



JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER

(abbreviated version)

Dear Members,

All 224 hanging baskets are up, the Town Hall planters have been planted under Ty Tan's guidance, our triangles are looking good and Lee Garden is at its spring best - our members have been busy!

On May 18 a large group of our members gathered at the barn in Irwin Park to assemble our hanging baskets under the guidance of Eileen Boehme and Ann Brookshire. Many hands made light work, and the project was finished in less than two hours. Public Works had them all hung by the end of the day. Great team work!

Our rescheduled annual Victorian Tea occurred during "royal" week -- if only we had known. Many thanks to 'true to form' Gloria Simon, who organized a spectacular banquet with many members attending and providing all the delicious goodies.

Thanks to Robin Bates-Mason our appearance in the Memorial Day Parade was a big hit. The spectators should remember us after seeing the flowered rake brigade. Hopefully this is the first of many parades!

On Wednesday, June 6 we will hold our annual meeting, where we vote on the slate for next year's executive board and enjoy a program by Patrick Comins, Executive Director of the CT Audubon Society. He will talk about "Landscaping For Birds, Bees and Other Critters." We hope you plan to attend.

Our volunteers will be busy this summer taking care of our triangles, Lee Garden and small projects around town. Please contact Kathy Lapolla or Brian Hollstein to help with a triangle and Liz Orteig if you are interested in being a member of the "Traveling Trowels". Faith Kerchoff, Kathy Lapolla and Yvonne Hunkler welcome help in Lee Garden.

Have a wonderful summer.

Barbara and Karen



Annual Meeting & Program

June 6, 2018

9:30 coffee

10:00 meeting &
program

New Canaan
Nature Center

Landscaping for
Birds, Bees & Other
Critters
with Patrick Comins
Executive Director
of CT Audubon
Society

Patrick will speak to us at our Annual Meeting on June 6 at 10 am on improving your backyard habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Patrick has two decades of experience in habitat restoration and design of habitats with birds and pollinators in mind. Adding native plants to your landscape design can bring your yard to life with colorful native birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Many of our butterflies, moths and other insects have adapted to specific native plants for larval food and nectar sources. Including native shrubs, trees and other plants in your yard can attract the beneficial insects and serve to provide seeds and fruit that our birds have become accustomed to seeking out throughout their annual life cycles. Native plants in your yard can make even the most suburban of neighborhoods a much more friendly place for nesting and migrating birds alike.

Certain trees, such as flowering dogwood, time their production of fruit to when bird species such as Scarlet Tanager and Wood Thrush are passing through in migration. Their bright red berries catch the bird's eye and provide the fat and other nutrients need for their long migratory journeys. Others, including American holly and winterberry, produce berries that are less palatable and linger through the winter to provide food in late winter when other food sources are lean.

Come learn how native trees, shrubs and other plants can help bring your yard to life!

Slate for New Canaan Beautification League Board 2018 – 2019

(to be voted at our June Annual Meeting)

President	Barbara Beall, Karen Sneirson
Vice President	Judy Bentley
Secretary	Karen Mactas
Treasurer	Rob Carpenter
VP Civic Beautification	Faith Kerchoff, Rob Carpenter
Triangles	Kathy Lapolla, Brian Hollstein
Traveling Trowels	Liz Orteig
Flower Arranging	Meetings/Events – Jacqueline Harmody, Gay Clarke Waveny Care Center - Betsy Bilus
Hanging Baskets	Eileen Boehme, Bianca Romano, Barbara Wilson
Holiday Decorations	Ty Tan, Jill Ernst
PR/Publicity	Robin Bates-Mason
PR/Photos	Michele Sloan, Peter Hanson
Webmaster	Lisa Ferrante
Newsletter	Betsy Sammarco
Programs	Carol Seldin, Jolley Frank, Nancy Malling
Hospitality	Cindy Bamatter, Cindy Still, Robin Miner
Hospitality (Special Events)	Gloria Simon
Membership	Libby Butterworth, Sara Hunt, Margit Mills
Annual Appeal	Rose Bauersfeld, Dody Whitehurst, Tonya Gwynn, Eva Wingate
AA Treasurer	Karen Hanson
Lee Garden	Faith Kerchoff, Kathy Lapolla, Yvonne Hunkeler
Executive Counsel	Faith Kerchoff, Sara Hunt
Finance Chair	Judy Bentley
Nominating Committee	Jill Ernst, Eva Wingate



Welcome Our Newest Members!



Juliet Howe
Sally Kaltman

Farmers Market Help Needed
Saturday, June 9



NCBL will be at the Farmers Market on Saturday, June 9. If you are interested in helping staff our table, please contact Robin Bates-Mason at rbatesmason@gmail.com.

Annual Appeal is Looking Ahead for
Volunteers



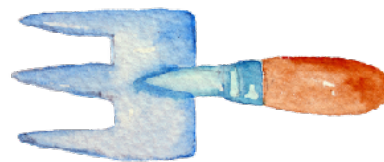
Annual Appeal is recruiting volunteers to help with addressing envelopes next fall. If you already volunteer, thank you, no need to contact me. We are looking to recruit another 20+ volunteers. The more volunteers, the less work for all. We honestly couldn't do it without you.

Email me at rbauersfeld@yahoo.com.
Rose Bauersfeld

NCBL Hats for Sale



We are selling NCBL hats! They are \$22.00 each and are available with blue or green embroidery.



Autumn Luncheon: Thursday, October 4, 2018

We know that our members were very disappointed when our March meeting and program had to be canceled this year. With three Nor'easters in as many weeks, many activities just could not happen.

Programs is pleased to announce that Marta McDowell, author of *All the Presidents' Gardens*, will be our featured luncheon speaker for the Autumn Luncheon on Thursday, October 4 at Woodway Country Club.

Mark your calendars now and we will look forward to seeing you there! Please note that we needed to schedule this for a *Thursday* this year.



MAY HAPPENINGS

Our May Program with Nancy King

Our May program started out with a wonderful coffee, thanks to our Hospitality chairs Barbara Dennis, Jill Ernst, and Barbara Mechanic. Thank you to all who baked for the coffee. Bianca Romano created a wonderful centerpiece using blooming rhododendron branches and scattered blooms across the table.

Landscape architect Nancy King gave a lecture in great detail on how to go about redesigning your landscape either by yourself or with the help of a landscape design company.

She explained the importance of planting in layers to give an aesthetically pleasing landscape and one in that wildlife would flourish.

Nancy gave us a list of some of her favorite references which we are sharing here:

Planting in a Post-Wild World by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West

The American Woodland Garden by Rick Darke

The New England Gardener's Book of Lists by Karan Davis Cutler

Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees & Shrubs by Michael A. Dirr These are some of her favorite

websites she uses as references:

Missouri Botanical Garden: www.Missouribotanicalgarden.org New England Wetland

Plants: www.newp.com

Prairie Moon Nursery: www.prairiemoon.com Ernst Seeds:

www.ernstseed.com Natureworks: www.naturework.com

We thank our program chairs Jolley Frank, Carol Seldin, and Gerda Smith for this wonderful program.



After the Program ... Carol Seldin's Garden

Carol Seldin sent out an impromptu invitation to her garden, Dogwood Hill, following the May program. It was a beautiful day, and despite some recent storm damage, the garden was beautiful!



Train Station Magnolia

Early spring, our Traveling Trowels crew did a train station clean up. It's just what the area needed in order for the gorgeous yellow magnolia that grows there to shine.



Post Office Drop Off Area Planted & Quince Siting

In early May, Rob Carpenter, Faith Kerchoff, and Kathy Lapolla, planted the Post Office drop off area with mixed zinnias and dahlias. Annuals were chosen because the town is going to put new granite curbs in that area which will make the driveway look much better. Other plantings are on hold until this work is done.

Did you know there is a quince growing in this area? It's on the north side of the driveway. Faith Kerchoff was able to get this photo and capture its beautiful color.



The following note is from our Hospitality Special Events Chair, Gloria Simon:

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the Victorian Tea such a wonderful event.

First, to my amazing set-up team: Barbara Mechanic, Barbara Dennis, Jill Ernst, Kathy DeMarco, Barbara Beall, Ann McCulloch and Cindy Bamatter. Sadly, those who helped with the clean-up are just too numerous to mention (and I don't want to forget anyone); you pitched in without being asked and made quick work of it. That's the NCBL spirit!

To veteran flower arranger Shirley Stancik (who created the gorgeous centerpiece on the buffet table) and the talented ladies who graced our tables with their extraordinary centerpieces: Bianca Romano, Barbara Mechanic, Barbara Dennis, Liz Orteig, Kathy Lapolla, Yvonne Hunkeler, Faith Kerchoff, and Betsy Sammarco.

An event like the Tea can only be successful with the loving hands of our members. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.
-- Gloria Simon

A wonderful time it was! The event was postponed due to bad weather in February and it just so happened to take place just days before the "Royal Wedding".

Shirley Stancik's buffet table centerpiece was built around a beautiful copper tea service. The varying colors of pink in the flowers was stunning against the copper.





The centerpieces on the dining tables were made by eight different

NCBL members. They were arranged in teapots, but that's where the similarity ended as each was unique in style, color, and flower choice.



And let's not forget about the food! Not only was each dish delicious, each was beautifully presented too!





Hanging Baskets and Planters

A note from Hanging Basket Chairs Eileen Boehme and Ann Brookshire:

We would like to thank everyone who assisted with the Hanging Baskets and Planters workshop. We assembled 224 baskets and planted 4 large and 2 small planters. Thanks to each of you for making it a fun and productive event.

In addition to the hanging baskets, four large planters were planted on Elm Street and two small planters were planted in front of the Mobil Station flanking our new bench. The large planters already had a tree hydrangea which was underplanted with a mix of *Petunia*, *Calibrachoa*, ivy, potato vine, and *Begonia*.

Many residents stopped to thank us both at Irwin Park and on Elm Street for the work we do. A note of thanks was sent by a resident for fixing up the area in front of the Mobil station as it has been an eyesore for some time.

Many thanks to our Hanging Baskets Chairs, Eileen Boehme and Ann Brookshire for a successful Hanging Baskets and Planters event!



Town Hall Plantings

Landscape designer and NCBL member Ty Tan has selected "Tropical Color" as the planting scheme for the Town Hall planters this year!

Rob Carpenter, Yvonne Hunkeler, Faith Kerchoff, and Kathy Lapolla planted one day in May and helped Ty bring her vision to life.

There are fragrant selections as well as eye catching textures and colors to enjoy for the summer. The following plants were used: pineapple mint, *Lantana* 'Pink Caprice', *Coleus* 'Red Kong' and 'Big Blonde', *Fuchsia* 'Blacky' and 'Winston Churchill', variegated oregano, *Sutera cordata* / bacopa 'Snowstorm Blue', *Diascia* 'Piccadilly Dark Orange', *Euphorbia* 'Diamond Frost', snapdragon 'Red Rocket', and in the center, a dappled willow shrub *Salix* 'Hakure Nishiki'.

The front facade of Town Hall has four rectangular planters that received similar plantings.



Not pictured is the photographer, Rob Carpenter.

The Memorial Day Parade

NCBL was present and accounted for this Memorial Day. We marched in the parade for the first time! Many thanks to Robin Bates-Mason for brainstorming the idea and getting us organized. A big thanks to her husband Carl, for driving his truck, decorated with flowers, for us as we joined other organizations in town remembering those who died for our country.

Here are just a few of the many photos from that morning.



LEE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Azalea Festival Recap, the Bridge, the Shed, and More

Although the weather was a bit threatening, the clouds parted and rain stopped from noon to almost 4 pm during the Azalea Festival. There was a steady stream of visitors Friday through Sunday.

Many asked if the garden was in peak bloom and it was hard to tell. The difficult temperatures of this spring confused even the plants!

Some azaleas were blooming only sparsely, but the Exbury azaleas in their hot colors of red, orange, and yellow had their best bloom in years.



Clockwise from upper-left: Kathy Lapolla rests before the next round of visitors come.

The paths were lined with color.

A baby snapping turtle makes its way from high ground near the entrance.

Mayapples and other flowers were blooming at the time of the Azalea Festival.

The Lee Garden crew has been busy adding plant material from the gardens of Ann Gillerlain and a friend of Joan Sargent's, Lois Himes from Westport.

Ann Gillerlain's Bridge is now properly dedicated and a statue from her garden lies close by. Ann transitioned the garden from George Lee to the NCBL many years ago. Her years of caring for the garden are obvious. Last December we were allowed to dig up plants from her yard and we transplanted four azaleas, many perennials, and some statuary from her garden (see below).



The Lee Garden shed has been making wonderful progress. You can see the transformation from Lee house to shed in the four photos on the right.

