



For Immediate Release

CONTACT:

Dodie Bump
sgcgardentour@gmail.com
617-733-9182



GARDENS BY THE SEA TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

Stonington Garden Club's Premier Event to be held June 10-11, 2022

STONINGTON, CT (May 16, 2022) -- Stonington Garden Club announced today that tickets are still available for its *Gardens by the Sea* walking tour of rarely-seen private gardens in Stonington Borough. The event will be held Friday, June 10, and Saturday, June 11, with a special Preview Party on June 9. This popular triennial event, postponed twice due to Covid, is expected to attract over 2,000 visitors from across New England.

Visitors will explore eight residential gardens, plus the COMO Children's Learning Garden, the club's primary community project featuring regenerative gardening techniques. Many of the gardens are new to *Gardens by the Sea*, and those that were on previous tours have been completely transformed with new plantings and hardscape features. Detailed landscape plans will be available in each garden, and labels will identify plantings. Knowledgeable garden club members will also be on hand to answer questions. All gardens are within walking distance, and free parking in the Borough will be available. *Gardens by the Sea* tickets are \$35 online in advance or \$40 on-site the days of the tour. Tour tickets are valid for both days, rain or shine. To order tickets online, visit www.stoningtongardenclub.org/garden-tour/.

Other tour features include "Artists in the Borough," a showcase of juried New England "Plein Air" artists who will be painting in selected gardens. Their work will be available for purchase at the Artists in the Borough Pop-Up Gallery, open to the public June 10 & 11, 10 am - 5 pm, at the La Grua Center. In addition, a tented Marketplace with 26 vendors will be located on Wadawanuck Square, offering clothing, jewelry, gift items, and home décor. Four Community Partners will also be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Actors from Mystic Paper Beasts will delight attendees with music, poetry, and colorful masks and costumes.

Preview Party

A special Preview Party will be held on Thursday, June 9, at 6:00 pm at the La Grua Center. The "secret" gardens on the tour will be unveiled, and the tour artists' works will be on display for sale. Plus, tour ticket holders will receive their Tour Guidebook, so no waiting in line on tour days. Wine, beer, and hors-d'oeuvres will be served. Preview Party tickets are \$50, and space is limited. Tickets are going fast, so first come, first serve.

Celebrity Speaker Series

New to this year's tour is our Celebrity Speaker, Charlie Nardozi, who will speak on both days of the tour at 1:00 pm at the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club. Charlie is a regional Emmy® award-winning garden writer, speaker, radio, and television personality. He will speak on "The Pollinator Garden" on June 10 and "The Cottage Garden" on June 11. These informative and entertaining talks are ticketed at \$25 each, and space is also limited.

"We are so excited to welcome visitors once again to experience the seaside beauty of Stonington's gardens," said Deborah Dodds, president of the Stonington Garden Club. "The funds we raise during the tour directly support our community projects, scholarships, and grant program for the next three years. We are tremendously grateful to all who support *Gardens by the Sea*," she added.

"It truly 'takes a village' to put on an event like *Gardens by the Sea*," said Laura Metzger, chair of *Gardens by the Sea*. "Our garden hosts, tour committee, 'Plein air' artists, club and community volunteers, the Town and Borough of Stonington, marketplace vendors, and generous advertising sponsors have all come together to make this a 'must-see' event."

Ticket Information

All tickets are non-refundable. To order tickets, visit www.stoningtongardenclub.org/garden-tour/ or for more information, contact sgctourinfo@gmail.com. The Marketplace is open to the public, as is the Artists in the Borough Pop-Up Gallery in the La Grua Center.

About the Stonington Garden Club

The Stonington Garden Club is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization whose mission is to educate and encourage interest in the environment and conservation, support community projects, and stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening. For almost 100 years, the club has had a lasting and positive impact on the community, and its members take great pride in the Stonington community and its environs. For more information or to inquire about membership, please visit www.stoningtongardenclub.org.

###