

**THE EARTHWORM:**  
NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB  
FEBRUARY 2017



PRESIDENT: DIANE BERNIER  
VICE PRESIDENT: MAUREEN VAGNINI  
TREASURER: JIM BENNETT  
RECORDING SECRETARY: LAURIE DURANT  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: ERIN BOURDON  
PAST PRESIDENT: LAURA JARY  
EARTHWORM EDITOR: ROSE STEPNIK

**Happy New Year Everyone!**

We have a wonderful 2017 planned for our club. I hope all of you will be involved in helping with our important fundraising events this year to make these events successful.

We are celebrating our 80th year and are planning a community project as well as a fun activity for club members and their spouses.

Please remember to bring garden questions, new garden tools or suggestions for our Soup Talk meeting, and invite a friend.

Also, if you can, **bring cleaned clay pots** that you are not using to the meeting. We plan to paint these and sell them at the Garden Mart.

I read a book for my book club called **The Lost Garden**. I loved this quote:

"Planting a garden is about making a series of choices, and then the interpretation of these choices also becomes a series of choices."

See you at Soup Talk.

**Diane,**

**Your President and Friend**

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### FEBRUARY 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 MEETING - SOUP TALK and MORE!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL GARDEN MEETING. NO QUESTION IS TOO SIMPLE TO ASK US. WE ENCOURAGE FIRST TIME GARDENERS TO ATTEND AND BRING YOUR QUESTIONS. SOME



OF YOU HAVE WONDERED ABOUT STARTING SEEDS IN THE WINTER AND HOW YOU DO IT. LET US GIVE YOU SOME TIPS THAT WE HAVE LEARNED OVER TIME. IF YOU HAVE HAD PROBLEMS THAT YOU CANNOT SEEM TO REMEDY, LET US SEE IF WE CAN HELP.

WHILE WE EXCHANGE THOUGHTS AND IDEAS, **WE'LL WARM UP WITH A VARIETY OF HOME MADE BREADS, SOUPS AND MORE.** PLEASE BRING ONE OF YOUR FAVORITES TO SHARE. WE'LL ALSO BE FINALIZING THE GARDEN MART COMMITTEE AND SETTING THE GARDEN MART ACTIVITIES INTO MOTION.

**GUESTS ARE REQUESTED TO R.S.V.P. TO JUDY LINTON AT 860-298-9550**

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**WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG**

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## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

For the February meeting, Hospitality is asking for volunteers to make soup and breads. **Joan would like to hear from the February volunteer "chefs" at [jslwindsor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jslwindsor@sbcglobal.net) or (860) 688 8003.** Pull out those crock pots!

Hospitality Co-chairmen Wendy Mitchell and Joan Lynch, along with committee member Debbie Baker, would like to remind us to look for **sign-up sheets** to volunteer to bring goodies for our next several meetings. Please contact them by email or a quick call if you need more information. **Thanks** to all of our hospitality volunteers.

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## MARCH 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 MEETING

**Meet Tom Hazel, Environmental Planner and Wetlands Agent**

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### MEETING INFORMATION

- 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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## COMMITTEES:

**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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## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Windsor Garden Club is offering a \$700 scholarship to a 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, landscape design, landscape architecture, forestry, environmental science, environmental engineering, or a similarly related study.

One of the Windsor Garden Club's resolutions 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. Thanks to the many dedicated and hardworking club members, and to all the enthusiastic townspeople who attend our fundraisers and make this scholarship possible.

Announcements have been sent to guidance departments of the schools below and a press release has been submitted to the local papers.

Windsor High School

CREC

Loomis Chaffee School

Northwest Catholic High School

Pathways to Technology Magnet School

Metropolitan Learning Center

Medina Academy

Applications and more information are available on the Windsor Garden Club website.

**Deadline for receipt of applications: April 15, 2017**

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## STRONG HOUSE HERB GARDEN COMMITTEE

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**Our committee is in need of one more member to join our committee.** I will be contacting Gordon Kenneson who came up with the original site plan at the Herb Garden to discuss some of plant and soil concerns that are committee came up with at the final clean up last October.

In April our committee will meet at the Windsor Historical Society (usually on a Saturday morning around 9 a.m.) At that time all members are requested to attend to help do a Spring clean up of leaves and cut back some of the plants that are overgrown if needed. With a total of 10 members....it doesn't really take very long. We also will develop a monthly assignment for each member to work at the garden i.e. Two members teams will check in at the Herb Garden for the month they have chosen to volunteer (May thru September).

We do replace plants as needed in keeping with the historical aspects of the garden. We also assure correct labeling.

As the Strong House Herb Garden Chair I will serve as liaison between the Windsor Garden Club and the Strong House Board of Directors.

We do hope that someone will be able to join us. If you are interested in joining our committee please contact: **Laura Jary via email at [lfjary@gmail.com](mailto:lfjary@gmail.com) or leave a message on my home phone at 860-688-7145.**

Many thanks in advance for your consideration.  
Laura Jary

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## GARDEN TOUR 2017 COMMITTEE

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Hi everyone,

Our 2017 Garden Tour is fast approaching! The committee has been working to complete necessary tasks. Please support this wonderful project by signing up to represent the Windsor Garden Club at a home on the tour. Having done this 5 times, it is fun and very supportive to our club. We also need people to help by providing snacks for the Garden Tour snack stop. Maureen Vagnini has the signup sheet. Please see her to support your Garden Tour.

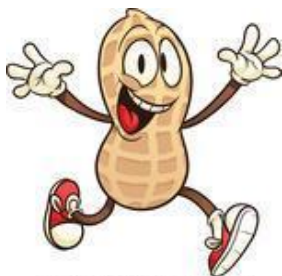
Thank you! Cindy

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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**2016-17 Membership renewal forms.** A link to the forms can be found on the website. Individual memberships are still \$20.00 while family memberships are still \$35.00.



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## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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A friendly reminder and request from Jim Bennett that he is still seeking clear plastic jars such as 16 oz size peanut butter jars, 16 oz dry roasted peanut jars and 16 oz apple sauce jars.

These containers will be used to hold and sort, the [New England Air Museum's](#) vast inventory of nuts, bolts, screws, washers and spacers used in the [Restoration Program](#).

## PUT ON A HAPPY FACE!

Contributed by Laura Jary



I received my **Horticulture Magazine** and was so surprised to see the **First Feature** was on "Put On A Happy Face" **The National Garden Bureau has declared 2017 the Year of the Pansy.**

The words and photographs were courtesy of the National Garden Bureau. I really enjoyed the article and how funny that this is OUR WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB'S flower logo and by the way that this **September we will be celebrating our club's 80th Anniversary!**

They wrote about the history of the friendly-faced pansy flowers until the 19th century...most people considered them a weed. They mentioned that happily some gardeners saw the beauty in those wildflowers of Europe and Western Asia, and hybridization gave rise to the cool-season flowers many of us treasure today. As you probably all realize that today, modern pansies are classified by the **American Violet Society** as having large flowers with two slightly overlapping upper petals, two side petals and a single bottom petal with a slight beard in its center.

I hope this brought a smile to your face.

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**Submission Deadline for March 2017 Earthworm: February 23<sup>th</sup>** - 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)

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

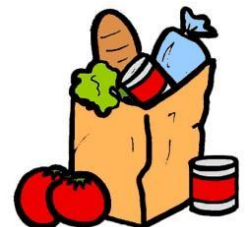
Connecticut Flower & Garden Show is a 4 day event being held from 23rd February to the 26th February 2017 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

Garden writers, specialty plant experts, landscape professionals, master gardeners, local chefs and the Show's talented exhibitors shared their expertise at the **Connecticut Flower & Garden Show 2017** in a full program of daily lectures, how-to demos, floral arranging workshops, and cooking demonstrations. The **Connecticut Flower & Garden Show 2017** will showcase a wide range of products and services related to flower & plant sectors from the leading exhibitors such as plants, flowers, fertilizers, garden tools, tractors & mowers, patio & lawn furniture. The approximate number of exhibitors that will exhibit at this event is over 300.

Their Facebook page has excellent information on the guest speaker list etc.

#### **Dear Windsor Garden Club Members,**

This is the usual reminder to 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!**



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## DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> - Holiday Wreaths and Crafts

At the December 5th meeting of the Windsor Garden Club, members decorated fresh holiday wreaths and create arrangements which were donated to local service agencies, nursing homes and other Windsor organizations. What a talented and creative membership!



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## GARDENING TIPS

The [blue hyperlinks](#) are there for you to seek more information online. Have fun!

### Why You Should Sow Wildflower Seeds This Winter

Sowing wildflower seeds while there's snow on the ground lets nature do the work.

<http://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/flowers-and-plants/flowers/why-you-should-sow-wildflower-seeds-this-winter>

Although we usually plant annual flower and vegetable seeds from spring through fall, many perennial wildflower seeds need pre-chilling, or a period of exposure to cold and moisture. These seeds can be scattered even on top of a blanket of snow.

Ideally, you'll winter-sow your wildflower seeds over ground that you've already prepared, says David Salman, founder and Chief Horticulturist at [High Country Gardens](#) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He recommends raking the ground before snow and ice arrive to remove any debris and expose the ground. "If the area is unplanted and bare soil," he says, "use a bow rake to create shallow furrows."

The article includes a one minute video titled **DIY Seed Bombs** which looks like a great winter doldrums craft and fun Easter or Mother's Day gifts.

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### How to Make Your Own Seed Starting Mix: Save Money on Starting Seeds

[http://smallfarm.about.com/od/diy/a/How-To-Make-Your-Own-Diy-Seed-Starting-Mix.htm?utm\\_campaign=gardening&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=cn\\_nl&utm\\_content=8438171&utm\\_term=](http://smallfarm.about.com/od/diy/a/How-To-Make-Your-Own-Diy-Seed-Starting-Mix.htm?utm_campaign=gardening&utm_medium=email&utm_source=cn_nl&utm_content=8438171&utm_term=)

#### Recipe for Seed Starting Mix

This is a basic recipe for an indoor seed-starting mix that can be further customized and built upon. Lightly moisten ingredients with a fine water mist, then blend thoroughly in a large container such as a wheelbarrow.

Four parts screened compost

One part vermiculite

One part perlite

Two parts sphagnum peat moss

*For the complete article, see the link above.*

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## Can Birds Eat Peanut Butter?

Updated June 15, 2016.

[http://birding.about.com/od/Foods/fl/Can-Birds-Eat-Peanut-Butter.htm?utm\\_campaign=gardening&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=cn\\_nl&utm\\_content=8438171&utm\\_term=](http://birding.about.com/od/Foods/fl/Can-Birds-Eat-Peanut-Butter.htm?utm_campaign=gardening&utm_medium=email&utm_source=cn_nl&utm_content=8438171&utm_term=)

Peanuts are a familiar and popular food for backyard birds, but can birds eat peanut butter? Checking the ingredient list on a peanut butter jar reveals hydrogenated vegetable oil, salt, molasses, sugar and a range of other additives. Backyard birders may worry about how healthy peanut butter can be for birds, but it can be a great treat.

### About Peanut Butter

Despite minor additives in most peanut butters – the exact composition varies by brand – the main ingredient is always peanuts. Peanuts are an ideal source of fat, calories and protein for birds, providing good energy for all their active needs. Peanut butter also has other nutritious components, including...

- Iron
- Potassium
- Calcium
- Magnesium

While these vitamins and minerals may only be present in small amounts, they are still essential for a bird's healthy diet and peanut butter can provide them.

### Birds That Eat Peanut Butter

Most birds that eat either nuts or suet will also happily eat peanut butter.

It is favored by smaller birds, since peanut butter is easier to collect in small bills and doesn't need to be cracked, shelled or broken to be eaten. The most popular birds that will snack on peanut butter include...

- Chickadees, tits and titmice
- Wrens, nuthatches and creepers
- Woodpeckers, especially smaller species

Larger nut-loving birds, including thrashers, grackles, starlings, blackbirds, jays and other corvids may also try peanut butter. Larger species, however, are more likely to enjoy whole or shelled nuts rather than softer butters, leaving this treat for smaller birds.

*[For the rest of the article click the link above.](#)*

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Windsor Garden Club ***Festival of the Trees*** Entry, Wadsworth Atheneum –December 2016

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[WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG](http://WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG)

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**Save the date!**

**Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. 2017 [rain or shine]**

Our Garden Tour featuring a self-guided tour of eight lovely garden escapes

***80 Years Down Memory Lane...and Still Growing***

*Presale tickets; \$10.00. Available at many Windsor locations.*

*And at our Annual Plant Sale on the green, May 13<sup>th</sup>. 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.*

*Tickets day of tour; \$15.00, Available on the Windsor green from 9:30-12:00*

Any questions, please contact Cindy Daniels, 860-219-9489 or 860-836-0280

**[www.windsorgardenclubct.org](http://www.windsorgardenclubct.org)**

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"Away in a meadow all covered with snow  
The little old groundhog looks for his shadow  
The clouds in the sky determine our fate  
If winter will leave us all early or late."

- Don Halley

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for  
the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is  
the time for home."

- Edith Sitwell

