

LITCHFIELD GARDEN CLUB

April Meeting Notice

*The Healthy Yard Project
A Presentation by Dr. Diane Lewis*

*OPEN MEETING
Thursday, April 16th
4:30 p.m. Refreshments
5 p.m. Meeting
Litchfield Community Center*

*RSVP by April 13th
email [Ellen Oneglia](mailto:Ellen.Oneglia)
or call 860.567.5802*

*Hostesses: Tonja Curry, Emily Dalton, Sharon Doty, Drew Harlow and Anita Torizzo.
Holly Taylor will provide the floral arrangement*

April will be an OPEN MEETING, which means that you may invite a friend to come hear our guest speaker Dr. Diane Lewis who will address the effects of pesticides on our yards, our children, and our community. Founder of The Great Healthy Yard Project, Dr. Lewis will undoubtedly motivate all of us to wake up and take responsibility for our corner of the world. This is a meeting you won't want to miss, and we are extremely fortunate to have her as our guest speaker. After this winter, most of us will be happy just to see our yards again! You may learn more about Diane Lewis by visiting her [WEBSITE](#). Once you do, everyone will want to come with you.

Remember that for this special event, we will serve refreshments at 4:30 prior to our meeting at 5:00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

With the LGC Tag and Plant Sale only FIVE weeks away (May 2) to be held at the Litchfield Firehouse, this is a reminder to please dig and divide your perennials as soon as you can get into your garden! Nancy and I hope that you will bring at least five pots of perennials, house plants or seedlings (in clean pots, please) to the firehouse, on the following dates:

- Wednesday, April 29th after 1:00pm
- Thursday, April 30th from 9:00 am - 5:00pm
- Friday, May 1 is reserved for pricing
- Saturday, May 2 is the sale!

We are counting on you to help make this sale a huge success. Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic participation!

For those who grew *Aquilegia canadensis*, I found mine in my cold frame with GREEN leaves! I have brought it into my mudroom where it's pretty cold but not freezing. In a couple days, I'll move it to my solarium. The other two plants are under a foot of snow in a raised bed.

For those who grew *Aquilegia canadensis* from seed for the Zone II Gavel Competition (one plant will be selected as LGC's entry) in the GCA Zone II Flower Show in Greenwich May 6-7, here are further instructions from the Zone II Hort Rep Schiefelin:

- FORCING AQUILEGIA CANADENSIS
- (WILD COLUMBINE)
- SPRING UPDATE FOR ZONE II SHOW
- GAVEL CHALLENGE CLASS 33

Bring your columbine plants indoors now as we have 6 & ½ weeks left until show time. You can bring them into a warmer garage location for a week before moving them in your house so the cold to warm won't shock them.

Only water if dry (too much water will rot the root ball). To jumpstart the plant's growth once in your home, give it a slightly warmer environment - 70 degrees- then move to 60-65 degrees. Cooler temps encourage more blooms. Supplemental light is good; 6 hours of sunlight is optimal.

Good luck to everyone. Remember that it is always easier to slow down the blooming process by placing in a cool environment.

For those who are growing *Pelargonium* "Prince Rupert", begun last year as cuttings to be trained into standards, you will be exhibiting them at the LGC Annual Meeting July 16th. Keep training and pruning!

Thanks to all of you. If you have questions, please contact [Ronnie Schoelzel](#) or [Nancy Post](#)

GARDEN HISTORY & DESIGN

A Honey of an Idea: Bee Skeps

Please take a few minutes and read about the evolution of bee skeps, or bee skepps to some. It is the latest Smithsonian AAG "Minute" on our [website](#) under GH&D, scroll down to the bottom and look in the box with "One-Minute" reports from the Smithsonian Institution's - Archives of American Gardens

WEBSITE

- Members' home page user name is lgcmember. Password is compost.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEMBER NEWS

The 5th Annual JoAnne McCormick Memorial Family 5K Run and Walk is Saturday April 4th at 11 am. The event will start and finish at the Litchfield Intermediate School. The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the Litchfield PTO are beneficiaries of this event. We remember JoAnne as a fine member of LGC and if you are interested in participating in the event, details can be found on the Litchfield BZ web site.

LGC Program Calendar - Click [HERE](#)

LGC Plant & Tag Sale Guidelines

What to Remember When Attacking Those Closets



We are hoping that when you attack your attics, basements, back closets and garden sheds you will keep our spring tag sale in mind. We are looking for quality stuff... the loved items "too good" for Goodwill but of no use anymore. No plastic anything, no baby things, no electronics, no clothes. Nice accessories are welcome. Books of general garden interest, no magazines, etc. Small items can be grouped for sale as a box. If you have many items, our pricing gurus will make house calls. If you have any questions - please contact [Diane Stoner](#) or [Barbara MacDonald](#)

After Tag Sale Dinner

All Club members and guests are invited to an after Tag Sale Dinner. Dinner offerings are beer, wine and food from a local truck vendor. Reservations made with payment of \$30 per person made out to LGC by April 15th to Anna Heys (PO Box 576, Litchfield, CT 06759). Your check is your receipt.



For more information, please contact [Nancy Rath](#)

Meeting Notice Information, contact [Susan Jordan](#) or call (860) 866-6707: