



December 2024

REMINDER:

The Holiday Party will take place at 6 pm on Thursday, December 19 at the Wadsworth Mansion.

CALENDAR:

Monday, December 2: Wreath Workshop, CFP, 8 – 2:30 pm

Sunday, December 8: Holiday Bazaar, Wadsworth Mansion, 10 – 3 pm

Thursday, December 19: Holiday Party, Wadsworth Mansion, 6 – 9 pm

Thursday, January 16: MGC business meeting and presentation on the gardens of Stourhead, Wiltshire, England, by Rhea Higgins. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hi –

Seems the holiday season is officially here. However you celebrate, I hope your holidays are merry! May the harvest of greens, decoration of wreaths, shopping of local venues and baking of yummy goodies get you in the mood to enjoy festive gatherings with friends and family. Hope one of those gatherings is our garden club holiday party at the Mansion. See you there!

Kim



HOLIDAY PARTY:

When: Thursday, Dec. 19, 6 pm

Where: Wadsworth Mansion

What to Wear: Something festive!

PLEASE RSVP WITH YOUR CHECK BY DECEMBER 11.

MGC MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2024 BUSINESS MEETING:

President Wuestefeld called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm at the CT Forest & Parks headquarters. After thanking hostesses Sally Cornish and Melissa Roberts for the delicious repast, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting as printed in Cornus. On a motion by Judy,

seconded by Kathie, the minutes were approved unanimously.

On a motion by Ed, seconded by Elaine, the last two Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved as well.



Discussion of a memorial donation for Ted Xenelis followed; on a motion by Jane, seconded by Judy, the club voted to donate \$100 in his memory to the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry, Amazing Grace.

Kim announced that the Holiday Party to be held at the Wadsworth Mansion will be slightly different from last year's party. Elaine explained that we will be only in the East Ballroom, which will bring everyone closer together. There will be a cash bar, offering beer, wine, and a signature drink. Sodas will be included in the \$65 per person charge. Lynn has requested checks not later than December 11, with the memo line reading "Holiday Party."

Standing Committee Reports:

Archives: Kathie reports that the scanning is complete up to December of 1974.

Admissions: Kathy reminded members to consider bringing a friend to meetings, to

introduce them to the value of membership in MGC. Discussion followed as to the possibility of some Thursday meetings being moved to 4 pm, or having an occasional Saturday morning meeting.

Conservation/NAL: Tisha said that the Zone II Rep is holding monthly Zoom meetings with Club chairs to help prepare for upcoming programs such as NAL in Washington, as well as the move to enact legislation for Native Plant Month in all 50 states.

Federated: The Connecticut Flower and Garden Show, "Signs of Spring", will be held in Hartford February 20-23, 2025. (Click [here](#) for lots more info.)

Finance: Lynn will roll over an expiring CD for a 3-month period; she asks that members contact her if there are items in the new reports that committee chairs would like to see for their committees.

Horticulture: Kathie distributed seeds for the Gavel Challenge to several members who will do two sowings for our Scabiosa entry at the September Zone Meeting in Rhode Island.

Visiting Gardens: a trip to the Orchid Show at NYBG on April 1. Details to follow.

After asking for new business items, Kim recognized Laney, who provided a presentation on the Maria Holzberg Parterre Garden at Long Hill Estate.

There was a lengthy discussion, with additional information from Ed, Patsy, and Christina, about the details of the plans. The committee has requested that

the MGC consider donating a wrought iron bench for the garden, which will cost \$2,500. On a motion by Renee, seconded by Edwina, the club voted to table the decision until the January meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Kate Coley moved to adjourn, with a second by Judy. The motion was approved on a show of hands at 2:25 pm, at which time Lynn offered evaluations and critiques of 8 x 10 photos brought in by several club members. Photos were tentatively selected for submission to the Communications Zone Rep for the eNews in the spring, which will feature Zone II photos.

Attendance: L. Bank, J. Bell, E. Carella, K. Coley, S. Cornish, E. Dzialo, T. Ferguson, L. Garner, K. Green, J. Harris, R. Higgins, L. Johnson, R. Kelley, O. McLaughlin, K. Meyering, P. Mylchreest, E. Ranganathan, R. Rickenback, M. Roberts, J. Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, C. Wasch, K. Wuestefeld
Excused: S. Allison, N. D'Oench, M. Giamei, M. Kalayjian, M. Xenelis

ROOFTOP NEWS:

The garlic has been planted, and the group has met to plan for next season's crops! Volunteers will still be needed in the spring,.. ~ Stephan Allison



FROM THE TREASURER:

A gentle reminder that checks (\$65.00 per attendee) for the Holiday Party are due on Dec. 11, 2024 so that we can confirm our headcount with the caterer. Please write "Holiday Party" on the memo line and send to me at:

28 Old Farms Rd
PO Box 24
Durham, CT 06422

~ Lynn Johnson



CONSERVATION NEWS:

In the winter months, we have a chance to read and plan for the next growing season. Here are some good places to find information about increasing the native species in our gardens, to create a more balanced ecosystem, to benefit pollinators, and to build resistance to climate change.

Native Plant Trust

- www.nativeplanttrust.org
- Gobotany.nativeplant.trust.org

UConn

- <https://plantdatabase.uconn.edu>

Grow Native Massachusetts

- grownativemass.org/Great-Resources/databases

Wild Ones CT Chapter

- mountainlaurel.wildones.org

Homegrown National Park (Doug Tallamy)

- homegrownnationalpark.org/native-plants-finder

Audubon (National)

- <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

Audubon CT

- <https://ct.audubon.org/conservation/plant-native-species>

Connecticut College Arboretum

- <https://www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum/ecological-landscaping/landscaping-resources/>

National Wildlife Federation

- <https://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org>

~ Tisha Ferguson



“I am a book of snow, a spacious hand, an open meadow, a circle that waits, I belong to the earth and its winter.” ~ Pablo Neruda

2024-2025 MGC Programs
as of 11/21/24

| Date | Location | Program Topic | Hostesses |
|----------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Sept 19 1:00-3:00 | McCutcheon Park, 100 Livingston Rd, Middletown | Business meeting Plant exchange | Elaine Carella |
| Oct 17 9:00-11:00 | Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center- 100 Lyme St, Old Lyme | Bird migration/habitats presentation/walk on Sanctuary – take pics for 11/21 program | n/a |
| Nov 21 1:00-3:00 | CFPA (reserved from 12-3) | Photography “show”—present photos from 10/17 RTP visit and/or other recent bird/nature photos | Melissa Roberts Sally Cornish |
| Dec 2 7:30-2:30 | CFPA (NOTE: wreath drop- off on Dec 1) | Wreath-making workshop | Debby Shapiro Tisha Ferguson |
| Dec 8 10:00-3:00 | Wadsworth Mansion | Holiday Bazaar | n/a |
| Dec 19 6:00-9:00 | Wadsworth Mansion | Holiday party | n/a |
| Jan 16 1:00-3:00 | Durham Library | English Landscape – Stourhead, Wiltshire Presented by Rhea Higgins Open to public | Kathie Green Ona McLaughlin |
| Feb 20 1:00-3:00 | CFPA | “Mycorrhizal (fungi) inoculations” – presented by Susanna Kerio, Dept of | Laney Bank Judy Schoonmaker |

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | | Environmental/Science and Forestry, CAES | |
| March 20 1:00-3:00 | deKoven House | “Pitching the Real Dirt”: - a film presented by Conservation/Horticulture Committees | John Bell Stephan Allison |
| Apr 1 All day | New York Botanical Garden | Orchid show | n/a |
| April 17 1:00-3:00 | CFPA/TBD | Inexpensive Flower Arrangement Challenge - Gather from own garden etc; bring own container | Christina Wasch Edwina Ranganathan |
| May 15 | TBD | Annual meeting | TBD |



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