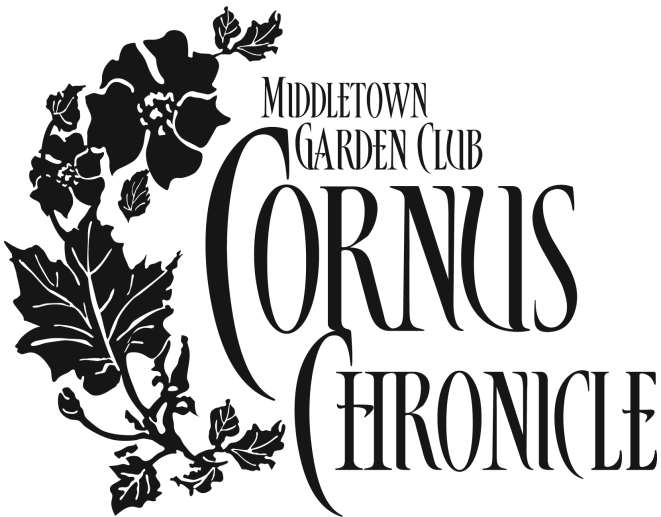


November 2024



Zoo

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER:

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.

December 2nd: Wreath Workshop at CFPA, 9 – 1

December 8th: Holiday Bazaar at Wadsworth Mansion, 10 – 2.

December 19th: Holiday party at Wadsworth Mansion, 6 – 9.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

November greetings –

I expect you’ve been spending your days gathering with friends, planning your final harvests and spring plantings, and putting your gardens to bed for the winter. Perhaps you’ve attended talks on fungi or changing shorelines, watched an environmental film or listened to webinars on pollinator backyard habitats.

REMINDER:

The November meeting will take place on Thursday, the 21st at the CT Forest & Park headquarters in Middlefield at 1 pm.

Many of our committee chairs and I attended a GCA Zone II meeting in October where we exchanged lots of ideas and information that will be shared in the months to come. I can relay that the primary discussions in the presidents’ meeting concerned the GCA’s wish that the clubs host a GCA or club flower/photography show. These shows also promote the GCA judging program. The presenting of photos taken on our October trip to RTP Estuary Center at our November meeting will be a great experience for those who may wish to participate in a show in the future.

November also marks the beginning of the holiday season. I hope everyone has ordered wreaths from Ona (and almond cakes from Lynn). Please plan on attending our December wreath workshop to support our ONLY club fundraiser. Have fun showing off your creative garden club talents! ~ Kim



MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18th, 2024, BUSINESS MEETING:

President Kim Wuestefeld called the business meeting to order at 10:55 am at the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center in Old Lyme, following a presentation on bird migrations and a tour of the grounds.

The September meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote on motions and seconds by Elaine Carella and Kathy Meyering. Because of the transition from outgoing Treasurer Mary Xenelis to Lynn Johnson, no Treasurer's Report was received.

President's Report: Kim thanked Program Co- Chairs Lynne Garner and Judy Schoonmaker for organizing the program and tour of the grounds of the RTP Estuary Center, and the lunch to follow at the Florence Griswold Museum.

She gave a brief overview of the Zone II meeting in New Haven on the 17th. She also reminded members to send in their wreath and cake orders promptly, and to plan to attend the wreath workshop on December 2nd at CT Forest & Parks.



Committee Reports:

Conservation/NAL: Plans are afoot to convert Connecticut's Native Plant Month into law rather than just a proclamation. There is also support for banning neonicotinoids in the state.

Federated: There will be a workshop on light pollution on November 14th.

Horticulture: The Gavel Challenge Scabiosa seeds will be distributed at the November meeting.

Photography: A chairman is needed to replace Lynn Johnson.



Hospitality: Hostesses and hosts are needed for the April and May meetings.

Visiting Gardens: Keep an eye out for GCA interest lists as several trips are planned.

New Business: Laney reports that the garden in memory of Maria Holzberg is progressing well; she will email a plan that was designed by Nancy DuBrule.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 pm, followed by lunch on the veranda of the FloGris Museum.

ATTENDANCE: S. Allison, L. Bank, E. Carella, K. Coley, N. D'Oench, T. Ferguson, L. Garner, K. Green, J. Harris,

L. Johnson, R. Kelley, K. Meyering, M. Roberts, J. Schoonmaker, K. Wuestefeld

EXCUSED: J. Bell, E. Dzialo, M. Giamei, R. Higgins, M. Kalayjian, O. McLaughlin, P. Mylchreest, R. Rickenback, M. Xenelis

~Jane Harris, Recording Secretary

PROGRAM:

The November meeting will feature an in-house photography show. Members are asked to print out one or more nature photos, either from the October visit to the RTP Estuary Center, or some other Zone II site. Photos should be 8 x 10, unmounted. Also, please be sure to bring your cellphone, your GCA website login and password -- we will take photos of members who do not currently have pictures in their profiles. There will also be a demo of the new Connections feature. We will select photos to submit for the April eNews issue, which will include submissions from Zone II.

~ Lynn and Judy

ROOFTOP GARDEN:

The rooftop garden has been put to bed! Many thanks to all who participated in this, our 12th season. The committee met on November 4th at Chantal's home to plan for the 2025 season.

~ Stephan, Rooftop Garden Chair

HORTICULTURE:

They're Here! The Gavel Challenge for the Zone II meeting in September 2025 is the 'Black Knight' Scabiosa. It is a tall

annual (perennial in Zone 10 and warmer).



Growers can do one seed planting in March, and another in May. Keep track of everything you do, beginning with the planting and date. I will check whether this is an organic growing situation and let the growers know.

If more seeds are needed, Johnny's Selected Seeds will have them after December 25th. The address is 955 Benton Ave., Winslow, ME 04901, or www.Johnnyseeds.com.

The seeds given out on October 17th were germination-tested at the end of May with 86% germination rate.

Directions will be included with the seeds. Please let me know at the meeting if you want to participate.

~ Kathie Green, Hort Chair

HORTICULTURE, PART II

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

MEMBERSHIP:

Anna Duer, a prospective member who is currently a Pollinator Pathway volunteer, will be attending the November meeting as a guest. I know we will do our best to make her feel welcome.

In an effort to expand our membership and make our club more inclusive to new members, we are still considering some alternatives to our monthly meeting time. From the response to the questionnaires that I passed out at our September meeting, it was clear weekends were not popular, so those are off the table! There was some openness to a later afternoon meeting time and for some of our members, any time was workable (thank you!)

At the Zone II meeting last month, many other clubs reported success with alternating meeting times (e.g., alternating every other month between a morning/afternoon meeting and an early evening meeting.)

I will bring forward some new alternatives to our current meeting schedule at our November meeting.

~ Kathy Meyering



OLD SAYBROOK HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR, DECEMBER 7, 2024

Bonnie Penders has invited our club to participate in the Holiday House Tour in Old Saybrook on Saturday, December 7. Registration is [here](#). Advance tickets are \$35, or \$40 on the day of the tour. The houses will be open from 10 am to 3 pm, and vans will take visitors from house to house. Tickets may also be purchased at various businesses and the O.S. Historic Society.

~ Debby Shapiro

“The thinnest yellow light of November is more warming and exhilarating than any wine they tell of.” ~ Henry David Thoreau



Our very hospitable host and hostess at the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center accommodated this photo-op in indoor comfort.