

Sweetbriar Goes Feng Shui!

Recently, Sweetbriar Nature Center had a pro bono feng shui consultation by office volunteer and St. James resident, Maureen Calamia. As a certified feng shui consultant and member of the International Feng Shui Guild, Maureen wanted to help the staff at Sweetbriar achieve some tangible goals.

Working with Co-Director Marie Smith and Nancy Adornetto (Program Coordinator), Maureen focused their energies on improving the wealth of the organization as well as jump-starting maintenance projects for the building that houses the Center (which is managed by the Town of Smithtown).

Feng shui is a 4,000-year-old Chinese art/science about the movement of chi, or energy. The "philosophy" of feng shui is based on the yin/yang principle of opposites and achieving a balance while in constant motion, constant change!

The recommendations that Maureen suggested were minor



Pictured here are Nancy Adornetto, Marie Smith and Caryn Lennon (Animal Care Coordinator) with the "Butterfly" at Sweetbriar.

adjustments to either stimulate the flow of chi in certain areas or to help retain positive chi from flowing out. Her primary recommendation was the placement of

a large bird sculpture in a specific location outside the front of the house. Within a week, the staff was approached by a couple that wanted to donate a butterfly statue (pictured here) to Sweetbriar! Being known most famously for their Butterfly Vivarium, this statue was a fitting solution!

Ever since the donation of the statues there have been numerous positive changes at Sweetbriar: long overdue maintenance projects are finally being implemented; needed supplies are being donated; a telephone call has led to a unexpected bequest to the center; and the Board seems to be energized with a renewed commitment to the mission.

Although Maureen currently does residential and business consultations and workshops, she is committed to offering her services to nonprofit organizations. Maureen will accept one pro bono project per quarter. For more information, please contact her at (631) 513-0059.

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