

Springfield Garden Club March 2020 President's Newsletter

Welcome to March. I'm hoping for more "lamb" and less "lion". We'll have to wait and see. My senses seem to be working overtime, looking for signs of spring. Am I really hearing more bird noises outside?

What I AM sure of is that SGC inside projects are revving up. The Program Committee is close to completing another interesting, educational and fun schedule of programs for this next year. I salute this committee, **Lynn, Lee, Therese, Rosann, and Alicia**, for their many thoughtful hours of research and planning.

The Civic Beautification team is having lots of discussion about our 2020 plantings. **Sandy** will be placing the orders soon, and that's a definite sign of spring. Please plan to participate in our May Spring Cleanup and Civic Beautification Day. Dates will be announced soon. Many hands make the work easier and FUN!

Barb Lacey is continuing to collect dues. If you haven't done so already, please send her your check. We can't continue our important community service projects without you. Every one of our members is an essential part of our team. Barb's address is 141 Baker Road, Springfield 05156. Active Member dues is \$25 and Supportive Member dues is \$30. Thank you!!

I'm grateful to report that the Nominating Committee has completed their work and the results of the election of officers is finalized. A sincere thank you to **Lynn, Lee** and **Sandy** for undertaking this important project. Our 2020-2021 officers are:

Cheryl Pierce, Senior Co-President (Term ends 2021)

Alicia Jenks, Junior Co-President (Term ends 2022)

Carol Eramo, Summer Co-Secretary (Term ends 2021)

Nell Hughes, Winter Co-Secretary (Term ends 2022)

Barbara Riotte, Treasurer (Term ends 2021)

Barbara Lacey, Membership (Term ends 2021)

Installation takes place at our May 13 Annual Meeting. Hats Off to everyone. We appreciate your dedication to SGC!

Are you looking for springtime inspiration? Our next "not to be missed" program will feature Doug Switzer of West Brattleboro. He will present, "All About Azaleas". Doug has been growing azaleas for 45 years and has over 100 azaleas in his own gardens. It will surely be a colorful and informative discussion. This program is open to the public and refreshments will be available. **Jean** has submitted press releases to the newspapers. Be sure to put this event on your calendar: Wednesday, March 11, 2:00 p.m. at the Nolin Murray Center, Pleasant St., Springfield.

2020 SGC CALENDAR

Jan. 4 – FOT Takedown Day, Great Hall, 441 River St., 9:00 a.m.

Jan. 15 – Winter Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Claremont Savings Bank

Feb. 11 – (Tuesday) "Everything You Need to Know About the Birds and the Bees", Henry Homeyer, 2:00 p.m., Nolin Murray Center. Co-sponsored with OLLI.

March 11 – "All About Azaleas", Doug Switzer, 2:00 p.m., Nolin Murray Center.

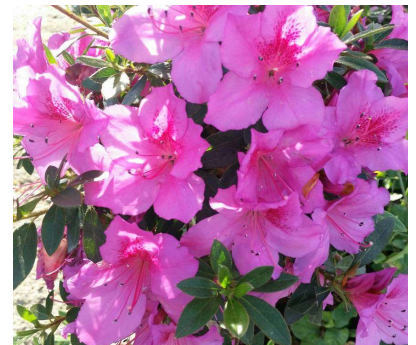
April 8 – "A Year in My Rose Garden", Teresa Mosher, 2:00 p.m., Nolin Murray Center.

April 15 – Spring Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Claremont Savings Bank.

May 13 – Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon. Business Meeting and Installation of Officers. Sumner House, Main Street, Charlestown. 11:00 a.m. Social, 11:30 a.m. Meeting, 12:30 p.m. Luncheon.

June 2 – FGCV Annual Meeting. Castle Hill Resort; Proctorsville, VT. 9:00 a.m. registration.

October 6 – FGCV Fall Meeting. Vermont State House; Montpelier, VT. 9:00 a.m. registration.





Our February 10 joint program with OLLI was a huge success. **Marita** reports a record-breaking attendance of 111 people. Of that number, 38 were SGC members and guests. Henry Homeyer's lively presentation was a valuable reminder of the importance of using native plants in our gardens. Marita will have a video of this program posted to the sapatv.org website very soon. Thanks to Marita's husband, Bruce, for recording the video. Kudos to everyone who made this program such a success.

We could use your help to make sure our membership list is accurate for our new 2020-2021 Yearbook. Please look at your name, address and contact information in the current yearbook. If there are any changes or corrections, please contact **Barb Lacey** at 802-886-8112 or brlacey@vermontel.net.

Speaking of the Yearbook, are you familiar with Microsoft Word? We are looking for someone to serve as Yearbook Committee Chair. This job involves recreating/rewriting the new Yearbook each spring. To do this, the Yearbook Chair communicates with the Program Committee, with the Membership Chair and with our Photographer. This job doesn't need an expert – but it needs someone who doesn't mind keeping track of details and who enjoys being creative. If this interests you, **Cheryl** would love to talk with you. Contact her at 603-558-2674 or scpierce83@comcast.net. Thank you!

Our Amazon Smile account is up and running. If you order from Amazon using the following link, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the value of your order to the Springfield Garden Club. We'd appreciate your support of this new fund-raising tool. SGC's unique link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0262930>

You may have noticed that some of our programs are focusing on the use of native plants in our gardens and planting for pollinators. Important topics for sure. For the past year, **Lynn** has done considerable research on these topics. She has encouraged the Program Committee to include speakers who have knowledge in these fields. Lynn would like to share with you a list of a few books that have been meaningful to her. Her book list is attached, for your education and enjoyment. Thanks Lynn, for promoting these environment-impacting topics.

With Easter right around the corner, **Jean** has an important caution for cat owners. Lilies, of all kinds, are poisonous to cats! Even the pollen can cause kidney failure. More information is available on this website: <https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/pet-safety-tips/are-lilies-poisonous-to-cats/> Thanks Jean!

More great photos of our joint OLLI program are below, thanks to **Marita** and **Karen**!

Enjoy!
Cheryl



Anne checking out Henry's popular retail table.



What a crowd!



Jeff finding a moment to speak with Henry.



Barb registering SGC members and guests.

Lynn's Reading List

"Bringing Nature Home"; How you can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants, by Douglass Tallamy

"Once in awhile a book appears that fundamentally changes the way we think about our gardens and their role in the larger landscape. Provocative and powerfully persuasive, Doug Tallamy's book accomplishes this with grace and humor, blending ecological science and human social science to outline a modern recipe for inclusive habitat. He recognizes the changing dynamics of our world and suggests how individual gardeners, collectively, can protect and conserve the [local biological diversity that is truly VITAL AND IRREPLACEABLE](#).

This is a book so many of us have been waiting for. So much more than a push for native plants, it [articulates the broad interdependency of living relationships](#) and literally defines gardens as the new Nature. Tallamy tackles the potentially grim subjects of habitat destruction and resultant species loss and turns them into inspiring stories full of hope and opportunity." (Quoted from the Forward)

And it all starts with INSECTS, those little things we wish to eradicate from our gardens but are vital in the life of our birds as they try to raise their families. One quote that sticks with me from his book is, "a plant that has not fed something, is not worth having"! Choosing the right plants can feed a huge number of insects, which in turn feeds other animals. The mighty Oak tree feeds over 400 species of insects, certainly the most valuable tree you can plant.

I've read this book and parts of it I've read many times, trying to take it all in and realizing how very important it is. I've never had a gardening book change the way I think about gardening like this book. I highly recommend it! LML

Two more recent books (which I hope to read soon) of Doug Tallamy's are:

Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty & Biodiversity in the Home Garden.

Written by Douglass Tallamy and Rick Darke. These two men have joined their expertise to create this book. Rick Darke with his sense of aesthetics, photography and skill in conveying the beauty inherent in natural landscapes and Doug with his interest in ecosystem functions. The intent of the book is to create landscapes that support life without sacrificing traditional aesthetic values.

Nature's Best Hope. Doug takes his ideas to the next step and outlines his vision for a grass roots homegrown approach to conservation. He depicts easy methods for the ordinary person to turn their yard into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats. Tallamy gives us reason to believe that the planet can be saved for future generations.