

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019

The Windsor Garden Club



Est. 1937

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB. ONE OF CONNECTICUT'S OLDEST GARDEN CLUBS CELEBRATING 82 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS EXISTENCE.

WORDS FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Fall has flown quickly by and we're sure that like us, you have been working to tidy and close your garden beds, rearrange your shed/storage space, and bring some plants indoors for the winter season.

In this time of Thanksgiving:

- ❖ *Our thanks to Flo Barlow and Maureen Vagnini for the excellent fall programs - opening the year at John O'Brien's Nursery, Karen Bussolini's exhibit of interesting plants and garden space, and creating Thanksgiving centerpieces with Jordan Florist.*
- ❖ *Thank you to Lois Kelly for mailing the Earthworm to members without email accounts.*
- ❖ *Thanks to the Club members who assisted with promoting membership at the Lions Club's Fall Arts & Crafts Fair.*
- ❖ *We know you join us in welcoming new members Gladys Cyr, Carolyn Naboian, and Susan Narog.*

We look forward to seeing you at any or all of the three December WGC activities, and then for Soup Talk on February 10.

Please contact us with your feedback on any aspect of the club. We encourage you to:

- *Think about leadership positions - on the Executive Board, as committee chairs, or taking on other responsibilities. You are welcome to discuss with us or with Diane Bernier, Nominations Chair.*
- *Identify potential beautification projects, homes with beautiful gardens for the 2021 Garden Tour, and member candidates.*
- *Suggest future programs, speakers, and outings.*
- *Share your thoughts on the communication changes - the monthly emails, phone calls, and quarterly Earthworm.*

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Co-Presidents - Debbie Baker and Patty Crowley

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019

FALL MEETINGS

The September meeting was held at John O'Brien's Hosta & Shade Plant Gardens in Granby on Monday, September 9th.

September 9th - JOHN O'BRIEN, the Hosta Man, is New England's premier Hosta nurseryman. His extensive display features over 1600 Hosta varieties as well as other shady characters including Asarums, Pulmonarias and other numerous shade plants. The gardens also include a wide variety of unusual Dwarf Conifers and a hundred types of Japanese Maples. Customers arrive thinking they will make a quick visit and end up spending hours exploring his gardens gathering special plants for their gardens.



WGC members listening to John O'Brien's informative discussion on Hostas and Hydrangeas.

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019

October 21st - KAREN BUSSOLINI is a widely-published garden photographer, speaker, writer, NOFA-Accredited Organic Land Care Professional and eco-friendly garden coach. Karen has been a gardener as long as she can remember.

At our meeting night, we learned some new things about native plants and the invasive plants that threaten them from our speaker Karen Bussolini. Her experience as an eco-friendly garden coach and garden photographer helped to remind us to thoughtfully choose and care for the plants in our landscapes and yards so that we can help to create diverse, complex ecosystems that support local birds and helpful insects all year long.



She trained as a painter and had a career as an architectural photographer before turning her attention entirely to gardens. Her work explored the many ways gardening connects us to our place on earth and to each other.

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019

November 18th - KAREN JORDAN of Jordan Florist worked with WGC members and guests to create Thanksgiving Centerpieces. Karen and her assistant Hannah provided a fun filled evening designing a Thanksgiving Centerpiece with pumpkins and fresh autumn flowers. The photos show our members making the own center pieces for their homes. A good time was had by all!



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Cindy Daniels wins First Place flower arrangement of summer flowers: coreopsis, zinnias, cosmos and scarlet runner bean at the Country Fair at Northwest Park.

Congrats, Cindy!!



Cindy Daniels first place flower arrangement

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019

Windsor Chili Challenge and Craft Show

WGC members staffed a booth, offering important information on Invasive Plants, as well as promoting membership during the Windsor Annual Chili Challenge and Craft Fair held on Saturday September 21st on the Town Green.



Flo Barlow, Maureen Vagnini discussing invasive plants.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wreath Making, Monday, December 2nd - The December 2nd meeting at LP Wilson is a member-only meeting, during which Club members construct holiday wreaths to distribute to local civic and nonprofit organizations, brightening their holiday season. Pre-made fresh evergreen wreaths are enhanced with personal touches of pine cones, dried flowers, and other holiday décor. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM at the LP Wilson Senior Center.

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019



Last year's wreath makers with their finished wreaths!

Holiday Lunch, Sunday, December 8th – The WGC's annual Holiday lunch is set at 12 noon at San Marino Restaurant, 35 Poquonock Ave, Windsor. A buffet lunch including chicken, fish, and pasta, tea/coffee and dessert has been arranged for \$30 including tip. If interested in attending and you have not already registered, contact Diane Bernier at 860-219-1419 or dmsbernier@gmail.com.

Garden Barn in Vernon, Saturday, December 14th – A visit to the Garden Barn to see their holiday display, followed by lunch at the Vernon Diner. We will meet at LP Wilson at 10:30 to carpool. Please contact Maureen Vagnini, maureenvagnini@gmail.com, 860-688-6753, or Flo Barlow flobar744@att.net, 860-688-2486, if interested.

There is no Club meeting in January.

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019

Soup Talk, Monday, February 10th

Warm soup and good company heat up this special informational garden meeting. Whether you are a first-time or experienced gardener, you will learn something new from our fellow WGC members. Bring a favorite homemade soup, bread, or dessert to share, along with serving utensils, hot pads, and extension cords.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Many interesting Speakers, including author and gardener Tovah Martin and Windsor's own Tree Warden, James Govoni, are scheduled for next year. Be sure to make a note in your calendar with these dates are announced.

MARCH 9TH

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc., is an educational, charitable nonprofit organization made up of 6,400 members in 122 clubs plus 26 affiliate organizations. We are one of 13 charter members of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., which was organized in 1929.

National Garden Clubs, Inc., is a service organization dedicated to the development of gardening, the betterment and beautification of the community and the exchange of ideas. It is the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world, comprising nearly a quarter of a million members from every state in the Union as well as national and international affiliates.

As garden clubs have grown in Connecticut, The Federation has continued its interests by making an impact in civic development, environmental

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019

concerns/conservation, garden therapy, historic and memorial and public gardens, horticulture, legislative/government action, public relations, scholarships and youth activities. It sponsors the annual Connecticut Flower and Garden Show in Hartford each February and runs NGC Gardening, Landscape Design, Flower Show and Environmental schools each year for the continuing education and benefit of its members as well as the public.

APRIL 13TH

Jim Govoni, Tree Warden, Windsor, CT Jim Govoni has been the Municipal Forester and Tree Warden for the Town of Windsor, CT for 34 years and is presently serving his third term as President of the Tree Wardens Association of CT. He was also a member of the State Vegetative Management Task Force, has attended the Meswaka Tree Program and Coverts Project at Sam Yankee Forest and is a Councilman for the Town of Windsor. Jim will be speaking to us tonight about a program that he and Tom Hazel initiated in the town of Windsor to identify trees that are stressed, to try to treat them or to have them removed for the safety of our residents.

GARDEN MART

Preparation for Spring 2020 sale. It's not too soon to be thinking about the spring 2020 Garden Mart. As we clean up our gardens this fall, think about potting up some of your "extra" plants that will hold over this winter, or mark them for digging up in the spring. Keep or collect small, medium, and large pots for your use or to share with other WGC members.

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019

MEMBERS' VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Windsor Historical Society Gardens

Whether on the committee or not, you are welcome to join fellow WGC members in herb garden clean-ups at the Windsor Historical Society. Contact committee chair Laurie Durant at meow06095@aol.com if you are not already signed up and are interested in helping out. Final cleanup was in October, but if you miss this year's cleanup next spring is really not that far away.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Club membership is open to anyone who has an interest in plants, landscaping, and other related topics.

Annual membership dues are \$20.00 for an individual and \$35.00 for a family. Renewal memberships are typically due June 1st while new memberships are accepted at any time. The current membership application form is available on the Club's website. www.windsorgardenclubct.org

Business meetings are typically held at the Windsor Senior Center, 599 Matianuck Avenue in Windsor.

Meetings during September, October, November, March and April feature guest speakers. 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.

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019

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)

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Our Garden Club has an excellent reputation for annually supporting a scholarship for a graduating Windsor senior pursuing a college degree in environmental or life sciences. The remarkable efforts and commitment of WGC members make this award possible. For 2020, our scholarship award has been increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for one-year only. Thanks to all members for successful Club events that enable this annual scholarship award and other civic endeavors.

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019

WGC CONTACT INFORMATION

Co-Presidents: Debbie Baker; deborah846@comcast.net; & Patty Crowley; prcrow4@aol.com

Co-Vice Presidents: Florence Barlow; flobar744@att.net & Maureen Vagnini; maureenvagnini@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Laurie Durant; meow06095@aol.com

Treasurer: Lieba Bernstein; liebaberstein@sbcglobal.net

Corresponding Secretary: Erin Bourdon; ezbourdon@gmail.com

Immediate Past President: Diane Bernier; dmsbernier@gmail.com

The Earthworm Editor: Jim Durant; jhutan6@gmail.com

Facebook – Allison Joanis; allison.joanis@gmail.com & Debbie Baker

Website – Debbie Baker & Allison Joanis

Follow the Windsor Garden Club



 @WindsorCTGardenClub  @WindsorCTGardenClub

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019

Message from the Editor

Dear Friends,

As I sit here writing this, I am looking out my window onto my wife's garden. Her flowering plants have died back leaving behind their dried leaves and stems. The tree leaves have fallen and have been raked up. The seasons has turned and the winter season is upon us. We now go inside and prepare for the long winter. Now is the time for us to put away our tools and clean-up our garden sheds, tied down our plant covers, bring the indoor plants in and close all the windows.

It is time for us to give thanks for what we have and be with our family and friends in the warmth our homes and wait until the next spring arrives. Remember the wheel of seasons never stops turning and the next season always comes.

One of the reasons I have stayed here in New England is the four seasons, each with its own promise. These promises are mostly the same and yet always new and different. As winter steals the green from our gardens, we can remember to look forward to the renewal of spring.

In these worrying times we should remember that our flowers don't care who waters them they just wish to be watered and care for. If we do that, they will reward us soon with their beauty. Maybe that should be enough.

Be healthy and have a good holiday season.

Best Regards – Jim

*To Touch the Earth is to have Harmony with Nature.
Oglala Sioux*

THE EARTHWORM

WINTER 2019



The Windsor Garden Club presents

Tovah Martin

"Because everyone yearns to play in the dirt..."



*Nationally recognized horticulturist, Author
& Lecturer*

Visit her at tovahmartin.com

*The program will be at L. P. Wilson
Community Center*

599 Matianuck Avenue, Windsor, Ct.

April 20, 2020

5:30-6:30 – Social and light supper

(\$ donations accepted for program and meal)

6:30 -7:30 Tovah Martin's presentation

Followed by a Teacup Raffle, Book Sale and signing
Windsorgardenclubct.org for registration and information