



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 60th 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



Our dog mascot from
Holly's front steps



Heather and Hillary



All the hydrangea that
became part of the float



LABOR DAY PARADE

COMMITTEEE 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.

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



EXIBHITS:

Our theme for Exhibits this year is “*America’s Semi
quinentennial – our 250th 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:

Alexis 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: Colodrful 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/



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 sometime 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



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.



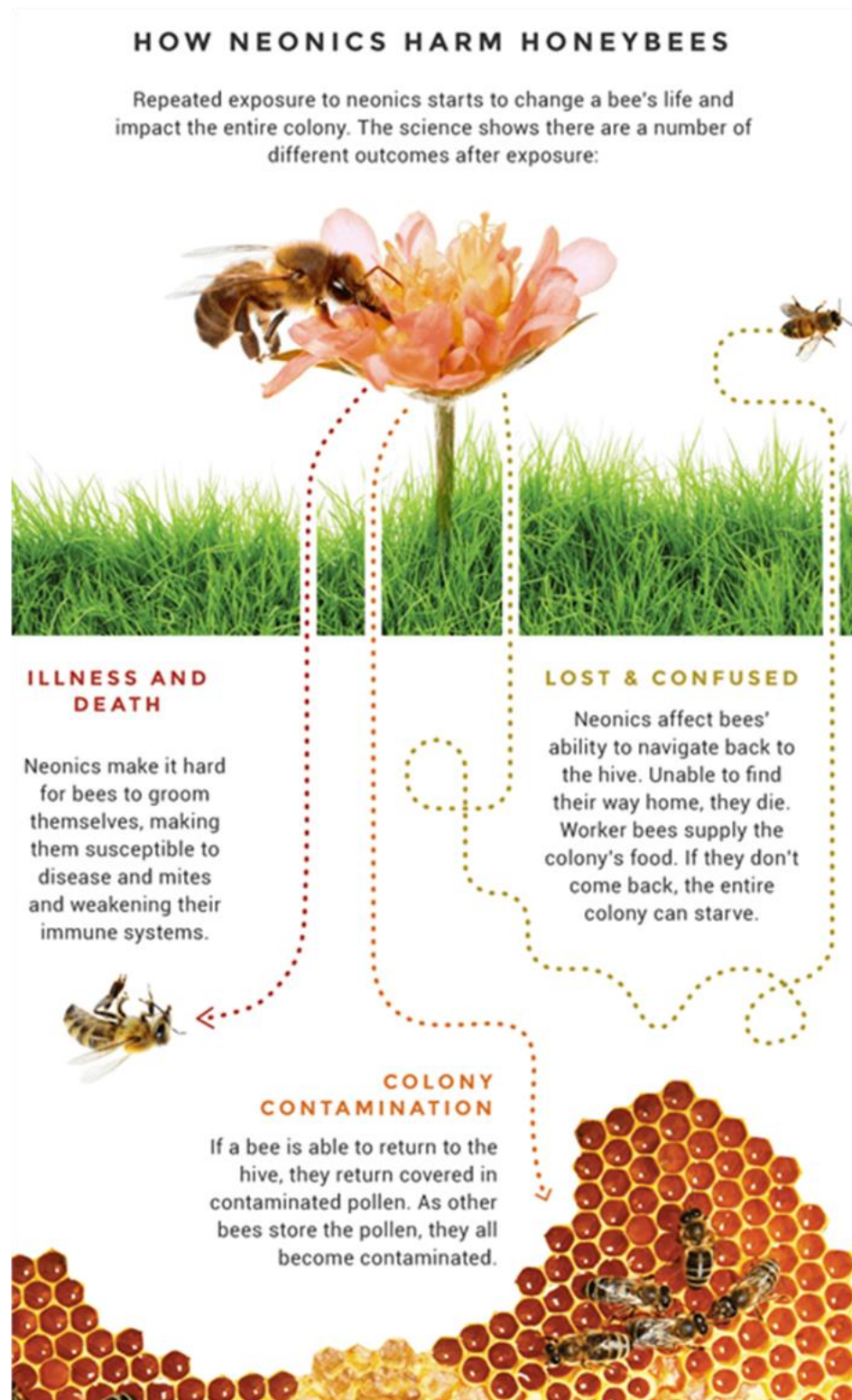
This is her hydrangea.



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>.



<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
Brookfield, CT 06804

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

Patronize.....Praise.....Promote.....Publicize

We made sure they were promoted on our Labor Day parade
Float, seen by thousands:



**Their Autumn containers are stunning, created by experts
using only hearty plants (Mums, Peppers, Ornamentals,
Cabbages) to last the entire season.**

**Take a drive up, meander around - - it's peaceful, colorful - -
good for the mind, good for the soul - -
and if you buy, good for your mood, every single day!!**

(203) 775-2214



97 S. Main Street,
Newtown,
(203) 426-0805



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

President 2025-2027
The Federated Garden
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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 - 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@deluciaconstruction.com or ddelucia61@yahoo.com
10. Joe Butkus (203) 525-3253) Recommended by Chris who says he's the best plumber.
11. 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 . Recommended by Josie Schmidt.
14. Helping Hand Gardening and Yard Work
Chrissy (Gardner) Egan 203-707-4807