

THE EARTHWORM

SPRING 2020

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

Spring is coming soon. While we've been fortunate to have a relatively mild winter, it's played some havoc on our gardens. Birds have eaten our winter berries, hellebores started blossoming early, and snowdrops continue to bloom. We haven't seen the first crocuses or tulips popping through yet, and hope they stay under cover for another few weeks.

WGC members had an active winter. December found us making wreaths as part of our town beautification efforts, visiting the Vernon Garden Barn to see holiday displays, and lunching together before the holidays. Several members went to the Vernon Garden Club's January meeting to see the colorful photos of Azorean gardens visited in August. And Laurie Durant played game show host at our February Soup Talk meeting, where members discussed all types of garden interests while sharing delicious food.

We're back to business for spring, with bylaws, elections and several speakers in March and April. Garden Mart planning is also on our minds, as we prepare for May. Keep reading for more details!

Co-Presidents - Debbie Baker and Patty Crowley

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WINTER HAPPENINGS

WREATH MAKING



Members of the Windsor Garden Club brought their best bows and ribbons to the annual holiday wreath making event on Dec. 5, 2019.

Members tapped into their holiday creativity and crafting experience to decorate 16 wreaths and sprays that were pre-purchased from Woodland Gardens in Manchester. The festive

wreaths were then tagged and presented to non-profit and community organizations around town to spread holiday cheer and to thank these organizations for their year-long efforts to our community.

WINTER LUNCHEON

WGC members gather together for the Annual Holiday Luncheon at Windsor's San Marino's Italian Restaurant (now Windsor's Italian & Seafood Restaurant). The restaurant provided a delicious buffet. As can be seen, this gathering was well attended and provided a good way for WGC members to get to know one another better by sharing a meal and conversation.



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SOUP TALK



Soup was one of the highlights of the WGC's meeting on February 10th. Soup Talk was a very enjoyable evening. Patty Crowley brought a historical display from materials she's been gathering from WGC members over the past 18 months, giving a glimpse into the Club's past activities and processes. Laurie Durant closed the evening with a round-table Q&A that engaged members in imparting garden tips and sharing favorite gardens and garden centers to visit.

LOOKING AHEAD

NOMINATIONS FOR WGC OFFICERS

Nominations for WGC officers are underway. If you're interested in learning more about an officer or chair position, contact Diane Bernier, 860-219-1419 or dmsbernier@gmail.com. A slate will be announced at the March meeting, with a vote during the April meeting.

WGC BY LAWS

The last bylaws review/update was in 2013/2014. With a goal of ensuring bylaws and actual practice match, the Executive Board has spent several months reviewing and updating, including adding detailed information concerning positions, responsibilities, and timeline. Note that revised or added text is bolded and in **blue** to make it easy to see recommended changes.

One revision to the bylaws was suggested, and we have followed through by removing the contact name for the Junior Gardener Program at Poquonock School, using a title instead. If you have not yet reviewed the proposed bylaws revisions, please check our website (<http://windsorgardenclubct.org/abouttheclub/clubconstitution/>). We expect to vote on the bylaws at the March meeting; the revised bylaws would take effect on June 1, 2020.

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Please take the time to review the document between now and the March meeting, when it will be presented for a vote to approve. Between now and then, you are welcome to speak with any WGC officer about the revisions.

If you did not receive the January 27, 2020 email, did not pick up a printed copy at the February 9 meeting, or can't access the website, respond to this email and we'll directly email you or send a printed copy of the proposed bylaws revisions to you.

UPCOMING SPRING MEETINGS

Windsor Garden Club March Speaker & Business Meeting

On **March 9th**, the WGC will host the Federation Garden Clubs of CT. One of their key members will tell us more about their roles in fostering gardening in Connecticut. More than 122 clubs,



26 affiliates reflect 6,400 members make up the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. The Federated Garden Club is one of 13 charter members of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., which was organized in 1929. 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. 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.

WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB APRIL SPEAKER & MEETING

On **April 13th**, the WGC will host Jim Govoni who has been the Municipal Forester and Tree Warden for the Town of Windsor, CT for the past 34 years. 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 Culverts Project at Sam Yankee Forest, and is a Councilman for the Town of Windsor.

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The focus of his talk for the evening will be how Jim and Tom Hazel initiated a program to identify trees that are stressed, to try to treat them or to have them removed for the safety of Windsor residents.

The Slate of Officers will be voted on during the business segment of this meeting

WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB MAY MEETING

On May 4th, we will be finalizing Garden Mart plans, a short business meeting, and a plant swap amongst members prior to the weekend's Garden Mart. Whether for a special occasion or just because, it's always fun to add to your garden. Purchases support the Windsor Garden Club's efforts to provide community service through beautification projects.

BRING TOVAH TO THE WGC

On April 20th the Windsor Garden Club will host Tovah Martin. Tovah is a nationally recognized horticulturist, author and lecturer. This is expected to be a great evening. See message from the Bring Tovah to the WGC committee for details. Visitors asked to support the program with a \$10 donation.



GARDEN MART

The WGC Garden Mart is right around the corner on Saturday, May 9th on the Windsor Town Green. Members should start planning for their plant donations; whether you choose to plant seeds in the winter or pot plants as you begin spring garden clean-up once the weather is warmer.

All WGC members are asked to donate at least six plants to the event, in 4" or larger pots, or \$25. Perennials, herbs, spring vegetables, small bushes or trees all go very well. The annual Garden Mart is an important WGC fund raising activity.

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Many members have already signed up as volunteers and all are welcome to participate. Garden Mart Committee meetings will be held at 6 pm, Monday, March 9th and Monday, April 13th, in advance of the regular 6:30 pm meeting on those dates to prepare. If you would like to be involved, have questions or suggestions, please contact Patty Crowley or Debbie Baker.

SAGE PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL CAPE COD TRIP



Mark Yocius, Sage Park MS Science Teacher, with WGC Co-Presidents Debbie Baker and

Windsor Garden Club members donated to the 7th grade week-long field trip to Cape Cod, planned for late May 2020. Students earn this trip with good grades and behavior. Our support helps provide scholarship funding for qualified students who need financial assistance.

One of the planned experiences is visiting the flora and fauna of various Cape habitats including vernal pools, cedar swamps, tide pools, bay ecology, and the Dunes at Provinceland.

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POQUONOCK SCHOOL JUNIOR GARDEN PROGRAM

The Poquonock School Junior Garden Program has received a grant that was applied for in December. The grant will allow the purchase of booklets for all students to receive during our Earth Day seed planting as well as a book for each classroom. A purchase of a digital microscope is also planned so students can view various insects and plants.



Other activities the grant will support will be taking a bus trip to a CSA (Community Sustained Agriculture) and for a beekeeper to come to the school for an assembly for all the second-grade students. The grant will also help us buy garden tools as well as compost and other soil for our garden plots. We look forward to our program starting in April after the school vacation. If interested in helping please contact Diane Bernier, program chair.

WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

For 2020, the Windsor Garden Club is offering a one year \$1,500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior, who is a Windsor resident.

The student must plan to attend either a two or four-year college with the intention of pursuing studies in agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, herbal medicine, landscape design or architecture, forestry, environmental science, environmental engineering, or a similarly related study.

One of the Windsor Garden Club's goals is to award a scholarship each year to a deserving Windsor student. The scholarship is funded through the Club's annual sale of plants at its Garden Mart in May, and by our club Garden Tour, held every other year.

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Thanks to the many dedicated and hardworking club members, and to all the enthusiastic townspeople who attend our fundraisers and make this scholarship possible.

Additional information and applications may be obtained from the guidance departments of the following schools:

Windsor High School	CREC:
Loomis Chaffee School	Academy of Aerospace and Engineering
Northwest Catholic High School	Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts
Medina Academy	Academy of Science and Innovation Metropolitan Learning Center
	Public Safety Academy
	Two Rivers Magnet High School

Applications are also available on the Windsor Garden Club website: www.windsorgardenclubct.org

Deadline for receipt of applications is April 15, 2020; sent to,

The Windsor Garden Club

Scholarship Committee

Chairperson, Cindy Daniels

PO Box 233

Windsor, Ct.06095

OTHER EVENTS.

Upcoming non-WGC events that may be of interest to members:

- Elizabeth Park Garden Show, March 6-13: <https://elizabethparkct.org/garden-programs-copy>



MEMBERS' VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Nominations for WGC officers are underway. If you're interested in learning more about an officer or chair position, contact Diane Bernier, 860-219-1419 or dmsbernier@gmail.com. A slate will be announced at the March meeting, with an April vote.

Are you interested in hosting a summer-optional meeting? The dates are June 8, July 13 (host - Dave Stender), and August 10. It's great fun and we always enjoy seeing fellow WGC-member gardens. Please contact Debbie Baker, 860-280-7277 or deborah846@comcast.net for yourself or to suggest someone who has a great garden.

Co-President, Pat Crowley is the WGC historian. She is looking for any pictures, old editions of the Earthworm, news articles, old booklets or anything of interest about our Garden club you can bring it to a meeting or contact her directly.

The Gardens at the Windsor Historical Society will again need our support. If interested, please contact any member of the WHS Garden Committee or Committee Chair Laurie Durant to volunteer your support in helping to maintain the Windsor Historical Society Gardens this year.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership renewals begin soon. In addition, please think of friends, neighbors, and colleagues who enjoy flowers, plants, and gardening and encourage them to think about joining. The new form will be available on the website and at meetings beginning in April. Contact Barbara Stavens for more information. Club membership is open to anyone who has an interest in plants, landscaping, and other related topics.

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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.

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.

Members Garden Tips

This tip is contributed by Laurie Durant (meow06095@aol.com). She has been a long-time member of the WGC and has been growing orchids for over 10 years. At home, she takes care of over 24 different orchids.

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TIPS AND CARE OF INDOOR ORCHIDS

Cattleya Orchids



Cattleya Orchids

Native to the tropics of Asia and Australia.

Introduced into the US markets in the 1920's primary as a corsage orchid. Not as prevalent today, because it tends to be a large plant and usually blooms once a year.

I use a coarse pine bark as a potting medium. I also prefer using terracotta pots with drainage holes at bottom of pot.

Check weekly and let plant dry between watering, check by finger feel and when dry - water well. Water by soaking the bark in the pot and let drain. Do not allow them to sit in water. I use a diluted fish fertilizer mixed in the water about once every two weeks.

Loves bright light and direct sun in small doses, morning sun is best. In summer, take them outdoors in shaded area or you can place them indoors in window bright light. Orchids like temperatures between 50 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

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Phalaenopsis (Moth) Orchids.

Phalaenopsis or Moth Orchids are the orchids that are commonly seen in the local markets.



Native to Southeast Asia to the Philippines, New Guinea and northern Australia these orchids are rewarding plants that can bloom for weeks.

Plant in pine bark or sphagnum moss. I prefer pine bark or shredded bark. These orchids do not like drying out and should be checked weekly for moisture. Water once a week with warm water. Fertilize with fish fertilizer every other week.

Remember sphagnum moss holds moisture longer and may not require as frequent watering. The plants can be susceptible to root or stem rots, which usually occur because the growing

Phalaenopsis (Moth) Orchid medium is too soggy.

As with all orchids, the higher the humidity and temperature, the greater the need for airflow to prevent rot, fungus, and diseases. If necessary, I use indoor ceiling fans.

Loves bright indirect light but is intolerant to direct light or the leaves can be scorched. During their growing seasons they like temperatures between 75- and 85-degrees F but are adaptable to normal house temperatures of 65 to 70 degrees. They also like the contrast of cooler nights to bloom well.

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When your plant has finished blooming, cut off the bloom spikes at base of plant. Repot every 2 years and when it not blooming. When you get a brand-new orchid, do not repot for at least one month and only when plant is not in bloom.

Dendrobium Orchids.

The Dendrobium Orchids are one of the largest orchid groups. Native to Southeast Asia. In nature these orchids grown on other plants such as the tree branches. They have many long-



lasting blooms (sometimes fragrant) that cascade down the side of the plant.

I use a potting mix of coarse pine bark or shredded bark.

Plant in terracotta pot with bottom hole to allow for water drainage. I soak the orchid in water and allow to drain out. I water weekly and fertilize every 2 weeks using a mixture of warm water and fish emulsion.

Dendrobium's love bright light but not direct. They like warm daytime temperatures; indoor 68° F plus and above 60°F plus, during the night. These orchids like a room humidity of 50 to 70 percent (normal room humidity).

The long-lasting flowers on this orchid bloom off a cane like structure. When the blooms are done, cut off blooms. Do not cut off old or new canes as these canes can produce flowers and provide nutrients to the plant.

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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 & Alison Joanis

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Message from the Bring Tovah Martin to WGC

Dear Garden Club Friends,

Nationally recognized Horticulturist, Author & Lecturer Tovah Martin will be with us to celebrate a "Thank you" to our Club Members! Plan to come out, bring a friend and enjoy this funny, knowledgeable presenter!

Tovah's visit on 4/20/2020 will be held at the LP Wilson Center. From 5:30-6:30pm there will be a light supper and a raffle of lovely themed baskets.

Tovah's presentation will be from 6:30-7:30pm and will be followed by book signings and drawing of raffle winners.

All Windsor Garden Club Members are cordially invited to attend free of charge. Donation for food and purchase of raffle tickets appreciated.

Sincerely,

The Committee to Bring Tovah Martin to WGC

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Message from the Editor

Hello friends!

As I write this it seems that we just got through the coldest part of the winter yet. Mother nature is tough....one day it sunny and warm, the next day the Arctic Express rolls in. Let's hope that groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, is right about spring being around the corner.

I also hope he stays in Gobbler's Knob. Regardless of the groundhog's weather predicting abilities they will turn your garden into their private salad bar. Any tips on handling these beasties would be appreciated.

I would like to add a new (or not so new as might have it) section in the Earthworm for WGC member garden tips. At the last meeting there were so many members offering garden tips, it was hard to write them all down. I thought it would be both nice and informative if the members send me their garden tips to be include in the Earthworm. They don't have to be long and I will include them in upcoming editions of the Earthworm. As you might have noticed I got my wife to do the first one.

We have many interesting 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 and/or Debbie Baker or Pat Crowley or any other WGC Contacts listed above.

Think Spring!! - Jim

I love the smell of rain and growing things."

— Serina Hernandez