

LGC Newsletter



August 2020



Message from the President

Dear Member,

While it was not the plan to have an August meeting, opportunity has knocked! We will meet with John Markelon and Jamie Fischer on August 20th to learn about the Litchfield Pollinator Pathway Collaborative.

The goal of this new initiative is to “establish a pollinator pathway throughout Litchfield and the vicinity that encourages the conservation of pollinators and their habitats.”

The necessity of saving the pollinators is certainly nothing new to the LGC! Our special pollinator garden at White Memorial was originally planted in the 1990s. The expansion of the garden serendipitously coincides with the new collaborative.

The LGC garden is already included on the Pollinator Pathway. When we meet with John and Jamie, we will learn more about the project and even how we can include our individual gardens on the pathway too. While we've all had enough zoom, please plan to join in for this exciting meeting.

You'll receive a zoom invitation closer to the event.

All the best and stay well.

[Annie](#)

Committee Reports & Announcements

Conservation Committee

All the Buzz about the Pollinator Pathway

Our new Pollinator Pathway project has begun! We are identifying all the existing pollinator plantings in Litchfield - roadsides, gardens, forest edges, public areas, anywhere there are pollinator plantings is one more step for creating contiguous habitats for our bees, butterflies, birds, and little creatures. Jamie Fisher of White Memorial, and John Markelon are leading this initiative.



We are asking each of you to help us identify pollinator plantings in and around the Litchfield area (including your own gardens) as part of the Litchfield pathway. It is as simple as downloading the following free App on your iPhone or tablet, taking a couple of photos and sending the information to be included as part of the pathway. It will take you about a minute to update and send the information using the App!

Download Epicollect5 app to your smartphone or tablet

Click on "+Add Project"

Search for "Litchfield Pollinator Project"

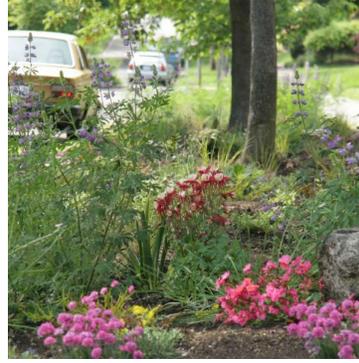
Click on "+Add Entry"

Then you are ready to go to the pollinator site you have found and use the App to send the information.

In just a couple of days we have already gathered 55 locations in our area, and expect to have many more as we collect information. Our goal is to record as many pollinator sites as we can, to get an overall mapping of Litchfield as a pollinator pathway. This will also show us where there are areas that need pollinator plantings.



Pollinator Pathways along the sidewalk



Pollinator Pathway along the roadside and under trees



Pollinator Pathway in a parking lot



Pollinator Pathway in front of a home



Pollinator Pathway along the curbside

Rain Garden

Our Rain Garden at White Memorial has grown in very nicely and is not only doing its job holding and directing the water flow into the Earth, it has also become a place full of bees, butterflies, dragonflies, resident snake, and a nesting ground for the snapping turtle.

Our Rain Garden at White Memorial, growing in very nicely!

[Grace Yagtug](#)



Horticulture

It has been a quiet month for horticulture. Our summer sweepstakes video is just about ready, and we will send it out shortly to the club. It has been such fun seeing everyone's favorite plants and learning the stories behind them. Hopefully, as the heat dissipates we can do more together.

One nugget of information I offer: After these dog days of summer, on cool mornings start to fertilize your garden with half strength of a balanced organic fertilizer like Neptune's fish emulsion to throw your stressed plants a lifeline. I would recommend this to be done once a week until September. Your plants will be so happy that you did.

Enjoy yourselves and your plants!

[Kate Jamison](#)

Hospitality

Send us your Favorite 5-Star Recipes!

Many of us have been cooking more than usual as we shelter in our homes. Do you have a 5-star recipe using veggies, fruits, herbs or other ingredients from the garden? Perhaps it is a long-time family favorite, or something you have recently discovered and loved. Either way, please share it with your fellow LGC members! Here is how. A new page on the website has been launched "[Recipes From the Garden](#)".

There are two ways to submit your recipe:

1. Simply type an email to [Emily](#) or [Frank](#) with the recipe in the body of the email. or
2. Snap a picture of the hand-written recipe card, and we will take care of the typing.

Please only send recipes you deem worthy of a 5-star rating.

We look forward to receiving your delicious favorites!

[Frank](#) & [Emily](#)

Membership

Hello my Fellow Garden Club Members!

The membership committee is back at it and in full swing. We are actively accepting new membership portfolios. The guidelines are clearly laid out in the By-Laws. If you have any questions, my email door is always open.

Please mail portfolios to me at:

Julia Metcalf
P.O. Box 1090
Litchfield, CT 06759

Hope you are all staying cool and that your gardens are staying wet!

[Julia Metcalf](#)



Photography

Pull up a Chair!

Don't miss the first photography meeting of our new year. Come to Cathy's place on Bantam Lake, 10 Marsh Point, at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Enjoy a cup of coffee together with masks and distancing as appropriate. Rain date Thursday, August 13, 9:30 AM.

Fran Devlin, Program Chair, will speak about the new coordinated effort for the Pollinator Pathway, a joint project of WMF, LGC and the Litchfield Land Trust. We will discuss the role of the photography committee in this project.

Let's talk Sweepstakes: We are thinking to hold the sweeps in September to showcase our summer's work in our gardens. The close to home mandate is resulting in more bounty and more beauty than ever. Bring your ideas for a creative sweepstakes.

Leo Kulinski, professional nature photographer and WMF photographer will present our program in October. We are thinking that a sweeps that includes our images of local natural beauty as we head into Autumn would be a nice greeting for Leo. What would you like to include in the sweepstakes?

What would you like to accomplish as a photographer, as the archivist of your own gardens, in 2020-2021? Where would you like to go as a field trip or opportunity to shoot with others in our club?

[Cathy Oneglia](#)

Photography Committee Field Trip to Berkshire Botanical Garden Thursday, September 3, 2020

Join us for a delightful morning of photography in the beautiful Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge. If you have not yet visited this special place, do not miss this opportunity. We will leave and carpool from the St. Anthony Church parking lot at 9 AM. Lunch will be picked up at Guido's for a picnic.

Bring a mask, water and your favorite camera and a tripod if you wish. If you would like to borrow a tripod, let Cathy know. The Director of Education, Bridget Stone, will lead us on a brief tour with introduction to the Garden.

Many of you remember our visit to Lucy Day's topiary garden in Greenwich a few years ago and her generous hospitality. She has donated all of her topiaries to the Berkshire Botanical Garden, a new and unique feature for the Garden. Last August the "On the Road" program of the GCA met in the Garden for a fun morning and luncheon. I attended along with several Washington Garden Club members and thought at the time how nice it would be for our photography committee to visit.

RSVP to [Cathy Oneglia](#)



Program

We have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that it is high summer and the tomatoes are just as wonderful as remembered. Perfect tomatoes never fail to renew the spirit. The bad news is that we feel it is not wise to meet ensemble, and we therefore must rely on virtual technology.

And now for the GREAT NEWS!: Our August 20th "Virtual Meeting" will be the dawn of a new initiative in which the LGC will join with Jamie Fischer, Research Director at the White Memorial Foundation, and John Markelon, retired science teacher from LHS and Secretary of the Litchfield Land Trust, to begin the mapping of **The Litchfield Pollinator Pathway**. This project is a grand opportunity for all our members to participate in a very significant project aimed at mapping the pathways throughout our glorious hills.

Looking further forward, Julia Metcalf's cousin will teach us all about composting in September, just in time to do something about all those

leaves! In October, the wildlife photographer Leo Kulinski, Jr. will present us with some of his extraordinary photography and discuss his new book *The Return of Bantam Lake's Eagles*. As you can see, in spite of going virtual, we do have some great programs coming up!

[Fran Devlin](#)

Projects and Civic Beautification

Our first meeting will be on Thursday, August 27th at 9 a.m. This meeting will be a Zoom call, and a confirmation with details will be sent to Project Committee members closer to the 27th with a meeting link.

Please have a few ideas for Projects & Civic Beautification for 2020-21. Looking forward to seeing you all virtually.

Thank you to all those been watering our town planters during this extremely hot weather.

[Dale Ryan](#) and [Lynne Sherman](#)

Scholarships

National Garden Club Schools Information

Did you know that National Garden Clubs, Inc. offers four schools focusing on four different aspects of gardening to its garden club members? The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. is made up of 121 clubs, and each state Federation is under the aegis of NGC.

Environmental School

The mission of ES is to teach environmental literacy to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth. Participants learn environmental literacy, appreciation of the natural world, and encourage action for sustainable development. Four courses (one per year) emphasize land conservation, water conservation, and air quality. Instructors are professors from Yale, UConn, and other specialists with expertise in environmental and conservation fields. Each course is followed by an exam, which is optional. After passing two courses, a student may become a Provisional Consultant and join the Environmental Council. The Council plans programs and tours that further the education of students. After completing four ES courses, a Consultant card is issued recognizing the achievement of the student, but it does not convey professional status.

Flower Show School

FGCCT offers NGC Flower Show School, which is comprised of four courses focusing on horticulture, flower design, and flower show procedure. Students may become Accredited Flower Show Judges or they may attend to enrich their knowledge in the areas mentioned above. One course a year is offered in

Connecticut. After completing two courses, students are invited to participate in Judges Council activities and meetings. The courses may be taken in any order after completing Course I and are structured to meet the following goal and purpose:

- To teach and accredit prospective flower show judges and to provide opportunities for Accredited Judges to expand their knowledge and remain in good standing.
- To create increased interest and knowledge in horticulture and design for all garden club members, whether or not they are seeking to become NGC Accredited Flower Show Judges
- To provide greater understanding of standards of exhibiting and g
- To promote flower shows of highest quality and educational value

Instructors are judges who have attended Flower Show School training sessions so there is a standardized curriculum across the country.

Gardening School

FGCCT offers four courses to all garden club members or anyone interested in information about horticulture and gardening subjects. One course each year is offered in Connecticut.

The courses, which may be taken in any order, are structured to stimulate interest and impart knowledge for growing plants to the peak of perfection. Course content, which is presented in lecture format over the first two days by horticultural professionals, may include tours of botanical and test gardens. Topics include the study of basic botany for gardeners, soils, houseplants, and propagation. Also covered are such topics as how new plants are developed and evaluated, factors that influence plant growth, container gardening, pruning techniques, growing outdoor flowers and vegetables, specialized styles of gardening, growing plants indoors and/or under lights, and growing trees and shrubs, plus other interesting and informative gardening topics. Students may join Gardening Council after completing two courses and take advantage of trips and further gardening information. The courses are taught by scientists at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and other experts in specific fields.

Landscape Design School

The final School offered by FGCCT is Landscape Design School and is comprised of four courses, with one course held once a year. The courses are taught by Landscape Architects, Landscape Designers, and other specialists. Upon successful completion of any two courses of the series of four, garden club members may join the Landscape Design Council and participate in the fun and educational activities of that group. The school's curriculum offers a wide range of subjects in landscape design, including designing landscapes with plants and hardscapes (sidewalks, patios, sculptures) or redesign with both the historical and future perspective. Instructors discuss the creation of landscapes that evoke a particular feeling and purpose in both the public and private sectors.

As educated stewards of the land, students may choose to contribute to their communities' awareness of a well-designed landscape by serving on town

committees with the objective of improving playgrounds, parks, or curb appeal in downtown areas.

The educational schools offered by NGC take place over two days with the exam on the third day. Taking the exam is optional, but those who take and pass the exam receive a Consultant card for the specific school and can participate on the specific Council. This is a fun and educational opportunity to learn about the environment, gardening practices, how to become a judge or just learn about horticulture and design, and/or to familiarize oneself with the principles and practices of landscape design. Having taken all four schools and refreshed numerous times, I can attest to the wealth of knowledge gained by attending! Check out the FGCT website, ctgardenclubs.org for dates and places schools will be held. Environmental School will be a virtual opportunity that will be held September 22-23, 2020. You can register online!

[Ronnie Schoelzel](#)

From the Communications Desk

We have a new web-page on the website - visit [Recipes From the Garden](#). There is also a new entry on the [News](#) page about Martha and Jim Tuttle's land donation to conservation. The [Blog page](#) is updated regularly - visit often.

[Blog Posts](#): How and what to post? Take a look at what has been posted already, and that may spark a thought. Entries are up to approx 200 words. Send your image(s), article and article title to [Joan Burgess](#) for posting. You may make comments directly on the Blog site - click the comments link and follow directions. You can also view comments from other members.

Do you need help in logging into the GCA website? Each member has their own username and password. Do you need the password for The Federated Garden Club of CT? Check with [Joan](#) if you need help.

Don't see something but want it posted or have a question - contact [Joan](#). Need LGC information - use our website! It's all there and easy to find.

If you want something posted on the [LGC Calendar](#), please contact [Joan](#).

News and Upcoming Events



HOLLISTER HOUSE GARDEN

Upcoming Events

WILDFLOWER BOUQUET
Friday, August 14

**SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY
IN THE GARDEN**
Friday, August 21

**PLEIN AIR PAINTERS
AND PHOTOGRAPHERS**
Wednesdays
8a.m. - 12p.m

Click [HERE](#) for details of each event

Garden Sale

Garden viewing and sale on Saturday, August 8th at 10 am
153 North Street, Litchfield, CT

The children of Lynn Hoopes wish to invite you to her garden for a small sale of gardening books, pots, planters, tools, flower arranging materials, vases, ikebana and miscellany.

Proceeds will benefit the Susan B. Anthony project.
Cash preferred, checks accepted.

No one will be admitted before 10 am.
One guest per member is allowed.
Rain or shine.



Tuttle Family Protects Local Land, Water & River Herring

Matha Tuttle, long time member of the LGC, reports that to protect windswept wetland, tall oaks, and an active herring run, the Tuttle family donated their 7-acre Oak Island Bog to the Harwich Conservation Trust this May after their family stewarded the land for 132 years. LGC is proud to showcase the Tuttle family donation of the estuary and salt marsh, which flows from Skinequit Pond into Nantucket Sound on Cape Cod. It includes an important run and spawning ground for herring each spring as well as being a feeding and nesting site for innumerable shore birds. [Read more](#) from the HCT. [Learn more](#) about the history of the property and the Tuttle family.



Upcoming events from GCA

Next year, conferences that could only be offered to a few GCA club members in the past will be available to every club member at no cost. For these conferences, we are

assembling a powerhouse of speakers who will share with you their lifelong accumulation of knowledge and wisdom. But, we don't plan to just tell you or teach you; we plan to involve you in dynamic experiences that will offer you the opportunity to apply what you have heard.



Mark your calendars now, and *save these dates*:

- September 22-23, 2020 ~ Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference
- November 17-18, 2020 ~ Conservation Study Conference
- January 21, 2021 ~ Photography Conference ~ NEW!
- February 23-24, 2021 ~ National Affairs & Legislation Conference
- April 8, 2021 ~ Floral Design Conference ~ NEW!
- May 11-12, 2021 ~ GCA Annual Meeting

Further information on these events will follow.

[LGC Website](#)

[GCA Website](#)

[FGCCT Website](#)

[Conservation](#)

[GH&D](#)

[Projects](#)

[Hospitality](#)

[Photography](#)

Litchfield Garden Club | PO Box 848, Litchfield CT 06759
litchfieldgclub@gmail.com