



November 2014 Newsletter



President's Message:

Dear Beautification League members and friends:

The magnificent blaze of autumn's colorful glory remains momentarily brilliant, but is fading fast. Shades of gold and yellow give way to more intense **orange** and **red**. Stately sugar maples, **copper-toned** stewartia, **maroon** dogwood dotted with **crimson** berries, intensely **mahogany** sedums, and even the invasive, fiery **red** burning bush - all proclaim the season. Plump pumpkins form soldier-like lines on stone walls and flank doorsteps. **Goblins galore await Halloween trick-or-treats.** (See photos)

Writing for Holiday Home edition of *The Cottage Journal*, Tovah Martin urges us to: **"Reap the glow of autumn, and bring it close before the sparks fade and the fibers of the fields scatter to the winds."** Time to forage in the garden and gather grasses, flowers and berries to create bountiful arrangements to enjoy inside your home and outside, too. For our November 5th meeting at New Canaan Nature Center, **you will not want to miss Tovah's engaging program "Garden Stewardship: Trowels & Tomorrow"** - lyrical prose, amazing photography, and sound gardening advice from renowned garden expert. (See following)

Our amiably capable partners from Public Works removed the marvelous hanging baskets from village lamp posts and will soon store Pop-Up Park planters. Ever organized and foresighted, **Libby Butterworth** and **Sara Hunt** are already completing plans for ordering next year's record 150 flower baskets. **Liz Orteig** and **Carolin Buttrick** invite volunteers to our holiday **Bow-making Workshop** on November 6th at Waveny. Thanks to **Susan Bergen** for expanding our flower arranging calendar at Waveny Care Center with enthusiastic recruits including: **Bianca Romano, Faith Kerchoff, Yvonne Hunkeler and Kathy Lapolla.**

Margaret Roach, our October luncheon speaker, lists an excellent 7-point plan for preparing yard and garden for the cold months ahead. View at: AWAYTOGARDEN.COM. Cheers to Margaret for expanding our appreciation of gardens - no matter what the weather - 365 days a year!

In autumn colors -

Carol Seldin cwseldin@optonline.net

PS: First **TABLESCAPES 2015 "Très Chic"** meeting will be rescheduled and announced at later date.

Mark your calendars NOW for Tablescapes 2015 to be held April 29th and 30th.

www.newcanaanbeautification.org

Trowels & Tomorrow: Garden Stewardship

with Tovah Martin

The beauty of gardens is that they mature. Tovah takes a look at some of the country's most adept garden stewards to explore how they grapple with change to bring landscapes into the next generation. If you have inherited a landscape or if you have created a garden over decades and now face mature trees and shrubs that require preemptive pruning or relocation, we explore issues and answers. The goal is to bring yesterday's gardens into tomorrow. In that spirit, plant preservation and heirloom varieties also play starring roles. Plants with a past can become superstars in future gardens.

Wednesday, NOVEMBER 5th

COME BE INSPIRED.

sponsored by



9:30AM - 11:30 AM

AT NEW CANAAN NATURE CENTER

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Martin's Books that will be for sale...

The Unexpected Houseplant

isn't your typical, old-fashioned, dowdy houseplant book. Martin's approach is revolutionary...



Tasha Tudor's Garden

Writer and illustrator of more than 75 beloved children's books, Tasha Tudor lives a 19th-century lifestyle in the gardens surrounding her hand-hewn house.... Photographs and watercolors throughout.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW TO GET IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!



Bows Workshop:

Thursday, November 6th

at Waveny from 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Please come and help make bows for the Christmas wreaths that decorate our town for the holidays!

Greens Workshop:

Thursday, December 4th

at the New Canaan Nature Center from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

The final step -- adorning the wreaths with bows, pine cones, and greens - for the town to enjoy. If possible, please bring cuttings and cones from home.

The Garden Club of New Canaan is joining us to make these lovely wreaths.

Please RSVP to Liz Orteig at: lorteig@gmail.com
if you can come to either workshop.



October Floral Volunteers

Thank you Yvonne Hunkeler, Faith Kerchoff, Kathy Lapolla and Bianca Romano for creating such lovely centerpieces for the dining room tables at Waveny Care Center. And special thanks to Carol Seldin for donating so many beautiful dahlias from her spectacular garden.

Susan Bergen, Floral Chair snbergen@msn.com



Attention All NCBL Volunteers:

We now have 2 battery operated (light weight) blowers for use on triangles, Lee Garden, Traveling Trowels, etc. and new neon yellow VESTS supplied to us by the town for our own safety.

The items are available for sign out by volunteers on a first come basis. We have 2 blowers that will be fully charged, and run for about an hour per charge. The vests come in L and XL sizes and easily go over coats, sweatshirts, etc. We are going to try having them at Faith Kerchoff's house (47 Kelley Green). Please send an email the day before or first thing in the morning with request. Items can be put on the porch for you and just remember to sign out and add your cell phone number.

Return Items in 1 or 2 days . . . for others to use. Take the whole box that the blower is in - it has the charger unit and directions, but basically pop on the tube, pop in the battery and turn the flip switch on. You MUST take a vest, and or green traffic cones, optional. Return blower with battery charged if possible . . . for next use. And let us know how it worked out!



Standing: Yvonne Hunkeler, Joan Hayenga, Jayne Meythaler, Kathy Lapolla, Peggy Jay, Gail Stafford, Susan Bergen, Valerie Monaghan, Carolin Buttrick, Susan Smith, Libby Butterworth, Ellen McMahon, Barbara Beall, Karen Hanson, Jane Campbell, Ceci Murray, Sara Hunt. Seated: Carol Seldin, Shirley Stancik, Kathy DeMarco and Faith Kerchoff. Missing from photo: Becky Barlow, Peggy Dannemann, Margery Gardner, Sara Marshall, Tracy Phillips, Gloria Simon, Keith Simpson, and Michele Sloan.

Membership

If you know of anyone that would like to join NCBL please provide us with their contact information.

Tracy Phillips and Jane Campbell – Membership Chairs

Finishing Off Tablescapes 2013

NCBL member, Nancy Herde, and friends recently visited Dogwood Hill for brunch, garden tour, foraging and creating flower arrangements. Nancy was high bidder on Carol's offering at the Tablescape 2013 silent auction. Nancy and family will be relocating to Hingham, MA in February. We all wish her the best and happy gardening in her new home!



October in Lee Garden

Another pleasant month in the garden. Trimming dead branches off azaleas, spreading seeds from the Columbine and the Foxglove. And we had a new arrival!



The new Dogwood in its spot on the hill, on George's Walk, by the bench and May Apple area in the spring.



Blooming madly was this Goat's Beard on October 20. Also on George's Walk, you can see the new dogwood in the background. Maybe it was a welcome bloom for the tree.



NCBL members Peter and Jennifer Cipriano of Copia donated a *Cornus florida* 'Appalachian Joy' to Lee Garden. It is a new variety from Tennessee. It is powdery mildew resistant and supernumerary (extra bracts) for additional flowering.



Nature paints a colorful fall canvas. This *Cotoneaster horizontalis* creeps on a large stone on Wood Road (the main walkway).

Autumn Color I

JANUARY 2003 by Joan Sargent

The ground is covered with snow but it is not technically winter yet, that will happen on December 22, I will keep to my original plan and write a little about useful small trees and shrubs that are underused and light up the landscape with their vibrant colors in the fall.

I like to put plants together that will be showy at the same time, making a more interesting vignette than having them scattered about the garden.

Rugosa roses, native viburnums, especially the maple leaf acerifolium, and the Kousa dogwood grouped together have the most vibrant red and purple foliage as does the oak leaf Hydrangea. If you prefer yellow, Parrotia with the yellowing foliage of kerria and the large dying leaves of the Hosta Sum and Substance go through November looking cheery.

More good golden foliage comes from our native Witch Hazels. *Hamamelis virginiana* blooms around November and its spidery, strong fragrant flowers are frost-proof. A warmish day in February will have the variety *Vernalis* give off its sweet smell. A small sprig of either of these will scent your house and give you hope that spring will come. If you have grown the hybrids, perhaps 'Arnold's Promise', be aware these two natives are shrubs because they are multistemmed, but they can grow to 30 feet.

I do think we plant too much for May to September rather forgetting the earlier and later months of the year. Flowering shrubs and small trees improve in beauty and require less or no maintenance each year. I strongly urge you to let their leaves lie under them as nature intended, letting them decay on the surface, this will become a mulch and a food for the plant, again lessening your work and improving the health of the plant.

Joan Sargent, a longtime member and master gardener who passed away in August 2012; wrote many gardening columns through the years for our newsletter. We are reprinting them.



Hamamelis virginiana-- colorful in fall



Parrotia persica-- is closely related to Witch Hazels. aka Persian ironwood.



Viburnum sargentii 'Onandaga' in the fall, above.

Below right, Oak leaf Hydrangea in fall splendor.

Below left -- Maple leaf Viburnum *V. Acerifolium*.



Hosta Sum and Substance's huge lime green leaves.



A Few Sights and Frights from Around Town

