

THE EARTHWORM:

NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB
MAY 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

Dear Garden Club members,

Happy Spring everyone, finally!

- First of all thank you to Maureen for helping to organize the Invasive Plant Forum held at our town hall. There was a successful turnout.
- Thank you to Laurie and her Mom Edith for helping the children of Poquonock School plant seeds for their classrooms. Each week I have been meeting with a focus group of 11 chosen students who will be planting vegetables and flowers in raised beds in their courtyard. We have learned about different soils, the anatomy of a seed and this week we will start our seeds for their garden. We will also learn about pollination, composting and photosynthesis. They are so excited about our little garden club.
- Please be potting up your plants for our Garden Mart and save one or more for our plant swap at our May 8th meeting.

Spring is just so refreshing with the showers that make our gardens come to life again.

Diane Bernier,

Your President and Friend

"Flowers leave some of their fragrance in the hands that bestow them." Chinese proverb.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAY 13th – THE WINDSOR GARDEN MART

- On Saturday, May 13th, 2017, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, the Club will conduct its annual, spring time fund raising event. Each club member is asked to donate a minimum of six plants (4" inch potted plant size or larger) for this event for sale. All proceeds benefit the endeavors of the Club. We will be located on the center green adjacent to the eagle monument.
- For club members, we will have a plant donation check in location for your convenience near the eagle monument.
- Also the Windsor Garden Tour Committee will be selling, for your convenience, Advance Tickets (\$10.00) for our upcoming 2017 Garden Tour scheduled for July 15, 2017.



MAY 8th MEETING – Members ONLY Meeting

WGC GARDEN MART PREP MEETING & Member Plant Swap

This business meeting will be used to go over last minute details in preparation for the May 13th Garden Mart, vote on Board nominations, and the member only Plant Swap. If you wish to participate in the plant swap bring one or two potted plants and you will receive a numbered ticket to draw another plant from members' contributions. It's a lot of fun!

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

Windsor Garden Club - 2017 Nomination of Officers

President – Diane Bernier

Vice President – Maureen Vagnini

Treasurer – Lieba Bernstein

Recording Secretary – Laurie Durant

Corresponding Secretary – Erin Bourdon

Past President – Laura Jary

Earthworm Editor – Rose Stepnick

Slate presented to club members April 10, 2017 by Alice Lang. For vote at the May 8th meeting.

2017 SUMMER MEETINGS : All are FREE. For more information call 860-298-9550.

JUNE 12th - 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The End of Year Wrap Up will be held at Valentina Champagne's house at 16 Washington Road in Windsor. This is a great way to meet folks that have a mutual love /or interest in gardening.

JULY 10th - 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

The July Summer Meeting of the Garden Club is an informal gathering of members and individuals interested in knowing more about the club. It will be held at Patty Crowley's house at 886 Windsor Avenue in Windsor. Come and enjoy meeting gardeners and enjoy viewing our host's garden and refreshments.

AUGUST 14th - 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

The August Summer Meeting of the Garden Club is an informal gathering of members/individuals interested gardening and viewing two gardens. You start at Lorrie Gallo-Donahue's house at 64 Belmont Avenue then you will visit Florence Barlow's house at 18 Douglas Street. They are next door neighbors. Enjoy meeting our hostesses and viewing their gardens and refreshments.



MEETING INFORMATION

- For additional program information, please call 860-219-1419, 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. 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.

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.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Just a reminder and a thank you from the Hospitality Committee to Sandy Leppo, Barbara Stavens, Laurie Dumont, Edith Glanz and Jim Bennett who signed up for May refreshments.

Hospitality Co-chairmen Wendy Mitchell and Joan Lynch, along with committee member Debbie Baker, would like to **thank** all who brought refreshments in April and all year long. Please contact them by email or a quick call if you need more information.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Best Deal In Town!

2017-2018 Membership renewal forms will be available in May, and are due by the end of June. Have your checkbooks ready! A link to the forms will be on the website. Individual memberships are still \$20.00 while family memberships are still \$35.00.

GARDEN TOUR 2017 COMMITTEE

80 Years Down Memory lane...and Still Growing

July 15, 2017

Rain or shine

Hi everyone,

This is our last regular Garden Club meeting before our club Garden Tour. Tickets will be available for members. Folks that have signed up to be docents or snack providers will get a reminder note.

Thanks to everyone who has supported this major club event. Cindy 860-836-0280

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Windsor Garden Club received applications from Windsor High School and CREC for our \$700 scholarship. The Scholarship committee reviewed them and will offer a candidate at the May meeting.

Submission Deadline for June/Summer 2017 Earthworm: May 25nd - 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

"Garden of Remembrance"

The kiss of the sun for Pardon
The song of the birds for Mirth
You are nearer God's heart in the Garden
Than anywhere else on Earth

This poem was from the
Cathedral of the Pine, Rindge, New Hampshire

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Invasive Vines and Plants Forum – Thursday April 20th, 6:30PM



Above: Tom Hazel, Wetlands Officer for the Town of Windsor, and Jim Govoni
Right: Maureen Vagnini, WGC Vice President participates in the Q&A

The **Windsor Conservation Commission** and **The Windsor Garden Club** jointly hosted a forum on **Invasive Vines and Plants** and the problems that we will all be dealing with in our town and state. The event was held in the **Ludlow Room at Windsor Town Hall.**



Our keynote speaker, **Todd Mervosh** began at 7:00p.m., followed by **Jim Govoni, the Tree Warden** for the Town of Windsor. A Q & A session followed.

APRIL 10th MEETING - Kitchen Gardens: History, Growing and Using

The WGC was well entertained and informed by guest, Gordon Kenneson at our April Meeting.

One of the correlations he presented was that in the 1600's an Herbalist = an Apothecary = an MD and at some point these people, mostly women, were also suspect of being witches and were hung for it. Most of the garden heritage he elaborated on came from English history and culture.

Gordon took many questions on topics of herbs, witchcraft and American history. The variety of topics touched on was fun and informative.

Thanks to the Program Committee for another successful series of speakers and demonstrations this year.



STRONG HOUSE HERB GARDEN COMMITTEE
Spring Clean-Up Saturday April 8th



The Windsor Historical Society's Garden Club Committee met on April 8th to do a Spring Clean Up. This hardy group tolerated miserable weather to accomplish a lot of needed work. THANKS!



Left: Deborah and Cindy pruning the lavender.

Below: Back row: Kathleen Baker, Laura Jary, Deborah Baker, Richard Rozman and Jim Bennett. Front row: Cindy Wahl. Photographer: Cindy Daniels



SATURDAY MAY 13TH – THE WINDSOR GARDEN MART

ON SATURDAY, MAY 13TH, 2017, FROM 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM,
THE CLUB WILL CONDUCT ITS ANNUAL, SPRING TIME FUND RAISING EVENT.

EACH CLUB MEMBER IS ASKED TO DONATE A MINIMUM OF SIX PLANTS (4" INCH POTTED PLANT SIZE
OR LARGER) FOR THIS EVENT FOR SALE.

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ENDEAVORS OF THE CLUB.
WE WILL BE LOCATED ON THE CENTER GREEN ADJACENT TO THE EAGLE MONUMENT.

WWW.WINDSORGARDENCLUBCT.ORG

COMMUNITY SERVICE

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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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](#).

Thanks to those of you who have already saved and delivered your jars!

GARDEN TOUR 2017 COMMITTEE – SAVE THE DATE



Save the date!

Saturday, July 15th, 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 13th. 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

GARDENING TIPS

Ask The Landscape Professional *Submitted by Alice Lang*

"Ask The Landscape Professional" is a weekly series by Master Gardener Linda Lillie, AOLCP. Published every Sunday in The Day newspaper, a variety of topics are covered related to Landscape Design and Maintenance, Lawn Care, and Tree Care.

I have small fleshy white things growing on the outside of my azalea bush branches. Is this a fungus?

What shall I do? April B., Groton <http://www.sprigsandtwigs.net/ask-131.aspx>



Answer

Actually, what you are seeing is called an "Azalea Leaf Gall" which is caused by a fungus, *Exobasidium vaccinii*. "Azalea leaf gall" is quite common and first shows up in early spring on new azalea growth and causes the leaves to become distorted and thickened. It is not well understood how the fungus penetrates the growing tissue of azaleas and causes the abnormal growths, but it is likely due to the interaction of hormones and other chemicals. The fungus has a layer of cells called the "hymenium" which contains spore-bearing cells; as the spores get scattered in the wind, the fungus spreads. The azalea leaf gall growths start out as light green and can change to pink, white and then brown before they harden and fall off the plant. Sometimes they can also develop a black coating. Most often galls will show up on the lower leaves of azaleas, but if the weather is humid, you may see them on the upper branches as well. You generally see Azalea Leaf Gall more in the spring or early summer if the weather has been cool and moist.

The good news is that although Azalea Leaf Gall looks awful, it doesn't generally damage the azalea and can be easily removed. When you first spot it, carefully prune off the affected branches, bag them and put them in the trash to be taken to the incinerator. As you are pruning, disinfect your pruners with rubbing alcohol so the infection is not spread to other parts of the azalea. After you prune the gall out, it's a good idea to add a fresh layer of mulch under the azalea to bury the spores so they don't re-infect the plant. Most often azalea leaf gall doesn't become an annual problem, but be vigilant and prune them out if you see them.

If you live where lilacs thrive, here's how to get more flower power:

- **Prune at the right time:** Flower buds are formed the previous year, so don't prune until after the lilac has bloomed – and do it before the 4th of July.
- **Provide plenty of sun:** Lilacs are best with at least six hours of sun a day. If your lilac is in a shady site, consider planting another one in full sun.
- **Watch the turf:** If you use high-nitrogen fertilizer to "green up" your lawn, the overspray can affect your lilac by triggering lots of foliage and few blooms. Apply fertilizer with care or – better yet – not at all.

For more information link to here: [http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/get-lilacs-to-bloom-](http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/get-lilacs-to-bloom-again/5435.html?&eid=rosenick10@yahoo.com&trk_msg=0OFRFBL8094HE6MTVAFA61QL4&trk_contact=3SMVFT55I8J30NUB0UAPA)

[again/5435.html?&eid=rosenick10@yahoo.com&trk_msg=0OFRFBL8094HE6MTVAFA61QL4&trk_contact=3SMVFT55I8J30NUB0UAPAN7ALC&trk_sid=HNB5UD0RLJOOKTTEHR87KLSM5S&SC=DNA7017C&utm_source=Listrak&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=Everybody&utm_campaign=Advice&utm_content=lilacs](http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/get-lilacs-to-bloom-again/5435.html?&eid=rosenick10@yahoo.com&trk_msg=0OFRFBL8094HE6MTVAFA61QL4&trk_contact=3SMVFT55I8J30NUB0UAPAN7ALC&trk_sid=HNB5UD0RLJOOKTTEHR87KLSM5S&SC=DNA7017C&utm_source=Listrak&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=Everybody&utm_campaign=Advice&utm_content=lilacs)