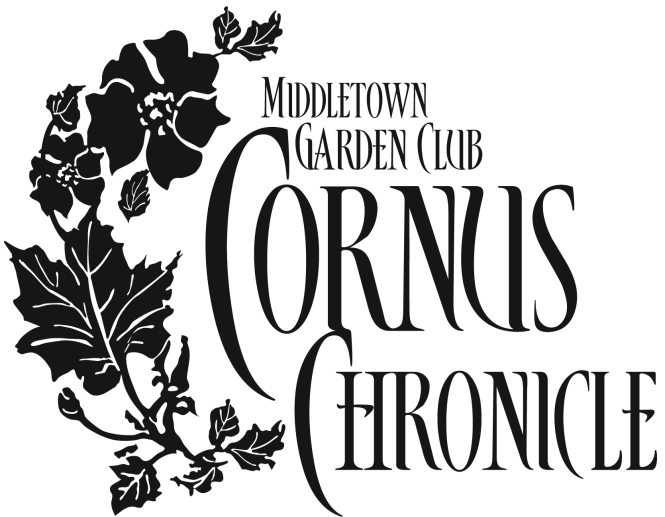


October 2024



REMINDER:

The October meeting will take place on Friday, October 18th at the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center, 100 Lyme Street in Old Lyme at 9 am.

Zoo

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER:

Oct. 17th: Committee Chairs meeting in New Haven

Oct. 18th: Club Business Meeting and visit to RTP Estuary Center, 9 am

Oct. 31st: All wreath and cake orders due

Nov. 16th: Kathy Connolly on “Designing Meadows and Naturalized Landscapes” 10 am at deKoven House

Nov. 21st: Club Business Meeting and in-club Photography show, 1 pm at CFPA



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

Happy October!

Hope everyone is able to enjoy our autumn season here in the northeast--whether in the garden, attending the varied events sponsored by our pollinator, forestry and environmental

minded neighbors or just road tripping for pumpkins or apple cider donuts. Having our October meeting at the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center in Old Lyme will be fun. The presentation is sure to be interesting and the scenery beautiful. Please don't forget to take pictures so we can share them at our November meeting. Also don't forget to enjoy the garden club experience!

~ Kim



MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19th, 2024, BUSINESS MEETING:

President Kim Wuestefeld called the business meeting to order at 1 pm at the pavilion in McCutcheon Park

The May meeting and Annual Meeting minutes were approved by unanimous

votes on motions and seconds by Kathie Green and Melissa Roberts. Because of the transition from outgoing Treasurer Mary Xenelis to Lynn Johnson, no Treasurer's Report was received.

President's Report: Kim thanked Hospitality Co-Chair Elaine Carella for providing delicious and environmentally friendly treats!

Kim passed around a sign-up sheet showing committee chairs and committees so members could sign up to support the committees. There is currently an opening for a Photography chair.

Kim then asked Nominating Co-Chairs, Laney and Judy to announce their nomination of Lynn Johnson to replace Mary Xenelis as Treasurer, since Mary is moving out of state. Judy moved the nomination which was seconded by Jane. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Kim and several members expressed their gratitude for Mary's hard work the past four years as treasurer, as well as to Lynn for taking on the job.



Because of the conflict with the Zone II Committee Chair meeting in New Haven on Thursday, October 17th, the club decided to move the October meeting to Friday, October 18th.

Kim also announced with great regret that Anne McCloskey is moving to Virginia to be closer to her daughter; she will be with us in May and September, as she still has a cottage on the CT shore.

Committee Reports:

Archives: Kathie G. said that the scanning is now being done on the 1960s.

Horticulture: Kathy M. reported that the Zone II Gavel Challenge will be a scabiosa. She will have seeds to distribute at the October meeting.

Membership: Kathy M. said that Edwina has requested to be moved from Active to Affiliate membership. The vote to approve this change was unanimous. The club has openings for new members, and Kathy plans to send out a poll so members can vote on their preferred meeting time and date.

Photography: A chairman is needed to replace Lynn Johnson.

Pollinator Pathway: Kathy Meyering reminded members to join the Pollinator Pathway group to weed the garden at Harbor Park on Saturday, September 21st.

Program: The schedule is nearly complete, according to co-chair Judy Schoonmaker. A possible site for the May, 2025 annual meeting is the Gastler Farm. Ona will inquire about availability.

Rooftop: Stephan reported that the garden is winding down for the year, but we will continue probably through October.



Scholarship: Laney passed along a request from our March speaker, who is looking for nurseries selling Lady's slippers.

Wreath Workshop: Ona announced the wreath sale and reminded members to send her their orders for wreaths and bows, as well as orders to Lynn Johnson for almond cakes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm., followed by a potted plant swap.

ATTENDANCE: S. Allison, L. Bank, J. Bell, E. Carella, K. Coley, S. Cornish, T. Ferguson, K. Green, J. Harris, R. Kelley, A. McCloskey, O. McLaughlin, K. Meyering, E. Ranganathan, R. Rickenback, J. Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, C. Wasch, K. Wuestefeld,

EXCUSED: N. D'Oench, E. Dzialo, L. Garner, M. Giamei, R. Higgins, M. Kalayjian, M. Roberts, M. Xenelis

ABSENT: A. Albert, P. Mylchreest

~Jane Harris, Recording Secretary

PROGRAM:

The October meeting of the Middletown Garden Club will be held at the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center, 100 Lyme Street, Old Lyme.

We shall have a tour of the Center from

9:00-11:00 on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18.

Those who wish may bring a bag lunch to enjoy there (indoors or out), and the Hospitality Committee will supply beverages, but please bring your own drink container, since we are trying to be good conservationists. Carpooling may be a good idea as well. Wish for fine autumn weather — See you there!
~ Judy Schoonmaker

ROOFTOP GARDEN:

It has been a very productive year and the harvesting continues with proud produce for the Amazing Grace Food Pantry. A few photos attest to that and point out some of the MGC volunteers (Kim, Jane, Lynne, Judy plus Lisa from MARC and not seen but behind the camera (Chantal Foster, not an MGC member-- but should be) -- who steadfastly put in the weekly effort to maintain the garden beds!



~ Stephan, Rooftop Garden Chair

HORTICULTURE:

Don't forget to register for Kathy Connolly's talk on Saturday, November 16th at deKoven House. Her topic will be "Designing Meadows and Naturalized Landscapes for Volunteer Groups."

~ Kathy Meyering

CONSERVATION:

Reminder -- it's bird migration season, so Lights Out!

And don't forget to look **up** in October. Hawks migrate by the hundreds, an amazing sight! ~ Sally Cornish

From the June 2024 eNews letter, the GCA's vision is that of "informed volunteers working for a beautiful, healthy planet", and as the NAL/ Conservation priorities states, "our goal is to cultivate the health of the natural world, to increase beauty."

As the seasons change, and my garden turns from lush blooms to lingering seed heads, it occurs to me that many of us have developed a new idea of what is 'beautiful' in the landscape. The seemingly chaotic meadows and roadside margins, as well as native species and pesticide-free gardens, support healthy ecosystems, pollinators and wildlife. And that is beautiful.

To promote the health of the natural world, we can lead by example in our gardening choices, encourage education,

and support legislation that is essential to protecting our environment. This month, at the Zone II meeting, the Conservation and National Affairs & Legislation and Conservation chairs will share ideas, updates, and priorities for the coming year. I will be glad to share what I learn at the meeting, and hope that our club will put its energies toward this year's conservation goals.

~ Tisha Ferguson

NAL/ Conservation Co-chair

FUNGI LECTURE:

On Saturday, October 19th, come to the deKoven House for a fascinating pair of talks about the two sides of fungi – the beneficial ones, and the truly nasty ones as well. Speakers will be Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis, who has studied Chestnut blight and Butternut canker for decades, and Dr. Susannah Kerio, who will discuss mycorrhizal fungi and their role in plant growth. She is currently studying the benefits of mycorrhizae on some of the street trees in Middletown. Register [here](#).

~ Jane Harris



WREATH WORKSHOP AND HOLIDAY SALE

The Middletown Garden Club Holiday Sale is fast approaching and needs the involvement of many members to be successful. This is our only fundraiser. It is also a chance to exercise our creativity in decorating one-of-a-kind wreaths and centerpieces. Please consider asking friends and neighbors to purchase a wreath or one of Lynn Johnson's popular almond cakes.

The timeline for wreath and almond cake orders is as follows:

October 31 - all wreath orders due. Order forms with prices (decorated wreaths \$45, undecorated \$20) attached. Bow colors are red, red plaid, deep red with glitz, white and burlap. Contact Ona with orders.

October 31 - all almond cake orders due. Price \$14 each. Contact Lynn with orders.

Thanksgiving orders delivered Thanksgiving week. Christmas orders delivered the week before Christmas. Contact Lynn.

December 2, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Connecticut Forest & Park, Holiday sale workshop. Wreaths & centerpieces will be decorated in this order: community wreaths; 12 sale wreaths; sale centerpieces; personal wreaths.

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

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

Marcia Kalayjian
Lynn Johnson
Kim Wuestefeld

Member Order Form - Middletown Garden Club 2024 Holiday Sale

This form is for your use only. **Email** a summary of your order to Ona McLaughlin no later than 10/31

Wreaths - Decorated - \$45; Undecorated - \$20

Note - Centerpieces - Available 12/8 at Mansion Sale only

Wreath Bow Color*

Name			
Address			
Phone # & email address			
Customer requested delivery Date			
Name			
Address			
Phone # & email address			
Customer requested delivery Date			
Name			

Address			
Phone # & email address			
Customer requested delivery Date			

* Wreath bow colors – Red (R), Red Plaid (RP), White (W), Natural Burlap (NB), Deep Red (DR)

Customer Delivery Date – Deliveries begin on December 2.