

THE EARTHWORM

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR (CT) GARDEN CLUB
CELEBRATING **81** YEARS OF CONTINUOUS EXISTENCE



Co-Presidents: Debbie Baker and Patty Crowley
Co-Vice Presidents: Florence Barlow and Maureen Vagnini
Recording Secretary: Laurie Durant
Treasurer: Lieba Bernstein
Corresponding Secretary: Erin Bourdon
Immediate Past President: Diane Bernier
Earthworm Editor: Jim Bennett

WORDS FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

March brings the promise of warmer longer days (daylight savings time begins March 10th). The 2019 Farmers' Almanac boasts the next sixty days' average temperature will be 45 degrees F, which is one degree above average. Also, they are predicting five inches of precipitation, which is one inch above average. All this information is exactly what gardeners love to hear!

Ready set plant - March is the time to start your seeds. Radishes, parsnips and spinach can be planted in late March. Blooming crocus will give you the cue when it's the right time.

I know we are all going to be busy waking up our gardens, but I just want to remind you, this is also a good time to pot up plants for the Club's Garden Mart, which is Saturday, May 11th.

Hope to see you all at the next Garden Club meeting March 11th.

Patty Crowley and Debbie Baker
Co-presidents

SHORT TERM FUTURE CLUB EVENT

March 11, 2019 - This is the Club's monthly business meeting

This evening, our featured guest speaker is Ms. Laurie Masciandaro. Laurie is the site manager of Roseland Cottage. Roseland Cottage is one of the founding members of the group Connecticut's Historic Gardens.

This group of fourteen historic sites spread out through the State, are delightful places that offer visitors an opportunity to explore a variety of garden styles and time periods.

Laurie will introduce you to the history and beauty of these fourteen distinctive historic sites and gardens that have charmed and inspired visitors for a century or more.



FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT
April 8, 2019	April 2019 business meeting with guest speaker
May 6, 2019	May 2019 business meeting – member plant swap
May 11, 2019	2019 Garden Mart fundraising event on the Town Green
June 10, 2019	June 2019 summer social meeting
July 8, 2019	July 2019 summer social meeting
July 13, 2019	2019 Garden Tour fundraising event titled: <i>"A Midsummer Gardeners' Dream"</i>
August 12, 2019	August 2019 summer social meeting

As the date of an event draws closer, more detailed information will be provided in upcoming issues of the **EARTHWORM**.

WGC EXECUTIVE BOARD TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

The Club's Executive Board understands that professional speakers expect to have laptop and projectors available for their use rather than bringing their own. The Senior Center has been generous in loaning us their projector for use, but we have traditionally asked speakers to bring their own laptop. There have been technical difficulties with laptops unable to connect to the Senior Center projector this year as the projector has not been compatible with laptops brought by our speakers. At the November meeting, it was suggested that the Executive Board investigate purchasing a projector and a laptop. We began with discussion and pricing from the local PC Development Group (**PCD**) and also conducted online comparison research including chats with the laptop manufacturer (Lenovo is the brand recommended by PCD.)

Projector:

PCD provided information about two potential projectors. Online research on projectors was also conducted. Smaller, lightweight projectors may not have the best quality imaging but are very portable. Pricing ranged from \$500 to \$650 for a new projector, and \$75 or so for a projector case. PCD suggested that they would be able to provide adapters that would be compatible with the projector already available. It is essential that the correct input and output connections be made for the projector to be operational. PCD indicated that we would need to bring in a laptop to check its input connections and also check input and output cabling for the current available projector. The necessary adapters would cost approximately \$40.

Laptop:

PCD provided two price quotes for the same brand laptops, with differing levels of processor speed (i5 v i7) and memory. Pricing was \$750 (i5, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) v \$1,150 (i7, 12 GB RAM, 512GB SSD).

We explored additional pricing for same brand laptop to those quoted by PCD and found one at regular price of \$799.99 and sale price of \$589.99 (i7, 8GB RAM and 1TB SSD). This increases processor speed and memory over the laptops quoted by PCD. We believe this will allow for plenty of photo and file capacity for many years. We then re-approached PCD to see if they would match that pricing, but they do not offer that option.

WGC EXECUTIVE BOARD TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (continued)

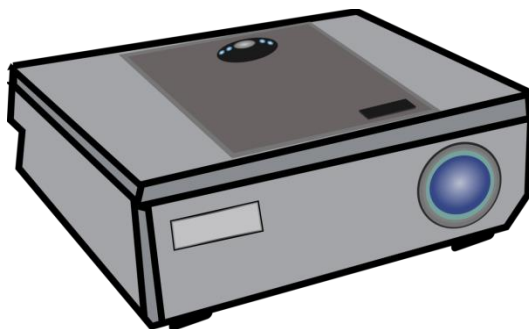
The Software and Security:

Microsoft Office for Home and Business is generally available for \$250.00
An antivirus subscription ranges from \$25-\$50 (Avast, Norton, McAfee) annually

During the February 2019 business meeting, the Executive Board proposed spending approximately \$1,000 - \$1,250 to purchase a laptop, supporting software, security software, and connection adapters. There is also an identified desire to purchase a protective container for the lap top.

Questions were raised about use and storage of the laptop. We are exploring how that would be managed, with an initial assumption that it would be used largely by members of the Executive Board, who operate on behalf of the WGC to maintain records including agendas, minutes, budgets, photos, website, and other functions. This allows the accumulated background data to be "given" to the new Executive Board during changes every few years in both technology format as well as with printed materials that are saved.

At this stage, there are two speakers remaining for the year, in March and April. The Executive Board would like a vote from members to be able to include such a purchase certainly for the 2019-2020 business year, and sooner if members feel comfortable with voting on this large and important expenditure. Knowing that reliable technology will be available will be of benefit in providing quality programming for members as well as during speaker recruitment. The Board will discuss this initiative during the New Business portion of the Club's March 2019 meeting.



2019 SCHOLARSHIP

For 2019, the Windsor Garden Club is offering a \$1,000 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, herbal medicine, landscape design or architecture, forestry, environmental science, environmental engineering, or a similarly related study.

One of the Windsor Garden Club's resolutions is to award a scholarship each year to a deserving Windsor student. The scholarship is funded through the Club's annual sale of plants at its Garden Mart in May, and by our club Garden Tour, held every other year. Thanks to the many dedicated and hardworking club members, and to all the enthusiastic townspeople who attend our fundraisers and make this scholarship possible.

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, Medina Academy, CREC: Academy of Aerospace and Engineering, Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, Academy of Science and Innovation, Metropolitan Learning Center Public Safety Academy and Two Rivers Magnet High School

Applications can be downloaded from the scholarship page of the Windsor Garden Club's website: www.windsorgardenclubct.org

Deadline for receipt of applications is April 15, 2019.

Completed applications should be mailed to The Windsor Garden Club Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 233, Windsor, Connecticut 06095.



2019 GARDEN MART

As the calendar rolls into the month of March, let's look at what needs to be done to support our annual fund raising event. First of all, there is the reserving of the area on the town green. This is accomplished by submitting a form with the town clerk's office. This will be done during the last week of March. Next is the effort to publicize the sale. Committee volunteers have been asked to provide suggestions about various medias that can be used. Making contact with these outlets will be divided up between committee volunteers. Then there is the actual sale, this is where the committee is hoping that all members actively participate in staffing the sale. Even a few hours of support from every one will be greatly appreciated!



GARDENING INFORMATION

Club member Rose Stepnick has provided the web address that follows:

<https://www.morningagclips.com/are-your-old-seeds-worth-sowing-test-them/>

The address will take you to an article about testing seeds to determine if the seeds are viable. The article comes from a publication titled "Morning AG Clips"



2019 FIELD TRIPS

The table below lists projected field trips that Club members have indicated as being of interest.



Location	Remarks
Smith College Botanical Gardens – March 9, 2019	Members participating in this trip are asked to meet at the LP Wilson Community Center at 9:30 AM. Carpools will be established at this time. Each carpool group will determine their return time and any lunch plans. Smith College suggests a \$5 donation per person. <u>If you are planning on making this trip, please let Flo know as soon as possible!</u>
Keney Park (Hartford) – Summer of 2019	Laurie Durant is working with Flo to determine a summer date for an afternoon or evening visit to see the gardens and potentially enjoy lunch or dinner at the club. This will either be a carpool or meet on site outing. Stay tuned for timing and in the meantime, let Laurie know if you are interested in going.
Tower Hill Botanical Gardens – October 19, 2019	This will be a Saturday excursion. Members attending will meet at the LP Wilson Community Center at 9:30 AM. These gardens are located in Boylston, MA (northeast of Worcester) which results in about an hour of driving time. Further details about the gardens are being obtained at the current time.

CLUB MEETING INFORMATION

- Business meetings are typically held at the Windsor Senior Center, 599 Matianuck Avenue in Windsor.
- Meetings during September, October, November, March and April feature guest speakers. Social hour begins at 6:30 PM and the guest speaker begins their presentation at 7:00 PM. The Club conducts its business portion of the meeting after the guest speaker has finished. These meetings are free to anyone attending.
- The December meeting is a member only meeting during which Club members construct holiday wreaths.
- The February meeting is the annual "soup talk" meeting where members bring soups and breads to share. During this meeting there is a round-table discussion of plant and horticulture related topics.
- The May meeting is a member only meeting during which final plans are made for the annual Garden Mart plant sale. Also, attending members can participate in a plant swap.
- There is no Club meeting in January.
- Meetings during June, July and August are deemed to be only social meetings. These three meetings are typically held at the respective homes of Club members.

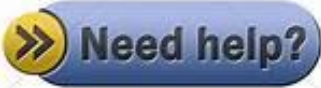
CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



Club membership is open to anyone who has an interest in plants, landscaping, horticulture and other related topics. Annual membership dues are \$20.00 for an individual and \$35.00 for a family. Renewal memberships are typically due June 1st while new memberships are accepted at any time. The current membership application form is available on the Club's website.

WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG

REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE CLUB



The members of the Windsor Garden Club are able and willing to provide both the design and installation of landscape beautification projects within Windsor. If you would like additional information about obtaining the Club's assistance, please download the information document and application form from the Club's website. (Word and PDF formats are available.)

WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG