



LITCHFIELD GARDEN CLUB
March Meeting Notice

"Bees Without Borders"
Presented by Andrew Cote

OPEN MEETING

DATE: March 17, 2016
TIME: 2 pm
Litchfield Community Center
Litchfield, CT 06759

RSVP
Ellen Ebbs
(860) 567-4175

Hostesses: Jane Hinkel, Lynne Sherman, and Julia Metcalf

About the program: Andrew Cote is a fourth generation Connecticut beekeeper and founder of Bees Without Borders - a charity that brings resources and education to beekeepers in underdeveloped countries in hopes of using beekeeping to help alleviate poverty. At Silvermine Apiary, home of Andrew's Honey, the family has been keeping bees since the 1800's. Although the family could not eke out a living by beekeeping alone, there have been bees buzzing around their property for over 130 years.

It will be a terrific program - hope you will join us.

Message from our president –

Gone are the Wolf and Snow Moons as we look forward to the Strawberry and Flower Moons. The vernal equinox occurs on Sunday, March 20th and in honor of this day, the picture below is of our native witch hazel, *Hamamelis vernalis*. This shrub was in full bloom during the end of January when branches were picked and brought in the house. The fragrance permeated to upstairs!

Please come and enjoy Andrew Cote's talk on bees.

Best,

Barbara

And About Witch Hazels!

The loosening of Old Man Winter's icy fingers is heralded by no finer pageantry than the flowering of witch hazels. Bright, sunny days when the temperature remains below freezing tempt the sweet-scented red, orange, or yellow flowers from beneath their often snowy cloaks. As the warming rays fade into frosty nights, however, these bewitching floral skirts will retract toward the relative safety of the bare limbs, poised like a Vegas show girl awaiting her next cue. Encores might last a month, for despite their wispy, twisted, ribbon-like appearance, witch hazel flowers are remarkably durable unless conditions become too harsh or windy. In fact, it is not uncommon for plants in full bloom to tolerate temperatures in the low 20s for several days.



COMMITTEE REPORTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSERVATION

Margy is planning a Conservation Meeting at her house on Monday, March 21 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the Pollinator Garden and consider possible projects for the 2017 flower show.

FLOWER SHOW AND ARRANGEMENT

Our club will be having a flower show June 8-10, 2017. The title of the show is National Parks, "America's Best Idea". A committee has been formed, and we are currently working on the schedule for the show. We are excited about our theme and know that there will be something for everyone to enter! Stay tuned for up-to-date information.

Design Sweepstakes for the March 17th meeting: A pot-et-fleur design* in a container not to exceed 18" in any direction shown on three sides.

*A combination of growing plants (in or out of pots) and fresh cut flowers and/or foliage (in water or conditioned to last for the duration of the sweeps) assembled in a container. Judged predominantly on design principles, i.e. balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm and scale.

Entries must be in place by 1:15 p.m. Entry cards available at the Community Center or on-line.

If you have any questions call Nancy Post at 860-567-8475.

GARDEN HISTORY AND DESIGN

CLOCKS THAT ROCK: Can you imagine spending entire days planting a single hand of a clock made of flowers. Article posted in the Smithsonian, A Garden History & Design One Minute Report from the Archives of American Gardens (AAG)

Take some time to read what has been accomplished across the country with the Garden History & Design groups, including a Farmington, CT garden, Oldgate, which was documented and accepted last year. Article posted in the Archives of American Gardens, Annual Report for 2015

WEBSITE

- Having trouble getting into the members' home page? Username is lgcmember. Password is compost.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEMBER NEWS

WILDFLOWERS of the Great Swamp

Carol Gracie, engaging speaker, retired botanist of the New York Botanical Garden, and photographer and co-author (with Steve Clemants) of *Wildflowers in the Field and Forest: A Field Guide to the Northeastern United States* and *Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History*, will enchant us with her knowledge of the plants in the Great Swamp!

When: April 10, 2016 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Where: Trinity Pawling School, Gardiner Theater
700 NY-22, Pawling, NY 12564

For more info visit The Friends of the Great Swamp website or email info@frogs-ny.org

COME DISCOVER THE MAGICAL WORLD OF WITCH HAZEL (Hamamelis)

Led by Adam Wheeler, Propagation and Plant Development Manager of Broken Arrow Nursery. Adam will present a slide lecture that touches on the storied history, ornamental appeal and noted selections of these underutilized shrubs. Following the presentation he will lead a tour of the nursery grounds and the extensive witch hazel collection.

When: March 12, 2016

Where: Broken Arrow Nursery

Cost: \$15

Pre-registration and payment is required. Go to Broken Arrow Nursery Event Signup to register. Any questions, email abrand@brokenarrownursery.com or call 203-288-1026. Sign up soon as space is limited.

SAVE THE DATES: The Elizabeth Park Conservancy

March Events:

Saturday, March 5--Seed Starting Demo

10 to 11:30 am

The Cottage

Wednesday, March 9--Lunch & Lecture

Outstanding American Gardens

Pond House 11 am-1:30 pm

Saturday, March 12 through Friday, March 25-- Spring Greenhouse Show

City Greenhouses

10 am to 6 pm

Friday, March 18--Coffee Reception for Spring Greenhouse shows
The Cottage
9 to 11 am

Saturday, March 26--Plant Sale
Purchase plants from the Greenhouse and Gengras Shows.
Greenhouses
10 am to 3 pm

Some events require ticket purchase and or reservations. Please visit their WEBSITE for more events info.

GARDEN TOUR - Little Compton Garden Club

The Little Compton Garden Club presents "Country Gardens of Little Compton", a garden tour of SEVEN gardens to be held Saturday June 18th from 10 am - 4 pm. The "rain or shine" event will feature seven unique private gardens, some with water views.

Tickets are \$35 per person, if ordered before June 11, after: \$40/person.

Visit their website for more information and to order tickets.

<http://www.littlecomptongardenclub.org/little-compton-garden-club-tour.html>

Jeannette Ching shares an image of an orchid taken from her Litchfield home which bloomed after a 2 year rest!

Meeting Notice Information, contact Susan Jordan @ (860) 866-6707:

