

## COUNCIL OF BARRINGTON GARDEN CLUBS "KEEPERS" PRESENTATION

January 8, 2003

The Garden Club of Barrington was organized in 1925 - 77 years ago for the purposes of "Stimulating knowledge and the love of gardening among amateurs, aiding in the protection of native plants and birds and to encourage civic planting."

Beginning in the 1930's, in an effort to satisfy these important goals, The Garden Club of Barrington published a booklet for new area residents about numerous gardening topics, local area wildlife and our regional native plants. Back then, our garden club members who came from all parts of the Barrington area would act as welcome ambassadors and personally call on their new neighbors with the booklet, which was generally accompanied by a plant, flowers, vegetables or fruits collected from the member's own garden.

Times have changed. The booklet is now a book and its conservation-minded information has been greatly re-researched, up-dated and expanded. The new 130 pages represent a wealth of local information for all Barrington area residents on such topics as the new American lawn, recycling, vegetable gardening, fruit trees, wetlands management, wells and septic systems, local and regional resources and more. Of course, we have also included our original topics on native trees, birdlife and our new residents' role in a conservation-minded community.

The new 21st century version also has a new title, Keepers of The Land which was taken from the following quote from a 60 year Barrington resident:

*"We have to be careful what we do to the land.  
The fact is, we don't really own the land.  
We're only here as keepers of it.  
Our use of the land is but for a moment in time.  
Yet, the alterations we make may effect everything permanently."*

Also different is the way copies will be distributed. Instead of our 85 members calling on new residents, the books will be distributed at the time of home sales through the Barrington Board of Realtors. In addition, they will be available through village building department officers and contracted outside village building inspectors to future new residents when they first come to a village office seeking site development permits, new residence building permits, or building permits for additions to existing residences.

In October 2001 we made a presentation to BACOG's village presidents and they along with all 42 village trustees have each received a copy. We then called on each of the 7 village building departments asking them to act as our conservation-minded ambassadors in the distribution of Keepers of The Land to future residents.

Over the years, we have discovered that by the time a new resident actually moves into their newly constructed home, they may have already caused irreparable damage to the land - its trees, native plants, wildlife, water, soil and more. We know we are preaching to the choir in this regard.

We would greatly appreciate your encouragement in enlisting their continuing cooperation. And we thank you in advance for your assistance and welcome any suggestions you might have.

In the end, some things remain the same: It is still a gift - a gift from The Garden Club of Barrington to welcome new village residents and provide them with helpful information to encourage them to become future Keepers of The Land in the Barrington area.

Thank you from The Garden Club of Barrington

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