

## Postings

For a full list of events visit [Greenwich-post.com](http://Greenwich-post.com).

### 'Preview of Spring'

Celebrate the "Preview of Spring" with a champagne preview party and silent auction, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, March 1, Christ Church parish hall; 863-5613.

### 'Home in Greenwich'

Nancy Platt and Marilyn Chou discuss "At Home in Greenwich," a concept that seeks to provide local residents 50 years old and older with the practical means to remain in their own homes, noon to 1:30, Friday, March 2, Cos Cob Library; 629-1554.

### Celebrate reading

Celebrate Read Across America Day, as well as the birthday of Dr. Seuss, with stories, activities and cake, 3:30, Friday, March 2, Greenwich Library; 622-7900.

### A night out

"Parents Night Out," featuring games, crafts, scavenger hunts, swimming, pizza and more for kids in first through sixth grade, 6:30 to 10, Friday, March 2, Greenwich Family YMCA; 869-1630.

### Great Chefs

Renowned Greenwich chef Reza Khorshidi and restaurateur Rebecca Kirchoffer will be honored at the 22nd annual Great Chefs culinary event, benefiting wellness programs offered by Greenwich Hospital, 7 to 11 p.m., Friday, March 2, Hyatt Regency; 863-3865.

### Contemporary jazz

New York-based jazz group the Craig Crawford Players performs at 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 2, Harvest Time Church's Mid Point Café; \$10 adults, \$5 for teens; 531-7778.

### 'Swimming' movie

*Swimming Upstream*, a 2005 film starring Geoffrey Rush, Judy Davis and Jesse Spencer, 8 p.m., Friday, March 2, Greenwich Library; 622-7900.

### Comedy play

The Acting Company of Greenwich presents *Art*, a Tony-award-winning comedy about art and friendship, 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3, First Congregational Church of Greenwich; \$18, \$7 for students and seniors during matinee performances; 863-1919.

### 'Enchanted' play

Old Greenwich actress Pat Larrabee appears in the Town Players of New Canaan's 60th anniversary winter show, Matthew Barber's 2003 Tony-nominated play, *Enchanted April*, 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3 and 9 and 10, Sunday matinees at 2:30 on March 4, the Powerhouse in New Canaan; \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and children; 966-7371.

### Tree exhibition

In anticipation of the 40th annual Green Fingers Garden Club "Preview of Spring" flower show, a group of residents presents "Treescapes of Greenwich," an exhibit tracing the history of the town's changing landscape, 10 to 7, Friday, March 2, and 10 to 4, Saturday, March 3, Christ Church; 863-5613.

### Divorce support

An eight-week comprehensive divorce support group for women, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Fridays, beginning March 2, YWCA of Greenwich; 869-6501, ext. 176.

### 'Mame'

Production of the musical *Mame*, 8 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, March 2, 3, 9 and 10, 2 p.m., Sundays, March 4 and 11, St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall; \$15; reservations required, 661-2942.

### 'Preserving Your Past'

Marcos Torno, owner of Images of Old Greenwich, presents "Preserving Your Past: The Care and Preservation of Photographs and Documents," 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 3, Cos Cob Library; 622-6883.

### Walking Fairchild

Audubon Greenwich holds a walk through Fairchild Gardens in search of winter birds, animal tracks and early signs of spring, 2 to 3:30, Saturday, March 3; 869-5272.

### 'Mom' author

Author Elaine Stoddard talks about her latest book, *Mom's the Word: A Memoir of Love and Survival*, 3, Saturday, March 3, Just Books, Too; 637-0707.

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In Hope Ives Mauran's new book, 'Where the Wisdom Lies: A Message from Nature's Small Creatures,' she shares her own experience reconnecting with nature. — Sara Poirier photo

## Hope Ives Mauran

# Taking cues from nature

By Kenneth Partridge  
Staff Reporter

When Hope Ives Mauran says she feels a strong connection to nature, she's not kidding.

In May 2005, while leaning against one of her favorite trees in the Babcock Preserve, the Greenwich resident had a life-changing experience — one that would lead her to write her first book, *Where the Wisdom Lies: A Message from Nature's Small Creatures*.

"In my mind's eye, a door opened up behind me," Ms. Mauran said.

Out of the door stepped a gnome — "stocky and red-haired with a thick beard and twinkling eyes" — who led her into a bright chamber and brought her face to face with a giant toad wearing a crown.

As Ms. Mauran came to understand, she was in the "Underworld," a place populated by tiny creatures who make up for in knowledge what they lack in size.

"I certainly couldn't have made it up," she said, insisting that all of the dialogue in her book was dictated to her by lizards, snakes, hedgehogs and other animals. "They had a message that was very critical and needs to be heard by humanity."

That message: Mankind has divorced itself from nature and, in doing so, has put the planet in peril.

"When people separate themselves from the natural world... it creates a dissonance that is damaging to the Earth," Ms. Mauran said.

It's a lesson that isn't necessarily new to Ms. Mauran, who said she's enjoyed the outdoors since childhood. She fondly remembers hiking the Appalachian Trail at 17 years old and losing herself in the sights and sounds.

"That was an opportunity to be immersed in it in a way I hadn't had the opportunity to before," she said.

She went on to study forestry at the University of New Hampshire, and after graduating and getting married, she served on the Conservation Commission in Rye, N.Y., where she lived before moving to Greenwich eight years ago.

The Babcock Preserve is among her favorite spots in town, and she said she goes walking in the woods at least three or four times a week.

In writing *Where the Wisdom Lies*, Ms. Mauran

said, she returned to her special tree 14 times, laptop in hand. On each trip, she'd type furiously and try to capture every word the animals were saying.

"It reconnected me to nature and what it means to be a part of this Earth," she said.

The gist of the animals' message, she said, is that humans have mistakenly aligned themselves with "artificial time." By slavishly following our watches and rushing from one appointment to the next, we're losing sight of "natural time."

"We're so isolated," she said. "The way I see it, it's how you walk through your days — are we connected to the earth under our feet?"

She said all of the environmental problems we're now experiencing, such as global warming, stem from this fundamental disconnect.

"The way things have turned out on Earth, with all the global

issues, they are symptoms of this underlying way of being," she said. "If we weren't that way in the world, things would be different."

Though the book ultimately strives to make this point, Ms. Mauran said it's a story that may be read on several different levels. As such, it's appropriate for children and adults.

"It's not your usual adult subject matter," she said, explaining the difficulty she has classifying the book. "It's definitely a message for all ages."

A self-professed optimist, Ms. Mauran said there is reason to be hopeful about the future, since each of us has the potential to begin healing the planet.

"You feel you're useless in the face of such a huge problem, [but] we ourselves and how we feel about the Earth, how we follow ourselves as part of nature — that's where the answers lie," she said.

"We're a microcosm of the Earth itself," Ms. Mauran added. "When we poison ourselves with the food we eat and the things we watch, we become sick. I think that's similar to what's happening in the Earth in a collective way. Our Earth is becoming sick."

By making changes in our lives, she said, we can start to turn things around.

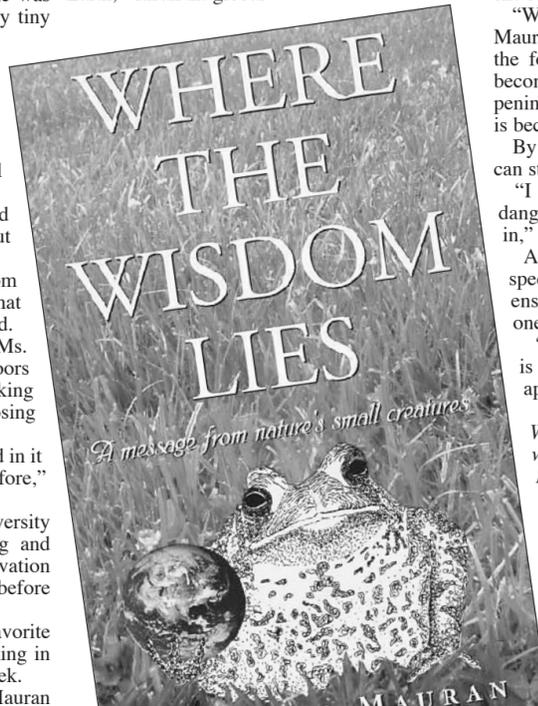
"I think people are seeing more clearly the danger we're putting ourselves and our planet in," Ms. Mauran said.

Asked for advice on what each of us can specifically do to protect Mother Nature and ensure her longevity, Ms. Mauran deferred to one of her friends from the Underworld.

"It's about, as the lizard said, [how] the land is sacred," she said. "Give your thanks and appreciation to the land you live upon."

For more information, visit [Wherethewisdomlies.com](http://Wherethewisdomlies.com). Ms. Mauran will be signing copies at I Am Books in Huntington, N.Y., from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7. For directions, call 866-802-4262.

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Ms. Mauran's love for Greenwich's Babcock Preserve helped her write 'Where the Wisdom Lies,' her first published work.