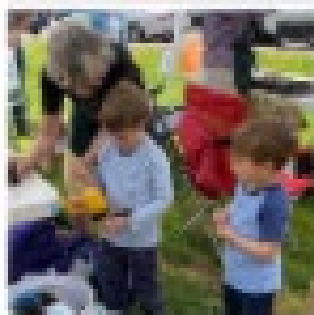


Programs and Activities



July 2023 – June 2024

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Key to activities:



Conservation conscious; making bees and all pollinators happy!



Important fundraiser



Civic Beautification and Civic Pride

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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The club had a busy and successful year! We presented a fabulous flower show, had a record-setting number of scarecrows on the Green, sold lots of native plants, made beautiful floral arrangements, planted baskets on the Green in addition to the outreach work our committees do in our community by Conservation, Youth to Garden Therapy and our successful BACA event. We are a hands-on working club!

By attending meetings, reading *Scattered Seeds*, and participating in civic projects, you gather knowledge to pass along to the next generation. We take that knowledge into the community by our volunteers - you. Now we have a new garden to tend.

We are delighted the gardens at the Harrison House are complete and just in time for their 300th anniversary. This was a major undertaking removing overgrown beds replaced with pollinator-friendly shrubs and perennials. Landscape Designer Leslie Martino, and volunteers led by Doreen Larson Oboyski, worked tirelessly all summer long. These gardens are now a peaceful retreat to sit and take in the beautiful surroundings. You will find this a learning experience as well. The plants are noted with names on signs.

In my last year as president, I look forward working together to complete our mission to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, conservation, horticulture, and design; to encourage and promote civic development and to aid and support conservation efforts, to honor the memories of those we have lost, and to be there for one another in times of need and in times joy. Thank you for all you do.

Fondly, Nancy Judd, President

# HELPFUL REMINDERS

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## **Payments and Refunds**

Payments may be in cash, check or credit card. All checks are made payable to Branford Garden Club. Checks are collected at meetings or may be mailed to the home of Ann Freeman, Treasurer. Typically, the Assistant Treasurer can process credit cards at meetings and events.

*Design fees* – payment is due when you sign up for the class (unless it is your complimentary class). If you cancel *before* materials are purchased, you may be eligible for a refund. Otherwise, once materials are purchased, there are no refunds if you are unable to attend.

*Tour fees* – payment is due when you sign up. Commitments are made for tickets, transportation, meal reservations and more, based on the number of people signing up. Members are responsible to pay the fees for any guest(s). There are no refunds if you change your mind once deposits have been paid. If you or a guest is unable to attend you may find a substitute.

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Registration for FGCCT's School classes is on ctgardens.org.

Gardening School, Course 4, Series 8, “Plant Classification and Nomenclature”, September 13 & 14, 2023 – Via Zoom

Environmental School, Course 2, Series 4, “The Living Earth”, Land and Related Issues, September 21-22, 2023 – Zoom

Check website for more new classes.

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## Membership Directory Access

Use of the Membership Directory is greatly encouraged.

It can be accessed online and through a mobile app.

Access is restricted to members only.

New members should refer to hard-copy versions of the Handbooks for detailed instructions. See page 15 in the New Member Handbook, or page 6 of this Programs & Activities Handbook.

If you need help, you may contact either Marybeth Ciarlelli or Ann Freeman.

To download the directory onto your table or smart phone:

- Download the free mobile app by searching **Online Member Directory** at your app store. You need your password.
- Refer to the detailed instructions on this same page in the hard copy booklet, to continue from here.

# OFFICERS & LEADERSHIP

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President, Nancy Judd

Vice-President, Anda Weyher

Treasurer, Ann Freeman

Assistant Treasurer, Marybeth Ciarlelli

Recording Secretary, Jaye Andrews

Corresponding Secretary, Laurie Van Wilgen

## Special Roles:

- Consultant to Officers, immediate past President, Doreen Larson Oboyski
- Past President's Committee – focus is on strategic planning, by-laws, and policy updates.
- Liaison to the Town Green Committee: Pat Sanders. Represents the Club at Green Committee meetings; reports the Committee's agenda to the Club.
- Evening Committee Liaison: Doreen Larson Oboyski. Represents the Evening Group at Board meetings; reports the business agenda to the evening members.



# HONORARY & LIFETIME RECOGNITION

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Honorary/Lifetime membership in BGC is conferred by the Executive Board upon non-members and members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Club or community. They are:

**BGC Member:** Eunice Lasala

**Non-Members:** Frederick Bland, FAIA, AICP (2016); Jamie Cosgrove, First Selectman (2017); Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, Natureworks Garden Center; Judy Gott (past Selectwoman); William Van Wilgen, Van Wilgen's Garden Center; Alex Paluzzi, Director, Parks & Recreation, Branford (2018); Gary Zielinski, Director, Public Works, Branford (2021).

## **National Garden Clubs, Inc, Lifetime Members**

Barbara Hahn, Eunice Lasala, Dixie Nace

## **Federated Garden Clubs of CT Lifetime Members**

Michalah Bracken, Yvonne Brandt, Betsy Gay, Katherine Gehner, Rodney Hayes, Eunice Lasala, Dixie Nace, Doreen Larson Oboyski, Sheri Peterson, Laurie Van Wilgen

# CONTINUING PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

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## THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Regular reporting is essential for the programs that most directly carry out the Club's core mission and for those functions that communicate the activities and business of Club membership. Attendance at monthly Board meetings by these core Committee Chairs and the Officers is expected to ensure strong governance of Club business and policy.


## CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION

Adding to the beauty of public areas, particularly through is the most visible contribution the Club makes to the Town of Branford. Town officials, teachers, and business owners look to the Club for the best horticultural practices, gardening knowledge and education. It is a membership requirement, everyone participates so that the Club, and the Town, look our best. The Branford Garden Club is responsible for:


### The upkeep of public gardens:

1. **Harrison House** Doreen Larson Oboyski, Leslie Martino  
Harrison House includes the Alta Newton Memorial Herb Garden and Colonial Border Garden
2. **The Mae McCabe Memorial Daylily Garden** on the Green.
3. **Veterans Memorial Garden** The Evening Committee helps to weed, mulch, deadhead and maintain its pristine look as its prime location on the town Green. It is one of our most visible spots in town.


**Baskets On the Green** Marie Tiernan, Chair, Laurie Van Wilgen

In mid-May we plant summer annuals in the baskets. Volunteers in teams of two will adopt two baskets to deadhead, fertilize every couple of weeks, and supplement watering if needed. In late November, the baskets will be stuffed with evergreens and winterberries, and a big red bow for a festive, seasonal look. 

**Blackstone Memorial Library Planters**, Bonnie McKirdy, Chair

The front step planters are a wonderful tribute to the Garden Club's involvement in beautifying our town. Around Mothers' Day they are filled with red and white annuals. At Thanksgiving, the planters are over-stuffed with evergreens for the holidays. 

**Daffodil Project** Karen Rossomando, Chair

Cheerful yellow daffodils with blue muscari dancing at their feet will be planted in public spaces. When and where will be publicized in *Scattered Seeds*. 

**Holiday Season Decorating of Town Buildings**

Members make wreaths for the Blackstone Library, the Willoughby Wallace Library, and the Community House. Members also decorate the interior of the Blackstone Library. Members donate all the greens.

## CONSERVATION & HORTICULTURE

Theresa Donovan & Ivy Bigelow Kim, Co-Chairs



The combined focus and goals are supported by good horticultural practices so working together is clearly a best practice!

**Conservation** will concentrate on small steps each of us can take to help make a sustainable environment. Projects include recycling, ways to reduce waste and pollution, appreciation of wildlife, with special emphasis on pollinators, and preservation of natural habitats.

**Horticulture** introduces interesting topics in gardening through *Scattered Seeds*, posterboard displays, and expertise at monthly meetings. Every month the day-time horticulture table features a topical theme and members are asked to participate at least once a year by bringing in a horticulture specimen to display and explain.

**DESIGN:** Deb Vallas & Larry Huzi, Co-Chairs

Design educates and practices skills all year long. (1) Members provide a centerpiece for the food table at the membership lunch meeting. (2) A floral design workshop is held at least once each year, generally more. A free class is offered to each new member. (3) Design offers other beautification projects as needed, such as the annual Holiday Wreath Making.

**GARDEN THERAPY:** Denise Isaac, Annamarie Mercurio, Mary Jo Riddle, Angela Rowley, Marie Tiernan

The purpose of Garden Therapy is to use plants and horticultural activities to enhance the physical, mental, and social health of the elderly and incapacitated individuals in our community. Horticultural programs and seasonal gardening are done with clients at Orchard House, Artis

Memory Care, and the Canoe Brook Senior Center. Flower arrangements and baskets donated by Club members are delivered to Branford Hill Healthcare and Artis Memory Care. Club members volunteer to make fresh flower arrangements weekly for the tables at the Branford Community Dining Room.

**HOSPITALITY:** Stephanie Dorman & Jaye Andrews, Co-Chairs

The Hospitality Committee provides refreshments for each membership meeting, prepares the luncheon set-up, maintains the kitchen in a proper manner, and clears the tables. The Chair makes the hostess and committee monthly assignments.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Deanna O’Connell, Chair **RECORDS:** Ann Freeman  
**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY:** Marybeth Ciarlelli

The Membership Chair is the point of contact for prospective members, offering information and guidance through the entry process, new member introductions to the membership, and orientation to the Club programs and activities. She is also the keeper of the Club Aprons (free to new members, otherwise \$20). **Membership Records** maintain member roster with contact information, dues paid, and member status. **Membership Pictorial Directory** updates the online pictorial membership directory in real time to keep membership contact information current. To edit your own profile, see page 6.

**ONLINE TOOLS:** Marybeth Ciarlelli and Ann Freeman

The Club uses online tools to reach every member with news and information and advertise to the public. Tools include: Constant Contact, CTRN Directory, Facebook, Eventbrite, Signup Genius, town online calendars and our website. Anyone with aptitude is encouraged to join the

team to share the tasks and ensure each tool has expert users backing each other up.

**PROGRAM SPEAKERS:** Daytime: Nancy Judd - Evening: Doreen Larson Oboyski

The membership meeting agendas include expert speakers on a wide variety of topics, with emphasis on mission-driven initiatives. The year-long program is planned to provide diverse topics of interest to all members at all levels of learning. Expert speakers within our membership are invited to speak along with external professionals.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Ann Freeman, Nancy Judd, Deanna O’Connell

The traditional print Yearbook has been replaced: print New Member Handbook and Programs & Activities Handbook, plus an online Annual Report and Membership Directory. The **New Member Handbook** includes everything new members need to know about what the Club stands for, what the expectations are of members, and what resources are available to them. The **Programs & Activities Handbook** is produced annually and serves as a resource about what’s on the calendar for the current year, schedules and assignments, descriptions of all the committees and who the Chair(s) are. It is made available to every member at the September membership meeting.

**PUBLICITY:** Marybeth Ciarlelli, Rita Dattola

Publicity supports two key objectives on behalf of the Club: (1) promotes goodwill between BGC and the Branford community by publicizing our citizenship responsibilities, and (2) publicizes the events and fundraisers open to the public to maximize attendance and financial success. Marybeth manages online town calendars, Eventbrite, and Facebook, while Nancy and Rita will handle BCTV and print media.


**SUNSHINE & CHEER:** Cidy Drago, Chair

Phone calls are made to members who do not have email to share monthly reminders of meetings and events, and any changes to scheduled meetings. Cards of remembrance and cheer are sent to distressed members through illness, accident, loss, etc.

**TOURS:** Ret Luberda, Chair

The focus is to organize trips to flower and garden shows, and tours of spectacular public and private gardens which will educate and inspire our love of gardening. Be prepared for local ‘pop up’ day trips as well as the plan ahead out-of-state coach trips. Tours for the 2023-24 fiscal year will include Philadelphia Flower Show, Newport Flower Show, and many other local venues. Much more to be announced in *Scattered Seeds* and at our monthly meetings.

**YOUTH PROGRAM:** Lynne Dow, Susan MacNamara, Cidy Drago, Elizabeth Henderson, Marsha Bruce

Members of the Youth Committee work with children and their teachers to nurture an interest in plants, gardening, and conservation efforts. They assist elementary and middle-school youth with understanding pollinator plant and flower life cycles by planting native and pollinator-friendly flowers around their schools and in other public places. Pre-school children are encouraged to become junior floral “designers” by guiding them in arranging Mother’s Day flower mugs. 

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

There are many valued projects which, by their nature, require little or no discussion at monthly Board meetings, except at those points during the year when the projects are active. Project Chairs are asked to attend the

Board meeting(s) when their project becomes active so that organization, communication, and publicity occur with the best results.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Eunice Lasala

The annual meeting in June is usually held at the Pine Orchard Yacht and Country Club. Annual reports are shared, as is wonderful social time, and every two years the installation of new club officers takes place.

**APPAREL—APRONS & CAPS:** Deanna O’Connell

New members receive a logo-imprinted apron as a welcome aboard gift. Additional aprons cost \$20. Matching caps are \$15.

**ARCHIVES -** Pat Sanders

Materials pertaining to the history of the Club are permanently preserved in the History Room in the Blackstone Library – a unique honor.

**AWARDS - NATIONAL AND FEDERATED:** Nancy Judd, Anda Weyher, Doreen Larson Oboyski, Pat Sanders

All Club projects that meet the definition of a new or continuing club project according to the FGCT guidelines, will be reviewed by the Club President as to their eligibility for State Awards from the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. The Awards Chair(s) will also identify and notify the appropriate Chair of any awards available from the National Garden Clubs for which we qualify.

**AWARDS - COMMUNITY GARDENS:** Rita Gordon and Mary Jo Riddle, Co-Chairs 

Residential and commercial gardens in Branford will be evaluated for excellence. Winners will be honored at a fall membership meeting.



**BRANFORD FESTIVAL:** TBD 

The Club promotes both civic and Club pride by participating in the Branford Festival. Our exhibit includes education on gardening and conservation topics and promotes club membership.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE COMMITTEE:** Liz Alcorn & Wendy Bellmore, Co-Chairs

The Legislative Action Committee tracks and advises members of proposed and recently enacted legislation that is pertinent to the Club's mission. The Committee also educates members concerning opportunities for input into the legislative process regarding such proposed legislation.

**NOTECARDS:** Committee

Photographs of flowers, gardens, wildlife, and seasons are taken and developed into note cards with envelopes. The note cards are sold to our members at club meetings and to the general public at events and through retail outlets in town – *Splash* and *The Village Store*.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Various

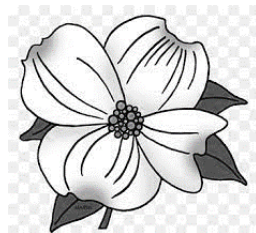
The club encourages members to help cover events and activities and submit photos for our Google photo albums. You may email photos to Ann Freeman or Marybeth Ciarlelli, or Air Drop via iPhones. Photographs may be used in the Club newsletter and eblasts, the BGC website, or publicity.

**PLANT SALE** Nancy Judd, Chair

The Annual Plant Sale is an important fundraiser for the Club. We rely on member donations of plant divisions, seedlings of pollinator-friendly and native plants, and cut flowers and greens for the beautiful vases and baskets of flowers for sale, and more. Many volunteers are needed to help organize and prepare, set up, and staff. Community Gardens, Bartlett Tree, Living Wisely & Well, and others help draw lots of people to the Green. It's a fun time to work together. 💰

**SCARECROWS ON THE GREEN:** Beth Mooney & Anda Weyher, Co-Chairs

This annual fundraiser has grown to include dozens of commercial businesses, local non-profits, school and learning centers and more, which create imaginative and colorful scarecrow vignettes, all displayed on Branford Green in October. It is a popular BGC fundraiser, and the participants appreciate the publicity and the fun. 💰



# NEW PROJECTS 2023-2024

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## **CT's Historic Gardens Day – June 22**

To mark this day in CT, BGC and Branford Historical Society (BHS) will co-host an event at the Harrison House to celebrate the renovation of the Alta Newton Memorial Garden. We are delighted to be partnering with Harrison House to offer beauty and peace in this lovely place, as well as a learning experience for us and the public. These gardens are a special place to visit, to sit and take in the beautiful surroundings. Members volunteering to manage a well-maintained garden is the perfect combination of civic beautification and learning best horticultural practices which you can apply in your own gardens and share with others.



## **Penny Pines Project**

FGCCT is challenging each Club to donate to the National Garden Club “Penny Pines” project. NGC has partnered with the USDA Forest Service to re-forest areas that have been damaged by natural disasters. Each Garden Club can participate in a meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing \$68.00 to a Penny Pine plantation as part of the costs of replanting replacement and/or trees indigenous (not just Pine trees) to a particular damaged area, whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe. The Club may designate a specific State to benefit from this contribution. Donations can be “In Honor of...” Or “In Memory of ...”

Complete details are: <https://gardenclub.org/penny-pines>.



## **Legislative Update Committee**

This important activity is formally a new Ad Hoc Committee for BGC. Members who continue to identify proposed bills and policy changes are asked to forward them to the co-Chairs. Thank you to Liz and Wendy for accepting this responsibility.

## **Publications**

The traditional Yearbook has become four publications to simplify and share the workload. Please step forward if you can help with any piece.

1. Highlights from the previous year have been converted to an **Annual Report**, including How We Supported our Mission, Awards, year-end membership stats, and finances. This will be distributed via eblast in July or August.
2. A **New Member Handbook** covers everything new members need to know about membership, governance/committees, and BGC's affiliations and community connections. The content is standard information, extending the need to re-print to several years.
3. A **Programs and Activities Handbook** will be printed and reproduced each year, made available at membership meetings beginning in September. It includes a full calendar of day and evening speakers, meetings and events, committee descriptions with the current Chair(s), and important resources.
4. The membership pictorial directory continues to be accessible to members only online at **branfordgardenclub.org**. It is easily downloaded and printed. The mobile app is recommended.

# MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

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➤ Friday, August 11, BACA in Bloom

Members of BGC and local florists participate in making floral interpretations of paintings at BACA. Three-day fundraiser event. 💰

➤ Thursday, August 31, Board Meeting, 9:30 am

➤ Tuesday, September 5, Evening Meeting, 6:30 pm

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*Program: “Show and tell”. Please bring some food to share from your garden, or someone else’s garden, any unusual tools you may want to show us. We will meet at the Branford Yacht Club Pavilion at 6 – weather permitting.*

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*Hospitality: Shaune Miller, Lisa Nilsson*

➤ Thursday, September 7, Daytime Meeting, Noon

Gourmet Lunch. Everybody contributes! The Board covers desserts.

*Hostesses: Susan McNamara and Elizabeth Alcorn*

*Committee: Shelley Adkins, Jaye Andrews, Paula Inglese*

*Food table centerpiece: Cynthia Prahovic*

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*Speaker: George Hutchinson, VP, Branford Land Trust This is an historical overview with timeline for the development of a Land Trust in Branford. The talk explains the current work of its volunteers, trails crew, monthly work parties, Osprey project, native plant protection, and collaboration with various other educational and conservation organizations.*

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➤ **Saturday, September 9, Flower Sale, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm**

BGC will be on the Green with the Branford Community Gardens (BCG) who will be selling vegetables harvested from their gardens. We will make floral arrangements with flowers and greens from your gardens (or buy if you prefer), and donate monies raised to *Seed, Weed & Feed.* 🌱

➤ **Thursday, September 28, Board Meeting, 9:30 am**

➤ **Tuesday, October 3, Evening Meeting, 6:30 pm**

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*Program: Wendy Bellmore, “Living On Long Island Sound”*


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*Hospitality: Rick Sicignano, Doreen Larson Oboyski, Patti Pace*

➤ Thursday, October 5, Daytime Meeting, Noon

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**Program: Theresa Donovan and Ivy Bigelow Kim**

*Our Conservation and Hort Chairs will oversee an In-House Mini-Horticulture Show. Bring in your beautiful and best specimens from your gardens with botanical name and common name descriptions, properly placed in the correct containers, for judging by our fabulous judges--Eunice Lasala, Deb Vallas, Larry Huzi, and Paula Inglese. This is a lot of fun, and we learn a lot! Details of how to enter and deadline information will be in Scattered Seeds and on our website.* 


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*Hostesses:* Wendy Bellmore & Sandy Krause

*Committee:* Pia Conte, Nancy Childs, Gail Ekblade, Michalah Bracken, Nancy Iannotti, Elizabeth Braddon, Marsha Bruce, Anne Hermes, Eunice Lasala

*Food table centerpiece:* Cidy Drago/Mina West

➤ Friday, October 13 , Scarecrows on the Green Begins

The Branford Green becomes colorful and fun with creativity on display everywhere. Schools, businesses, non-profits, civic organizations – everybody joins in the fun. 

- Thursday, October 26, Board Meeting, 9:30 am
- Wednesday, November 1, 9:30 am Fall Work Day

This is a Civic Beautification activity. It's time to prepare the town gardens for the winter ahead. Bring your gardening gloves and tools.



- Thursday, November 2, Daytime Meeting, Noon

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***Program: “Frosty, Bold Look for the Holiday’s”. Larry Huzi, Co-Chair, Design***

*Five beautiful holiday arrangements to be raffled.*

*“I have a strong connection with nature which makes the basis of my work. From this connection, I look for new structures that can ‘carry’ natural materials, and strength their expressiveness even more.”*

*Larry is an NGC Accredited Judge, and a member of Creative Arrangers of CT. Larry has conducted workshops and demonstrations for many garden clubs. He has been invited to interpret paintings through floral design, most recently at the Florence Griswold Museum. 💰*

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*Hostesses: Laurie Van Wilgen & Midge Bunney*

*Committee: Margie Vamvakis, Rita Dattola, Carol Cutrona, Janet Dahl, Larry Huzi, Pam Delise, Lenore Digioia, Stephanie Dorman, Barbara Klivak*



*Food table centerpiece: Mina West/Cidy Drago*

➤ **November 6th, Planting Daffodil Bulbs, 9:30 am**

This is a Civic Beautification activity. Every year BGC adds more daffodils and muscari to public gardens all over town. Bring your trowel, or one of those nifty digging spades that make digging so easy, gardening gloves, and wear your apron. Details of where and when to plant will be in

*Scattered Seeds.*  

➤ **Tuesday, November 7, Evening Meeting, 6:30 pm**

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*Program: Design with unusual materials with our creative design team.*

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*Hospitality: Arlene Steinlauf, Lynne Vallas, Nancy Vianney*

➤ **Sunday, November 12, Veteran's Day Parade, 12:45 pm**

Meet at the Green half an hour ahead of the Parade start to add bunting to the Van Wilgen's buckboard. Members may walk the route and hand out poppies, or ride in the buckboard. As many as can participate are


encouraged to do so. 

➤ **Thursday, November 16, Design Workshop**

The design will be a decorated boxwood holiday tree. There will be a signup list at member meetings. Payment must be made no later than two weeks prior. See payment policy page 5.

➤ **Friday, November 17, Greening of the Baskets**

This is a Civic Beautification activity. Everyone who can is asked to cut and bring evergreens. Please, no rhododendron leaves as they do not stay green. To contrast with all the green, a variety of foliage adds more beauty – blues, gold, red berries (holly, winterberry, etc), pine for draping the edges. The baskets will be over-stuffed and adorned with a big, red bow.

Meet at 9:30 am on the Green. 

➤ **Monday, November 27, Holiday Wreath Making**

This is another Civic Beautification activity needing many evergreens and a variety of foliage for more beauty. It takes a lot of hands and greens to produce the wreaths for the town buildings we decorate. This is a seasonal kick-off for Branford making our town look festive, so please bring what you can and be part of the doing, learning, and fun! Usually, we decorate the interior of the Blackstone Memorial Library in the afternoon but watch *Scattered Seeds* for any change in that schedule.

Meet at 9:30 am, Community House. 

➤ **Decorate BACA Window, Day, and time TBD**

BGC will create a seasonal winter wonderland scene for the BACA display window. Details will be in *Scattered Seeds* about the design, materials needed, and the day and time to assemble. This is a really fun activity.



➤ **Thursday, November 30, Board Meeting, 9:30 am**

- Thursday, December 7, Holiday Party, 5:30 PM

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*This is our seasonal social gathering for daytime and evening members at Pine Orchard Yacht Club. Please join in the fun and mingle with old and new friends at our wonderful holiday party. Dinner choices and cost to be announced. Cash bar.*

*Centerpiece: Bonnie McKirdy*

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**JANUARY 2024**

**NO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**




- Thursday, January 24, Board Meeting, 9:30 am

- Thursday, February 1, Daytime Meeting, Noon

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***Program: Town of Branford Updates***

***Tyler Bowne, Sustainability and Compliance Manager for Branford***, will talk about his time living and working on different farms, what it is like to be a WOOFER. He will also talk about what Branford plans to do to reduce food waste in town and how you can reduce food waste yourself.

Also, ***Forestry Commission update with Doreen Larson-Oboyski, Susan Hally, Ivy Bigelow Kim and Shirley McCarthy*** 

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*Hostesses:* Carol Kaminsky and Marta Elmasry

*Committee:* Nancy Judd, Beverly Jurkiewicz, Gerlinde Kehlenbach, Margaret Luberd, Leslie Martino, Lauren McColl Sullivan, Annemarie Mercurio

*Food table centerpiece:* Anne Hermes

- Tuesday, February 6, Evening Meeting, 6:30 pm

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*Program: “The Need To Grow”, Academy award-winning documentary – with popcorn and soft drinks.*

---

*Hospitality:* Esterina Anderson, Liz Canning, Frank Carrano

- February 16-19, Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

<https://www.birdcount.org/> has everything you need to know to participate with this annual event. 🐝

- Thursday, February 29, Board Meeting 9:30 am

- Tuesday, March 5, Evening Meeting, 6:30 pm

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*Program: Malaine Trecocke “Waste Not, Want Not”. What we can do to preserve water quality/quantity and look at how to prevent food waste, and what to do with your banana peels in Branford.*

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*Hospitality: Marybeth Ciarlelli, Beth Casanova, Joe Cutrona*



➤ Thursday, March 7, Daytime Meeting, Noon

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**Program: Kathleen Connolly, Foundation Gardens and Native Plants.** *In this one-hour presentation, we first consider the design problems posed by the foundation area around the house. Then we look at native plants that fit into that highly visible setting. Let's take a look at how we can achieve curb appeal and nature support in the foundation area of our homes and buildings.*

*Kathy Connolly is a landscape designer, writer, and speaker who emphasizes earth-friendly designs, native plants, and low-impact land care techniques.* 

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*Hostesses:* Bonnie Mckirdy and Beth Mishler-Mooney

*Committee:* Susan Hally, Maureen O'Brien, Deanna O'Connell, Eileen O'Connor, Ann Freeman, Sheri Peterson, Cynthia Prahovic, Mary Jo Riddle, Karen Rossomando

*Food table centerpiece:* Doreen Larson Oboyski

➤ Thursday, March 15, 10:00am, Design Workshop

*"Spring into Spring"* a creative design workshop. Details will be in *Scattered Seeds*. Please review the Payment Policy on page 5.

- Thursday, March 28, Board Meeting, 9:30 am
- Tuesday, April 2, Evening Meeting, 6:30 pm

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*Program: Eva, Senior Landscape Architect from Austin Ganim Landscaping, will demonstrate container gardens that will enchant you.*

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*Hospitality: Jo Gambardella, Kathleen Hally, Linda Holmes*

- Thursday, April 4, Daytime Meeting, Noon

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**Program: Community Gardens Awards & Gourmet Lunch**

*The Community Gardens Awards Committee will recognize and present awards to Branford gardeners, both residential and commercial, who beautify our town with their colorful and creative gardens. Awardees will join us for a gourmet lunch.*

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*Hostesses: Beth Morley and Ellen Seipold*

*Committee: Angela Rowley, Marie Tiernan, Annemarie Geibel*

*Food table centerpiece: Jo Gambardella*


- Saturday, April 13, Earth Day Fair, 9:00 am

BGC will participate in the Earth Day Fair co-sponsored by the Town of Branford and Living, Wisely and Well on Planet Earth. Education and

information will be available on conservation topics, gardening tips and more. 

➤ Thursday, May 2, Daytime Meeting, Noon

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*We are pleased to have Leslie Martino make five beautiful Spring-time arrangements. We will be raffling them at the end of the meeting.* 

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*Hostesses:* Deb Vallas and Margaret Clouse

*Committee:* Cynthia Carlson, Mina West, Cidy Drago, Pamela Goggin, Terry Twigg, Bonnie Ballantyne, Lynne Dow, Denise Isaac, Rita Gordon

*Food table centerpiece:* Eunice Lasala

➤ Tuesday, May 7, Evening Meeting, 6:30 pm

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*Program:* Karen Bussolini will speak on *Planting the Year-Round Pollinator Garden*

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*Hospitality:* Dawn Jackson, Catherine Jackson, Doreen Larson Oboyski



➤ Friday, May 10, Making Mother’s Day Mugs, 9:00 am

➤ Monday, May 13, Baskets on The Green, 9:30 am

Meet at 9:30 AM on Main Street side of the Green. Work in teams of two; bring step ladder, trowel, gloves, rubbish bag. Wear your apron! Enjoy the “thank you for making Branford beautiful” from people passing by.



➤ Saturday, May 18, Plant Sale on The Green

Donate! Volunteer! Help! Divide your plants. Cut your blooms. Share your knowledge, help people to buy! Staff tables. Help with setup and breakdown. The Plant Sale is an important annual fundraiser, please

support it. Signup on Signup Genius. Meet at 8:00 am for setup. 💰 🐝

➤ Monday, May 27, Memorial Day Parade, 10:00 am

Meet half an hour before the parade starts to add bunting to the Van Wilgen’s buckboard. Walkers hand out poppies to the crowd—especially the Vets—and riders in the buckboard add to our show of support and join

with the community in remembrance and gratitude. 💛 🌸

➤ Thursday, May 30, Board Meeting, 9:30 am

- Tuesday, June 4, Evening Meeting, 6:30 pm

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*Program: Potluck and also bring samples of what is growing in your garden – flowers, greenery, and herbs.*

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*Hospitality: Ingrid Mangels, Shaune Miller, Lisa Nilsson*

- Thursday, June 6, Daytime Meeting, 11:00 am

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*Annual Meeting*

*Pine Orchard Country Yacht Club*

*Social – Installation of Officers -*

*Lunch choices to be announced. Cash bar.*

*Annual dues due!* 💰

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- Saturday, June 15 – Branford Festival

8:00 am to 2:00 pm participate on the Green with artisans, businesses, and non-profit organizations, sharing organizational information and education. 🧡

➤ **Saturday, June 22, CT Historic Gardens Day**

BGC partner with the Branford Historical Society hosting an event to celebrate the restoration of the Alta Newton Memorial Garden and tour the historic Harrison House. 🍷🌻

➤ **June, July, and August**

Summer heat means weeds thrive and plants are thirsty. Please use Signup Genius to reserve the days you can help to water and fertilize the baskets on the Green.

Also, watch for eblasts for when to tend town gardens.

The Youth Committee is always happy for help weeding and watering gardens at the ELC and other schools. 🐝



# RESOURCES

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## **BGC members with accreditation**

### **National Council**

Master Judge: Terry Bogan, Eunice Lasala, Leslie Martino, Deb Vallas

Accredited Judge: Larry Huzi

### **Certified UCONN Extension Master Gardeners**

Co-Chairs: Wendy Bellmore and Terry Twigg

Certified Advanced Master Gardener: Susan Hall

Master Gardeners: Cynthia Carlson, Rodney Hayes, Roberta McColl, Malaine Trecoske (also a Master Composter), Gisella Weissbach-Licht;

Alumni: Ann Freeman, Mary Alice Howley, Arlene Steinlauf

### **Landscape Designers**

Professional: Leslie Martino

### **Federated Certification**

Landscape Design Consultants: Joe Cutrona, Doreen Larson Oboyski, Cynthia Carlson; Provisional: Susan Hally

## **National weeks that highlight gardening-related topics**

- National Native Plant Month (April)
- Plant America Month National Garden Clubs (April)
- National Gardening Day (April 14)
- Connecticut's Arbor Day (late April)
- National Children's Gardening Week (May 25-June 2)
- National Gardening Week (June 2-8)
- National Gardening Exercise Day (June 6)
- National Pollinator Week (June 17-23)

## **Online at [branfordgardenclub.org](http://branfordgardenclub.org)**

- Membership Directory
- Signup Genius
- Master Gardener Resources
- New Member Handbook
- Committee Descriptions
- By-Laws
- Member Application Form
- Nomination form for Community Awards
- And more



This booklet is intended for the private use of  
Branford Garden Club members only.  
Any commercial use of the information  
contained herein is strictly prohibited.

August 2023