



THE EARTHWORM



SPRING 2023



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB.
ONE OF CONNECTICUT'S OLDEST GARDEN CLUBS -
CELEBRATING 85 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS EXISTENCE.

President's Message April 2023

Ok, here we go! More and more warmer days – it really feels like spring has arrived as I write this in late March. I just finished trimming down all the dead perennial grasses and plants in my garden beds. Now everything can start to grow!

Spring also means we are preparing for some very large, sponsored events that are happening right around the corner. One of our main events in which we interact with the public, answer plant questions, and sell some of our plants happens at our annual May Garden Mart (May 13 on the Town Green). Start thinking now about some of the perennials you need to thin out, pot them up before too long, and bring them to our plant mart. (houseplants, seedlings or an in-kind financial donation are also accepted for our popular plant mart)

We also are preparing for our bi-annual Garden Tour. This event is held in the middle of the summer on odd-numbered years (July 15 this year) and represents about a third of our total fundraising

efforts when looking at a 24-month period. This event is really a great way to showcase our club: how as volunteers we all work together to welcome hundreds of participants to the many great yards showcased for our great garden tour. Before you know it, we'll have our tickets ready for your help in selling them to make this the best garden tour ever.

Dust off your gardening gloves, sharpen your tools, and let's get moving in the yard!

See you in the garden.

Dave Stender, Windsor Garden Club President 2023



Spring has sprung! The bright combination of a pink bowling ball and purple crocuses is right up our alley!

Photo contributed by Patty Crowley.



A Look Back at Our Garden Mart History

By Patty Crowley
WCG Historian

In 1944, the first Windsor Garden Club Plant Mart, as it was called in the beginning, was started. Mrs. Wilfred Greenwood headed the project. She approached the head librarian, Miss Safford, and asked if the Windsor Garden Club could use the land in front of the library for the club's first plant sale. Miss Safford consented and the first annual fundraiser for the club was born and was held in May of 1944.

At 6:00 p.m. on the day of the plant sale, there were only a few plants left, the members questioned what they should do with them. Just then a young master from Loomis appeared. He had moved into the Ely house at the corner of Broad Street and Batchelder Road and had a garden plot ready to plant but didn't know anything about gardening. The club members gave him the remaining plants at a reasonable cost and promised to help him plant them the next day.

The next year, 1945 and until 1963, the Garden Mart was held on the south side of the old town hall on Maple Avenue. In 1948 the name of the sale was changed to Garden Mart from the original name, Plant Mart.

By 1963 the mart had outgrown the space that it was in and moved to the town green by the Eagle. At first, only plants that came from the members' gardens were sold and one of the most generous contributors

was Mr. Eleazer Pomeroy. He donated myrtle, lily-of-the-valley, bulbs and a great variety of other plants by the bushel. When his plants were sold out, he would go home and bring back more. He was called one of the town's "fathers," as he had been a selectman and an influential citizen of Windsor.

Everyone who had a garden had some of Mr. Pomeroy's plants. One remarked that every garden in town is a memorial to him.

When he died, Mr. Pomeroy left land for a park in town with the promise that it would not be named for him, that land is now Washington Park. He, along with Barbara Eberle and Barbara Snelgrove, formed the nucleus of the garden club.

Note from Patty: Most of the above information was read at a garden club meeting in 1978. It was submitted by Jane Nearing; she mentions that the information was furnished by Mrs. Greenwood and Mrs. Marion Case, Mr. Pomeroy's daughter.



Top: The Windsor Public Library as it appeared in 1944. Bottom: The original Windsor Town Hall on the corner of Maple and Broad Streets. (The current location of the Bean parking lot) Photos: Windsor Historical Society.

On a personal note, as a newer resident of Windsor, I joined the Windsor Garden Club in 1996 to meet people. Through the 27 years I have been a member, I have been Earthworm Editor, Co-President, Co-Vice President and Corresponding Secretary. I have served on several program committees, and I have been on the club's garden tour twice.

I would like to encourage new members along with seasoned members to participate in any committee work that your lifestyle permits. It's very rewarding, the friendships you will make along with all the wonderful gardening knowledge you will absorb will be well worth it.

Calling all WCG Members! Sign Up for Monarch Fest 2023 Planter Designers, Sponsors and Volunteers Needed

By Suzanne Urban
Windsor Monarch Club & WCG

The Upcycled Planter Challenge will return to join The Windsor Monarch Fest in July 2023. This unique challenge, creating a planter from recycled item(s) or a chair planter for “The Chairy Orchard” and auction of planters to the public, will raise funds to upgrade the second Monarch habitat, originally planted in 2016 at Riverwalk. Last year's event raised enough to upgrade the habitat at Miller's Pond.

Interested WGC members can sign up to create a planter on the First Town Downtown website where guidelines are also available. Each designer receives reimbursement for soil and flowers at the planter auction's end:

[Yes I'd Like to Create an Upcycled Planter!](#)

First Town Downtown is also seeking sponsorship for each planter designer. Sign up to sponsor and with your donation (individual and non-profit sponsorship is \$75) you will be credited on signage along with the designer.

[I'd like to sponsor a planter designer!](#)

Lastly, volunteers are needed to assist at the Windsor Monarch Fest Saturday, July 8, 2023 10 am -3 pm. Rain Date Sunday, July 9th. Last year's event was a joyous, positive experience! Tasks are fun, assisting at interactive craft tables, subbing for a vendor for bathroom breaks, or Children's Pollinator Parade. To volunteer please contact: wmp@ftdt.org.

**If you do not have access to the form links above, please contact Suzanne Urban to sign up to participate in this event.
(suzanneurbandesigns@gmail.com)*



Civic Endeavors

Windsor Historical Society

By Debbie Baker

Civic Endeavors—WHS Chair

The Windsor Garden Club is involved in two aspects of beautifying the Windsor Historical Society. Two planters at the front entry are planned and maintained seasonally by Laurie and Jim Durant, greeting all visitors. WHS asked WGC to design a historic garden bed along the east wall of the Strong-Howard House, with plantings that would have been found in the 1810s, the time period reflected in the home's reproduction furnishings and textiles. Many thanks to a great team that has dug deep to remove some aggressive plants as well as weeds, and planting and trimming last year. You are welcome to join this year's team: Flo Barlow, Teresa Beatrice, Linda Dowe, Susan Joanis, Sally Ryerson, Maureen Vagnini, Greg Walek and me for these Saturday spring dates:

April 22, 3 pm | May 20, 9 am | June 24, 9 am

Additional summer and fall dates are also planned. Contact Debbie at dbaker.windsor@gmail.org or 860-280-7277 if interested!



School Outreach—Read Across America Day

Diane Bernier, left, and Allison Joanis, represented the Windsor Garden Club at Poquonock Elementary School reading books to students in celebration of Read Across



America Day on March 2. Anyone from the community can participate in this annual effort at any elementary school in town. If you would like to participate next year, please see Diane or Allison. Photo: Courtesy of Allison Joanis

Winter Club Member Outings

By Allison Joanis

WCG Vice President & Earthworm Co-editor

In February and March, we had a few lovely groups travel together or meet to explore some local or somewhat local garden-related events.

On February 26, Flo Barlow, Beverly Lowe, Ann Mazza, Susan Joanis and Allison Joanis carpoled to the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. While there, we also saw Dave Stender, Victor and Lieba Bernstein, Kathleen Grant and Maureen Vagnini. We also know many of our members attended earlier in the week.

It was a wonderful show as always and lovely to walk around, learn, shop and socialize with a mass crowd of people whom all love flowers, gardening and nature. A few highlights were the piano water feature, Greg's Art and Garden Iron from which many of us purchased garden art, and our favorite Windsor shovel, Spear Head Spade! We also acquired some information for future speakers and outings. Stay tuned!



On March 18, Diane Bernier, Kathleen Grant, Karen Lee, Dave Stender, Margaret Taff and Allison Joanis drove up to Northampton, Mass. to visit the 2023 Botanic Garden of Smith College Bulb Spring Bulb Show. It's always a treat and a wonderful way to ring in spring!

The sights and scents of the displays inside the Lyman Conservatory are magical, with over 8,000 bulbs brought to flower. Displays of daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, freesia, fritillaria and muscari brightened up our day to say the least.



Our visit also included a walk-through of the rest of the Lyman Conservatory which serves up more than 3,000 species of plants from around the world. The Conservatory dates back to 1895 and is one of the few remaining nineteenth-century conservatories still operating in the U.S., meaning that it has been bringing the plants of the world to New England for well over 120 years. It's worth a visit!

Following our walk around, we enjoyed lunch as a group at Fitzwilly's Restaurant, another fixture of Northampton's bustling downtown.

More adventures to come!

Winter Meeting Recap—February & March

By Allison Joanis

WCG Vice President & Earthworm Co-editor

2023 is getting off to a great start with our meeting program schedule. In case you missed it, in February at our “Soup Talk,” we had a wonderful turnout and spread, thanks to the generous and delicious breads, soups, desserts, and snacks all donated by club members. If you were in attendance, I think you would agree that our return to soup talk after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic was a hit. It tastes good to be back!

Thank you to everyone who contributed food and a special thanks to Wendy Mitchell for leading the charge on snacks at soup talk and all of our meetings.

Also in February, as the first meeting of our official calendar year, we created the first-ever “Committee Fair,” to share the floor with all committee chairs to present on what their committee does and what they need help with in the coming year. This also

provided the opportunity for our members to sign up for the committee of their choice to keep everyone in the club engaged and involved in all of our wonderful efforts.

If you were unable to attend and are interested in signing up for a committee, please connect with **Dave Stender - Garden Mart Committee**, **Debbie Baker - Civic Endeavors (Windsor Historical Society)**, **Diane Bernier - Civic Endeavors (Poquonock School and Windsor Housing Authority Projects)**, **Cindy Daniels – Scholarship Committee**, **Tom Graywacz – Garden Tour Committee**, **Allison Joanis/Debbie Baker – Publicity Committee**. If you are not sure, don't worry, we will be making announcements about many upcoming volunteer opportunities at the coming meetings.



In March, we were joined by Advanced Master Gardener Nancy Bowden who spoke to us about soil health and gardening in the time of climate change. She reminded us that dirt is dead but soil is alive and it includes all kinds of beneficial things like insects, worms, fungi, minerals, broken down plant material and of course, air and water. It is these things that contribute to our plant health, which in turn contributes to our health. Nancy is an experienced vegetable gardener who recommends doing no harm when it comes to soil care and preparation. She said:

-Don't over till or dig too deep – invasive soil turning can unearth bad things and disrupt the good.

Continued, see **RECAP** on page 7

RECAP from page 6

-Lighten the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides – we certainly need to keep disease and pests away, but try other amendments like early detection and compost to boost your soil to help resist the bad stuff from creeping in.

-Use mulch, straw, rotten wood scraps, newspaper or cardboard between plants to increase shelter for the worms and beneficial insects that help to keep your soil happy and healthy. These are also organic ways to keep the weeds away.

Nancy encouraged us to keep in mind several things as our climate changes: take note of shifting first and last frost dates to ensure our plants are safe, adjust watering for major rain or none at all, address soil that too much rain will rid of nutrients and to be mindful of the impact extreme heat may have on foliage and roots, new pests that are joining us like the lantern fly and jumping worm, as well as invasives that are quite literally creeping in.

All in all it was an informative talk to get us ready to check in on our soil as we get started in our gardens this spring.

Nancy also leads the Demonstration Organic Garden at Northwest Park along with other UConn Master Gardeners. There, they put a lot of what she spoke about into practice as well as experiment with many types of organic gardening and growing edible plants. They hold free events all summer. We will do our best to keep you informed. The garden at NWP is open during regular park hours, you can visit and walk around at any time. It is highly recommended.

If you missed this speaker and would like a copy of her handouts and resources, please see Allison Joanis.

Financial Corner—Spring Treasurer's Report

By Margaret Taff, WGC Treasurer

President Dave suggested putting together information that combines two fiscal years of income and expense data. By doing this, we can see more easily how the garden tour which is held every other year contributes to our organization's income, in addition to getting a better picture of the major sources of income and major areas of expense to our organization. For the purpose of this review, the income and expenses from 2021 and 2022 were combined.

The information for income is fairly straightforward. Our major sources of income are the garden marts, now held two times a year; the garden tour, held every other year; and our membership dues, paid once a year. Other ongoing sources of income include tag sales held during garden marts and miscellaneous income. The miscellaneous income includes donations made to WGC and more recently, a paid advertisement put into our membership booklet.

During this particular time period, we had a program featuring Tovah Martin, for which we sold tickets to non-WGC members. During this evening we also held a raffle with raffle tickets being purchased by most attendees. Both of these sources of income are not ones that occur on a regular basis.

Our top three categories of expense for the two-year time period are scholarship, programs and civic endeavor/beautification. The civic endeavor/beautification category includes a number of activities in Windsor that WGC supports or contributes to, including plants/planting at Wilson Library, Millbrook Village, the seeds/planting program for students at the Poquonock school, invasive plants educational flyers and more.

In addition to the above categories, several areas of expense relate to the costs of running our organization. These include insurance (required by LP Wilson to hold our meetings in the building), website hosting/maintenance, post office box rental, and expenses such as postage, checks for bank account, printing costs for membership booklet, Earthworm, etc. Several of the smaller expenses are put under the executive board category.

As always, if you have any questions about this article, please ask Margaret Taff, WGC Treasurer.

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TREASURER from page 7

Combined Expenses for 2021 & 2022

Rank*	Expenses		% of combined '21 & '22 expenses	Comments
1	Scholarship	\$ 2,262.00	25%	
2	Programs	\$ 1,410.25	16%	Includes Tovah Martin event in 2022.
3	Civic Endeavor/ Beautification	\$ 1,059.78	12%	Poquonock School, Wilson Library, educational flyers, Windsor Historical Society garden, etc.
4	Insurance	\$ 1,000.00	11%	
5	Garden Tour	\$ 683.20	8%	
6	Website Hosting Fee	\$ 530.00	6%	
7	Holiday Wreath Effort	\$ 474.06	5%	Wreaths for town & Wadsworth.
8	Garden Mart - May & Oct	\$ 371.80	4%	
9	Membership Booklet (The Print Hub)	\$ 279.94	3%	
10	Executive Board	\$ 210.00	2%	Stamps, checking acct checks, correspondence, state filing fees, etc.
11	P.O. Box Rental #233	\$ 208.00	2%	
12	Earthworm Distribution	\$ 199.79	2%	Printing & postage for paper copies.
13	Membership Recognition	\$ 100.00	1%	
14	Hospitality	\$ 96.55	1%	
15	Tova Martin Raffle	\$ 54.41	<1%	One-time item.
16	Membership Outreach	\$ 53.19	<1%	
17	Membership - Dues	\$ 15.00	<1%	

TOTAL **\$9,007.97**

*[Rank from largest to smallest amount]

Notes: - Omitted 207.90 from expenses & income (Windsor Historical Society reimbursed WGC for expenses)
 - Omitted holiday luncheon (paid by members) as it doesn't reflect actual expense & income to WGC

Combined INCOME for 2021 & 2022

Rank*	Income		% of chart	Comments
1	Garden Mart - May & Oct	4,638.50	39%	
2	Garden Tour	3,982.46	34%	
3	Membership - Dues	1,894.86	16%	
4	Miscellaneous incl. Donations	387.00	3%	Includes at least \$220 for Dick Rozman Memorial.
5	Raffle during Tovah Martin pro-	337.00	3%	One-time event.
6	Non-member Participation Fees	324.40	3%	Tickets sold to non-WGC members for Tovah Martin.
7	Non-Plant Sales - tag sale at gar-	238.91	2%	

TOTAL **\$11,803.13**

*[Rank from largest to smallest amount]

DIY Terrariums

By Dave Stender, WCG President

I attended a terrarium-making workshop at my local greenhouse years ago prior to moving down to Connecticut. I ended up making several closed terrariums and gifted them to family members. About eight years later, I'm making another round of these small plant gifts to replace what lasted many, many years longer than I anticipated.

A closed terrarium is one in which there is a lid that captures the moisture in the container through evaporation and the enclosed system gets all the rain it needs. Once established you don't need to water this type of terrarium. One key thing to keep in mind is that I have found that closed terrariums should not be placed in direct sunlight. Near a bright sunny window is OK, but no direct sunlight. The large apothecary jar terrarium I gave my parents lasted for nearly eight years and got bright sun in the morning (but not direct sun).

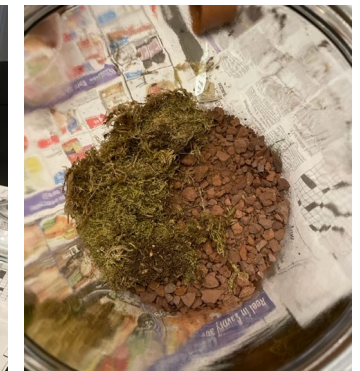
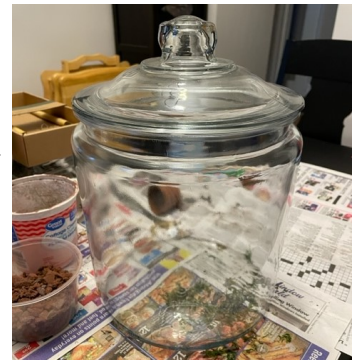
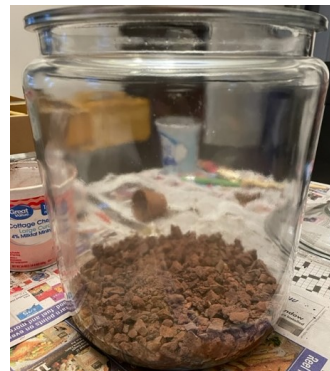
An open terrarium is perhaps a nice way to first dive into this craft. There is no lid on such a terrarium and you need to water the terrarium every so often – like a regular house plant. You can get away with a bit more light, with some direct sunlight but remember how small the soil area is and how quickly such a small plant can dry up.



How to make a terrarium:

Container size: Keep in mind that nearly 1/3 of the container will be filled with material. You need some space for the plant(s) to grow too! The wider the container means you can include more than one plant in your mini ecosystem. I tend to use apothecary jars given their shape – at their widest point is where the plants can grow, and their lids work perfectly to keep the water inside the closed terrarium. You also don't have to use as much material on the bottom given the container's shape. I've also used wide fishbowls and other glass container shapes. Keep in mind that the lid must not be porous like wood. Choose glass or solid material, otherwise, you will grow mold instead of plants.

Materials in this order: Small pebbles (I used small rocks from a fish store for an aquarium), small/crushed lava rocks, small/crushed charcoal, moss, and soil. I sometimes skip the charcoal but the lava rocks are important to include. I typically top off the edges of the soil level with some decorated rocks. Avoid plant placement where the leaves will



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touch the glass container. Give them some space to grow. If making a closed terrarium, put in half as much water than you think you should before placing the lid on. A little bit goes a long way- trust me. Monitor the plants, particularly the leaves for mold (that means you have too much moisture in the container, take the lid off completely or at least place it ajar).

Plants: You want to select a variety of tiny plants. They typically range in price from \$3-\$5 each. Think about the size of the plant for your terrarium: some plants grow more vertically and are slender, while others don't grow particularly high but can expand at their width. If putting in multiple plants, consider opposing textures and colors. There are some really great variegated varieties and even some leaves that are red, purple and other contrasting colors to the range of green found in most plants. My sister gifted me a terrarium tool kit a few years back. The shovel with a long handle came in handy with my recent round of terrarium-making.

Tip on lava rocks: I purchased a bag at Lowe's (in the section near the outdoor gas fire pits). I then crushed the rocks with a hammer and many layers of plastic bags to contain the rocks. Use the same method to crush charcoal.

Happy planting!



All the Right Moves

Use these stretches and strengthening exercises to prep your body for all the work you are doing in the garden.

From the
April 2023 Issue of
Better Homes and Gardens
Recommended by
Diane Bernier



Yawning Stretch

Good for easing chest and shoulder tightness.

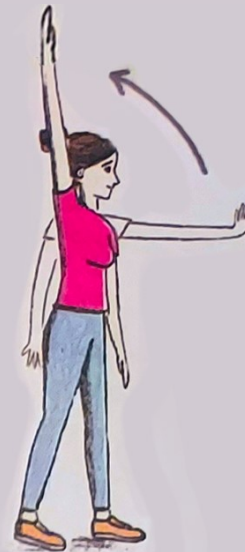
How to: Stand tall with hands at your sides. Take a deep breath in, stretching both arms out to the sides and drawing your shoulder blades back. Hold here for a count of five; relax and repeat.



Armchair

Good for lifting and lowering objects, protecting your knees and lower back.

How to: Stand with your feet a little wider than the hips. Squat until elbows rest on your legs. If you're lifting or lowering a heavy object, hold it close to your body and get into this position before moving them.

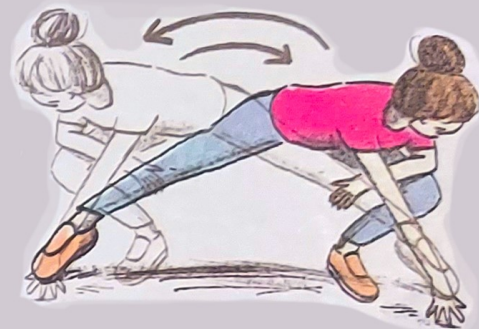


Torso Twist-Stretch

Good for warming up balance.

How to: Step slightly back with your right foot. Keeping left arm by your side, slowly bring your right arm in front of you, palm facing up. As you gently twist torso to the right, raise right arm above your shoulder then behind you; lower right arm to side as you turn your torso back to front.

Repeat 10 times on each side.



Armchair Spideys

Good for warming up. **How to:** From the armchair position, *left*, straighten right leg, shifting weight to left side, reaching right arm to touch the ground in front of bent (left) leg. Shift weight and do the same on the left side. Go from side to side 10 times. You should feel the stretch in your legs and lower body.

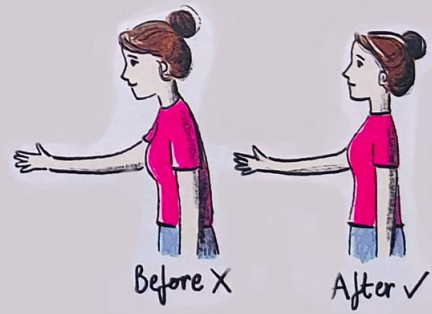
Continued, see EXERCISE on page 12

EXERCISE from page 11



Hip Flexor Stretch

Good for improving flexibility and reducing lower back pain. **How to:** Begin with feet together. Slowly step right foot back until left knee is bent 90 degrees (or as far as comfortable). Feel the stretch along of right hip, Hold for 30 seconds; drag the leg back up, switch sides and repeat.



Seesaw

Good for reaching, twisting and bending tasks (pruning, cutting). **How to:** When you reach your arm in front of you to do any task, pull your shoulder blades down and back. This takes the pressure off your outstretched arm and reinforces good posture.

**Please remember to check with your healthcare providers before introducing new exercise routines and proceed with caution when doing physical work in your yard or at home. If there are tasks in your landscapes or gardens that you cannot physically accomplish, remember to ask your fellow garden club members for help or referrals for qualified local professionals!*

Mark Your Calendars for the The Windsor Garden Club Garden Tour Saturday, July 15, 2023

*The tour committee is looking for docent volunteers for the day of!
Sign up at a meeting or contact Tom Graywacz for details.*

thomas.graywacz@gmail.com

(860)239-0791



Bigger, better, tougher? A look at 2023's New Garden Plants

By Jessica Damiano—Associated Press
Recommended by Diane Bernier

Most gardeners have favorite go-to plants that perform well in their climate and simply make them happy. For me, those are coneflowers, catmint, liatris, alliums, daylilies, black-eyed Susans and oh so many tomatoes.

But every year, I manage to find at least a little space for something new that woos me from a garden-center shelf or the pages of a catalog.

Behind those customer-facing outlets, plant breeders work tirelessly to produce innovative plants with larger flowers; better disease resistance; improved cold-, heat- or shade-tolerance; longer bloom times and even higher nutrition.

PERENNIALS

The 2023 season brings us several firsts, including the first-ever ground-cover shasta daisy, *Leucanthemum* “Carpet Angel,” from Green Fuse Botanicals. Named a 2023 All-America Selection by the independent, nonprofit organization of the same name, which tests new introductions and bestows the honors each year, the extremely cold-hardy plant starts blooming earlier than other varieties and keeps going straight through fall in zones 4a-10b.

Proven Winners has introduced two new native hummingbird mints in their Meant to Bee collection -- “Royal Raspberry” and “Queen



This image provided by Proven Winners shows Meant to Bee Queen Nectarine hummingbird mint plants growing in a garden bed. The 2023 introduction is beloved by bees. (Proven Winners via AP)

Nectarine” -- which, as the group’s name implies, is beloved by bees. I grew the latter in my test garden last year and was impressed with the terracotta-colored flowers that blanketed most of the plant from mid-summer through fall. Hardy in zones 5-9, the mounding perennial should reach 30-36” in two or three years.

Also from Proven Winners, I tested out the new Upscale “Red Velvet” bee balm, another native that lures pollinators to the garden. Suitable for part-sun to sun in zones 4-8, the tall *Monarda* variety emerges from dormancy with bronze-tinged foliage before large, cherry-red flowers take center stage in spring and summer. The deer-resistant plants grow to 32” tall.

The breeder’s Rock’ N Round “Bright Idea” hybrid sedum stonecrop added a burst of yellow to my sunny test garden with its red stems, serrated green leaves and bright yellow, star-shaped blooms. The 10-12” salt-tolerant perennial attracts bees and butterflies, resists rabbit attacks and thrives in hot, dry spots in zones 3-9.

PanAmerican Seed’s *Echinacea* “Artisan Yellow Ombre,” another AAS winner, is a bushy, multi-branched coneflower that produced bright yellow flowers in my test garden. Grow it in full sun in zones 4a-10b and watch as the pollinators come.

The breeder’s new *Rudbeckia* “Goldblitz” is a strong, 28-inch black-tall.

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NEW PLANTS from page 13

eyed Susan with shiny green leaves and abundant blooms. The sun-lover starts blooming about three weeks earlier than other varieties and continues into fall. It's hardy in 3a-9b.

Astilbe "Dark Side of the Moon," a National Gardening Bureau Green Thumb Award winner, is a long-lived, shade-tolerant perennial that attracts bees and resists deer and rabbits. Foliage starts out yellow with a dark margin before turning a rich chocolate brown, and its raspberry-colored buds open to reveal pinkish-purple flowers. The plant is hardy in zones 4-9 and reaches 22", including the tall flower spikes.

ANNUALS

The shade-tolerant, downy mildew-resistant "Glimmer" double impatiens from Ball Flora Plant are reminiscent of miniature roses and come in an array of colors, including Appleblossom, Bright Red, Burgundy, Dark Red, Hot Pink, Salmon and White. Plants grow to 10-16" tall and 10-12" wide.

The beautiful tropical "Royal Hawaiian Waikiki" Colocasia elephant ears, bred by University of Hawaii emeritus plant pathologist John J. Cho, Ph.D., was honored with a National Gardening Bureau 2023 Green Thumb Award. Its large, glossy leaves, adorned with creamy white centers and pink veins, are held atop deep burgundy stems on compact plants sturdy enough to withstand wind and rain. Grow it as an annual in zones 7 and under.

Starflower "Paper Moon" Scabiosa,

another Green Thumb Award winner, is a pollinator-friendly annual from Sahin/Takii EU. Its 36-inch stems hold round clusters of pale blue, purple-veined flowers that give way to decorative, papery bronze seed heads, which can be used in fresh bouquets or dry arrangements. For best results, grow it in full sun.

Snapdragon "Double Shot" Orange Bicolor, from Hems Genetics, has uniquely strong, branched stems that hold white-backed, double orange-red flowers that fade to a dusty hue as the season progresses. The All-America Selection winner grows to 18-20 inches tall in full or part sun.

EDIBLES

"Sun Dipper" tomato from PanAmerican Seed was named Best New Edible Plant of 2023 by the National Gardening Bureau. Its peanut-shaped, orange fruits, meant to make dipping easier, are perfectly suited for a crudite platter. I grew the indeterminate plant, bred to resist fusarium wilt, tobacco mosaic virus and root-knot nematodes, in my trial garden last summer. It was the only tomato that performed well during the year's too-hot, too-dry season.

Another new tomato, "Vivacious," available to grow from seed this year, is notable for its enhanced nutritional value. Breeder W. Atlee Burpee claims the roughly 3-inch-long, plum-shaped, orange fruits are high in beta carotene, with just one



This image provided by PanAmerican Seed shows Sun Dipper tomatoes, a new 2023 variety shaped to make holding between your fingers when dipping in dressings easier and neater. (Hand Picked Vegetables from PanAmerican Seed via AP)

tomato said to provide 40% of the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A. Each plant promises to produce roughly 70 tomatoes throughout the season.

How about a seedless pepper? "Pepper Pots Sugar Kick" from Proven Winners is a miniature, sweet orange snacking pepper that grows seedless when isolated from other pepper varieties to prevent cross-pollination. The upright plants grow to 20-30 inches tall and are suitable for growing in both containers and the garden. Harvest green fruits in 54 days or orange ones in 74 days.

"Sweet Jade" squash, a single-serving-sized kabocha with sea-green skin and dark orange flesh, produces high yields and has a long storage life. The fruit of the All-America Selection winner, harvestable in fall, weighs just 1-2 pounds apiece. Find this article online [here](#).

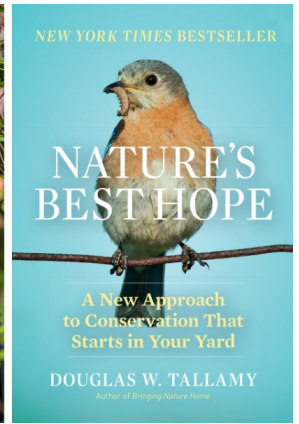
Suggested Reading— “Nature’s Best Hope by Doug Tallamy

*Recommended by Maureen Vagnini
Description from Amazon*

Douglas W. Tallamy’s first book, *Bringing Nature Home*, awakened thousands of readers to an urgent situation: wildlife populations are in decline because the native plants they depend on are fast disappearing. His solution? Plant more natives.

In this new book, Tallamy takes the next step and outlines his vision for a grassroots approach to conservation. *Nature’s Best Hope* shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats. Because this approach relies on the initiatives of private individuals, it is immune from the whims of government policy. Even more important, it’s practical, effective, and easy—you will walk away with specific suggestions you can incorporate into your own yard.

If you’re concerned about doing something good for the environment, *Nature’s Best Hope* is the blueprint you need. By acting now, you can help preserve our precious wildlife—and the planet—for future generations.



[Check availability at Windsor Public Libraries
or surrounding towns.](#)

Welcome New Members!

Teresa B.	Lynda M.
Fatima C.	Ed R.
Caitlin D.	Sally R.
Lynne D.	Cindy W.
Brooke F.	Greg W.



Thoughts and Best Wishes to club members:



Lois K.
Joanne M.
Erin B.



WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB

2023 SPRING GARDEN MART

SATURDAY, MAY 13

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

WINDSOR TOWN GREEN

275 - 323 BROAD ST.

(Behind the Eagle Monument)

SHOP A SELECTION OF:

- perennials
- herbs & vegetables
- house plants

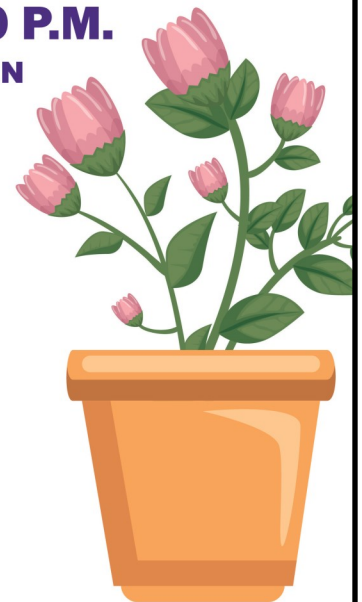
LEARN MORE ABOUT US!

- ask for gardening advice
- speakers & events
- how to become a member

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES!

- @WINDSORCTGARDENCLUB
- @WINDSORCTGARDENCLUB
- WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG

Event will be held rain or shine.



What's Coming Up

April 29

Windsor Climate Action Committee Sustainability Fair
Town Green – 11:00 am— 3:00 pm

May 8

WCG Meeting & Plant Swap
Windsor Senior Center – 6:30pm

May 13

Spring Garden Mart
Town Green 10:00 am—2:00 pm

June 12

WGC Summer Social Meeting
Location: Home of the Durants – 6:30pm

July 8

Windsor Monarch Festival
Town Green

July 10

WGC Summer Social Meeting
Location: Home of Alvin Bingham– 6:30pm

CONTACT INFORMATION 2023

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Earthworm Content Submission Deadlines 2023

The Publicity Committee is always looking for submissions for the Earthworm, the website and social media. If you have material you would like to see published, please contact

Debbie Baker and Allison Joanis.

Deadlines for Earthworm material 2023:

July issue deadline: **June 14**

October issue deadline: **September 13**

January 2024 issue deadline: **December 11**

Not a WGC member yet?

Join us!

Visit <https://windsorgardenclubct.org/membership/>

- Join electronically
- Print a form and join by mail
- Come to a meeting and join in person!

