



Roaring Brook Nature Center

70 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019 www.roaringbrook.org

Program Cost \$250 plus mileage

Margery Winters - Presentation Topics

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Soil – It's Not Just Dirt

Rarely discussed by gardeners, soil is, nonetheless, the foundation of a garden. Each tablespoon of healthy soil is alive with millions of creatures, many working to keep your plants healthy. Learn why you should care about this intriguing ecosystem.

Beyond Birdfeeders

Birdfeeders do help some of our feathered friends through the winter months, but birds do not live by birdseed alone. Learn what you can plant in your yard to provide food to an even greater variety of birds throughout the year while promoting biodiversity in your neighborhood.

Butterfly Gardens Are for The Birds

Butterfly gardens may attract a host of beautiful, winged creatures to your yard, not just butterflies. Find out what makes a successful butterfly habitat.

Gardening for Bees, Butterflies and Other Pollinators

Pollinators play a critical role in the production of most fruits and vegetables and they need our help. Learn about our many native pollinators, their important role in keeping our ecosystems healthy, and how you can manage your garden to provide just what they need.

Beyond Flower Gardens: Native Woody Plants in a Pollinator Garden

Native shrubs and trees are important, but often overlooked, nectar & pollen sources in a pollinator garden. Learn why these plants provide even more.

Gardening with Frog & Toad

A garden filled with the peeps, trills, quacks, or croaks from our native frogs and toads is one of the fastest ways to judge the health of your local ecosystem. Learn how to garden to help the amphibian populations in your yard and beyond.

Gardening for Wildlife

Your garden is home to many wonderful creatures. Learn about their life cycles, their ecological value, and how to bring life to your garden by planting the right plants, as well as providing shelter and water.

Critters in the Garden

Chipmunks, rabbits, and deer – oh my! These and **many** other animals can wreak havoc our gardens. Learn how to humanely co-exist with these furry creatures.

Plant Communication: Let's Listen In

Scientists are learning more about how plants communicate with each other. Learn how they get their messages to each other and what they are they saying. Fascinating new scientific findings on the battle tactics and alliances between plants, insects, and fungi (including the discovery of the **Wood Wide Web**) should make us rethink some of our gardening practices.

Native Plants: Handsome Is as Handsome Does

Native plants are not just another pretty addition to your garden. Discover the ecological benefits of our native plants and how we can recapture native habitats in our own gardens.

Seeing Red (or Why Friends Don't Let Friends Plant Burning Bush)

Nationwide, three million acres are lost each year to alien plants. Removal is expensive & time consuming. Learn what makes these plants so damaging and how gardeners can restore ecological balance to our neighborhoods.

Spring Wildflowers

Connecticut has a myriad of spring wildflowers. Discover why they bloom in the spring, where to find them, how they got their names and what makes these plants so special.

What's Up with Fall?

A lot is going on in our woodlands and our yards in the fall. Find out what makes for the fall foliage season, what happens to all those fallen leaves, why there are so many acorns one year and none the next, what garden plants have the best fall colors, and much more.

Winter Wonders

Learn the many ways winter transforms our gardens and our landscape, why snowflakes have six sides, and how strangely beautiful and startling winter can be in this fun visual presentation.

Morticulture: The Abundant Life in Old & Dead Trees

Once considered a wasted resource and a hazard in forest landscapes, dead trees and logs are now known to be valuable and essential parts of a healthy forest ecosystem. Learn how they provide habitat and food for many terrestrial and aquatic species, act as seedbeds for new trees, and serve as a source of water, energy, carbon and nutrients for the entire forest.

An American Garden: Native Plants in Regency Garden

During the Regency period of Jane Austen, landscape designer Humphry Repton sowed the seeds of the garden design elements that are still with us - terraces, gravel walks, flower gardens in the area around the house, and what would become the front lawn. His landscapes were known to include separate themed garden rooms such as a rosary, a winter garden, or a Chinese garden. Most interestingly, Repton's gardens might also include an American garden which celebrated native American plants. We will explore how and why we should embrace this particular element of Regency garden design to bring abundant life and ecological health to our yards.

Saving Our Wild Areas, One Yard at a Time

Unlike Vegas, what happens in our yards does not always stay in our yards, and can affect areas far from our homes. By reconsidering how and why we garden as we do, we can help promote wildlife diversity in our own back yards and in our wild areas beyond.

Changing Land, Changing Wildlife

Connecticut's landscape has changed dramatically over the last 500 years, from forest, to field, to thicket, and back to forest. As the land has changed so has our wildlife. Learn how our current land use and gardening practices impact our wild areas.

Connecticut's Story

Geologically, Connecticut was once the center of the world, with mountains higher than the Himalayas and was once located just off the coast of Africa. Unravel the stories in of Connecticut's exciting geological past that are told by the rocks around us.

The Importance of Wetlands

Seventy percent of Connecticut's wetlands have been destroyed since colonial days. Learn about the various types of wetlands in Connecticut, their importance to our ecosystem, and how we can preserve our remaining wetlands or mimic their functions in our gardens.

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Changing Land, Changing Wildlife: Connecticut's landscape has changed dramatically over the last 500 years, from forest, to field, to thicket, and back to forest. As the land has changed so has our wildlife. Learn how our current land use practices may impact our wild areas.

Birdlife of Connecticut: Find out what birds can be found in Connecticut, where they can be seen and when. How are bird populations are changing and why.

Attracting Birds to Your Yard (or Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard): Learn what you can do to make your yard more attractive to our feathered friends.

Connecticut's Wildlife Digest (or Wildlife of Canton): Learn what animals call Connecticut home, which animal populations are declining, which are increasing and why.

Reptiles & Amphibians: From box turtles to the mysterious spadefoot toad, learn more about these fascinating groups of animals.

Snakes Alive!: Whether they fascinate you or scare you, there is much to learn about snakes. This presentation includes live snakes.

Butterflies (and Moths): Connecticut has a wide array of interesting butterflies and moths. Learn about these creatures including some of our more exotic varieties.

Animal Adaptations: Animals require clean air, water, food and shelter from the environments in which they live. Learn how animals adapt to meet their needs and what happens if they are unable to do so.

The Farmington River - a Multi-use River: Our Farmington River is the most heavily utilized River in State. Find out what makes it important, what creatures call it home and what we must do to keep it “wild & scenic”.

Owls of Connecticut: Whoo can be found here? Learn about the owls that live here or visit our area and how to find them.

Travelogues: Atlantic Rain Forest of Brazil