



Do you want to learn more about gardening, conservation, floral design, photography, garden history & design, and/or visit beautiful gardens in New England and beyond? Then consider joining our club!

Our Purpose:

We welcome New Members who share an interest in our purpose:

To educate and encourage interest in the environment, conservation, and community projects and to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening among its members and the community,

Benefits of a Stonington Garden Club Membership:

- Learn and share gardening and related information
- Make and cultivate new relationships
- Support our community with our activities

How to join?

- Email our Membership Chair for more information at admissionstoningtongardenclub@gmail.com
- Learn more about the Club by speaking with one of our members, visiting our website, www.stoningtongardenclub.org, and following us on social media at Instagram and Facebook.
- Arrange to attend a membership meeting as a guest, register to help with a community project, or participate in a committee event.
- Request an application from the Membership Chair, your Proposer or from the SGC Website.
- Complete the application and follow instructions below.
- Your application will go through a process of review and will be voted on by the Board of Directors and then the membership.

New Members

In general, New Members participate in an orientation program completed with the help of their “Proposer” and “Seconder,” to ensure they are welcomed and valued members of our club. The program is designed to offer New Members awareness of our purpose, experience in volunteering on our community projects, participation in Club activities. (Note: The Board may exempt Transfers from another garden club in the New Member program)

New Member Program Overview

Once your application is completed and approved by Active Members at a future membership meeting, the applicant joins the **New Member Program** (exceptions for Transfers from other garden clubs may be approved by the Board). The New Member program is designed to help New Members learn how the Stonington Garden Club operates, meet fellow members, and enjoy all that the Club has to offer.

This program takes six months to a year to complete (depending on the new member's level of participation). The Membership Chair can extend the program up to 24 months, if appropriate.

Once the New Member has successfully completed the program (as deemed by the Membership Chair and approved by the Board) the New Member will advance to Active Status. Active club members are expected to attend monthly membership meetings, participate in club activities, and take on a committee position of greater responsibility with support by the Membership Chair.\

Key Aspects of the New Member Program

- Understand the traditions and purpose of the Stonington Garden Club (SGC)
- Enjoy the benefits of SGC membership, including those offered by the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut (FGCCT) and the Garden Club of America, Inc. (GCA).
- Learn about the different leadership positions in the Club (e.g. Board of Governors, Administrative, Appointed, Community Projects).
- Participation in the Club's annual community events and fundraisers.
- Become familiar with the Club's Bylaws and Standing Rules (a.k.a. Policies, Procedures, and Practices) and the different membership status types (New Member, Active, Friend, Secondary, Lifetime, and Honorary).

Expectations of New Members

New Members' sponsors (Proposer & Secunder) and the Club's Membership Chair are designated resources to ensure they successfully complete the New Member Program. New Members are encouraged to use the New Member Program Checklist to help them track their participation.

For example, during the year, New Members should:

- Attend monthly membership meetings, which are typically scheduled on the second Wednesday of the month, September through June, 10 am to 12 pm, at the LaGrue Center in Stonington Borough, CT. There will be occasional afternoon meetings 4-5:30/6 pm.
- Meet periodically with the Membership Chair to discuss progress in the program.
- Attend a Standing Committee meeting or event.
- Volunteer at a Community Project.
- Pay annual membership dues.

At the end of the New Member Program, the Membership Chair will schedule a meeting with the New Member to discuss next steps (i.e., advancement to Active status; joining a Standing Committee and Community Project, and timing and placement in an appropriate role of additional responsibility).

New Membership Application Process

1. Meet with the Membership Chair to learn more about the responsibilities of membership and the New Member Orientation Program.
2. Attend a monthly membership meeting, and/or participate in a community project or field trip.
3. Work with the Membership Chair to identify a "Proposer and a Secunder" who will sponsor your application and be resources for you as a New Member.

4. Complete the Club's Application Form and send it to your Proposer with a check for the application fee (\$75, payable to Stonington Garden Club).
5. Your Proposer will submit your application, their recommendation letters, and your fee payment to the Membership Chair (unless other arrangements are made).
6. New Members join the Club twice a year. Application deadlines are November 1st or April 1st.
7. The Membership Chair presents your application to our Active Members.
8. The New Member meets with the Membership Chair to review member responsibilities and answer any questions.
9. The New Member pays pro-rated dues (\$175 per year) at the time they achieve 'New Member' status.

Stonington Garden Club Application

Please complete the application form and return to your Proposer (Please Print)

Date:

Name:

Date of Birth (must be at least 21 years of age):

Primary address:

Secondary Address (months expected to be there):

Cell Phone Number:

Other Phone Number:

Email:

Proposer Member Name:

Secunder Member Name:

(If you are not able to identify one or both, the Membership Chair will help you.)

1. SGC is a volunteer organization, and it takes many hands to do everything we do really well. Every member is expected to join one of our committees, with that in mind please list or tell us of any vocational or avocational experience that you have that could be a benefit to our club? *(see question #5 for a list of committees for reference-if more room is needed, use back or attach separate page)*

2. Please share any of your previous SGC experiences (membership or public meetings or events; other garden club memberships; other non-profit organization(s) experience: *(use back or attach separate page)*

3. Please share below any other information you deem to be relevant to your SGC application, such as Master Gardener Certificate, Horticulture training/degree, administrative skills: bookkeeping (QuickBooks), Investments, event management, marketing, social media, past Board experience(s), etc. *(use back or attach separate page)*

4. Please share a brief personal “Statement of Interest” indicating why you would like to become a member of SGC and what you expect to learn and/or share with your membership: *(use back or attach separate page)*

5. After perusing our website, which SGC committees (or functions) will you be interested in joining? **Check all that apply** *(Please discuss with the Membership Chair, your Proposer/Seconder, or refer to SGC’s website for more information)*

☐ Conservation

☐ Floral Design

☐ Garden History & Design

☐ Photography

☐ Horticulture

☐ Visiting Gardens

☐ Programing

☐ Archives

☐ Communications

☐ Finance/Grants

☐ Membership

☐ Public Relations/Publicity

☐ Hospitality

☐ Newsletter

☐ Community Gardens

6. All Active Members are obligated to participate in a majority of SGC's community projects each year. **Check all that interest to you.** (Please discuss with the Membership Chair, your Proposer/Second, or refer to our website for more information).

☐ **Garden maintenance** at:
Borough Post Office,
Wayland's Wharf
Rain Garden

☐ **COMO Children's Learning Garden:** care and working with COMO students

☐ **Floral Design** and other tasks at the Annual Stonington Village Fair Floral Booth

☐ **Crafting monthly floral arrangements** in summer months for the main desk of the Stonington Free Library

☐ **Native Plant Project**-various projects

☐ **Crafting Holiday wreaths** for Community Buildings and Historic Stonington's Deck the Walls event

☐ **Participation in Club's major fundraiser:** Gardens by the Sea Tour once every 3-4 years

Your application package will include your completed application, your Proposer and Second letters of recommendations, and your \$75 application fee check, these will be submitted to the Membership Chair on your behalf. Please email admissionstoningtongardenclub.com with any questions.

Application Package Check List:

1. Completed application,
2. Proposer Letter of Recommendation.
3. Second Letter of Recommendation.
4. Application Fee: \$75, due with completed application (one-time fee). Check payable to "Stonington Garden Club."

Once you are confirmed to New Membership status your dues will be \$175 per year (prorated if joining mid-year). Membership/Fiscal year is July 1 –June 30th.

Thank you for your interest in our Club!