



Gather and Give Thanks

Greetings!

I love Thanksgiving. It is such an uncomplicated holiday. Gather with loved ones, eat lots of delicious food, and give thanks. As I get older, the gatherings continue to evolve. I was so thrilled when I got married and we bought our home in Middletown that I finally had a place big enough to host Thanksgiving dinner. For years, my parents came *here* and I was honored to cook for them and serve them dinner in front of the warm fireplace in our dining room. They have been gone for quite a while, and those days are gone too. The same is true of so many of my friends. So we create our new traditions, and gather with loved ones in often less traditional ways. No matter how you celebrate this wonderful American holiday, giving thanks will be an integral part of it.



We add succulents to many of our arrangements. You can root them and grow them as houseplants after the holidays.

"An attitude of gratitude" is a phrase taught to me by my dear friend Caroline. I attempt to make it my daily mantra. I have so much to be thankful for. I love my home and my beautiful yard. It is far from horticultural perfection, but it feeds a deep place in my soul. It also provides me with so much bounty- food to eat, fresh herbs and cut flowers, and greens galore (which I am harvesting every day at this time of year). It is the inspiration for my writings and my designs and the basis of my teaching work. I also am so grateful to my Natureworks staff. As I get older, they have begun to take on so much of the important work of Natureworks, freeing me up to be creative and teach as much as I can. Everyone tells me how wonderful my staff is. *I already know it*, and I am so proud of them.



I guess I've been a little busy...

The upcoming weeks are filled with so many opportunities to enjoy each other's company. We LOVE to share with you our version of the holiday season- I call it **The Real Deal**. This week we are making all kinds of lovely arrangements for the Thanksgiving table and to bring as gifts. It is very personal- orange winterberries and golden evergreens cut from my yard, succulents propagated throughout the summer for our succulent pumpkins, strawflowers dried from my gardens, orange flame willow branches to complement the fresh flower bouquets in mason jars that I used to use for



I filled my vintage canning jars with flowers and locally harvested greens.

GREEN FRIDAY!

It makes perfect sense, since at this season we are all about fresh greenery! It arrives every day, including truckloads harvested from my yard and other local sources. Once the greens get here, they are carefully cut, bunched, and then dipped in WiltPruf, and laid out on benches behind the fence to dry. Only then are they put out on our retail benches. *This extra step is so*

worth it. We are deep in the heart of decorating wreaths, making swags, and our signature all-natural cemetery pots and grave pillows. We are thrilled to announce that we have purchased a roping machine and **all of our roping is now handmade** by my staff. Wait until you see it! Consider using our roping for your mantle, as a tablescape runner, hang it from your chandelier, drape it on your stairway bannister, and wrap it around your lamppost. Of course you will want to rope your front door too! On **GREEN FRIDAY every customer will be given a \$5 gift card** (good towards any purchase of \$20 or more). So sleep in, have a leisurely breakfast of leftover pie, and then come to Natureworks to shop.



canning.

Because Thursday is Thanksgiving, **this week we are moving Facebook Live to Wednesday afternoon** at 4 pm. Jillian and I will teach you what it means to create a custom wreath or swag- the Natureworks way. Tune in and ask questions or, if you are too busy cooking, tune in later. All of our Facebook Live Videos are archived on the Natureworks Facebook Page.

We are, of course, **closed on Thanksgiving Day** for family time. We open Friday morning at *the regular time*, 9 am, and have officially renamed it



A fun and creative hostess gift.
#succulentlove

The first shipment of our **CT grown, fresh cut Christmas trees** will be here for the weekend. We are so excited! Fraser firs are the "Cadillac" of trees- deep, dark green, with excellent needle retention. Put your tree up early this year and prolong the magic. Don't forget to check out the special collection of ornaments that my staff has been unpacking and hanging for the past few weeks. They elicit ooh's and ah's and squeals of delight on a daily basis.



This Saturday is **Small Business Saturday**, a celebration of the local businesses (such as yours truly) that make up the fabric of our communities. I envision folks spending the day *purposefully* visiting their favorite small businesses that they love, enjoying the personal touch and carefully curated collections that each offers.

We will be serving organic coffee and locally made, fresh donuts, now a tradition for this fun day. By Saturday, the outside of the shop will be completely transformed, brimming with our hand-decorated wreaths, swags, and porch pots made with our signature natural style.



Allison Remy Hall holds her beautiful book *Piggy and Plants*. We were thrilled to have her visit on Saturday with her mom. The book is filled with lovely watercolor illustrations done by her boyfriend. Come in and get a copy for a child in your life. Talk about local and personal- I LOVE this!!!.

One of the things that makes being a small business owner fun is the opportunity to sell locally made items. We have a line of beautiful boxed cards from local watercolor artist Jean Polka of Branford that include a painting of Natureworks! This weekend, we were graced with a visit from Allison Remy Hall, the author of ***Piggy and Plants***. This delightful children's book was written by the

daughter of one of our customers. The illustrations are all paintings done by her boyfriend. She brought Piggy into Natureworks this summer and posed him in our gardens and throughout the nursery. We are thrilled that we finally have our hands on this book! Our own Jaime Vestergaard (head of our landscape installation crew), along with former Natureworker Juan Goglia, have also just published a children's book: **The Adventures of Woody and Chuck**. We are hoping to have a couple of booksignings in December- stay tuned.



11 watercolor cards
Branford artist



I keep an extra pair of Mole Hollow taper candles in a box in my pantry in case I need a last minute grab bag or host or hostess gift. They are dripless and made in New England.

Another example of "keeping it local" are the dripless **Mole Hollow Candles** that we have sold for decades. They are made in nearby Massachusetts and they are the *only* taper candles I trust on my dining room table. We have boxes and boxes of them in harvest *and* Christmas colors. Yes, we are happy to include a pair of candles in your Thanksgiving centerpiece this week. Just ask! Our poinsettias are CT grown, as are our succulents. Our fraser fir wreaths are made by hand right here in CT. If you really contemplate the meaning of local and shopping small, you will realize that Natureworks is just one example of an owner-operated business that is making a difference in CT. We employ over 25 people and buy from local companies that employ hundreds more. We are helping to keep our local economy thriving and our community vibrant. Think of how many folks were influenced by the 1000+ monarch butterflies that we raised this



This wine bottle knitted cap is my favorite fun little gift this year!

summer! Also, with our promotion of organic practices and sustainable living, together we ARE making a difference.

We are here and we are ready to welcome you to our 34th Natureworks Holiday Season. Enjoy your Thanksgiving celebration and be sure to make time to stop in and visit us.

Shop Local. Shop Small. Shop Happy

See you soon...

Nancy

ON SALE:

All Outdoor Bulbs- HALF PRICE

It's NOT too late to plant. Both Diane and I planted bulbs on Sunday. The ground is not frozen and the bulbs will be so happy to get into the ground. Make that last push and you will be SO happy you did when your garden bursts into bloom next spring!



Buy 5 bags, Get 1 FREE

Coast of Maine Penobscot & Lobster Composts

Penobscot is a great addition to your tree, shrub and perennial garden beds.

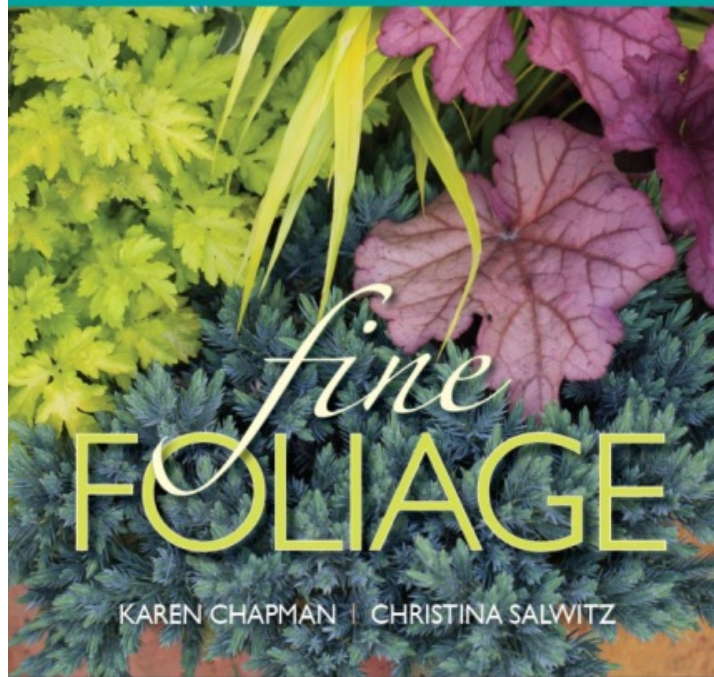
Lobster is a great addition to your vegetable beds.

Amend your soil with compost and mix in fall leaves for a super soil boost!

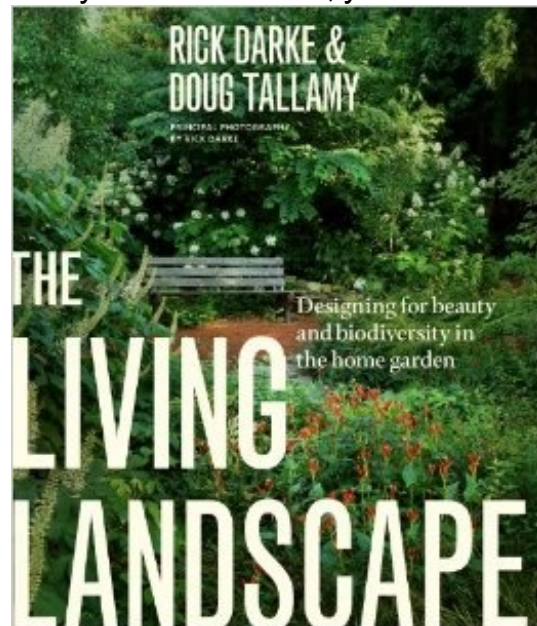
Register Today for Striking a Balance

CT Horticultural Society's 2018 Winter Conference

I am on the Education Committee of The CT Horticultural Society and have helped to plan the most awesome conference in early February at the Mark Twain House. The theme is **Striking a Balance**. As gardeners in the 21st century, we are pulled in so many directions. I love so many different plants- should I only plant natives? I need low maintenance but I just can't give up my gardens. Plant communities, shrubs vs. perennials- yikes!



Rick Darke will be speaking on **The Living Landscape**. If you read the Natureworks weekly email or have ever taken any classes with me, you will know how important this book (co-authored with Doug Tallamy) has been to my evolution as a garden designer. Christina Salwitz will be coming in from the west coast. Her talk is **For the Love of Horticulture**. She is the author of two books and I have been following her for a long time on Facebook. Her photos are amazing and her design skills are legendary. Claudia West will also be speaking. She is the co-author of the groundbreaking book *Planting in a Post Wild World* and will talk about **Creating Stunning Plant Communities that Stand the Test of Time**, a way of combining plants that I have been deeply studying for over a year. She is from North Creek Nurseries, a native plant nursery in Pennsylvania.



[Click Here](#) to read all about this exciting winter conference. *Registration is limited and the conference will surely sell out.* Don't miss this, [register today!](#) This would make a really great holiday gift, perhaps accompanied by a book by one of the speakers. We can help with that!

CHS Conference Countdown:

135 seats now available!



Upcoming Events



Thursday, November 23rd Natureworks will be Closed.
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Friday, November 24th

Green Friday All Day

We're turning Black Friday **GREEN** so forget rising before dawn and waiting in line to join the mad rush at the big box stores. Sleep in and come to Natureworks on Green Friday and we will give you a \$5 gift card (good towards any \$25 or more purchase).



Saturday, November 25th

Small Business Saturday All Day

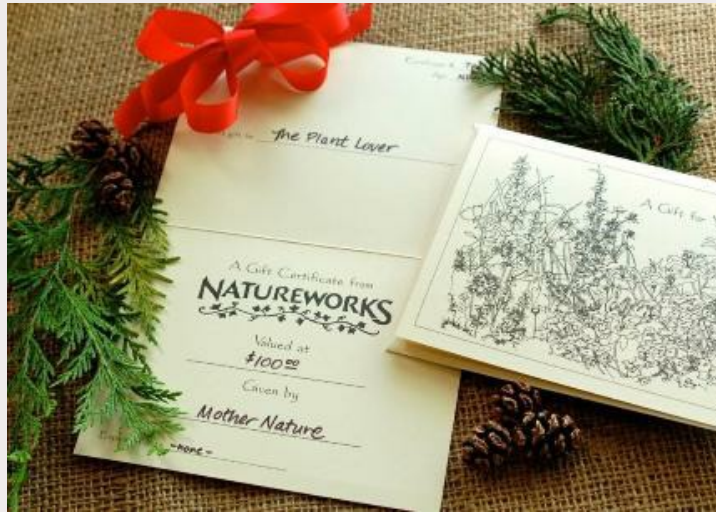
Shop small while supporting your local economy and your favorite small business...Natureworks!

Free, locally made fresh donuts and coffee all day long. We appreciate YOU.

Monday, November 27th

Cyber Monday Special We have our pretty gift cards available 365 days / year on our website!

Go to www.naturework.com/product/natureworks to order gift cards online. We will include a personalized message from you and mail it to you or the recipient. Watch for our special Cyber Monday facebook page special gift card offering



Custom Gift Cards can be made for any amount by calling us at 203-484-2748. Or to order online, click the image.

For the November event flyer, please [CLICK HERE](#). [CLICK HERE](#) for our Holiday Happenings!

Click a Quick Link for more Information

Our Website	Buy a Gift Certificate
Employment Opportunities	Gardening Classes
Handouts	Landscaping Services
Organic Lawn Care Info.	Natureworks App Details
The DuBrule Diaries Blog	Veggies-Incredible Edibles

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!
NATUREWORKS IS CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING DAY.

RETAIL HOURS
Open 7 days
Monday 9 am - 5 pm
Tuesday 9 am - 5 pm
Wednesday 9 am - 5 pm
Thursday 9 am - 7 pm (our late night starting Nov. 30)

Friday 9 am - 5 pm
Saturday 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday 10 am - 4 pm

*After Thanksgiving, we stay open 7 days per week
all the way through 5pm on Saturday, December 23, 2017.*



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to see the special email groups you can join!