

SOME BACKGROUND ON THE WILTON GARDEN CLUB'S EDUCATION EXHIBITS OF 2021

This set of two conservation-education exhibits was originally created by members of the Club's conservation committee for display at the **Sept 2021 Flower Show** that took place at Wilton's Old Town Hall on Friday and Saturday, September 24th and 25th, 2021. This National Garden Club Small-Standard Flower Show also observed an important club milestone in that 2021 was the Club's centennial year.

Since then the two exhibits have been updated and exhibited at places such as the 2022 CT Federated Flower Show in Hartford, Stamford's Bartlett Arboretum, Wilton's Zero Waste Fair, Greenwich's Experience the Sound festival, Earth Day 2023 at Wilton Library, and Wilton's Cannon Grange coming up later in 2023.

The goal of the exhibits was to celebrate the Club's centennial by showing exhibit-goers about garden-worthy native plant species/notable problematic invasive plant species while also offering a sense of their local history vis-à-vis the Club by utilizing a unique historical asset: the set of two herbaria (collections of plant specimens) housed at the Wilton Library. (Images of the herbaria specimens are also online for public view at NEherbaria.org thanks to a 2015 project in which the conservation committee collaborated with Yale University to have the specimens scanned.)

The original presentation of the exhibits was in keeping with the Club's centennial-meets-fashion theme of the 2021 Flower Show, entitled ***A Century of Flowers in Fashion***. For this reason, the exhibits were described in the original show's Schedule (program booklet) with a "fashion-magazine vibe" as follows:

A Century of Fashion Evolution... WGC Herbarium Style!

Fashions in gardening are quickly changing due to growing awareness of/research into the changing environment around us. Using modern tech to help us, the Wilton Garden Club (WGC) Conservation Committee reviewed 100 years of data in the Club's two historic 1,223-specimen herbaria [online at neherbaria.org], researched our selected plant species, and shared our own hands-on gardening results to create this year's two exhibits of two intertwined fashion trends: the now-passé invasive versus the fresh and in-tune-with-the-times native plant.

Exhibit 1: Fashion-forward Flora: Natives are Back in Vogue!

Native plants of the Marybeth Wheeler and Anna E. Carpenter Herbaria of the WGC

Exhibit 2: Invasives My Mother Planted

Invasive plants of the Marybeth Wheeler and Anna E. Carpenter Herbaria of the WGC

You may also note more text based on the fashion-related theme scattered throughout the exhibits' display panels.

WHY NO PAPER HANDOUTS?

Back in the day, take-home info for the exhibits would've been printed as paper handouts, with much of that info omitted out of necessity. We've dropped paper in favor of using links to printable info to for several reasons:

- **More info.** We can include info that wouldn't have been printable – supporting & reference sources included.
- **Less paper waste.** No more discarding of excess paper. Print any of the exhibits' PDFs to a printer if desired.
- **More availability.** You don't have to visit the exhibits in person to see or get a printed copy of the info.
- **Greater currency/accuracy.** We can add/revise info as needed (e.g., to align Latin names with current taxonomy.)

Please feel free to print any of the info created for these exhibits. We hope you find it helpful and inspiring :-)

SOME HELPFUL ONLINE LINKS TO THE RESOURCES WE USED DURING OUR RESEARCH

For more info on plants featured in the exhibits you can browse the links below, which list a number of websites of highly-regarded institutions that we relied on as our reference sources:

For Exhibit 1 Natives – “Fashion-forward Flora: Natives are back in Style!”

[Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

[Native Plants of North America – Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

[Native Plant Trust](#)

[Connecticut Native Plant and Sustainable Landscaping Guide \(ecolandscaping.org\)](#)

[Recommended Native Plants for Maryland | University of Maryland Extension \(umd.edu\)](#)

[Native Plants for the Small Yard](#)

[Few keystone plant genera support the majority of Lepidoptera species \(nature.com\)](#)

For Exhibit 2 Invasives – “Invasives My Mother Planted”

[Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group](#) aka CIPWG

[Mistaken Identity \(NYBG\)](#)

[16 Types of Invasive Plants You Should Avoid \(thespruce.com\)](#)

[The Scoop on Invasive Plants | Audubon Connecticut](#)

[Invasives Brochure 2016-9-16 \(trumbull-ct.gov\)](#)

[Your Garden May Be Pretty, but Is It Ecologically Sound? \(NY Times\)](#)

For Both Exhibits:

[NEherbaria.org](#) – the two WGC herbaria are on view as a single co-mingled herbarium at this fascinating site, which holds many herbaria from many institutions. It takes a few keystrokes to browse through the WGC herbarium specimens while excluding the site’s other herbaria, as follows:

1. Click on “**Text-based Search**” (found in **Portal Menu** at left side of screen)
2. When the full list of herbaria appears, uncheck the check-box “**Select/Deselect all collections**” (all the checkmarks will go away, meaning *no* herbaria are selected)
3. Then scroll down the alphabetical list of herbaria to find the herbarium you DO want to look at – in this case, “**Wilton Garden Club herbarium (Wilton Garden Club-WGCH)**” – and check its check-box to select it.
4. Then click the “**Search >**” button at right side of screen (there’s one near the bottom of the list and one at the top of the list) to bring up the search screen that lets you browse the WGC herbarium’s specimens.
5. You will get the search screen, which has lots of things you can search on by filling in any of the search fields. It also has the option of getting your search results two ways. Our suggestions:
 - a. If you click on the **List Display** button at right of the screen:
 - i. You’ll get more user-friendly results, with photos of the specimens, etc., from which to drill down deeper.
 - ii. **List Display** is the search we’d suggest for casual use because the results look more user-friendly.
 - iii. With **List Display** you’ll most likely find that you’ll need to fill in at least one of the search fields to get results. (Most of our searches are by **scientific name**.)
 - b. If you click on the **Table Display** button at right of screen:
 - i. You’ll get your results displayed as an Excel-spreadsheet-like list with no pictures, with all the specimen records listed in order by **Symbiota ID**, and you can drill down from there.
 - ii. With **Table Display**, you don’t need to enter any of the search fields – if you leave all the search fields blank, you will get all the records in the herbarium. Click on its unique **Symbiota ID** to look at an individual herbarium specimen.