

Participate in our 2017-2019  
**CONNECTICUT STATE PROJECT**

Connecticut may be considered at the forefront of environment-friendly practices throughout our State.

I invite you to become stewards in your own communities and help in three major areas that continue to be of concern in supporting a healthy environment for today and for future generations.

A deficit of more than 12 inches in rainfall during 2016 has substantially dropped our water table, and reservoirs are at unusually low levels. Let's strive to CONSERVE WATER.

Indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides is raising havoc among our pollinators. Some bee species are approaching extinction. Let's strive to ASSIST POLLINATION.

There are many ways to grow plants in our own gardens, in community gardens, and in our town parks without resorting to chemical sprays and fertilizers. Let's strive to GARDEN NATURALLY.

Our State Project for 2017-2019 offers two contests:

Garden Clubs may participate by creating either a Xeriscape Garden or a Pollinator-friendly Garden in a Public Space. Individual Garden Club Members may participate by creating a Xeriscape Garden on their own property.

Our State Projects Chair is Holly Kocet. You may contact her at (203) 426-4303 or via email at [hollyk325@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyk325@yahoo.com).

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.  
[www.ctgardenclubs.org](http://www.ctgardenclubs.org)

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*Our Mission Statement*  
To coordinate, stimulate and encourage higher standards in all aspects of Garden Club work  
To protect and conserve our natural resources, preserve our heritage and promote civic beauty



Member of New England Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Susan Hinkel, Director  
Her theme is "NEGC PLANTS FOR EVERYONE"

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)



Nancy Hargroves, President  
[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)  
Her theme is "PLANT AMERICA"



Ingeborg Venus  
FGCCT President  
2017-2019

**PRESIDENT'S THEME  
and PROJECT**

**PLANT CONNECTICUT**



**BE A  
CONSERVATION  
CHAMPION**

Support a Healthy Environment for Today  
and for Future Generations

**CONSERVE WATER**

**ASSIST POLLINATION**

**GARDEN NATURALLY**

## CONTEST RULES

### Be a Conservation Champion!

#### CONSERVE WATER

- Explore xeriscaping
- Install rain barrels
- Use drip irrigation
- Design rain gardens
- Mulch trees and shrubs
- Downsize your lawn

#### ASSIST POLLINATION

- Avoid chemical pesticides
- Plant native trees and shrubs
- Plant native perennials
- Cluster flowers by variety and color
- Plant successive blooms for all Seasons

#### GARDEN NATURALLY

- In your own garden
- In community gardens
- Advocate organic practices at nearby parks and farms
- Explore IPM principles
- Use natural layering (lasagna gardening)
- Practice composting

#### FOR GARDEN CLUBS:

**PROCESS:** Devise a plan of your intent to create either a (1) Xeriscape Garden or (2) a Pollinator-friendly Garden in a public space, including a Maintenance Plan. You will need to coordinate with your Town to gain permission for your project on Public Property. The minimum dimensions for the gardens are 600 square feet. Outline of gardens may be any shape. A fillable Registration form to pre-register is posted on the FGCTT website at [www.ctgardenclubs.org](http://www.ctgardenclubs.org) to be returned to Holly Kocet, [hollyk325@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyk325@yahoo.com), no later than November 2018.

Note: A new National Garden Club Community Project Grant Program for clubs, entitled "Plant America", has been established by the 2017-2019 NGC administration to provide financial support of new or existing projects by NGC member clubs in their respective communities all across the United States. Application deadline is November 1, 2017, via [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

**AWARDS APPLICATION:** Upon installation of your Garden, submit at least one 8-1/2"x11" photo and a description of the completed project, including any press coverage to Holly Kocet, [hollyk325@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyk325@yahoo.com) by February 15, 2019 to be judged for the Conservation Championship Award in each of the four club size categories: small, medium, large and extra large.

#### FOR GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS:

Individual Club Members may compete in a separate contest by creating a Xeriscape Garden on their own property. No minimum size requirement. Follow the same Pre-registration instructions as listed above for garden clubs. **PROCESS:** Explore xeriscaping in your own garden by applying the seven principles from "Solution to Sustainable Living" at [www.eartheasy.com](http://www.eartheasy.com). **AWARDS APPLICATION:** Submit an 8-1/2"x11" photo and a description of your completed garden by February 15, 2019 to [hollyk325@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyk325@yahoo.com). Your garden will be considered for the Conservation Championship Award presented to up to five garden club members with the most impressive Xeriscape Garden.



#### Suggested Safe Garden Nurseries:

- Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery in Woodbury
- Natureworks in Northford
- Gilbertie's Herbs and Garden Center in Westport
- List of others available upon request

#### Suggested Readings:

A list of articles published in the field of conservation and environment-friendly practices is available upon request.

Also, read or re-read Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* and Douglas Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home*.