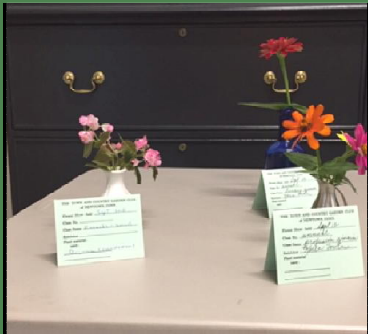




Annuals brought as horticulture exhibits for the September meeting.



Town & Country Garden Club

Newtown Connecticut

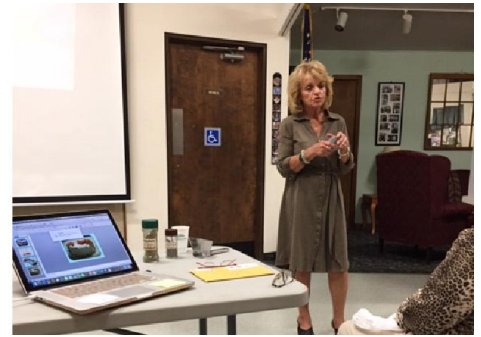
Member of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.

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

September 2018

Opening Meeting September 12

Our first monthly meeting was held at the Newtown Senior Center on September 12. The meeting began with refreshments giving members time to chat. Then at 7:00 we were treated to a wonderful presentation and slide show about cooking, baking and garnishing with fresh herbs and edible flowers by Gini Mita, president of the Wallingford Garden Club. After her presentation someone suggested that she put all of her wonderful ideas down in a cookbook, and Gini said that she has been considering it.



ARTISTIC DESIGN

This month members were challenged to bring in an angular design inspired by the Litchfield Jazz festival. Since this is a brand-new type of design from the 2017 *Handbook for Flower Shows*. There was no judging. Sandy Motyka just gave positive feedback on each of the designs.

Barbara O'Connor



Sandy Motyka



Marianne Muskus



Calendar of Events

10/10

Town and Country Garden Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Newtown Senior Center.

Hostesses:

**Emi Lydem,
Liz Arneith,
Ena Higgins
Carole Hoffman**

10/24

Awards Meeting and luncheon at the Aqua Turf

From 9-10 watch members of the Judges Council create original designs utilizing new Featured Plant Material Design rules

10/25

Board meeting CH Booth Gathering Room from 6:00-8:00

Together we can Grow a Stronger Community



Dear Friends and Fellow Gardeners,

Our first meeting of the new garden club year was well attended. Everyone was inspired by our speaker to use fresh herbs and edible flowers in our meal preparations. I think we are off to a good start. Our October program looks like it will be interesting too; all you have ever wanted to know about growing gourds and creating art with them! Our fall tables will be beautiful with our new found skills. The new handbook, put together lovingly by our dear member Jane Sharpe, will guide us through this new club year. I hope many of you will try a challenge design or create your own exhibit to share at one or more of our meetings.

Dave and I just returned from a visit to Boothbay Harbor, Maine where the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens are located. It is an amazingly inspirational 300 acre treasure, which was opened in 2007. There are whimsical gardens like the Children's Garden and the front lawn with its moving sculptures, to the shade and woodland gardens and the contemplative gardens that dot the path down the hill to the river. It is a truly wonderful spot to spend the day.

Do you have your bulbs ready to plant for additional spring blooms? Yes, I'm already thinking about my

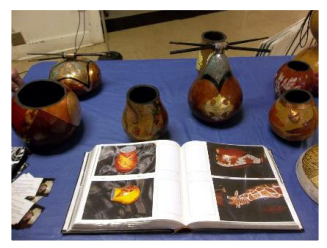
spring gardens. I am remembering that one of our speakers last year told us how honey bees love crocuses so I will be adding more of them to my gardens this fall. Whatever you do to prepare for next spring I'm sure it will be a rejuvenating experience.

In the meantime don't forget our fall projects that benefit our town. Our fall island planting in early October, The Lions Club Great Pumpkin Race on October 20th, and the Victorian breakfast in early December with our teapot arrangements that benefit Newtown Youth and Family Services. And don't forget the December lighting of the tree at Ram's Pasture, the Library Holiday Tree and the Historical Society house tours during the Holiday Weekend for which many of our members are docents.

I am thankful for the changing seasons and the events that take place in our community. I hope you all will enjoy the fall and winter seasons. I look forward to working with you in this new garden club year.

Judy





Ceil's work can be seen in several gallery's around Massachusetts and Connecticut, and she has won honors in several Fine Art shows. She also teaches in Avon West Hartford, and Windsor.

October Program From Field to Fine Art



Ceil Rossi will present a program about creating art out of gourds. She will explain about the different varieties of gourds and how to dry and clean them. She also will have many of her decorated gourds on display, each beautiful and distinctive.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT PLASTIC WASTE

Mary Ellen Weiner, Conservation Chair

PLASTIC, FRIEND OR FOE

.FACTS

As of 2015 more than 6.9 billion tons of plastic waste has been generated. Approximately 9% of that waste was recycled, 12% was incinerated and 79% accumulated in landfills or the environment. 700 species of marine life have been reported so far to have eaten or become entangled in plastic. Plastic is turning up in our water and food. 40% OF ALL PLASTIC IS USED JUST ONE TIME & THEN TOSSED.



LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Use reusable bags for all shopping. Use reusable coffee containers & water bottles. Decline the use of straws.

In Newtown we can discard plastic in curb side recycle bins. HOWEVER, retail bags, produce bags, packaging wraps, bread bags, zip lock bags, bubble wrap & dry cleaner wraps should not be placed in curb side pickup.

They contaminate the recycle process and get stuck in machinery. They can and should be recycled. Simply discard @ the grocery store in there plastic recycle bins

It is good to know as individuals we can have an impact on this major environmental problem by our actions and by encouraging others to do the same.



EXHIBITS: SAVOR THE BOUNTY OF THE LOCAL

ARTISTIC: Still Life - Inspiration is the farmers' market.

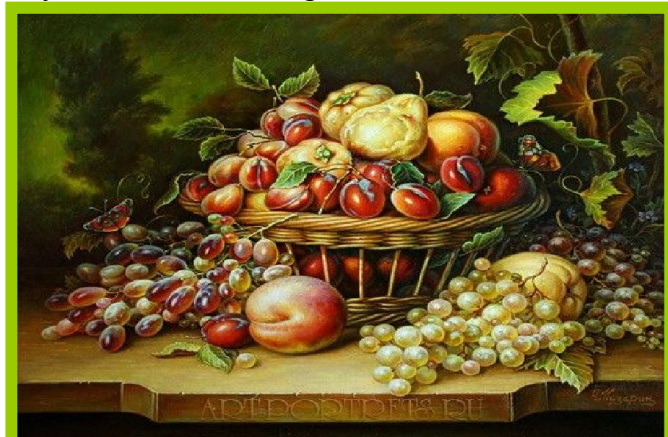
According to the new 2017 Handbook for Flower Shows, a Still Life Design is a traditional or non-abstract grouping of functional and realistic objects and plant material with a theme – in this case the theme is: Farmers' Market.

1. Objects are more dominant and more important to the theme than plant material.
2. Plant material may or may not represent a floral design – that means you can use fruits, vegetables, flowers and foliage in the overall design but they are not necessarily put together in an arrangement such as you would do for a table setting.

So, think about how a still life painting or print is constructed. All of you who paint or draw for a hobby are familiar with setting up an interesting grouping of objects.

Since the theme is Farmers' Market, there are lots of wonderful in-season fruits and vegetables, pumpkins and gourds that can be featured with baskets, wooden boxes or crates, wire bins, signs, and greenery. Think about how you will arrange the objects in the space available so that your "picture" is nicely framed with a little space all around and that it is tall enough to look comfortable in the niche.

Seasonal produce offers you wonderful choices of interesting shapes and colors -- purple cauliflower, curly beans, exotic heirloom tomatoes! – just some of the "plant material" you can feature along with baskets or boxes or bins.



***Horticulture:**

Any annual, 1 stem if large, 3 stems if small

Just a reminder: all horticulture must be grown by the exhibitor.





Teri and John Doern celebrated 25 years of marriage on 9/19/18

If you have any newsy tidbit that you would like to share with other club members please send them to me at josieschmidtct@gmail.com and I will add it to the next newsletter.

Chris found Mr. Hoo in her yard one day last week.



Have you seen a bird or animal in your yard enjoying the garden or do you have a plant with a story? Why not send it To me for the newsletter?

"PLANTS WITH A STORY"

CROWN OF THORNS

Margareta Kotch

Crown of thorns (*Euphorbia milii*) is an evergreen succulent plant, native of Madagascar. It's popular as a houseplant and is grown in warm climates as a garden shrub.



The plant in the photo was started from a seed about 15 years ago. It's the "Great-great-grand-mother" of the original plant that my Mother gave me around 1970-ish! It is now over 4 feet tall.

From May to October it's kept outside in mostly full sun. During that time the flowers are bright reddish-pink. In the winter it is in-doors, and some leaves fall off. There are fewer flowers then, and the colors become soft pink and white. I would call this an Heirloom plant.

CANDELABRIA PLANT



If Frankenstein's monster were to take up gardening, he might find coral cactus to be his favorite plant. The melding of two succulent varieties into one unusual cactus-like plant is striking to see. The section that resembles coral is called the crest. The Fan shaped *Euphorbia lactea* is grafted on a *Euphorbia* cactus. Depending on the top crest, it may have a fan of white, red, green, yellow, or purple ruffled succulent growth on top of what looks like a medium-green "stem".

This plant that is 39" tall belongs to Marianna Maskus, who got it as a small specimen from a friend, and she has nurtured it beautifully!

Candelabra Plant (*Euphorbia lactea*), is also called Columnar coral cactus (*Lactea crest*).

FALL GARDENING TIPS

1. Leave Some Leaves

You don't have to rake all the leaves! It's OK not to rake up leaves under trees and shrubs and on sturdy ground covers (over time they become much-needed compost). However, rake those on perennial beds.

2. Protect Perennials

As perennials fade away, mark their locations with small sticks, so you don't lose them in the spring. If you haven't brought in your house plants, do it before you turn on your heat to give them time to adjust, and wash them first to get rid of pests.

3. Transplant Fruit Plants

Rhubarb, raspberries and strawberries can quickly deplete the soil of nutrients, so find new locations for them every three or four years. Transplant them well before the first light frost so they can develop roots.

4. House the Herbs

Dig up your herbs to grow inside. Keep them in a cool, sunny spot, and let the soil dry out before watering. Snip leaves whenever you need herbs in your cooking, but don't strip completely. For herbs that have grown prolifically, cut them back halfway and dry or freeze the extra, or share it with friends.

5. Hang the Tomatoes

If you have unripe tomatoes still hanging on the vine, and frost is fast approaching, pull the vines out by the roots and hang them upside down in a cool, dark place to finish ripening.

You can read all 11 fall tips at:

[Gardening Tips | Right@Home® - SC Johnson](#)



President Inge Venus invites us all to become stewards in our own communities. We can help in three major areas that continue to be of concern in supporting a healthy environment for today and for future generations. We can conserve water, assist pollinators and garden naturally.

Around us:

October 11 7:30 pm – 9:00
North Haven Garden Club:
Bobcats in Connecticut
North Haven
Congregational Church

North Haven Garden Club presents 'Bobcats in Connecticut' with Richard Taylor. 7:30 \$5 guest donation

Refreshments will be served after the program.

Contact: 203-269-2653

October 14 2:30 – 4:30
CT Audubon Deer Pond Farm: Birding Basics

Birding Basics with Jim Arrigoni, conservation botanist, will cover the use of binoculars and variety of clues that help to identify different kinds of birds.

Registration is required. 860-799-4074 or check website:

www.ctaudubon.org/deer-park-farm-programs-classes. \$5 for non

Keeping Up With What's Happening

Upcoming Events Around Our State

FGCCT Awards Meeting – "MUMS THE WORD!"

October 24 • 10:00 am - 2:30 pm *Aqua Turf Club*

Beyond Beginning Design Workshop – Tropicals & Leaf Manipulation – WAIT LIST Only

November 2 • 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

CAES New Haven, CT

Beyond Beginning Design Workshop – Inspired by Artwork – WAIT LIST Only!

November 30 • 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

CAES New Haven, CT

Nationally

New England Garden Clubs – Annual Meeting

October 15 - October 16

Water's Edge Resort and Spa

2018 Connecticut Symposium

Come a day early for the New England Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony, October 15th – 16th

All garden club members are welcome!

Come visit Connecticut at a beautiful time of year! The Symposium isn't just for judges – all garden club members are welcome! Enjoy the camaraderie of garden club members from New England and beyond as you learn about horticulture and floral design from two great NGC instructors – Penny Decker and Dot Yard."

Trish Manfredi, Connecticut Symposium Chair