



**MAY 2019 ABBREVIATED NEWSLETTER
SEE OUR FULL NEWSLETTER ON OUR WEBSITE**

Dear Members,

Our 80th anniversary celebration was a wonderful event! Thank you, thank you to the following members whose hard work made it happen: Rose Bauersfeld, Libby Butterworth, Karen Hanson, Jackie Harmody, Sara Hunt, Dave Hunt, Faith Kerchoff, Kathy Lapolla, Penny Mardoian, Barbara Mechanic, Margit Mills, Liz Orteig, Betsy Sammarco and Ty Tan.

As we begin our 81st year of civic beautification projects, we should be proud of all the work that has been done, and enjoy continuing to make New Canaan a special place.

Our busy season has begun, and there are many opportunities to volunteer - Lee Garden, Traveling Trowels, and Triangles. Also, many hands will be needed later this month to prepare the 200+ hanging baskets which will be hung in town. See our newsletter notice below to help.

Lee Garden is always beautiful, but this month it is at its peak and shouldn't be missed! The annual Azalea Festival is Sunday, May 19th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bring your family, friends and cameras to enjoy the azaleas and rhododendrons at their peak.

We had such a good time marching in the Memorial Day Parade last year, that we plan to be there again on Monday, May 27. This is a great way to get exercise and participate in one of New Canaan's best civic events. Please contact Robin Bates-Mason to sign up.

Happy gardening! Barbara and Karen

UPCOMING EVENTS

NCBL at The Farmers Market

Saturday
May 18, 2019
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Azalea Festival at Lee Memorial Garden

Sunday
May 19, 2019
1:00 - 4:00 pm
Lee Memorial Garden on Chichester Road

Hanging Baskets Assembly

Thursday
May 23, 2019
10:00 am
Irwin Park Barn

Marching in the Parade

Memorial Day
Monday
May 27, 2019

Annual Meeting:

CT's Historic Gardens with Laurie Masciandaro
Wednesday
June 5, 2019
9:30 - 11:00 am NCNC



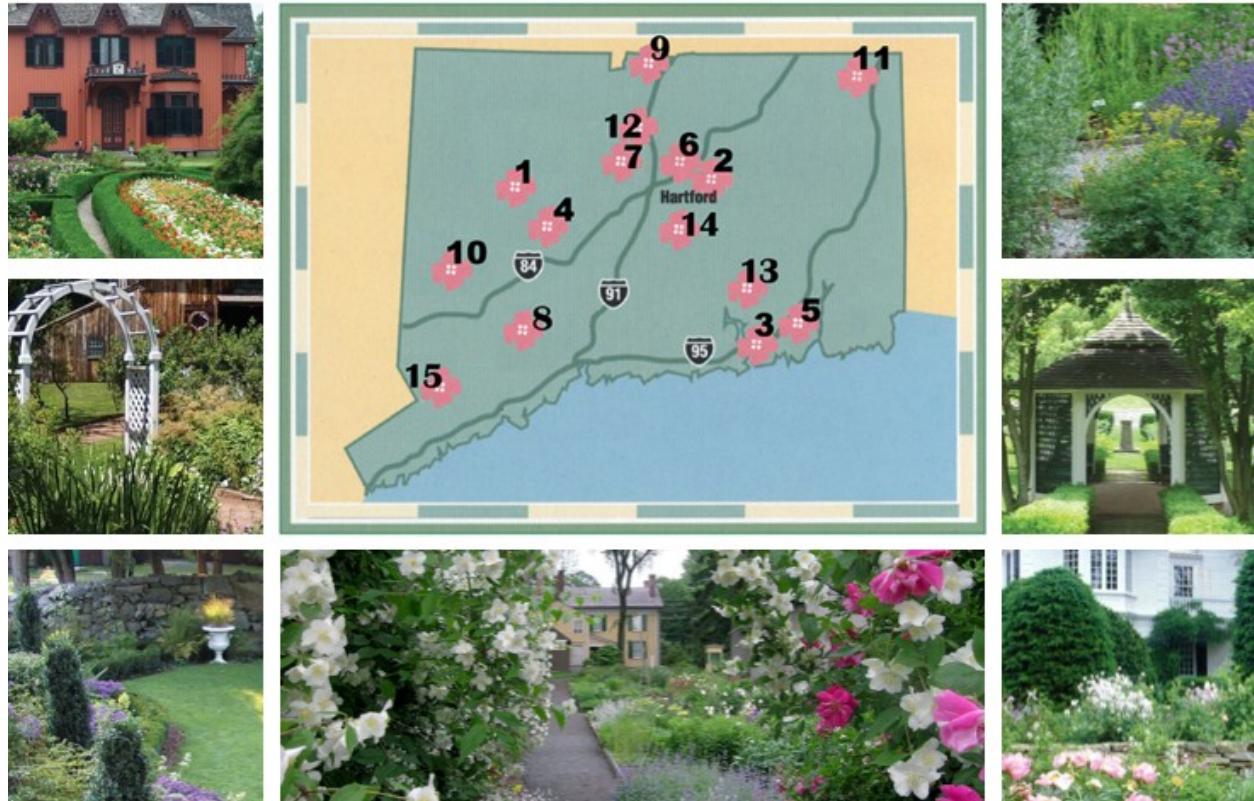
Please Join Us in Welcoming Our New Member!

Krystie Inman

NCBL Annual Meeting and Program

**Wednesday
June 5, 2019
9:30 - 11:30 am
New Canaan Nature Center
with
Laurie Masciandaro
Site Manager of Roseland Cottage, Woodstock, CT**

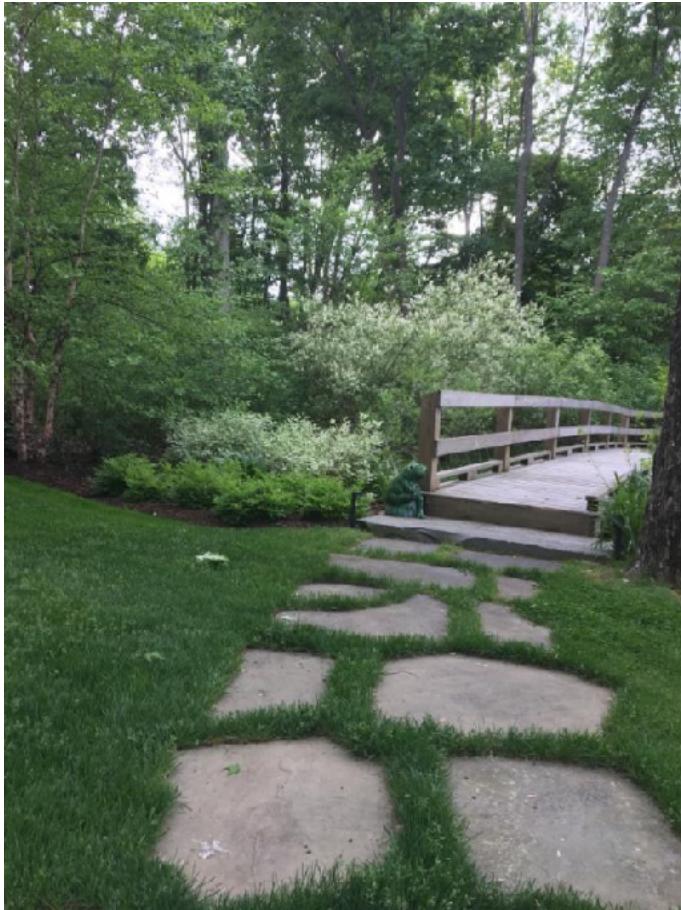
Laurie will introduce you to the history and beauty of fifteen distinctive historic sites and gardens that have joined to form *Connecticut's Historic Gardens*.



The book, *The Garden Tourist: 120 Destination Gardens and Nurseries in the Northeast* by Jana Milbocker will be available for purchase.

Our Annual Meeting in June will include membership voting on (2) motions:

1. We will be voting on our Board of Directors for 2019-2020.
2. We will be voting on changes to our by-laws. In summary, the by-laws will now designate an Executive Committee, which will be separate from our Board of Directors.



Garden Tour Following Our Meeting!

Jeanne Gnuse has graciously offered a tour of her garden to our members after the June meeting. Information on where to go and how you can join us will be given at the meeting.

We hope you can come!



Membership renewals and dues are upon us!

Anyone who has joined since January 2019 does not have to pay dues for the coming year, 2019-2020.

Mail your membership in, or bring it to the June meeting.



HANGING BASKETS TIME!

It's time again to assemble our 220 hanging baskets. This is one of the most recognizable contributions NCBL makes to our town and you can be a part of it! Bring a pair of gardening gloves and come help on:

**Thursday May
23, 2019
10:00 am
Irwin Park Barn**

This activity takes very little time if we have a lot of hands!

Come be a part of the action!
Many thanks to Eileen Boehme and Bianca Romano, our Hanging Basket Chairs, for organizing this year's baskets.

FLOWER ARRANGING AT WAVENY: JUNE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We have one last opportunity to brighten the tables in the Waveny Dining Room for our seniors before summer arrives. Sign up for any of the below Mondays by emailing Betsy Bilus at enbilus@gmail.com. We will assign an experienced partner if you are new to this project. It should be easy to find flowers in our gardens at this time of year. Looking ahead, our next opportunity to provide flower arrangements for Waveny will be in September, October, and December.

June 3rd: A simple "spruce-up" is need this day as the Horticultural Therapy Group will provide fresh flowers on Wednesday.

June 10th:

June 17th:

June 24th:

Lee Garden Wish List

Are you spring cleaning? Lee Garden is in need of the following:
an under counter refrigerator
a space heater
hose reels
hose nozzles
garden tools
garden statuary
a bird bath

If you'd like to donate any of the above, please contact Faith Kerchoff at:
faithkerchoff@hotmail.com.

FARMERS MARKET: HELP NEEDED

Saturday May 18

Farmers Market 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

NCBL will be at New Canaan Farmers Market on Saturday, May 18 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Interested in helping out at the table for a shift? Please email Robin Bates-Mason at rbatesmason@gmail.com.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Interested in marching in the Memorial Day Parade with the New Canaan Beautification League? We are still looking for marchers and members interested in helping plan for the parade. Please e-mail Robin Bates-Mason at rbatesmason@gmail.com if interested.

The parade will be held on Monday, Memorial Day, May 27.

LEE MEMORIAL GARDEN: AZALEA FESTIVAL

Sunday

May 19, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Lee Garden Azalea Festival

See the breathtaking display of azaleas in bloom. Bring your friends, family, and camera!

Olive and George Lee Memorial Garden 89 Chichester Road, New Canaan

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION

A Big Dig at the Post Office Drop Off

In April, NCBL volunteers Rob Carpenter, Yvonne Hunkeler, Faith Kerchoff, Kathy Lapolla, and Ty Tan worked with our town crew to get large shrubs planted at the post office drop off area. To stabilize and prepare the nearby slope for planting, the town brought in very large rocks. This was a combined effort of the NCBL and our town to improve this area.

Further plantings will be done in early May.

Ty Tan, Rob Carpenter, Jimmy Peck, and Faith Kerchoff plant a witch hazel. Not pictured are Kathy Lapolla and Yvonne Hunkeler:



We Cleaned Our Mile

Earth week culminated in a town wide cleanup. NCBL collected garbage at the Locust Street parking lot. Let's make every day Earth Day!

New member Greg Brown and veteran member Faith Kerchoff, at the Locust Street lot for Earth Day cleanup:



Town Hall Tulips

Our Town Hall planters are blooming magnificently! We are so grateful to Chris Schipper and [Colorblends](#) for donating the bulbs for the planters once again. Have you ever wondered what happens to our Town Hall tulips when the spring season is over? They are often recycled into other areas of town such as our triangles, Lee Garden, and the train station. The beautiful tulips below are from last year's planters and were transplanted to the train station. This photo shows them in full bloom in April.



Hyacinth Highlight

The Thrift Shop triangle, with its daffodils and hyacinths, was stunning this past month.



Meet George Fox



George is a senior at St. Luke's School and likes gardening and the outdoors. He approached us about doing some volunteer hours in April and May.

He has seen the garden go from dormant to blooming in the last few weeks. He is a self starter and eager to learn about the garden and plants as they develop. For example, he has seen black fern roots grow to fiddle heads, and then to unrolled fronds, and finally develop into tall ferns.

We asked him to create a trail in a path of ivy-covered rocks. The path was very uneven and hard to traverse since you couldn't see where you were walking. The path has been used to bring hoses over to the far side of the garden in July and August for watering. George removed the ivy, removed any rocks he could, leveled the path out, and added mulch. Some of the rocks were used to line the sides of the trail. It's a beautiful addition to the garden! Thank you, George.

Patrick Comins Gave Advice and Guidance

Patrick Comins, executive director of the CT Audubon Society visited Lee Garden in the afternoon before his talk at the library on April 4. He met with Robin Bates-Mason, Susan Bergen, Kathy Lapolla, and Betsy Sammarco to give advice and guidance on increasing the value of our property to pollinators and other wildlife in our area. Our Lee Garden chairpeople (Kathy, Yvonne Hunkeler, and Faith Kerchoff) are taking his words to heart when planting and planning for the future of the garden.



Photos from our April Program with Ken Druse:

