

LGC Newsletter



December 2022



Message From The President

Lots of good news for our club as we prepare for the holidays and a brand-new year in 2023.

We have just learned that Litchfield Garden Club is a beneficiary of Lynne Brickley's estate. Under terms of her trust, our distribution will amount to approximately \$70,000 for the establishment of a Community Projects Fund. Joan Burgess has agreed to chair a committee to make recommendations for

such a Fund. Lynne died in 2019. She was a dedicated and active member of our Club, our Historian, and a true scholar. She enriched LGC in many ways and documented our story in her book *The Litchfield Garden Club: A Century of Cultivation – 1913-2013*, published in our Centennial year. How wonderful to think that she remembered us in her estate.

We are completing a fund-raising effort for the Centennial Fund, also established in 2013, our Centennial year. Thanks to many generous members, friends, and one anonymous donor of a \$10,000 matching grant, we are poised to begin a grant making process in 2023. This effort has been chaired by Martha Phillips and her able committee.

More good news! Thanks to Lynn Chapman and Jessica Travelstead, we are in the process of creating a club presence on Instagram. This popular social media tool for sharing photos and videos is used by GCA and most other clubs in Zone II. Once established, we can showcase our good work in the community and interact with other like-minded gardeners. And we can publicize our flower show in advance of June 16-17.

I look forward to seeing many of you on December 15 when we will make swags for the St. Michael's food pantry families and make merry as well!

[Susan Magary](#)

December Program Notice



Swag Christmas Greens Workshop

To benefit St. Michael's Food
Pantry Recipients

St. Michael's Parish
December 15, 2022 at 3pm
Sweepstakes:
Floral Design & Photography

REMEMBER TO PARK BEHIND ST. ANTHONY'S AND WALK OVER.

Dear Members!

It's our second annual Christmas Swag Work shop! Last year our swag donation was a huge success and fun was had by all. The goal of our meeting is to create 75-80 small holiday decorations to be added to the December Donation Bags for the recipients of the St Michaels Food Pantry. We are hoping for good attendance to the meeting so that we each make roughly 2 small swags per member.

Please RSVP to Nan by clicking [HERE](#) if you plan on attending and to volunteer to be a host. We will ask Hosts to arrive 45 min before the meeting to help set up the space and we will need 5-6 hosts.

We are super lucky to have our very own provisional member Sarah Worden teach us how to make small holiday door swags. We are also asking that you bring food donations with you as the food pantry donation day is the Saturday following our meeting. Root veggies especially squash, and potatoes, as well as canned goods and baking supplies will all be appreciated.

After the meeting we will enjoy our swag creations, the Photography and Floral Design Sweeps and our club member cheer with a glass of bubbles provided by the hospitality committee.

You will be allowed a small drop off window if bringing greens! Items to bring per member:

- Snips or hand clippers
- Gloves (personal preference)
- Green wire if you have
- Food donations for the St Michaels Food Pantry

Please bring cuttings of the following greens to the meeting! If you cannot make the meeting/workshop please drop these off at my front porch at 73 East St the day before or ask a fellow member, a neighbor perhaps, to bring them for you!

We will need:

- Holly (with or without berries)
- Boxwood

- Arborvitae
- Pine (pruned a few days before)
- Juniper
- Cedar
- Pods
- Hemlock
- Magnolia
- Winterberry
- Ribbon
- Pine Cones

Please avoid sappy evergreens!

As there are Covid cases and a variety of other flu and respiratory illnesses out there, if you are feeling unwell, stay home and zoom in!

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 858 4312 7213

Passcode: 114910

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85843127213#,,,,*114910# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,85843127213#,,,,*114910# US (New York)

Committee Reports & Announcements

Communication

LGC Calendar Update

We recognize that communication is key to member engagement! One of the first projects we are working on to streamline club wide communications is improving the accuracy and dependability of the LGC Calendar.



We hope to make it a reliable reference page for LGC's many monthly activities.

To that end, we have implemented some changes on due dates for committee chairs so that **all** dates for a given month will be posted in the newsletter of that month AND on the calendar. However, things do change, and in the event of a cancellation and/or date/location change, you will receive a Constant Contact email notifying you of any changes in a timely manner.

As you can see, I've relocated the **Communication Committee tab and the Calendar tab** closer to the top of the newsletter for quick reference. Just click on the Calendar tab below and you will be brought to the website to view the monthly calendar. Some calendar tips:

- If you hover over an event on the calendar you will see all of the pertinent information for that event if applicable.
- The calendar is printable, however, when you print it, you will not be able to see the location data.

We will be doing a brief review of how to best utilize the calendar at one of the upcoming monthly meetings. To view this month's calendar click on it below.

The IMPORTANCE of the RSVP

Communication is a two way street! PLEASE remember that many of our events require that you RSVP. That goes for monthly meetings, host requests, workshops, and some/most committee meetings. This is not only a courtesy extended to meeting organizers, but also important as meetings require that supplies be purchased, refreshment quantities need to be determined and space/seating arrangements need to be made. Please do your part and RSVP when requested. It couldn't be easier. Just CLICK where directed on the tabs provided in each section of this newsletter to let people know that you will be attending! That would be much appreciated.

[Crystal Carminati & Joan Burgess](#)

CALENDAR

LGC Member Profile

Marla Patterson
LGC Member Since 2004

When did your interest in gardening initially blossom?

When I was very young, my mother would boost me up in her lap in the car so I could see the tropical gardens when driving through Florida. From a very young age my mother and grandmother taught me the names of flowers and trees everywhere we traveled. We all gardened in Litchfield County, on the Cape, Martha's Vineyard and in Florida. I have always been frustrated that my own Hydrangeas cannot thrive here as they do on the Vineyard!



Favorite flower and/or tree?

My favorite flower is the Peony. I am always engaged when I see those delicate leaves unfold. It is a close tie with Hibiscus, especially since I have a tropical garden now and love their constant color. This year I challenged myself and started a succulent garden, all very dry specimens. I even added few bromeliads. The jury is still out as to how it will thrive, but I will save photos to show off if it does.

What is your favorite garden tool?

One of my favorite tools is a Japanese sickle, or Niwaki Sickle. The blade is perfect for splitting thick roots when I divide perennials. It is also the best tool I have for 'flossing' my slate patio stones and cutting back my often aggressive Sedum.

What is your favorite gardening tip or "trick of the trade?"

Invest in good mulch! Products like Sweet Peat have made my Litchfield garden soil so rich with worms and very soft to work in. It isn't necessary to lay it down every single year, but I highly recommend it.

Who is your favorite "Gardening Guru?" This can be a person, a favorite book, or any garden-oriented website site you follow on social media or the internet.

My interests lean more toward garden and landscape design and garden history. I love to follow the American Society of Landscape Architects. Click [HERE](#) to view their website. When I stopped working in the corporate world, I had the time to take part in the Landscape Design Program at the New York Botanical Garden. It opened up a world of classic designers to admire such as Le Notre, Dutch designer Piet Oudolf, as well as some of the young British designers whose work continues to amaze me at the Chelsea Garden Show each year.

Conservation

Holiday Conservation Tips

- Remember that tinsel is deadly to birds. Please remove all of it from your trees before putting outside.
- Trees can be recycled with people who have goats. Ask around and see if a goat farmer is interested. Check with some 4H students, they are a good place to start.



We need to look at our year ahead in Conservation and see what activities and/or projects we consider pursuing. There are so many choices and I need your input. I am tentatively considering a Tuesday, January 10th meeting at my house. Please email me if you are available/interested in attending by clicking on my name below.

[Margy Miner](#)

Floral Design



Committee Chairs for our upcoming flower show, "A Tapestry of Nature", met last month and reported on their activities and plans. It was exciting to see how organized the group is already! Preview Party, Invitations, Auction, Judges, and the four divisions: Floral Design, Horticulture, Photography and

Educational Exhibits from Garden History and Design and Conservation are all well on their way to a superb show!

Our club's February meeting will give a full report on the schedule and how each member can enter and be a part of this important event for our club. You are all encouraged to enter and exhibit in any and/or all of the three divisions. There are openings in almost all classes in Design and Photography. Horticulture has open entries except for a few classes which need an earlier registration with Kate Jamison. Please look at the flower show schedule [HERE](#). See what classes appeal to you and then email/call in your entries. You don't want to miss out! There is also an opportunity to volunteer for host and reception duty as they will need some help. This is an event that all members need to support after these lean years due to covid and its restrictions. Let's get ready for a fun Preview Party and Flower Show event!

Floral Design Workshop
Thursday December 8th @ 1:30pm
St. Anthony's basement meeting room

There will be tea and a discussion of the December Centerpiece Sweepstakes, an example of a swag created on a coat hanger, and plywood form, ecologically friendly mechanics for designs, and discussion on the floral design division of the upcoming flower show. Parking available behind the church and you can come in through the back door. Look forward to seeing you all. All members welcome!

December Design Sweepstakes
"Winter Holiday Dinner Party"



The December Design Sweeps will be a centerpiece for a holiday dinner party created with fresh and/or dried plant material, and accompanied with a dinner plate and napkin placed in front of the centerpiece. This will get us ready not only for our holiday tables, but for the picnic class in our June flower show.

To view the class information for this sweepstakes click [HERE](#).

Exhibits must be entered between 2:30-3:00 pm before the workshop scheduled for that meeting.

Flower Show Preview Gala



Calling All Party Goers!

We are compiling the list of invitees to our upcoming Flower Show Preview Gala. This year, we will be sending both a ***Save the Date*** and a separate Invitation via Paperless Post. **We are asking each LGC member to provide a list of 5-10 people that you would like to include on the invitation list.** You may include friends, family members, or local contacts that you feel are good friends of the garden club.

Please email the following information to Emily:

1. First and last name of each guest (if the guests are a couple, please provide first and last name for both individuals. Please do not list as "Mr. and Mrs.")
2. Primary Email address for each guest (You may provide only one primary email address if the invitation is going to a couple)

For example:

Guest Name: Emily Dalton and Matthew Karpas

Email address: emilydalton959@gmailcom

Guest Name: John and Susan Smith

Email address: ssmith@aol.com

Our timeline is as follows:

1/10/23 Deadline for submitting guest names

1/15/23 Save the Date will be sent via paperless post

4/1/23 Invitation will be sent via paperless post with a link for purchasing tickets online, as well as information for paying by check.

Please email your list to me at emilydalton959@gmail.com or go directly to my email by clicking [HERE](#) or by clicking on my name below.

Thank you!

[Emily](#)

Horticulture



It's that time of the year when we make a list of gift items for ourselves and others. I've compiled some gardening gift ideas that can be purchased online or at retail shops. I've included a broad price range, but obviously expect to pay more if you are gifting an experience, like a ticket to the Chelsea Flower Show!

Happy Shopping!

- [Garden Cut Scissors](#) for \$22.50 or their less expensive but similar cousin [the Gardening scissors from Kinsman Co.](#)
- Grass or Japanese [garden sickle](#) can be found at Natureworks Garden Center in Northford, Ct. This is a wonderful nursery and has a great focus on native as well as ornamental plants.
- The [Hori hori knife](#) is another popular gardening tool. It is an excellent digging tool and handy to have. They can be purchased at many locations including Niwaki tools (www.niwaki.com) and www.natureandnurtureseeds.com.
- A favorite pair of pruning shears are made by Felco(<https://www.amleo.com/felco-model-2-hand-pruners-1-inch-cutting-capacity/p/2FEL>) I had a pair for 30 years till some light fingers

found them...they are sturdy and hold a sharp edge for a long time. Aproximately \$60.00.

- Stan Schemahorn is a great source for bluebird mealworm feeders that keep larger birds from entering and eating all the worms. I ordered one as a gift myself. He is old school. To order, find him on Facebook, send a message and he will respond quite quickly.
- Wild bird unlimited (www.wbu.com) has shops in Brookfield and Watertown, and is a great source for bird needs, including live and dried mealworms for bluebirds.
- Campo De Fiori is a business whose closest location is Sheffield, Mass. (www.camposediori.com) where you can find pots, plant stands and cool sculptures.
- Garden Tool Company in Colorado (www.gardentoolcompany.com) has many high end tools, including the Dutch brand Sneeboer. Check out their beautiful edging spade and Wrotter garden weeder.

A nice gift doesn't have to be a tool or thing you can touch, I gave my daughter and husband a membership to The Garden Conservancy www.gardenconservancy.org and we enjoyed touring many gardens together this last season in New Jersey and Connecticut.

White Flower Farm (www.whiteflowerfarm.com) offers a generous gift of planted bulbs in a container, whether a single delivery or a three month staggered delivery over December to February. A lovely way to cheer someone who doesn't get away to a warmer location in the winter months. Of course a gift certificates to your favorite nursery is always appreciated.

Lastly there is a home and garden store called Orangerie (www.orangeriegarden.com) in Millbrook, NY which I have yet to explore. They are known to have unusual and charming treasures for the home and are a little closer to us than Terrain in Westport. Enjoy and Happy Gifting.

Kate Jamison

Membership

Do you have a friend or acquaintance that you think would be a good fit for our garden club. We are currently looking for new membership candidates for our provisional program! Check out the guidelines [HERE](#).

I need three letters of support for each potential candidate mailed to me or placed in my mailbox by the January 15th deadline. My address is:

Lynne Sherman
154 Old South Road
Litchfield, CT. 06759

If you have any questions, please email me at lynne.sherman@yahoo.com or just click on my name below.

[Lynne Sherman](#)

Photography

There will be a photography sweepstakes at our meeting on December 15th. For details click [HERE](#).

All entries must be in Cathy's hands by Monday evening, December 12, 2022, which allows for Tuesday corrections if there are conformance issues. Evelyn Lorentzen-Bell will judge for us on Wednesday, December 14. Send a jpeg of your entry to Joan Burgess, joangyorburgess@gmail.com, for posting on the LGC webpage.

[Cathy Oneglia](#)

Projects and Beautification

The holiday season is well under way in the center of town thanks to the Projects Committee filling the horse trough and planters with seasonal greens donated by our members. Hope you have a chance to enjoy them. Check the BLOG on our website for photos by clicking [HERE](#).

Thanks to O&G for casting the cement casing which was installed in front of the sycamore tree in front of Tapping Reeve. Gary Rodgers, Professional Outdoor Services secured the casing in the ground. A brass plaque has been ordered to list that the tree was propagated from the 1779 Oliver Wolcott Jr, tree in front of Saint Anthony's Church. A spring dedication is planned.

The next meeting of the PC will be in early 2023! Hoping new members will join us.

Drew Harlow/Ellen Oneglia

Member News and Upcoming Events



👣👣 **WE WON** 👣👣

If you haven't already heard, LGC's first Scarecrow entry at "Scarecrows in the Meadow" at the Tapping Reeve Meadow was the winner in the Artistic Design Category and won Second Place, Best in Show. Thank you Jen Abbott-Tillou, Jessica Travelstead and Sarah Worden for your creative design.

THE 2023 NAL CONFERENCE

The 2023 NAL Conference will take place in Washington, D.C. from Sunday, March 12 through Wednesday, March 15, 2023. 300 delegates will attend in person. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Susan Magary via email by clicking [HERE](#).

The GCA Announces the Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal



Annually, the GCA identifies a stellar North American native plant to receive the Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal: GCA Plant of the Year. To read more about it click [HERE](#).

This year, *Lonicera sempervirens*, commonly known as Coral Honeysuckle, has received this award.

SAVE THE DATE

Federated Garden Clubs of CT "Gateway to Springtime"
An NGC Standard Flower Show
February 23, 2023 thru February 26, 2023

The FGCCT's **41st Connecticut Flower Show** is coming in February to the Connecticut Convention Center. For more information and to view the **Schedule** click [HERE](#).

**Bristol Garden Club
"Holly Day" Boutique**

Saturday, December 3, 2022
New England Carousel Museum
95 Riverside Avenue, Bristol
9am-1pm



LGC Website

GCA Website

FGCCT Website

Conservation

GH&D

Projects

Hospitality

Photography

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