



The WEST·HARTFORD·GARDEN·CLUB



WINTER 2014

Greetings Garden Club Members-Our club has had a productive fall season will lots of activities and stimulating programs. Many of our Club members attended the Federated Awards Luncheon in October where we were presented with 6 Club awards; an individual award given to Susan Lindberg. Our club won the Plant Native Trees contest and was awarded a cash prize for having planted the most Native Trees in CT (151) since April 2013. Congratulations to everyone for their hard work!

So far this year, we have welcomed too new members, Ellen Guest and Marcia Doty-DeBolt. They are already busy contributing to the club. Please be sure to say “hello” to them when you see them.

We started off this year with several delightful meeting Programs. In September, we hosted a very successful flower arranging challenge where 15 of our members got to show their creative sides by making stunning floral arrangements. Our surprise judge, Alice Leister, critiqued the arrangements (sans Federated rules) and was impressed by everyone’s creativity.

In October, Marjorie Winters gave us an excellent, informative lesson on the importance of incorporating native plants in our landscapes and in November, Sandra Lamo WOWed us with her creative fall holiday designs.

December brought us the Holiday Luncheon at the Wampanoag Country Club with delicious food and beautiful herbal table designs, as well as our annual Greens Workshop where many lovely tabletop arrangements were created.

The FGCCT-sponsored contest to register your backyard as a Wildlife Habitat ends in just a few months. If you plan to participate, follow the link on the Federated website and email or phone your certification number to Madeleine Hexter by March 1st. The Federated Garden Clubs will present “Ports of Call”, a Standard Flower Show at the CT Convention Center, Thursday, February 19th thru Sunday, February 22nd. Several of our club members have expressed an interest in submitting entries in both the Design and the Horticulture portions of the show! We are so proud of them for their participation and hope many of you will support their efforts by attending the show! Our Club will continue to provide the Design Quality Control for the show’s judged fresh floral entries. This is a fun and educational experience that we highly recommend participating in, however, there are many other volunteer opportunities available before, during and after the show. More information can be found on the FGCCT website. There are many exciting and educational programs coming in the New Year.

We wish you a Happy Holiday Season and look forward to seeing and working with all of you in the New Year.

Joan Murray Martin & Susan Petty-Bailer, Co-Presidents

www.westhartfordgardenclub.org



Flower Arranging Study Group



Marjorie Johnson and Francie Berquist organized two fantastic flower arranging classes. The horizontal session was the first of the season. We focused on the use of color, proportion and texture. All the gals on their committee helped guide the group in designing their arrangements and in critiquing the end results. While all members are required to complete a Basic I Horizontal and Basic II vertical flower arranging class, any member can join the group. There will be two more classes this year. Think about signing up. It's fun, it's creative and it's rewarding.



October and November were extremely busy for our committee. The "Fall Pumpkin Festival" at

Plant was successful as you can see from the pictures. 22 residents, ages 2 - 103, enjoyed the flower arranging session.

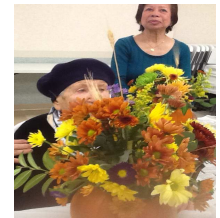
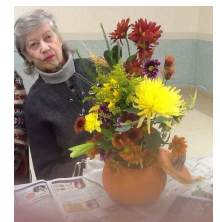
The basket arrangements were perfect for the Nov. presentation. We were warmly received at Hughes and the activities at Loomis have been continuing on a monthly basis. They even donated to our basket collection! Dec 15th is the next program there. Elmgrove planters were done in early December.

A list of all members who participated in these events can be found in the November minutes. **Thank You** to all our enthusiastic volunteers.

Special thanks to **Trader Joe's, Dunkin Donuts, and Flower Power Farm** for their generous donations.

Please continue to save the 1/2 pound (medium) deli containers as well as the Folgers plastic cans.

Enjoy the holidays, Judy Joly

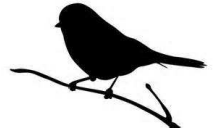


Photos from A. E. Plant, Elmgrove and West Hartford Health & Rehabilitation



Junior Gardeners

Our first visit to HANOC was on Wednesday, October 8th. Sharon Mulvey and Karen Rider co-chaired. Pumpkin painting was our craft, with 25 children participating. We had a variety of faces, some with google eyes, even a polka dotted pumpkin. It was enjoyed by all. Once again, our pumpkins were donated by Geissler's in Bloomfield at a 50% discount. Check our Website for future dates....



Conservation Committee News

Garden Book Fair

Get ready for the Conservation Committee's next Reduce Reuse Recycle (RRR) Sale at our General Meeting on Feb. 5 by clearing out your bookshelves of any books our club member might want, i.e. gardening, landscape, and flower arranging books. This way you can make room for the new and support our Club too. Books will be sold for \$1 each, any unsold books will be donated.



Compost Bins

The Conservation Committee and Horticulture Study Group are putting their heads together to bring compost bins to members of the WHGC who want them. More information can be found about the bins and about composting on the <http://geobin123.com/> site. Many members of the Garden Club already compost, some are using these simple, easy, cost effective Geobins and they love them.

Backyard habitats contest

We all know how important it is to support pollinators and other wildlife by planting native plants. FGCT's is encouraging us to all to do more by participating in their Create Backyard Habitats Contest. The contest is based solely on National Wildlife Federation certification numbers submitted by April 1, 2015 - the more certification numbers the better. If our club wins we stand to win a native tree, so please participate. It is easy to do, simply go to (www.nwf.org/wildlifegardening). There are four basic elements of a Certified Wildlife Habitat: food, cover, water & places to raise young. If you intend to participate or already have registered your backyard with The National Wildlife Federation, email Madeleine Hexter (madzh@comcast.net) of the Conservation Committee. When you become certified, give Madeleine your certification number. The following members have already given Madeleine their certification numbers: Susan Petty-Bailer, Susan Lindberg, Ellen Clarke & Glenda Thomas ~thank you.



Butler McCook House & Garden

Chloe and Carter
"Putting the garden to bed".

In seed-time learn, in harvest teach,
In winter enjoy. ~William Blake

Celebrate West Hartford Booth

2014, representing our club for the first time at Celebrate W.H. Helpers included Pat Moores, Sister Elaine Cleary and her Husband Tim Tyler, Paige Falasco, Joan Larkin, Margaret Pulito and Ellen Clarke.



PORTS OF CALL



Federated Flower Show

February 19 - 22, 2015

Once again we are the **Quality Control team for the Federated Flower Show in February.** Our job is to make the designs look as beautiful as possible for the visitors who come to see the show. This means we go to the Convention Center each morning at 7:30 to refresh and renew the flower arrangements. We had a great turn-out last year and I hope we can count on you again. We'll set up carpools and work in teams, so if you haven't done this before, we make it easy to learn. Volunteers can return to the show during regular hours with free admission.

At our January meeting I will send around a sign-up sheet. If you can't be there in January, call me or send an e-mail to enclarke@comcast.net.

In addition to refreshing the designs, there are many other opportunities to help with the show. On February 14, there's touch-up painting to do. There's setting up on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and clean up on Sunday at 5 p.m. They also need book sellers and hostesses during the show. Let me know if you would like more information about these.

Finally, please consider entering your horticulture or a flower design. For details, consult the schedule on the homepage at ctgardenclubs.org

This is a great opportunity to showcase our talent!

Ellen Clarke

Wampanoag Luncheon

A picture is worth a thousand words



Marcia Doty-DeBolt
Center, busy at the
Greens Workshop

Ellen Guest, Right-enjoying
the company of Linda
Aldrich, also new in 2014

**A warm welcome to our newest members,
So nice to have you in our club!**



Awards Luncheon

WHGC won six club and one individual award at the October 29 Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Awards luncheon.



The Club was awarded two Silver Tray Awards of Excellence: One for **Civic Development** (the disease-resistant Liberty Elm trees project) and other for **Garden Therapy** (specifically for our work at Elmgrove and West Hartford Health and Rehab.)



Susan Lindberg was awarded an Individual Certificate of Achievement for her for her outstanding contributions in **Garden Therapy**.

The Club was also awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Environmental Concerns and Conservation (**Reduce Reuse, Recycle Program**) and the Youth Award of Excellence (**Junior Gardeners** work with Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center [HANOC].)

In addition, the Club received the **Yearbook Award of Excellence** for our 2013-2014 Yearbook.

In response to the **FGCCT President's Plant Native Trees Challenge**, we planted 150 native trees since April 2013. We received an award check for \$125, the money to be allocated at a later date. (Club members who participated in the Challenge were: Linda Aldrich, Marjorie Johnson, Judy Joly, Steve Kovack, Janet Leonberger, Susan Lindberg, Joan Martin, Mary Mulcahy, Sharon Mulvey, Susan Petty-Bailer, Suzanne Sayers, Glenda Thomas, and Joanna Woodin.)

A Special thank you all West Hartford Garden Club Members who participated in the Plant Native Trees Contest:

Linda Aldrich	Marjorie Johnson	Judy Joly
Steve Kovack	Janet Leonberger	Susan Lindberg
Joan Martin	Mary Mulcahy	Sharon Mulvey
Susan Petty-Bailer	Suzanne Sayers	Glenda Thomas
	Joanna Woodin	

We also appreciate the encouragement and support of Rachael Desmond, Jeanne Grandy, Elsie Harp, Martha Keener, Paula Mooney, Pat Moores, Ann Painter, Betty Payton and Margaret B. Pulito.

Thank you to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving – the Vernon D. and Florence E. Roosa Family Foundation Memorial Fund, the town of West Hartford, the Historic Butler McCook House and Garden, KNOX and Stonehedge employees for their collaboration on this project.

We are grateful to Jeanne Grandy for her research and writing of the “West Hartford Garden Club History with Trees” and “Dutch Elm Disease ~ A History from the Web”.

We are especially grateful to Jacqueline Connell, President and The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut for the award of \$125.00 for our efforts in the “Plant Native Contest”.

Butler McCook Trees + After Amos Bull Construction & Garden Redesign



Ride the Garden Express

You never have to miss a meeting! If you need a ride to a monthly meeting, call Chloe Horton. She is coordinating the "Garden Express" so that every member has an opportunity to attend our meetings. Her phone number is 860-523-4574 and her e-mail is hnutcracker@aol.com. Please don't wait until the last minute to call; she needs time to make the arrangements.



Greens Workshop

The Greens Workshop was held at the West Hartford Art League Clubhouse on Friday December 12th. Thank you to Suzanne Sayers, Steve Kovack and Meg Griffin!

As we are surrounded by family and friends, enjoying our "Holiday Feast", we will reflect on the fun we had designing our table centerpiece.

Your efforts made it possible to brighten many of our tables this holiday season.





Winter came down to our home one night

Quietly pirouetting in
on silvery-toed slippers of snow,

And we, we were Children once again.

~Bill Morgan, Jr.



Federated Scholarship

Please follow the federated Website and newsletters for scholarship updated. Four deserving students received \$2000 each. Dusty Munson, a W.H. native, was a recipient and he is in the Environmental Studies Program at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Festival of Trees at the Wadsworth

Madeleine Hexter and her Mom designed and donated this beautiful wreath to the Festival of Trees, on behalf of the West Hartford Garden Club; a true memory maker. It sold the first day!



**"The Snow-Walkers,"
1866**

What a severe yet master artist old Winter is..
No longer the canvas and the pigments,
but the marble and the chisel.
~John Burroughs,

November Club Meeting

Creative floral designer, Sandra Lamos, dazzled us with unique arrangements, using live plants and embellishments to reflect various seasons. Many of her creations were included in the club raffle to the delight of all our members.



Noah Webster House Beer Making

The new Executive Director at the Noah Webster House, Jennifer Matos, posted a photograph of the hops in the Noah Webster Kitchen Garden on twitter and facebook. (The hops grow along the fence behind the vegetable garden.) Jennifer asked if anyone new about the hops. The posting got the attention of West Hartford resident, Gregory Kneidel. Mr. Kneidel brewed an American IPA with the initial hops that were collected. On the last NWH work day, 9/24, the remaining hops were harvested. Mr. Kneidel plans to brew both an Octoberbest and winter stout beer with the hops from the Noah Webster Garden.



Jamie Wein 9/30/2014

Civic Projects

Newer Club members may be wondering how the West Hartford Garden Club became so involved with the Noah Webster House, so here is a little history. The WHGC, an all volunteer organization, has no formal contractual agreement with NWH. However, the long term interest in gardening there dates from 1966 when the club was asked by the Board of Trustees of the NW Foundation to restore the grounds. The Club accepted enthusiastically. A former charter member, Mrs. Alice Hamilton who lived directly behind...had donated the property to the Town. In July of 1963 it was designated a National Historical Site by the US Department of the Interior." With the advice of the University of CT's Rudy Favretti, who drew up "an attractive design for the garden for a house of that type." The gardens were installed, and Club members began the" biweekly effort to keep the garden neat and tidy", continuing to do so for the next ten years as a Civic Project.

A museum addition was completed in August of 1974, for which 22 bayberry bushes were planted and sod laid by the Club, "in time" for the dedication. "From 1976-1980, a separate committee was formed to continue maintenance around the house and supply arrangements for the inside." Details of the Club's involvement since 1980 are not recorded in the 75th Diamond Jubilee History booklet, from which these quotes come. My guess is that, since many women were entering the workforce around that time, the WHGC, like many other female driven volunteer organizations, struggled with membership retention and prioritizing activities.

Under former Civic Projects co-chairs, Judy Carrithers and Claudie Blozy, and the urging of club member Louise Pruyne, now the property owner behind the NWH and an emeritus member of the NWH Board, the WHGC re-committed itself to helping maintain the Colonial era garden inside the maroon fence in a way that works for both members of the Club and for the teaching programs at NWH. As a sub-committee of Civic Projects, chair(s) were designated and a line item budget adopted, initially at \$ 500, but reduced to \$300 in the current year.



Current NWH co-chair, Jamie Wein, along with other Club members, Margaret Pulito, Susan Petty-Bailer, Louise Pruyne, and Jeanne Grandy met in August together with Town officials Helen Rubino-Turco and Al Adaskaveg and the new NWH Board chair, Diane Foley and newly appointed Executive Director of NWH, Jennifer Matos, to welcome her and begin a fresh conversation about how we can best support one another in caring for the NWH's garden. It was a fruitful time together, and we look forward to continuing the partnership. We are grateful for their support, and for allowing us the use of the Community Room for flower arranging sessions this year.

Discussion going forward will include the possibility of landscaping a patio space at the rear of the property as a Civic Project. Desire for the improved space stems from the expanded use of NWH as a resource center for groups and special events with need for beautification between NWH and the rear property; an identified need for increased safety for the children in programs there; and additional space for staff and visitors to sit outside.

Jeannie Grandy



Our Purpose

*To stimulate interest and creative activity
in the art of gardening;*

To enhance the beauty of our community;

To contribute to civic improvement;

*To work for the conservation
of native plants and wildlife*



*Nut-N-Berry Feast
Festival of Trees 2014*

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