

THE EARTHWORM

FALL 2021

The Windsor Garden Club



Est. 1937

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB. ONE OF CONNECTICUT'S OLDEST GARDEN CLUBS CELEBRATING 84 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS EXISTENCE.

WORDS FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Welcome garden club members and happy autumn

We would like to also send a warm welcome to all of our new members. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at our last summer meeting at Allison's Garden. Please reach out to any of us if you have any questions or thoughts to share.

As much as we love summer, fall is our favorite season with cooler days ahead. It is a great time to clean out the flower beds without the heat and hopefully, without the bugs that pester us all summer.

Fall is a great time to enjoy the gardens that we have worked so hard in, to mulch the beds and to split the perennials. As Dave mentioned, please remember to put aside some plants for our fall plant sale on the green, October 9th.

And lastly, please watch for notices concerning in person meetings at the community center. With COVID still among us, we are at this writing, still uncertain what we will be able to do come fall.

Sincerely,

Diane and Maureen

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SPRING/SUMMER ACTIVITIES 2021

PAST / RECENT EVENTS

Summer Socials

Many thanks to our summer social garden hosts, Judy Ann Cooke, Patty Crowley, and Allison Joanis. WGC members enjoyed the opportunity to get together casually to visit fellow members gardens. Co-chairs Diane Bernier and Maureen Vagnini used these gatherings as opportunities to conduct some business as regular meetings could not take place earlier in the year.

Our 2021 scholarship recipient Morgan Finlay and family attended the July meeting at Patty's to receive her scholarship check. And several summer social visitors have now joined WGC as members. Welcome to Alvin Bingham, Lea Chayes, and Sonia Michel.



The last Summer Social was held at Allison Joanis' house

Hope Blooms Garden Tour

Hope Blooms, the biannual Garden Tour, was held on Saturday, July 10. Many thanks to this year's tour hosts for opening their gardens for so many visitors, to WGC members (and family and friends!) for serving as greeters, and to the committee members who helped make this community-building fundraising event possible. Tour hosts enjoyed being able to show off their gardens and artistic design elements, as well as spending time sharing each of their own gardens with fellow hosts the day after the tour. The tour was very well attended with 247 tickets sold.

There were many visitors touring the different gardens; the high count at any one garden was 179 visitors. The tour was a great success with net proceeds of \$3,379.46. Event proceeds support all club activities including speakers as well as scholarship.

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No 1. Allison Joanis' Gardens at Palisado Avenue



The shady gardens at Allison's lovely 1869 home in the Windsor's historical district are peacefully hidden from the road by a lovely hedge of Knockout Roses. Her gardens have beds of flowing perennials, shade plants, hostas with a bed of tomatoes and other vegetables.

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No 2. Suzanne Urban's Gardens on Elm Street



Located off Windsor Center is Suzanne Urban's lovely Deacon-John Moore house built around 1664. Her lovely perennial gardens are populated with many pollinators' friendly plants. There are many Monarch and other pollinator-friendly plants, part of a raise and release program of the Windsor's Monarch Project. Hand painted creations of her design can be found throughout the thoughtfully laid-out gardens.

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No 3. David Stender's Gardens on Preston Street



David's well-planned garden with its custom-built cedar bridge and its many perennials and shade hostas were a delight to the visitors' eyes.

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No 4. Del and Judy Charlton's Gardens on Park Street



The gardener's creative use of space, different landscape elements, found and repurposed elements showcase the gardener's unique tastes. The garden ponds are well watched over by a heron.

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No 5. Kathleen Grant's Gardens at Salem Circle



Kathleen's garden presents a restful style for all visitors. Informal-style gardens consisting of a mixture of cottage-style plantings. Herbaceous plants line several borders with plantings of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and tropical plants fill the garden to create colors for all seasons.

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No 6. Brian & Jessie Poisson's Gardens on Windsor Avenue



These do it yourselfers have lived in their 135-year-old Windsor Ave home for the past 11 years. Their lovely home is a work-in-progress. Their raised bed gardens of vegetables and herbs, along with different berry bushes reflect their self-sufficient style. In the back, next to the playhouse he built for their daughters, there is a large outdoor screen are for family viewing. There is also a woodworking shop where Brian makes his custom wood slab tables and cutting boards.

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No 7. Karen & Ed Woodward's Gardens on Giddings Avenue



Ed and Karen's wonderfully eclectic gardens show their creative use of found and repurposed doors and windows and other house hold items. In combination with accent flowers, veggies and herbs and other garden treasures their gardens create a peaceful refuge. Do you think that Alice may have run through one of these doorways in search of a summer caterpillar?

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No. 8. Debbie Baker's Gardens at Windsor Avenue



Gardens for all seasons surround Debbie's 1897 home. Ecological themes provide the basis of this gardens design. Plants are selected to attract bees, butterflies and birds. Edible berries provide for the birds, and vegetable and herb beds provide for the caretakers.

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The Windsor Lions Club “Symbol of Hope” Fundraiser

Sale dates Aug 8th to September 12th 2021



The Windsor Lions Club is sponsoring a “No Contact” Spring Bulb Fundraiser. Working with, “Bulbs for Change”, from Middlebury Vermont, the Lions offer Spring bulbs of the highest quality, that can be ordered online. These bulbs and plants come from all over the world, are 100% guaranteed, and will be delivered directly to your home.

Planted in the fall, these “symbols of hope” will bloom to brighten your garden and signify a new beginning for Spring of 2022. One hundred percent of the proceeds from this fundraiser support Lions global causes, hunger, pediatric cancer, vision, the environment and diabetes.

Please follow the link below to the Lion’s Club fundraiser page;

<https://shop.giveandgarden.com/symbol-of-hope-fundraiser-129.html#!/Seller/174>

For more information about the Windsor Lions Club, or with questions about this fundraiser, contact Lion Cindy Daniels, cldressage959@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Check email reminders, the website, and Facebook regarding any change in COVID-19 protocols. At this time, we do not anticipate sharing food and beverage at the gatherings. Please bring a facemask and your own water bottle or beverage.

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Monday, September 13, 6:30 pm Social, 7:00 pm speaker, 8 pm business meeting

LP Wilson Center, Matianuck Avenue, Windsor, CT

Dr. Charles Button presents *Impacts of Climate Change on the Length of Growing Season & Crop Yields in Connecticut*. Professor of geography and sustainability at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), Dr. Button's academic and research interests include global sustainability, climate destabilization/change, water resources, and human-environment interactions. His talk focuses on the association between increased temperatures and growing seasons with significant decreases in crop yields for apples, peaches, pears, tobacco, and corn throughout the State of Connecticut.

Saturday, October 9, Fall Garden Mart, 9 am to 1 pm

Town Green near Eagle Statue, Broad Street, Windsor, CT

WGC members are encouraged to provide 6 or more plants in 6" diameter or larger pots. For the inaugural fall Garden Mart in 2020, we found that indoor plants were also popular, in addition to perennials, bulbs, bushes, and grasses. A good quantity of 6" pots will be available at the September meeting as well as potting soil for those who need those items.

Cards will be provided at the meeting for you to share your donated plant names with Dave Stender, Fall Garden Mart Chair. You can provide your own photos of your plant while in bloom earlier in the year or Dave Stender will try to provide photos of all donated plants. This helps our purchasers "see" what the plant will look like at its peak rather than its usually more muted fall appearance.

Donated plants should be dropped off to the town green by 8 am; if you are away that weekend, you can drop plants at Patty Crowley's home, 886 Windsor Avenue, Windsor on Thursday or by 6 pm Friday.

Additionally, members are asked to volunteer for one or more

shifts: 7 am-9 am (set up and pricing, sales, cashiers)

9 am-11 am (sales, rearranging plants for appearance, cashiers, membership promotion)

11 am-1 pm (sales, rearranging plants for appearance, cashiers, membership promotion, take-down)

Sign-up form will be available at the September meeting or contact Dave in advance at 857-526-1199 or davidfstender@gmail.com.

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Monday, October 11, 6:30 pm Social, 7:00 pm speaker, 8 pm business meeting

LP Wilson Center, Matianuck Avenue, Windsor, CT

Perennials for 10 Months of Blooms, presented by Nancy Ballek Mackinnon. A partner at Ballek's Garden Center, a family farm since 1662, in East Haddam, Connecticut, Nancy's extensive professional horticulture background began in Scandinavia. After earning her environmental horticulture and landscape design degree from UConn, she formally joined Ballek's. The family's eclectic and wide-ranging horticultural interests are reflected in her selection of thousands of annuals and perennials as well as garden statuary.

Monday, November 8, 6:30 pm social, 7:00 pm speaker, 8 pm business meeting

LP Wilson Center, Matianuck Avenue, Windsor, CT

Herbs and Foods that Flavor Thanksgiving will be presented by local food Gordon Kenneson. Gordon's 30 years of horticulture experience include consulting and design for the Windsor Experimental Station, the Noah Webster House, The Windsor Historical Society gardens, and has been exhibited during his own local TV network garden show, contributions to several published articles, serving as a radio show guest and lecturer on a variety of topics.

Monday, November 29, 6:30 pm

LP Wilson Center, Matianuck Avenue, Windsor, CT

Wreath-making for community distribution to about 14 governmental, civic, and nonprofit organizations as one of our annual Civic Endeavors.

Note for our LP Wilson Center meetings: All protocols in place required by the State of Connecticut, Hartford County, and Town of Windsor will be followed. At the time of this newsletter, that includes indoor masks by any non-vaccinated individuals, with continued recommendations for social distancing indoors. This may mean fewer people at each table for additional separation. As of July 23, coffee and wrapped snacks are permitted in the Senior Center. We encourage you to bring your own beverage to fall meetings.

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Members Gardens

All WGC members are encouraged to submit pictures of their gardens or a picture of their favorite plant or any garden experiences they have had and would like to share for inclusion in future editions of the Earthworm.

Alice Lang

Alice Lang has been a member of the Garden Club for over 30 years. In the past she has served on the Executive Board as the Recording Secretary. Alice, a long time Windsor resident, has lived at her Matianuck home for over 60 years. Her father and mother both immigrated to the United States from Europe around the turn of the century.

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Her father at first, bought a small parcel of land in Windsor where he raised pigs. Over the years he added to the Matianuck farm. During World War II he raised chickens and later had 75 head of dairy cows. Today she still attends the Garden Club meeting and tends her lovely gardens. She is a lovely long time Windsor resident and a joy to spend time with.

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CIVIC ENDEAVORS

Windsor Historical Society Gardens

There was much activity at the Windsor Historical Society this summer. Laurie and Jim Durant have maintained the two planters as well as the two small perennials beds located on either side of the entry to the main building. With Fall approaching these planters will be refreshed with seasonal flowers.

A team of WGC members (Allison & Susan Joanis, Patty Crowley, Debbie Baker and Flo Barlow) dug out plants and weeds from two new garden beds on the north side of the Strong-Howard house in July over two intense evenings. A garden bed template was developed with plants appropriate to the time period. A few varieties still need to be purchased and planted.

To help maintain the new gardens, volunteers (4-6) are sought to assist with weeding the beds on a monthly schedule. Please bring shovels, trowels, cultivators, metal rakes, etc.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the September meeting, or you can offer your skills by contacting Debbie Baker, 860-280-7277 or deborah846@riverfront.org.

Proposed dates are:

Saturday, September 25, 9 am

Saturday, October 23, 9 am

Saturday, November 20, 9 am



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Windsor Garden Club Scholarship

The Windsor Garden Club has awarded a \$1000.00, one year scholarship to Morgan Finlay. Morgan is a Windsor resident and graduating senior who will attend the University of Maine, majoring in Marine Biology and Environmental Science. Morgan states, "I have known since I was little that I wanted to study Marine Biology." The award was presented by Cindy Daniels at the Garden Club's July 12th Summer social held at Patty Crowley's.



Scholarship recipient Morgan Finlay receiving her award from Scholarship Chair Cindy Daniels

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Remembrance

We lost beloved WGC member Dick Rozman in late June. We all admired his beautiful gardens, filled with a wide variety of hostas and day lilies, to which he administered tender loving care and shared with others in several Garden Marts. A book on hostas was donated to the Windsor Public Library in his name. The family suggested the Windsor Garden Club as one of two beneficiaries in lieu of flowers. We appreciate their support then and now.

*Your kind and thoughtful
expression of sympathy to the memory of
Richard Rozman
is gratefully acknowledged with
sincere appreciation.*

*Dear Garden Club Members,
Thank you for donating
a book about hostas to
the WPL in Dick's memory.
He enjoyed belonging to
the WGC and looked
forward to being a contributory
member. And he enjoyed the
activities.
Sincerely,
Christine Rozman*



CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Club membership is open to anyone who has an interest in plants, landscaping, and other related topics. Please think of friends, neighbors, and colleagues who enjoy flowers, plants, and gardening and encourage them to think about joining – invite them to a Summer Social or club meeting as their introduction to the Club. The current membership application form is available on the Club’s website, www.windsorgardenclubct.org or contact Debbie Baker for a printed form.

The membership has been extended from July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021 to reflect the realities of not being able to meet due to the restrictions of COVID-19 and to ensure members receive the benefit of meetings and speakers.

The Executive Committee met in January 2021 and voted to revise the cycle of the Garden Club meeting schedule to calendar year beginning in January 2022. While this is a consequence of COVID-19, it is also a benefit as fundraising events such as the biannual Garden Tour will then fall into one fiscal year rather than crossing two fiscal years, making the treasurer’s job and budgeting easier going forward. Membership dues for 2022 will be due by March 15, 2022.

WGC BY LAWS

The Windsor Garden Club Bylaws are available on our website <http://windsorgardenclubct.org/abouttheclub/clubconstitution/> and include the duties of officers and committee chairs. Bylaws will also be included in the 2021 Membership Booklet.

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee has been actively recruiting WGC members to take on Officer/Executive Board positions in January 2022, serving through December 2022.

The slate of candidates will be formally presented for discussion at the October meeting, with nominations from the floor an additional option. Voting will take place at the November meeting.

At present, the identified slate of candidates is:

President	David Stender
Co-Vice-Presidents	Allison and Susan Joanis
Treasurer	Margaret Taff
Recording Secretary	Open
Corresponding Secretary	Maureen Vagnini

If you have interest in serving as corresponding secretary, or a member to suggest, please contact Diane Bernier, Maureen Vagnini, Patty Crowley, or Debbie Baker.

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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. PDF formats are available at www.windsorgardenclubct.org.

WGC CONTACT INFORMATION for 2020-2021

Co-Presidents: Diane Bernier; dmsbernier@gmail.com & Maureen Vagnini; maureenvagnini@gmail.com

Co-Vice Presidents: Florence Barlow; flobar744@att.net & Patty Crowley; prcrow4@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Susan Narog; snarog@comcast.net

Treasurer: Lieba Bernstein; liebaberstein@sbcglobal.net

Corresponding Secretary: Dave Stender; davidfstender@gmail.com

Immediate Past President: Debbie Baker; deborah846@comcast.net

Communications

The Earthworm Editor: Jim Durant; jhutan6@gmail.com

Facebook – Allison Joanis; allison.joanis@gmail.com & Debbie Baker; deborah846@comcast.net

Website – Debbie Baker; deborah846@comcast.net & Alison Joanis; allison.joanis@gmail.com

Publicity – Allison Joanis; allison.joanis@gmail.com

Member e-mail messaging; Debbie Baker; deborah846@comcast.net



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Message from the Editor

Hello friends!

First, as always, I like to thank all those that contribute to the Earthworm and to Debbie Baker and others who carefully review the newsletter. Your efforts are what makes our garden club so special to the town of Windsor and our little newsletter a little bit nicer. A special thanks to those that open their gardens to our Garden Tour to share with the folks of Windsor.

As I sit here editing this edition of the Earthworm, I hear Hurricane Henri storming and blowing outside. Hoping for no power outages (so far so good). These kinds of storms play havoc on Laurie's flowers. The Zinnias are all bent over as are tall red Salvias and the Obedient plants. Hopefully they will recover.

As I look out my window, I see the two new planters that I added to the garden provided what was asked for; cutting flowers for Laurie, for me a happy wife and fresh flowers in the house. My four different hot peppers have finally begun to ripened, many have been picked and are now in drying trays.

The flowers on are our hostas have come and gone and their beautiful leaves have started to turn brown along the edges; a sure sign that Fall is approaching and all that it brings. This was a very busy Summer with our Garden Tour, different Summer Socials, the Farmer's Exchange and concerts on the Green; all good things. Of course, don't forget a hurricane and a couple of tropical storms providing lots and lots of rain. At least my yard is as green as I have ever seen it.

Looking forward to a glorious Fall, our member meetings back at LP Wilson and a mild Winter.

Kindest regards, Jim

“When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden.”

—Minnie Aumonier