



October 2014 Newsletter



President's Message:

Dear Beautification League members and friends:

Celebrate early autumn with the delight of dahlia days! In May I filled a Costco shopping cart (you heard me right – Costco) with bags of dahlia tubers, and now is prime time for enjoying the brilliant display of color and texture of dahlias blooming in the garden. Cut the flowers frequently (early morning is best) to use in bouquets or appreciate as a magnificent single blossom. **Susan Bergen, Bianca Romano** and **Gale Stafford** harvested dahlias, irisine, hydrangeas, polka-dot plant and mint from my garden to create wonderfully festive table centerpieces for our Autumn Luncheon.

Special thanks to: **Joan Dionne** for graciously facilitating our luncheon at Woodway Country Club; expert party planner, **Gloria Simon**, for meticulous organization; **Kathy DeMarco** and **Faith Kerchoff** for technology coordination; **Yvonne Hunkeler** for sharing her marvelous meadow video. How lovely to have such an enthusiastic turnout for Margaret Roach's fascinating presentation of "The 365-Day Garden"!

"Garden Stewardship: Trowels & Tomorrow" will be the hot topic at our meeting on **November 5th** at **New Canaan Nature Center** (9:30 social, 10AM meeting and program). We are pleased to welcome back **Tovah Martin**, engaging speaker, expert plantswoman and lively garden writer. Elm Street Books will offer Tasha Tudor's Garden and The Unexpected Houseplant for sale and signing. (See following.) More than 2 years ago Tovah and garden photographer Rob Cardillo visited my garden to collect information and images for a feature article published this June in *Garden Design* magazine.

Magnificent weather prevailed for Rotary Club's 29th annual family **LOBSTERFEST**. Beautification League's **Faith Kerchoff** and **Kathy Lapolla** dressed the tables with chrysanthemum plants purchased by NCBL from Copia. After a weekend of fabulous feasting at the Historical Society, we plant the mums for seasonal color in areas around town. Thanks to the sustained efforts of many members our triangles, public planting areas, hanging baskets and Lee Garden continue to attract favorable notice: "Thanks to you folks New Canaan has never looked so beautiful and inviting." **"Just passing by the beautiful triangle brightens my day!"** "I enjoy visiting Lee Garden in every season."

We share our gardens in many ways, including pictures posted by email and Facebook. Container plants at your doorstep say welcome. Neighbors are delighted when we share our happy harvests of tomatoes, zucchini, basil and mint. We give a mason jar of garden-fresh flowers to a friend. **When we share our gardens, we share ourselves** in special ways beyond words.

Gardens are for sharing ~

Carol Seldin cwseldin@optonline.net

Trowels & Tomorrow: Garden Stewardship

with Tovah Martin

The beauty of gardens is that they mature. Tovah takes a look at some 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.



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.

Wednesday, NOVEMBER 5th

COME BE INSPIRED.

sponsored by



9:30AM - 11:30 AM

AT NEW CANAAN NATURE CENTER

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW TO GET IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!



Bows Workshop:

Thursday, November 6th

at Waveny from 9:30 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 5th

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

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.



More Flowers for Waveny Care Center

It has come to our attention that Waveny Care Center has three 'orphan' months (October, May and August) in which no volunteer groups are signed up to brighten the dining room with fresh flowers. At the board meeting last week we voted to 'adopt' the month of October. NCBL volunteers will now arrange flowers for the months of September, October and June.

Many thanks to our members who have volunteered for the coming month:

October 6	Bianca Romano	October 20	Faith Kerchoff
October 13	Susan Bergen Lapolla and Yvonne Hunkeler	October 27	Kathy

Susan Bergen, Floral Chair snbergen@msn.com

Dahlias from Carol's garden gathered by Kathy Lapolla, Susan Bergen and Jane Gamber are used for arrangements at Waveny Care Center and our autumn luncheon centerpieces.



OUR FABULOUS FALL LUNCHEON!

We enjoyed a delicious meal with stunning centerpieces while absorbing Margaret Roach's pictures of her amazing garden. She encouraged us to enjoy our surroundings and take advantage of the beauty outside, all 365 days of the year.





Joan Sargent's Garden Bed

October 1996 by Joan Sargent

There seems to be a lot of interest lately in little bulbs, especially tulips. My favourite American Garden writer, the late Louise Beebe Wilder, in her book "Adventures with Hardy Bulbs" wrote in 1936 most eloquently and interestingly about them. She said, "success with them is by no means a forgone conclusion." I second that, but of those that I have tried, some have lasted ten years - good drainage, a baking in the summer sun and no tall foliage hanging over them would be the ideal bedding. The lovely *Tulipa Dasystemon* is yellow-centered with white star-like blooms, four or five flowers per stem, six inches tall in April. *Saxatilis* is lilac as is *Bakerii*. *Batalina Bright gem* is a buttery yellow and *Unifolia* a bright red. There are more than two dozen varieties listed in most catalogs.

"The Avant Gardener" says in this month's issue that crushed oyster shells (available from Garden Way) planted with the bulbs dramatically reduces rodent damage. I think I'll give it a try this year. Those interested in Louise Beebe Wilder can get her book entitled "Hardy Bulbs" in paper edition published by Dover Press.

Joan Sargent In Praise of Mail Order

October 1995 by Joan Sargent

My fall orders are all in the mail and I expect yours are too. I have long advocated, ever propounded the wisdom of ordering bulbs by mail. This is Peony planting, Poppy planting, Rose and Lily planting time, too. All of these I order from long established specialists. The selection is far greater, prices often fairer and the quality better than anything I can find locally. I send small trial orders to new nurseries. This fall I couldn't resist trying "Old House Gardens", the first and only source for antique bulbs. In the spring Plant Delights Nursery was my best new find. It has not escaped my attention that some of the star performers this dry and hot summer - *Heltanthus*, *Lemon Queen* and *Indigofera* - originally came via UPS from distant states. Should you like a list of those nurseries that have found special favor with me and with the caveat 'Let the Buyer Beware,' send me a self-addressed stamped envelope.



Tulipa Dasystemon



Tulipa Saxatilis Blue Wonder



Indigofera, or True Indigo is a shrub.

Helianthus divaricatus is a sunflower, this variety is a very tall grower. Tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions. Spreads over time by creeping rhizomes to form colonies. Divide every 3-4 years to control spread and maintain vigor.

September in Lee Garden

Cooler days and evenings have started to bring Fall flowers and colors...turtlehead, mushrooms and more.

Join us and help plant some bulbs for Spring! We are adding Narcissus to one area, and moving some ground covers. There's nothing like the crisp fall air for energy! Email Kathy, Faith or Yvonne. Usually at Lee Tues. and Thur. at 1pm.



Turtlehead-- Chelone lyonii 'Hot Lips' was planted last year and is doing well at the beginning of the rock crawl area. Lustrous, deeper green foliage, topped in August and September with rose pink turtle head shaped flowers. Red stems that persist most of the season and bronze green early season growth is another distinctive feature. Beware though-- deer do like it.



Colchicum autumnale--aka the Autumn crocus, or Naked Lady. It seems to pop up in the fall out of nowhere...Bulb-like corms can be planted at the end of summer and they will bloom in autumn. A poisonous plant.



Stinkhorns!

There are mushrooms and there are mushrooms. There was a very heady mushroom smell all over the parking lot the last 2 weeks. And there in the back right corner was this-- Stinkhorn Mushroom. Despite its foul smell, it is not poisonous.

Bill Roorbach-- son of Reba Roorbach, Lee Garden former neighbor, friend to George, and tender of the garden in years past, had the ID for me. He wrote, Henry David Thoreau found them many, let's say:

"Pray, what was Nature thinking of when she made this? She almost put herself on a level with those who draw in privies." - Henry David Thoreau. Bill added, they love bark mulch. Which we certainly have!

Jack's Red Seeds

It is time for seeding and berries. The birds sow seeds for us! Some wanted, some not. Along the paths you will see bright red seeds of the Jack in the Pulpit.



Wild Cyclamen

C. hederifolium--along Wood Road, the main path you come upon a little cluster of Wild Cyclamen. The flower pops up first, followed by attractive leaves. A woodland flower that loves rocks, tree roots and leaf mulch.



TRIANGLES...AROUND TOWN

Does this cheer you? It is the Cascade and Ponus triangle that is tended by Carol Seldin.....



Fall is upon us.

Triangle volunteers will want to do leaf removal where possible.

Those hand held blowers can be a real big help. There may be woods nearby to send the leaves to.

Otherwise make a pile in a safe place and let us know-- we can have the town pick up.

Speaking of SAFETY... the town wants to get us the green vests to wear when working. They came to us concerned about our safety.

More later.

Trim dead branches on shrubs. Keep sight lines in mind for safety.

Let us know (ASAP) if you want any bulbs. Lastly-- take photos of your triangle in each season. It's a good record of where current bulbs and plantings are

and a reminder for what needs to be done in the next season...

and most of all **THANK YOU!**

