

THE WATERMAN BOWL

Members of the New Haven Garden Club first called it the “Silver Bowl”, at times the “Revere Bowl”, and occasionally the “Silver Revere Bowl.” We know this majestic bowl as the “Waterman Bowl,” and we celebrate it as our Club’s most prestigious award. The bowl was the gift of Elizabeth W. Waterman to the Garden Club of New Haven in 1956. On it she had inscribed the words:

The Garden Club of New Haven Trophy
Presented
By
Mrs. Frederick W. Waterman, Junior
1956





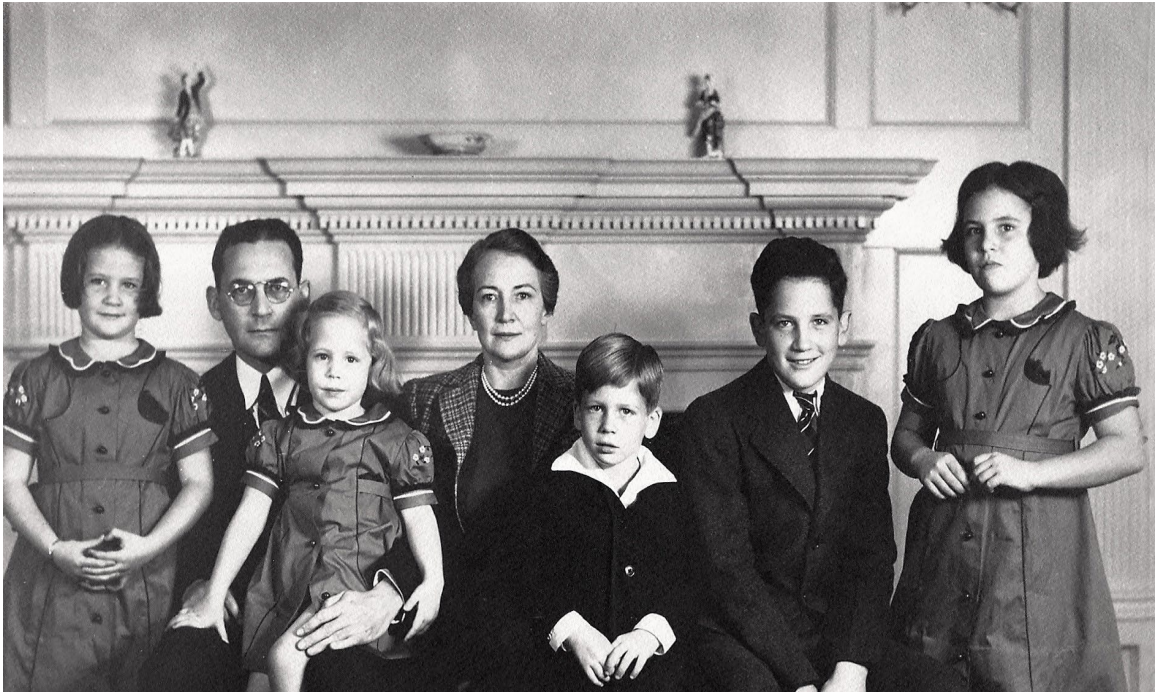
Elizabeth Margaret "Betty" (Waters) Waterman
(December 8, 1899 – June 18, 1968)

Elizabeth Waterman was born Elizabeth Margaret Waters on December 8, 1899 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. To family and friends, she was "Betty."

She married Frederick W. Waterman, Jr., on December 27, 1923, while he was a student at Cornell. The couple lived in Johnstown.



Their first child, Frederick III, was born in 1925, followed by Barbara (b. 1928), then Elizabeth (b. 1929), John (b. 1931), and Alice in 1933. To Betty and Fred, they were “Fritz,” “Corky,” “Whiff,” “Dusty,” and Alice.



The family moved to New Haven in 1949 when Fred, now a mechanical engineer, became President of D. & H. Scovil Mfg. Co. of Higganum, manufacturers of farm implements – the company, which brothers Daniel and Hezekiah Scovil founded in 1844, was one of Higganum’s most prosperous industries in the 19th century, according to the Haddam Historical Society.

While in New Haven the Waterman’s lived at 408 Saint Ronan Street before moving to Walden Hill in Sachem’s Head overlooking the Sound.

Records show that Betty joined the Garden Club in 1951. In 1952 she was Chair of the Program Committee. In 1953 she chaired the Flower Show Hospitality Committee. With unusually rapid success, she became President in 1955.

The following year, in 1956 Mrs. Waterman established the award with her gift of this trophy to the Garden Club. Her mandate was that it “be awarded annually by a Trophy Committee appointed by the President...for the most noteworthy accomplishment by a member during the year...for achievement in any phase of Garden Club work.” Her purpose was “to stimulate interest in all phases of Garden Club work.” She listed eleven fields, allowing the Trophy Committee the freedom “to add others as the need arises.” On her list are: 1. Horticulture, 2. Conservation, 3. Civic, 4. Garden design or planning, 5. Flower arranging, 6. Articles written by a member on Garden Subjects, 7. Exceptional photographs, paintings, or drawings of Gardens or Flowers, 8. Work on a special project of benefit to the Club, 9. Work that would further the aims and objectives of the Club in the Community, 10. Exceptional generosity in expenditure of time, effort, and talent on behalf of the Club, 11. A collection of books, articles, or prints dealing with any phase of gardening. To this list the various Trophy Committees added “ability and achievement beyond that called for in the fulfillment of a particular job.”

The Club acted quickly by awarding the trophy later that year.

The first to receive the award was Margaret “Mar” Hosley in 1956. Here she is demonstrating, with obvious flair, the art of floral design to Club members. The caption makes clear the scope of her gifts to the Club:

- The art of flower arranging is a specialty with Mrs. H. Everton Hosley, Jr., of Lyme, a past president of the New Haven Garden Club. Mrs. Hosley gave an entertaining lecture and demonstration at a recent workshop at Edgerton to assist members with interesting flower arranging plans for the May show. - **The New Haven Register, Sunday, May 1, 1977**



Margaret "Mar" Hosley

Mrs. Hosley went on to win the award again in 1973, this time sharing it with Sally Crosby, herself now a two-time winner. The Trophy Committee recognized the pair “for their excellent and dedicated work in establishing the Edgerton Garden Center,” which we know today as the Edgerton Park Conservancy.

Mrs. Crosby appears below with former president, Jane Corbin, and Club member, Marjorie Lewis, at a luncheon to celebrate the Club's 40th anniversary in 1964, when pillbox hats were the latest in fashion:

- The Garden Club of New Haven observed its 40th Anniversary on Wednesday at a luncheon in the New Haven Country Club, where in 1924, twelve women gathered to found the organization. Mrs. Herbert Hale Corbin, who was president from 1959 – 1961 and who was chairman of the luncheon, is seen at the left with Mrs. Sumner McK. Crosby, current president, and Mrs. Lansing Lewis, whose spirited history of the club was read following the luncheon. - **The New Haven Register, Sunday, October 18, 1964.**



From left, Jane Corbin, Sarah "Sally" Crosby, Marjorie Lewis

The Trophy Committee honored Mrs. Lewis the following year in 1965 citing "...her untiring effort in writing the history of the Club from its beginning in 1924 through 1964." Jane Corbin had won the award a few years earlier in 1957.

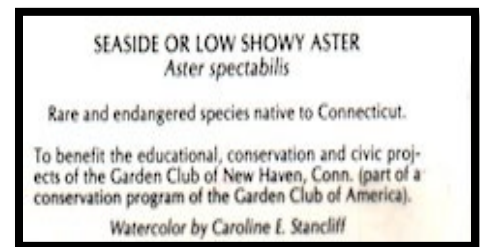
Among the many other honorees are Mrs. Irving Fisher (1971), Linda Hegel (1983), and Horty Wilson (1988), shown here in newspaper clippings from the early 1970's:



Linda Hegel won the award in 1983 for her work in the gardens at [Pardee-] Morris House and in establishing the community gardens at Edgerton. It was Horty Wilson's devotion, dedication, and sense of duty to the Club that garnered her the award in 1988, the Committee noting, in particular, that "her contributions of initiative, organization, and leadership over the years have sustained and enriched the quality of the Garden Club of New Haven."



For Carol Stancliff, it was her original watercolor of *Aster spectabilis* that earned her the award in 1981. She painted it as part of the Garden Club of America's program to promote conservation of rare and endangered native species. Our Club used it to benefit its own educational, conservation, and civic projects. It was with "great pleasure" that the Trophy Committee honored Carol.



In the sixty-nine years since Mrs. Waterman established this award, the club has presented it sixty-one times to sixty-seven recipients. Five of these recipients won the award twice. There were co-recipients in four of those years (1960, 1973, 1984 and 1986). And in eight of the sixty-nine years (1961, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1972, 1975, 1980, and 1992), the various Trophy Committees chose not to present the award. Throughout, the Committees have stayed true

to Mrs. Waterman's mandate, when recognizing members, similarly to those highlighted here, for notable achievement in Garden Club work.

By Letter of Resignation written for her by her daughter, Elizabeth Waterman resigned from the Garden Club in 1963. She died five years later in Guilford at the age of 68. She left behind a legacy to our Club that we honor and celebrate at our Annual Meeting in June every time that the Garden Club of New Haven presents to a member the Waterman Bowl.

The Waterman Bowl
GCNH Archival Moment
February 5, 2024
Victoria DiSesa

