



**REMINDER:**

The November open meeting will be held on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at CT Forest and Park HQ.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Dear Garden Club members,

Well, we had a busy, productive, and fun October! We started the month out by installing a pollinator garden at Harbor Park which involved the planting of over 1200 plants. Kudos to Brian Young and his team at the Parks Department for removing the sod, and to Dave Mylchreest for bringing in the heavy machinery and digging all those holes! And of course, a huge thank you to Patsy Mylchreest for coordinating them both!

Hats off also to Kathy Meyering and her band of pollinator pathway proponents for stepping up not only to plant but also to man the booth at the Farmers' Market and help distribute some of the pollinator plants. Plants were distributed widely to land trusts, schools and pollinator gardens throughout the county and of course to individual homeowners.

We do have a few thousand plants left (asclepias, solidago and salvia) if anyone has a use for them or knows someone

who might, please give me a call 860-346-8070. It would be a shame to send any of these plants to the compost heap!

The club also visited The Farmer's Daughter, a nursery in South Kingston, Rhode Island, for our October meeting. At the nursery we were treated to a hayride, discussion of the flower cutting garden, learned the secrets of over-wintering dahlias and had a short demonstration on making festive pumpkins using succulents. We had a great time shopping and were touched by the kindness and thoughtfulness of the gift bags they gave us.

They encouraged us to come back in December when the decorations will be "magical", although I am not sure how they can match the pumpkin maze! We ended our day with lunch at the Matunuck Oyster house.

November is shaping up to be an equally busy month. At our November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at 1 pm, Dr. Katharine Owens will address the club and the public at the Connecticut Forest and Park Headquarters.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November at 9 am we will meet to participate in our wreathmaking workshop. Over the years this event which was once exclusively devoted to making wreaths for community groups has expanded to include making wreaths and arrangements for the Holiday Bazaar December 4<sup>th</sup>.

We need you to participate by bringing your cut greens and holiday ornaments on the 28<sup>th</sup> as well as your creativity! Don't forget to order your wreaths and almond cakes.

The December Holiday party will be held on Wednesday, December 14, at the Clinton Country Club -- more information to follow. Look forward to seeing you on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

~ Maria



### PROGRAM:

Our November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting is open to the public and has an environmental theme. Dr. Katharine Owens, a National Geographic Explorer, Fulbright Nehru Scholar, and Professor at the University of Hartford will speak on her "Entangled and Ingested" project, which involves the catastrophic effects of plastic on our oceans and, especially, on whales. If you wish to invite non-members to the meeting, her lecture will begin at 2 pm.

### CAKES, WREATHS, AND BOWS:

Please be sure to order your almond cakes from Lynn ASAP, so she can order the ingredients! Cakes are \$12, and pick-ups and delivery are flexible.

Pine cones, birch logs, and "bling" are needed for decorating items to sell at the Bazaar.

Wreaths and bows should have been ordered by November 1.



### DATES TO REMEMBER FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:

November 9: Conservation Study Group  
November 17: Monthly meeting  
November 17: NAL Registration  
November 28: Wreath Workshop  
December 4: Holiday Bazaar  
December 14: Holiday Party

### MIDDLETOWN GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

There are no minutes for October, as there was no business meeting.



## CONSERVATION/NAL:

Two important Conservation and NAL events:

### **Conservation Study Group, November 9**

– this virtual conference is free and open to all, but you must [register](#) in order to receive the Zoom link. Set in Hawai'i, the event is titled “Aloha ‘Aina” and addresses sustainable uses of natural resources in an island environment. There are some excellent speakers on the agenda.

### **NAL Conference – Live in Washington, D.C., from March 12 to March 15.**

Registration opens on November 17<sup>th</sup>, but only 300 attendees will be permitted. In-person attendance is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but must be coordinated through Sally and Maria. Preference is given to first-time attendees. Many events will also be live-streamed, and will be available later on video. Meetings with legislators and their staff are only available to those attending in-person.

~ Sally Cornish

## NATIONAL NATIVE PLANT MONTH:

The Garden Club of America has announced a nation-wide movement to

establish a proclamation for Native Plant Month in all 50 states. This is a cross-committee program led by the Horticulture and NAL leadership.

The month selected is April, and the hope is that this will be accomplished by April, 2023. The GCA's position paper on native plants is linked [here](#) (requires your GCA website password.)

## FLORAL DESIGN:

Do you read the digital design magazine of the GCA? “By Design” is a quick read, but you can spend a **long** time admiring the photos! The most recent issue showcased Patsy Mylchreest's Harriet DeWaele Puckett Award-winning design from our May flower show, along with two other award-winning entries in our show.

Like the other digital GCA subscriptions, “By Design” is free – you only have to click on it for it to show up in your email three times a year. Such a deal!



Youth is like spring, an over-praised season more remarkable for biting winds than genial breezes. Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits. ~ Samuel Butler