEALTHY 2016 TO YOU AND YOURS

WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG
