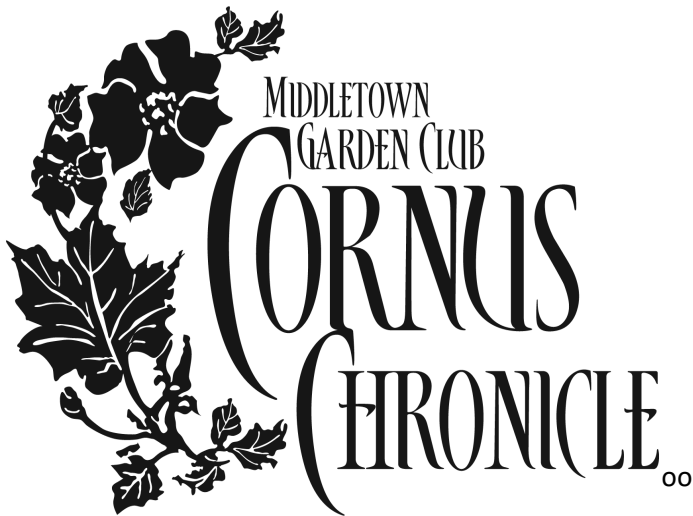


April, 2023



REMINDER:

The April meeting will take place at the CT Flower Collective at 11am on the 20th.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hi, all –

I was hoping to announce that Spring had come but then woke up and saw the snow! Soon...

We have two events in April, they are:

1. Meeting at the CT Flower Collective, 5 Cross St., Meriden Connecticut at 11 am. Come and learn about the Collective, the member farms and how you can access their plant material.

2. Field trip to the High Line, NYC; we will meet at St. Pius parking lot, the bus will leave at 8am sharp....

For further information, see below, or contact Laney Bank.

Thank you all for your attention to the details of these trips, and I will see you in May.

~Maria



**MIDDLETOWN GARDEN CLUB
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MARCH 16, 2023:**

President Holzberg called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm at the CT Forest and Park headquarters. She introduced and welcomed our guest, Stephan Allison, former Arts and Culture Coordinator for the city of Middletown.

President Holzberg reported on recent activities, including the club's blue-ribbon-winning entry in the CT Flower Show in Hartford. The team included Rhea Higgins, Kim Wuestefeld, Ona McLaughlin and Nancy D'Oench.

She reminded members of the April 26 trip to the High Line and asked for payments to be made promptly to Mary.

Further news for members: the Wesleyan Long Lane Farm is looking for volunteers to help set up their garden for this year. Members should contact Maria if interested.

Edwina and Jane conducted the vote for Founders Fund; the club voted in favor of the Butterfly and Bee Pollinator

Meadow at Chickasaw Park in Honor of Muhammad Ali.

Jane announced that Earth Day will be celebrated in Middletown on April 22 at Harbor Park, and there will be environmental speakers, including Tom Christopher, who is being sponsored by Pollinator Pathway. The club and the Pollinator Pathway group will share a table. Kathy reminded members of Daffodil Day at Long Hill Estate on Sunday, April 23, and asked for volunteers to staff the Pollinator Pathway table.

Kate asked for volunteers to design a floral arrangement for the Fine Art and Flowers event at the Wadsworth Atheneum on April 28.

Pat Murawski announced that the regular workday at the CHC rooftop will be Thursdays at 3 p, beginning about the third week in April. Please contact Pat or Jane if interested in helping.

Arbor Day is April 28, and several trees will be dedicated. The club is also a sponsor of the Rockfall symposium on climate change and trees, which will be held at MxCC on Friday, May 12.

New Business: Jane asked for assistance in getting the word out about Native Plant Month via social media. She passed around the Governor's proclamation. The GCA has prepared a series of announcements about Native Plant Month, which can be posted to Facebook and Instagram by individual clubs.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm, followed by a floral design workshop led by Leslie Martino, a Federated Floral Design judge.

Attendance: A. Albert, L. Bank, E. Dzialo, T. Ferguson, L. Garner, K. Green, J. Harris, M. Holzberg, L. Johnson, R. Kelley, A. McCloskey, O. McLaughlin, K. Meyering, P. Murawski, E. Ranganathan, J. Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, C. Wasch, K. Wuestefeld, M. Xenelis. Guest: S. Allison

Excused: E. Carella, M. Giamei, M. Roberts, D. Patrician, R. Higgins, N. D'Oench, R. Rickenback

~ Jane Harris, Recording Secretary



HORTICULTURE:

Reminder of two events coming up:

ECO fair at Harbor Park April 22, 12-3

Daffodil Festival, April 23, Wadsworth Mansion, 10-3

Check your winter sown seeds for signs of life. Once you can see some green, you can vent or remove the cover totally to expose the seedlings to some sun. Make sure to keep the soil moist!

Happy Native Plant Month!

~ Kathy M.

HIGH LINE BUS TRIP:

When: 7:45 am, Wednesday, April 26

Where: St. Pius X R.C. Church, 310 Westfield Street, Middletown

When: Bus **departs** at 8 a.m.

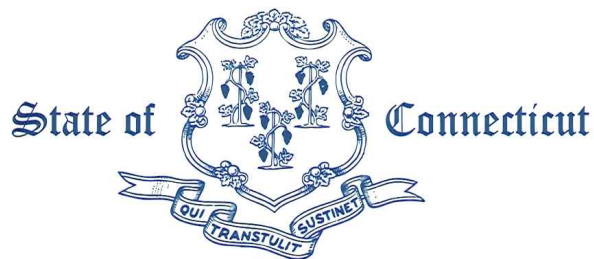
Details: Please park in the lowest lot to the left (west) of the church. Wear comfortable shoes, bring cellphones, hats, sunscreen, and water.

We will stop once for a bathroom break and will meet our High Line guide at approximately 10:30 am. Maps will be provided. After our guided tour, there will be free time for lunch at the Chelsea Market, a visit to the Whitney Museum, and/or a short walk to Little Island Park (Pier 55).

Return: We will meet our bus at 2:45 pm at 99 Gansevoort Street, in front of the Whitney Museum. Snacks, wine and water will be provided. Please bring a phone number for an emergency contact.



“We come from the earth, we return to the earth, and in between, we garden.”
~ Alfred Austin



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an
Official Statement

*W*HEREAS, native plants are indigenous species that have evolved alongside native wildlife and occur naturally in a particular geographic region, ecosystem, and habitat; and

*W*HEREAS, native plants are essential for healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems and are critical for cleaning air, filtering water, and stabilizing soils; and

*W*HEREAS, native plants are well-adapted to Connecticut's soils, temperatures, precipitation, and environmental conditions, making them the best option for conserving and protecting our environment, and adapting to its changes; and

*W*HEREAS, native plants provide food including nectar, pollen, seeds, and foliage for native birds, caterpillars, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot; and

*W*HEREAS, Connecticut is home to more than 2,427 native plant species which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and

*W*HEREAS, some of Connecticut's rarest plants are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and many native plants are protected under the Connecticut Endangered Species Act of 1989, including American Bittersweet, Yellow Lady's Slipper, Showy Aster, Creeping Snowberry, Goldenseal, White Milkweed, Prairie Goldenrod, and Eastern Prickly Pear; and

*W*HEREAS, it is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of Connecticut's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of Connecticut's fragile ecosystems; now

*T*HEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut – in recognition of the importance of native plants to Connecticut's rich biological heritage, and as a source of food for pollinators and native wildlife – do hereby officially proclaim the month of April 2023, to be

CONNECTICUT NATIVE PLANT MONTH

in the State of Connecticut.



Ned Lamont

GOVERNOR

