

The Garden Club of Darien

gardenclubofdarien.org



June 2017 E-Newsletter

Volume 8,

Issue 8

From our President

Debbie Murray



Dear GCD Members,

I can hardly believe that this garden club year is coming to a close. It has been a great year filled with workshops, competitions, learning and fun. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting that will be held on Tuesday, June 6th at the home of

Kate Kane.

I would like to thank all the board members and committee heads for their hard work and efforts throughout this year. Each of you has contributed in your own way helping to make our club full of energy

GCD Calendar

June

New Board/Old Board Meeting

Monday, June 5th

at the home of
Margret Smith

147 Long Neck Point
Road

8:30am coffee,
9:00am meeting

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GCD Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 6th

at the home of
Kate Kane,

143 Five Mile River
Road

and good works. I am planning on meeting with all incoming committee heads before we break for summer to get the program set for September.

I attended the Annual Meeting in Baltimore at the beginning of May with Lesley Sandison as our delegate. The vibrancy of the GCA was very evident. There were workshops and business meetings and garden tours as well as a fascinating key note speaker, Dr. Paul Cox who spoke about ethnobotany and possible progress on preventing ALS and possibly Alzheimers. I am hopeful that the GCA will post his talk on the website and I would encourage you to watch it if you have time. Our Club's selection for the Founders Fund, the Bee Healthy Garden in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was the winner of the top prize.

Cindy, Beth and Diane organized a great fundraiser at the Darien Historical Society to raise funds for permanent signage at the Herb Garden. Our own Babs White, lead us on a wonderful walk through fashion history. Everyone had a fun evening out! Thank you to the organizers and all those who supported the event.

We will graduate five provisional members to Active members and welcome four new provisionals to our club this June. All provisionals have actively participated in competitions and workshops throughout the year and every graduating provisional has a job for next year. Congratulations to our graduates!

I plan to send out a report early this summer with the results of the survey that we completed during the year. Members took the time to give helpful suggestions for growth and improvement that I have begun to share with committee heads for planning for next year.

I wish you all a lovely summer full of fun and family. Thank you for making my first year as your President so enjoyable. Please mark your calendars for our opening Membership Meeting on September 12th which we are planning to have at the Tokeneke Club, details will be shared in late summer.

Best, Debbie

GCD Program

Tracy Drippé

11:00am to 1:00pm

September Board Meeting Monday, September 11th

at the home of
Debbie Murray
100 Stephen Mather
Road
8:30am coffee,
9:00am meeting

Membership Meeting Tuesday, September 12th

at the Tokeneke Club
9:30am coffee,
10:00am meeting

2017 Flower Shows

GCA Flower Show "Our National Parks- America's Best Idea" Zone II

June 9th-10th
Litchfield Garden Club

Zone II Meeting and GCA Flower Show

June 21st-22nd
Washington, CT

GCA Sanctioned Flower Show

Newport Flower Show
"Fête des
Fleurs: Paintings and
Parterres"

June 23-25, 2017
Newport, RI

Annual Meeting

Please pull out your favorite hat and join us for the GCD Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 6th from 11:00am - 1:00pm at the home of Kate Kane, 143 Five Mile River Road. Parking will be on Five Mile River Road. Please consider carpooling as parking spaces will be limited. We look forward to seeing all of our members!



Memorial Herb Garden

Cindy Ryan and Beth Crump



GCD Fundraiser

This spring has been busy at the Herb Garden. We celebrated the Darien Historical Society's exhibit *Mannequins on the Runway* with a girls night out featuring a special presentation by our own Babs White. All enjoyed hearing Babs talk about some of the Haute Couture of the Twentieth Century. The dresses are beautiful and donated from Darien families. We also sold books that were donated to us from Tibby Rosenberry's botanical library. The proceeds from the evening will be used to pay for signage in the Herb Garden and deferred costs associated with attending the GCA conferences. We will be selling the books at the June meeting. Bring your checkbooks, there are some wonderful reference and great coffee table books.

Spring Clean-up

In early May our committee members met to help weed, plant and mulch the garden. With the help of lots of rain, the garden is gorgeous. The new signs have been ordered and soon will be installed. Take time to stop by and enjoy this beautiful spot.

GCA Flower Show September 19-20

"Where Stone Walls Meet the Sea" Zone I
hosted by Little Compton Garden Club

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2018 Flower Shows

GCA Major Show March 1st-3rd

Zone II
"Preview of Spring"
The Green Fingers Garden Club
Greenwich, CT

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[Up and Coming GCA Flower Shows](#)

click above for schedules

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Edible Flowers Workshop



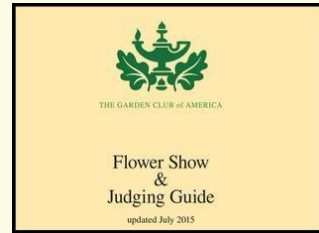
YUM!



End Notes



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.

Provisionals

Susie Brewer



Allie Callan, Kathleen Solberg, Nancy Winship, Wynne Shapiro, Karen Briganti & Helen Ong visit Gilbertie's in Westport to kick off spring and start to make plans for the Provisional herb basket project!

Photography

Gwynne Tibbets and Juliet Cain

Dear Members,

This is my last newsletter after three years as your editor. As most of you know, Lisa Webb will be taking over the position. She has extensive experience in web design and communications and I expect we will see many wonderful changes in our club communications. We are all so lucky she said "yes"! It has been fun working with all of you.

Editorially yours, *Carol*

Newsletter deadline
Friday, August 18th
to

gcdnewsletter@gmail.com

Editor: Lisa Webb



Betsy Becker's lovely photo

Our May photography competition was based on a quote from Milton's *Paradise Lost*: "A silvan scene full of goodliest trees loaden with fairest fruit, blossoms and fruits." We had a joint judging with New Canaan the day before our meeting. Betsy Becker took first, Leslie McCarthy second and Julie Choos third. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Clare Hare and Kristin Collier.

June Competition

We look forward to seeing your entries for our rose photography competition at the June meeting. There will be 4 Classes: Single, Multi-Rose, Macro and Manipulated Rose. Photos to be 8"x10" color with bright white matte border. Plant material required, please identify common and botanical names and varieties, if possible. Photos should be left in the bin outside Juliet Cain's house (81 Locust Hill Rd) by Sunday evening June 4th.

Pleasure Through Plants

Kathy Haire and Sandy Noble



Darien Senior Center

Pleasure through Plants ran another successful and

fun workshop at the Darien Senior Center on May 3rd. Mother's Day arrangements were made by the attendees using pink and white roses, carnations, limonium and greens. Kathleen Solberg provided a helpful demonstration providing helpful hints on making a beautiful arrangement. Kathy Haire and Sandy Noble also assisted answering questions and helping the seniors with their designs.



Elderhouse

Margaret Smith, Maeve Zamsky and Pat van den Broek ran a fun workshop with 12 participants from the Elderhouse in Norwalk.

Floral Design

Diane Schlinkert and Betsy Bigler

June 6th Competition - "Mostly Roses"

Anything goes! There will be two classes in the June competition, home-grown roses and store-bought roses. You may use any container. The arrangement, big or small, can measure up to 20 inches in any direction and will be viewed from all sides by the judges. The arrangements must be at least 75% roses. Drop off will be at Kate Kane's between 9:00am and 9:20am.



Ikebana Workshop

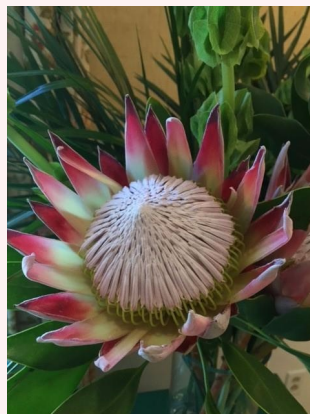
Irene Miltimore graciously organized a hands-on workshop with Shizue Pleasanton on May 4th at Waveny. Thank you, Irene! There were 20 participants, including eight from the New Canaan Garden Club, learning a special, traditional method of Japanese flower arranging.

Shizue Pleasanton demonstrated the art of Ikebana with this inspirational arrangement made with spring blossoms.



May Tea Table

Many thanks to Karen Briganti and Wynne Shapiro for the lovely tea table arrangement!



Conservation

Lesley Sandison and Mary Rooney

Conservation News

Many thanks to Lisa Webb and Gretchen Witschi for their fun and informative talk on sunscreen. To

find out how your sunscreen fares go to www.ewg.org/sunscreen.



Asclepias syriaca

To all members of our committee our milkweed plants have arrived. Please swing by 15 Seagate Road to collect them. Remember, to insure the survival of the monarch butterfly, the US needs to plant and grow a billion plants. We have a few extra plants available so if anyone would like one please email lesleysandison66@gmail.com. Milkweed needs well-drained soil and sun to thrive but are easy to grow. We have obtained two varieties that are suitable for our area. They are *Asclepias tuberosa* and *Asclepias syriaca*. More information about milkweed can be found at monarchwatch.org.

Horticulture

Emily D'Andrea, Danielle Mossman and Amy Fraser

May Competition:

We had two competitions this month: Geranium Standards and Heliotropes. The judges commended the entire Heliotrope class for a very difficult challenge.

Heliotropes:

- 1st: Angela Lineberger
- 2nd: Debby McLean
- 3rd: Maeve Zamsky
- HM: Emily D'Andrea
- HM: Lois Baylis

Geraniums: Divided into 2 classes

Class 1:

- 1st: Angela Lineberger
- 2nd: Nancy Camman
- 3rd: Lois Balis
- HM: Danielle Mossman

Class 2:

- 1st: Angela Lineberger
- 2nd: Emily D'Andrea

Sunny Side of the Hudson

Carol Caulfield represented our club with her horticulture entries in the GCA flower show presented by Irvington-on-Hudson Garden Club Zone III "The Sunny Side of the Hudson" May 9-11, 2017.

- 1st: Par Class- *Haworthia attenuate* spp
- 2nd: *Hyacinthoides hispanica* 'Excelsior'
- Spanish Blue Bell
- 2nd: *Geranium phaeum* 'Samobor'
- 3rd: *Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum'
- Solomon 's seal
- HM- *Aquilegia canadensis* 'Corbett' - Columbine
- HM- *Dicentra spectabilis* - Bleeding Heart

Edible Flowers workshop:

We learned how to candy roses and pansies, make

ice cubes with pansies, lilac butter, lavender scented sugar, and cheese in a floral wine aspic. Then we enjoyed a lunch with a salad including chicken, flowers, herbs and nasturtiums that were grown from the seed starting workshop in April, and lilac rose infusion with cashew rose candy over ice cream.



Recipes can be found on the website.

Plant Exchange: We had a terrific showing of members come to the annual plant exchange. We had lunch on a beautiful day, then everyone left with a number of plants. It was a fun morning, and we were happy so many members came!

June Competition:

Annual Rose Competition: Entries must be in place no later than 8:30am at Kate Kane's house on June 6th. If you are planning to enter, please contact Amy Fraser or Emily D'Andrea to arrange to pick up a container. We will have some containers as well at the event. Please print your hort entry card from the website.

Class 1: Floribunda

Class 2: Old Garden

Class 3: Shrub

Class 4: Hybrid Tea

Class 5: Climbing Rose

Class 6: Miniatures

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[Pleasure through Plants](#) [Memorial Herb Garden](#)