



# A Field Guide to Sasqua Garden Club

The Garden Club  
of America



# Class of 2019

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**Website: [www.sasqua.org](http://www.sasqua.org)**

**Log In:** Your email address

**Password:** sgcpass (or you may select "forgot my password"  
and set your own favorite password)

**Sasqua is a 501(c) 3 organization**



# Welcome to Sasqua Garden Club and The Garden Club of America!

You will be a Provisional Member for one year and it is a learning year – lots of activities and chances to explore new things. The chair of the Provisional Committee is Barbara Bradley, a long time member of the club and very talented flower arranger and horticulturist. She will be responsible for shepherding you through the year, organizing fun activities and programs designed to expose you to all facets of the club and the Garden Club of America. Indeed, the activities of the Provisional year are designed to build your understanding and commitment to the clubs' mission statement which states:

**"The aim of this club is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and creative design: to protect, restore and improve the quality of the environment through education, programs and action in the field of conservation and civic improvement."**

# The Basics

Sasqua GC is one of the 201 member clubs affiliated with the Garden Club of America (GCA). The GCA is divided into twelve Zones across the country. Sasqua is one of twenty clubs in Zone II.

These zone numbers are not to be confused with the USDA plant hardiness zones, which help growers determine which plants are most likely to thrive in their area. Sasqua's USDA Zone is Zone 7a. <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>

Sasqua is also affiliated with The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, an organization similar to GCA, which offers Master classes in Horticulture and Flower Arranging and hosts flower shows which our members can participate in if they choose. You will receive quarterly publications in the mail from GCA and via email from FGC.

Our meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month from September to June with a few exceptions during the year. March meetings are held at the discretion of the President. Meetings begin at 9:00 am with coffee and usually end by 11:30 am.

The club publishes a quarterly newsletter called "gardener" which is a resource not only for our activities but also for guidance on gardening, flower arranging, photography, environmental practices and many other topics. It is delivered electronically in the fall, winter, spring and summer. In addition you will receive monthly "wildflower" emails, which contain more time sensitive updates on upcoming activities or other pertinent news.

Each September the club distributes a directory of its members' contact information, referred to as the "Green Book".

Annual dues for Sasqua Garden Club are \$165 and include:

Sasqua Garden Club Membership -	\$100
GCA Membership/Bulletin Subscription -	\$60
Federated Garden Club Membership -	\$5

# Sasqua Highlights

- 1930 - The club was founded by a small group of women for those "interested in the encouragement of horticulture, conservation, and personal management as well as participation in the caring for their own gardens." It was originally called South Shore Garden Club of Connecticut.
- 1939 - The club's name was changed to Sasqua Garden Club and was elected to membership in the Garden Club of America.
- Over the years Sasqua has left its mark on our community in many ways. In 1993 the club planted the flowering trees and daffodils in the triangle where Pequot Avenue begins at the Post Road in Southport. In partnership with the Town it has landscaped the Fairfield Library, the Senior Center and the Old Town Hall. We also partnered with the Fairfield Garden Club to underwrite the plantings around the Fairfield Museum and History Center. In 2009 we partnered with Oliver Nurseries to help fund the landscaping at the entry to the Fairfield Theater Company. For the last several years Sasqua has partnered with the CT Audubon in a major renovation of the Birdcraft Museum and has financed the clearing and replanting of the property with gardens reflecting diverse growing habitats.
- In 1961 Sasqua won the prestigious GCA Founder's Fund Award for the landscaping of an indoor teaching garden at what is now called Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center. In 2015 Sasqua was a Founder's Fund finalist and the \$7500 award paid for signage at the newly installed habitat gardens at the Birdcraft Museum.
- Sasqua has hosted numerous GCA Flower Shows. The most recent were "PostCards" in 2005, which received five national awards and two Judges Commendations and "Splish Splash" in 2012, which was awarded ten Judges Commendations.

# Provisional Guidelines

1. Attend monthly meetings, usually on the third Tuesday of each month, from 9:00 am to 11:30am. Please call or email the chair of the Provisional Committee if you are unable to attend the meeting.
2. Participate in our annual Community Outreach project in November. We go to the Read School in Bridgeport to help students make arrangements for their Thanksgiving tables - this requires approximately three hours of your time.
3. All members are required to volunteer in the maintenance of the gardens at CT Audubon Birdcraft Museum. This involves a commitment of six hours spread out between April through October. This is a great hands on learning experience and children are also welcome to join in the fun.
4. Work with fellow provisional members on creating two wreaths for the Christmas Tree Festival.
5. Attend some of the Flower Arranging, Horticulture and Photography workshops that are scheduled throughout the year. These will be announced at our monthly meetings and in the newsletter and are a fun way to get to know other members and to learn about arranging flowers, forcing bulbs, growing plants from cuttings, etc. These workshops are meant to educate our members and no prior experience is expected or required. If you are unable to attend the workshop for which you signed up please call the chair of the Provisional Committee and the workshop organizer. If you sign up for a workshop and cancel you are still responsible for the cost of the workshop.
6. Participate in as many in-club sweepstakes as possible. These are an informal exhibits of floral design, horticulture or photography held at the monthly meetings and are excellent

opportunities to practice and reinforce what you have learned in the workshops described in #5 above. You can collaborate with a fellow member in most sweepstakes which is a great way to meet more members.

7. Participate in the annual fundraiser of the Sasqua Garden Club. This is a festive holiday party for members and their significant others held on the first Friday of December at a member's home. Provisionals are asked to help decorate with greens and seasonal flowers provided by the club and/or homeowner. All members are expected to make a financial contribution regardless of attendance.

8. You are welcome to join any committee of interest to you. At the September meeting committee chairs will have sign-up sheets and they will be on hand to talk about their work.

9. Serve as a host at one monthly meeting. This entails working with a team of three to four members to provide and serve coffee, tea, water and continental breakfast during the thirty minutes preceding the start of the meeting. The hosts absorb the cost of the refreshments.

10. Work with the provisional chair and other provisional members on the running of the in-club show which is held at our May meeting. The chair will provide complete information on the show as the year progresses.

11. On occasion, a provisional member cannot meet the guidelines of the provisional year because of pressing demands in other areas. In that case, the provisional year may be repeated.



# Committees

## **Flower Show ~ Horticulture ~ Photography**

These three committees provide guidance and encouragement in their respective areas of interest. They inform members of upcoming shows, organize monthly sweepstakes and share relevant local and GCA news.

## **Civic**

Works with Birdcraft Museum on maintenance of the gardens.  
Reviews and recommends additional potential projects.

## **Community Outreach**

Organizes Thanksgiving floral arranging at  
Read Elementary School in Bridgeport.

## **Conservation**

Keeps us informed on local and national environmental issues.  
Suggests ways for us to be environmentally  
responsible in our own back yards and beyond.

## **Garden History and Design**

Works to document local cultivated gardens for the  
Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens.

## **Hospitality**

Organizes monthly meeting venues and  
recruits member volunteers to bring refreshments.

## **Program**

Chooses and organizes speakers for monthly meetings.

## **Visiting Gardens**

Organizes trips to places of interest to our members.



# The Garden Club of America 101

“The purpose of the Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence and publications, and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.”

**The GCA website** includes a wealth of information. Once you set your member log-in and password (see below) click on the “Members’ Area” in the upper right corner of the public home page and check out the New Member Welcome link on the right side of the page. Across the top, you’ll see a number of areas of interest, including the GCA Committee Pages. These are great sources of information, where you can...

- learn how to enter a flower show
- find printable entry cards for floral, horticulture and photography show entries
- see the calendar of upcoming GCA Visiting Gardens trips in the United States and abroad
- find links to publications relating to floral design, horticulture and conservation
- see the monthly featured GCA member garden from the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens

**<https://www.gcamerica.org>**

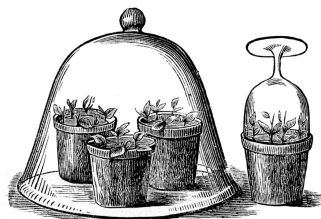
**GCA Website Username:** your email address

**Password:** Sasqua2018 This can be changed to a personal password after your first log in.

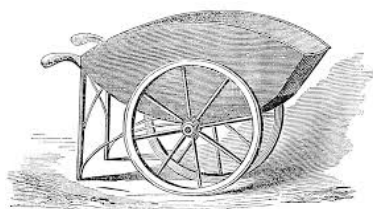
**HAVE FUN EXPLORING!**

# Good to Know!

- GCA headquarters is located at 14 East 60th Street and is open to all members. It's a great rest stop when you are in Manhattan!
- When you are traveling and you'd like to see a local private garden or two you can check the Visiting Gardens tab on the GCA website to see if there are members who have volunteered to show their gardens in that area. If you choose to do this, please follow these guidelines. <https://www.gcamerica.org/index.cfm/members/visiting-gardens>
- The Garden Conservancy organizes "Open Days" at wonderful private gardens across the country, with many in the CT/NY area. There are often multiple gardens open in one area on the same day making a road trip all the more worthwhile! <https://www.gardenconservancy.org>
- When entering flower shows you can make your purchases at East Coast Wholesale Flower in Norwalk. Check with the Provisional Chair first to be sure your name is on the list. Cash only, unless you have a resale number. Address: 1 Muller Avenue, Norwalk CT  
<https://www.eastcoastwholesaleflowers.com>



# ~ Notes ~





**Sasqua Garden Club**  
**P.O. Box 137**  
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**[www.sasqua.org](http://www.sasqua.org)**