

# The Garden Club of Darien

[gardenclubofdarien.org](http://gardenclubofdarien.org)



April 2017 E-Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 6

## From our President

Debbie Murray



Dear GCD Members,

I write to you on the day we were meant to have our March meeting. It is still snowing and sleeting outside and it doesn't seem like spring is a few short days away - the poor daffodils!

Thank you to all those who cast their vote for the Founders Fund. The club had a strong preference for the Bee Healthy Garden in Milwaukee. I will report after the Annual Meeting on the project chosen by GCA.

I also encourage all those who have not done so to please participate in the survey that has been emailed to you. The results are more conclusive based on more respondents and I have already received many good thoughts and suggestions which will only help to improve our club.

The nominating committee is in the final stages of the board

## GCD Calendar

### *April*

**Board Meeting**  
**Monday, April 3rd**  
at the home of  
Anglea Lineberger  
25 Maywood Road  
8:30am coffee,  
9:00am meeting

.....

### **Tour**

**Monday, April 3rd**  
Angela's Busy Bee  
Workshop  
25 Maywood Road  
After the board meeting-  
approximately 10:30am

.....

**Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 18th**

DCA

Marta McDowell

selection for next year. Thank you to all who said yes. Your active participation makes our club the great organization it is. This year's placement has been a little more difficult than in years past with many members not willing to take on jobs. As we embark on a flower show, as many of you know, it takes all of us working together to make a show a success. Many members both active and associate will be asked to help with the flower show. Member's willingness to contribute will ensure a success. We need everyone to say yes!

We have had an increase in the number of members desiring to go Associate. That category has a cap of 40 members as stated in our by-laws and now is currently filled. Therefore, no additional applications to change status can be accepted at this time.

The revised by-laws will be sent out to the membership for a vote. We will need to hear from every member regarding the proposed changes as we need a 2/3 majority vote to update the by-laws.

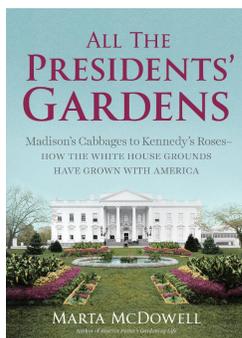
The Darien Parks and Recreation Committee is proceeding with their master plan of all the parks in town. We have been asked to join a focus group as part of the planning process to give our input into the Master plan. If anyone has thoughts or suggestions, please forward them to me.

I apologize for all the information this month, but so much to fill you in on at this busy time. I am sure when I write to you next month that the weather will be markedly improved over today and spring will really be here!

Best, [Debbie](#)

## GCD Program

Tracy Drippé



### April Program

Marta McDowell is a noted author, teacher and lecturer. In addition to consulting for public gardens and private clients, she teaches landscape history and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden, where she studied landscape design and was named Instructor of the Year in 2011. Following the success of her books, *Emily*

*Dickinson's Garden and Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life*, which won a 2014 Gold Award from the Garden Writers Association, Marta embarked on a very engaging and successful lecture tour. She is currently crafting a new book with the working title: *A Wilder Garden: The Plants and Places of Laura Ingalls Wilder*, and was in South Dakota doing research the last time I spoke with her. We are excited to have Marta join us on April 18th (DCA, 9:30am coffee followed by 10:00am meeting and presentation) to discuss her most recent release, hailed as "an informative gem of a

" All the Presidents' Gardens; Madison's Cabbages to Kennedy's Roses - How the White House Grounds Have Grown with America"  
9:30am coffee,  
10:00am meeting  
.....

**Mannequins on the Runway- Fundraiser and Girl's Night Out**  
**Thursday, April 27th**  
Darien Historical Society  
6:30pm  
.....

**May Board Meeting**  
**Monday, May 1st**  
at the home of Lesley Sandison  
15 Seagate Road  
8:30am coffee,  
9:00am meeting  
.....

**Edibles Workshop**  
**Tuesday, May 3rd**  
at the home of Emily D'Andrea  
9 Hamilton Lane  
10:30am  
.....

**Ikebana Workshop**  
**Thursday, May 4th**  
Waveny, New Canaan  
10:00am - 11:30am  
.....

**Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 9th**  
DCA  
"Garden Photography and iPhone Tips"  
Julie Stauffer  
9:30am coffee,  
10:00am meeting  
.....

**Plant Exchange**  
**Monday, May 15th**  
at the home of Emily D'Andrea

book", *All the Presidents' Gardens; Madison's Cabbages to Kennedy's Roses - How the White House Grounds Have Grown with America*. Please join us for a stroll down this historical gardening lane! <http://www.martamcdowell.com/>

### May Program

Please join acclaimed photographer Julie Stauffer May 9th, (DCA, 9:30am coffee followed by 10:00am meeting and presentation) as she takes us through a journey of her garden and floral photographs, with a few iPhone tips thrown in! Julie has been a professional photographer for almost 20 years and gave a very interesting and informative workshop to GCD members this past fall. We look forward to being inspired by Julie's creations!

<http://www.juliestaufferphotography.com/>.

We were very disappointed that Storm Stella and the travel ban forced us to cancel our presentation from Terrain's Deborah Herbertson in March. As she said that day, "It is the nature of nature!" We are looking forward to welcoming her next year and can't wait to be inspired by her delightful designs!

### Memorial Herb Garden Fundraiser and Girl's Night Out

Beth Crump and Cindy Ryan

9 Hamilton Lane  
11:30 am

### *Flower Shows*

GCA Flower Show  
**"Sunny Side of the Hudson"** - Zone III  
**May 9th-11th**  
Irvington on Hudson  
Garden Club

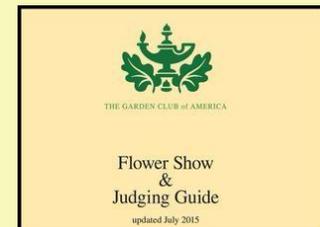
GCA Flower Show  
**"Our National Parks-  
America's Best Idea"**  
Zone II  
**June 9th-10th**  
Litchfield Garden Club

**Zone II Meeting**  
**June 21st-22nd**  
Washington, CT

[Up and Coming GCA Flower Shows](#)

click above for schedules

Board Meeting minutes are always available upon request.



If you have not already done so click [here](#) to download the July 2016 GCA Yellow Book. Keep up to date on all the criteria for exhibiting and judging for our in-club competitions and GCA flower shows.

Newsletter deadline  
**Friday, April 21st**  
to

[gcdnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:gcdnewsletter@gmail.com)

Editor: Carol Caulfield



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A GIRLS NIGHT OUT  
AT THE DARIEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MANNEQUINS ON THE RUNWAY

Haute Couture Contemporary Designs  
of the Twentieth Century

Special presentation by  
Babs White, Costume Curator

Thursday, April 27, 2017  
6:30 P.M.

\$40 DONATION  
SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE HERB GARDEN  
SIGNAGE PROJECT AND ATTENDANCE AT GCA  
CONFERENCES

## Photography

Gwynne Tibbets and Juliet Cain

Despite the cancellation of our March meeting, photography will hold the People's Choice competition at the April 18th meeting. The winning photo will be entered in the Zone II show in Washington, CT. Thanks to those who have already submitted photos and for everyone else, you now have time to submit a photo. The Class is Rock of Ages - stone(s) shown somewhere in a landscape. Plant material required: Photographs must be color mounted on black foam core with no borders showing and no mat overlay. The overall perimeter of the photograph must not exceed 50 inches and must not be smaller than 36 inches. The surface finish is the choice of the exhibitor.

We will also hold the April competition as originally scheduled. The Class is "It is Spring Again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart" (Rainer Maria Rilke). Photos to be 8 inches x 10 inches color, illustrating spring doing what spring does best, spring back! Mount with bright white matte border. Plant material required. Please include common and botanical names if they can be identified.

Photos should be left in the bin outside Juliet Cain's house

by April 16th.

## Pleasure Through Plants

Kathy Haire and Sandy Noble

### Elderhouse Visit

Top of the morning to you! Maeve Zamsky, Marte Small and Sandy Noble had a fun morning making floral arrangements with our friends at Elderhouse. An enthusiastic group of both men and women enjoyed themselves making their Saint Patrick's Day creations. Greens cut from our yards along with white carnations, baby's breath, purple tulips, white roses were used for these arrangements .



Participants at Elderhouse



### Darien Senior Center

On a rainy March 1st morning, Annie McKee, Sheryl Lincoln and Lisa Webb brightened the day for the seniors gathered at the Mather Center by helping them make St. Patrick's Day themed floral arrangements. The 15 seniors who attended creatively arranged Gypsophila Overtime, Roses, Green Ball Dianthus, Eucalyptus, Baby's Breath and Spray Roses in a ball jar covered with burlap. A four-leaf clover decoration provided the finishing touch.

## Floral Design

Diane Schlunkert and Betsy Bigler

**April 18th in-club  
Competition "Art in  
Bloom"**



There has been so much excitement since the demo by Emmy Ogden and Bridget Bucknell a couple of months ago. Please get inspired by the vintage poster of Crater Lake National Park (on left) and make a fun arrangement! The formal description below is for the Litchfield Garden Club flower show. For our in-club competition we won't be using a pedestal or a background. Note that the

size of the arrangement can be as big as you want, except that the base can't be larger than 15" in diameter. We hope that the winner of our competition will enter the Litchfield Garden Club flower show June 9th and 10th!

The schedule description: Class III. CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK, OREGON, 1902 Lying in the caldera of an ancient volcano that collapsed 7,700 years ago, this is the deepest lake in the United States. It has no inlets or outlets and is famous for its pristine water, which comes from only precipitation. A design incorporating water as an essential design element staged on a gray pedestal 38" high x 15" in diameter against a gray background 82" high x 36" wide. Viewed from three sides. Please drop off entries between 8:00am and 8:20am at the DCA.

### **Ikebana Hands-On Workshop**

On Thursday, May 4, 10:00am - 11:30am at Waveny in New Canaan, we will be having a joint workshop with the New Canaan Garden Club, led by Shizue Pleasanton. This is perfectly timed for springtime flowering branches and Shizue's return from Japan! There will be a maximum of 20 participants, 10 from each garden club. The cost is \$35 payable to Diane Schlinkert, 3 North Rd, Darien. Questions: [dianeschlinkert@optonline.net](mailto:dianeschlinkert@optonline.net) or [tendu21@gmail.com](mailto:tendu21@gmail.com) (Irene Miltmore). Your check will hold your place. We expect to have a wait list, so first come first serve. Thanks!

## **Conservation**

Lesley Sandison and Mary Rooney

### **Conservation News**

We had been looking forward to showing you the completed bat houses at our March meeting but, of course, Mother Nature interrupted our plan. Please let either of us know if you are interested in purchasing one. They are \$45 and we can deliver them to your house. It is recommended that they be installed in early April. They will come with instructions about where and how to mount them.

As you may know, the Town of Darien is preparing a Master Plan for all parks in the town. They are keen to hear from us.

Mary and I feel it is a great opportunity to introduce and build on the conservation initiatives in town. In particular, we are looking at suggesting building rain gardens and using solar energy. We would love to hear your suggestions so please get in touch.

Finally, it is Earth Day on April 22nd. The Parks and Recreation Department is organizing an event from 12:00 noon -3:00pm at the Nature Center celebrating the day. We are looking into getting involved in the event so watch out for further details.

Lesley Sandison [lesleysandison66@gmail.com](mailto:lesleysandison66@gmail.com)

Mary Rooney [mwrooney@optonline.net](mailto:mwrooney@optonline.net)

## Horticulture

Emily D'Andrea, Danielle Mossman and Amy Fraser

### APRIL 18th COMPETITION

NEWS FLASH!! Competition has been expanded this year from the traditional Daffodil to a more comprehensive one!

You can bring in any of the following cut bulbs: Tulips, Hellebores, Scilla, Hyacinths, Grape Hyacinths, and of course, daffodils. We will have the containers and wedging materials. All entries must be in place NO LATER than 8:20am. Judging starts promptly at 8:30am.

**Upcoming competitions:** Get those geranium topiaries from the workshop last May at Angela's in tip top shape for this May, as well as the Heliotropes we handed out at the September meeting.

### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

**Angela's Busy Bee Workshop:** Monday, April 3rd, 10:30ish directly after the Executive Board meeting at Angela's house. Come visit the magical wonderland of Angela's basement. She is busy like Santa's elf planting seeds, transplanting, feeding, growing, and growing! It truly is an experience not to be missed. You do not have to attend the Board meeting in order to come.

**"Edible Flower Workshop"**, May 3rd at 10:30am  
Bring the nasturtiums and violas you have been growing and learn how to candy them. We'll also talk about other flowers that can be eaten and at what stage. We'll serve a light lunch using our grown flowers. Location: Emily D'Andrea's home 9 Hamilton Lane.

### RECENT WORKSHOP:

We had a garden planning workshop at Danielle's to learn how to design gardens to attract pollinators. Participants performed a site analysis of a spot on their property to create this garden. During this workshop, they learned how to draw up a plan, given their site conditions, to attract the pollinators they wanted. The workshop will conclude in May with the purchase of the plants to realize these gardens.

Thank you Danielle for your wealth of knowledge.

### ANNUAL PLANT EXCHANGE: 11:30 am

Come join us for our annual plant exchange and a light lunch on MONDAY, MAY 15th at Emily's house. Bring as many potted annuals, perennials, or houseplants that you would like to swap. You take home as many as you bring. We

recommend you transplant a few days before the exchange  
so the plants have the chance to rebound.

[Program](#) [Horticulture](#) [Floral Design](#) [Photography](#) [Conservation](#)  
[Pleasure through Plants](#) [Memorial Herb Garden](#)