

NEWSLETTER

Petals and Persiflage

June 2021 Vol. 32 | No. 6



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday is Garden Club day!

August 31st – Board Mtg

September 14th – Membership Mtg

September 28th – Board Mtg

*D*ear Members,

As I start my term as President, I am excited to have an awesome post-pandemic year! Yay! There are several things I think we should address as we move forward as one of the greatest small garden clubs. In the interest of time and space, I will just use bullet points...

- Reiterate our objective: “The advancement of artistic and horticultural skills, civic improvement, and environmental awareness.”
- Streamline board meetings to reduce number of attendees and redundancy.
- Review bylaws for current updates. (would love a volunteer to do this)
- Revisit our current dues and fundraising efforts. (would love some volunteers for this)

Regarding hospitality for our meetings, as of now, no one has signed up. It is a requirement that each member help with hospitality for at least two meetings a year. I would like to propose that we use Signup Genius on our website to have everyone sign up to bring something to a meeting. If you are bringing something that week, you should also plan on helping set up and clean up. If this does not work, we will not have food at our meetings. The Christmas luncheon and annual meeting will have to be done separately with a member volunteering to spearhead.

I am available via email at kathym@mitchells.com or cell phone (203) 521-0203. I would PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE ask that you put “GFGC” in the subject line or there is a chance I will miss your email. Thank you.

Let’s have some fun gardening!

Kathy

Kathy Mitchell, President



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.



Annual Meeting & Luncheon



On Tuesday, June 8th, the Greens Farms Garden Club held its annual meeting and luncheon at Shorehaven Golf Club in Norwalk. Members convened in a private space on the second floor of the clubhouse to submit annual reports, present the new 2021 – 2022 slate and recognize members of merit. Our new President, Kathy Mitchell, graciously received the President's Bowl (arranged by Wynn Herrmann) from past Presidents, Ann Watkins and Maren Hood. Maybette Waldron was this year's Copper Bowl recipient in recognition of her amazing *Notable Ninety* and *Growing For Good* efforts. Wynn Herrmann also presented our beloved and faithful member, Diane Caserta, with the Heritage Award in appreciation for her many years of service and devotion to GFGC.



Ann Watkins, Kathy Mitchell and Maren Hood



Jacque O'Brien and Maybette Waldron



Wynn Herrmann and Diane Caserta

Fully vaccinated and unmasked, we were all together again, enjoying the day, as though no time had ever slipped passed during the pandemic. Greens Farms Garden Club roots are certainly strong and run deep.

Dina Schmidt, Newsletter

2021–2022 SLATE

President, Kathy Mitchell

Vice President, Maybette Waldron

Treasurer, Pam Toner

Assistant Treasurer, Chris Cook

Corresponding Sec., Kate Carroll

Recording Sec., Gael Ficken

Awards, Ann Watkins

GFG, Maybette Waldron and Gael Ficken

Membership, Mary Lou McGuire and

Jacque O'Brien

Newsletter, Dina Schmidt

Nominating, Wynn Herrmann

Programs, Diane Parrish and Jane Steiger

Publicity, Jacque O'Brien

Trips, Barbara Harman

Ways & Means, Jane MacDonald

Website, Judy Smith

Civic Development, Wynn Herrmann (Earthplace)

and Carol MacDonald (Victorian Cottage)

Conservation, Pam Waesche

Exhibits, Ginny Murphy

Garden Therapy, Jane Guenther and

Chris Supernaw (Star)

Historian, Maren Hood

Horticulture, Carol Shear

The first Greens Farms Garden Club President's Bowl was donated in 1973 and it is still going although this time we are beginning the creative engraving that will encircle the bowl for many more Presidents. - **Ann Watkins**



and they wore hats...



and there were flowers...

Thank you all for the wonderfully creative, beautiful arrangements. Enjoying them on the tables helped add to the smiles on everyone's face. Well done. - **Gael Ficken, Exhibits**

See if you can match the centerpiece to its designer. Find the answer key below. No peeking please.

- A. Wynn Herrmann
- B. Jane MacDonald
- C. Ginny Murphy

- D. Diane Parrish
- E. Dina Schmidt
- F. Judy Smith



Trips

WHITE FLOWER FARM

On Wednesday, June 16th, we took a private tour of White Flower Farm in Morris, CT. It's a family-owned nursery that has been in business since 1950. The majority of their business is mail-order and their peak season is during the months of April and May.

Just minutes from Litchfield center, it's only a 1-hour trip... and so worth it. The property was beautiful. There are several gardens all designed with different colors, blooming throughout the season and with different heights and densities.

We had 9 members join us for the trip; Kate Carroll, Cindy Fitzgerald, Maren Hood, Jacque O'Brien, Judy Reynolds, Judy Smith, Maybette Waldron, Ann Watkins and me. There was lots of shopping at the end and some had ice cream for lunch. A great success!



Pam Toner, Trips

Garden Therapy



STAR, INC. LIGHTING THE WAY

On Thursday, June 17th, Cindy Fitzgerald, Jane Guenther, Jacque O'Brien, Chris Supernaw, Pam Waesche and Ann Watkins met with STAR garden club members to plant their railing boxes and planters for the summer season. The group also replanted the atrium garden with an assortment of perennials (many donated from our members own gardens) as well as annuals – all helping to transform the peaceful space. It was a busy, active workshop. All of the plants found a new home. It was great to be back at STAR, especially on such a beautiful day and their garden club participants were excited to get together and help out once again...as were we!

Jane Guenther, Garden Therapy

Food Insecurity Initiative



GROWING FOR GOOD!

Our crops at St. Timothy's and Wakeman Town Farm are growing! It's surely exciting for the farmers who tend to the gardens weekly. If you're interested in watering, weeding or harvesting and not already on the schedule, please contact the head farmer(s).

Phyllis Kaschub has been busy labeling buckets donated by my friends at Kilwins Ice Cream in Plymouth, Mass. In addition to crops, Judy Smith has arranged for fresh eggs contributed by her friend, Ginny Levy, who has chickens on a private retreat in Redding!

Our harvesting committee met to determine a plan for picking and distributing. Jane MacDonald and Judy Reynolds will be counting the crop buckets and arranging delivery to Mercy Learning Center and St. John's Family Center in Bridgeport. Our first delivery of fresh lettuce and eggs was made to St. John's on June 28th by Jane MacDonald and Jacque O'Brien! See above photo taken by Jacque of Jane, Father Rock and Washington that day. The smiles say it all!

Growing For Good is GOOD because of the many members and friends who help to make this important initiative GREAT. Happy Farming!

Maybette Waldron, Growing For Good



Above: Phyllis Kaschub labels buckets, Maybette Waldron holds buckets, Jane MacDonald and Judy Reynolds bundle buckets...*"Many drops make a bucket, many buckets make a pond, many ponds make a lake, and many lakes make an ocean."* --Percy Ross

Hort Report

LOOK UP

How often as gardeners are we looking down and not up? We look down to prepare the soil, plant our plants, water them, fertilizer them, inspect and care for them. And then, hopefully when they grow, we begin to look up and sometimes way up as in the case of trees.

I was recently on a walk and realized I was looking down, again! I was watching where I was going, being careful about my footing on the path (a good idea!) but missing the view above. So, I stopped and looked up, wayyy up. I took in the tree bark's texture and color, the limb attachment to the trunk, height, the width and shape of the canopy. Magnificent and majestic were words that immediately came to mind especially for those trees that were growing with enough space around them to fully realize their natural habit.



However, I also noticed some saplings with sunken dark spots and curled leaves and then larger trees, same thing. They were beech trees and this is the new bug in town afflicting trees: a non-native nematode...microscopic worms that live in the soil that have somehow managed to make it to the tree canopy 40-50 feet above ground is the presumed culprit according to the USDA.

The nematode, *Litylenchus crenatae*, native to Japan is curiously enough not a tree-killer in Japan. Current research being done to understand how they move points to prevailing winds. The nematodes could be hitching rides on imported plants, on mites, or even birds. Some mites, very small arthropods, travel on the wind while others climb up the tree trunk. Birds have been known to eat plant cysts that contain nematodes and then 'deposit' them later, the cysts having protected the nematodes during the digestive process.

Once all the puzzle pieces come together, the scientists can better explore methods to control this new devastating pest affecting our beech trees.

In the meantime this summer put down your shovel or hose for a moment, take a deep breath and gaze upwardly in appreciation for the beauty and grandeur above. Feel the awe.

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.

If you're not already on Aspectuck's email list aspetucklandtrust.org, it's a must!

Check out then visit these initiatives this summer:

- Earthplace Demonstration Garden in Westport
- Southport Wildflower Preserve Demonstration Garden (was on the Southport Garden stroll)
- Southport Beach Demonstration Garden: Native Coastal Design
- Haskins Preserve Demonstration Garden: New England Native Plant Landscape

FUN FACTZZZ:

- A tiny fly (a "midge") no bigger than a pinhead is responsible for the world's supply of chocolate.
- In the United States, pollination by honey bees and other insects produces nearly \$20 billion worth of products annually!

WORD SEARCH: POLLINATORS



NEST
RUSTY
FLORA
NATIVE
POLLEN
MONARCH
BUTTERFLY
BUMBLE BEE
CLEAR WING
RED ADMIRAL
SYRPHID FLY
CARDER SWEAT BEE
GREAT BLACK WASP
PAINTED LADY PRAIRIE
SWALLOWTAIL NECTAR
SOLDIER BEETLE WOOL

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



Wow! What a honor to receive the Cooper Bowl. I am both humbled and blessed to be part of an organization of knowledgeable, enthusiastic and willing women that share in the same mission and support each other along the way. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

- Maybette Waldron



We headed to the Gettysburg National Military Park before Memorial Day. Impressive history. Sharing a picture of the wildflowers on the battlefield.

- Judy Reynolds

From my garden and my garden in bloom!

- Phyllis Kaschub



At Staples High School, members of the Science National Honor Society and Club Green spent a Saturday last month weeding, and planting native plants donated by Aspetuck Land Trust. Part of the Pollinator Pathway, the project was led by Teagan Smith, recently graduated senior, and longtime super Wakeman Town Farm volunteer, with the guidance from Alice Ely, WTF gardens chair and science teacher, Cecilia Duffy.

- 06880, courtesy of Maybette Waldron

Potpourri

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

DO YOU KNOW THIS GIRL?!

Find the answer at the bottom of this page.

No peeking please.

Need a hint...? No one submitted this month!



And, now they're just a distant memory. Why do the good ones leave us so soon?
- Dina Schmidt

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



Waiting for the Monarch butterflies to find my milkweed. So far no caterpillars on the leaves. 😞 The nectar-bearing flowers are in full bloom. I hope I have the Monarch's preferred species!

- Chris Supernaw



GFGC featured on Federated Garden Clubs of CT Instagram
#wegrowgardensandgardeners



A Stebbins selfie at H. Smith Richardson Preserve on May 25th. From left: Charlie Stebbins, Maybette Waldron, Kathy Mitchell and Ann Watkins.

Upcoming Dates & Details

Tuesday is Garden Club Day!

August

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Time: 10 AM meeting

Place: TBD

September

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Time: 11 AM Meeting | 12:00 PM *Life is a Garden, Tend it Well* Gardening & Creative Arts Event

Place: Kathy Mitchell's home
210 Cobblers Hill, Fairfield

Detail: The Exhibits Committee is looking forward to our September 14th Membership Meeting that will be held at Kathy Mitchell's beautiful garden.

We are again asking the membership to start thinking about how they can contribute to this lovely occasion. This will be the second "Life is a Garden, Tend it Well" event, started last year by Gael Ficken.

All contributions are welcome — floral arrangements, homegrown fruits or vegetables, or arts and crafts. Please contact Ginny Murphy with any ideas you might have concerning contributions. More information will be coming out in the August Newsletter.

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Time: 10 AM meeting

Place: TBD

Detail: TBD

Happy Birthday!

June	4	Mary Ann Weverbergh
	8	Donnie Naber
	9	Carol Smith
July	28	Terri Jennings
	16	Pam Toner

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