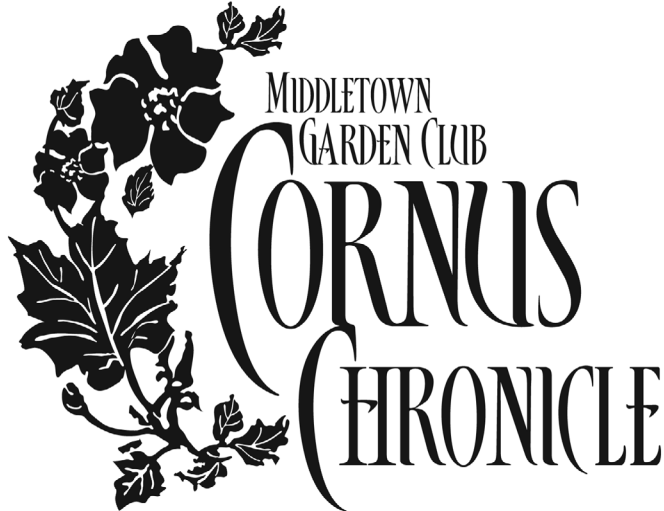




September 2025

REMINDER:

The September meeting will take place at 1 pm on Thursday, the 18th at Ron McCutcheon Park in Middletown.

CALENDAR:

Wednesday, September 3, 10 am,
weeding party at Harbor Park

Thursday, September 18, 1 pm, MGC
business meeting at Ron McCutcheon
Park

Thursday, September 18, 11 am, Shirley
Meneice Virtual Horticulture Conference

Thursday, September 25, 8 am, GCA
Zone II Annual Meeting in Narragansett,
RI

Wednesday, October 8, 5:30 pm,
Rockfall Foundation's 90th anniversary
celebration, Long Hill Estate

Friday, October 17, 9:00 am, Leadership
Council Meeting, Jones Auditorium,
CAES, New Haven



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

September greetings --

Goodbye summer; welcome autumn!
Get out your corduroys, flannels and
fleeces. Make plans as you tidy up your
gardens, plant your bulbs and prepare
for the change of season.

We last gathered in May for our annual
meeting. Thank you to Marcia for
hosting and thank you to all who helped
make it a wonderful (albeit soggy) event.
Special congrats to our award recipients:
Kat, Krishna and Alain, and especially
Rhea, Nancy, and Judy!

During our summer hiatus I hope you
were able to visit the gardens of friends
and neighbors, attend a flower show or
two, have lunch with friends, travel with
family and especially gather to celebrate
the lives of those special to you.

Meanwhile, members of a few
committees have been busy: some have
been planting, tending and harvesting
veggies, some have been working out
various club issues and others have been
planning our meeting programs.

Another group of members has been
working on updating our website. It
needs to be clear to the community and
any prospective member what our

mission is and has been. Which club activities did you enjoy and which do you think should be shared on the website? What activities would you like the club to pursue in the future?

We'll be handing out a questionnaire at our first meeting so you can share your thoughts.

See you at McCutcheon Park on September 18! Don't forget to bring plants to include in the club plant exchange. 😊
XO ~ Kim



MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2025 BUSINESS MEETING:

On a showery spring afternoon, members of the club gathered at the home of Marcia and David Kalayjian to celebrate the end of the 2025 season, and to welcome the coming of summer. President Wuestefeld called the meeting to order as members found seats at beautifully decorated tables and admired the view of Long Island Sound. Guests for the event included Joan Filosa, a friend of Debby's, as well as awardees Alain Munkittrick, Krishna

Winston, and Katharine Owens, and each was introduced by their sponsors. On a unanimous vote, the minutes of the April meeting were approved, as was the Treasurer's report. In the absence of Kathy Meyering, Admissions Chair, President Wuestefeld asked Secretary Harris to read two letters of nomination for proposed member Michelle Berlinghoff.

The nomination was accepted unanimously and happily, and Michelle was welcomed as a new member of the club.

Treasurer Lynn Johnson asked for a vote to approve the budget for 2025-2026, which was unanimous. She also read aloud a letter from Alison Dolack, Director of Development at GCA, thanking the club membership for our gift of \$500 to the General Scholarship Fund.

On a very sad note, Nancy then announced that she had learned that morning of the death at 102 of our beloved member, Juana-Maria Flagg. A moment of silence followed.

President Wuestefeld requested that any committee reports be sent to Secretary Harris for inclusion in the September Cornus.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made at 1:25 pm. A committee headed by Patsy, Elaine, and Melissa served a sumptuous tea of sandwiches and sweets, followed by sherry and more dainties.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2025 ANNUAL MEETING:

Following the most welcome refreshments, President Wuestefeld called the Annual Meeting to order. The minutes of the 2024 A.M. were approved by unanimous vote.

Kim then turned the meeting over to Awards Chair Judy Schoonmaker, who presented the following awards: Nancy D'Oench, 53 years of membership; Krishna Winston and Alain Munkittrick, Historic Preservation Awards for their dedication and scholarship in renovating the grounds of the General Mansfield House, home of the Middlesex County Historical Society; Rhea Higgins, Club Appreciation Award, and Katharine Owens, Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award for her work on marine habitat pollution.

After the awards presentation, Kim announced the awarding of the Medal of Merit to Judy Schoonmaker in recognition of "her unwavering positive spirit, her leadership in all our projects and her love of our planet and its preservation."

There being no further A.M. business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Attendance: S. Allison, E. Bank, J. Bell, M. Berlinghoff, E. Carella, K. Coley, S. Cornish, N. D'Oench, T. Ferguson, K. Green, J. Harris, R. Higgins, L. Johnson, M. Kalayjian, R. Kelley, O. McLaughlin, P. Mylchreest, E. Ranganathan, R. Rickenback, M. Roberts, J. Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, C. Wasch, K. Wuestefeld.

Guests: Joan Filosa, Alain Munkittrick, Katharine Owens, Krishna Winston.

Excused: E. Dzialo, M. Giamei, L. Garner, K. Meyering.
~ Jane Harris, Recording Secretary



CHC ROOFTOP:

Unfortunately, no weight to date numbers to report this month, but we are doing well with supplying Amazing Grace with a good amount of produce, and some fine flowers as well. The stellar crew, with new additions this season, has been doing a fine job planting, weeding, and harvesting. There has been plenty to harvest, too! Basil, parsley, summer savory, some (although not as many as had been hoped for) peppers, okra, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, leeks, potatoes, green and pole beans, garlic, eggplant, cabbage, and more! We expect to continue through September and likely into October. There has been great enthusiasm by the crew in getting work done and having fun too! Here's a rundown of the crew this year ("N" denotes new member to the crew):

Lisa Christensen, from MARC with her helpers, Brittany and Sarah
Chantal Foster (community volunteer)
Jane Harris
Judy Schoonmaker
Kim Wuestefeld
Lynne Garner
Michelle Berlinghoff (N)
Deb Shapiro (N)
Elaine Carella
Joan Filosa (community volunteer) (N)
Lynn Darrow (MARC) (N)
Matt Karpel (community volunteer) (N)

Melissa Roberts
Nat Holmes (CHC staff)



Above: Lynne Garner with the pole bean tripod donated by Chantal Foster

~ Stephan Allison, CHC chair

MEMBERSHIP:

As we move into the new season we need to focus on attracting new members while building community among us all. To this end, we are going to try new times and days for some of our meetings, particularly the ones that are open to the public.

This year's first meeting is a good opportunity for our club to review our purpose and mission, to reflect on what we have done, what we are actively doing now, and what goals we have for future projects. This will help us to articulate to new and prospective members what they can expect from joining us. To help with this process, I will be sending out a questionnaire

before our meeting so you have a chance to consider your thoughts and hopes for the club. We will spend some time at the meeting collecting all your ideas and discussing the path ahead.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

~ Kathy

CONSERVATION & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Remember that bird migration is ongoing in our area – every night! Be sure to turn off your outdoor lights or replace them with yellow lights. Migration is enormously taxing for birds: we owe them the easiest flights possible!
~ Sally Cornish



HORTICULTURE ANNUAL REPORT:

At the Zone II Leadership Council last October, hort chairs from throughout the zone shared ideas for programs such as nighttime pollinators; natives that are thugs -- do we want them; keystone Connecticut species, and others.

For the Zone II A.M. in Narragansett on September 25, 2025, the Gavel

Challenge is “Black Knight,” a Scabiosa cultivar. Seeds were given to each club, and each must participate in this challenge. Mature plants are required for entry at the Zone Meeting.

Two MGC programs this year addressed horticulture topics: Dr. Susanna Kerio from CAES presented a program on mycorrhizal and other beneficial soil fungi, Dr. Leigh Whittinghill, also from CAES, explained her research on growing

cucumbers in plastic kiddie pools. The portability of the pools allows the gardener to move them around as needed for sun and shade, they save acreage and water and reduce the need for weeding.

~ Katherine W Green, Chair



“When I rise up
let me rise up joyful
like a bird.

When I fall
let me fall without regret
like a leaf.”

~ Wendell Berry