



REMINDERS

1. Next General Meeting –

April 10 - 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-

Peggy Fillion
Mae Grant
Margareta Kotch
Gail Diminico

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

2. Board Meeting

April 25 5:00-7:00
Gathering Room

3. Earth Day

April 27

4. Plant Sale

May 18



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 2024



Dear Fellow Gardeners:

March Madness is not just about basketball. (GO, UConn!!). March is the month when Springtime awkwardly and occasionally tries to show up, but winter keeps throwing its unexpected temper tantrums. March often feels like the longest month of the year in New England, a dreary 31-day slog toward Spring.

But let's imagine what's going on UNDERGROUND this month. The ground is thawing, little hibernators are moving & waking, and the daffodils and crocuses are enthusiastically popping up. Winter will try to intimidate with its mean ole bluster and freezing winds, but they know, and we know, that Spring is on its way.

As the warmer days become more frequent, we'll be making plans for some upcoming events, such as Earth Day on Saturday, April 27, where we'll once more have a booth at the Middle School, a plant sale at the Library on May 18th and our usual booth at the Duck Race in June. In addition, a summer member garden stroll is being planned as well as a summer field trip.

Let's all start thinking Spring, (what and when and where to plant) and bring our thoughts & questions to the next Town & Country meeting on April 10th. See ya there.

Chris



I was born in Hamilton, Ontario, on October 16, 1963, I was 2 months old when we moved to New Jersey. My dad worked for the American Can Company and was transferred from Canada to the United States, looking back it must have been very hard for my mom to move with a new baby and a 3- and 6-year-old, I had two sisters. My mom and Dad left all their family and friends and moved to another country with three small children. I grew up in Somerset, NJ, in a development with sidewalks, streetlights and tons of children to play with, I remember having so much fun playing “kick the can” most days until it got dark

My dad got transferred again when I was 14, it was a difficult time for me, I was a sophomore in high school and pretty shy, I missed my friends but more so I missed my sisters. My sisters, Kelly and Heather were on their way to college and didn't move with us to Connecticut. When I turned sixteen I started my first job at Bradlees in the snack bar, I really enjoying working and meeting friends. I attended Western Connecticut State University (Westcon) and after graduation I worked for Reeds Department store as a manager of the children and men's departments, this was at a time when cash registers were manual so before being hired, candidates had to take a math test. When Reeds closed I took many temporary jobs which landed me at Homequity where I have worked for 35 years. I am a Regional Director working with real estate companies who assist our customers with buying and selling their homes.

I met my husband of 31 years at Homequity, Bruce is the best thing that ever happened to me. We have five grandchildren and I have three stepchildren who I enjoy visiting and spending time with, my oldest stepson, Abe, is married and lives in California and has 3 children, my middle stepson, Ian, is married and lives in Fort Myers Florida and my youngest is married and lives in Southbury and has 2 children. My youngest, Cathlin, is like a younger sister to me and was one of my bridesmaids. A lot of people we know from work (we both work at the same company) think we look alike.

My life changed when I turned 40, my best friend, my sister Kelly died of Melanoma cancer. I still think of her every day, she was the matriarch of the family always arranging family get togethers and holidays, she was the only one that could make me laugh until I cried. I am the youngest of the three and still see my older sister often, she lives in New Jersey and would come see our mom (mummy) once a month. Spending time with my mom was important to me, driving to New Jersey to visit family, going outlet shopping and taking mini vacations to the beach every year. My mom was 93 when she passed, she was a very happy person and called everyone "doll", I miss her every day.

My favorite holiday is Halloween, I love seeing all the happy kids' faces and the wonderful costumes. My favorite color is pink, I guess that's why I loved the Barbie movie and my favorite thing to do is travel. My 2024 New Year's resolution was to go some place once a month, I got off to a slow start but in February my sister and I went to NYC for the weekend, March my husband and I went to Fort Myers for my stepson's 50th birthday, April a river cruise down the Danube and May, (a birthday present from my sister), a trip to Mohawk Mountain.

I like to start the day walking my dog, Remy. It's my quiet time where I plan for the day and remind myself of all the things I am grateful for. I don't have a daily mantra, but I do remind myself to enjoy every moment, live for the day, don't wish your life away.

PROGRAM

Michele MacKinnon



*WEEDS:
Wicked
&
Wonderful*

Michele MacKinnon
UCONN Advanced Master Gardener
Accredited Organic Land Care Pro.
Garden Advice newsletter
gardenadviceguru@gmail.com
gardenadviceDOTguru



Michele talked about: Wacky Weeds, Healthy Lawns vs. Weed Balance, Weed Control and Common Weeds.

EXHIBITS March 13 Ocean

Artistic Angular Design using an angular container, angular abstraction or placement of plant materials or angle-shaped and or accessories.



**Margaretta
Kotch**

Barbara McCann

Barbara O'Connor



APRIL EXHIBITS- WATERFALL

Artistic Cascade Design using a container, stand or object to elevate the design. Tulips and calla lilies are very suitable because they bend downward naturally. Use fresh or dried plant materials.



PROGRAM



There was a change in the program, so Mike from Mikes Bees in Torrington, will discuss bees and beekeeping in place of Mark Mankin who was unable to join us.

HORTICULTUE – Flowering Bulb or Tuber

Bulb

A bulb is comprised of a plant's stem and leaves. The bottom of the bulb is a compacted stem, and roots grow from this part of the bulb. Layers of nutrient-filled leaves sit at the bottom of the bulb and surround a bud that eventually becomes the flower. Examples of bulbs are: [Tulips](#), [Lilies](#), and [Daffodils](#).



Tuber

Tubers are formed from a stem or root. They store nutrients that allow the plant to grow the following season. Shoots grow upwards from many different places on the tuber. Examples of tubers are:

[Dahlias](#), [Begonias](#), [Anemones](#)



Nancy wrote this beautiful poem, "The Hummingbird" which will be displayed on poster board along with other poems that were accepted by the library for an in-town event for Fairfield Hills for a Poetry walk event in April.



The Hummingbird

**Hummingbird, hummingbird I wait patiently for you
When will you return to me
I long to see your magical flight
I wait and watch in morning light**

**I listen for your beating wings
the humming sound your presence brings**

**The bee balm waits your return, as I do
The bee balm longs to nourish you
Do not delay, Hummingbird, we wait patiently for you.**



Nancy Azzaro

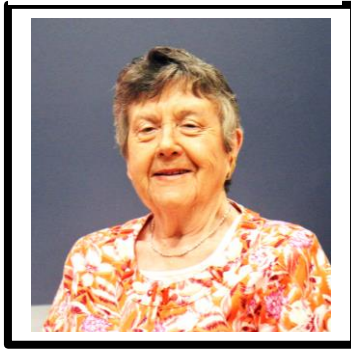


Emi Lydem had these beautiful orchids at the entrance to her home, and also a small Heron sporting his beautiful mating beak. She said, "Beauty abounds here in Naples FL."



Barbara O'Connor

ASKED AND ANSWERED –



Q: When I pot up perennials to be sold at our plant sale, should I add fertilizer?

A: Some potting soil has fertilizer in it; I wouldn't add any more. If it doesn't, a diluted solution could be used - e.g., one half the amount recommended. Organic fertilizers like fish emulsion are less likely to burn tender roots.

This is from a New York Post article. (Nancy Azzaro, Conservation Chair)

The now dreaded lanternfly season is upon Americans and officials are alerting the public on how to avoid the pesky spotted pest this summer.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) told the country to be on the lookout specifically for spotted lanternfly eggs and to destroy them immediately.

Early detection of the annoying bugs' eggs is of critical importance, according to USDA, emphasizing Americans should kill any fuzzy, brown-colored spotted lanternfly eggs that can be found on vehicles, trailers, outdoor equipment or even patio furniture.

Hatching season takes place between May and June, according to New York State Integrated Pest Management, affording time now to sniff out the spotted lanternflies' eggs before they take over your backyard or town and cause notable damage



The best way to destroy spotted lanternfly eggs is to scrape them off with a plastic card or putty knife, then either squash the eggs or drop them into a container of rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer.

[mandmpestcontro
l.com/how-to-get-
rid-of-spotted-
lanternflies-in-](http://mandmpestcontrol.com/how-to-get-rid-of-spotted-lanternflies-in-)

FLOWER WORKSHOP MARCH 27

Our second workshop of the year was held on Wednesday, March 27 at the library several members and several community members attended. After Arline demonstrated the steps of building the table arrangements participants worked on their own.

Tips For Early Spring

1. Clip off old leaves of hellebores and epimediums
2. Cut ornamental grasses before new growth begins. Leave 8-12 inches of old stubble standing above the crown to preserve new growth.
3. Wait until after spring-blooming shrubs blossom to prune them.
4. This is a good time to remove dead rose canes.
5. Rake especially where bulbs, daylilies, and peonies are planted to avoid snapping off new shoots.

www.almanac.com/15-early-spring-gardening-tasks



Barbara McCann, Margareta Kotch and Arline walked around giving the participants helpful suggestions and guidance as they worked on their arrangements.



Chris, Josie,
Judy, Teri,
Karen, and
Jan with their
finished
arrangements



**OTHER
WOODPECKERS
IN CT.**



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



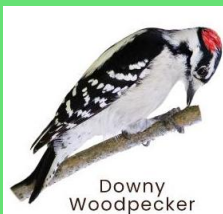
Northern Flicker



Pileated Woodpecker



Red-headed Woodpecker



Downy Woodpecker

These woodpeckers are on our suet feeder every morning, but I think they might prefer whatever is in the cut logs in my front yard.

Josie



Hairy Woodpecker



Red-bellied Woodpecker



Jane Sharpe



This is Jane's willow tree and a closeup of the pussy willows blooming.



Pussy willow is a short-lived, fast-growing, native tree or large shrub with a rounded crown. In early spring, the silky, furry catkins open before the leaves appear to signal spring is on the way.

The fact that the pussy willow bloom so early makes it a very valuable food source for wildlife. The early March catkins provide one of the first-of-the-season nectar sources for pollinators. The insects, in turn, provide a smorgasbord for songbirds.

mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/trees-and-plants/pussy-willow/



March may seem to be a long month for some of us gardeners waiting for Spring, but March is one of the busiest months for Shakespeare's Garden. You can be sure that Steve & Mark (and all of their talented staff) are hands-on and working hard to get ready for Spring and keep their business the best garden center in the state of CT.

They have something for everyone who loves gardens, plants, gifts, flowers - - and who doesn't? BUT, if you DO need a gift for someone who doesn't, you can give them a Garden-in-a-can, which includes everything you need to create your own Garden at home, complete with instructions.



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



Unique pots



Unique gifts

***25 Obtuse Rd. S. Brookfield, Ct
(203) 775-2214***

Chris



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



We, (the Town & Country garden club) feel honored to be associated with and lucky to have this exceptional restaurant- - -Sal e Pepe's Italian Bistro, in our back yard --- serving Northern Italian Cuisine with a contemporary flair to Greater Newtown - - and far beyond.

Angelo and Renia, and staff, prepare the most delicious dishes you'll ever have, the tastiest desserts you'll ever try, the finest drinks you'll never forget, gift cards, a rewards program and a welcoming, warm and friendly atmosphere. . .as well as offering take-out, private parties and catering services.

Treat yourself and those you love to a true, superb dining experience.

You'll understand why they have the
distinguished honor of being:



Sal e Pepe Contemporary Italian Bistro
97 S Main St, Newtown, CT 06470
203-405-9145

Chris



**FGCCT
President
Karin Pyskaty
(2023-2025)**

Mission



**First Vice President
Nan Merolla
(Wilton Garden Club)**

**Second V. P.
Kelle Ruden
(Westport Garden Club)**

**Recording Secretary
Kathy Harris
(Evergreen Country
Gardeners Garden Club)**

**Treasurer
John Davis
(Quiet Corner Garden
Club)**

**Corresponding
Secretary
Lynda Brown
(Manchester Garden
Club)**

**Finance Officer
Terry Lubman
(Riverside Garden Club)**



The
Federated Garden Clubs
of Connecticut, Inc.

Upcoming State Events

1. [FGCCT Annual Meeting](#)
April 17



Events Around Us

1. ['The Essential Role of Native Plants in our Landscape' – Westport Garden Club](#)

April 4 • 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
St. Luke Church, + [Google Map](#)

2. ['Organic Farming and Gardening' – Naugatuck Garden Club](#)

April 18 • 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
St. Michael's Episcopal Church, + [Google Map](#)

**LOOKING FOR A HAND? HERE ARE SOME CLUB MEMBER
RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Helen, Seamstress. She used to work for David's Bridal
203-258-0750, 5 Hemlock Rd Recommended by Barbara O'Connor
2. George Papajani-contractor, home projects-painting &? repairs. licensed & insured
203-996-6643- Recommended by Arline Shanley
3. IT person for computer, TV, Home phone problems & set-up-Brian Mullins 203-
300-4060 - Recommended by Arline Shanley.
4. Mason work- sidewalks, patios, stone walls-George Pani- 203-482-5589 -
Recommended by Arline Shanley.
5. TEED AND BROWN "Lawn Doctor"- recommended by Peg Fillion
6. Danny Casarella DMC Painting Inc. 914-623-2798 Recommended by Barbara McCann
7. Mike Bigelow 203-417-2922. Carpenter and miscellaneous small jobs. Great guy
and great price Recommended by Holly Walczak.
8. Dean DeLucia, Carpenter/Contractor (203) 258-1513 Recommended by Chris
info@deluciaconstruction.com OR ddelucia61@yahoo.com
9. Joe Butkus (203) 525-3253) Recommended by Chris who says he's the best plumber.
10. Pilarhouseclean@gmail.com 203-733-3594 Recommended by Chris who says best
house cleaning I've ever had.
11. UBREAKIFIX in the Shoprite shopping center in Brookfield on Federal Road.
Hours are Monday through Saturday 10:00 am to 7:00 PM. Recommended by
Barbara O'Connor
12. M.G. Masonry new installations & repairs – email mqmasonry76@yahoo.com .