

LGC Newsletter



February 2021



Message from the President

Dear Friends,

With the days getting noticeably longer and with the arrival of garden catalogues in the mail every day, my mind is preoccupied with seed starting. While it might seem like jumping the gun, it is not at all too early, especially if using the method learned at the seed starting workshop in Grace's barn at this time last year. I've been collecting one gallon milk jugs (not difficult with most of my family in residence) for the purpose. My efforts will be focused on lettuces and Asian greens, herbs, tomatoes, cucumbers, and lots and lots of hot peppers.

After our January program by Matthew Benson, I'm so ready to have my garden growing. His program was nothing short of fabulous and left me truly inspired, not to mention hungry. If you missed our viewing - see below for link. This presentation is not to be missed! You'll be ready to start your seeds yesterday.

Annie

Virtual Meeting
Floral Design Extravaganza
Hosted by
Sylvia Abbott, Diane Stoner, and Nancy D'Oench
February 18, 2021
2:00 PM

Fine Art and Flowers –a collection of images from flower shows and museums across the United States showcasing floral designs that interpret and complement a painting or other work of art at events from these past several years. Comments will be by Nancy D’Oench, a GCA national floral design award winner of the Bonnylyn Martin Floral Design Award, who will explain how she created her blue ribbon winner at the GCA Memphis GC flower show, and the additional comments by Sylvia Abbott and Diane Stoner will fill out the presentation. This will be a zoom PowerPoint presentation, and we hope it will be a happy way to spend a February afternoon in the comfort of your own home, enjoying art from near and far places.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone
or dial in using your phone

Per usual, a Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting via email

Committee Reports & Announcements

Awards

Congratulations again to Sylvia Abbott for winning the prestigious GCA prize, the Katharine Thomas Cary Medal for outstanding achievement in the field of floral design education. So well deserved!

In the Litchfield Garden Club Awards area, we are happy to announce that the Board has unanimously voted to name the Novice Photography Award in honor of Cathy Oneglia. It will henceforth be known as the Catherine S. Oneglia Novice Photography Award. Again, a well deserved honor. Congratulations to Cathy for all she’s done to put Photography on the map for our club.

Speaking of Photography, I am sending out an SOS for a donation for our Masters Plate. We are in need of a lovely Sterling Silver round tray to use as the Masters Plate for Photography. If you have such an item which you would like to donate, please contact me at susanm@c4.net.

Happy Valentine’s Day to all, and especially to our new Provisional Cameron Bove who is tying the knot on February 6th. All good wishes to Cameron and her partner!

Please be sure to read all about the new Founders Fund finalists and send your vote to my email susanm@c4.net.

Susan Magary, VP

Founders Fund

The Founders Fund award was established in 1934 in honor of the GCA's first president, Elizabeth Price Martin, 1913–20. The first award, given in 1936, was \$700. The fund for this prestigious community grant has continued to grow through generous donations from GCA member clubs and individuals. In 2021 the winning finalist will receive \$30,000 and the two runners-up each will receive \$10,000.

The Founders Fund Committee is pleased to announce the three finalists for 2021. We invite you to read about these compelling projects and reflect upon the vision, mission, and values of the GCA. All member clubs have the opportunity to vote from now until April 1. The winner and runners-up will be announced during the GCA's 2021 Annual Meeting in May.

Read about the Founders Fund finalists and send your vote to Susan Magary

Conservation



We now have screech owl nesting boxes available for \$70 per box! The nesting box should be placed at least 10 feet high, and can be anchored on a tree or pole. Face any direction, except North and place a handful of sawdust or dried leaves at the bottom of the nesting box. Keep the nesting boxes at least 250 feet from each other if you are installing more than one nesting box.

They should be in place by the end of Spring which is when screech owls begin their courting rituals and will be looking for new nests. Eastern Screech Owls are considered 'in decline' in our area, so providing habitat is a wonderful

Conservation effort. Please call Frank Fontana and place your order! (Bluebird nesting boxes are also available for \$25.) All checks to be made out to LGC and sent to our Treasurer, Sara Gault.



Yes, now is the time to start your seeds in the milk gallon containers. Make sure you have drainage (holes in the bottom), soil, plant your seeds, water thoroughly, tape them up (so no critters can get in and eat your seeds), leave the hole at the top open, label the container (you will forget what is in there) and then put them outside - yes, put them outside as soon as you water and tape them. The cold and snow will harden them, and when they sprout in the Spring you will have strong, green, wonderful seedlings! This season for the first time, I am planting perennial seeds in the containers - it should work! Happy planting, even in the winter!

Grace Yagtug

Horticulture

I don't know about you all, but I am totally missing our usual big flower shows. Last year we were able to have/attend the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show, the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society Flower Show, and a day or so of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society Flower Show before Covid shut everything down. I am excited to hear that we can go visit Logee's Greenhouse these days and that later in June we can attend an outdoor version of the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show if we buy our tickets in advance.

It's tough sharing the joy of horticulture these days! I am learning slowly to navigate the GCA website to find videos or publications. Visit the GCA homepage, click the READ, WATCH, SHOP drop-down for videos or publications. For Conferences and Workshops, visit the members page for conferences like Shirley Meneice - one that I missed. For the upcoming Zone Flower Show schedule and the lesson on how to photograph your horticulture

specimens - go to Conferences and Workshops, click on the Annual Meeting page, and you will see the link for Photography guidelines.

By the way, the Photography and Horticulture Committees will team up on February 10th at 5pm to learn the basics of photographing our entries for a virtual flower show. We hope to do some propagating this month, as well as host a combined program with the Conservation Committee in April on propagating seeds for plants appropriate for our Pollinator Pathway research. As you can see, we have lots of good things in the works in spite of the pandemic.

Kate Jamison

Photography

The Photography and Horticulture committees will hold a joint zoom meeting on February 10, at 5:00 PM. We invite you to sit down with a beverage and some appetizers in the comfort of your home and once again, zoom in. We will present the GCA presentation of **Guidelines for Photography and for Videography of your Horticulture and Design Entries in Flower Shows**. It is very well put together, and we hope it will be a worthwhile hour with time for discussion and questions regarding the various hints, tips and requirements for entry.

If you go to the GCA website's Photography Page (click [HERE](#)), there is a very enticing invitation to send in one or two of your photographs that depict life during Covid. The GCA is compiling these for inclusion in a book; the deadline is May 1. Choose photos that fit into one of the following categories (click button below for topics). Uploading your choices to the GCA is a simple process, and if you haven't done it before, I would be happy to assist. All of our members, not only those on the photography committee, are welcome to send in photos.

Let's stay in touch and keep our focus!

Cathy Oneglia

Program

The fantastic gardens at Stonegate Farm brightened our way through January, giving us novel ideas about what to plant, harvest and enjoy in the coming months. Those refreshing sights and ideas give rise to hopes of a bright renewal of insight and design inspirations. Our February program on floral design promises to be equally illuminating, and I hope to see you there.

Fran Devlin

Projects and Beautification

Hopefully our committee will be able to install our bluebird houses in the skating area behind the town hall in the spring. If the town hasn't adjudicated the water problem in that area, I think that we might have to choose a different location. Any suggestions? Possibly a few more in White Memorial? Let us know your thoughts.

Meteorologic winter is just about half over, and Dale and I are looking forward to spring plantings.

Stay safe.

Dale Ryan and Lynne Sherman

From the Communications Desk

The membership Directory has been updated with email changes. Please note:
Joan Burgess, joangyrburgess@gmail and Cathy Oneglia,
coneiglia@gmail.com.

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.

Contact: Susan Jordan, 860.567.2093