



# Garden Club of Darien

Gardenclubofdarien.org



Monthly Newsletter

February 2014

Volume 5, Issue 6

## From the President

Dear Friends,

Our GCD nominating committee has been busy developing a slate for next year.

I know many worked hard on the flower show last year and look forward to a much-deserved slower pace in 2014. Well, the show has come and gone and the pressure is off, but the mission of our club committees continues and there are many jobs to fill.

On that note, I'd like to reflect on something many of us were told by seasoned members (proposers, seconders, officers of the club) when we joined GCD: "when asked to serve, say yes, never no". Most of us have taken that to heart and complied as best we can. (To my great amusement, one friend did admit once to a distaste for Hospitality, saying, "Janet, I'm just not that hospitable" but also said she would serve in that capacity if asked!)

Certain jobs are less appealing than others to some, but thank heavens our interests are diverse enough that we usually end up with reasonably copacetic pairings. If asked to take on a responsibility, please keep in mind the wise encouragement of those esteemed seasoned members and "say yes".

Also, I'm sure all would agree that kindness and respect are essential in a small community like ours. We are all volunteers with much in common but also different thoughts about how to execute our jobs. Sometimes we're right and sometimes we learn from others' ideas but at the very least it's important to steer clear of hurtful criticism.

Stay warm and enjoy the quiet peace of the wintry landscape -- and the wonderful opportunity to do some indoor weeding!

Cheers,

Janet

## February Program

Debbie Murray

Please join us on Tuesday February 11th at 9:30 coffee, 10:00 meeting at the DCA. Our speaker will be **Howland Blackiston** who will speak to us about beekeeping and the benefit of bees and their demise.

Howland is the author of *Building Beehives for Dummies* (John Wiley & Sons, 2013) as well as *Beekeeping for Dummies* (John Wiley & Sons, 2009). With over 100,000 copies in print, this how-to book on backyard beekeeping is the best-selling beekeeping book in the nation.

Howland has been a backyard beekeeper since 1983. He has written hundreds of articles on beekeeping and has appeared on dozens of television shows and conferences around the world, as well as numerous radio shows including: The Discovery Channel, CNBC, Sirius Radio, XM Radio, Metro Learning, Cablevision and NPR. He is a frequent contributor to *Traditional Gardening, House and Garden*, and scores of regional shows and newspapers. Howland is the past President of Connecticut's Back Yard Beekeepers Association, one of the nation's largest regional clubs for the hobbyist beekeeper. Howland and his wife Joy live in Weston, CT.

His talk on "The Vanishing Honey Bee" will review the growing interest in Beekeeping as well as the benefits and value of bee pollination. We will learn about the remarkable Honey Bee: the social structure, the secrets of the colony and why they are vanishing. I hope to see you at the meeting.

### 2014/2015 Program

Please forward any suggestions for next year's program/lectures, starting in September, to Clare Hare, clbhare@att.net.

## GCD Calendar

### Monday, February 3rd

Board meeting at the home of Emily D'Andrea, 9 Hamilton Lane, 8:45 coffee, 9:00 meeting. **Note change of location.**

### Tuesday, February 11th

Membership meeting, 9:30 coffee, 10:00 meeting at DCA.

### Monday, March 2nd

Board meeting at the home of Joan Barksdale, 27 Tokeneke Trail, 8:45 coffee, 9:00 meeting (note change of location).

### Tuesday, March 11th

Membership meeting, 9:30 coffee, 10:00 meeting at DCA. This is a joint meeting with the New Canaan Garden Club.

## Web Site

Please send anything you wish posted to the website to Susie Brewer at [sudsbrew@gmail.com](mailto:sudsbrew@gmail.com). It should be either a PDF file or Word and let her know where you want it to go.

## March Newsletter Deadline

Monday, February 24

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



## Floral Design

Holly Friend and Joanne Parr



We would like to thank Audrey Cadwallader and Eileen Smith for their lovely tea table arrangement. In keeping with the organic vegetable theme at the meeting, they made a lovely arrangement using fresh herbs.



We had a wonderful "challenge" competition at the January 14th meeting, "Floral Design Using Vegetables". We had 11 participants and eight entries. We were thrilled with the results. It was fun and challenging to see how our members integrate vegetables like eggplants and cauliflower into their arrangements! The first award went to Sandy Noble and Leslie Sandison. A dynamic duo! The second award went to Emily D'Andrea and third was awarded to Angela Lineberger (shown in that order below).



For our February 11th meeting, our competition will be your own interpretation of "Be My Valentine", a medium sized arrangement, judged from three sides. A reminder that all floral design committee members are required to enter a minimum of two competitions throughout the year. Please let us know if you will be entering; we are hoping for an enthusiastic turn out.

## Horticulture

Carol Caulfield and Bridget Rudner



### January Par Competition

Congrats to the participants in the par competition. Here are the results:

Plants Purchased by Exhibitor:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Debby McLean
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Carol Caulfield
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Janet Sargent
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bridget Rudner

Plants Propagated by Exhibitor:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Carol Caulfield

### March Forced Branch Competition

I think that we all need a little color in our lives during these gray winter days! So please try and force some branches for the March competition. I assure you it will be fun and it is quite easy to do.

We will be inviting the Garden Club of New Canaan to join us in the Forced Branch Competition. Each club's entries will be judged separately. Information on forcing branches can be found on the GCD Website. You may enter as many different types of branches as you wish, but each entry can consist of only one single branch, i.e. one single stem of Forsythia, one stem of a cherry tree, etc. Containers and wedging material will be provided. Entries will be accepted at the DCA from 8:30am and must be in place by 9am for judging.

### March Forced Bulb Competition

To all the people that are forcing bulbs...it is time to awaken the bulbs!! Pat has informed us it is time to remove the brown paper bags that you used to cover your bulbs. Do not allow the bulbs to have direct sunlight yet. You can leave them in the garage for 6-7 days as long as there is some light. It is a good idea to water the bulbs if they look dry. After the 6-7 days move the bulbs into a bright room in your home. They do like it 60-65 degrees. Do keep them away from direct sun at this point. You should have green growth of several inches. You will want to rotate the pots 1/4 turn each day and feed with a weak solution of fertilizer. Never let the pots dry out. Good luck and if you have any questions feel free to ask us.



## Conservation



Gigi Garnett and Margaret Smith

How to opt out of unwanted paper mail and catalogs: snap a photo of the mail or catalog, and let someone else take care of the rest!

Millions of trees are sacrificed each year for the glut of sales circulars, catalogs and other paper mail offers (many or most unwanted) that clog our mailboxes and contribute to clutter in our homes. It has been estimated that the average home receives 850 pieces of unwanted mail each year.

Conservation member Carol Matton presented a Green Minute at the January meeting, showing us all a simple way to opt out of unwanted paper mail and catalogs. For those who missed the meeting or for those who did not get a chance to look at Carol's poster, we are reprinting the useful information she provided here.

A free new mobile app called PaperKarma, available on iPhone, Android and Windows phones, lets you take a photo of the flyer, catalog, magazine or other offer and effortlessly unsubscribe from the distributor's list. PaperKarma has built up a database of companies that send mail, determined who in the customer service department of each company manages the customer lists, and then forwards to each company each of your "unsubscribe" requests. The companies are bound by FTC rules to process the unsubscribe requests.

Google "PaperKarma" to sign up for the free app. And when you start to take your photos of the mail, be sure to include the key code or customer code, if you see one - that will speed up the processing of your request. Since many companies preprint their mailings, it may be several weeks before your request takes effect.

For those who don't use mobile phone apps, this phone number will stop unwanted credit card offers: 888-567-8688.

Please consider using these useful tools to help the environment, while at the same time uncluttering your home and our community. Your postman will thank you!



## Pleasure Through Plants

Joanne Shakley and Danielle Granath

Robin Stineman, Emily D'Andrea and Sandy Noble had a delightful time at the Senior Center on January 8th. We shopped in advance for cute white porcelain mugs and had the 15 ladies fill them with pink tulips, green mums, baby's breath and asparagus fern. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially us!!



## Photography

Tracy Drippe and Sandy Drimal



Last month Susie Brewer held a terrific workshop for our members to choose a photograph and follow the specific guidelines for the GCA Rhythm of the River juried show to be held in New Orleans at the Annual Meeting later this year. Not everyone has entered an outside show, so this was a wonderful way to walk through the steps to enter with a seasoned pro. The workshop netted some terrific results and we now have several GCD photos sent for consideration. We will keep you posted on the results! Many thanks, Susie. We are very lucky to have you and Amy so willing to impart your wisdom to our club members!

Speaking of entering outside shows, we hope you all have had a chance to peruse the "blasted" schedule for the GCA Zone II 2014 Photography show to be held in conjunction with the Zone II meeting in Rhode Island. There are nine classes, including one open to first time exhibitors and another for those who have never won a blue ribbon so we hope that you all will consider entering. The photography registration deadline is April 1st and word is that the classes are filling quickly so take a look at your photos and consider an entry; we know there are many talented photographers in our club and some really fun classes in this schedule.

We are all tiring of the snow and ice and are therefore greatly looking forward to our April competition, "Hope Springs Eternal!" There are a few easels still available if you would like to enter; the class is being divided into two divisions (photos taken with a smart phone and photos taken with a digital camera) so there are different options available. Please email Tracy (tracycd@optonline.net) if you would like to reserve an easel and we hope to see some new photographers represented.

