

THE EARTHWORM

FALL 2020

The Windsor Garden Club



Est. 1937

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

Welcome Garden Club Members:

As the new presidents of the WGG, we would like to welcome you for the upcoming year. As we mentioned in our letter updating everyone, we have suspended live meetings indoors until February with the hope that we may be beyond COVID-19 and we will all feel comfortable gathering once again.

We have also decided to move our calendar to match the calendar year. This is a temporary change but if we all decided that we prefer to be in sync with calendar, it may be permanent. With Fall upon us, and cooler days and nights, it is time to enjoy our gardens, and get them ready for the winter. Fall is a great time to split our perennials, to mulch the beds and to take pleasure in the fall harvest.

As we write this, it happens to be a beautiful Fall day and we hope that we can all look forward to many more of the same. Be safe.

Diane and Maureen

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SUMMER AND FALL 2020 ACTIVITIES

Member Gatherings

Dave Stender. Between weather and COVID-19 restrictions, only one summer-optional gathering was held – at the home of Dave Stender. He has created beautiful gardens in his two years in Windsor, and developed a fertilizer system, a dry river bed, and more. About 20 people attended. Scholarship award recipient Christopher Ortiz attended with his family and offered words of thanks to WGC members.



WGC scholarship winner Christopher Ortiz is being presented with his \$1500 scholarship from WGC Scholarship Chair Cindy Daniels. Members of his family are shown along with WGC Co-Presidents Maureen Vagnini and Diane Bernier.

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Flo Barlow hosted a WGC gathering in her gardens on September 14, with two invited speakers, tying in with the Club's Civic Endeavors opportunities. Clark Churchill, Boy Scout Troop 149 talked about his Eagle Scout project to create a sunflower garden and seating area at Windsor High School in

honor/memory of teacher and scout leader Kristin Berenson. The garden will provide a peaceful and therapeutic retreat for students who need a short break during the school day. Clark requested plant donations and planting



support to make his project possible. Suzanne Urban described a Monarch Butterfly Project and asked for WGC member assistance to plant in planters sponsored by various downtown businesses.

Saturday, October 3

Eagle Scout Garden Planting, Windsor, CT

Five Garden Club members participated in planting the new garden beds created by Boy Scout Troop 149. They and a few others contributed plants for the gardens as well.



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Scout Clark Churchill expressed tremendous thanks, “The WGC members were fantastic. We would have been lost without them! Thanks for your support!” Clark will work with the Windsor High School Garden Club to set up a maintenance program for the gardens, and will ask WGC again if he has any further requests for us to consider.

Monday, October 5, 4 pm

Flower Power, East Windsor, CT

Several WGC members gathered at LP Wilson Community Center and met up with others at Flower Power for a tour of the green houses. All present received a plant purchase discount for any purchases that day.

Saturday, October 17, 12 noon

Wickham Park, Manchester, CT

A small group of WGC members visited Wickham Park, bringing their own boxed lunches to share while viewing the extensive grounds of the park.



Thanks to Florence Barlow and Dernier for making arrangements for the two outings.

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Garden Mart

Coronavirus pandemic restrictions restricted the ability for the club to offer The Windsor Garden Mart on the Town Green in May or October. Creative thinking and eager club



volunteers combined for a successful Garden Mart on Saturday, October 10. Co-chairs Patty Crowley and Debbie Baker coordinated with hosts Flo Barlow, Dave Stender, and Patty and with WGC members providing plants. Flo's home was ideal for shade, ground cover, and indoor plants; Dave's sunny location was perfect to support summer perennials, seeds, and grasses; and Patty's location offered spring bulbs, fall plants, bushes/shrubs, and garden-related items. The triangle of locations allowed people to move easily between sites, and a number of shoppers did that, resulting in a net of close to \$500. Thanks to all who participated with plants or sales, with extra special thanks to our hosts. Bravo for pulling off this important fundraising event.

Health and social conditions permitting, we will plan for a spring Garden Mart to raise additional funds to support the Club, our meeting speakers, and our initiatives such as civic endeavors and annual scholarship awards.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Windsor Garden Club Wreath-Making

Monday, November 30 – 6:30 pm. It's the beginning of the unofficial winter season as WGC members come together to decorate wreaths and sprays to distribute locally. Pair or triple up with a fellow WGC member to receive a wreath to prepare and distribute - be sure to communicate with Patty or Flo to be sure there is a wreath for you as a limited number of opportunities is available. A small number of WGC member homes will be used. Offers to “host” a small group are appreciated as far in advance as possible. If you don't feel comfortable participating, but have some holiday decorations to share, please reach out, as well. Advance registration required. More info will be shared closer to the date with those planning to participate.

Patty – 860-688-7208 or pcrow4@aol.com

Flo – 860-688-2486 or flobar744@att.net

Meetings

Windsor Garden Club Speaker & Business Meetings

These meetings were cancelled due to the current Connecticut COVID-19 lockdown as communicated to WGC members by email and phone and posted on Facebook.

Business meetings have been typically held at the Windsor Senior Center, 599 Matianuck Avenue in Windsor, however during these times of the Corvid pandemic these meetings may be move to the Windsor Art Center. WGC members will be updated via our social media sites 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.

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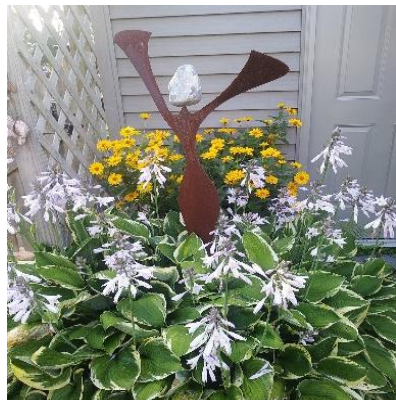
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Members' Pages

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. I would like to include them in future editions of the Earthworm.

Helen Davenport

Three Sister's Sanctuary. My sister and I went to visit Three Sister's Sanctuary in Goshen, MA this September. It's merely 90 minutes away. They are open from 8AM to dusk. It is a delightful place where art and nature merge. It rather reminded me of my art and garden but much bigger and bolder. I'd love to have a fire breathing dragon. The garden is run by a gentleman who loves old wood and coal burning stoves. It is quite a collection. I recommend making a day of it. Once past Northampton on RT 9, pause in Williamsburg, MA at the Country Store then continue on to the Sanctuary for maybe an hour visit. Continue up Rt. 112 to RT 2 and Shelburne Falls for lunch and a small collection of artsy stores and restaurants. Unfortunately, they closed the bridge of Flowers due to COVID-19 but you can still get a good view. Don't miss the mosaics around town and the potholes at rivers edge.



The "Hallelujah Women" lives in Helen's garden bringing smiles to all who come across her.

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Diane Bernier

Hollister Gardens. This summer I visited a garden in Washington Connecticut that I had never heard of. The garden is Hollister Gardens in Washington, CT: "The garden is beautifully situated on a sloping, terraced site in the rolling hills of Litchfield County. It is an American interpretation of a classic English garden, formal in its structure but informal in its style of planting. It is situated around an eighteenth-century farmhouse. The garden is divided into a series of rooms that open to vistas over the garden and out into the natural landscape beyond." (Source; Hollister Gardens).



It is located at 300 Nettleton Hollow Road, Washington, CT. The hours are Wednesday and Friday 1 to 4 pm and Saturday 10 to 4 pm. It is well worth the ride as there are little museums nearby, a book store and small cafe where you can eat outside.



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MEMBERS' VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Windsor Historical Society Gardens. The Windsor Historical Society (WHS) has a new executive director (ED), Doug Shipman. In late March, Laurie Durant and Debbie Baker met with Doug and then-ED Christine Ermenc to discuss our garden collaboration. Two front garden beds, originally designed and installed through Barbara Kyer, will now be maintained by WGC members, as well as two new planters that WHS purchased for the front entry to the WHS office building. Laurie and Debbie tended the beds and



selected the plants for the new large planters. Laurie and Jim tended the planters all summer.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership renewals are nearly complete. In addition, please think of friends, neighbors, and colleagues who enjoy flowers, plants, and gardening and encourage them to think about joining. Club membership is open to anyone who has an interest in plants, landscaping, and other related topics.

With a change of the year to extend from July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021, the renewal membership deadline, typically August 1st, was extended to December 1st for inclusion in the

WGC member booklet which will be printed and available at the February 2021 club meeting. New memberships are accepted at any time. 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.

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WGC officers

Officers for 2020-2021 were elected by email and paper ballot since state restrictions in response to the coronavirus pandemic did not allow for the Windsor Garden Club meetings to be held in April or May. Votes from 38 members were unanimous in electing the Slate as presented. The following will serve in their roles from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021:

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

With a change in the membership and meeting cycle to December 31, 2021, we will need to seek member votes to extend the service of these officers to the same date.

WGC By Laws

New bylaws were approved by unanimous vote by all present at the March 9, 2020 meeting. The bylaws are now in alignment with current practice, complete with duties of the officers and committee chairs of the Windsor Garden Club. Bylaws are available on our website

<http://windsorgardenclubct.org/abouttheclub/clubconstitution/>

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 www.windsorgardenclubct.org.)

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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; liebabernstein@sbcglobal.net

Corresponding Secretary: Dave Stender; davidfstender@gmail.com

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

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



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Message from the Editor

Hello friends!

First, let me apologize for issuing the Fall Edition of the Earthworm so late. Maybe it the times, but the days have gotten away from me. I will endeavor to do better.

As I look out my window at Laurie's gardens, I see also that the Dahlias are still blooming; these flowers are stunning and next year I will plant more. I am also planning to expand the gardens a little to provide a cutting garden of Zinnias for Laurie. I can also see that the leaves are turning and many are now in my yard, reminding me that Fall season is well upon us. The Farmers Alamac forecasts a mild winter with below normal snowfall; but we shall see.

For those that are interested I caught that wood chuck but not before he ate Laurie's Hollyhocks to the ground and ravaged her Nasturtiums. He was happily, at least for me, relocated.

We have our winter events coming up and I hope all will enjoy them. Again, please feel free to submit any comments, materials, photos that you would like to see in The Earthworm to myself or any other WGC Contacts listed above.

My grateful thanks to Debbie Baker, Diana Bernier, Helen Davenport, Allison Joanis, and Maureen Vagnini for their contributions to this Fall Edition of the Earthworm.

All be safe and stay well! Remember - better days are ahead!

Kind regards, Jim

Flowers are restful to look at. They have neither emotions nor conflicts.
Sigmund Freud