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Wallingford Garden Club January Meeting Featured Caring For House Plants



Wallingford Garden Club recently held their Jan 2026 meeting at the First Congregational Church in Wallingford. The presenter Karla Dalley spoke on 'House Plants' and how to take care of them. She had a display of various house plant species as a reference. Linda Burr made a special centerpiece for 2026 at the dessert table.

Shirley Lagerstrom shared the floral designs made by various garden club members depicting the cold weather in January by using cool color choices.

Wallingford Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, New England Garden Clubs, Inc and National Garden Clubs, Inc. Photos by Ellie Tessmer

Wallingford Garden Club Upcoming February Meeting



Pictured Above: Blue hydrangea, 'Endless Summer' hydrangea. **Right:** Lorraine Balletto.

Wallingford Garden Club will hold the February meeting on the 10th. The program will be held at the First Congregational Church, 23 South Main Street.

The program 'Hydrangeas' by presenter Lorraine Ballato at 11:00. She will guide us through the proper care of hydrangeas. She is an award-winning writer, speaker, horticulturist, photographer and confirmed 'plantaholic.'

Following the program will be a BYO lunch with dessert and coffee/tea available by the Club. A WGC business will follow. Open to the public. \$5 donation is welcome. Parking is available off Center St and/or beyond in Town Hall public parking area.

For more information, please call 203-269-2653. Check website: www.wallingfordgardenclub.com

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North Haven Garden Club's January Meeting On "Osprey" Recap



Pictured Above: Ken and his presentation of ospreys. **Right:** Hostess table with delicious treats.

North Haven: The North Haven Garden Club will hold an open meeting on January 15, 2026 at the North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church Street, across from the green. The meeting featured speaker Ken Elkins". Ken is the director of the Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center at Milford Point. Ken's interest in birds started when he was ten years old watching the birds at his grandmother's feeders and has been obsessed ever since.

Ken holds a degree Environmental Biology, and is the past president of the Connecticut Ornithological Association. He will discuss the osprey's lifecycle and habitat, share photos and answer questions. His talk touched on what caused the osprey decline in 1972 and the ban of DDT in the United States. Between DDT and coastal development, the nesting habitat of ospreys was significantly reduced, that year there were only 10 active nests in Connecticut. Osprey platforms were built to facilitate and encourage nesting birds in coastal habitats. The DDT prevented osprey and other nesting birds from metabolizing calcium leading to thin, brittle eggshells. Eggs cracked under the parents during incubation, leading to a population crash.

Osprey are migratory birds that come back in February and March to nest and reproduce. It takes just 50 to 55 days for a hatchling to go from a juvenile to a fully grown bird. They have a 6 foot wing span, a reversible toe which aids in catching and holding on to fish. They will nest close to shallow waters and stay within 12 miles to source fish. In Connecticut there are about 670 active nests.

Check out the Audubon web camera at Milford Point. The Connecticut Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point is a nature center and bird sanctuary in Milford, Connecticut, established in 1995. Over 300 different species of bird have been observed at this location.

Hostesses for the evening were Fran Notaro, Noreen Adley and Cindy Golja with the table arrangement provided by Sandy Ginter.

Don't forget to check out The North Haven Garden Club on Facebook for lots of useful and entertaining information and pictures of all our club does in our great town of North Haven! For membership information please email italia_a@comcast.net.

Article and photos by Cindy Golia