

**THE EARTHWORM:**  
NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB  
CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE  
FEBRUARY 2018



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EARTHWORM EDITOR: ROSE STEPNIK

**Happy New Year Windsor Garden Club Members!**

We welcome members and friends to our **Soup Talk** meeting in February.

What an exciting spring for our club! Our first ever bus trip to the Cherry Blossom Festival at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. What a way to start thinking about seeds, bulbs, flowers and new garden spots. Please ask a friend or spouse to this lovely day away.

Hope to see you on the bus!

**Diane Bernier, Your President and Friend**

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**The Windsor Garden Club Presents a Bus Trip to the  
Brooklyn Botanical Garden's *Cherry Blossom Festival*  
Saturday, April 28, 2018**

During the January, 2018 Executive Board meeting, the Executive Board has approved a club related bus excursion to New York City.

The bus will depart at 8:00 a.m. from the commuter parking lot on Route 218, in Bloomfield, and will depart the botanical gardens at approximately 4:00 p.m. Bus **transportation cost is \$25.00** (driver gratuity is not included) while **admission to the gardens is \$25.00**. **Garden Club members will receive a \$10.00 credit** that can be applied to either lunch at the gardens or admission to the gardens. Member only payment of \$25.00 (for bus cost) will be accepted until February 28, 2018. Beginning March 1, 2018, non-member payment of \$25.00 will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis dependent on bus seat availability.



Your payment check should be made **payable to The Windsor Garden Club**. The Club's mailing address is Box 233, Windsor, Connecticut, 06095 Payments to participate in the excursion can be made during the February meeting if desired.

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**Free event: Seed-Keepers: Feb.14th.** 1:00PM Lisa Broodnick and Owen Taylor at the Simsbury library will talk about rare seeds and seed conservancies. Free. Registration required. 860-658-7663 ext. 4.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - 6:30PM

### "SOUP TALK"

We get 2018 started with a gathering of food and gardening conversation. Our next regular meeting will be February 12th 2018. This will be our "Soup Talk" meeting which is always fun. Soups and breads are shared as we review the 2018 projects and topics. Much will be discussed as well as updates by the **Garden Mart Committee** and setting the Garden Mart activities into motion. We would like to also have updates from other committees. **See you there!**



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### March 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting - 6:30PM Marci Martin – The Rosarian Lady

Marci has been growing roses for 39 years in four different locations In CT, and is currently the Master Consulting Rosarian at Woodland Gardens in Manchester. She is also a Rose Garden Consultant for personal and commercial gardens around the state.

Marci will be speaking to us about roses, the varieties and how to grow the best roses.

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### April 9th Meeting – 6:30PM

**Bonnie Waterhouse – Lyme Disease Education and Prevention**

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## MEETING INFORMATION

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- For additional program information, please call 860-219-1419, or search [windsorgardenclubct.org](http://windsorgardenclubct.org)
- Club meetings are *typically* conducted on the second Monday of the month.
- **Meetings begin at 6:30 PM** with social time, followed by the evening's guest speaker beginning at 7:00 PM. The business portion of the meeting completes the evening.
- New members are always welcome.
- Meetings take place at the L.P Wilson Community Center, 599 Matianuck Avenue, Windsor, CT, in the Senior Center Room, which is located on the front left side of the building.
- During the months of June, July and August, club meetings are informal and are typically held at member's homes. BYO chair and a treat to share.
- Please check the web site calendar page to verify all meeting dates.
- These meetings are free of charge. The programs will begin at 7:00PM.



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### CONNECTICUT FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW 2018

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The Connecticut Flower and Garden Show runs from **February 22 through the 25** at the Connecticut Convention Center. Always fun to go to.

Thursday and Friday is a senior discount for those over 62.

For more information look here:

<http://ctflowershow.com/>

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## COMMITTEES:

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**All Members are encouraged to participate on a committee.** *Please sign up and help.*

At our meetings there will be a volunteer binder with all the committees listed, and upcoming events that members may sign up for. Please consider helping out on one of our committees this year. It is a great way to get to know your garden club members better.

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## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

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The Hospitality Co-chairmen Wendy Mitchell and Joan Lynch are looking for bakers and snack makers for our March meeting.

They also would like to thank all the members who brought snacks, desserts and appetizers **in 2017**. Everyone's help is what makes our club welcoming. There will be sign-up sheets for future meetings. Please contact the committee by email or a quick call for more information.

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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**2017-2018 Membership** renewal forms are available online.

Individual memberships are \$20.00 while family memberships are \$35.00.

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## GARDEN MART 2018 - SATURDAY MAY 12

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The Garden Mart is in May, but it is never too early to prepare! Remember those empty, plastic pots you stockpiled last growing season? Well, now is the perfect time to dust and polish those pots to have them ready for seedlings and divisions as soon as things start popping.



Keep in mind that the Garden Mart is the Club's sole fund raising effort in 2018. Funds raised ensure that Club is able to meet its mission. Sign up sheets for work shifts will be available at the March meeting. Thank you! Jim B.

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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### Ceil Rossi and the History, Culture and Art of Gourds



At our November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, Ceil Rossi, from the Carefree Gourd Gallery in Agawam, spoke to us about the History, Culture and Art of Gourds. As part of her presentation, Ms Rossi showed us several types of gourd and related materials from all over the world. She also displayed her hand crafted fine art gourd sculptures using various tools and paints. She makes clocks, cups, purses, musical instruments, and ornaments from premium hard shelled gourds. This was a very hands on presentation as Ms. Rossi Passed around many samples and crafts.

Ms. Rossi is a member of the Agawam Cultural Council and the Agawam Community Artists Association. Her work is shown in several local galleries.



See more beautiful gourd photos and information at [www.facebook.com/carefreegourdgallery](http://www.facebook.com/carefreegourdgallery)

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## DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – HOLIDAY WREATHS & CRAFTS

Once again, as the holiday season approached, an enthusiastic gathering of crafty members and guests created gorgeous holiday wreaths that were given to local service agencies, nursing homes, and other Windsor organizations.



As one of our ongoing civic endeavors, the WGC purchases already made, fresh wreaths, and members bring seasonal crafty items to embellish them. Novices and experts worked together, having fun, creating these community gifts.



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### Holiday Party Celebrated at Track 139 Restaurant

On December 10 the Windsor Garden Club had a lovely lunch at Track 139 Restaurant in downtown Windsor. We had our own room and wait staff that was just great. The members felt it was a great idea to have the event in a local restaurant. It was agreed by all to have the event at Track 139 again next year.

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### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The WGC Scholarship announcements and letters to schools will go out in February. Forms and information can be found online on our website for those that are interested.

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## WINDSOR HISTORICAL HERB GARDEN WISH LIST FOR SPRING 2018

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Contact Christine Ermenc: [cermenc@windsorhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:cermenc@windsorhistoricalsociety.org) , or 860-688-3813, if you have these herbs to donate!

Lovage	Thyme	Sorrel	Parsley
Dill	Basil	Chamomile	Angelica or Horehound
Rosemary	common feverfew		Savory (winter or summer)

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### [REQUEST CLUB ASSISTANCE](#) (click heading for the link)

The Windsor Garden Club endeavors to use the resources of the Club to assist in the design of landscape beautification projects within our hometown of Windsor, Connecticut. For more information, please download the description document and application form using one of the two links provided on the web site. For your convenience, there is a Word format and a PDF format link provided.

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### COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Dear Windsor Garden Club Members,**



A special request: PLEASE remember to bring non-perishable food items to our meetings for the **Windsor Food Bank**. Their clients' needs are all year round. Donations can be left at the table where you check in. **Thank you!**

**Submission Deadline for March 2018 Earthworm: February 22<sup>th</sup>, 2018** - If you would like to include one of your event photos, an announcement, or any suitable information, please email it by this month's deadline. Thank You! Rose [Rosenick10@yahoo.com](mailto:Rosenick10@yahoo.com)

**FROM THE CONNECTICUT GARDENER CALENDAR:** <http://www.conngardener.com/calendar.html>

**Feb. 12** (Mon) 7 pm Cacti & Succulents for Connecticut Homes with Dr. Matthew Opel from UConn. [manchestergardenclubs.org](http://manchestergardenclubs.org)

**Feb. 13** (Tues) 11:30 am to 3 pm Creating an Organic Ecosystem in Your Backyard with Nancy DuBrule-Clemente at the Wallingford Garden Club (First Congregational Church). 203-874-7470

**Feb. 26** (Mon) 12:30 pm Hostas, the Diamond of the Garden with Kathy Sisson at the Apple Barn in West Simsbury. Light refreshments. Guests \$10. Doors open at 11:30 am.

[simsburygardenclub.org](http://simsburygardenclub.org)

**Feb. 27** (Tues) 8:30 am to 3:45 pm Creating & Improving Pollinator Habitat Conference at The CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in New Haven. The event will be held in the Jones Auditorium. The snow date is March 1. \$30, \$40 at the door. [www.ct.gov/caes/pollinators](http://www.ct.gov/caes/pollinators)

**March 3** (Sat) 10 am to 2 pm Hardy Plant Society of Connecticut's March Into Spring Symposium (aka The Soup Symposium). Bill Cullina and Warren Leach are the speakers. Includes lunch and vendors. Non-members \$45 before Feb. 25, then \$50. [cthardyplantsociety.org](http://cthardyplantsociety.org)

**March 3** (Sat) 8:30 am to 4 pm URI Master Gardener Symposium - Creating a Resilient Garden - at the URI Kington Campus. Speakers include C. Colston Burrell, Linda A. Fleming and Jeff Gillman. \$65 until Feb. 9 then \$75. [web.uri.edu/mastergardener/SYMPOSIUM/](http://web.uri.edu/mastergardener/SYMPOSIUM/)

**March 10** (Sat) 8 am ORGANICONN - CT NOFA's Winter Conference at Western CT State University in Danbury. Workshops, vendors and lunch prepared by local restaurants. All things organic in farms, food and gardens. [ctnofa.org/winterconference/](http://ctnofa.org/winterconference/)

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## TEA BAG TIPS!

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### Don't throw away your tea bags. Here are 10 reasons why you should plant them instead

by Angela Brown, Contributing Writer, DIY Everywhere  
<http://diyeverywhere.com/2017/03/20/dont-throw-away-your-teabags-heres-10-reasons-why-you-should-plant-them-instead/>

Ending your day with a relaxing cup of warm tea is a great way to make drifting off into la-la land a little easier. When most people finish their tea, they toss the used tea bag into the trash with little thought. After all, what could you possibly do with a used tea bag?

It turns out there are actually quite a few things you can do with used tea bags, especially in the garden. Keep reading to learn why you might want to bury those tea bags instead of tossing them in the trash.



**1. The bags decompose:** Did you know that most British tea bags are made from a relative of the banana? Manila hemp is made from the fiber of abaca leaf stalks. The bag itself will break down and the very little plastic they use to seal the tea bags virtually disappears within six months, according to the [UK Tea & Infusions Association](#).

**2. Tea adds nutrients to the soil:** Tea leaves contain tannic acid and nutrients that are natural fertilizers for a garden. As the tea leaves decompose, they release nutrients into the soil, creating a healthier growing environment, according to [The Gardening Cook](#).

**3. Reduce garbage:** Burying your tea bags in the garden or tossing them in your compost pile helps eliminate excess waste.

**4. Tea bags keep pests at bay:** Used tea bags (and coffee grounds) will help keep bugs away from your plants. The odor deters pests from chewing on your flowers and veggies.

**5. The smell of tea works on cats too:** Sprinkle coffee grounds or used tea grounds around your garden to keep Fluffy from urinating on your favorite plants. You can do use this with indoor plants as well, recommends [Earth911](#).

**6. Your tea bags can grow a garden:** Believe it or not, you can grow your own garden with used tea bags, seeds, a plastic tray, water and a paper towel. You'll germinate your seeds with the tea bags and then plant them in the garden, according to the [Kiwi Conservation Club](#).

**7. Tea increases the decomposition of other items:** If you use tea bags in your soil or compost pile, the acid in the tea can speed up the decomposition process of other things in the compost bin, which means you can use the compost faster.

**8. Worms eat the tea leaves:** Worms can safely consume tea leaves. Once they digest the leaves, they produce a more "nutrient-rich fertilizer output," making your soil healthier for growing plants, according to [Veggie Gardener](#).

**9. Tea bags help with water retention:** Bury your tea bags near the root of your plants, flowers and veggies to help the plants retain more water and stay healthier.

**10. Tea bags help keep weeds at bay:** When you bury your tea bags in the garden, they can help impede the growth of weeds (which means less work for you!).

*I hope this was of interest to you.  
Laura Jary*

**"WHEN IT RAINS, LOOK FOR RAINBOWS.  
WHEN IT'S DARK, LOOK FOR STARS."  
-Unknown**