



The Bee Skep

June 2016

The President's Letter

Happy Spring Everyone,

June is a very big month for us – the marking of our 75th Anniversary, planting of annuals in our pocket parks, creating baskets for the elderly and the biggest of all – our Outdoor Celebrations garden tour. It's amazing how much we can get done with our small but enthusiastic group of volunteers. Thank you for another wonderful year of dedication and accomplishments.

As I end my term as president, I do look back on all we have done including our new website (www.farmingtongardenclub.org), Facebook page, and the (hopefully) final revision of by-laws. We have enjoyed a tremendous amount of publicity lately that will not only bring attention to our garden tour, but also highlights the club's 75 years of serving the community.

In the *Bee Skep* will be all the information about the upcoming Outdoor Celebrations garden tour and Preview Party. I hope to see everyone at both events as we truly celebrate 75 years of beautifying our community.

As Val Marshall and Nancy Thompson take the reins as co-presidents, I ask you all to give generously of your time when called upon. I look forward to seeing you all at my home on June 13 as our new officers are installed at our Annual Meeting – come join in a toast to us all.

Thank you everyone for your encouragement and support during my two terms as FGC President. It's been a wonderful experience!

All the best,

Kathy Lindroth
President

Upcoming Events

**“Outdoor Celebrations”
Preview Party
Thursday, June 9
6 to 8:30 p.m.**

Farmington Gardens
999 Farmington Avenue
Farmington

**“Outdoor Celebrations”
Garden Tour
Friday, June 10, & Saturday, June 11
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**June Meeting
President's Luncheon
Monday, June 13
11:30 a.m.**

At the home of Kathy Lindroth
4 Chelsea Place
Farmington

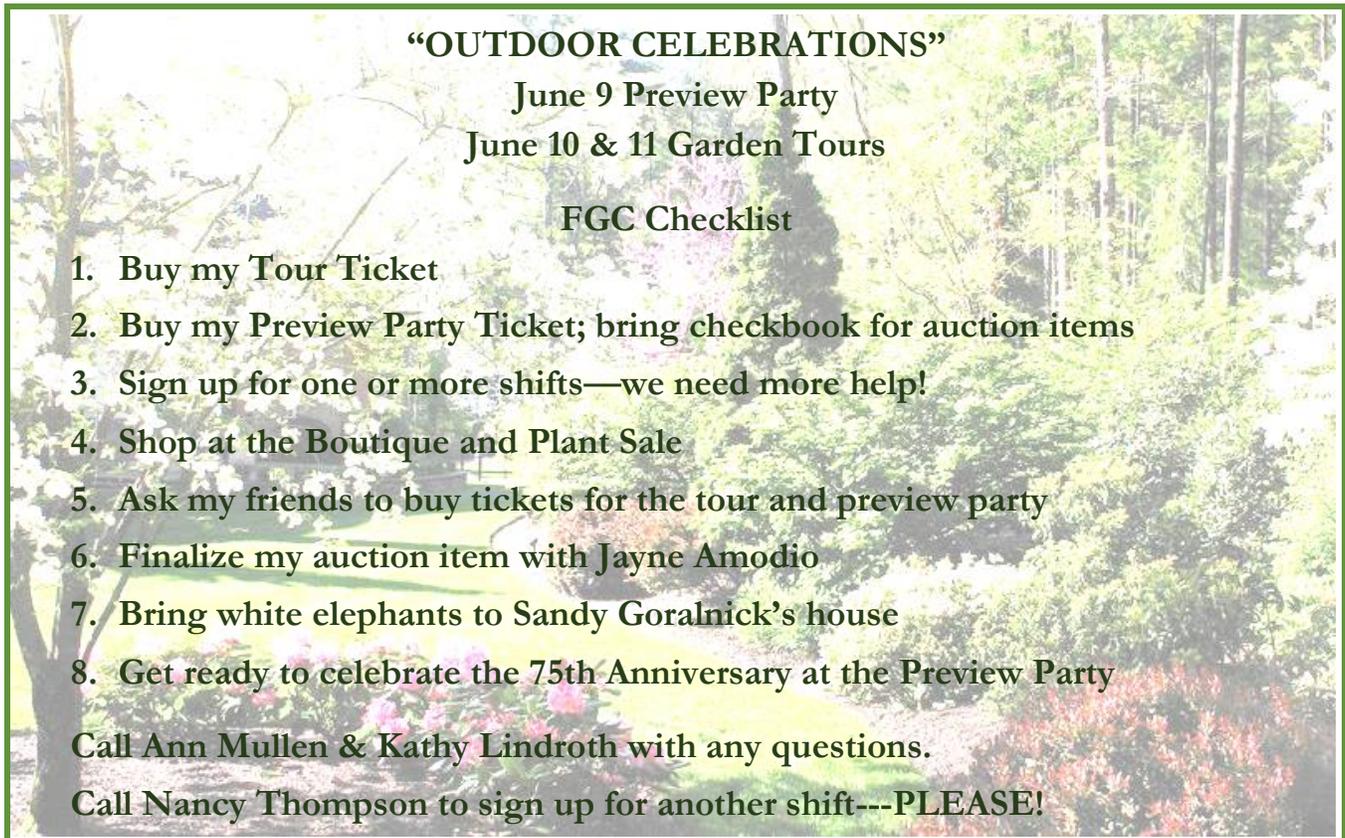
**Have a safe and
happy summer!**



Garden Tour Volunteers

All Garden Tour volunteers have been sent their assignments by email. Please contact **Nancy Thompson** (npthompson@live.com) if you did not receive your assignment or if you have any concerns. There are still opportunities to help out on

Barbara Hess if you can add an additional Garden Tour shift. Remember to wear comfortable clothing and shoes and to bring water and any food that you might need while helping out in the garden. Thank you for volunteering for this important event!



“OUTDOOR CELEBRATIONS”
June 9 Preview Party
June 10 & 11 Garden Tours
FGC Checklist

1. Buy my Tour Ticket
2. Buy my Preview Party Ticket; bring checkbook for auction items
3. Sign up for one or more shifts—we need more help!
4. Shop at the Boutique and Plant Sale
5. Ask my friends to buy tickets for the tour and preview party
6. Finalize my auction item with Jayne Amodio
7. Bring white elephants to Sandy Goralnick’s house
8. Get ready to celebrate the 75th Anniversary at the Preview Party

Call Ann Mullen & Kathy Lindroth with any questions.
Call Nancy Thompson to sign up for another shift---PLEASE!



Garden Tour Interview

The following “Outdoor Celebrations” committee members met at 16 Main Street for an interview by *The Hartford Courant* editor Michael Walsh: **Christine Bogino, Jan Wright, Beth Rubino, Kathy Lindroth, Ann Mullen, Ann Louise Price, Dotsie Kagan, and Dana Pescatello.**

WANTED

Cash boxes
needed for our
garden tour.

Please call Dotsie
Kagan if you can
loan one or more.

Hospitality Committee

By Jan Wright

A big thank you to all who set up, baked, prepared delicious food, made innovative table arrangements and cleaned up for our meetings this year. The team approach really worked with the early signup! The hospitality grid published in each Bee Skep lets you know who is on each month in the event you need to switch. **Please sign up early at our annual luncheon at Kathy Lindroth's to get the time which is best for you.** Also, please note if you are willing to be the team leader for your month. If you are unable to attend the luncheon, please call me at 860-673-0542 or email me at janetrwright@att.net.

FGC Participation in Fine Art & Flowers at Wadsworth Atheneum

Linda Graydon sent some photos to share with members of FGC of her flower arrangement for this year's Fine Art & Flowers at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Nora Howard, a friend from Avon took the photos.

Linda designed her arrangement for the painting titled *Suburb of Berlin* by Ernst L. Kirchner.



Do Your Hydrangeas Look Like This?



Kathy Lindroth recently shared the following information from Langer Landscapes about hydrangeas on FGC's Facebook page:

I always tell my customers to not cut certain types of hydrangeas but this year, you may need to make an exception. Our wacky spring weather caused a lot of dead stems. Here's what you need to do:

Check your hydrangeas to see if any green buds are on the brown canes. If there are Green Buds on Brown Canes – DO NOT CUT the brown branches – they are alive and should bloom. Just prune out the canes that are dead (the ones with no green buds on them).

No Green Buds on Brown Canes? – cut all canes to the base of the plant – making sure to leave the new growth green leaves at the base of the hydrangea.

Note: if you don't have any green buds on the brown canes by mid-May, cut them.

What to Expect: Your hydrangeas should grow to at least the same size they were last year.

Will they bloom this year? Old wood hydrangeas (such as Nikko Blue) won't bloom, new wood/old wood hydrangeas (such as All Summer Beauty) may bloom later in the summer on both new and old wood.

Notes from the Membership Chair

by Dotsie Kagan

Please welcome new member Gloria Shusdock!

Gloria has been an active gardener all her life and became a certified Master Gardener in 2005, “to become a better steward of the land and diverse wildlife” after purchasing her home in Farmington on 5.5 acres that includes a large pond and marsh, and remnants of a milling dam dating back to 1725.

Before leaving the workforce to raise her children (now in college), she was a teacher in the Hartford schools and then worked in computers as an analyst/programmer and project manager. Both of these skills she brought to her extensive volunteer experience in both the West Hartford Schools and

Farmington Schools. We look forward Gloria’s contributions to the Farmington Garden Club.

New member information to add to you

Membership Directory:

Diane Tucker	diane@dianetucker.us
5 Hart Street	860-470-7252 (h)
Farmington, CT 06032	860-202-1173 (cell)

Terry Roberts	terryroberts@comcast.net
326 Old Mountain Road	860-269-7041 (h)
Farmington, CT 06032	860-709-3261 (cell)

Gloria Shusdock	gshusdock@comcast.net
798 Plainville Avenue	860-677-7990 (h)
Farmington, CT 06032	860-402-1507 (cell)

FGC Website Is Up and Running

Our new website is now live! Check it out at farmingtongardenclub.org. Here you’ll find all the information you need about our “Outdoor Celebrations” Preview Party and Garden Tour.

If you haven’t joined our Facebook group, the easiest way to join group is to become a Facebook member and then e-mail **Ann Mullen** that you have done so. Once you have done this, you will need to go into your account on Facebook and click on Farmington Garden Club on the left side of the page under groups.

There are photos, dates, and reminders so check us out!

The Federated Garden Clubs

The latest issue of the Federated Garden Clubs’ newsletter is now available online. As members of the Farmington Garden Club, we are eligible to subscribe to the newsletter and receive each issue via e-mail.

Farmington Garden Club June Ray Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that Julia Klinzmann is the recipient of the June Ray Scholarship. Julia will graduate in June from Farmington High School and plans to major in Animal Science at the University of Connecticut in the fall.

Julia has been active in a number of community service activities including launching the Farmington Valley Chapter of Bark for Life and volunteering at a

therapeutic riding stable. Other activities include volunteering for Special Olympics, working as a life guard and as a stable worker.

She will receive the \$1,000 scholarship at the May 31 FHS Awards Night Ceremony. We wish Julia well at UConn as she majors in Pre-Veterinary Science.

Dear Auntie Hort . . .

The following article is from the April issue of the *Connecticut Horticultural Society* newsletter:

Feeding the Garden - YOUR SOIL IS ALIVE!!!

By Nancy Dubrulle-Clemente, CHS scholarship recipient, CHS member since 1996
and owner of Natureworks in Northford (www.naturework.com)

In organic gardening, we say “feed the soil and the soil will feed the plants.” Healthy soil is the basis for healthy plant life. More than a structural material to hold plants up, your soil is a living thing. Nutrients and minerals are bound into soil particles, released by the breaking down of organic matter by soil microbes and beneficial insects. In order to maintain healthy soil you must maintain a high level of organic matter and encourage essential soil life.

Chemical fertilizers feed the soil with nutrients without providing the substance of organic matter necessary to maintain soil health. Insecticides, herbicides, and soil chemicals destroy any soil life that may have existed. Eventually, the result is a “dead” soil that must constantly be fed with artificial nutrients. Compare it to humans living on vitamin pills instead of real food!

As an alternative, there are fertilizers from natural sources, meant to enrich the life in the soil, increase microbial action, thus releasing nutrients slowly. This maximizes nutrient uptake of the plant and reduces the amount of nutrients leached away or fixed in the soil.

SPRING FEEDING – Our Magic Formula for Spring

Have your soil tested and the staff at

Natureworks can help you interpret it organically. Add lime as needed to adjust your PH. Our basic feeding regimen is as follows: Fill a large wheelbarrow with compost (if you don't make your own, use three 40-50 lb. bags.) Add 8-10 shovels full of Pro-Gro organic fertilizer. If your soil test indicates that you are very low in phosphorus, add extra rock phosphate. If you are very low in potassium, add extra greensand. Mix this up well with your shovel. Add 1” of this mixture around the crowns of your perennials. Add 3-4 shovels full to the base of each rose and butterfly bush.

MID-SUMMER FEEDING - Make repeat bloomers repeat and long-bloomers keep blooming

There are many plants in the perennial garden that will either bloom continuously for 6-8 weeks (or more) or will go through cycles of heavy bloom, rest, and bloom again. This flowering takes lots of energy from the plants. You will notice a huge difference in the blooming power of your perennials if you do two important things: deadhead and feed them.

“Ever blooming” roses and daylilies are actually mislabeled. Both of these categories of plants are actually repeat bloomers. After the roses complete

their first heavy flush of bloom, prune them back by at least 3-5 leaf nodes to an outside-facing 5-leaflet leaf. This encourages new growth to head away from the center of the plant. Use this opportunity not just to deadhead but also to shape the plant. Remove the spent blossoms of daylilies right down to the base before they have a chance to form seedpods. Both of these types of plants definitely benefit from a mid-summer feeding.

Our Magic Formula for Midsummer (July)

Put three bags of compost or composted manure in a wheelbarrow. Add 10 shovels full of Pro Start (a 2-3-3 blended organic fertilizer). Mix together until the fertilizer is evenly distributed. Add 1-4 shovels full of this mixture (depending on the size of the plants) to the base of all repeat blooming daylilies, roses, perennial salvias, butterfly bushes, and long bloomers such as thread leaf coreopsis, Kalimeris, Nepetas. You should also side dress heavy feeders such as Delphiniums that have been cut back to encourage a fall rebloom. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO FEED YOUR ENTIRE GARDEN** if you have already fed the soil in the spring. This side dressing is an added boost for the plants that are going to go the distance for you in the late summer and fall.

Foliar Feeding

The hotter and more humid it gets, the more important it is to foliar feed your plants. I always say that if we're uncomfortable, so are the plants! Foliar feeding literally means watering the leaves with a dilute solution of some type of organic solution. I use a hose-end sprayer. It's a quick job and produces fabulous results. If the weather is very hot and humid, or rain is lacking, I use Stress-X, which is an inexpensive soluble seaweed extract. Another alternative is to water your garden with Organic Plant Magic. Both have been proven to increase the plant's resistance to stress and drought.

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FREE SOIL TESTING

Take 2-3 shovels full of soil from different parts of your garden and put them in a clean bucket. Don't just scrape the soil surface—dig down deeply. Mix the samples together. In doing this, examine the soil with your bare hands. Is it sandy? Clay-like? Does it seem rich, or rather sterile? Once it is well-mixed, place a small sample (approximately 2-3 tbsps.) in a baggy. Take it or send it to the Ct. Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington St., New Haven CT, (877) 855-2237. UConn also offers testing. Kits are available for purchase at the Soil Nutrient Analysis Lab, the Home and Garden Education Center, and some of the Cooperative Extension Centers. <http://soiltest.uconn.edu> Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory, 6 Sherman Place, U-5102 Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269-5102, phone: (860) 486-4274, fax: (860) 486-4562, email: soiltest@uconn.edu. Indicate on the bag your name, address and what you plan to grow (flowers, lawn, vegetables, etc.) Also state that you would like the recommendations in organic fertilizers. It takes 1-2 weeks to get the results of your soil test.

Feeding the Garden (continued from Page 6)

For plants that have been drastically cut back or plants that need a nitrogen boost to green up their leaves (container plants being watered daily, butterfly bushes that are growing like weeds, delphiniums), I use Neptune's Harvest Fish & Seaweed Fertilizer. How often do I foliar feed and what do I use when? I wish I could give you an exact formula. I use my instinct and I want you to learn to use yours. Monitor the weather and the conditions of your plants and keep in mind the basic guidelines above. We usually foliar feed every few weeks in a tough summer. You can't make a mistake. No matter what you use, foliar feeding can only help.

LEAN FEEDERS

Feed sparingly; don't add lots of compost; great for poor soil.

Achillea	Corydalis	Helianthemum	Salvia
Armeria	Dianthus	Iris germanica	Sedums
Artemesia	Eryngium	Lavender	Stachys
Asclepias tuberosa	Euphorbia	Nepeta	Teucrium
Aurinia	Gaillardia	Perovskia	Thymus
Centranthus	Gaura	Ruta	Verbascum

LIME LOVERS

Bergenia	Dianthus	Lavender
Campanulas	Gypsophila (Baby's Breath)	Scabiosa
Clematis	Iberis	Silver and grey plants
Delphiniums	Iris – German or bearded ONLY	Syringa-lilacs

For more information, visit the Natureworks website at www.naturework.com

2016 South Windsor Garden Tour & Plant Sale

"Pathways & Blooms"

Turn off your computer, forget your worries and step outside to enjoy the 2016 South Windsor Garden Tour & Plant Sale, Sunday, June 12th from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, presented by [The Down to Earth Garden Club](#) and [The Wood Library & Museum](#). This year's event will feature 8 beautiful gardens scattered throughout town, each with their own distinct "personalities."

Do 'the mint dance' in one garden and then rest at another while listening to the sounds of a waterfall. Marvel at enormous 55 year old rhododendrons that are still blooming on historic "Old" Main Street. Pause & relax in a lovely "Peace Garden," stroll through a cactus garden and later wiggle your toes in a sandy beach. Experience all this and more on the Garden Tour.

Don't forget to stop by the plant sale at [The Wood](#) where you can pick from a wide variety of plants and start working on your dream garden right away. Most of the plants on sale are member grown, perhaps from the very garden you just got inspiration from.

This fundraising event only happens every other year so don't miss out. Tickets are \$15 in advance/\$20 day of. A boxed lunch is available for an additional \$10 (lunch orders must be received by June 5th). For more information about the tour including where to purchase ticket books visit www.swgardenclub.org or www.woodmemoriallibrary.org or call 860-289-1783.

