

# LGC Newsletter



September 2023



## Message From The President

As I write this note for the September newsletter, today is a day that ‘feels like autumn’. And I hope you are now looking forward to a fun-filled and busy upcoming autumn.

For LGC the September meeting on the 21st at the Litchfield Community Center we will:

- review who we are and what we do.
- hear from committee chairs about plans for 2023-2024.
- view a pictorial recap and report of the June Flower Show.

I hope to see you all at the meeting as we start our 111<sup>th</sup> year.

Please note, that this newsletter includes the information for committee sign-ups as well as dates for the sweeps. Our committee work is where it all happens, learning and doing!!

As my Hortie friends would say, "Go big or gourd home." See you in September!

[Sara Gault](#)

## September 2023 Program

### "Get to Know Your Garden Club"

Introduction to New and Provisional Members  
&  
A Flower Show Report

September 21, 2023  
Litchfield Community Center  
2:00 p.m.

RSVP HERE

## Announcements & Articles of Interest

### Our Upcoming Sweepstakes

September - Floral Design Sweepstakes  
October - Horticulture and Photography Sweepstakes  
December - Floral Design Sweepstakes  
January - Horticulture Sweepstakes  
March - Floral Design and Photography Sweepstakes  
May - Photography Sweepstakes  
June - Horticulture Sweepstakes  
July - Floral Design Sweepstakes for luncheon table centerpieces

### [Our 2023-2024 Program](#)

### Monthly Floral Design "IDEAS"

Idea #2 for NO FLORAL FOAM!

[MaryEllen O'Brien](#)

## Idea #2 ...No Floral Foam Here



### Tools

Clippers or Scissors

### Supplies

Low Glass/Ceramic Container

U-Glue Adhesive Dashes

Heavy Flat Wire or (Wood Dowels or branches may be substituted)

Water

### Plant Materials

\**Aucuba japonica* or any waxy

leaf foliage plant material

\*Tulips or (Mums, etc.)

\*Pansies or (any mid-size flowers)

\**Sedum* for textural qualities

### Technique

- Choose a low container
- Adhere your heavy flat wire (or thin wood dowels or branches) to the edge of your container with U-Glue Dashes. (Pic 1)
- Add water.
- Weave foliage into the wires. Foliage to consider: Autumn leaves, Alocasia, Lemon leaves (Salal) or any sturdy leaves or grasses. The stems of the leaves should reach the water to maintain freshness. (Pic 2)
- Add flowers. (Pic 3) Cut stems according to the height of your container. The flowers will balance on the wires and the already placed leaves will provide extra support.
- Your container can be filled with as many or as few flowers as you wish. The grid from the wires will add interest to the overall design.

[Click here to view details and for larger format](#)

CALENDAR

Committee Reports

## Conservation

White Memorial  
41st Annual Family Nature Day  
September 23, 2023  
11:00 to 5:00 pm

Our theme for this year will be Plants for Birds. Birds need to have food sources available (natural is best) to survive through their long journeys of migration, breeding, and winter protection.



We will offer information and samples of plants for your garden to attract and support bird life.

[Marie Kennedy](#)

## Floral Design

Designers,

Dust off your floral design tool kit and get ready for our first Floral Design Sweepstakes Challenge.

**On September 21**, at our monthly LGC Meeting at the Litchfield Community Center, we will have a challenge to present your very best Traditional Mass Floral Design. Below are the details:

AUTUMN ABUNDANCE Novice / Master / Emeritus

Create a Traditional Mass Floral Design using predominantly fresh plant material that depicts Autumn. Design to be displayed on a 29" high table with a light gray tablecloth. The design may not exceed 24" in width or depth. No height restrictions. Viewed from three sides.

- Please register with [MaryEllen](#) and note if you are a Novice, Master, or Emeritus designer.
- Bring your creation to the Litchfield Community Center between 1:00-1:20 pm with your entry card which is available on the [LGC website](#), from MaryEllen, or at the meeting.
- Judging will begin promptly at 1:30 pm and our meeting that day will begin at 2 pm.
- Designs may be picked up at the close of our monthly meeting.

Attached [HERE](#), please find a workbook for Traditional Mass Floral Designs for your convenience since we were not able to hold a workshop this month. All guidelines for the Sweepstakes Challenge are listed in the booklet.

Anyone interested in joining our first Floral Design Committee meeting please get in contact with MaryEllen for details.

At our committee meeting, we will be choosing our workshop programs and dates for future meetings. Bring your ideas to the meetings. Be sure to email MaryEllen if you would like to be included in the fun, click my name below.

All my best,

[MaryEllen O'Brien](#)

## Garden History & Design

The Garden History & Design Committee is meeting on Thursday, September 28 at 4:00 held at the home of Marla Patterson, 49 Wolcott Street. We will review the most recent submission to the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens and discuss a new AAG project for a club member's garden.

Marla Patterson, GH&D Chair, will review the alternative path to document your garden in a simpler way. Guidance for both is on our website if you want to revisit them. Both versions are important to the Club, and both versions go into our LGC Archives at the Litchfield Historical Society.

Please let Marla know if you will be attending the meeting by clicking [HERE](#).

[Marla Patterson](#)

## Hospitality

### HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -

Just a reminder that we have instituted a new Hospitality system for the 2023-2024 program year. Instead of two people doing all of the hospitality all year long there will be **volunteer** "Hospitality Chairs" for the remaining meetings through July of next year. In addition to the chairs who will coordinate the needs for each event and help with the refreshments, we also need volunteers to work with them to provide the sweet and savory delicacies that we have all come to enjoy at all of our meetings.



We've already had a great response to this new system and I want to thank Susan Magary for chairing the August meeting, Nancy Post who has volunteered to chair the September meeting, Marla Patterson will chair the October meeting and Doreen Tango Hampton who will chair the "Holiday Tea" in December at Kristen Mahan-Kraut's house.

Please follow their lead! As of today, we need three more "Monthly Chairs" for the January, March, and May programs as well as many more "worker bees"

for each event, including the September, October, and December meetings. Please sign up now so that we can fill the hospitality calendar for this year.

You can sign up to be a “Monthly Chair” or bring some nibbles by clicking [HERE](#). It will be great fun!

[Crystal Carminati](#)

## Membership

Hello Fellow Garden Club Members,

My committee is looking for candidates for our Provisional Program. Please remember that the process is confidential and these candidates should NOT know they are being proposed for membership.

Thank you.

[Lynne Sherman](#)

## Photography

The Photography Committee met on August 7th to discuss the coming year. We decided to hold three sweepstakes in October, March, and May. Everyone agreed that we were in for a big treat on the 17th, a “Tour and Tea” at the Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy. We will include a bird class in our October Sweepstakes. It was also suggested that we include autumn splendor with a tree and an environmentally sensitive landscape. Rose Brooks volunteered to handle the logistics for the October Sweeps.

**Field Trip:** There is enthusiasm in the committee for more field trips. Following up on last year’s visits to the museums featuring exhibits of environmental photography, our first field trip will be held on Monday, September 11, when we will tour the O&G Southbury Quarry. We will meet at St. Anthony’s parking lot at 9:00 a.m. We will be on the lookout for photographs that show the actual work of the quarry along with the remediating efforts to restore the land or improve its use; for instance, the company installed a 3,762-panel solar array on the site of a former dig to power the whole operation. We will see where trees have been planted to improve the aesthetics and prevent erosion. Environmentally sensitive photography supports the GCA mission “to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.” We will also see the 14-acre Southbury Dog Park located at the Quarry.

[Cathy Oneglia](#)

**'It's Time to SPREAD OUR WINGS!'**  
**Autumn Bench Show and Sweepstakes**  
**October 26, 2023**  
Click [HERE](#) for Photography Sweeps details



## Projects and Civic Beautification

There will be a Projects Committee meeting at my house (199 Meadow Street) on Wednesday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Click [HERE](#) to send me a note if you would like to join those who have already signed on to the Projects Committee.

Several committee members have been watering the troughs when the rain isn't doing that job! There will be a sign-up sheet as we go into the fall.

Our thanks to Susan Magary for leading yet another walking Tree Tour, a popular LGC community event.

## September Notable Trees Walking Tour

**Location:** Meet at the Litchfield History Museum ([7 South Street](#))

**Date:** Saturday, September 23rd

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Free for members of the Litchfield Historical Society and Litchfield Garden Club, \$10 for non-members

**Registration is Requested**, but not required. To register online, click [HERE](#) and scroll down to the tour on the 23rd.

The Litchfield Historical Society and the Litchfield Garden Club are delighted to partner for a tree tour in Litchfield's Historic District on Saturday, September 23 at 1:00 p.m. For over 100 years, the Litchfield Garden Club has

planted and cared for hundreds of trees in town. On this walking tour, we will be visiting a selection of notable trees and sharing stories of the people and events surrounding them. The tour will leave from the Litchfield History Museum (7 South Street) at 1:00 p.m. and last approximately 1 hour.

Kate Zullo, Head of Education  
Litchfield Historical Society  
(860) 567-4501

[Seton O'Reilly](#)

## Member News and Upcoming Events

### **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

Want to learn how to create beautiful floral arrangements? In this introductory workshop, you'll learn how the principles and elements of design are applied to floral design via a hands-on creative design with pizzazz! Larry Huzi, an Accredited Flower Show Judge will be the instructor. If you're interested in going beyond traditional design, this workshop will be a good starting point. [Read more](#)

Please note that the registration deadline is October 13th

[Click for Registration](#)

**2023 Flower Show  
"CURRENT" Hosted by  
Hortulus**

**HORTULUS**  
PRESENTS  
A GCA FLOWER SHOW



**WHEN:** Thu, Sep 28, 2023 - Sat, Sep 30, 2023

**WHERE:** Christ Church Parish Hall, 254 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT

**DIVISIONS:** Floral Design, Horticulture, Photography, Botanical Arts, Education

### Schedule



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.

**GCA's  
Fall 2023 Issue of *The Real Dirt*  
The Blooms issue**

**See below**



As the hottest summer on record ends, it seems apt that we celebrate our gardens and the blooms we love. Not only are blooms beautiful, but they serve a much higher and vital purpose in our ecosystem.

It's a worthwhile read!



[Read more](#)

**Connecticut Valley Garden Club** would like to invite the LGC to hear Matthew Benson, an internationally known photographer, writer, and organic farmer, who will enlighten us with his love of the land, gardening, and sustainability. Please join us for a wonderful evening to includes drinks, appetizers, and a small boutique. This event will be held at the Hill-Stead Museum on Wednesday, September 28, 2023, from 5-7:30 PM. Click [HERE](#) for details'



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](#)

[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](#).

[LGC Website](#)

[GCA Website](#)

[FGCCT Website](#)

[Conservation](#)

[GH&D](#)

[Projects](#)

[Hospitality](#)

[Photography](#)