



REMINDER:

**The Holiday Party
will be held at
Falcons Grove at
6:30 pm on
December 16th.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Where to begin? The wreath workshop kicked off our holiday season, and we will not stop until the last stocking is hung!

Wreaths decorated, centerpieces assembled, swags embellished. We donated our surplus greens to the Senior Center and to our annual gathering for MARC adults. Non-profits around town are "spruced" up: look for our door wreaths at the General Mansfield House, CT Forest & Park, Rockfall, the Community Foundation, and the Wadsworth Mansion.

On Sunday, from 10 am till 3 pm, we will sell our decorations at the Wadsworth Mansion's Holiday Bazaar. This is my favorite event of the season: we see old friends and make new ones, and we know we are the reason many people come to the Bazaar.

But, there's no time for R & R – it's on to the next event: the Holiday Party returns! On the 16th, we will gather at Falcon Grove at Crystal Lake at 6:30 pm for our traditional get-together. Zooming was fun in its way, but I'm excited to see everyone dressed up this year!

If you haven't RSVPed to Patsy, please do so, and let her know whether you will bring a sweet or a savory dish. We will have wine, but feel free to bring your own beverage(s) as well. To defray the cost of the space and renting assorted glassware, there is a \$15 per guest charge. Prepayments can be sent to Mary Xenelis, or you can pay at the door.

And finally, let's take a moment to give thanks. Our club is small, but growing, and it is mighty when set in motion. Certainly, the Holiday Bazaar is a testament to what we do: the committees that make this event possible are low-key but energetic. Everybody works hard, but there is much laughter and good fellowship. We are proud of our artistry, but egos are checked at the door.

And, most of all, I am so grateful that we are all together again – what a joy to see everyone doing what we love to do! This year has had its challenges, but we're all still here, and we're as "back to normal" as a club can be in 2021. Onward – full speed ahead!

~ Jane



MGC MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2021

President Harris called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Judy moved and seconded the approval of the Minutes. Passed.

Melissa moved and Maria seconded acceptance of the Treasurer's report. Passed.

The president thanked all those who worked at the Vernal Pool at the Mansion clearing the invasives. She also thanked those who did the preparations for the wreath workshop.

The club's site at the Bazaar has been changed to the tent, but people will find our spot easily.

Patsy gave us info on the holiday party. It will be on Thursday, December 16 at Falcon's Grove from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Clean-up will take place immediately after the party. Each attendee will pay \$15.00 towards the rental of the place.

Centerpieces are needed.

ADMISSIONS: Daphne and Debra have requested Affiliate status. Edwina moved and Maria seconded approval of their request. Passed.

BULLETIN: If we have info or photos for the Bulletin, give the info to Jane.

CHC ROOFTOP: closed for this year.

CONSERVATION: Judy spoke of NAL that will be in D.C. starting on February 28th.

Members who have not attended will have priority to attend.

FINANCE: Mary asked that if members buy something for the club, they let her know and she will write a tax letter re the donation.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR: Ona brought the wreaths to distribute to those who pre-ordered them. The wreath workshop begins at 9 a.m. Members can bring their own wreaths to decorate once the sale items are finished. Pat sent a sign-up sheet around for coverage for Sunday's sale.

ALMOND CAKES: The cakes are \$10.00 a piece but will sell for \$12.00 each at the Bazaar.

HORT: Kathy M. encouraged members to plant native perennials. She submitted a grant application to Rockfall for the Pollinator Pathway.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Lynn contacted the people who had signed up for the MGC show last year. There are 4 openings for photography now. Class III is for a single tree in a park-like setting. She asked that we take pictures and bring them to the January meeting. Bring them in mounted, etc. so they can be judged in the meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP: On January 11, 2022 a virtual meeting on the GCA Rome Prize (Scholarship Committee) will be shared by Hortulus.

VISITING GARDENS: Hettie received good feedback from her poll. If we have any other suggestions, send them to her.

MGC needs an Olmsted project and the vernal pool at the Mansion makes sense.

The white oak Zone Challenge project maybe could also be used to replant at the Mansion. Kathy M. said the GCA Library Committee is offering a virtual book discussion in April, 2022, with the Olmsted biography, "Genius of Place" as the book.

Edwina reminded the members that items are needed for the silent auction for the Flower Show.

Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m. Following the meeting, Torrison garden designer Colleen Kinyon spoke about improving curb appeal with front yard gardens.

ATTENDANCE: L. Bank, E. Carella, S. Cornish, M. Gould, K. Green, J. Harris, L. Johnson, R. Kelley, M. Holzberg, A. McCloskey, O. McLaughlin, K. Meyering, H. Motoc, P. Murawski, P. Mylchreest, E. Ranganathan, R. Rickenback, M. Roberts, J. Schoonmaker, K. Wuestefeld, M. Xenelis

EXCUSED: J. Bell, K. Coley, C. Wasch

~ Katherine W. Green, Recording Secretary



PROGRAM:

We have a busy December calendar for sure! Our creative efforts will be showcased at the Holiday Sale at the Wadsworth Mansion on December 5th, and our wreath contribution to the Festival of the Trees is included in the beautiful event at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford from December 2nd to the 12th.

We do not have a regular meeting in December.... but we do have a Holiday Celebration! The gathering is on December 16th at 6:30 at The Grove at The Pavilion, at

144 Prout Hill Road in Middletown. The Grove is the building to the left as you drive into the Pavilion. There is plenty of parking and no stairs!!!!

Thank you to everyone who signed up for treats, set up, and cleanup. Please mail your check to Mary Xenelis, \$15/pp, by December 8th. I need a final count by then to take care of a few rentals.

~ Patsy



HORTICULTURE:

Just a reminder from your horticulture chair to please save your plastic milk jugs (two-liter bottles also work) for an upcoming workshop on planting and overwintering seeds. If you are curious about this process, please use the link below which will take you to a presentation on this process on the GCA Horticulture page.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18Qv-oeNzDZc9ivdPQa4FMkqjZTAX-G1BUI0G1muxJsl/edit?usp=sharing>

I have been saving a multitude of pollinator friendly seeds (zinnias, cosmos, and many native species) and am happy to share. If you have time, it isn't too late to harvest seeds from your own gardens. There are many beautiful perennials that you can grow from this process. I am hoping we can have a workshop in early January to get these plants growing!

~ Kathy Meyering



CONSERVATION:

Today's Conservation update is to remind the club that starting December 1st, MGC members may register to attend the National Affairs and Legislation (NAL) meeting in Washington. The meeting takes place from Monday, February 28th - Thursday, March 3rd, 2022. We hope that

two additional MGC members will participate in this very timely session — and it is always a fun GCA event with beautiful dinners and entertainment highlights to enjoy! Please contact Jane or me for details before registering, as attendance will be limited.

~ Judy Schoonmaker



“The color of springtime is in the flowers. The color of winter is in the imagination.” ~ Terri Guillemets

