



April 2025

REMINDER:

The April meeting will take place at 1 pm on Thursday, the 17th, at CT Forest & Parks.

CALENDAR:

Thursday, April 17, 1 pm: Business meeting, followed by flower arranging fun!

April is Native Plant Month!

Friday, April 25, 10 am: Arbor Day Celebration at Wadsworth Mansion

Sunday, April 27-29: GCA Annual Meeting, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Happy Spring!

Despite the blustery winds and chill of the past months with the coming of April snowdrops, crocus and grape hyacinths appear followed by dancing daffodils, periwinkle blooms and forsythia. Don't forget those happy smiling pansy faces! April is also the season to start planning to get your hands dirty. Whether it's

uncovering the hidden treasures in your gardens, planting the rooftop garden or filling flower urns around town, embrace April! AND may April showers truly bring May flowers.

XO -- Kim



PROGRAM:

We will have a floral design workshop at our April 17th meeting. The focus of the workshop is to create a budget-friendly array of spring greens and early blossoms from our own gardens and yards.

Mid-April may not be the easiest time of the year to harvest from our gardens, but who wouldn't enjoy a lovely container of spring inside our homes? Kate Coley will offer design pointers. Also, for those who want an added challenge, Kate has suggested that we could use Monet's painting, "Beach at Trouville," as a design inspiration.

Please bring a container; a floral cage, frog, or other stem holder; snippers; and, of course, your plant materials.



~ Lynne and Judy

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20TH MEETING:

Vice President Kathy Meyering called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm and invited the program committee to introduce our guest speaker, Leigh Whittinghill, a research scientist at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station.

Following Dr. Whittinghill's highly original presentation on the use of plastic kiddie pools to grow cucumbers, Kathy thanked both Dr. Whittinghill and host and hostess, John Bell and Christina Wasch who provided an array of snacks and beverages.

The minutes of the March meeting and the March Treasurer's report were unanimously approved.

There being no outstanding business, she proceeded to committee reports.

Committee Reports:

Archives: The scanning continues – Kathie reports she is up to 1984.

Civic Improvement/Founders Fund: Laney and Kathy passed out ballots for the Founders Fund vote: the Little Garden Club of Rye's Marshlands Conservancy project, was the winner of our club's vote.

Conservation/NAL: Members were reminded to keep lights out at night for the benefit of migrating birds and insects, and to postpone garden clean-up as late as possible.

Finance: Lynne announced that she has purchased a new credit card device, which will improve our sales at the annual Holiday Boutique, as well as allowing members to charge dues at the May meeting. She has worked with the Finance Committee to make our club funds more accessible and is currently looking for input towards the 2025-2026 budget.

Flower Arranging: Kate reminded us that Fine Art & Flowers will be held at the Wadsworth Atheneum April 25 – 27.

Pollinator Pathway: Kathy asked whether members might be available to prepare the Harbor Park Susan Wasch Garden for spring. The consensus was that Saturday, April 26th would be the best day. Kathy will try to get buy-in from the Parks Department.

Program: Lynne and Kate explained the flower arranging workshop planned for the April meeting. Kate suggested the Wadsworth Atheneum's Monet painting, "The Beach at Trouville" could be the

inspiration for those who want an additional challenge.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: S. Allison, L. Bank, J. Bell, K. Coley, S. Cornish, T. Ferguson, L. Garner, K. Green, J. Harris, R. Higgins, L. Johnson, R. Kelley, O. McLaughlin, K. Meyering, E. Ranganathan, R. Rickenback, R. Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, C. Wasch

Excused: E. Carella, N. D'Oench, M. Giamei, M. Kalayjian, E. Ranganathan, M. Roberts, K. Wuestefeld, M. Xenelis

Guests: Michelle Berlinghoff, Krishna Winston, Anna Duer

~ Jane Harris, Recording Secretary



FROM THE TREASURER:

Reminder that club dues of \$150.00 are due in May. If you want to pay by credit card there will be a \$4.00 fee to cover the square charge. Otherwise cash or checks made out to Middletown Garden Club are fine.

Committee Chairs are asked to send Lynn Johnson (lajsail235@gmail.com)

their budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year 2025-2026.

A separate report will be emailed, updating the work of the Finance Committee.

~ Lynn



CHC ROOFTOP GARDEN

Much discussion of soil and water conditions led to Nat Holmes (CHC) promising to get the watering schedule for the group.

Lynne Garner proposed using moisture/water gauges for the beds to determine saturations. It was agreed that would be helpful.

Lisa Christensen of MARC has funds available for use through a grant. She suggests we think about ways to use the funds for rooftop garden improvement. Lisa has a new assistant who should be around to help up on the rooftop. Her crew will begin helping on May 8 on the rooftop.

Sources of seeds and plants will include the Heritage Market in Wethersfield, and Johnny's Select Seeds. Chantal Foster will pick up tomatoes from Gotta's Farm. It

was decided that hybrids were best (good producers), with a few cherry tomato plants added, for a total of 8 plants.

Chantal has onions for planting and she will coordinate with Nat Holmes of CHC for access to plant them.

Onions, leeks, and potatoes will be in a new bed this year, swapping them with last year's tomato bed.

It was determined that we need to replenish the soil each year in the beds.

May 1 at 10 a.m. will be the 1st day for the rooftop work.

During harvest season there will be two pickings/week so veggies don't over-ripen. We are open to new recruits for the weekly work.

~ Stephan Allison, Rooftop Chair



NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND LEGISLATION:

This year was very successful, with attendees from 40 states and a roster of impressive speakers. The delegates from Zone II met with Sen. Blumenthal, Rep.

Himes, and staff of Sen. Murphy, and Reps. DeLauro, Hayes and Larson, to express our support for key environmental legislation and full funding of conservation measures in the upcoming budget.

~ Tisha Ferguson



QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

Lunch outside is the measure of good weather in Spring. The first day you can have lunch outside without freezing to death whilst simultaneously pretending that you're having a great time and longing for a hot fire to stand by is either a freak of climate change – or April.

~ Monty Don