

LGC Newsletter



June 2020



Message from the President

Greetings,

I truly hope this message finds you all safe and well!

Uncertainty and adjustment have been our way of life for the past many weeks and probably will be for some time. In spite of it all, our little club has found a unique way to help us cope and to continue our club activities at the same time: the pollinator garden expansion.

This project, initiated by the Conservation Committee, is momentous in size, scope, and intent. You'll notice on the [blog](#) and in Grace's conservation update below, that work has begun.

Thank you, Grace, for spearheading this special project and offering us all a place to take a break from uncertainty.

All the best and stay well,

[Annie](#) 

News about Annie ~ Congratulations to Ann Borzilleri who has been accepted into the GCA Judging Program as a Floral Design Candidate. This is really quite an honor and distinction.

Virtual Meeting
[C-Change/Climate Change](#)
Presentation with a video program, followed by a live "Q & A"
June 18, 2020
2:00 PM
Zoom

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

A Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting

Virtual How To

Are you new to Zoom? A link to the June meeting will be sent the day before the meeting. On the day of the meeting just click the link and you will be directed to join. Please be sure to save the email so you will be all set on June 18th. You can always join by phone if you prefer. Questions, contact [Annie](#).

Our new normal depends on an online presence, and thankfully we have a website that is easy to navigate, check the [calendar](#) for events (online and otherwise), and review all committee website pages for up to date information. In addition, there are loads of spectacular new pictures posted almost every day - visit our [blog page](#) to see what our members are up to in the garden. Need navigation help, contact [Joan Burgess](#).

Membership Update

The Membership Committee is pleased to share with you all the names of our three new Provisional Members. As you know, we typically announce this at the July Annual Meeting, however, this year is not like others. Therefore, we

are very excited to announce their names in our June Newsletter as we are eager to get them involved in all our wonderful Club has to offer.

This year, we have Crystal Carminati, Cameron Bove and Susan Fearey coming in! All are very accomplished in their own right. We are so lucky to have these three wonderful women with exceptional skills join our club.

Please welcome them to our wonderful little club, and please include them in all club events.

Thank you,

Julia A. Metcalf, Membership Chair

Annual Dues Update

Sara Gault, Treasurer reports: Annual Dues for the upcoming fiscal year - July 1 - June 30, 2020 are due in July. A dues notice will be sent June 5th. LGC dues are \$175 and may be paid by check or PayPal. Please note if paying by PayPal there is an online service charge of \$5.50. Thank you

Committee Reports & Announcements

Vice President

In case you haven't heard, the Founders Fund Award for 2020 went to the Permaculture Sanctuary, sponsored by the Twin Cities GC (Zone VII) for their project: Promoting Trauma Resilience through Regenerative Gardening at Crossmore School and Children's Home in Winston-Salem, NC.

[Susan Magary](#)

Conservation Committee

Rain Garden and Pollinator Garden

Maybe it is the expansive field that comes down from the horizon, stopping at the road just before the garden, and the coolness that comes off the lake, meeting together and creating a space of serenity and still beauty.

This is where we are creating our rain garden and pollinator garden, and every day we work there, something incredible happens - a bobolink building a nest high in the trees, bluebirds swooping for bugs, field swallows

flitting around us as if to say - Yes, come and plant here and create something beautiful.

This is my invitation to you all to come to the garden site at White Memorial, work if you feel like it, sit and enjoy it, band together and make it our garden, our mutual place of peace and nature.

Today we had the great fortune to have the White Memorial team scrape and prepare the soil for the expanded Pollinator Garden, after three hours of work and using a new machine. The soil is so rich, and the wild cherry trees sing from their new vantage point, raised high in the garden space. We are ready for planting!



Please visit the [Conservation Web-page](#) to see the rest of the images.

We hope you will come and enjoy the beautiful space, work if you feel like it, water, weed, plant, or just rest and enjoy the view! Our marvelous intern, Julia Battistoni will also be helping us with our project.

Pollinator Garden Schedule - throughout the summer, May through August

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings - 9am to 11am
- If it is raining, no gardening that day.

Please let Grace know when you will be coming so we can keep our people numbers low and practice social distancing to be safe and well. Call, text or email [Grace Yagtug](#) - 860 806 8295.

Seed Ball Workshop at Grace's barn. **June 4, Thursday, 10am - Four people only!** We will make seed balls with seeds (and soil and red clay) of perennial autumn blooming native species flowers. We are creating these seed balls to use at the Pollinator Garden.



After a few days, once the seed balls are dry, we will cast them on the soil at the new Pollinator Garden site, as a way of holding the exposed soil in place. This is our first step in establishing a beneficial pollinator habitat for our new garden. I have all the supplies, and we will social distance while we work. Wear your old clothes, we will be playing in the mud! Email [Grace](#) or call, 860 806 8295

**Native Plant Species Workshop
with Jamie Fisher
Research Director at White Memorial**

**June 10, at 9:30am
Pollinator Garden at White Memorial
(Rain day June 12, same time and location)**



Come to an outdoors workshop with Jamie Fischer to learn how to identify plant native species, invasive and non-invasive, using field techniques that Jamie will teach you so you can identify plant species within a grid of natural vegetation.

This will take place under the wild black cherry trees in the Pollinator Garden at White Memorial. The stand of trees is surrounded by untouched native vegetation, a perfect canvas for learning how to identify plants that occur naturally in the environment. You will learn about their uses, habits and functions, and purpose in the surrounding environment.

**Save the Date - 50th Anniversary
Earth Day Tree Planting**

Our original plan was to plant this tree in April for Earth Day 50th anniversary, but of course this had to change.

Since every day is earth day, we will plant our beloved tree, just a few months later.



Crabapple Tree

We are pleased to invite you to our 50th Anniversary tree planting ceremony in honor of Earth Day!

September 17th at 10.00am
Tapping Reeve House
82 South Street
Litchfield 06759 CT

Please reserve the date and time in your diary, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Horticulture

Hello all. Life keeps fluctuating, so I am including yet another change in this newsletter. For those of you who don't know it already, the October 2020 Zone II Meeting and Flower Show has been cancelled, along with many other events in the GCA. This was to have been the venue for our Hot Pops ornamental pepper Gavel competition. Don't give up! We hope to have a virtual judging of the Gavel Challenge plants instead. We will likely be taking photographs of the plant from 4 sides and the top to show its size and beauty. They will be gently judged as the judges often do in an in club show to encourage everyone in entering. Also we are not going to be required to enter a plant as is usually the

case in a gavel challenge (even virtually) if we don't feel comfortable because there is no actual show. Never fear, at the very least they will be really cute in a window box or container on your patio!

There are many sites you can turn to in order to educate yourself in the gardening world if you need a break from your own. If you are on Facebook, [Allan Armitage](#) hosts fun garden tours and happy hours in his garden. You can also find him on Allan Armitage youtube. He is a well-respected horticulturist from the University of Georgia who is known for his trialing of annuals and other plants for the nursery industry. (Apparently, he is also known for his hat!).

If you are interested in Native gardening, try [Larry Weaner's website](#), [New Directions in the American Website](#) (NDAL). He came to speak to us this last year about meadow garden design. Google "NDAL Webinars" to find interesting information on ecology and landscape design programs from him and [Douglas Tallamy](#).

Best wishes for a fun and healthy summer.

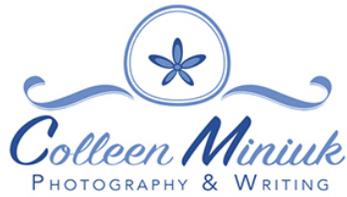
[Kate Jamison](#)

Photography

The Photography committee would like to start out the LGC year with a bang and hold an August sweepstakes. Although we have not typically held a sweeps in August, this is going to be a huge summer for gardening, and it would be so much fun to capture some of that enthusiasm in an innovative sweeps. The plans are still in the works, but look for details in the July Newsletter. But in the meantime - visit the [Photography Sweeps](#) web-page to see all the images of our May sweeps!

[Cathy Oneglia](#)

June 9th - The GCA Photography Committee is bringing an exclusive photography webinar to the comforts of your home on June 9th! Whether you are a beginner iPhone photographer or an experienced shutterbug, join your fellow GCA members across the country for an exciting 1.5 hour Zoom webinar with instructor Colleen Miniuk. Colleen's expertise and unique style have made her a favorite among GCA photography study group attendees. Read [here and sign up now](#) to take advantage of this terrific opportunity!



presents

HUMAN PERCEPTIONS IN COMPOSITION

An exclusive online presentation for the Garden Club of America



June 9, 2020 at 4:00 PM EST
\$5/person

Time to throw out the composition rules! Learn how incorporating common human perceptions can help you make more powerful and meaningful photographs.



with
COLLEEN MINIUK
Outdoor Photographer,
Writer, & Instructor

Register at

WWW.TINYURL.COM/GCACOMP

Projects and Civic Beautification

Dale and I partnered up with our husbands to plant the Norfolk urn and Murphy's planter. The Trough in the center of town will be planted in the beginning of June due to the plants we have chosen. So, from June 15 to September 14th we are asking *YOU* to sign up for watering - see below. Grab a partner or go solo, just as long as our planters are alive and well for our community and visitors to enjoy.

This year the Trough will be an edible garden. We are dedicating these herbs to our farmers, grocers and residents of Litchfield. This herb garden

symbolizes our thoughts during this uncomfortable time. Here is what we will be planting and what they symbolize:

- Basil - Love
- Parsley - Gratitude
- Rosemary - Remembrance
- Thyme - Courage
- Yarrow - Healing
- Chives - Harmony and Balance
- And finally, trailing nasturtiums (an edible flower) will be placed as a border.

Please click [HERE](#) to sign up to water for a one week period - or sign up for two weeks with a friend! Our watering schedule is very important. It enhances the beauty of our town. If you cannot meet your commitment, please email [Lynne Sherman](#) so I can find a replacement.



Many thanks in advance!

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

Visiting Gardens

At a time when we cannot venture far to see distant gardens, please join other garden club members for this special event. It will be fun to celebrate our own members' gardening creativity, expertise and efforts.

SAVE THE DATE ~ Garden Tour of Four Members' Gardens

Date: Thursday, June 25th / rain date June 26th

Time: 12-1:30 Bring your lunch and picnic at one of two members' properties

1-4:00 Tour four special members' gardens at your leisure

Open to members only to avoid crowding. Masks and social distancing of 6' or more required.

R.S.V.P. Nancy Post at 860-567-8475 or email npost1126@gmail.com

From the Communications Desk

The Litchfield Garden Club Blog has been very active. Click [HERE](#) to visit the blog page and see what club members have been up to in their gardens. Visit our [Conservation Page](#) - there have been many updates. Also visit the [Photography Sweeps](#) page to see all the images submitted for our last meeting.

[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 user name 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 Virtual Events



Kathleen Cull Crawford: It is with great sadness to report the passing of Kathleen Cull Crawford. Kathleen was a member of The Litchfield Garden Club since 2008. She passed away on May 19th at Yale New Haven Hospital after complications from her ongoing battle with Hepatitis C. Jeff Crawford, her son Sam and daughter Charlotte were by her side.

Born in Springfield NJ, Kathleen moved to New York City, married and became part of the garment district scene. For a time, she designed clothing under her own label. When searching for a weekend getaway in Litchfield County, Kathleen fell in love with a 19th century home on North Street in Litchfield. The family eventually relocated full time. Kathleen ran a successful antiques business in the center of New Preston. She had exquisite taste and loved hunting for art and antiques. Kathleen specialized in European garden decor which she discovered on her many buying trips across the pond. She graciously offered her impeccably decorated home for the Litchfield Aid of the CJR annual summer House Tour. Kathleen loved her dogs including her most current companion Gulliver (Gully).

Rowe Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. A small, private burial will be held May 27th. A memorial service for family and friends will be scheduled at a later date."

Report from the Bluebirds of Happiness

Program: Thanks to our members, the 75 bluebird houses that the Sharon Audubon

Center made for us this winter were all sold. Thank you to Grace Yagtug for her critical role in this conservation initiative.

- Nine to the "Reeve Meadow" (Litchfield Historical Society)
- Nine to the "new" pollinator garden at the White Memorial (pictured above)
- Three to the Community center gardens off route 202
- Eight to be placed at the Litchfield Country Club, already an Audubon designated space!
- Three to the Ripley Conservancy
- Three to the skating rink



Let us watch and be **happy** for the bluebirds that will flourish in our community! What great "cross- pollination" we will experience thanks to the Litchfield Garden Club initiatives and all the great natural spaces we are so fortunate to have in our town. [Read more](#) about the Bluebird houses.

A message from Arlene Field, President of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.

COVID-19 has made this a year unlike any other. Among all the negative news, there are glimmers of real hope. People are flocking to garden centers and scooping up vegetables and flowering plants. The interest in gardening is off the charts. It provides the opportunity for clubs to potentially grow your membership. It's also a chance to make a greater impact on your communities.



I wrote an op/ed piece about how people can use gardens as a way to declare victory over COVID-19. It appeared in the *Connecticut Post* on May 13th and the *Danbury News Times* on May 16th. Click [HERE](#) to read the article.

LGC Website

GCA Website

FGCCT Website

[Conservation](#)

[GH&D](#)

[Projects](#)

[Hospitality](#)

[Photography](#)

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