



# THE EARTHWORM



SPRING 2024



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB.  
ONE OF CONNECTICUT'S OLDEST GARDEN CLUBS -  
CELEBRATING 87 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS EXISTENCE.

## Happy Spring WGC Members!

*Co-Presidents' Message*  
Jim Govoni & Allison Joanis

It's only been a few months since we kicked off a new year with a new board and there are already a few things to note as news.

The biggest piece of news for us is the official reinstatement of our tax exemption status as a 501(c)(3) / 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) organization. This was a considerable achievement and a testament to Dave Stender and Margaret Taff's diligence and hard work – all much appreciated by us as Co-presidents! Moving forward, this will benefit us, allowing us to purchase club materials without sales tax and also to allow any donors to write off their contributions.

We have also kicked off our year with some really great club participation. Our February meeting highlighted our fantastic committees and the wonderful work they are doing to support the club and the greater Windsor community. If you missed our February Soup Talk and descriptions of our committees, you can read them [here](#). If you see something you want to participate in, reach out to the chair directly!



*March signs of spring! Yellow crocuses in Allison's garden. Around town, we are seeing, forsythia, daffodils, and lot's of green.*

Additionally, our first speaker of the year was none other than our most recent president, Dave Stender, who walked us through making terrariums. Not only did this event offer an activity, a takeaway skill, and, in some cases, a take-home terrarium, but it also offered an opportunity to showcase some of the knowledge and talent we have right here in our club, which is a programming theme that is important to our vice presidents.

Last but not least, we're excited to announce our budding relationship with the Windsor Art Center, an organization close to many of our hearts. By participating and contributing to their events, we're opening doors to new members and fresh ideas for event cooperation. This partnership is a testament to our commitment to community engagement and cultural enrichment.

As we dive into the spring season and our gardens, we want to remind you about the upcoming garden mart on May 11. This could potentially be our only major fundraiser in 2024, making your participation crucial. We're counting on every member to contribute a minimum of six plants from their gardens for us to sell at the mart. The funds raised will support our annual scholarship and more. Let's make this event a success together!

We hope that in all of the spring hustle and bustle, you find some time to enjoy the longer days, slightly warmer temps and what has begun of the spring flora and fauna.

Till next time, team!  
Jim & Allison





# SAVE THE DATE!

## Our 80th Spring Garden Mart

### May 11, 2024

Windsor Town Green (behind the eagle) 10 am-2 pm

### Plan ahead!

- ☑ We ask for the contribution of a minimum of six, labeled, potted plants from each member.
- ☑ We also ask that you attempt to pot these two weeks before the mart, so they are established and happy in their pots.
- ☑ Dave Stender will be coordinating again this year. We will have pots and sticks available for you in the spring.
- ☑ Mark your calendar, as this event requires many volunteer helpers!
- ☑ Share the event on social media so your friends and family know to support!

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## February & March Meeting Recaps

### February Soup Talk

Our first meeting of 2024 kicked off with a bang! Marketed as the famous soup-talk and an “open house” event, we had a packed house. With more than 20 delicious dishes contributed by club

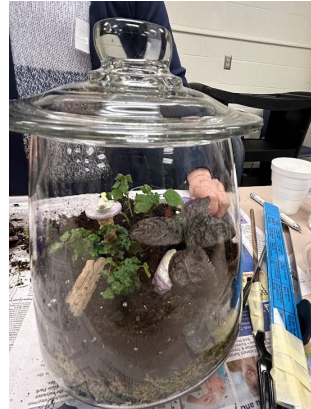


members, it’s safe to say we put our best foot forward. Additionally, the meeting provided a fantastic opportunity to hear from our committee chairs about all the great work they are doing for the club and in the community. This also allowed our current and new members to learn or be reminded of volunteer opportunities within the club and for all to sign up for committees. Special thanks to the hospitality committee for keeping our bellies full and to all the committee chairs for their public speaking skills!

### March Speaker: Terrific Terrariums with Dave Stender



As a goal for 2024, our Vice Presidents aim to showcase some of our club members’ knowledge and expertise. To kick off that theme, past President Dave Stender presented a talk and activity on Terrariums. Our club provided basic supplies, and members could participate by bringing their own plants, containers and creativity. Dave walked through the step-by-step process and included a few facts so folks could take this information with them to make many more terrariums in the future. This was a fun, hands-on event, and there were some very cute and very creative terrarium outcomes. In a previous Earthworm, Dave also wrote an article on terrariums; if you missed the March meeting, it includes all you need to know to make your own terrarium. Read in on our [website](#).





## Civic Endeavors: Historical Society

The committee maintaining the historic (1810) garden at the Windsor Historical Society convened April 20, for relatively minimal weeding and additional plantings that are within the wide variety of plants used in gardens during this time period. The garden blooms from April-October, featuring ephemerals (erythronium-trout lily, hepatica, dicentra-Dutchman's breeches), and perennials (saxifraga, digitalis, armeria-thrift, polemonium-Jacobs's Ladder, alyssum, campanula, aruncus-goatsbeard, baptisia-false indigo), chelone-turtlehead, thalictrum-meadow rue, cimicifuga-cohosh, corydalis-fumeroor, delphinium, ranunculus (need to lift and replant corms each year), dianthus, dodecatheon-primrose, filipendula-meadowsweet, gentiana, creeping phlox, asters, silene, scutillaria-skullcap, dodecatheon-shooting star, centranthus-Jupiter's beard).

Our next sessions are:

- \* May 18, 9 am
- \* July 6, 8:30 am
- \* August 10, 8:30 am
- \* September 28, 9 am
- \* November 9, 9:30 am



Each session ranges from 1.5-2 hours, depending on the number of participating members. All sessions require weeding, with trimming, planting, and some work "outside" our area to prevent invasives or simply conduct general clean-up to make our area look great.

**WINDSOR ART CENTER**

**Art in Bloom**

Fundraising soiree  
**Saturday, June 8**  
6-9 pm

2024 Honorees:  
Florence Barlow  
and  
Jane & Lon  
Pelton

Visionary Artist:  
Sophie  
Groenstein

People's Choice  
Award:  
Betty Hellerman

25 Central St.  
Windsor CT 06095  
(Former Auction House)

**Early Bird Tickets On Sale Now**

[www.windsorartcenter.org](http://www.windsorartcenter.org)

If you'd like to join this committee, contact Debbie Baker at 860-280-7277 or [dbaker.windsor@gmail.com](mailto:dbaker.windsor@gmail.com)

Other beautification opportunities:

May 20, 5-6 pm

Wilson Library

May 21, 9-4, Windsor Historical Society general clean-up (with Talcott Resolution)



## February Photo Contest Winner—Helen Davenport

Thank you to our three February Photo Contest contestants, Debbie Baker, Lia Chayes and Helen Davenport. By tally vote at the March meeting, Helen Davenport was named the winner for her capture (see right) of “Cardinal on a Rhododendron.” Helen took this photo in her garden on February 9, 2024 and said, “Who doesn’t love a Cardinal in the Winter?”

Our additional winter scene contributions were that of another bird sighting from Lia Chayes, with a Red-Headed Woodpecker enjoying some suet, and a pretty Winterberry Winter scene from Debbie Baker’s garden. (see below)

It was not an easy choice! Congrats to Helen and thank you again to all who participated. The deadline to submit photos will always be the last day of the month. Email them to windsorctgardenclub@gmail.com.



[Read the contest rules and deadlines on our website.](#)



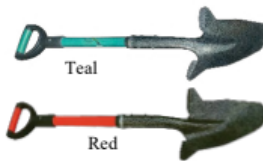
## Now Available—Spear Head Spade® WGC Member Discount Program!



2024 Master Gardener & Garden Club Prices



Model #	Units/Case	wt/Lbs	units	Retail Price	20% Disc.
SHFD3	1	3.5	per shovel	\$58.00	\$46.40
40" overall	6	23	per case	\$348.00	\$278.40
Available SHFD3 colors:					
SHLF2	1	4.0	per shovel	\$63.00	\$50.40
58" overall	6	26	per case	\$378.00	\$302.40
SHMini	1	2.0	per shovel	\$39.00	\$31.20
30" overall	6	14	per case	\$234.00	\$187.20
SHH	1	2.5	per hoe	\$59.00	\$47.20
58" overall	6	16	per case	\$354.00	\$283.20



Spear Head Spade Kneeler

16" x 7" x .75" thick



Retail \$8 \$6.40 (No min)

FREE Shipping with any order

Windsor Garden Club Members can purchase Spear Head Spade products at a 20% discount through the club. The catch is that we have to order by the case. If you are interested in purchasing an item, please contact Allison Joanis.

# Women Leave Mark on Horticulture History

By Jessica Damiano—Associated Press  
Recommended by Diane Bernier

Women have long been at the forefront of gardening, whether passing agricultural traditions from generation to generation, organizing garden clubs and beautification societies, or — in some cases — making significant contributions to science and landscape design.

Some of these “plant women” gained notoriety for their work. Many are not as well known.

Here are a few who have left permanent marks on American horticultural history:



Left: Fannie Lou Hamer (Photo courtesy of centerfor-learnerequity.org) Right: Marie Clark Taylor (Courtesy of Fordham University)

## Fannie Lou Hamer

A civil rights and agricultural activist, Hamer founded the Freedom Farm Cooperative in the late 1960s to provide land, livestock and vegetable-growing resources to poor Black families and farmers in Sunflower

County, Mississippi. The Cooperative facilitated crop-sharing, self-reliance and financial independence.

Participating families were also loaned a piglet to raise to maturity, after which they would return it for mating and give the cooperative two piglets from each litter to continue the program. “If you have a pig in

your backyard, if you have some vegetables in your garden, you can feed yourself and your family, and nobody can push you around,” Hamer said. Her Cooperative became one of the earliest examples of modern

community gardening and a precursor of today’s food justice movement.

## Claudia ‘Lady Bird’ Johnson

First lady from 1963 to 1969, Johnson was an environmentalist and early native plants proponent



Claudia ‘Lady Bird’ Johnson. (Photo courtesy of AP via Paul Cox/International Lady Bird Wildflower Center)

who advocated for preserving wild spaces. She led the effort to secure the passage of the 1965 Highway Beautification Act during her husband’s presidency. The law sought to clear highways of billboards and to plant wildflowers along their shoulders to support plant and animal biodiversity and regional identity. Today, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin honors her legacy.

## Marie Clark Taylor

In 1941, Taylor became the first Black woman to receive a doctorate in botany in the United States, and the first woman of any race to gain a Ph.D. in science from Fordham University. As an educator, she applied her doctoral research on the effect of light on plant growth to change the way high school science was taught. She encouraged the use of light microscopes and botanical materials in the classroom for the first time. In the mid-1960s, President Lyndon B. Johnson enlisted her to expand her teaching methods

*Continued—see WOMEN on page 9*



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nationwide. Taylor also served as chair of Howard University's Botany Department for nearly 30 years until her retirement in 1976.

**Waheenee**

Also known as Buffalo Bird Woman, Waheenee was a Hidatsa woman born around 1839 in what is now North Dakota. She mastered and shared centuries-old cultivating, planting and harvesting techniques with Gilbert L. Wilson, a minister and anthropologist who studied the tribe in the early 1900s. During visits that spanned 10 years, Wilson, whose work was sponsored by the American Museum

of Natural History, transcribed Waheenee's words with her son serving as interpreter. The resulting book, "Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden: Agriculture of the Hidatsa Indians," first published in 1917, documented the Hidatsa women's methods for growing beans, corn, squash, sunflowers and tobacco, as well as the tools they used and their practices for drying and winter storage. Her advice is still relevant today.



Waheenee (Photo courtesy of National Park Service)

# Welcome New Members!

*As we are still in the beginning of 2024, we would like to thank all of our returning members! We would also like to welcome a few brand new members to the club! Be on the lookout for these folks at meetings and around town to say hello and extend your warm WGC welcome!*

**Amy A.**

**Kathleen M.**

**Kelly C.**

**Loretta P.**

**Marva D.**

**Marcia P.**

**Paul L.**

**Jacinta W.**



*The Windsor Garden Club will accept new members all year! If you have a friend who is interested, bring them to a meeting or send them to our website to join!*



## What's Coming Up

**April 8**—WGC Speaker & Business Meeting  
*Windsor Senior Center—6:30pm*

**April 18 & April 22**—Seed Planting Day at PQ School and  
JFK School—VOLUNTEER!  
*See Diane Bernier*

**May 6**—WGC MEMBERS ONLY Meeting & Plant Swap

**May 11**—WGC Garden Mart—Town Green  
VOLUNTEER!—*See Dave Stender*

**June 8**—Art in Bloom—Windsor Art Center Event  
*6-9 pm—25 Central Street, Windsor*

**June 10**—WGC Summer Meeting  
*6:30 pm—Garden TBD!*

**June 20**—First Town Downtown Farmers Market Kick-Off  
*3—6 pm—240 Broad Street, Windsor*

**July 8**—WGC Summer Meeting  
*6:30 pm—Garden of Kathleen Grant*

## CONTACT INFORMATION 2024

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## Earthworm Content Submission Deadlines 2024

The Publicity Committee is always looking for submissions for the Earthworm, the website and social media. If you have material you would like to see published, please contact

Debbie Baker and Allison Joanis **until further notice.**

### Deadlines for Earthworm material 2024:

**Summer (July) issue deadline: June 30**

**Fall (October) issue deadline: September 26**

**Winter (January) issue deadline: December 9**

## 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!

