



# Garden Club of Darien

Gardenclubofdarien.org



Monthly Newsletter

January 2014

Volume 5, Issue 5

## From the President

Thank You and Happy New Year!

Thank you to Kate Kane and Gwynne Tibbetts for a well-planned and executed Christmas greens workshop and to all who participated either by bringing greens and/or snacks or who came and helped put together so many pretty arrangements for a very grateful Catholic Charities.

Thank you also once again to Holly Friend for the beautiful tea she hosted at her home and to all who brought delicious goodies. It was such a lovely day and a wonderful and much-deserved way to celebrate together after a year of hard work on our memorable flower show.

With all the seasonal diversions, the Garden Club's allocation of civic funds has understandably not been high priority for most of us. Consequently, Susan Brewer and I have agreed that we should allow an additional month for members to consider options and for the Board to prepare well-crafted recommendations for a club vote. If any member has an allocation idea and has yet to forward it to Susan, please do so by the end of January.

On a GCA subject, please note the request that has come down from GCA President Katie Heins on several recent occasions:

*"New GCA Communications Policies... approved in June, 2013... [prohibit] the sharing of club membership lists... Please make this clear to your members, as it has been brought to the attention of the Executive Committee and Directors that some club members are using club membership lists to solicit business for personal pursuits."*

Our membership lists are private and should not be given to vendors for any reason, and communications within the club should be reserved for club business only.

In the remaining months of our Garden Club year, we have five promising membership meetings, complete with interesting speakers, workshops, and competitions, to look forward to. I can't wait!

Janet

## January Program

Debbie Murray

Please join us on **Tuesday, January 14th** at 9:30 coffee, 10:00 meeting for our joint meeting with the DCA at the DCA House. **Nick Mancini**, a Master Vegetable Gardener with 60 years of experience in organic gardening, both here and in his native Italy, will speak to us about various aspects of growing and maintaining a vegetable garden. Nick runs Organic Gardening Simplified in Westport, CT, where he gives workshops and lectures on growing organic vegetables and writes a blog called 'The Complete Organic Gardener'. Among other things, he is the Head Master gardener of Vegetables at the Bartlett Arboretum and is a regular speaker at CT NOFA events, garden clubs, horticultural societies, and libraries throughout CT and NY. His passion for fresh fruit and vegetables is catching on with the farm-to-table movement. He meticulously collects, sterilizes, and grows vegetables from seed out of existing plants in his garden and takes people through the process of successful vegetable gardening. I hope you will enjoy this educational and informative program.

## GCD Calendar

### Monday, January 6th

Board meeting at the home of Debby McLean, 45 Contentment Island Road, 8:45 coffee, 9:00 meeting (note change of location).

### Tuesday, January 14th

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

### Monday, February 3rd

Board meeting at the home of Pat van den Broek, 15 Linda Lane, 8:45 coffee, 9:00 meeting.

### Tuesday, February 11th

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

Thanks to all for a fabulous Christmas Tea hosted at the lovely home of Holly Friend!



## 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.

## February Newsletter Deadline

**Monday, January 27**

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



## Floral Design

Holly Friend and Joanne Parr



Floral Design is going to kick off 2014 with an exciting "Challenge" class at our January 14th membership meeting. We are coordinating the theme of our challenge class with our guest speaker Nick Mancini, who is a master vegetable gardener, so our challenge class will be "Floral Design Using Vegetables". We will begin the challenge at 8:00 am and finish at 9:00 am. Judging will begin at 9:00 am. We will supply the container and all the flowers - just bring your clippers and your imagination! Enter this challenge alone or with a partner, but be sure to RSVP to Holly Friend at [Friendwh@aol.com](mailto:Friendwh@aol.com) to reserve your space. This class will be limited to 15 entries.

## Horticulture

Carol Caulfield and Bridget Rudner



Happy New Year to all from the Horticulture Committee!

### Fairy Garden Container Workshop

Fourteen members made whimsically beautiful centerpieces for themselves or as a gift at the Fairy Garden Container workshop on December 3rd. The participants selected from an assortment of plants and accessories to make their unique and enchanting holiday miniature garden. An added bonus is that the plant material can be used in troughs in the spring! Thank you to all who attended.



### Par Plant Competition

Dust off your favorite plants and shine up the pot! Please consider entering the **January Par Competition**. A Par competition is judged against the GCA guidelines for each plant's individual 'perfection'. A par class includes anything that grows: container plants, vegetables, terrariums, bulbs,

parent and child, etc. There will be two classes: plants purchased by the exhibitor and plants propagated by the exhibitor. The entry must be owned by the exhibitor for at least 6 months (GCA Yellow book page 56). An entry should be in a clean pot with a compatible saucer, all dead leaves removed and free from pests. All entries (with accompanying cards) must be in place for judging by 8:45 am.

### Bulbs for March Competition

Don't forget to give your bulbs a drink of water! You should be checking every two weeks. Keep them covered (no light). They are busy growing (you may already see the plants emerging). For an early March bloom you will be bringing them in sometime at the end of January. Forcing instructions were given at the workshop.

## Photography

Tracy Drippe and Sandy Drimal



This month please join the Photography Committee in submitting entries to the GCA Annual Meeting show in New Orleans, entitled "Rhythm of the Rivers." There are seven different classes to be presented, including one for novices only, so we hope to encourage some new participants to join in the fun! Susie Brewer will be hosting a workshop at her home on Tuesday, January 7th from 9am-12noon to help us prepare the submissions. Please let me know ([tracycd@optonline.net](mailto:tracycd@optonline.net)) if you are interested and I will happily forward the Photography Schedule to you and reserve a space at Susie's.

## Pleasure Through Plants

Joanne Shakley and Danielle Granath

We had a lively group at the Senior Center this month. They loved putting together their Christmas arrangements of boxwood, baby's breath, red carnations and multicolored ribbons. Much fun was had by all with the help of Tink Neibert, Pat van den Broek and Karen Gregorich.



## Pleasure Through Plants (cont'd.)

Lesley Sandison, Pam Elliott and Janice Shand had a very pleasant morning on December 4th helping twelve Elderhouse participants put together festive holiday arrangements. Susan Cator supplied red roses, winter greens and pink and red poms which resulted in some lovely designs. The group was full of enthusiasm and brought much joy to the morning.



## Conservation



Gigi Garnett and Margaret Smith

Legislative Summary: the Water Resources Development Act of 2013

"All life is dependent upon clean, uncontaminated water." The GCA recognizes this crucial fact in its 2013 Position Paper "GCA Supports Clean Water," and the newest GCA Legislative update concerns the proposed Water Resources Development Act of 2013 (WRDA).

The WRDA appropriates federal funds for an extensive list of water resource projects, including but not limited to those addressing Extreme Weather, Flooding, and Coastal Management. Key environmental components of the bill include creation of the National Endowment for the Oceans (NEO); implementation of the National Oceans Policy (NOP) and streamlining of the 1970 National Environment Policy Act (NEPA), which guides federally funded projects.

The National Endowment for the Oceans (NEO) would set up a permanent endowment to promote protection and conservation of U.S. ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems. The National Oceans Policy (NOP) would require federal implementation of ecosystem-based management and a fundamental shift in how the U.S. manages ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources, by calling for regional planning bodies and creating a National Ocean Council that includes representatives from federal departments and agencies, including the U. S. Corps of Engineers.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) currently requires any federal project to be thoroughly studied and reviewed before construction, to determine the proposed project's environmental impact, and provides for public input and consideration of project alternatives to mitigate potential environmental impact. While water resource projects are intended to protect cities and lands from flooding, they generally have huge impacts on wetlands, waterways and natural habitats. For example, the infamous 1965 MRGO project funneled Hurricane Katrina's storm surge into New Orleans and has destroyed more than 27,000 acres of coastal wetlands and damaged more than 600,000 acres of coastal ecosystems. Both the House and Senate propose "streamlining" NEPA, due to concern about environmental reviews contributing to the length of time it takes to complete large, complex projects. The issue is to try to ensure that 1) citizens retain the right to be heard before projects are built and 2) the requirement that less environmentally harmful alternatives are considered is also retained. These important considerations should not be streamlined away in the name of efficiency.

What can you personally do? Demonstrate, Educate and Legislate. Demonstrate by practicing clean, sustainable living. Educate those around you, starting with your own family. Legislate by contacting your representative and advocating for the water and the environment by supporting NEO, NOP and NEPA.

Resources:

GCA Position Paper January 2013, "GCA Supports Clean Water."

National Affairs and Legislation Committee of the GCA Update #9, November 15, 2013

GCA Conservation and NAL Committee Report by Heidi Ho, December 2013

## GCD Flower Show - birdsong



Debbie Bussey and Lisa Brickman

We are thrilled to advise that birdsong has raised **\$44,000**. Congratulations to all - this is a fabulous donation to GCD's civic fund to beautify Darien. Well done!

Thanks in advance to all who have submitted their birdsong Committee Report. We are still hoping to receive reports from the following Committees:

**Floral Design, Conservation, Boutique, Graphic Design, Show Publicity, Signage, Treasurer, Staffing/Volunteers**

You can email us your write-up or bring it to the January meeting along with the green binder. The sooner you gather your thoughts, the more prepared we will be for our future GCD Flower Show(s)! We will all be so thankful to have some reference going forward. If you have any questions please contact either Lisa or Debbie. Many thanks and Happy New Year!

