

LGC Newsletter



April 2023



April Flower: Sweet Pea

Message From The President

April at last! An abundant month of buds and blossoms, reminding us that our long-awaited Flower Show, *A Tapestry of Nature*, is almost upon us. Evites will be out this month, bringing us even closer to the event.

March brought us a truly fabulous floral design program with Jane Godshalk. She was everything we had expected: knowledgeable, charming, and a gifted

arranger. Using branches such as fasciated willow, and glorious flowers, including neon painted anthuriums, she transformed the ordinary into extraordinary creations. Wow! And thanks to the Program Committee, we now have LGC name tags for our meetings!

At the March meeting, the membership approved the EC vote for an expenditure of up to \$3,000 for a memorial tree in Ronnie Schoelzel's honor. We currently have donations of \$1000 from Hugh Schoelzel, and \$500 from Phil Samponaro, along with member donations of \$100, toward this tree. Anyone wishing to donate should contact Drew Harlow or me for further details. The tree will be planted on North Street in front of the old Bronson house at Forman School. The spot was eyed by Drew and it is a good one!

April has been designated as Native Plant Month by Governor Lamont, and with that in mind, our program committee has engaged our friend Tovah Martin to come and speak on pollinators. This is an Open Meeting, so come and bring a friend or two!

You have all received notice of a Special Meeting of the Membership on Thursday, April 13, from 12-2 pm at the Community Center. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and vote on the Task Force Recommendations to the Strategic Plan, and also the *In Memoriam* policy. Please click [HERE](#) to view the Task Force Recommendations to the Strategic Plan and the Memoriam policy.

The Federation's 94th Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be April 19th, 2023, at the Aqua Turf Club, 556 Mulberry St., Plantsville, CT. There will be a business meeting, and the Federation will ask those present to vote to ratify Revisions to the Bylaws of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. The Revisions will be voted on and can be approved by a 2/3 vote of those in attendance. Click [here](#) to read more about the Annual meeting and the Bylaws. Neal Sanders, who writes entertaining "garden-themed" mysteries will be the guest speaker.

Thanks to Kristen's tallying abilities, we were able to submit our Founders Fund vote to GCA. Not surprisingly, our Club voted for the Butterfly and Bee Pollinator Meadow in honor of Muhammad Ali at Chickasaw Park, in Louisville, Kentucky. Stay tuned for the winner.

Just a reminder that my new email is smagary1963@gmail.com Please use this address when contacting me. Thank you!

[Susan Magary](#)

April 2023 Program Notice

**April Membership Meeting
Litchfield Community Center**



Tovah Martin

April 20, 2023
11:30am - 12:30pm
Open Meeting: Bring a Friend!

Kate Jamison & The Horticulture Committee have invited our wonderful member Tovah Martin to present her new lecture, "In Unison: Harmonious Combinations for Pollinators and You," to help us all get ready for Spring Planting Season!

Tovah will explain the best ways to create a haven where pollinators thrive, dine, and reproduce. This lecture shares ideas for a pollinator-pleasing place with colors and textures blossoming throughout the growing season. This lecture is an intimate chronicle of a community of plants and their interrelationships. This promises to be a lecture of interest for all.

Please RSVP to Nan Skeie for hosting and attendance by clicking [HERE](#).

April Meeting Sweepstakes
Horticulture and Floral Design
Please Drop Off your entries between 10am-10.30am

For details about sweeps classes please see respective committee reports below.

As the meeting is mid-day please feel free to **BYO Bagged lunch!**

Zoom will also be available for those of you not able to attend in person:
Litchfield Garden Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85843127213?pwd=ZkZNM3B2Z2F5cnBhSTkrN1RUMGsxUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 4312 7213

Passcode: 114910

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,85843127213#,,,,*114910# US

Julia Metcalf

Committee Reports & Announcements

Communication

Flower Show "Tapestry of Nature" Saturday June 16th and 17th Preview Party Updates

This year we are using Paperless Post, an email invitation for the Preview Party on June 16th. Please be on the lookout for your invitation. Ticket purchases will be online via the invitation and the LGC website, and once you receive your invitation you will have the option to pay by check or via Credit Card or PayPal. If you have any additional people you would like to invite please forward their email and names to Joan Burgess by clicking [HERE](#).

Our committee has raised over \$18,000 in corporate sponsorship dollars to date. We are grateful to our local businesses and they have shown overwhelming support for our club, and our civic and beautification projects. Some of their notes have been heartwarming! You can see their names scrolling on the landing page of our website by clicking [HERE](#). Please patronize them and thank them for their support.

We have over 35 items for the silent auction that will take place during the Preview Party. You will be able to view item descriptions on our website after the invitations are sent out. Stay tuned!

Crystal Carminati & Kristen Mahan Kraut

🌱 🌱 🌱 **LGC FLOWER SHOW Plant Sale** 🌱 🌱 🌱

Propagate, Divide and Donate...

Our plant sale at the flower show will take place on Saturday, June 17th. Kristen and I are hoping that we will have a fabulous selection of clean, "sale ready" specimens from our member's gardens. All plants must be in either plastic or decorative pots/containers for ease of sale and presentation. Details on logistics for the sale to follow in the coming months.

Crystal Carminati & Kristen Mahan Kraut



LGC Instagram

If you haven't already started to follow the LGC Instagram account please click on the IG symbol (left) and sign up or follow. Our goal is to have every member be a follower. Lynn and Jessica

invite you to share your photos or interesting seasonal information related to LGC that they can post on IG. Submissions should include a clear photo with a brief caption or description.

Please forward this information via email to either:
Jessica Travelstead [HERE](#) or Lynn Chapman [HERE](#).

CALENDAR

Conservation

Conservation Meeting
April 12, 9:30am
Margy Miner's House

We have made Water our main focus for this year. Bring your thoughts and ideas that apply to our use of or wasting of this precious resource. Please let me know in advance if you are planning to attend by clicking on my name below.



Margy Miner

Floral Design



April Sweepstakes

Thank you to all who responded to my request for thoughts for our April Sweepstakes! The consensus is to have something definitely with a spring theme and something familiar--so the sweepstakes will be:

"Blossom by blossom the spring begins." A.C. Swinburne

A design incorporating spring plant material in the exhibitor's choice of design style, Exhibitor must state the design style on the card, i.e. line-mass, mass, pot-et-fleur, modern mass, Hogarth Curve, cascade, etc. Design may not exceed 20" in width, no height restrictions. Man made materials may be incorporated but No Artificial plant material is permitted. Designs must be placed between 10:00 am and 10:30 am. Viewed and judged from the front.

This allows each exhibitor to choose a design style that they want to create, but when you state your style, you should be careful to carry out the characteristics of that particular style. That would be part of the judging criteria. I think it will be fun and interesting to see what exhibitors choose to do and show a diversity of designs!

Any questions or comments, let me know. Let's have a nice display of designs for this Open Meeting!

[Sylvia Abbott](#)

Horticulture



I would love to say Happy Spring, but we are not quite there yet. Plants are emerging hesitantly, buds are swelling minimally, it's ok, it will happen soon.

In the meanwhile we will be having a great April meeting with a lecture from our plant guru Tovah Martin, as well as a Horticulture sweepstakes! Click [HERE](#) for the classes for this months Hort Sweeps.

We recently had that great Kokedama workshop with Trina Horine from Hortulus and there will be a space at the April meeting to stage our babies to show them off! I'm planning another workshop this month at my house (Angus would love to see everyone again), to talk about plant grooming and to share tips on how to best show off your cuts and potted plants. The date is TBD, so please check the club calendar in April to confirm the date. Feel free to bring a plant or two of your own if you want help determining how they look. We can critique some of mine too!

[Kate Jamison](#)

Membership



Membership News

***Please welcome our two newly reinstated Provisionals:
Rosemary Ripley and Bette Wu***

Membership is very important to our club and new Members are the source of a healthy and diverse membership.

Please consider sponsoring a friend who you would think would be a great provisional member for 2024. Someone who is ready to work and share a common experience. There is plenty of time for you to seek out potential members as the deadline is January 15th, 2024!

If you have any questions, please email me at lynn.sherman@yahoo.com. Snail mail is always an option at 154 Old South Road Litchfield.

Happy Spring

[Lynne Sherman](#)

Nominating Committee



The Nominating Committee, appointed by President, Susan Magary, held their first meeting on January 26, 2023 with an additional in-person meeting on February 2nd. Committee members are: Jane Hinkel-Chair, Sara Gault, Nancy Post & Elaine Witherspoon.

The committee prepared a slate of candidates for office, consisting of President, Vice-President and Corresponding Secretary, for the 2023-2025 term. The slate was presented to the Executive Committee at their monthly meeting held on Monday, March 20, 2023.

The candidates are:

President: Marana Brooks "Polly"

Vice-President: Julia Metcalf

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Stoner

Jane Hinkel

Projects

Earth Day Saturday, April 22nd

The Conservation Committee and Projects Committee will host a table at Litchfield's Community Celebration for Earth Day Event from 12 to 2 pm at the Litchfield Community Center. Click [HERE](#) for full details of the day's activities.



Arbor Day



**Sycamore Tree Dedication
Tapping Reeve House
Friday, April 28th at 1pm**

A dedication of the propagated sycamore tree will be held at Tapping Reeve House. Please plan to attend this event to celebrate our members who made this tree a reality.

It takes a village or in our case.....several members of the Litchfield Garden Club. A photo will be taken for our club's archives and a reception will follow in the Tapping Reeve House.

Drew Harlow

Member News and Upcoming Events



**April 4, 2023
4 pm Gathering
4:30 pm Program**

**Public Welcome at
No Charge
Farmington Main Library
6 Monteith Dr., Farmington**

**Diane Lewis, M.D.
The Great Healthy
Yard Project**

Dr. Diane Lewis, a nephrologist, author and consultant in environmental health, will describe how the chemicals we put on our yards end up in our drinking water, even bottled water, and why this puts a cloud over our children's future. She offers alternative ways to care for our lawns and gardens without using synthetic pesticides, fertilizers and weed killers. Join us to learn more about how our lawns effect our health.



**Public Program Presented in Partnership
with the Farmington Libraries and
Connecticut Valley Garden Club
For more information email
lindroth@aol.com**



Northwest Conservation District
This year, we will again have scheduled pick-up for our PRE-ORDERS. When you place your order, you must sign up for a pick-up time. Time slots are every 30 minutes from 9-4 PM on Friday April 21st through Sunday April 23rd. In addition to your order, there will be a limited number of perennials and shrubs available for day-of-sale.

LGC Website

GCA Website

FGCCT Website

[Conservation](#)

[GH&D](#)

[Projects](#)

[Hospitality](#)

[Photography](#)

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