

THE EARTHWORM:

NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB
NOVEMBER 2016



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Fellow Gardeners! Happy Fall!

The leaves have turned and the wind has been brisk. Time now to clean up your garden, maybe plant some winter crops and put in garlic and your bulbs for next spring.

Thank you all for attending our October meeting with Ford Parker. He has done such a wonderful job at Northwest Park, a gem in our town.

I look forward to seeing you at our November meeting. I will have signup sheets spread out on a table for easy viewing.

*Your President and Friend,
Diane Bernier*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NOVEMBER 7TH MEETING – Butterflies in Connecticut

Pam Cooper of the University of Connecticut Home and Garden Education Center will provide information on caterpillars, the host plants they need, and the plants they use for nectar sources to become butterflies. Her focus is on CT butterflies.

Pam teaches the entomology portion of the UConn Master Gardener program and has studied native butterflies and raised their caterpillars for a number of years.

DECEMBER 5TH Meeting – Holiday Wreaths and Crafts / No business meeting

It's not too early for you to start gathering ribbons, ornaments and other seasonal crafty items you may have to decorate the fresh wreaths that we donate to local service organizations and agencies. WGC purchases the wreaths and you bring your creativity!

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.

December 11th at Noon – WGC HOLIDAY BRUNCH at [The Nutmeg](#), East Windsor

Reservations and deposits will be taken at the November meeting. The price of **\$32.62** covers tax and gratuity. Deposits should be made out to the **Windsor Garden Club**. See the booklet for a full menu that includes breakfast and lunch items, as well as one complimentary beverage.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Hospitality Co-chairmen Wendy Mitchell and Joan Lynch, along with committee member Debbie Baker, have sign-up sheets for volunteers to bring goodies for our meetings. Please contact them by email or a quick call if you need more information.

Thanks to our October hospitality volunteers, **and thank you in advance to the Hospitality Volunteers for November meeting:**

Lisa Harrison, Laura Jary and Lieba Bernstein.

Dear Windsor Garden Club Members,

*This is the usual reminder to PLEASE remember to bring non-perishable food items to our November meeting for the **Windsor Food Bank**. Their clients' needs are all year round, but it would be great if we could be even more generous with the holidays coming up.*

*Donations can be left at the table where you check in. **Thank you!***



FIELDTRIP INFORMATION

Saturday, December 3rd, Festival of the Trees, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford

The Windsor Garden Club members and friends will have the opportunity see the *Festival of the Trees* and our WGC wreath submission to this spectacular annual event.

Our **departure will be from the LP Wilson Center at 10:00AM** and we will arrive at approximately 10:30AM. We will have lunch at the cafe at 12:30PM. The **cost is \$13** for entry and lunch will be additional.

Carpooling will be available. Details to be discussed at the November meeting. Please contact Maureen if you want to join this group.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

***Through the Lens-Naturally* by Ford Parker at the October 2016 Meeting**

Our October meeting featured Ford Parker, retiring Manager of Northwest Park for the past 12 years, and naturalist for over forty years. He has led nature photography trips throughout the United States.

Through the Lens-Naturally was a wonderful presentation of information, Ford's photography and supporting materials important to achieving exceptional nature photography. This presentation shared with us remarkable images of plants and animals by Ford as examples of techniques and also reasons for doing things such as taking notes and simply being prepared. He also emphasized the importance of studying natural history, the basics of composition and the influence of weather, tides, lighting record keeping and much more.

We thank Ford for his wonderful presentation and also wish him well in his retirement.



Ford taking questions from the members and guests.

A Huge Thank You to the Windsor Historical Society Herb Committee for the Fall Clean Up!!

Laura Jary would like to thank Windsor Garden Club Members that Volunteered for the 2016 October Fall Clean Up at the WHS Herb Garden: Members: Dick Rozman, Cindy Wahl and special thanks to Cindy's husband Ron Wahl that came well prepared to help cut down many of the overgrown plants. With Ron's help our committee was able to make our efforts for the Fall Clean Up seemed effortless.

If you are interested in helping out on our 2016-2017 Windsor Historical Society Herb Garden Clean Up please give Laura a call or email her. We usually have 10 folks on our committee. We schedule a group clean-up in April and a group clean-up Fall Clean up in October.....the months in between May, June, July, August and September we usually have a pair of committee members stop in and check on the garden periodically to aid in cleaning up of weeds to keep the herb garden in good looking shape. Laura will be available to help out almost any month and will be contacting Christine Ermenc, Executive Director of the WHS about her special events so we can stay on top of the garden.

“WINDSOR LION’S CLUB 23RD ANNUAL FALL ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR” held on the Windsor Green OCTOBER 8th, 2016.

The Windsor Garden Club again hosted a table at the Windsor Lion’s Club Fall Arts and Craft Fair as a reach out to the Windsor Community. Our booth was #6 and we were there from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. We had members of our Windsor Garden Club there that were well versed in answering all questions presented from visitors stopping by our booth.

We spoke with folks interested in gardening and that had specific questions regarding flowers, vegetables their detailed questions they had regarding The Windsor Garden Club’s programs and ongoing Community Projects. This was a nice event for us to meet folks that have an interest in gardening or that had gardening questions. We had four residents that decided to join the WGC at this event, and they each received a gift bag of some tulip bulbs as a thank you. This is a fall event that our committee hopes will be continued by the Windsor Garden Club in the upcoming years. **Many thanks to our committee members Laurie Durant, Joan Lynch, Maureen Vagnini, Christine and Dick Rozman and Diane Bernier and a special thanks to my husband, Paul, for helping with set up and closing our booth and Suzanne Urban for taking photos.** - *Thanks! Laura Jary*



COMMITTEES:

All Members are encouraged to participate on a committee. Please sign up and help.
At our first meeting 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

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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.



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 [New England Air Museum's](#) vast inventory of nuts, bolts, screws, washers and spacers used in the [Restoration Program](#).

Submission Deadline for December 2016 Earthworm: November 28th - 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



*November comes
And November goes,
With the last red berries
And the first white snows.
With night coming early,
And dawn coming late,
And ice in the bucket
And frost by the gate.
The fires burn
And the kettles sing,
And earth sinks to rest
Until next spring.*



~Elizabeth Coatsworth (1893–1986)

GARDENING TIPS

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

At "publication", most of our gardens are still green, so it is not too late for these garden tasks.

Storing Tender Bulbs for the Winter

Overwintering Tender Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes and Tubers

http://gardening.about.com/od/floweringbulbs/a/StoringBulbs.htm?utm_campaign=gardening&utm_medium=email&utm_source=cn_nl&utm_content=7891863&utm_term=

...Northern gardeners will need to dig tender [bulbs](#), [corms](#), [rhizomes](#) and [tubers](#) and store these plants to overwinter them. There are no absolute rules for overwintering the tender plants but in general:

1. Keep them dry and above freezing temperatures.
2. Don't store in air tight containers that could cause moisture build up and rot or fungus.
3. Check regularly for desiccation and mold.
4. Remember to label by type and color.

Below are more specifics for some commonly grown tender bulbs, corms, rhizomes and tubers.

- **[Alocasia \(Elephant's Ear\)](#)** Easiest to simply treat as potted houseplants. Feed lightly throughout winter and water often. If ground grown, lift and pot before frost. Alocasia tubers can also be cleaned and stored in peat moss, in a cool, dry spot. Plants tend to get larger as the tubers age. Repot in early spring.
- **[Anemone coronari \(Windflower\)](#)** Follow guidelines given for storing dahlias. Bulbs are often sold in the fall, but they are not hardy in Zones 5 and lower.
- **[Begonias, Tuberous](#)** Allow a frost to kill the tops, but do not allow the tubers to freeze. Lift and let tubers dry for one week, with about 5 inches of the foliage still in tact. Remove excess soil and foliage and store in peat moss or sawdust at 50 degrees F. Repot in early spring and keep warm, 68 - 75 degrees F. Move to a sunny spot when shoots appear. Keep evenly moist, but not wet. Plant outside after all danger of frost.
- **[Caladium](#)** Lift caladium plants before frost and allow them to dry in a warm spot. Cut back the foliage after it dies. Caladium bulbs don't like to be stored in cold temperatures. Keep at 50 - 60 degrees F. Pack loosely in peat moss. Repot up in early Spring, about 2 inches deep, knobby side up. Keep the soil moist and warm - 75 - 80 degrees F. Move outdoors after all danger of frost.
- **[Canna](#)** Allow frost to kill the tops, but do not allow the rhizomes to freeze. Carefully lift the plants and cut off the dead tops. Hose off excess soil and allow to dry. Rhizomes can be wrapped in newspaper and stored in paper bags or cardboard boxes, at 45 to 50 degrees F. Very easy to overwinter. Cannas can be divided by hand. Break apart, insuring there are at least 3 eyes per division. Repot in early spring or plant directly in the garden once the temperatures remain above 70 degrees F. Keep well watered.
- **[Colocasia esculenta Taro](#)** Like Alocasia, Colocasia can be brought indoors as a houseplant or dug and overwintered as a tuber. Store the dried tubers in peat moss. Check the tubers monthly and cut away any soft spots that may develop. Allow the

remaining healthy portion to dry before restoring in peat. Colocasia can be repotted about 8 weeks before the last expected spring frost. If dividing, be sure each tuber piece has a corm. Allow the tubers to dry a few days before replanting them.

- **Crocasmia** Follow the guidelines given for storing gladiolas, below.
 - **Dahlia** Dahlias can be over-wintered in the ground with sufficient mulch, but it is risky. To store dahlias, they must be dug before a hard freeze, but their tops may be allowed to die back from a light frost. It's easiest to see the dahlia eyes, for division purposes, within a week after the tops are cut or killed back. These tubers don't like to get completely dried out. Overwinter in peat moss and check monthly for dehydration. Mist lightly, if necessary. Dahlia tubers are usually direct planted in the garden, once temperatures warm.
 - **Freesia** Follow the guidelines given for storing gladiolas, below.
 - **Galtonia candicans (Summer hyacinth)** Dig bulbs anytime in the fall. Overwinter in peat moss. Replant offsets directly in the ground, after all danger of frost.
 - **Gladiola** Lift the plants in the fall either when the plants yellow or after the first frost. Cut the stems back to 1 inch and allow the corms to dry. Remove the old, shriveled portion, keeping only the new plump corms. These store easily in peat moss or sand. Plant directly in the ground beginning when the ground warms. Stagger plantings to extend the season of bloom.
 - **Gloriosa superba (Glory Lily)** Store in peat moss. Check the tubers monthly cut away any soft spots that may develop. Allow the remaining healthy portion to dry before restoring in peat. In general, use the same guidelines as dahlias. You can repot Glory lilies after only 2 months of storage or hold until early spring.
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