



# Horticulture & Floral Design

The Shippan Point Garden Club hosts regular meetings and special events to educate and excite its members and the public about gardening and floral design.

## Standard Flower Shows Open to the Public

Every few years the Club stages a Standard Flower Show featuring floral designs created by members, plant specimens grown in their gardens, educational exhibits and botanical crafts.



**1927 SPGC's first Flower Show** held at the Stamford Yacht Club was lauded for the extensive displays that "many other clubs might well envy after many years' experience with exhibitions." —Stamford Advocate, 9/21/1927



## Member Bench Shows

Eight times a year the Club hosts less formal, but still-judged, Bench Show luncheons where members hone their craft, express their creativity and learn from each other.

## 2002 SPGC "Harvest Moon" Flower Show brochure.

1970 Stamford Advocate story on the Club's September 1970 "Power of Flowers" Show.



**POWER OF FLOWERS**—is the theme of the biannual flower show to be staged Sept. 29 at St. John's Episcopal Church by the Shippan Garden Club. Looking over their "flower-power" are from the left, Mrs. Jack H. Rook, chairman; Mrs. James A. Rich, co-chairman and Mrs. Rakey B. Scofield, president. (Advocate photo by Ryan)

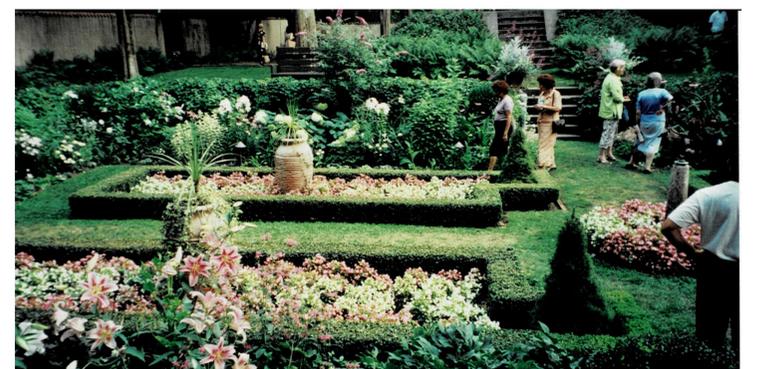


**Bench Show guest speakers** share their expertise in gardening, floral arrangement, landscape design and conservation. Workshops offer members hands-on experience.



**2016 Judges** at the Club's "**Splendor by the Sea**" Flower Show review floral design entries and award ribbons to best in show for Horticulture, Floral Design and Botanical Arts.

## Garden Tours



Members find inspiration at summertime tours of noteworthy neighborhood gardens and beautiful regional parks.

# Community Activism



**Until 1995** The **Shippan Point incinerator** dusted nearby cars and homes with toxic fly ash.



**1946** Stamford erected **150 Quonset Huts** at the entrance of Shippan to house WWII veterans.



**1956** **40 trailer homes** were placed adjacent to the incinerator for families evicted by the new construction of I-95.

**1958** Following relentless lobbying from SPGC and the Shippan Point Association, the **dilapidated housing units** were finally removed.

**1960** The Club donated **hundreds of rose bushes and trees** and invested hundreds of volunteer hours to restore and beautify the site.

The Club has worked tirelessly over the past century to transform what was once a forlorn block into a healthier, more inviting neighborhood entrance.

## Magee Avenue Then: Unsightly Swampland

In the early 1900s, Shippan Point was known to be one of the loveliest residential areas in Stamford. But the Magee Avenue approach to the neighborhood was a foul-smelling marshland used as a garbage dump that housed the city's ash-spewing incinerator and poorly constructed quarters for returning veterans.

### Shippan Point Garden Club Members Get Police Powers

Six Appointed Last Night by Board of Public Safety to Facilitate Campaign to Clean Up Magee Avenue—Will Make Drive Against Dumping of Junked Automobiles.

At the request of the Shippan Point Garden Club, which is seeking to clean up the Magee Avenue entrance to Shippan Point, six members of the club were appointed temporary policewomen by the Board of Public Safety, last night. The club has made a special objective against the dumping of junked automobiles along Magee Avenue.

### SHIPPAN POINT PEOPLE WOULD HAVE INCINERATOR MOVED TO DYKE LANE LAND

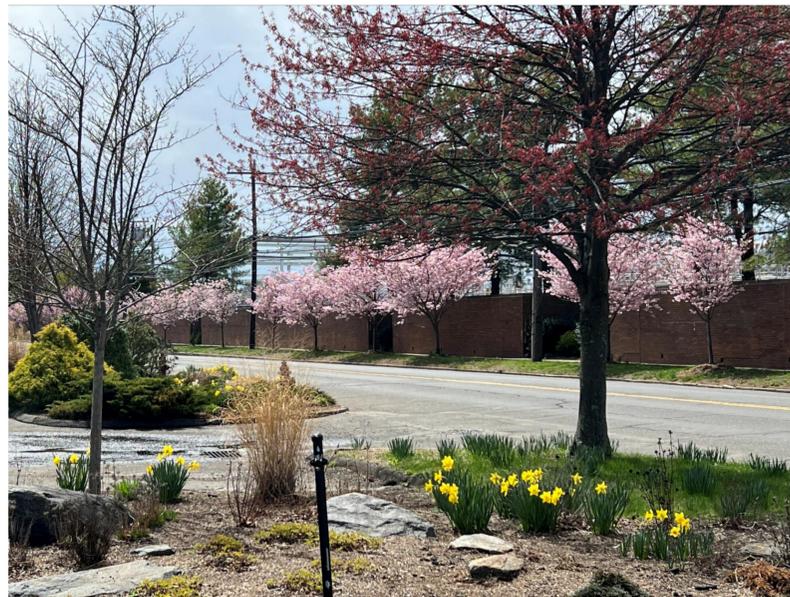
Make the Suggestion in Written Report to Sanitation Committee of the Common Council at Meeting Last Evening—Estimate Cost of Improvement at \$260,000.

The placing of the city incinerator on Dyke Lane at Elmcroft Road and the removal of the present structure from Magee Avenue is advocated by the Shippan Association and the Shippan Garden Club, members of which conferred last night with the Sanitation Committee of the Common Council.

Shippan Point Opposes Trial Heliport Plans

Shippan Pt. Group Opposes Plan For Portable Housing

SPGC's efforts to clean up unhealthy and unsightly development on the Point have included **lobbying campaigns** against illegal dumping, billboards, substandard housing, incinerator pollution, a heliport and junkyards.



## Magee Avenue Today: Parklike Entrance

The Club's beautification efforts on Magee Avenue continue to this day with ongoing planting, improvements and garden maintenance by dozens of SPGC members every year.



**April 2004** Mayor Dan Malloy giving a **\$1,000 grant** to the Garden Club for continuing improvements outside the recycling center on Magee Avenue.



**2023** SPGC won awards for its **Magee Avenue Civic Development** from The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and New England Garden Clubs.

# Community Engagement

## Shippan Garden Club To Have May Market Sale on Wednesday

Shippan Point Garden Club will hold its Annual May Market Sale on Wednesday, May 14, at the home of Mrs. H. C. Reed, Saddle Rock Road, Shippan, from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. The sale is open to the public, and will include garden accessories, such as garden stakes, broom rakes, vigars, and garden scrap books in an attractive variety. Gladiola bulbs, dahlia bulbs, perennials and annuals in interesting groups of all the desired flowers will be on sale.

—Stamford Advocate, 5/13/1930

What began in 1926 as a plant exchange for members quickly evolved into the Garden Club's annual May Market—a plant sale open to the public that provides most of the funding for SPGC's civic planting, community and philanthropy efforts.

## May Market

Planning begins months before the Club's popular Mother's Day weekend sale held annually at Our Lady Star of the Sea church.



Club funds come from sales of perennials members dig up from their gardens, artfully created planters and baskets, plants purchased at wholesale and home-baked goods.

## Doors of Shippan

The Club's annual holiday wreath-decorating competition has been a popular neighborhood tradition since 1989.



## Therapy Gardening & Crafts for Seniors

Garden Club members visit ARK Healthcare at St. Camillus every month to engage the residents in garden-related projects.



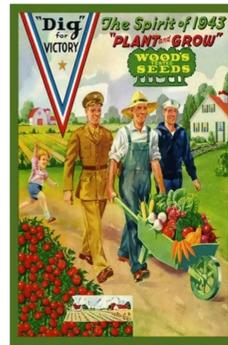
Workshops in floral crafts and flower arranging bring joy to the residents. During COVID lockdown, the Club thanked the employees with a 3-course catered meal.

# Education

In addition to helping SPGC members hone their horticulture skills, the Club shares its expertise and love of gardening with Stamford residents.



**1933** For years, SPGC and the other Stamford Garden Clubs staffed a **Garden Center at Ferguson Library** from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm every afternoon to answer questions from the public.

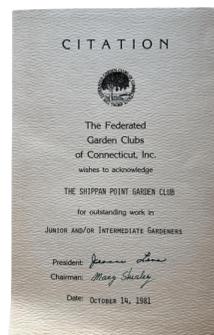


**Sowing Seeds of Victory**  
During WWII, the Club encouraged residents to plant Victory Gardens and gave instruction and financial aid to those in need.

**1943** Members planted a **Community Victory Garden** at Sound Avenue and Crest Hill Place to supply fresh produce to Shippan residents during wartime.

## Cultivating the Next-Generation

Through after-school clubs, college scholarships and community activities, SPGC inspires and empowers future gardeners.



**Since 1995** SPGC presents **scholarships every year** to one or two high school seniors in Stamford who plan to attend college to study botany or environmental-related science.

**1952** SPGC launched a **Junior Garden Club** in collaboration with Rogers School and won high praise from The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut.



**Member-created educational exhibits** are shown at SPGC and state Flower Shows; they're also presented at schools.

## Learning in the Digital Age

SPGC's website, newsletter and social media offer a wealth of knowledge.



**On its website**, SPGC shares monthly gardening tips, principles of floral design and an entire library of geo-relevant planting information from the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut.



# Conservation



**2007** SPGC members remove *invasive plants at West Beach.*

Promoting environmental issues and ensuring Shippan Point remains a healthy habitat for flora, fauna and human generations to come is central to the Shippan Point Garden Club's mission.

## Advocacy

### Shippan Point Garden Club Was Founded In 1925 To Assure Care Of Its Environs

**PETITION CROSS TO AID IN FIGHT ON DUTCH BEETLE**  
Shippan Garden Club interested in Saving Elms—Menace Called to Governor's Attention.  
The Shippan Garden Club has interested itself intensely in the problem of Dutch Elm beetle control as it affects Stamford and this part of the State. The latest reports from the department having this conservation work in charge shows that 6 cases have been discovered in Stamford, 4 of the trees have been removed and 2 were still standing as of August 21. The Club over the signatures of 48 members has sent the following petition to the Governor of the State and in addition has sent out a questionnaire to the members to ascertain the number of elm trees in the Shippan district and whether or not members will make a survey as to their condition.



### SHIPPAN GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS PLEAD FOR DESTRUCTION OF CATERPILLARS

**1927** The Club rallied neighborhood children who collected **4,000+** tent caterpillar nests to be destroyed; **1935** In another outbreak, SPGC taught the public **how to minimize damage** to their trees.

**1934** SPGC petitioned the governor to feed and spray trees to protect them from the ravages of **Dutch Elm disease.**



### Garden club branches out at local beach

Members of the Shippan Point Garden Club spend yesterday morning clearing out and planting in West Beach Park in Stamford. Mary Liva, above, trims away old branches on a tree in West Beach Park. Susan Flynn prunes a tree at the corner of Shippan and Magee avenues.

— The Advocate, Saturday, June 2, 2001

**2007** The Club designed and planted a **nesting and resting habitat for birds at West Beach.**

## Action



Cleanup day

Shippan Point Garden Club members Georgia Westwood, Anna Cheng, Penney Burnett and Mary Liva spend yesterday morning clearing out and planting in West Beach Park in Stamford. Mary Liva, above, trims away old branches on a tree in West Beach Park. Susan Flynn prunes a tree at the corner of Shippan and Magee avenues.

## Education

### Shippan Point Garden Club Has Conservation Program



### SHIPPAN GARDEN CLUB HEARS TALK ON HOW TO KEEP BIRDS IN WINTER

At regular Club meetings and town halls, via newsletters and our website, SPGC advocates for **conservation and eco-friendly gardening practices.**

### Club Plans Petition To Save Trees

The Shippan Point Garden Club will present a "Save Our Trees" petition with 600 signatures to Supt. of Parks Edward A. Connell, Mrs. Marian Lang, president of the club, said today.  
Mr. Connell is supporting the efforts of Shippan residents to prevent the City from cutting down about 20 trees on Sound Ave. in connection with the construction of sewers. The trees are owned by the City.  
Mrs. Lang issued a statement from the Shippan Point Garden Club which said:  
"We support the efforts of our concerned citizens who are waging a battle to save our trees. We deplore the widening of the streets and exposing the root structures of many trees, which will eventually result in their death."

## Appreciation



**2017** To aid declining pollinator populations, the Club updated the garden it originally planted in 2002 at the Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center with native plants that attract and feed bees, butterflies and birds.



**2003** The Garden Club launched a **recycling project** to make it easy for the community to prevent printer ink cartridges from cluttering landfills.

EDITORIAL  
**Thumbs up, thumbs down**  
Thumbs up, a green one at that, to members of the Shippan Garden Club who toiled in the soil to add a butterfly and bee wildflower garden and native trees to the Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center on Magee Avenue in Stamford. The \$10,000 beautification project included a donation from Shippan resident Kathleen Matthews. The efforts of the volunteers will likely be appreciated, as the recycling center is one spot virtually everyone in town visits at some point.

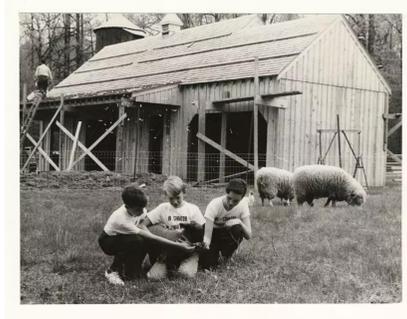


# Citywide Civic Projects

The Garden Club has a long history of giving—to beautify Shippan and beyond.



**1927** The Club planted shrubs at the **Visiting Nurse Association** and donated azaleas to the newly constructed **National Cathedral in Washington DC**.



## Funding, Weeding & Feeding



**1952** The Garden Club contributed funds for landscaping at the **Stamford Museum & Nature Center**; **1953** Volunteers weeded Stamford Hospital's recently planted patio; **2020** Club members purchased 375 bag lunches for **Stamford Hospital staff** on the frontlines during the COVID epidemic.



WOMEN FROM CHURCHES AND CLUBS SELL CHRISTMAS SEALS THIS WEEK AT BANKS

**1932** SPGC joined local clubs to sell **Christmas Seals** in support of a statewide fight against tuberculosis.



**Downtown Decor**  
SPGC's "Polar Express" entry won first place in a 2010 holiday contest to decorate historic Bedford Street sponsored by the Downtown Special Services District.



**1930s** SPGC donated trees and shrubs for roadside plantings requested by the **Merritt Parkway Commission**.

## Public Building Planting Projects



**1939** Members partnered with other Stamford garden clubs to create a **Bird Sanctuary at Woodside Park**.



**1942** Yew trees planted at **Ferguson Library**; **1952** Landscaping at **Stamford Hospital**; **1954** Shade trees planted at **Veterans Park**; **1960** Flowering trees planted at the **YMCA**.

# Tree Planting

Club members are especially proud of the tree-planting projects undertaken every year to beautify the neighborhood and enhance life for our residents.

## Shippan Avenue: Then & Now



**1926** For its first civic project, the Garden Club joined with SPA to plant 50 Norway Maples and London Planes at the entrance of the newly paved and widened Shippan Avenue.



**1964** With the help of a donation from SPA and a Sears Beautification Grant, SPGC members added another 47 pink and white Dogwoods to the 225 already planted along Ocean Drive East and West.



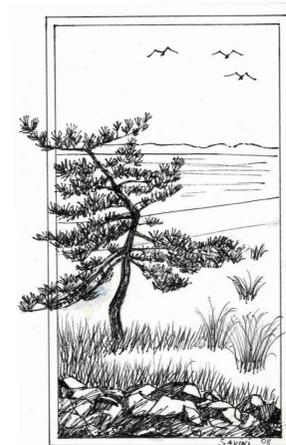
**And Every Year Since** The Club plants up to dozens of trees (often in partnership with SPA and the City) to shade and brighten Shippan Avenue and side streets.

## A Century of Planting Stately Trees

SPGC estimates that it has planted more than 2,500 deciduous, evergreen and flowering trees, plus thousands of bulbs and perennial flowers, and hundreds of shrubs and rose bushes over the past century.



**Recognition** SPGC's beautification efforts win awards from state and national garden clubs.



**1962** SPGC and SPA planted 50 Japanese Black Pines on the hillside at the entrance to the Point.



**2012** Disease, age, road salts, poor power-company pruning and battering from severe weather like **Superstorm Sandy** take a toll on the magnificent trees lining our streets.



**2023** On Shippan Avenue, the City Parks Department team replaced a tree that had been hit by a car with a flowering Eastern Redbud contributed by the Club.



**2024** The Club plants memorial trees like this Kousa Dogwood donated by an SPGC member to honor her late mother.

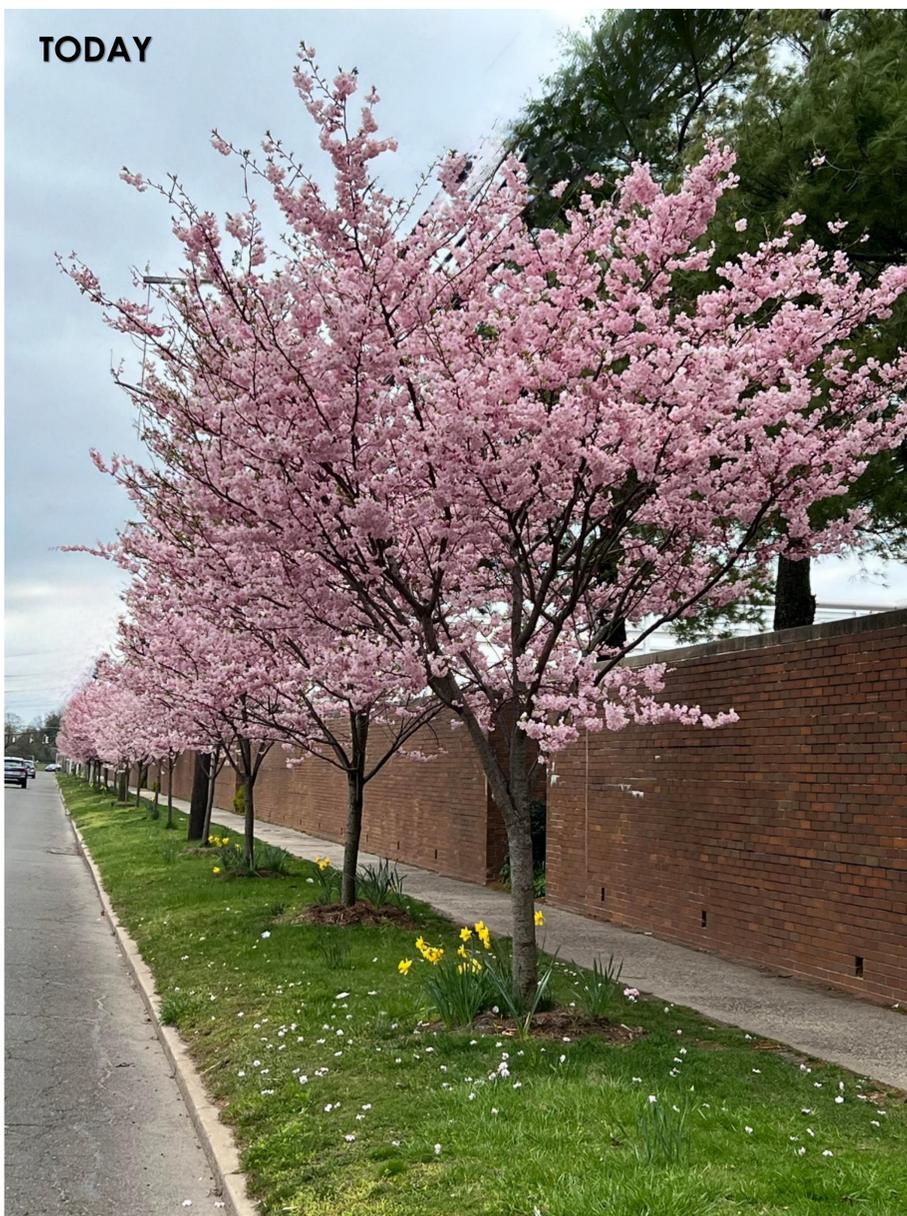
# Neighborhood Gardens

SPGC invests hundreds of volunteer hours and thousands of dollars every year on the planting and upkeep of six public gardens throughout the neighborhood.

## 1 Magee Avenue



For 40+ years, SPGC has maintained the **nook plantings and trees** along Magee Avenue.



**1992** SPGC purchased and worked with the City Parks Department to plant **59 flowering trees** to green the industrial half-mile block leading into Shippan. **Low-growing evergreens** were also installed within the nooks along the brick wall enclosing the sewage treatment plant. Club members have refreshed and maintained these gardens ever since.

## 2

### Gateway Garden

**2006** Opposite the Welcome Garden, the Club partnered with SPA and installed another **lattice fence and garden** to frame the entrance to Shippan.



### Fairview Avenue Traffic Circle Garden



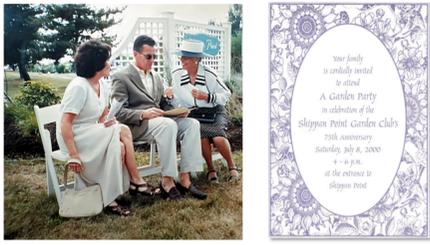
## 3

**2003** When the City added a **rotary and two triangles** to slow traffic along Shippan Avenue, the Club stepped up to plant them with flowering perennials. One member donated the center tree in memory of her late husband.



## 4 The Welcome Garden

The Welcome Garden and its iconic sign announcing the entrance to Shippan Point were gifts from The Shippan Point Garden Club to the community commemorating SPGC's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



**2000** SPGC hosted a garden party, inviting neighbors and our City partners to celebrate the installation of the **Welcome Garden**.



**Volunteers installing the fence and maintaining the Welcome Garden.**

## 5 The Castle Garden



**1963** A magnificent flowering Cherry Tree shades the **Castle Garden** at the rotary of Ocean Drive West and Rogers Road.

## 6 Katrina Mygatt Pollinator Garden



**2002** The Club gave the once unsightly entrance to the **City Recycling Center on Magee Avenue** a floral facelift in 2002. And since 2017, SPGC volunteers have been replacing some of the old-growth grasses with native plants to transform the garden into a pollinator-friendly oasis.

# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Projects

Leading up to our Centennial, the Club undertook ambitious projects to beautify the Point with 100 new trees and shrubs, and thousands of bulbs.



## Tree Canopy Restoration



**2024** To restore the cooling canopy that once graced our main thoroughfare, City Parks Department workers helped the Club plant a row of 7 London Plane trees adjacent to the soccer field, plus 12 Red Maples, White Oaks and Eastern Redbuds along Shippan Avenue.

## SPA Day Fund-raiser



**2024** Club members created floral baskets for sale and hosted a raffle at SPA's Celebrate Shippan Day to raise awareness (and funds!) for SPGC's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary civic projects.

## Operations Center Screening



**2024** SPGC planted a row of *Euonymus* that will grow to screen heavy equipment at the City Operations Center. **2025** We added a rock garden and Mopheads along the fence and evergreens flanking a new sign in front of the City gas station at the site.

## Spring Bulb Planting



### Help Us Plant the Hill of Blooms

To commemorate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and ongoing mission to beautify our community, the Shippan Point Garden Club is blanketing the hill across from the soccer field with thousands of bulbs that will burst into color each spring. We greatly appreciate the many donations that make this project possible; and now we need your help! Show your Shippan Point pride and join our first annual community bulb-planting party.



**2024** Neighbors came out in force to spend a fun November day helping us plant **5,000+** spring bulbs on the hill across from the soccer field. We hope you'll join us for the 2nd annual Hill of Blooms bulb-planting party on November 2, 2025.

# SPGC 2025 Centennial Events

Join us as we commemorate The Shippan Point Garden Club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and decades of service to our community.



Pamela Riley Abear

## Centennial Celebration

### GARDEN PARTY

Saturday, May 31, 2025

12:00 pm—1:00 pm

[Rain Date: Sunday, June 1; 12:00 pm—1:00 pm]

### The Welcome Garden

Celebrate with SPGC members, our partners and City representatives; and tour some of the Club's pretty public gardens. For details, go to [shippanpointgardenclub.org/gardenparty](http://shippanpointgardenclub.org/gardenparty).

## Beauflora

### GARDEN TOUR

Friday, June 13, 2025

10:00 am—3:00 pm



Tour coastal Shippan Point's private gardens and beautifully landscaped properties. To purchase tickets, scan the QR code or go to [shippanpointgardenclub.org/beauflora](http://shippanpointgardenclub.org/beauflora).



Toby Sue Gordon

## Time to Remember: 100 Years of Beauty & Blooms

### FLOWER SHOW

Thursday, July 17, 2025

3:00 pm—6:00 pm

### The Stamford Yacht Club

Come see gorgeous horticulture specimens and heritage house plants, stunning floral designs and creative botanical crafts. Shippan residents are also invited to enter their horticulture in a special section. For more information, go to [shippanpointgardenclub.org/flowershow](http://shippanpointgardenclub.org/flowershow).



Scan QR code for access to an online version of this exhibit

SPGC is a proud member of:

- National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- New England Garden Clubs, Inc.
- The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.



Centennial  
Celebration  
1925 — 2025