

2015 Introducing the Conservation Roundtable

Some GCA expert once said that Conservation was one of the three legs supporting GCA, the other two -- Horticulture and Arranging. In Worcester, we have taken that responsibility seriously (but not too) for 15 years in the form of meeting almost monthly at noontime around the dining table of a willing member.

Although we have Roundtable precedent for some major projects (an award ceremony for conservation heroes in Worcester County; the Asian Long-horned beetle-resistant arboretum of 2012; last year's support of the state-wide ballot initiative to extend the bottle bill), we have often just read a common book to educate ourselves and GCW on conservation issues. We remain "opportunistic," ready to act when action would be appropriate for us, or not to act at all!

At our first meeting this year we're inviting each of us to choose ONE conservation area of special concern. GCA has written one-page positions available on the GCA website) on the following conservation areas:

- Responsible Waste Reduction
- Endangered Species
- Energy
- Clean Water
- Arctic Protection
- Preservation of Native Plants
- National Public Lands
- Global Warming
- Responsible Transportation
- Others, including Pollinators?

We'll bring copies of those positions to our October meeting. We your co-chairs propose that ONE of us speak briefly to ONE of these topics at each GCW general meeting; surely one of our missions is to keep our Worcester membership informed on conservation issues.

Our meetings are on the second Wednesday of the months of October, November, January, March and May; November's meeting will be on the 18th out of respect for Veterans' Day. Meeting locations are on the GCW webpage. Despite the environmental challenges which abound; we avoid Doom and Gloom and have managed to have a good time together. The CR is one of the ways to participate in the Worcester Garden Club, and we urge new members to discover why we enjoy it so much. Nancy Jeppson