

residentLandscapers

# Linda & Bill Lillie Are Candidates for Landscaper Recognition

story and photo  
by Maren Schober

**L**inda Lillie has been interested in plants and growing cycles for as long as she can remember.

"I can remember growing up in New Jersey and as a little child being absolutely fascinated with these ants. They were crawling over the peonies and I just stared and stared at them for hours. My passion for plants continued over the years," Linda confides.

"I learned about plants by experience and by experimenting in gardens around our home. Finally I enrolled in the Conn College Botany Program, graduating from there in 1995. While I was in the program at Conn. College, I specialized in naturalistic landscapes."

Linda's husband Bill Lillie admired her obvious skills in the plant gardens around their home in Gales Ferry.

"You know," he told Linda one day, "you could make a business out of this." "I thought he was crazy," said Linda.

Testing this idea out Linda began Sprigs & Twigs Landscapes in 1997 on a part-time basis. Demand for her services quickly became overwhelming and she began full time operations in 1999.

"That same year I was accepted into and graduated from the UConn Master Gardner Program where I focused on plant diseases, pest control, soils, herbaceous and woody ornamentals and small fruit and tree



*"Linda and Bill Lillie of Sprigs and Twigs Landscapes in Gales Ferry stand among the flowers and plants of the Memorial Garden they maintain at St. David's Church. This husband-wife team works hard to bring high quality landscaping service to their clients in Southeastern Connecticut and beyond."*

fruit culture."

Sprigs & Twigs Landscapes, LLC has grown rapidly along with Linda's reputation for high quality work. Today the business offers a complete range of landscape design, installation and maintenance services. At present their team of workers includes 15 men and women of all ages from high school students to retirees.

"Each worker has his own expertise and it all comes together," Linda declares. Bill Lillie knows a good thing when he sees it. "In 2005 I retired from my defense industry job in Washington, DC and joined Linda," Bill states proudly. "I couldn't do this job without him," Linda replies. "He does all my business and tax forms as well as doing landscaping."

I ask Linda what she likes best about what she does. "I love the cre-

ative aspect of my work: working with a client, making plans and designs and then seeing it all come to life in the garden. I also find it is best to go with my "gut" feeling about an idea. That works best for me. I like to mimic Mother Nature and make the gardens look as natural as possible."

Sprigs & Twigs Landscapes, LLC of Gales Ferry, CT has been selected as a national finalist for Landscaper of the Year 2008 by Total Landscape Care magazine. November 9-12, 2007 Linda, Bill and eleven other finalists will be treated to a four day cruise to the Bahamas. They will be recognized at a banquet on the cruise ship and one finalist will come home as the 2008 Landscaper of the Year.

More information about Sprigs and Twigs Landscapes can be found at [www.SprigsandTwigs.net](http://www.SprigsandTwigs.net).