
THE FAIRFIELD GARDEN CLUB



Issue #7

May 22, 2020

VIRTUAL SEEDS OF WISDOM: TIPS AND QUIPS

From Barbara Geddes Wooten: To encourage us to take small, cautious steps towards being outside together again.

EXCERPTS FROM SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD

By Walt Whitman

Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world before me,
The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose.

Done with indoor complaints, libraries, querulous criticisms,
Strong and content I travel the open road.

The earth, that is sufficient,
I do not want the constellations any nearer,

... I give you my hand!
Will you give me yourself? will you come travel with me?
Shall we stick by each other as long as we live.

From Allison Dalton: I just saw this list of “10 things we can do to help bees”.

https://www.honeyflow.com/resources/starting-with-flow/help-the-bees/p/558?utm_source=ap_campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wbd&utm_content=e1

Pollinators are such an integral part of our flourishing gardens it's important to try and protect them when we can!



From Joan Davidson: I enjoyed seeing the Chestnut tree at 4909 Congress St since that was our home for 30 years and our two little boys grew up enjoying the woods and fields. Some of my fondest memories were having early morning coffee sitting on the front step enjoying the peacefulness of the fields and of course, the birds. Then late afternoon Bob would often take one of our sons with him on the tractor as he mowed leaving the sweet smelling hay. I had a large garden in the side field and, again, loved the absolute peacefulness of working in the mornings. We had a wonderful wood stove in the kitchen which was used every morning. Wood came from the property and Bob loved chopping and storing it in the shed. Our sons used to laugh and say that “dad ran that place like a farm”! And of course, this was long before the pool and major renovation, but it was a wonderful life for a long time.

We are still in Vero with no plans, as yet, to return. Things are opening up here and we can have dinner at the club... these are incredible times for everyone and the uncertainty is so difficult. Stay healthy and thank you for the wonderful articles.

From Penny Ross:



There was a time when meadow, grove, and stream,
The earth, and every common sight,
To me did seem
Apparelled in celestial light,
The glory and the freshness of a dream.
—William Wordsworth

The Lee Garden, Chichester Road, New Canaan. Open to the public dawn to dusk.

"The sheer number and variety of plants in the garden present a wonderful learning opportunity for those interested in horticulture and gardening. George Lee, an amateur horticulturist, planted the Garden with every hybrid azalea introduced by Joseph B. Gable, as well as hybrids of the Gartrell, Knaphill, Exbury, Kaempferi and Ilam types. The rhododendron plantings included hybrids developed by Shamarelle, Gable, Dexter, and Nearing, as well as native species. The rhododendrons and azaleas bloom under a high canopy of oaks, maples and tulip trees and an intermediate canopy of dogwood and are underplanted with wildflowers, groundcovers and bulbs." 2.7 acres

I took these photos May 17, when the azaleas were midway in succession of bloom. My granddaughter enjoyed climbing and sniffing.





From Zone II Floral Design Committee Rep, Bridget Bucknall

Virtual Chelsea will be hosted online at rhs.org.uk starting May 18 - 23.

Beginning May 18-24, clips from the past 10 years of Chelsea coverage will air in a series of BBC programs presented by Sophie Haworth, Joe Swift, Monty Don and Nicky Chapman, AND new footage from various presenters and advice from top gardening and design experts including Adam Frost, Carol Klein, Rachel De Thame and Toby Buckland.

Each morning Virtual Chelsea will begin with a garden tour, when well-known designers, florists and gardening personalities will open up their own gardens for viewers to take a look around.

Some of the world's leading designers and plant experts will share their top design tips, favorite planting combinations and gardening trends with online viewers.

Also growers will be on hand with potting bench demonstrations as they share their techniques, tips and advice with novice gardeners during this segment, while some designers will replicate the spectacular plant displays they were due to exhibit in Chelsea's Great Pavilion.

So if you cannot fly to London this year - here's a way to armchair travel.





May 21, 2020

Dear Friends of Untermyer Gardens,

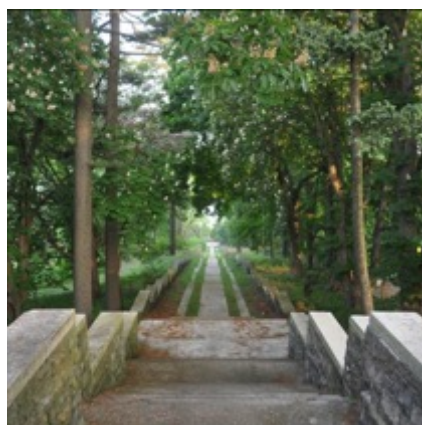
The Conservancy and the City of Yonkers are working together to devise a plan for reopening the garden to the public slowly and carefully. As a first step, **the garden will be open this holiday weekend (Saturday through Monday) for a limited number of 90-minute guided tours**, with a maximum of ten people per tour. **Tickets must be purchased in advance [here](#).** Please note that all rules—including face masks and social distancing—must be followed in order to visit. If things go smoothly, this will bring us closer to our goal of reopening the garden. Let's keep our collective fingers crossed.

The mild spring has made the south border of the Temple of Love especially lush this year. The masses of foliage show off a thousand different shades of green. It has never looked better and is really coming into its own.





In an ever-changing garden like ours, photos really have the power to astonish. Such was the case when we came upon a picture from 2013 of the Vista before its restoration. Called the most monumental feature in a private garden in America, the Vista—a manmade marvel with a majestic view of the Hudson and the landscape—never fails to disappoint. Look at the progress that has been made!



Despite the current recession, the Conservancy continues its outreach to plant trees in Yonkers where they are needed. Here is a picture of our gardener Liz Dreeben with a newly planted tree in front of the Hudson River Museum.

Photo by John Jacono

Jessica Norman's photographs are a delight to the eye, and the best way to get a slow but steady dose of beauty is to follow [Untermeyer Gardens on Instagram](#). I am not generally an Instagram person, but this is something I look forward to every day. Here are some of her recent pictures.



Our [spring appeal](#) seems to have struck a nerve. For a while, the donations arrived faster than we could log them in. It makes us so grateful to experience the depth of support for the garden. More than 200 people have donated more than \$35,000, which will help us survive this most challenging of years. A hearty thanks to all of you!

And thank you as well to Timothy Tilghman and his team of gardeners who have revived Samuel Untermyer's grand ambitions for this place. Timothy is going to virtually show us a different part of the garden every week during our closure, describing plants of note and the design reasons for their placement. This week's video was taken in the Ruin Garden.

Please take care during these difficult times,

Stephen F. Byrns
President, Untermyer Gardens Conservancy

From Barbara Geddes Wooten:

Part One: Transplant Sale: Ambler Farm (Hurlbutt Street, Wilton) has scheduled, protected drive through pick ups for pre-ordered transplants. This includes all of their vegetables and many remaining annuals. They also have stop, browse and buy visits. You can also reserve for a longer shop alone browsing window. The reservation time will be confirmed by email. They are selling out fast and may soon be waiting for new inventory, so if you are in need (I am) act quickly.

Part Two: Farm Stand Their farm stand opens June 6th with limited hours 9AM to 1PM and carefully scheduled visits. They have the best "Bourbon Maple Syrup" we have ever had. They do not use any metal in their maple sugaring process which is why there is none of that odd taste from many other taps. This is a great present for someone.

<https://amblerfarm.org/gardens-farm/transplant-sale/>

From Susan Bonner: Last Saturday I saw that Silverman's Farm on Sport Hill Road in Easton had a sign out that said they had fresh asparagus from their own fields. The parking lot was empty so I didn't worry about going in. The asparagus was already in bunches, the cashier was behind plastic, I didn't have to sign anything and I wiped down my credit card when I was done. BEST asparagus I have ever had.

Call before you go just in case they have sold out.



From Patty Carpenter: This is my pot from Beds and Borders.



From Sandy Bisset: Flower Flash in New York City each morning in an unannounced location by Lewis Miller Design. These flower flashes are intended to amaze and amuse and inspire New Yorkers and honor the medical staff and first responders in New York. Here is one example but if you go to his website you can see many more.



From Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut:



COVID-19 has made this a year unlike any other. Among all the negative news, there are glimmers of real hope. People are flocking to garden centers and scooping up vegetables and flowering plants. The interest in gardening is off the charts. It provides the opportunity for clubs to potentially grow your membership. It's also a chance to make a greater impact on your communities.

I wrote an op/ed piece about how people can use gardens as a way to declare victory over COVID-19. It appeared in the *Connecticut Post* on May 13th and the *Danbury News Times* on May 16th. Following is the article. I encourage you to share this with your club members.

Declare Victory over COVID-19 with a Garden

A Victory Garden is virtually unknown to a populace currently searching to fight back against the COVID-19 virus, the enemy of this generation. Commonly known as war gardens or food gardens for defense, Victory Gardens accounted for close to 40% of the fresh vegetables grown during World War II. Estimates vary on the number of Victory Gardens during that time ranging to upwards of 20 million. It was a call to action to join in a common bond to support the war effort by working the land and being self-sufficient. It was a shared experience during a time of hardship and uncertainty.

The parallels to then and now are stark. Fast forwarding 75 years to 2020, we find ourselves in a similar situation as many feel the need to grow their own food. It's a way to be self-sufficient, mentally rewarded and fulfilled during trying times.

Gardeners have long appreciated the gifts that come from the ground, both for their valuable produce and cultivated beauty. This labor of love is amazingly rewarding and equally frustrating. You're totally at the whim of nature. No growing season is ever the same as the last. You are always learning and adjusting on the fly to whatever is thrown at you by the weather, animals and insects. This love/hate relationship keeps gardeners endeavoring year in and year out.

The trend toward people getting dirt under their finger nails gardening is exploding. Burpee, a major online catalog and retail supplier, is reporting a double-digit increase in seed sales. Local

nurseries and garden centers have increased stock considerably over previous years. Visits to these retail establishments over the past few weeks show a noticeable increase in customers that make weekdays look like weekends. There is an insatiable desire to purchase items to plant and grow, whether in a bed or a container.

What gardening newbies are going to learn is that once you get a “taste” of gardening, it usually sticks with you for life. Watching the amazing growth of plants that literally happens before your eyes. The explosion of colorful flowers in bloom. The dark green zucchini, brilliant red tomatoes and the bright yellow squash paint a palette of visual delight. Harvesting produce that goes straight from the garden to the table. Suddenly farm-to-table takes on a very different and personal meaning. One of accomplishment and pride knowing that you grew it yourself. It provides a sense of control in a world where much individual control has lately been lost.

Much about gardening is deeply personal, from selecting the plants that you grow to the time you put into taking care of them. There is a sense of tranquility that comes from being one with a garden. Troubles seem to melt away when you immerse with living things. It gives families a chance to share and learn together in a garden, both adults and children. There is sure to be an explosion of community gardens going forward, and with it the untold benefits of personal engagement in the pursuit of growing produce that comes from seeds planted in the soil.

The fruits of the labor are both seen and unseen. The produce that you harvest is a real bonus, but the physic income that is derived from being immersed with a garden can't be calculated. You can experience the intoxicating fragrance of lavender and rosemary in an herb garden. The calming presence in the early morning with dew dripping off plants, or the sun reflecting off flowers in the late afternoon. This visual tapestry paints a mosaic that gardeners have long appreciated and valued.

The 2020 Victory Gardens create the opportunity to leave an imprint on many, not just this year but for many years to come. Victory Gardens used to be promoted through poster art in the 40's; now it arrives in the form of Instagram posts. We're feeding a family rather than a nation. What hasn't changed is the ability to fight back against an enemy in our own very individual way.

Gardening nourishes the body as well as the soul. You get so much more out of it than you put in. Like in life, you'll have many successes and failures along the way. It's our collective opportunity to achieve personal growth during a very difficult time. Get outside today. Start a garden, however big or small. Experience the difference that gardening can make in your life and declare victory in a way that works for you.

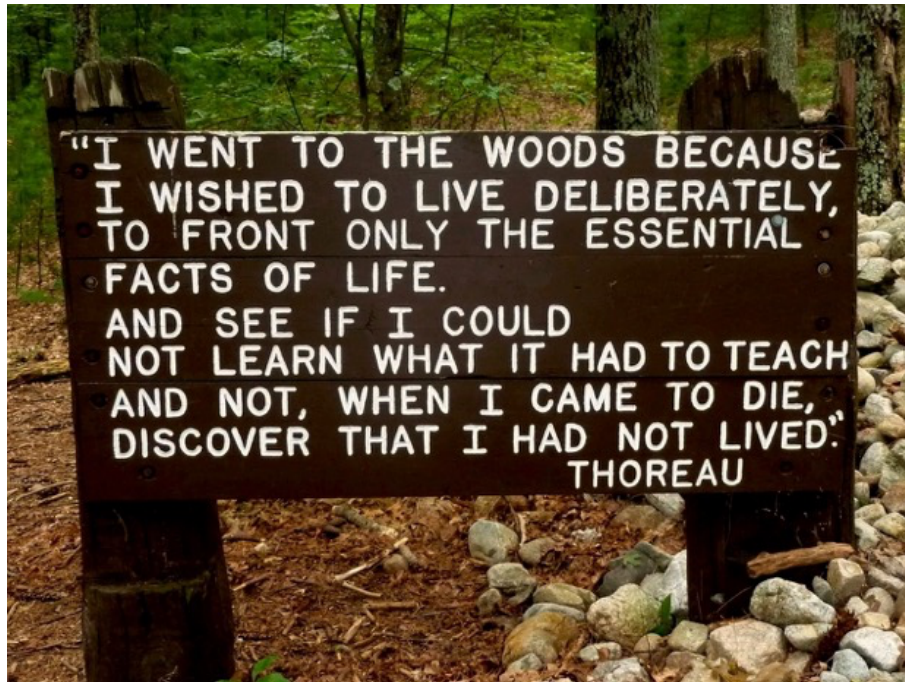
Arlene Field

President

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

From Barbara Geddes Wooten: Our next book group: Walden by Henry David Thoreau.

We are looking for July dates and an outdoor space where we are all safe. If someone has a very commodious yard with separable chairs, that would be splendid or a very large porch.....





The Birdathon is Underway **It's a 3-day event so there's plenty of time to get involved**

May 22, 2020 — If you'd been awakened at 4 a.m. by one long hoot from a Barred Owl outside your bedroom window, like I was, you'd already have one bird on your Birdathon list.

Connecticut Audubon's third annual Migration Madness Birdathon is underway. It runs through Sunday, May 24. As of this minute, 103 people have signed up to participate.

Why not join the fun? All skill levels are welcome. You don't need to go birding all three days either — any amount of time is fine.

Thank you!

Tom Andersen
Communications Director

**To register or make a pledge for the 2020
Birdathon, [click here](#).**

**The Migration Madness 2020 homepage is here.
Take a look at the rules, FAQ and more.**

The Birdathon is a great way for you to be involved in raising funds for conservation projects all over Connecticut — an effort that the coronavirus pandemic has made more important than usual.

Your contribution will help support:

- Trail upkeep at our 20 sanctuaries to make sure you have safe and accessible places to hike.
- Conservation education, including the award-winning Science in Nature outdoor education program.
- Conservation work at our centers, in Fairfield, Glastonbury, Pomfret, and Sherman, at Milford Point, at Trail Wood in Hampton, and at the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center in Old Lyme.
- Citizen science projects including Osprey Nation, which since 2014 has tracked the nesting success of the state's Ospreys.
- Bird conservation work such as the Audubon Alliance for Coastal Waterbirds, a partnership to protect vulnerable Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, and other species.
- Habitat restoration that provides nesting areas for Blue-winged Warblers, Indigo Buntings, Eastern Towhees, and other birds at:
 - Smith Richardson Preserve in Westport
 - Bafflin Preserve in Pomfret
 - Chaney Preserve in Montville
 - Trail Wood in Hampton
 - Croft Preserve in Goshen
- Monitoring at the Coastal Center at Milford Point, to ensure the protection of birds at this busy coastal area.
- Connecticut Audubon's involvement in the Connecticut Bird Atlas, the biggest and most important bird research project ever in Connecticut.

To register or make a pledge for the 2020 Birdathon, click [here](#).

