



# Garden Club of Darien

Gardenclubofdarien.org



Monthly Newsletter

March 2013

Volume 4, Issue 7

## From the President

Gardeners, Gardeners,  
Everywhere...



Curiosity and the lure of garden/floral anything late winter pushed yours truly and a friend, on the spur of the moment, into the Volvo last Friday to visit the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show in Hartford. The crowds visiting the multiple exhibits, commercial and otherwise, were impressive, and the unmistakable love of gardening and the outdoors was palpable.

Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut's flower show "Love in Bloom" elicited admirable entries, and the information in the exhibits and their related flyers was succinctly presented and highly instructive. (Who couldn't spot an Asian Longhorned Beetle, an Emerald Ash Borer, or a Sirex Woodwasp after a review of their literature?)

Representatives from The Connecticut Experiment Station, the USDA Forest Service, the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, the University of Connecticut College Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture enthusiastically shared their prodigious knowledge of invasives (Norway Maples, Winged Euonymus, Autumn Olive, Yellow Iris, Purple Loosetrife, Giant Hogweed, and worst offender, in my opinion, Mugwort, to name a few).

Speaking of prodigious amounts of information, the recent edition of GCA eNews is worthy of a good look. Indeed, GCA's publications – *The Bulletin*, *The Real Dirt*, *Focus*, *By Design*, *Conservation Watch*, William Seale's book, "*The Garden Club of America: 100 Years of a Growing Legacy*" – could keep many a GCA member up past their bedtime on cold winter nights.

(Downton Abbey reruns would possibly be a close second!)

There is a staggering amount of information out there for growers and garden lovers, and it's comforting that we are a nation filled with environmental- and conservation-oriented citizens who are visiting garden shows in droves and counting the days to Spring. Winterberry, flowering Witch Hazel, fruit-bearing Viburnum, and the peace and beauty of a carefully structured landscape with a light dusting of snow (thank you Sydney Eddison) are treasures mid-winter to be sure. But the appearance of Snowdrops, green daffodil shoots, and burgeoning buds on almost every tree and bush mean Winter's retreat is close. The placement of those luscious Pink Frost Hellebores that wound up in the Volvo trunk from the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show is set – if only the ground would hurry up and thaw.

Looking forward to hearing your planting plans for the new season!

Janet

## March Program

Debbie Murray and Sheryl Lincoln

Please join us for our March Joint Membership Meeting with New Canaan on **Wednesday, March 13th** at 9:30 coffee, 10:00 meeting at Waveny. Our speaker will be Scott Medbury, the President and CEO of the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. He received the first Clara Carter Higgins Scholarship for the GCA in the 1960s. He will be speaking on "green" projects, Botanical Garden's sustainability innovations and their energy and resource saving.

## GCD Calendar

### Monday, March 4th

Board meeting at the home of Cindy Ryan, 3 Harbor Road, 8:45 coffee, 9:00 meeting

### Wednesday, March 13th

Membership meeting joint with New Canaan at Waveny, 9:30 coffee, 10:00 meeting

### Monday, April 1st

Board meeting at the home of Emily D'Andrea, 9 Hamilton Lane, 8:45 coffee, 9:00 meeting

### Tuesday, April 9th

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

### Thursday, May 23rd

Field trip to NYC in celebration of GCA Centennial

### Wednesday-Friday, October 2nd-4th – birdsong

GCD Flower Show at the DCA

## Membership Committee

All completed application forms, seconding letters and supporting letters for prospective members for our club are due to me by March 1.

Thank you,

Pat van den Broek

15 Linda Lane, Darien

### April Newsletter Deadline

**Monday, March 25**

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



## Flower Arranging

Gwynne Tibbetts and Kate Kane



We had a wonderful turnout for our Valentine's competition due to the open interpretation of the quote "Where there is love, there is life" (Ghandi). We had so many spectacular creations that the judges made three separate categories. (Pictures are in order by placement.)

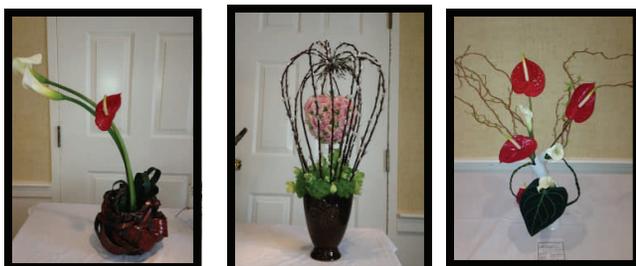
### Traditional Class

- 1st Place - Helen Ong
- 2nd Place - Betsy Hester
- 3rd Place - Gwynne Tibbetts



### Contemporary Class

- 1st Place - Francis Wilson (Best in Show)
- 2nd Place - Angela Lineberger
- 3rd Place - Debbie Bussey/Jamie Rubin



### Outside the Box

- 1st Place - Kate Kane
- 2nd Place - Irene Miltmore
- 3rd Place - Cindy Stamm



We have no competition for the March joint meeting with New Canaan; however, we are going to commingle the tables so as to encourage discussion on our activities and upcoming events. They have been including us in many of their workshops, which are fantastic.

Prior to the in-club "Hummingbird" floral competition on April 9th, we will have a workshop the day before to play with "hummingbird-like" designs. The meeting will start at noon on April 8th at Gwynne Tibbetts' house, 18 Sherry Lane. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the March meeting as well as an e blast to remind you!

Thank you Audrey Cadwallader and Eileen Smith for the beautiful Tea Table arrangement for our February meeting!

Absolutely Stunning...



## Horticulture

Carol Caulfield and Bridget Rudner



### Standard Grooming Workshop

Thank you to all who attended the workshop on how to grow and groom a standard at Terrain on February 5th with Kate Jamison. This very informative, hands on workshop was attended by ten members who have now added a standard to their plant collections at home.



### Terrarium Competition

Thank you to the members who entered the terrarium competition last month. The judges were extremely impressed with the entries and told us that all three classes would have received a special commendation in a GCA show (WOW!). Everyone who entered received an award. Congratulations to all! (See next page for results.)



The results of the Terrarium competition are as follows:



Class 1: Under 8" (L to R): Debbie Bussey-1st, Carol Caulfield-2nd, Bridget Rudner-3rd



Class 2: Bridget Rudner-1st, "The Tea Party"

Class 2: 8-12"

Bridget Rudner-1st  
Lisa Brickman-2nd  
Debbie Bussey-2nd  
Susan Cator-2nd  
Carol Caulfield-2nd  
Irene Miltmore-2nd  
Debby McLean-3rd



Class 3: Over 12"-Carol Caulfield-1st, "The Conservatory"

**NEW** Tuesday, March 26th at 9:30 am: Topiary Workshop at Bridget's house at 5 Nolen Lane

Come learn how to make, grow, and maintain a wire frame topiary. Make one for fun or you can enter your creation into birdsong - classes 29 (Bird Forms) and 30 (Animal Forms). You could also create one for the Par class. \$20 cost includes soil, plant material, and pins. **Bring your own stuffed (with moss) wire form** in a pot or other supporting container and your snips. Suggested websites for purchasing your stuffed wire frame include:

<http://www.topiaryartworks.com> , [www.topiary4u.com](http://www.topiary4u.com),  
[www.etopirary.com](http://www.etopirary.com), [www.topirayinc.com](http://www.topirayinc.com),  
[www.sktopiary.com](http://www.sktopiary.com) . Please **RSVP** to Bridget or Carol by March 15th so we can purchase materials.

**NEW** Monday, April 8th: Daffodil Grooming Workshop with Jennifer Brown

Join Jennifer Brown for our annual Daffodil Grooming Workshop. Jennifer is an expert on all things Daffodil and will instruct us on how to get our Daffodils ready for the in-club competition on April 9th. Bring Daffodils from your garden and your snips! 9:30 - 11:00 at Bridget's house at 5 Nolen Lane.

Tuesday, April 9th: In-Club Meeting at DCA

Get ready for the in-club cut Daffodil competition. Details to follow.

Dahlia Order

A big **thank you to Lois Baylis** who is taking orders for the club for birdsong for Dahlias (in addition to the Red Pigmy we ordered in the fall). Check your e mail for her informative work for the members for the flower show for Dahlias. Send in your order to her by March 15th. She has done all the planning work; all you have to do is tell her what to order and grow them! There will be a Dahlia workshop in May for information regarding planting and grooming.

Par Class in birdsong

April 1st will be the ownership deadline for those of you who will be entering par. So if you don't own a houseplant don't delay too much longer to find something fun to grow. For our new members who may not know; the par class is judged against excellence , not against other entries, so you could all come home with blues! You can contact Bridget or Carol if you would like some help in selecting a plant.

**Photography**



Danielle Granath and Tracy Drippé

Please enter either or both of our upcoming competitions:

April 9th

Focus on Light - where light is a major element in the photograph. Speaker: Stacy Bass is a contributing photographer for At Home and her work has appeared in Westport Magazine, Greenwich Magazine, Garden Design as well as several others. She exhibited her work in 2007, called "First Light" at Gallerie Je Reviens in Westport. She is author of the book "In the Garden."

June 11th

Roses: Digitally manipulated or not. We will have at least 2



### Photography (cont'd)

classes for this competition for those who wish to experiment with the photos and those who do not.

Both competitions are color photographs only. Single matted and not to exceed 11"x14". The matte size, shape and color and the surface finish of the photograph can be decided by the photographer. All photos must be delivered to Danielle the night prior to the competition or they will not be accepted. Please email me [danielle515@gmail.com](mailto:danielle515@gmail.com) to reserve an easel or if you have any questions. We hope you'll enter!

### Conservation



Gigi Garnett and Margaret Smith

A continuation of our series, featuring native plants. . .

#### Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Part of our garden club's gift to the town of Darien included the planting of flowering dogwood trees at the entrance to Weed Beach. One of the reasons these ornamental trees were chosen is because the fact flowering dogwoods are native made them more likely to flourish. Other reasons include their striking appearance, their four season appeal, and each one supports a vast number of birds and animals, contributing to biodiversity.

While flowering dogwoods can do well in full sun, as long as they are planted in deep, fertile soil that is able to hold in moisture, they are also often seen as understory trees, beneath taller trees. Flowering dogwoods are small trees (usually only 15-25 feet tall, although they can get as tall as 30+ feet) with wide spreading branches and are usually wider than they are tall. Good drainage is important. Dogwoods offer beautifully textured bark, in addition to pretty leaves, flowers and "berries" or drupes. The green leaves with short stalks grow up to 5 inches long and 2 1/2 inches wide. Because of the profuse central flower clusters surrounded by four stunning white, red or pink bracts, some call flowering dogwoods the most beautiful native trees of North America. (Virginia chose the dogwood as its state tree and flower, while dogwood is also the state flower of North Carolina and the state tree of Missouri.)



In late summer, the dogwood's shiny red fruits grow up to 1/2 inch long and are eaten by many different animals, although it is said they are poisonous to humans.



In 2012 the United States sent 3,000 dogwood saplings to Japan to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Washington D.C. cherry trees given as a gift to the U.S. by Japan in 1912.

References: United States National Arboretum, United States Department of Agriculture, USDA Plants Profile, University of Connecticut Plant Database, NC Cooperative Extension Service, [www.ncstate-plants.net](http://www.ncstate-plants.net) (image above)

### Pleasure Through Plants

Susan Doelp and Audrey Cadwallader

Valentine's Day came to the Senior Center on February 6th for 15 enthusiastic and talented participants. With Garden Club members Susan Cator, Pam Clark and Sandy Drimal an array of beautiful arrangements were made using red roses, baby's breath, spikes, ferns and topped with a big red heart. All the senior members enjoyed their morning of creativity and especially taking their projects home to savor for Valentine's Day!



Our GCD volunteers on February 6th at Elder House were Debbie Murray, Margaret Smith and Janice Shand.



## GCD Flower Show - "birdsong"

October 2nd-4th, 2013

Debbie Bussey and Lisa Brickman



We had an extremely productive gathering in February at the DCA, which proved to be a very good meeting of the minds. The Division chairs and several committees were present to interact with the lighting company and observe the show exhibition layout in each room. We realize that all space is at a premium and really appreciate the ongoing flexibility from everyone!

Hard copies of the birdsong Schedule were distributed to all members present at the February meeting. We encourage everyone to read through it and find a show class to enter--after all we want to show off our GCD talent!

We are in search of the following items for the show so please keep your radar out.

1. Wooden Wine Crates, which we will be painting over for staging. So if you are willing to donate any that you have we need approximately 20-30 in total. If you happen upon some in a wine or liquor store please ask if we can have them and we will send our staging crew to pick them up.
2. Wagons, which will be returned to you after the show but they are necessary items to be used by exhibitors entering and passing.

### Birdsong Silent Auction

The Silent Auction Committee has been busy soliciting donations and we are thrilled to announce the following items will be available:

- 2 Wonderful Golf Trips to Ireland (one including lodging)
- 2 Special Cases of Wine: 1 with bottles from different wineries with data on the source, tastings, etc., Special additional bottles added from members; another combination basket of wine and delicious cheeses
- 3 Sunset Cocktail Cruises: one catered and both with fabulous choices of spirits
- One week at a fabulous cottage in Ireland
- One week at another fabulous cottage in Charleston, SC
- One week at yet another fabulous house in Sun Valley, Idaho
- A Children's Birthday Party at Stamford Twin Rinks
- A luncheon prepared and hosted by the Provisional Class of 2010
- A beautiful Tiffany vase
- Basket of "My Favorite Things" assembled by our own President
- Resortwear

Many thanks to our members for their kind generosity!! We are still looking for the following:

- Tickets to sports and/or musical/theater events
- Gift Certificates from favorite local merchants
- Donations of services from Interior Decorators and/or Landscape Designers
- More vacation homes

We would love to have some more donations--any suggestions would be appreciated. Please email Robin Stineman at [robinstineman@gmail.com](mailto:robinstineman@gmail.com) or Clare Hare at [clbhare@att.net](mailto:clbhare@att.net) for donations and/or ideas.

We will post on our website monthly the items that we have confirmed to date. Start thinking of a strategy to bid for your favorites!

Sincerely,

The birdsong Silent Auction Committee

## Yearbook

Pam Van Hoven Clark

Following are some e mail changes:

Beth Crump: [bethcrump4@gmail.com](mailto:bethcrump4@gmail.com)

Pam Elliott: [pamela.p.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.p.elliott@gmail.com)

Wendy Parks: [parks\\_wendy@yahoo.com.hk](mailto:parks_wendy@yahoo.com.hk)

Joanne Parr: [joanne.j.parr@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.j.parr@gmail.com)

Janet Sargent: [janet.m.sargent@gmail.com](mailto:janet.m.sargent@gmail.com)

Phone number change:

Debby McLean: 203-202-2740

Think Spring!

