



REMINDERS

1. Next General Meeting –

March 8 - 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-

Lilleba Peterson
Margareta Kotch
Alexis Capaido
Peggy Fillion
(It would be helpful to have a small notecard on the table to identify your appetizer or dessert)

2. Thursday

March 23

Board meeting

5:30 – 7:30

Gathering Room

3. Flower

Workshop

April 6

4. Earth Day Booth

April 22



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

February 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, Fellow Gardeners!

FEBRUARY!! Brrrrr !! (not my favorite month). This year, though, except for a few days, it hasn't been *Brrrrr*, it's been *mild*. For that matter, we've had a whole winter of pretty gentle, mild weather. You may even have noticed that the tulips and daffodils are starting to pop their little heads out of the cold barren ground. UH, OH... Is that gonna' be a problem? Are they gonna' regret their early enthusiastic growth spurt? And if it stays mild, are blossoms going to start coming out on all our beautiful fruit trees and then (BAM!) get zapped by a freeze in March. I hope not - - I Hate when that happens.

Instead of enjoying the usual snow of February (albeit scarce this year) and instead of skiing up north (where at least the trails are covered), I've been a true, lazy, Netflix-watching COUCH POTATO, this February. Four weeks out from Hip replacement surgery, I'm on the mend and, more than ever before, looking forward to Spring cleaning - - outdoors, that is. It sure is a lot easier to be a couch-potato in the dreary, chilly, gray winter than it would be in the refreshing, regenerating, renewing, revitalizing Spring, which is right around the corner. So, all's good.

I hope to see you all at our March 9th meeting where we'll enjoy the program "Backyard Bird & Wildlife Gardening", presented by Karla Dalley and be discussing some exciting upcoming event plans before the end of our fiscal year. See ya there - - bring a friend.

Chris Lincoln

[Azuma Makoto's Temporary Sculptures Freeze Hundreds of Flowers on a Snow-Coated Lake](#)

On a frozen lake on the Notsuke Peninsula jutting out from the east coast of Hokkaidō, Japan floral artist Azuma Makoto has constructed the third botanical sculpture in a series called *Frozen Flowers*. The first edition was in 2019 and the second in 2021. He is interested in how temperature, wind, or snowfall can alter the surrounding environment and make every version unique.

Makoto sees how the area transforms and has seen the effects of climate change on the peninsula. He has plans to continue installing new versions of the icy blooms for years to come to document the ever-evolving environment. For more photos and information go to----

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2023/02/azuma-makoto-temporary-frozen-sculptures/>





FEBRUARY 8 PROGRAM PRESENTATION ON THE HEALTH OF OUR WATER SUPPLY



Randy Walker from the Pootatuck Watershed Association was the presenter at our February 8 meeting to raise our awareness of water quality and supply issues in Newtown. Their mission is to educate the public and engage students. Plans going forward include the following:

- Natures Book Club (HGPN+)*
- Volunteer Projects*
- River Watch*
- Social Media*
- TU Trout in the Classroom*
- Form Coalitions with like*

March 8 Program: “Backyard Bird and Wildlife Gardening”



Karla Dalley, an accomplished and experienced gardener, lecturer, columnist, coach, book reviewer, teacher, and author of the organic blog "Gardendaze" will be presenting "Backyard Bird & Wildlife Gardening," on March 8. She believes that gardening for birds and wildlife doesn't have to be complicated or difficult. What both of them need are food (preferably provided by plant sources) and water, whether a birdbath, fountain, or small pond. You can also do more

by providing places to nest and raise young and places to shelter from predators.

Her backyard is certified as a Backyard Habitat by both the Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection (Certification #22) and the National Wildlife Federation (Certification #34,999). She has been a totally organic gardener since 1994, is a member of the Garden Writers Association and the CT Horticulture Society. She loves gardening, nature and does her best, whenever possible, to tread lightly on the earth.

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Here are a few
chuckles.



I went to the grocery store, and they now have a parking spot for fat guys that like to grill.



Told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.



FEBRUARY 8 ARTISTIC DESIGN – LINE OR LINE MASS



Josie Schmidt



Barbara McCann

Peg Townsend



Jane Vouros



EXHIBITS: Winds of March

Artistic – Line or Line Mass Design using all fresh or dry plant material.

Horticulture: Forced Branch, not to exceed 30 inches.

How to Force Branches

Place the branches in lukewarm water for several hours to overnight. The next day, switch them to a vase, filled with warm water and floral preservative. Move the vase of branches into a cool place with no direct sunlight until the buds start showing color. Then move them to an area with bright indirect light for more quality flowers. Re-cut and crush the ends of the branch every few days for longer-lasting blooms. To prevent bacteria from forming, change the water every 1-2 days. It will also help speed up the flowering process if the air is relatively humid. If it's not, mist the branches every few days to provide some moisture.

Flowering blooms should appear in a few weeks depending on the variety. The branches of forsythia seem to take the least amount of time.

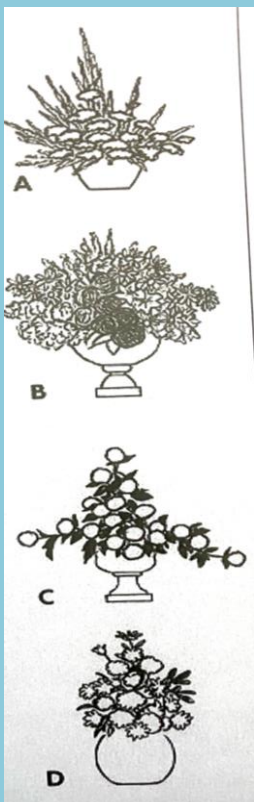
Forsythia Branches

<https://shiplapandshells.com>

Cherry Blossom Branch



LINE MASS





One of our fundraising plans for this year is to have a booth at the Middle School for Earth Day on April 22. We also just found out that we were one of the winners of Newtown Earth Day Grants that we applied for and were awarded \$625.



WAYS AND MEANS

Our committee met on February 15, and we have several fundraisers planned. But why put so much effort into fundraising when we have \$6,000 in the bank? Here's why.

Our annual operating budget is about \$5,500, give or take. We collect dues of about \$1,440, which leaves us with an annual shortfall of about \$4,000.

As you know, our Ways and Means Committee has done a lot of fundraising in the last few years. Now we are asking for your help. Here's what you can do:

1. Volunteer to help when the club has a fundraiser.
2. Bring us fundraising ideas. We can use some new thinking.
3. If you can, join the committee.

If you have questions about the budget or the committee or anything else, ask us. Probably, other people have the same questions. And thanks in advance for your help.

Peggy Fillion, Ways, and Means Chair
Joy Kopesky, Treasurer

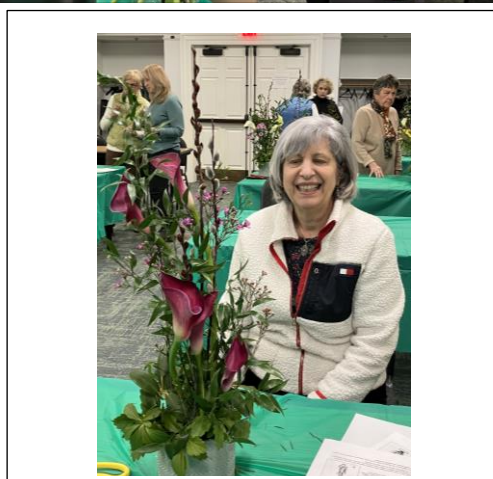


FLOWER WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 1

Arline, Peggy, Barbara O., and Margareta held a flower design workshop on February 1 at the library. Barbara demonstrated building a line design and Margareta demonstrated mass line design. After the demonstration and instructions everyone got to build their own arrangement based on what they learned.



The instructors walked around to give helpful advice.





APRIL 6 NEXT FLOWER WORKSHOP



A horizontal arrangement is low with width that is two times the height with a multitude of uses. The predominant lines are low and parallel to the plane of the horizon or the surface upon which the arrangement is placed.

This shape is perfect for home décor and suitable for dining room tables or fireplace mantels.



On April 6 at the library Arline Shanley, Barbara O'Connor, and Margareta Kotch will hold a second workshop and this time will demonstrate how to make a horizontal design which can be used for a spring dining room table. As we did for the last workshop, if you are interested, please send your \$15 check addressed to The Town & Country Garden Club to Joy Kopesky, P.O. Box 15 Hawleyville CT 06440. The team needs to purchase supplies, so please send your check asap so that they can get a head count. You will receive flowers, greens, an oasis block & a container so you can make your design. Everyone had a great time at the last workshop...hope you'll join us again or for your first time.

Thanks, Arline, Barbara O., and Margareta



OUTREACH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES THIS SPRING



March 26: Invasive plants removal outing at Holcomb Forest (more details to come)

April 22: Loose the Litter Day - sponsored by the Newtown Lions Club
Place: meet in front of Middle School Time: 9:00AM

Wear your Garden Club shirt. Bags and gloves will be provided if needed. We can all go and pick up litter at our 3 islands and ask for an assignment or do your own neighborhood.

April 22: Earth Day Celebration... (more details to come)

***Spring Reawakening of the Fruit Trail** at Fairfield Hills sponsored by Park & Rec.
Place: Fairfield Hills Fruit Trail... (more details to come)

***Spring Cleanup at Unawakened Meadows** - sponsored by NYFS
Time: 9:00 - 11:30AM... (more details to come)

***Spring Clean Up with Habitat for Humanity** and Brush with Kindness will be taking place April thru May... more details to come

***May (no date yet): Orchard Hill Clean Up (Lions Club)**

September (no date yet): Health Fair

Remember to wear your Garden Club shirt at any of these volunteer programs. If you wish to sign up for any of these programs, Send an email to: gaildiminico@mac.com or jgardner819@gmail.com

For more information on any of these outreach events - go to: newtownnc.galaxydigital.com



Real Food CT Master Gardeners Sean Fitzpatrick and Nancy Zychek are returning this season to take you through the steps for a successful home garden. To make things more accessible, they will be hosting a virtual (Zoom) series every other Tuesday evening up until Memorial Day.

Topics will include:

- Planning Your Garden
- Preparing Your Planting Spaces
- Special Additions (pollinators, fruit bushes/trees)
- flowers, etc.
- Seed Starting and Maintenance
- Spring and Summer Plantings
- Harvest and Succession Planting

7 Class Series

First Class will be Tuesday
February 21st, 7pm (until 7:45 or so)

MAR 7, 2023 – 7pm

MAR 21, 2023 – 7pm

APR 4, 2023 – 7pm

APR 18, 2023 – 7pm

MAY 2, 2023 – 7pm

MAY 16, 2023 – 7pm

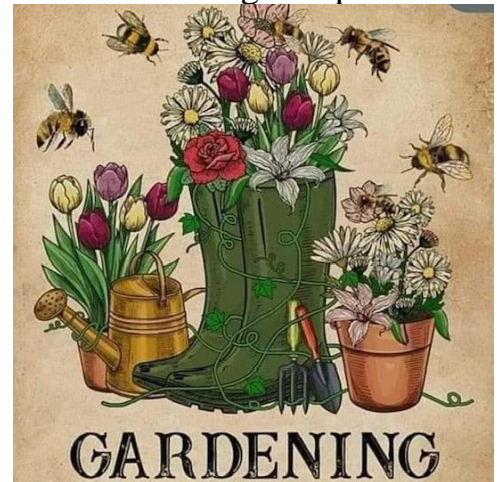
<https://realfoodct.kindful.com/e/grow-your-own-workshop-series-2023>

I don't think the therapist is supposed to say "wow," that many times in your first session but here we are.

Margareta said that her Christmas amaryllis got a late start but is in full bloom now !



Gail found this great quote.



It grounds us...gets us out of our busy heads and back into our bodies. Alone there on our knees, we can breathe.



Nancy Azzaro took this shot in Southwest Florida. You can see the bee dancing around the hibiscus flower.





MARCH GARDEN TIPS FROM UCONN HOME & GARDEM

1. Start seeds of annual flowers and vegetables that require 10-12 weeks of growth before transplanting such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant.
2. Plant seeds of cold weather vegetables such as spinach, peas, lettuce, and broccoli as soon as the soil is workable.
3. Also, as the ground becomes workable, de-thatch any areas of the lawn that have an inch or more of thatch, then reseed any bare spots.
4. Consider putting in raised garden beds in any areas where the soil is especially poor, compacted or does not drain well.
5. Plant cool-season annuals like pansies, snapdragons, and calendulas at the end of the month if the weather permits.
6. Carefully remove winter mulches from planting beds as the snow melts and the temperatures warm.
7. Save plastic milk jugs or 2-liter bottles to use for small garden plants, when needed. Remember to remove them for watering or if the temperature rises.
8. Prune apple and pear trees as well as blueberry bushes during mild spells. Prune raspberries canes to the ground now.

For more information, please visit the [UConn Home & Garden Education Center](#) or call 1-877-486-6271.

OUR SPONSORS



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

February
Hours: Thurs.-
Sat. 8-5
Sun. 9-5
25 Obtuse Rd. S.
Brookfield, Ct
(203) 775-2214



Above, meet Steve and Mark Fancher, owners of Shakespeare Gardens, our favorite (by far) garden center. They are both a WEALTH of knowledge and, right now, are a lot less busy than usual. This might be an ideal time to stop in (or email them) with your questions, shrub or tree replacement plans, container ideas or landscape-design problems- - and get a jump start on Spring. They have the answers that you need, and now, when it's quiet, would be happy to share them with you.

It takes a lot of work, knowledge, dedication, passion - - and sweat - - to be able to offer everything we need and want for all three growing seasons.

Or just stop in for their Barn Gift Shop, where Mark's experience, shopping sense and research, and excellent taste provides unique treasures that you don't see anywhere else.



**SHOW THIS COUPON FOR A
10% DISCOUNT**

On all plant products

**From Shakespeare's Garden To
Town & Country Garden Club**







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



Angelo Marini, Sal e Pepe’s Owner, and his staff, above, are waiting for you to visit for a special Saturday lunch or an any evening dinner. The deck, of course, is not open in this chilly February weather but all the important things, - - the enticing aromas, the friendly and efficient service, the warm and welcoming ambiance, the relaxing atmosphere, and the off-the-chart dishes- - are waiting for you. Some of these (BRRRRR !!) February days are tough. Angelo and his staff are ready (with their warm welcome) when you need a break.

I visited recently with a table of six friends. Everyone was very pleased and completely satisfied with their delicious choices and stressed that they “couldn’t eat another thing.” But I, as a rewards member, had a coupon for a FREE DESSERT. UH, OH, we couldn’t resist. The Drunken Cherries was the choice- - *Vanilla ice cream topped with grappa infused Italian sour cherries, chocolate sauce and whipped cream* - - which was passed around the table four (4) times (separate spoons, of course), devoured, raved about, and exclaimed to be the best dessert we’d ever had, even though “we couldn’t eat another thing”. *Just Splendid!* You MUST try it the next time you’re in.

Sal e Pepe Italian Bistro

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

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

Chris Lincoln

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 Georgeearljr@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.



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.

State Events : 41st Annual CT Flower Show

February 23 • 10:00 am - February 26 • 8:00 pm

Club Member Participants

Peg Townsend won five first place blue ribbons, including the Newtown Garden Club group entry showing seven species of boxwoods on driftwood base. Her half-moon arrangement earned an Honorable Mention.



Margareta Kotch entered a branch of Norway Weeping Spruce in Class Picea in the Horticulture Division. She received a yellow ribbon, third place.

Events Around Us:

1. 'Gardening for a Healthier Planet' – Bethel Garden Club

March 1 • 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

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

2. 'Lawn Care': North Haven Garden Club

March 9 • 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

North Haven Congregational Church, + [Google Map](#)

3. 'Edible Landscaping' – Pomperaug Valley Garden Club

March 14 • 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

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