

LGC Newsletter



December 2023



Message From The President

And suddenly it's December and the holiday season! I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation for your goodwill throughout the past year. It is your collective efforts and support that have been the very foundation of LGC's continued success. Your contributions are appreciated; the community work we do is important.

To celebrate our successes and to enjoy our friendships and the camaraderie we share, we will gather for our Holiday Tea on December 14, 4:00 at Kristen Mahan-Kraut's home, 34 Talmadge Lane. Please note there will be a brief business meeting prior to the tea. I do hope you will be there as there will be a couple of changes in our policies and we will want to review them with you.

Looking ahead to 2024, I hope you find the programs inspiring and educational.

- January is a soup luncheon meeting at Forman School and a look at the possibility of taking on a new community project.
- February is the CT Flower Show which we support.
- March is the speaker Kent Russell a Container Specialist providing plants for your pots and gardens. [Read more](#) about the event.
- April will be a Conservation meeting; details will follow.

And lastly, please mark your calendars for December 18. It's LGC's Community Outreach - this season we are participating with the Litchfield Park and Rec department. We will be making arrangements for and with some of the area seniors. The date is Monday, December 18 at 11:00 a.m. at the Bantam Annex. I hope you will be there.

Wishing you all happy and healthy holidays!

[Sara Gault](#)

Click the button below for a listing of all upcoming Club meetings, workshops, and other events. Do you have something to add to the calendar? Click [HERE](#) to submit an event for the LGC calendar.

CALENDAR

Program

Members' Holiday Tea

**At the home of Kristen Mahan-Kraut
34 Talmadge Lane**

**December 14, 2023
4:00 pm**

Floral Design Sweepstakes

Parking details: park all vehicles on the right (north) side of Tallmadge Lane. Do not park vehicles in the circular driveway so those members needing to be dropped off at the front door may do so.

Please take the time to RSVP for the December Tea. While it is *always* important to *RSVP*, it is vital this month as it's in a member's home, is usually very well attended, and significant planning goes into organizing the space to accommodate our members and our sweeps. Thank you.

Doreen Tango Hampton is the Hospitality ^{RSVP} Chair of the month.

Monthly Floral Design "IDEAS"

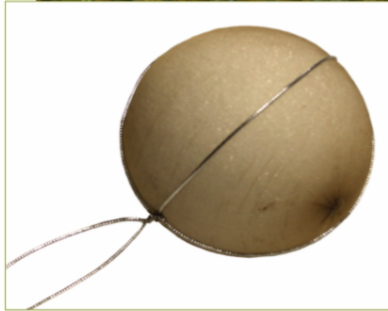
Idea #5, Deck the Halls!

MaryEllen O'Brien



Floral Design Committee
Tips & Tricks to Try
ideas
with MaryEllen O'Brien DECEMBER 2023

Deck the Halls



Tools

- Clippers
- Glue Gun and Low Temp Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Needle-Nose Pliers

Supplies

- 4" Styrofoam Ball
- Thin Florist Wire
- 2 Fern Pins
- Knee High Stocking Hosiery
- 1 yd. length of 2mm Lamé Covered Wire or any other Wire
- 2 yds. 1"-1.5" width Holiday Ribbon

Plant Materials

- Acorn Caps
- Deer Moss or Spaghnum Moss

Technique

- Place your 4" Styrofoam Ball into the toes of a knee high hosiery. Pull up tight on the hosiery and secure with a piece of thin florist wire. Trim off excess hosiery and cut wire ends.
 - Take your 36" length of Lamé Covered Wire and tightly wrap your styrofoam ball into four quadrants. Twist to secure the ends. Push in Fern Pins into the bottom and top wire cross-overs of the lamé wire to keep the wire from shifting.
 - Next begin working with the Acorn Caps. Cut off any stems leaving the back of the caps as smooth and flat as possible.
 - Begin gluing the caps to the top of the styrofoam ball. Be sure to use low temp glue for this project. Glue may be applied directly to the ball and the cap pressed on. The glue will penetrate through the hosiery giving a stronger bond for the acorn caps to adhere to.
 - Finish gluing all the caps all around the ball. When finished look for any open spaces between the caps and fill in with Deer Moss or Spaghnum Moss. The moss can be pushed into the openings with a bamboo skewer or pencil tip.
 - With your 2 yards of fancy Holiday Ribbon make a bow with a long loop that will be used as a hanger. Attach the bow to the ball using the two ends of the Lamé Wire. Twist tightly, trim the wire off with needle nose pliers and push the end downward and out of sight. Project Time: 30 minutes
- HINTS: Your Acorn Ball maybe flocked to add a wintery look. Spray flocking is available at most craft stores during the holiday season. Look in the spray paint display or at seasonal holiday offerings.



December 2023 | Deck the Halls

IDEAS from the Floral Design Committee | Litchfield Garden Club

[Click here to view in larger format](#)

Committee Reports

Communication

Visit the [Projects page](#) to see the images of the decorated community planters. Our Blog page has been updated with new entries, [take a look](#). Do you want to make a post? Email Joan (click below) to send her an image and comments on an interesting local gardening event or your garden activity.

[Joan Burgess](#)

Conservation

The committee held its first meeting on 11/15 at Diane Stoner's barn. We had a presentation on how to clean out the eastern bluebird nest boxes. Each species of bird has a particular way they construct their nests using specific materials. This allows us to determine which bird is nested in it. When the nest material is removed, we can also determine how successful the nesting was by the debris (fecal sacs) remaining. We'll continue our deep dive into All Things Bluebird before the nesting season begins in 2024.

We then had an enthusiastic discussion of conservation efforts that align with GCA and which our committee may work on this year.

- Pollinators – We will access the original pollinator garden at White Memorial to see what's thriving. A few new plants may be added with improved signage. There will also be a follow-up on the owl boxes that were installed last year.
- Lights Out CT – A bill approved by Governor Lamont for all government buildings to turn off any unnecessary lights after 11:00 pm. We will all look at the Litchfield Town ordinance to be sure we are compliant. Artificial lighting is extremely detrimental to the migration of birds and insects.
- Clean Water – Bantam Rivers and Bantam Lake – is there anything LGC can do to promote better health on the rivers and lakes?
- DEEP – CT DEEP is working on its new 10-year wildlife plan. We'll stay abreast of the new directives.

The committee will also plan a few field trips so stay tuned...

My best,

[Marie Kennedy](#)

Floral Design

The Floral Design Committee would like to take this opportunity to remind members of the upcoming LGC Sweepstakes on December 14th at our Holiday Tea. Our challenge is to decorate a gift box for the holidays. You have two opportunities to participate:

Class 1: Botanical Arts, Holiday Gift Box

Embellish a covered box with dried plant material(s) that depicts a December holiday...**Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, etc.** The holiday must be specified on the entry card. The box may not exceed 12" x 12" x 12" in size. Staging for the boxes may vary but boxes will be viewed from three sides and from above. A sample card with a named dried plant must accompany the entry.

Novice / Master / Emeritus Divisions

Class 2: Floral Design, Holiday Gift Box

Decorate a covered box with predominantly fresh plant material(s) that depicts a December holiday...**Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, etc.** The holiday must be specified on the entry card. The box may not exceed 12" x 12" x 12" in size. Staging for the boxes may vary but boxes will be viewed from three sides and from above.

Novice / Master / Emeritus Divisions

Entries may be delivered to the home of Kristen Mahan-Kraut, 34 Tallmadge Lane, Litchfield, between 2:15 - 2:45 pm on December 14. Judging will begin at 3:00 pm.

Entry cards for this sweepstakes competition are available [HERE](#) and on the [LGC website](#) and will also be available at the Holiday Tea meeting. Additionally, Class 1: Botanical Arts Embellishment entrants must provide a 4" x 6" unlined white sample card of untreated plant materials used in the design. Plant samples must be correctly identified with both botanical and common names. Complete rules for the competition are listed on the LGC website.

As a special incentive for all Novice floral designers, the Blue Ribbon winners in both classes will have an opportunity to take home a gift of a floral design book, donated by MaryEllen OBrien. If you would like to participate, please email MaryEllen (click my name below) and let her know if you would like to enter Class 1 or 2 or maybe even BOTH!

Sincerely,
[MaryEllen](#)

Garden History & Design

Click [HERE](#) for an interesting read from the National GCA Garden History and Design Newsletter.

Marla Patterson

Membership

Hello Fellow Garden Club Members: I am still looking for candidates for our Provisional Program. Please remember that these candidates should NOT know they are being proposed. I look forward to a healthy response! Click my name below if you have any questions.

Thank You and Happy Holidays.

Lynne Sherman

Member At Large

EC Past President, Susan Magary, President Sara Gault, and sponsor, Sylvia Abbott, had a celebratory lunch with Kate Jamison honoring her reception of the Zone II Kate Pitney Award for excellence in the cultivation of container-grown horticulture and sharing her knowledge and experience with all types of novice and experienced growers. This award was an honor for all.



Sylvia Abbott

Projects and Civic Beautification

**Tis the Season.....
The troughs are all ready
thanks to a merry band of members:
Rose, Diane, Ellen, Nan, Rosamond,
Drew and Sylvia and Jay**



Seton O'Reilly

Member News and Upcoming Events

Holiday Wreath Decorating Workshop

Greenwich Botanical Center December 4 • 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Grab a friend or come make a new one and learn how to make a beautiful holiday wreath using natural and enhanced decorations such as seed pods, pinecones, luxe ribbons, dried berries, and more. We will have refreshments on hand to accompany the learning and merriment!



Event information:
(203) 869-9242. Admission price varies with wreath size and materials chosen.

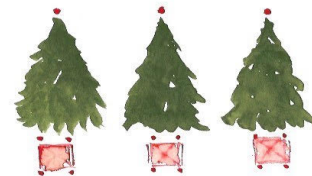
[Register HERE](#)

HOUSE & HOSPITALITY HOST ANNUAL HOLIDAY TEA!

The members of GCA's House & Hospitality Committees look forward to welcoming you to GCA HQ on the afternoon of **December 12th** to celebrate the holidays! Our meeting spaces will be decorated with festive floral designs created by House Committee volunteers. Nearly 200 hand-needlepointed ornaments representing GCA clubs from around the country will hang from, Christmas trees in the Crowninshield Room.

And Hospitality Committee volunteers will provide seasonal treats, tempting teas, and sparkling toasts for the holiday celebration. Plan on dropping by the 3rd Floor of 14 East 60th Street anytime between 3:00 and 5:00 pm – bring your friends, family, and fellow club members to share the joyful spirit of the winter holidays!

Jingle & Mingle...



...at our Festive Holiday Tea!



[Read more](#)



Do you want to be part of one or several LGC Committees - and be included on the committee mailing list? Just use the [ONLINE FORM](#) to select your committee of interest.

Follow us on Instagram!

The LGC is on Instagram and we love to post your news and photos! Please send upcoming events, club activities, civic projects, milestones, and hort tips. Include photos and a brief write-up of news on our club events you would like to share. The best format is text in an email with JPG photos attached. Take active photos showing members at work or showcasing beautiful gardens, flowers, and plants.

[Send Submissions](#)

[Visit our page](#)



Newsletter Submissions

Would you like to share an event for the newsletter? Send in any info or images to be included in our upcoming newsletter. Please do so by the 25th of the month.

Email Submissions

Do you need the password for our website, if so - click [HERE](#).

FGCCT Website

LGC Website

GCA Website

Conservation

GH&D

Projects

Hospitality

Photography

Litchfield Garden Club | P.O. Box 848, Litchfield, CT 06759