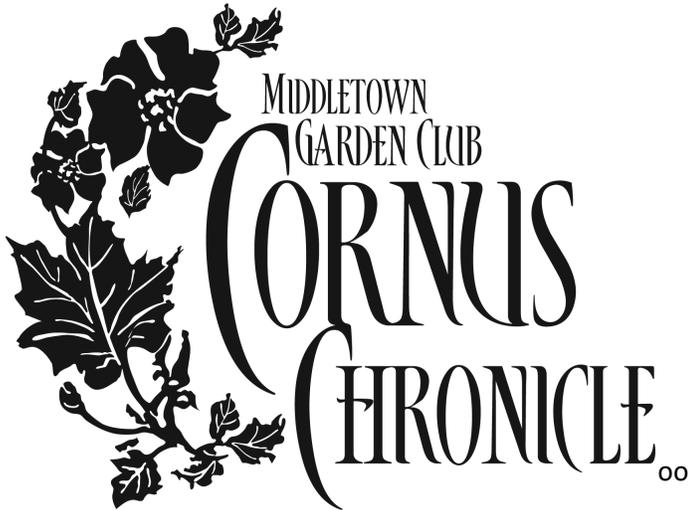


February, 2023



REMINDER:

The February meeting will take place at CFPA headquarters on the 16th at 1 pm.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Garden Club Members:

What a great workshop by Kathy Meyering!
What a yummy feast by Edwina and Rhea!

Thank you all for making our January meeting such a special event.

This February, our Vice President will convene the meeting as well as serve as hostess.

Be ready to consume your yearly allotment of popcorn, Dots and M&Ms as you enjoy our featured film.

As I write this note, the discount tickets for the Federated Garden Show in Hartford (February 23-26) are available.

Please make sure to purchase your tickets and to stop by and see Class 13, a table scape our club members have been diligently working on!

The details of our April 26 trip to NYC have been finalized. We will leave Middletown at 8 am, arriving in NYC at around 10-10:30. Thanks to Laney we will meet one of the High Line's landscape architects on the project for a guided tour which will last about 2 hours. Thereafter you are free to

either go to the Whitney Museum and have a leisurely lunch, go to Chelsea Market for some retail therapy and the food court experience or go to the new Little Island Park (on a pier in the Hudson River) and grab some street food. All of these places are in close proximity to the High Line. We will arrange a central location to meet up and leave the city around 3-3:30 pm.

Thanks to our benefactor, Albert Hamrah, we were able to secure a bus for a very reasonable amount. There is no bathroom on the bus, but we will stop at the last rest area in CT for those who may want/need to use the facilities.

The cost for the trip will be \$50 per person. Please send your checks to Mary but let me know if you plan to attend. The bus holds 38 people; the Mayor and some of his staff have expressed interest in going and we have some interest from the Chamber of Commerce. So far, we have 25 people signed up. So, if you were not able to sign up in January, please let me know if you'd like to attend.

Thank you all for all you do for the Garden Club!

~ Maria

HORTICULTURE:

Hope those who participated had fun in our winter sowing workshop. While you probably won't see any growing activity for a couple of months, please keep everyone posted as seedlings emerge. It would also be interesting to hear from anyone who is doing February and March plantings. I plan to start some herbs and lettuce in late February myself!

I'm also providing a link to the GCA website to encourage members to consider supporting this "Native Plant Month" effort:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JbaDqycFHV-RSjV68_JFAFeH6LrMU2Tx/view

Let's hope the groundhog doesn't see his shadow!

~ Kathy M.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

If you did not make it to the Photography Conference, you can catch the three presenters on the GCA website. Go to the Members Area and click on Conferences and Events. Find the Photography Conference block and click on. The three presenters are available to watch. There you can explore iPhone photography, the Still project and a New England photographers' exhibit. You can also scroll down and access handouts from the presenters.

~ Lynn Johnson



MIDDLETOWN GARDEN CLUB MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2023:

President Holzberg called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm at the CT Forest and Park headquarters. She introduced and welcomed our guest, Tisha Ferguson, an active volunteer with the Pollinator Pathway group.

After thanking the hostesses, Maria read a letter from Anne McCloskey, requesting a change from active to affiliate status. Club members expressed their gratitude for all Anne's work, especially on the recent flower show, and approved her change of status.

Kathy Meyering and Jane Harris read letters nominating and seconding Lynne Garner's membership in the club. The nomination was approved unanimously.

Mary Xenelis reported that IRS donation letters have been sent to club members, reminding them that they are responsible for providing receipts for their expenditures on behalf of the club.

Edwina reminded members to read the descriptions of Founders Fund nominees; the entire club membership needs to

vote for their selection of winner and runners-up.

Lynn Johnson reported that the sale of wreaths, almond cakes, and other holiday decorations at the Wadsworth Mansion netted the club \$3,538, of which \$828 was from the almond cakes.

Jane reminded the club that Juanie Flagg will turn 100 on May 9 of this year. A committee was formed to explore a celebratory event.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 pm, followed by a winter seed-sowing workshop led by Kathy Meyering.

~ Jane Harris, Recording Secretary



FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW TICKETS:

It is time to order your discount tickets for the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show. Orders must be received by **February 10th**. Tickets may also be ordered online by visiting ctflowershow.com, clicking on discount tickets and using the code **gateway**. The online order will ask you to register so your ticket can be sent to you. The code will not be requested until the end. There is a small service charge, but you will still save almost \$5 by ordering early. Be sure to visit the membership table to chat with members of the FGCCT Board of Directors. We look forward to seeing you in February.

CONSERVATION/NAL:

Have you registered yet for the virtual NAL? This event is later than usual – from March 12 – 15. The virtual Education Day is Monday, March 13, and will feature a large array of informative speakers, experts in their fields. Among the speakers are Jennifer Morris, CEO of The Nature Conservancy and Sam Hodder, President and CEO of Save the Redwoods League. This virtual event is free and open to all members of GCA clubs.

“From December to March,
there are for many of us three gardens:
the garden outdoors,
the garden of pots and bowls in the house,
and the garden of the mind’s eye.”

~ Katharine S. White



This letter was received from a Federated Club in the Litchfield area.

As mentioned below, you can send this to your State Representative, as well as any members serving on the Environment Committee.

Are you concerned about invasive plants that are taking over our yards and wild places?

Good news. State Representative Cindy Harrison has just introduced **Proposed Bill No. 5278 – An Act Concerning Efforts to Combat Invasive Plants.**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-05278-R00-HB.PDF>

The proposed bill includes three (3) important points that could help our towns:

1. Add plants already banned by neighboring states to CT's Invasive Plant List. (invasives don't recognize borders).
2. If invasive plants like Japanese Barberry and Burning Bush continue to be legally sold, require them to be labeled with a warning of their invasive potential.
3. Require the CTDEEP to develop outreach to educate the public of environmental harm caused by invasive plants and how to properly remove invasives.

It is so important for our legislators to hear from us. Please take a moment to email your local legislators Otherwise, other business gets their attention.

SAMPLE LETTER:

Dear Representative _____ / Dear Senator _____

Please support Proposed Bill 5278 - An Act Concerning Efforts to Combat Invasive Plants.

I am very concerned about the invasive plants that have invaded our town open spaces, parks, and residential properties. Volunteer groups and private landowners battle invasives year after year with no support from state agencies. Homeowners are overwhelmed by many invasive species that smother valuable shrubs and trees and we need help. To make matters worse, many invasive plants are still legally sold without a warning. Please do what you can to help Rep. Cindy Harrison bring this issue to the Environmental Committee's attention with the hope of getting some effective legislation passed.

Thank you very much for your support.