

LGC Newsletter



September 2022



Message From The President

Olmsted Birthday Celebration

Our end of summer birthday celebration for Frederick Law Olmsted at his Liggett Garden at Montfort House was a splendid event. Good attendance, a lovely night, and spectacular vistas of Litchfield!

Many thanks to our great hospitality duo of Nan and Lee; to Father Donald LaSalle for his generosity in sharing the glorious venue; and to Tony Yurgaitis, LGC

Honorary Member, for launching the restoration of this significant garden. And to Sue Kennedy, our orchid loving court jester, for her enthusiastic entertainment.

Photo Credit: Crystal Carminati



Julia Metcalf gave an entertaining talk about Olmsted and his legacy, culling some tasty historic bits from archival letters she unearthed between Olmsted and the owners. A very lively relationship! Most of the materials she cited are available online, and she will post a list of resources in an upcoming newsletter.

Julia has lured Arabella Dane as our September speaker, and this promises to be a stellar event. Arabella is a GCA medalist and noted Photography judge who was instrumental in establishing the GCA Photography Committee. She is a knowledgeable and witty speaker; and has graciously agreed to judge our Photography sweeps.

Please be sure to RSVP to Nan in a timely manner – details are in the Program Notice below. See you there!

Susan Magary

September 2022 Meeting Notice

**September 15, 2022
10.00am Litchfield Community Center
Live with Zoom Option (see link below)
Meeting open to other FGCT & GCA Clubs**

September Sweepstakes: Horticulture & Photography

***NOTE: To RSVP and or volunteer as a host
please contact Nan Skeie by clicking [HERE](#).***



Photography: Arabella Dane "How to Take A Good Photo"

Arabella Dane is an accredited photography judge, a member of two camera clubs in New England, two Photography Society of America study groups, as well as serving as an emeritus Garden Club of America photography judge and instructor.

She is the founder of the GCA Photography Study Group, and is the coordinator for the photography initiatives of the National Garden Clubs, working with Charlie Burke (PSA past president), to develop online photography programs and competitions for the 250,000 NGC members.

She regularly competes in photography competitions and takes courses in photography. She shares with her husband Nat a love for nature, gardening, conservation, fishing, bird shooting, traveling, and photography. Arabella is an avid horticulture student – working most recently on the correlations between our native plants and their pollinators. Her online www.plantipedia.com website includes more than 150,000 plants and 25,000 plant photographs as well as photos of many of our native butterflies and is a favorite resource for plant huggers.

Julia Metcalf

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85843127213?
pwd=ZkZNM3B2Z2F5cnBhSTkrN1RUMGsxUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85843127213?pwd=ZkZNM3B2Z2F5cnBhSTkrN1RUMGsxUT09)

Meeting ID: 858 4312 7213

Passcode: 114910

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85843127213#,,,,*114910# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,85843127213#,,,,*114910# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 309 205 3325 US

Meeting ID: 858 4312 7213

Passcode: 114910

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kc1j780snt>

Committee Reports & Announcements

Conservation

**White Memorial
40th Annual Family Nature Day
September 24, 2022**

**Pollinator Creatures
in the Pollinator Garden
11.00 - 5.00pm**

Once again we will celebrate this annual event by hosting the children who bring their pollinator creatures down to the gardens to place them amongst the pollinator plantings.



SAVE THE DATE

Looking ahead to October...

James Fischer, the WMCC Research Director, will present a stunning, image filled program illustrating the science of iridescence. Mark your calendars for October 20, from 10.00-11.am.

[Grace Yagtug](#)

Horticulture



How tough has this last month of summer been? Depending on a well for our water, I have tried to be respectful of watering, but the crispy plants make me so sad! I have one plant that doesn't know there is a drought, my *Lycoris squamigera*. She just started blooming this week. This is known as a surprise lily or resurrection lily, I like another name I heard many years ago, "naked ladies". The leaves of this lily come up in spring when the beginning perennials are up so you see the leaves but its not a big deal. The fun starts now, when they bloom. You can find them easily enough at bulb suppliers including White Flower Farm.



Lycoris squamigera

September will bring busier days as we get back into the swing of our Garden Club activities. All things flower show will be coming up and September 15th is the sign up date for our Horticulture classes, along with Floral design and Photography.

There will be a horticulture sweepstakes at our September membership meeting and you can view the classes [HERE](#).

Horticulture Sweeps
September 15, 2022
Litchfield Community Center
Specimen Drop Off between 8.30 and 9.00 am.

Hopefully we can find inspiration within our gardens or amongst our horticultural babies. For the schedule please click here.

We will be having a Horticulture meeting for those interested in continuing to inspire and educate each other. More information to follow when I return from vacation. This month the annual *Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference* is live again and will be held at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston. I will attending and will be sure to bring back gems of information to share with everyone.

[Kate Jamison](#)

Membership

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our Membership Committee is actively seeking new membership portfolios!!! The guidelines are clearly spelled out in our ByLaws, so please review them prior to submission by clicking [HERE](#). January 15th is the deadline for submission. It is only five months away. Remember our key word is DIVERSITY!!

If you have any questions, please email me at lynne.sherman@yahoo.com or click on my name below.

All portfolios should be mailed to:

Lynne Sherman
154 Old South Road
Litchfield, CT. 06759

[Lynne Sherman](#)

Photography

**Photography Committee
Meeting
September 6th at 3.30 pm
Litchfield Community Center**

We will plan for the year, but also, bring possible prints for the September Sweepstakes or deal with questions or difficulties you may have concerning the Sweeps. We are hoping for a good representation of committee members exhibiting in the Sweeps.



Photo Credit: C. Oneglia

Landscape Exploring Patterns in Nature, Death Valley

On our monthly meeting on September 15th at 10:00, at the Litchfield Community Center, Arabella Dane will present the photography program, “How to Take a Good Photo.” She is a founder of the GCA Photography Study Group. Arabella has kindly offered to judge the Photo Sweeps for us.

NOTE: To view September Sweeps Classes click [HERE](#). Please flush mount your 8X10 photo on black foam core or mat board and give to Cathy Oneglia (860 921-7280) by Tuesday evening, September 13, 2022.

Upcoming Field Trips:

- There is a photography exhibit at the Yale Art Gallery opening on September 9. I think it is very relevant as it explores the work of Fazal Sheikh, known for his intimate portraits and story collaboration with his subjects. He has documented the effects of environmental destruction on the people who live in that reality. We will decide on a date at our committee meeting. Group Tours led by a docent are available in October. There are also abstract/patterns in nature in the exhibit which would be beneficial to those of us who are planning to enter that class in our flower show, "A Tapestry of Nature."
- The Ripley Sanctuary has reiterated the invitation for our Photographers to come and shoot the birds. They are now able to tentatively schedule us for **Friday morning, September 30, time TBD**. They are hopeful that the ponds will have recovered by then and that there will be some color in the trees.

Cathy Oneglia

Projects

On Saturday, August 10th the second Tree Walk took place along North and South Streets. The Litchfield Garden Club co-sponsored the walk with the Litchfield Historical Society. Over ten people attended the event with Margy Miner, Projects Committee member, sharing the club's involvement in caring for the Oliver Wolcott, Jr. trees over the years. Susan Magary added garden club history re: the town tree plantings that our club has accomplished over the years.

Thank you to all the members who volunteered this summer to water our three planters in the center of Litchfield. As we head into fall, the planters still look great.

Projects Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 14th at 10am

We will meet at Ellen Oneglia's home on Carriage Lane. New and Provisional members are welcome to join our committee.

Drew Harlow/ Ellen Oneglia

Visiting Gardens

Maine Gardens



Five members of LGC travelled to Maine for 3 days of visiting gardens. We started in Mt. Desert and saw Thuya and Asticou Gardens on the first morning.

After lunch at The Asticou Inn, we visited the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden. On Saturday we went on the Mt. Desert Garden tour, an every other year event. There were 6 gardens on the tour, 5 of them on the water.

On our last day we toured the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden in Boothbay Harbor. This is a very new botanical garden, less than 15 years old. It was fantastic. Unfortunately 4 people had to cancel, but those on the trip thoroughly enjoyed 3 days of beautiful weather and exquisite gardens.

[Nancy Post](#)

From the Communications Desk...

LGC Member Profile

Joan Burgess

LGC Member Since: 2008



When did your interest in gardening initially blossom?

Growing up and watching my father spend time in the garden – mostly with vegetables and fruit trees. To observe his enthusiasm and commitment made a formidable impression on me.

My participation in the garden world was dormant for many years as my life did not include time or space for gardening. I dabbled in gardening but I must say my obsession came when my husband and I moved to Litchfield and I had all these gardens to maintain.

What is your favorite flower and/or tree?

The lilac tree as it reminds me of my father and the aroma is magical. For a quick short fix of beauty, the peony flower is a favorite.

What is your favorite garden tool?

I don't really have a favorite. I like them all so hard to choose – as it is also hard to choose my favorite kitchen implement! I guess it really depends on the garden activity which tool I pick up!

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

I look to others for all those tricks of the trade. My recommendation is to lose yourself in the soil and dig deep into your thoughts.

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.

I am heading toward organic and sustainable gardening practices so any resources available is my go to. My latest craze is "Hugelkulture" Beds as a project. If you are interested in learning more click [HERE](#).

Crystal Carminati

LGC Website

All the images from the **Visiting Gardens** 3 day trip to Maine and the images from the **Olmstead Birthday Celebration** at Montfort House are posted on the [Club Events Page](#). Take a look.

Photography Sweeps for September are on the [Photography Sweeps](#) page.

While on the website, check out the [Blog page](#), as it has several new entries!

All *Blog submissions* should be sent to me at:

joangyorburgess@gmail.com

If you have any updates or changes to your profile (address, phone number or email) please let me know so I can make the change in our Membership Directory.

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 by clicking on my name below.

[Joan Burgess](#)

Calendar

Member News and Upcoming Events



Scarecrows in the Meadow

Yes, it's almost fall! Time for pumpkin spice latte and "**Scarecrows in the Meadow.**" We have been invited to create our very own LGC scarecrow for the Litchfield Historical Society/Tapping Reeve Scarecrow in the Meadow event. This festival, celebrating the end of the harvest season, opens to the public on October 15 and runs through Halloween.

A frame for the design is provided, but the creation of a freestanding scarecrow creation is up to us! If you would be interested in getting a group together to participate and create a scarecrow that would represent the LGC, please contact Susan Magary at susanm@c4.net, **IMMEDIATELY.** The Historical Society is holding a place for us, but it will not last. **BOO!!!**

[LGC Website](#)

[GCA Website](#)

[FGCCT Website](#)

[Conservation](#)

[GH&D](#)

[Projects](#)

[Hospitality](#)

[Photography](#)