

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Farmington Pulls Together for the 13th Year in a Row Town-Wide Clean-Up Day is May 1st

Farmington, CT (March 8, 2010) – The Conservation Committee of the Farmington Garden Club once again brings the community together and makes Farmington shine.

"This is a great example of how residents, businesses and organizations, and many youth of Farmington come together and take care of our environment," said Cate Grady-Benson, chair of the Conservation Committee. "The Town of Farmington has been instrumental in supporting our efforts by providing the dump trucks to collect all the trash bags volunteers collect all over town."

Thirteen years ago, members of the Farmington Garden Club, noting the garbage along the roads around town, decided that addressing this problem would be in keeping with the Club's mission "to participate in beautification, civic, community and conservation projects."

The Club was fortunate to have several early partners in making this effort a success. Farmington Bank (formerly Farmington Savings Bank) agreed to sponsor the *Farmington Clean-Up*, by generously funding expenses. The town manager's office was also very supportive, beginning with their agreement to insert our green flyer in the spring issue of the town newsletter to alert all the town's residents to the campaign. Highland Park Market has provided snacks since the beginning, and Starbucks has been providing coffee the last couple years.

Farmington Clean-Up is a success because of the participation of the town's citizens. More than 200 individuals volunteered last year, not including the many groups that helped. All ages respond each year - Cub Scouts in uniform, the GEO Cachers (pick up trash while kayaking on the Farmington River), school and church groups and sports teams, including the FHS Girl's lacrosse team, Miss Porter's School girls, neighborhood groups, families, individuals and businesses. Those who don't have a favorite messy spot in mind can go to any of the 4 sites in town to get bags, gloves and refreshments, and get assigned a spot to clean up. The 4 sites this year are the Farmington Firehouse on Main St., Tunxis Hose Firehouse in Unionville, IAR Middle School and Tunxis Mead/Quirk Park. Don't miss the "Frog Fest" put on by the Irving Robbins Green Team headed by John Berry. It's fun for kids! The townspeople clearly demonstrate a desire to join in this effort to improve the appearance of our town.

Recycling opportunities at IAR also include free paper shredding by CINTAS of Plainville 860-747-2757, and free electronics recycling by the Green Monster eCycling of West Hartford 860-816-2281. They will accept DVD's VCR's computers, cell phones, etc. There is a \$10 fee for TV's, but flat screen TV's are free.

Farmington Clean-Up is now a well-established spring tradition. The Conservation Committee and the entire Farmington Garden Club encourages everyone to join us this year in keeping Farmington and Unionville beautiful.

The Farmington Garden Club has invested more than \$89,000 in community related projects during the last 20+ years. Some of these are major plantings at Exit 39, I-84, Village Green improvements, the Nancy Conklin Trail, Noah Wallace and East Farms Interactive Children's Gardens, Union Village Improvement Association (gazebo plantings), Stanley Whitman Gardens, And Shade Swamp Guide Booklets. Under the leadership of Cate Grady-Benson books on the environment have been donated to the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes in all the elementary schools, as well as environmental videos for IAR.

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Farmington Clean-Up Day
A Farmington Garden Club Project
in cooperation with the Town of Farmington

Saturday, May 1st – 9am to 1pm

Join your friends and neighbors in helping to clean-up our town!

**Pick up your trash bags and gloves at these locations:
 Refreshments provided!**

Farmington Firehouse – Main St. Farmington
Tunxis Hose Firehouse – School St. Unionville
IAR Middle School – Wolf Pit Road

Tunxis Mead / Quirk Park – Red Oak Hill Rd
(The Green Community Service Team from West Woods Upper Elementary will be organizing a clean-up of the park)

Additional Recycling opportunities at IAR Middle School:

Cintas Document Management of Plainville – Shredding of recyclable paper, no computer disks. Call 860-747-2757 for more information

Green Monster eCycling of West Hartford – Recycle your electronics, including computers, cell phones, & DVD players. \$10 fee for TV's. Flat screens are free. Call 860-816-2281 for more information

Fun for Kids at IAR Middle School:

The Green Team of IAR will be hosting a “Frog Fest” from 11am to 3pm. This includes a variety of games and activities with a green twist.

Generously Sponsored by:



FARMINGTON BANK™

Thank you to Highland Park Market - Starbucks - Cintas - Green Monster eCycling
 For more information and suggestions, call 860 677 6094 or farmingtoncleanup@gmail.com.

Time for a Spring Cleaning

Be Part of the Clean Team on Saturday, May 1, 2010 9 am to 1pm

Join your friends, neighbors, local businesses, service organizations, and youth of Farmington by participating in our town-wide effort to clean-up trash from our streets -- and any other dirty spots in town.

Thirteen years ago, the **Farmington Garden Club** initiated **Farmington Clean-Up Day** with the financial support of **Farmington Savings Bank (now Farmington Bank)** and the cooperation of the **Town of Farmington**.

Now this annual event has become a tradition, a day when we all come together to make our town shine. Over the past few years we have expanded our mission by collaborating with the **Green Teams** of **Miss Porter's School**, **Irving A Robbins Middle School** and **West Woods Upper Elementary School** to spread the "**Green Message**". We are raising community awareness that staying clean requires an ongoing effort on the part of every resident. Thank you for your support!

The Farmington Garden Club has invested more than \$89,000 in community related projects during the last 20+ years. To name just a few:

- Major plantings at Exit 39, I-84
- Village Green improvements
- Nancy Conklin Trail
- Noah Wallace and East Farms Interactive Children's Garden
- Unionville Village Improvement Association (gazebo plantings)
- Stanley Whitman Gardens
- Shade Swamp Guide Booklets
- Books and videos on Conservation and Recycling for all Farmington schools

The Farmington Garden Club maintains the pocket parks in town: Rt.4 and Exit 39, Rt.4 & Rt.10, High St. & Mountain Rd., School St. & Mountain Rd., Rt. 10 & Colton St., Rt.10 and Church St., Garden St. & Porter Rd. For membership information, call 860 677 6094.

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 7:30pm
Hill-Stead Museum
Joseph Firecrow, flutist

Tickets \$15

Sponsored by the Farmington Land Trust and the Farmington Garden Club
All proceeds support the FLT Carey Barn renovation and FGC conservation efforts.