

THE EARTHWORM:
NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB
MAY 2016

PRESIDENT: LAURA JARY
VICE PRESIDENT: CINDY DANIELS
TREASURER: JIM BENNETT
RECORDING SECRETARY: LAURIE DURANT
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: ERIN BOURDON
DIRECTOR: ERIN BOURDON
EARTHWORM EDITOR: ROSE STEPNIK



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Windsor Garden Club Members:

Hello All,

I'd like you to take the time to visit our website. A lot of folks don't really know about us and this is a fantastic way for them to learn about us if they are interested in what the Windsor Garden Club does. Members of the WGC are planters, designers, educators, promoters, visionaries, conservationists, Master Gardeners, preservationists, environmentalists, nurturers, advocates, leaders and dreamers. We're also their next door neighbor, church or synagogue friend, high school buddy or tennis or walking partner. We are a very diverse and multigenerational group and open to new members. Monthly meetings are scheduled from September through May our Windsor Garden Club and are held at L.P. Wilson Community Center cafeteria on the second Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. We schedule four speaker's programs during our calendar as well as "Summer Optional" Meetings as well as field trips. Our membership is about 80 members strong and there is there is a place for them.

Along with our Civic Endeavors Programs: Windsor Beautification Projects, maintaining The Strong House Herb Garden, our yearly donations to Northwest Park County Fairs and this year's donation of Park Bench, providing holiday decorations to various town offices and facilities as well as donations to convalescent homes. We are proud of our yearly scholarship available to Windsor high school students. This year we started a new project involving: Invasive Vines and Plants Committee. They will find various documents, all of which feature various information regarding invasive plants which threaten the natural horticulture of Connecticut. As you are well aware, we organize an Annual Garden Mart on the Windsor Town Green on the Saturday of Mother's Day Weekend. We also organize our Windsor Garden Tour (every two years) featuring local gardens. These are great events for the public as well as us!

So please consider asking someone to come join us at an upcoming meeting or to visit us at our Garden Mart on the Windsor Town Green or possibly at one of our upcoming Summer Optional Meetings! Or if you know someone that is interested in gardening.....give them our website address!
<http://windsorgardenclubct.org/>

Sincerely,
Laura Jary, President



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAY 2nd MEETING – A FIRST Monday Meeting

WGC Garden Mart Prep AND Member Plant Swap

The May 2nd meeting of the Windsor Garden Club will feature installation of new garden club officers, announcement of the Windsor Garden Club scholarship award, and our yearly plant swap! All members and guests are welcome. However, plant swap is a “members only” activity. Members are asked to bring up to four plants to swap with others. This is our last formal meeting of our program year.

Membership renewal forms will also be available, and are due by the end of June 2016.

Meetings of the **Windsor Garden Club** are held at the LP Wilson Center on 599 Matianuck Ave. New members are always welcome. This meeting is free of charge and runs from 6:30 until 8:30. The program will begin at 7:00. For additional information, please call 860-305-7306. windsorgardenclubct.org

2016 Garden Mart

On **Saturday, May 7, from 9:30AM to 3:00PM**, the Club will conduct its annual, spring time fund raising event. Club members provide plants and other gardening related novelties for sale. All proceeds benefit the endeavors of the Club. We will be located on the center green adjacent to the eagle statue.

The **Garden Mart Committee** is still looking for members to sign up for a shift. Set up begins at 7 a.m.; plants can be dropped off at 7:30 a.m.; and sales officially begin at 9 a.m. **Volunteer shifts are from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. to Noon, and Noon to 2:30 p.m.** One of the most popular attractions at the sale is the wide array of plants members contribute plants from their own gardens. We are looking forward to each member’s donation of a minimum of 6 plants. If you have any questions please contact **Gary Kraushaar** at 860-219-9828.



JUNE 13TH MEETING

Laurie Durant has graciously made her home available for the Club’s optional June 11th meeting from 6:30 to 9:00PM. Please check the web site for a map to her home at 166 Sunnyfield Drive.

JULY 11TH MEETING

Janet Giannetti has graciously opened her home for the club’s optional July 11th meeting from 6:30- 9:00PM. Please check the web site for a map to her home at 671 Kennedy Road.

AUGUST 8TH MEETING

Tom Graywacz has again opened his home for the August 8th meeting from 6:00 to 8:30PM. Please check the web site for a map to his home at 11 Wilton Road.

COMMITTEES:

Please review their tasks and consider signing up for one of the important committees in our club. All Members are encouraged to participate in one committee, if possible.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Thank You to the Hospitality Volunteers for May 2nd: Barbara Kyer, Lois Kelly, Maureen Vagnini and Judy Linton

June 13th Volunteers: Laurie Durant, Diane Bernier, and Allie Kraushaar

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership renewal forms will be available in May, and are **due by the end of June**. Have your checkbooks ready!

Please update your Directory with the latest new member information from Diane Bernier at each meeting.

CIVIC ENDEAVORS

INVASIVE VINES AND PLANTS COMMITTEE

The Invasive Vines and Plants Committee have added an **Invasive Plant Information Page** to our web site. You will find various documents, all of which feature information regarding invasive plants which threaten the natural horticulture of Connecticut. A listing of designated, invasive plants has been added to this page. Updates to the page will be made on a recurring basis. (Latest update 04/14/2016). For additional information please contact Maureen Vagnini. or email maureenvagnini@gmail.com.



April 24th and May 1st – New Dates for River Trail Clean Up - 10AM-2PM

We are organizing a team to begin cleaning out the River Trail behind the current dog pound. Plan to arrive at 10AM and be able to work until 2PM on either or both days. Please remember to bring along appropriate tools and to wear protective gear. A dumpster will be provided from the town.

Please mark your calendars for this worthwhile project and email Maureen Vagnini or Laura Jary if you will be able to attend. Hope for good weather for us. We will cancel if it is raining.

Also, we are going to ask First Town Downtown to provide us with space again this year at the Farmers Market. We could use some man power to set up and distribute info on Invasive Vines and Plants in Windsor to our citizens particularly the early shift from 3:15 to 4:30. Please let us know if you might be able to help us during those times. I will post the dates in a future Earthworm. Thanks! Maureen

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee has received an application for the Club scholarship and will review it at its May meeting. An announcement will be made at the May 2 meeting.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Upon approval of the WGC, we have made the donation of \$472.00 to purchase a 4 foot bench with an engraved nameplate to NW Park. We look forward to its installment and enjoyment soon.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Beautification Committee will be planning a garden for the Praise Power and Prayer Church and Christian School. They have an area near their parking lot that needs some color and plantings. Diane Bernier will meet with them soon to plan this out. We hope to do the first planting in the first week of June.

GARDEN TOUR 2017 COMMITTEE

July 15, 2017 Garden Tour:

Down Memory Lane, And Still Growing – Celebrating 80 Years of the Windsor Garden Club

- The committee has decided on the pattern for the stakes that will be put at each tour participant's home for the 2017 tour. They will be made by students from Windsor High School Technology Wood Shop.

- The committee will also seek members for various jobs that need to be done for the tour.

- Any garden club member thinking about sharing their gardens on the 2017 tour, or who knows of anyone interested in our tour, should contact Cindy Daniels. 860-219-9489. Thanks so much!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

LOGO T-SHIRTS - ORDER NOW FOR SPRING!!

LOGO Windsor Garden Club apparel can be ordered FOR THIS SPRING, thru Suzi Jacques. Any questions call Suzi at 860-298-8935. Next order will be in the fall.



Food Donations: Please remember to bring a non perishable food item for the Windsor Food Bank. Their clients' needs are all year round. Donations can be left at the table where you check in.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

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 Bradley Air Museum's vast inventory of nuts, bolts, screws, washers and spacers.

MEETING INFORMATION

- For additional program information, please call 860-305-7306, or search 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.
- Please check the calendar page to verify all meeting dates.
- These meetings are free of charge. The programs will begin at 7:00PM.

A weed is but an unloved flower. Ella Wheeler Wilcox

WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG

NEW OFFICERS FOR THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB BOARD ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PRESIDENT - DIANE BERNIER
VICE PRESIDENT - MAUREEN VAGNINI
TREASURER - JIM BENNETT
RECORDING SECRETARY - LAURIE DURANT
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - ERIN BOURDON
PAST PRESIDENT - LAURA JARY

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

BUSY SPRING FOR THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB

The Windsor Garden Club has had a fun and busy Spring! After an informative fieldtrip to the greenhouses at the University of Connecticut on March 19th, enjoyed by 19 club members and friends, a hands on succulent activity was enjoyed by 17 club members on April 16th.

Seventeen garden club members created 50 small succulent gardens, some of which will be sold at the Garden Mart on May 7th! This activity was the club's first hands on, make and take activity. I want to thank Laurie Durant for all her creativity helping to plan this activity and for obtaining and propagating succulents for the club. Also, a big shout out to Al Stalb and Suzie Jacques for all their help with set up and container choice. We have such a wonderful club!



Sincerely, Cindy Daniels

BUTTERFLY GARDEN ASSISTANCE

Ryan Giannetti, son of Janet Giannetti, WGC member, came to the April meeting to ask for guidance in putting together a butterfly garden for his environmental project for Social Studies at Sage Park Middle School. Ryan received much input on plants to have that attract the butterflies. Ryan is also looking for donations of cash to purchase plants, and plants for donation to the garden. Please call Janet Giannetti at 860-249-9933 if you'd like to donate.

"The unmulched garden looks to me like some naked thing which for one reason or another would be better off with a few clothes on. - Ruth Stout

This year's Earthworm could not have been produced without the input and assistance from many members. My thanks to each and every one of you! Rose Rosenick10@yahoo.com

Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it. ~Author Unknown

GARDENING TIPS



Not everyone has a yard for a garden, but that doesn't have to stop you. **Tag the following links in the titles** for ideas.

[Container Garden Projects Kids Will Love](#) These ideas aren't just for kids. Check them out.

Some of the projects start indoors and can be moved outside into a container or into a garden.

Most of these projects have been kid tested and have passed the criteria for fun and most importantly, have been labeled as, 'not boring.'

[Growing Vegetables in Containers](#)

Many vegetables will grow very well in containers. You may not be able to grow as much as you might in a vegetable garden, but container vegetable gardening can be quite productive. There are a few special considerations when growing vegetable plants in pots, but they are by no means deterrents.

Although any variety can be grown in a container, compact plants do best. Seed companies realize that homeowners have less and less space to devote to vegetable gardens and every year they come out with new vegetable plant varieties suitable for growing in small spaces.

Be on the lookout for key words like: bush, compact, and space saver. Here are some tips, including vegetable plant varieties, to get your vegetable container garden growing.

[How to Grow Organic Tomatoes in a Container](#)

One of the pure joys of summer is eating fresh, ripe, organic homegrown tomatoes, still warm from the sun. ...The good news is that even if you don't have space for tomatoes in your garden (or don't have a garden at all) you can still grow tomatoes. As long as you have a sunny balcony, porch, or patio, you can have garden-fresh tomatoes all summer long. There are three keys to success in growing tomatoes in a container: tomato variety, planting, and ongoing care. Pay attention to these three keys, and you'll be in tomato heaven in no time.

Gardening is cheaper than therapy and you get tomatoes. ~Author Unknown

[What to Do in the Garden in May](#)

A Regional Gardening Almanac

Lots of good reminders of what you probably know, but it doesn't hurt to review!

Tips: If anyone has any helpful gardening hints, horticultural places to recommend, or links worth sharing, please send the information to me at rosenick10@yahoo.com. Share those new and old ideas with other members.

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul. Alfred Austin

HAPPY GARDENING ALL!

WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG
