



DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER



Holiday Greens Workshop

Thursday
December 3rd 8:30
am - noon NCNC

A Letter From Our Presidents

Leaf piles and a chill in the air signal a change of seasons... and the two newly installed red *Welcome to New Canaan* signs at Gerdes Road and the Carter Street / Rte. 123 intersection are welcoming.



NCBL Board Meeting

December Board
Meeting has been
cancelled.

November saw two outstanding programs. Our thanks to Carol Seldin and Amy Weber Reid! The affable Maureen Laning inspired us with her arrangements and attention to detail. A week later, Susan Bergen and Shirley Stancik presented Flower Arranging 101. It was a hands-on success with attendees making many beautiful arrangements.



**January
Program
NC Land Trust:
Past & Future**

Wednesday
January 6th 9:30 am
NCNC

Members enjoyed an evening of treats and shopping at Goldenberry, on Cherry Street, to celebrate their 25th Anniversary. Member Deb Hecht is owner of this shop, and she collected donations at the door, and gave a percentage of the shopping to the NCBL. Thank you Deb, Mia and Ken!

Triangles are being cleared of leaves and readied for winter. The end of November saw our Town Hall planting "*part two*" being finished, which included bulb planting - thanks to a generous donation by Chris Schipper of Colorblends Wholesale Flowerbulbs.



Annual Appeal

Appeal Bag Pick Up
Wednesday
January 6th
Following program
presentation NCNC

With the holidays tip-toeing in, members have graciously volunteered to brighten the tables at Waveny Care Center. Our next round of Waveny table decorating will take place in June.



Victorian Tea

Wednesday
February 3rd
11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Waveny House

With holiday gifting in mind (and making your own wish lists!), here are some items to tempt you. Four books highlighted at the Flowers 101 workshop were: *Flower Arranging Secrets* by Jane Godshalk, *A Passion for Flowers* and her newest book, *At Home in the Garden* by Carolyne Roehm, and *Garden Bouquets and Beyond* by Suzy Bales.

To understand the landscape around us, this fascinating book is an eye opener: *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy. The late Joan Sargent, master gardener, said if she could only have 3 books in her library this would be one of them!

If you want winter reading to curl up with, consider Michael Pollen's, *In Defense of Food*, and *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. Enlightening! If you have teens on the list, they should get *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser. This book should be required reading in schools. If they share it with you or you get your own, you will find it amazing. It's available in paperback.

Coming up on December 3rd, NCBL is doing what we do best: beautifying New Canaan! It's the annual GREENS WORKSHOP run by Liz Orteig and Sharon Johnson (more below). A group of volunteers will collectively make 'from scratch' the giant sized evergreen wreaths that decorate the town buildings during the holidays. Bring gloves and clippers and help us affix greens to giant wooden frames. This is a joint activity with the Garden Club, who will be providing refreshments this year. If you have evergreen branches, large pine cones, holly or boxwood you would like to share, clip it and bring it. Afterward, we need a few volunteers to put greens in the planters at Town Hall, the train station, and the large planters in town.

May your own holidays be joyous, and balanced; not too rushed that you can't enjoy a quiet walk outdoors. When you shop, park at the farthest area and enjoy the walk to the store.

Wishing you an evergreen holiday season filled with holly, mistletoe and poinsettia!

Faith and Sara

HOLIDAY GREENS WORKSHOP

Thursday, December 3rd
NC Nature Center 8:30 am

Come and join us on Thursday, December 3rd, at 8:30 am at the NC Nature Center to make the wreaths that decorate many of our public buildings in town. We will be working in partnership with the Garden Club, an annual

tradition and great opportunity to mingle with our friends in New Canaan's other garden group. No experience is necessary as we will show you what to do. It involves attaching fresh cut greenery to wooden frames with staples. Bring hand pruners if you have them.

Please let Liz Orteig know if you will be coming!

Liz Orteig

Lorteig@gmail.com 203-966-2359



Around Town

Amy Weber Reid shared this photo with us of her Christmas cactus in full bloom! How beautiful and great timing!



Annual Appeal 2016



Many thanks to everyone who helped us make the 2015 Annual Appeal so successful!

On January 6th we will start working on the 2016 appeal, for mailing on March 1st.

We are encouraging everyone to address envelopes again this January. You will be able to pick them up at the Wednesday, January 6th NCBL Program at the Nature Center. The "appeal bags" contain a list of addresses, cover letters, bookmarks, remittance envelopes, and envelopes to address. Handwriting the envelope makes a difference in personalizing the mailing. Again, we are NOT allowed to write a personal note of any kind on the letter this year (per post office bulk mail requirements).

Thanks for your support of this important fund raising campaign.
"Many hands make light work".

Looking forward to seeing you in January!

Enjoy the season!

Karen Hanson
Angie Brenninkmeyer

Waveny Flower Arranging Volunteers for December

December 7th : Liz Mallozzi
December 14th : Judy Gilroy
December 21st : no volunteer needed
December 28th : Liz Orteig

Contact [Bianca Romano](#) to volunteer. Our next Waveny Flower Arranging month is June 2016!

Waveny Flower Arrangement Guidelines
can be found [HERE](#).



MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome is extended to our newest members:

**Gracellen Magill
and
Carolyn Alter**

If you know of anyone interested in joining NCBL, please share this newsletter with them. They can download a membership form from our website or [click HERE](#) to download a form.

Becky Barlow, Valerie Monaghan, and Susan Smith

Wednesday January 6th 2016
9:30 am NCNC



Please join us on Wednesday, January 6th, 2016 for "New Canaan Land Trust: Past & Future" presented by Chris Schipper, President of the New Canaan Land Trust. Since he joined the Board of the Land Trust in 2012, Mr. Schipper has worked tirelessly to support the mission of preserving open space, wildlife sanctuaries and the scenic beauty of New Canaan. The Land Trust was awarded "Organization of the Year" by the New Canaan Advertiser in 2013 and is currently one of the largest property holders in New Canaan. The non-profit organization protects and cares for 367 acres of diverse woodlands, meadows, orchards and wetland marshes: 261 acres outright ownership, 50 acres under conservation easements and 56 acres formerly held by the New Canaan Audubon Society. Come hear about the important activities of the Land Trust such as The Stewardship Program for youth as Mr. Schipper raises our awareness of the vision of this special community resource.

Congratulations to Keith Simpson



Keith Simpson (left) and Jerry Miller (right) from the NC Community Foundation

Congratulations to NCBL Vice-President Keith Simpson who was honored with other outstanding community volunteers by the New Canaan Community Foundation on Thursday, November 19th. Keith was inducted into their *Hands-On Hall of Fame* for his volunteer work and his numerous civic projects that have added so much to our New Canaan landscape.

Lee Garden

There are even signs of Christmas and the winter season at Lee Garden. A plant native to swamps and wet woods in the eastern US, winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), keeps its red berries through much of the winter.



FLOWER ARRANGING 101 A Wonderful Time Had By All!

A big thank you to
Susan Bergen
and **Shirley Stancik** for sharing their
talents with us in this fun and
informative workshop. Could a Flower
Arranging 102 be in our future?!

More photos coming next month!

Home for the Holidays Memories



We were inspired on November 4th as we watched Maureen create five beautiful arrangements before our eyes.

To see more photos from this November program, click [HERE](#).

Did you miss this program? You can see a video of the entire program [HERE](#).

Maureen's shop, [Bedford Village Florist](#), has a 50% off sale on fresh flowers every Thursday from 3 - 6pm (cash or check only for sale).