



# WINCHESTER HOME & GARDEN CLUB

## MEETINGS 2021

Please join us on Zoom!

**February 24** - Deborah Trickett's "Beauty and the Bees from the Captured Garden"

**March 17** - Raised Bed Vegetable Garden, Gretel Anspach w/ MMGA

**April 28** - Bespoke of Winchester, Melinda Guglietta

**May 19** - Michele Schuckel, Natural Selections Gardens, "Composting How to: Hands in the Dirt"



## Thank You to Rose Beecher

A thankful shout out goes to Rose for the beautiful arrangement delivered to the Winchester Library. They surely put a smile on the faces of all the employees!

## Happy New Year!

We hope this newsletter finds you healthy and safe. This January Newsletter comes on the heels of our Drive-by Soup Day where 25 of you came out for some hot broccoli and cheddar soup! It's just so nice to see your smiling faces (under your masks) but your eyes light up so we know you are smiling!

We are happy to report that the MFA has decided to go forward with a modified version of Art in Bloom. As many of you know the event was cancelled last spring due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and the restrictions and guidance placed upon us to stop the spread. It was great news to be contacted and invited to participate. The Members who will be designing representing WHGC this year are Jessica Lohnes and Rose Beecher. You will see further in the Newsletter the art they will be interpreting. The event will be held on March 8th and it will be virtual. As details unfold we will be sharing with you. But we wanted you to mark your calendars for the viewing.

Also there's a new initiative the Winchester Farmers Market Community Hub is hosting. Their mission is to build a community of local gardeners to promote the enjoyment of gardening and being part of nature. This sounds like something that would appeal to many of us as well as fill in some of the voids in our lives as we continue to quarantine during these times. See the link below to learn more and sign up!

*Best, Dot and Cathy*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J6xr96cQZQYitiDePV3ILs3ZGooVij5/view>



*Check us out and follow us on Instagram [winchester\\_hgc](#)*

# Gardens Got You Down?

By *Demetra Tseckares*



On Wednesday Evening, January 20th, Demetra Tsakares presented to us ideas on plants to perk up your garden - using art, color, and water where possible. Demetra has shared with us suggestions of plants and trees to purchase and grow. Here is a short list of really valuable native plants.

**NATIVE SHADE TREES: White or Red Oak Tree.** If you plant just one tree this year try to choose an Oak! It is the Whole Foods or the Market Basket for the entire songbird population in New England! **Sugar Maple, Swamp Maple (for wetland), Liquidamber (Sweet Gum) and Tupelo (Black Gum)** are other great natives.

**SMALLER TREES** that are gorgeous in Spring and Fall and offer pollinators and songbirds important food: **Amelanchier, Oxydendron, Lindera Benzoin, Chionanthus Virginicus and Hawthorne.**

**SHRUBS** that bloom in Spring/Summer and put on a fall show and offer pollinators and songbirds important food are **Ilex verticillata, Fothergilla, Clethra, Aronia, Native Viburnums and Species Blueberries** are FABULOUS

**PERENNIALS - Part Shade to Sun: Actae (tall spiky white plant!), Anemone - Virginiana and Canadensis, Rodgersia and Thalictrum. Sun: Solidago, Eupatorium (all sorts but I love Gateway), Asters (bunnies love them though), Rudbeckia and Amsonia.** All Milkweeds that are native here: **Swamp, Meadow, Tuberosa, and Common**

**GROUNDCOVERS: Senecio Aurea** (Sun to Part Shade). It loves wet feet. Grow it if you want it - it takes over but in a delightful way. **Low Grow Sumac** is perfect for covering lots of ground that you need to stabilize or fill (hill, underplanting for trees, etc.). A variety **Native Ferns** can fill in trouble spots.

Here's a list of plants that rabbits typically leave alone: **Brunnera, Lungworts, Dicentra, Digitalis, Hellebore, Peony, Anemone** (Japanese and American) and **Geranium** (Bevan's variety-there are lots of lovely ones).



This truly this is a short list! Nasami Farm is the best native plant grower around. You can order and pick up at Garden in the Woods. Or make the trek out to the farm itself. [Check out www.grownative.com](http://www.grownative.com)

**COMPOST** (no peat moss-don't waste your money!) Great product is from Black Earth up in Manchester by the Sea. Or any of the Mostly Maine products.

**MULCH** with Sweet Pete (bags and bulk available at Mahoneys) or any of the Mostly Maine products. Even better: use chopped leaves!

Please be in touch if you have any questions. I'm starting to fill my calendar in March with clients and I really appreciate referrals!

## *Coming Up on February 24:*

### ***BEAUTY AND THE BEES*** from *the Captured Garden*

*By Deborah Trickett*

When we design a garden, we want it to be beautiful—planting trees, shrubs and perennials together to create a pleasing space. But we have learned that gardening for our own pleasure can be dangerous. Colony Collapse Disorder and the plight of pollinators have made us aware that we do not garden alone. We need to design landscapes and gardens with a mindful eye to the environment around us. Garden designer and beekeeper Deborah Trickett, Owner of The Captured Garden, will show us how, with a few tweaks, we can create spaces that are not only beautiful but beneficial to bees and other pollinators.



## **News from the World of Monarchs**

### PLANT MILKWEED

Federal wildlife authorities have announced this week that the monarch butterfly now qualifies as an endangered species. It is because of recent counts of the Western Monarch went from 30,000 butterflies 2019 to only 2000 butterflies so far in the early projections of 2020 survey. The dramatic drop is not fully understood but may be because of a tipping point event where lack of habitat has finally made a huge impact.



It is important to know that the monarch butterfly cannot survive without milkweed. Butterflies will only lay eggs on milkweed. The caterpillars only eat milkweed and there has to be at least 10 plants for every caterpillar. Every plant is critical to the species survival. So, plant milkweed every where you can. They don't need good soil. In fact, very little soil is necessary. They thrive in highway medians and parking lot edges. They have a beautiful smelling flower and once established will propagate.

# Art in Bloom 2021

The annual MFA Art in Bloom event has gone virtual. This year the AIB 2021 is an invitation only event. Our WH&GC was one of the lucky ones to be chosen to participate. Christy Walsh and Nickie Sakorafos and their reputation for artistic excellence were the team to represent us at the AIB this year. Unfortunately, because of previous commitments this dynamic duo was unable to attend. Rose Beecher and I, Jessica Lohnes, are the runner up team and are terrifically honored to fill in for this noble event.

We are tasked with interpreting a John Singer Sargent masterpiece mural on the arch of the rotunda at the main staircase of the Museum of Fine Arts. It is called Architecture, Painting, and Sculpture Protected by Athena from the Ravages of Time completed in 1921. It is of three figures consisting of the grounded, strong and serious female architecture in the center supporting the poser figure of Sculpture and the luxuriant slouch of Painting. They are being actively protected by the by the shield of the goddess of wisdom, Athena, from the furious swing of the scythe of Father Time. All happening in an elegant classical frame. Magnificent!



This is a wonderfully challenging piece to work with. We have to come up with a way to represent the grandness of the artwork physical situation as a painting suspended in the air. Interpret the content of the solidity of architecture, sculpture and painting along with the weightless and ephemeral qualities of time. The real challenge being the line between literal and philosophical interpretation of the artwork.

We felt that our first task to begin to find answers to the above questions was to go to the source of floral materials - the Flower Exchange in Chelsea and Baystate in Wilmington. It was a ton of fun for me because I had never been to either of these places and Rose was able to show me around. After hours of wandering we found some initial elements to start a concept and came home with a great idea only to find that the AIB committee had changed an important element of the project. Initially, teams could pick either a vertical 16x16x40" or this same platform on its side, 16x40x16" platform. We had chosen the horizontal one. Of course, the AIB took away the horizontal format because of COVID distancing issues. So, the vertical one it is. Not to be daunted, over a 10-minute phone call Rose and I changed our tack and turned our setback into a huge positive. Do you want to know what we did?

NOT YET...but it going to be great! Staying positive and persevering. "Go big or go home", is our motto.

