



## Civic Day Recap

On the second Wednesday in May the garden club focuses all of its energy on the town gardens they maintain. May 8 was the day this year. Given the record rainy weather lately, we were extremely lucky to have a beautiful, sunny day to work. These are the gardens and the members who worked on them. All will be getting annuals and mulch later in May when frost danger is past.

The club maintains two gardens at the library; the big one at the entrance and the Butterfly Garden around back outside the children's department. The big one was spruced up by Stephanie Denkowicz, Sister Doretta, Terry Twigg, KC Alexander and her husband, Mark.

The Butterfly Garden was tended by Mandy Chadwick, Pat Gill and Cindy Tillson.

The gardens at the town office were cleaned by Kate Renwick and Lynne Cooper.

The Haddam Town Green was beautified by Barbara Stellenwerf, Deb Karpff, Marge Supple, Dodie Ruimerman, Donna Brinkerhoff and Lynda Birch.

The large garden at the transfer station was taken care of by Bob Waller, Marijean Conrad, Barbara Smith, Kate Hull, Mary Todzia, Donna Vaccaro and Celeste Benoit. It is the newest and largest garden the club maintains.

The Higganum Gazebo was tended by Louise Carlson, Lori Chadwick, Lori Munson, Clare Hoover, Rogene Gillmor and Cathy Alcorn. This year they also took on the long narrow garden by the crosswalk to the school as well. Rogene took care of that.

The "Welcome to Haddam" signs are lovingly tended by Bob Waller and Barbara Smith. They too are waiting until it warms up to plant the annuals.

After the annuals are in everywhere, the gardens will be mulched. The compost usually donated by Harvest New England was too wet to move this year (surprise, surprise....). They did donate a topsoil/compost blend which was too heavy to use. The library can use it on their new lawn after the construction is done.

## **A Couple More Thoughts...**

The final meeting of the season is open only to members and prospective members. The club won't meet again until Sept.

**June Garden Tips:** It's time to prune the woody spring blooming shrubs that have just completed their bloom. Common milkweed can be cut back by half right now so that it will bush out. The Monarch butterflies like young and tender milkweed, not the tough old stuff. Your Montauk daisies and perennial chrysanthemums should be cut back now too. This will keep them from getting too tall and heavy when they bloom in the fall. Just don't cut them back anymore after July 4. You should be cutting off your garlic scapes as they curl around and it's OK to put gladiolas bulbs in now. Provide plant food to your containers and to those other plants that you are asking to bloom, and bloom and bloom. And remember, water deeply when you water. Do not water a little every day.

**Digging In** is the cookbook by the Haddam Garden Club and is for sale at the library. The **Digging In** recipe of the month is:

**Spring Pea Salad** submitted by Mary Todzia

1 cup mayonnaise  
1 TBSP sugar  
½ cup sour cream or plain yogurt  
1 cup of fresh peas, blanched  
4 ribs celery sliced ¼"  
1 cup dried cherries or cranberries  
¾ c chopped pecans  
Fresh dill  
Salt and pepper  
Mint for garnish

Combine first 3 ingredients then, using a rubber spatula, gently fold in remaining ingredients. Season with salt and pepper. Move salad to a serving bowl and garnish with dill and a sprig of fresh mint.