

## Springfield Garden Club July 2019 President's Newsletter

After a slow start to the growing season I hope your gardens are finally taking shape. It seems the weeds always thrive no matter the conditions. I recently saw a Shelburne Farms recipe for pesto using edible weeds like chickweed and lamb's quarters instead of basil. Maybe they're on to something! Gardeners are always creative and resourceful.

The summer continues to be action-packed. Our July program is a garden tour in Tunbridge, VT at the home of a delightful Garden Clubber we met at a State meeting in Randolph last year. Suzanne Dvorsky is in her 90s and is everything I'd like to be at that age. She is a landscape architect with a degree in horticulture and still maintains her own gardens. We will meet at Peebles to carpool at 11:15 a.m. Bring a bag lunch and a blanket or chair for a picnic lunch in Suzanne's gardens before the tour. **If you haven't done so already, Lynn Likus needs your RSVP ASAP. (299-0772 or [llikus@me.com](mailto:llikus@me.com))**



Our downtown plantings are looking spectacular. Thanks to everyone for your continued attention.

Please don't forget the watering schedule! It's hard to overwater anything in the heat of the summer.



The Garden Club's Memorial Walkway in the Plant it Pink Garden by the Iron Bridge got some very nice attention in June.

- ✓ SGC member **Woodbury Florist** and Jeff Matulonis recently completed work at the Memorial Walkway. Edging was installed along the pavers and several pavers were re-positioned to make the walkway more even. Thanks Woodbury Florist for helping to keep this memorial garden a quality community gathering spot. And remember that pavers can still be purchased and inscribed with a loved one's name. Contact Sue McCausland for details.
- ✓ Mid-June a group of Riverside students helped us again this year on Community Service Day. Under the supervision of **Sue McCausland and Sandy MacGillivray**, the students spread mulch at Plant It Pink and distributed more stone. Last year students from this program spread mulch at the Rte. 106/10 garden. We're grateful for their donation of time and muscle.

## 2019 SGC CALENDAR

**June 12 – "Plants for Birds & Restoring our Community, One Garden at a Time" & Membership Drive. 6:00 pm, First Congregational Church.**

**July 10 – Garden Tour with Suzanne Dvorsky, Landscape Architect, Tunbridge VT. 11:15 a.m. meet at Peebles.**

**August 14 – Tour Pleasant View Gardens, Loudon NH, "Proven Winners". 10:30 a.m. meet at Peebles.**

**Sept. 11 – Rockefeller Natl Hist Park, Woodstock, VT. Tour of mansion & gardens. 8:45 a.m. meet at Peebles**

**Sept. 18 – Fall Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Claremont Savings Bank**

**Oct. 2 – Fall Gardens Clean-Up, 9:00 a.m. at Springfield Plaza (Peebles)**

**Oct. 9 – Festival of Trees Planning Meeting & Potluck. Bring a dish. 11:00 a.m. at Barbara Riotte's home.**

**Nov. 13 – FOT Wreath Workshop, 9:00 a.m. at Barbara Riotte's home.**

**Nov. 16 – FOT Moving Day, 9:00 a.m. at Lane's storage.**

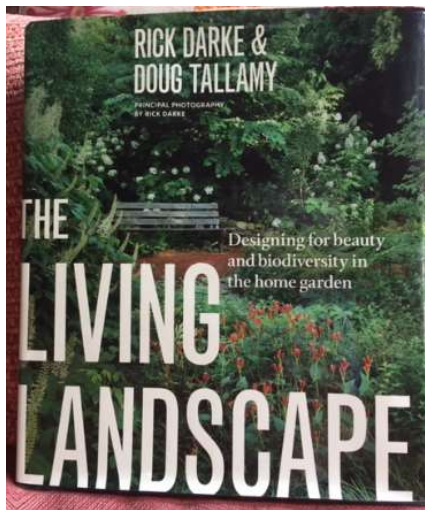
**Nov. 18 – FOT Decorating Day, 9:00 a.m. at The Great Hall.**

**Nov. 20 & 21 – FOT Creative Workshop, 9:00 a.m. at Jean Swanson's home.**

**Nov. 22 – Festival of Trees! 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Be at Great Hall at 5:30 for group photo.)**

**Dec. 11 – Annual Holiday Luncheon, 11:00 a.m. MacLaomainn's Scottish Pub, Chester, VT**

We enjoyed an informative and inspiring talk on June 12, by Gwen Causer from Audubon Vermont. Gwen shared fascinating information about the relationship of Native Plants & Trees with birds that



depend on them for food, shelter and the insects needed to feed their babies. Without the high protein found in insects many broods of bird families would not survive. Our "Native" insects, which are a food source for birds, have co-evolved with our Native plants. Those same insects are not able to eat from "alien" (non-native) plants, which may be the reason for the lack of or decrease of some varieties of birds that we would love to have still coming to our properties.

As a follow-up to this discussion, **Lynn** thought you'd be interested in a book she's reading about the importance of utilizing native plants in our landscapes, "The Living Landscape" written by Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy. This book offers the added bonus of garden ideas that are not only eco-sensitive but beautiful as well.

This meeting was open to the public and **Deanna** took the opportunity to present a brief overview of our club's mission and the important contributions we make to the community. Presentations like this enhance our public profile and may also attract new members. Another highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Vermont Garden Club's Golden Trowel award to **Karen Vatne** in recognition of the many ways she contributes to our success. Most of the photos in this newsletter being just one example of her talents. Thanks Karen for everything you do. The finishing touch on this event was the gorgeous table of food made possible by SGC members' fabulous culinary skills. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this meeting's success.

Planning WAY ahead. At our December, 2019 Holiday Luncheon we thought it'd be fun to share the successes of our 2019 gardens through photos with a "Guess Whose Garden" photo display. What you need to do is take photos of your gardens as they bloom this year. At the end of the season, email a couple of your best photos to **Deanna** ([dexter@vermontel.net](mailto:dexter@vermontel.net)).

Deanna has graciously accepted the task of organizing the photos for display. **The deadline for Deanna is Thursday, October 31, or sooner.** Then, at the luncheon, we'll be able to admire each other's gardening skills and have an interesting time guessing who was responsible for the beautiful flowers. For inspiration, here is one of Karen's photos from our 2018 Chester Garden Tour.



Tomato Plant Alert! **Jean Swanson** has several tomato plants that are up for adoption and need good homes – various shapes and colors. Contact Jean if you're interested. (885-1152 or [jeank@sover.net](mailto:jeank@sover.net))

One final note of importance. At the FGCV annual meeting in early June I was surprised to be given a Golden Trowel Award. I was overwhelmed and so grateful that my club thought I should receive this recognition. It has been such an honor to work with all of you. Thank you for your friendship.

More great photos of our busy club below.

Enjoy!  
Cheryl

New member log-in instructions for the National Garden Club website, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

User Name: member  
Password: conserve

Our SGC 2019 Officers



June 2019 FGCV Annual Meeting – Cheryl receiving club awards from President Caroline Frey and Awards Chairman Kitty Furman.



Karen receiving her Golden Trowel award from Deanna.



Good friends and good food.



Lynn introduces our June 12 speaker, Gwen Causer from Vermont Audubon.



Deanna explaining SGC's purpose and mission.