

THE EARTHWORM

SEPTEMBER 2022



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

# A Look Back: Tales of Our Garden Tour Past

By Patty Crowley, WGC Historian

Tom Graywacz, Committee Chair for the 2023 Garden Tours, has already begun planning for our next tour. I thought members would enjoy some history on our garden tours throughout the years.

The first Windsor Garden Club tour was in 2008. Tom Graywacz was president of the club at that time and instrumental in starting this financially profitable annual fundraiser for the club. In the beginning, the tours were co-sponsored by Windsor Garden Club and Windsor Historical Society. Tours were yearly until 2017, and have been every other year since then.

Enjoy a walk down our memory garden path.

You may visit the gardens in any order. The gardens are listed from south end of Windsor and moving north.

**11 Wilton Road Club President Tom Graywacz**  
 Seven years in the making, our gardens are adorned with numerous plantings of trees and shrubs creating our own mini bird sanctuary. Numerous varieties of conifers, deciduous, and evergreen shrubs set the garden stage. With over fifty young specimens showcased throughout, the bones of my gardens are well under way. Well positioned raised beds, overflowing with annuals and perennials provide three-season color and four-season interest. Among the trees, shrubs, and colorful flowers are bird baths, bird houses, and trellises. Garden art is crafted of all-natural materials including stone, steel, iron and wood. Areas of both sun and shade provide conditions for a wide variety of plantings from hostas to roses. We welcome your visit. The beauty of this garden is non stop.



Rear yard in full bloom



Garage side garden is Tom's pride



Tom built special wood trellises placed against the garage - now covered with morning glories

**Save the Date!**

The 2023 WGC Garden Tour is scheduled for July 15, 2023

*cacorockpaper*

Tom Graywacz, who played a large role in the inception of the WGC Garden Tour, has appeared on many tours. Here he is in his garden at the first tour in 2008. His gardens today are as beautiful as they were 14 years ago!

## September 2022 President's Message

The leaves are falling onto my backyard in mid-August as I write this note. This may be happening thanks to our cooler nights (and due to our dry summer this year!). As we head full steam into autumn, we have much to be thankful for the past few months and much to look forward to as we end our 2022 program year. Over the summer months we have welcomed new members into the club and enjoyed great fellowship in member's backyards. Thank you to our hosts to welcoming the club into your yard – what a special treat. I look forward to the return of our educational speakers at our monthly meetings as we transition into the fall with a slate of great speakers to close out the year. In October we will come together for our fall Garden Mart on the green among several other great event traditions.



See you in the garden!

David Stender

Windsor Garden Club President 2022

### Membership Update

Over the summer, the WGC has welcomed the following new members:

**Jim G.**

**Heather M.**

**David M.**

**Art M.**

Please say hello at a future meeting or event and introduce yourself.



### 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!



## Helen Davenport Windsor Garden Club – Gardener of Interest

By Laurie Durant



When you approach Helen and Tom’s house on Plymouth Drive, you immediately realize that this is not your run-of-the-mill suburban garden. Helen Davenport is a long time Windsor resident, living in Windsor for 30-plus years. She has partnered her talent as both a mixed media artist with gardening. Tom, her husband, also is a talented watercolorist. They are avid travelers, having recently returned from Costa Rica, but also enjoy the New England Sea Coast and many parks.

Their garden is packed with perennial plants and Helen’s garden art. The garden is constantly changing; Helen says the garden speaks to her on the placement of both her garden art and plants. The art and plant placement are magically quirky and an escape from the outside crazy world to a land where fairies’ dwell.

Helen, who is also a talented stained glass artist, is always looking for objects to incorporate into her garden art. Vintage China plates and crystal, seashells, or any object that pleases her palate can be found here. A visit shows her art is paired to her plantings with perfection. The garden is a collection of perennial plants, shrubs and trees. A brief list of the many plantings are Red Bud Tree, Hydrangeas, Hostas, False Sunflower, Red Lupine, and Cardinal Flower. All nicely placed along the different garden pathways throughout the property and doesn’t require everyday care.

She is one of the many gems in our garden club, superb artist and gardener Helen Davenport.



*Above—Repurposed tree stump in Helen’s yard. Right—Vintage China plant stakes, from a visit to the seashore.*



## Summer Monthly Meeting Recap

By Allison Joanis, WGC Co-Vice President

The summer social meetings provide us with the opportunity to connect in the places we love to see most – each other’s gardens!

In **June**, we were hosted at the garden of Ayse Ayril Adams on Tobey Avenue. During the meeting, we presented our award to the 2022 Windsor Garden Club Scholarship recipient, Shannon Douglas, who was accompanied by her mother, Lisa. Shannon will attend the University of Vermont in the fall, majoring in business sustainability and environmental science.



*Left to Right – Lisa Douglas, Shannon Douglas, WGC Scholarship recipient; Dave Stender, WGC President, and Cindy Daniels, WGC Scholarship Co-Chair.*

Our **July** meeting brought us to the gardens of Joanne Miller on Eastview Drive. Joanne and her husband, David, provided a show and tell of their beehives and Joanne shared the monarch eggs she’d found on her milkweed.

Victor and Lieba Bernstein hosted our **August** meeting on Orchard Road amidst a mid-summer heat wave. A good-sized group braved the heat and although Victor and Lieba have a lovely pool, no one went swimming!



*David Miller provides a show and tell of the Miller bees.*



*Garden club members chit-chat in the backyard and garden of Victor and Lieba Bernstein.*

See more photos at the end of the issue.



## Windsor Monarch Festival and Planter Challenge

By Allison Joanis, WGC Co-Vice President

The second Windsor Monarch Project Monarch Festival took place on the town green July 9.

During the event on the green, local, sustainable craftspeople, local earth-friendly town organizations, including the Windsor Garden Club helped to celebrate and educate the community about our pollinators.

The event host craft tables for children where Windsor Garden Club members, Ayse Aryal-Adams, Valerie Allgrove and Diane Bernier led art projects. Florence Barlow judged the children's costume parade and the WGC also hosted an informational booth where Lea Chayes, Joanne Miller, Patty Crowley, Dave Stender, Susan Joanis, and Allison Joanis shared local gardening, invasive plant and membership information.



*The Windsor Garden Club booth at the Windsor Monarch Fest, July 9, on the town green. Left to Right—Dave Stender, Allison Joanis, Flo Barlow, and Lea Chayes.*

Leading up to the Monarch Festival was the 2022 Upcycled Planter Challenge and “Chairy Orchard” display where community members, including more than 10 past and present Windsor Garden Club members sponsored or created planters using repurposed materials, chairs, and of course, plants.



During the month of July, the planters were on display on the green and around the center of town, and ultimately, they were up for auction. All auction proceeds went to the Windsor Monarch Project, which promotes pollinator garden projects and education around the Town of Windsor.

Thank you to WGC member and head of the Windsor Monarch Project, Suzanne Urban, for all of her hard work preparing and executing this event. The Windsor Monarch Project is a welcome effort to our community and we are a proud participant.

*Ayse Aryal Adams and her repurposed CD craft at the Windsor Monarch Fest.*

### WGC Chairy Orchard and Upcycled Planters \*Sponsors are included if they are affiliated with the WGC.



*Planter by Suzanne Urban*



*Planter by Dave Stender*



*Planter by Patty Crowley and Allison Joanis*





**Planter by Helen Davenport**  
Sponsored by the Windsor Garden Club



**Planter by Diane Bernier**



**Planter by Alvin Bingham**



**Planter by Lon Pelton**  
Sponsored by Jim & Laurie Durant



**Planter by Valerie Allgrove**  
Sponsored by Margaret Taff



**Planter by Ayse Ayril Adams**

## Fall Garden Mart 2022

By Dave Stender, WGC President

Mark your calendars, start planning what plants to contribute and let's get ready: the Fall Garden Mart is back. On Saturday October 8, 2022 on the town green the club will hold its fall version of the garden mart. Club members are asked to bring five potted plants from their yards and/or houseplants. The plant should be labeled. Please do NOT price the plant. Dave will print out a color photo of the plant (this helps the potential buyer know what the plant looks like while in bloom), please email him with the plant name or give him a ring on his cell phone (listed in the membership booklet). Please do not bring more than five pots of the same plant unless you've chatted with Dave. At our September meeting Dave will have pots available should you need some to pot up some of your babies. This event was first held in fall of 2020 and raised several hundred dollars. In October 2021, we raised nearly \$500. Club members will also be asked to volunteer time in helping run the event, with a sign up sheet available at the September meeting.



**WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB**

## 2022 FALL GARDEN MART

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8**  
**10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**  
**WINDSOR TOWN GREEN**  
**275 - 323 BROAD ST.**  
*(Behind the Eagle Monument)*

**SHOP A SELECTION OF:**  
- perennials  
- herbs  
- house plants

**LEARN MORE ABOUT US!**  
- ask about gardening  
- speakers & events  
- how to become a member

**FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES!**

@WINDSORCTGARDENCLUB  
 @WINDSORCTGARDENCLUB  
 WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG

*Event will be held rain or shine.*





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## Civic Endeavors

### Windsor Historical Society

By Debbie Baker, WCG Civic Endeavors Chair

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 remain incomplete as the battle against horsetail fern continues. Each visit has further reduced them, and we're always amazed at what a difference 3-4 people make with concentrated effort while talking about all kinds of topics. The beds continue to evolve as they flower each season; we will need to purchase new plants to complete the original plan. It's been too hot and sticky to properly set the bricks that were put temporarily in place to help contain the garden soil from overflowing onto the brick pathway. Even so, the bricks have done their job.

Contact Debbie Baker at [dbaker.windsor@gmail.com](mailto:dbaker.windsor@gmail.com) or 860-280-7277 if you'd like to join the team; the next dates are September 17, 9 am and October 29, 9:30 a.m.



*WGC members tending the historic garden beds on the north side of the Strong-Howard House.*



*Blue Angelina & Bi-Color Rudbeckia.*

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## Club Government Document Updates

By Dave Stender, WGC President

This fall proposed changes are coming that club membership will have the opportunity to review and then ultimately vote on during a club monthly meeting. A committee of members is reviewing our club governing document with the goal to present proposed changes, review with club membership and answer any questions with the goal of a club vote at a subsequent monthly meeting. Most proposed changes will reflect our fairly recent change during the pandemic to our program year of January 1-December 31. (we used to operate from July 1-June 30). Our current governing document is available on our club website and was last updated March 2020.



## Financial Corner—Summer Treasurer's Report

By Margaret Taff, WGC Treasurer

Since we do not have formal meetings during the summer, this will provide an update on balances, income and expenses during June, July and the first half of August.

We began the month of June with a balance of \$10,971.69 and our account balance was \$9,482.20 as of August 15, 2022.

Income during the summer through mid-August totaled \$195, coming from additional (later) Garden Mart sales/donations, new memberships (one individual/ one family), and an advertisement bought by Woodland Gardens for the new WGC member booklet (\$50).

Expenses in the same time period were \$1,684.49. Most of that expense was a planned expense: the annual scholarship that we provide to a qualified graduating high school student from Windsor. This year's scholarship was \$1,250.00. Most of the other amounts went to Civic Endeavor/Beautification efforts and printing expenses (\$72 for plants at Wilson library, \$38.29 in plants to replace stolen plants at a prior project, and \$136.74 for printing invasive species flyers; \$136 for the membership booklet, and \$19 for the June Earthworm).

### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR 2022

**President:** Dave Stender; [davidfstender@gmail.com](mailto:davidfstender@gmail.com)

**Co-Vice Presidents:** Allison Joanis & Susan Joanis  
[Allison.joanis@gmail.com](mailto:Allison.joanis@gmail.com); [suzjo815@yahoo.com](mailto:suzjo815@yahoo.com)

**Recording Secretary:** OPEN POSITION !

**Treasurer:** Margaret Taff; [mmstaff@mindspring.com](mailto:mmstaff@mindspring.com)

**Recording Secretary:** Diane Bernier  
[dmsbernier@gmail.com](mailto:dmsbernier@gmail.com)

**Corresponding Secretary:** Maureen Vagnini;  
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**Publicity & Facebook & Website:** Allison Joanis & Debbie Baker; [dbaker.windsor@gmail.com](mailto:dbaker.windsor@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Events

#### October 1

*Windsor Climate Action  
Committee Sustainability  
Fair - Windsor Town  
Green  
11:00am – 4:00pm*

#### October 8

*Fall Garden Mart  
Windsor Town Green  
10:00am – 1:00pm*

#### October 10

*WGC Meeting  
Windsor Senior Center  
6:30pm  
Speaker – Karla Dalley  
“How to be a Lazy  
Gardener”*

#### November 14

*WGC Meeting – Windsor  
Senior Center – 6:30pm  
Speaker - Dr. Yonghao  
Li – “Pruning 101”*

#### November 28

*Holiday Wreath Making  
Windsor Senior Center  
6:30pm*

#### December TBD

*WGC Holiday Gathering*

#### December 1—11

*Wadsworth Atheneum  
Festival of Trees*