



SEPTEMBER 2018 ABBREVIATED NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

Another summer has flown by. We hope you have had time to enjoy all that this season offers, including time in your gardens. All our projects around town, including the hanging baskets, the Triangles, the Town Hall planters, and the Traveling Trowel's work, look great thanks to all our dedicated volunteers. We continue to receive donations to our Annual Appeal fund, a sign that our efforts are appreciated.

We will begin our 2018-19 season with the annual luncheon on Thursday, October 4 at Woodway Country Club. It is a nice way to catch up with friends, and enjoy a tasty meal and an interesting speaker. The Program Committee has been busy, and we have another series of outstanding monthly programs for this year.

On September 21 and 22 (Friday and Saturday) the Rotary Club will hold its annual Lobster Fest. The Beautification League has 25 tickets to sell. We will receive a percentage from the tickets we actually sell. More information follows in this newsletter. It is an easy way for us to earn some money and to enjoy a lobster dinner.

We sadly note the passing of one of our long-time members, Nancy Sessions. In her 50 plus years as a member, she spearheaded the development of our Triangles Project and was chair of our Civic Beautification Committee. The Lee Garden Committee is looking for a way to remember her in the garden.

We have another busy year ahead of us. We hope to see you on October 4.

Barbara and Karen

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rotary Club Lobsterfest

Friday & Saturday September 21 & 22



Autumn Luncheon

All the Presidents' Gardens with Marta McDowell

Thursday October 4, 2018

Woodway Country Club



November Program

City Green: Public Gardens of New York with Jane Garmey

Wednesday November 7, 2018

New Canaan Nature Center

Welcome Our Newest Members!

Eileen Adams

Lally Jurcik

Sally Kaltman

Patricia Kekedjian

Elizabeth Ford Kunz

Ruth Lewis

Patricia Spugani and Joel Reynolds

Egad, there are members who have not yet paid their dues!

If you have not already paid your membership dues, please send your check with the membership form you can download from our website.

Members who have joined since January 1, 2018 do not need to pay dues again until spring 2019.



Autumn Luncheon

All the Presidents' Gardens

with author Marta McDowell



Thursday, October 4, 2018
11:30 am at Woodway Country Club
540 Hoyt Street, Darien

From the most momentous events in our nation's history to our fleeting cultural obsessions, the White House grounds have been a mirror of America. *All The Presidents' Gardens* tells the untold history of the White House grounds. With wit and insight, garden historian Marta McDowell traces the fascinating story of how our presidents and their families have left their imprint upon the eighteen acres surrounding the executive mansion.

Marta McDowell lives, gardens, and writes in Chatham, New Jersey. She writes and lectures on gardening topics and teaches landscape history and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden, where she studied landscape design. She also consults for public gardens and private clients. Some of the books she's authored include *Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life*, *The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder*, *Emily Dickinson's Gardens*, and *All the Presidents' Gardens*. Books by Marta McDowell will be available for purchase.

Menu

Popovers

Cream of roasted cauliflower soup

Choice of entree:

★Roasted breast of chicken, fall vegetable ragout, watercress salad and chimichurri sauce -or-

★Roasted Atlantic salmon, fall vegetable ragout, watercress salad, and chimichurri sauce -or-

★Parmesan farro with a medley of fall vegetables

Dessert: chocolate cake with fresh berries

\$40 per person

Write your menu selection on your check (chicken, fish, or vegetarian) and send to:

Gloria Simon, 143 Butler Lane, New Canaan, CT 06840

Checks must be received no later than Thursday, September 27.

This program is sponsored by the NCBL and is open to the public.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Waveny Care Center Flower Arranging September and October

New to NCBL? This is a great way to get involved!

Betsy Bilus is looking for volunteers to create dining table arrangements for Waveny Care Center in September! We need flower arrangers for the following dates:

September 17: Faith Kerchoff
September 24

October 8
October 15: Betsy Sammarco
October 22
October 29

To volunteer, contact Betsy by texting 203-722-5535 or emailing Enbilus@gmail.com



Arrangements made by Susan Weatherly and Betsy Bilus early this month.



Farmers Market Saturday, September 22

Looking for volunteers to help with the NCBL table at the New Canaan Farmer Market on Saturday, Sept. 22nd. Please e-mail Robin Bates-Mason at rbatesmason@gmail.com for more details and to sign up for a shift. Shifts run 10am to noon and 11am to 1pm, but even an hour would be appreciated!

Rotary Club of New Canaan
presents their 33rd Annual
Charity Fundraiser



In addition to selling tickets, NCBL provides the decorated mum centerpieces, and then we plant them around town in triangles afterwards.

NEW CANAAN'S FAMILY **LOBSTERFEST**



We get \$20. from each ticket we sell!
SELL TO NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, FAMILY!!

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
BARBARA BEALL,
bbeall34@yahoo.com - 203 966-1658
FAITH KERCHOFF
faithkerchoff@hotmail.com
203 972-0895**

Fri. Sept. 21 & Sat. Sept. 22

at New Canaan Historical Society Lobster or Chicken Dinner... \$40.

13 Oenoke Ridge Rd. /Rte. 124, New Canaan

Includes 1-1/4 lb. lobster, corn on the cob, coleslaw, beverage and dessert.

Eat Under the Tent or Take To-Go

Kids/ Hot Dog Dinner.....\$5.

Bounce Tent • Wine & Beer

All proceeds to benefit New Canaan and International Communities

Remembering Nancy Sessions

It is with a heavy heart that we must report on the passing of Nancy Sessions Nancy, a Garden Center/Beautification League member for more than 50 years, died in August. She and her husband, Bill, were active in many organizations and served on several town committees, but Nancy's love of nature and gardening were her passions. She gave many contributions to the Beautification League, including being chair of the Civic Beautification Committee for several years, organizing the planting of the trees along the Cherry Street extension, and along with her committee, she developed our town triangles. Nancy also served on the Environmental Commission for over 20 years, and worked to preserve our open space and wetlands. She attended our meetings regularly until a few years ago when her failing health kept her home. It was always a pleasure to be greeted by her ready smile. She will be fondly remembered by many.



A Triangle Transformation

Our triangles in town are cared for and tended to, even in the summer month when the weeds take over in the heat and rain. Take a look at this transformation, from weeds to wonderful, with the Marvin Ridge triangle below:



Many thanks to Karen Hanson, Kathy Lapolla, and Tracy Phillips for working on this triangle in early July.



Train Station

After doing volunteer weeding days several times and many hours at the Train Station and P.O. Box area, we hired JMD Landscaping to do a more thorough removal of weeds - bindweed in particular, and to trim the shrubs and trees at the Train Station.



Summer volunteer thanks for the work at these two important spots go to: Liz O., Judy J., Karen S., Faith K., Kathy L., Frankie S., Yvonne H., Ty T., Rob C., and Barbara W. (hope we haven't missed anyone!)



LEE MEMORIAL GARDEN



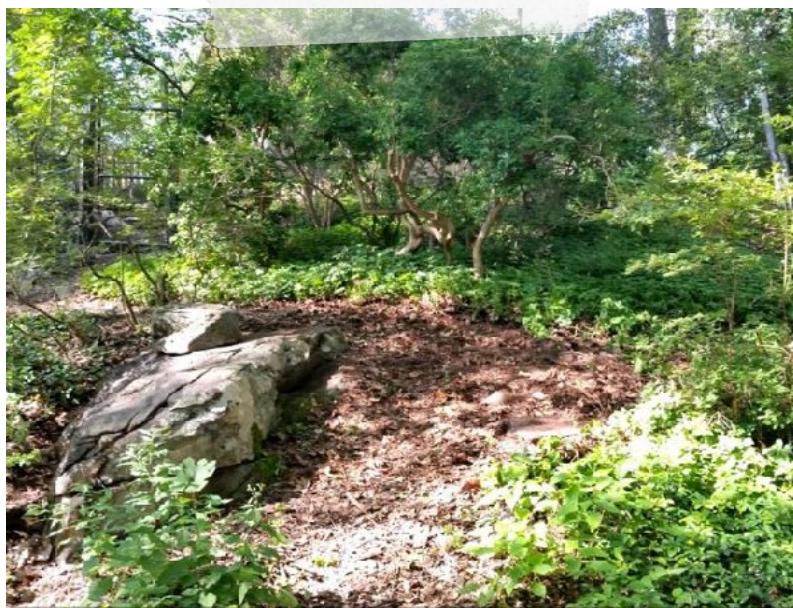
Much work has been done in Lee Garden this summer. New plants were planted and weeds were pulled. Even the birds were busy, building homes and raising families.

Lee Garden Signs

You need not worry about getting lost in Lee Garden. Adding signage to the garden became Aiden Blair's Eagle Scout project this spring! Part two of the Aiden's project was shoring up the retaining wall at the hill at the garden and removing ivy that was overgrowing the hillside.



Aiden recruited and organized a large group of family and friends to help with the work for his Eagle Scout project. Thank you Aiden!



Clearing the Way

Yvonne Hunkeler and Faith Kerchoff dug up an Andromeda blocking the passage to George's staircase. They replanted it near the barn's driveway.
Great job ladies!



Susan Bergen Includes Lee Garden in her Exhibit

NCBL and NCGC member Susan Bergen participated in the Garden Club's flower show in June. Susan had an extensive educational exhibit entitled, *Iconic Landscapes and Iconic Habitats of New Canaan*. She chose six former estates and gardens that were once privately held and are now preserved as open space and Lee Memorial Garden was one of them! Susan also highlighted the main habitats of New Canaan: meadows, woodlands, ponds, vernal pools, streams, and wetlands. Thank you Susan, for making Lee Garden part of your exhibit.

Annual Meeting with Patrick Comins, Executive Director CT Audubon Society

It was a pleasure meeting Patrick Comins at our June Annual Meeting. The meeting started with a wonderful coffee put together by our hospitality crew. One of the goodies served, rhubarb coffee cake, was made by Faith Kerchof from the rhubarb in Rob Carpenter's garden. Talk about team work! The gorgeous floral center piece was designed by Bianca Romano and included flowers from her own garden! The Annual Meeting started with presidents Barbara Beall and Karen Sneirson thanking many of our members for their recent service to our League and town. Sara Hunt, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, then announced the slate for our new Executive Board. The board was approved!



Patrick Comins gave a wonderful and well received lecture on how to Landscape for Wildlife. His lecture was packed with information and presented wonderfully. Here are some bits of information from his talk:

- Breaks in the forest (ie lower grassland) is important for nesting birds so they can forage on insects.
- The entire coast of CT is an important bird migration area. CT has the highest percentage of urban to wildlife interface.
- There is a lot we can do on our own property to encourage and help our wildlife survive including planting native conifers and grasses, planting wit plants that produce food for our wildlife throughout the seasons, planting nut and acorn trees, leaving snags on our property, and adding water to our landscape.

Patrick reviewed many native plants that are beneficial to wildlife. He also gave us a few "exceptions to the native rule"; non-native plants that wildlife can use as nectar or food: sweet bay magnolia, star magnolia, crabapples, butterfly bush, sunflowers, and cosmos.

4th Annual NCBL Brunch in the Park

The Fourth Annual "NCBL Brunch in the Park" was held on June 12.

This event is a thank you to the Beautification volunteers who tend over 30 town traffic triangles, the train station, the post office box drop off area on Pine Street and more.

Besides the NCBL, the town Public Works and Park and Recreation departments are also honored guests for all they do to help beautification efforts.



Shown in photo are: L to R.

Kathy Demarco, John Howe, Liz Orteig, Mose Saccary, Kristy Ready, Faith Kerchoff, Josiah Jones, Tiger Mann, Steve Orteig, Peggy Dannemann, Tracy Phillips, Ty Tan, Kathy Lapolla and First Selectman Kevin Moynihan. Taking the photo was Joe Zagarenski.



Jenn and Pete Cipriano Made Honorary Members

Jenn and Pete Cipriano were made Honorary Members of NCBL this summer. Jenn and Pete have given their expertise and guidance to NCBL, and have made plant donations to our group over the years. We were very happy to honor this wonderful couple, and owners of Copia Home and Garden, in this way.



The Cipriano family. Photo source: www.copiahomelandgarden.com