Town & Country Garden Club
Newtown Connecticut
Member of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.
New England Garden Clubs, Inc.
and National Garden Clubs **9/2026**



Next General Meeting –
October **14**, Senior Center. This is a workshop meeting– after a demonstration of traditional mass design, each member will make their own mass design, so there are no exhibits.
(details on page 3)

Hostesses-
Denise Rod,
Charlotte Palvides
Lynn Farah,
Susan Day Adams

REMINDERS
1. Board Meeting: Thursday October 22, 5:30 Booth Library.

2. Mark your calendar for **November 13** for our first Dinning Out fundraiser of the year.

It will be held at Sal e Pepe on Friday November. You will be able to go there for lunch, dinner or even take-out and the club will receive a portion of the profits.
More Details to Follow.

Co-presidents: Jane Vouros Holly Walczak





Dear Garden Club Members,

September in Connecticut has arrived with its familiar mix of rain, humidity, and surprise bursts of late-season color. As our gardens shift toward fall, many blooms are fading and seed heads are starting to look a bit scruffy. Please resist the urge to cut them back. Those “ugly” seed heads are essential food for migrating birds, who depend on every calorie they can find.

This is also peak migration season in Connecticut. Millions of birds travel overhead at night, guided by the stars. We encourage everyone to turn off unnecessary outdoor lights and close curtains in brightly lit rooms. A darker home means a safer sky for the birds passing through.

October is just ahead, bringing cooler days and ideal conditions for dividing perennials, planting bulbs, and doing gentle end-of-season cleanup. It’s a wonderful time to reflect on the year’s successes and plan for next spring.

Wishing you a peaceful September and a bright, bird-friendly October,

Your Co-Presidents,
Holly and Jane



Holly Walczak

THE GOLDFINCH ON YOUR FEEDER IS ABOUT TO TURN BROWN.



1. **August-** The last nests of the year are still full. It is the latest nester on your street.
2. **MID SEPTEMBER-** The young are out, begging in a wheezy voice from the sunflower heads.
3. **LATE SEPTEMBER-**Every feather goes, the gold first. The molt takes six to eight weeks.
4. **NOVEMBER** - Olive brown, in a flock of thirty, and the neighbors swear it is a different bird.



5. **MARCH**- The gold comes back a patch at a time. Same feeder, same seed, same bird as before.

I was born in Hamilton, Ontario, on October 16, 1963. I was 2 months old when we moved to New Jersey. My dad worked for the American Can Company and was transferred from Canada to the United States, looking back it must have been very hard for my mom to move with a new baby and a 3- and 6-year-old, I had two sisters… my mom and Dad left all their family and friends and moved to another country with three small children… grew up in Somerset, NJ, in a development with sidewalks, streetlights and tons of children to play with , I remember having so much fun playing "kick the can" most days until it got dark

My dad got transferred again when I was 14, it was a difficult time for me, I was a sophomore in high school and pretty shy, I missed my friends but more so I missed my sisters. My sisters, Kelly and Heather, were on their way to college and didn't move with us to Connecticut. When I turned sixteen, I started my first job at Bradlees in the snack bar, I really enjoying working and meeting friends. I attended Western Connecticut State University (Westcon) and after graduation I worked for Reeds Department store as a manager of the children and men's departments. This was at a time when cash registers were manual so before being hired, candidates had to take a math test. When Reeds closed, I took many temporary jobs which landed me at Homequity where I have worked for 35 years. I am a Regional Director working with real estate companies who assist our customers with buying and selling their homes.

I met my husband of 31 years at Homequity, Bruce is the best thing that ever happened to me. We have five grandchildren and I have three stepchildren who I enjoy visiting and spending time with, my oldest stepson, Abe, is married and lives in California and has 3 children. My middle stepson, Ian, is married and lives in Fort Myers Florida and my youngest is married and lives in Southbury and has 2 children. My youngest, Cathlin, is like a younger sister to me and was one of my bridesmaids. A lot of people we know from work (we both work at the same company) think we look alike.

My life changed when I turned 40, my best friend, my sister Kelly died of Melanoma cancer. I still think of her every day, she was the matriarch of the family always arranging family get-togethers and holidays, she was the only one that could make me laugh until I cried. I am the youngest of the three and still see my older sister often, she lives in New Jersey and would come see our mom (mummy) once a month. Spending time with my mom was important to me, driving to New Jersey to visit family, going outlet shopping, and taking mini vacations to the beach every year. My mom was 93 when she passed, she was a very happy person and called everyone "doll", I miss her every day.

My favorite holiday is Halloween, I love seeing all the happy kids' faces and the wonderful costumes. My favorite color is pink; I guess that's why I loved the Barbie movie and my favorite thing to do is travel. My 2024 New Year's resolution was to go someplace once a month, I got off to a slow start but in February my sister and I went to NYC for the weekend, March my husband and I went to Fort Myers for my stepson's 50th birthday, April a river cruise down the Danube and May, (a birthday present from my sister), a trip to Mohawk Mountain.

I like to start the day walking my dog, Remy. It's my quiet time where I plan for the day and remind myself of all the things I am grateful for. I don't have a daily mantra, but I do remind myself to enjoy every moment, live for the day, don't wish your life away.

Reading the biography of a fellow garden club member is a great way for us to get to know each other a little better.

I hope after reading Holly's biography you will consider writing yours for a future newsletter. Just email it to me, josieschmidtct@gmail.com .

Horticulture







SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING

Program: Dan Holmes founder of Holmes Fine Gardens presented a program on sustainable landscapes and horticultural practices.

Exhibits:

Artistic – Mass Line Design

Barbara McCann





Barbara O'Connor



Josie Schmidt

OCTOBER 14, 2026

Program- Workshop Mass Design

Presenter: Josie Schmidt will demonstrate how to create a Mass Design. Then members will build their own design with help from seasoned members. Just bring your own small container, clippers, and a box to carry your design home. The club will provide flowers, greens, and the oasis.

Choose a low bowl or pedestal bowl. Small shallow, lower containers of neutral colors work best.







Pedestal Bowl

the most popular choices for traditional mass designs





Low Bowls

A low, wide bowl provides a solid base.

Skull-shaped Puffball



Nancy Azzaro found this Skull-shaped puffball or brain puffball in her garden for the first time this year.

Edibility and Uses

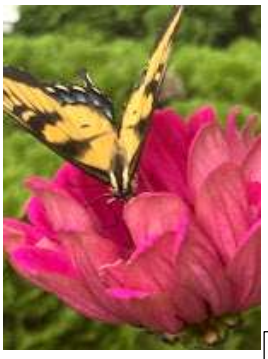
•**Edibility**: It is considered edible only when the interior flesh is completely white and firm like a marshmallow.

•**Traditional Medicine:** Indigenous and folk traditions in Asia and North America have used the mature, powdery spore mass as a natural hemostatic agent to stop bleeding from wounds.



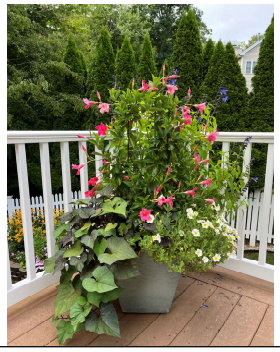
Holly has this beautiful dahlia that Hillary gave her and even planted in her garden for her.

IN OUR SUMMER GARDENS

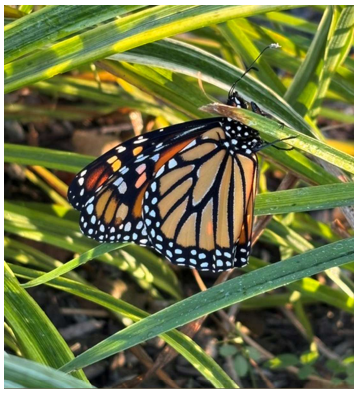


A butterfly on Peggy's zinnia.

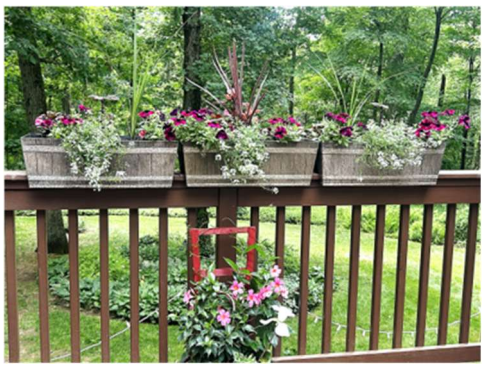




This is a hummingbird fluttering over one of the planters on Margareta's deck, the other is a planter that she said turned out pretty well with some annuals surrounding the Pink Mandevilla plant, which is growing for the third year.



Alexis got a picture of one of her Monarch butterflies emerging. It was still drying its wings in the late day sun.



Chris's back deck

Barbara O'Connor- Hibiscus moscheutos or Swamp Rose Mallow is a shrub-like native perennial famous for its tropical-looking, oversize flowers.





Nancy Azzaro's hydrangea



My purple asters are all in bloom.

(Josie)

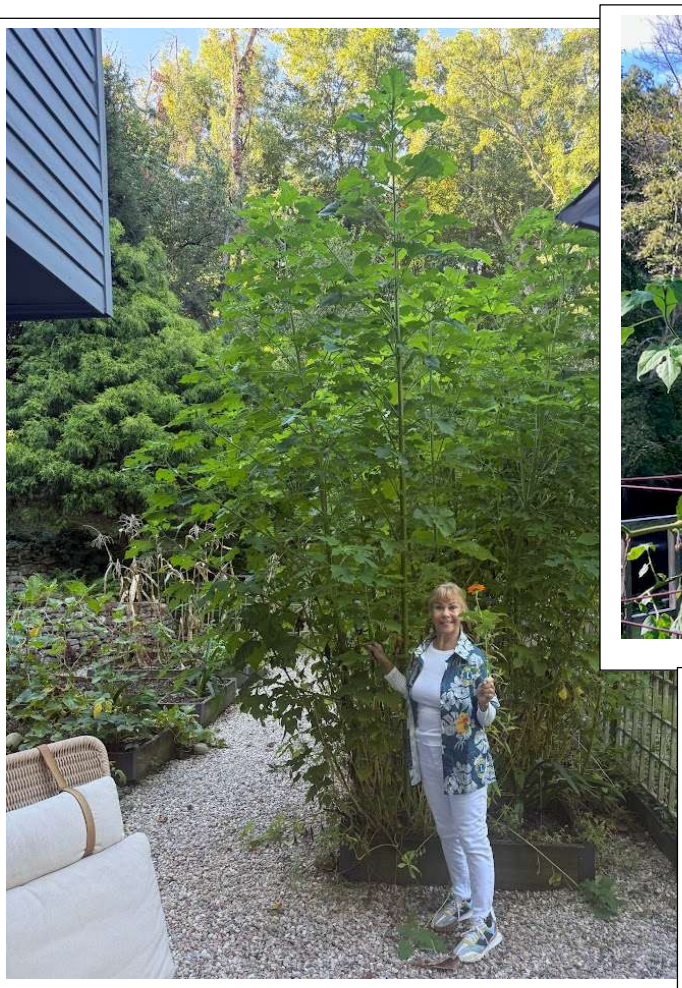
Mix included:

China Aster, Bishops Flower, Black-Eyed Susan, Borage Calendula, Balsam, Clover, Crimson Coreopsis, Lance leaved Bachelor's button, Cosmos, Dill, Lemon Mint, Dwarf Lupine, Mexican Sunflower, Parsley, Pincushion Flower, Blazing Star, Purple Coneflower, Rocky Mountain Bee Plant, Snapdragon, Sneezeweed, Butterfly Flower/Milkweed, Sweet Sultan, Sweet William, Tall Verbena, Sweet Alyssum and Sulphur Cosmos



JOAN AND THE BEANSTALK

This spring Joan Alexander's son sent her a few cans of Butterflies Flower Mix Seeds from Botanical Interests. She sprinkled some of the seeds into a raised planter. It was a mix of annual, biennial, and perennial flowers and herbs! A lovely range of flower colors, heights, and bloom times. She was surprised when she returned later in the summer to see how this Mexican Sun flower had grown!







Margareta Kotch recently celebrated with her family at her granddaughter's wedding. She said they had three glorious days celebrating!

Annika (Rowland) married Seth Lutter in Ithaca N.Y. near a lake where they have a big Farmers Market. The wedding bouquet was made up of flowers from that market, "All Natural!" Margarets thought the flowers would deserve a "Blue Ribbon" for Originality in a Flower show ! If you looked closely into the bouquet, there was some Queen Anne's Lace. That flower was important to her granddaughter, since it was one of the first wildflowers she learned to identify as a little girl on their nature walks with grandma.



THE CRICKET UNDER YOUR STEP HAS ABOUT SIX WEEKS OF SONG LEFT



He hatches in May, sings his first note in August and the first hard frost will end him. Before it does, the female he is calling will push a few hundred eggs into the soil by the foundation, and next May the song will have a new singer.

Invasive Asian jumping worms are widespread across Connecticut, damaging forest floors, and gardens by turning rich topsoil into loose, dry soil that looks like coffee grounds

To capture jumping worms (which are quite big and move very rapidly), check the suspect area right after a good rainfall. Or pour a gallon of water with 1/3 cup ground mustard seed over the ground and wait to see if they emerge. Not fun but very good for your soil! Kill found worms by dropping them in soapy water, alcohol, or vinegar, or by sealing them in a plastic bag left in the sun before throwing them in the trash.

Heather Strasburger has these beautiful Dahlias all along her front fence.

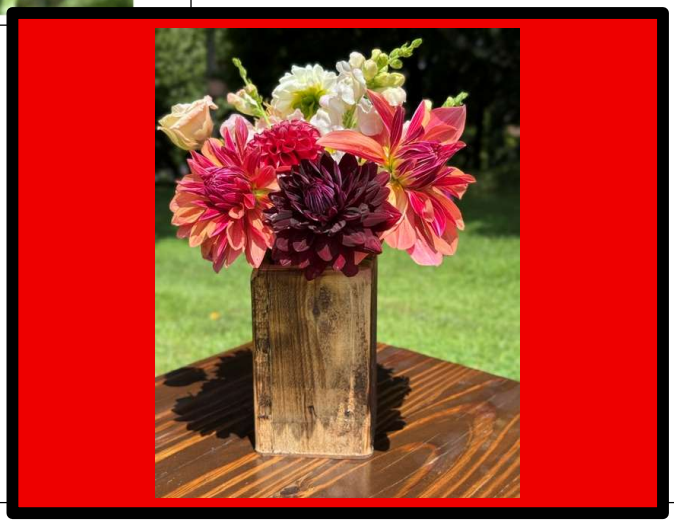


Hillary Goldstein grows many varieties of Dahlias.









SOLID GOLD TIMES TWO





Chris, Joy, Jan, Arline, and Peggy were at Aquilia's Nest on August 11 for the FONS Summer Soiree 2026 and to enjoy music from Bob and I, Solid Gold Times Two.

LABOR DAY PARADE

Teri, Holly, Jan, Hillary, Chris, Mae, Denise, Joan, and Josie represented our club by marching in the Labor day parade.



It was wonderful to hear people in the crowd cheering and clapping for us and for what we do to beautify our town by caring for the Traffic Islands.





FONS, founded in 2016, stands for Friends of Newtown Seniors, an all-volunteer non-profit organization in Newtown, Connecticut led by John Boccuzzi, Sr.

It provides advocacy, programs, and support services for local residents aged 55 and older.

Some of their key services and programs are Newtown Rides, Chore Service, and Partner programs that collaborate with local businesses and groups.



This wonderful hybrid rose bush isn't getting enough sun because of an ever- growing oak tree. Joy Kopesky wants to gift it to a member who will dig it up and give it a sunny home.

FONS 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On September 17th FONS (Friends of Newtown Seniors) hosted their 10th Year Anniversary party at Marigolds, in Newtown. They needed 12 medium-size vases to filled with flowers for the table center pieces for the occasion.

A big thank you went out to Hillary Goldstein, Heather Strasburger, Vickie Bocuzzi and Barbara Hostetler who donated flowers from their gardens. Then Hillary, Joan Alexander, Joy Kopesky, Vicki, and Beverly Schaedler worked their magic and put the flowers together. The results were beautiful!















Tomatoes and cucumbers grown on site at Shakespeare's Garden

Check out their Barn Shop.



(sample house-plant, looking for a new home).



The "Most Appreciated" gift card anyone can receive.

Shakespeare's GARDEN

Steve and Mark, Shakespeare's Garden's owners, have renewed their sponsorship for our 26/27 year

Thank them for supporting us

BY SUPPORTING THEM!

Bennie and Jet - (resident cat staff!)





Shakespeare's is now offering on-line house plants - - non-toxic to pets - - but expertly grown and nurtured by their skilled staff (not Bennie or Jet). Sometimes, we just need EASY !

Simply visit their website and receive a beautiful, healthy plant delivered directly to your front door. Doesn't get any easier than THAT...

https://shakespearesgarden.net/product-tag/non-toxic-to-pets/

(203) 755-2214
25 Obtuse Road, South
Brookfield, CT 0680

A visit is NEVER a mistake, and ALWAYS inspiring ! .

Chris Lincoln
September. 2026



Call these folks at

(203) 426-0805 for a reservation







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

(The first thing you see on Sal e Pepe's website)



Angelo, owner, is thanking US, along with all his friends and customers, for last year's votes and support.

It's time to vote again for our favorite restaurant

Also, they have kindly renewed their sponsorship

for our new 26/27 year.

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE, VISIT, VISIT, VISIT …

Check out their website: https://www.salepeperestaurant.com/

And we all know from experience, their food will blow you away





<u>Also, Try Their Catering Services</u>

Their catering trays are carefully curated to showcase the best of Sal e Pepe, from savory pasta dishes to delectable appetizers. Let them take care of the cooking so you can focus on enjoying the party – because good times and great food go hand-in-hand at Sal e Pepe!

SAL e PEPE
CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN BISTRO

97 South Main Street

Newtown, CT 06470

Chris Lincoln

Nan Merolla



FGCCT President 2025-2027

President's Project

Enhance the beauty of your community and preserve nature in a changing climate by creating small native gardens in a public location with funding from The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.

Executive Committee

MaryAnn Lynn, Assistant Treasurer, Garden Club of New Haven –

John Davis, Treasurer, Quite Corner Garden C.

Ginny Casanova, Corresponding Secretary, Clinton Arbor Garden Club & Westbrook Garden Club –

NormaJean Macauto, 2nd Vice President & Membership Chair, Brookfield Garden Club –

Kathy Harris, Recording Secretary, Evergreen Country Gardeners of Glastonbury –

Nan Merolla, President, Wilton Garden Club –

Kelle Ruden, 1st Vice President & Headquarters Manager, Westport Garden Club –

Terry Lubman, Finance Officer, Riverside Garden Club –

Jean Stetz-Puchalski (not pictured here), Parliamentarian, Easton

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

Upcoming State Events

1. 2026 NEW ENGLAND GARDEN CLUBS 10th ANNUAL FALL MEETING

OCTOBER 13-14, 2026, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

KILLINGTON VERMONT GRAND HOTEL RESORT
228 E. Mountain Road, Killington, Vermont 05751

2. 97th Annual Awards Meeting and Luncheon

October 21, 2026 - Aqua Turf Club - Aqua Turf Club – 556 Mulberry St. Plantsville, CT 06479

Registration closes October 14th

1. Go to https://ctgardenclubs.org

2.Go to Events on the main page. Scroll down to Awards Meeting. At the bottom of the page, it says click here to register. Make sure you choose Newtown, Town & Country GC, so we can all sit together.

Upcoming Events Around Us

1. Plant and Harvest Fair – Danbury Garden Club

October 3 • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Hatters Park 7 East Hayestown Rd., Danbury, CT, United States

2. CT Orchid Society Show and Sale

October 10 - October 11

Sheraton Hartford South Hotel 100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill, CT, United States

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. 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 Lincoln 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 service 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. "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.