

# LGC Newsletter



October 2023



## Message From The President

Oh, my gourdness, it's Autumn!

And our October meeting will be on Botanical Arts with artist Sarah Boynton. What are Botanical Arts? They are 'nature's' jewels. An example would be a deep green gemstone, set in the center of an ornamental brooch, held in place by four gold prongs. The stone is encircled by an ornate pattern of smaller diamonds, pearls, and other gems amid swirls of gold. But appearances are deceiving! In fact, the brooch is made of entirely natural materials. Eucalyptus and Andromeda pods are transformed into 'diamonds' and a variety of nuts, sanded until smooth become large gems and pearls.

Sarah's work makes her see the world in detail and as she's said, 'it makes you take time and smell the roses.'

The program will be shared with the Washington Garden Club as well as guests of members. See details below.

The transformation of natural materials into artistic objects is sure to be a stunner!

Sara Gault, President

## Program

**OPEN MEETING**  
**Sponsored by**  
**The Litchfield Garden Club and**  
**The Washington Garden Club**

TECHNIQUES AND SECRETS OF BOTANICAL ARTS  
with Sarah Boynton, noted botanical arts designer

October 26, 2023  
Litchfield Community Center  
2:00 p.m.

**About Sarah:** A noted botanical arts designer from Hingham, MA. Ms. Boynton has won innumerable awards in the Botanical Arts Division of flower shows all over the United States, and the WAFA shows in Dublin and Barbados. Visit her [WEBSITE](#) for more information

RSVP HERE

**Please RSVP as it is very helpful to our Hospitality Team in providing the accurate amount of refreshments!**

## Announcements & Articles of Interest

### Monthly Floral Design "IDEAS"

Idea #3, Black & White and Halloween all over!

[MaryEllen O'Brien](#)

## Black & White and Halloween all over!



### TOOLS / SUPPLIES

Black Headed Pins  
Felt Cobwebs  
Fishnet Stockings  
Patterned Pantyhose / Trouser Socks  
Cat's Eye Masks  
Black Satin Ribbon  
Spiders  
Spider webs  
Witch's Hat  
Variety of Black Halloween Props

### PLANT LIST

Lumina White Pumpkins  
(*Cucurbita maxima*)

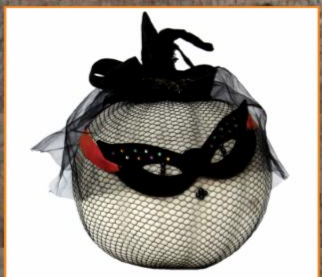
### HOW TO:

Recently, I visited my local Michael's Craft Store and found a wide variety of Halloween Decorations...

Opportunity knocked and I answered that idea doorway. I bought a collection of black cobwebs, ribbon, and other Halloween props to decorate my pumpkins that I bought from the local farmers' market. My next stop was at the outlet village, where I bought a variety of black fishnet stockings, knee high stockings and striped opaque pantyhose.

This is really easy. Each pumpkin was covered with panty hose or knee high stockings as a starter. The ends were twisted tightly around the stem and secured with a piece of wire to keep the stockings tight on the pumpkin. Next I add my props to the pumpkins...Witches hats, cobwebs, ribbon bows and black headed pins to decorate your pumpkin.

For my largest pumpkin, I used the netted bag that I had previously used for groceries, tied it off and trimmed the end and then added the giant black hairy spider. Now, how easy is that? They're fast and easy and so much fun to decorate. **Black & White...** for a sophisticated Halloween Party.



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

[Click HERE for CALENDAR](#)

[Committee Reports](#)

## Communication

Take a look at the entries on the [Club Events Page](#) - *The Eagle Rock Garden* in Roxbury and *The Berkshire Botanical Garden* in Stockbridge MA which held their annual Grow and Show flower show. There are images of our September meeting on the [Hospitality Page](#).

Our Blog page has been updated with new entries, [take a look](#). 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

The Floral Design Committee held its first Sweepstakes of the 2023-2025 club term. “**Autumn Abundance**” was definitely in full view with the 10 traditional mass floral designs. The colors, textures, and especially all the wonderfully seed pods brought autumn into full view for everyone to enjoy at our September meeting.

The results of the show are posted on our [LGC website](#) along with photos of the designs. The results of the sweepstakes are as listed:

**Novice:** 1<sup>st</sup> place – Sarah Worden, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Susan Magary

**Master:** 1<sup>st</sup> place – Susan Feary, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Seton O’Reilly, 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Victoria Sansing, and Honorable Mentions to the following: Rosie Furniss, Diane Stoner, Ellen Oneglia and Sylvia Abbott

**Emeritus:** 1<sup>st</sup> place – MaryEllen OBrien

This season, to encourage learning, each first-place winner in the Novice division will be receiving a special gift. Sarah Worden will be the first of many to be recognized. Sarah will be receiving a copy of **Table Arrangements**, written by Per Benjamin, Max van de Sluis, and Tomas De Bruyne.

Congratulations Sarah! May you continue to experience the joy of floral design. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Floral Design Committee may register on the [LGC website](#) or contact me by phone or email (click my name below).

**You are invited to attend** the first meeting of the Floral Design Committee on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Church (basement meeting room).

There will be a demonstration fit for your Thanksgiving table and we will have a discussion on our future sweepstakes for the coming year. Currently, there has been quite a bit of interest in creating a design using Botanical Arts for our next sweepstakes in December. Please let MaryEllen know if you will be attending. All are welcome.

Sincerely, [MaryEllen O'Brien](#)

## Horticulture

### Meeting and Bulb Forcing Workshop

October 18 at 1:00 p.m. at Diane Stoner's barn, 183 Maple Street.

The focus of our workshop will be Forcing bulbs for indoor bloom. In addition, we have an added treat. Sara Gault has offered to have us divide 2 Clivias which formerly belonged to Hatchie Marin and Barbara MacDonald, long-time members of our club, now deceased. Divisions may be taken home to pot up and be cherished.

### Preparation for the Workshop

- Come dressed in your Gardening garb, bring garden gloves.
- Pots and soil will be provided.
- Bring enough bulbs, of one variety, to fit side by side in a 10" pot. Appropriate bulbs include:

Narcissus-recommended varieties: 'Ice Follies' (white), 'Tete a Tete' (dwarf yellow), 'February Gold'

Tulips-recommended varieties: 'Apricot Beauty', 'Angelique' (double pink), and many others

Hyacinths-recommended varieties: 'Delft Blue' (lilac), 'Jan Bos' (red), 'Pink Pearl'

Crocus-recommended varieties: All varieties of Dutch crocus

All varieties may be purchased from John Scheepers Tel. 860-567-0838 or find these or others from White Flower Farm or Litchfield Hills Nursery

Cost of materials-\$10

**Reserve your place by October 12. Click my name below to email.**

The October Horticulture Sweepstakes are posted on the website - click the button below to view.

[Click HERE for Hort Sweepstakes](#)

[Nancy Post](#)

## Hospitality

### We Need Your Help

By now most of you have heard about the new way the “hospitality” needs will be addressed for our program year 2023-2024. In summary, each month will have a volunteer chairperson who will work with a volunteer team to provide set-up and refreshments for each of our monthly meetings.



In October we will be co-hosting our open meeting on Botanical Arts with The Washington Garden Club. Marla Patterson has graciously volunteered to be the Hospitality Chair for October. Along with LGC volunteers, she will be coordinating with the Washington Club and their volunteers who will help to provide refreshments for the social portion of our event that will take place after the presentation.

To date, LGC club members MaryEllen O’Brian, Susan Latos, and Betty Wu have signed up for “sweets” but there are still a number of spaces available. Marla will reach out to each of the volunteers to coordinate the refreshment needs. We expect this meeting to have a large turnout so please click [HERE](#) to sign up to help Marla at this month’s meeting.

While you are on the sign-up site, please consider chairing our January or May meeting. If you are a newer member, this is a great way to get to know other members of our club.

### [Crystal Carminati](#)

## Membership

### *Did You Know?*

*A Club Member’s Guide to The Garden Club of America’s Resources* is a must-have for new members or a refresher for all members! This guide is an overview of everything GCA in an easy-to-follow format with fantastic artwork. It also has QR codes that go directly to resources on the GCA website. I hope you will take the time to read it.

### [Lynne Sherman](#)

Click [HERE](#) for Guide to GCA Resources

## Photography

Forest Remediation and Amelioration, Southbury, CT Quarry, September 22, 2023

The Photography Committee met at the O&G Southbury Quarry on Friday, September 22, for a photo op and tour of the quarry in operation, including current process and activity, views of remediated and reforested areas, a solar farm on a quarried site and a presentation on the geology, history, and “what goes on around here” on the quarry by TJ Oneglia.



Future Dates to keep in mind:

1. October 6, 1 - 2 p.m. Free workshop at the Farmington Library by invitation of the Garden Club of Hartford — *Creating a Photo Montage*, presented by Betty Standish. RSVP or questions to [Mara E Sfara](#).
2. Sweepstakes, October 26, at our open meeting with Washington Garden Club. See the Sweepstakes attachment below.
3. Workshop at the Litchfield Community Center, Saturday, November 11, 10:00 AM. Bring your own photos on your laptop and you will bring home a work of art. More details to follow.
4. Click the button below for the Photography GCA Schedule

[Click HERE for Photography GCA Schedule](#)

## IT'S TIME....TO SPREAD OUR WINGS **Autumn Bench Show and Sweepstakes**



[Click HERE for Photography Sweepstakes](#)

Cathy Oneglia

## Projects and Civic Beautification

Our Committee has reviewed ongoing projects: Urn replacement on North Street by the Town, Espalier Pear tree at the cemetery chapel, Tree walks with LHS and Treescape. We also planned for the autumn changeover of the three troughs which have thrived with all this summer's rain.

Looking ahead, we discussed possible future Civic Projects. When the restoration of the Railroad Station on Russell Street came up, we all gravitated toward it immediately. In 1914 LGC's first Project, undertaken with the Village Improvement Society, was the planting of 50 shrubs and trees at the then-important hub of the town, the Shepaug Railroad Station. Several of us met with Berta Andrulis who is in charge of planning the Station's building and grounds and learned its whole history. It is owned by the Litchfield Land Trust and the other tenants are Audubon, The Greenway, Litchfield Housing Trust, The River Alliance, and Topsmead. After the parking area is finished in a couple of months, we will meet again to explore the possibilities of our involvement in the next stage. The Board gave us its approval to go forward with this research.



Please go by and look at this wonderful restoration of a piece of this town's history. You will discover an added surprise there that will surely make you smile.

[Seton O'Reilly](#)

## Member News and Upcoming Events



### The Garden Club of Hartford

Cordially invites the LGC members to attend this important upcoming public meeting.

Tuesday, October 3

[Kevin Budris](#)

Topic: Advocacy for an Equitable  
Zero Waste Future

Public Meeting

Asylum Hill Congregational Church  
814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford



**12:00 p.m. Refreshments**  
**12:30 p.m. Speaker Program**  
**RSVP Briann Greenfield**

Kevin Budris is co-founder and Advocacy Director for Just Zero, a non-profit organization that works alongside communities, policymakers, organizers, and others to implement just and equitable solutions to our waste crisis. [Read more.](#)



**All GCA club members are invited at no cost to attend the 2023 Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference, Historical Gardens of Hawaii, on Wednesday, October 18.**

On October 18, attendees will join online for tours of ten historic gardens on the islands of Oahu, Kauai, and Maui.

A fire ecologist from the University of Hawaii will speak on the recent, tragic wildfires. Special featured segments will include how to cook with breadfruit, the art of weaving flowers into a beautiful lei, and so much more! [Read more.](#)



Join us for a day of festivities, food trucks, & fun!  
Raffles, Silent Auction, Food, & Drinks  
available for purchase.

Click [HERE](#) for details of the event.

## **Creative Floral Design, A Workshop (Beyond Beginning Reimagined)**

Introduction to Creative Floral Design, a Workshop (Beyond Beginning Reimagined)

**When:** October 24, 2023

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** St. Michael's Parish Community House  
25 South Street, Litchfield, CT

[Read details here](#)

Please note that the registration deadline is October 13th

Click [HERE](#) for Registration



[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 (please name the flower if it is a hort only photo).

Send Submissions [HERE](#)

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

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[GH&D](#)

[Projects](#)

[Hospitality](#)

[Photography](#)

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