



THE  
**EARTHWORM**  
—WINTER 2021/22—



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

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### WORDS FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

**Dear Garden Club Members,**

Thank you all for being faithful members of our club during these most difficult times. We have tried to proceed as best as we can during this pandemic. We look forward to the new board taking over in January and appreciate them stepping forward to carry on the important work of our club in our community. We have seen many successful events take place because of the great efforts of volunteers from our club. In the new year we hope that more normal times will allow for gatherings that include food at L.P. Wilson Center especially our Soup Talk event in February. As time goes on the board will let the members know what will be allowed at L.P. Wilson Center.

Again, Maureen and I appreciate all that our members have done this past year to promote gardening and the work of our club.

Sincerely, **Maureen Vagnini and Diane Bernier**



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It is with great excitement I write to you in this new year. On behalf of the Windsor Garden Club, I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health, high spirits, and well-rested to get back outside for the 2022 growing season which is just a few months away. In the meantime, we are busy planning some great opportunities for learning and fellowship in the upcoming month's meetings.

This year marks some changes with club members in leadership roles. That includes myself and I look forward to working, along with the club leadership team, to continue to offer our staple programs and activities and also try some new things along the way. We already tried something new in the fall of 2021 with our fall plant mart on the town green. I would consider it a great success as we engaged with the public, were visible on the town green, increased our membership, and even sold a few plants along the way 😊

The club values your membership and involvement in the club. In all our offerings it is important to think about how we live up to our club's purpose: **to promote an interest in gardening, wild plant life, trees, civic beautification, environmental issues, and to carry on such activities as may be necessary or desirable to affect these purposes.**

As always, please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the executive board. We are here to serve the membership, lead the club, and we look forward to that work in 2022. See you in the garden.

Sincerely, **Dave Stender**, Windsor Garden Club President

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## FALL / WINTER ACTIVITIES 2021

### PAST/RECENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

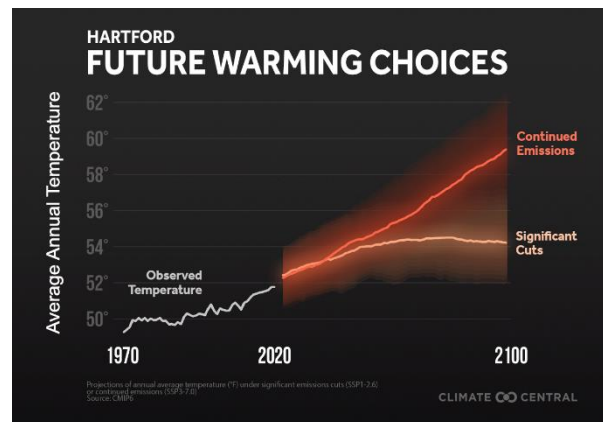
Members were excited to gather in person at the LP Wilson Center for fall programs, each well attended.

**In September** the WGC welcomed Dr. Charles Button a local Windsor resident and Professor of geography and sustainability at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). His very



interesting and timely discussion on *Impacts of Climate Change on the Length of Growing Season & Crop Yields in Connecticut*. His talk focused 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. His presentation clearly showed the effect of uncontrolled greenhouse gas emissions and increase in expected average annual temperatures.



Thanks to WIN-TV for recording Dr. Button's talk on Climate Change; here is the link to view and listen: <https://youtu.be/xZXCo5S8vI0>.



**In October** *Perennials for 10 Months of Blooms*, was presented by Nancy Ballek Mackinnon, a partner at Ballek's Garden Center, a family farm since 1662, in East Haddam, Connecticut. She bought a large variety of perennials as part of her discussion. These were available to WGC members.

Ms. Mackinnon has an excellent knowledge of many different perennials and herbs. A day trip to Ballek's Garden Center would be a day well spent. In the past, Ballek's had a large exhibit at the



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Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, which is worth a visit as they have many plants and garden curios for sale.



**Our November** meeting welcomed local food expert and Windsor historian Gordon Kenneson. His light hearted discussion on *Herbs and Foods that Flavor Thanksgiving* shared details of the first Thanksgiving's foods from historical findings and personal family history. The first governor of the Plymouth Colony, William Bradford, was an earlier ancestor of Gordon Kenneson.

**The 2nd Fall Garden Mart** netted \$739 including sales of gardening implements as well as a wide variety of plants. Houseplants in the fall have proven to be popular, in addition to perennials, herbs, and shrubs. Thanks to Dave Stender and his committee for organizing, and to the many WGC members who participated by donating plants or funds, providing tables or tents, and volunteering.



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UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

**Sunday, December 5th, 12 pm, Holiday Lunch at La Notte, Blue Hills Avenue, Windsor, CT**

\$32 buffet includes tax and tip, as well as **FOOD**. Contact Diane Bernier if you are interested but have not yet registered. Checks should be made payable to Windsor Garden Club and mailed to PO Box 233, Windsor, CT 06095.

**Monday, February 14, 6:30 pm, Soup Talk LP Wilson Center, Matianuck Avenue, Windsor**

This will be an interactive session with members talking about gardening. Be prepared with questions as well as to share what you know!

Note that masking, social distancing, and food information will be shared prior to the meeting to comply with COVID-19 regulations and protocols in place at the time of the meeting.

**CIVIC ENDEAVORS**

**Windsor Historical Society Gardens.**

Laurie and Jim Durant refreshed the two planters at the entry to the main building of the



Windsor Historical Society for both fall and winter seasons.

During the months of August-through November, a small team of garden club members installed and are maintaining two new perennial garden beds on the north side of the Strong-Howard house. These garden beds were

designed using plants appropriate to the time period. A few early blooming varieties will be added in the Spring.

This garden sleeps now but when it awakens again next April, please contact Debbie Baker at 860-280-7277 or [deborah846@riverfront.org](mailto:deborah846@riverfront.org); if you are interested in helping to keep this garden bed in good shape in 2022.





### Wreath-Making

WGC members gather at LP Wilson Center on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November to decorate balsam wreaths and swags that will be donated to municipal and federal offices, nonprofits, and nursing homes in Windsor to brighten the winter holiday season. In the past our wreaths have been thankfully received and greatly appreciated by the different organizations who receive them. Please visit our Facebook page for many more photos.



### *Wadsworth Atheneum Festival of Trees*

Sharon Ahern decorated a wreath in 2020, but was unable to donate it as the Atheneum did not hold their annual Festival. She updated the wreath for 2021.

All WGC members are encouraged to visit the annual Wadsworth Atheneum Festival of Trees and Traditions, to see all of the beautifully decorated trees and wreaths. The festival is open Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> (closed Monday–Wednesday). All displays are available for purchase, with net revenue supporting the Wadsworth. The Wadsworth is located at 600 Main Street Hartford, CT.



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***Poquonock School Garden program***

WGC's Diane Bernier has been working with the young students at Poquonock School for the last several years, she reports on a very busy year she reports:



*"This year we were able to start our program with seed planting using the outdoor court yard space and wearing masks.*

*Our many activities were:*

*We had a beekeeper come to give us lessons on bees.*

*We also painted a raised bed and donated it to Millbrook Senior housing on Mack Street Windsor.*

*We were able to purchase a digital microscope to view insects up close.*

*We also had a zoom lesson on composting from Northwest Park and purchased a composter for the school. With our state grant money, we purchased compost, soil and new cages for the gardens. We planted our garden and the produce was wonderful this year.*

*Diane made sauce with the tomatoes and fresh pepper, onions and garlic to be frozen to be used at later date for hopefully a pizza party.*

*As in the past years each week students learned new things about gardening such as soil, seeds, invasives, insects and plant structure. We look forward to next year and hopefully we will be able to take a field trip to a CSA in our area."*



## CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

A new Executive Board was voted in at the November member meeting for a one-year term, January-December 2022:

President	David Stender
Co-Vice-Presidents	Allison and Susan Joanis
Treasurer	Margaret Taff
Recording Secretary	OPEN POSITION – volunteer sought!
Corresponding Secretary	Maureen Vagnini

The Executive Boards for 2020-2021 and 2022 will meet in January to transfer all duties and responsibilities. If you have interest in serving as corresponding secretary, or know a member to suggest, please contact Dave Stender.

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.

The cycle of the Garden Club meeting schedule changes to calendar year beginning in January 2022, as communicated throughout 2021 through our social media websites. While the change was originally 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.

As always, new memberships are accepted at any time. The current membership application form is available on the Club's website, [www.windsorgardenclubct.org](http://www.windsorgardenclubct.org) and you can also choose to pay via credit card on the website only. If you need a printed form to be mailed to you, contact Susan Narog or Debbie Baker for a printed form. Forms will also be available at the February and March meetings.

### 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 2022 Membership Booklet.

### New Members

Welcome to new members: Valerie Allgrove, Chris and Corinne Baker, Julie Bayer, Mary Walek.





## 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 at <http://windsorgardenclubct.org/contact/assistancrequest/>.

## WGC CONTACT INFORMATION FOR 2022

**President:** Dave Stender; [davidfstender@gmail.com](mailto:davidfstender@gmail.com)

**Co-Vice Presidents:** Allison Joanis; [Allison.joanis@gmail.com](mailto:Allison.joanis@gmail.com) & Susan Joanis; [suzjo815@yahoo.com](mailto:suzjo815@yahoo.com)

**Recording Secretary:** OPEN POSITION – VOLUNTEER SOUGHT!

**Treasurer:** Margaret Taff; [mmtaff@mindspring.com](mailto:mmtaff@mindspring.com)

**Corresponding Secretary:** Maureen Vagnini; [maureenvagnini@gmail.com](mailto:maureenvagnini@gmail.com)

**Immediate Past Co-Presidents:**

Diane Bernier; [dmsbernier@gmail.com](mailto:dmsbernier@gmail.com) & Maureen Vagnini; [maureenvagnini@gmail.com](mailto:maureenvagnini@gmail.com)

## Communications

**The Earthworm Editor:** Jim Durant; [jhutan6@gmail.com](mailto:jhutan6@gmail.com)

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**Website** – Debbie Baker; [deborah846@comcast.net](mailto:deborah846@comcast.net) & Alison Joanis; [allison.joanis@gmail.com](mailto:allison.joanis@gmail.com)

**Publicity** – Allison Joanis; [allison.joanis@gmail.com](mailto:allison.joanis@gmail.com)

**Member e-mail messaging;** Debbie Baker; [deborah846@comcast.net](mailto:deborah846@comcast.net)

Follow the Windsor Garden Club





### Message from the Editor

Season Greetings friends,

First of all, I like to thank those that have contributed to our little newsletter. Your help is always appreciated!

I also want to give a loud shout out to our Allison Joanis for her creative work on the Earthworm's new masthead. I thought it needed refreshing and Allison stepped up to help me. Such a good job...thank you so much.

I drove through Windsor Center and see that the town fountain on the green has been shut down, my sign that Fall is over and it's Winter time. As I look out my study window at Laurie's gardens, they have all gone to sleep for the duration. Our hostas have died back, waiting to be cleaned up. When I look at them, spring seems so far away. We have cleaned up our leaves and put away our garden decorations for the winter. I am hoping for a few small snow storms with light fluffy snows and spaced far enough apart you can clean up one before the others show up.

Thanksgiving is upon us again, Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times of year, well actually I am fond of this time of year in general up to the first of the year. Then I settle in for the slog to next spring. Well, there is the Hartford Flower Show to look forward to.

To all the Windsor Garden Club members I wish the happiest of holidays. Thank you for reading our little newsletter.

Be safe and stay well!

Kindest regards, Jim

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant."

- Anne Bradstreet

"There is a privacy about it which no other season gives you ..... In spring, summer and fall people sort of have an open season on each other; only in the winter, in the country, can you have longer, quiet stretches when you can savor belonging to yourself."

- Ruth Stout