



Annual Meeting

The annual CAEMG meeting at Comstock Ferre in December was a big success. About 35 Master Gardeners attended, in spite of snowy, icy conditions. We voted in a new board of officers, consisting of the following:

Pam Weil, President,
Helene Verglas, Vice-President,
Larry Van der Jagt, Treasurer,
Andrea Masisak, Secretary.

We look forward to working with them in their new roles.

Awards were given to past presidents **Bob Sherman** and **Bob McNeil**; to extension educator **Marie Dube**; to **Jonas Zucker**, outgoing president, to **John Neff**, outgoing treasurer; and to **Susan Munger**, newsletter editor.

Plans are moving ahead for the 1998 Regional Conference. The site is likely to be either south-eastern or central Connecticut.

Pierre Benerup, owner of Comstock Ferre, gave a fascinating slide lecture on his October seed-gather trip to China. He visited southwestern China, near the Tibet border at very high altitudes. Among the plants he saw were gentians and a cotoneaster that looked more like a lichen. Not many foreigners have been allowed into China so we were fortunate to get a first-hand account of his trip.

Susan Munger, New London

NE Regional Conference

The following is excerpted from a report on the recent regional conference in Portland, ME

There were a number of interesting and instructional workshops given by well-qualified speakers. The keynote address by Barbara Damrosch and Eliot Coleman, "Growing and Cooking the Winter Harvest" was full of innovative ideas for harvesting one's own fresh vegetables even in the dead of snowy winter. The talk was illustrated with their own slides.

On Thursday, among the workshops was "Learning From Lost Gardens," in which it was demonstrated by a talk and slides how gardens, lost for many years, were located. A search might turn up only a picture, then with that it would be possible with the help of family, a library or museum, to find out what was in that garden and reconstruct the idea and spirit of it. This was illustrated with before (where available) and after slides. Some of the rejuvenations perfectly spectacular.

On Friday AM a lecture with slides, "Perennial Design Basics," showed how to use the many varieties of perennials, considering color and texture, integrating them into pleasing designs. There was a colorful synopsis of perennial favorites, some well known, others not so well known. Tips on the very basic necessity of soil preparation were also presented.

Continued on page 3

*President Pamela Weil / Vice President Helene Verglas / Secretary Andrea Masisak / Treasurer Larry Van der Jagt
Special Projects Jeanné R. Chesnow, Gail Collins / Historian / District Coordinators: North: / South: / East: Positions Open
Past Presidents: Jonas Zucker / Robert McNeil / Wendy Donnelly / Paul Brown / Robert Sherman*

Newsletter Editor Susan Munger

Deadline for March / April 1997 Newsletter: March 1, 1997

Mail or fax articles and ideas to Susan Munger, 11 Plant Street, New London, CT 06320 Tel/Fax: 860/443-2261

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Newspaper Garden Columns

We expect to start our eighth year of weekly garden columns—March to October—in *The Day of New London*, provided there are enough writers. If you would like to join us or would like more information, write or call me at 16 Damon Heights Rd, Niantic, CT 06357. 860-739-5134.

Bob McNeil, Niantic

Recommended Reference for MGs

The IPM Practitioner. Published 10 times/yr by Bio-Integral Resource Center (BIRC). Membership \$60/year institutions; \$35 individuals.

Dual membership to both IPMP and *Common Sense Pest Control Quarterly*. BIRC, PO Box 7414, Berkeley, CA 94707.

The Nov-Dec 1996 issue was a 1997 Directory of Least-Toxic Pest Control Products.

Florence Marrone, Killingworth

MGs Needed for Vernon Classes

Masters gardeners are being sought to teach four evening classes in March in the Tolland County Extension Office in Vernon.

Suggest a topic you are comfortable with (such as soil preparation, starting a garden, pest control). Lawn care will be taught by an extension agent. John Crowley of the Extension Council is organizing the course.

Another plan he is working on is a home and garden show for April. If interested in giving a course, call Ginny Daly in the Extension Office, 860-875-3331.

Gardening Tips

- Remove heavy snow from shrubs.
- Don't use wood ashes on acid-loving plants.
- A feather duster is great for dusting jade tree.
- Fertilize houseplants when they show signs of growth.

Renew your CAEMG membership for 1997 now using the form below



Connecticut Association of Extension Master Gardeners

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR 1997

Dues: \$10/year. Dues paid during Fall 1996, Winter 1997 are valid through December 1997.

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 ____.

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Name: _____ Year Course Taken: _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

Extension Office _____ District _____

INTERESTS: Circle 10 (or fewer) items of your highest gardening interests.

Annuals	Computers	With Handicapped	Organic	With Seniors
Beekeeping	Containers	Herbs	Perennials	Shade
Birds	Drying Flowers	Historic Gardens	Photography	Slides
Bonsai	Education	House Plants	Plant Disease	Vegetables
Butterflies	Flower Arranging	Integrated Pest Mngmnt	Plant Propagation	Water Gardens
Cactus	Fruit	Landscaping	Plant Therapy	Wild Flowers
With Children	CAEMG Fundraising	Lawns	Rock Gardens	Woody Ornamentals
Community Projects	Garden Design	Native Plants	Seed Saving	Writing
Compost	Greenhouses	Orchids	Seedlings	

Indicate those subjects you are willing to teach: _____

Affiliations you would like listed in the CAEMG Directory. (e.g.: Conn. Horticultural Society, NOFA, Arboretum, Local Garden Club).

Please mail dues to CAEMG Treasurer: Larry Van der Jagt, 2 Gretel Lane, Simsbury, CT 06070

Wild Medicine

The *Wild Medicine Symposium* at Connecticut College (November 1996) was well worth the time. Hans Beck, described as the Indiana Jones of horticulture, recounted his experiences in the Awa, a rainforest of Ecuador, and explained why we need to gather extensive samples of plants from the world's rainforests.

Another speaker from the National Cancer Institute explained how plants are helping to halt AIDS and cancer. Two other speakers described how Pfizer uses plants and synthetics to develop patentable and therefore marketable substances that prevent or cure disease.

Austin J. Deming, Norwich

Regional Conference continued from page 1

Also on Friday was a presentation "Making An Effective Educational Display." It was very practical and unraveled many of the problems most of us face when asked to make a display. Some of us were teamed with a woman who had years of experience making displays and was overflowing with ideas and how to avoid pitfalls.

Following the conference each participant received in the mail a printed packet of each stage in the development of educational displays, very helpful to have. The lecturer went the second mile.

Some of the tours included a trip to Freeport where we slogged from L.L. Bean to other stores in driving rain and wind, which didn't appear to keep anyone from spending money.

There was a walking tour of the Portland Old Port, a trip to Strawberry Banke in New Hampshire, a lobster bake on Peake's Island, arrived at by boat. On Saturday we went on a whale watch. Either the whales work only a five-day week or no one told them we were coming. We didn't see any, but enjoyed the day-long boat ride.

It was a very interesting, informative, and enjoyable conference. The committee, headed by Barbara Murphy, certainly did a super job of anticipating and planning everything.

Audrey Reid, North Haven Office

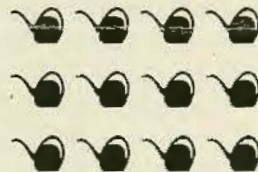
Volunteers Needed for Symposium

Reduced-fee registrations are available to MGs who volunteer to help prepare and run the symposium.

People are needed to act as speaker keepers, staff the MG table, publicize the symposium, line up vendors, get door prizes, put up signs directing people to classrooms, set up tables for vendors and return them afterwards, and more.

Staffing the MG booth will be done during registration, the coffee and lunch breaks. Another assignment would be to provide cookies for the breaks.

If you have about five hours of time to help organize this ever-popular event in return for attending at a reduced fee, please contact Jonas Zucker to find out about assignments available. Tel: 203-368-4978



Directions to Manchester Community-Technical College

Manchester is directly east of Hartford.

From I-84, take Exit 59 to I-384. Take first exit off I-384, Spencer Street. At end of exit ramp, turn left on to Spencer Street.

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From I-384 Westbound, take Exit 1; turn right at light onto Spencer Street and follow directions above.

SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

Keynote Address

Reducing Our Reliance on Agrochemicals; Sustainable Practices for Commercial Growers and Home Gardeners

Dr. Gerald Berkowitz, Chairman, Plant Science Department, UConn
Cultural management practices which focus on reducing soluble fertilizer and pesticide inputs. Gardening practices which facilitate soil stewardship.

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Tony Inch, Master Gardener

Unusual plants to be grown as annuals either in containers or in the garden. Propagation tips, techniques, and timing, as well as plant anecdotes.

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Jack Donohue, Editor, CT Unit, Herb Society of America

Use of not-so-common herbs in the herb garden and perennial border.

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Thomas Rathier, Soil Scientist, CT Agriculture Experiment Station, Valley Lab, Windsor, CT

A hands-on session looking at how plant nutrients become available in soils, how plants find and use them, and how to manipulate the root environment to maximize it all.

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Slide show of a season of growing roses, planting, pruning; a basic program of prevention and control of insects and disease. Various roses that can be used in the homeowner landscape.

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Dr. Sharon Douglas, Plant Pathologist, CT Agriculture Experiment Station

Methods of diagnosis, epidemiology, and management options for some common diseases of vegetable and woody ornamentals.

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Without leaves, winter identification of woody plants must rely on buds, bark, plant forms, persistent fruit. Identify common trees and shrubs in the garden or field using keys. Part of workshop will be outdoors to practice ID skills.

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Robert Sherman, Master Gardener, Past President, CAEMG

A slide show tour of well-known gardens of the British Isles and Scandinavia. Emphasis on visualizing the use of design segments in the home garden.

**Connecticut Association of Extension Master Gardeners
Fifth Annual Gardening Symposium
Manchester Community College Saturday, March 22, 1997**

8:30 - 9 am	Registration
9 - 10 am	Introductions & Keynote Address
10 - 10:30 am	Coffee Break, Browse Vendor Displays
10:30 - 11:45 am	Session I Workshops
11:45 - 12:45 pm	Lunch, Door Prizes
12:45 - 2 pm	Session II Workshops
2 - 2:30 pm	Coffee Break, Browse Vendor Displays
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Session III Workshops

IMPORTANT NOTES: Symposium space is limited to the first 200 persons who register. CAEMG cannot guarantee space to those who plan to register at the door. Registration is assured only when payment is made in full. Refunds are provided only if CAEMG has to cancel program. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTIC radio (1080 AM) for cancellation or postponement. For further information call 203/259-5173.

For directions to Manchester College, see page 3.

WORKSHOP SELECTIONS

IL = Intermediate Level

Session I Workshops, 10:30-11:45	Session II Workshops, 12:45-2:00	Session III Workshops, 2:30-3:45
1. Propagating Annuals	1. Shady Perennials	1. Turfgrass IPM (IL)
2. Unusual Herbs (IL)	2. Plant Diseases (IL)	2. Perennial Combos (IL)
3. Soil Nutrients (IL)	3. Plant ID (IL)	3. CT. Vegetables (IL)
4. Growing Roses	4. Weather Conditions & Gardening	4. Famous Gardens

HOW TO SELECT WORKSHOPS

Select one workshop in each session by number, then choose an alternate in case your first choice is no longer available.

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REGISTRATION FORM (Must be postmarked by March 10, 1997)

Name _____

Phone (include area code) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Session I: First Choice _____ Second Choice _____

Session II: First Choice _____ Second Choice _____

Session III: First Choice _____ Second Choice _____

Registration includes lunch (sandwich, dessert, beverage). Circle choice: Tuna Ham Turkey Vegetarian

CAEMG Members: \$25 Nonmembers: \$35

(CAEMG members must have paid their 1997 dues to register at member price.)

Make check payable to CAEMG. Do not send cash. Send check and registration form to John Neff, Registrar, 18 Knollwood Rd., Farmington, CT 06032. For information call 860-673-5018.

CALENDAR

February 20-23

Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Flower Show. Hartford Civic Center. Thu 4-9:30 pm; Fri & Sat 10 am-9:30 pm; Sun 10 am-5 pm.

Horticulture Division entries open to all amateur gardeners, membership in garden club not required. Categories include orchids, foliage plants, forced bulbs, and more. For information call Joyce Harris, 203-288-9934; Gay Vincent-Canal, 203-868-0876; or Gail Magaldi, 860-739-3109

March 15, 10 am - noon

CAEMG meeting in eastern district. Place to be announced in next newsletter. All members invited.

March 22 Symposium

See inside for information on workshops, registering, directions, and so forth.

April 19, 10 am - noon

CAEMG meeting in eastern district. Place to be announced in next newsletter. All members invited.

May 17, 10 am - noon

CAEMG plant swap & meeting in eastern district. Place to be announced in next newsletter. All members invited.

June

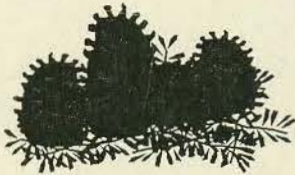
Annual meeting, Date, place, and program to be announced in next newsletter.

Fine Gardening issues 1-24 going into recycling bin unless wanted by someone. If interested, call Wendy, 203-562-8231

Help wanted: garden maintenance in Lyme, very little supervision. Call Wendy, 203-562-8231

Susan H. Munger
11 Plant Street
New London, CT 06320

- Newsletter deadline:
March 1, 1997
- Garden Symposium
Saturday, March 22



Robert & Enid Sherman
15 Fire Tower Road
Killingworth, CT 06417



Renew your CAEMG membership for 1997 now!



Site for 1998 Regional Master Gardener Conference

The Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Cromwell has been chosen as the site for the regional conference, September 24-25, 1998. Work now begins on developing the program, lining up speakers, arranging field trips and workshops, a banquet, and much, much more.

Anyone eager to get involved should contact either co-chair Pam Weil (203-259-5173) or Jonas Zucker (203-368-4978). Over 500 master gardeners and friends are expected, mostly from the 13 northeast states, and eager to experience gardening in Connecticut.

Annual Meeting

Plans are being made for the June annual meeting. Twice a year CAEMG holds annual meetings to which members come from all over the state. Bring guests, friends, a spouse if you wish.

We are hoping that the program this year, scheduled for midday, June 7, will include a tour of Elizabeth Park in Hartford. So mark the date on your calendar and watch for more details in the next issue. Hartford is centrally located so everyone can attend.

Registration for the **symposium** is brisk so sign up now before it is too late. Registration forms must be postmarked by March 10.

April 19 Hoop House Tour

On Saturday, April 19, Carol Hanby of Waterford will give us a tour of her garden, consisting of a hoop house, water garden, and perennial garden. The hoop house provides protection so plants grow through the winter months. All MGs invited.

To avoid parking problems, we will meet at the public parking lot at the junction of Rt 85 and Rt 395 at 9:45 am and carpool. If weather conditions are questionable call Susan Munger (443-2261) or Allen Gauthier (464-9929) after 8:45 am.

If unable to meet at 9:45, follow these directions. Going south on Rt 85 toward New London, at first light after Rt 395 go left on Douglas Lane. At Vauxhall St. go straight ahead on Greentree Dr, to Quinley Way (3rd street on left). Carol's house is number 11 on right. Avoid parking in front of mail boxes. And join us for an interesting tour.

Camp Harkness

The garden for the handicapped at Camp Harkness is now in its fourth year and better than ever, thanks to the hard work of master gardeners under the leadership of Julia Griswold. If you'd like to volunteer, learn more about the inspiring work done here at the March Symposium and in next month's newsletter. Or call Julia at 860-535-3061.

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Newsletter Editor Susan Munger

Deadline for May / June 1997 Newsletter: May 1, 1997

Mail or fax articles and ideas to Susan Munger, 11 Plant Street, New London, CT 06320 Tel/Fax: 860/443-2261

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Ha! Ha!

"You know," said the keen gardener at a dinner party, "I'm feeling very cheerful tonight. Just this afternoon I had several tons of nice, ripe manure delivered for my garden."

"I feel pretty cheerful myself," said the man on his left.

"What about?" asked the puzzled gardener.

"That I don't live next door to you!"

Sign over a display of new spades at a suburban garden center. "Don't heave loam without one."

Nancy Patenaude, Old Saybrook

Renew your CAEMG membership for 1997 and be listed in next directory

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Please mail dues to CAEMG Treasurer: Larry Van der Jagt, 2 Gretel Lane, Simsbury, CT 06070

Gardening Tips

Bulbs Loosen mulch so new growth can emerge. Apply a commercial bulb fertilizer six weeks prior to bloom. After blossoming, tops should be left to turn yellow because while green they will manufacture food for the bulb to store for next year's bloom. Fertilize the bulbs immediately after flowering.

Amaryllis Once the flower has faded, reduce the water supply until all the leaves have dried up and the soil is almost dry to the touch. Place bulb in a cool, dark place. After about 6 weeks, renew watering and fertilizing the plant in a sunny window. Soon the green tips of new leaves emerge. After the last frost, remove the bulb from its pot and plant outdoors.

The bulb is not winter hardy so before cold weather repot in good soil, fertilize, and place in sunny window. In due time, it will flower again. To succeed with amaryllis feed it well so it can store enough food to repeat its cycle.

Propagating Remember two caveats when planting seeds indoors for the summer garden.

Start early so plants will mature enough to produce flowers or fruit.

Don't start too early, which causes plants to become leggy.

Help Wanted

Part time sales help wanted for small garden center. Must have plant knowledge. Call 203-266-5595 in Bethlehem.

Note to 1997 MG Classes

Students in the 1997 Master Gardener classes are encouraged to attend the March 22 Symposium. However, this year you will have to pay the nonmember fee of \$35. The program is an excellent one and we hope to see many of you there.

Tomatoes take a minimum of 60 days to produce fruit after being set outside. Bottom heat encourages early germination of both tomatoes and peppers.

For many annuals, a good time to plant seed indoors is 6 weeks before the last expected frost.

Pruning This is a good time to prune fruit trees and fruit-bearing shrubs. Eliminate all crossed branches, suckers, and water sprouts. On highbush blueberries, flower buds, which produce fruit the following summer, are borne on the top of the current season's growth.

Light pruning prolongs the ripening season, while heavy pruning may concentrate it, and can reduce the yield. All old and unthrifty canes should be cut to the ground. Pruning should leave you with three to five new shoots from the base of the bush each year.

Jonas Zucker, Fairfield



North American Sea Plant Society

CAEMG member Pam Jacobsen announces the formation of the North American Sea Plant Society, Inc.

Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in the study and enjoyment of sea plants found along any of the coastlines in North America. One goal of NASPS is to promote the joys of raising such plants, especially in locations outside of their natural habitat.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter, plant source guide, and assistance with questions and research needs. The formation of local chapters is in process, and assistance will be provided to those establishing local groups.

Membership dues: \$12 per year. For more information call Pam at 413-786-1925; write to PO Box 262, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0262. Or E-mail 103242.2424@compuserve.com.

SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

Keynote Address

Reducing Our Reliance on Agrochemicals; Sustainable Practices for Commercial Growers and Home Gardeners

Dr. Gerald Berkowitz, Chairman, Plant Science Department, UConn

Cultural management practices which focus on reducing soluble fertilizer and pesticide inputs. Gardening practices which facilitate soil stewardship.

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2. Unusual Herbs (IL)
3. Soil Nutrients (IL)
4. Growing Roses

Session II Workshops, 12:45-2:00

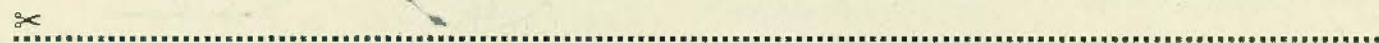
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2. Plant Diseases (IL)
3. Plant ID (IL)
4. Weather Conditions & Gardening

Session III Workshops, 2:30-3:45

1. Turfgrass IPM (IL)
2. Perennial Combos (IL)
3. CT. Vegetables (IL)
4. Famous Gardens

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REGISTRATION FORM (Must be postmarked by March 10, 1997)

Name _____

Phone (include area code) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Session I: First Choice _____ Second Choice _____

Session II: First Choice _____ Second Choice _____

Session III: First Choice _____ Second Choice _____

Registration includes lunch (sandwich, dessert, beverage). Circle choice: Tuna Ham Turkey Vegetarian

CAEMG Members: \$25 Nonmembers: \$35

(CAEMG members must have paid their 1997 dues to register at member price.)

Make check payable to CAEMG. Do not send cash. Send check and registration form to John Neff, Registrar, 18 Knollwood Rd., Farmington, CT 06032. For information call 860-673-5018.

CALENDAR

March 11, 7 pm

Pruning of Shrubs, by MG Arlene Hartmann. Pruning helps control size and direction of growth and produce better flowering or fruit. Mystic & Noank Library

March 15, 10 am - noon

CAEMG meeting in Norwich Extension office. MG Tony Tabak will talk about successful planting along the Duquesne Incline in Pittsburgh by a garden club he formed.

March 19, 7 pm

Planning a Flower Garden and a Water Garden, by MG Ellen Bothamly. East Lyme Public Library. Registration required. Call 739-6926.

March 22 Symposium

See inside for information.

April 8, 7 pm

Woody Ornamentals, Shrubs and Small Trees, by MG Robert Sherman. Beautiful slides of various species. Mystic & Noank Library

April 19, 10 am - noon

CAEMG meeting. Tour of Carol Hanby's hoop house garden in Waterford. See p. 1 for details.

April 23, 7 pm

Container Gardening, by MG Nancy Patenaude. Flowers and vegetables in all types of containers. East Lyme Public Library. Registration required. Call 739-6926.

May 6, 7 pm

Growing Roses, by MG Charlotte Hurlbutt. Roses, called the "Queen of Flowers," are the oldest cultivated ornamental plants and our national flower. Mystic & Noank Library

May 14, 7 pm

Control Pests and Diseases Organically, by MGs Sandy D'Eugenio and Bob McNeil. Protect plants without using chemicals or harming the environment. Registration required. Call 739-6926.

May 17, 10 am - noon

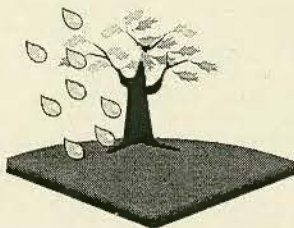
CAEMG plant swap & meeting in eastern district at Arlene Hartmann's house. Details in next newsletter. All members invited.

June 7, Midday

Annual CAEMG meeting. Tentatively planned for Elizabeth Park in Hartford. Details to come in next issue.

Susan H. Munger
11 Plant Street
New London, CT 06320

- Newsletter deadline:
May 1, 1997
- Garden Symposium
Saturday, March 22



Robert & Enid Sherman
15 Fire Tower Road
Killingworth, CT 06417



Last change to renew your CAEMG membership for 1997!



From the President

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners

Thank you for electing me!! - I'm delighted to be the new president of CAEMG.

Our focus for the next year and a half will be on preparing for the Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference in September 1998. Read more about this and come to the committee meetings!

I look forward to seeing many of you on **June 21** at Elizabeth Park. Bring your ideas along with your lunch! We'll talk about the Conference and also about several projects the Executive Board is considering to assist Master Gardeners throughout the state, including updating the reference materials in the Extension offices and/or creating a Speaker's Bureau.

I'm available anytime, just call 203-259-5173.

Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference

We've done it! We've reserved the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell for September 23-25, 1998. We're expecting 500-700 Master Gardeners (and some spouses) from all over the northeast.

I've been to two of these regional conferences, and believe me when I say they're a lot of fun. Let me tell you a little about what happens.

The conference itself runs for two days—Thursday (Sept 24) and Friday (Sept

25). It's garden, garden, garden from morn 'til night. Three workshops each day, plus a banquet and keynote speaker Thursday night. The registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, the banquet and a tote bag full of freebies including garden catalogues and seeds.

Instead of attending some of the workshops, some folks can choose to go on short tours, which are included in the registration fee. Longer tours will be available before (on Wednesday) or after (on Saturday), but these will be priced separately and not included in the registration fee.

We need to get organized to begin planning this event. Although CAEMG is cosponsoring the event with the UCONN Cooperative Extension System and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, CAEMG members will provide the people power to organize this event. We'll need to have the program planned by the end of the year: the first mailing will be January 1998 (only 8 months away!)

We have a few lists of members who have volunteered and I'll be calling everyone on these lists. However, if I don't call you, please call me because I think one of the lists is missing. And if you'd like to volunteer but haven't yet, keep reading!

Continued on page 2

*President Pamela Weil / Vice President Helene Verglas / Secretary Andrea Masisak / Treasurer Larry Van der Jagt
Special Projects Jeanné R. Chesnow, Gail Collins / Historian / District Coordinators: North: / South: / East: Positions Open
Past Presidents: Jonas Zucker / Robert McNeil / Wendy Donnelly / Paul Brown / Robert Sherman*

Newsletter Editor Susan Munger

Deadline for July / August 1997 Newsletter: July 1, 1997

Mail or fax articles and ideas to Susan Munger, 11 Plant Street, New London, CT 06320 Tel/Fax: 860/443-2261; e-mail 70673.726@compuserve.com

Continued from page 1

The question is, how do we organize ourselves into committees to tackle this conference? We live all over the state, and some of us don't mind driving and some of us do. Some of us want to work on a specific committee, and some of us don't have a preference.

What we've decided to do is schedule two committees in a central location (the Meriden Public Library) and other committees in Extension offices throughout the state. At this first meeting you and your committee may decide on a different location and time; that's okay. This schedule is just to get us started:

May 24—10am-Noon at Meriden Library

Program Committee—responsibilities include keynote speaker, workshop speakers, and all tours.

May 31—10am-Noon at Meriden Library

Hospitality Committee—responsibilities include tote bags, door prizes, freebies, and hospitality room.

May 31—10am at Norwich Extension Office; 860-887-1608.

Vendors & Exhibits Committee—responsibilities include contacting and managing businesses and organizations that rent space.

May 31—10am at North Haven Extension Office; 203-789-7865.

Registration Committee—responsibilities include keeping a database of conference attendees. Please RSVP the North Haven office if you'll be coming.

Directions to Meriden Library: From I-91 North, take exit 68W (691 West). Immediately move to the right lane and take exit 8 (Broad Street). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto Broad Street. Turn right onto Liberty.

Travel down Liberty to the first light, turn right onto Center Street. Almost immediately turn left onto Miller Street. Proceed past the first stop sign straight ahead. The Library is the large brick building on your left. The driveway

is before the building and parking is on the side or rear of the building.

June 21—Annual Meeting at Elizabeth Park, 9:45 am

We're lucky that **Donna Fuss**, the rosarian for the Friends of Elizabeth Park, will take us on a private tour through this rose wonderland. It's **Rose Weekend at Elizabeth Park** and the roses will be in their glory.

Elizabeth Park is the oldest municipal rose garden in the United States. Today the rose garden encompasses two and one-half acres and there are 15,000 bushes and about 800 varieties of hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas, shrubs, polyanthas, minis, ramblers and climbers.

We'll meet rain or shine (unless it's a monsoon, in which case we'll reschedule). After Donna's tour, we'll eat our picnic lunches (bring your own beverages this year) either on the grass at Elizabeth Park or inside (location being negotiated) if it's raining. We'll have our meeting after lunch.

After our meeting, you may want explore some of the other horticultural attractions at Elizabeth Park, including the annual garden, the perennial garden (designed by Fred McGourty), and the rock garden. And there are over 120 varieties of trees, including 24 state champions and one national champion.

With so much to do you might end up spending the afternoon! Or taking a short drive over to the garden at Hill-Stead in Farmington and returning to the Park in time for the 5 pm free outdoor concert. The special musical program will honor the 100th anniversary of the Park this year.

Directions to Elizabeth Park, West Hartford: Take I-84 to exit 44 (Prospect Avenue); turn north on Prospect Avenue; go 1.5 miles. Elizabeth Park is on the left.

Pam Weil, President, CAEMG, Westport

Camp Harkness Update

Those members who attended the CAEMG annual meeting in June, 1995, will remember the accessible garden at the camp. For those of you who were unable to attend and for newer members the following is a brief description of the garden.

Camp Harkness and its accessible garden is located in Waterford and is part of the Harkness Estate. Mrs. Harkness willed the Estate to the people of Connecticut in 1952 and, as she was particularly interested in helping those with disabilities, Camp Harkness was set aside to accommodate her wishes. The Camp, which offers opportunities to challenged Connecticut residents and their families, includes fully winterized, accessible cabins, a therapeutic riding program, ramped beach access, an exercise trail and an adapted garden added in 1993. The Town of Waterford provided startup funding for the garden and annual funding is received from the Friends of Harkness.

The Garden

The garden, now in its fourth year, is specially designed with wide stonedust walkways over which wheelchairs can move freely. Adapted tables and benches allow easy access for those in wheelchairs. Garden tools and techniques are adapted in a variety of ways to meet individual needs. Trees and benches have been added for shade and relaxation. Establishing a water garden and raised vegetable beds are among the goals for this year.

Garden programs are offered weekly to campers in July and August and gardening opportunities are available in spring and fall for a variety of groups, including special schools, group homes and families. The programs include assisting the campers to plant window boxes for their cabins, barrels for the park, flower arranging to beautify the camp dining room, teaching some groups about propagation, plant identification and harvesting flowers and vegetables. In addition to the programs there is a wide variety of garden tasks, which include designing and establishing new areas, dividing and potting up perennials for sale

and general garden maintenance to support the program.

The Volunteers

You may well be asking who the responsible people are for this unique garden. You would be right in identifying Master Gardeners of Connecticut. Nine dedicated MGs volunteer their time and commitment to the project and they are as follows: Dorothy Cheo, Nancy Gould, Mary Maria, "Mac" McFarland, Shirley Mitsko, June and Paul Murphy, Bruce Rieber, Albert Romboni, and Mary Smeraldi. Donna Gomes, Russell Butler, and Lillian Green also volunteer and are equally committed to the garden. Lori Lundeborg and Barry Berger have generously assisted in the areas of adaptive devices. In addition to these volunteers, the garden is indebted to the Correctional System in East Lyme. Both men and women from the institute have assisted us with equipment, construction, landscaping and seed raising. The Kiwanis Club of New London is a regular donor and Earthgro, Grossmans, and General Woodcraft have been generous when approached, as has Wertheimer and Associates who helped plan and design the garden. We also receive much support from the Camp Director, George Daly, and his staff.

For information or if you wish to volunteer, please call Julia Griswold, 860-535-3061.

Julia Griswold, Stonington



Wanted

Hostas & Daylilies

At Camp Harkness

Call Julia Griswold

860-535-3061

Ticks and Lyme Disease

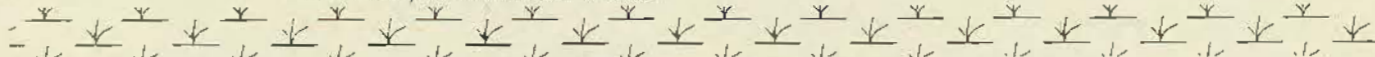
The black legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) is active in May, June, and July. This is the stage that is responsible for the majority of Lyme disease cases. These ticks are abundant in wooded and shrubby areas, fields with tall grass.

If you cannot avoid tick-infested areas, protect yourself by wearing light-colored clothing with long pants tucked into socks. Repellents containing DEET may be applied directly to the skin. A repellent for clothing only, not direct skin contact, is Permanone.

Tick bites are painless; you may not be aware you were bitten, so you should check yourself and your children upon returning home. Check pets also, they can carry ticks into the house. To remove an imbedded tick, grasp with a tweezers as close to the skin as possible and pull straight up. Do not apply vaseline, nail polish, etc., to the tick prior to removal. Many ticks are not infected so a tick bite does not mean a person will develop Lyme disease.

To submit the tick to the state lab to diagnose whether or not it was carrying the Lyme disease bacterium, you must fill out a form that is available at your town health department.

Marie Dube, Horticulture Educator



Horticultural Therapy Conference

The New England Chapter of the American Horticultural Therapy Association (NEAHTA) will hold its 16th Annual Chapter Conference at UConn in Storrs on **Friday, June 13**.

This intensive one-day conference will focus on "Horticultural Therapy Education and Professional Registration in New England."

The horticultural therapy community in New England is comprised of registered and non-registered therapists, persons working in related fields, and other interested persons.

With the guidance of workgroup facilitators, conference participants will break out into "think-tanks" and focus on program develop-

Hort Impact

Have you heard that UConn has an on line data base of plants that gives you photos, cultural requirements, landscape uses and pronounces Latin names?

Do you know how to plan a salsa, stir fry or salad garden? Is there fungus among us? Subscribers to *Hort Impact* know.

It is an 8-page monthly newsletter for home gardeners who value the environment. The Cooperative Extension system publication reaches out to people who plant annuals and perennials, tend vegetable gardens, cultivate lawns and landscapes and nurture houseplants.

In addition, *Hort Impact* promotes environmental responsibility. It is printed on 100 percent recycled paper made of 60 percent post-consumer waste. Articles help gardeners see what individuals can do to reduce adverse impact on the world around them.

One-year subscriptions to H.I. are available for \$10. Checks payable to UConn may be sent to Patsy Evans, 1376 Storrs Road, U-67, U of Conn, Storrs, CT 06269-4067. Or call Patsy Evans (860) 486-1942

ment, therapeutic aspects, horticulture, program funding and resources, and educational outreach.

This information sharing and fact finding will be used to construct a curriculum that can be presented to AHTA for approval and marketed to educational facilities throughout New England.

We invite you to share in this exciting vision, where horticultural therapy educational and professional opportunities abound in New England.

For information call Julia Griswold, 535-3061.

Calendar Update

May 8, 10 am-2 pm

Weed & Divide. Help get UConn Trial & Perennial Gardens ready for summer. Bring lunch. UConn, Storrs. Call Dr. Mark Bridgen, 860-486-3435

May 9, 2-4 pm

CAEMG Board Meeting. Meriden Public Library. See page 2 for directions.

May 13, 10 am-noon

Show & Tell, Diagnostic program with Ed Marrotte. Norwich Extension Office. Call Norm Gauthier, 860-887-1608

May 14, 1 & 3:30 pm

Master Gardener Tours of Natureworks, Northford, and Van Wilgen's, North Branford. Carpool from North Haven Extension Office. Call Marie Dube, 203-789-7865

May 17, 10 am-noon

CAEMG Plant Swap at Arlene Hartmann's house, 153 Fort Shantok Road, Uncasville. Fort Shantok Rd is off Rt 32 just North of Rt 2A. Watch for watering can on mail box.

Herb Sale, sponsored by Connecticut Unit of Herb Society of America. 9 am-2 pm. On the Green, Madison, CT.

May 22

Beautification of Extension Office, 305 Skiff St, North Haven. Call Marie Dube, 203-789-7865

May 24, 10 am-noon

'98 Master Gardener Regional Conference, Program Planning Meeting. Meriden Public Library. See pg 2 for details and directions. Call Pam Weil, 203-259-5173

May 28, 11 am

Dr. Bob Waugh's Garden, Farmington. Car pool from West Hartford Office.

May 31

'98 Master Gardener Regional Conference, Hospitality Planning Meeting, 10-noon, Meriden Library. See page 2 for details and directions.

'98 Master Gardener Regional Conference, Vendors & Exhibits Planning Meeting. Norwich Extension Office. 10 am-noon. See page 2 for details.

'98 Master Gardener Regional Conference, Registration Planning Meeting. North Haven Extension Office. 10 am-noon. See page 2 for details. Call Pam Weil, 203-259-5173

June 4, 1 pm

Master Gardener Tour, Broken Arrow Nursery. Dr. Richard Jaynes, Mountain Laurel hybridizer. Call Marie Dube, 203-789-7865

June 10, 10 am-2 pm

Plant & Divide. Help put in a hedge & move plants. Bring Lunch. UConn, Storrs. Call Dr. Mark Bridgen, 860-486-3435

June 11, 9:30-noon

Show & Tell, Diagnostic program with Ed Marrotte. Hartford Extension Office. Tour garden of Master Gardener Dr. Ben Thaw, Bloomfield. Call Carl Salsedo, 860-241-4940

June 20-21, 10 am- 4 pm

Lyme Garden Tour, featuring 7 beautiful gardens & 3 Houses. \$18 advance purchase; \$20 on day. Take Exit 70 off of I-95 and follow basket signs. Send check and SASE to Lyme Garden Tour, PO Box 1047, Old Lyme, CT 06371

June 21, 9:45 am-noon

Annual CAEMG meeting. At Elizabeth Park, Hartford. Bring lunch & beverage. See pg 2 for details.

June 22, 11 am-2 pm

Behind the Scenes of Upper Main Street, Town and Country Garden Club Tour of Newtown. Admission: \$10. 203-426-1318.

July 10, 9:30 am-noon

Show & Tell, Diagnostic program with Ed Marrotte. North Haven Extension Office. Tour garden of Master Gardener Dolly Chagnon. 1-3 pm. Carpool from North Haven. Call Marie Dube, 203-789-7865

October 4-5

Horticulture Show, UConn Horticulture Club, Ratcliffe Hicks Arena, Storrs. Call Dr. Mark Bridgen, 860-486-3435

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Book Review

Botany For Gardeners

A steady seller, this book is well-written for gardeners interested in the science of plants. The reader will find out how plants grow from a cellular perspective, what happens to water after roots draw it from the soil, if plants measure passing time. Many illustrations—photos, micrographs, and diagrams—enhance the text.

Botany for Gardeners: An Introduction and Guide, Brian Capon. Timber Press, Portland, OR, 1990. \$17.95 200 pp.

Broccoli: Tree Of Life

Broccoli was enjoyed by Greeks and Romans over 2000 years ago. It is one of the most popular vegetables in the US today, even though we were only introduced to it around 1900 by Italian immigrants who settled in New York.

The important thing to remember when cooking broccoli is to cook it until just tender and still crisp. To cook whole stalks bigger than an inch in diameter, make 2 to 4 cuts lengthwise along the stem from bottom almost to the flowering tops. This lets the stalk cook as quickly as the tops.

Excerpt from Connecticut Grown Farm Market Notes

Pest Alert:

Asian Cerambycid Beetle

A long-horned beetle has been discovered attacking trees in Brooklyn and Amityville, NY. Its scientific name is *Anoplophora glabripennis* and this is the first time it has been seen infesting trees in the US. Native to Japan, Korea, and

southern China, it may be coming to Connecticut via port cities like New London, New Haven, and Bridgeport.

It attacks maple species, including Norway, red, sugar, silver, boxelder, and sycamore maple, and horse chestnut.

What to look for:

- Adult beetles are large bodied with very long antenna. Bodies are black with white spots, antenna are black and white. Best time to see is May to October.
- Large, 3/8" diameter, round holes anywhere on the tree including branches, trunk, and exposed roots. These are sites where adults exit from the trees.
- Oval to round, darkened wounds in the bark. These are oviposition sites where adult females chew out a place to lay their eggs.
- Large piles of coarse sawdust around the base of trees or where branches meet the main stem

If found call USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine Wallingford Office, Patty Douglas, 203-269-4277.

Susan H. Munger
11 Plant Street
New London, CT 06320

Newsletter deadline:
July 1, 1997

Annual Meeting, June 21
Elizabeth Park,
Hartford, 9:45 am-noon



Robert Sherman
15 Fire Tower RD

Enid Sherman
15 Fire Tower RD
Killingworth CT 06417



Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,

It was great to see so many Master Gardeners and spouses at the June 21 meeting in Elizabeth Park. It was HOT, but thankfully didn't rain. The roses were spectacular, and Donna Fuss was, as usual, a fascinating speaker.

The meeting afterward was well attended as well, and thanks to all who came. We reviewed and passed the new bylaws. Our new name is **Connecticut Master Gardener Association (CMGA)**. We elected a new vice president, Mira Schachne. Welcome, Mira!

Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference: September 24-25, 1998. The theme will be *A Vision of the Future: Sound Gardening*. Conference planning is cooking right along.

There are about 25 Master Gardeners active on committees. Roger Swain has accepted our invitation to be the keynote speaker at the evening banquet. The Program Committee has begun to select speakers for the 36 workshops. And to choose the tours that will be offered before, after, and during the conference. A large wholesale nursery in Connecticut will sell us 500 mountain laurel seedlings to give as gifts. A logo is being designed by the graphics department at UConn that we will use on publicity materials, T shirts, and tote bags.

It's not too late to get involved. If you're at all interested, don't hesitate! We need you! Most committees are on vacation in August, but the September schedule looks like this:

September 9 (Tuesday) 10 am-Noon at the Meriden Library*

Program Committee

Speaker Chair is Ellen Morse (860-649-6192)

Tour Chair is Claudia Van Nes (860-526-3459)

Bus Chair is Cheron Barton (203-322-7623)

September 19 (Friday) 10:30 am at the Radisson Hotel, Cromwell

Vendors & Exhibits Committee

Co-chairs are Dorothy Cheo (860-443-4356) and Julia Griswold (860-535-3061)

September 24 (Wednesday) 5:15 pm at the Meriden Library*

Hospitality Committee

Chair is Anne Binnie (203-748-0286)

*Directions to Meriden Library: From I95 North, take exit 68W (691 West). Immediately move to the right lane and take exit 8 (Broad Street). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto Broad Street. Turn right onto Liberty.

Travel down Liberty to the first light, turn right onto Center Street. Almost immediately turn left onto Miller Street. Proceed past the first stop sign straight ahead. The library is the large brick building on your left. The driveway is before the building and parking is on the side or rear of the building.

So mark your calendar now and call the chair to say you'll be coming. Working together is a great way to get to know other Master Gardeners, and it's also a lot of fun. So, as the song goes, "See you in September..."

Warmest regards,

Pamela (203-259-5173)

*President Pamela Weil / Vice President Mira Schachne / Secretary Andrea Masisak / Treasurer Larry Van der Jagt
Special Projects Jeanné R. Chesnow, Gail Collins / Historian / District Coordinators: North: / South: / East: Positions Open
Past Presidents: Jonas Zucker / Robert McNeil / Wendy Donnelly / Paul Brown / Robert Sherman*

Newsletter Editor Susan Munger

Deadline for September / October 1997 Newsletter: September 1, 1997

Mail or fax articles and ideas to Susan Munger, 11 Plant Street, New London, CT 06320 Tel/Fax: 860/443-2261; e-mail 70673.726@compuserve.com

June Annual Meeting

On a sunny hot June 21, approximately 40 master gardeners met at Elizabeth Park in West Hartford for a tour of the rose garden and the June annual meeting. Donna Fuss gave a fascinating, very enjoyable and informative tour of the rose garden, which was in magnificent bloom. See below for more information on care of roses.

Following the tour we had a business meeting under the trees adjacent to the roses.

Vice President

Unfortunately Helene Verglas had to step down as Vice President of CAMG, but fortunately Mira Schachne of Oxford, has agreed to accept the position. The vote was unanimous in favor of Mira.

Books

President Pamela Weil announced that CAMG has purchased some excellent reference books for the extension offices where MGs are in training. The books are published by the American Phytopathological Society Press and were highly recommended by Ed Marrotte. Five titles were selected from the Disease Compendium Series. All have excellent color and black/white photos, tables, charts, and more. Depending on what was already available each office received some or all of the following titles:

Compendium of Tomato Diseases, by J.B. Jones, John Paul Jones, R.E. Stall, T.A. Zitter

Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases, by Richard W. Smiley, Peter H. DERNODEN, Bruce B. Clarke

Compendium of Cucurbit Diseases, by Thomas A. Zitter, Donald L. Hopkins, Claude E. Thomas

Compendium of Rhododendron and Azalea Diseases, by Duane L. Coyier, Martha K. Roane

Compendium of Flowering Potted Plant Diseases, Margery Daughtrey, Robert Wick, Joseph L. Peterson

Thanks go to Susan Parr who contacted the extension offices and coordinated the purchase and distribution of the books.

Regional Conference

We also received an update on the regional conference from members of the various planning committees. More on the conference is reported on elsewhere in the newsletter.

Bylaws

A second meeting followed with the purpose of reviewing and voting on proposed changes to the CAMG bylaws. After a brief discussion, the membership voted to change the bylaws as proposed. Highlights of the changes are as follows.

1. The name of the organization will be changed to the Connecticut Master Gardener Association (the CMGA).
2. The purpose of the CMGA shall be educational as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. The old bylaws were clarified and amended in several areas to conform to nonprofit regulations (501(c)(3)).
3. There will be an additional category of membership—Associate, which will be limited to those currently taking the MG training program.
4. One of the two annual membership meetings will be held in November, instead of December.

The primary reason behind the bylaws changes is to allow the association to apply for status as a nonprofit organization. This is important in light of the fundraising we plan to do for the 1998 regional conference because only a nonprofit organization may solicit contributions. Our new Vice President, Mira Schachne, will coordinate the process of applying for nonprofit status.

Regional Conference Update

The theme of the 1998 master gardener regional conference will be *Sound Gardening*, a reference to sensible gardening practices that protect and preserve the entire Long Island Sound watershed, a vast area covering much of New England and Long Island.

Whether we garden in the upper reaches of the Connecticut River, along the Delaware, or on a tributary of the Hudson, or some other location, how we garden positively or negatively affects a much larger environment.

UConn 2000 Projects

Some 85 projects are underway at UConn, with total costs reaching more than \$500 million. A few are mentioned here.

- A new agriculture biotechnology building will have a 80,500 square-foot laboratory, greenhouse, seminar and conference rooms, reference library, transgenic animal facility, current plant biotechnology lab and proposed transgenic plant facility.
- The Avery Point Marine Science and Technology Center in Groton will get 215,000 square feet of new classroom and research space, a new library and Project Oceanography complex.

Chuckle, chuckle

The nursery customer was very particular about the tree she wanted for her garden.

"Now," she insisted, "I want to plant something which will throw lots of shade, but not too much. It must be full and bushy in the summer but allow sun to shine in our windows in the winter. And above all it mustn't drop leaves all over the place for me to rake up in the autumn. Is that clear?"

The nurseryman scratched his head for a while.

"Leave it to me," he said.

When the customer got home late that afternoon, she found standing proudly in the middle of her garden—a large umbrella.

Nancy Patenaude, Old Saybrook

Rumors of Closings Unfounded

Following is an excerpt from Dr. Rodger Adams' e-mail to Marie Dube regarding the rumor that some extension centers would be closed.

To my knowledge the [rumor] is entirely false. I have not heard any comments, discussion, or other information related to closing any extension center in Connecticut. To the contrary, Dean Kerr has stated that his highest priorities concerning our recent budget situation are to not close any extension centers and not lay off personnel. Hopefully, this will put the rumor to rest. Thank you for bringing the rumor to my attention.



*And the Glory of the Garden
it shall never pass away!*

—Rudyard Kipling 1865-1936



Plant Science Day

The annual open house of the Experiment Station at Lockwood Farm will be on **Wednesday, August 6**.

This Plant Science Day features short talks and demonstrations by Station staff, barn exhibits, and will provide answers to your questions.

At 11:30, the **Century Farm Award** will be presented to a family that has been farming in Connecticut for more than 100 years.

The **Samuel W. Johnson Memorial Lecture** will be given by William Dyson, State Representative and co-chairman of the legislature's Appropriations Committee.

The public is invited. Lockwood Farm is on Evergreen Ave, Mt Carmel, Hamden. For more information call 203-789-7272.

Crops for July and August

If you have some gaps in your garden, consider planting crops now that will thrive in the cooler days of late summer and fall.

These include

- beets
- carrots
- chard
- collards
- kale
- kohlrabi
- Chinese cabbage (Bok Choy and Wong Bok).

Plant another succession of bush bean seeds two inches deep in the midsummer to protect them from the sun.

If you planned ahead, you might have cabbage, cauliflower, and brussels sprouts seedlings ready to put out in mid to late July.

Rutabaga and turnips are also meant to be planted in midseason and harvested in cool weather.

Try planting peas in early August; one expert recommends Lincoln or Wando, two varieties that withstand heat better than most. From mid-August to early September you can plant lettuce, radishes, and spinach. Try slow bolting varieties of lettuce, such as Slobolt, Matchless, and Summer Bibb.

Be sure to give your summer plantings lots of water and if necessary some shade.

Connecticut Wild Plants

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut has prepared a 2nd edition of *The Preservation List of Connecticut Wild Plants*. The committee doing this work was headed by **MG Susan Parr** of New Britain.

The 21-page booklet categorizes Connecticut's endangered species, threatened species, and species of special concern; species not on state endangered list but not to be used in designed because declining population; nonnative invasive plants.

According to the booklet, Connecticut is believed to be the first state to pass a law to protect a declining plant solely for its beauty. During the 1800s, the delicate Climbing Fern (*Lygodium palmatum*) was extensively collected and sold commercially for decorative purposes.

On July 8, 1869, a law was passed which gave this fern full protection including a fine, imprisonment, or both for anyone found guilty of taking it. For a while unable to make a successful comeback, it was considered one of our severely endangered species.

Recently new sites have been located where these plants are thriving and multiplying.

Therefore the Climbing Fern may now be considered to be listed as of "Special Concern."

The booklet is distributed by the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut as a service.

Wildflowers. plants which grow and thrive without our help, including native plants and many non-native plants which have been introduced from other areas of the globe. Botanists often refer to the latter as *aliens* or *exotics*

Native Plants. plants that have adapted to thrive in their unique habitat. They are at home in their environment; each species with its specific requirements of sun, soil, rainfall, and pollination.

Naturalized Plant. One that has left its home site and traveled, sometimes across oceans, to settle and make more of itself. Examples include dandelions and oriental bittersweet. *Invasive weeds* grow with abandon, thriving in man-disturbed sites and along flood-scoured waterways. They are so successful that they crowd out native plant populations.

About Elizabeth Park

Elizabeth Park began in 1894 when a tract of land was bequeathed to the City of Hartford by the will of Charles H. Pond.

The **Rose Garden** was designed as the central feature of the park and was the first rose garden in the United States to be designed with public funds.

It covers approximately two and a half acres with more than 15,000 rose bushes of some 800 varieties. A rustic summer house stands on a central raised mound. Some roses in the main garden are over 90 years old.

National evaluation of recently introduced roses began here in 1912 in cooperation with the American Rose Society.

Rose Care Program

Donna Fuss gave us an excellent tour of the Elizabeth Park Rose Garden on June 21. Donna is cofounder of the Connecticut Rose Society, the consultant to the Rose Garden in Elizabeth Park and a Test Garden Judge for the All America Rose Selections, Inc.

The following is excerpted from a article by Donna Fuss in *The Connecticut Gardener*, May/June 1996.

Roses aren't difficult to grow, they just take time. To be successful with roses you need to care for them by watering, fertilizing, and spraying on a regular basis.

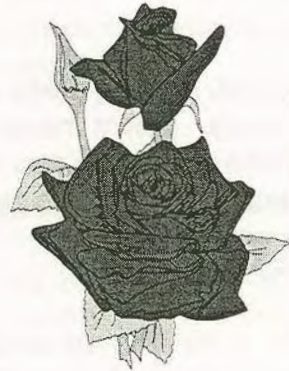
Watering

If you can only give your roses one thing, it should be water. The rule of thumb is

- one inch a week during April and the first half of May;
- two inches a week from mid-May through early July;
- three inches a week in the heat of July and August.

The Rose Garden became the first test garden in the nation. The Park has continued these rose trials which culminate in the All America Rose Selections.

In addition to the Rose Garden, Elizabeth Park also has annual, perennial, and rock gardens, many notable trees, and greenhouses.



Fertilizing

Before you do anything about feeding your roses, have a pH test done. Roses like a pH about 6.5. At this point most nutrients are available for the rose to use. Usually we use 10-10-10, 5-10-10, or 5-10-5. The amount is 3/4 to one cup sprinkled around the drip line and lightly scratched in. This should be done about four times a season starting in April. I also add a heaping tablespoon of Epsom salts to the May and June feedings to stimulate growth from the base of the bush.

Be sure to water the soil before and after fertilizing.

Spraying

If you want to grow healthy, vigorous plants with good blooms you will have to spray or grow rugosa roses. A regular spray program is important to prevent common fungal diseases, which are easier to prevent than to cure. On the other hand, don't spray for insects until you see them. A relatively new insect repellent on the market is Bio Neem; the Japanese Beetles don't like it.

Gazpacho (Cold Tomato Soup)

- 1 clove garlic
- 4 to 6 ripe tomatoes
- 1 small green pepper
- 1 cucumber
- 1 small onion (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon olive oil (optional)
- 1/2 cup iced water
- 1/4 cup fresh squeezed lemon juice or wine vinegar

Wash tomatoes. Cut out stem end and chop tomatoes finely. Wash, remove seeds, and finely chop the pepper. Wash, peel, and chop cucumber and onion. Mince garlic. Place prepared, chopped vegetables in a large bowl and blend in other ingredients.

If you have a blender or a food processor, simply blend prepared vegetables and other ingredients until coarsely chopped.

Calendar Update

July 19, 11 am-noon

Gilberties Herb Garden, I-95, Exit 17. Afterwards MG Lisa Davy's perennial garden, Fairfield; MG Nick Kapetan Herb Garden/Community Garden, Bridgeport. Call Marie Dube, 203-789-7865

July 30, 11 AM

Hillside Garden Norfolk. Rt 44 to Norfolk. South on Rt 217 2.4 miles to just before a state park. Call Marie Dube, 203-789-7865

August 6, 10 am-4 pm

Plant Science Day. Annual Open House at Agricultural Experiment Station, Lockwood Farm, Hamden. See inside for details.

October 4-5

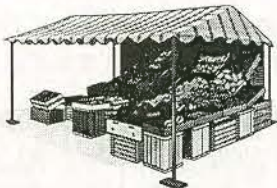
Horticulture Show, UConn Horticulture Club, Ratcliffe Hicks Arena, Storrs. Call Dr. Mark Bridgen, 860-486-3435

Sept. 23-25, 1998

Master Gardener Regional Conference, Radisson Hotel, Cromwell, CT. Conference takes place on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 24 and 25. Optional trips and activities are being planned for Sept. 23 and 26.

Susan H. Munger
11 Plant Street
New London, CT 06320

Newsletter deadline:
September 1, 1997



Robert Sherman
15 Fire Tower RD
Killingworth CT 06417



Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,

I hope your summer was terrific! After our short break, we're back on track with preparations for the 1998 Northeast Regional Conference—*Sound Gardening: A Vision of the Future*.

Here's the schedule for upcoming committee meetings. Meetings are a lot of fun and also give you the opportunity to get to know other Master Gardeners. We hope you'll join us.

- **September 19 (Friday) 10:30 am** at the Radisson Hotel, Cromwell—Vendors & Exhibits Committee
- **September 24 (Wednesday) 5:15 pm** at the Meriden Library*—Hospitality Committee
- **September 26 (Friday) 11 am** at the North Haven Office—Registration Committee

Currently, the Speakers Committee is finalizing speakers for 31 workshops. The speaker lineup looks excellent! We all agreed that the only problem will be deciding which one to attend because we would want to attend them all!

The Tours Committee is deciding which tours will be included in the conference registration and which tours will be offered at additional expense either before or after the conference. This is exciting and interesting work. And the Tours Committee could use additional help—call Claudia Van Nes at 860-526-3459.

I look forward to our annual fall membership meeting November 1 (See p3). See you there!

Pamela Weil, CMGA President

* Directions to Meriden Library:

From I-91 North, take exit 68W (691 West). Immediately move to the right lane and take exit 8 (Broad Street). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto Broad Street. Turn right onto Liberty.

Travel down Liberty to the first light, turn right onto Center Street. Almost immediately turn left onto Miller Street, proceed past the first stop sign straight ahead. The library is the large brick building on your left. The driveway is before the building and parking is on the side or rear of the building

Information Needed

As reported in the last issue, CMGA is in the process of obtaining nonprofit status. We need to demonstrate to the IRS the many educational activities performed by master gardeners since the inception of the organization. This information will be used to demonstrate how the organization serves the community. Mira Schachne, CMGA Vice President, is gathering a file of newsletters; newspaper announcements of MG talks, demonstrations,

programs; articles; letters acknowledging work with the handicapped, incarcerated, children, and the elderly; etc, etc. There is so much that MGs do for the community. Please send information to Mira Schachne, % Marie Dube, North Haven Cooperative Extension Center, 305 Skiff Street, North Haven, CT 06473-4451, as soon as possible. If possible indicate the date and approximate number of people attending the event.

*President Pamela Weil / Vice President Mira Schachne / Secretary Andrea Masisak / Treasurer Larry Van der Jagt
Special Projects Jeanné R. Chesanow, Gail Collins / Historian / District Coordinators: North: / South: / East: Positions Open
Past Presidents: Jonas Zucker / Robert McNeil / Wendy Donnelly / Paul Brown / Robert Sherman*

Newsletter Editor Susan Munger

Deadline for November / December 1997 Newsletter: November 1, 1997

Mail or fax articles and ideas to Susan Munger, 11 Plant Street, New London, CT 06320 Tel/Fax: 860/443-2261; e-mail 70673.726@compuserve.com

Cornucopia!

Everyone is invited to come discover the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the third annual **Cornucopia Fest! Sunday, September 28, 11 am to 4 pm.**

- Surf the Internet
- Take a hay ride
- Have your ailing plants diagnosed by the Plant Doctor
- Take a guided hike in UConn's own forest
- Measure your body's calorie consumption
- Ask the Vet
- Visit the LERIS lab and look through the college's window on the world

- Learn about soil erosion
- Ride the Personnel Lift
- Learn the names of those weeds invading your lawn and garden
- Learn about fish in Connecticut's ponds
- Buy a plant
- Talk to faculty and learn about our Education with a View
- Go to an auction to benefit the college
- Visit the Scooper Bowl for a Cornucopia ice cream cone!

Admission is free. UConn campus, Storrs.

California MG Conference

A widely diverse program was offered at the International Master Gardeners Conference in Sacramento, California, on July 16-19, 1997. There were three or four sessions of ten programs for three days, 100 subjects to choose from. We made our choices with difficulty and often sat in for part of one and part of another to grasp at least some of each.

Topics included Design Dilemmas, Biointensive Gardening, Environmental Ethics, Native Bees, Bats, Backyard Orchard Culture, Natural Pest Control, Seed Saving, Computers and Internet, CD Rom Demo, Japanese Bonmiwa, New Perennials by Steve Frowine of Connecticut's White Flower Farm, Critters in Your Yard, Marvelous Mushrooms, Latin Names (Standing room only for this marvelous presentation by James Chatfield from Ohio State), Bulbs as Companion Plants, Mars Attack (on invasive alien plants) to name only a few of the many topics offered.

Only a few topics such as Yellow Star Thistle, Caring for Backyard Citrus, Firescape, California Native Plants had limited local application.

A thick book of Proceedings or manuscripts of the offerings was given to each participant. This is a great reference with a wealth of material on the topics covered.

The well-run conference was held at the spacious Convention Center across the street from the Capitol with its 40-acre park displaying a collection of 340 trees from continents and climates of the world. Capitol tree walks were held daily.

Daily morning speakers featured Dr. Stephen Buchmann, author of "Forgotten Pollinators." Dr. Merle H. Jensen, a leading agricultural scientist on hydroponics and other alternatives for agriculture, and actor Lee Stetson as John Muir. All three were fascinating and well worth getting up in time to hear.

There were preconference tours, nearby tours for a \$25 fee, in ice-cream social for all, a dinner cruise on a paddle wheeler for a fee, trade show and state exhibits, seed exchange booth, computer lab, Search for Excellence presentations (interesting and enjoyable), festive Farmers Markets, one just across the way from the conference center. There was no banquet dinner. Each attendee received a Western Red Cedar or Canoe Cedar seeding (Thuja plicata) "Emerald Cone," a new cultivar memento to take back home.

We went away inspired and fully satisfied with all that we saw, heard, and learned.

Florence Marrone, Killingworth

Mushrooms Cap Fall Membership Meeting



**November 1, 11 am
Mark Your Calendar!**

And join us for several hours of fun at the fall general membership meeting of CMGA.

At 11 am, we'll begin with a short business meeting, then visit while we eat our lunches.

At 12:30, we'll begin a special program:

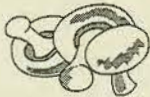
Mushrooms with speaker Connie Bordenko

Connie has been mushrooming most of her life. She is the president of the Connecticut Valley Mycological Society. And she's a brand-new Master Gardener.

Connie will show slides and identify any mushrooms we bring. So look around and pack up any strange fungi. I know there are some in my backyard that look like they came from Mars!

Lunch is bring-your-own. We'll provide coffee. And baked goodies are always welcome for those who would like to bring some to share.

LOCATION: The Kellogg Environmental Education Center at Osborndale State Park in Derby.



Pamela Weil

Directions: The Kellogg Environmental Center (203-734-2513) is about 7 miles west of New Haven off of Rte 34.

Take the Rte 8 or the Merritt Parkway exit onto Rte 34 West. On Main Street (Rt 34) in Derby, continue West on Rt 34 for about 1.5 miles from the Rte 8 overpass. Turn right onto Cedric Ave. Parking is about 200 feet past the next stop sign.

Note that the meeting date has been moved up this year to a time when the weather may be more clement and to avoid major holidays.

Make a Day of It

After the November 1 membership meeting, you might want to visit the nearby Osborne Homestead Museum, an elegant colonial revival home (1850), original collection of antiques and fine arts.

There are formal rose and flower gardens and an English rock garden. Grounds are open to 3:30; Museum til 4 (203-734-2513).



Needle Drop of Evergreens

It is normal for older, inner needles of evergreens to turn brown and fall out at this time of the year. Evergreens remain green because they do not lose all of their needles at the same time.

Juniper and Douglas fir may keep their needles for up to ten years but arbovitae and white pine shed two-year-old needles.

As long as the browning and yellowing is uniform and confined to the inner needles, there is no cause for concern.

Cooperative Extension System Fact Sheet

Mountain Laurel

Mountain laurel is taking a beating because of the harsh weather conditions of summers past.

Drought in the summer of 1995 is showing up this summer by killing off some branches of mountain laurel shrubs, both in the wild and in landscaped gardens.

A combination of fungi that flourished in last year's damp summer have infected the leaves of the plant, causing leaves to develop ugly brown spots and fall off the shrubs. Similar conditions are hurting rhododendrons and azaleas.

Excerpt from AP article this past summer

Fall Planting

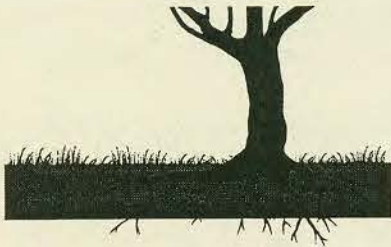
Fall planting is ideal for many plants because the weather is cooler and moisture in the form of rain is available. Roots can continue to grow until the soil temperature goes below 40 degrees.

Follow proper planting techniques by digging an adequate hole—wider but not deeper than the root ball. Backfill should be amended with no more than 20 percent compost or peat moss.

Water plants once a week if there is not sufficient rain. Mulch plants with a 3-inch layer of mulch, but keep the mulch 2 inches away from the trunk.

Some trees should not be planted in the fall because of the significant chance of loss: thin barked trees, such as birch or cherry, and trees with fleshy roots, such as dogwoods and magnolias.

Cooperative Extension System Fact Sheet



Fertilize Trees and Shrubs

October is the best time to fertilize woody plants. The preferred method is to spread the fertilizer on the surface of the soil over the entire root system of the plant.

Then water it to send the fertilizer down into the root zone. Most tree roots are in the upper 6-12 inches of soil; with a spread of 1½ to 2 times the height of the tree.

Use a good balanced fertilizer such as 10-6-4 or 10-10-10 or 5-10-10. For rates to apply, please write for Horticulture Fact Sheet #41: Fertilization of Trees, Shrubs, Vines, and Groundcovers.

Cooperative Extension System Fact Sheet

Tasty Greens and Potatoes

3 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 medium-sized potatoes, scrubbed clean but unpeeled

2 small onions, sliced and separated into rings

1/2 fresh green pepper, cleaned and chopped

1 pound tender, young greens

1/4 teaspoon dried basil or 2 tablespoons fresh basil

1/8 teaspoon garlic powder

Black pepper to taste

2 to 3 tablespoons cider vinegar

Wash greens and set aside. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Slice the potatoes about ¼ inch thick and saute in the oil until the potatoes are almost tender. Add the onions, green pepper, basil and garlic powder. Stir, and lower heat. Cover the pan and cook slowly for about 5 minutes.

Add the prepared greens and black pepper. Cook, covered until greens are tender, about 10 minutes more. Remove from heat. Add vinegar. Stir. Serve immediately. Makes 6 servings.

Also of Interest

The lady bird beetle imported for natural control of the hemlock woolly adelgid has survived for two winters, but we need another year or two to know if it is the solution.

The Connecticut deer population was estimated at 12 in 1896, while current estimates place the population at around 53,000.

Today forest covers two-thirds of the state. This contrasts with 120 years ago when the state was one-third forest and two-thirds open land. The present forest is essentially the same age due to heavy cutting for fuel wood and charcoal early in the century. For sustainable forests age classes of the trees should be from 0-100 rather than the heavy concentration of those 60-90 years old.

*The above items are from
Experiment Station Associates Bulletin.*

Fall Wrap Up

September continues to be a month to enjoy the fruits of our gardening labors over the past spring and summer. Tomatoes, peppers, squash continue to produce and late summer plantings of lettuce, radishes, and other short-season, cool weather crops will produce through October if you are lucky enough to miss a frost or industrious enough to use protective covers.

The glorious basil starts to fade as the days shorten and there's not much anyone can do to prevent it. But other herbs, such as parsley, just get better as the season cools off. In fact, parsley can be kept going through much of the winter in a cold frame. Other herbs can be brought in and enjoyed through the winter, such as marjoram, which gets leggy and has fewer leaves than in summer, but still packs in that wonderful aroma that adds much to salads and soups.

Fall is the time for many garden activities, some done for aesthetic reasons, others for future health of the garden, others for pest control. Here is a list of items. How many apply to your garden?

- Cut winter squash and pumpkins leaving 1 inch of stem from the fruit
- Clean out yellowing asparagus foliage before berries ripen
- Cut back perennials after foliage dies naturally
- Leave parsnips in the ground for winter and early spring harvest
- Plant garlic for next year
- Dig gladiolus corms when mature and bring inside
- Bring mature green tomatoes indoors and wrap in newspaper to ripen
- Keep watering newly planted trees and shrubs
- Dry herbs in a warm, airy, dark place, such as a brown paper bag in the attic (don't forget they're there)
- Label bags of herbs. Once dried they look, if not smell, alike.
- Update your garden diary; make a sketch of what it looks like at the end of the season to help plan at the beginning of next season.
- Have your soil tested for next year
- Plant spring flowering bulbs.

Book/CD Review

Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs

Timber Press has just published Michael Dirr's new CD with over 8,000 high resolution images of woody landscape plants (trees, shrubs, and vines) ready to print.

This encyclopedia has loads of information including habits, characteristics, and seasonal changes of woody plants.

The program is intended for use in USDA Hardiness zones 3-6.

Hardy Trees and Shrubs is also available in a 450-page hardcover edition (ISBN: 088192404) with a list price of \$69.95.

Either of these can be a great addition as a reference source in a Library, Garden Center, or Nursery.

For more information contact Timber Press at <timber-press.com> or 1-800-327-5680 or your favorite bookseller.

Allan Fitzgerald, Norwich

Any Alpine/Rock Garden Plants?

Are you dividing plants this fall that are suitable for a hot dry location and do you expect to have leftovers? Camp Harkness is looking for rock garden plants. If you have some to offer, contact Julia Griswold, 860-535-3061.

Wanted:

Master Gardener to develop several acres of gardens for a new commercial establishment in Westbrook. Compensation to be arranged by mutual agreement.

Construction of building to commence in the fall with a spring opening anticipated.

Contact Mae Johnson, Harbor View Antiques and Gardens, 250 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, CT 06498. 860-669-0120

Calendar

September 19, 10:30 am

1998 Northeast Regional Conference Vendors & Exhibits Committee at the Radisson Hotel, Cromwell

September 20, 10-noon

Master Gardener Meeting, Norwich Extension office. Meet with other MGs in Southeastern Connecticut, share information and ideas.

September 24, 5:15 pm

1998 Northeast Regional Conference Committee at the Meriden Library (see page one for directions.)

September 26, 11 am

1998 Northeast Regional Conference Registration Committee at the North Haven Office

September 28, 11 am-4 pm

Cornucopia! Festival put on by UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. See inside for details.

October 1, 10 am

Connecticut College Arboretum, Master Gardener Tour. Led by Director Glenn Dwyer. Meet at Williams St., at back entrance to college.

October 4-5

Horticulture Show, UConn Horticulture Club, Ratcliffe Hicks Arena, Storrs. Call Dr. Mark Bridgen, 860-486-3435

Nov 1, 11 am - 2 pm

Fall Meeting for CAMG Membership statewide. Talk on mushrooms. Also update on 1998 Master Gardener Regional Conference. Bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee will be provided. At Kellogg Environmental Education Center, Osborndale State Park, Derby. See page 3 for details.

Sept. 23-25, 1998

Master Gardener Regional Conference, Radisson Hotel, Cromwell, CT. Conference takes place on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 24 and 25. Optional trips and activities are being planned for Sept. 23 and 26.

Susan H. Munger
11 Plant Street
New London, CT 06320

Newsletter deadline:
November 1, 1997

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