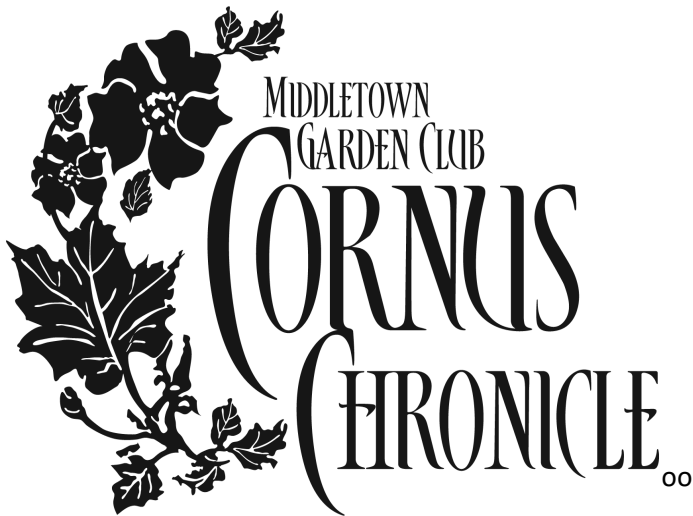


May, 2023



REMINDER:

The May meeting will take place at the home of Anne McCloskey at 11 am on the 18th.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hello everyone!

What can I say, this has been the busiest Spring for the Garden Club in recent memory.

First there was Earth Day, Daffodil and Arbor Day, then there were the trips to the CT Flower Collective, The High Line and Little City Park and now it's time for our annual meeting:

At Anne McCloskey's home in Niantic,
84 Old Black Point Road, Niantic 860-
739-6576

Date/Time: May 18, 2023, 11 am.

We also have lots of other events planned:

Party, Party, Party

Birthday party for Juanie Flagg on May 10, 2023, at Essex Meadows from 3-5 pm

Birthday party for Sally Cornish on June 10, 2023, at First Church, Middletown from 1-4 pm

Other programs of note:

[Litchfield Garden Club Flower Show, "A Tapestry of Nature"](#)

[The Little Compton Garden Tour](#)

[The Rockfall Foundation Tree Symposium](#)

The Club is joining the CT Flower Collective, so you will be able to purchase fresh farm-grown flowers during the spring, summer and fall.

Looking forward to seeing you all shortly,

Maria

**SBONA TOWERS/HOUSING
AUTHORITY PLANTING:**

Volunteers needed to brighten up Sbona Towers' planters! Patsy Mylchreest asks those who can participate to email her (Misspat_z@yahoo.com) or text her (860-398-1391) if you can work from 9 am to approximately 11 am on Saturday, May 13. Please bring your own trowels, pruners, gloves, and water. Address: 40 Broad Street.

NO OFFICIAL MEETING WAS HELD ON
APRIL 20TH, 2023, AND NO MINUTES
WERE TAKEN



HORTICULTURE:

Gavel Challenge! This year club members are being challenged to sow and raise *Helianthus annuus* 'Dwarf Sunspot'. It is a dwarf sunflower and the seeds are provided by the Hart Seed Company. The seed packet claims the plant will grow no more than 24" in height, but the seeds are the result of open pollination, so we shall see!

The big challenge here is to successfully raise a sunflower to bloom in a 10" diameter terra cotta pot. Since sunflowers have fairly deep roots, the pot will need to be deep. Members should start planting mid-late May, as the estimated time to maturity is 70-90 days and will need to be in bloom by the September 14 annual meeting in Greenwich. Are there some brave club members willing to take this challenge?

I have a packet of about 50 seeds and suggest planting two or three per member. I can distribute them during our annual meeting but if you want a head start let me know and I will be happy to arrange delivery. I will provide detailed instructions (planting

medium, growing records, etc.) with the seeds. Please let me know if you want to participate so I can pack up the seeds with your name on it.

(kathy.meyering81@gmail.com)

(In other news...how are the allium bulbs for the Newport Flower Show going? Mine was a flop...never showed its head!)

Winter Sown Plants-Blue lobelias available:

How are your winter-sown plants doing? My winter-sown coneflowers, boneset, and Culver's root have all popped up. For those of you wanting to increase your native plantings, these seedlings will need to be repotted to give them a year to grow and mature. However, I have about 30 winter-sown Blue Lobelias from last year that are ready to go into the ground. Please let me know if you have a good use for them as they are currently taking up space in one of my vegetable beds.

~ Kathy M.

OLD SAYBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR, 10 am-3 pm, JUNE 24, 2023

The 2023 House & Garden Tour fundraiser will feature tours of six historic local homes and five gardens. Hours will be 10 am-3 pm. The tour will start at the O. S. Historical Society, where tour brochures will be offered, 350 Main Street. Tickets will be \$30 (\$35 day of event). Tickets will be available starting mid-May online by visiting: saybrookhistory.org/events/ or calling

860-395-1635. Tickets will also be available at the OSHS Archives building and the following local retailers: Paradise Wines & Spirits, Pieces, Saybrook Home, and The Bower Bird (Old Lyme). Parking is available at both churches adjacent to the Historical Society. NOTE: Sal and Sally D'Aquila's garden will be on the tour.

HIGH LINE AND LITTLE ISLAND TRIP:

Thanks to everyone for their terrific spirit on Wednesday, April 26th. We started out with a planned 2 ½ hours to the HIGH LINE. This turned out to be 3 ½ hours (what we learned about traffic on RT. 95). Lisa Switkin, a senior partner of James Corner Field Operations (original installers and landscape architects for the High Line), gave us information about the construction, plantings and art pieces installed on the former railway line. We walked to 14th street with her and as she parted with us she said, "If you build your flower bridge in Middletown, do not copy the High Line, but let it be an inspiration." From 14th street we went to Chelsea Food Market and grabbed a quick lunch and headed to Little Island. Little Island is a new park that sits on concrete cones jutting into the Hudson River with terrific views of lower Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty. The landscaping of the park presents ideas for the riverfront's natural areas. We left New York around 3 and didn't get back until 7. Some of you called me with landscaping ideas learned from our tour. The Middletown Garden Club invited

including the Mayor, staff members and Johanna Bond the new executive Director of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce. Many of us want to have a significant impact on the design of the tree, shrub and planting beds on the bridge over Route 9. The project has been given a number (a good sign) on the DOT ledgers. We will keep asking to work with the engineers and designers of this project.

~ Laney

SCHOLARSHIP MOMENT:

Hearing and meeting Lisa Switkin on the High Line this past week underlined how important the GCA Scholarship program is for the future leaders in the fields of landscape architecture, preservation, horticulture, planning and urban development. In 2007 I was the Vice Chair for the GCA Rome Prize Fellowship (a yearly stipend paying room, board and research funding). My scholarship recipient was Lisa. Her research topic was "The Effects and Influences of 'Movement Landscapes' and Their Associated Territory on Planning, Initiatives and the Growth of the Development of Rome". When I met Lisa, she was installing the planting beds for trees, shrubs and plants on the High Line. It was exciting to see the innovative plans for keeping plants in shallow beds. I believe it was one of the first gardens that celebrated native grasses. When I read her "bio" I feel so glad to support the Middletown Garden Club's contribution to the GCA Scholarship fund in its endeavor to underwrite future landscape leaders like Lisa. ~ Laney Bank

www.rockfallfoundation.org/event/CTtrees

ROCKFALL TREE SYMPOSIUM:

The Middletown Garden Club in collaboration with the Rockfall Foundation and the Urban Forestry Commission is presenting a Rockfall Foundation Symposium titled: "Trees in a Changing Connecticut – What You Need to Know" on Friday, May 12. The symposium will be held at Middlesex Community College from 8 am to 1 pm, followed by lunch. Speakers include Commissioner of DEEP Katie Dykes, as well as experts in forestry, urban forestry, entomology and plant pathology. Registration and lunch can be ordered online at

A TREE FOR JUANIE:

On Friday, April 28, the Middletown Garden Club celebrated its longest-serving member, Juanie Flagg, by planting a Hawthorn tree and three buttonbush shrubs near the vernal pool at Long Hill Estate. Part of the city's Arbor Day celebration, the planting was also funded by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Jim Landry and Evergreen Landscaping planted the tree and shrubs.

Every spring I hear the thrush singing in the glowing woods he is only passing through. His voice is deep, then he lifts it until it seems to fall from the sky. I am thrilled. I am grateful. Then, by the end of morning, he's gone, nothing but silence out of the tree where he rested for a night. And this I find acceptable. Not enough is a poor life. But too much is, well, too much. Imagine Verdi or Mahler every day, all day. It would exhaust anyone.

~ Mary Oliver



MAY 18, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING AT THE HOME
OF ANNE MCCLOSKEY, 8` 4 OLD BLACK POINT ROAD,
NIANTIC, CT

Directions from I95 North via Google Maps:

Take exit 72 toward Rocky Neck/State Pk

Continue onto Rocky Neck Connector

Use any lane to turn left onto CT-156 E/W Main St

Turn right onto Fairhaven Rd

Turn right onto Black Point Rd

Turn right onto Old Black Point Rd

DESTINATION WILL BE ON THE LEFT

At Anne's property, please park in the driveway or nose in on the side street. Car-pooling is strongly recommended. Approximate time from Middletown: 36 minutes.

