

NEWSLETTER
Petals and Persiflage

May 2021 Vol. 32 | No. 5



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday is Garden Club day!

May 25th – Board Mtg Zoom

June 8th – Annual Member Mtg & Lunch

June 29th – Board Mtg



Dear GFGC Members,

Wow! There aren't enough ways to say **Thank You** to our Ways n Means co-chairs, Jane Steiger and Mary Ann Weverbergh, to our hostess, Jacque O'Brien, or to the loyal garden club members who donated, dug, potted, priced, presented and/or purchased merchandise and plants at our annual Plant Sale on May 15th in Jacque's beautiful backyard!! If the preliminary numbers are close, we will have insured that our programs, projects and philanthropy next year will be intact and generous. Plus, I had a lot of fun helping along with such knowledgeable and talented gardening gals whose collective efforts made it all seamless and easy.

May also held the final 90th Anniversary celebration at Earthplace, thanks to Wynn Herrmann, Donnie Naber and the Notable Ninety team. The rain held off, the Atrium garden was beautiful and all the celebrants were looking forward to post Covid days. How wonderful to see our members catching up in person and enjoying carefully selected snacks together once more!

Now complete, Maybette Waldron gave me her 90th Anniversary binder and her annual report for this year (hint) so I enjoyed researching the dates when some of our current traditions began. For example, the Awards Bowl was purchased in March, 1941 and awarded to Cynthia Hoyt that year. The President's Bowl was purchased by 14 past presidents in 1973 and awarded to Mrs. John B. Macaulay (Helen), the first name engraved on the bowl. The Heritage Award, although not a bowl, was first awarded to two members, Greta Sutphen and Helen White in 2010. The President's Pin arrived in September, 1954 for the President to wear at garden club functions. I will proudly wear that pin to our June 8th Annual Meeting for the last time before I pass it on to Kathy Mitchell. Other notable dates are September 1989 when the first newsletter, "Petals and Persiflage", was published by Janet van Laer and November 2016 when our new Website chair, Terri Jennings, wrote instructions on how to access it in the newsletter. I wonder if April 14, 2020, the date of our first combined Membership/Board meeting on Zoom, hosted by Recording Secretary, Diane Parrish, will have marked a new tradition in Board meetings or if we will return and feel at ease inside a welcoming member's home?

As our garden club year and my tenure as president winds down and our nation opens up after 15 months of Covid concerns, I appreciate all that was accomplished and celebrated during our many Zoom calls and social distanced gatherings and look forward to our upcoming unrestricted events including another guided hike with Charlie Stebbins in the Smith Richardson Preserve on May 25th after our Zoom Board Meeting call and also our Annual Meeting and Lunch at Shorehaven on June 8th where we will wear our festive hats and read our annual reports without masks. Then, as the “Growing for Good” vegetable garden initiative takes off, the old and new Board members will gather together on June 29th to help start a new chapter for the GFGC. And what a chapter it’s sure to be with new member interest and great projects and programs to help us thrive as “We grow Gardens and Gardeners”! (FGCCT’s new two year theme)

Many Thanks,

Ann



Greens Farms Garden Club

P.O. Box 105, Greens Farms, CT 06838

www.greensfarmsgardenclub.org

Proud member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.;
the New England Garden Clubs, Inc.; and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Trips

H. SMITH RICHARDSON PRESERVE WITH CHARLIE STEBBINS

On Thursday, April 29th, a group of members; Kathy Mitchell, Ann Watkins, Mary Lou McGuire (and Luna), Pam Waesche, Jacque O’Brien, Carol McDonald, Judy Smith, Chris Cook and me took a guided tour of H. Smith Richardson Wildlife Preserve with CT Audubon Board member and

nature lover, Charlie Stebbins. This was our second trip guided by Charlie at the Preserve. He was as knowledgeable as ever! To hear the stories about each plant and all the donors is very interesting and inspiring. Missed it? Don’t worry. Charlie will be joining us again at 12PM on Tuesday, May 25th at HSRP! All are welcome to join.

Pam Toner, *Trips*



Above from left standing: Mary Lou McGuire, Chris Cook, Jacque O’Brien, Kathy Mitchell, Carol MacDonald. Seated: Luna (camera shy) McGuire, Pam Toner, Ann Watkins, Pam Waesche and Judy Smith.

90th Proclamation

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Westport 90th Year Proclamation and Earthplace Atrium Garden Shrub and Sign Dedication was postponed until May 4, 2021 (during our 91st year). Our president, Ann Watkins welcomed all masked guests and members to the Atrium. First Selectman, Jim Marpe, read the 90th Anniversary Proclamation. Jen Tooker, Second Selectwoman, was also present. The history of the Atrium garden was presented by Wynn Herrmann, Civic Development Chair. Becky Newman, Director of Nature Programs, described the shrub and Tony McDowell, Executive Director, dedicated the GFGC Atrium sign. As the 90th Anniversary Chair, I gave special thanks to all Westport members and dignitaries in making this last and final *Proudly Celebrating 90 Years* event so special. Ann gave closing remarks about the Atrium and thanked all in attendance.



Use zoom feature on your desktop or device to read the Proclamation



From left: Becky Newman, Ann Watkins, Donnie Naber, Wynn Herrmann, Jim Marpe, Tony McDowell, Sophie Pollmann and Jen Tooker

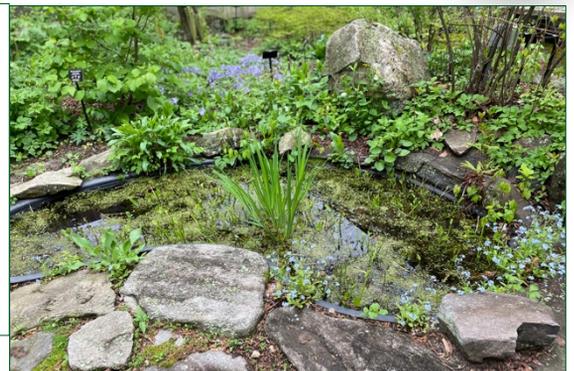
This historic event helped to close the chapter on a difficult yet resilient time for our club. A time filled with uncertainty, social distancing and isolation, we came together stronger and better than ever. Through it all members' dedication, enthusiasm and efforts have made and continue to make a positive impact and contribution to our environment and community. The day was somewhat cloudy, but all together again, we felt the sun shining upon us.

With great appreciation,
Maybette Waldron and the Notable Ninety Team

Proudly Celebrating 90 Years



"Congratulations to the Greens Farms Garden Club on your 90th Anniversary! What a pleasure it was to celebrate your contributions to the community with a dedication ceremony at Earthplace recognizing the decades of work the club has given to the atrium garden. Thank you for all you do to ensure Westport is beautiful and sustainable!" Jen Tooker, Town of Westport Facebook page, Tuesday, May 4, 2021.



Earthplace Shrub & Sign Dedication

Earthplace Plant List

- ✓ Jacobs Ladder
- ✓ Heptica
- ✓ Dutchman's
- ✓ Breeches
- ✓ Butterfly-Weed (Milkweed)
- ✓ Foam Flower
- ✓ Columbine
- ✓ Trillium-purple
- ✓ High Bush Blueberry

In preparation for GFGC's 90th Anniversary Proclamation, shrub and sign dedication, a bevy of plants were purchased and planted in the atrium. All native of course and part of Eloise Rae's original design plan from 1960. Eloise was a noted landscape architect at what was then called the Mid-Fairfield County Youth Museum. The atrium garden at the museum was thoughtfully filled with indigenous species. In 1977, GFGC took over the maintenance of the garden which continued for 34 years until 2011. Afterward, the garden fell to disuse and neglect. BUT, in the fall of 2015, GFGC came to the rescue with vigorous weeding and revival plantings represented in Eloise's original blueprint.

The High Bush Blueberry was selected as the shrub to commemorate our 90th year. Chosen for its importance to our native ecosystem, the Blueberry plant has three seasons of interest in the garden. It is a nectar source in the Spring, a food source in late Summer and color in the Fall. It supports 294 species of butterflies in our area and native bumble bees by providing nectar in the Spring and Summer. In the Fall, High Bush Blueberry is a food source to local birds. It is a self pollinating plant so it doesn't require multiple plants to bear fruit. A perfect choice, too, for a special place.



Wynn Herrmann and Tony McDowell with commemorative sign

The custom sign was made by Accent Sign & Awnings of Stamford. It's a solid piece of cherry wood edged in bark with routed lettering to give it a true woody feel. You can find it proudly displayed in the atrium nearest the large rock behind the pond.

Thank you to all of our Earthplace friends. In particular, Tony McDowell, Executive Director, Becky Newman, Director of Nature Programs and Sophie Pollmann, Director of Marketing & Development. And a very very special thank you to Donnie Naber for the many years she has donated to our Club and Earthplace. The atrium wouldn't be what it is without her expertise and deep knowledge of native specimens. She is a great (plant) lady who has given so much to this Westport treasure.

Wynn Herrmann, **Civic Development Earthplace**

sources: 06880 and Becky Newman of Earthplace

Plant Sale Prep

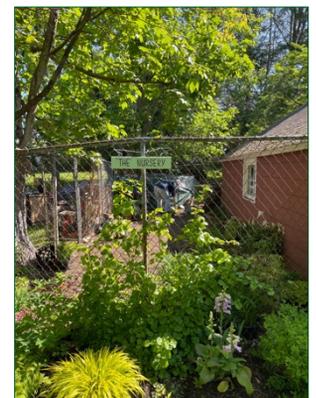
Plant Sale Inventory

Ajuga
Anemone
Amsonia Blue Star
Astilbe pink
Astilbe white
Balloon Flower
Black-Eyed Susan
Blazing Star
Cat Mint
Columbine
Creeping Jenny
Covel Bells Citronelle
Day Lilly
Echinacea
Evening Primrose
False Sunflower
Filipendula
Forget-Me-Nots
Geranium Pelogonia
Geum
Heliopsis
Hellebore
Hosta (variegated)
Hosta (reg)
Hosta Giant Blue
Hyericum
Hydragea blue
Heuchera
Miscathus Senesus
Iris (Siberian)
Joe Pye Weed
Lamb's Ears
Lysmachiea
Lungvart
Liatris
Lamiun
Liriope
Lychnis
Lily
Lemon Verbena
May Apple
Mertensia VA Blue Bells
Malva
Obedient Plant
Phlox
Rose of Sharon
Solomon's Seal
Sedum
Sedum Dazzleberry
Shasta Daisy
Siberian Iris
Stella Doro
Spiderwort
Vinca



“Many hands make light work.”

John Heywood



Plant Sale

2021 FRIENDS & FAMILY SALE A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Garden Gods were with us on Saturday, May 15th at Jacque O'Brien's Greens Farms Road home. The weather was absolutely perfect and the crowds were steady. We had a great selection of plants, herbs, grasses and sold most of it. Over 550 plants! The leftover inventory was donated to Wakeman Town Farm and Saugatuck Elementary School in Westport. As of this writing, we made a net of **\$4,795**. We all came together and made it fun.

Thank you all, Jane Steiger and Mary Ann Weverbergh, *Ways & Means*



Special Sale Thanks...

Everyone made a contribution and in their own special way, however, a few need to be acknowledged...

Jacque Obrien:

For offering your beautiful home for our sale. You let us come and go anytime, you provided water, snacks, let us store everything, you tended plants all winter, let us use your dirt. You dug, potted, labeled, kept plants watered and all with great enthusiasm. And there is more...you invited friends who really shopped and you "worked" the sale to find interested new members! Thank you for everything!

Barbara Harman and Maybette Waldron:

You ladies worked nonstop for 6 hours tabulating our sales. Even in a Friends & Family setting there were times when it was really busy and that's hard work..really hard work! You even tracked what plant was sold (which I realize now was a crazy and demanding request. Thank you).

Ann Watkins and Kate Carroll:

Thank you Ann for your generosity in buying lunch for the crew and to Kate for bringing a delicious broccoli salad. We had a quiet moment around 1:30 and having a lunch break kept us going!

Donators:

Many of you could not be "hands-on" and sent checks and others who shopped made donations too. Thank you! Donations make up almost 25% of our revenue!!

"Hardware" Contributors:

Thanks to everyone who donated plants, containers, crates, wheelbarrows, and tables. This requires a lot of lugging and we could not function without these basics.

"Ambiance" Contributors:

Thanks to everyone who made items: rocks, stationery, pollinator pots, pops for kids. And, to those who brought small bouquets, magazines, deer décor and bee kite. They were great added touches. And, to those who repotted plants & herbs in donated containers – they sold!

Members & Non-Members Who Let Us Dig in Their Gardens:

The sale could not happen without you! And thank you to Oliver Nursery for their huge contribution.

Workers:

Thanks to all the diggers, potters, labelers, pricers, plant experts, opening & closing helpers. There is a lot of labor involved, but it can be fun when you have a good group.

Misc.:

Thanks to those who thought to have an "invitation to our sale", brought name tags, pollinator sign-ups, stickers that say "I've been vaccinated " and contributing a tractor to "giveaway". These all make it special.

Shoppers:

Thanks to all who shopped and brought friends & family to shop. A special thank you to Maybette whose friends arrived at 2 PM and left with 4 wheelbarrows of plants! We moved most of our inventory and the remaining plants have been donated to Wakeman Farms and Saugatuck Elementary School. All leftover containers were donated and delivered to Good Will.

Co-Chair Mary Ann Weverbergh:

Mary Ann was always there! She is a "let's get this done" kind of worker. She supported our sale in every way possible: digging, making deliveries, donating plants, buying plants (including husband and daughter), and selling! She was amazing at our container table and moved it out! What I appreciated most was her humor. Thank you so much, Mary Ann!

For me, I think the unexpected bonus was getting to know everyone better. I must confess, the day everyone showed up to help with pricing was both crazy and fun. Just when I thought I was losing it – trying to keeping track of all these plants and pricing, I saw a group that really came together. It was a really special moment and that's what it's all about. This group is the best! Thanks again! I'm heading out on a Thelma & Louise road trip, but will see you all at the June meeting....with a manicure.

Hort Report



Jacob Cline Bee Balm & Golden Star



Foam Flower, White Wood Aster & Golden Star



Golden Star

NATIVE CONTAINER POLLINATOR GARDENS WITH 'BEE BATH'

Growing a native pollinator garden in pots is not difficult and a terrific solution for balconies, small spaces, to compliment other gardens or bring our pollinators close to the house to enjoy. If you're familiar with any type of container gardening, cultivating a native garden in pots that attracts pollinators is as simple as switching to native pollinator friendly plants. For our plant sale this year, I made four which included a 'bee bath'.

Our bees and pollinators are very busy and need a place to stop, feed and hydrate. Choosing native plants to put in our pots and including a simple water source is an easy, fun and attractive way to make our gardens more pollinator friendly.

HERE'S HOW:

1. Choose your container large or small (I made both)
2. Choose native plants and stagger their bloom time
3. Make a bee bath using a saucer to suit the size of your pot. Cut a peony stake to desired length with wire cutters then gorilla glue the stake to the underside of the saucer. Build a perch on the saucer for the bees to light and rest by hot-gluing (gorilla glue will be too messy here) rocks or decorative stones into a little pile).
4. You could even add an annual or two for extra color. Eh, voila!

At the end of the season, you can pop your pot into a hole in the ground and nestle mulch around to protect it then simply dig it up and watch it come to life again next spring. Or, you can plant the individual plants directly into your garden to overwinter. As we become increasingly vigilant of our environment's health every effort counts, so have fun and enjoy!

Thank you to Maren Hood for the donation of two of these beautiful pots!

Carol Shear, *Horticulture*
Source: *Naturework.com*

The Buzz

Discover the seeds of inspiration that promote native, pollinator friendly plantings and the practices of organic gardening.

Pollination leads to the creation of everyday essentials like coffee and tequila! About a thousand plants we rely on worldwide for the production of goods require pollinators. These include those grown for food, beverages, spices and medicines. Think coffee, chocolate and tequila! Ooh la la!!

Take Part in Pollinator Week! June 21 - 27

Pollinator Week is an annual event celebrated internationally in support of pollinator health. It's a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them. The great thing about Pollinator Week is that you can celebrate and get involved any way you like! Popular events include planting for pollinators, hosting socially distant garden tours, participating in online bee and butterfly ID workshops, and so much more. www.pollinator.org



HOW TO IDENTIFY DIFFERENT TYPES OF POLLINATORS



BUMBLE BEES are very hairy and much bigger than other types of bees! You can often hear their loud buzzing before you see them!



HONEY BEES are less hairy and smaller than Bumblebees. Honey Bees are very golden, unlike Bumble Bees which are more yellowish.



WASPS are large and completely hairless. They are also easily recognized by their itty-bitty waist!



SYRPHID FLIES are very small. They come in a variety of colors, their antennae are shorter than bee antennae, but the biggest giveaway are their BIG eyes that meet in the middle of their head!



SWEAT BEES Sweat bees can come in different colors! Some types of bees are green or blue! They are smaller and smooth like honey bees.

Carol Shear, *Pollinator Pal*

Potpourri

Have something special to share? Don't Keep it to yourself!

Send it to dbottoneschmidt@gmail.com to be included in our next newsletter

DO YOU KNOW THIS BEAUTY?!

Find the answer at the bottom of the page.

No peeking!

Need a hint?

She graduated from a Catholic Nunnery located in Bronx, NY.



Wisteria magically climbing a powerline across West Rocks Road in Norwalk. What a lovely passage on our way to soccer practice! – **Dina Schmidt**

Send your yearbook photo to Dina Schmidt at the email above for it to be featured in next month's newsletter!



Nothing like New Orleans after a successful plant sale! - **Jacque O'Brien** Laissez les bon temps rouler is a Cajun expression meaning let the good times roll!



Maybette Waldron under a canopy of Wisteria at Saint Timothy's Garden.



My son Charles sent me these photos saying, "The flower bandit was at it again today! Do you have a junior garden club membership?" – **Maren Hood**



Diane Parrish's woody wonderland in Westport!

Potpourri

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At left: I took this photo Saturday before Mother's Day. Jacque's son, Brandon came from his home on Long Island to be with her for Mother's Day weekend! Jacque put him to work in the St. Tim's garden digging onions. Super difficult! We could not have dug them alone. A SUPER son!

- Chris Supernaw



My poppies are in BLOOM and my tree peonies! - Chris Supernaw

Today at the Farm...



Ducklings are 8 days old...so cute. Ginny and I plan to finish planting the garden tomorrow, we will then establish a schedule for maintaining and harvesting. We now wait and watch. 😊 gardening



At left: GFG Sponsor signage at St. Timothy's garden. At right: Phyllis preparing GFG harvest buckets.

- Maybette Waldron



Upcoming Dates & Details

Tuesday is Garden Club Day!

Gov. Ned Lamont's mask order issued April 17 remains in force. It requires a mask or face covering for "any person in a public place in Connecticut who is unable to or does not maintain a safe social distance of approximately six feet from every other person." Thank you for observing this order at all our in-person events and helping to keep our membership safe.

May

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Time: 10 AM meeting

Place: Zoom Call

Detail: Call will be hosted by Diane Parrish via Zoom. An invitation has been emailed by John (Ann) Watkins.

THE WHITE FLOWER FARM TOUR HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL A LATER DATE

TRIPS: TOUR SMITH RICHARDSON PRESERVE WITH CHARLIE STEBBINS

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2021

Time: 12 PM

Place: 39 Sasco Creek Rd, Westport

Detail: Join us for a walking tour of H. Smith Richardson Wildlife Preserve with Charlie Stebbins, CT Audubon Board Member. Dress for weather and wear comfortable shoes. Parking at Preserve with overflow at Southport Beach.

GFGC ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Time: 11 AM Meeting | 12:30 PM Luncheon

Place: Shorehaven Golf Club, Norwalk

Detail: Annual meeting with presentation of reports will begin promptly at 11 AM, cocktails (cash bar, \$9 per drink) and lunch to follow. Dust off your hats and fascinators ladies!

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Time: 10 AM meeting

Place: TBD

Detail: TBD

Happy Birthday!

May	18	Jo Luscombe
June	4	Mary Ann Weverbergh
	8	Donnie Naber
	9	Carol Smith

Please visit greensfarmsgardenclub.org for up-to-date information on meetings, member directory, plus minutes, newsletters, by-laws, fun pictures and more!