Federal Garden Clubs of CT Awards Ceremony

Honoring Rogene Gillmor for Outstanding Service
with the Lillian M. Rathburn Award
and The Haddam Garden Club with a Certificate of Achievement for Managing the Flower and Horticulture Division of the Haddam Neck Fair

Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT
October 22, 2025

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

Ninety-sixth Annual
AWARDS MEETING
October 22, 2025

The Aqua Turf Club
Plantsville, Connecticut

THE FEDERATION AWARDS

Barbara Duncan, Awards Chair and Committee

(For work performed between June 1, 2024, and May 31, 2025)

THE LILLIAN M. RATHBUN AWARD

Established in 1990 in memory of former Federation President Lillian M. Rathbun, a member of the Lyme Garden Club. This award may be presented annually to an individual involved in all phases of garden club work. This award is considered the highest award presented to an individual garden club member.

The Lillian M Rathbun Award is awarded **to Rogene Gillmor**, for her dedicated membership, unwavering commitment and contributions to the **Haddam Garden Club** and the broader community over the past 25 years. Rogene has actively participated in numerous committees, including the Farmers Market, the Nominating Committee, the Fundraising Committee and the Youth & Family Services Garden Planning Committee. For many years she dedicated her time serving as our Hospitality Chair, coordinating volunteers who prepare homemade luncheons for monthly meetings. Rogene's expertise and passion for horticulture is evident in her work in support of the Garden Club's mission. She has clerked at the CT Flower & Garden Show assisting judges and has created & designed floral arrangements for homes that have been showcased in the Haddam Historic House Tour–supporting the Haddam Historical Society. Her generosity extends to the club's annual plant sale, where she donates plants, helps prepare the site, and assists shoppers. Each December she participates in making holiday arrangements for Town Office buildings. She contributes to community beautification by helping maintain the gazebo garden at the Higganum Green and other public gardens in Haddam. She is a generous host, opening her home in Higganum for an Afternoon at the Vineyard fundraiser supporting the club. This special event featured horticultural talks, vineyard tours and local food & wine. Several times over the years, she has also warmly welcomed members to her home, Ruby Bell Vineyard, hosting potluck luncheons and plant auctions, fostering camaraderie and strengthening our club.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.
THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.
THE LILLIAN M. RATHBUN AWARD

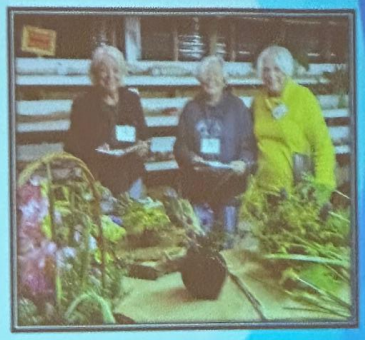
Rogene
Gillmor
Haddam GC

HORTICULTURE

Club Certificate of Achievement

HADDAM GARDEN CLUB

For successfully managing the Flowers & Horticulture division of the Haddam Neck Fair since 2019, increasing entries and revenue



The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

needs to be done. She is always coming up with new ideas in order to make the plant sale a huge success for the club.

Club Certificate of Achievement

The **Haddam Garden Club** has managed the Flowers & Horticulture division of the Haddam Neck Fair, held each Labor Day weekend since 2019 when the Fair Association invited HGC to take over this. Each spring, HGC's Fair committee selects Flower Design & Garden Bouquet themes and collaborates with the Fair Association to ensure accurate, effective promotion. HGC volunteers have been recruited to cover shifts for set-up and the 4 Fair days. In 2024, 25 of 31 HGC members prepared the site, accepted submissions and monitored displays. Judges evaluated 210 horticultural entries (40% more than 2023) and selected winners using set criteria. East Haddam Garden Club members also volunteered. Prizes of cash and local nursery gift cards are awarded by horticultural class for adults and juniors (age 15 and below). The money raised through sales of plants, artwork, and crafts funds the contest prizes and other HGC programs like public garden maintenance, scholarships, and donations to local aid organizations. Revenue has increased 230% in two years, allowing for higher prize awards. Now in its 112th year, the Fair remains a vital community tradition and HGC is proud to contribute by promoting gardening and floral design.

The Grange Garden at the North Stonington Fairgrounds was originally created in 2014 to mark the **North Stonington Garden Club**'s 75th anniversary. Designed as a low-maintenance demonstration garden, it showcases plants that require minimal fertilizer, pesticides, and water, with educational signage. In 2024, the garden was redesigned as a native plant garden to better promote pollinator-friendly choices and highlight the beauty of native plants during fair season. Plant selection focused on pollinators and beauty at fair time. Members from the Civic Planting and Horticulture committees collaborated to develop the new design, select appropriate native plants, prepare the soil, and complete all planting. The Civic Planting committee continues to maintain the space, adding new plants as needed and incorporating donations from members. The North Stonington Grange has supported the project by maintaining fencing and putting up plant signage. This garden is one of the club's ongoing town projects and reflects their mission to educate the community and promote sustainable gardening practices. The collaboration with the Grange

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Tyrone
Cooper
Haddam GC
THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.
1929
CLUB CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT
HORTICULTURE
PRESENTED TO:
HADDAM GARDEN CLUB