



MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

A Letter From Our Presidents

UPCOMING EVENTS



**March
Meeting &
Program:
Restoring Nature's
Relationships at
Home with Doug
Tallamy
(joint meeting with
NCGC)**

Wednesday
March 8, 2017 9:30
am coffee
10:00 am program
New Canaan Library
Lamb Room

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." - Charles Dickens

What we need is many of those March days when we get either rain or snow to fill our reservoirs. Maybe we could have it be all rain and all after sundown as in Camelot. New Canaan, Darien, Stamford, and Greenwich have been especially hard hit by the drought. We are told by Aquarion that we need to cut our water usage by 20%. This will be a real challenge for us and our gardens, so treasure every drop of rain.

The Victorian Tea organized by Gloria Simon was fabulous, and we have the pictures to prove it! Bianca Romano and her volunteers created

Flower Arranging 101

Thursday
March 30, 2017 10:00
am - noon Waveny
House Sitting
Room



April Meeting & Program: America's Most Spectacular Garden in the 1920s with Stephen Byrns

Wednesday
April 5, 2017 9:30
am coffee
10:00 am program
New Canaan Nature
Center



May Meeting & Program: EVENT DETAILS TBA!

Wednesday
May 3, 2017 9:30
am coffee
10:00 am program
New Canaan Nature
Center

the lovely centerpieces that were on the tables. The Victorian Tea was a purely social event, organized for our members, a chance to just enjoy one another's company, and a reward for all the hard work we do.

On Wednesday, March 8, we will hold a joint program with the New Canaan Garden Club at the New Canaan Library. Doug Tallamy's talk, "Restoring Nature's Relationships at Home," will focus on how to reconnect our gardens to the biodiverse natural world that surrounds us. Tallamy seeks to reverse the modern trend of replacing native flora with turf grass and gives us tips to return our environment into a place where the natural order of plants, berries, bugs and bees can be sustained. Don't miss this acclaimed speaker!

On Thursday, March 30, Shirley Stancik and Susan Bergen will once again teach us how to arrange flowers. You can save so much money by arranging flowers yourself for your dinner parties or for bouquets for friends. This is a fabulous opportunity that is offered to our members free of charge. Sign up now! It's really a lot of fun.

Karen Hanson and Angie Brenninkmeyer wound up last year's very successful Annual Appeal. We received 530 donations for a total of \$59,284. Bravo! Under Peggy Jay and Judy Johnson we have just mailed out this year's Annual Appeal letters. Thank you to all of you who have addressed envelopes for the Appeal. This is such an important effort for us as it enables us to carry out our projects like buying flowers for the hanging baskets and planters; buying flowers, plants and bulbs and providing maintenance and landscaping for the triangles and other areas we sponsor; and for funding the exceptional programs we offer to our members and the community.

**Lee Garden
Azalea Festival**

Sunday
May 21, 2017 1:00 -
4:00 pm

Olive and George Lee
Memorial Garden, 89
Chichester Road



**June
Meeting &
Program: Annual
Meeting and Fun
Cooking and
Healthy Eating
with Tracey
Medeiros**
Wednesday
June 7, 2017 9:30 am
coffee
10:00 am program
New Canaan Nature
Center



*"To plant a
garden is to
believe in
tomorrow."
-- Audrey
Hepburn*

The snow drops are up! They are our harbingers of spring. Triangle volunteers will be soon going into action, clearing away leaves and branches to make way for new growth. Look for bulbs to be popping on triangles, at Town Hall and at Lee Garden.

The clocks spring ahead on March 12...Happy Spring!

Sara and Faith



snow drops at Lee Garden 2017

A Tribute to Ann Gillerlain

By Faith Kerchoff

Member Ann Gillerlain, age 93, died on February 9, 2017. Ann had been a member, and Honorary Member of the Garden Center/Beautification League since the 1950's! Imagine all the changes she saw in the town and in the club. There will be a memorial for Ann in the spring.

Ann was a neighbor of George Lee on Chichester Road. In 1956, George asked the Garden Center if they would take his garden when he passed. The GC helped him in his garden and with the plant sales that he held every year. Ann was the executrix for the estate after he died in 1978, and at his service she read a beautiful tribute that was written by Pat Erb.

Ann's daughter, Debbie, writes, "Mr. Lee and his garden played a role in our families' life. As a little girl, I would visit with him in his yard, and he would pick daffodils for me to bring home. From our kitchen window, we could look out at his magnificent landscape. Gardening was a love of Mom's and a few days before she passed away, her aide Rose asked her who she was talking to and she said she was saying goodbye to her garden."

Ann's son Brian Olsen, who was at New Canaan High School with me, became a "Plant PhD". She was very proud of that and felt that it was in part because of a childhood spent at Lee Garden. Several years ago, when she was in better health, we had some afternoon visits, and she gave me some papers that she had about the garden for our records. Her yard on Elm Place had a wonderful woodland garden with azaleas that George had given her. It was a reflection of Lee Garden.

We would like to replace our old bridge in the center of the garden with a new bridge and dedicate it to Ann to commemorate her years at the garden. Her family loves the idea.

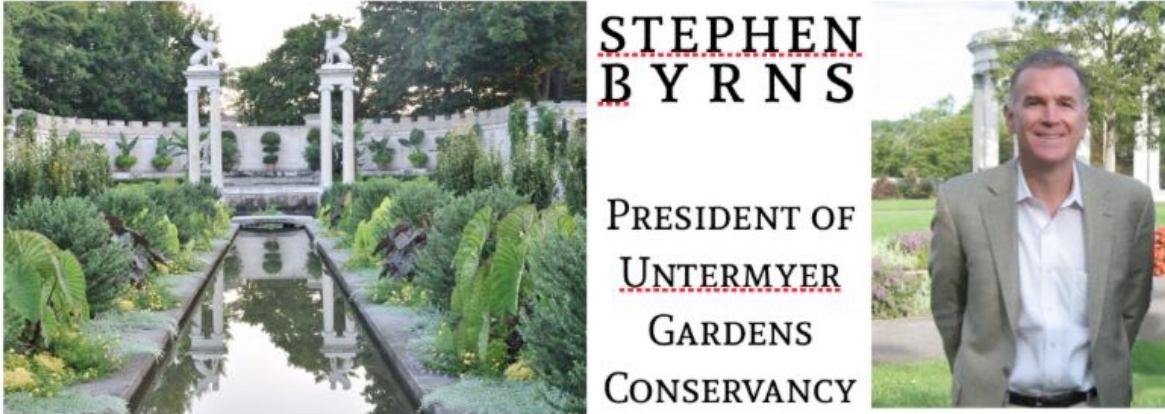
People wishing to contribute in Ann's memory can send checks to NCBL/New Canaan Beautification League, P.O. Box 4, New Canaan, CT 06840. Write Ann Gillerlain Memorial in the note section.



Ann (left) and Susan Bergen at Lee Garden May 2004

Presenting April's Program:

AMERICA'S MOST SPECTACULAR GARDEN IN THE 1920'S



Stephen Byrns, President of Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, presents the history, design and current restoration of Samuel Untermyer's timeless gardens in Yonkers.

Wednesday
April 5, 2017
New Canaan Nature Center
9:30 am coffee
10:00 am presentation



Let's give a big round of applause to our newest members:

Lauren Dayya
Barbara Dennis
Ali Neeleman
Joyce Weisenseel

We are so happy you have joined our League!

Annual Appeal 2017



Over 6,000 envelopes have been sent for our Annual Appeal. The following is an excerpt from a thank you note from Peggy Jay and Judy Johnson, our Annual Appeal chairs:

"... Today Judy Johnson and I were able to send off both the first class mailing (700 pieces) from New Canaan and 5549 envelopes from Stamford.

Thanks Faith for your parts and experience. Thanks to Sara for following up and to Betsy, our crafty newsletter enthusiast.

We are grateful to Karen Hanson, Jane Campbell , Yvonne Hunkeler, Ceci Murray, Debera Prosek Simpson, Judy Bentley, Libby Butterworth and our many cooperative volunteer scribes for their efforts." ...

Peggy and Judy

Thank you to everyone involved in this year's Appeal. From the envelope writers to our organizing chairs, it is the teamwork that makes our League run. You have all helped raise the money that our League puts to use in educating and beautifying our town.



FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP 101

Thursday

March 30, 2017 10 am - noon

Waveny House Sitting Room

Our first class was so well received that we had to do it again! Join Susan Bergen and Shirley Stancik as they teach our members the basic steps to creating splendid floral arrangements for all occasions.

Please bring your own clippers and a selection of flowers you wish to use. Glass vases and additional flowers and fillers will also be provided.

Please R.S.V.P. by March 27 to:

Shirley Stancik sjsjds@optonline.net or

Susan Bergen fab16snb@gmail.com to attend.

This is a member only event.

Hurry, as space is limited!





OUR NCBL LIBRARY IS GROWING!

To borrow any of the titles from our NCBL Library, send an email to Faith.

Thank you to Sara Seelert for the donations of:

The Complete Book of Herbs by Emma Callery

The Naming of Flowers by Anne Halpin

Euphorbias by Roger Turner

Wedding Flowers by Fiona Barnett

The Last Flowers of Manet by Robert Gordon and Andrew Forge

Pruning, Step by Step by Christopher Brickell

... and thank you Susan Smith for her donations of:

The Tulip by Anna Pavord

The Gardens of the Vatican by Linda Kooluris Dobbs and Kildare Dobbs

Summer Notebook by Carolyne Roehm