

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2021

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

Dear Windsor Garden Club members,

Thank you for replying to our email survey and phone tree survey concerning having our Windsor Garden Club meetings in person or on Zoom. The Executive Board met on Thursday January 28 and with much consideration decided (after reviewing the survey numbers) that we would not hold meetings in person or on Zoom during the months of February, March or April.

On May 3 we will plan a preparation Garden Mart meeting at Maureen Vagnini's house outdoors at 6:30 for a plant exchange and sign up for volunteers for the Garden Mart to be held May 8 with permission of the town.

We will plan to have regular summer garden meetings at a member house June, July and August. We will plan to have regular speaker meetings beginning in September at the L.P. Wilson Center with their approval. Membership dues will not be collected until March 2022.

We hope you are connecting with each other and we look forward to a time we can meet safely.

Sincerely,

Diane Bernier and Maureen Vagnini

Co-Presidents Windsor Garden Club

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FALL / WINTER ACTIVITIES 2020/2021

Past Events & Activities

Holiday Wreaths - 2020

Windsor Garden Club members gathered at the LP Wilson Center December 1 (delayed one day due to winter conditions) to decorate holiday wreaths and swags to distribute to fourteen public, non-profit, and civic organizations in Windsor.



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Our efforts were acknowledged with the following notes:

Friends of the Windsor Garden Club,

Thank you so much for our winter wreath. During times like these it's comforting to still hold onto some traditions. We were so thrilled when the wreath arrived. It filled us with just the right amount of holiday spirit. Thank you from Wilson (Library) Branch staff and community!

Thank you for the beautiful wreath. With all of the crazy coronavirusness going on, we never expected to get one this year. Your gift brought tears to our eyes. Even a pandemic couldn't stop you from remembering your Windsor Public Library. Bless you all – all at the Windsor Library.

Dear members of the Windsor Garden Club:

Thank you so very much for the lovely holiday wreath. It was very thoughtful and brightens our entranceway. Many thanks for making CRIS more festive and attractive with the lovely wreath. Best, Diane Weaver Dunne

Dear member of the Windsor Garden Club:

Thank you for the beautiful wreath you presented to WILA. The front door of our office building looks so nice and festive. We have had many compliments on the looks and the balsam smell of it. On behalf of all at WILA, we wish you health and happiness. Happy holidays to all of you and your families! Thank you. Marin Midlin, Executive Director

Dear Windsor Garden Club,

We would like to say thank you for your donation of a Christmas wreath for the Luddy House/Windsor Chamber of Commerce office. We are all trying to appreciate the little things and your beautiful wreath will help to brighten our days. Because of our location your wreath will be shared with and enjoyed by a lot of our Windsor residents and helps us to show off our beautiful Windsor Town green. Thank you again for sharing your creativity with all of us. Sincerely, Adam Gutcheon, President & CEO, Phyllis Stargardter, Administrative Assistant

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Dear friends,

We are very grateful for the beautiful hand-made wreath donated to our center. We hung it on our door for all to see. It really does bring us some joy a this very uncertain time. Again, please accept my heartfelt thanks for remembering us this holiday season. We are ever thankful for the many people like you who support us in so many ways. Wishing you and all your loved ones

*a holiday season and new year filled with peace, happiness, and good health. Gratefully yours,
Brittany Sheehan, Executive Director, Mary's Place*

UPCOMING SPRING/SUMMER 2021 ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Events & Activities

Monday, May 3, 2021 6:30 pm

Plant Swap and Garden Mart Meeting

Home of Maureen Vagnini (outdoors)

This members-only meeting is effectively the final planning meeting for the Garden Mart. Members are encouraged to bring a plant to swap with others who bring plants. Numbers are drawn to determine order for the swap.

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

Windsor Garden Mart

The Windsor Garden Mart will take place at the Town Green Saturday, May 8, 2021 regardless of whether the Lions Club event is held. Any plants remaining from the fall 2020 Garden Mart have been held over by our three fall hosts (thank you!) and will be included in the spring Garden Mart. Nonetheless, members are asked to provide a minimum of six potted perennial plants by the first week of May. Small bushes and shrubs, vegetable plants and herbs are also appreciated.

While the volunteer schedule won't be prepared until late April, please contact Garden Mart co-chairs Patty Crowley 860-688-7208, pcrow4@aol.com or Debbie Baker 860-280-7277, deborah846@comcast.net to indicate your interest in participating. Please be aware that while the event is outdoors, it is highly likely that we will need to wear masks and be socially distanced, as possible.

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Summer-Optional Meetings

We are planning for our regular summer garden meetings at a member home in June, July and August. Judy Cooke has volunteered to host the Monday, June 14, 6:30 pm, Volunteers are sought for Monday, July 12, 6:30 pm and Monday, August 9, 6 pm (change of time due to earlier sunset/dusk).

Saturday, July 10, 2021 10 am-4 pm

Windsor Garden Tour

The Garden Tour Committee has confirmed eight host sites for the biannual Windsor Garden Tour, July 10, 2021, 10am-4 pm. Tom Graywacz, committee chair, will be 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 thomasgraywacz@gmail.com or 860-239-0791.

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

Ann Mazza, was in a motor vehicle accident in November 2020 after a hospitalization and a stay in rehabilitation she has been home for a while now and is on the road to recovery. WGC members are encouraged to reach out with a note to brighten her day.

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.

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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 for inclusion in future editions of the Earthworm.



Cindy Daniels

Cindy and Jim Daniels' garden reminds us of past springs and allows us to think ahead to the coming spring.

Patty Crowley

While walking around her yard, Patty found a nice surprise. The Lenten rose (hellebore) usually blooms in late February or early March. But is early this year.



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Laurie's Streptocarpus Garden

It is hard to beat the Streptocarpus flowers for beauty during the grey winter months. Also called "cape primroses" and cousins to African Violets, Laurie maintains hers indoors under grow lights.



Maureen Vagnini

Our lovely Maureen received a indoor grow box for Christmas. She put it to good use this Winter and now is enjoying fresh lettuce salad greens.



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Diane Bernier

Diane found this interesting book review of 'All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis'. This is a collection of essays, poems and memories written by 60 women.

BOOK REVIEW

Writings on climate change will give you some hope

By Eric Roston
Bloomberg News

Before 2020 collapses under its own weight, it's worth noting some of the positive things that came out of the year. A book that was published this fall, "All We Can Save," is something that will help us navigate a nerve-wracking future.

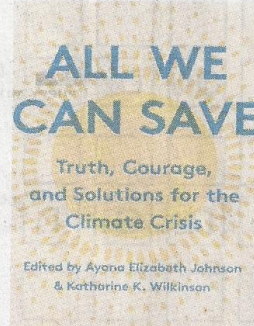
Against a backdrop of the trickling, everyday dross of internet life — not to mention destabilizing pandemic and populism around us — this book is what the late short-story author Raymond Carver might have called "a small good thing."

"All We Can Save" is a collection of essays, memories, poems and even advice memos written by 60 women, most enmeshed professionally one way or another with climate change — scientists, researchers, activists, journalists, former government officials, writers and more.

A fine expression of the project comes in one of many interstitial quotations dropped in-between the short essays. It's a statement from Heather McGhee, a political commentator, author and board chair of the group Color of Change: "Inequality and climate change are the twin challenges of our time, and more democracy is the answer to both."

Many readers are used to climate change as a business, investment, policy, technology or science story. "All We Can Save" complements that approach with something sorely missing: shared interior monologues about the empathy that binds people to each other and to history.

The contributions are each about what it feels like to be a descendant,



'All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis'

Edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine Wilkinson; One World, 448

child, mother, friend, colleague, leader or ancestor at the onset of the what should probably be called obvious climate change. The book's title comes from a line by the late poet Adrienne Rich: "My heart is moved by all I cannot save."

It's refreshing to hear the expertise of, to cite one example, Indigenous people applied directly to modern questions of governing, business, agriculture and more. The world's largest companies have been tripping over each other for 15 years to claim the mantle of "sustainability," when the oldest human communities have quietly been experts on it for millennia.

"The great contribution that Indigenous peoples may be able to make at this time is to continue providing the world with living models of sustainability that are rooted in ancient wisdom," writes Sherri Mitchell Weh'na Ha'mu Kwasset. Half a book later, Régine Clément, the head of Creole Syndicate, an investing group for rich families, bridges the old and new by asking, "How

"All We Can Save" is basically a community bound between two covers, and a gift to any who wishes to join in.

can we use the mechanics of capitalism as it currently exists to transform it?"

There are hat-tips to national politicians, any of which shrinks in substance to, say, former U.S. regional Environmental Protection Agency administrator Heather McTeer Toney's account of how when doors close and meetings start, "there was no room for petty division."

There are a couple of repetitions of names and ideas, which can be interpreted charitably as happy shoutouts to shared parts of a community. One contributor, former U.S. EPA administrator Gina McCarthy, was recently named to become President-elect Joe Biden's national climate adviser.

Books are finite, and even a work of 60 contributors running more than 400 pages leaves out voices. Editors Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine Wilkinson, who respectively hold doctorates in marine biology, and geography and environment, have turned their book into an All We Can Save Project, with a new newsletter, to extend their ideas and work on behalf of women climate leaders.

"All We Can Save" is basically a community bound between two covers, and a gift to any who wishes to join in. Johnson and Wilkinson have set a high bar, but this movement-forging book format is replicable by anyone else who also

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Laurie's Tips for Seeding and Plant Cuttings.

The snow is on the ground. Spring is hopefully in the horizon. The seed catalogs are arriving in the mail with their seductive pictures of flowers beckoning us to purchase. I love to look thru the new catalogs, they make me feel happy and hopeful for spring.

This is the best time to take stock of your supplies for planting seed and for taking cuttings. Here are some tips I have used in starting seeds and propagating new plants from cuttings.

SEEDS

I used a mixture of:

- one part perlite or vermiculate
- One part seed starting mix

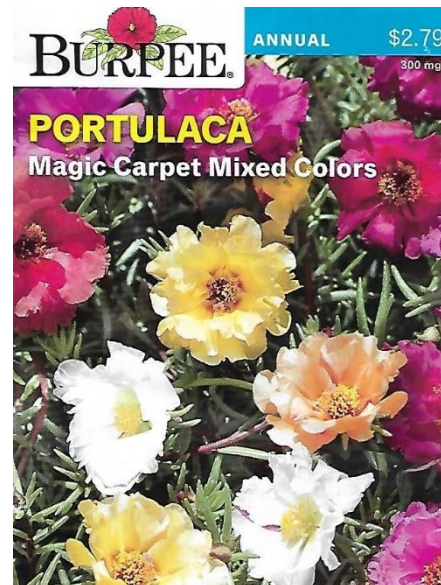
I use the containers from roasted chickens your get in the grocery store as a mini green house for starting seeds. For seeds that are large such as nasturtiums, moon flowers or morning glories; take a nail file, nail clipper or small piece of sandpaper to rub the outside of seed coating to help moisture to enter the seed easily for germination. For small or fine seed sprinkle over the growing medium and cover lightly. Gentle sprinkle with water. Keep in a warm, sunny place. Be sure the soon to sprout seedling do not dry out.

Seeds can also be planted in small peat pots or small plastic pots. Peat pots are readily available at the home centers or nurseries. Make sure your pots, if they are plastic and have been used previously, are cleaned well with soap and hot water and rinsed thoroughly. Remember to label the pots or flats with the name of the plant and date.

I start planting seeds around the end of March for garden planting after Mother's Day in May. My seeds are started indoors in a sunny and warm location. Keep moist by lightly watering, a spray bottle of water set at a fine mist can be used.

ROOTING CUTTINGS

I have a lot of house plants and I over winter geraniums. I have tremendous success in propagating geraniums, hydrangeas and African Violets to name a few. The best product I have found to root cuttings is Olivia's Cloning gel (available directly online or Amazon. It comes in 2,4- and 8-ounce sizes. The small one will go a long way.



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Cut your cuttings with enough stem length so you can dip them into the cloning gel. I use the same potting mix that I use for starting seeds. Recycled yogurt containers to hold the cuttings. Keep plant medium moist and drill holes in the bottom of the containers to drain excess water.

MEMBERS' VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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. These were well received by WHS new executive director (ED), Doug Shipman.

In the Fall, Laurie Durant updated the WHS planters to a Winter theme.



CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

With a change of membership year to extend 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 received the benefit of meetings and speakers, the renewal membership deadline for 2020-2021 had been extended to December 1st for inclusion in the WGC member booklet. Diane Bernier will produce the membership booklet for distribution.

Additionally, the Executive Committee met in January 2021 and the cycle of the Garden Club meeting schedule will change 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.

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, and new memberships remain available for 2021. As always, 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

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

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.

Word and 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; liebabernstein@sbcglobal.net

Corresponding Secretary: Dave Stender; davidfstender@gmail.com

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

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Message from the Editor

Hello friends!

First, I like to thank all those that contribute to the Earthworm Newsletter, your efforts are what makes our little newsletter so good.

On this sunny and cold winter day I look out and see everything covered in a blanket of snow. Allison's snowman reminds me of exactly what season we are in. Animal paw prints abound, mostly from a nearby neighbor's cat. Missing are any woodchuck paw prints. These guys are probably safe asleep somewhere dreaming of the upcoming springs salads.



Courtesy of Allison Joanis

All Laurie's garden is also awaiting the spring as I am sure yours are as well. Spring is still many weeks away, but I do look forward to it. I don't know about you but I have gone through the worst election cycle in my memory, we have had to endure the Covid pandemic, missing our time with our family and friends, using face masks (please do) and the constant worry about getting the Covid. Please get your vaccination when your turn comes! I pray that the coming spring all this will be behind us as we go about our gardens. Stay well and healthy.

Kind regards, Jim

With all the uncertainties we are all feeling nature endures and so will we. - [Patty Crowley](#)