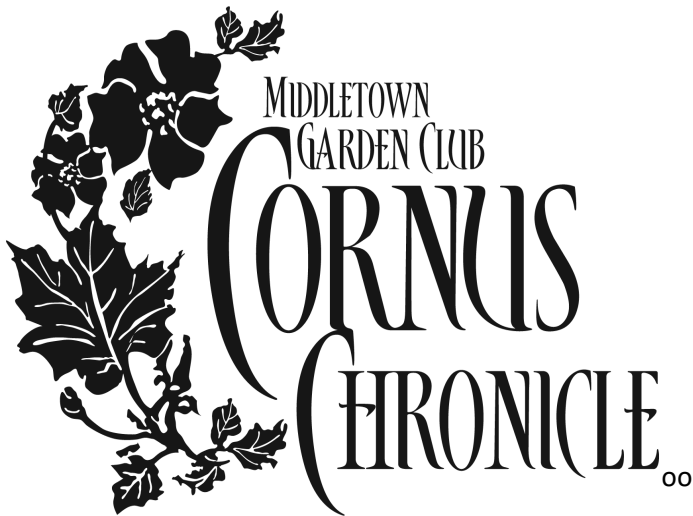


October, 2022



REMINDER:

The October meeting
will be held at the
Farmer's Daughter in
S. Kingston, RI, on
Thursday the 20th at
11 am

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Garden Club Members,

By the time Cornus reaches you I hope that you are reflecting happily on your participation in creating a new garden at Harbor Park. Nothing is more hopeful and rewarding than planting a garden, and based on the comments Patsy and I heard from the many who walked by while we were prepping the garden on Friday, they love the existing gardens and are looking forward to the new one!

A huge thank you to Patsy and the Parks Department for removing the sod and otherwise preparing our garden beds.

Our October (10/20) meeting will be held at The Farmer's Daughter in South Kingston, RI. Please let me know if you are driving and with whom. If you do not have a ride, please contact me at 860-346-8070.

Our pollinator plant giveaway is going extremely well. We've given plants to the Wadsworth Mansion, Town of Portland, the medical center on Saybrook Road, to name a few locations of note and this Friday, Kathy Meyering gave away two truckloads of plants at the Farmers' Market. Thanks Kathy! We have received an additional

three large truckloads of plants -- thanks Patsy and the Parks and Public Works Departments for helping each of these find a temporary residence. We now have, in abundance, asclepias, solidago, and salvia.

The Garden Club of Hartford is pleased to invite you to an upcoming public program, entitled ***Tracking the Olmsted Legacy in Connecticut***. Christopher Wigren, deputy director of Preservation Connecticut, will be speaking at the **Keney Park Pond House, 383 Edgewood Street, Hartford** at a joint public meeting of the Garden Club of Hartford and Friends of Keney Park on Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Chris will share documentation and images of Olmsted landscape projects throughout the state.

I received the following email from a member of the public, "I have way too many purple irises. Do you have any garden club members who would like to swap for some other colors, or for other types of iris? Thanks, David Tilles, 860-876-6129." Please contact David directly if interested.

Finally, Edwina writes about the new position of Chair of the Civic Improvement

Committee for GCA. The consolidated grants under the Civic Improvement Committee are:

Founders - which we are already participating in the voting process.

Partners for Plants - to facilitate hands-on projects between local GCA clubs and land managers on public lands

Hull Award - recognizes those who impart to children love and concern for the natural environment

Restoration Initiative - for eligible landscape restoration and conservation projects in communities devastated by natural disasters

Common Ground Collaborative - for GCA clubs to develop and support long term relationships with diverse community groups to develop and improve public land programs.

Edwina states:

So far, we only participate in the voting on Founders projects but have not sought grants for our club, other than the Hull Award. I think we could look more closely at what we do contribute and perhaps one of these categories would fit.

Let's put on our thinking caps and see if we have projects which might fit into one of these categories. Thanks, Edwina!

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!
Maria



MIDDLETOWN GARDEN CLUB MINUTES, MEETING OF 9/15/22

President Holzberg called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm at Ron McCutcheon Park. She thanked Melissa and Elaine for the lovely refreshments.

Melissa moved and Kathie seconded approval of the Minutes as published in Cornus. Unanimously approved.

The Treasurer's report included an explanation of a new format for both the Budget and the Treasurer's Report. A motion by Elaine, seconded by Laney, to accept the report and the change in the budget was unanimously approved.

Maria's President's Report included her three goals for the 2022-2023 year:

- 1) Supporting the Pollinator Pathway group, and using or distributing the 6,000 free plants the club has accepted
- 2) Fund-raising to include the Holiday Bazaar at the Mansion
- 3) Entry in the Connecticut Flower Show, "Gateway to Spring."

Maria encouraged all committee chairs to attend the Zone II sessions with their Zone Reps in New Haven.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship: Laney reported that the GCA has a new endowed Scholarship on the American Landscape. She will have more information soon.

Riverfront: Laney said that the Common Council has approved the master plan developed by Cooper Robertson.

Hospitality: Melissa asked for hostesses to provide small refreshments at the November meeting and the Wreath Workshop. Committees are needed for both the holiday party and the May annual meeting. A member home is needed for the holiday party as well.

Archives: Kathie requested that members check to make sure that they do not have any outstanding records borrowed from the archives. There are gaps in several years.

Conservation/NAL: Sally Cornish has agreed to chair this dual committee.

Holiday Sale: Ona announced that she and Renee have been making special bows for the holiday wreaths, and those ordering decorated wreaths can specify the color and style from several already made. Wreaths will cost the club one dollar more than last year, but the club will absorb that increase. Civic wreaths will be the same as usual. The club will charge \$18 for undecorated wreaths and \$40 for decorated ones.

Maria read a thank-you note from Doug Brown, thanking us for the award he received at the June Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm, and members were invited to take home extra plants from the pollinator plant donation.

Jane Harris, Recording Secretary

Attendees: L. Bank, J. Bell, E. Carella, K. Coley, S. Cornish, K. Green, J. Harris, R. Higgins, L. Johnson, M. Kalayjian, R. Kelley, M. Holzberg, A. McCloskey, O. McLaughlin, K. Meyering, P. Mylchreest, E. Ranganathan, R. Rickenback, M. Roberts, J. Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, C. Wasch, K. Wuestefeld, M. Xenelis.

Excused: A. Albert, S. Cunningham, N. D'Oench, M. Giamei.



HORTICULTURE:

Propagation is the theme this year for many GCA member clubs, and as mentioned before, now is the time to harvest seeds or take cuttings from your favorite plants.

While it is easier (and instantly gratifying) to just purchase plants for our gardens, let's stretch our green thumbs a bit and see how creative we can be! I myself am a lazy gardener, but I've discovered the magic of milk jug greenhouses and how easy it is to plant, ignore, and be surprised at transplanting time. Plus, you aren't limited by what you can find in a nursery. This method works for perennials as well as it

does for our favorite annuals, but timing is the key.

We will be putting together milk jug greenhouses at our January meeting. If you don't want to harvest seeds, you can shop for them on the GCA Horticulture page (<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:seeds/list?from=73>) to see if you are inspired by the vast selection of seeds being offered by fellow members. Pick one plant (or more, if you want the challenge) to try.

I have already saved seeds from my leopard lily, ironweed, swamp milkweed, blue

lobelia, and cardinal flower, and am happy to share these with the club. Please put aside one or two plastic milk jugs. More info to follow...

~ Kathy Meyering



If you look the right way you can see that the whole world is a garden. ~ Frances Hodgson Burnett

HOLIDAY SALE

Timeline:

October 31 - all wreath orders due. Order forms with prices (decorated wreaths \$40, undecorated \$18) are available by contacting Pat Murawski. Contact Ona with orders.

November 15 - all almond cake orders due. Price \$12 each. Contact Lynn with orders.

November 28 or December 19 (or by special arrangement) almond cake deliveries/pickup. Contact Lynn.

November 28, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Connecticut Forest & Park, Holiday sale workshop. Wreaths & centerpieces will be decorated in this order:

11 community wreaths; 12 sale wreaths; sale centerpieces; personal wreaths.

December 4 - Wadsworth Mansion Holiday Sale 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, set-up at 8:00 am.

Safety considerations - our booth will be located in an adjoining tent at the Mansion sale.

Please gather the following for the workshop:

greens from various conifers, laurel, andromeda, holly, etc.

pinecones, acorns, dried seed heads, etc.

bling - artificial fruits, birds, small ornaments - we recycle.

Ona McLaughlin

Renee Kelley

Patsy Mylchreest

Lynn Johnson

Pat Murawski

Kim Wuestefeld

HARBOR PARK – AT LAST!

Delayed just one day by remnants of Hurricane Ian, and undeterred by a chilly wind, Maria and Patsy (with their devoted spouses, Robert and Dave) led the club to achieve a goal anticipated for many years: a fabulous native plant garden at Harbor Park!

With volunteers galore, fleets of trucks and station wagons, thousands of donated plants, and the admiration of all who walked or ran through the park, the garden blossomed on this day, October 2, 2022!

Hats off (there was no choice – the wind blew them away) to Maria and Patsy. And, of course, deepest gratitude to the Wasch family for their generous donation and vision for this garden in the park that will define Middletown in the coming decades.

A few data points:

MGC members: 12

Pollinator Pathway volunteers: 11

Boy Scouts and their friends and family: 8

Square footage planted: 5600

Trips to the City Yard: dozens

Rocks dug: hundreds

Planting holes augered by Dave Mylchreest: thousands!

Historic ships docked nearby: 1 (The Amistad)

Famous Neil's Doughnuts consumed: just a few...





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