

THE EARTHWORM:
NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB
SEPTEMBER 2015



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Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

~Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in. ~Author Unknown

Hello Everybody,

I hope that you all had a great summer. We have a great variety of programs and field trips planned for our 2015-2016 calendar.

Don't forget that September 14, 2015! and our 1st program entitled "Raptors in Our Environment" presented by Mary Beth Kaeser, from Horizon Wings. I'd like to welcome the following new members: Claire Ross, Jane and John Evans, Judy Linton, Tracy Haddad and William Newport. We'd also like to welcome back Patty Crowley and Barbara Kyer!

As you know the purpose of this club will be to promote an interest in gardening, wild plant life, trees, civic beautification, environmental issues, and to carry on such activities as may be necessary or desirable to affect these purposes. All Active Members are a member involved in the mission of the Club and willing to participate in and support the activities of the Club. An Active Member is required to attend a minimum of four (4) meetings during the year and must hold an office and/or be a member of a Standing Committee. We hope that you find one committee that you will support. Many thanks.

LAURA
LAURA JARY, WGC PRESIDENT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 14th Meeting

Raptors In Our Environment

On September 14th, the Windsor Garden Club will feature Raptors in Our Environment. Mary Beth Kaeser, from Horizon Wings, a nonprofit rehabilitation center specializing in birds of prey, will bring several different raptors for us to view and learn about.

October 12th Meeting

Farm to Pharmacy, Herbal Plant Medicine

Stacey Wood and David Soule, owners of Whole Harmony for U, from Whole Harmony Medicinal Herb Farm in Haddam CT, will share their knowledge of herbal plant medicine.

Both Stacey and David have completed the Farm to Pharmacy program, Community Herbalism program, and are members of the Connecticut Herb Association. Whole Harmony was awarded 1st place in the Coffee/Tea Category at the Connecticut Specialty Food Competition for their Goji Berry Raspberry Iced Tea.

These meetings are free of charge. The programs will begin at 7:00PM.

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.



WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG

Northwest Park Country Fair: The WGC will be donating a large **Gardening Basket** to the Fair which is on **September 19th**. Thanks to Laurie Durant for gathering and organizing member contributions. For more information contact Laurie at 860-688-9484.

FIELDTRIP OPPORTUNITY TO CATO CORNER FARM, COLCHESTER CT

Date: Friday, October 2, 2015

Time:* Meet at LP Wilson at 9:30am to head to the farm.

*we will carpool if possible

Mark will meet us and talk about the operation at Cato Corner.

Lunch to follow at the Plum Tomato! We should return to Windsor by 2:30

Thanks, Cindy



About Us

Cato Corner Farm, LLC, is a mother-son partnership. Elizabeth MacAlister has owned the farm for more than 30 years. She began milking cows and making cheese in 1997 as a way to keep her farm sustainable.

To get started, she took a technical course in cheese making at California Polytechnic University and a workshop with a Belgian cheese master, and then she began experimenting.



Her son Mark Gillman left his job as a 7th grade English teacher to join her in 1999. Mark learned from Elizabeth as well as from several additional workshops (and more experimentation!).

Nowadays, Mark makes most of the cheese and oversees its aging, while Elizabeth manages the farm operations including milking and caring for the cows. The rest of the Cato Corner family includes several full time and part time workers and a pair of diligent and attentive border collies named Flute and Harp.

"Cheeseheads should seek out Cato Corner Farm." —Gourmet magazine, March 2004

Our Dutch Farmstead was selected as one of the Top Ten American Raw Milk Cheeses by Slow Food, April 2003.

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.

Windsor Club Logo Clothing Ordering: We had many compliments on our t-shirts at our July Garden Tour. Anyone wishing to order clothing with the Windsor Garden Club logo should do so at our upcoming September 14th meeting. Long(\$22) and short sleeve(\$18) t-shirts are available in adult sizes. Add \$2.50 for XXL. Also available is a fleece vest in Men's and Women's sizes (\$36 and + \$4.00 for XXL). The NEXT ORDER will take place in the SPRING.

Checks can be made out to **J&B Sportswear and Lettering**. We will have order forms available at Garden Club meetings.

Membership: Memberships forms and dues were collected over the summer for the upcoming year. Our 2015-16 Windsor Garden Club membership booklets will be distributed at the September 14th meeting. Contact Diane Bernier at dmsbernier@gmail.com for more information.

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TEN TIPS FOR THE SEPTEMBER GARDENER:

1. Remove bagworm egg masses from evergreen shrubs to eliminate the spring hatch from over-wintered eggs.
2. If rain is lacking, continue to thoroughly water trees, shrubs, planting beds, and lawn areas. It is especially important to keep newly planted evergreens watered.
3. Plant shallots and garlic outdoors.
4. Use a mulching blade to finely chop fallen leaves and let them decompose on the lawn. Core aerate to reduce thatch on lawns.
5. Limit herbaceous plant material located a few feet away from the house to eliminate hiding places for insects and mice that could wind up indoors as temperatures plummet.
6. Beets, parsnips, and carrots can be covered with a thick layer of straw or leaves and left in the ground for harvest, as needed, during the winter. This may not be an option in areas with heavy vole populations.
7. Avoid the spring rush and have your soil tested now by the UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory (www.soiltest.uconn.edu). Incorporate recommended amounts of limestone and fertilizers into the vegetable and flower gardens for next year's growing season.
8. As tomatoes end their production, cut down plants, pick up any debris and put dead/diseased plant parts in the trash or take to a landfill. Many diseases will over-winter on old infected leaves and stems so these are best removed from the property.
9. Weed and mulch perennial beds using a loose organic material such as bark chips or leaves to keep down weeds, preserve moisture, and give roots a longer time to grow before the soil freezes.
10. Outwit hungry squirrels and chipmunks by planting bulbs in established groundcovers. Lift and store tender bulbs



TIPS: Just like your garage sale “junk”, old to you is new to the next person. 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.

Submission Deadline for October 2015 Earthworm: September 23rd - First Day of Autumn. If you would like to include one of your garden photos, an announcement, or any suitable information, please email it by this month's deadline.

Thank You! Rose
Rosenick10@yahoo.com