

Time seems to whip by lately and this past year was no exception! Our club continued its many efforts on behalf of the community. Our theme this year was Becoming an Ecological Gardener. We sought to support this theme by continuing to provide quality educational programming for our members, school children, and the community at large.

In addition to our usual tasks, such as town cleanup, community garden maintenance, and holiday decorations, we provided important information about sustaining our landscape. In response to the challenge to our local trees from insects and drought, we held a program with local experts on how to keep our trees healthy. To help us manage challenges to our water resources, we learned about rain gardens and gardening for water quality in Rhode Island. To increase appreciation for our native fauna, programs on local owls and peaceful coexistence with local wildlife were presented.

Sadly, we lost some dear friends this year. Margaret Mataronas, Barbara Duffy, and Joan Montle passed away. We will miss them and their contributions to the club and community. But change is inevitable and we must embrace it. We have gained some wonderful new members who will bring energy and creativity to our work.

In keeping with our emphasis on sustaining our local environment and planet, we have chosen Stewards of Our Land as our theme for this year. We have many fine programs and events planned. I look forward to sharing with you another year of learning, enjoyment and camaraderie!

Ann