



# The Garden Club of East Hampton Newsletter

Fall 2017

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## *Senior Citizens' Holiday Workshop*

*Join us at the*

*East Hampton Senior Citizens' Center  
128 Springs Fireplace Road*

Again this year, we will host this enjoyable community event. GCEH members get in the holiday spirit by gathering armloads of evergreen boughs of every kind and bring them, along with your pruners, to the Senior Citizen's Center. We'll cut the greens into manageable lengths and arrange them with our handcrafted ornaments. When the seniors arrive, we will help each one assemble his or her own spectacular holiday basket to take home.

*This is a festive and heart-warming  
holiday happening!*

## **Conservation Committee Report**

The annual Conservation program for summer 2017 was held at the headquarters of the Long Island chapter of The Nature Conservancy in East Hampton. The attendance was terrific - standing room only! We were honored to have the Mayor of East Hampton Village, Paul Rickenbach, and the East Hampton Town Councilwoman, Kathee Burke-Gonzalez in attendance, as well as the GCA Zone III Director and Zone III Representative.

The Conservation program was made up of 3 parts.

The headliner of the program was a presentation by the group C-Change Conversations. Their message was powerful and on point with what is happening in the world today and generated many questions with a lively discussion about the impact of Climate Change.

The Nature Conservancy representative then gave a short presentation on their local climate change efforts and was followed by the current Acting Chair of the Energy Sustainability Committee for the Town of East Hampton. They both gave a very enlightening presentation on the current and future initiatives of the Town of East Hampton.

The Garden Club of East Hampton introduced our three East Hampton High School interns who are part of the garden club internship program. The students presented their research and findings from a year long project involving a local pond in Montauk, where they volunteered with the Third House Nature Center.

All in all, it was an enlightening and engaging meeting!

## **Community Gardens Report**

Thank you to our team leaders and the member volunteers who pitched in this year to make our ten community gardens and projects beautiful and successful. We had some unique challenges, but our gardens are thriving.

Community Gardens' biggest challenge this year was designing and planting the Mary Nimmo Moran garden on Main Street. However, other challenges (and learning opportunities) abounded: learning best practices for pruning, tying and

fertilizing climbing roses (at the Train Station); hat racking hollies to rejuvenate their form and shape, and using newspaper as mulch to smother weeds (at the Brick Courtyard Garden); rebuilding a garden damaged by construction over the winter (at the Pollinator Garden); devising new pruning strategies to prolong the blooming period and stem strength for Annabelle hydrangeas (at the Millstone Garden Park); and dealing with an outbreak of Southern blight, a devastating fungus that may become more prevalent in gardens on the East End (recently found at Rachel's Historic Dooryard Garden).

Thankfully, our other gardens thrived and presented no new challenges this year. These included the lovely Mimi Meehan Native Plant Garden, the Nature Trail, which we manage in partnership with LVIS, and the Post Office.

We achieved a new level of success at the Amagansett orchid site, our P4P project: this summer, the site nurtured 5 blooming plants with one plant producing seeds (millions, in fact!) – three years after we cleared brush and after only a single orchid had bloomed there. The decline of this formerly robust population is about as close to extirpation as a plant can come, but we are now much more optimistic we will succeed in restoring it.