



## 1. Next General Meeting

October 8 - Senior Center. Anyone who wishes can come any time from 5:30 on. Those who are bringing exhibits should be there no later than 5:45. Please consider bringing something in. The general meeting will start at 6:00.

## Hostesses

Alexis Capaldo  
Denise Rod  
Lynne Farah

## REMINDERS

1. October 22 Annual Awards Meeting and Luncheon. **See page 14 for registration information.**

2. Next Board Meeting October 23

3. Attached is the computer version of the handbook. Also, downloadable mobile version for your personal device.

# **Town & Country Garden Club**

## **Newtown Connecticut**

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

*September 2025*

### Co-presidents

Jane Vouros



Holly Walczak



### **Native Revival: Restoring Nature One Garden at a Time**

Welcome to a fresh season of growth, connection and community. As we turn the page to a new chapter, it's the perfect time to celebrate all we've cultivated together – and to look ahead with excitement at what's yet to bloom.

This past year, our club truly thrived. We celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary – a remarkable milestone that reflects decades of dedication, community and love for the natural world. We remained committed to our mission by removing invasive plants from Fairfield Hills, giving our local environment the care and attention it deserves. We inspired each other through our delightful Member Garden Tour, a beautiful showcase of creativity and passion.

Our Member Plant Sale was a vibrant success, featuring native plants lovingly propagated and sold by our very own members. Not only did we raise funds, but we also shared the joy of gardening with our community in a very personal way.

At the Annual Lion's Duck Race, we extended our reach beyond our beds and borders – guiding kids in crafting drums and celebrating nature through rhythm and play. And let's not forget our unique fundraising effort: painted rocks! Who knew a simple stone could become a charming work of art and a tool for club support?

Each of these efforts proves that gardening isn't just about plants – it's about people, purpose, and the power of teamwork. Let's keep cultivating our goals, nurturing new ideas, and sowing seeds of positive impact throughout our community.

*Jane and Holly*

Page 2

Hot gluing Queen  
Anne's lace



Our dog mascot from  
Holly's front steps



Heather and Hillary



All the hydrangea that  
became part of the float



## LABOR DAY PARADE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Co-chairmen Hillary Goldstein and Heather Strasburger - members Jane Vouros, Arline Shanley, Jan Gardner, Barbara O'Connor, Donna Miklaszewski, Josie Schmidt, Joy Kopesky, Chris Lincoln, Nancy Scallon, Betsy Rickert. Our committee started meeting in July to come up with a plan and then we met many more times to develop and build the float. Our final build was on Sunday, August 31, the day before the parade.



Our finished float in all her glory!



Front Row marchers: Josie, Chris, Barbara O, Becky, Heather Nancy, Hillary Teri and Jane V.

Back Row Mae, Holly, Arline and Barbara M.

Page 4

## HORTICULTURE:

Any cut flower or colorful or interesting leaf, annual or perennial.

*Heptacodium  
miconioides*



Lisianthus



Mouse Ears Hosta



Purple Carotenoid- song wood blue



## FIRST GENERAL MEETING September 10, 2025



## EXHIBITS:

Our theme for Exhibits this year is “*America’s Semi quincentennial – our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Newtown Style!*” Our first artistic challenge was THE BOROUGH



Jane Vouros

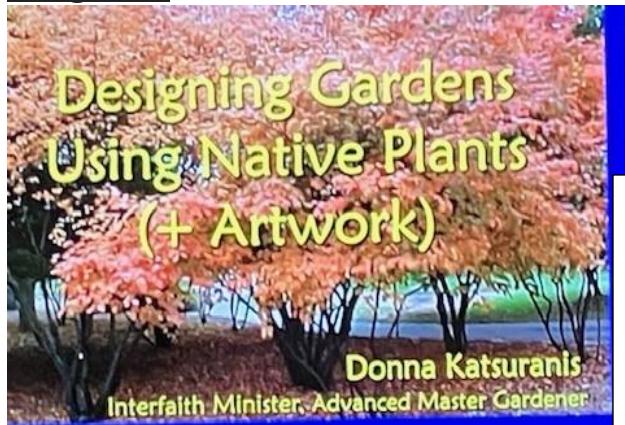


Barbara McCann



Margareta

## Program:





In garden design, hardscape refers to the non-living, structural elements that provide the framework and foundation for the outdoor space, complementing the living, organic "softscape" elements like plants and flowers. Hardscape elements are made from materials such as stone, brick, concrete, or wood and include features like patios, walkways, retaining walls, fences, fire pits, and outdoor furniture.

## Next General Meeting OCTOBER 8

### Hostesses:

Alexix Capaldo, Denise Rod, Lynne Farah

### Exhibits: Hattertown

Artistic: Since Hattertown was named for HATS make an arrangement using a hat.



This year the exhibits committee is hoping to encourage more members to participate in Exhibits, so the requirements were completely dropped and there is NO JUDGING or design restrictions or horticulture judging just sharing. Please consider bringing in a bloom, a bouquet or any arrangement.

### Horticulture: Colorful branch with berries or leaves.



### **PROGRAM "HARDSCAPE IN YOUR LANDSCAPE"**

George Trecina

Someone added a little squirrel addition to our sculpture on Island 2.



### The Pinchot Sycamore

Alexis thought you might be interested in taking a drive to see this beautiful tree.

The **Pinchot Sycamore** is located in Simsbury, Connecticut. It is the largest tree in Connecticut. When measured in 2016, the Pinchot Sycamore's trunk was over 28 feet around and 100 feet tall, with an average canopy diameter of 121 feet. It is estimated to be at least 200 years old.

The Pinchot Sycamore is located on the east bank of the Farmington River near the base of Talcott Mountain south of the town center of Simsbury.

According to the conservation group American Forests in 2000, the Pinchot Sycamore was scheduled to be listed in the 2001 edition of the National register of Big Trees as one of the two largest known American sycamores in the United States.

[explorect.org/pinchot-sycamore/](http://explorect.org/pinchot-sycamore/)



## SOME BEAUTIFUL SUMMER BLOOMS FROM CLUB MEMBERS

This is a shot of Arline's bleeding hearts in full bloom in May



### Carolina Wren



This is a Carolina wren bird's nest that Arline found in a wreath on her front door.

A Carolina Wren's nest is made of materials like twigs and leaves. Both sexes build the nest, which is then lined with feathers, moss, and hair, and can sometimes even include a piece of shed snakeskin. It can be built in almost any enclosed cavity, including mailboxes, shoes, or even old birdhouses. The female wren usually lays a clutch of four to seven eggs at a rate of one per day, with the female incubating the eggs.

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/carolina-wren>

This is Barbara O'Connor's Rhododendron maximum roseum. She thought it was dead, this spring because all the leaves were brown. Then to her surprise some new growth started poking through.



Her Hosta "Mouse Ears" 2 inches tall



Barbara O'Connor's Hibiscus moscheutos.



Here are some interesting facts I found about this plant: It is also known as the rose mallow or swamp rose. It is a cold-hardy perennial, which has many edible parts including its leaf buds and young leaves, flowers immature seed pods, seeds and roots. Tea from boiled leaves has been used to relieve cough, and digestive issues.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hibiscus\\_moscheutos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hibiscus_moscheutos)



You can see the bees on her Goldenrod. She said that they love it as well as the pale purple wild Asters.

These are just a few of Jan's glorious Hydrangeas and an owl she spotted in the trees.



Here is a look at Margareta's bountiful planter.



This is Nancy's Red Dinner Plate Hibiscus. The blooms are 10 to 12 inch in size. She said it was planted by previous owner, but she takes good care of it.



This is her hydrangea.



### WHY BEES MATTER

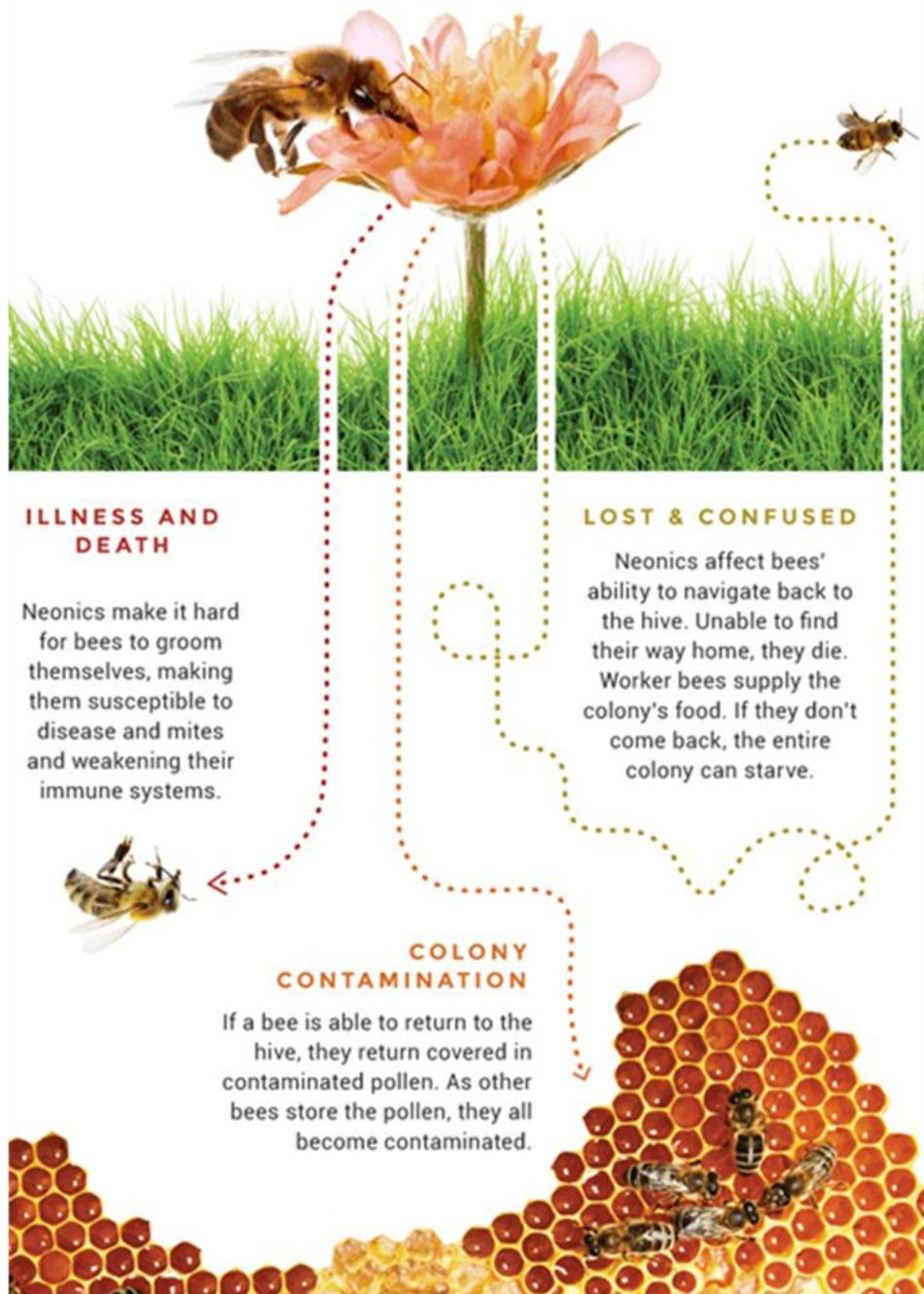
1. Honeybees are responsible for pollinating 75% of the world's flowering plants and 35% of the world's crops.
2. Without pollinating bees, research shows that over 100,000 species of plants would become extinct.

3. Bees support wellness provide honey a natural resource with a long history in traditional medicine.

<https://greatergood.org>.

### HOW NEONICS HARM HONEYBEES

Repeated exposure to neonics starts to change a bee's life and impact the entire colony. The science shows there are a number of different outcomes after exposure:



<https://earthjustice.org/feature/infographic-bees-toxic-problem>

Pollinator Pathway Helps Fund the Report on Neonicotinoid Pesticides in CT



# *Shakespeare's* GARDEN

25 Obtuse Road, South  
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*Shakespeare's Garden (our favorite go-to place)  
has renewed their sponsorship for another year.  
Thank them for supporting us BY SUPPORTING  
THEM!*

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We made sure they were promoted on our Labor Day parade  
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**Town & Country is honored (and lucky) to have the “Best Italian Restaurant” in Connecticut (and other awards listed above), according to -- not just US, as always -- but Readers’ Choice, so close by, when we’re gardened out and hungry.**

**AND**

**We’re honored and thankful that Sal e Pepe is sponsoring us again for the coming year.**

**Let’s thank them for supporting US by SUPPORTING THEM !**

***So, let’s Recommend, Review, Refer***

***Most Important – Patronize***





**Nan Merolla**

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Assistant Treasurer

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Headquarters Manager

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Parliamentarian

## 96th Annual Awards Meeting and Luncheon

October 22, 2025

Aqua Turf Club – 556 Mulberry St. Plantsville, CT 06479

Celebrate the end of another wonderful gardening season with friends from across the state! The FGCCT Awards Luncheon is the perfect opportunity to connect and be inspired by outstanding club and individual accomplishments from the past year as we honor this year's award recipients.

**Schedule:** 9:00 a.m. – Doors open for coffee, early holiday shopping with our curated vendors, and get your tickets to enter our popular raffle

- **10:00 a.m.** – Program begins

### **Entree Choices:**

- **Autumn Chicken** – Lightly breaded chicken breast topped with roasted butternut squash and dried cranberries, finished with a cranberry molasses demi-glace
- **New York Strip Sirloin** – (Gluten-Free)
- **Pan-Seared Salmon** – Fillet with whole grain mustard and honey-ginger glaze (Gluten-Free)
- **Vegetarian Pasta Primavera** – Seasonal vegetables tossed in alfredo sauce

**Cost:** \$49 per person (subsidized by FGCCT)

The online reservation portal will be available starting September 1. The fall luncheon typically sells out—please reserve early!

Mark your calendars for a day of celebration, shopping, inspiration, and fun at one of our most cherished events of the year. We can't wait to see you there!

Register

<https://ctgardenclubs.org/events-overview/awards-meeting/>

**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](http://www.simplyorg.com) - [simplyorg521@gmail.com](mailto:simplyorg521@gmail.com)
2. Helen, Seamstress. She used to work for David's Bridal  
203-258-0750, 5 Hemlock Rd Recommended by Barbara O'Connor
3. George Papajani-contractor, home projects-painting &? repairs. licensed & insured 203-996-6643- Recommended by Arline Shanley
4. IT person for computer, TV, Home phone problems & set-up-Brian Mullins 203-300-4060 - Recommended by Arline Shanley.
5. 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 Recommended by Chris  
[info@deluciacionstruction.com](mailto:info@deluciacionstruction.com) or [ddelucia61@yahoo.com](mailto:ddelucia61@yahoo.com)
10. Joe Butkus (203) 525-3253) Recommended by Chris who says he's the best plumber.
11. [Pilarshouseclean@gmail.com](mailto:Pilarshouseclean@gmail.com) 203-733-3594 Recommended by Chris who says best house cleaning I've ever had.
12. 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
13. M.G. Masonry new installations & repairs – email [mgmasonry76@yahoo.com](mailto:mgmasonry76@yahoo.com) . Recommended by Josie Schmidt.
14. Helping Hand Gardening and Yard Work  
Chrissy (Gardner) Egan 203-707-4807