

The Earthworm



April 2013

The Windsor Garden Club

President: Erin Bourdon Vice President: Laura Jary

Director (Past President): Tom Graywacz Treasurer: Jim Bennett

Recording Secretary: Alice Lang Corresponding Secretary: Wendy Mitchell

Earthworm Editor: Valerie Allgrove

President's Message

"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want -- oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"
---Mark Twain

Hello all,

I had this feeling the other day now I have the right name for it...spring fever!!! Of course, it being New England, today is windy and cold, but the sun is shining and there are signs of spring all around. ... the robins, the snow drops and daffodils and tulips. I love this time of year!!!

Hope you had the chance to hear Jim Govoni speak at our March meeting. He was very interesting and has a long history with the town of Windsor. Our next meeting on Monday April 8, 2013 is open discussion on the garden mart, garden tour and community projects...we will also be electing our 2013/2014 officers. Happy Easter to all and see you April 8, 2013.

Erin Bourdon
WGC President

Nine Tips for the March Gardener (thanks to Joan Lynch: UCONN tips updates):

1. Check landscape plants for winter damage and prune if necessary.
2. Start seeds of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants.
3. Prune frost-damaged plants only after all freezing temps have passed for the season and new growth begins.
4. Plant cool-season annuals, such as pansies, snapdragons, and calendulas at the end of the month, weather permitting.
5. Apply a large handful of ground limestone around the bases of plants that grow best in sweet soil, like lilacs and baby's breath.
6. Don't fertilize your lawn yet. Wait until mid-April.
7. Once your garden thaws, remove old garden debris such as leaves, stalks, and seed heads to reduce the presence of any overwintering diseases and pests.
8. Before new shoots emerge, cut back last year's stalks on perennials and grasses.
9. Remove winter mulch gradually to avoid shocking the plants.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. At our **Monday, April 8, 2013** meeting we will have a "**Discussion of Windsor Garden Tour 2013 and Community Projects**". At this meeting we will focus and discuss the Windsor Garden Tour 2013. We also will review other ongoing WGC's Community Projects and 75th Anniversary committee updates.
2. Nominations/Election of officers was held on our March 11th meeting since the officers were running unopposed. and The slate of officers elected for our 2013/2014 is:
 - President: Laura Jary
 - Vice President: Cindy Daniels
 - Treasurer: Jim Bennett
 - Recording Secretary: Alice Lang
 - Corresponding Secretary: Wendy Mitchell

Erin Bourdon will become our Director (past presidents)

New officers will take over as of June 1, 2013.

3. Just a reminder that on **May 6th** we will hold our "WGC Garden Mart Prep Meeting" (and Member Plant Swap). Please note that this meeting is to be held on the FIRST Monday of the month, the Monday BEFORE the Garden Mart. This is a **MEMBER ONLY MEETING** to go over last minute details in preparation for Saturday's Garden Mart. In addition to finalizing plans for the Garden Mart, we will be having a member's only plant swap. Bring a division of one, or more, of your favorite or unique plants to swap with another member.
4. **Windsor Garden Mart on May 11th: the sale starts at 8 AM.** We are looking for **6-8 volunteers to work each shift for: different tasks (set up, crew, cashier, info table and clean up crew).** The

Shifts are a.m. and p.m. The Sign Up Sheet will be at our **April 8th meeting**. Sign up sheet: Crews, Tasks and Time Frames. **Reminders:** As you know, we are asking for each member to donate **6 plants** with a minimum pot size = 4". Plants should be potted at least 2 weeks prior to the sale. Please label your plants on large popsicle sticks (committee will supply) with Sun or Shade/Type/Color. We will discuss pricing at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the April 8th meeting but are able to volunteer for a couple of hours please contact Laura's cell # 860-305-7306.

5. **The Windsor Garden Tour is Coming - July 13, 2013!** Would you like to show off your garden? Have you ever asked yourself, "Why do I garden?" Well as Larry Tucker wrote in his "Made in the Shade" article.....He stated....Admit it, presentation and pride are profound reasons many of us garden. We may love to play in the dirt, but we want others to appreciate our hard work and handiwork. Hence, a well-tended landscape speaks louder than a plaque declaring "A Gardener Lives Here". There is no magic formula. That's what makes gardening an art, if not in the eye of the beholder, certainly in the mind of the creator. We need more garden hosts for this year's tour. The tour is generally self-guided. Our volunteers will check in your guests, answer basic questions and punch tickets. Please consider being part of this year's eight private gardens. If you are not interested in this year's tour, but may be interested in next year's tour, please let us know that as well. If you are interested in participating on the garden tour please contact Laura at 860-305-7306.
6. **Treasurer's Reports:** Jim Bennett gave us the February treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve and was seconded. Motion passed. Secondly, Jim submitted a Proposed Operating Budget for the 2013/2014 year. He proposed that the membership review the fiscal proposed budget. We will discuss additions/subtractions of proposed budget amounts at our April 8th meeting and then vote on it.
7. **Membership Dues:** We proposed and the Clubs membership agreed that dues would be set at an annual rate of \$20.00 for an individual and at an annual rate of \$35.00 for a family membership. Dues will be payable each year in May for the upcoming Club fiscal year. The option to pay for a two year period is being eliminated to make record keeping easier. This change will require a revision of the Club's bylaws.
8. **Website Updates:** We will be developing the capability of our use of the website to perform the following: 1) sending out of electronic notifications to separate mailing lists (active club members, external addresses), and 2) receiving comments and questions from external sources.
9. Coming up in April is our annual **Spring Clean Up of the Windsor Historical Society's herb garden**. We are scheduling this for the morning of **Saturday, April 13th** and hope that you can join us. A suggestion is to please bring garden gloves, bring a rake or clippers. The historical society will have beverages and munchies available. Call Erin Bourdon for more details.
10. **Scholarship Committee:** The Windsor Garden Club is offering a \$700 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, landscape design, landscape architecture, forestry, or environmental science. A motion was made and passed to give a \$700 scholarship. 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, the Metropolitan Learning Center and Pathways to Technology Magnet School. **DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: APRIL 1, 2013.** **Next year our group will look into other locations that have Windsor Residents attending schools with the intentions or to continue furthering their studies.** We are sorry to report that Janet Gianetti has submitted to us that this will be her last year as chair of the Scholarship Committee. She is resigning from the committee. Janet has submitted all the scholarship letters & other documents (most of which she put together) so they can be forwarded to the next person who will chair. Many thanks to Janet for her years as Scholarship Chair.

11. Civic Beautification Locations – The Windsor Postmaster has requested that the Windsor Garden Club consider their Windsor Center location as a beautification location. They have \$500 in their budget for material and ask that we consider designing and planting perennials/shrubs and bushes to add color to the front of their building. Diane Bernier and Thomas Graywacz are interested in this project. Laura will ask the postmaster a couple of questions and get back to Diane and Tom. A second location that might be considered is near the Eagle on the Town Green. Laura and Jim Bennett spoke with Jim Govoni, our Windsor Tree Warden, about this. He made a good suggestion about a particular berry bush that he thought would be very nice placed in a ring in front of the bushes that surround the existing bushes. We will have to have discussions with the Town Manager to go forward. Laura will get back with Jim Govoni to get more details and will. Jim Govoni said the Windsor Recreation Department is renovating a couple of parks in town and he suggested if we have an interest to speak with Paul Norris. We will discuss civic beautifications at our April meeting.

12. New Business: Sallie Herson brought to our attention that on Friday, March 15th there is a discussion at the Connecticut Legislature Building in Hartford on the issue regarding Labeling of GMO's on products. Sallie asked if the Windsor Garden Club would support this issue by submitting in writing that our Windsor Garden Club agrees/supports that labeling of GMO's is necessary. A motion was made to have Sallie submit a form on our behalf. Motion was seconded and passed. Sallie will get information from Laura.

13. Flower Shows of interest submitted by club members:

The Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society hosting the 30th Annual Show and Sale at Naugatuck Valley Community College (Art & Music Center Cafeteria, 5th Floor 750 Chase Parkway, Waterbury CT (Exit 18 off I-84). FREE ADMISSION TO SHOW & SALE. Free plant to first 50 families each day! Free lectures & demonstrations. Scheduled for Saturday, April 6 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.ctcactusclub.com or call 860-489-8356.

The West Hartford Garden Club present "At Home with the Butler-McCooks" A small Standard Flower Show Saturday, June 1, 2013, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Connecticut Landmarks' Butler-McCook House & Garden, 396 Main Street, Hartford, CT. The historic garden, designed by the famed landscape architect Jacob Weidenmann in 1863, has been cared for by the award-winning West Hartford Garden Club for sixteen years and has been restored to its original beauty. Self-guided tours of house and garden. ` \$7 Admission benefits the Butler-McCook House & Garden ~Free parking on street and in the municipal lot on the corner of Sheldon and South Prospect Streets behind the House. www.landmarks.org www.westhartfordgardenclub.org

