

LGC Newsletter



February 2022



LGC February Meeting Notice

While there is no LGC monthly meeting in February, we hope you will attend the Annual Flower Show sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut.

40th Annual Connecticut Flower and Garden Show



February 24th - 27th
Connecticut Convention Center.
For more information on the show
click [HERE](#).

Discounted Admission Tickets (\$4
off) On Sale Now until February 10
for the Feb. 24-27 Event.
Click [HERE](#) for discounted ticket
information.

Message From The President

Happy Valentine's Day to all, and good luck to those entering the Hartford Flower Show. While we may be in the winter doldrums, there is plenty of garden activity! Check out the GCA website [HERE](#) for details on the virtual NAL conference on March 1-2. Then read details in our newsletter below about exciting plans for this summer and beyond. Nancy Post is arranging a Visiting Gardens trip to some renowned Maine gardens in July, and our Flower Show Chairs, Sylvia Abbott and Kate Jamison, have come with a thrilling theme for the June 2023 show.

In the meantime, we're planning a live get together in March, and a daffodil celebration in April. To get you in the mood, here's A.A. Milne's charming ode to that flower from "*When We Were Very Young*."

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
'Winter is dead.'

[Susan Magary](#)

Message from the Vice-President



The 4G Honey Team

GCA Founder's Fund Finalist

It is time, once again, for our club to cast its annual vote to select the recipient of the GCA Founder's Fund award.

In a normal year, we would be offered a list of project finalists that are contenders for the Founder's Fund award, and our club would cast one vote for our desired winner (based on the most votes received from LGC members). Typically, the Founder's Fund prize awarded by GCA is \$30,000 to the ultimate winning project and \$10,000 to each of the two runners' up. This year, because of Covid, there is only one finalist, and therefore one winner. The very deserving finalist, and winning project, is called

BEE SUCCESSFUL: THE 4G HONEY TEAM

Proposing Club: The Gertrude Windsor Garden Club, Zone IX

Seconding Club: Monroe Garden Study League, Zone IX

Unwelcome bees on the loading dock of the Ozarka water bottling plant in Hawkins, TX gave four inexperienced high school students the chance to help—and become—the 4G Honey Team in the process. Building hives to relocate the colony, they gained skills that attracted national attention and inquiries from other schools in Texas and beyond. The Founders Fund grant will provide equipment and materials to build an observational hive and create beekeeping curriculum to share nationwide.

Read more about this exciting project [HERE](#).

Please **RSVP** via email by clicking on my name below to express your support for this worthwhile Founder's Fund project. Susan Magary will cast our club vote of support for this project with GCA on April 1st.

[Emily Dalton](#)

Committee Reports & Announcements

Conservation



Invitation to Shape our next 18 months in Conservation

We have another 18 months ahead of us for our upcoming conservation programs. You are invited to share your ideas and wishes for our next season. Let's start putting our brains to work thinking of which projects we want to initiate, maintain and share with others. Everything is possible!!!

LGC Existing Programs:

- Pollinator and Rain gardens - minimal maintenance - visit often and enjoy
- White Memorial little flower meadow - make and cast seed balls for planting
- Bird Boxes - We still have deliveries to make, but waiting on supplier.

Coming Up:

- Flower Show 2023 - Conservation Exhibit

Other Groups We Can Collaborate With:

- Litchfield and Sharon Audubon
- Friends of Topsmead
- Institute for American Indian Studies
- Litchfield Historical Society - Tapping Reeve Meadow
- Girls Scouts of the USA
- UConn Forest Association

We are open to all ideas and projects - bluebird trails, tiny forest planting,

another rain garden, stream improvement program, wood duck boxes, etc. Please contact me. You can email by clicking on my name below.

[Grace Yagtug](#)

Floral Design



LGC Flower Show 2023

The Floral Design/Flower Show Committee members came up with several different great ideas for a theme for our upcoming 2023 flower show.

Gardens, the arts, and conservation issues showed the most interest, so the decision was to cover as broad a scope as possible with the chosen title. We are happy to announce that the selected theme is:

A Tapestry of Nature

This title gives us great flexibility to highlight a diversity of plants, animals, insects, pollinators, and issues. Over these next two months, each discipline, floral design, horticulture, conservation, photography and educational issues, will be given individual attention so we can produce the best show possible!

Stay tuned and send Kate Jamison and I any specific ideas you have for special classes in any of the divisions! We are excited!

[Sylvia Abbott](#)

Horticulture

This winter has been cold, but so pretty with soft snows and cardinals around the bird feeders giving color to the landscape. We will have flowers soon and greener landscapes at the upcoming Federated Garden Club's Flower Show. Ronnie will be spending several days at the show, so if anyone is interested in being involved, whether in showing plants, entering a floral design or even volunteering, which I did and loved, please drop her a note.

Last month I talked about seed sowing and growing, and I have been cleaning and organizing my own collection to share when we can. In the meantime,

there are many fascinating things to learn about seeds and Mother Nature is plenty competent at sharing her seeds all on her own.

How do seeds get around when they are not being made into seed balls and cast out onto the Earth? By dispersion! Dispersion is the scattering of seeds from one place to another and this happens in a variety of ways.



Dispersion by Wind

Seeds dispersed by wind are light and small, and can be easily carried away by the wind.

dandelion-Taraxacum

Dispersion by Animals

Seeds with external structures, such as spines or hooks, attach themselves to animals to get dispersed to other places. Animals also eat the seeds which are then dispersed through their scat.



burdock -*Arctium*



willow-*Salix*

Dispersion by Water

Seeds with a hollow structure float easily on water. Upon reaching a place with suitable conditions, they germinate.

Dispersion by Explosion/Expulsion

Some plants fling their seeds out once their fruit has ripened. This explosion occurs as a result of evaporation of water from the pods. Once the pods dry out, they expel the seeds which are then carried by wind or gravity to other places where they germinate.

milkweed-Asclepias



Dispersion due to Gravity

Some plants drop their seeds directly from the seed pods to the ground as a result of gravity.

acorn-Glandem

And then of course, there are the drift seeds, floating helplessly on the open sea, thousands of miles from land, their destination at the mercy of the wind and currents, eventually drifting ashore on the coral sand beaches of a remote tropical island or distant continent. Another story for another time!

[Kate Jamison](#)

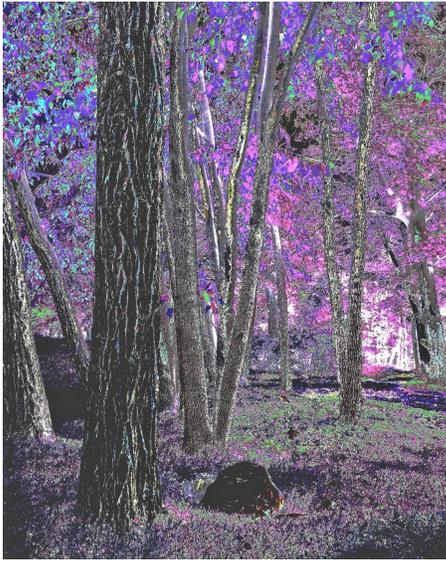
Photography

January 2022 Photography Sweepstakes Results

Congratulations to everyone who entered the January Sweepstakes, "**Embrace the Challenge.**" Ten members participated, with many submitting images in 2 of the 3 classes. Thank you to Diane, Doreen, Lainie, Susan M., Susan F., Emily, Crystal, Lynn C., Frank and Berta. You can view the award results and photos on the LGC Website [HERE](#).

Congratulations to Doreen Tango Hampton whose photo was awarded **Best in Show**, and to Lainie Witherspoon, who was awarded **Second Place in Class III**, as well as a **Creativity Award** for her backyard image.

[Cathy Oneglia](#)



Best in Show
Doreen Tango Hampton



Creativity Award
Lainie Witherspoon

From the Communications Desk...

LGC Newsletter Member Profile

Tonja Curry **LGC Member Since 1989**

Tonja has served the LGC in a wide variety of leadership roles during her 33 year membership. They have included, LGC President (1999-2001), Conservation Committee Chair, Horticulture Chair (x2), Flower Design Chair (x2), and Flower Show Chair. In addition to her leadership roles, she has received multiple LGC and GCA awards over the years. You can view those awards, as well as the entire list of LGC award recipients [**HERE**](#).

When did your interest in gardening initially blossom?

My father always had a vegetable garden while we were growing up and we enjoyed helping him with the garden.

What is your favorite flower and/or tree?

My favorite flower is the marigold. It is a good fall plant for the pollinators and very easy to collect and plant the seeds.

What is your favorite garden tool? I have a very old spade made completely of iron. It works very well to turn over the garden in the spring.



Tonja Curry and her 10 year old stag horn fern.

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

I have just recently started leaving the cleaning of the garden until spring. It is important for the birds and other insects.

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.

In June, I sit down at a table with my seeds and review my favorite book: "Carrots love tomatoes " by Louise Riotte. Companion planting. It is always helpful.

Crystal Carminati

LGC Website

The blog page on the LGC website was created as a place for members to share photos and stories about their gardens. Some members have contributed regularly and we have enjoyed their contributions, especially in the time of Covid isolation. However, in an effort to increase member participation in the blogosphere, we are expanding the topic options to include member's stories about nature, wildlife, and our community. Check out one such story in the most recent blog post by Drew Harlow [HERE](#). It might inspire you to write one of your own!

Blog submissions should be sent to me at: **joangyorbουργess@gmail.com**

Some members have expressed a desire to be notified when a new blog post appears on the website. If you are one of those who would like to be notified, please contact me via email at **joangyorbουργess@gmail.com**

Member News and Upcoming Events

Visiting Gardens Trip to Maine July 28 - August 1, 2022

The Visiting garden committee is planning a 5 day trip to Maine where we will visit the Thuya Garden, the Asticou Azalea Garden, and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden, designed by Beatrix Farrand, the topic of the documentary and discussion from our January monthly meeting. Another highlight of the trip will be a tour of 6 gardens, organized by the Garden Club of Mt. Desert. This tour occurs every 2 years and is returning this year after a postponement due to Covid. Our last stop will be a visit to the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden in Boothbay Harbor. It was opened in 2007 on 300 acres which includes nearly a mile of shoreline.

I am excited about this trip and believe that we would all enjoy it. Numbers have been limited to 16, therefore it is initially open to members only until we can ascertain interest of the membership. Spaces will be held on a first come, first served basis.

As this is such a popular summer destination, it is imperative to book reservations for lodging and garden visits early. I am currently working on securing a block of rooms at local hotels.

Please contact me to reserve your place by February 28th.



Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden



Asticou Azalea Garden



Coastal Maine Botanical Garden

Itinerary

Day 1

Thursday, July 28: Drive to Bar Harbor (6½ hours). Check into Hotel. Cocktails

Day 2

Friday, July 29: Visit the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden. Breakfast or Lunch at the Asticou Inn. See Asticou Garden and Thuya Garden. Back to the hotel.

Day 3

Saturday, July 30: Garden Club of Mt. Desert Garden Tour. Drive to Boothbay Harbor (3 hours) and check into hotel.

Day 4

Sunday, July 31: Visit the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden.

Day 5

Monday, August 1st: Return home to Litchfield (5 ½ hours).

Estimated Costs:

Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden: Ticket \$15

Coastal Maine Botanical Garden: Ticket \$22

Garden Club of Mt. Desert Garden Tour: \$40

Thuya Garden and Asticou Azalea Gardens: Suggested donation \$5 each

Lodging per night will be approximately \$180-\$250 per double room.

All meals are on your own.

Shared driving expenses.

Click on the links below to preview the garden destinations:

[Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden](#)

[Asticou Azalea Garden](#)

[Coastal Maine Botanical Garden](#)

[Garden Club of Mount Desert](#)

[Thuya Garden](#)

Nancy Post

The Garden Conservancy of Oregon presents, "The Northwest Gardens of Lord & Schryver." Valencia Libby discusses her new book about Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver.

Live via Zoom

Thursday, February 10th

\$5 Garden Conservancy members \$15 General admission.

For more information click [HERE](#).