

THE EARTHWORM:
NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB
OCTOBER 2016



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Windsor Garden Club Members,

Thank you everyone for making our first meeting such a success. Our speaker was engaging and gave us so many great garden tips.

I have been on a road trip to Florida and have especially noticed the different foliage and landscape, so not like New England.

We will be on the town green for the Lions Club craft fair on October 8th. Please give Laura Jary a call if you can donate some time to volunteer at our booth. People love to share about their gardens and have great questions that we can help with.

Again thank you summer garden hosts. We had a great attendance and new members.

I know fall has arrived in Connecticut but it is in the upper 80's here. Cannot wait to smell that fall air and get a pumpkin and a corn stalk.

See you all at our October meeting.
Remember: time began in a garden.

*Your friend and President,
Diane Bernier*

**"WINDSOR LION'S CLUB 24TH ANNUAL FALL ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR" on the Windsor Green
SATURDAY OCTOBER 8th, 2016 – 9am -3pm**

The Windsor Garden Club will again be hosting a table at the Windsor Lion's Club Fall Arts and Craft Fair as a reach out to the Windsor Community. Our booth is #6 and we will be there from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. I will be looking for a couple of folks to join me in the booth.

We will be speaking with folks interested in gardening and answering questions they might have regarding The Windsor Garden Club's programs and ongoing Community Projects. This is a great event for us to meet folks that has an interest in gardening or that has gardening questions. Folks that decide to join the WGC, at this event, will receive a gift bag of some tulip bulbs as a thank you. **Please call Laura Jary at 860-688-7145 or my cell number of 860-305-7306 if you are interested in helping out for maybe an hour or so that day.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCTOBER 10TH MEETING – Through the Lens-Naturally – Ford Parker



Our October meeting will feature Ford Parker, Manager of Northwest Park for the past 12 years. Ford holds a ME in Environmental Education. He has served as an environmental education center director and naturalist for over forty years, and has led nature photography trips throughout the United States.

Through the Lens-Naturally is a ninety-minute presentation that provides information, images and supporting materials important to achieving exceptional nature photography. This presentation will discuss how to prepare for a nature photography experience, the importance of studying natural history, the basics of composition and the influence of weather, tides, lighting record keeping and much more.

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.

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 – Holiday Wreaths and Crafts

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.

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.



Food Bank Donations:

Please remember to bring a non perishable food item 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.

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

CIVIC ENDEAVORS

INVASIVE VINES AND PLANTS COMMITTEE AT WINDSOR FARMER'S MARKET

We again request assistance at our booth at the Thursday Farmers Market on **October 6th, 13th and 20th**. As before, we could use some volunteers to set up and distribute information on Invasive Vines and Plants in Windsor to our citizens on the early shift from **3:15 to 4:30PM**.

Please **contact Maureen Vagnini** if you can help. Thanks!

See the **Invasive Plant Information Page** on our web site.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Hospitality Co-chairmen Wendy Mitchell and Joan Lynch, along with committee member Debbie Baker, are reminding the volunteers who signed up, to bring their goodies for the October meeting. Please contact them by email or a quick call if you need more information. **Thank you in advance!** There will be sign-up sheets for future meetings.

Also, thanks to our September hospitality volunteers. A WONDERFUL feast!

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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 12th MEETING - Preparing Your Garden for the Winter

The September meeting attendees were well entertained and informed by our guest Bettylou Sandy of *Bettylou Gardening*.

Bettylou reminded us that soil is the foundation of gardening and how best to work with it. Included in her presentation were her favorite tools and how to use them; the value of earthworms and leaves; and how to prepare our lawns for winter. Most interesting was the topic of winter gardening and the crops that we could start outdoors as well as indoors.

Bettylou shared several handouts that the club members eagerly collected.

Betty Lou began her own business over 20 years ago as a gardening consultant. She teaches several gardening classes at MCC as well as gardening seminars at several local nurseries. She is passionate about Organic Gardening and sustainability from your own backyard.



AND THE WINNER IS.....

NORTHWEST PARK FAIR was held on September 17th and we had a nice selection of flowers in categories of single flowers, two flowers, three flowers and of course a mixed selection of flowers in vases (of many varieties). Linda Alexander and Laura Jary were judges again this year.

We are proud to announce our **BEST IN SHOW** and winner of the **JANE NEERING AWARD** was given to **Lorrie Gallon-Donahue**.

Thanks for the Tulips, Tom!

Tom Graywacz cleaned out his potting shed to our garden's benefit, and at the September meeting, donated trays of red, orange and yellow tulip bulbs that he harvested from his spring tulip display. For those lucky enough to take bulbs home, here is Tom's advice for correct care: Plant them 6" deep, pointy side up, by mid/end of October. That's it!! Plant them 3" apart, minimum. The smaller bulbs may not flower this spring, but be patient and they'll flower next spring.

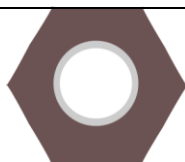
FIELD TRIP NEWS

The Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT



A lovely day was spent by the members of the WGC on Saturday, September 10th at the Florence Griswold House and Museum. We enjoyed the current exhibition called ***The Artist's Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, 1887–1920*** as well as a tour of the house garden and of course the beautiful home of Florence Griswold. After our tour, we enjoyed lunch at the Cafe Flo on the porch of the museum overlooking the Lieutenant River. **Thanks to Maureen Vagnini** for arranging for our club to visit this outstanding exhibition.

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.

GARDENING TIPS

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

[Gardening To Do List - October in the Garden](#)

Gardening in October is entirely dependent on the weather. If there's an Indian Summer, there is no better time of year to be out in the garden. While gardeners in warm areas will have more to do than their northern counterparts, there are plenty of garden tasks to keep everyone busy in October.

In General

- Get your soil tested and add [amendments](#) as needed.
- Amend your soil with a dressing of compost
- Turn your [compost](#) pile.
- Use your garden debris and leaves to start a new compost pile.
- Plant trees and shrubs. Be sure to keep them well-watered, even through the winter (Snow permitting).
- Make sure all vacationing houseplants are brought back inside.
- Continue [planting garlic](#).
- Plant cool season annuals. Covering [mums](#) and [asters](#) on nights when a frost is expected, will lengthen their blooming.
- Clear away dead foliage.
- Dry and [save seed](#).
- Take [cuttings](#) of tender perennials.
- [Harvest and dry or freeze herbs](#) for winter use.
- Remove green tomatoes from the plants. Either ripen in a brown paper bag or lift the entire plant and hang upside down in a warm spot, to ripen.
- Harvest [winter squash](#) once the vines die back, but definitely before a hard freeze.
- Continue harvesting [fall crops](#) like beets, [cabbage](#), [carrots](#), cauliflower, kale and leeks.
- Clean and put away empty containers and garden ornaments.
- Clean and sharpen gardening tools.
- Continue [winterizing your water garden](#)
- Clean bird feeders.
- Think about a de-icer for the birdbath. If you're in an area that freezes and you don't have a de-icer, turn your birdbath over to keep it from cracking.
- Enjoy the season. Show off your harvest with a fall display.
- Then start thinking about [putting your garden to bed](#).

http://gardening.about.com/od/fallinthegarden/a/OctoberToDo.htm?utm_content=7514434&utm_medium=email&utm_source=cn_nl&utm_campaign=gardening&utm_term=

Northeast

- Start raking. Shred or compost this fall gold.
- Cut back and remove diseased perennial foliage.
- Finish planting bulbs.
- Keep transplants watered.

Plant and your spouse plants with you; weed and you weed alone. -Jean-Jacques Rousseau

7 Things to Do with Fall Leaves

Go ahead and pile them up, then jump in. It's still as much fun as ever. But after the fun, don't rake them to the curb. Leaves have multiple purposes in the yard and garden. They can even enhance your home. Scoop them up and use them as a free and sustainable garden treat.

[1. Compost](#)

Leaves are the perfect "brown" or carbon ingredient for your compost pile. Layer them in between all the ["green" garden debris](#) you gather as you clean up the garden and prepare it for winter. They will decompose even faster if you shred them first, but it's not required. A [compost pile or bin](#) isn't really required, either. Many town and city waste disposal sites will gladly compost your leaves for you and put the final product out for residents to avail themselves of next spring.

And if you find yourself with too many leaves to work into your compost pile without ruining the balance. Save them for spring, when green ingredients are more readily available. Or check out my next suggestion, leaf mold.

[More »](#)

[2. Leaf Mold](#)

Leaf mold may not sound like a good thing, but it does miraculous things for your garden soil. Leaf mold is the crumbly, compost-like product that remains when leaves are left to decompose on their own. It's what makes the forest smell so earthy.

Leaf mold doesn't add a lot of nutrients to the soil, but it improves the structure of soil, greatly improving its water holding ability. It also attracts the beneficial organisms that are so important to a healthy soil. [More »](#)

[3. Mulch](#)

Put your leaves to work right. Leaves make an excellent, attractive mulch, suppressing weeds and eventually decomposing and feeding the soil. This is one time when it really is wise to shred them first. A thick layer of wet leaves will form a solid mat and block water and air from getting through to the soil. However when shredded, they form an airy cushion that slowly settles in and settles down. One caveat – shredded leaves will blow around in a windy fall. Hose them down, when you first spread them. It won't take long for them to stay in place on their own. [More »](#)

[4. Use Them for Insulation](#)

Leaves can be used to insulate tender plants or even for cold storage of vegetables. To provide a few degrees of protection for plants or planted containers, circle them with wire fencing and stuff leaves all the way around. In the spring, rake them up and toss them in the compost.

If you have a root cellar or storage basement, you can use dry leaves to layer your vegetable in, rather than saw dust or newspaper. They will easily last through winter. [More »](#)

[5. Leave Them Be](#)

Run the lawn mower over them and let them stay on the lawn and feed the grass. Of course, you don't want a layer so thick that it smothers the grass, but if you mow a few times, as the leaves gradually fall, the shredded leaves should disperse enough to allow the grass to breathe. At the very least, you can probably get by with only one raking and then mow over the rest. [More »](#)

[6. Preserve Them](#)

We all know how beautiful fall leaves are when they're on the trees, but they don't lose that beauty just because they drop. Gather some up and dry, [press or otherwise preserve them](#). This is a fun project for kids and it's also a great way to decorate your home with a fall theme. The leaves won't last forever, but they will certainly get you through the holiday season.

[7. Amend Your Soil](#)

Skip the middleman and add your leaves directly into your soil. Soil is constantly in flux and you never [have enough soil amendments](#). Leaves make a great, free alternative to carrying bags of manure home.

This works best if you shred them first, but don't let that stop you. You can either turn them into the top few inches of soil or simply spread a layer of leaves on top of the soil and chop them a bit with a fork or spade. Just make sure they are making good contact with the soil, then let nature work its wonders.

The leaves will begin to disintegrate and provide a wonderful habitat for earthworms and other beneficial organisms that reside in your garden soil. As with mulching with leaves, it would be good if you added some slow release nitrogen at the same time. [More »](#)

Prepare Your Roses for Winter Protecting Your Rose Bushes from Winter's Extremes.



Abbreviated - Read more here:

http://gardening.about.com/od/winerrosecare/tp/Winter_Rose_Care.htm?utm_content=7564581&utm_medium=email&utm_source=cn_nl&utm_campaign=gardening&utm_term=

All roses need some attention going into winter. Winter weather in zones 6 and below can really challenge rose bushes, particularly the [hybrid teas](#). Shrub roses are hardier and can pretty much fend for themselves, but the hybrid teas and other modern hybrids are a little fussier.

Here are some tips for winter rose survival, starting with zones 6 and below:

1. Coax Them Into Dormancy.

Stop feeding and pruning your roses around the end of August, to discourage tender, new growth that will suffer from winter damage. Leave the last of the flowers on, to turn into hips. The hips are the rose's seed pods. **By producing seed pods, the rose bush thinks it's done for the season and can start to go dormant.**

2. Make Sure the Rose Bushes are Well Watered.

After the first frost, thoroughly water the soil around your rose bush. Once the ground freezes the bush has to take care of itself, so give it a good soaking going into winter.

3. Prevent Problems from Over-Wintering Near the Rose Bush.

Remove all fallen leaves to prevent diseases and insects from overwintering. If the leaves were healthy, you can go ahead and compost them. But if you had a problem with a fungus, like black spot, or an insect infestation, dispose of the leaves and get them out of your yard.

4. Protect the Graft Union.

After a couple of hard freezes, mound 6-12 inches of compost around the crown of the plant, to protect the roots and the graft union where the rose species you are growing is attached to a hardy root stock. The graft should be at or just below the soil surface. In a mild winter, you could also circle the rose with wire and stuff this cage with leaves or mulch. Don't try to use the soil around the rose bush as mulch. Moving it could expose or disturb the roots.

5. Special Care for Climbing Roses.

Climbing roses are at risk from strong, drying winds. To protect the canes of canes of climbers, either wrap the canes together bundling something like straw on the outside for insulation or remove the canes from their trellis or support and lay them on the ground. Then tie the canes together and secure them to the ground with landscape pins. Protect with a layer of mulch.

...see article for 6,7 and more.

8. One Final Tip.

One final tip from me: Don't forget to remove protective mulch in the spring.

Submission Deadline for November 2016 Earthworm: October 29th - 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

October gave a party; The leaves by hundreds came. The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples, And leaves of every name. The Sunshine spread a carpet, And everything was grand, Miss Weather led the dancing, Professor Wind the band. - George Cooper