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CAEMG NEWSLETTER
VOL.6, NO. 1, FEB. 1993

MEMBERS TO DATE
209 MEMBERS, 72 NEW

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — ROBERT SHERMAN

In writing my first "President's Message" I'll begin by thanking the past officers for the fine work they have done. Paul Brown, a man of seemingly endless enthusiasm and energy did much to expand our field of interests, and to raise the profile of CAEMG statewide. Chris Kuckert did a marvelous job as Secretary. Charlotte Hurlbutt, who became Treasurer a year ago and remains this year, has worked diligently and successfully to keep our financial house in order. Our already noteworthy Newsletter continues to improve under the guidance of Marie Adams, Editor. A sincere thanks to all, and to all of you who helped to implement the many activities of CAEMG.

This year promises to be another active one. The Symposium, of course, is the major undertaking right now. It is coming about largely as a result of the work and organizational skills of Paul Brown and Jan Robertson.

We will, of course be helping in the Extension offices and monitoring new Master Gardeners. But you should be aware that numerous talks to various groups, adult education classes, work at the Prisons and State Hospitals and writing gardening columns, are all being scheduled too.

A unique activity will find Master Gardeners presenting programs for the athletes at this year's Special Olympics in June at New London. More than 11,000 coaches and volunteers will come to New London for the event.

So we start the new year with lots of activity planned, but to continue the pace we need ideas from you, the members. If you have an idea, contact your District Coordinator. We want to hear it. Thanks B.S.

THE ANNUAL MEETING at the Hamden Office on December 5, 1992 was well attended. As guest speaker, MG Cindy Hunt discussed the survey she

recently conducted. She sent 386 surveys to 1991 and 1992 MG's and 154 responded, with 1200 write in comments. There are copies of the survey at all Extension Offices. One of the issues raised was the definition of in-service and volunteer work. It was noted that 60 percent of the students drop out after the course. We hope this survey will help the University improve the program.

Another Guest Speaker was Henry Ferris; who spoke on the idea of MG's raising food for community need. He and his group work to grow, collect and distribute food to those in need. Anyone interested can contact —Henry Ferris 31 Rockledge Drive, Madison, CT 06443, Phone 245-4397.

GOLDEN TROWEL AWARDS — Bob Sherman had Charlotte Hurlbutt present the Golden Trowel awards to the previous Treasurer-Florence Marone. Out going President-Paul Brown. Out going Secretary-Christine Kuckert. Publication Resource Person-Jeanne Chesnow, and Newsletter/Membership List/Historian-Marie Adams.

EASTERN DISTRICT — Paul Stake reports that sixty people have signed up for the MG class at Brooklyn. Jan Robertson reports that the next meeting will be at Haddam, on February 20 at 10:00 AM. Shirley Mitsko, one of our MG's from the first class in Connecticut will show slides of gardens in Hawaii, where she lived for many years. We will skip the meeting on 20 March, because so many of us want to go to the Symposium at the Keeney Center in Wethersfield. This is being presented by the Connecticut Horticultural Society and promises to be very informative. Join us at 9:30 A.M. Cost will be \$25/members, \$30/non-members. for more information call 529-8713 Tues. or Thurs. 12:00-4:00.

The Press Conference Feb. 3rd. for the Special Olympics was attended by Marie Adams and Jan Robertson. This will be a wonderful community service for us to get involved in. We are receiving donations of

seed from Hart's Seed Co., Agway has offered us PRO-MIX, and other local nurseries I am sure will contribute. we will give short demonstrations to the athletes between events. This will occur June 11 -13th 1993 and will be a heartwarming activity for YOU to participate in.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTS that they plan a meeting, February 17th at Bethel. Emily Kostecki, 55 Hillside Road, Woodbury, phone 266-0558 has offered to be Coordinator for the Southern District. As a project to get people involved she plans to work with the prisoners at Fairfield Hills. There is a greenhouse at the facility and much interest among the pre-release inmates.

Marie Dube would like anyone interested in working with Pre-release inmates at Cheshire to contact her at the Extension Office. Marie reports that the new MG class numbers thirty five. "Sound Gardening", a course being presented in Hamden, has sixty people enrolled.

Gene Whaples of the University of Connecticut Extension has informed us that Marie Dube will be our liason between the University and CAEMG.

A new member of the CES is Ms. Leanne Pundt, a graduate of Cornell, with a Master's in Plant Protection. Leanne has worked with Extension in New York, and at Rutgers, helping with Landscape IPM. Leanne will be a welcome addition in our search to protect our plants.

NORTHERN DISTRICT REPORTS that the new class of Master Gardeners numbers sixty. Carl Salsedo has promised to set up some tours of nurseries for all MG's in the state this summer. This should be great as he has many contacts. He may even be able to arrange buying privileges as we visit. The Fall/Winter issue of the GREEN THUMB PRINT from the Knox Parks Foundation has an article "How has your garden grown?" by MG Frank Lipski. MG Gail Collins has an article "Fall Comes to Knox Gardens" telling about the ALL AMERICA SELECTIONS that were grown at the gardens.

THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR FARMING, PLANTS, & FLOWERS, P.O.Box 414, Botsford CT 06404. Has sent us a paper telling us of their dream of having one place for all of the state's agricultural & horticultural communities to meet and work together. Sounds like a great idea, but I hope its not too far away, maybe in the center of the state. They are asking for donations. Call them at 203-268-9000.

BOOK REPORT — JAN ROBERTSON "Home Ground: A Gardener's Miscellany" by Allen Lacy. 'It's easier to teach a gardener how to write than it is to teach a writer how to garden.' Lacy writes frequently for Horticulture Magazine and the New York Times. This collection of his essays on the pleasures and frustrations of making things grow has something for everyone. It is available at several libraries.

MG Vicky Wetherell has written a trail guide for geological walks. The guide, **NATURAL HISTORY OUTINGS ON CONNECTICUT'S TRAPROCK RIDGES**, contains maps, illustrations and field notes. Vicky's guide can be purchased at the UConn Co-op for \$5.95 plus tax.

Our Treasure; Charlotte Hurlbutt, wants to remind you that the deadline for the membership handbook is the fifteenth of March. In January, our friend and mentor, Ed Marrott, lost his father, A sympathy card was sent with a check to his favorite charity.

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES IN 1992—ROBERT MCNEIL — 1992 was a very busy and productive year for Master Gardeners in the Eastern District. A survey showed that a total of seventy- six garden and compost programs were presented to the public. This included six Exhibits at fairs. It is estimated that 1500 to 1600 people attended the programs exclusive of the fairs and exhibits for which no count was available. A total of 26 different MG's participated in these programs.

From March 13 to November 13; there were 36 weekly garden columns in THE DAY, written by fifteen MG's. This completed our third year. We expect to start our fourth year in March.

MG's have provided assistance at the Montville Correctional Center and the Women's Correctional Center in Niantic. Several MG's volunteered with Mark Bridgen at the University of Connecticut perennial garden this summer.

Already this year, we are committed to programs at the libraries in East Lyme, Colchester, and Mystic; classes at Norwich Adult Education, and the Lions Flower show in New London, plus Earth Day at Connecticut College. It looks like another busy year

The **CONNECTICUT COLLEGE ARBORETUM** is looking for six volunteers to assist with specific grounds maintenance tasks. Work will be done on a project by project basis and may include such tasks as pruning,

rail maintenance, tree labeling, maintenance of beds and borders and other related duties.

Volunteers will work directly with the Arboretum Horticulturists and will gain training and experience in many aspects of horticultural work.

Volunteers will meet every Thursday beginning March 4th from 9:00 AM -Noon. Master Gardening training is preferred.

For additional information and an application form, contact Clare McFarland at the Connecticut College Arboretum 439-2131.

Rogers NK Seed Co., P.O.Box 4188, Boise ID 83711-4188, through their Sales Manager Harold F. Ford, is interested in having MS's evaluate their tomato, pepper, cucumber and cabbage varieties.

They had a very nice article in their VEGETABLES TODAY publication. about the Master Gardener program.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT, a CT Weekly : reports that "Produce is a growth business. Forty percent of the nation's consumers say they are eating more fruits and vegetables than they did the year before. Concerns for health and diet fuel increased produce consumption. Consumers say quality, evidenced by appearance and condition (97%), taste and flavor (96%), and freshness and ripeness (96%), is their principal decision-making criteria when buying fresh fruits and vegetables." Are we not lucky we can grow our own.

Our friend and teacher, **Mark Bridgen**, is once again willing to play with us this summer. Mark is Associate Professor of Floriculture at the Univ. of Connecticut and has a great interest in the Perennial Garden. This will be the third year Mark has worked with us, and he gives much more than he gets. We can see great improvement in the beds.

Mark plans to have guest speakers this year, such as Roger Adams on Insects, and his wife, Margot, on plant diseases. Last year we went on field trips and ended the summer with a pot luck lunch at Mark's house. What a treat- this is not the shoe repairman whose kids go bare foot. Mark's garden is beautiful and the best part was the guided tour given by his children. Mark has had a student design a plan for the area where we park, and has found donations of the trees and shrubs needed to finish the area. You may contact him at Univ. of Conn or at 429-0533..

Since the first national MG Conference in 1988 **MAGIC** (MAster Gardeners International Corporation) has

been the voice for the nations MG's They have published a quarterly with much information relevant to MG's. It has been helpful to read the regional news to see what others are doing. Dues are \$10.00 per year They can be contacted at MaGIC Membership Services, 2904 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, VA 22302

INTERNATIONAL COMPOST TIMES : a new group that seems to be in charge of putting on the next international conference August 1993 in San Antonio, Texas writes, " We expect to be an aggressive organization and deliver the services outlined in this issue of the COMPOST TIMES. One of the services will be to provide a membership discount and gift certificate package worth well over the \$25.00 annual fee. Express your opinion on the organization and the \$25 fee being discussed: by contacting your closest acting director or drop us a note at "My opinion on MaGNA" 1143 Coliseum Road, San Antonio, TX 78219". I understand that the nearest director we have in this area is at the University of Rhode Island MG Office.

EASTERN MEETING—MARCH, 20 1993—Marie Adams—There isn't time to con someone else into writing this report, and I must share this wonderful day. Shirley Mitsko picked me up at 8:30 and by 10:00 we had set up her display of things collected in Hawaii, and Jan Robertson's six beautiful orchids. Shirley had been asked a few months ago to speak on her experiences as a MG in Hawaii. Her slides were still in storage in California, so the next thing we heard was that she was in Hawaii, taking pictures and bringing home door prizes.

This is a professional! We were all quite impressed. Her pictures were great and she not only gave us the name, but also all the botanical names of ALL these plants, shrubs and trees. Plants that we use as house plants or hanging baskets in the summer are considered weeds or ground cover over there. She showed us pictures of the URBAN GARDEN CENTER where they have plots of different grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees. All this is maintained by one County Agent and an Agricultural Resident Technician, plus many MG's

The program is different in that they school 40 hours and volunteer 40 hours, when they take the course. Then every year, they must recertify. Shirley showed a list of the courses being given this year, three hours a month. We all want to move to Hawaii.

We heard that "Ballek's" was having a lecture on 'Shade Gardening', so the caravan of cars took off,

leaving ,we thought, poor Jan and her orchids. But Jan could not resist and followed us. Mrs. Ballik was wonderful as usual. She is so knowledgable and is so willing to share. Such a joyfull day. We still have reports from the MG Conference in New Jersey but again my time is getting short. Charlotte Hurlbutt, our treasurer is about to go the the hospital and would love to get a card from her friends.

ACTIVITIES

Hartford Flower Show, "Magic and Merriment" Cost \$7.00, Feb. 25-28 1993.

ORGANIC LANDSCAPING CONFERENCE 27 Feb., **GROW ORGANIC FOOD** 28 Feb. 1993 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM. NOFA presents these at Naugatuck Valley Community-Technical College, Waterbury. For Info call 484-2445.

First annual **MG Garden Symposium** , March 6, (9:00 AM-3:00 PM) at Hartford, University of Conn. Campus.

BOSTON FLOWER SHOW March 6-14 1993.

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW March 7-14 1993.

NEW YORK FLOWER SHOW "Gardens for our future" March 13-21 \$8.00, Info 212-757-0915

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE GROWING BETTER EVERY DAY, National agriculture week, March 14-20.

ANNUAL MEETING -Experiment Station Associates, March 18, 7-9:00 PM Jones Auditorium,123 Huntington St., New Haven.

BIRDS LIVE & SPECTACULAR Univ. of CT Museum of Natural History, 20 March, 1:00 to 5:00 PM, Info 486-4460

A GARDEN SYMPOSIUM at the Keeney Center in Wethersfield, given by the CT Horticultural Society, 20 March, starts at 9:30 AM.

NEW LONDON FLOWER SHOW, March 27-28 1993.

Eastern Meeting Brooklyn, 17 April, 10:00-12:00 AM.

EARTH DAY at Connecticut College, 25 April, 10:00AM-4:00PM.

PLANT TISSUE CULTURE-Mark Bridgen-Torrey Life Science, Room 154

PLANT EXCHANGE, at 3:00May 6 1993, at Bethel Extension Office parking lot. Time 9AM-3PM. Inside if it rains. Perennials, annuals, Herbs. Must be potted labeled and pest free.

CONNECTICUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS, New London, 11-13 June 1993

WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL-13 June 1993 at U Conn. at Storrs.

BARTLETT ARBORETUM: Saturday, June 19th Summer Meeting of the CAEMG Guided tour at 11:30. Picnic-Bring your own lunch. More later.

INSECTS LIVE AND BEAUTIFUL — 10-11 July- CT State Museum of Natural History, Storrs. Info 486-4460.

NOFA SUMMER CONFERENCE Hampshire College, Amherst MA August 13-15 1993. Info Julie Rawson 508-355-2853.

PLANT SCIENCE DAY— Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, a Wednesday the beginning of August.

MG INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE— 11-16 AUGUST 1993, San Antonio TX Info 512-228-0417

Annual Greenhouse Tours

All Ages

The Museum offers annual weekend, late winter and spring tours of this outstanding collection of 3,000 species of plants including 500 orchids, bromeliads, cacti and many other tropical and exotic plants. Registration: \$3 per member, \$1 per member child age 5-17; \$5 per nonmember, \$2 per nonmember child 5-17; UConn students \$2.

February 27 & 28, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 & 3:00 PM
March 6 & 7, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 & 3:00 PM
March 27 & 28, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 & 3:00 PM
April 3 & 4, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 & 3:00 PM
April 10 & 11, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 & 3:00 PM

These Greenhouses are behind the Torrey Life Sciences Bldg., 75 N. Eagleville Road, and are managed by the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology. Reservations are required. Free parking.

INTERESTS

Circle 10 (or less) items of your highest interest.

N S E			N S E					
28	1	2	Fundraising for CAEMG	2	7	16	Photography	
4	11	17	24	Garden Design	7	7	8	Plant Disease
19	9	8	13	Greenhouses	9	16	22	Plant Propagation
4	3	5		Handicap Gardening	5	5	3	Plant Therapy
9	11	24	34	Herbs	4	12	5	Rock Gardens
3	7	10	15	Historic Gardens	4	9	12	Seed Saving
2	7	20	15	House Plants	3	3	8	Seedlings
9	7	22	15	Integrated Pest Management	3	6	8	Senior Programs
28				Landscaping	6	14	18	Shade Gardening
9	12	21	28	Lawns			8	Slides
7	5	5	10	Native Plants	16	28	37	Vegetable Growing
12	10	6	10	Orchids	2	7	4	Water Gardens
7	2	4	4	Organic Gardening	8	19	18	Wild Flowers
11	13	29	30	Perennials	8	10	9	Woody Ornamentals
5	23	36	49		6	8	14	Writing
					1			ornamental grass

Got a Plant Problem? Call a Master Gardener

Alice Nicolson approaches the shade garden she calls "my baby" and frowns. She falls to her knees, plunges her practiced hands and beneath a plant, and rips out guilty weed.

Nicolson knows a weed when she sees one: She's a certified master gardener in Arlington, Virginia.

A boon to gardeners (GEOGRAPHIC, May 1992) who have petunia problems or compost concerns, the master gardener concept originated in 1972 in the Seattle area. Master gardeners now volunteer in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and four Canadian provinces.

Organized by county Cooperative Extension Service agents and linked to state land-grant universities, master gardeners take heavy-weight horticulture classes. In Nicolson's area students must attend 10 hours of classes that run the gamut from pruning to pesticide management. Graduates must perform at least 50 hours of volunteer work, from answering phone queries to appearing at plant clinics to mulching "beautification islands," local striparks.

To Nicolson, who joined in 1980 and "got

hooked," the appeal lies in helping people. "You can hold their hand and reassure them that their plant won't die," she says.

National Geographic, November 1992

RESIDENT GARDENS

Early Risers

by Barbara Block

M G

Let's face it. January is grim. February has its dark side. And winter wields a deathhold on March. That's the bad news.

The good news is that at this very moment the sun has begun its brilliant climb toward the summer solstice, with each day lasting just a little bit longer, reason enough for optimism. With the sun so inclined, spring is just about staring us in the face. No need for the blues when a rainbow is just around the corner. Right?

Back to the bad news: the rest of January, never-say-die March, and good old February sandwiched in between. These are not months known for nurturing plants that trip around the color wheel. Those that do turn out to be genuine mood elevators.

Take the witch hazel, or Hamamelis. One of the earliest to bloom with no competition in sight, it's a waker-upper on the winter scene, all aglow with curly clouds of yellow or bronze.

Come across one in bloom on a



Barbara Block

bleak February day, and it will send you scurrying off to the garden center to buy one for your very own. Hamamelis Xintermedia 'Arnold Promise' has large, deep yellow, fragrant flowers. H. Xintermedia 'Diane' glows red, and 'Jelena' contains areas of yellow and red, which from a distance appear an impossible orange.

Another wake-up-call comes in the form of the Cornelian Cherry (Cornus mas), which has the distinction of being the first

tree to bloom, in our little world, anyway. Masses of minute lemony flowers crowd naked branches creating a tidy and sunny presence on an otherwise dull landscape.

Eyes to the ground in February open to winter aconites (Eranthis), yellow buttercup-like bulbs, followed by Glory-of-the-snow (Chionodoxa). With a name like that no further description is necessary. Let me simply say that this early spring bloomer is a sight for winter-weary eyes.

The hellebores barely hibernate, their leaves all leafy and green right through the fall and winter. In February Helleborus niger's pink-flushed flowers burst on the scene. By early March the wine-stippled ivory blossoms of the Lenten Rose (helleborus orientalis) are nodding good morning.

And so it goes. From now on all the news is good. The alarm goes off; plants stir, stretch, yawn, and sing. As the inevitable march toward spring begins, keep your eyes open for the early risers.

Year Paid: 1993

Robert Sherman 1986
15 Fire Tower Road
Killingworth, CT 06417

Year Paid: 1993

Erud Sherman 1982
15 Fire Tower Road
Killingworth, CT 06417

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Norwich, Conn.
Permit No. 13

New London County
Agricultural Extension Council, Inc.
562 New London Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360

Indoor Sowing Timetable**

You need to know the approximate date of the last spring frost in your area. Count back from that date the number of weeks indicated below to determine the appropriate starting dates for various seeds.

- 12-14 weeks: onions*, leeks*, chives*, pansies*, impatiens, coleus, geraniums, and artichokes.
- 8-12 weeks: peppers, lettuce*, cabbage-family crops*, petunias, snapdragons*, alyssum*, and other hardy annual flowers.
- 6-8 weeks: eggplants and tomatoes
- 5-6 weeks: zinnias, cockscombs, marigolds, other tender annuals
- 2-4 weeks: cucumbers, melons, okra, pumpkins, squash

**This is just a guide, check your seed packets for suggested planting time.

***Cold hardy plants:**

you may set these out 4-6 weeks before last frost.

*** GARDEN TIPS ***

- Garden Reflections -

If you start seedlings in front of a window, try putting a piece of cardboard covered with foil behind the plants. The reflector stops the plants from reaching for the light and getting spindly.

- Small Seed Sandwiches-

1. Prepare your planting bed.
2. Sprinkle area with water.
3. Roll out *white* toilet paper.
4. Sow seeds such as carrots, parsley, lettuce or flower seeds.
5. Roll another layer of paper on top.
7. Cover with a 1/4" of soil.

The toilet paper marks the row and gives the seeds protection from birds and wind and helps to retain moisture. (Tips are from *Troy-Bilt News*.)

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CAEMG NEWSLETTER
 VOL. 6, NO. 2, MAY 1993

MEMBERS TO DATE
 232 MEMBERS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — ROBERT SHERMAN

Here it is May again already. Everyone I talk with feels that we jumped right from the hectic pace of late Winter, to the even more hectic pace of Spring without a pause. Does anyone remember the days when we would have an occasional breathing space on our calendars?

The Symposium has come and gone and it was a huge success. For a time on Friday it appeared that the snow might force a cancellation, but it didn't, and a one hour delayed opening allowed most people to get there.

Attendance suffered somewhat from the storm, but even so well over one hundred people participated, and the programs went on as planned. The evaluation forms which were turned in by the participants were overwhelmingly complimentary.

Kudos to Jan Robertson and Paul Brown, who together organized and produced this first major educational program for CAEMG. Thanks too, to all of you who helped before, during and after; without you it might not have happened.

The 1994 Symposium should be somewhat easier to put on now that many of the pitfalls have been identified and overcome. Yes, there will be a 1994 Symposium. No details yet, but we will be asking the membership for suggestions.

By now you should have received the 1993 CAEMG Membership Directory and with it a calendar of events for MG's. Look over the list, note the number and variety of activities. Plan to participate in as many programs as you can. We have had a terrific year so far and it will get even better.

See you at the Bartlett Arboretum for the June 19 meeting.

Marguerite Alpert, the Community Gardens Coordinator at Knox Parks Foundation has written us asking for help. This is a private non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in the city of Hartford through horticulture. Many of our MG's have worked with her in the past and from all appearances have really enjoyed the experience. Following are a list of the opportunities for volunteers.

The appointment of Kirklyn Kerr as the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is effective June 1, 1993. A native of Green Bank, West Virginia, Dr. Kerr received a bachelor of science degree in animal science from West Virginia University, concurrent with earning a doctor of veterinary medicine degree at the Ohio State University. He received a master of science degree in medical microbiology from West Virginia University Medical Center. Dr. Kerr earned his PH.D. in veterinary pathology from Texas A&M University. We do hope that his interest in animals does not keep him from a slight interest in the MG's and our needs. Welcolm aboard Sir.

The grapevine tells us that Ed Merrotte bought a book for the office with our gift. Isn't that just like him.

TIPS FOR HELP IN YOUR GARDENS.

For a safe and effective way to aphid-proof your plants, try this spray from Organic Gardening. "In a blender, combine and chop, 1 clove garlic, 1 small onion, 1 tablespoon cayenne pepper, and 1 quart water. Let steep, then add 1 tablespoon liquid non-detergent soap." It might be good to strain this mess before you put it in your sprayer.

To kill weeds between stones and bricks, or where children and pets play, pour a boiling hot solution of liquid dish soap, vinager and gin. (one ounce of each).

Laughing Brook- Audubon, Hampden NY, recommends as a bug killer 1 cup castor oil, 1 cup dish detergent, 2 cups of water.

For Black spot on Roses it is recommended you mix one quart of water, one drop of dish detergent and two teaspoons of baking soda.

Charlotte Hurlbutt highly recommends TECNU a Poison Ivy Cleanser. Your local pharmacy may have it, if not Gardeners Supply does. We never know when we will be in the middle of poison Ivy so its nice to have something that will remove the problem even after six hours.

Final report from 1992 Northeast Regional Conference. SHADE GARDENING with Steve Kristoph of Kristoph's Nursery, by Emily Kostecki of the Southern District

Anything will grow in shade, some plants do better than others, consideration must be given to type of shade. Broad leaf evergreens do best in shade. Mr. Kristoph, a very interesting and informative speaker suggested some of the following plants.

- 1.) Maples such as Devil Acer Diaboliiums and Manchus type Maples. Acer Tegmentosum is grown for its bark.
- 2.) Boxwood - Buxus, are deer resistant.
- 3.) Camellia ofeifera is winter hardy to -12 degrees.
- 4.) American Hornbeam - Carpinus Caroliniana, also known as Blue Beech, Ironwood, Musclewood and Water Beech.
- 5.) Hinoki Falsecypreas - chamageyparis obtuuusa is pest free.
- 6.) Wintergreen - Gaultheria is a low growing creeping ground cover.
- 7.) Witchhazel - Hammamelis Virginiana.
- 8.) Holly - Ilex, Winterberry Ilex Verticellata.
- 9.) Mountain, Laurel - Kalmia, Many different colors.
- 10.) Spicebush - Lindera benzoin.
- II.) Japanese Pieris _ Pieris Japonica, eg. Mountain fire cultivar is spectacular.
- 12.) Rhododendron and Azelea. Actually all azeleas are now included in the genus Rhododendron. There is no clear cut line for distinguishing all azaleas from all rhododendrons. Rhodas and azelias bloom all seasons, some cultivars bloom in spring, some in summer and some are fall bloomers. There are fragrant cultivars, such as any of the Dexter hybrids.

Other plants that enjoy the shade are Hostas - Liliaceae, great for planting under large trees. Other ground covers are Houftuynia - Saururacia, various ferns and many other non-flowering plants.

ACTIVITIES

CONNECTICUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS, New London, 11-13 June 1993. We have been asked to have a table, with plants at various stages, and be able to help the athletes to plant something they can bring home with them. We will be there from 10:00AM to 3:00 PM on Sat. and Sunday. Anyone willing to donate some hours please call Jan Robertson or Marie Adams.

MG Nancy Clark has organized a campus tree walk led by Bill Cullina of the University of Connecticut Campus. This will take place 12 June at 2:00 to 3:30, Meet in Parking lot behind the Pathobiology building on North Eagleville Road. For more Info call 486-6386 or 429-7932. Refreshments will be served after the walk at Nancy's house.

13 June 1993, Wildflower Festival, CT State Museum of Natural History 486-4460.

16 June, 10:00-12:00 Show and Tell, Brooklyn Extension Office with Dawn Kerbow.

19 June 1993, CAEMG Semi-Annual Meeting at Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford. Guided tour 11:30 A.M. More info on front page.

21 June 1993 Rose time at Elizabeth Park.

Master Gardener Conference in Ontario, Canada, some time in July. For more info call Cathy Young at the Guelph Ag. Center. 519-767-3540.

14 July, 10-112 AM, Show and Tell at the Hamden Extension Office.

10-11 July —4th Annual Insects Live and Beautiful at CT State Museum of Natural History. 486-4460.

17 July, Rain date 18th July. Garden Tour of Seven Mystic/Stonington Gardens, to benefit the Women's Center of Southeastern CT. For info call MG Barbara Block 536-3148.

21 July, Mail all articles to Marie Adams for Newsletter. 15 August Newsletter mailed, covers activities for September, October, and November.

23-25 July 1993 Burlington Vermont "Cold-Climate Gardening" For more info call 802-863-1308. This is a National Gardening Workshop.

24 July, Field trip to Tranquil Lake. Call Jan Robertson for Info.

Thursday, July 29, Caprilands Herb Farm, Coventry CT 10-11:15 tour Grounds: 11:15-2, Luncheon and presentation. Cost is \$18.00. To reserve send check by June 15th made to Sylvia Wahl, 28 Drummer Lane, West Redding CT 06896, Phone 938-9515. Include name, Address, Phone, and whether you are willing to drive for car pool coordination. Directions: Exit 59 off RT 84 onto RT 384 to end, East onto Rt 44: in Coventry take right onto Silver St. at Nathan Hale Homestead Sign, 742-7244.

11-16 August 1993, MG International Conference, San Antonio TX, For Info call 1-800-633-2862.

13-15 August 1993, NOFA's 19th Annual Summer Conference & Celebration of Rural Life, Hampshire College, Amherst MA. Info Call 508-355-2853.

18 August, 10-12 A.M. Show & Tell, Norwich Extension Office, with Dawn Kerbow.

The annual Plant Science Day Open House of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will be held at Lockwood Farm in Hamden from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday August 11. There will be short talks by staff, and exhibits and field plot displays throughout the day.

Lockwood Farm is one block from the intersection of Whitney Avenue (Route 10) and Evergreen Avenue in the MT. Carmel section of Hamden. For more information, call 789-7223

In September or October there will be another class "Sound Gardening" given by Heather Crawford at the Norwich Extension Office.

MG will be teaching classes at Middlesex Community College, Six in the Fall and eight in the Spring.

The third year of working in the Perennial Garden at U. Conn. started on 20 May. It was great seeing Mark and all our old friends again. We discussed our plans

for the summer, were given some plants from the greenhouse by Mark and then went to work. The gardens look much better than they did two years ago, but still need a lot of help. Our plans are to weed May 27 and then go to Cheshire to the "Bedding Capital of the World" on June 3.

June 10 Plant Pathology I — Mrs. Margot Bridgen
June 17 Plant Pathology II — Mrs. Margot Bridgen
June 24 Entomology I or IPM — Dr. Roger Adams
July 1 Entomology II — Dr. Roger Adams.

We will work in the gardens from 8:30 to 10:00 A.M. then have our classes. After this we will meet every two weeks for work and Field Trips. Anyone interested can call Dr. Mark Bridgen at 486-2021.

Sorry for the problems with our Membership Directory. Maybe this will help. Edwin M. Lavitt, P.O.Box 900, Rockville CT 06066, no phone listed.

Shirley A. Mitsko, 62 Ginger Drive Groton CT 06340, Phone 448-2309

Sylvia Wahl, 28 Drummer Lane, West Redding CT 06896, Phone 938-9515.

It seems the computer wants a phone number. If there are any other mistakes, please let me know and it will be corrected.

LATE BREAKING NEWS thanks to Marie Dube we hear that Carl Salsedo has organized some programs, all MS's are invited.

7 June 10:00 a.M. at the Litchfield Office there will be a talk on "Landscape Plants for Connecticut".

10 June at 9:30 Tour Broken Arrow Nursery, 13 Gaylord Mountain Road.

21 June at 10:00 at the Litchfield Office a talk by David Smith of White Flower Farm, on "Gardens of England".

12 July at 10:00 tour of Hillside Gardens in Northfolk, on RT 272

Soil pH important to gardening

By ALLEN GAUTHIER

While fertilizer is important for proper nutrients to garden plants, it is just as important to remember that the soil needs to be in the proper pH range.

What is pH? People have an idea that it involves acid and alkaline, but that is about as far as it goes. The relative acid or alkaline level of a solution is measured by pH on a scale numbered from 0 to 14, with a pH of 7 being neutral (neither acid or alkaline). Values lower than 7 are acidic, while those higher than 7 are alkaline. The pH scale is a logarithmic measure, which means that while there is a tenfold difference in acidity from pH 7 to pH 6, a change from pH 7 to pH 5 represents a hundredfold difference.

Soil pH is very important, because it influences the availability of the nutrients needed for plant growth and the ability of soil microorganisms to carry on their beneficial functions. If the pH is too low, elements such as aluminum become increasingly available and potentially toxic to the plant. Beneficial nutrients, in some cases, become less available. If the pH is too high, deficiencies of iron and manganese can occur. A pH range of 5.5 to 7.0 is favorable for most plants, but remember that certain plants grow best under acidic conditions and some under basic conditions.

pH can be measured by three categories of devices; indicator strips, indicator solutions and pH meters. Indicator strips are treated paper that are inserted into a watery solution of soil. Take it out after a few seconds and the paper turns to a color, such as red for acid, and blue for alkaline. Some enable you to see a difference between individual pH units; however, it is difficult to tell precisely how acidic or basic your soil is because they are not terribly accurate. Indicator solutions consist of

tablets that you dissolve in water containing your soil sample. These tests are disappointing, because it is very difficult to tell the color of the solution in order to compare it to a reference. Therefore, trying to get an accurate pH measurement can be quite frustrating.

pH meters are the most accurate, easily measuring to the nearest 0.1 of a pH unit (or better), but they can be very expensive. A high-quality pH meter can easily cost at least \$1,000. There are also some very inexpensive units that are sold through gardening magazines, but I would question their accuracy.

An alternative to these do-it-yourself tests is to have it professionally tested. The University of Connecticut provides a soil testing kit for less than \$3. Send your soil sample and information sheet to UConn in the mailer provided. You will receive a computer report showing the pH, several nutrient values, and recommendations for soil treatment. Call the Extension office in Norwich at 887-1608, or Haddam at 345-4511, for information about buying one.

How do you modify the soil to put it in the proper pH range? If the pH is too low (acidic), it can be raised by adding limestone. For garden purposes, dolomitic limestone is recommended. It contains calcium and magnesium and raises the pH gradually.

If the pH is too high (alkaline), it can be lowered by adding sulfur. As well as being a pH modifier, sulfur is an excellent organic ingredient for the soil. Aluminum sulfate is not recommended because it contributes aluminum ions to the soil. The addition of limestone or sulfur should be done a few months prior to planting and preferably in the fall since it takes awhile for the modifier to work its way through the soil. Remember, keeping the soil at the correct pH range will keep plants healthier and more productive. The fertilizer that you put on the soil will be more effi-

ciently utilized by the plants so you will be able to use less.

Allen Gauthier of Ledyard is a master gardener with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System.

GARDEN Corner

Tips and guidelines for growing tomatoes

By DON WETHERELL

This warm-season crop is available with a wide variety of plant and fruit characteristics, including earliness, plant form, disease-resistance, and fruit color.

Varieties designated "determinate" are often bush and have a restricted growth period. "Indeterminate" types are usually larger and continue to grow and bloom throughout the season. To stop them from vining excessively, you can pinch off the growing tips to put more growth into the fruit.

Choose a planting site which will get direct sunlight most of the day. Open sites with good air flow reduce foliage diseases and cold air injury. Tomatoes can be grown in most moderately-to-highly-fertile soils. Well-drained sandy loams warm quickly, but may require more watering. Soil pH should be maintained in the 5.5 to 7.0 range. Plant tomatoes deep, with only three or four inches above the soil. The tiny hairs along the stem are potential roots which develop a strong root ball.

All danger of frost must be over before tomatoes can be placed outdoors. Well-developed seedlings may be transplanted into the garden when soil temperature reaches 65 degrees F and average day-time air temperatures are 55-60 degrees F. Plastic mulches warm the soil. Organic mulches keep the soil cooler and should not be applied before July

GARDEN Corner

Mulches also reduce weed growth, conserve water and reduce foliar diseases.

Supporting vines on stakes, trellises, or in wire cages allows closer spacing. Flat ground culture may require a heavy mulch to reduce the spread of foliar diseases from soil to plant. It may also lead to damage by slugs and other insects.

Tomatoes need about one inch of water per week. If rain is insufficient, soak thoroughly at weekly intervals. Light, sandy soils may require mid-season fertilization, especially after long rainy periods.

Common insect pests of tomatoes are flea beetles, cutworms, hornworms, aphids and white flies. Common tomato diseases are Septoria leaf spot, early blight, late blight and fungal wilts.

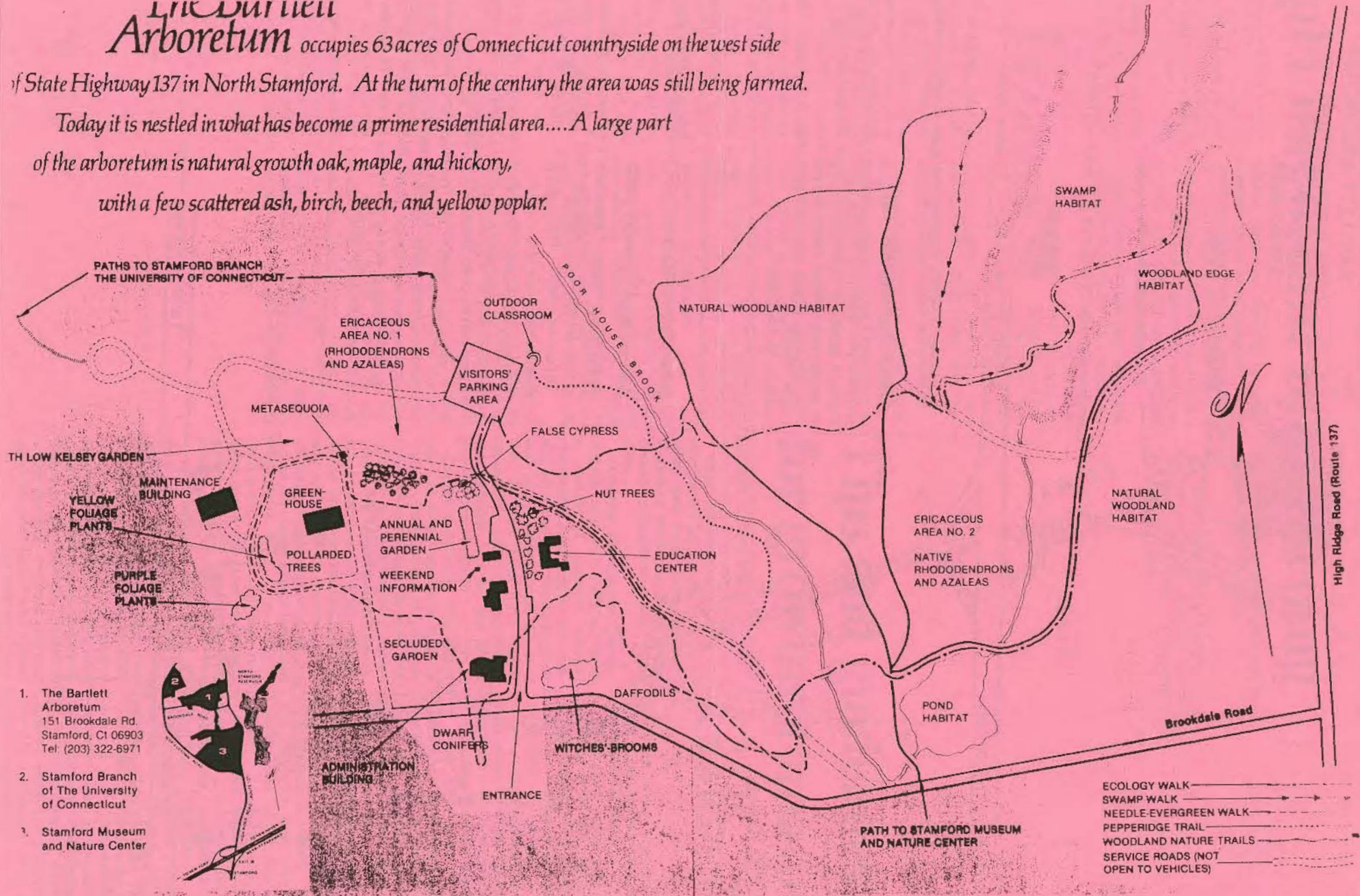
For more detailed information on growing tomatoes in Connecticut, request Horticulture Fact Sheet No. 24 (93-1) from your regional Cooperative Extension System office in Haddam (345-4511) or Norwich (887-1608). Master gardeners are on duty throughout the summer for any gardening problems you may have.

Don Wetherell of Storrs is a master gardener with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System.

The Bartlett Arboretum

occupies 63 acres of Connecticut countryside on the west side of State Highway 137 in North Stamford. At the turn of the century the area was still being farmed.

Today it is nestled in what has become a prime residential area.... A large part of the arboretum is natural growth oak, maple, and hickory, with a few scattered ash, birch, beech, and yellow poplar.



1. The Bartlett Arboretum
151 Brookdale Rd.
Stamford, CT 06903
Tel: (203) 322-6971
2. Stamford Branch of The University of Connecticut
3. Stamford Museum and Nature Center



an inspiration to all of us, with or without real gardens to tend. I share two pieces or mid-spring gleaned from other newsletters. The first is a suggestion to "Locate a piece of nature, a tree, a patch of garden, even a particular view from one window at a certain hour of the day, and in a notebook record the daily changes. 'We have,' said Thoreau, 'an appointment with Spring.' Enjoy your visit."

The second is this set of instructions:

First plant five rows of Peas:

Preparedness
Promptness
Perseverance
Politeness
Prayer

Next to these, plant three rows of Squash:

Squash Gossip
Squash Criticism
Squash Indifference

Then five rows of Lettuce:

Let us be faithful
Let us be unselfish
Let us be loyal
Let us love one another
Let us be truthful

No garden is complete without Turnips:

Turn up for meetings
Turn up with a smile
Turn up with a new idea
Turn up with real determination.

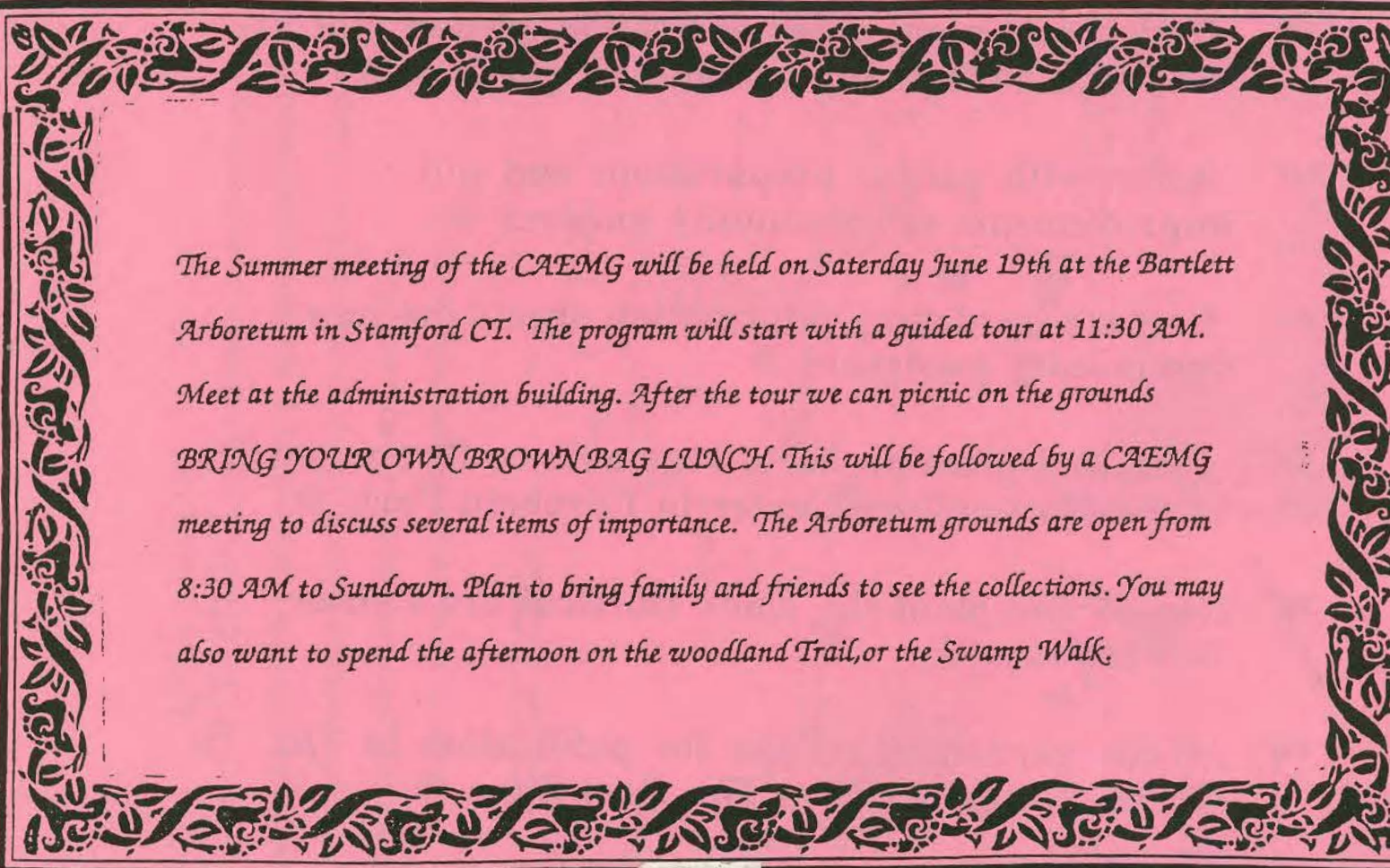
Knox Parks Foundation Volunteer Opportunities

- ☞ **Design and plant a demonstration garden plot at one of Knox's many community gardens ☘**
- ☞ **Assist with garden preparations and soil improvements at community gardens ☘**
- ☞ **Prepare gardening information sheets for new community gardeners ☘**
- ☞ **Plan and plant an herb, vegetable or flower garden at the Horticulture Center in Elizabeth Park ☘**
- ☞ **Design and plant the Knox Horticulture Center flowerboxes ☘**
- ☞ **Write gardening articles for publication in *The Green Thumb Print* or *The Root Zone* ☘**
- ☞ **Build raised beds or portable cold frames ☘**

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Norwich, CT 06360



The Summer meeting of the CAEMG will be held on Saturday June 19th at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford CT. The program will start with a guided tour at 11:30 AM. Meet at the administration building. After the tour we can picnic on the grounds BRING YOUR OWN BROWN BAG LUNCH. This will be followed by a CAEMG meeting to discuss several items of importance. The Arboretum grounds are open from 8:30 AM to Sundown. Plan to bring family and friends to see the collections. You may also want to spend the afternoon on the woodland Trail, or the Swamp Walk.

PRESIDENT: ROBERT SHERMAN
VICE PRESIDENT: ISABELLE BULGER
SECRETARY: JEAN BUCK
TREASURER: CHARLOTTE HURLBUTT
EDITOR: MARIE A. ADAMS
SPECIAL PROJECTS:
JEANNE R. CHESANOW
GAIL COLLINS



HISTORIAN: MARIE A. ADAMS
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SOUTH: EMILY KOSTECKI
EAST: JANET ROBERTSON
PAST PRESIDENTS:
ROBERT MCNEIL
WENDY CONNELLY
PAUL BROWN

CAEMG NEWSLETTER
VOL. 6, NO. Fall 1993

MEMBERS TO DATE
235



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 1993 MASTER GARDENERS!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
ROBERT SHERMAN

Welcome to the ever growing ranks of Certified Extension Master Gardeners in Connecticut.

Now that you've completed your studies and your "payback" time, what's next?

That question occurred to some of us who in 1987 were recently graduated and were looking for a way to remain actively involved in the Master Gardener program. We decided to form the Connecticut Association of Extension Master Gardeners (CAEMG).

We envisioned CAEMG as a vehicle to:

- Expand our own knowledge,
- Meet and associate with others having like interests, and
- Continue to share our knowledge and offer our help to the public through the Cooperative Extension System.

All of these goals have been achieved and in a variety of ways.

For instance, to expand our knowledge we've participated in advanced training,

seminars, regional and international conferences, garden tours and of course the inevitable "chinfests" that occur whenever gardeners meet one another.

All of these activities have introduced us to many new friends in the gardening world.

In serving the public our activities have been many and varied including writing newspaper columns, producing programs for television, mentoring new M.G.s, presenting talks to library and other groups, teaching adult education classes, producing and teaching a statewide gardening symposium and staffing booths at flower shows and fairs.

We are an active group and we would like to have all of you join us in this worthwhile and satisfying way to "keep our hands in". I invite ALL of you to consider joining the CAEMG.

Please come to our Annual Meeting on December 4 at 11 AM in the Social Science Building cafeteria on the West Hartford Campus - UConn.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Sherman, President-CAEMG.

EASTERN DISTRICT GRADUATES

Judith Allik, Polly Devany, Bob Bocdecker and Douglas Moffat from Ledyard; Sam and Marie Chiovoloni, Waterford; Corinne Clevenger, Preston; Marion Donato and Ed Izbicki, Norwich; Paul Gotthelf, Bozrah; Roxanne Jeffcoat and Helen Lanier, Stonington; Mary Maria, Salem; Edmee' McIntosh, Noank; Virginia Brearton, Rogers; Ralph Chartier, Laura Cingmars, Jennifer Lefevre and Richard Bourque from Danielson; Linda Cunningham, Portland; Diane Deutermann, Lyme; Nancy Grandelski, Dayville; Carole Green and Maryann Nazarchyk, Niantic; Maureen Hanschmann and Barbara Nadeau, Lebanon; Gail Libertine, So. Windham; Kate MacKenzie, Brooklyn; Clement Matteau, Plainfield; George McKeon and Richard Snell, Old Lyme; John Mona, Woodstock; David Pechie, Killingly; Paul Rauscher and Mary Smerdaldi from Clinton; Anthony Savino and Lisa Stearns, No. Windham, Sheryl Sommer, Pomfret Center; Carl Ellison, Ivoryton; Sidney Swadosh, Chester; Walter Stearns, Chaplin; Collette Tibbetts, Moosup; Louise Wisnewski, Coventry; John Young, Putnam; Ruth Cole and Bruce Reiber from Madison; Richard Miller, Groton; Sharon Overstrom, No. Stonington; David Spear, Columbia; William Yates, Mystic; and Margaret Bounty from Ashford. *An impressive list, congratulations!*

SOUTHERN DISTRICT GRADUATES

Diane Aaron from Easton; Carol O'Connor, Brennan and Rose

Stowell, Milford; Jeanette Compoton, Thomas Penna, Jr. and Richie Urtz, Hamden; Doris Gerl, Bethlehem; Susan Gibson, Middlebury; Kenneth Graham, Branford; Michael Hughes, No. Haven; Linda Kurylo, Wallingford; Gary Mott, Fairfield; Vanessa Nesvig, Redding; Grace Plumb, Woodbury; Carol Powell, Newtown; Donna Pursley, No. Branford; Ruth Cole and Bruce Reiber, Madison; Mira Schachne, Oxford; Thomas Sievel and Carol Soter, West Haven; Gloria Stanton, New Haven; Mary Walker, Westport and Charles Weidig and Janice Wivagg from Bethany also Mary Smeraidi from Clinton -- and just in time: Margaret Borland, Gillen, Dinah Schell, Bill Gavoli and Jill Howard - *Congratulations to all!*

Thank you Master Gardener Mentors. Experienced Master Gardeners were extremely helpful to the new inexperienced Master Gardener Trainees in the Southern District. Thank you to Isabelle Bulger, Max Durrschmidt, Linda Giles, Bernadette Hanford, Marie Hayden, Cindy Hunt, Jane Lyall, Henry Marshall, Ingrid McCauley, Art Miller, Zarinna Mulla, Audrey Reid, Bob Sadler, Ellen Sheperd, Ellen Speirs, Valerie Stagen, Fran Stodolink, Kate Summerlin, Morris Teller and Tracee Wells. These mentors volunteered to work alongside the new Master Gardeners to help them gain confidence and to help them feel more at east.

THE NORTHERN DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING NEW MASTER GARDENERS

FROM HARTFORD COUNTY: Vicki Anderson, Steven Ballinger, Judy Bichun, Ron Bolton, Maureen Crown, Lois Dunnells, Lila Ferrari, Nadine Glover, Barbara Green, Barbara Korzendorfer, Douglas McDonald, Bonnie McLachlan, Nick Metaxas (split hours in two offices), Walter Miller, Jr., Ellen M. Morse, Elizabeth Muench, Gail Musson, Gloria A. Rathbone, Ency Richardson (split hours in two offices), Eric Ruquist, Jacqueline Schipke, Peter Sleight, Gillian Steel (split hours in two offices), Helena M. Stidsen, Anthony J. Subach, Rosemarie Tamiso, Astrid Terman and Dr. Jeanette H. Wiggin.

FROM TOLLAND COUNTY: Dick Smith

FROM LITCHFIELD COUNTY: Bill Martin, Leslie Golymbieski, Lisa Golymbieski, Barbara Putnam and Cecilia Wallace.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!



Special Olympics

On June 12 and 13 Mother Nature gave the Special Olympic athletes a spectacular weekend.

She covered the Connecticut College campus with sunshine and stirred up a cool Long Island Sound breeze.

The Master Gardener booth was sheltered beneath the arms of a giant tree. Our tables were covered with bulletin boards and handouts -- offering information from apples to zucchini. Passer-bys asked

many questions and the Special Olympians, their friends, families, and guests were encouraged to plant pumpkin or sunflower seeds in small pots using Promix as the planting medium. The pots, mix and seeds were donated by Griffin Greenhouse Supply, Agway and Hart Seed Company. Hopefully, the newly planted seeds made it to a friendly windowsill.

The expected "Yuks, Ughs, and Oh, Gross" comments were heard as the more adventurous Special Olympians peered into Alan Fitzgerald's worm composting box.

And miracles do happen. In addition to all the cheering, music and good time noises, MacDonald's generously filled our growling stomachs with a brown bag lunch.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave of their precious time and lent a much needed helping hand.

NOTE: Summer Meeting Correction: Marie Adams was the coordinator for this event.

EASTERN DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 18TH MEETING



On a cool, drizzly Saturday an eager group of 16 Master Gardeners carpooled to the Sun Dial Herb Garden in Higganum.

We were greeted by our very gracious hostess, herbalist Ragna Tischler Goddard for a tour of her 3 gardens, all distinct entities, but encompassing an amazingly small space.

The focal point of the knot garden is a figure eight pattern of Rue and Teucrium pruned to give the impression they are intertwined. The beds of various herbs are bordered with boxwood neatly trimmed.

The main garden, in 18th century European style, has a central sundial and geometric walkways. Here again boxwood outlines the beds creating a formal appearance.

The topiary garden is viewed as an outdoor extension of the house with an arched trellis of roses, central fountain and formal boxwood plantings in topiary designs. Attractive stone walls outline this garden on 2 sides giving an illusion of a sunken garden. This garden is in 17th century French style but patterned after ancient Egyptian gardens.

The tour was made even more enlightening by the commentary of Mrs. Goddard, including historical facts mixed with folk tales about the many herbs that she is growing.

On completion of the tour we were offered a welcome cup of hot tea and a chance to browse in the shop which is filled with many herbal products, teas, dried arrangements, books, etc.

Most of us made note to return in November for the Sundial Shop's special holiday offerings. The Sundial Herb Garden is truly one of Middlesex county's special places, worth many visits at any season.

Dorothy Cheo



The Master Gardeners working with Dr. Mark Bridgen at

Storrs took a field trip on June 4 to visit DeLucia Greenhouses in Cheshire. The magnitude of the greenhouse operation stunned the touring gardeners. The greenhouses made of glass, and of plastic housed millions of plants and much of the operations were automated.

To begin the process, a moving belt was hand loaded with trays that passed under a tower which dropped inorganic "soil" onto the trays which then passed under a roller to compress the material. At the next station the trays passed under another tower from which a hopper dispensed one or two seeds into each compartment in the trays.

Some filled trays were diverted to another line where operators inserted thousand of prepared cuttings into the planting medium. The filled trays were then placed in huge flats which were 10 or 12 feet square which were on rollers. As each flat was filled, it was pushed down the row to make room for the next flat until the length of the enormous greenhouse was filled. Then a new row was started and the process repeated. Pipes running beneath the flats provided heated water to maintain exacting temperatures offering optimum growing conditions for cuttings or for germination of seeds. Above the flats, a trolley car carrying a number of spigots was programmed to travel for watering, misting, or fertilizing the trays on a precisely timed schedule.

Lights were also controlled in a similar fashion.

The MG's observed how plants were propagated by leaf cuttings and stem and tip cuttings. Many of the cuttings were ready for market in only six weeks. A unique feature of these greenhouses was the way the sides of the greenhouses swung open to allow the entire contents of the greenhouse to be pushed out to an adjacent open area for hardening off, or to take advantage of the natural environment. It was a most impressive experience.
Dr. Jonas Zucker

FRIENDS OF HARKNESS MEMORIAL STATE PARK in Waterford is looking for volunteers to teach or help in the following areas:

- Greenhouse plants & procedures.
- Perennial flower bed restoration.
- Topiary and tree pruning and care.
- Composting, mulching, fertilization methods.
- Lawn care.
- Natural pest management.
- Sound gardening.
- Bird watching; historians.

Please contact Diana McMasters at 437-1576 or Carmen Whitehead at 376-8760 or 443-5725.

SOIL BAGS - as of September 15, 1993 the price of soil bags goes to \$5.00 if picked up at the Extension office and \$5.50 if you mail in. The cost increase more accurately reflects the actual cost of the test.

To the man who asked about cutting alpine lawns (at the CAEMG symposium, March 6) and to anyone else interested in selective trimming in small areas: I recommend the Cordless ClipQuik by Weedeater. It is small (held in one hand) and cuts off clumps of dianthus, thyme, etc. neatly. It has a rechargeable battery and runs out of power too soon for a big area. About \$23. (This is a personal choice; the CAEMG does not endorse or recommend any products.)
Jeanne Chesnow

1994 *BACKYARD GARDEN CALENDARS* are available at the Extension office now. They are very nice looking in the format that everyone wanted back -- boxes with gardening hints for everyday and space for your notes. The cost is \$3.00 each if picked up at the office and \$4.50 (shipping and handling) if mailed. Order early. They make great stocking stuffers and small gifts for the gardeners on your holiday list.



HORTICULTURAL TRIP TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA, March 19-26, 1994
An 8 day/7 night horticultural trip to Orlando, Florida has been planned by Dr. Mark Bridgen from UConn for March 19-26, 1994. We will be traveling on a 48 passenger, luxury European-designed motorcoach with individual lighting, oversized lavatory,

and 6 video monitors throughout the motorcoach for enroute tape viewing. It will only take 24 hours of traveling to reach Florida; this includes stops every 2-3 hours to stretch. If the majority of passengers wants to stop at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC, we will plan to do so. When we arrive in Orlando, we will be staying at the Continental Plaza on International Drive in walking distance to several restaurants, shops, and nightclubs. The hotel has a pool and will try to reserve our rooms in a block so we can be together. During our 6 days in Orlando, there will be several optional activities in which to participate: a 4-hour "Gardens of the World" tour at EPCOT Center, a "behind the scenes" workshop in Walt Disney World, a visit to the Leu Botanical Gardens, and of course, trips to Disney World, EPCOT Center, and Disney MGM Studios. If there is sufficient interest, the bus is available during the week both day and night to drive us around to functions and local sites such as Walt Disney World Village Marketplace and Pleasure Island, Sea World, Universal Studios, Church Street Station, and Rosie O'Grady's (admission is not included in our price).

The cost for the travel and motel is very reasonable: if there are 4 people in a room, it will cost \$289 per person, if there are 3 people in a room, it will cost \$302 per person, and if there are 2 people in a room, it will cost

\$327 per person. These prices include the bus trip, the hotel room, and all state and federal taxes. Other expenses which are not included in the prices listed above include your food, entrance fees to the Magic Kingdom (\$36.95/1 day passport), and Horticulture Workshop (\$20). In order to guarantee a seat on the bus, a commitment of \$100 is needed (make checks payable to **The UConn Horticulture Club**). This deposit will be held by the Horticulture Club until January, 1994 and then deposited; desposits will be deducted from the cost of the bus/hotel. The final balance is due no later than 30 days prior to departure. Feel free to invite your friends and family to this activity. Seats on the bus are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you have any questions, call Dr. Bridgen at 486-2021 or write him at the Department of Plant Science, U-67, 1376 Storrs Road, UConn, Storrs, CT 06269.

THANKS! We would like to thank Mrs. Rochelle Syme for donating her time to the typing of this newsletter. Thanks Rochelle!

MULCHING PERENNIALS by Rudy Favretti, Emeritus Professor of Landscape Architecture. Mulching perennials provides the most effective protection from the ravages of winter. Apply a two to three inch layer of a suitable material, such as peat moss, buckwheat hulls, cocoa hulls, sugar cane, salt marsh hay, pine needles, straw, compost,

manure and even sawdust. Any of these materials are effective, use the one that is cheapest or more easily obtainable.

Don't be hasty in applying the winter mulch. If applied too early, it can do more damage than good. Do not use it to keep the plants warm.

Applying a mulch keeps the soil temperature constant so that fluctuations in temperature will not occur in the soil and damage root tissue. A mulch also provides protection when soil freezes and thaws to cause heaving. This is especially true in heavy or poorly drained soils.

For these reasons, it is customary not to mulch until the soil has reached 32 degrees F. This is usually around Thanksgiving or when the first icy crust has formed on the soil's surface.

Since these mulches absorb water, some plants will rot from excessive moisture around their crowns. Delphiniums, chrysanthemums, foxgloves and columbine are notorious in this respect. For these, it is wise to place a piece of fiberglass building insulation over the top and bring the mulch up around its edges to keep it in place. Many Connecticut home gardeners have found this a very successful practice in overwintering these tender plants.



FAREWELL TO A GOOD FRIEND

Marie Adams

May 1, 1925 - October 3, 1993

Marie Adams became a Master Gardener in 1988 and then completed her Advanced Master Gardener classes at the University of Connecticut Horticulture Garden program.

Marie had been eastern district regional director for 2 years and for the last 2 years she was newsletter editor, publisher of the membership directory, and CAEMG historian. The automobile accident that took Marie left an enormous gap in all of our hearts and lives. She was a joyous and giving woman who brought so much to the lives of all of us who loved her.

IN MEMORY OF MARIE ADAMS

A committee has been formed to select a book for use at the Norwich Extension office.



Deadline for February newsletter
January 10, 1994

No need to wait for the deadline,
respect your editor's sanity -
get your news in early. Reporters
needed!

VOLES

In Connecticut meadow voles
are abundant. They eat a wide
variety of crops and plants,

with a preference for grasses.
Their extensive tunnel systems
cause root destruction and
interfere with crop
irrigation, as well. In late
summer and fall, voles stores
seeds, tubers, bulbs and
rhizomes in their tunnels.
Voles are active day and night
the entire year. They
construct a complex tunnel
system with surface runways
and numerous burrow entrances.
A single tunnel system may
contain several adults and
young.

CONTROL: 1. Eliminate weeds,
ground cover and crop litter
in and around cultivated
areas. 2. A weed-free or
vegetation free strip is an
excellent buffer around areas
to be protected. 3. Frequent
tillage removes cover,
destroys existing runways or
tunnels and destroys a
percentage of the existing
population. 4. Rozol baits
are effective for fall and
winter vole control in noncrop
areas. (Read the label
instructions). 5. Wire or
metal barriers (tree guards)
at least 12 inches high, with
a mesh size of 1/4 inch or
less around trees or shrubs,
will exclude meadow voles. 6.
Mouse traps, or snap-back
traps, can be very effective
in reducing the vole
population. Place the trap
perpendicular to the runway
with the trigger end in the
runway. Apple slices or a
peanut butter-oatmeal mixture
make good baits. 7. A section
of roofing shingle placed over
the burrow opening and baited
with an apple slice will
attract voles. A trap can
also be placed on the ground.
Shingles should be bent to
form an A-shaped roof.
Plywood or flat material
should have small blocks under
the corners to allow for a
crawl space. These shelters
can also serve as bait sites.
8. At least one repellent
utilizing thiram (Bonide
Rabbit, Deer and Field Mice
Repellent) is labeled for
voles. Also, a new material,
Miller Hot Sauce Animal
Repellent, containing the
extract capsaicin from
peppers, may afford short-term
protection from meadow and
pine voles. Check the label
for mixing directions and
restrictions. (For more
detailed information request
Identification and Control of
Mice and Voles #91-57 from the
office).

Announcing

ANNUAL MEETING

POTLUCK DINNER

Saturday, December 4th

starting at 11:00 am

SPEAKER : BOB TOWELL landscape designer
(owner Gledhill Nursery, W. Hartford)

LOCATION: UNIVERSITY of CT at W. Hartford
1800 Asylum Ave.
West Hartford, Ct.

DIRECTIONS: From east or west. Take exit 43 (Park Rd. to W. Hartford) on I-84 (from east, exit is on the left). At the end of the exit, turn right. Immediately get in left lane and turn left at light (Trout Brook Rd). At the fifth light turn left onto Asylum Ave. Turn right into the next driveway which goes to the parking lot.

Any ? Call
Paul Brown
747-5298



November 20th Norwich Extension Office

Open Meeting 10am - Noon

Professor Bill Niering will speak on
Naturalized Landscaping

January 15th the meeting will be held at
Ballek's Garden Center in East
Haddam. There will be a tour and hands on
project. Call for directions. Time: 10am-Noon.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER LISTEN TO WTIC-AM (1080) or
call your local coordinators

OPINION

Reprinted from the New London Day.
If you agree (or disagree) consider
the last paragraph.

THE DAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1993

The Day AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1881

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Pettiness from the governor

Decision to let Harkness mansion fall apart comes from letting personalities and politics rule over reason

Gov. Lowell P. Weicker has let petty politics and personal opinion interfere with objectivity in deciding the fate of the mansion at Harkness Memorial State Park. The governor has no interest in repairing and maintaining this landmark.

Because of the governor's personal feelings, the people of Connecticut could lose this piece of the state's history. They should not let that happen.

Decades ago, Mary Harkness left the beautiful oceanside park and the mansion in Waterford to the state of Connecticut, along with facilities for summer camps for the blind, retarded and handicapped. Just as the governor has a responsibility to maintain the park and camp facilities, so too does his responsibility extend to the mansion.

But that's not the way Gov. Weicker views the decision.

First, he's piqued that First Selectman Thomas A. Sheridan, of Waterford, did a flip-flop over a proposed arts park under discussion among the Department of Environmental Protection, Summer Music and the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.

Gov. Weicker, who can be imaginative and creative in his approach to solving major state problems, in this case is being petty and narrow-minded because he thinks First Selectman Sheridan embarrassed the DEP with his change of mind.

In an interview last Monday, the governor admitted that the flap with First Selectman Sheridan played a part in his reasoning. He also said he's not impressed with the mansion as a structure, that it is not unique and does not lend itself to modern public uses.

The governor also said the state lacks

the money to fix up Connecticut's state parks, and doesn't have the funds for educational and health care programs he'd like to see take place. The Harkness Mansion falls below those items on the state's list of priorities, he added.

"My juices do not flow on behalf of that kind of a structure," Gov. Weicker said. And he added, "Where do I get the money from?"

The governor could start by taking money from some of the hundreds of thousands of dollars in patronage jobs he's handed out to Democrats and Republicans who supported the state income tax.

By the time Gov. Weicker took office, the state already had compiled a sorry record in its failure to maintain the Harkness property. One obvious example is the destruction of many rare plant species through neglect.

Now Gov. Weicker plans to compound the state's checkered history of inadequate maintenance by cavalierly writing off the mansion. It is disappointing, to say the least, that Gov. Weicker, who has shown such strong leadership in so many tough decisions, has allowed himself to be small-minded in deciding the mansion's fate. He won't allow \$1 million in state bond funds approved by the legislature to go on the State Bond Commission agenda.

Anyone who has enjoyed the restorative beauty and mood of Harkness should write the governor to express his or her opinion. Here's the address:

Gov. Lowell P. Weicker Jr.
Room 200
State Capitol
Hartford, Conn. 06106
(Telephone) 1-566-4840

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF
EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR 1994

(Dues are \$5.00/year. Dues paid during Fall of 1993 will be valid through December 1994.)

YES, I am a fully certified Master Gardener and I want to be a part of the CAEMG. I am (a.)
renewing my membership OR (b.) a new member.

Name _____ Year course taken _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Extension Office _____ District _____

INTERESTS

Circle 10 (or less) items of your highest interest.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Annual Flowers | Fundraising for CAEMG | Photography |
| Beekeeping | Garden Design | Plant Disease |
| Birds | Greenhouses | Plant Propagation |
| Bonsai | Handicap Gardening | Plant Therapy |
| Butterfly Gardening | Herbs | Rock Gardens |
| Cactus | Historic Gardens | Seed Saving |
| Children's Gardens | House Plants | Seedlings |
| Community Projects | Integrated Pest | Senior Programs |
| Compost | Management | Shade Gardening |
| Computers in Gardening | Landscaping | Slides |
| Container Gardening | Lawns | Vegetable Growing |
| Drying Flowers | Native Plants | Water Gardens |
| Educational | Orchids | Wild Flowers |
| Flower Arranging | Organic Gardening | Woody Ornamentals |
| Fruit Growing | Perennials | Writing |

Indicate below those subjects you are willing to teach:

ALSO, please list any Affiliations you would like listed in the CAEMG Directory
(for example: Conn. Horticultural Society, NOFA, Arboretum, Local Garden Club).

Please mail dues to CAEMG Treasurer Charlotte Hurlbutt
11 Johnson Court
Waterford CT 06385

COMING SOON!

ANNOUNCING 2ND ANNUAL
GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 1994

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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MASTER GARDENERS

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NEEDED - SIGN UP NOW

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