



CAEMG NEWS

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1 FEBRUARY 1990

SMALL GROUPS FORM

During January and February 1990 CAEMG members were busy getting together in small groups to plan regional activities. Five groups have formed so far -- New Haven, Bethel, Vernon, Norwich, Haddam-- with an sixth group (West Hartford) scheduled to meet in March. (See calendar of events in this newsletter.)

Each group spent its first meeting talking about what kinds of activities they were going to do, getting to know one another, and having refreshments.

Most groups ended up with a coordinator (or two), at least one project, and all had enthusiasm for new ideas, new directions-- a sense that these local groups would be the glue that would bond the CAEMG together and keep the group active in communities throughout the state.

The following are accounts of the meetings held so far:

BETHEL (Southern District)

Alice Stomp reports that this group met on January 19 with fourteen Master Gardeners in attendance. Marie Dube was there as advisor.

They agreed to meet bimonthly on Wednesdays at the Bethel office from 2:30 to 4:00. (Except in March when they will meet on Tuesday, Mar. 13th to hear Joe Maisano speak).

(continued on page 2)

SUMMER MEETING

June 21st Summer Solstice
Edgerton Park, New Haven area
Mark your calendars now

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ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER CERTIFICATE

What's needed to get certified as an Advanced Master Gardener? 15 hours of classroom training and 30 hours of volunteer in-service training. The classroom hours can be completed by attending workshops offered by the UConn Plant Science Dept or the UCONN Cooperative Extension Service System. The 30 hours of volunteer training you work out with your district MG program coordinator: Latif Lighari (Eastern Dist. 345-4511; Marie Dube (Southern) 789-7865, and Carl Salsedo (Northern) 241-4940. You may call or write any of these three for more information on becoming an Advanced Master Gardener. There is no time limit for completing your hours. Your project can be anything you're interested in -- programming a computer, hands-on workshops, or children's programs.

SMALL GROUPS continued

Several members volunteered to man the telephones starting in March.

Activities that were suggested: field trips, community gardens, plant exchanges, and speakers for the meetings.

Coordinator: ANNE NEWBURY

(Southern District, East. region)
CHESHIRE, CT January 13th: Nine MGs squeezed around the table at Jeanne Chesnow's and brainstormed for better than two hours over tea and goodies. We ended up still uncoordinated, but with a plan to give a home horticulture workshop at the Hamden Office on March 24 for the public to attend. And to tour each other's gardens sometime when lots of things were in bloom. We will meet next (Feb. 10th) at Justine Peterson's house. (10 AM) Dan Noel got a round of applause for bringing his issue of the new magazine Garbage and the tiny trash can that came with it. Justine Peterson was busy with teaching (pruning, flower arranging) and will be part of the Mar. 24th session. President Wendy Donnelly came with the news of the splendid Summer Solstice meeting at Edgerton Park (see calendar). Arden Towill drove down from Plymouth to attend; Eleanor Hylinski from Hamden came with a great loaf of cinnamon bread. Gail Collins volunteered to write an article about community gardens for the May newsletter. Marie Dube will be organizing and publicizing the Mar. 24th workshop. Dick Smail came; he's great at raising things from seed and giving talks on that subject. I said I'd talk at the workshop and that I'd write up an account of our meeting. And this is it. No one could be persuaded to be our coordinator, so if you want to know anything more about our group, just call Wendy or me or any of the people who were at our meeting.

VERNON (Northern District, eastern region)

January 20th 's weather was the pits but four doughty MG's braved the snow and assembled at the Vernon office-- Frank Lipski, Dan Noel, Herb Pfalzgraf, and Ed Wandersee. Don Wetherell was on vacation but wrote to say that Earth Day would be on April 22. (See calendar.) Dan Noel will be doing a program on recycling and composting for Earth Day. For other Earth Day events, workshops, etc. see the calendar within.

NORWICH (Eastern District)

Fifteen MGs met at the Norwich office on January 20th. Bob McNeil reports that thirteen members will write a gardening column for the New London Day. Other members will build a raised bed at the B.P. Learned House in New London.

Linda Callahan and Bob Taylor brought up the Regional Conference in Delaware (October 11 to 13th). It was proposed that we have a big exhibit there and that (perhaps) we could charter a bus for our group to travel to Delaware.

This group will meet again on Feb. 14 at Harkness State Park and on Feb. 17th at Norwich. They will be planning activities for the spring.

COORDINATORS: CHARLOTTE HURLBUTT and MARIE ADAMS

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WEST HARTFORD (Northern District, central region)

This group will meet at the home of Virginia Noveck, 25 Burnham Dr W. Hartford, CT (tel. 561-0076) on Friday March 2 at 1:00 PM.

They will be getting organized and planning their activities, so if you're interested, be there or call. MGs who trained in the Htfd Office will find this group the closest one to attend.

by Wendy Donnelly

Already the days grow longer - and I haven't done a thing yet! The seed catalogues are twice-thumbed through, pages turned down marking "must-haves", but not one order has been compiled! The season hasn't even started and I am already feeling behind in my gardening chores. Does this anxiety plague other gardeners? I often wonder if it is more prevalent in New England, where during the summer weeds grow so fast and deviously that I can never keep up with them. And the weather changes so quickly that I have barely begun diverting newly formed brooks from my freshly planted beds in the spring, when the summer drought hits and I must frantically rush to repair the outside faucet for the sprinkler. (I know that should have been done before, that's my point!)

Gardening often seems to get ahead of me before I even start. I no longer think of the summer as the time for the beach, or for tennis. And the spring rains don't daunt me. I've learned that you can't stop for a moment in the spring. I don't dare think of deserting my garden. I might as well be roped and tied to it.

So with all this angst and agony I'm sure you're wondering why I garden at all. Because while I am gardening, all these feelings of pressure and impending failure and doom evaporate. At night I may lie awake and wonder where to put my latest find, or worry that the perennial asters are growing too quickly and smothering the liatris, but in the morning, working happily in the morning dew, I become mellow, happy, calm.

I love my garden. Everything from my garden is *special*. I have the prettiest flowers,

the most unusual mums, the most beautiful poppies, the widest variety of everlastings, the most delicious vegetables, the sweetest fruits...

Not really, of course. My garden was very impressive one year, but *it always* impresses me. I am speechless at the magic of it. Or perhaps it is a spell cast by Mother Nature, on those who help her? It can be getting dark, and the mosquitos are biting me, but I can't stop until I just finish this one....

That's one reason the Extension Master Gardener program is so wonderful; it both partakes of and shares the gardening experience. We get the opportunity to learn so much that enriches our own experiences at growing plants and their environment, and then we get to help others, who are also growing.

Speaking of growing, so much has been happening within our humble organization these past two months! Who says gardeners aren't active in the winter?

We have worked hard to set up a series of programs and activities so that you may:

- (1.) continue your personal enrichment and, if you wish, at the same time work toward an Advanced Master Gardener award;
- (2.) help others garden more productively.

You should have received a 1990 Directory of Members and By-Laws. If you haven't you probably forgot to send in your dues. Please call me or Florence Marrone. If you did get one, call another EMG, and get to work on items 1 & 2 above!

MEET THE NEW OFFICERS

WENDY DONNELLY, PRESIDENT

Wendy was written up when she became our treasurer, and most of you already know her and have corresponded with her. She has proclaimed herself a (benevolent) dictator. Her first command -- to do something for the CAEMG this year! One project, one committee, one anything will keep the dictator happy. Welcome Wendy, the new Pres. (See page 3 for her page.)

* * *

PAUL BROWN, VICE-PRESIDENT

During his long career with the US Army, Paul became attracted to gardening as he traveled the world. After serving in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, Paul retired from the service and settled in Plainville where he really got into gardening. He was particularly interested in Ruth Stout, the famous "Mulch and No Work" gardener who became his mentor.

In 1982 Paul became a Master Gardener. His main interests are seed-saving, vegetable gardening, and soil amendment.

A Mason, a Shriner, a Literacy Volunteer, Paul is also (in his spare time!) a member of the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, and several environmental groups.

Paul has friends all over the place. He'll make sure that the CAEMG is heard from, that we know. He is going to be a very active Vice-President.

BOB EBER, SECRETARY

Bob claims that his wife Naomi is the experienced gardener in the family, and that he attended the Master Gardener Extension courses in Haddam so that he could keep up with her. Once in the course, he was hooked and began giving talks on vegetables, lawn diseases and --most fascinating of all -- composting. Bob will be promoting composting as part of the Mandatory Recycling Program in Guilford and will be on a community TV panel to be broadcast on Earth Day, April 22. (See this newsletter for other information on that day.)

Both Bob and Naomi sail (to Maine and back last summer). Bob is President of the Shoreline Outdoor Education Center which offers programs on the environment to school children (and adults) all along the shoreline.

FLORENCE MARRONE, TREASURER

A Master Gardener since 1986, Florence has been interested in wildflowers and gardening for many years. She has led nature walks and has presented slides of colonial plants, wildflowers, herbs, and garden flowers.

Now retired as a Judge of Probate, she is active in the Connecticut Botanical Society and the Evergreen Gardeners of Killingworth.

Married, Florence has five children. She has served as a director of the Killingworth Land Trust and was treasurer of the Platt Nature Center in Killingworth.

In addition to keeping our books, Florence will be active in several CAEMG projects. One (see Classified) is the slide collection project. She taught a wildflower class as part of a Cheshire Adult Education course (Special Topics in Gardening) that four CAEMG members participated in last fall.

*All our new officers are great. They are working officers, who will serve us well. Let's work with them. * (Editor's comment)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO CAEMG MEMBERS

Mark these dates:

- February 26 **BAT BOX BUILDING** This workshop is exactly what it sounds like. Bats consume such an impressive number of insects that gardeners want to entice bats to their yard. A correctly built box will do just that. 12 PM - 4 S. Eagleville Rd. (Audrey Beck Building) UCONN campus
CONTACT: Susan Cooper 429-3321 for more details
- March 2 **CAEMG small group meeting:** West Hartford. Virginia Noveck's house 1:00PM. (25 Burnham Dr. (tel. 561-0076)
- March 10 **NOFA** (the organic gardening/farming group) is having an all-day workshop. There will be 45 minute sessions on: composting (back yard and municipal), lawn care, building healthy soil, perennial garden, herbs, control of insect pests. Ed Marrotte will preside over a Question and Answer session on home gardening. (Bob McNeil and Roy Jeffrey are doing the composting program. Alton Eliason (the Raccoon Fence Man who was our speaker a while back) will be on hand to give a session too. Registration is at 8:00 AM. Fee is \$25.00 which includes lunch. CONTACT: Nancy Du Brule 484-2748
This workshop will be at the First Congregational Church in Wethersfield (right off Route 91)
- March 16 **BECOME A MASTER COMPOSTER** An all-day session only for those who are Master Gardeners. 9 AM to 3PM at the Hamden Extension Office. At the end of the day you will be a Master Composter. Taught by Bob Mc Neil and Roy Jeffrey, this will be a great opportunity to Master the Composting process. CONTACT: Marie Dube at the office: 789-7865
- March 24 A home horticulture workshop featuring several MGs. Details have not been fully worked out yet, but sessions on herbs, vegetables, rock gardens, and pruning are expected to be on the bill. Contact Marie Dube: 789-7865 for further details. Open to public, to be held at the Hamden Extension Office.
- April 7 Annual tour of the UCONN campus: highlights--the greenhouses, exhibits. (I had some great ice-cream one year when I went --made in CT, it was delicious.) Call your extension office for more information.
- April 22 **Earth Day 20** The 20 means that this will be the 20th Earth Day observance. A number of activities statewide are planned for that day. Dan Noel will be doing a composting talk in Mansfield and other MGs are going to be involved in other locations. Susan Cooper (see Bat Box Building above) is also a contact for all the information on Earth Day 20. This will be a day for all who care about the environment on and around our planet.
- May 1-31 Get out and garden like crazy!
- June 2 **CAEMG PLANT EXCHANGE** We had this last year and here it comes again. Here's the way it works. If you have extra plants you bring them. If you don't have extra plants, you go anyway and get free plants that someone else has brought! A great opportunity no matter how you look at it. Saturday June 2. 10AM to 1PM Old Clinton Rd, Farm (cont. p7)

FOR SALE

T-SHIRTS

The CAEMG T-shirts are here! White 100% cotton with our handsome logo in brilliant colors. (See logo on the front page of newsletter: masthead.) Laurel is bright pink, leaves are green, and the lettering a nice strong blue. \$11.00 postpaid. Make checks out to CAEMG and send to Jeanne Chesanow, 214 Cornwall Ave., Cheshire, CT 06410. Sizes: S, L, and XL.

The T-shirts will also be at the Summer Solstice Bash. Price: \$10.00.

SWAPPING? GIVING AWAY?

Judy Martz has Organic Gardening magazines to give away. 239-7300 If you have garden magazines, catalogs, books, that you'd like to swap or give away, please put your requests in the newsletter.

CRAFTS, ETC.

Do you make dried flower arrangements, baskets, wreaths, notecards, anything that you'd like to sell? This space is available to members. The price is right --FREE! 300 prospective customers will see your ad.

MG Rosa Rugosa (her pen name) writes that she brings the plastic bags from the grocery store to the library for Rainy Day bags. A nice way to use those bags that proliferate around the house -- keeps them in use and not in the landfill. Thanks, Rosa. Keep those cards and letters coming in.

Together we grow.

WANTED

Someone to run this CLASSIFIED page. All requests for space would come to you. Four times a year you would type up the page (any format you like!) and send it to the person who's doing our copying this year -- Tara Thornton. (Three cheers for Tara.) If you would like to be the editor of the CLASSIFIED page, write or call Jeanne Chesanow.

VOLUNTEERS to help with the Summer Solstice Bash. Call Carol Redfield, Program Chairman. 248-5001.

Does someone have a Walkman or other boombox they could bring to the SSB? How about tapes of lute music or other Midsummer Night's Dream kind of music?

SLIDES, WE NEED SLIDES. Florence Marrone is making a collection of slides for MGs to use when they give talks. A Master Collection of slides of home gardens. Call Florence --663-2137 -- if you have slides for this collection.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU A number of MGs give talks on various gardening topics. Are you one of those? Would you like your name to be on a list of speakers that organizations could call when they need a speaker? CONTACT: Betty Buckley 399-7631.

ENERGETIC PEOPLE to form up groups in the Litchfield area and down in the Stamford area. The small groups are fun and a way to spread the Master Gardening skills around.

- June 2 Plant Exchange This is Wendy Donnelly's bailiwick and for directions to the farm in Westbrook (very handy off I-95 and easy to get to by other roads also) call her. 562-8231
Suggestion (by Dan Noel, experienced in toting plants around): Bring a foam container with several cans filled with frozen water. Bring your plants in this picnic container and bring your new plants home safely. Even if it's a hot day, your treasures will not wilt.
- June 21 SUMMER SOLSTICE BASH Edgerton Park. Map in the May issue of the newsletter. We have been given permission to come into the park (which is one of New Haven's loveliest parks, just off Whitney Avenue) early in the evening and we do not have to leave until 9 (just after sunset, on this longest --one of the longest--day of the year.) The Midsummer's Eve theme suggests costumes --at least a flowering wreath --music, a festive atmosphere! In the May issue there will be a list of herbs and customs associated with Midsummer's Eve. If you know of any, please send them to the editor, Jeanne Chesanow. Meanwhile, mark your calendar and think FESTIVE! The program will be announced in the May issue.
CONTACT: Carol Redfield 248-5001.
- June ?? We are going again to Elizabeth Park to see roses and more. Many members enjoyed the visit last year and wanted to go again. Contact: Bob Sherman 663-2345. He is arranging this trip.

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EDITOR'S DESK:

So much material passed over my desk this issue. The new groups formed and many people called with items for the CALENDAR. Would someone like to be in charge of the CALENDAR? and someone else be in charge of the CLASSIFIED? That would leave me with the articles, mini-biographies, reports from small groups, etc. etc. Having two other editors for the CALENDAR and the CLASSIFIED would make my life much easier. Call me if you would like to do either of these pages. You do not have to be on a computer, but you would have to type up your page.

I have so many lists and brochures on my desk that I've begun to think-- wouldn't it be great if all this stuff were in one booklet. Vineyards in CT, Organic Growers in CT, nurseries, pick-your-own places, plant societies, sources for hard-to-find gardening stuff like the turkey grit that rock gardening folks need, public gardens and their hours, people who have private gardens that they open sometimes, gardening organizations, radio and TV programs about gardening (Bob McN, sent me a list of those; it's in a last year's newsletter).

We would call the booklet *Thar She Grows!* or *What's Growing On in CT?* Or? Garden Clubs, Garden Classes, could be in the booklet too. All sorts of things.

Anyone want to work on this? I see lots of people in my new GREEN directory that say they like writing. Would this be a project you would like to work on?

Education programs for children, community gardens, garden speakers, historic gardens, landscapers, horticultural therapy programs -- this booklet could be wonderful!

Jeanne Chesanow, editor

Coming in the May Newsletter: an article by Gail Collins on Community Gardens, a map to Edgerton Park (for the Summer Solstice Bash), directions to Wendy's plant exchange, more news from the regional groups, an article about Midsummer's Eve herbs and customs, a calendar of summer events, a classified page (if we get an editor), and more, as they say, lots more...

DEADLINE for the May newsletter is May 1.

We thank everyone at the Haddam Extension Office who make it possible for our newsletter to be produced and mailed there.

We welcome contributions to our CALENDAR. These are events that appeal to Master Gardeners.

Thanks to all who helped organize the small groups: Valerie Stagen, Bob Taylor, Frank Lipski, Latif Lighari, Wendy Donnelly, Jeanne Chesnow, Bob McNeil, and Dan Noel, and Marie Dube.

A group met in Haddam on January 23rd. Somehow I do not have the details on that meeting. Look for it in the May issue.

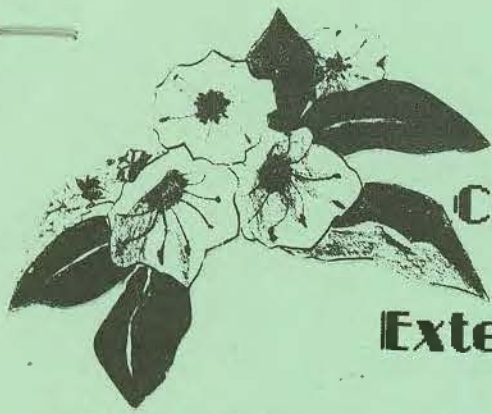
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CAEMG NEWSLETTER * VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2 * MAY 1990

COMMUNITY GARDENERS

by Gail Collins

Mohammed Dhinbil, director of the Bridgeport Urban Gardeners, a Master Gardener, has just told me that the Laotian garden (described in Wendy Donnelly's "Growing Pride in Our Neighborhoods" (Aug. '89 CAEMG Newsletter) and jeopardized by construction this March, can be planted after all! I think of the New Haven Inner City Co-op Farm, beginning its 14th year in the otherwise barren strip between Legion Avenue and Frontage Road near the corner of Orchard Avenue. This is land now slated for a parking garage within a 26-acre complex of residential and commercial development. Until a few weeks ago, the four acre farm was included in Senate Bill 138 that would transfer its ownership from the State to the city of New Haven. But section two of the bill was removed, and the gardeners, given another reprieve, are planning their next harvest!

Existence subject to the plans of others is a fact of life for many community gardens. Paradoxically, schools, housing and job opportunities many crowd out what is not just a survival program but a social program for surrounding neighborhoods.* Even the well-situated Guilford Community Garden, in its close association with Guilford, the park department, the town's recycling activities, and the Guilford Land Trust, is mindful that there are other uses for its land. Some community gardens--the "Garden of Union" in Brooklyn NY, is an example--are winning more permanent status.

Operation Green Thumb, the arm of the Dept. of General Services for NYC that oversees 650 borough gardens, has secured this site for as long as it is properly maintained. Working with a thicket of local and state agencies and the Trust for Public Land, a non-profit corporation that facilitates open space preservation, GreenThumb spearheaded NYC's million-dollar Garden and Park Preservation Fund. Leases lasting up to 10 years will be available to neighborhoods that can demonstrate their commitment to community gardening. (continued on page 2)

* * *

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- June 2 Plant Exchange
- June 21 CAEMG Meeting, a very special one
- June 28 Rose Garden tour (Elizabeth Park)

DIRECTIONS AND DETAILS FOR THESE JUNE EVENTS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

But the commitment to good nutrition, to neighborliness, to the challenge of staying organized despite uncertainties, and to teaching their children to grow and prepare their own food is the real link between all community gardeners.

Directed by sprightly English gardener June Minter, grower of scarlet runner beans, the Guilford Community Garden* has been plowed, sectioned and partially planted in the past three weeks. Located between a town park and a river, ~~the~~ former potato field has its own water pumps and manure piles to which the gardeners help themselves. June prizes the individualism of ~~the~~ gardeners, one of whom raises the flowers for the arrangements at the church to which she belongs. Surplus vegetables are dropped off at St. George's porch for the West Haven soup kitchen, or at the Community Center for older citizens who can no longer garden, or are traded among the gardeners themselves. **(An organic garden.)*

Since his move from Guilford to Cheshire 15 years ago, former engineer Jim Clouse has developed a family truck garden business specializing in ground covers. He is also president of the New Haven Farmers' Market, which is certified to provide produce for WIC* families who receive food stamps as well as other New Haven residents. Jim grows from seed the peppers, eggplant and tomato transplants that will go into his own ten acre garden and into the New Haven Co-op Farm soil this Spring. Most of this work he will do by himself.

The New Haven gardeners work the land in common, share the produce and the labor of preserving it. I joined Sylvia Dorsey, a petite woman with a large determination to succeed, and other Co-op members for an after work workshop on composting led by Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station scientist Abby Manard. The gardeners are waiting for the New Haven Parks Department to plow under the thick layers of leaves transported from Evergreen Cemetery, and also the manure from the Yale polo pony stables so they can plant. A customer at the New Haven Farmers' Market, Sylvia gave Jim Clouse the donated seeds he is growing for the Farm.

In an article about Hartford's Foodshare program, Jean Anlikers, an Extension nutritionist, described the inadequate supplies of protein, fresh fruits and vegetables available to those served by the program. In response, Hartford Foodshare will be asking for volunteers to go to participating farms, pick produce and deliver it to the Foodshare warehouse.

Perhaps there is something you would like to do to assist a community garden/farm enterprise!

Anil Collins

References and Resources

*"The view from: The Inner City Farm Co-op. Neighbors worry about the garden that sustains them" by Gitta Morris in the New York Times, August 6, 1989.

"Gardens get a new lease on life" in GreenThumb, newsletter produced by the NYC Dept. of General Services, NYC. Summer 1989.

"Foodshare's dilemma" by Linda Harmon in: Hartford Monthly, February, 1990.

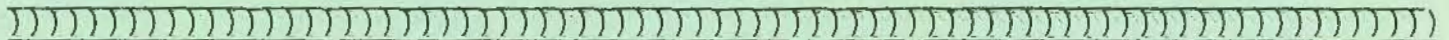
Operation GreenThumb Planning Manual for doing a lot by Helen Steer. Available from Director, Operation GreenThumb, Dept. of General Services, 49 Chambers St. Ny, NY 10007. The nuts and bolts of designing an urban community garden. The illustrations are the heart of the manual, useful to any gardener.

A City Gardener' Guide: Growing, Surviving & Reaping the Fruits of our Labor. Boston Urban Gardeners(BUG) 66 Hereford St., Boston, 02115. Another practical manual, more descriptive than the GreenThumb publication. The Hamden Office has a copy.

The Community Garden Book: New directions for creating and managing neighborhood food gardens in your town, by Larry Sommers. Gardens for All/National Assoc. for Gardening. 180 Flynn Ave., Burlington, Vt. 05401. A well illustrated resource-rich book with ideas from community gardeners across America. Published in 1984.

*WIC (Women's, Infants, and Children's program, a food distribution program(administered by the state dept. of health)

Editor's note: This is the first of a two or three part series on Community Gardens, all part of Gail Collins's ongoing research into this important part of CT gardening.



RESOURCE BOOK FOR CONNECTICUT GARDENERS AND "PLANT PEOPLE"

I was thrilled at the response to my request for writers/ researchers for a resource book. Gail Collins will be contributing information on community gardens. Janet Zimmerman is researching CT chapters of plant societies. Rosemary Cocola can do artwork. Dorothy Cheo may be able to give a hand. Is there anyone else who would like to work on the book? Let me know.

We will be incorporating whole bunches of information that now appear in separate brochures -- list of organic farms in CT, public gardens, gardens at museums, orchards (and pick-your-own), (continued on the last page)

REPORTS FROM LOCAL GROUPS: THEY ARE ACTIVE AND INVOLVED IN MANY THINGS

BETHEL GROUP

by Alice Stomp

At our March meeting Joe Maisano spoke on the care of lawn grasses including a discussion of fertilizers and weed-killers.

Two volunteers represented the Master Gardeners at the Danbury Fair Mall Home Show.

A trip to Gilberti's Herb Gardens and Oliver's Nursery is in the process of being arranged.

We meet every other month. At our next meeting, which will be on May 16th at 2:30 PM, we will be featuring a talk on perennials by one of the Master Gardeners.

* * *

NORWICH (Eastern District) GROUP

by Judith Strickland

On March 10th eight Master Gardeners and four of their husbands completed a project called the Intergenerational Inner-City Garden. We built raised beds for the B.P. Learned Mission on Shaw Street in New London for this project. Arlene Hartmann (see biography in this newsletter), liaison for the Master Gardeners, worked with Carole Bobruff, director of RSVP (the Retired Senior Volunteer Program) to coordinate the innovative program. Carrie Lee, outreach coordinator at RSVP, led senior citizens and young children in the project. Vegetables and flowers grown this year will be given to the homebound; some of the vegetables will be canned so some participants will learn the techniques of canning.

The Master Gardeners who participated in this interesting project were: Graham Herwerth, Linda Callahan,

(and her husband Chris), Dominic di Pollina, Dave DeNoia, Cindy Baril, Ina Goldberg (and her husband Gerson), Arlene Hartmann (and her husband Don), and Judith Strickland (and her husband Larry)

We took lots and lots of pictures and expect to have good documentation of this project for our booth at the Regional Conference in Delaware. (See Delaware Conference article in this newsletter)

* * *

NEW HAVEN GROUP by JR Chesanow

On March 24th we offered a workshop on home horticultural topics at the Extension Service in Hamden. Attendance was not nearly as good as we had hoped for and we are going to have to work on better publicity if we do another one.

This was an all-day (\$5.00 admission) workshop with eight sessions each lasting an hour. People could pick and choose which four to attend. Paul Brown taught vegetable growing, Florence Marrone wildflowers, Wendy Donnelly herbs, Bob Ebert composting, Justine Peterson pruning, and Jeanne Chesanow rock gardening. Marie Dube suggested the project and coordinated it. Dick Small taught how to grow from seed.

We'd like to go back to the Cheshire Adult Education Program next spring and some of us will be involved in a 12 week program at Plainville High this fall. (More on that in the August issue).

President's Page

from Wendy Don

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some excerpts from a recent article in Brooklyn Botanic Garden's membership publication, Plants & Gardens News, written by editor Betsy Kissam.

Greening Our Lives...

By Betsy Kissam

Dr. Vivian M. Jennings, Interim Associate Administrator of the Extension Service, U.S., Dept. Of Agriculture, calls (the nation's Cooperative Extension Service) "one of the outstanding examples of bringing education information to the grass roots level throughout the country."

The national Extension system came into being in 1914. The Extension was a natural outgrowth of the federal government's establishment in 1862 of state land grant universities to focus on agricultural issues and of experimental agricultural research stations in 1867.

The Cooperative Extension Service functions as a partnership among federal, state and local county governments. Then as now the aim is to disseminate practical, up-to-date information about agriculture, home economics and related subjects to citizens at "the grass roots level."

Anyone who has brought a question to Extension offices most likely has encountered a Master Gardener. Master Gardeners are volunteers trained by Extension staff; they are most highly visible in their role as staffers for diagnostic labs. Upon completion of their training they are asked to volunteer time at least equal to their training hours. The program was created in 1973 in the state of Washington. It has spread nationwide but its implementation varies from county to county.

In suburban Nassau County on Long Island, NY, Master Gardener training time is about 150 hours. By volunteering in our diagnostic lab, says Cooperative Extension agent Donna W. Moramarco, "Master Gardeners learn to research questions- they not only learn how to use the refer-

ence materials, which are so important, but also to deal with people and start to build their own knowledge base." They do more than handle phone queries, however; they tend trial and demonstration gardens, do speaking engagements, write articles- depending on their talents and how they want to volunteer them.

The Master Gardener program is a measure to fill the gap of increasing demand and dwindling financial resources. "We don't have enough staff and resources to respond one on one, so we try to multiply our effectiveness." says Dr. Jennings.

Recently the Extension has begun to address some issues with a nation-wide focus. This national approach is a break from the decentralization of the past. "We're starting to develop strategies for dealing with particular problems- environmental, economic or health-related," says Dr. Jennings. But still "state and local counties are able to adopt what portion they see might be most appropriate to their particular situation." Some high-priority issues are water quality, nutrition, and competitiveness and profitability of American Horticulture.

New York's Cornell University has established research plots to study ground water. Through printed literature and lectures, the Extension in Nassau County is trying to reduce the use of chemicals that might contaminate ground water- to communicate minimal nitrate levels necessary to sustain turf grass quality in this suburban locale. These levels are based on research. One of the limitations on Extension, however, is that staff cannot recommend any procedure that does not have land-grant university research to substantiate it.

As far as chemical pesticides, Dr. Jennings says for the most part there has always been a

strong reluctance on the part of the Extension to recommend to homeowners the use of chemicals. "Homeowners are not well trained in the use of chemicals and the field changes rapidly, so we strongly urge integrated pest management approaches." In the case of commercial horticulture, he says, "there is a de-emphasis on the use of chemicals."

On Long Island, says Donna Moramarco, the recommended use of environmentally sound methods of pest control for the home gardener "has been there, maybe a little suppressed, because Cornell hasn't done a lot of research on organic methods and if it's not documented we can't just go on hearsay." If a chemical is suggested, "we recommend buying the smallest amount- because what's legal this year may not be next year- reading labels and following label directions."

Today Extension staff members are heard on the radio, have their own columns in local newspapers, their own newsletters; they have access to innumerable avenues of communication. For Pam Elan the impact of home horticulture extends beyond the national frontier to global warming. "Home gardeners can make a difference by planting a few trees in a garden," she says. "It doesn't seem like a lot but two trees per garden multiplied by over 100,000 gardens- means 200,000 trees."

The Cooperative Extension Service has come a long way. "Historically the Extension has been a rural organization and in urban areas there never have been enough people and resources to respond to the questions and demand for information," says Dr. Jennings. "And," he adds, "demand has not subsided in 75 years."

Hope you enjoyed this!
Wendy

ARLENE HARTMANN

1990 NORTHEAST REGIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE: DELAWARE

by Linda Cahhahan

(a biographical sketch)

Arlene, an immensely active Master Gardener, trained in 1985 and went on to serve as Coordinator of the Master Gardener Program at the Norwich Office from 1987 to 1989. In this capacity she processed all applications, prepared teaching materials, and assisted with the classes. She scheduled the volunteer hours for the summer and, in general, did all the things that make a successful training program.

At the Norwich office Arlene has supervised the development of a slide library, sponsored and presented many garden programs. She wrote the article on cut flowers for the 1989 Cooperative Extension System Backyard Garden Calendar. In 1989 she and Ed Marrotte did a videotape about on the Master Gardener program.

At home Arlene with husband Don raises flowers and vegetables in raised beds. She has a cold frame and a greenhouse --eat your heart out, folks!

A super example of a Master Gardener in action! Here's to Arlene -- about whom Bob McNeill has written, "she is knowledgable about many areas of gardening and is a true Master Gardener in every way...earning the respect of all those who have worked with her."

Note; the above is based on a report sent to me by Bob McNeill, but any errors are mine, not his, in writing this up for the newsletter, Hope your broken wrist continues to mend and that you get some gardening done, Bob, (JRC)

Six months and counting! I have arranged for a CAEMG booth with a table and easel. I hope to have a scrapbook filled with newspaper clippings, pictures and articles on all our projects --from all over Connecticut. I am going to need help from the Coordinators to assemble information from their districts. If anyone is interested in working on this project, let your coordinator or me know. The scrapbook has to be finished by the last week in September.

TRANSPORTATION TO THE MEETING

Car pooling is our first choice and we have some drivers already-- Ina Goldberg will coordinate drivers from the Eastern District. If you can drive, call her 887-7956. NEEDED: A contact person for the Southern District. Paul Brown is the contact person for the Northern District. Tel. 747-5298

DATES OF THE DELAWARE MEETING

Oct. 11 through the 13th. Please try to attend. You will have a great time, meeting MGs from other states and you will be surprised how much you can learn from the presentations.add field trips.

* * *

If you know a Master Gardener whose biography should appear in our newsletter, please write a few paragraphs about that person and send it to me:

Jeanne R. Chesnow
214 Cornwall Avenue
Cheshire, CT 06410

Please send me a postcard, newspaper clipping, or give me a call telling me what you've been doing -- a backyard composting demo? A talk on perennials? working in your own garden, growing some fascinating things? In the August issue, usually a kind of sleepy one, let's have a whole page of personals -- we are out there all around the state, working, doing. Let's let us all know what's happening. JRC

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR CAEMG MEMBERS AND THEIR FRIENDS

Notice: Starting with the August issue, this page --the Calendar of events will be in the hands of Linda Rosinsky, 230 Ranch Drive, Bridgeport, CT 066061. Please send information about any events of interest to MGs to her. She has so generously volunteered for this fitting it into her busy schedule, that I want to thank her. She will not be out beating the bushes for this information; if you have some information, send it to her or it will not be in the newsletter. Deadline is August 1. Events should cover the Sept, Oct, Nov. period.

JUNE 2 A Saturday -- rain or shine -- come to the Old Clinton Road Farm in Westbrook from 10 to 1. Bring your extra plants --annuals, perennials, houseplants, cuttings, seedlings, shrubs, whatever. You can then load up your car with someone else's extra plants. Bring a suitable container to carry home your prizes. ALL FREE -- this is a barter deal. DIRECTIONS: I-95, exit 64; turn south; and go about 100 feet to a blinking light; turn right; farm will be the second place on the right --look for the long white picket fence. IF you get lost, call Wendy 669-1776 for further directions. The people who showed up last year had a great time and came home with a nice bunch of plants for their gardens. Flowers, vegetables, herbs, etc.

JUNE 21 Our wonderful Summer Solstice meeting at Edgerton Park. See whole page description in this issue. This holiday, known as Midsummer's Eve has a number of customs connected with it -- for example -- if you go out at midnight that night and gather some fern seed, you will acquire the power of finding treasure or of prospering in business. There are a number of other plants associated with this day and the best time to gather them is on Midsummer morning just as day breaks because the sun, as it retreats immediately after the summer solstice, is believed to shed a honey-dew-like substance beneficial to mankind. If you want to wear a wreath or garland, here are some plants traditionally used; white lilies, St. John's wort, branches of birch, mugwort, oak leaves, moss roses, and orpine (Sedum telephium).

JUNE 28. The Visit to the Rose Garden at Elizabeth Park was so popular that Bob Sherman has arranged for us to go on another tour with the rosarian Donna Fuss. The tour will begin at 6:30. If you'd like to come early and picnic, bring a blanket to sit on or folding chairs. There are no picnic tables, grills, etc. Pack a basket and come. DIRECTIONS: From I-84 turn north at exit 44 on Prospect Avenue. Go 1½ miles; the entrance to the park is on the left. Parking: behind the greenhouse, left side only please. The park is on the West Hartford/Hartford line for those of you who are totally unfamiliar with what is being talked about here. And the Rose Garden is famous.

Congratulations to Joe Maisano on his Extension Merit Award from the Gamma Delta Sigma society, the national honor society of agriculture.

Our Best Wishes for quick recovery go to Ed Marrotte who has a back problem. (And it's taking 8 people to fill Ed's shoes this summer!

GARDEN SUPPLY CATALOGS

Send SASE to
Jeanne Chesanow.
A few on the list:
Ringer, Necessary
Trading Co., Natures
Control, Growing
Naturally, Green
Pro, Gardens Alive.

CAEMG T-SHIRTS

For sale at June 21st
meeting. \$10.00.
M, L, XL

FOR THE KIDS

Game: "Down in
the Rain Forest",
a deck of 48 game
cards showing the
threatened in-
habitants of the
rain forest. Ages
4-10.
The World Wildlife
Fund, P. O. Box 224
Peru, IN 46970.
800-833-1660.



or by mail \$11.00 from
Jeanne Chesanow, 214
Cornwall Ave. Cheshire
CT 06410. Checks payable
to CAEMG.

BLUEBIRD BROCHURES

"Come Back Little
Bluebird". Write
to Homes for Blue-
birds, Inc. Rt 1
Bailey, NC - 4/\$100
Excellent publi-
cation!

PLANT EXCHANGE

June 2 - CAEMG Plant
Exchange, 10-1, Old
Clinton Rd. Farm,
Westbrook, CT. Call
Wendy Donnelly 562-8231
for directions.

PAPER RECYCLING

*Seventh Generation
catalog - 800-456-1177
They sell dinner napkins,
paper towels, facial tissue,
toilet paper, also cotton
string bags - 2/\$8.95.

*H. K. Weber & Co., Inc.
P. O. Box 196, Kiel, WI
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Paper refuse bags, bio-
degradable. Great for
composting leaves, grass
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NY 11803.
Ecocobag is a heavy duty
weather-resistant kraft
bag for collecting leaves,
12x16 square bottom so
it can stand by itself.
\$30.00 for 50 bags..

SUMMER MEETING

June 21 - Summer Soltice
Edgerton Park, New Haven
Area.

TO PLACE YOUR AD OR GARDENING TIPS, SEND INFORMATION TO:
Ellen Carlson, 259 Hog Hill, East Hampton, CT 06424

RESOURCE BOOK, cont.

nurseries, vineyards, flower festivals, specialty products such as mustard, jams, syrups made from plants grown in CT. And on and on.

If you would like to help out, please send any brochures, folders, maps, etc. that you have from nature centers, parks, gardens, arboretums, museums, etc. and we will use the information in them. If you belong to any group, association that puts out lists or other information, please let us know. I have the stuff on NOFA that Alton Eliason gave out. But we need to be accumulating a BIG data file. HELP is needed. Send the folders, brochures to me, Jeanné R. Chesnow, 214 Cornwall Ave. Cheshire, CT 06410. I will see that the person in charge of that part of the book gets the info.

We want to involve people from all over the state. Garden-related publications such as the Green Thumbprint will also be listed, so if you know of any of these, let me know. And if you have any suggestions for the book, give me a shout. Thanks.

Editor: My apologies for the huge number of typos, flubs, etc. in this issue. All through April I have been plagued by every known bacteria and virus known to man and womankind. And the medicines may have even been worse than the maladies. I am on the mend now, but somehow my typing, spelling and concentration are not quite what they should be. So I have muddled through and WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS (a lot of help!) here's the news!

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1066 Saybrook Road, Box 70
Haddam, CT 06438

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Robert Sherman
15 Fire Tower Road
Killingworth, CT 06417



Connecticut Association of Extension Master Gardeners

CAEMG NEWSLETTER * VOLUME 3 NUMBER 3 * AUGUST, NINETEEN HUNDRED NINETY

COMMUNITY GARDENS II by Gail Collins

SHARING THE HARVEST: The Inner City Coop Farm, The Hill Section of New Haven. About the only visible produce at the Science of Inner City Gardening Open House on June 2nd was that brought for the teaching displays! The Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station and the Farm co-sponsored the event with container gardening, edible landscaping, composting, insect pest control and food preserving exhibits. An armful of beautiful iris awaited anyone who wanted them.

The Station had just plowed the heavily mulched soil, and a few days after the Open House, 20-plus Farm members had the land ready for planting. Since June more than 2000 pounds of greens, beans, and other vegetables have been harvested. Melons and pumpkins spread and ripen in the compost piles. Tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, peppers and corn may bring a very bountiful harvest -- to be shared fresh or preserved by the 325 Farm members.

Contributions to help pay for a fence for the garden, which is near the corner of Orchard Avenue between Legion and Frontage Road, are needed. Joe Moye, the Farm's Director, can be reached at 777-8613.

*

The Bridgeport Urban Garden. Fifteen gardens are flourishing under the vigilant eye of Mohamed Dhinbil, Master Gardener and the program's director for the Cooperative Extension System. Mohamed reports a significant

benefit from his growing experience as coordinator of the program -- increasingly effective teaching and communication with Bridgeport's urban gardeners. They respond by investing more time and effort in the gardens.

*

North Guilford's Community Garden. Gardeners of the 25 plots are swapping and sharing their plants, their bountiful harvest and their experiments. Have you ever tried mounting bars of brown laundry soap on poles to deter deer? Gardeners with a special commitment to sustaining the garden may be growing perennial herbs and flowers, asparagus and berries in the future.

*

FOODSHARE, serving 110 agencies -- soup kitchens, emergency shelters, and senior citizen programs in Tolland and Hartford Counties -- is a kind of community refrigerator! The staff is expanding the fresh produce recovery program. Local farms, such as the Juknis Vegetable Stand in South Windsor and Larson Brothers in Bristol, donate their unsaleable and surplus fruits and vegetables.

Home gardeners are encouraged to contribute too. FOODSHARE arranges for pickup and delivery to its Hartford warehouse where the produce can be refrigerated until collected by the agencies. FOODSHARE picks up additional unsold fresh food from the Hartford Farmers' Market. The Market serves

COMMUNITY GARDENS, cont.

WIC families in the area. To contribute or assist in other ways, call Steven Muska, Foodshare's market coordinator, at 51-3426 in Hartford.

MOSCOW, THE USSR. "There are virtually no gardens, either private or community based, in Moscow or other major cities," writes Warren Schultz, editor of National Gardening magazine. With a few other American gardeners, Schultz travelled to the Soviet Union to support a community gardening initiative. A group of young Muscovites has bartered its labor for a piece of idle land belonging to a collective farm. They are designing a community dedicated to gardening. Mr. Schultz intends to keep us informed of its progress in his magazine.

The above quote is from Food for Thought in: NATIONAL GARDENING, August, 1990, p.6.

If you want to share community gardening experiences, let me know. I'll gladly include them in my next article.

RECOMMENDED READING
by Gail Collins

Writing with a vision: "The Practice of Stewardship in: Meeting the Expectations of the Land, essays in sustainable agriculture and stewardship. Edited by Wes Jackson, Wendell Berry, and Bruce Colman. Northpoint Press, 1984. Available through the UCONN Coop, Storrs, CT. \$12.50, paper.

TIP: Wear your glasses when gardening to avoid disastrous mistakes like mixing up the 5-10-5 with the gravel mulch or humorous errors like attacking what seemed to be grubs but turned out to be some perlite!

TIPS are always welcome; send them to Ellen Carlson.

SUMMER SOLSTICE

by Jeanné R. Chesanow

Jing, jing, jing! I heard the sound of the bells of the morris dancers before they swirled into view. I was one of 25 or so Master Gardeners sitting in a beautiful clearing in Edgerton Park, New Haven on a glorious evening. Early arrivals had picknicked on the grass. I had gotten there a bit later and saw a table arrayed with all sorts of great food and beverage, another table with magazines and catalogs free for the taking, and a welcome table with T-shirts and our new pins for sale. We signed up for door prizes--plants!

Our business meeting started, stopped for the dancers, and resumed. After the color and music of the dancers it was hard to concentrate on business.

At sundown we reluctantly left the park after Wendy saluted the turning of the seasons and wished everyone a wonderful harvest.

Things to remember: How Wendy's dog Danny thrust back his head and howled every time the horn was played. (The morris dancers' musical instruments were two concertinas, a small drum, a pipe, and this horn which either appealed to or dismayed Danny.)

Marie Dube and Florence Marrone in their daisy chains. .. Eleanor Hy-linski and Wendy, graceful in their long skirts...Two members, driving all the way from Suffield who got lost and did not have time to picnic or see the morris dancers --my special hello to them and "thank you" for coming...

All in all, a good evening. Might be a nice annual custom.

Thanks to Carol Redfield, Eleanor Hy-linski, Wendy Donnelly and --who am I leaving out?-- who worked hard on planning and putting on this wonderful summer meeting. Marie Dube, I'm sure I should thank too. Apologies to anyone I left out.

MASTER GARDENER PROFILE

One of my favorite Master Gardeners dropped by to see me yesterday, so I decided to write about him. Since I didn't want to scare him off by interviewing him, this won't be the usual biographically detailed profile -- just a few notes on a delightful guy.

He talks in aphorisms and analogies, so many to a sentence that it's hard to capture his speech. I seem to remember that he told me that he had the "pieces for a quilt" when he signed up for Master Gardening classes. The course showed him how to "sew them together", how to transform the bits of knowledge that he had into a "quilt" of information that he could use in his own garden and share with others.

And sharing with others is what he loves to do. On a previous visit to my garden, we had walked through, poking at the plants and the dirt, gabbing about everything. A keen observer, he noticed everything-- the curling of the leaves of my monkshood and how the gill-over-the-ground was romping over everything. And his curiosity is boundless. No wonder this man is so much fun to talk with -- he soaks up information like a sponge.

On his visit yesterday, a woman came by wheeling a very old-timey bicycle with a giant 52" front wheel and a much smaller rear wheel. Dan --yes this article is about the inimitable Dan Noël-- told me that this bicycle is called a penny farthing. The three of us --Dan, me, and my elderly Vietnamese neighbor who doesn't speak a word of English-- were all inspecting this marvelous machine. No brakes! This was only one of the things we discovered about it. A reproduction made by her father, the front tire was made from a piece of red rubber hose! Dan asked question after question; we ended up learning all about the bicycle, what a Century Ride is, and all sorts of things.

Dan was one of a very few people who have been able to identify the wine poppies (Callirhoe) that were sprawling in my rock garden. Dan remembered them from Texas --his favorite wildflower there, he said.

Dan was on his way back from the plant science day at the Experiment Station in Hamden. He is always in search of new ideas, new information. Dan will be teaching one of the sessions at the Adult Education program in Plainville this fall. (So skillfully organized by Paul Brown.) I know that Dan's session will be memorable. When he told me about how he had talked to a group of kindergarteners to tell them about soil and earthworms, I knew that the kids must have learned a lot.

You have to listen to Dan to know how wonderful he is to talk to. He always makes me laugh and brightens my day. He says that life is so short that we shouldn't take ourselves too seriously, but relax and have a few ho-ho's along the way. With this as his philosophy, he goes about his life living by his words.

Dan gave his all to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp project and we are grateful to him for that, but most of all we are just happy that he's a CAEMG member -- one of our most active members.

Jeanné R. Chesnow

REMEMBER, for FREE ads, send in your classifieds to Ellen Carlson. Deadline for the next issue is October 25. All CAEMG members can advertise for FREE in our space. No one sent in anything this time except:

<p>WANTED: One editor for this newsletter. This will be my last newsletter. We have a couple of people who will do the final one for this year, but next year we'll need someone to take over. Haven't you always been itching to get your hands on this publication, make some changes, put in your point of view? Now's your chance! Jump right in. I'll be happy to write an occasional article to help you out. JRC</p>

DON'T FORGET: Regional Master Gardener Conference-- October 11 - 13, Delaware. \$65 registration fee is due Sept. 11; after that date the fee is ninety dollars. For more information, call Linda Callahan 444-1364.

CAEMG meeting will be in December -- a Saturday, either the 1st or the 8th, and will be a DAYTIME meeting. Location, details in next newsletter.

We still need people for the nominating committee: call Wendy if interested. Or call Paul Brown.

The major topic of discussion at our June business meeting was the training of Master Gardeners. In CT we now train MGs in only three or four locations. Should we be training more MGs? If so, where and how? And who would supervise their volunteer hours? Charlotte Hurlbutt and Marie Adams are chairpersons of a committee to look into this. Of special concern is the fact that there is at present no training program in the Norwich area where so many enthusiastic gardeners live. If you want to be a part of this committee, call Charlotte or Marie, or write them at the Norwich Extension Office.

DEADLINE for news for this letter is OCTOBER 25, early because our December meeting will probably be early -- on the first most likely. So, all local groups -- send in your news by then. Also all COORDINATORS OF MASTER GARDENING PROGRAMS, please see that the lists of newly certified Master Gardeners get to Wendy or Linda Callahan by the deadline. This issue will have a membership blank and will be sent to all newly certified MGs so they can join the CAEMG.

If you are interested in becoming the editor of this newsletter and want to know more about what's involved, call me. 272-1131. If there are a couple of you who live close to one another and work well together, perhaps you could be co-editors and split the work.

GOOD-BYE, THANKS FOR READING THE NEWSLETTER, THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED WITH IT IN SO MANY WAYS. A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO COPY AND MAIL THE NEWSLETTER -- Arlene, Ina and now Tara. I HAVE ENJOYED BEING EDITOR AND LOOK FORWARD TO WRITING OCCASIONALLY FOR THE NEWSLETTER. Jeanne.

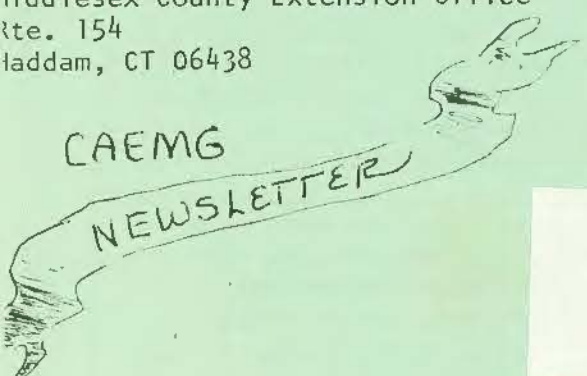
REMEMBER: CALENDAR page items go to Linda Rosinsky, and CLASSIFIEDS and TIPS go to Ellen Carlson.



Enjoy the rest of the summer!

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**Connecticut Association
of
Extension Master Gardeners**

CAEMG NEWSLETTER * VOLUME 3 NUMBER 4 * DECEMBER, NINETEEN NINETY

MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 1, 1990

SATURDAY 1:00 P.M.

NORWICH EXTENSION OFFICE

562 NEW LONDON TURNPIKE

NORWICH, CT.

SPEAKER, SALLY TAYLOR

OF

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE ARBORETUM

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

ALL MASTER GARDENER'S WELCOME

Map and directions on page 6

Notes and General Information Update

President's Travels

Recently our President, Wendy Maxwell Donnelly, received an offer she couldn't refuse and is now employed by an international firm. The organization has kept Wendy very busy training for her new position. She will be lost to us for the immediate future, at least. She is in Europe at the present time and is due back in the middle of November.

Paul Brown, Vice President will fill in as Acting President until our election of officers in December. As President Pro-Tem he welcomes and eagerly awaits all comments and recommendations as we continue to search for ways to improve the association.

CAEMG NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We must bid a fond farewell to Jeanne Chesanow. She did a wonderful job as editor of our CAEMG Newsletter.

Thanks to everyone that contributed to this newsletter. Paul Brown, Bob McNeil, Carmen Whitehead, Florence Marrone, Don & Vicky Wetherell, Charlotte Hurlbutt, and Linda Callahan.

M.G.'s Newspaper Articles

Late last winter I noticed that the Day newspaper in New London was not running either of its two weekly garden columns. I offered them a free column written by CAEMG Master Gardeners.

In April we began a series of columns which appeared every Friday on the garden page. Those willing to write

were asked to select a topic several weeks in advance in order to meet deadlines and avoid duplication.

The heading of the column was called the "Garden Corner". At the end of each was the name and town of the writer and the statement that he or she was a member of the Connecticut Association of Extension Master Gardeners. A great variety of topics were covered including herbs, perennial flowers, PH, raised beds, composting, mulching, soil preparation, lawns, beneficial pest control, row covers, early tomatoes, fall vegetables, container gardening and gardening practices. Members who contributed columns were Harry Susman, Dominic Dipollina, Linda Callahan, Dave DeNoia, Cynthia Baril, Lynn Rinek, Charlotte Hurlbutt, and myself. New Master Gardeners Nancy Phillips and Mary Waterman also wrote columns.

I feel that the project has been quite successful with only a few minor problems. If all goes well, we hope to continue it next year and may even do some columns this winter. Master Gardeners should be educators and this is one way to educate the public. I recommend the program to Master Gardeners throughout the state. Check with daily or weekly newspapers in your area. If we can help, let me know.

Bob McNeil
16 Damon Heights Rd.
Niantic, CT. 06357
739-5134

REPORT FROM DELAWARE

by Don and Vicky Wetherell

Newark, Delaware, October 11, 8:30 a.m. We entered the University of Delaware's spacious, modern convention center to join an excited crowd of over 250 Master Gardeners gathered there for the 1990 Northeast Regional Master Gardeners Conference. Almost immediately we met the Connecticut contingent putting finishing touches on their exhibit of photos, publications, and backyard composting techniques--evidence that Master Gardeners in Connecticut have had a productive year.

From the first greeting to the final tours, the Master Gardeners of Delaware proved to be well organized and gracious hosts. Wearing bright green badges, they seemed to be everywhere--answering questions, leading tours, introducing speakers and in every way making this conference a pleasant, memorable experience.

The conference opened with a fascinating and well illustrated keynote address by Dr. Richard Lighty, director of the Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Plants. His message was that native plants have great genetic variability, which provides a wealth of material for selection and propagation as new ornamentals. The theme of the conference, "Focus on Environmental Quality," was well served by his emphasis on the use of low-maintenance native plants.

At the heart of the conference were 36 presentations on landscape, environment, community outreach and gardening techniques. Nearly all the talks we attended were good, but the outstanding ones were presented by horticultural professionals who shared their first-hand experiences.

A fine example was the program about Integrated Pest Management by Nancy Bechtol, who directed the IPM program at Longwood Gardens for five years and coped with a wide variety of landscape and greenhouse pests. We appreciated being able to add her specific, garden tested recommendations to our list of IPM strategies.

The results of another Master Gardener project were presented by Dr. Steven Reiners of Rutgers. MG volunteers planted and monitored a test plot of 14 tomato varieties in cooperation with the Extension Service. Then the comparison of taste and yields per plant were published by the Extension Service as a guide for home gardeners.

Dr. Richard Webber, a biologist and expert photographer at the Univ. of Delaware, gave a stunning presentation of close-up animal and insect photographs and how to make them. His lucid pictures of equipment and techniques showed us how to get started if we want to produce those close-ups so important in educational presentations.

It was clear throughout the conference that Delaware area professionals depend on local Master Gardeners (and those attending the conference) to bring the results of their work to the attention of the public. This situation emphasizes the importance of cooperation between professionals and Master Gardeners in order to meet the growing needs of the public at a time when reduced budgets are cutting staff and programs.

In conversations with MG's from other states, we learned that funding cuts have created difficult situations for many MG programs. For all of us this conference was an important morale boost as well as a great way to make new friends and stay abreast of new ideas.