

# THE EARTHWORM:

NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB  
APRIL 2016

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### APRIL 11th MEETING

*New program information for April 11<sup>th</sup>.* Our speaker, Ford Parker, had to cancel his presentation to our club due to a budget meeting for the Town of Windsor.

### Anything Garden!

At the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Windsor Garden Club, members are invited to share Anything Garden! Do you have photos, art work, a favorite garden tool, a poem, baskets or any item that you would like to share? The focus will be on all of us with lots of chatting, sharing and joy.

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

### MAY 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



#### 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.

#### GARDEN MART COMMITTEE

The **Garden Mart Committee** is in the process of making plans for year's sale even bigger and better. We are looking for members to sign up for a shift. Set up begins at 7 a.m.; plants can be dropped off at 7:30 a.m.; and sales officially begin at 9 a.m.

**Volunteer shifts are from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. to Noon, and Noon to 2:30 p.m.** One of the most popular attractions at the sale is the wide array of plants members contribute plants from their own gardens. We are looking forward to each member's donation of a minimum of 6 plants. If you have any questions please contact **Gary Kraushaar** at 860-219-9828.

#### Hands on Succulent Activity – Saturday April 16th

On Saturday, April 16th, from 10-12:00, at the LP Wilson Center, Windsor Garden Club members will have the opportunity to create 2 tabletop succulent gardens !

If you would like to participate, all materials and one container will be provided. You can make one succulent garden to take home and enjoy and one for the garden mart! So much fun! You will need to bring a container for the creation you will bring home. Container size is about 3" tall, and 3-4 inches across. Give me a call with questions. Thanks! Cindy Daniels cell, 860-836-0280



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

#### **Dear Windsor Garden Club Members:**

It has been an honor and great pleasure to be your President. I became a member in June 2009 and have learned so much from this unique, diverse, and multigenerational, group. Each member brings something special to the club.

At this time, I know that we are looking for 2 slots to be filled for both the President and Vice-President. I know for a lot of folks that might look over-whelming but it truly isn't.....the Executive Board knows that everyone pitches in by either ideas/suggestions, physical manpower and then there is the membership. We are a very large membership and with everyone's help in any capacity is a great value. We are a unique group and really work well together.

While serving as your president, I have attempted to continue to expand our existing solid membership base with a focus on bridging the gap between generations through use of technology and social media with the help of our Website Master, Jim Bennett and our Vice President/Program Chair, Cynthia Daniels and her committee. We have reached out to our members and the community through expanded use of our current website. I believe this has reached a larger gardening and horticulture audience thus providing the opportunity to increase interest in our historical club. We are so lucky, with our membership growth, to be able to explore other Civic Endeavors: The Beautification Committee, the Invasive Vines and Plants Committee. In the past three years we have reached out to join other town events by educating folks on gardening problems and concerns and to invite them to join us at one of our upcoming presentations.

I know that my reign as President of the Windsor Garden Club ends May 31, 2016 but I will remain on the Executive Board of Directors as Past President and will be active where ever needed to help in any capacity.

I'm am so looking forward and excited about our club agenda to date with our ever popular Windsor Garden Tour 2017 and all our continued success for our Garden Mart 2017. We foresee both of these events as being spectacular as always as we get the members creative minds working!

It is my hope to not only to help in continuing the great work the club has already done to "stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening" but to help nurture that passion from our most esteemed members as well as anyone new to gardening.

I truly look forward to help in any capacity for the 2016/2017 gardening year with all of you!

Sincerely,  
LAURA JARY, WGC PRESIDENT

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## 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.

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## CIVIC ENDEAVORS

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### INVASIVE VINES AND PLANTS COMMITTEE



#### **April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> - River Trail Week-End Clean Up - 10AM-2PM**

- We are organizing a team to begin to cleaning out the River Trail behind the current dog pound. Plan to arrive at 10AM and be able to work until 2PM on either or both days. Please remember to bring along appropriate tools and to wear protective gear. At this time, it is looking pretty good for some participation and assistance from the town. Please mark your calendars for this worthwhile project and email Maureen Vagnini or Laura Jary if you will be able to attend. Hope for good weather for us. We will cancel if it is raining.

- 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

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### COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE

We are pleased to report that at our February meeting we announced that our committee would like to entertain the donation of a park bench to NW Park. We had a motion and second to approve the donation of \$472.00 to purchase a 4 foot bench with an engraved nameplate. We announced that we would vote on this at our March meeting. At our March meeting, Laura Jary asked for a motion for approval from the membership to allocate funding of \$472.00 for the purchase of a park bench and an engraved nameplate. The motion was made, seconded and approved by all members in attendance.

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### BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Beautification Committee will be planning a garden for the Praise Power and Prayer Church and Christian School. They have an area near their parking lot that needs some color and plantings. Diane Bernier will meet with them soon to plan this out. We will do the work in early June.

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### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

**Thank You to the Hospitality Volunteers for April 11<sup>th</sup>**: Sharon Ahern, Lieba Bernstein, Laurie Durant and Beverly Lowe

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteers:** Barbara Kyer, Lois Kelly, Maureen Vagnini and Judy Linton

**June 13<sup>th</sup> Volunteers:** Laurie Durant, Diane Bernier, and Allie Kraushaar

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### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Please welcome our newest members **Kate Tower** and **Mary Crittenden**, both of Windsor, who joined us in March. 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. Have your checkbooks ready!

**In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt. ~Margaret Atwood**

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## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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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.

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## GARDEN TOUR 2017 COMMITTEE

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### 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!

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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**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.



**Windsor Food and Fuel Bank** <http://windsorfoodbank.org/about/>

Founded in 1967 as the Windsor Community Service Council in Windsor, CT, the Windsor Food and Fuel Bank is a non-profit organization of concerned private volunteer citizens. The goal of the WCSC is to help people in need in the Town of Windsor. The Council is an advocate for those in need and their mission is to make sure that no person goes hungry, is cold, or is without basic necessities. In working closely with the Town of Windsor through the Social Services Division, the Windsor Food & Fuel Bank provides:

- The Windsor Food Bank
  - Emergency assistance with utilities through the Windsor Fuel Bank
  - Providing emergency funding for other basic needs
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## MEETING INFORMATION

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- For additional program information, please call 860-305-7306, or search [windsorgardenclubct.org](http://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.





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## FIELDTRIP TO UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT GREENHOUSES

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On **Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**, Windsor Garden Club members and friends enjoyed the opportunity for a complimentary guided tour of the greenhouses at the University of Connecticut. Our stop for lunch nearby was equally enjoyable. Thanks to Cindy Daniels for planning our day.

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At the **March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting**, the Windsor Garden Club enjoyed the floral arrangement skills of Jim Palmieri, a 1973 UConn graduate, and a third generation florist/grower, who now serves as manager for UConn Blooms and a UConn instructor in floral arrangement. All attendees went home with a floral gift from Jim after his several creative table arrangement demonstrations and a question/answer session.

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**Submission Deadline for May 2016 Earthworm: April 20<sup>th</sup>** - 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](mailto:Rosenick10@yahoo.com)

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**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](mailto:rosenick10@yahoo.com). Share those new and old ideas with other members.

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**I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden.**  
~Ruth Stout

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## **GARDEN TIPS**

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**April Tips** ...*Excerpted from UMass Extension "Garden Clippings"*

### **SOIL**

- 1) Begin turning over garden soils when soil is workable and not too wet. To tell when that time has come, pick up a handful of soil and squeeze. It should crumble apart in your hand with gentle prodding. Work organic matter and nutrients into the soil (compost, bone meal, 5-10-5 or 5-10-5, and lime).
- 2) Before seeding bare patches in the lawn, loosen the soil with a garden rake. Do any spring seeding as early as possible to give grass plants a chance to get established before hot dry weather begins.

### **VEGETABLES**

- 1) Start seeds of tomatoes early in April so they'll be ready by mid to late May for transplanting into the garden.
- 2) Sow seeds of peas, root crops, and leafy vegetable whenever weather conditions allow over the next few weeks. Plant an assortment of salad greens. Plant greens in blocks rather than rows for more efficient use of garden space and cut leaves as needed rather than pulling up entire plants. NOTE: Woodland Gardens will have seedlings of spring crops ready by mid-April, if you don't want to plant seeds.
- 3) If sowing very small vegetable seeds, mix them with sand to make it easier.
- 4) At the end of the month, sow seeds of vine crops, including cucumbers, melons, pumpkins and squash in peat pots. Start them indoors or in a cold frame where they can be protected from frost until ready to transplant to the garden.

### **FLOWERS**

- 1) Loosen the soil, apply a little fertilizer, and then direct seed annual flowers in their own beds, or in empty spots between perennials. Some annuals to direct seed now are bachelor's button, calendula, annual pinks, poppy, and phlox.
- 2) Rake away old foliage from iris and dispose of it. Eggs of the iris borer overwinter on this old foliage and you must get rid of the debris now before the eggs hatch.

### **TREES**

- 1) Plant trees and shrubs now. Look for pest-resistant varieties, as well as those with multi-season interest. Summer sweet, stewartia, witch hazel, itea, and halesia offer both pest-resistance as well as multiple season interest.
- 2) Be on the lookout for tent caterpillars hatching on crabapple, apple, and cherry trees. If you see small larvae, apply the biological control (B.t. – *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*) or Sevin.
- 3) Thin out some of the crowded branches of dense lilacs to improve air movement through the plants. Be careful not to apply too much high nitrogen or excessive amounts of horse or cow manure. Too much fertilizer and dense branching promote bacterial blight – a serious disease of lilac, which often occurs during wet spring weather.

**Spring is not the best of seasons.  
Cold and flu are two good reasons;  
wind and rain and other sorrow,  
warm today and cold tomorrow.  
~Author Unknown**

**"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year." - Mark Twain**