



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Editorial Contact

Andres A. Verzosa

(860) 677-9222 ext. 305

[averzosa@stanleywhitman.org](mailto:averzosa@stanleywhitman.org)

### **Stanley-Whitman House Gifted a Sugar Maple by the Rotary Club of Farmington**

*Planted on Earth Day 2022, the tree will join its fellow maples as an important part of the Museum's programming*

FARMINGTON, Conn. – Stanley-Whitman House, a c. 1720 National Historic Landmark and living history center in the heart of Farmington Village, received a special gift of a sugar maple tree from the Rotary Club of Farmington, CT, to replace one lost to storm damage last year. As part of this year's civic project consistent with its motto, "Service Above Self," the Rotary Club of Farmington launched the Community Tree Project, planting trees to help improve the environment and beautify the Farmington community. Rotary volunteers planted trees at the First Church of Christ, Congregational, 1652; the Farmington Land Trust's Wilcox-Bushley Homestead; and Stanley-Whitman House.

Farmington's first museum, established in 1935, Stanley-Whitman House presents a wide variety of events and programs that reflect the everyday activities of colonial life in Farmington, Connecticut. Surrounding the house are period raised garden beds, an apple orchard, heritage stone walls, and maple trees. "Our maple trees are very important to the museum's educational mission," remarked **Andres A. Verzosa**, Executive Director. "They are featured in the annual Maple Day event, demonstrating the time-honored tradition of maple sugaring – tapping a maple tree for sap, hanging buckets to collect the sap, and then evaporating the liquid in a kettle over an open fire. Participants hear about the history of maple sugaring, which began with the Indigenous peoples, long before colonial settlers. It's one of our most popular early spring programs."

“The maple tree of North America was a rich resource for the Indigenous Peoples of the region and later those Euro-Americans who settled on the land,” commented **Dennis Picard**, living history expert, museum professional, and historic interpreter who presents S-WH’s Maple Day demonstrations and Foodways programs. “It produced sap processed for sweeteners in several forms, hard wood for efficient cooking fires, material during the ‘Colonial Period’ for furniture making, musical instruments, gunstocks, and shoe lasts. Maple trees can grow and be healthy for one hundred years or more. Over that amount of time, how many lads and lasses sought shade from the sun and gazed up through the dappled light of a maple’s leaves?”

The Rotary Club of Farmington CT is a charitable organization exemplifying Rotary International’s “Service Above Self” motto. Established February 23, 1905, The Rotary Club of Farmington CT and its 38-plus members are committed to community service, with the goal of promoting peace, good will and understanding. Learn more at [Rotary Club of Farmington](#).

Stanley-Whitman House is a living history center and museum that teaches through the collection, preservation, research, and dynamic interpretation of the history and culture of 17<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Farmington, Connecticut. The museum’s programs, events, classes, and exhibits encourage visitors of all ages to immerse themselves in history by doing, acting, questioning, and engaging in colonial life and the ideas that formed the foundation of that culture. Stanley-Whitman House is supported in part by the Farmington Village Green and Library Association ([FVGLA](#)).

Hours of operation are Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and by appointment. Last tour leaves at 4:00 pm. For more information, visit <https://s-wh.org/>.

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Photo captions:

- Stanley-Whitman House Maple Day history graphic by John Jennison (1979-2022).
- Photo of planted maple tree at Stanley-Whitman House.