

LGC Newsletter



April 2024



Message From The President

Greetings,

Welcome to our spring newsletter and Happy Earth Day!

There is a lot to share with you this month.

- April is Native Plant Month!
Our April program on 4/18 is with Trevor Smith speaking on his commitment to sustainable landscaping practices in an era of climate change. It is an open meeting and it is an opportunity to share our club's mission with others.
- Earth Day is April 20,
We will have a table at the Community Center, from noon to 2:00 pm to participate in the community celebration. If you are interested in taking part in the event, please let me know.
- The GCA Annual Meeting in Hartford on April 27-28.
This is a special opportunity to enjoy a fun day viewing the spectacular flower show and shopping in the boutiques. Please don't miss out!

- The Nominating Committee has assembled a slate of officers for the following year. Jane Hinkel chairs the committee; committee members are, Drew Harlow, Nancy Post, and Lainie Witherspoon. The slate is:
 - Recording Secretary – Peggy Terhune
 - Treasurer – Diane Stoner
 - Assistant Treasurer – Susan Kendall

The slate will be voted on at the May business meeting.

We welcome three new provisional members, Susan Breece, Troy Brown, and Anne Green.

[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



TREVOR SMITH

Horticulturist

The Benefits and Importance of Native Plants

Open Meeting

April 18, 2024

2:00 PM

The Litchfield Community Center

Floral Design Sweepstakes

Click [HERE](#) for more details on the meeting.

RSVP

Announcements and Articles of Interest

Monthly Floral Design "IDEAS"

Idea #9, Italian Layered Design

[MaryEllen O'Brien](#)



Italian Layered Design



- Tools**
 Clippers / Jack Knife
- Supplies**
 Fern Pins
 Floral Foam (Soaked)
 Floral Tape
- Plant Materials**
 Aspidistra
 Daisy
 Gerbera
 Kangaroo Paws
 Millet
 Mini Bananas
 Mini Pine Cones
 Roses
 Tulips

Definition:
 ITALIAN LAYERED DESIGN is a contemporary horizontal design with stacked plant material placed horizontally. Additional materials may be placed in a vertical and/or diagonal manner. No focal point.

Technique
 • Secure your wet floral foam into your container and affix floral tape to the container to secure the foam.

• Cover the outside surface of the floral foam with Aspidistra leaves (Pic 1) . Insert the stems ends into the foam and tack the tip ends with fern pins.

• Begin inserting stems into the side ends. Pierce the Aspidistra leaves with a jack knife and insert stems into the wet floral foam. Keep stems and pattern as horizontal as possible.

• Since there is no focal point... plant materials may be randomly placed. Start filling in the front and back. Maintain the horizontal appearance and keep stems somewhat flat against each other.

* Contrasting color and texture is important with closely placed plant materials.



IDEAS from the Floral Design Committee | Uitchfield Garden Club

APRIL 2024 | Italian Layer Design

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

Committee Reports

Communication

Visit our [Hospitality](#) page to see all the images of the Kent Russell program. Visit the [Photography/Sweeps](#) page to see the images of the March meeting sweeps. Also, visit our [Blog page](#), there have been several new entries. 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.

Conservation

Happy Spring!

I've just returned from the NAL Conference in Washington DC. Zone II had 18 delegates representing CT to advocate for the environment. We gathered for two days to hear numerous presentations on the latest issues our nation is facing. On day 3, we met on The Hill with the legislative aides of Senator Blumenthal, Murphy, and Congressman Himes. Leveraging the power of our collective voice, we urged our representatives to take action on GCA's areas of concern that are affecting our landscapes, wildlife, oceans, and atmosphere. All were very receptive and extremely respectful of the GCA organization. Surprisingly, the Cherry trees were in full bloom! Beautiful yes, but many were alarmed and questioned why were they blooming 2 to 3 weeks early.

April is Native Plant Month!

In fact, 48 States have now signed proclamations to promote native plants and their importance in our world. Click [HERE](#) to view the (abbreviated) GCA's position on Native Plants.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Remove invasive plants from your yard. Add a swath of natives to your existing flower beds or create a new native habitat. Reduce or eliminate harmful pesticide and herbicide use in your yard to create a healthy environment for plants, pollinators, and wildlife. Talk to your friends and neighbors to raise awareness of this important initiative. Volunteer for local initiatives to remove invasive plants and build native plant habitats.

Our April program will feature Trevor Smith, Weston Nurseries Design & Education Manager. Trevor is passionate about the natural world which inspires his commitment to ecological principles and practices. He is devoted to creating beautiful landscapes to reconnect people with nature.

Northwest Conservation District's Plant Sale is April 19-21 at the Goshen Fairgrounds. You can pre-order for a scheduled pick-up by clicking [HERE](#).

Total Solar Eclipse – There will be a Solar Eclipse on April 8th, 2024. White Memorial Conservation Center is host to several programs to learn how to appreciate and safely observe this major celestial event.

Plant Native!

[Marie Kennedy](#)

Floral Design

There will be a Floral Design Sweepstakes at the April 18th LGC meeting

TITLE: Appalachian Spring

Appalachian Spring was created by American composer **Aaron Copeland** as a ballet for **Martha Graham**. It is among Copland's best-known works, particularly the orchestral suite composed in 1945, and the ballet remains essential in the Martha Graham Dance Company repertoire.

THINK:

Spring flowers and blooming branches! Create a line design that evokes the works of both Copeland and Graham in Appalachian Spring.

DETAILS:

More information will follow about an April workshop.

Entry Cards specific to this challenge will be available on the [LGC Design Webpage](#).

QUESTIONS:

I am always available to answer your questions.

413-229-3025 or maryellenjobrien@hotmail.com

All my best,

[MaryEllen O'Brien](#)

Horticulture

The Horticulture Committee is planning a trip to Logees Greenhouses on Wednesday, April 10. Logees has been in business for decades and is unique in offering rare and tropical plants. Their greenhouses transport one to the tropics; truly a special experience. We will meet at St. Anthony's parking lot at 8:45 am for the 1 3/4 hour ride to Danielson. There, we will tour the greenhouses and then have lunch at the Heirloom Food Company, also in Danielson. The restaurant specializes in vegan food but offers many fresh food selections and has a good rating. Please let Nancy Post (click my name below) know if you are coming. We don't want to leave anyone behind in the parking lot.

Click [HERE](#) for the June Hort Sweeps.

[Nancy Post](#)

Hospitality

Thank you to everyone who worked to make the hospitality portion of the March meeting such a great success! While we have a sufficient number of hostesses signed up for both April and May, we still need a hospitality chairperson for both meetings. Just FYI, the Hospitality Chair for each meeting coordinates the hostesses and is responsible for set up of refreshments and the clean up afterward. This is a great way to participate in a club activity if you have been considering ways to increase your participation.

Below is an update on the April and May meetings and the members who have

volunteered to be hostesses. Click [HERE](#) to sign-up to bring refreshments. Anyone who is willing to “chair” the May meeting please let me know ASAP by clicking [HERE](#).

April: Native Plants - Open Meeting

Needed: Centerpiece for the table, a very simple bouquet of spring flowers.

Hostess Volunteers are: Margy Miner, Nancy Post, Madeline Patenge, Joanne Moore, Kate Jamison, and Sara Gault

May: Annual Business Meeting – Members Only

Needed: Chair to Coordinate Hostesses and Set Up

Hostess Volunteers are: Victoria Sansing, Jackie Miller, Susan Latos, Meredith Penfield, and Joanne Moore

*The May meeting is a morning meeting for members only. Therefore, light refreshments are needed.

Thank you, everyone and Happy Spring.

[Crystal Carminati](#)

Membership

The Membership Committee would like to welcome our three new Provisionals: Anne Green, Troy Brown, and Susan Breece.

Our LGC membership policy has recently changed. We are now using rolling admission for our prospective candidate club membership. The current policy is, *the Membership Committee will take ‘portfolios’ of prospective members throughout the year. The membership chairman may propose any of these portfolios to the EC upon approval of the membership committee. Once voted upon by the EC, provisionals are admitted throughout the year.*

Please consider sponsoring a friend you think would be a great Provisional member for 2024. An individual who is ready to work and shares a common experience. Please seek out potential members.

Questions? Please email (click my name below), text (860-795-6731), or use snail mail (154 Old South Rd., Litchfield) to reach me.

Happy Spring!

[Lynne Sherman](#)

Photography

The Photography Committee met at the Litchfield Community Center on March 5, 2024. Sara Gault, Lainie Witherspoon, Rose Brooks, Tierney Moran, Suzanne Blaicher,

Kathy Thompson, Sylvia Abbott, and Cathy Oneglia were in attendance.

The consensus was that the GCA Virtual Photography Conference held in January was educational, beautiful, and varied.



Jack-in-the-pulpit
(*Arisaema triphyllum*)
photo credit bkkm

The presentations opened us up to new skills and showed many facets of the art of photography. Cathy showed several examples of Intentional Camera Movement, including the same scene at four different shutter speeds.

As Governor Lamont has designated April as Connecticut Native Plant Month, we decided to hold our last sweepstakes in June instead of May, in order to be able to photograph more varieties of our natives leafed and/or in full bloom. Cathy spoke with James Fischer at White Memorial who would welcome the opportunity to take us on a native plant walk. A little further afield, we will try for a visit to the New York Botanical Garden where there is a huge area devoted to native plants. A docent-led tour of the Native Plant area would cost \$45.00 pp. Cathy is looking into an advantageous date when there are native spring wildflowers in bloom and transportation.

The remainder of the meeting was spent viewing the Photography Division of the Atlanta Flower Show, Primavera, a beautiful slide show put together by Anna Forbes, editor of FOCUS, complete with the Judges' comments.

[Cathy Oneglia](#)

Projects

At the May Business Meeting, we will present the plans for some initial landscaping at the Railroad Station. Working in an area that was once an active depot and more recently the home of fuel tanks is a challenge. The soil conditions have to be analyzed and appropriate action taken where possible. We are working with Berta Andrulis, who co-chairs the Litchfield Land Trust's Building and Grounds Committee for the Station.

After several years of determined work, Drew Harlow and Ellen Oneglia have in hand the approved design for the replacement urn on North Street. By this fall it should be in place and ready to be filled with autumn plants. Our endless thanks to Drew and Ellen.

The spring planting of the urns will happen as soon as it is warm enough to thaw out their soil and allow us to plant. You will be hearing from us for help with this as well as the watering.

[Seton O'Reilly](#)



Zone II Annual Meeting Newsletter

Sylvia Abbott was featured in the Zone II Annual Meeting Newsletter!



Sylvia Abbott

Citation: With deep appreciation for her inspirational talent and her devotion to share the joy of floral design through excellence in teaching, mentoring, and exhibiting.

Proposed by: *Litchfield Garden Club, Zone II*
Sylvia Abbott has inspired hope, ignited the imagination, and instilled a love of floral design throughout the GCA. Winner of multiple floral design awards, Sylvia is an ardent advocate for flower shows. To share her love of floral design with GCA club members across the country, Sylvia helped to create Floral Design 101, available to anyone

interested in learning. She was instrumental in training instructors for all 12 zones. Following the success of that program, FD201 and FD301 were created, continuing the instruction for intermediate and advanced floral designers. A long-time judge, Sylvia's comments are always clear and concise, focusing on the elements and principles of design, and providing sensitive comments that inform visitors and teach the arrangers. Many happy exhibitors have benefited from her gentle manner, and her calm, sincere, and thoughtful approach. Sylvia Abbott is a shining example of a GCA club member stimulating knowledge and the love of floral design.

Click [HERE](#) to view the GCA Zone II Annual Meeting Newsletter.

Help Save Connecticut's Migratory Birds

By joining Lights Out Connecticut, you can help reduce light pollution's impacts on birds, fish, insects, amphibians, reptiles, plants — and humans! You will also save energy and money, reduce your carbon emissions, safeguard your own human health, and help preserve views of the

night sky!



By Taking the Pledge to go Lights Out, you become a part of the growing community of CT residents, businesses, schools, churches, and nonprofits who pledge to turn off unnecessary outdoor and indoor lighting from 11 pm to 6 am each night during peak bird migration (Spring: April 1 - May 31; and Fall: Aug 15 - Nov 15) to reduce the risks caused by light pollution.

Sign the Lights Out Pledge Today!

EARTH DAY 2024

ACTION TOOLKIT



[Learn more](#)



Please join the Garden Club of Darien on Tuesday evening April 9th at the **Darien Community Association** (274 Middlesex Road, Darien, CT) for an exciting presentation from Todd Forrest, the Arthur Ross Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections at The New York Botanical Garden. This event is underwritten by the Garden

Club of Darien, is open to the public, and is free of charge. The meeting will begin with light refreshments at 6:30 pm followed by our keynote presentation at 7 pm. [Read more](#)



April 26-28, 2024
Hartford, CT

[Beyond the Green Schedule](#)

[Beyond the Green List of
Boutique Vendors](#)

THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA
2024
ANNUAL MEETING



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