

THE EARTHWORM:
NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB
MARCH 2016

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Daffodils,
That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty."
- William Shakespeare

Dear Windsor Garden Club Members:

Well Spring is almost here and this is time for our committees getting together planning their needs for their events. Some committees have had a few meetings. Here is a little advice for members in our club that might not know what committee to volunteer for.

Volunteering is more than responding to an email or completing an application. It is about using your time, a precious commodity, to support a group, organization or cause that is important to you. The more informed you are when making this decision; the more likely you will be to find an opportunity that meets your specific needs and expectations. Selecting the right volunteer opportunity is an important first step in the process. There are many volunteer assignments available and you should take your time to find the one that best matches you. Start by thinking about the following questions:

What causes or issues matter the most to me? Do I want to volunteer for something that uses the skills I apply in my paying work or do I want to do something completely different? What would I most like to learn by volunteering? What don't I want to do as a volunteer? Do I want an ongoing, regularly-scheduled assignment, or a short-term assignment, or a one-time assignment?

The Windsor Garden Club has been quite lucky to have such a large membership that does **VOLUNTEER** for one or more committees.....and we **APPLAUDE YOU!** Many thanks for all of your continued support, suggestions and your most of all your friendship in helping our garden club's membership grow great programs and our new civic endeavors.

Warm Wishes

Laura

LAURA JARY, WGC PRESIDENT



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 14TH MEETING

Welcoming Spring with Floral Arrangements for Our Homes

Spring is finally here! Let's learn how to create a lovely table decoration to welcome the season. The March 14th meeting of the **Windsor Garden Club** welcomes Jim Palmieri. Palmieri, a 1973 UConn graduate, and a third generation florist/grower, brings floriculture, or growing ornamental plants to UConn Blooms, where he serves as manager. Jim ran Palmieri Florist in Southington for twenty-two years and did other floral work throughout the State. In addition, he started teaching students floral design at UConn beginning in 2004. Palmieri oversees the daily operation of UConn Blooms and arranges many of the colorful flowers sold.

APRIL 11th MEETING

Getting to Know Northwest Park

Ford Parker, director at Northwest Park, will present to the April 11th meeting of The Windsor Garden Club. Parker will discuss the wide array of opportunities presented at the 473 acre facility. Parker will focus on the wildlife and bird species that make their homes in the park.

In Member business: There will be a review of ongoing Community Projects, and nominations will be taken for **2016/2017 officers**.

MAY 2ND MEETING – A FIRST Monday and Member Only Meeting WGC Garden Mart Prep Meeting AND Member Plant Swap

This business meeting will be used to go over last minute details in preparation for the May 7th Garden Mart, Board nominations, and the member only Plant Swap. Membership renewal forms will also be available, and are due by the end of June 2016.

MEETING INFORMATION

- For additional program information, please call 860-305-7306, or search windsorgardenclubct.org
- 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.

"Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn." - Lewis Grizzard

FIELDTRIP INFORMATION

Saturday, March 19th



Fieldtrip to University of Connecticut Greenhouses

On **Saturday, March 19th**, Windsor Garden Club members and friends will have the opportunity for a complimentary guided tour of the greenhouses at the University of Connecticut.

Our **departure will be from the LP Wilson Center at 10:00** for our 11:00 tour. Carpooling will be available. Following our tour we will stop for lunch. We should return to Windsor by 2:00.

Please call me if you want to join this group! Sounds like fun. Thanks everyone.

Cindy Daniels Cell 860-836-0280, Hm. 860-219-9489

COMMITTEES:

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

COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE

- On **March 14th**, there will be a **vote by the membership** for approval of the donation of the park bench from the WGC for Northwest Park.

The Executive Board has selected a bench from the style and size that the Park allows.

- 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.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Thank You to the Hospitality Volunteers for March 14th:

Patty Crowley, Jean Kelsey, Laurie Durant, Laura Jary and Heidi Kraushaar

April 11th Volunteers: Sharon Ahern, Licha Bernstein, Laurie Durant and Beverly Lowe

May 2nd Volunteers: Barbara Kyer, Lois Kelly, Maureen Vagnini and Judy Linton

June 13th Volunteers: Laurie Durant, Diane Bernier, and Allie Kraushaar

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The scholarship information was mailed in mid-February to the appropriate schools, with the addition of CREC. The Application Deadline is April 15, 2016. If you are aware of an interested senior student, the information is available on the WGC website.

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 has 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.

- Any garden club member thinking about sharing their gardens on the 2017 tour, or who knows of anyone interested in our tour, should contact Cindy Daniels. 860-219-9489. Thanks so much!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Please welcome new member **Allie Kraushaar** of Windsor who joined us at Soup Talk. She is a new college grad in the field of agriculture. Please update your Directory with the latest information from Diane Bernier at each meeting.

Membership renewal forms will be available in May, and are due by the end of June.

CIVIC ENDEAVORS COMMITTEE:

April 2nd and 3rd - River Trail Week-End Clean Up

We are going to organize a weekend to begin to cleaning out the River Trail behind the current dog pound. Please mark your calendars for this worthwhile project and email Maureen Vagnini or Laura Jary if you will be able to attend.

- Also, we are going to ask First Town Downtown to provide us with space again this year at the Farmers Market. We could use some man power to set up and distribute info on Invasive Vines and Plants in Windsor to our citizens particularly the early shift from 3:15 to 4:30. Please let us know if you might be able to help us during those times. I will post the dates in a future Earthworm. Thanks! Maureen

GARDEN MART COMMITTEE

The Garden Mart Committee has their meeting scheduled for **March 12th** from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Windsor Public Library. **All committee members** are urged to attend this meeting. Our meeting will be located downstairs in Meeting Room 2.

Many thanks to all.

2016 Garden Mart On Saturday, May 7, from 9:30AM to 3:00PM, the Club will conduct its annual, spring time fund raising event. Club members provide plants and other gardening related novelties for sale. All proceeds benefit the endeavors of the Club. We will be located on the center green adjacent to the eagle statue. Volunteers are being asked to sign up for work shifts starting at 7:00AM.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Food Donations: Please remember to bring a non perishable food item for the Windsor Food bank. Their clients' needs are all year round. Donations can be left at the table where you check in.



GARDEN TIPS

There are gnats in my terrarium. How can I safely get rid of them?

From HGTV Gardens

Fungus gnats are annoying houseplant pests. They usually don't do much damage to plants, but they are a nuisance as they fly about. To control these pests, allow the top couple of inches of potting soil to dry out between waterings. Fungus gnat larvae need moisture to survive; keeping the growing mix drier will decrease survival and make the mix less attractive to egg-laying females. Covering the surface of the growing mix with sand will make it less enticing to females as a place to lay eggs.

If you are lucky enough to have a Meyer lemon tree, this link - [What's Wrong With My Meyer Lemon?](#) - from *Southern Living* has information that might interest you.



"Winds of March, we welcome you,
There is work for you to do.
Work and play and blow all day,
Blow the Winter wind away."

Submission Deadline for April 2016 Earthworm: **March 20th - First Day of Spring**

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

The Language of Flowers - Watch What You Say

The Secret Meaning of the Flowers You Give

Flowers have a language of their own. The Victorians made an art of it. You've probably heard about Victorian women carrying small bouquets, called tussie-mussies, with messages encoded in the language of the flowers. Strands of ivy signified fidelity and friendship; gardenias conveyed a secret love, forsythia... anticipation. Shakespeare used them to enhance the story, as in *Hamlet*, when poor Ophelia laments "There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray, love, remember: and there is pansies, that's for thoughts." Even Leopold, in the movie *Kate and Leopold*, knew better than to send a woman orange lilies.

Now that you know flowers say a lot more than you think, here are some popular garden and bouquet flowers and their meanings, to get you thinking:

Alstroemeria: Devotion and friendship
Alyssum: Worth beyond beauty
Anemone: Unfading love
Apple Blossom: Good Fortune
Artemisia: Dignity
Baby's Breath: Everlasting Love
Calla Lily: Magnificent Beauty
Camellia: Perfected Loveliness
Carnation: Pride and Beauty, Fascination
Carnation (striped): Refusal
Carnation (yellow): Disappointment
Cyclamen: It's over, goodbye
Daffodil: Unrequited Love
Daisy: Innocence
Forget-me-not: Memories
Foxglove: Insincerity
Gardenia: Secret Love
Gladioli: Sincerity
Heather (pink): Good Luck
Jasmine: Cheerful & Graceful

Lilac: First sign of love
Lily: Purity of Heart
Lily (white): Purity & sweetness
Lily (orange): Hatred
Lily of the Valley: Return of Happiness
Marigold: Cruelty or Jealousy
Mums (white): Truth
Mums (yellow): Slighted
Orange Blossom: Marriage and Fruitfulness
Orchid: Beauty
Peony: Shame or Happy marriage
Queen Anne's Lace: Fantasy
Red Rose: Passionate Rose
Rudbeckia: Justice
Sweet Pea: Good by
Violet: Modesty
Yellow Daylilies: Coquetry
Zinnia (burgundy): Lasting Affection
Zinnia (mixed): Thoughts of absent friends

Above information excerpted from the article linked here.

http://gardening.about.com/od/gardendesign/a/LanguageFlowers.htm?utm_content=20160210&utm_medium=email&utm_source=exp_nl&utm_campaign=list_gardening&utm_term=list_gardening

"St. Patrick's Day is here, you see.
We'll pick some shamrocks, one, two, three.
We'll count the leaves and look them over,
And maybe find a four-leafed clover.
I'll sew green buttons on my vest,
Green for St. Patrick is the best.
I'll wear a green hat, very high,
And dance a jig--at least I'll try!"
- Author Unknown



"Indoors or out, no one relaxes in March, that month of wind and taxes, the wind will presently disappear, the taxes last us all the year."

- Ogden Nash

Pruning Basics (Excerpt) Clint Covell, Woodland Gardens

For the complete article read: <http://www.woodlandgardensct.com/gardening-tips/pruning-basics-by-clint-covell.html>



Why Prune?

Plants will live, grow, and bear fruit without ever being pruned, but good pruning and some training can prevent or remedy many of the problems that arise in most plants. Pruning is probably best viewed as the most effective means to head off trouble, improve your plants' performance, and keep them in excellent condition.

If you're unsure where to begin, remember that you can't hurt a plant by cutting out dead, diseased, or damaged wood, or wood that crosses and rubs against other wood (which can cause wounds that become susceptible to infection). On the contrary, you'll be doing a great deal of good. Eliminating these problems is the place to start for inexperienced and experienced pruners alike. It will provide a clearer view of the tree and of the remaining work to be done and it will open up the tree to more air and light.

Pruning Methods & Cuts

There are three types of pruning methods:

Selective pruning: Removing or cutting back individual shoots in order to refine the shape of a shrub, maintain its vigor, or limit its size.

Severe pruning: To cut away most of a shrub's top growth, leaving just short stubs or a gnarly trunk.

Shearing: Using hedge shears or an electric hedge trimmer to shape the surface of a shrub, hedge, or tree and produce a smooth, solid mass of greenery.

There are two types of pruning cuts:

Thinning cuts: Removes wood and puts an end to growth. All thinning cuts are to the base of the branch or sucker so that there are no buds left to sprout new growth.

Heading cuts: The process of shortening a branch, not removing it entirely. Buds on the remaining portion of wood are stimulated to grow when growth above them is removed.

Workshops & Special Events at Woodland Gardens for March... Preregistration required.

www.WoodlandGardensCT.com

Make It & Take It Terrarium – Saturday, March 5 at 9:30 & 11:00 & 1:30

Make It & Take It Easter Basket – Saturday, March 19 at 9:30 & 11 a.m.

Make It & Take It Living Pansy Wreath – Saturday, April 2 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.; 1:30 p.m.

"Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn."

- Lewis Grizzard

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. Share those new and old ideas with other members.

WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG
