

THE EARTHWORM

SUMMER 2021



THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB. ONE OF CONNECTICUT'S OLDEST GARDEN CLUBS CELEBRATING 83 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS EXISTENCE.

WORDS FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Greetings Garden Club members,

It was so nice to see lots of our members at Maureen's house on May 3 to prep for our May 8 Garden Mart.

Thank you to all members that made this year's Garden Mart such a huge success. It was a beautiful day and we had many customers and a few people joined that day and bought tickets for our Garden Tour in July. A big thank you to Patty and Debbie who did such a great job organizing and making this such a success.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our first summer meeting at Judy Cooke's house on June 14 at 6:30pm.

Please be thinking about running for an office for the next year. We still need the president position which could be a co-chair position and recording secretary.

We are planning to be meeting again at L.P. Wilson in September. A smaller member booklet will be given to members at that meeting.

Please look to our website and Facebook pages to see our events and updates.

Thank you to all that have been faithful to our club during this most unusual of times.

Sincerely,

Diane Bernier

Maureen Vagnini

Co-Presidents Windsor Garden Club

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SPRING/SUMMER ACTIVITIES 2021

PAST / RECENT EVENTS

Monday, May 3, 2021 6:30 pm – Plant Swap



Our annual Plant Swap and Garden Mart Meeting was held on a rainy evening at the home of Maureen Vagnini. This was a members-only meeting and was very effective in the final planning of the May 8th Garden Mart. Members swap plants with others who, Raffle tickets were drawn to determine order for the swap. The upcoming Garden tour was discussed by Tom Graywacz.

Saturday, May 8, 2021 9am-2:30 pm - Windsor Garden Mart



This year's successful Garden Mart was held Saturday, May 8 on the Town Green, with nearly every member of the Club participating in one way or another – just fantastic! Thanks to all who provided plants, tables, pop-up tents and to those who worked one or both shifts. People

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enjoy first-hand knowledge about plants shared by WGC members. The net proceeds, just over \$1,760, will be used to support the club's activities, including speakers, civic endeavors, and operational expenses. Tickets for the upcoming Garden Tour were also available for purchase, and four new members joined.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Summer Social Gatherings

Monday, June 21, 6:30 pm

Host – Judy Ann Cooke, 16 Sage Park Road, Windsor, CT

Monday, July 12, 6:30 pm

Host – Patty Crowley, 886 Windsor Avenue, Windsor, CT

Monday, August 9, 6 pm

Host – Allison Joanis, 526 Palisado Avenue, Windsor, CT

Note that this meeting begins earlier as sundown is earlier in August.

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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Windsor Garden Tour - Saturday, July 10, 2021 10 am-4 pm

The Garden Tour Committee has confirmed eight host sites for the biannual Windsor Garden Tour, July 10, 2021, 10am-4 pm. Representing a broad variety of garden styles, four sites are non-WGC members and four are WGC members.

This biannual event is a significant fundraiser for club activities as well as scholarship. WGC members are asked to assist with selling tour tickets - \$15 if purchased by July 6, and \$20 after July 6.

Where to get your tickets:

- Maureen Vagnini and Flo Barlow are handling club member ticket sales – please contact them and plan to sell five tickets or more.
- In-person at: Blue Dragonfly, Jordan's Florist, Ashley's Distinctive Jewelry & Gifts, and Woodland Gardens,
- Tickets can also be purchased online for the first time, <http://windsorgardenclubct.org/gardentourinformat/2021registration/>. Payments are through PayPal (PayPal account or credit cards accepted). Any online ticket purchasers will be pick up their tickets on July 10 at the Town Green (near the Library). This helps to ensure that no one loses or forgets to bring their pre-purchased tickets, and eliminates any mailing costs.

Tom Graywacz, committee chair, is seeking volunteers to assist with selling tickets, staffing check-in tables on site during the tour, and to staff a table at the Town Green for pre-purchased ticket pick-up. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Tom at 860-239-0791 or thomasgraywacz@gmail.com. to let him know which shift you will volunteer for. Tom will place volunteers at host sites. A sign-up sheet will be also be available at Judy Cooke's on June 21.

THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB
presents
HOPE blooms
A SELF-GUIDED GARDEN TOUR
featuring eight private residence gardens
JULY 10, 2021
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
rain or shine
\$15 ADVANCE TICKETS
\$20 AFTER JULY 6
BUY TICKETS ONLINE
[HTTP://WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG](http://windsorgardenclubct.org)
BUY IN STORES
ASHLEY'S JEWELRY - 555 DAY HILL ROAD - WINDSOR
BLUE DRAGONFLY GIFT SHOP - 144 BROAD STREET - WINDSOR
JORDAN'S FLORIST - 10 PALISADO AVENUE - WINDSOR
WOODLAND GARDENS - 168 WOODLAND STREET - MANCHESTER
DAY OF SALES & ONLINE PICK-UP
WINDSOR TOWN GREEN - 275 BROAD STREET
(IN FRONT OF EAGLE)
Follow us for updates
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MEETINGS

Windsor Garden Club Speaker & Business Meeting

February, March, and April 2021 meetings were cancelled due to both the current Connecticut COVID-19 guidelines and the member poll conducted in January as previously communicated to WGC members by email and phone.

Business meetings have been typically held at the Windsor Senior Center, 599 Matianuck Avenue in Windsor. We hope to return to the LP Wilson Center in September, conditions and guidelines permitting. WGC members will be updated via our email, social media, website, phone tree, and by the club leadership. Please stay in touch.

Normally, meetings are held during September, October, November, March and April. 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.

FYI AND WELL WISHES

Diane Bernier is collecting WGC member photos for inclusion in a memory book for a former WGC member. If interested in participating, please send your photo directly to Diane, via email at dmsbernier@gmail.com or 17 Haskins Road, Windsor, CT 06095.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Wilson Library

This year we are working with Wilson Library and students from Loomis Chaffee and Windsor High schools to put in community gardens. The Windsor Garden Club will provide the raised bed and work with student volunteers to maintain the raised beds and to harvest the gardens. The harvested produce will be donated to the town food bank.



Raised beds being installed by Diane & Roland Bernier with members of Windsor High and Loomis Chaffee Schools

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We are so excited to be able to make a great contribution to our community and to be working with the youth of our town. We will be building the bed and filling it with soil on May 15 and the actual planting will be done most likely the first weekend in June. We are seeking tomato cage donations from WGC members; contact Diane Bernier to let her know that you have some and to make arrangements to get them to her prior as soon as possible. If any garden club member is available for either day to help, please contact Diane Bernier by email (dmsbernier@gmail.com) or phone.

Free publicity for us at CVS window

First Town Downtown has these window spaces available for local organizations. An application was submitted and we were chosen to have a display window. We will have this space from May to November.

Diane worked with Suzanne Urban to make a display window at CVS to publicize our events and also the events of the Monarch Butterfly project. We will be advertising our Garden Mart as well as the Garden Tour, and Patty Crowley provided some historical Club items to display.

Poquonock School Garden Club

A seed planting day on April 29 kicked off the garden program at Poquonock School this spring. The whole school came by individual classrooms to an outdoor planting table to learn about seeds and plant flower seeds this year to attract pollinators. The following week Diane Bernier held afternoon classes for 6 weeks with topics including soil, invasives, seeds, insects, microbes. This year the program also donated a raised bed to Millbrook Village for their seniors to enjoy. The students will paint the raised bed and do the soil filling and planting with their parents. This special intergenerational program is another special way to show that our Club is trying to do more for our community.

EARTH DAY APRIL 22ND

PRESENTED BY WINDSOR CLIMATE ACTION.

As we celebrate the Fifty First Anniversary of Earth Day, we must reflect on why this day was created, how it might be changing our world and what we all can do in our personal life to decrease our impact on the planet.

The stage was set for change with the publication of Rachel Carson's Bestseller, Silent Spring, in 1962. The book represented a watershed moment raising awareness as well as concern for the environment and the inextricable links between pollution and public health. The idea for the first Earth Day was the brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. He had been concerned about the deteriorating environment in the United States for some time. Then in 1969, he and

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many others witnessed the massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California and its enormous destruction of land, water and wildlife. Inspired by the energy of student anti-war protests as well as the emerging public consciousness of the condition of our air and water, he announced the idea for a teach-in on college campuses. With Denis Hayes, a young activist, they choose April 22nd for the first event half way between spring break and final exams.

Earth Day 1970 would come to provide a voice to the emerging environmental consciousness and putting environmental concerns on the front page and on the evening news. Today Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national and local policy changes. Now, the fight for a clean environment continues with increasing urgency as the ravages of climate change become more and more apparent. By tapping into some of the learnings, outcomes and legacy of the first Earth Day, EARTHDAY.ORG is building a coordinated and diverse movement empowering individuals with the information, the tools and the messaging needed to make an impact and to drive the change. We invite you to be a part of Earth Day and to write many more chapters.

We encourage you all to create a list of changes that you can make today in your life and in the life of your family. We cannot live a healthy life if our planet, our home is unhealthy.

If you wish more information, please contact Maureen Vagnini maureenvagnini@gmail.com.

MEMBERS' PAGES

5 Ways to help The Planet Today

Article taken from Parade Magazine

1. Ditch the Glitter. When tiny pieces of plastic enter the ocean, fish, seabirds, and other marine life gobble it up. Last year scientists found the highest concentration of dangerous to sea life microplastics ever measured on the ocean floor, about 1.9 million pieces in 11 square miles. Even if you are not glittering your kids' projects check your makeup kit. That added sparkle may come from microplastics.
2. Be Food Smart. The majority of food waste comes in grocery stores, restaurants, and food service businesses but it happens at home too. Every person that eliminates a little food waste saves money and land fill space. The longer your food stays fresh the longer you are less likely to toss it. Use reusable produce bags.
3. Embrace Earth Friendly Fashion, 11.3 million tons of textiles went into landfills in 2018. We can keep the stuff already in circulation a little longer. Shop online at second hand stores

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such as Thread Up and purchase things at consignment shops. Some companies such as Madewell and Patagonia give discounts if you trade in used clothing.

4. Try a new way to compost. Composting is one of the biggest ways to have an impact and reduce waste says Kathryn Kellogg, author of 101 Ways to Go Zero Waste. Food scraps do not break down in landfills and take up space and release methane, a big contributor to global warming. Home composting does not have to stink or attract rodents. In fact, Bokashi (loosely translated in Japanese word for fermentation) uses microorganisms to effectively pickle food waste including meat, oils and bones into a nutrient mix that can be dug in soil where it breaks down in several weeks. You can get a kit on Amazon.com.
5. Quit the Plastic Habit. We eat, swallow or breathe 2,00 particles of plastic a week, about the weight of a credit card. If we don't cut back on plastic, scientists predict that the amount dumped in our oceans (11 million metric tons each year) will triple in 20 years. You take a minute to walk around your home and you will see it everywhere. If you floss every day, you are tossing little pieces of plastic every day, shampoo bottles, plastic straws. Instead try products that are not made of plastic, try ones made of biodegradable materials.

Contact Diane Bernier; dmsbernier@gmail.com for more information.

Spring Gardening Tips

- ✚ Gardening is an excellent form of exercise to build strength, flexibility, endurance, and aerobic capacity. It's low-impact and builds self-esteem.
- ✚ Being out in the sun helps your body produce more vitamin D. Remember to wear sunscreen!
- ✚ Reduce the chance that you'll develop osteoporosis. Regular exercise strengthens your bones and muscle.
- ✚ Gardening reduces the chance of heart attack or stroke by improving cardiovascular health.
- ✚ Improve your hand strength and pinch force. People who garden routinely have improved dexterity.
- ✚ Use a trellis to avoid bending or crouching down. Build tall raised beds that allow you to sit on the side while gardening. Consider purchasing a kneeler.
- ✚ Choose plants that can tolerate being left to their own devices, so if you need to skip a day here or there, you don't need to compromise the health of your garden.

Contributed by Alice Lang

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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.



The winter comes to an end with flowering quince and creeping phlox in Debbie Baker's Spring Garden



Spring Pansies fill the four seasons vase in Laurie Durant's Garden while Bleeding Hearts one of the early blooming perennials in her garden.

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CIVIC ENDEAVORS

Windsor Historical Society Gardens.



Members of the Garden Club maintained the gardens and large planters located by the main entrance at the Windsor Historical Society during the Spring and Summer. Laurie and Jim Durant have recommitted to refresh and water the two planters at the entry to the main building. They did a wonderful job last summer, fall, and winter. Last year's arrangements were well received by WHS.

New garden beds have been designed, using plants appropriate to the time period, location, and with seasonal flowers and foliage, to be planted on the side of the Strong-Howard House. Contact Debbie Baker; deborah846@comcast.net. to assist with maintaining these beds.

The main historical museum is well laid out with informative sections on earlier Windsor and later periods highlighting the farming and earlier Windsor industries. The inside gift shop has many books on local history as well as a nice selection of pottery and other gift wares. The executive director is Doug Shipman. The main Windsor Historical Society building is well worth a visit. Other historical buildings are also on the grounds and should be visited as well.

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 emphasis on environmental conservation is a conversation that is not happening enough. It has fallen on my generation to be the change



and I want to be part of it." Morgan has two siblings, James, 15, and Shelby, 19; Shelby attends Central Connecticut State University.

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 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 or Barbara Stavens 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 OFFICERS

In light of COVID-19 and the inability to meet in person for programs and activities, officers for originally elected to serve July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 will serve in their roles from July 1, 2020-December 31, 2021:

Co-Presidents	Diane Bernier and Maureen Vagnini
Co-Vice-Presidents	Flo Barlow and Patty Crowley
Treasurer	Lieba Bernstein
Secretary	Susan Narog

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee has been actively recruiting WGC members to take on Officer/Executive Board positions in January 2022. While co-vice-presidents, treasurer, and corresponding secretary have been recruited, the positions of president and recording secretary are currently open. These are essential positions to the Club's continuation. If you have interest, or a member to suggest, please contact Diane Bernier, Maureen Vagnini, Patty

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Crowley, or Debbie Baker. The slate of candidates will be presented at the October meeting, with nominations from the floor an additional option. Voting will take place at the November meeting.

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.

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 Windsor Garden Club Earthworm Newsletter. Your efforts are what makes our garden club so special to the town of Windsor and our little newsletter so good.

Spring has finally arrived and hopefully ending what seem a long cold winter of isolation from our families and friends, divisiveness and worries in general. As I see the growing number of folks getting the Covid vaccination I also see the awaking of our Windsor; just as our gardens are waking from their winter sleep so is our town.

Spring is the season of resurrection, a time of renewal as we see as our gardens awaken and nature gifts us with the beauty and scents of her flowers. We all should take this spring's renewal to our hearts and be thankful for these life joys we are so lucky to have and pray for those that do not.

"What are the uses of flowers? Surely one is the joy they give to life. It is as if God said to Nature, "I am about to give thee reviving power: see to it that the first things thou bringest forth shall be things of beauty, a joy to the child's eye, a solace to the heart of the invalid in the sick room, and a delight to the bedimmed vision of the aged ere the realities of another world dawn upon them; not the useful for the moment so much as the delightful" - D Davies; The Joy of Spring (biblehub.com)

As I look out my window, I see the two new planters that I added to the garden. As planned, we are planting a "cutting garden" for the house, bees and other pollinators. I have also sneaked in a few herbs and have different types of hot peppers growing in containers. As always, I await to see what Laurie does with them probably not what I expected but will be lovely none the less.

I pray that this season will see all this behind us go about tending our gardens and spending time with family and friends. Enjoy the Spring and Summer. Stay well and healthy.

Kindest regards, Jim

Kind hearts are the garden,
Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the blossoms,
Kind deeds are the fruits.
--John Ruskin