



REMINDERS

1. Next General Meeting –

April 12- Senior Center. Anyone who wishes can come any time from 5:30 on. Those who are bringing exhibits should be there no later than 5:45. The general meeting will start at 6:00.

Hostesses-

Carol Howard
Carrie Kugler
Jan Gardner

(It would be helpful to have a small notecard on the table to identify your appetizer or dessert)

**2. Flower Design Workshop
April 6, Library
6:00**

**3. Thursday April 27
Board meeting -
CANCELED**



Town & Country Garden Club

Newtown Connecticut

Member of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.

New England Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc

March 2023



Chris Lincoln

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This is the sunset Chris enjoyed on the deck of a place she rented recently on Anna Maria Island on vacation.

Hello, Town & Country:

I always feel that the month of March is special. Special in its unpredictability - - we never know what we're going to get. Special in its consistent changes - - change of time, (from standard to daylight), change of weather, (from the winds of winter to the welcoming fresh air of spring) and then swiftly and brutally wrenching us back again. Special in its Madness (and I don't just mean basketball). And Special in that it contains the first day of Spring. Hallelujah!! Spring brings so much more than nicer weather. It's as if this sleepy town of Newtown wakes up with new plans, spring and summer events and volunteering needs. And Town & Country is planning, too, and coming up with new ideas. Soon we'll all be rockin' and rollin' again, (Turtlenecks packed away) and back outside, in the dirt, in our gardens. It's easy to see why March is "In like a Lion, Out like a Lamb". See you all at our next meeting, on April 12th.

Chris

MARCH 8 GENERAL MEETING

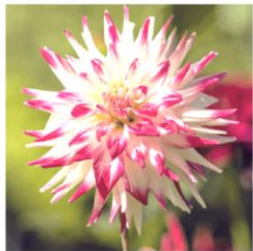
PRESENTER: Karla Dalley



Karla talked about her organic garden and how it provides food for birds.



DORIS DAY



FRIGOULET



PURPINKA



BOOGIE WOOGIE



PROGRAM APRIL 12 GENERAL MEETING



Michele MacKinnon is a UCONN Advanced Master Gardener from Sherman, CT. Her talks, presentations, and articles have inspired hundreds of area residents to dig in, enjoy their gardens, and employ methods that will help protect pollinators. She will give tips and strategies for growing beautiful dahlias.



Horticulture

Bulbs any variety

a. one stem if large



b. 3 stems if small



EXHIBITS MARCH 8

WINDS OF MARCH

ARTISTIC – Line or Line Mass Design



Judy Beers



Arline Shanley

EXHIBITS APRIL 12

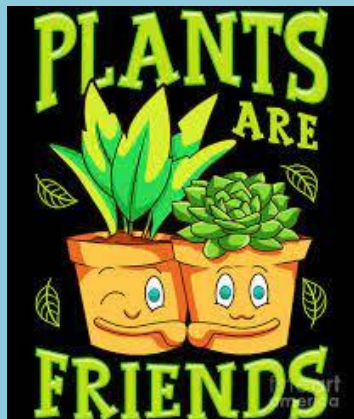
BOOT OR BUCKET

ARTISTIC – Traditional Mass Design using all fresh or dry plant material.

Characteristics: • more material than the Line or Line Mass design

- Front appearance of the design is full-bodied
- Design has closed form, but plant material is not crowded
- There is a gradual change from strong colors and large sizes of plant material at the bottom/focal area to lighter colors and smaller sizes at the top and outer edges
- Greater density of solids is needed at the focal area to hold the eye, but more slender plant material is required at the extremities of the design





newtownforestassociation.org

www.ctaudubon.org



Conservation Report – Nancy Azarro

Human beings share the planet Earth with 8 million other species of plants and animals. We have a responsibility to future generations as well as all living things to protect the environment and all living things as best we can, so that we can all thrive going forward and do all that we can to help.

One way we can help in our own backyard is by creating a wildlife friendly environment and also by trying to use all natural or organic fertilizers and pest control options. There are many products on the market to choose from. As the spring season is approaching try to plant native species of trees, bushes and plants especially those that flower and provide food sources for butterflies and small animals. Trees recycle oxygen, returning it to the atmosphere for us to breathe and by absorbing harmful gases along the way. Our Garden Club does so much already to help the community and beautify it but consider also helping our local community conservation efforts by getting involved this spring with the Newtown Forest Association which is our Newtown land trust or by supporting the Association by attending its local events. You can learn more at their website. The Connecticut Audubon Society has many interesting events which help support and encourage conservation efforts for birds in Ct.

The traditional, typical lawn can be a drain on water supplies ..think about allowing part of your lawn to go a little wild. Replace part of the lawn with vegetable or flower gardens filled with native species. Even a small wild garden can have a big impact.

Medicinal Plants and Herbs -Nancy Azzaro

Chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*) is one of several different species in the daisy family that have the common name- chamomile. It is also known as wild chamomile or German chamomile. It is best known for what is used to make the very popular chamomile tea. Chamomile tea is an herbal tea made from chamomile flower powder or it may be blended with other medicinal herbs as well. Chamomile can be grown as an herb in herb or vegetable gardens or placed in ornamental borders. It likes full sun and well-drained soil. Also, deer do not seem to like it, which is good.

The top benefits of drinking chamomile tea are it is good for relaxation, reduces anxiety, helps promote sleep, it is good for your immune system and good for your heart. Having a cup of hot chamomile tea near bedtime (along with a banana) will help you fall asleep and calm your mind.

Chamomile teas, ointments, and extracts all start with the white and yellow flower head. The flower heads may be dried and used in teas or capsules, or crushed and steamed to produce a blue oil, which is used as medicine. The oil contains ingredients that reduce swelling and may stop the growth of bacteria, viruses, and fungi.

I GOOGLED MY SYMPTOMS



TURNED OUT I JUST "NEED MORE FLOWERS"

AND WHEN LIFE BECAME TOO FRENZIED SHE CAME TO HER GARDEN

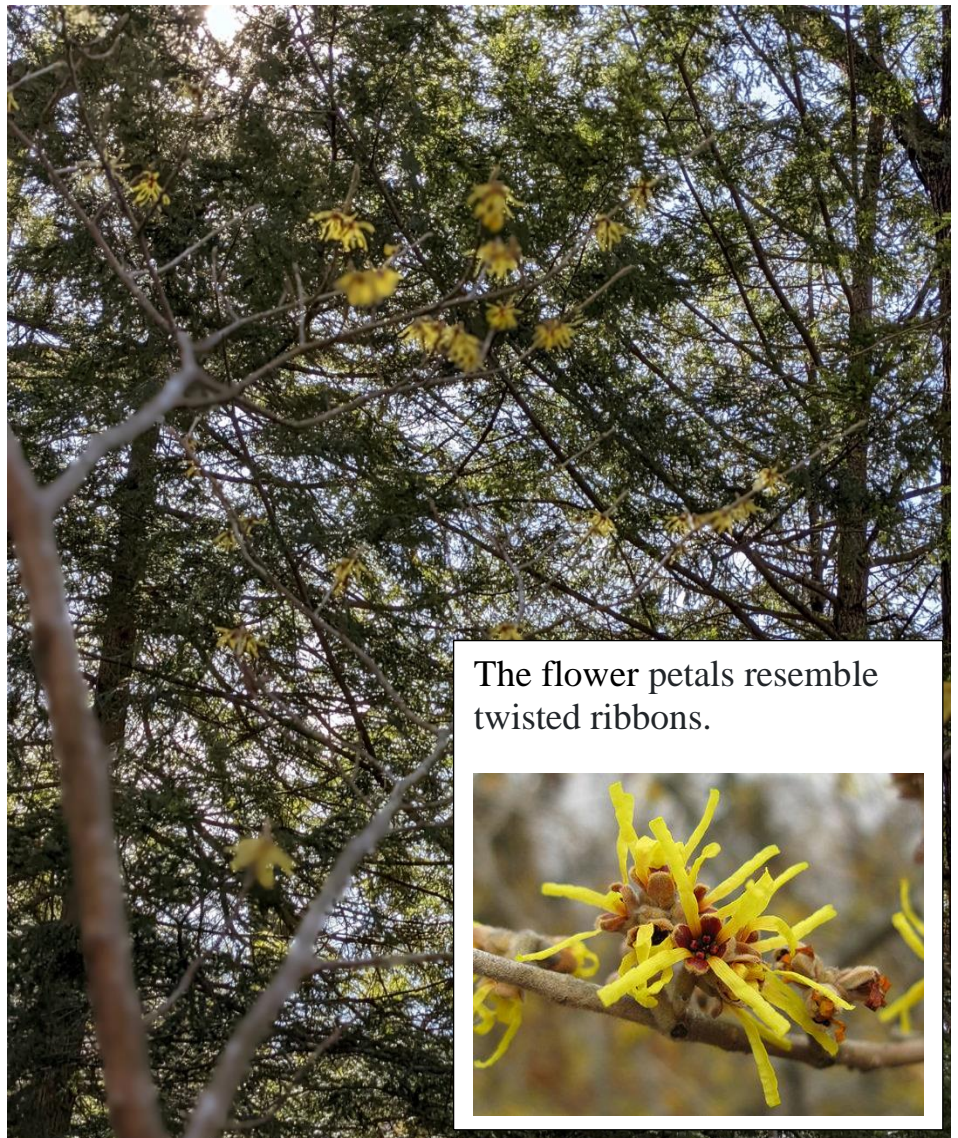


AND WHISPERED TO THE PLANTS UNTIL HER SMILE RETURNED AND HER MIND WAS CALM

This is Barbara O'Connor's American Witch Hazel- *Hamamelis virginiana* which blooms in late fall, early winter and is a native plant.

American witch hazel is a shrub or small tree with arching branches generally growing as a dense, multi-stemmed clump reaching heights of 20 to 30 feet and widths of 15 to 20 feet, however the shrub form typically does not grow over 12 to 15 feet tall. It can be pruned to keep it contained.

American witch hazel is a member of the Witch-hazel family. The genus name *Hamamelis* is Latin from the Greek meaning a kind of medlar or service tree. The species name *virginiana* refers to being from Virginia. This native grows throughout northeast and southeast North America, from Nova Scotia to Florida and from the Great Lakes to eastern Texas.



The flower petals resemble twisted ribbons.



WHAT'S COMING UP IN OUR GARDENS

I feel like I should
CLEAN THE HOUSE
So, I am going to



MY GARDEN

To play until

THE FEELING

PASSES



Mary Ellen's hellebore and crocuses



Judy Beers has daffodils coming up.



Peggy Fillion's flowers popping up.



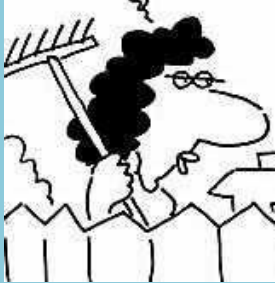
Josie Schmidt's -
purple crocus,
yellow hyacinth,
lungwort, and
daffodils



WHAT'S COMING UP ON OUR ISLANDS

Island 1

I CAN NEVER
TELL THE PLANTS
FROM THE WEEDS!



EASY



Island 2

PULL THEM ALL UP AND
THE ONES THAT GROW
AGAIN ARE THE WEEDS!



Funny little statue on a little shelf halfway up the stone sculpture.

Island 3



SPRING PLANT & GARDENING CLASSES

Ages 18 & up



HOUSEPLANTS 101 (Ages 18 & up)

Many gardeners have great green thumbs when it comes to outdoor plants, but then have a difficult time with indoor plants. Do you struggle with keeping your indoor plants healthy? Already a houseplant enthusiast? Expand your knowledge and know-how. We will cover all sorts of houseplant situations and offer advice on how to maintain and overwinter indoor potted plants (and when and what to put outside in warmer weather). From common varieties of houseplants to orchids, African violets, and everything in between, we will tackle the different challenges of indoor gardening and learn how to make your houseplants work for you!

ACTIVITY CODE: 317105 A

Monday, April 24

6:30-8:30 pm **AGE:** 18 & up **FEE:** \$39

LOCATION: Newtown High, 12 Berkshire Road

INSTRUCTOR: Nicole Christensen

BACKYARD BOUNTY - A GUIDE TO VEGETABLE GARDENING (Ages 18 & up)

You don't need to have a farm to keep a vegetable garden! In this class, we will go over what it takes to keep a great vegetable garden in our area. Learn what vegetables and herbs work best and where, when to plant and harvest throughout the entire season and what common pests and plant diseases can strike (and what to do when they do). From containers to raised beds, get ready for summer, and feed your family right from your own backyard.

ACTIVITY CODE: 317108 A

Monday, May 8

6:30-8:30 pm **AGE:** 18 & up **FEE:** \$39

LOCATION: Newtown High, 12 Berkshire Road

INSTRUCTOR: Nicole Christensen

Make these a parent/guardian & me class and plant together!

To Register:

Visit www.newtown-ct.gov/parks-recreation
or call 203-270-4340

Sponsored by Newtown Parks and Recreation Department
8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT 06470



LOOKING FOR A HAND?

Here Are Some Club Member Recommendations:

1. George Papajani-contractor, home projects-painting & repairs. licensed & insured
203-996-6643- recommended by Arline Shanley
2. IT person for computer, TV, Home phone problems & set-up-Brian Mullins 203-300-4060 - recommended by Arline Shanley
3. Mason work- sidewalks, patios, stone walls-George Pani- 203-482-5589 - recommended by Arline Shanley
4. TEED AND BROWN “Lawn Doctor”- recommended by Peg Fillion
5. Danny Casarella DMC Painting Inc.
914-623-2798 (it has a 914 exchange, but has moved to Monroe)- Barbara McCann
6. George Earl 914-384-4882 Georgearljr@outlook.com. Car service. Holly
7. Mike Bigelow 203-417-2922. Carpenter and miscellaneous small jobs. Great guy and great price – Holly
8. Dean DeLucia, Carpenter/Contractor (203) 258-1513
info@deluciaconstruction.com or ddelucia61@yahoo.com - Chris
He built her deck and 4 season sunroom.
9. Joe Butkus (203) 525-3253) Chris says he’s the best plumber.



The name represents what they do. "At Shakespeare's Garden, nature, creativity, and poetry all come together"

Regular season starts this month, March – December

Monday-Saturday: 8am-5pm

Sunday: 9am-5pm

As many of you know, Shakespeare's Garden, Town & Country's "go-to" place for all our special garden, gift, and landscaping needs, opens for its regular season in March. The best way to thank them for their continued sponsorship support, beautiful and healthy plants, shrubs, trees, and containers, hard work and professional advice, is to

- Visit (again & again) – there'll be something new each time
- Recommend them to family & friends
- Review them on your favorite review site
- Refer them whenever possible for landscaping services

There is a resident EXPERT for whatever you need: Make an appointment to meet with one of their designers. If you bring site photographs, sun/shade information and accurate measurements, they will provide you with a list of plants that will work for your landscape.



Soon, very soon, Shakespeare's Garden will have more and better Spring flowers (than anywhere else) - - ready and waiting for you to beautify your own surroundings.

Give them a call at (203) 775-2214
Or visit at 25 Obtuse Road, S, Brookfield



(203) 755-2214
25 Obtuse
Road, South
Brookfield, CT
06804



203) 426-0805
97 South Main
Street
Newtown, CT



Did you know that YOU are Royalty? Sal e Pepe's restaurant thinks you are - - or at least wants you to be. Actually, they'll treat you like royalty whether you are in the program or not but if you are, you'll experience the feeling of royalty in quite a few different and unexpected ways:

- They'll celebrate your anniversary
- They'll celebrate your birthday (& half birthday)
- They'll give you free delicious desserts
- They'll reduce your bill with discounts
- They'll give you \$5 for Lunch, \$10 for dinner

You deserve to feel special ! Go to
<http://www.salepeperestaurant.com>
And sign up for their Royalty Rewards Program.

Monday | CLOSED
Tuesday -Thursday | 4:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Friday | 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Saturday | Lunch 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Dinner 3:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Sunday | 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Enjoy a SCRUMPTIOUS Italian American Dinner at:



The Staff may even BOW when you leave!



Meet our
President

*FGCCT
President
Polly Brooks
(2021 – 2023)*

First Vice
President
Karin Pyskaty

Second Vice
President
Nan Merolla

Recording
Secretary
Kathy Feller

Treasurer
Shirley Hall

Corresponding
Secretary
Lynda Brown

Finance Officer
Terry Lubman

Parliamentarian
**Jean Stetz-
Puchalski**



The
**Federated Garden Clubs
of Connecticut, Inc.**

New Federated Garden Club Web Address
Username FGCCT and Password Charteroak*2022

Upcoming State Events

1.



[FGCCT 94th Annual Meeting](#)

April 19

Aqua Turf Club, [+ Google Map](#)

2. [‘Nibbling on Natives in Your Back Yard and Beyond’ – CT Horticultural Society](#)

April 20 • 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Emanuel Synagogue, [+ Google Map](#)

Events Around Us

1. [‘The Green Healthy Yard Project’: CT Valley Garden Club](#)

April 4 • 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Farmington Public Library, [+ Google Map](#)

2. [‘Fabulous Shrubs for the Four-Season Garden’ – Bethel Garden Club](#)

April 10 • 6:30 am - 7:45 pm

Bethel Public Library, [+ Google Map](#)

3. [‘Follow the Forest: a Climate Initiative for Wildlife’ – Pomperaug Garden Club](#)

April 11 • 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Emergency Services Building, [+ Google Map](#)