

THE EARTHWORM

FALL 2019



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

We had a terrific summer, despite a very rainy June, super-hot and humid July, and a mixed bag of weather in August. Many thanks to Marci Martin, Judy Sable, and Flo Barlow for opening their homes for our summer social gatherings -- all had fantastic turnout by WGC members. Our Garden Mart and Farmers Market booths helped attract new members who joined us for several outings. The successful Garden Tour showcased five member gardens and introduced some new ones as well as featuring artisans.

We have some changes this year:

- ❖ several interactive programs this fall, including our first meeting at John O'Brien's Hosta & Shade Plant Gardens in Granby on Monday, September 9.
- ❖ most fall meetings are not on the second Monday due to LP Wilson being closed for holidays and early wreath-making.
- ❖ the Earthworm will be quarterly this year, on a trial basis, with Jim Durant as the new editor. Please feel free to submit articles or stories to share.
- ❖ a Telephone Chain has been reinstated as another way to keep WGC members informed and reminded about upcoming meetings, in addition to the Earthworm, Facebook, and email notices about meetings and more. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Co-Presidents - Debbie Baker and Patty Crowley

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THE SUMMER OF 2019

✓ **GARDEN TOUR - Midsummer Gardeners' Dream - July 13, 2019**

We had a wonderfully successful 2019 Garden Tour! Almost 200 people toured eight of Windsor's beautiful gardens and outdoor spaces, beneath beautiful sunny skies. Thank you to our gardeners who worked so hard to showcase their immaculate landscapes and thank you to all who came out to support our event!



#1 The Garden of Patty Crowley - Windsor Ave



There are many hidden surprises in Patty's gardens.

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#2 Tom Graywacz - Wilton



The Gardens of Tom Graywacz reflects the palate of a master gardener.

#3 The Bernstein's - Orchard Road



The manicured gardens of Victor & Lieba Bernstein looked cool and inviting on a hot summer day!

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#4 The Gardens of Lon Pelton – Orchard Lane



Lon Pelton's Garden. Lon doesn't use much water but ideas to grow his garden.

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#5 Connecticut Agriculture Experimental Station - Cook Hill Road



CAES- Valley Laboratory was established 1921. The lab assists citizens with a wide range of issues related to plants, plant pathogens, weeds, insects.

#6 Dick & Chris Rozman – Bradford Drive



The Rosman's Hosta gardens offer a shady retreat from a warm summer day.

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#7 Laurie's and Jim Durant's Garden - Sunnyfield Dr



Laurie's garden reflects a European flavor with some whimsies.

#8 Alana Murray - Delilah Dr



A tuxedo garden, perfect in every detail.

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Lon Pelton created a one of a kind garden sculpture as a raffle prize.

Congratulations to Sue Ellen Hewitt!!
The winner of the WGC Midsummer Night Dream Garden Tour Raffle. She won Lon Pelton's Garden sculpture.

SUMMER SOCIALS

Summer social gatherings were very well attended. Many thanks to our hosts!



Roses at Marci Martin's Suffield home.

June 17, 2019 – Our first Summer Social was held at Marci Martin's home in Suffield. It seemed impossible to surpass the beauty of Master Rosarian, Marci Martin's previous rose gardens here in Windsor, but she took full advantage of the opportunity to create new, flowing beds in her new Suffield home. The rose varieties are very impressive, we like to report that more than 150 rose plants were successfully relocated and are doing well. Several members purchased some new rose bushes to take home.

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July, 2019 - Judy Sable opened her gardens to us in July. Her yard was nicely shaded, and her gardens offered a variety of annuals, perennials, roses, vegetables, and fruit! Something for everyone to enjoy.



Judy Sable's lovely gardens.



August 12, 2019 - Flo Barlow's estate.

The summer social meeting was held at Flo Barlow's home where whimsical garden paths under a pine tree were fun to visit, and many took the opportunity to visit neighbor Lorrie Gallo-Donahue's garden, as well as exploring other gardens in Flo's large property.



Flo busy in her garden.

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✓ **Windsor Garden Club Scholarship Award**

At the June meeting of the WGC at Maci Martin's house, club members awarded their



Left to Right - Victor Bernstein, Elizabeth Lumia, Chuck Lumia, Maya Lumia, Cindy Daniels (WGC Scholarship Committee Chair).

2019 scholarship to Maya Lumia. Maya, who also attended our meeting with her parents, will attend Manchester Community College in the Fall. Maya will pursue a course of study in Environmental Protection.

"The world we live in is riddled with environmental problems that cannot be ignored anymore, and the current political atmosphere we live in is greatly affecting that," Maya said in her scholarship essay. Maya was

chosen as our scholarship winner due to her academic success and hard work at Windsor High School, outstanding reference letters and her chosen course of study. We wish her well as she begins this journey and next phase of her education.

Our Garden Club has an excellent reputation for the support given to graduating Windsor's seniors. Without the remarkable efforts and commitment from our members, this award would not be possible. Many thanks to many Garden Club members that support our events that contribute towards the funding of this scholarship. Cindy Daniels, WGC Scholarship Committee Chair; Committee Members, Laura Jary, Victor Bernstein, Rose Stepnick.

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✓ **STRONG-HOWARD HOUSE HERB GARDEN**



Strong-Howard Herb Garden.

Thanks to all the hard work by the Herb Garden workers Cindy Daniels, Laura Jary, Deborah Baker, Margaret Taft, Jim Durant and Committee Chair Laurie Durant for helping to maintain the Windsor Historical Society herb garden this year.

Final cleanup will be in October.

✓ **SUMMER OUTINGS**

June 1, 2019 *Field trip/tour/plant sale at Flower Power.*

Steve and the crew at Flower Power Farms in East Windsor for accommodating our June 1st meet up yesterday. Steve showed us around the nursery and gave us a behind the scenes look at how our beloved plants go from seed to sale and then into our pots and garden beds.



Flower Power Farms, South Windsor.

August, 2019 *Trip to the Azores.*

WGC's members Patty Crowley, Allison Joanis and Deborah Baker all travelled to the Azores Islands in the mid-Atlantic at the end of August. More details of their exciting trip will be published in the Winter edition of The Earthworm.

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FARMER'S MARKET



WGC Members Judy Linton and Maureen Vagnini at Garden Club table at the Farmer's Market.

The WGC was represented during the Windsor's Farmer Market held near the town green. The garden club provided information on Connecticut invasive plants. How to identify and control these nuisance plants. In addition, membership applications were available.

WGC will be represented at one more Farmer's Market - Thursday, September 12. Check with Maureen Vagnini at 860-688-6753 or maureenvagnini@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out.

LOOKING AHEAD

Fall Meetings

- ❖ The September meeting will be held at John O'Brien's Hosta & Shade Plant Gardens in Granby on Monday, September 9th.
- ❖ The December 2nd meeting at LP Wilson is a member only meeting, during which Club members construct holiday wreaths. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM.
- ❖ On December 8th, the holiday lunch is set at 12 noon – with location TBD.
- ❖ There is no Club meeting in January.
- ❖ These speakers have been scheduled for the Fall.
 - **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.

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- **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. 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.

She is a member of The Ecological Landscape Alliance (ELA), The Association of Garden Communicators (GWA), The New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS) and The Kent Land Trust.

- **November 18TH, 2020 - KAREN JORDAN** of Jordan Florist will be our guest this evening. Join Karen Jordan for a fun filled evening designing a Thanksgiving Centerpiece with pumpkins and fresh autumn flowers. Bring your own pumpkin and Karen will provide the rest.

- ❖ **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.

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

MEMBERS' VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Strong-Howard House Herb Garden

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 is in October, but if you miss this year next spring is really not that far away.

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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.

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)

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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; liebabernstein@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

Message from the Editor

Greetings follow gardeners!

As I have gotten older, it never ceases to amaze me how quickly the seasons past. It just seems like yesterday when my wife first put the Spring seedlings into the ground and now, we have the cool of Fall fast approaching and we begin preparations for Winter. Sometimes it seems too fast.

As Debbie has mentioned earlier, I accepted the role as the new Editor of The Earthworm and new means new. Kindly forgive me for all omissions, name misspellings, anything foolish I may say, etc. 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.

Best Regards – Jim

*To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow
Audrey Hepburn*