

LGC Newsletter



January 2024



Message From The President

Welcome to 2024! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with time to rest and recharge! Now, as 2024 begins and our club moves into its 111th year, we have several engaging club programs and events to look forward to. Our Committee Chairs have planned activities to enhance your conservation knowledge, develop your horticultural and floral design skills, and engage you in valuable community conservation efforts. Please visit the committee pages and event calendar on our website (or click the calendar button below) to learn more!

Also, please be sure to read the section introducing Instagram to all members. It is important that you understand this social media platform and how it will be a part of LGC's visual public diary of our clubs' activities throughout the year. If you have questions/concerns or just want to let me know your thoughts regarding LGC's Instagram account, click [HERE](#) to email me. The plan is to have 30 days to allow you to provide feedback. Following the comment period

and based on your feedback, the Policies and Procedures Handbook will be updated accordingly. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

I hope to see everyone at our first meeting of 2024 at the Forman School. We will be hearing about an exciting upcoming project and will be asking for ideas for new projects.

As we head into the new year, I'm reminded of the gardeners' adage,

"Live Bold and Bloom!"

[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.

Click **[HERE](#)** for the CALENDAR

Program

A Soup Luncheon & Projects Discussion "A Project Spanning 110 Years"

**The Forman School
12 Norfolk Rd**

Will be held in a Private Room off the Cafeteria

**January 25, 2024
12:00 pm**

Horticulture Sweepstakes

RSVP

Announcements & Articles of Interest

Monthly Floral Design "IDEAS"

Idea #6, Modern Mass Design

[MaryEllen O'Brien](#)



Floral Design Committee **ideas** Tips & Tricks to Try
with MaryEllen OBrien JANUARY 2024

Modern Mass Design





Tools
Clippers or Jack Knife

Supplies
1 Block instant floral foam
Tooth Picks / Bamboo Skewers

Plant Materials
12+ Carnations
6+ Roses
6+ Peppers (Banana Peppers)
1 Bunch Green Kermit Pom Pom Mums
1 Bunch Maroon and White Mums
1 Pkg. Brussels Sprouts
Green foliage if desired / Galax Leaves work nicely
Deer Moss or Spaghnum Moss to fill in any empty holes around the peppers

Technique

- Choose a vase that can accommodate your floral foam. Trim floral foam as needed. In this design a round vase with a side opening was used. Floral foam was trimmed to fit into the opening and extend above the rim of the vase.
- Secure floral foam to vase with floral tape to prevent foam from movement.
- Peppers were added first. Each pepper is secured with two long toothpicks. Two tooth picks will prevent the vegetable from pivoting and stops any unwanted twisting movement. The key to a Modern Mass design is keep your materials in a group using blocks of color and textures. Notice the green peppers next to the lavender roses; and the burgundy PomPoms next to the green Brussels Sprouts. Each group contrast with the group it is next to.
- Brussels Sprouts with their leaves turned backwards are the original "Cabbage Roses". With your thumb, gently rub the edge of the Brussels sprout leaf until it lifts and can be moved to an open position.. Insert a single tooth pick for small sprouts...2 picks for larger ones. Fill in all area with grouped materials. Choose colors that go well together. Opposite colors on the color wheel work well and offer contrast. When choosing your materials...think about different textures: Smooth - rough; shiny - dull; and so forth.
- Before completion, check all areas for any obvious signs of exposed floral foam. This can be covered with Deer Moss, Spanish Moss or Sphagnum Moss. Use sparingly as not to overwhelm the flowers, fruits and vegetables in the design. Consider seasonal produce offering from your supermarket. Little mini pumpkins would be ideal for an Autumnal design...Or in Winter think about Acorns or other found seed pods. The possibilities are endless.

January 2024 | Modern Mass Design

IDEAS from the Floral Design Committee | Litchfield Garden Club

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

Committee Reports

Communication

Images of the Holiday Tea are posted, visit the [Hospitality Page](#) to view them. Click [HERE](#) for the results of the December Design sweeps. Also, visit our [Blog page](#). 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.

Joan Burgess

Floral Design

In the midst of the 2023 LGC Holiday Tea, at the most charming home of member Kristen Mahan-Kraut, the Floral Design Committee staged its second sweepstakes challenge for club members. The challenge was to embellish a holiday gift box with dried plant materials (Class 1) or decorate a box with fresh plant materials (Class 2) for a named December holiday.

Members drew inspiration from our recent LGC meeting with Sarah Boynton. Sarah is a member of the Cohasset Garden Club / Zone I and whose presentation was the impetus for this very difficult sweepstake of “Holiday Gift Boxes”. Nine LGC Floral Design members rose to the challenge and eleven decorated boxes were entered.

A blue ribbon in the Novice Division was awarded to Tierney Moran for her outstanding design of a “Partridge in a Pear Tree” and as the first place winner, she took home a copy of Damien Koh’s book, Monograph. Other winners in the Novice Division went to Rose Brooks (Class 1) and Susan Magary (Class 2) both with red ribbon wins.

The Master Division had seven entries between the two classes of Botanic Arts and Floral Design. Blue ribbons were awarded to Rosie Furniss in (Class 1) - Botanical Arts and a blue ribbon to Sylvia Abbott in (Class 2) for her Floral Design gift box. Other entrants in (Class 1) Botanic Arts were: Seton O’Reilly, Susan Fearey, Ellen Oneglia, and Sylvia again, who entered a decorated box in both classes.

The Emeritus division saw two entries, one in each division and both from the Floral Design Chair, MaryEllen O’Brien. Special thanks go out to our very own member and judge Victoria Sansing for her thoughtful remarks as she reviewed the entries and awarded placement ribbons.

The members of the Floral Design Committee will have another competition in the Spring. Ideas for future workshops and sweepstakes will be gathered via email after the holidays and an in-person workshop will follow in January or February depending on the consensus of the group.

Sincerely,

MaryEllen O'Brien

History & Archives

Thanks to those of you who have made the effort to turn over materials that are important to LGC. Our archives are updated and becoming more complete all the time. Again, when in doubt - please pass it to me.



Thanks -
[Victoria Sansing](#)

Horticulture

I hope that your bulbs are resting in the cold for a few more weeks. Crocus and Hyacinths may be ready to come into more light and warmth around December 20. Tulips around January 24 and Narcissus around January 10. If you have some blooming as of the sweepstakes on January 25, please bring them.

Next meeting-"Soup and Seeds" Wednesday, January 17, at noon, held in Diane Stoner"s barn, 183 Maple St. Dress warmly. Click my name below to RSVP. Come for a soup lunch and sow seeds of Viola 'Sorbet Lemon Chiffon' for the Zone II Gavel competition. Each of us will sow and take home our seeds to grow on. LGC will select the best plant to compete against all other Zone II club entries. Let's see if your plant will represent LGC.

Horticulture Sweepstakes, January 25 at The Forman School. Click [HERE](#) for the schedule. Please bring your entries to the school between 11:15 am-12:00 pm. No entries will be accepted after 12:00 pm when judging will begin.

[Nancy Post](#)

Hospitality

Please take the time to RSVP to Seton O'Reilly for the January Meeting at the Forman School by clicking [HERE](#) if you plan on attending.

Lastly, we are still in need of a Monthly Hospitality Chair for the May Business meeting. If you have been thinking about how you can volunteer and/or increase your participation in LGC club activities this is a great opportunity to work with a team of hostesses whose efforts make our meetings so special.

Please reach out to me and let me know if you can volunteer to Chair the May meeting. A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to date!

Thanks -
[Crystal Carminati](#)

Instagram

As you know, the LGC Instagram account has been up and running for some time now. GCA, The Federated, and most other clubs in Zone II and around the country and the world have dedicated accounts on the Instagram platform that include photos and information on their club's activities. The purpose of our IG account is to serve as a visual diary of our club's activities throughout the year, to create awareness of future fundraising events, to raise awareness of open meetings or events where the greater community might be included, and to share our activities with the community at large, other garden clubs and our very own members.

That said, photos will be taken, as always, at our LGC events. However, if you do not want your photo to be shared in any LGC Instagram posts you can OPT OUT by clicking [HERE](#) and your photo will not be used.

I welcome information for posting on our LGC Instagram account. Please feel free to share photos of anything LGC-related by sending in your submission - see the link at the bottom of the newsletter. In addition to LGC events, we would welcome photos of some of your fabulous houseplants, gardens, or other events that might interest our members or the community. I look forward to receiving what you are willing to share.

Lastly, like any new technology, understanding Instagram has a learning curve. If you don't already have your own account and are interested in learning some Instagram basics for setting one up, click [HERE](#) for an informative article on Instagram 101. Understanding IG would be helpful so that you could follow LGC, any other garden clubs, or your friends.

If you have questions on any of these topics, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

[Crystal Carminati](#)

Membership

Hello Fellow LGC Members,

Our Membership Committee is looking for your friends or acquaintances that you think would be a good fit for our Provisional Program. I need three supporting letters for each candidate mailed to me (154 Old South Road) or if it is more convenient to email, click my name below.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Questions? I am available to answer all of your questions!

[Lynne Sherman](#)

Member At Large

Floral Design Photos of the Botanical Arts Sweepstakes entries were sent to Sarah Boynton, our October program speaker, so she could see what beautiful work our members were stimulated to create thanks to her excellent lecture and presentation. It is a new art form for most of us to try and appreciate and add extra interest to our gorgeous Holiday Tea!

[Sylvia Abbott](#)

Member News and Upcoming Events

GCA 2024 PHOTOGRAPHY CONFERENCE

January 24, 2024 • Virtual

Who's Invited

Once again, this year, all club members are invited to come together from across The Garden Club of America for the 2024 Photography Conference.



[Learn More and to Register](#)

THE CT STATE FLOWER SHOW IS “BURSTING INTO SPRING”!

February 22-25, 2024

CT Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. invites state residents to join us as we “BRING ON THE HEAT” in 64 Designs guaranteed to put some “HUSTLE AND BUSTLE” into our lives. A Club Competition Floor Design will be a “Clean Sweep” of “SPRING CLEANING.” Four Designers will interpret a Jackson Pollack poster in “Vibrant Explosions.”

Click [HERE](#) to Learn More about the CT State Flower Show



[Read more](#)



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

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