

# LGC Newsletter



November 2020



## Message from the President

Dear Annie,

In anticipation of the Zone II meeting and flower show that was supposed to take place last month, I grew some special Fuji mums, *Chrysanthemum morifolium* x 'Lava' and x 'River City'. The cuttings, which were special ordered from King's Mums last Winter before the pandemic, were planted as soon as I received them



in June. The plants are in bud right now and would never have been ready for the show. Being off schedule is certainly par for the course of 2020!

But the buds are a promise of the blooms to come. With a little more nurture and TLC, the blooms will eventually be my Thanksgiving centerpiece. While there will be no flower show ribbons for these mums, I'm grateful for their promised beauty.

Wishing you all a blessed and bountiful Thanksgiving,

[Annie](#)

*~ No meeting this month ~*

## Committee Reports & Announcements

### Vice President

Our Provisionals continue to be contributing to the life of our Club. The terrific threesome, Cameron Bove, Crystal Carminati, and Susan Fearey, have entered recent photography and flower design sweeps with winning results. We have been meeting in a small group to discuss GCA/Federated (with Annie); Membership (with Julia); and the Policy Handbook. Speaking of which, our Committee to revise the Handbook is making good progress and should have a new version for members to review in the Spring. We have been considering a big update on Communications/Social Media. Much needed these days!

[Susan Magary](#)

### Conservation Committee - Taking Flight!

**Bluebirds of Happiness** - Imagine! Our Bluebirds of Happiness project has been so successful that two other Zone II clubs are considering starting the same project. The Stamford and New Haven Clubs will discuss the possibility of starting the project in the Spring with their membership. We are delighted with the idea of 'project migration' between clubs, and wish them all the joy and happiness this program has brought us.



## Our Own Owls

The Conservation team is initiating a new program 'Our Own Owls' in the Spring to provide owl nesting boxes to our members. Owls nest in December and have their babies in January. This gives us plenty of time to establish the nesting boxes next year. We will ask Sharon Audubon to build the owl nesting boxes for us over this winter. Frank Fontana is our champion for this project!



## Our Own Nesting Trees

We are also planting 7 red cedar trees at the end of the Pollinator Garden at White Memorial to provide an owl nesting environment. The trees will be planted close together, encouraging their branches to intertwine, thereby creating a living hedge for owl nesting. Owls will happily take care of your mice and vole problems!



[Grace Yagtug](#)

## Floral Design

Floral Design Sweepstakes: The Floral Design Committee held a workshop on September 21 at the Community Center to study the contemporary style of arrangements called Modern Mass Design. There were over 25 member present with masks and social distancing in the tent outdoors in the parking lot. Presentation boards were shown with photographs of this type of floral design as well as Grouped Modern Mass Designs. Ronnie Schoelzel created a beautiful seasonal Grouped Mass design for demonstration.

This was followed up with an October virtual sweepstakes titled: **Autumn Explosion!** Exhibitors were asked to create a Modern Mass Design at home, take a photo of it, and send it in to be judged by GCA judges for our Sweepstakes Awards at the end of the year. We had wonderful participation: 8 Novice entries, 8 Master entries and 2 Emeritus entries for a total of 18 designs! Judging was a little different than usual as multiples of second, third, and honorable awards were presented due to the number of entries and the qualities of the designs.

A PowerPoint presentation is posted on our website for you all to see and enjoy. You will learn this style of design from our club exhibitors and see what an excellent and interesting job they did!

Click [HERE](#) to view the presentation or visit the [website](#).

Sylvia Abbott and Diane Stoner

## Horticulture

We had several good looking Hot Pops Purple pepper plants for the virtual Gavel challenge a week or so ago, thanks to Ronnie, Nancy, Emily and myself. There were others who bowed out of the competition, certain that their plants weren't large enough (but probably were!). We submitted Nancy's entry based upon its healthiness, food size and various fruit/flower stages. Emily carefully photographed it from four sides and the top, and we sent it off for review. The Fairfield Garden Club ultimately won the challenge, but we gave them some strong competition. Click [HERE](#) for the PowerPoint the judges used to evaluate the entries. Visit the [website](#) for detailed info and images.

I hope that everyone who is planting spring blooming bulbs has gotten them into the ground by now as we are running out of time. I gave my bulbs to my daughter in exchange for being my nurse during my recent knee surgery, so that's not a problem for me anymore. No matter what, it's still a fine time to do your seeds in a milk jug like we did at Grace's workshop.

[Kate Jamison](#)

## Photography

November's focus is our second Sweepstakes of the year, entitled **Sanctuary** and included here and on our website - click [HERE](#). We are capturing how and where we seek sanctuary, safety, respite and relief in times of stress. The ultimate goal is to document this period of pandemic that we are living through together in 2020 and beyond so that we can contribute photos to the GCA Covid History Project. Please see the [GCA website](#) for a detailed description of this project. We plan to contribute.

Our Zone II Chair, Jill Corr, reminds us this month to check out the GCA website often as tutorials are posted, but change regularly with new additions. See in particular: **The Photography Section** – A Photographer's Focus. These tutorials vary in length from a few minutes to an hour or longer. If you find one you are interested in, let Cathy O. know, and the committee can meet on Zoom and screen share these videos as a live presentation. Also, the PSG, photography study group, is scheduling a trip to Yellowstone next October and to Chicago in June 2022. Details are on the [GCA Photography homepage](#). In the LGC, we have lined up our iPhone workshop for May 2021. It will be outdoors on a Saturday morning here in Litchfield with Thadeus Kubis of Sheffield, Mass.

[Cathy Oneglia](#)

## From the Communications Desk

The Litchfield Garden Club website has undergone some changes which have resulted in a site that is less cumbersome, more streamlined, and easier to navigate than it used to be, based upon feedback I have received over time.

Below are some of the major changes:

The header now has only six tabs. Five are Public and one tab is for Members Only (login required).

The Members only tab has the most traffic. It consists of self explanatory drop downs items:

- Calendar: Lists all LGC events
- Club Info: Reports, Bios, Member Directory
- Committees: All committees are now under one tab and each committee has its own drop down items.
- Communication Tab: This is the NEWEST tab and might be the most used on the site as it is a place for general communication among members. This tab is for the Blog and the Newsletter (archived newsletters can be found on the Newsletter page).
- Club Events
- Financial Reporting
- Medals and Awards
- Photo Gallery
- CT State Legislation and National Affairs
- GCA, NGC, and FGCCT

If you can't find something, please let me know.

[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.

## News and Upcoming Events

### **Save the Date - Rooted in Place Ecological Gardening Symposium.**

Offered online for the first time, BBG's 5th annual **Rooted in Place** Ecological Gardening Symposium invites you to create a new, environmentally sensitive vision by exploring the connection between the surrounding landscape and your home.

The symposium features four informative lectures over the course of two days, November 15th and November 22nd, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. with sessions offered live through Zoom followed by question and answer periods.

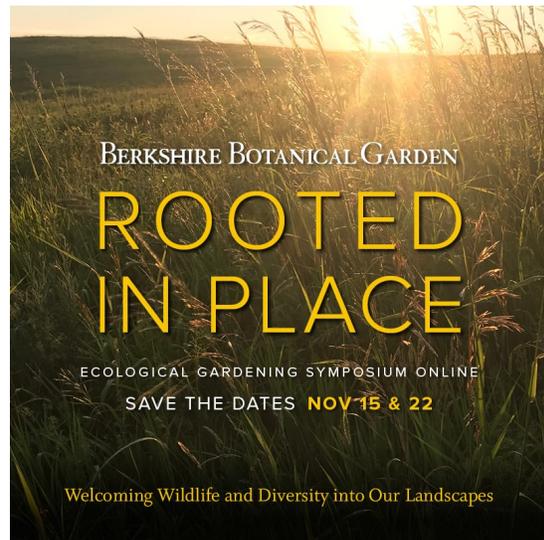
Registration deadline is 9 a.m. on November 15. Recordings of the lectures can be accessed until January 1, 2021.

BBG/HHG members \$48

Non-Members \$60

Students \$35

[Read more](#)



### Upcoming events from GCA

Next year, conferences that could only be offered to a few GCA club members in the past will be available to every club member at no cost. For these conferences, we are assembling a powerhouse of speakers who will share with you their lifelong accumulation of knowledge and wisdom. But, we don't plan to just tell you or teach you; we plan to involve you in dynamic experiences that will offer you the opportunity to apply what you have heard.



Mark your calendars now, and save these dates:

- November 17-18, 2020 ~ Conservation Study Conference
- January 21, 2021 ~ Photography Conference ~ NEW!
- February 23-24, 2021 ~ National Affairs & Legislation Conference
- April 8, 2021 ~ Floral Design Conference ~ NEW!
- May 11-12, 2021 ~ GCA Annual Meeting

Further information on these events will follow.

[LGC Website](#)

[GCA Website](#)

[FGCCT Website](#)

[Conservation](#)

[GH&D](#)

[Projects](#)

[Hospitality](#)

[Photography](#)

Litchfield Garden Club | PO Box 848, Litchfield CT 06759  
[litchfieldgclub@gmail.com](mailto:litchfieldgclub@gmail.com)