

March 2024



Message From The President

Greetings,

Can you believe it is already March? Where does the time go? March is when you start to see the first signs of spring. It's longer days, sunshine, warmer temperatures, and that zesty new spring feeling. And on March 21, we are going to celebrate spring with garden guru Kent Russell. Kent is a nationally recognized celebrity gardener who will share unique ideas for designing spring containers by using an array of plants to create appealing potted gardens.

Also in March is the National Affairs and Legislation Conference in Washington, D.C. Marie Kennedy, Conservation Chair, will represent our garden club for three days of inspiring lectures, discussions, and meetings with senators and representatives.

And finally, a couple of reminders -

- For the GCA annual meeting that will be held at the Convention Center in Hartford, LGC's assignment is to take care of the Lost & Found and Information table. In addition, there are many other opportunities to volunteer. If you are interested, please let me know.
- The Founders Fund vote - please vote for one of three exceptional community projects to receive a GCA Founders Fund grant. Click [HERE](#) for information about the proposals and a link to cast your vote. If you

have voted, thank you, and if you have not voted, please do so.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

[Sara Gault](#)

Click the button below for a listing of all upcoming Club meetings, workshops, and other events. Do you have something to add to the calendar? Click [HERE](#) to submit an event for the LGC calendar.

CALENDAR

Program



KENT RUSSELL

The Garden Guru and Celebrity Gardener

“SENSATIONAL SPRING POTS”

Open Meeting

March 21, 2024

2:00 PM

The Litchfield Community Center

Photography Sweeps

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Program

RSVP

Announcements and Articles of Interest

The Header image: Designated as the state flower of Connecticut in 1907, the Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) is a broad-leafed evergreen shrub native to eastern North America. This popular landscape plant produces fragrant and abundant bell-shaped pink and white flowers in May and June.

Monthly Floral Design "IDEAS"

Idea #8, The Center of Attention

[MaryEllen O'Brien](#)



Definition:

Traditional Horizontal Line Mass Design: directional line may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. Traditional line-mass design: blending mass and line designs with an open silhouette; voids equal to solids; usually asymmetrical with a rhythmic flow.

Tools

Clippers or Jack Knife

Supplies

Ceramic Boat Vase

Floral Foam

Plant Materials

7 Gerbera Daisies

5 Agapanthus

10 White Tulips

10 White Iris

Foliage - Ruscus, Mini Dieffenbachia

Hint:
Turn your Spring floral design into a Easter Centerpiece... add dyed and blown out chicken eggs for interest. Painted wooden eggs will work as well. Happy Spring!



Technique

- Place wet floral foam into boat shape or other suitable long container. Be sure that the floral foam is above the edge of the container (this will enable you to place stems easily and parallel to the base Pic 1).
- Begin to create your line design by placing plant materials with a strong line into the outer sides of the floral foam. (Pic 2) Here I have chosen iris. Use stems in bud as your longest stems. Gradually add larger and larger flowers as you work toward the middle of the design.
- Next, add tulips and some greens. Follow with your centrally placed Agapanthus and then more Agapanthus off to the sides.
- Fill in with gerbera Daisies and any remaining flowers and or foliage to complete your low line mass design.



IDEAS from the Floral Design Committee | Litchfield Garden Club

MARCH 2024 | The Center of Attention

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

Committee Reports

Communication

Visit our [Club Events](#) page to see all the images of the CT Flower Show. Also, visit our [Blog page](#), there have been several new entries. 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.

Conservation

January and February are finally behind us. Some of us spent this time in tropical climates or enjoyed the color and scent of our potted spring bulbs. The arrival of garden catalogs also brightened dreary days while making our selections for our beloved gardens. As we await the gift of spring, please consider the addition of Connecticut's Native Plants. There will be more information on GCA's native plant initiative in the April newsletter.

I will be the LGC delegate to attend the NAL (National Affairs and Legislation) Conference in Washington DC from March 17 - March 20, 2024. All 199 member clubs are invited to send a delegate to hear from conservation leaders and experts, meet with our lawmakers, and speak out to defend our environment. I will attend a virtual Advocacy Workshop on March 14 in preparation for the conference. I hope to bring good news back to LGC.

Nest Boxes - March

Last fall, the conservation committee met to learn best practices for preparing your boxes for the coming winter. In late March, we'll be "hands-on" with visits to properly installed boxes and to learn how to prep them for the breeding season. We'll also demonstrate the appropriate location and habitat to make the box more desirable for nesting bluebirds. Time and date to be determined.

As the ground warms and plant life begins to emerge, we'll assess the pollinator garden at WMCC for its signage, plants, etc.

[LightsOutCT.org](#) - A Presentation will be held on March 13, 5:30-6:30 pm at the Litchfield Community Center.

Millions of birds pass through Connecticut every spring and fall on their way to and from their summer nesting grounds. Because our state is located along the Atlantic Flyway, many birds use our shorelines and green spaces to rest and refuel during their flights. Artificial light emitted by buildings, street lights, bridges, and other structures can confuse and disorient birds, causing them to land near buildings, crash into windows, and/or circle around for hours until they drop from exhaustion. Overly lit buildings and structures can tempt migrating birds into headlong window collisions. The result is catastrophic: Nearly 1 billion bird deaths occur in North America each year. See below to pledge lights out!

[Marie Kennedy](#)

Floral Design

The Floral Design Committee will soon be busy again. Plans have been put in motion to reschedule our postponed December outreach project with Parks & Recreation. With the help of the LGC EC, we will now pursue a similar project

of creating floral designs with their members for a Mother's Day theme event during the first week in May...the exact date/time to be determined.

In other matters: Our next floral design Sweepstakes has been moved to April. If anyone would like to suggest a design style or theme...please let me know. We will also need a clerk to work with the judge that day...let me know if you are available and willing to help.

Are you interested in a road trip? If anyone is curious about Ikebana, you may want to visit this Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition at ELMBANK (the home of the Massachusetts Horticulture Society). Elmbank will host the members of SoMA (Sogetsu Massachusetts) where there will be 24 floral designs that demonstrate the range and variety of Sogetsu lessons, styles, containers, and principles. All visitors to MASS HORT'S, garden at Elmbank can see the exhibition from April 19 to 21 in the Carriage House. Daily general admission is \$10; free for Mass Horticultural Society members.

[MaryEllen O'Brien](#)

Horticulture

The Horticulture Committee will be meeting at Nancy Post's home, 12 Sarcka Lane, Litchfield on Wednesday, March 13 at 10:00 am.

[Nancy Post](#)

Membership

Dear Fellow Garden Club Members,

Submissions for the Provisional Program can be sent to me at any time of the year. Click my name below to reach me by email or snail mail: 154 Old South Road, Litchfield.

March 19th is the first day of spring!

Please invite prospective members to our Open Meeting with Kent Russell, the Garden Guru, on March 21st at 2 PM at the Litchfield Community Center.

[Lynne Sherman](#)

Projects

At our Projects Program at the January meeting, we recently learned from Berta Andrulis the history of the old Railroad Station that is now being lovingly renovated by the Litchfield Land Trust. Berta, as a member of the Litchfield Land Trust, is co-chairing the station's building and grounds committee. With most all the work finished on this building; it is now time to figure out what landscaping might be appropriate. Our club planted fifty trees and bushes at

the then-bustling station one hundred and ten years ago. This was our Club's first Civic Project. Lots had happened there in the intervening years, but here we are at the station again, with the opportunity to collaborate with the Litchfield Land Trust on some landscaping. This project will most likely be accomplished in several stages over a period of a couple of years.

Our first step is to identify the appropriate areas and the plantings possible. Berta already has some input from landscape designer David Reynolds, and we will be working with both of them. Once we have a preliminary planting plan and cost estimates, we will get this information to all members. The goal is to complete this first stage this June.

Click [HERE](#) for the history of the old Railroad Station.

[Seton O'Reilly](#)

Publicity

In preparation for the March OPEN LGC Meeting, several posters are being placed in public spaces. The March program will feature Kent Russell, a well-known designer of container plantings. Russell's theme for this meeting is "Sensational Spring Pots". The meeting will be held at the Litchfield Community Center at 2 pm.

[Drew Harlow](#)

Member News and Upcoming Events



Help Save Connecticut's Migratory Birds

By joining Lights Out Connecticut, you can help reduce light pollution's impacts on birds, fish, insects, amphibians, reptiles, plants — and humans! You will also save energy and money, reduce your carbon emissions, safeguard your own human health, and help preserve views of the night sky!

By Taking the Pledge to go Lights Out, you become a part of the growing community of CT residents, businesses, schools, churches, and nonprofits who pledge to turn off unnecessary outdoor and indoor lighting from 11 pm to 6 am each night during peak bird migration (Spring: April 1 - May 31; and Fall: Aug 15 - Nov 15) to reduce the risks caused by light pollution.

The Litchfield Community Center is hosting a *Lights Out* Presentation on Wednesday, March 13, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Click [HERE](#) for details.



PHS Philadelphia Flower Show.



SAVE THE DATE



March 2 - 10, 2024 | PA Convention Center

[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.

[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](#).

FGCCT Website

LGC Website

GCA Website

Conservation

GH&D

Projects

Hospitality

Photography

Litchfield Garden Club | P.O. Box 848, Litchfield, CT 06759

[Unsubscribe sjkgault103@gmail.com](mailto:sjkgault103@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by sara@litchfieldgardenclub.ccsend.com powered by