

---

## THE FAIRFIELD GARDEN CLUB



---

Issue #2

April 10, 2020

### VIRTUAL SEEDS OF WISDOM: TIPS AND QUIPS

Hello to all,

Our members take strength in the beauty of the springtime and the beginning of the growing season. We are lucky it isn't the start of January. We hope that the words and pictures that are shared below bring you some solace, peace and inspiration for more hopeful times ahead. Please keep sharing for our Friday Tips and Quips ([thefairfieldgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:thefairfieldgardenclub@gmail.com)) but also see Candace's mention (below) of a new blog on our website

**From Candace Wagner:** Do you have spring pictures of your garden or back yard? Flowers, trees or any fun pictures that you've taken on walks? Great websites to check out? The Fairfield Garden Club website has a new place to display them. We have started a new FGC Blog.

What is a blog? A blog is an online, informal journal kept on our website in the members only area. If you would like to submit a story, picture, website to check out, or anything else, please email me at [chwagner@optonline.net](mailto:chwagner@optonline.net) with a description and/or your picture. I hope to have our new blog set up by next week.

[thefairfieldgardenclub.org](http://thefairfieldgardenclub.org), password: Mabel@1915

Contributed by Anna Taylor

Instructions on Not Giving Up  
Ada Limón

More than the fuchsia funnels breaking out  
of the crabapple tree, more than the neighbor's  
almost obscene display of cherry limbs shoving  
their cotton candy-colored blossoms to the slate  
sky of Spring rains, it's the greening of the trees  
that really gets to me. When all the shock of white  
and taffy, the world's baubles and trinkets, leave  
the pavement strewn with the confetti of aftermath,  
the leaves come. Patient, plodding, a green skin  
growing over whatever winter did to us, a return  
to the strange idea of continuous living despite  
the mess of us, the hurt, the empty. Fine then,  
I'll take it, the tree seems to say, a new slick leaf  
unfurling like a fist to an open palm, I'll take it all.

About This Poem

"It was a hard winter. My whole body raged against it. But right as the world feels uninhabitable, something miraculous happens: the trees come back. I wanted to praise that ordinary thing as a way of bringing myself back too."

—Ada Limón



**Photo by Ellen Gould:** In my back garden, my favorite in the spring. Hellebores.



**From Barbara Geddes Wooten:** This is one of our smaller clivias with a lovely color. It reminds us of the Philadelphia Flower Show and Mrs. Dorrance "Dodo" Hamilton (Campbell Soup Heiress) who underwrote the show each year for thirty years until 2014 and had her gardeners haul her glorious tree sized clivias (3) to the show.

Every year, she won a dozen blues and always a few Best in Shows.



Remember Downtown Abbey, the flower Show episode when the Dowager Countess (Maggie Smith of course) has to win each year, regardless of whether she had the best flowers. She does stand down in the end, and, as always, steals the show by not winning.....once.



Photos by Claire de Berghe: Magnolias in my backyard.



Contributed by Barbara Geddes Wooten

**“Hope” is the thing with feathers**

By Emily Dickenson

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -  
That perches in the soul -  
And sings the tune without the words -  
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -  
And sore must be the storm -  
That could abash the little Bird  
That kept so many warm -

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land -  
And on the strangest Sea -  
Yet - never - in Extremity,  
It asked a crumb - of me.





Photos by Simin Allison



**From Edie Blair:** One of my all-time favorite quotes is what Shakespeare's King Lear said to his faithful but silent daughter Cordelia, "Nothing will come of nothing." Shakespeare wrote King Lear while under a one-year quarantine due to the plague.

Now may also be a time to rant and rave on the heath like King Lear. But it's also a time for creativity and productivity - for making something out of "nothing."

<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/04/06/shakespeare-plague-coronavirus>

**From Barbara Geddes Wooten:** In the fifteen minutes walking radius of our homes, discover new, little jewels in the woods and "wayside." (remember Mabel Osgood Wright and her wayside wildflowers).

Discover new roads and (closed) open spaces, but there are beauties along the roadside.

These are the scenic-designated "Wampum Hill Road" and signs of springtime among the invasives and old stone farm walls.





We discovered three land trust sites right near us: Gregg (Shorthand inventor: Does anyone remember "shorthand"? ) Reserve, Honey Hill Preserve and Belknap Preserve, the last two are managed by Aspetuck Land Trust.



Aspetuck has carefully elected to leave its open spaces "open" but no parking, no dogs, no crowds. They urge we visit all sites except Trout Brook which has become too crowded.

Our club contributes to them through Ways and Means, and I am also a contributor. Yet I did not know their splendid beauty.





Photos by Patty Carpenter



## AND LIFE GOES ON ...

**Garden Club Book Club** is meeting *virtually* on two dates:

Monday, April 20th at 4:30PM to 6 p.m.

or Monday, May 4 at 4:30PM to 6 p.m.

The book is Invention of Nature by Andrea Wulf. Email Barbara if you wish to attend either one.



**What is everyone doing about shopping??** This is what I've heard:

**Nurseries:** Colonial Gardens is definitely open and you can do curbside pickup and call and pay in advance. Ganim's is also open and offers curbside pickup as well. They note all of their helpers follow CDC guidelines. Sweet Peet in Wilton is also open. Garden centers and landscaping are considered essential services.

**Food and Groceries:** Spic and Span is delivering everywhere. Pine Creek Deli has curbside service for breakfast and lunch. Little Pub is now offering a "market" with small grocery combos they will pack for you and have ready. The Pantry will shop for you with a telephone order and they will call you when ready (same day) for pick-up at their back door.

**Let us know what you are doing and finding and experiencing that might be helpful.**

From Ruth Anne Taylor:



## Easton Farms and Markets Offer Plentiful Food Supplies

by Jane Paley

Following is a preliminary list of farms and markets that are open with information about what they offer, hours of operation and other details.

**Shaggy Coos Farm** (53 Center Road) is constantly replenishing eggs and pasteurized milk, and they are currently stocked with beef and pork. "We usually get fresh fish deliveries from Jimmy O's in Bridgeport on Wednesdays, and we hope these deliveries will continue," said Brittany Conover, farm manager. The farm has long employed the honor system; visitors may select products and leave cash in the collection box. Shaggy Coos is open everyday from 7 a.m. to 7p.m. Checks, cash and Venmo payments are accepted. Call ahead and Email orders are accepted as well. Contact: [Shaggy Coos Farm](#).

**Greiser's Coffee and Market** (299 Center Road) is open for business, but closed to walk-in customers. Current fresh inventory includes fruits and veggies, dairy, and orange juice. Pantry staples: Pasta, rice, assorted sauces and seasonings, breakfast food, oils, vinegars, cheeses and lunch meat, frozen pizza and usual coffee, sandwiches and sweet treats.

Adrienne Jane Burke, Greiser's owner, shared a memory as she and her staff are working to fulfill orders in a time of crisis: Greiser's is open Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday to Friday 7a.m. to 4 p.m. Credit card payment is preferred to avoid handling cash. For a complete list of inventory and additional information check out: [info@greisers.com](mailto:info@greisers.com).

**Sport Hill Farm** (596 Sport Hill Road) opened March 21 with a variety of offerings including, milk, eggs, Gilbertie's greens, carrots,



beets and bread from Fairfield Bread Company. Shopping is by appointment only and visits will be staggered. To schedule a visit or get additional information, Sport Hill Farm can be contacted at: [Sporthillfarm.com](http://Sporthillfarm.com).

**Sherwood Farm** (365 Sport Hill Road) has bread, eggs, potatoes, onions, apples and a variety of sauces. Dairy products include milk, cheese, ice cream and yogurt. Bacon and cured meats are also available. Sherwood Farm is open on weekends, 7 a.m.-to 7 p.m.

**Easton Village Store** (440 Sport Hill Road) is no longer offering dine-in options, but take-out is available. Basics are available, some in limited quantity: packaged and canned goods and deli menu are offered daily. Breakfast, lunch and dinner choices, as well as a range of hot and cold beverages are on hand. Open daily, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, Saturdays 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Phone orders: (203) 268-5618 and [eastonvillagestore.net](http://eastonvillagestore.net).

**The Olde Blue Bird Inn** (363 Black Rock Turnpike) is also offering take-out breakfasts and lunches featuring all of Easton's favorites including cornbread and blueberry preserves. Hours of operation everyday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



From Claire Van de Berghe:



## Our Online Easter Offerings...

Spaces are filling up in the virtual world for our Conversations series this weekend. Here's a reminder of our schedule if you're looking for a learning experience over the next few days.



### Context Conversations Schedule:

#### Friday 10th April:

Beijing Through the Ages @10am, EDT

The Story of Easter in Paintings, the National Gallery @12pm, EDT

#### Saturday 11th April:

From the Parthenon to the British Museum, @11am, EDT

Venice in Peril, @2pm EDT

Beijing Through the Ages @7pm, EDT

#### Sunday 12th April:

The Story of Easter in Paintings, the National Gallery @10am, EDT

Walking with Michelangelo: The Vatican Museums @11am, EDT



### What are Context Conversations?

- A live virtual learning experience
- Led by an expert talking about a particular topic
- 90 minutes duration (including Q & A), \$35 per person
- A way for you to connect with and support our experts

See current conversations

### *And a sneak peek of what's coming up next week and beyond... (@EDT)*

**Secrets of Kyoto Geisha**, with Kyoto professor Gavin (April 14th & 17th @7pm)

**Uffizi Gallery** with art historian Alessandra (April 15th @12.30pm)

**A Dialogue between Goya and Picasso**, with art historian Marta (April 17th @12.30pm)

**Roma Antica (Colosseum, Forum, Palatine Hill)** with archaeologist Liz (April 17th @10am)

**Pairing Champagne and Food**, with Champagne expert Cynthia (April 18th @12pm & 19th @2pm)

## Thomas Jefferson's Birthday at Monticello

Join us for a special livestream with Thomas Jefferson on Monday, April 13, at 10:30 a.m., on [Monticello's Facebook page](#).

Mr. Jefferson, interpreted by Bill Barker, will be discussing his birthday, life in public service, and taking questions from viewers. Submit your questions for Mr. Jefferson in the comments of [our announcement on Facebook](#).

This event is being offered in lieu of our annual Founder's Day event, which commemorates Thomas Jefferson's birthday with a public ceremony featuring the remarks of the [Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medalist in Citizen Leadership](#).





