



# THE EARTHWORM



JUNE 2022



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

## In Bloom

*Our Gardens This Spring*



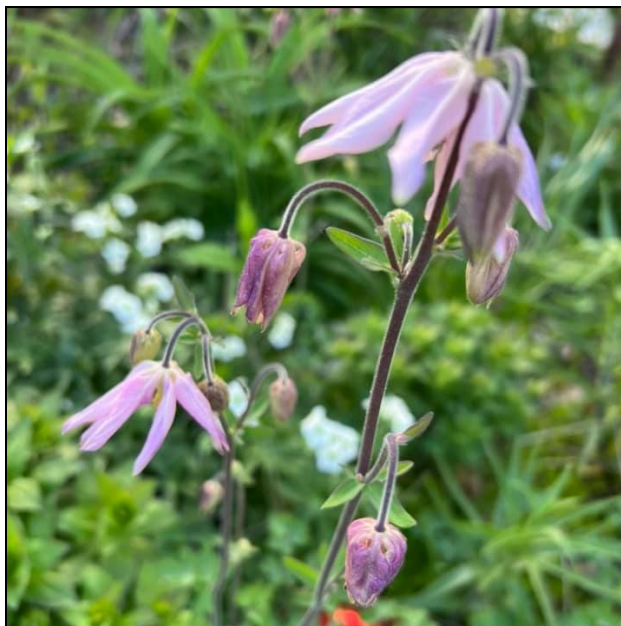
*Catmint and chives in the garden of Cindy Daniels.*



*Mr. Lincoln roses in the garden of Tom Graywacz.*



*Left, irises in the garden of Joanne Miller.  
Right, peonies from the garden of Allison Joanis.*



*Columbine in the garden of Valerie Allgrove.*

## June 2022 President's Message

This is one of the best times of the year to be a gardener and be out in the yard. So many flowers and trees are in bloom and I know my spirits are lifted and I sleep better after spending some hours outdoors.

Since our last newsletter issue much has happened: we continue to welcome new members, host great monthly meetings, including our large-scale speaker event in April with over 70 people in attendance, and ran a successful spring garden mart on the town green (despite mother nature's insistence that it wasn't quite spring outside!).

As we transition into our summertime months and backyard meetings hosted by club members, I look forward to our annual scholarship award and resuming the in-person camaraderie when people with similar interests with 'one or two green thumbs' get together and have some fun.

See you in the garden.

**David Stender**  
**Windsor Garden Club President 2022**

The Windsor Garden Club



**Est. 1937**



*Azalea and Clematis from President Dave's garden on Preston Street.*

## Monthly Meeting Recap

By Allison Joanis, Co-Vice President

### Dr. Steven D. Cohen—The Art of Bonsai

March Meeting—March 14, 2022

Our first speaker in nearly two years, our March meeting taught us all about Bonsai trees.

Guest speaker, Dr. Steven Cohen, retired Professor of Toxicology, and Bonsai tree enthusiast joined us to share his passion for these miniature trees and shrubs.

Dr. Cohen's collection includes more than 45 plants, a collection that has grown since he began his Bonsai journey more than three decades ago. During his presentation, he shared the art and tradition of pruning, training and caring for his potted plants. He brought along many specimens, some small as expected, but others about two feet tall. He also brought soil samples and a few of his favorite tools to share, and while those ingredients are important to the art of Bonsai, Dr. Cohen said the most important thing you need is patience. "Be flexible and always remember, less is more," he said.

If you missed Dr. Cohen's presentation, you can watch it on the [Win-TV YouTube page](#).

*Photos right: Dr. Steve Cohen educates Windsor Garden Club members on the "Art of Bonsai, during the March meeting.*



### Tovah Martin—Gardening As if the World Depends on Us

April Meeting—April 11, 2022

We can all say, "finally," on this one! Two years after we initially scheduled Tovah Martin, Connecticut-based horticulturist and author, she arrived at our April 2022 meeting. Unlike our typical meetings, we opened up and strongly encouraged non-members to attend for a fee and had a great turnout with more than 60 guests in attendance.

Our club volunteers transformed the senior center into a lovely lecture space, complete with Windsor Garden Club colors and pansies on display.

Adding a little WGC flair, Alice Lang (left), one of our longest-standing members, provided an introduction that shared some of the wonderful history of our town, our club, and the land that L.P. Wilson and the surrounding neighborhoods occupy.

Tovah's lecture, *Gardening As if the World Depends on Us*, included a slide presentation featuring photos of her Washington, Conn. Garden along with gardens belonging to her friends and neighbors. Each photo told a small story which led Tovah to her suggestions about how we, as gardeners and landscapers, can do small things to help "rescue the



world.” Some of her suggestions included encouraging perennial gardens to grow in thick to choke out invasive and pesky weeds, planting for pollinators and birds, incorporating native plants and shrubs and more gardens, fewer lawns!

The event included the opportunity for a book signing and visiting with Tovah.

The WGC additionally held a fundraising raffle which was a great success, raising \$347 towards the speaker fee. With the raffle profit and ticket sales, we just about covered the total cost of the event, coming in shy of \$85, which we considered to be a win.

A special thanks to the committee who helped to organize this event, and all of the volunteers for their assistance with set up, clean up, and hospitality.



Photos: (Page 3, top) Book display of books authored by Tovah Martin. (Page 3, bottom,) WGC member, Alice Lang provided opening comments and an introduction to Tovah. (Above) Event attendees view items at the raffle. (Above left) Volunteers Barbara Kyer, Gladys Cyr, Flo Barlow and Margaret Taff, at the check-in table. (Above center) Kathleen Grant and Maureen Vagnini selling raffle tickets. (Above right) Tovah Martin signs books and greets event guests.

## Annual Plant Swap and Garden Mart Planning

May Meeting—May 2, 2022

As it is each year, our May meeting is about ensuring we are planned and ready for the upcoming Garden Mart and even more important and exciting to us, the plant exchange.

With a signup sheet, we confirmed we had the people, tables and tents for the Garden Mart and reminded everyone about when and where to drop their donated plants.

Following that planning and the regular business meeting where items discussed included updates, you will find elsewhere in this newsletter—updated budgets, a 2023 Garden Tour update, and other upcoming events.

Following the business meeting, we exchanged plants. If you brought a plant, you got a plant, and as a change to previous years, prior to exchanging, each plant donator shared the name of their plant, and what its basic care requirements are. This was a great way to initiate conversations and share knowledge about the things we all love best—plants!



### Civic Endeavors

By Debbie Baker, Civic Endeavor Chair

#### Windsor Public Library Plant Cutting Workshop –

On Thursday, April 14, four WGC members participated in this collaborative session. Laurie Durant gave an overview of working with her indoor plants, with a focus on cuttings and rootings—different processes for different plants. Helen Davenport, Debbie Baker, and Allison Joanis were on hand for conversation, assistance in transplanting rooted cuttings, with about 10 Windsor community members involved in the session. This was a great recruitment and promotion opportunity—one new member joined, and several attended the spring Garden Mart, purchasing or donating plants. We appreciate WPL’s outreach and partnership!



(Right) Laurie Durant, left, explains house plant propagation to a community member at the WPL Plant Cutting Workshop

**Windsor Historical Society** – Laurie and Jim Durant continue to update the entry planters seasonally, providing bright cheer at all times of year. The historic garden beds on the north side of the Strong-Howard House were designed to include plants that would have been in 1810 gardens (the designated time period of the historic home), creating beauty for people to enjoy and greeting all who pass by or enter from the main sidewalk. The project’s goal of a full cycle of seasonal blooms and greens is almost complete and we’re excited to see this garden continue to develop as the plants grow and multiply over the coming months and years.

Our April crew spent considerable time intensively weeding with a second May session to complete the first round of weeding. There is much satisfaction and delight in seeing the vast change in the before and after, complemented by additional spring plants added during both visits. Bricks were also been temporarily set in place to help “contain” the garden soil from overflowing onto the brick pathway. Many thanks to the team: Flo Barlow, Margaret Taff, Lea Chayes, Susan Joanis, Allison Joanis, Debbie Baker, Maureen Vagnini, Diane Cecere, Suzanne Urban. **If you’d like to help maintain these beds, please contact Debbie Baker at [deborah846@comcast.net](mailto:deborah846@comcast.net) or 860-280-7277. The following Saturday dates have been set: July 30 8:30 am; September 17, 9 am; October 29 9:30 am.**



Front entrance to the Windsor Historical Society



Side entrance to the Strong-Howard House

## Earth Day at Poquonock School

By Diane Bernier

On April 21 Diane Bernier and Laurie Durant went to Poquonock School in Windsor to teach students about Earth Day and to plant seeds. There were 18 classes ranging from kindergarten to second grade that came in 15 minute intervals to hear about the first Earth Day and why it was created and the outcome that took place over these last 52 years, especially legislation concerning the environment. The classes received handouts for the teachers to copy and distribute to students and a book for their classroom concerning conservation and care for our earth.



Young gardeners paid attention to Master Gardener Diane Bernier explaining how to plant seeds. (Right) Newly prepared seed cups (left).

They then each received a grow pot with seed starting soil and seeds for each student to take back to their classroom to germinate and take home or contribute to the pollinator garden at the school. One student named Noah created a song for Earth Day and sang it for the class. It was the highlight of our day.

## Spring Garden Mart 2022

By Dave Stender, President

We should have sold kites and hot chocolate this year! I can safely say we are all happy that it did not rain for the 2022 Spring Garden Mart. We didn't quite sell out as we did in 2021 but with the efforts of those club members who donated plants, tables, tents, and garden equipment. We also ran a kid's planting station (thanks to Debbie), and for those that volunteered time to work the event (special shout out to those who worked the entire day—you rock! Our collective efforts made for a great event that raised almost \$1,200 for our club's civic and educational efforts this year.

Thank you garden club members for a great spring garden mart. Mark your calendars and plan your plant donations now: the Fall Garden Mart is scheduled for Saturday, October 8, 2022, on the Town Green.



Here we are behind the eagle!



Debbie Baker running the pansy potting table.



Wendy Mitchell and Alice Lang bundled up at the cash table.

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## The 2023 Garden Tour – What You Need to Know and How You Can Help

By Thomas Graywacz, Garden Tour Chair

As we start to notice our gardens come to life, it reminds me that it's time to begin our planning for next Windsor Garden Tour. **The date is set for July 15, 2023.**

I have again accepted the chairmanship of the 2023 WGC Tour and would like to begin the planning. The first step is to form a committee. If you have not already signed up to be on the 2023 Garden Tour Committee and are interested or you know someone who is interested in helping to plan the event, please contact me at the email shared below.

We are also looking for host gardens for the tour. We need eight in total and would love to have a few of those gardens belong to our members. While it is a lot of work, it's incredibly rewarding and I think you will hear from members who have hosted that it was worth it.

If you would like to be a host or know someone who is interested, email me at the email shared below.

**If you have any questions or would like to participate in any of the above, email [thomasgraywacz@gmail.com](mailto:thomasgraywacz@gmail.com).**

Typically our meetings run 1.5 hours and will cover everything in planning, from publicity to host hospitality. As a member of the committee, you will have the opportunity to sign up for specific tasks that interest you. Our first committee meeting was held on June 9 at my home, but if you would like to still join the committee, please let me know.

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## Financial Corner

By Dave Stender, President and Margaret Taff, Treasurer

So how many dollars does it take to run our club? What do we spend money on and what is our revenue?

The 2022 budget approved by the executive board in January 2022 includes:

- Total budgeted expenses of \$6,095
- Total budgeted revenues of \$5,650

Our largest expenses include: our scholarship (budgeted for \$1,250 in 2022); programs (\$800); insurance (\$500); website hosting (\$530); civic endeavors (\$575); our holiday wreath program (\$425); our membership booklet (\$300). And several items round out the budget around \$100-\$200: (Earthworm \$165); Executive Board (stamps, cards, misc. \$150); hospitality (\$100); membership outreach (\$265); our PO box rental (\$100).

Our main revenues come from annual dues (budgeted at \$1,050); two garden marts (spring and fall combined at \$2,200); paid tickets for the April speaker (budgeted at \$1,500). As of today, we are about \$100 short of our membership goal, we lost about \$100 at the April speaker event and our spring garden mart pulled in just under \$1,200 (about \$500 less than spring of 2021). Overall, we are in okay financial shape as this year we are expected to spend more than we take in as we do not run our garden tour this year (which typically brings in several thousand).

If you ever have a question about the budget, feel free to speak to Treasurer Margaret or President Dave.

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## Windsor Monarch Fest

By Jim Durant, Earthworm Editor

WGC member Suzanne Urban is working with Windsor's First Town Downtown and Windsor Monarch Club, Windsor Monarch Fest, taking place July 9th. The highlight of the Monarch Fest is the Upcycled Planter Challenge.

Thirty-eight talented gardeners, artists and artisans and crafters creating one-of-a-kind planters that will be displayed all around the green from July 9th to July 22nd. Many Windsor Garden Club members are participating, creating planters and volunteering for the event.

For more information please click on the link below. <https://www.firsttowndowntown.org/programs/the-windsor-monarch-project/sponsor-the-2022-upcycled-pollinator-planter-chall/>



**Windsor Monarch Fest**

Save the Date!

**JULY 9TH 2022 10-3pm**

**BROAD STREET**

**WINDSOR CENTER**

**WINDSOR CT**

**RAIN DATE SUNDAY JULY 10**

*A unique, earth-friendly green event!*

*featuring The Monarch Market, Mural Painting, Electric Vehicle Show, Live Music, Paint Party Upcycled Planter Challenge and MORE!!*

# Welcome New Members!



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## Welcome New(er) Club Members

The club welcomes 11 members who have recently joined:

Monica B.	Becky H.
Lisa B.	Linda M.
Jennifer C. and Eloise	Willa N.
Clarice C.	Pat O.
Linda D.	Danah S-B.
Sharon G.	Brad S.
	Auralee E.

### 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!

### 2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President:** Dave Stender; davidfstender@gmail.com

**Co-Vice Presidents:** Allison Joanis & Susan Joanis;

Allison.joanis@gmail.com & suzjo815@yahoo.com

**Recording Secretary:** OPEN POSITION

**Treasurer:** Margaret Taff; mmtaff@mindspring.com

Recording Secretary: Diane Bernier;

dmsbernier@gmail.com

**Corresponding Secretary:** Maureen Vagnini;

maureenvagnini@gmail.com

**The Earthworm Editor:** Jim Durant;

jhutan6@gmail.com

**Publicity & Communications & Facebook:** Debbie

Baker & Allison Joanis; deborah846@comcast.net

# Upcoming Events

**June 21, 2022**

**Windsor Conservation Commission and  
WGC combined event - VIRTUAL**

*Dr. DeWei Li from the Connecticut Agricultural  
Station will talk about backyard composting.*

<https://townofwindsorct.com/conservation-commission/>

**July 9, 2022**

**Windsor Monarch Fest**

*Broad Street (Windsor Center), Windsor, CT*

*See flyer for details*

**July 11, 2022**

**Summer Meeting, 6:30 pm**

*At the home of Joanne Miller*

*31 Eastview Drive, Windsor, CT*

**August 11, 2022**

**Summer Meeting, 6 pm**

*At the home of Victor and Lieba Bernstein*

*42 Orchard Road, Windsor, CT*

**September 12, 2022**

**Monthly Meeting, 6 pm**

**ALTERNATE LOCATION**

*135 Lang Road*

*(CT Valley Tobacco Museum/Northwest Park)*

*Windsor, CT*

*CTVTM – President Jim Daniels and Board Member,  
Duane Adams will provide a tour and a talk about the  
museum and the tobacco culture of Windsor and  
surrounding towns.*

*WCG business meeting to follow.*