Town & Country Garden Club
Newtown Connecticut

Member of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc. New England Garden Clubs, Inc., and National Garden Clubs

October 2026

1. Next General Meeting –
November 11 - Senior Center. Anyone who wishes can come any time from 5:30 on. **The Artistic Design this month will be MASS DESIGN, so why not try out what you learned last month and bring in a design?** Those who are bringing exhibits should be there no later than 5:45. The general meeting will start at 6:00.

Hostesses-
Nancy Azzaro
Heather Strasburger
Margaret Oliger
Lina Williams

REMINDERS
1. November 11 next General meeting

2. November 13 Fundraiser Sal E Pepe

3. November 19 Board Meeting

4. December 9 Holiday Party Newtown Country Club

Co-presidents

Jane Vouros



Holly Walczak



Dear Fellow Gardners,

As we enjoy another beautiful New England autumn, we want to congratulate our club on an outstanding year. We are especially proud of our success at the Federated Garden Club awards, a reflection of the dedication and hard work of our members. A special thank you to the 12 members who attended and represented our club so well.

This fall has been particularly spectacular. Connecticut has blessed us with beautiful weather, brilliant blue skies, and some of the most vibrant foliage we've seen in years. Our three town islands are a wonderful example of what we can accomplish together. Through the efforts of our members, these spaces have been transformed with colorful seasonal plantings, including mums, asters, and festive pumpkins, helping to beautify our town and bring enjoyment to residents and visitors alike.

As we welcome new members, it is important that we encourage them to become involved in our projects and activities. By giving everyone an opportunity to contribute, we foster a sense of pride and ownership in our club's work. Their enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and participation will help ensure that our club continues to thrive and make a positive impact in our community.

Thank you for all you do to make our town more beautiful. Enjoy the colors of the season and the many rewards that gardening brings.

Warmly,
Holly and Jane



Margareta reviewed the design in relation to the Principles of Design (The Standard Rules of Composition).

The artistic standards used to organize the physical elements into a unified, beautiful display:
Balance: A sense of physical and visual equilibrium

Proportion: The pleasing size relationship between all parts of the design

Scale: The size relationship between the entire floral design and its surrounding

Rhythm: The visual flow or movement

Contrast: The juxtaposition of differing elements (like rough vs. smooth textures or dark vs. light colors)

Dominance (Emphasis): The stronger presence of a certain element, color, or form that creates a focal point and prevents competing areas of equal weight

OCTOBER 14 GENERAL MEEETING WORKSHOP

After the demonstration of Mass Design members were invited to gather the supplies and try It out. Seasoned club members walked around to offer tips and suggestions.



















Traditional Mass Design
triangle, circle, oval







Place your longest or central stems first to establish the overall dimensions— 1.5 to 2 times the size of your container.

Position your largest, heaviest, or darkest blooms near the bottom and center tilt the face of the flower slightly downward and outward.

Tuck smaller filler flowers or delicate textures into any remaining gaps between larger blooms.

NOVEMBER 11 GENERAL MEETING



PROGRAM "Seasonal Garden Care" presented by Michele MacKinnon. Michelle will give us some insight into new methods of garden care.

MASS DESIGN -To create a **mass floral design** - build a full, tightly grouped arrangement that emphasizes color and texture within a defined geometric shape (like a triangle, circle, or oval). Use the handout from the last meeting for tips and guidance. Have Fun!







Horticulture - Shrub or tree branch with ornamental fruit /berries or foliage.

1 stem if large 3 stems if small. Branch may not exceed 30 inches.





November Garden Tasks

Annuals & Perennials

- Plant bulbs by the first week of November.
- Dig dahlia tubers and gladiola bulbs after a hard frost and store them indoors.
- Cut peonies (not the tree variety) down to 3" above the ground,
- Cut back perennials
- Wait to spread winter mulch until after the ground has frozen. Mulching beforehand can delay dormancy and makes a good home for voles.
- Mark where you've planted bulbs or late starting spring plants in the perennial garden.
- Cut back perennials to 3-4 inches, but ornamental grasses can be left to provide winter interest.
- Pull annuals and add them to the compost pile.
- Once the ground has frozen (but before it snows), mulch fall planted perennials by placing 3 to 5 inches of pine needles, straw, chopped leaves around them.

Lawns

- Rake leaves that fall late for easier spring cleanup.
- Continue to water trees, shrubs, lawn areas, and planting beds during dry spells until the soil freezes.
- Keep mowing your lawn as long as the grass is growing.
- Pull off remaining leaves on roses and rake up. Place bark mulch around the base so that the first part of the stem (nearest the ground) is completely covered.

Trees and Shrubs

- Protect young trees by covering the trunks with tree wrap.
- Rake and compost large leaves from oak and maple trees. Smaller leaves from ash, honey locust, and birch trees may be chopped with a mulching mower and left on your lawn.

Wild life

- Put out bird feeders and suet for the birds.
- Clean bird baths and consider a heating unit.
- Use sunflower hearts instead of whole seeds, a better source of calories for the birds and eliminates hull waste beneath the feeder.

https://homegarden.cahnr.uconn.edu/monthly-gardening-tips-for-connecticut/gardening-tips-november



Barbara Hostetler's Canna Lily, a tropical perennial

Leucanthemum Sheffield



Barbara O'Connor said this plant blooms it's little head off into November, and if she sprays the foliage in May before it blooms it stays pretty much pest free for the season.

She caught several bees and yellow jackets enjoying these late season blooms



Bev caught this bee drinking from a sunflower at the senior center.

SOME OF THE LAST BLOOMS OF THE SEASON

Joy



White bleeding hearts Still blooming since May.



Seed pods from Butterly weed



Ornamental grasses which will stand until the heavy snows.



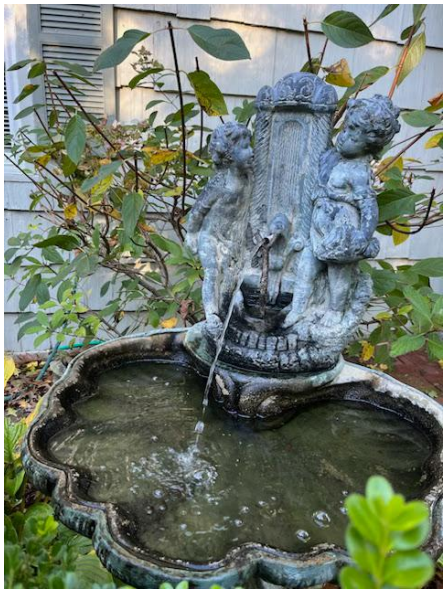






Hillary's dahlias and a lilac that decided to bloom now.





Arline's geraniuma and alyssum and her 100 year old fountain









Three Little Red Threads:

Growing Saffron in a Connecticut Garden

Crocuses are a familiar spring "early riser," but did you know one variety also blooms in the fall? Crocus Sativa has an "upside-down" growing season. Planted in the late summer, you can enjoy flowers in your fall garden when everything else is winding down for the winter. The Saffron crocus flowers in autumn, retains growing foliage through the cooler months, and becomes dormant in late spring or early summer. The flowers bloom in late October and early November.

The corm, like a bulb, is a swollen underground stem. This crocus is hardy in Connecticut, which is Zone 6.

It produces saffron from the red threads in the flower, which is used for both flavor and yellow coloring in dishes such as paella, risotto, and saffron buns. It takes seven flowers for a "pinch" of saffron, and it takes 150 -170 flowers for one gram of dried saffron. Every flower is harvested and its stigmas removed by hand which is why saffron is so expensive. Although Iran is the largest producer, saffron has been grown in parts of Pennsylvania for more than 200 years, mostly for household use. It also has a history as a dye.

It should be noted that "autumn crocus" is an ambiguous common name. The highly poisonous *Colchicum*, also called "meadow saffron," is a different plant. If you want to harvest saffron you should buy corms specifically labeled ***Crocus sativus*** from a reputable supplier. Ordinary spring crocuses are not a source of culinary saffron.

You might want to try to pot a healthy Crocus sativus corms. Plant in draining potting mix in a container with drainage holes, and place it in a bright, sunny window, preferably in a cool room. Water sparingly, keeping the soil from becoming soggy. Mature corms may still reward you with autumn flowers, but late arrivals may make you wait until next fall. Think of it as a little gardening experiment—with the possibility of a delicious reward!

Margaret shared this interesting information on Crocus Sativa.
https://www.uvm.edu/extension/news/saffron-worlds-most-expensive-spice?utm_source=chatgpt.com
https://www.rhs.org.uk/herbs/saffron?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Hot air balloons are the oldest successful form of human aviation, having first flown more than 240 years ago.

First passengers: The very first living passengers in a hot air balloon launched in France in 1783 were a sheep, a duck, and a rooster.

Champagne tradition: Early balloonists carried champagne to offer as a peace offering to landowners and farmers who were often terrified or hostile when strange aircraft landed in their fields.

No steering wheel: Hot air balloons do not have rudders, steering wheels, or ailerons; they travel completely with the wind.

How pilots steer: Pilots change direction horizontally by ascending or descending into different air currents that move at varying speeds and directions.

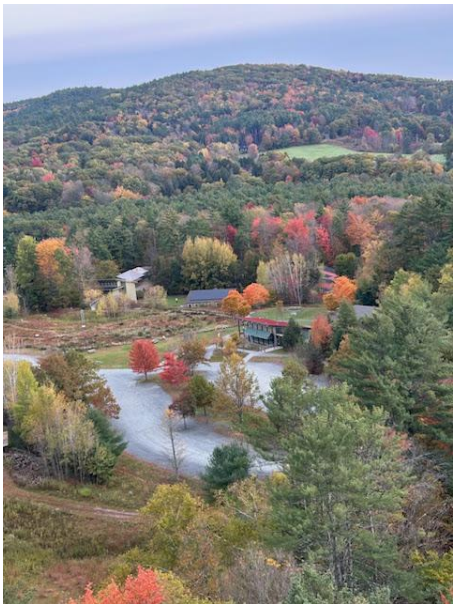
Sunrise flights: Most commercial flights happen right around sunrise or late afternoon because the air is calmest and most stable then.

THE BEAUTIFUL AUTUMN VIEWS ARE NOT ALL SEEN FROM THE GROUND.

Chris Lincoln was recently in Quechee Vermont for a hot air balloon ride. She said, “It doesn’t get better than a hot air balloon ride (birthday gift from her daughter) with loved ones, stunning foliage views, adventure – and a little fear.







CARING FOR THE ISLANDS

ISLAND 1 has its fall cabbages and pumpkins set up. Final cleanup is next week.





ISLAND 2





Holly, Lynn, Sue, and Heather after a long Sunday afternoon cleanup.

ISLAND 3 workers Hillary, Elaine, Arline, Jan, Barbara, Marybeth, and Chris after a day of cleanup and fall decorating





FGCCT President 2025-2027
Nan Merolla

Jane Sharpe and Peggy Townsend put this table decoration together for the Awards Luncheon.



That inspired Barbara McCann to go home and create her own



The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

FGCCT Annual Awards Meeting and Luncheon October 21

Congratulations to our 2026 award winners! We are proud that they represent our club at the state level!

TCGC submitted six applications for the 2025-2026 awards year, and three were awarded. Some factors that influence application success are timing relevant to other clubs' entries, suitability for a specific Federated category, and the degree to which the application reflects FGCCT goals, which may vary from year to year.

Betsy, Hillary, Chris, Barbra McCann, Holly, Josie, Joy, Arline, Teri Jane, Joan, and Jane Sharpe all were there to celebrate our club.

We invite all members to submit suggestions for 2026-27 awards and perhaps join The Awards Committee. Joy Kopesky and Barbara McCann

Arline Schanley





Our club received an award for working to remove mile-a-minute vine at Fairfield Hills.









The Tribute Award was given in memory of former club member Mary Ellen Weiner for her horticulture skill, quiet leadership and unwavering dedication which has left a lasting impression on Newtown.

Our Go-To place –
The <u>best</u> place to go to…



Steve and Mark
Our go-to <u>experts</u>



The "Most Appreciated" gift card anyone can receive.



Shakespeare's
GARDEN

(203) 755-2214
25 Obtuse Road, South
Brookfield, CT 06480

Shakespeare's, just like the month of October, is filled with stunning color, calming hues and scents from the hundreds of pumpkins, mums, gourds, and Halloween decorations.
<u>It is a sight for sore eyes</u>.



You'll find expert advice, every tree, shrub, or perennial you could ever want, all the ornamental statues, fountains, and accessories you could ever wish for, every tool or device you could ever need - - as well as the perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for BFF.

Additionally, they have everything you need to transform your yard into an "Autumn Showplace"…
or you may just want to choose a new Spring perennial

A visit always gives ideas, raises spirits, and offers a sight for sore eyes - - just like the month of October.



Chris Lincoln

Quiet, comfortable, and delicious



Meet Renia & Angelo



You don't have to go to a Seafood restaurant to get the BEST seafood dishes.





Tue – Thur:
4:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Friday:
12:00 PM - 9:00 PM
***Sat:* 12:00 PM - 9:00 PM**
Sun:
12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SAL e PEPE
CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN BISTRO

97 South Main Street
Newtown, CT 06470

Did You Know,
(According to my good friend, Google)
that there are 905,000 restaurants in the USA.

AND, did you know,
(According to another best friend, Siri)
that almost 11,000 of them are in our little, lovely
(3rd smallest) state of CT !

Therefore..
... there is an exorbitant amount
of restaurants competing with "our own" Sal e Pepe's
(for Connecticut's best restaurant)
VOTE, VOTE, VOTE
At CTInsider.com/bestrestaurant
For any category that applies.

Treat yourself, your family, your friends
to the best Italian meal
---without travelling all the way to Italy---
(It's a promise)

Delightful

De-licious

Scrumptious

Mouth-watering

Tasty

Outstanding

LOOKING FOR A HAND? HERE ARE SOME CLUB MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Simply Organized - club member Ellen Kutner's service to declutter and organize spaces www. simplyorg.com - simplyorg521@gmail.com

2. George Papajani-contractor, home projects-painting & repairs. licensed & insured 203-996-6643- Recommended by Arline Shanley

3. Kevin Alves Electrician LLC KevinAlveselectric.Com KevinAlvesElectric@gmail.com Recommended by Joan Alexander

4. Wheel it Forward , an organization that lends Health related equipment, like crutches, shower stools, wheelchair etc. They also accepts that kind of items. https://www.wheelitforwardusa.org/ Recommended by Joan Alexander

5. IT person for computer, TV, Home phone problems & set-up-Brian Mullins 203-300-4060 Mason work- sidewalks, patios, stone walls-George Pani- 203-482-5589 - Recommended by Arline Shanley.

6. TEED AND BROWN "Lawn Doctor"- recommended by Peg Fillion

7. Danny Casarella DMC Painting Inc. 914-623-2798 Recommended by Barbara McCann

8. Mike Bigelow 203-417-2922. Carpenter and miscellaneous small jobs. Great guy and great price Recommended by Holly Walczak.

9. Dean DeLucia, Carpenter/Contractor (203) 258-1513 info@deluciaconstruction.com or ddelucia61@yahoo.com Recommended by Chris
Joe Butkus (203) 525-3253) who says he's the best plumber.
Pilarshouseclean@gmail.com 203-733-3594 Recommended by Chris who says best house Cleaning service I've ever had.

10. UBREAKIFIX in the Shoprite shopping center in Brookfield on Federal Road. Hours are Monday through Saturday 10:00 am to 7:00 PM. Recommended by Barbara O'Connor

11. M.G. Masonry new installations & repairs – email mgmasonry76@yahoo.com . Recommendation by Josie Schmidt.

12. "Able to Cane," furniture rescanning, By Maryann Langdon. 203-562-7161, New Haven, CT. Recommended by Margareta Kotch

PLEASE SEND ME ANY RECOMMENDATIONS YOU HAVE THAT MIGHT HELP ANOTHER CLUB MEMBER.