

# The Laurel



The Connecticut Master Gardeners Association

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to the  
2001 Master Gardener  
Graduates!

A swing in late fall weather has caused a lot of confusion for gardeners and plants alike. In my lower Connecticut River Valley town, Muscari are blooming alongside Forsythia. My neighbor has a coating of wet snow on his newly seeded lawn. And to top things off, there is a conspicuous absence of natural bird food, the winterberry and dogwood fruits being killed off by a late spring frost.

Our plans for the Symposium March 9, 2002 are galloping right along, due to the efforts of a tireless and dedicated crew. Our goal for the day is to inspire Master Gardeners and their guests with ideas for good gardening practices. We will be adding a new twist this year: a panel discussion at the end of the day. Get your registrations in early, we are adding another 50 spots, and they are sure to fill up! We need volunteers and have slots open for vendors. Please get requests to me by mail, phone or email (info inside front cover of this issue).

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January/February 2002

Volume 15, Issue 1

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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## 2 The Laurel CMGA

The Laurel is published by the CMGA a minimum of four times a year.

Please submit articles, suggestions or inquiries to:

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(203) 458-8413  
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Please include your phone number. Space availability is on a first-received, first-printed basis.

Any concerns or problems regarding your newsletter mailings should be brought to the attention of:

Kate Cheromcha  
9 Northwood Road  
Quaker Hill, CT 06375  
(860) 439-0099

(Please contact the Membership Chairman for any other membership concerns – see 2002 CMGA Officers list on this page.)

### NOTICE!!!

Please remember, when sending emails to note the subject as being for the CMGA newsletter. Any emails received from an unfamiliar address without a subject noted will not be opened.

## CMGA COUNTY REPS

### SW District

Diana Ringelheim, 121 Godfrey Road, Fairfield CT 06432. 203-372-8498. diana@ringelheim.com

### NE District

Tolland County – Lloyd Hinrichs, 62 Church Street, Vernon CT 06066. 860-872-9720, mosflower@msn.com

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MG COORDINATORS

### **North-West District**

West Hartford: Katie Melvin - (860) 570-9010  
Torrington: Karen Anderson - (860) 626-6240

### **South-West District**

Bethel: Sandi Wilson - (203) 207-8440  
North Haven: Mira Schachne - (203) 407-3161  
Stamford: Cheron Barton (203) 321-4826

### **South-East District**

Haddam: John Castagno - (860) 345-4511  
Norwich: Melissa Smith - (860) 887-1608

### **North-East District**

Brooklyn: Kim Kelly - (860) 774-9600  
Vernon: Mary Collins - (860) 870-6934

Home and Garden Center - UCONN Storrs  
1-877-486-6271 (toll-free)

## 2002 CMGA OFFICERS

### **President: Wendy Drenga**

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### **Extension Liaison: Cyndi Wyskiewicz**

(877) 486-6271 (toll free)



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Our annual membership meeting was recently held at the Litchfield County Extension Center, located on the beautiful hilltop site of the Torrington branch of UCONN. Karen Andersen graciously hosted us for this event, and is excited about the upcoming MG class to be held there, transplanted from the West Hartford location. Roy Jeffrey provided us with some inspirational food for thought, and I am now rethinking my Victory Garden...

A new slate of officers was presented and we now have a new Secretary-Sylvia Foster (2001) from Enfield, and Treasurer-Paul Grimmeisen (2001) from Farmington. They are already hard at work and I am looking forward to working with both of them. My heartfelt thanks go out to our outgoing Treasurer-Lucy Goodridge and our Secretary-Susan Hendricks-Wilson. Their efforts and dedication for the last two years are gratefully appreciated.

This year Larry Van Der Jagt and I were able to help the State of New Hampshire form their Master Gardener Association. They became an association November 10 at a workshop at Plymouth State College. They used our by-laws as models, putting theirs through six revisions, placing the New Hampshire "stamp" on them, making them right for their ten counties. I hope to be invited to one of their events this year.

Let's pray that we are now in a wet weather pattern. I mean, REAL wet weather.

**"A January Fog will freeze a Hog."**

**"The swamps need to be full before the first frost hits."**

Don't forget to order your catalog to plan your Victory Garden!

*Wendy Drenka, President*

*Mark your Calendar:*

*March 19, 10:00 Board Meeting,  
North Haven*

*May 7, 10:00 Board Meeting, Haddam*

*June 15 11:30 Semi-Annual Members  
Meeting, Location TBA*

*September 10, 10:00 Board Meeting,  
Elizabeth Park, Hartford*

**From the Editor. . .**

Welcome to 2002 and the January/February issue of The Laurel . The centerpiece of the newsletter is focused on this year's CMGA Symposium. We're looking forward to a fantastic event on March 9.

Inside you'll find an article about Nancy Mackinnon, our Keynote Speaker, and her proposed direction. You also have the opportunity to preview a session on *Attracting Butterflies* with Andy Brand. Thank you to Debbye Rosen for interviewing Andy and providing us with the agenda for his interactive presentation.

Thank you John Neff for preparing an interview with Rip Sokol, this year's speaker on *Water Gardens*. Have you started your water garden? Rip will provide us with his proven and solid methods for success.

All of the specifics regarding the Symposium are located in the center of this issue. Thank you Rose Van der Jagt for designing the information/registration piece...and a special thank you to the Symposium Committee for providing a superb selection of speakers, as well as taking care of the numerous planning logistics to ensure the event's success. Please complete your Symposium registration material soon as the 300 seats will fill quickly.

The CMGA Membership Application appears once more. Please renew your membership today for the year 2002. This will be your last issue of The Laurel if your renewal is not received by the end of January.

There are lovely submissions by our membership in this issue. I enjoy receiving, reading, and publishing these very much. Please continue to send material to share with members in our publication – we all enjoy hearing from you and sharing your thoughts and experiences.

As I'm finishing up the newsletter in Vermont this last day of 2001 there are a few inches of snow on the ground, temperatures are in the teens, the sun is shining brightly, the wind is blowing strongly, and my Pussy Willow has forced open its fuzzy tips. The Christmas Roses are in bloom. Can Spring be far away?

Enjoy the beauty of Winter – and do try to force a few branches of Spring-blooming trees and shrubs. Easy directions are provided for you on page 18!

*Warmest regards,  
Becky Raiola-Paul, Editor*



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### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 2001 MINUTES

#### CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2001

The annual meeting of the Connecticut Master Gardeners Association was held on Saturday, November 3, 2001, at the Torrington Extension Office in Torrington, Connecticut.

#### ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Drenga at 11:55 am. There were 22 members in attendance, including Wendy Drenga, President, Becky Raiola-Paul, Vice President, Cyndi Wyskiewicz, Program Specialist, Education Outreach, UCONN, Lucy Goodridge, Treasurer and Larry Van Der Jagt, Past President.

#### MINUTES

A motion was made and passed to bypass reading of Secretary's Minutes since she was not in attendance.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Lucy Goodridge, Treasurer, submitted financial information, please see the following page for details.

Discussion: Dues for 2001 are coming in slowly. We need to ensure the Class of 2001 is urged to join.

A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

#### ELECTION OF 2002 OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee Chairman presented the slate. There were no nominations from the floor and no discussion. A motion was made and passed to accept the slate as presented.

President, Wendy Drenga, President  
Becky-Raiola-Paul, Vice President  
Sylvia Foster, Secretary  
Paul Grimmeisen, Treasurer  
John Carlson, Membership Chair  
Becky Raiola-Paul, Newsletter Publisher  
Kate Cheromcha, Newsletter Assistant  
Larry Van Der Jagt, Past President

#### OLD BUSINESS

**NEWSLETTER**-Chairperson Becky-Raiola-Paul reported that members are submitting more and more articles for the newsletter. Next issue will be the Symposium Issue. Deadline for submission of articles is December 10. Solicitation of advertisers is permissible. Members suggested that each newsletter have a particular theme. It was suggested to thank Mary Collins for past work publishing the newsletter.

**COUNTY TASK FORCE**-Larry Van Der Jagt reported on the Hartford County Pilot Program whose purpose is to sustain and perpetuate some of the great projects initiated through the MG Program. There is a Steering Committee and Program Leader in place.

**OPEN HOUSES**-Open Houses in North Haven and Vernon were successful. An Open House in Bethel is planned for March. Graduation plans for each office were discussed.

**PROGRAM AND TRIPS**: A new Chairman of this Committee is needed to replace Cyndi Wyskiewicz.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**BUDGET 2002**: Presented by Larry Van Der Jagt. This is a balanced budget with \$10,000 in reserve.

Discussions: Fundraising, Associate Fee, Projects

Project budget—Discussion on \$1500 allocated for projects and how to allocate funds. It was decided on no pro-rated allocation to each office. Members need to submit a request for their project. Each project request will be evaluated and an award made after discussion. Student Membership Fee will remain the same \$10.00. There is a need to increase income through fundraising.

A motion was made and passed to accept the new budget for 2002.

*(Continued on page 11)*



**2002 CMGA Officers**

Front row left to right are Becky Raiola-Paul, Vice President; Wendy Drenga, President; and Sylvia Foster, Secretary. Back row left to right: Larry Van der Jagt, Past President; Paul Grimmeison, Treasurer.



# FINANCIALS

## CMGA 2002 BUDGET

Accepted at the CMGA Annual Meeting  
November 3, 2001

### Bank Accounts (a/o December 31, 2001) (ESTIMATED)

1 Year CD	\$10,600
Checking Account	500
Money Market	100
	<u>\$11,200</u>

### INCOME

Dues	\$ 9,750
(650 members \$15/member)	
Interest	150
Symposium	11,000
Fundraising	2,500
2002 CMGA Students	<u>2,400</u>
(240 students \$10/student)	
	<u>\$25,800</u>

### EXPENSES

Directory	\$1,500
Newsletter	9,000
(6 newsletters @\$1500)	
UConn Scholarship	2,000
CMGA Scholarships	600
Symposium	7,000
Executive/Member expenses	1,000
Bank Fees	200
Fundraising	2,000
Outreach Projects	1,500
Contingency	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>\$25,800.00</u>

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## CMGA FINANCIAL STATEMENT January 2001-November 2001

### Bank Accounts (a/o November 1, 2001)

1 Year CD	\$10,634.46
Checking Account	199.64
Money Market Savings	<u>4,144.68</u>
	<u>\$14,978.78</u>

### INCOME

Dues (2000)	\$ 4,540.00
Dues (2001)	1,515.00
Donations	91.00
Interest	115.82
Symposium	10,724.00
Fundraising	419.00
2001 CMGA Students	<u>2,380.00</u>
Sale of tools	<u>60.00</u>
	<u>\$19,844.82</u>

### EXPENSES

Newsletters	\$ 6,826.14
UConn Scholarships	2,000.00
CMGA Scholarships	550.00
Symposium	6,844.93
Executive Expenses	1,784.04
McNeil Columns	90.81
Bank Fees	218.79
Fat City (totebags)	750.00
Camera Project	35.00
Girls Inc. Project	100.00
UConn Books	4,000.00
Banners-Ext. Offices	1,070.00
Comm. Garden Sym.	500.00
No. Haven Open House	<u>80.00</u>
	<u>\$24,849.71</u>

Excess expenses over income: \$5,004.89  
If Symposium income and expenses are eliminated from statement, then excess expenses over income will equal \$8,883.96.



## A Vision for the Future

Our November 3rd Annual Meeting was multi-faceted as reflected in the Secretary's notes.

One of the highlights was our guest speaker, Roy Jeffrey, Assistant to the Associate Director of UCONN's Cooperative Extension Service. We invited Roy to present the membership with his vision for the future of the University of Connecticut's Master Gardener Program.

Roy addressed his key goal - operation of the Program to evoke change at the local level, the level closest to the community, focusing on four key areas: places, people, programs and finances.



Roy Jeffrey, right, spends a moment with Karen Anderson, Torrington Master Gardener Coordinator, during the CMGA Annual Meeting held at the new Litchfield County Extension.

**Places.** The facilities hosting the program are being updated and enhanced. This winter the Master Gardener Course will be offered at the Stamford Campus of the University of Connecticut, providing students with excellent facilities. The Extensions in North Haven and Norwich are being renovated. Torrington has a fabulous new space for students to enjoy their learning experience.

**People.** Each Cooperative Extension Office in the State has a Master Garden Coordinator to work with students and the public in delivering a quality program experience. The Coordinators can work closely with Roy's organization to ensure improvements in the Program are made by utilizing constant suggestions and real-time feedback from the field.

**Programs.** The feedback provided from the State-at-large will assist in development enhancements to the Master Gardener Program. Suggestions are welcome from the CMGA membership since the future of the Association is working in partnership with UCONN in an open exchange of not only ideas, but the challenges we face together. Current opportunities include furthering development of the Community Gardening trend and the renewed interest level in Victory Gardening.

*Continued from previous column*

**Finances.** Investments made to the Connecticut Master Gardener Program in recent years include video technology, new books, microscopes, and updated general technology in the Extension offices. Support for these investments are obtained through tuition, private donations, CMGA financial support, and program support budget dollars gleaned from the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources of UCONN.

Though there are competing interests within the College, four main funding sources contribute to its interests. These include actual University dollars (legislative or tuition), Federal dollars, Grants, and Private Donations. There have been cuts in Connecticut Government funding, the Federal arena provides low-growth, and Grants are long-term investments. The good news is Private Donations are on an increase to the Program.

It is important for the members of CMGA to realize that to make this vision of the Master Gardener Program attainable, constant feedback must be exchanged between our members, associates, coordinators and Roy's organization. CMGA input is welcome and may be submitted to the Executive Board.

- brp

## Planting Seeds for Tomorrow

Gardeners from across Connecticut gathered together in Hartford on Saturday, September 15, 2001 for *Planting Seeds for Tomorrow*, the first Connecticut Community Gardening Conference, to talk about how to teach others what they already know: Community Gardens have a powerful impact on building strong communities.

The conference was a great success. In fact, it was therapeutic to be with a group of like-minded individuals from Connecticut and Massachusetts who believe that by supporting community gardeners we can address issues as complex as local food security, poverty, racism and crime prevention.

The conference began with a keynote opening by Dr. Nancy Bull and the day included workshops from "How to Start a Community Garden" to "Entrepreneurship" and the very impressive presentation by The Food Project, a youth organization from Boston whose focus is community gardening, nutrition, leadership and urban food production.

The sponsors of the event were the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System, the Knox Parks Foundation, the USDA Farm Service Agency, NRCS, the American Community Gardening Association and the Connecticut Master Gardener Association.

For more information on Community Gardening in Connecticut, please call Katie Melvin, Hartford County Master Gardener Program Coordinator at (860) 570-9010.



## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

### NEW BUSINESS, Continued

**FUND RAISING:** Sale of the Circle Hoe was suggested and accepted as a fundraiser. It was voted to purchase two cases of Circle Hoes as a trial for sale at the Symposium. In addition, it will be mentioned in the Newsletter and the CMGA website and orders will be taken. One sample will be available at each graduation to take orders.

It was also noted on the need to sell remaining stock of shirts and bags at Graduations, Symposium and new classes.

**DIRECTORY**—The Membership Committee will develop a Directory of members, with consideration to be given to keeping costs to a minimum. A lively discussion ensued regarding format, content and distribution.

**AUDIT**—An audit will be made before the end of the year. Another member is needed to complete the Committee

**FLOWER SHOW**—Cyndi Wyskiewicz will get a booth for CMGA. Someone is needed to coordinate volunteers for 2-3 hour time spots

**SYMPOSIUM**—Speaker Chairman reported all speakers are confirmed. Cost will be \$40/\$45 and will be held at Manchester Community College on Saturday, March 9. Cheron Barton volunteered to address the Symposium with an official Welcome and Agenda.

**2002 MG CLASSES** – Cyndi Wyskiewicz announced location for next year's classes.

Monday, Stamford  
Tuesday, Haddam  
Wednesday, Torrington  
Thursday, Bethel  
Friday, Vernon

**HISTORIAN**—It was recommended that we add an Historian to our committees. A volunteer is needed.

There being no more new business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:41 PM and followed by speakers Roy Jeffrey, Asst. to Associate Director of U-Conn Coop Extension Service, who spoke on "A Vision of the Future of CMGA", and Karen Anderson introduced us to the new Torrington Facility.

*Respectfully submitted by Sylvia H. Foster*

## Web News

Earlier this year (last winter/spring) there was an article in The Laurel about a Master Gardener project done in Fairfield County to create courses in Spanish for landscaping industry workers.

Here's an update that may interest people who read The Laurel.

On November 8, I spoke at UMASS about the research I had done as a Master Gardener candidate and my findings on bilingual and Spanish educational materials for landscapers/nursery workers. UMASS said they plan to post the information I presented on the UMASS extension site.

Meanwhile, anyone who wants to see the information on materials located so far can go to an e-group website I have created, called Taller Verde, which in Spanish means Green Workshop, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tallerverde>. You will be required to register to gain access to most of the site. In the spirit of collaboration to create an even better information collection, anyone who finds the materials useful is asked to contribute something more to the site.

Many of the materials mentioned in the site are free and available on the Internet (links provided). I have also looked over a number of the materials, and have included reviews of many of the books that are listed. In addition, educators from Ohio State University, Michigan State University, and the United Nations are registered on the site. I hope it will become a good place to meet others interested in green industry education/training in Spanish.

I have submitted the site information to several search engines, but don't know if they will add Taller Verde.

On a separate topic, The University of Maryland Home and Garden Information Center has a new plant disease/insect diagnostic site that is under development. You select the location of the symptom and choose from possible causes listed once the symptom is selected. It looks like it is off to a very promising start. <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/hgic/diagn/home.html>.

*Chris Reid  
Bartlett Arboretum, 2001*

This link contains important information about Threatened and Endangered Species. At last count, 972 animals and plants were listed as endangered in the United States. There are 18 in Connecticut (16 animals and 2 plants).

Information resides at: <http://endangered.fws.gov/> (the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program). Connecticut information may be selected or try [http://ecos.fws.gov/webpage/webpage\\_usa\\_lists.html?state=CT](http://ecos.fws.gov/webpage/webpage_usa_lists.html?state=CT) for a direct hit.

*- Joan Lenart  
North Haven, 1998*



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### SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SPEAKER: NANCY MACKINNON

#### Example, Education and Policy: Environmental Responsibility

Master Gardeners have a unique opportunity to be leaders of environmental responsibility and awareness. Through example, we can help others consider organic solutions to garden problems and maintain a balance in harmony with nature. Through education, we can encourage preservation and conservation of environmental treasures and plantings that inspire maintenance of wild-life diversity. Through policy, we can set a vision for the future of agriculture and horticulture that allows for a healthier human population as well as preserving a culture that treasures the connection between people, the land they live on, and the communities they live in.

Nancy Ballek Mackinnon is a partner in Ballek's Garden Center, a business centered in a family farm that has been in the family for the last 300 years. During the last thirty years she has devoted a great deal of her time to researching, using and promoting organic gardening techniques, as well as advocating the preservation of open space and a strong sense of community responsibility. Nancy is a 1978 UCONN graduate Summa Cum Laude with a major in Environmental Horticulture. She, her husband and three children reside in East Haddam. She is a founding member of the East Haddam Fair.

Her gardeners resource book, "A Gardener's List of Charts, Lists and Tables, will be available Spring 2002.

### THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WATER GARDENS

If you are one of the many who has always wanted a water garden but thought it would be just "too much", then you need to listen to Rip Sokol, the 'Water Garden Guru' for New England.

Rip built his first water garden at the age of 11 in New Haven, CT, and 36 years later is still going strong. Today, he is the proprietor of Fourth Generation Nursery, Mendon, MA, which supplies every water garden need there is for nurseries throughout New England. It is here that he propagates 90% of the water lilies, cannas, and lotus that he ships out to the dealers. He may soon have to change the name of the nursery to 'Fifth Generation'. His son, Joe, is a junior at UConn in water studies, and has already won awards for hybridizing cannas. Rip, a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist and University of New Haven educated, will be returning to Connecticut to conduct a class in water gardening at our March 9th symposium in Manchester. He will help you find a water garden that is designed just for you.

## ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES

November is one of those months that true gardeners look to with sadness. Brown is the garden color and "chores" are the order of the days. Nights are cold and getting longer. Hardly a time to think about the beautiful butterflies that we work SOOOO hard to keep happy in our gardening lives. After talking to Andy Brand, however, it's probably one of the only times of the year we can talk to him without other competing "interests". And, yet, after talking to him, I feel like it doesn't matter to him what time of year it is...as long as he can talk and teach about butterflies. His "butterfly activities" keep him enthusiastic throughout the year.

Andy is a Connecticut native. He has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree from UCONN. His Master's Degree is in plant tissue culture. The "ideal job" he describes is the one with flexibility to pursue that "rare and unusual" butterfly or bird, when his contacts call. He favors outside work that allows him to be among those creatures. A good match of the above is his job at Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden. He has been there for 11 years.

Growing up in the Storrs, Connecticut, birds were the creature he studied. Bird watching is best done in the early morning or evening. Butterfly watching is best done in the height of the day/sun. Thus, 10 years ago, as a way to fill the void between bird watching times, he developed an interest in butterflies. He seems to have filled that time quite sufficiently! In 1994, he co-founded the Connecticut Butterfly Association. He is the current president of the organization that now counts 500 members!!!! The organization provides year-round activities and knowledge about butterflies, including a newsletter, field trips to identify Connecticut's butterflies, and speakers. The group also works with State Conservation officers to protect and enhance butterfly habitats throughout the state. The most unusual, and perhaps least known of his activities is raising caterpillars!!! By mid-spring, each year, he has "lots of caterpillars" to share with local schools and "free" to become butterflies

Andy will be presenting, "*Plant It and They Will Come, Attracting Butterflies to Your Connecticut Gardens,*" at this year's Master Gardener Symposium. He will cover:

1. What species we can expect to have in Connecticut
2. The types of gardens that attract butterflies
3. Nectar sources including annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs
4. Host plants for caterpillars
5. Meadows and no mow areas that support species

The hairstreak family of butterflies are small and quick. They have a much different character than what appears from a distance. The monarchs are truly amazing in that they transfer much survival knowledge from one generation to the next. If Andy were a butterfly, he would be one of either of them. This is just a sampling of his wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm. It has certainly given me reason to attend his talk at the Symposium!!!!



## The Rose Garden at Elizabeth Park

I have long admired the beauty of Elizabeth Park's Rose Garden and, therefore, decided that this is where I would enjoy helping in some way. I took the pruning/deadheading workshop on June 11 given by Donna Fuss - a walking book of knowledge on roses - and her enthusiasm is ever inspiring.

I always arrived at the Rose Garden early, between 7:00 to 9:00 a.m., because it is a wonderful experience to see the garden awake from a night's rest with the sun shining on the dew on the roses. There were many birds at that early hour, especially Mockingbirds that had nested in the rose arbors and were busy feeding their babies. Also, Great Blue Herons, finches, song sparrows, geese, ducks and even hawks constantly flew overhead.

There were many visitors and a number of weddings in the Gazebo thus making you feel very good about being there and contributing time to assist the small staff of State gardeners. While I did a little planting, a little pruning and a lot of weeding, it was the staff's never-ending responsibility to prune, weed, mulch, fertilize, water, edge, pick up debris and so on. As I worked, a number of people would thank me for helping to keep the garden at its best, so you did feel appreciated by the public and also many thanks always came from the staff.

One Saturday, a young woman walked over to me and started talking about how good she feels while walking through the Rose Garden, especially since she had scattered her Mother's ashes over one of the beds. She also told me what a difficult time she is coping with - a move from California, a divorce, a mentally challenged child and recent brain-tumor surgery. At the end of her story she thanked me for being there and listening.

On July 14<sup>th</sup> (one of the volunteer days), I was on all fours - deep in a rose bed - and as I backed out I saw a Fox 61 television camera filming my weeding activities. And yes, on Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup> I was on the 10:00 p.m. news as part of a segment on the volunteers at Elizabeth Park. I looked awful, but we gardeners don't mind.

I only had one frustrating situation occur. An elderly woman pleaded with me to let her cut a rose. Naturally I explained why she could not do this. She continued to give her reasons for this request, but I held my ground.

I learned a lot from my Outreach experience, especially how much hard work goes on behind the scenes in maintaining the Rose Garden. It was great to work with the Elizabeth Park gardeners as they had so many interesting stories about the Park, wildlife and people in general. Watching them weed was an experience too. I think what I weeded in one hour they could accomplish in only five minutes. That's real experience for you.

*Susan B. Chiriboga  
West Hartford, Class of 2001*

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### Birds and Wildflowers on the Nature Trails At The Bartlett Arboretum



One of Stamford's best-kept secrets was the discovery of woodland treasures in early Spring 2001. The idea for our Master Gardener project evolved while walking on the nature trails, seeing skunk cabbage and false hellebore in bloom, and hearing returning robins and eastern phoebes calling.

Our goal was to help all who visit the Bartlett Arboretum become more aware of our beautiful surroundings. From early spring through summer, we identified birds and photographed wildflowers along the Rose A. Thielen's Nature Trails. Factual data was gathered, wildflower photos and scanned bird pictures were entered in the computer, and fact sheets were produced. Botanist Carol Levine edited our approximately 25 of each bird and wildflower sheet for accuracy.

Fact sheets are on display in protected cases in the Walter Johnson Memorial Gazebo at the beginning of the nature trails. They will be rotated seasonally to show current and upcoming flowers and birds. The gazebo is open to the public for all to see and acquire knowledge of the woodland habitat. Pictures and brief informational data are maintained in a notebook located in the Arboretum Library.

Jim Kenyon, Director of Education at the Arboretum, is using the birds and wildflower materials in teaching middle school students in Stamford, at the autumn Master Gardener Hawk Watch, and in numerous monthly programs. We hope our project will provide discovery opportunities for many to learn about our woodland treasures.

This project can be on-going for a future Master Gardener or Advanced Master Gardener class. A similar record of butterflies and/or insects could be done as well to add to the bird and wildflower collections.

*Alice Smith  
Linda Iker  
Judy Steinberg*

*Bartlett Arboretum, Class of 2001*



## SO, WHAT DID YOU GET OUT OF THE MASTER GARDENER COURSE?

I do wish people wouldn't ask me questions out of the blue. I am not good at thinking on my feet (or even sitting down). Three in the morning is another matter - then, my brain is full of quick repartee, witticisms, answers that illustrate my sagacity and general brilliance. But in broad daylight while I am out enjoying myself and thinking of nothing in particular, faced with a simple, direct question, my brain cells scatter like pigeons before a hawk.

And that is what we had been doing: watching hawks soaring overhead on their leisurely way down south. Those hawks did not appear to have pigeons on their minds as they swirled and looped in the clear blue sky, playing the winds with their fingertips. But Jim Kenyon, who was leading a small group of Master Gardeners on a hawk walk at the Bartlett Arboretum, explained that prey was certainly on the minds of those hawks. Raptors, he explained, can survive the cold New England winters if they have sufficient food. The trouble is, their food either hibernates or flies south for the winter, so the birds of prey take the easy route and follow the take-outs.

Cheron Barton had arranged the hawk walk as a special 'freebie' for the graduating Master Gardener interns of the 2001 course held at the Bartlett. She had also invited along Asante Green, a staff writer from the Stamford Advocate, thinking that an article in that newspaper would be a great way of reminding people that applications were now being accepted for the 2002 MG course. I had helped out a little with the 2001 course, and Cheron is also a good friend - it's not what you know . . .!

I did not, you might have guessed, come up with a succinct answer to Asante's question. But she is not the first person to have posed the question, and I realized that it was time I tried to figure the answer out for myself. What did I get from the course? I graduated in 1999 and have had the pleasure of working with Master Gardener interns and graduates on occasion since then. But how could I express what I had gained from my experiences?

I have another story to tell. We have a new neighbor, a young guy who had the sense to get in a good tree company to clean out the dead wood and do some careful pruning on the several large oak trees on his property. He might not be a great gardener (yet), but at least he didn't want to turn his garden into an expanse of green concrete (known as lawn grass hereabouts). I was not happy, however, when he confided to me that he had all these 'bugs' flying around the trunks of his trees, so he got his gardening service to come in and spray the trees.

*Continued from previous column...*

What were the 'bugs'? He didn't know. What did the gardening people spray? Was it toxic to people, pets, birds, other insects? He didn't know. All he knew was that there were bugs and he wanted them dead. He did know that the treatment cost him a lot of money. I fear that if the bugs come back next year, he may think it would be more cost-effective to cut the trees down rather than to keep paying for the spraying year after year.

Perhaps before I took the Master Gardener course, I would have felt the same. When we are in a situation we don't understand, we feel uncomfortable and out of control. These days my approach is different. My first reaction now is to find out what the bugs are, whether they are friend or foe, why they are there, what is attracting them, are they dangerous, will something else come along and eat them; are they coming from the trees, or from the soil, the mulch, surrounding greenery or even from the nearby house? Does their presence indicate some other situation which should be addressed? If I had to use a spray, could I start off with plain water and then perhaps graduate to insecticidal soap before resorting to stronger stuff. I am not sure I could have solved my neighbor's problems with his bugs, but I am sure my approach would not have resulted in spraying unknown chemicals about the place at an unknown enemy and possibly in the wrong direction.

So, Asante, to answer your question: The MG course has made me realize that there is more to life than just trying to kill off everything we are unsure of. Knowledge is the key. And not just the knowledge that comes from reading the occasional book or magazine article, but the amalgam of knowledge that is offered in a variety of disciplines such as botany, entomology, plant pathology, soil science, plants and the environment, pesticide safety, diagnostic techniques. Sound familiar, Master Gardeners?

PS: We made the front page of The Advocate!

*Hilary Forsyth  
Bethel, Class of 1999*

### Welcome Class of 2002!

New classes begin this month at UCONN's Stamford Campus, the new Torrington Extension, and the Had-dam, Bethel and Vernon Extensions. Welcome to our new 2002 CMGA Associate members!

Reminder 2001 Graduates...your CMGA Associate Membership has expired. Please take a moment to join CMGA as a Certified Extension Master Gardener.



## A Lost Opportunity

*Editor's Note: Thank you Katie Melvin for submitting this extremely moving and inspiring piece. The text originally appeared as a Letter to the Editor in the Hartford Courant on December 1, 2001. - brp*

My 35 minute commute from Bloomfield to Newington each day provides little aesthetic stimulation. My thoughts are on my day at work, and I barely observe the landscape. But one morning, I noticed someone had started a border garden cornering Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford. I was curious to see how the gardener would deal with this rather inhospitable location.

Over the months, I watched how the unknown gardener chose her plants and shrubs. The person had a gift for combining color and texture and form. And she had a flair for the unusual as well. I smiled when I saw the Harry Lauder's Walking Stick with its gnarled and twisted branches, and I loved the heather when it bloomed. There was always something new to see.

I looked forward to seeing the corner garden each day and I decided I wanted to tell the gardener how much I appreciated her work. I wrote a little note expressing my thoughts. The card remained in my car for days, then weeks. I just never popped in into her mailbox. I wasn't sure she would appreciate this intrusion.

A few weeks ago, I drove past the house and caught my breath when I saw the sign: "Estate Sale." I had to stop. The people running the sale said that the woman who had passed away was indeed a Master Gardener and had traveled to many places studying gardens. I told them my story and my great regret that I had never left the note.

I still feel sadness and regret of that day. How many times have I kept thoughts like this to myself? This feels all the more poignant in these difficult times when a kind word or compliment can uplift someone for a moment or a day.

I left the estate sale carrying two tomato cages. I will think of her each time I use them and I am hopeful that some of her garden magic reflects on me.

Zellene Sandler  
Bloomfield

- continued in the next column -



## CMGA The Laurel 13

*Continued from previous column...*

I saw this letter in the Sunday paper and I immediately knew that it was the garden of Anita Rourke, Master Gardener class of 2000, and a very dear friend. Those of you who knew Anita can understand the "garden magic" that she had. Anita would be thrilled that her little corner on Trout Brook brightened one person's day. I think that she brightened the days of all that came in contact with her. Anita was a career nurse at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, and in my opinion defined caregiver.

We, her friends and acquaintances, miss her very much. Isn't it wonderful that even those who only knew her through her garden miss her too?

Katie Melvin  
MG Coordinator, West Hartford

## More information on Amaryllis...

Except for some of the miniature varieties, Amaryllis do indeed get top-heavy so plant the bulb a little deeper than 1/2, say 2/3- 3/4 and plant in a heavy pot so there's less chance of the plant tipping over. Also, these plants like to be somewhat root bound, so regardless of the bulb diameter leave no more than 1" between the bulb and the side of the container and twice the depth of the bulb beneath the bulb for roots.

Begin feeding the bulb about the time the flower stalk(s) are showing they're beginning their decline. Fertilizing earlier doesn't have any effect on the flower(s) as the energy to support the flower is stored from the previous year's growth. Thus the need to apply fertilizer after the flowers begin their die-back. The plant needs leaves to make the energy process work. Some varieties send flower stalks up first followed by leaves. Others, the reverse. Regardless, begin feeding when the last flower die-back begins. I feed at least twice unless I'm using a liquid fertilizer which I apply more frequently.

Keep the plants moist, but not soaking wet, otherwise there's a good chance the bulbs will rot. Water requirements are similar to geraniums in that they prefer to be on the dry side. I keep the plants in the basement under lights during the winter after they've flowered and move them outdoors placing them under trees for shade well after the last frost, around mid to end of June. The reason being, the leaves are not accustomed to the strong summer sun rays and will literally suffer severe sunburn if left in direct sun. So unless the bulb was started in full summer sun, keep them in the shade until you're ready to let them go dormant. These are easy plants to care for and the flowers are remarkable.

- John Carlson  
Haddam, 1993



## News from The Districts

Thank you to the Coordinators who provided news submissions for this issue of *The Laurel*.

### Norwich Extension

Best of Luck to Julia Griswold who is leaving us as Master Gardener Coordinator after four and one-half years with the Extension. Julia especially enjoyed her involvement with the students, their training, outreach projects, and being in contact with the public. She will remain active in the key projects she has initiated and driven over her tenure.

### Brooklyn Extension

Kimberly Kelly is pleased that the Windham County Master Gardeners have successfully completed their outreach projects for 2001. Kim has provided updated information for the Outreach Opportunities listing. Please contact her if you have an interest.

### Vernon Extension

There will be a series of gardening lectures held at the Tolland County Extension Center over the winter months.

- Saturday, January 26 at 10 a.m.: *Orchids* with speaker Paul Cusson of the CT Orchid Society
- Thursday, January 31 at 7 p.m.: *Winter Interest Plants* with speaker Carol Quish, MG.
- Thursday, February 21 at 7 p.m.: *Soils* with speaker David Askew of the Tolland County Soils and Water Conservation District.
- Thursday, February 28 at 7 p.m.: *Wild Flowers* with speaker Diana Stanzione, MG.

The programs are free and open to the public.

There are lectures planned for March and April. These will be updated in the next issue of *The Laurel*. Please call Mary Collins for further information.

### North Haven Extension

Mira Schachne is proud the New Haven County Master Gardeners have put in a full year and it isn't over yet! Some of the newly Certified Master Gardeners appeared at a local town Kidfest and did such an impressive job that they have been asked to make this a twice-yearly event. Among other things, they gave away seeds for a money tree...

*Continued next column*

A continuing Outreach Program is with Common Ground High School in West Rock Park, New Haven. MG's not only worked with the youth in their vegetable gardens, they also helped create a more effective landscaping plan to avoid soil erosion. One aim of the school is to grow vegetables organically for their school lunches.

The North Haven folks have also been involved with a local community center, working with youth of all ages (some challenged) to plant and grow both vegetables and flowers. Some of the plants used here were started as a part of another Outreach Project in a nearby Middle School. The MG's will continue plans to help them establish an herb garden. The young people would like to be able to supply local farmer markets with produce so they can become more self supporting. The North Haven MG's have received an award for this service.

MG's were a presence at an assisted living community and another ALC would like help for next year.

Potential Outreach Projects for 2002 include initiatives with the Park and Recreation Director of a nearby town to identify plants along a scenic trail, and to help plan and establish children's programs using plants as educational material. Conservation is also being explored for Outreach in conjunction with the County Soil and Water Conservation Agency.

### Bethel Extension

Sandi Wilson is forming a committee to help label and maintain the ornamental gardens at the Bethel Extension for 2002. MG's from the Class of 2001 added a beautiful new garden with Connecticut native plants to the existing butterfly, low maintenance, and perennial display gardens already on the Extension grounds.

Mentor and Volunteer Appreciation Day was held in Bethel on December 5, 2001. Master Gardener Dr. Jean Kreizinger spoke on *Gardening with Nature and Local Flora*. A reception followed. Thank you Volunteers for all of your hard work at the Bethel Office and community service in the Fairfield County area!

Speakers are needed for upcoming information Master Gardener gatherings. Talks on special gardening interests, horticultural topics, and botanical craft demonstrations are welcome.

Outreach opportunities are available for Advanced Master Gardener candidates and interested volunteers this winter at the Bethel Office. Computer and clerical help is needed to organize gardening and pest information.

Volunteers are needed to answer questions and help staff a Master Gardener booth at the Gardener's Expo in Fairfield this coming March. If you need additional information on any of these outreach opportunities please call Sandi, 203-207-3261.

*Continued next page*



Don't Forget...The 21st Anniversary of the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show, February 21-24, Connecticut Expo Center, Hartford. [www.ctflowershow.com](http://www.ctflowershow.com)

*Continued from previous page*

### **Stamford Extension**

Cheron Barton invites us to an upcoming Lecture and Book Signing to be held at the Bartlett on Saturday, March 30 at noon. Gordon Hayward, a noted gardener and author, will present "Stone in the Garden". The lecture will discuss the many creative, as well as practical roles, stones play in the garden landscape. Join Gordon for this fascinating lecture and go home with a signed copy of his new book available to purchase after the lecture. Space is limited to just 40 people. Fee is \$20 per person. To preview the book, or if you have any questions, please call Jim Kenyon, Director of Education at the Bartlett, 203-322-6971.

### **Torrington Extension**

Larry Van Der Jagt is organizing a CMGA Litchfield County Outreach Program. He states that in 2002 the CMGA will organize an Outreach Program Team to support the new classes being held in Torrington, Litchfield County. A Steering Committee has been formed and will hold a kickoff meeting in late January at the Extension Center. The committee members are: Roxanne Croce, (860) 589-6147; Gerald Gault, (860) 567-1641; Marie Murphy, (860) 672-2429; Karen Anderson, (860) 626-6240; and, Larry Van Der Jagt, (860) 658-7716. Your help is needed. If you are able to work with us please contact Larry.

### **West Hartford Extension**

Larry Van Der Jagt reports the Hartford County Outreach Program Team has expanded. Ellen Morse is a Hartford County Representative. Ellen has been an active MG since she was certified in 1993. She was a member of the committee for the 1998 Northeast Regional Conference, Chairperson of the 1999 CMGA Symposium, Key Contributor to the UCONN Advanced MG Program and a current member of the CMGA Hartford County Steering Committee. Ellen can be reached at 860-649-6192.

The Hartford County Outreach Program Team will meet the second Tuesday of each month at the Elizabeth Park Information Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Members are welcome. Please call Larry Van Der Jagt for additional information, 860-658-7716.

**Important Reminder...**This is your last copy of The Laurel if you have not renewed your membership for 2002.

**2001 Graduates** – Please join CMGA to ensure continued receipt of this newsletter and the organization's many other benefits.

The Membership Application can be found on Page 21.

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### **Home and Garden Education Center, UCONN**

Cyndi Wyskiewicz, Educational Liason, reports the Master Gardener classes have started again and are in full swing. This year for the first time on Wednesdays, we are at the brand new Litchfield County Extension Office, located at the Torrington Branch Campus. It is a great new facility. If you are in the area drop by and say hello. The program is also being held on Mondays at the Stamford Campus of UCONN, with outreach activities still being coordinated from the Bartlett Arboretum. Tuesdays we are still in Haddam. Thursdays the class is in Bethel and Fridays the class is in Vernon.

The offices have all received their new books courtesy of generous CMGA donations last year. The new students will now be able to utilize these great books. They will be in the Extension Center's libraries, so the past Master Gardeners can come and enjoy them too. We also received two new diagnostic cameras installed in the Litchfield and Brooklyn Extensions. These are great learning tools. If you haven't seen these cameras stop in and check them out. They are great! We now have these cameras in Brooklyn, Bethel, Haddam and Litchfield. By the end of the year we hope to have them in all of the centers. Much thanks goes to the CMGA for providing the Extensions with the books and cameras. Our goal in the program is to have the latest technologies available for the students. We are now on our way.

Cyndi would also like to thank those Master Gardeners who donated to the program last year. These gifts make a big difference to defray the cost of supplies and equipment the program really needs.

The Master Gardeners and the CMGA will have a booth at the upcoming Hartford Flower Show on February 21st to 24th. Certified volunteers are needed to help run the booth and give gardening advice. Volunteers will receive a pass into the show and parking. Master Gardeners that are interested should call Bobbi Orne at 860-875-3005. This is on a first come first call basis.

Master Gardener Coordinators will once again hold a Silent Auction at the Annual CMGA Symposium on March 9th. The proceeds from the auction will go to support the Master Gardener Program. Anyone interested in donating new gardening items for the auction can do so by calling Cyndi Wyskiewicz at the Home and Garden Education Center. Phone: 1-877-486-6271. Please come out and support our auction!

The new Advanced Master Gardener Spring Catalog is now at the printers and will be out by late February. There are lots of new classes plus some repeats of the more popular classes held last year. Look for the complete list of classes on the Home and Garden Center's Website located at [www.canr.uconn.edu/garden/](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/garden/).



OUTREACH		OPPORTUNITIES	
<b>SW</b>	The Scott Fanton Museum	Danbury	Ingrid McCauley, 203-426-5990
	March 01 Garden Expo	Fairfield	Sandi Wilson, 203-207-3261
	Extension Gardens Committee	Bethel	"
	Southbury Training School	Southbury	Volunteer Services, 203-586-2485
	New Canaan Nature Center	New Canaan	Gail Egol, 203-966-9577
	Bartlett Arboretum Meadow	Stamford	Michael Harvey, 203-322-6972
<b>NE</b>	Nature Trail (Tolland County Extension)	Vernon	Mary Collins, 860-870-6934
	Tolland County Extension Center	Vernon	"
	Danielson Access Shelter	Danielsen	Kim Kelly, 860-774-9600
	Abington Library Historical Landscape	Abington	"
	Windham Mills Heritage Park	Willimantic	"
	Junior Master Gardener Program	Killingly	"
<b>SE</b>	Shaw Mansion (Historical)	New London	Susan Munger, 860-443-2261
	Alliance for Living	New London	Corinne Clevenger, 860-887-5117
	Denison Homestead	Mystic	Melissa Smith, 860-887-1608
	York Correctional Facility	East Lyme	"
	The Hygienic Art Gallery	New London	"
	Chelsea Gardens	Norwich	"
	Harkness Memorial Park East Garden	Waterford	Julia Griswold, 860-535-3061
	DMR Group Homes	Waterford	"
	Camp Harkness (Challenged/Elderly)	Waterford	"
	Byran House (Disabled)	Haddam	John Castagno, 860-345-4511
	Montville Minimum Security	Montville	"
	Florence Griswold (Historical)	Old Lyme	"
	Hart House (Historical)	Old Saybrook	"
<b>NW</b>	Mary Mahoney Village Greenhouse	Hartford	Katie Melvin, 860-570-9010
	Auer Farm	Bloomfield	"
	CT Children's Medical Center	Hartford	Michelle Marra, 860-658-9110
	The Children's Place (DCF)	East Windsor	Laura Dillman, 860-668-4606
	Jubilee House	Hartford	Shiela Craven, 860-668-9543
	UConn Butterfly Garden	West Hartford	Randi Rigg, 860-668-4418
	Hillstead Museum Sunken Garden	Farmington	Maggie Carpenter, 860-693-0340
	Hungerford Nature Center	Kensington	Bob Levitt, 860-827-9064
	Community Gardens, Hartford Area	Hartford	John Neff, 860-673-5018
	Elizabeth Park	Hartford	Carol Quish, 860-649-0452
	Plymouth Historical Society	Plymouth	Karen Anderson, 860-626-6240
	Prime Time House	Torrington	"
	Community Gardens	Torrington	"



**The Connecticut Master Gardener Association  
Membership Application for 2002**

Membership Dues: \$15.00

YES, I am a fully certified Master Gardener and I want to be a part of the CMGA. I am (a) renewing my membership \_\_\_\_\_ or (b) a new member \_\_\_\_\_. Please fill out completely, even if there are no changes from previous years.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

County\*: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

\* CT Residents only (Be sure to fill in.)

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Extension Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: **Circle 5 or fewer** of your most avid interests:

- |                    |                     |                  |                   |                  |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Annuals            | Community Gardening | Greenhouses      | Organic Gardening | Seedlings        |
| Beekeeping         | Computers           | Herbs            | Perennials        | Shade Gardening  |
| Birds              | Containers          | Historic Gardens | Photography       | Vegetables       |
| Bonsai             | Drying Flowers      | House Plants     | Plant Diseases    | Water Gardens    |
| Butterflies        | Education           | IPM              | Plant Propagation | Wild Flowers     |
| Cactus             | Flower Arranging    | Landscaping      | Plant Therapy     | Woody Ornamental |
| Gdn. w/Children    | Fruit               | Lawns            | Rock Gardens      | Writing          |
| Gdn. w/Handicapped | CMGA Fundraising    | Native Plants    | Roses             |                  |
| Gdn. w/Seniors     | Garden Design       | Orchids          | Seed Saving       |                  |

Indicate subject(s) you are willing to teach:

\_\_\_\_\_

Affiliations you would like listed in the GA Directory (such as, CT Horticultural Society, NOFA, Arboretum and Local Garden Club):

\_\_\_\_\_

Our Organization is only as strong as our members make it. PLEASE help make the year 2002 a big success. Volunteer for one or more of the following CMGA or District committees: Auditing \_\_\_\_\_ District Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Nominating \_\_\_\_\_ Publication/Public Relations \_\_\_\_\_ Symposium \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your completed application and dues payment (Make check payable to "CMGA") to:

**Paul Grimmeisen  
Treasurer, CMGA  
24 White Oak Road  
Farmington, CT 06032**



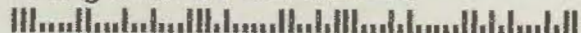
# The Laurel

CMGA  
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Quaker Hill, CT 06375

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**This is your last issue of  
The Laurel if you have not  
submitted your  
Membership Application  
for 2002**

Robert Sherman  
15 Firetower Rd  
Killingworth CT 06419-1209



~ Printed on recycled paper ~

A little effort can bring an early taste of spring. Forcing branches of spring-blooming trees and shrubs is an easy and economical method of relieving winter's gloom. Plants have varied needs for cold before they can be tricked into bloom. Following is a list of plants that can be fooled into an early spring:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>When to Cut</u>	<u>Weeks to Force</u>
Apple	Feb. – mid-March	2 – 4
Beautybush	mid-March	6
Cherry	early February	2 – 4
Crabapple	Feb. – mid-March	2 – 4
Dogwood	mid-March	2 – 3
Forsythia	mid-January	1 – 3
Honeysuckle	March	2 – 3
Japanese Quince	mid-February	4
Lilac	early March	4 – 5
Magnolia	early March	3 – 5
Mockorange	mid-March	4
Pear	late January	4 – 5
Redbud	early March	2 – 3
Serviceberry	February	1 – 3
Spirea	March	4
Willow	January and February	2
Wisteria	March	3 – 5
Witch Hazel	January	1

Flower buds, as opposed to leaf buds, are usually large and round. If you cannot tell the difference, cut open a bud and you will see either the green of the leaf or the color of the flower. Select branches with many flower buds and cut pieces about 12" long. Be careful not to destroy the shape of the tree or shrub.

Bring the branches indoors and submerge them in tepid water overnight. The next day, place the branches in a container of water and put it in a dimly lit room at 60 to 65°F. Change the water often and mist twice a day if possible. Many plants, like forsythia will flower even without this special attention. When the buds are swollen and showing color, arrange the branches in a vase and bring into a well-lit situation in a cool room if possible. The cooler the room, the longer the display will last. Do not discard the branches after flowering since many will sprout roots in water and you can have additional plants for spring.

*Editor's Note: Thank you to Diana Ringelheim for sending along this article. A credit mention is made to the American Horticultural Society, the original source of the information. - brp*



# The Laurel



The Connecticut Master Gardener Association

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

March/April 2002

Volume 15, Issue 2



## Happy Spring!

The following is a sampling of Spring activities sent to **The Laurel** for publication...

**Hill-Stead Museum, 35 Mountain Rd., Farmington, CT 06032**

**Wake Up the Garden: Sunken Garden Work Party**

**April 26 and 27, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Join fellow volunteers, museum staff and UCONN Master Gardeners in "waking up" Hill-Stead's Sunken Garden. Originally designed by **Beatrix Farrand** ca. 1920 and faithfully restored in the 1980's, the famed garden today is largely maintained by volunteers. Add your efforts to this labor of love: help clean up beds, weed, mulch and plant. Wear work clothes and gloves and bring garden tools. Participate on one or two days. Refreshments provided. To participate call Christa or send an email to [metcarpenter@yahoo.com](mailto:metcarpenter@yahoo.com).

**Contact: Christa Rozantes, Phone: (860) 677-4787, extension 120**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Fairfield & New Haven County Soil & Water Conservation Districts** are your local environmental organizations dedicated to protecting and improving our natural resources. To support our education and conservation programs each year we hold a plant sale. The trees and shrubs you plant work to clean the air, provide shelter for wildlife, improve water quality and beautify our communities. Plant sale brochures are available from the office at **900 Northrop Rd., Suite A, Wallingford, CT 06492**. Sale includes potted flowering and ornamental shrubs, bare root evergreen seedlings, hardwood and wildlife packets. For more information please call **203-269-2653**. Master Gardeners are welcome to assist at the plant sale on **Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27**. **Ellie Tessner, MG**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Glebe House Museum & Gertrude Jekyll Garden, Upcoming Events**  
Hollow Rd., Woodbury, CT. (203) 263-2855 or email [ghmgig@snet.net](mailto:ghmgig@snet.net)

**Wednesday, April 3**

Garden & Museum Opens for Season (1-4 p.m. Wed.-Sun.)

**Sunday, April 14**

A Lecture by **Jack Staub** on "The Art of the Potager"

4:00 p.m., Saint Paul's Church, Woodbury

**Saturday, May 4**

**Jekyll Favorites Plant Sale**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

(Rain date May 5) at **The Glebe House**

**Sunday, June 9**

**Garden Tour & Luncheon**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

(Reservations required)

### Inside This Issue

CMGA 2002 Membership Directory and Bylaws  
(missing)

Pages 3-18

This and That...

Pages 19-20

In an effort to conserve our finances we are sending our **Membership Directory** this month in newsletter format. Because of increased membership and rising costs to produce the directory we can no longer print it in booklet format and distribute through the U.S. Mail. The interests and affiliations of each member have been eliminated, but a complete listing is available separately by request.

We will be voting on a **bylaws change** at our **Semi-Annual Membership Meeting June 15**. Stay tuned in the next issue of **The Laurel** for the location and other specifics.

**The proposed Bylaws change:**

#### Article VII, Districts

Change "four district groups" to "eight counties". Where "district" or "districts", replace with "county" or "counties".

We had a very successful **Annual Symposium** and are now looking forward to applying all we learned with arrival of Spring 2002.

Off to the garden!

*Wendy Drenga*  
President

**Editor's Note:**

Should there be any **corrections** to your information printed in the Directory (especially email addresses!), please send an email directly to **John Neff** at [jneff@attbi.com](mailto:jneff@attbi.com) or send a note by U.S. Mail to John. It is very important to keep our 2002 new membership database current.

Enjoy your new Directory!

Best wishes for a joyous Spring,  
Becky Raiola-Paul



## 2 The Laurel CMGA

The Laurel is published by the CMGA a minimum of four times a year.

Please submit articles, suggestions or inquiries to:

Becky Raiola-Paul  
259 Saw Mill Road  
Guilford, CT 06437  
(203) 458-8413  
email: r.r.paul@att.net

Please include your phone number. Space availability is on a first-received, first-printed basis.

Any concerns or problems regarding your newsletter should be brought to the attention of:

Kate Cheromcha  
9 Northwood Road  
Quaker Hill, CT 06375  
(860) 439-0099

(Please contact the Membership Chairman for any other membership concerns - see 2002 CMGA Officers list on this page.)

### NOTICE!!!

Please remember, when sending emails to note the subject as being for the CMGA newsletter. Any emails received from an unfamiliar address without a subject noted will not be opened.

## CMGA COUNTY REPS

### SW District

Diana Ringelheim, 121 Godfrey Road, Fairfield CT 06432. 203-372-8498. diana@ringelheim.com

### NE District

Tolland County - Lloyd Hinrichs, 62 Church Street, Vernon CT 06066. 860-872-9720, mosflower@msn.com

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MG COORDINATORS

### **North-West District**

West Hartford: Katie Melvin - (860) 570-9010  
Torrington: Karen Anderson - (860) 626-6240

### **South-West District**

Bethel: Sandi Wilson - (203) 207-8440  
North Haven: Mira Schachne - (203) 407-3161  
Stamford: Cheron Barton (203) 321-4826

### **South-East District**

Haddam: John Castagno - (860) 345-4511  
Norwich: Melissa Smith - (860) 887-1608

### **North-East District**

Brooklyn: Kim Kelly - (860) 774-9600  
Vernon: Mary Collins - (860) 870-6934

Home and Garden Center - UCONN Storrs  
1-877-486-6271 (toll-free)

## 2002 CMGA OFFICERS

- President:** Wendy Drenga  
27 Maple Ave.  
East Haddam, CT 06423  
(860) 873-8145  
Email: rdrenga@snet.net
- Vice-President:** Becky Raiola-Paul  
259 Saw Mill Road  
Guilford, CT 06437  
(203) 458-8413  
Email: r.r.paul@att.net
- Treasurer:** Paul Grimmeisen  
24 White Oak Road  
Farmington, CT 06032  
(860) 677-8645  
Email: paul24wor@aol.com
- Secretary:** Sylvia Foster  
8 Audrey Lane  
Enfield, CT 06082  
(860) 745-6495  
Email: sylviaillfoster@earthlink.net
- Membership:** John Carlson  
209 Old Cart Rd.  
Haddam, CT 06438-1247  
(860) 345-8807  
Email: john.l.carlson@att.net
- Extension Liaison:** Cyndi Wyskiewicz  
(877) 486-6271 (toll free)



### Symposium 2003

We are now in the planning stages of the **10th Annual CMGA Symposium** and we need your feedback, input, time and energy as a Committee member.

Please join our **Symposium Committee** by contacting **Sylvia Foster** today at either her phone (860) 745-6495 or by email at [sylviabillfoster@earthlink.net](mailto:sylviabillfoster@earthlink.net).

### Circle Hoes!

Have you seen the new **circle hoes**? They were available for sale at the Symposium, but if you didn't join us or missed your chance then fear not...this great tool has been reordered and will be available very soon. They are for sale for \$15 and may be purchased by contacting **Paul Grimmeisen** at (860) 677-8645 or send him an email at [paul24wor@aol.com](mailto:paul24wor@aol.com).

### New Outreach Opportunity

#### Somers Mountain Museum Somers, CT

We are working on a **general re-landscaping** of the museum grounds. Our goals include enhancing the short walking trail on the museum grounds by adding colonies native plants and information along the trail; making space for children's activities and teachings; and, creating display gardens for teaching and enjoyment.

The herb garden, which is quite overgrown, will be dug up and plants will be transplanted in other areas. We are applying for grants from Northeast Herbal Association and United Plant Savers to help with the cost of plants and amendments.

If you are interested in helping with this project, contact **Deb Pouech**, MG 1995, at (860) 684-0551, by e-mail [herbnhon@sprynet.com](mailto:herbnhon@sprynet.com), or by snail-mail address 281 Monson Road, Stafford Springs, CT 06076.

### Free to Good Home...

Two (2) **Holly bushes**, one 8' tall, one 6' tall. Very healthy and full. You dig, you take. Please contact **MG Helen Pignone**, Guilford, CT (203) 453-9539.

### Wanted: Speakers and Writers

One of the purposes of the CMGA is to provide means by which Master Gardeners may "share their knowledge and expertise and offer help and assistance to the public through gardening and horticultural programs". In **Eastern Connecticut** there are a variety of opportunities for Master Gardeners to do this. Monthly Spring and Fall programs have been provided free to the public at the **East Lyme Public Library** since 1991 and to a variety of other organizations. Weekly garden columns have been published in **The Day** in New London from March to October since 1990. Writers out of the circulation area are sent a copy of their column.

Through these activities Master Gardeners have become well known and appreciated. You are invited to join us in sharing your knowledge and interest with others. For those concerned about speaking in public we frequently use panels of two or three Master Gardeners. Our writers are from all areas of the State while speakers are usually, but not necessarily, from Southeastern Connecticut.

If enough members are interested we plan to continue in 2002. Those who participated last year were contacted automatically in January. For new members and others interested in learning more about these activities, please write to me or call this Spring. **Robert McNeil**, 16 Damon Heights Road, Niantic, CT 06357 Telephone (860) 739-5134.

## This and That...

### Scholarship Congrats...

are in order for **Daniel Belonick**, recipient of the 2001-2002 CMGA \$2,000 scholarship.

Daniel is currently a Turfgrass Major at UCONN. Ceremonies formally presenting the award will be held on March 26 in Storrs.

### We Missed You!

Practically one-third of our membership attended the **CMGA 9th Annual Symposium** in Manchester earlier this month. But, we missed *you!*

Please help us understand what we can do to entice you next year. Would you be so kind as to send us an email telling us specifics? Is it the location, the subject matter, the speakers, or whatever that's keeping you from joining us at this great event?

Emails may be sent to **Wendy Drenga**, CMGA President, at the following address: [rdrenga@snet.net](mailto:rdrenga@snet.net).

Thank you for providing this valuable input while we're beginning plans for next year's symposium.

### Semi-Annual Meeting Reminder

Please remember to mark your calendars for the **CMGA Semi-Annual Members Meeting** to be held this year on June 15, location TBA very soon!

### CMGA Membership Cards

Your **2002 CMGA Membership Identification Card** may be picked up at your local **Extension Office**. Give your coordinator a visit and see what's happening during the active 2002 Interim period. They'd love to see you!

### Next Board Meeting

The next CMGA Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 7 morning at the Haddam Extension. Please call for exact time and directions if necessary.

### Email Broadcast List

We are compiling an email list for broadcast purposes from those submitted with the 2002 Applications.

If you prefer to **not** be on the list please send an email to **Becky Paul** at [r.r.paul@att.net](mailto:r.r.paul@att.net).

If your email is not in the directory and you'd like to participate, please do send it along to **Becky**, cc **John Neff**.

## The Laurel

### CMGA Fundraising Idea: Garden Tours

Who is interested in working with the CMGA Board to work on ideas for local **Garden Tours**?

Would you be interested in opening up your garden for view?

If we can generate enough interest we will organize community tours of MG and other celebrity gardens.

Please contact **Sylvia Foster** if you are interested in working with us on this idea.

### Litchfield MG Reunion

A Reunion of the MG's in the area was held on March 20 in Torrington.

If you missed the event please give **Karen Anderson**, Coordinator, a call so she may fill you in on the details.

### Outreach Requests Due by May 1

Do you have an **outreach funding request** for CMGA's 2002 funding year?

Please be sure to write a detailed description of the project, your dollar requirement, and what the funding will be used for. This should be prepared and forwarded to our **Treasurer, Paul Grimmeisen**, as soon as possible.

Funding requests should be received **no later than May 1** for Board Review at the upcoming May 7 Board Meeting to be held at the Haddam Extension.

### And the Certificate goes to:

Katie called my name, Karen handed me my Certificate and I uttered a simple "thank you" as I walked back to my seat proudly clutching my long-awaited MG Certification; and like those winning their first Oscar, I still have many "thank you's" left to say...Thank you Katie and Karen for the endless hours you spent seeing everything ran smoothly from the first day of class right through our graduation ceremony; Thank you Sandra and Glennise for all your assistance behind the scenes and for your support during volunteer office days; Thank you Tim Abbey, Candace Bartholomew, Robert Durgy, Karen Filbchak, Michael Harvey, Ana Legrand, Ed Marrotte, Dawn Pettinelli and Carole Williamson for your wealth of knowledge; and, Thank you Mrs. Ed Marrotte (who must have the patience of a saint) for understanding your husband's unique ways for the sake of yet another class specimen. **Susan Chiriboga, 2001, West Hartford**



# The Laurel

CMGA  
c/o John Neff  
18 Knollwood Road  
Farmington, CT 06032



PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
NEW LONDON, CT  
PERMIT #33

*In nature's infinite book of secrecy  
A little I can read.*

*-William Shakespeare*

Marie Dube  
455 Amity Rd  
Woodbridge CT 06525-1647



~ Printed on recycled paper ~

## 2002 Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference July 24-27, 2002 Cornell University Ithaca, New York

Please plan to attend this important event during mid-summer.

The conference consists of many pre and post special activities, allowing you to experience special gardens and attractions of the area. The eight annual event will also host the presentations of the *Master Gardener Search for Excellence Awards*.

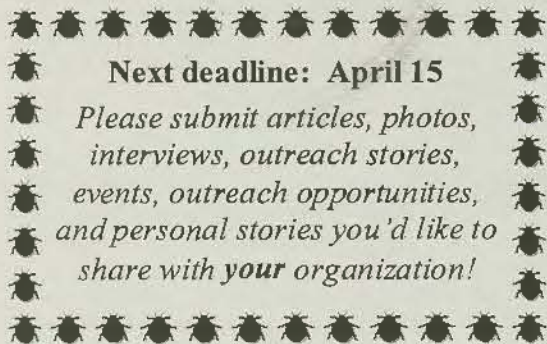
Specifics can be found online at [www.cce.cornell.edu/conferences/mgc2002](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/conferences/mgc2002).

Registration processing began January 15 and will continue through the event start, though most of the numerous popular sessions and activities will fill immediately. Hotels are beginning to sell out.

So please be sure to act now if you're planning to attend.

Please advise if you would like to carpool with folks from CMGA. Our contact for carpool arrangements is Cyndi Wyskiewicz, 1-877-486-6271.

Please join us for a wonderful educational and informative event!



**Next deadline: April 15**

*Please submit articles, photos, interviews, outreach stories, events, outreach opportunities, and personal stories you'd like to share with **your** organization!*

Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of birds, the ebb and flow of tides, the folded bud ready for spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after the night and spring after the winter.

- Rachel Carson





# The Laurel



The Connecticut Master Gardeners Association

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

May/June 2002

Volume 15, Issue 3

An extended winter dormancy period followed by a hot spell has lured a lot of folks out of the house and into the garden. Many have been fooled by the weather. The frost-blackened impatiens in my neighbor's yard are testament to this. They looked out of place—shocking pink against a gray landscape, echoing a feeling that is pervasive in all areas of modern life. The overlapping of the seasons befuddles our complicated lives. Christmas does not belong in August and a tomato will not thrive in cold soil. We need to take a cue from nature: the blooming Trillium signals the onset of spring...

Our Annual Symposium in March was a great success this year. Inspirational messages of conservation and preservation, along with a varied menu of gardening topics were presented. Orchid growing, photography, houseplants and organic controls were among the sessions presented. The day concluded with a lively panel discussion debating the ethics of pesticide use. My heartfelt thanks go to all who helped present this

*Continued on page 3*

## June

Roses, Irises, Sweet Williams...  
It is a beautiful month.

Here's a basic checklist of activities for the month.

### The Whole Garden

- ✓ Water newly planted plants and transplants. Water early morning.
- ✓ Weed planting beds as necessary
- ✓ Throw healthy garden clippings onto the compost pile

### Trees and Shrubs

- ✓ Deadhead rhododendrons, azaleas, mountain laurels, lilacs.
- ✓ Deadhead repeat-blooming roses to encourage more flowers.
- ✓ Spray roses early and regularly to prevent fungal disease.
- ✓ Fertilize roses, except for once-blooming ones.
- ✓ Continue planting trees, shrubs, ground cover.
- ✓ Continue pruning conifers such as pines, firs and spruces.

### Flowers and Grasses

- ✓ Sow annual seeds
- ✓ Transplant warm-season annuals on a gray, windless day.
- ✓ Stake tall annuals and perennials.
- ✓ Dig or pull out excess perennials.
- ✓ Pinch back chrysanthemums when 4-6 inches high.

### Fruits and Vegetables

- ✓ Continue direct-seeding vegetable crops.
- ✓ Direct-seed or transplant basil when weather is warm/settled.
- ✓ Direct-seed kale for fall harvest.
- ✓ Finish sowing corn.
- ✓ Transplant broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts into garden for Fall.
- ✓ Transplant tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant into the garden.
- ✓ Transplant or direct-seed pumpkins, summer/winter squash, melons into garden.
- ✓ Transplant or direct-sow cukes into the garden when soil is 70F.
- ✓ Continue transplanting or seeding herbs.

*Enjoy the best of Spring!*



## 2 The Laurel CMGA

*The Laurel* is published by the CMGA a minimum of four times a year.

Please submit articles, suggestions or inquiries to:

Becky Raiola-Paul  
259 Saw Mill Road  
Guilford, CT 06437  
(203) 458-8413  
email: r.r.paul@att.net

Please include your phone number.

Any changes in address should be sent to John Neff, our Database Administrator. E-mail: jrneffbi@att.com.

*How cunningly nature  
hides every wrinkle of  
her inconceivable antiquity  
under roses and violets  
and morning dew!*

*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## CMGA COUNTY REPS

### Fairfield County

Diana Ringelheim, 121 Godfrey Road, Fairfield CT 06432. 203-372-8498. diana@ringelheim.com

### Tolland County

Lloyd Hinrichs, 62 Church Street, Vernon CT 06066. 860-872-9720, mosflower@msn.com

### Hartford County

Ellen Morse, 31 Princeton Street, Manchester CT 06040, 860-649-6192. cemct@msn.com

Representatives are needed for:  
Windham, New Haven, Middlesex, New London, and  
Litchfield Counties.

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MG COORDINATORS

### North-West District

West Hartford: Katie Melvin - (860) 570-9010  
Torrington: Karen Anderson - (860) 626-6240

### South-West District

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Stamford: Cheron Barton (203) 321-4826

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Norwich: Melissa Smith - (860) 887-1608

### North-East District

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Vernon: Mary Collins - (860) 870-6934

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27 Maple Ave.  
East Haddam, CT 06423  
(860) 873-8145  
Email: rdrenga@snet.net

**Vice-President:** Becky Raiola-Paul  
259 Saw Mill Road  
Guilford, CT 06437  
(203) 458-8413  
Email: r.r.paul@att.net

**Treasurer:** Paul Grimmeisen  
24 White Oak Road  
Farmington, CT 06032  
(860) 677-8645  
Email: paul24wor@aol.com

**Secretary:** Sylvia Foster  
8 Audrey Lane  
Enfield, CT 06082  
(860) 745-6495  
Email: sylviabillfoster@earthlink.net

**Membership:** Open

**Extension Liaison:** Cyndi Wyskiewicz  
(877) 486-6271 (toll free)



(Continued from page 1)

day. Next year the Symposium will be geared to the "fun" aspect of gardening: plants and plant people. We have been concentrating on all-important environmental issues in the years past and we will be looking at the pleasurable side of our fanaticism in 2003. Any suggestions for the next Symposium should be directed to any of the board members listed in the front of this publication. My thanks go to all of you who have emailed me. I will use your suggestions next year. The Symposium Committee will meet at 9:30 at Ballek's, before the potluck, to brainstorm next year's session (info to follow).

The June Semi-Annual meeting will be held in Middlesex County this year. The date is June 15, 2002. A potluck picnic will be held at Ballek's Garden Center at 11:30, followed by a tour of the Garden Center. We will then enjoy a tour of the gardens of Gloria and Weymouth Eustis of Chester, featured in the Spring 2002 issue of "Garden Gate" magazine, now on the newsstand.

We need volunteers! All areas of this organization can use some help. While we have a good core organization, there are only a few to do the work of many. All counties need help forming a task force of Master Gardeners to aid coordinators and mentor in the offices and on outreach projects. Come on out, you are needed. We as an organization would like to offer programs free of charge to members at the various extension locations. If you have a specialty to share, please call or email any of our board members.

Remember, folks, many hands make light work. Share your talents and recapture the warm fuzzies you remember from your classroom days!

*Wendy Drenga, President*

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 ☆ *Mark your Calendar:* ☆  
 ☆ ☆  
 ☆ June 15 9:30 2003 Symposium Planning ☆  
 ☆ 11:00 Semi-Annual Membership ☆  
 ☆ Ballek's Garden Center ☆  
 ☆ East Haddam ☆  
 ☆ ☆  
 ☆ September 10 10:00 Board Meeting, ☆  
 ☆ Jubilee House, Hartford ☆  
 ☆ ☆  
 ☆ All members are invited to participate in ☆  
 ☆ CMGA Board Meetings ☆  
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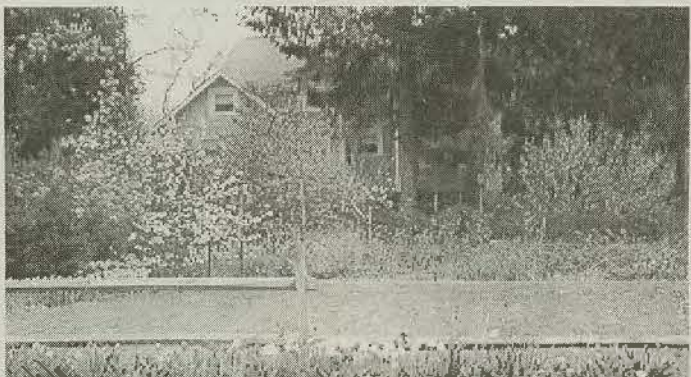
From the Editor. . .

Such a busy time...so much to do to establish our summer and fall flowers and crops. This will be an especially fun season as I have the gift of loads of extra time.

I have three properties to care for. Our Connecticut landscape is all woodies with no lawn, just mulch and stone... but, too many very large woodies now as the small plants placed fifteen years ago have taken over the entire property. Our job this year will be to somehow select and remove. I cannot bear the thought.

The Vermont property is completely different. Three acres of perennial beds, fruit, lawn and a vegetable plot stuck in the middle of 15 acres. Beds are overgrown, weed seeds and moss are taking over. Our job will be to clean out, weed out, neaten, remove, divide, and mulch to establish a healthy, thriving community of our favorites.

And then there is my father's property. He's 84 and full of enthusiasm for fruit, tomatoes, vegetables...and dahlias. We already have forty tomato plants in. Forty. Two-sides of split rail fencing in will support about five dozen dahlias. Dinnerplates are his preference. With this garden comes vegetable-gardening chores, harvest and canning.



I thought it would be fun to follow this gardening project... so here's a before picture taken after the second tilling under of rye. Our plans this year are to put in beans, eggplant, various squash, broccoli, and corn along with the tomatoes. Raspberries, blueberries, and different varieties of apples, peaches and pears reside here too. Herbs will be kept potted – easier to water. We'll report back on our efforts in the July/August issue.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Laurel*. Please remember to send me your stories, outreach opportunities and photographs for inclusion in the upcoming issues.

*Warmest regards,  
 Becky Raiola-Paul, Editor*



BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 15, 2001

CONNECTICUT  
MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 15, 2002

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The March 15 Board Meeting, held at UCONN West Hartford Campus, was called to order at 9:30 am by President Wendy Drenga. Present were Becky, Vice President, Sylvia Foster, Secretary, Paul Grimmeisen, Treasurer, Larry VanDerJagt, Past President, John Neff, Marie Dube and Cyndi Wiskiewicz

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** There was no secretary's report to be read from last meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Financial Statement November 2001-February 2002

Income \$8,397.73  
Expenses \$5,745.82

Current Balances in Accounts as of January 28, 2002  
\$17,691.92

There are 561 members in the organization

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**SYMPOSIUM REPORT:**

The Treasurer presented the report from the Symposium. The Symposium took in \$8785. Tentative expenses were \$4431, with expenses from John Neff and J. Zucker and MCC not figured in yet. There were 210 attendees.

The following areas were discussed for next year (2003 Symposium):

**Chairperson:** Becky volunteered to chair Symposium next year.

**Location:** May need new location next year because of reconstruction of MCC. Cyndi will check out. John Neff will check out Middlesex College as an alternate.

**Date for next year:** March 8

**Meals:** One person should be in charge of food. We paid for people who didn't come. Need to tighten up count. Need coffee out all day.

**Vendors:** Suggest increase cost from \$25 to \$40 since they attend classes. Not fair they should pay \$25 to at-

tend classes when attendees pay \$40.

**Speakers:** It was suggested to repeat certain speakers.

**Publicity:** Must have more publicity and promotion to increase attendance. Email broadcast to CMGA Members.

**OUTREACH:**

Larry Van der Jagt: Regional Outreach needs to be re-organized by town to be more effective. Suggest obtaining names of members by town, with town leader, for better communication and project participation. Also need more outreach into inner city to educate the public.

Money requests for outreach projects should be presented by May 1. There was a request from the Children's Place's Wish List. Larry suggested a \$300 donation. There was a discussion to collect all requests first, then make decision on requests.

**NEWSLETTER:** Becky. Ready to go to print on Monday following, with directory of members.

**TSHIRTS:** \$934 income from sale of shirts

**OUTREACH MONEY:** As discussed above, Paul will collect all requests for monies. Cutoff date will be May 1. Decision will be made for awards after that date.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** A \$2000 scholarship to UCONN will be made from proceeds of the 2002 Symposium

**FUNDRAISING:** Circle hoes. 11 of 12 sold at symposium. More will be ordered for sale at the summer meeting. Sale price is \$15.00. A mug was voted on as an additional low-priced fundraiser as well as a Tour of Gardens at nominal fees

**SEMI ANNUAL MEETING June 15**

Balleks or Gillette's Castle was suggested as site. The Haddam Extension Office could be used as a rainy day site. Both locations will be checked out. It was suggested there be a program presented by MG's.

**MAY BOARD MEETING:** May 7th, 10am. Haddam Ext.

**BYLAWS CHANGE:** Article 8 of Bylaws. Change organization from District to County. To be voted on at Semi-Annual Meeting.

**REGIONAL CONFERENCE:** July 24 at Cornell. Van-pools were suggested. John Neff volunteered to drive..

**MEMBERSHIP:** All updates of membership list will be channeled through John, who maintains the database.

**OUTREACH:** Larry brought up for discussion outreach requirements as a condition to stay active in CMGA. This is a function of UCONN, not CMGA, to have people available for volunteer work. This will be on the agenda for May meeting

No further business to be discussed: Motion to adjourn by Larry at 11.05. Seconded by Paul.



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 10, 2002**

**CONNECTICUT  
MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**MAY 10, 2002**

Called to Order at 10:00 a.m. by Becky Paul. Attending: John Neff, John Carlson, Paul Grimmeisen, Marie Dube, Jonas Zucker, (Adjourned 12:00 noon.)

Secretary's Report

A report was not presented.

Treasurer's Report

- Paul has moved accounts from Webster to Sovereign.
- \$10,900 in a CD and \$12,000 in checking account.

Membership

- John Carlson has resigned as Chairman. He will send out the numerous remaining membership cards.
- John Neff will send John Carlson any cards he may still have from the Symposium.
- We currently have 683 members and 216 Associates.
- The Associate information was received from UCONN and the names added to our database.

Newsletter

We seem to have a coordination challenge with the current printer. Quality also seems to be a concern regarding maintenance of our database in a manual fashion rather than utilizing electronic methods. The following actions:

- Becky will ask Quality to send a master list of our database to John Neff.
- Becky will investigate printer/mail house in Guilford and obtain quote.
- Becky will get Laurels to anyone on John Neff's list who requires a copy (24).
- John Carlson will find/update an old list of extra folks who should receive *The Laurel*; i.e., Dr. Bull, other States' Extensions; etc. These names will be added to our database.
- In the future the printer will send John Neff a dozen copies and drop-ship Associate quantities (beginning next January) to the various Extensions.
- Attendees brainstormed and made suggestions for a few items that could be mentioned in the next issue.

Symposium 2003: March 15 at Manchester CC

- Becky will Chair.
- Sydney Eddison has agreed to present keynote.
- Jonas will continue as Vendor Chair.
- We are hoping Sylvia will continue as Speaker Chair.
- Preferences for speakers include Nancy DeBruele, Steve Silk, Bill Duessing and a speaker re Birds.
- We have many MG Teachers listed in our Directory. Marie suggested Rev. Thomas Sievel in Manchester

re Botanical Latin, Bob Sherman re Woodies, and Sandi Wilson re Invasives. John Carlson will check membership forms to see who the professional members are on the MG Teacher List. We can then review for appropriate speakers to contact.

Scholarships

- UCONN has received monies for the 2002-2003 scholarship.
- CMGA has received a thank you from UCONN.

Saleables

- Paul will bring items to Semi-Annual Meeting, including additional circle hoes.
- Next year we will make an effort to attend the first CMGA class in each Extension to sell bags, shirts, etc. with appropriate inventory on hand.

New Business...

Distribution of Outreach Funds

We received only two requests for funding from the membership and associate base. Both requests were approved. The first was \$200 for Sylvia Foster's Advanced Master Gardener Project. These funds will be used for the Enfield Garden Club start-up and additional funding for the Gateway project. The second was for Laura Dillman's effort at Connecticut Children's Place for \$300. Our donation will assist this organization to purchase items on their Gardening Wish List.

Coordinators' Meeting

The Board has been invited to the next meeting, date TBA. We all agreed to attend based upon availability on that date. Becky/Wendy will write a follow-up memo to Cyndi regarding our interest in attending.

Semi-Annual Meeting

- June 15 at Ballek's Garden Center.
- We will meet at 9:30 to discuss Symposium.
- General meeting to begin with set-up at 11:00
- We will use a postcard to announce.

Laura Dillman's Memo

- The Board read through Laura's memo.
- The Board feels our CMGA Charter is to support and develop the organization of folks interested in staying in touch and involved with each other. We need programs at the town level with CMGA members and people in the community to support the programs with commitment. Paul will ask Laura if she is interested in proposing her specific ideas.

Next Board Meeting

September 10 at Jubilee House. Paul will reserve.

*-Respectfully submitted by Becky Paul, Vice President*



## It's Not Normally Like This

The meteorologists have not had much to say about weather in Southern Connecticut over the past several months. Huge amounts of lake-effect snow in Northern New York State, floods here, tornadoes there, but not much excitement in our little corner. Low rainfall is not a newsworthy event, yet it is something that greatly impacts all of us.

It is raining this afternoon in lower Fairfield County, lovely wet, soaking rain. I can almost hear the garden drinking in the rain, soaking up the moisture like a sponge. But how much rain will this particular weather system produce, and when will we get some more? Will we make up the shortfall, and will we get enough rain to keep the garden alive? Who knows?

We do know that only about half of the normal amount of rain has fallen over the past six months, and the resultant low water table and low reservoir levels are a cause of great concern.

What you believe to be behind this current dry period depends on which information source you consult: El Nino has returned, say some, la Nina is still around, say others; it's Global Warming and the Greenhouse Effect. No, no, it's Climatic Change, or perhaps even the next Ice Age - take your pick.

I have lived in this corner of the world for over 6 years now, and have to say that the weather in New England has taken some getting used to. I arrived in the United States in July and spent 3 months living in New York City. It was a real shock to the system: the hottest, muggiest three months I had ever lived through, with day after day of heat and humidity - phew! Never mind, everybody said, it's not usually this hot for this long.

Then I moved out to Connecticut. It was still pleasantly warm in October, and I was totally enthralled by the glowing beauty of the Fall, the brilliant blue skies and the firecracker colors of the foliage. Then, whammo! Winter arrived, temperatures dropping down way below freezing, and snow all over the place. I had never cleared a driveway of snow in my life, and had certainly never had to drive down roads thick with the slush of snow and sand and salt. Talk about a steep learning curve! And then, in January, 48 inches of snow! In all my life, I had never seen more than 3 inches of accumulation, so this was pretty exciting. Well, everybody said, it's not normally quite this cold for this

long, and we don't usually get this much snow.

Spring came, and I was bowled over by the exuberance of spring, the great surge of growth as plants appeared from nowhere and bare tree branches were suddenly cloaked in spring flowers and foliage. But goodness, did it rain! Great waves of rain, cracks of lightning, crashes of thunder, roads awash, storm drains flooded. Amazing, everybody said, it's not normally this wet so early in the summer.

Over the years, I have been amazed by this variable weather. It has been reported that this month was the driest since 1913, say, or that month was unseasonably cold, or that August day was the hottest August day ever. All records are broken! It's Global Warming! It's the Greenhouse Effect! If this is Global Warming and we are all going to shrivel up in the heat, how is it that July 1996 was the hottest July since 1880? Did they have Global Warming back in 1880 as well? Makes you think, doesn't it?

***"...El Nino has returned, say some, la Nina is still around, say others; it's Global Warming and the Greenhouse Effect. No, no, it's Climatic Change, or perhaps even the next Ice Age - take your pick."***

Mark Twain gave a speech at a dinner held by the New England Society in New York in December 1876, in which he said: "There is a sumptuous variety about the New England weather that compels the stranger's admiration - and regret. The weather is always

doing something there; always attending strictly to business; always getting up new designs and trying them on the people to see how they will go." So the weather was 'not normally like this' back in 1876, too!

For a gardener, the question is how to cope with this 'sumptuous variety' of weather? Once I had my own garden, it seemed obvious that I should incorporate plants native to this area, which have adapted to cope with the vagaries of the New England weather. This meant that I had to spend many hours on research (reading gardening books and gardening magazines, checking out gardening websites, visiting nurseries and gardens, talking to gardeners).

To welcome these new acquisitions into my garden, I decided to concentrate on properly preparing the ground. This would, I hoped, encourage the plants to establish good root systems and give them the best possible chance of survival the next time the weather was 'not normally like this'. That was when I first met the ubiquitous 'Connecticut potatoes', and found that digging welcoming homes for plants was not a task to be taken lightly!

As a respite, I spent some time compiling a representative soil sample of my garden, and sent this off to the Home and Garden Center. The results confirmed that,

- Continued on page 8



Ah, springtime. Tennyson says, "In spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to love". Any gardener knows, the truth is a gardener's fancy turns to dust off those gardening tools, read those seed catalogs, and walk through the garden to see what has survived the winter. Any Master Gardener's (student's) fancy turns to PICK THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT!!!! Each issue of *The Laurel* lists projects to choose from. How do you pick from all the options? Below is an in depth look at two projects that might interest you. These are open to current students, advanced students, or any Master Gardener willing to share their time and expertise.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Say the words *Habitat for Humanity* and the first thing that comes to mind is building/rehabilitation of housing units. I often wondered, "What do they do about the outside of these units?" When the North Central Master Gardener Executive Board was looking for some new Community Projects to support, I thought this would be the perfect match. After a couple of phone calls to the Hartford Habitat for Humanity, I reached Alice Luster. Alice, along with her husband has been working on this project.

Below are some ideas about projects for Master Gardeners to consider.

#### Classes

Every new family must take a certain number of classes, prior to completion of their house. There are also some "optional" classes. One class is in Landscaping. Alice and her husband developed the curriculum for the class. Since last spring (2001), they have taught the class and are willing to continue. Many families currently living in Habitat built homes have not participated in this class because it has only been offered for a year. They could benefit from a special class just for them. Because they are now actively involved in maintaining their landscape, they also have many specific questions. It would be great to develop an additional class. Two ideas are: how to build a compost pile and how to vegetable garden.

#### New Houses

Habitat has a basic landscaping requirement. Each "new" home gets 4-5 shrubs and 1 flowering tree. The idea is for consistency and fairness. This "landscaping" must be installed prior to occupancy. Currently, some local garden clubs in the area plan to do the landscaping plan and installation. It would be great to have Master Gardeners do this too work with families to install the landscaping. Develop a more extensive landscape plan for the new houses. Teach families the basics and help them de-

velop a love of gardening. Help with the installation of the plan. Plans can be multiple years.

"Experienced homeowners" currently in housing developed by Habitat may wish to expand on the basic Habitat landscape. There are currently a number of families who have expressed interest in pairing with Master Gardeners for additional help and advice. How about an "adopt" a family project???

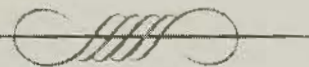
Lawns are a real concern. Many homeowners have previously only lived in apartments. They have little knowledge in maintaining a lawn, from mowing to weeding, to feeding, to raking leaves, etc., they need help and guidance once they have moved into their homes. Direct demonstration works best.

#### Newsletter

Publish a newsletter with basic gardening information. Interview "experts" about gardening topics. Interview "habitat" homeowners who have worked through the gardening/landscaping projects.

**Rockville Condo Complex** 115 Brooklyn Street in Rockville is a six unit condo complex. There is a sloped area adjacent to the street. This area could use some expertise on a low maintenance landscape. The slope faces south. Work with the current condo owners to teach them how to plan and install a landscape project for a "challenging" site.

Don't live in the Hartford area but think Habitat for Humanity is a good idea??? All other regions in the state have Habitat for Humanity initiatives in many forms. If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Debbye Rosen at 860-509-7729



### Nursery Tips

Remember what we learned as you make your way through all of the wonderful selections at the nursery...

- ✓ Consider your landscape. Think about size and layout of your land, and the potential growth of the item you are considering for purchase.
- ✓ Purchase a medium size among the species. Balance the roots with the top size.
- ✓ Check out the roots to ensure a healthy root system. Open the burlap, pop the plant out of the container. Look for problems such as girdling roots.
- ✓ A strong central leader, well spaced upward curving branches and a straight trunk are important..



### BEHIND THE STONE WALLS... GARDEN TOUR

*A Garden Tour of Easton...*

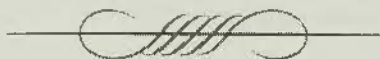
*"Behind the Stone Walls"*

Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Easton Garden Club and the Historical Society of Easton, to benefit the restoration of the historic Bradley-Hubbell House. Visit ten distinctive gardens - including a Garden of Sculpture, with plantings of stone and metal artworks; a Gardening Neighborhood, the result of 30 years of friendship and sharing; Gilbertie's Herb Farm, a herb and perennial wholesale grower not usually open to the public; a Blooming Hillside of gardening collections - and more.

Tickets are \$25 pre-ordered, and \$30 day of tour. A box lunch, pre-ordered by June 1, will also be available. The tour starts at the Bradley-Hubbell House, 535 Black Rock Turnpike (CT. Route 58) Easton, where tickets can be picked up beginning at 10 a.m. Refreshments will be served in the afternoon until 5 p.m.

Please call 203-452-8248 or (203) 261-2090 for reservations and information.



#### ***It's Not Normally Like This***

*Continued from page 6*

on the whole, my soil was pretty nice stuff, and only needed an application of lime and a bit of fertilizer now and then, to bring it up to snuff. This was encouraging - though I wondered whether the results would be quite the same if I sent the Home and Garden Center a true representation of my garden soil (i.e. including Connecticut potatoes). Ah well, at least we have good drainage!

Five years on, and the garden is looking pretty good, with decreasing amounts of lawn and burgeoning flower beds (what's not to love?). Most of my plants are natives, but there are some foreigners and some borderline beauties that I just couldn't resist. Faced with the present drought situation, however, the exotic plants may take up more time, energy and water than justifies their existence. So I will nurture the native plants, trust that they can, with good mulching and minimum watering, survive the cold, the freeze/thaw, the warm, the hot, the dry, the wet. And perhaps I can dream of the day when the weather will NOT be 'not normally like this'!

- Hilary Forsyth

## News from the Bartlett Arboretum

*"Our mission as Master Gardeners is to educate."  
- Cheron Barton, 2002*

Interns and Master Gardeners have been busy putting Cheron's words into action.

A spring plant sale was held May 11. Master Gardeners advised customers in their choices of plant materials, helped with sales, and staffed the Master Gardener center.

Two training sessions were offered to prepare for this endeavor. Karen Filcheck, the UCONN expert on water quality, spoke on the issues and concerns of the potential drought condition in Connecticut on April 8. The second information session was April 29 and included workshop topics, plant lists, and information about the features of the sale. Jim Kenyon discussed stone features in the garden and Donna Mileti Beneson, writer and rose enthusiast, shared her passion for antique roses. Michael Harvey demonstrated how to plant a tree. Mary Novotany discussed invasive plants. Sue Wetham demonstrating pruning skills, and Mike Healy discussed tools and their care.

We're sure the public truly appreciated the effort of this Team and left with additional knowledge of our program and valuable insight into many of the workshop topics.

### Outreach Assistance Needed in New Haven County

New Haven County needs Master Gardeners to give talks to various groups about any form of gardening: container gardening; organic/IPM use; conservation gardens, etc...all the things you know from going through our program and leaning more! Share your knowledge with others. These talks can apply against your Advanced Master Gardener Certification. Please contact Mira Schachne, New Haven County Master Gardener Coordinator at (203) 407-3161.



**For Sale:** Unused Electric Fence (bought more than needed). 17-gauge galvanized fence wire, 1/2-mile length, 10 heavy duty corner insulators, 50 U-Post insulators, 3 insulator gate door grips, 12 v. fence battery charger, battery for the fence (which might not work). All you need are the posts and perhaps the recharged battery or electric plug-in set up and you are ready. Best offer. Call 9-5 weekdays (203) 888-2695.



## MY ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER PROJECT AND HOW IT GOT THAT WAY

Last year at Master Gardener classes, Katy Melvin and various others showed us their Outreach Projects. There were presentation boards, pictures and write-ups on all these wonderful programs. I was impressed! I decided I wanted to do my Outreach in my town of Enfield, and I had my heart set on something grand like theirs.

I tried contacting the Beautification Committee. They had no recommendations. I tried a Senior Housing Project, and that fell through. Any town property involved a lot of red tape. There was no garden club. All I could scratch up was a job for the Historical Society, filling the planters of the Old Town Hall and planting around the sign. I gave up my grand ideas and spent the rest of my Outreach time divided between Elizabeth Park, Auer Farm and St. Joseph's Home. All of it was fun, but it really opened my eyes to a larger need in our town.

That larger need, I felt, was a way to identify beautification project opportunities in Enfield and to match them with gardening volunteers. I succeeded in doing this by first obtaining an appointment to the Town of Enfield Beautification Committee, and then starting the Enfield Garden Club.

It took some doing to convince the other members of the Beautification Committee that I was very serious about doing this. I asked for, and received, permission to advertise for people interested in volunteer gardening opportunities around town and formation of a Garden Club. Our first meeting was simply an exploratory meeting to see if people were interested. Ten people showed up at an afternoon meeting. Twenty more called asking me to consider a night meeting next time. Our first "real" meeting was in March and we were off to a great start.

I met with the Town Manager and he made suggestions for improvements at several sites around town. Garden Club members decided the first job we should tackle was the four town gateway signs. The Town Manager arranged a meeting with the Union representative. I explained our mission and the Union Rep was very supportive and agreeable to what we wanted to do. We agreed on a plan to work together. The Beautification Committee gave the Garden Club a \$200 grant to buy necessary plants and a local nursery agreed to sell us the plants at wholesale. Town Department of Public Works will upgrade the sites in preparation for our planting. Planting Day is May 18. We are on the way to our first project!

Starting a Garden Club is a bigger job than I thought, but I received help from two other Class of 2001 Master Gardeners: Ginny Gingras, President of the Vernon Garden Club, and Laura Dillman of the Suffield Garden

- Continued next column

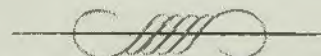
## CMGA The Laurel 9

*Continued from previous column...*

Club. Their help, ideas and encouragement helped tremendously. I believe this is one of major benefits I have received from the Master Gardeners Program...new friends and new opportunities.

I look forward to appear at next year's class with my own presentation charts to brag about my own Advanced Master Gardener Project!

*By Sylvia H. Foster, Class of 2001*



Master Gardeners helped with the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Prunathon & Clean-up at the Connecticut Children's Place (CCP) on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Organized by Laura Dillman as part of her work on the Hartford County Master Gardener Outreach Program sponsored by the UConn Cooperative Extension Service and CMGA, the event was a great success. Volunteers cleaned plant beds, cut back perennials, and pruned bushes and trees just in time for the first day of spring. Said one CCP employee, "You saved us a month's worth of work. Thank you!" Standing L to R are Judy Quinn '00, Jim Dombroski '02, Paul Grimmiesen '01, Carol Walter '02, Joan Berman '02, Susan Chiraboga '01, Larry Vanderjagt (CMGA past president), Laura Dillman '01, and Anita Gagnon (Children's Place Resource Development Director).

As a facility of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, the Connecticut Children's Place provides brief treatment, residential care and educational instruction for abused and neglected children between the ages of 10 and 18. Children come to the facility from all over the state. Formerly known as the State Receiving Home, CCP began as an orphanage in the 1880's and is the only facility of its kind in Connecticut.

The Children's Place is located on 28 acres in East Windsor and offers a wealth of volunteer opportunities for Master Gardeners. A corps of dedicated employees with other responsibilities at CCP strives to take care of the flowers and teach employable skills to the children in the work experience program. But there is no gardening staff, per se. *Anyone interested in gardening with CCP should contact Laura Dillman (860-668-4606; dillman4@cox.net) or Anita Gagnon (292-4018).*



## NEAHTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 21 & 22, 2002

THE UNLIMITED GARDEN  
BALLSTON SPA, NEW YORK

*'CREATING COMMUNITY  
THROUGH HORTICULTURE'*

### Connecting People with Culture, Traditions and the Therapeutic Value of Gardening

The conference features concurrent sessions, more than a dozen workshops, a literature display, and a basket raffle.

Joseph Bruchac will be the keynote speaker and will discuss "The Healing Earth" by combining lecture, storytelling and songs from his Native American traditions.

Marcia Eames-Sheavly, from Cornell University Extension will present "Growing People and Growing Gardens." She is the author of 'The appealing apple' and 'The three sisters: exploring an Iroquois garden'.

The area of Saratoga Springs, NY has many attractive features with an historical Victorian downtown, mineral springs and thoroughbred racetrack.

For more information, contact Carol Whitelaw at the Unlimited Garden, (518) 885 8977 or skylark42@aol.com.

Look what was up across the hall from our May Board Meeting at the Haddam Extension...our 2002 MG Interns Michelle Straub and Tina Gossner were busy contemplating a sample. A moment later, local folks brought in the dreaded purple-flowered weed that's taking over their yard for identification and management advice. All of our CMGA Interns are very busy this Spring and Summer working on their Outreach Projects and tending the needs of the Extension Offices. Oh, so much to learn!  
- brp



## To Prune or Not to Prune

The general rule of thumb is to prune spring flowering shrubs just after they finish blooming.

Rhododendron, azalea, pieris, and laurel should all be pruned annually, even when small to promote dense branching and good shape. Cut off longer branches just above a side branch. Avoid hedge shears!

Shrubs such as lilacs, forsythia, viburnum, and spirea are multi-stemmed and need to be thinned out every year or two to control shape and size.

Evergreen shrubs such as boxwood, holly, junipers and yews can be trimmed at any time. For best appearance, trim them between April and July so that the new growth will cover all evidence of trimming.

Learn more about pruning at Advanced MG Classes.

## General Pruning Schedule

### Spring

- ✓ Trim spring flowering shrubs just AFTER they bloom (azalea, rhododendron, laurel, forsythia, lilac, etc.)
- ✓ Trim pines in June

### Summer

- ✓ Trim hedges-evergreen or deciduous (June or July)
- ✓ Short-neededled evergreens (yews, spruce, juniper, dwarf evergreens and topiaries)

### Fall

- ✓ Thin out old wood and remove dead wood on deciduous trees and shrubs
- ✓ Trim summer bloom deciduous shrubs
- ✓ Trim berry-bearing hollies

### Winter

- ✓ Prune bearing fruit trees and ornamental (flowering) fruit trees



## 11 The Laurel CMGA

*Let's learn more about Daylilies...*

### **Where to plant**

**Sun:** The amount of blooms a daylily produces is proportional to the amount of sun it gets. Daylilies will grow almost anywhere but need sun to bloom. The more sun, the more flowers. A half day of afternoon sun will produce a maximum number of blooms. Morning sun generates weaker light and fewer blossoms. Daylilies will not bloom well in the deep shade of trees. An exception...daylilies on a shady side of a house may bloom very well in the indirect light that is reflected off of the building.

**Soil:** Daylilies are extremely adaptable; they will grow in soils ranging from clay to sandy. However, the better (richer and moister) the soil, the better the daylily will perform. Good soil will be friable and humus rich with a balanced pH. Use compost to improve soil. Lightly fertilize, at least every Spring.

**Drainage and water:** Daylilies thrive on water. They respond well to plentiful moisture. In a dry year, watering well will encourage better bloom and faster growth. Daylilies are not recommended for swampy conditions. Water is the best fertilizer for daylilies. Regular watering produces faster growth, more blooms and more reblooms on reblooming daylilies.

### **Proximity to other plants**

Daylilies are good competitors and will grow well with other perennials without being overwhelmed. Keep in mind many daylilies can grow to be quite large clumps and can crowd out small less tenacious plants.

### **When to plant**

Transplant daylilies any time of the growing season...April through October. Many people choose to transplant during the spring or early fall, allowing the plants ample time to establish themselves before the next blooming seasons. Daylilies are able to withstand being divided during the heat of summer. Be sure to water newly transplanted plants every day for 7-10 days until they are established. Daylilies can also be moved at any time during the growing season. Consider planting them at the edge of your vegetable garden for a season or two. The extra fertilizer and water will help them quickly attain larger clump size.

### **How many to plant**

Measure your garden square footage. For permanent plants space daylilies about two feet apart from center (4 square feet for each plant). Those who want a fuller appearance sooner can plant up to a foot and a half apart (3 square feet per plant). Plant in straight lines for a formal design, zig-zags for a more naturalized look.

### **How deep to plant them**

Dig a hole large enough to accommodate the root mass, usually about 6-8" deep. Once the hole is prepared, place the daylily upright, without cramming it into the space. Holding it so the crown (top of the roots) is about one inch below the surface of the ground, loosely push soil over the roots until the hole is nearly full. Press the soil down around the roots, without covering any green of the plant. Leave a slight depression or water reservoir around the plant, about 1/2" deep.

### **How to fertilize**

The fertilizer requirements of each soil is different, so ideally you should have your soil tested to determine the nutrients required. It is safe to recommend the inclusion of good compost into the planting hole and a dose of 10-10-10 or such several weeks after planting. Overfertilizing can result in large amounts of leaf growth with little or no bloom and sometimes muddying of red flowered blooms.

### **Why weed**

Far better than chemical herbicide weed killers, hand weeding directly leads to improved health of your garden. By churning in the organic matter decaying at the top layer, nutrients are added to the soil.

### **How to mulch**

Mulch will aid in soil moisture retention and displays the plants nicely. Mulch with a composted manure layer then add a top layer of hay. The compost acts as a fertilizing soil amendment working its way down to the roots. Mulch as needed up to 3" deep anytime during the growing season. Be sure not to bury the crowns of the plants with mulch. Leave a 2" mulch-free depression around the base of each plant for breathing room.

### **Insects**

Daylilies are amazingly insect pest resistant. There are some instances of aphid (Pyrethrum or other botanical) or spider mites (remove with water spray) infestations. Thrips can cause some blooms to be misshapen but are relatively rare.

### **Diseases**

Some daylilies are susceptible to leaf streak, a minor leaf disease which causes a little more yellowing on the leaf than you would normally expect. However, some ordinary leaf streak is found on virtually all daylilies. Keeping daylilies well watered and fertilized will minimize any negative appearance of leaf streak. Rust disease is unsightly but will not kill a daylily. There is some evidence that cold New England winters will kill the rust. For more information on rust go to website [www.ncf.ca/~ah748/rust/html](http://www.ncf.ca/~ah748/rust/html).



## Organic Fertilizers

Opponents of organic methods have said many times that it makes no difference to a non-intelligent plant whether a nutrient element is presented to the plant in an organic or an inorganic compound, and thereby condone the practice of deluging a soil with concentrated, highly soluble chemicals. Organic supports have not always had a scientific answer with which to refute such statements. They always said, "we see the difference in our plants, and in the flavor of our foods". After many experiments the proof has been made that a plant may starve on an inorganic source of iron but that it responds healthily if humic material is added.

We all would prefer organic methods to support our gardening activities. And, I being a one who likes to cook by both following recipes and experimenting was intrigued with the following information obtained from the **1959 Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening**. Remember, what is old always becomes new again...

Here are recipes for Organic Fertilizer Formulas and some plants that can appreciate this organic support.

### NPK Formulas

#### 0-6-6

1 part phosphate rock  
3 parts greensand  
2 parts wood ashes

#### 1-4-3

1 part basic slag  
1 part tankage  
4 parts greensand

#### 1-5-5

1 part tankage  
3 parts wood ashes  
2 parts basic slag

#### 2- 3 1/2 - 2 1/2

1 part bone meal  
3 parts alfalfa hay  
2 parts greensand

#### 2-4-2

4 parts coffee grounds  
1 part bone meal  
1 part wood ashes

#### 2-4-5

1 part tankage  
1 part wood ashes  
1 part granite dust

#### 2-5-3

3 parts greensand  
2 parts seaweed  
1 part dried blood  
2 parts phosphate rock

#### 2-12-2

1 part cottonseed meal  
2 parts phosphate rock  
2 parts seaweed

#### 2 1/2-5-5

1 part dried blood  
1 part phosphate rock  
4 parts wood ashes

#### 2 1/2-5 1/2-2 1/2

2 parts cottonseed meal  
1 part colloidal phosphate  
2 parts granite dust

#### 3-4-3

3 parts wood ashes  
5 parts basic slag  
2 parts dried blood

#### 3-7-5

1 part dried blood  
1 part phosphate rock  
3 parts wood ashes

#### 4-6-6

2 parts dried blood  
1 part phosphate rock  
4 parts wood ashes

#### 6-8-3

2 parts fish scrap  
2 parts dried blood  
1 part cottonseed meal  
1 part wood ashes  
1 part phosphate rock  
1 part granite dust

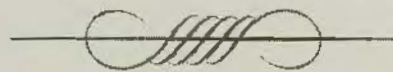
### Fertilizer Recommendations for Vegetables (per 100 square feet)

- **Asparagus:** 3.5 lbs. of 1-5-5 and 115 lbs. of rotted manure. For sandy soil, use 7 lbs. 2 1/2-5-5
- **Beans:** 3 lbs. of 2-4-5
- **Beets:** 5 lbs. of 3-6-2 1/2 or 6 lbs. of 2 1/2-5-5
- **Cabbage:** 8 lbs. of 2 1/2-5 1/2 -2 1/2
- **Corn:** 3 lbs. of 2 1/2-5-5. Also add 7 1/2 lbs. of wood ash
- **Kale:** 7 lbs. of 3-4-3
- **Lettuce:** 5 lbs. of 2 1/2-6-6
- **Onions:** 4 lbs. of 3 1/2-3 1/2-3 1/2, 2 lbs. of rotted manure, and a sprinkling of wood ashes.
- **Parsley:** 5 lbs. of 2 1/2-5 1/2-2 1/2
- **Peas:** 3 lbs. of 2-4-2
- **Peppers:** 4 lbs. of 0-6-6
- **Potatoes:** for sandy soils, use 4 lbs. of 2 1/2-5-5 and on heavier soils try 5 lbs. of 2 1/2-5 1/2-2 1/2
- **Spinach:** 2 1/2 lbs. of 3-7-5 and 120 lbs. of rotted manure.
- **Tomatoes:** 7 lbs. of 4-6-6 or 9 lbs. of 2 1/2-5-5

### General Organic Advice for a few of our favorite flowers for this time of year...

- **Annuals:** Add four bushels of manure per 100 square feet; spread on 4-6 lbs. of 2 1/2-5 1/2-2 1/2 per 100 square feet.
- **Dahlias:** When planting, use a two-inch layer of rotted manure and a handful of bone meal in each planting hole. If possible, grow a legume cover crop previous year. Later fertilize with five lbs. raw bone meal and five lbs. wood ashes per 100 square feet. If the soil is deficient in nitrogen, use three lbs. of dried blood.
- **Daylilies:** not much fertilizer is needed, but use a three-inch layer of rotted manure and add 1 1/2 lbs. bone meal per 100 square feet. Mulch with peat moss or a light layer of leaves.
- **Geraniums:** Wash in a sprinkling of wood ashes. Manure water can be used too (but no peat).

Information credit... *The Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening*, by the staff of Organic Gardening and Farming Magazine. Originally published 1959, J. I. Rodale.



*Flowers appear on the earth,  
The season of singing has come.*

- Solomon 2:12



Here is an interesting chart if you would like to experiment and mix your own organic fertilizers.

CMGA Board Approves Outreach Requests

Two Outreach Requests were submitted to and approved by the Board at the May 10 Board Meeting.

Three hundred dollars (\$300) was approved to support Gardening Development at the Connecticut Children's Place. This is a facility of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families and provides brief treatment, residential care and educational instruction for abused and neglected children between the ages of 10 and 18. Children come to the facility from all of the state. The Connecticut Children's Place, formerly known as the State Receiving Home, began as an orphanage in the 1880's and is the only facility of its kind in Connecticut.

Approximately 42 children are in residence, most are 10-16 years old, the average age is 14, most stay about 3 months, and about 200 children stay at the facility each year.

Laura Dillman requested the monies to be used for the organization's "Gardening Wishes" List. Included on the list are plant materials, tools, watering supplies, green house supplies, pruning equipment and landscape materials.

Two hundred dollars (\$200) was approved and granted to support Sylvia Foster's Advanced Master Gardener Project. You can read more about the specifics, written by Sylvia herself, in a preceding article.

Sylvia worked hard last year to find a project for her Master Gardener Outreach Project as an intern. As a first step she obtained an appointment to the Town Beautification Committee. She later met with the Town Manager and presented her plan. The Town Manager set up a meeting with the Department of Public Works. The Beautification Committee in town gave her Team a \$200 grant toward the plantings for the four "Welcome to Enfield" Gateway Signs.

The request was for monies to be used as start up money for the Enfield Garden Club and its associated Gateway project.

We are extremely proud to assist these ladies in their outreach work. Thank you both on behalf of CMGA for your initiative and commitment.



	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potash
Activated Sludge	5.0	3.00	—
Animal Tankage	8.0	20.00	—
Alfalfa Hay	2.45	.50	—
Apple Leaves	1.00	.15	2.10
Bloodmeal	15.00	1.30	.70
Bone Meal	4.00	21.00	.20
Brewers' Grains (wet)	.90	.50	.05
Cattle Manure (fresh)	.29	.17	.35
Castor Pomace	5.50	1.50	1.25
Cocoa Shell Dust	1.04	1.49	2.71
Coffee Grounds (dried)	1.99	.36	.67
Corn Stalks	.75	.40	.90
Cottonseed	3.15	1.25	1.15
Cottonseed Meal	7.00	2.50	1.50
Dried Blood	12.00-15.00	3.00	—
Fish Scrap	7.76	13.00	3.80
Greensand	—	1.50	5.00
Hen Manure (fresh)	1.63	1.54	.85
Hoofmeal/Horn Dust	12.50	1.75	—
Horse Manure (fresh)	.44	.17	.35
Incinerator Ash	.24	5.15	2.33
Oak Leaves	.80	.35	.15
Peach Leaves	.90	.15	.60
Red Clover	.5	.13	.50
Seaweed	1.68	.75	5.00
Sheep Manure (fresh)	.55	.31	.15
Swine Manure (fresh)	.60	.41	.13
Tankage	6.00	8.00	—
Wood Ashes	—	1.50	7.00



OUTREACH		OPPORTUNITIES	
<b>SW</b>	The Scott Fanton Museum	Danbury	Ingrid McCauley, 203-426-5990
	Extension Gardens Committee	Bethel	"
	Southbury Training School	Southbury	Volunteer Services, 203-586-2485
	New Canaan Nature Center	New Canaan	Gail Ego, 203-966-9577
	Bartlett Arboretum Meadow	Stamford	Michael Harvey, 203-322-6972
<b>NE</b>	Nature Trail (Tolland County Extension)	Vernon	Mary Collins, 860-870-6934
	Tolland County Extension Center	Vernon	"
	Danielson Access Shelter	Danielsen	Kim Kelly, 860-774-9600
	Abington Library Historical Landscape	Abington	"
	Windham Mills Heritage Park	Willimantic	"
<b>SE</b>	Shaw Mansion (Historical)	New London	Susan Munger, 860-443-2261
	Alliance for Living	New London	Corinne Clevenger, 860-887-5117
	Denison Homestead	Mystic	Melissa Smith, 860-887-1608
	York Correctional Facility	East Lyme	"
	The Hygienic Art Gallery	New London	"
	Chelsea Gardens	Norwich	"
	Harkness Memorial Park East Garden	Waterford	Julia Griswold, 860-535-3061
	DMR Group Homes	Waterford	"
	Camp Harkness (Challenged/Elderly)	Waterford	"
	Byran House (Disabled)	Haddam	John Castagno, 860-345-4511
	Montville Minimum Security	Montville	"
	Florence Griswold (Historical)	Old Lyme	"
	Hart House (Historical)	Old Saybrook	"
<b>NW</b>	Mary Mahoney Village Greenhouse	Hartford	Katie Melvin, 860-570-9010
	Auer Farm	Bloomfield	"
	CT Children's Medical Center	Hartford	Michelle Marra, 860-658-9110
	The Children's Place (DCF)	East Windsor	Laura Dillman, 860-668-4606
	Jubilee House	Hartford	Shiela Craven, 860-668-9543
	UCONN Butterfly Garden	West Hartford	Randi Rigg, 860-668-4418
	Hillstead Museum Sunken Garden	Farmington	Maggie Carpenter, 860-693-0340
	Hungerford Nature Center	Kensington	Bob Levitt, 860-827-9064
	Community Gardens, Hartford Area	Hartford	John Neff, 860-673-5018
	Elizabeth Park	Hartford	Carol Quish, 860-649-0452
	Plymouth Historical Society	Plymouth	Karen Anderson, 860-626-6240
	Prime Time House	Torrington	"
	Community Gardens	Torrington	"



**GOD:**

Frank, you know all about gardens and nature, what in the world is going on down there in the U.S.? What in the world happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles and the stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of color by now. All I see are patches of green.

**ST. FRANCIS:**

It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. They are called the Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

**GOD:**

Grass? But it is so boring, it's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, bees or birds, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want grass growing there?

**ST. FRANCIS:**

Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing it and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

**GOD:**

The spring rains and the warm weather probably makes the grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites very happy.

**ST. FRANCIS:**

Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it has grown a little, they cut it-sometimes two times a week.

**GOD:**

They cut it? Do they bale it like hay?

**ST. FRANCIS:**

Not exactly Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

**GOD:**

They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

**ST. FRANCIS:**

No sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

**GOD:**

Now let me get this straight: They fertilize it to make it grow and when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

**ST. FRANCIS:**

Yes, sir.

**GOD:**

These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

**ST. FRANCIS:**

You aren't going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

**GOD:**

What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep the moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves become compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

**ST. FRANCIS:**

You'd better sit down, Lord. As soon as the leaves fall, the Suburbanites rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

**GOD:**

No way!! What do they do to protect the shrubs and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

**ST. FRANCIS:**

After throwing the leaves away they go out and buy something called mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

**GOD:**

And where do they get this mulch?

**ST. FRANCIS:**

They cut down the trees and grind them up to make mulch.

**GOD:**

Enough!! I don't want to think about this anymore. Saint Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

**ST. CATHERINE:**

"Dumb and Dumber," Lord. It's a real stupid movie about...

**GOD:**

Never mind -- I think I just heard the whole story from Saint Francis!



*Nature will bear  
the closest inspection.  
She invites us to lay our eye  
level with her smallest leaf,  
and take an insect view of it plain.*

*- Henry David Thoreau*



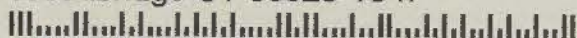
# The Laurel

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c/o John Neff  
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Respectfully submitted by Sylvia H. Foster, Secretary

## Next deadline: June 15

Please submit articles, photographs, interviews, outreach stories, events, outreach opportunity updates, and personal stories you'd like to share with **your** organization!



*America, America,  
God shed his grace on thee.  
And crown thy good,  
With brotherhood,  
From Sea to Shining Sea.*

Happy Memorial Day 2002

## SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The CMGA Membership, including all 2002 Associates, are invited to attend the Semi-Annual Membership Meeting. Come join in the fun. Visit with your peers and classmates. Learn something new.

When... Saturday, June 15, 2002

Where... Ballek's Garden Center  
90 Maple Avenue  
East Haddam, CT  
(860) 873-8878

Agenda... 9:30 Symposium Brainstorm for 2003  
11:00 Luncheon Set-up for Pot Luck  
11:30 Pot Luck Picnic (inside if it rains)  
12:00 Membership Meeting  
12:45 Tour of Ballek's  
2:00 Tour of Gloria Eustis' Gardens

Further Info... Wendy Drenga (860) 873-8145





## From the President...



For many of us Autumn is a time of renewal. The weather cools and we feel alive again. The colors of the leaves make us feel warm and happy. The anticipation of family gatherings to come, a flake of snow, perhaps some fall plantings.

My husband and I are able to take a step back now, having lost both fathers in a brief two-month span. I am grateful for the lessons my father, the West Granby farmer, taught me in his many gardens.

Assembling the pictures for the memorial service I find him hoeing the vegetable garden, making the wind rows in the hay lots, standing on the Christmas tree lot, by the hellebores, in the ferns, next to a 6-foot *Lilium canadense*, in the trilliums, by the dahlias and the zinnias and the marigolds (the brighter the better) that he loved late in life. Just "holding down a fence" (leaning on it), or swinging a scythe. It hangs in the barn next to his mucking boots and my grandfather's milking stool. I am blessed for having known this incredible man and to be part of this

- Continued on page 2

## Putting your Garden to Bed

By Marie Friess-McSparran

It's definitely fall and time to prepare your garden for the winter months ahead. It's also a good time to begin planning for next year.

Let's start with a good weeding. You will have less to do next spring if you spend some time now weeding them out now. Some will come back next year but you'll have less if you get rid of some stubborn outlaws now.

This is a good time to do some pruning. I have WILD butterfly bushes that are going to get some serious pruning. The rule of thumb is: "If it's yellow or brown, cut it down, if it's green, leave it alone." You can leave your seed heads for the birds if you are not going to collect them or the plant was not diseased or infested. If so, cut back and dispose of it. Dig up your tender bulbs and prepare them to over winter by storing them in a cool place submerged in moist peat moss. Make sure you cut back to just below the ground perennials like iris, peony and hibiscus. Any dead flowers or foliage needs to be removed from your shrubs. After pruning make sure to give your garden a good drink of water (especially if it has been dry).

Late applications of nitrogen heavy fertilizers will stimulate new, soft growth which will not have a chance to mature before frost and may kill your plant. If you want to use a fertilizer at this time make sure it is a "winterizer" fertilizer. These fertilizers are high in potassium and low in nitrogen.

- Continued on page 3

## Who is an Organic Gardener?

By Kathleen Groll Connolly

In a recent conversation with Nancy Ballek, owner of Ballek's Garden Center in East Haddam, CT, she said, "You won't believe the number of people who want to go organic this year. It's gone mainstream."

Indeed, the term has gotten new respect in the language and increasingly wider play in the media. What does it really mean in the context of a home landscape?

Some organizations are trying to answer that question. The Northeast Organic Farming Associations have certified organic food producers in Connecticut and Massachusetts for more than ten years. During 2000 - 2001, they jointly developed and offered the first course in organic land care. The course and accompanying manual, Standards for Organic Land Care, adapt the food production standards to the home or commercial landscape. The four-day courses are targeted to professionals, who take a test to receive a certificate showing they have learned the principles.

Most of us, though, need a simpler source of direction. What is the "spirit" of organic gardening?

- Continued on page 6

## Inside this Issue...

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# The Laurel



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Brooklyn: Kim Kelly (860) 776-9600  
Haddam: John Castagno (860) 345-4511  
North Haven: Mira Schachne (203) 407-3161  
Norwich: Melissa Smith (860) 887-1608  
Stamford: Cheron Barton (203) 321-4826  
Torrington: Karen Anderson (860) 626-6240  
Vernon: Mary Collins (860) 870-6934  
West Hartford: Katie Melvin (860) 570-9010  
Home and Garden Center (877) 486-6271

## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

New England legacy.

I am left to contemplate the future of the farm and wonder if I could ever fill the shoes of such a remarkable and resourceful people. The next chapter of my life will be all about the farm and slowing down to the speed of life. To keep my father's gardens going and stop every now and the and ask "how'm I doin' Pop?" I will keep the fields open and plant the turnips on "the 25th of July, wet or dry...", and take care of the West Granby soil that I grew up out of....

I have chosen not to include CMGA happenings in this message. I'm pretty sure it is all included here somewhere in this newsletter. My message is "pitch in, we need you. Remember, " many hands make light work".

*Wendy Drenga*  
**President**

---

*If one really loves nature  
one can find beauty  
everywhere.*

*- Vincent van Gogh*

---

*The scarlet of maples can  
shake me  
Like a cry  
Of bugles going by.  
And my lonely spirit thrills  
To see the frosty asters  
like smoke  
Upon the hills.*

*- William Bliss Carman*

---

*Gratitude is the  
memory of the heart.*



*From the  
Editor...*

Autumn Leaves, the First Frost, the end of Daylight Savings—Harvest Time.

Harvest Time also means graduations for our CMGA Interns. A schedule of the graduation dates is on the back page of the newsletter. Stop by your Extension and wish all of our new Master Gardeners congratulations on a job well done. It will be wonderful to have newly trained members to assist us in addressing our mission.

This issue of The Laurel has articles and pictures of outreach activities that are occurring around the State. The Outreach Opportunity chart has also been updated with a few new projects. Please send me stories and pictures of what you're working on to share with members. And, don't forget to submit outreach monies requests to our Treasurer for consideration.

A very big thank you to all of the writers who submitted articles for the Harvest Issue of the newsletter. You are just wonderful!

The next issue of The Laurel will have all of the specifics regarding our upcoming 2003 Symposium to be held in March. Programs, speakers, and registration materials will be included for the event.

Please remember to complete and return the Membership Form found on page 15 to ensure your continued receipt of The Laurel and CMGA information.

Happy Harvest!

*Becky Paul*  
**Editor**



## Putting your Garden to Bed (Continued from page 1)

Mulching is next. The purpose of mulch is to keep the plants from heaving as the ground freezes and thaws, and to keep the plants frozen in the spring in case of a warm day and they may want to sprout early only to be greeted by snow again. Be careful not to put it directly against the crowns as this can cause them to rot. Make sure to clean up leaves and other debris before adding your mulch, as insects and mice are also preparing to winter over their nests.

You can use this time to plan for next year's garden. If you have plants that have volunteered new plants, mark them so you know where they are and what to move in the spring. You can also sprinkle some annual flower seeds now. They will germinate in the spring when the time is right and be early bloomers. Seeds that require a cold period before germination are good to use this way.

Don't forget to protect your terra cotta pots from the cold, disconnect the hoses, and bring inside the delicate garden decorations. Take some time to clean and sharpen all your garden tools, so they will be ready for the next garden season. Especially sanitize anything used on diseased plants.

Happy gardening and see you next spring!!!

## Ready for Spring?

By Becky Paul

Stopped at the garden center on the rainy "Isidore" Friday and brightened my day by enjoying the new displays of Spring-blooming bulbs. There were many old favorite varieties. I happen to adore double and split-corona daffodils. I carefully

chose three bulbs of four different varieties to add to our collection of thousands of bulbs, some of which are over fifty years old.

What can we do to nurture these new prized possessions to ensure a lifetime of pleasure? Most often the first year blooms of newly planted bulbs are wonderful, but without following the basics we notice blooms become less and less prolific in the years to come.

A "bulb" is a general term applied to a plant that has the capacity to store food underground. These include true bulbs (i.e., Daffodils and Tulips), corms (i.e., Crocus), tubers (i.e., Anemone) and tuberous roots (i.e., Ranunculus). These "types" of bulbs all have the ability to store food within themselves underground. Our objective is to handle the bulbs in a manner to assist them in best doing their job of producing and storing food for following years. This means choosing proper varieties for specific locations, correctly preparing the soil, planting at correct depths, fertilizing and providing water.

Before shopping, plan your garden. Determine if you'll be filling in spots in a more formal garden or if you are hoping to establish a more naturalized look. Bulbs usually look best when planted in arrangements of the same variety - I usually use three to six per clump. Some recommend clumps of five, seven or nine. Remember that Spring-flowering bulbs should be planted in well-drained, sunny locations, although Crocus, Daffodils and Hyacinths will flower in partial shade. You'll also want to determine what you currently have and when they bloom to assure a constant show from early to late Spring. Early-Spring bloomers include (shortest to tallest): Galanthus/Snowdrops, Crocus, Anemone Blanda, Muscari/Grape Hyacinths, Gregii Tulips, Fosteriana Tulips, and Hyacinths. Mid-Spring Bloomers are

(again, shortest to tallest): Daffodils, Darwin Hybrid Tulips, and Fritillaria Imperialis. Late Spring we enjoy (shortest to tallest): Spanish Blue-bells, Late Tulips, Dutch Iris and Allium Giganteum. Planning ahead will help you determine the types and quantities you require for next Spring's show.

At the Garden Center choose top quality. Soft, mushy, unhealthy bulbs should be avoided. Healthy bulbs are firm and free of disease. The larger the bulb of the same variety will generally produce a larger bloom. Mixes or "economy" bulbs can be useful, but they create a "hodge-podge" look if made up of more than one variety. You will get blooms of different heights, colors and blooming times. These are usually great for a cutting garden area if you have the space on your property. I'd avoid them for formal planned gardens and for naturalized bulb meadows.

Your new bulbs should be planted before the ground freezes, while still firm, and before any prominent sprouting appears. It's best to plant immediately after purchase.

Here in Connecticut we have clay-bearing soil - try preparing your planting area by adding sand, peat or compost to loosen up the soil and add drainage. Then follow directions for proper depth and spacing requirements of your varieties. The depth of the hole varies with the kind of bulb. Generally, plant the bulbs three to four times as deep as the bulbs' height. Large bulbs should be about five inches apart, small bulbs about two inches apart. Have a bit fun and plant a large bulb in its hole, partially cover and plant a smaller bulb in the same hole at the proper depth (i.e., plant a tulip, fill, plant a crocus in the same hole, fill). To help the bulb have a healthy environment to produce food use a slow-release fertilizer. And, please remember to water thoroughly after planting to get the bulbs off to a great start.



## **CMGA Board Meeting**

**Minutes, September 10, 2002**

Meeting called to order by President Wendy Drenga at 10am. Present were Wendy Drenga, Debbie Rosen, Ellen Morse, John Neff, Margaret MacDunough, Paul Grimmeisen, Dick Schaefer, Becky Paul, Sylvia Foster and John Carlson

Secretary Sylvia Foster read the notes from the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ellen Morse questioned composition of who's on the board and why she has not received email. After discussion, it was agreed that District coordinators should be on the email list and attend board meetings.

Treasurer's Report was read. Ellen Morse made a motion to accept the Report. It was seconded by John Neff and approved by the majority.

Wendy made mention of an open house at Haddam this weekend.

### **Old Business**

#### **Newsletter: Becky Paul**

Becky Paul reported the need for a new computer to publish The Laurel. John Carlson made a motion recommending buying a computer package to be used exclusively for The Laurel not to exceed \$1000. Becky, Wendy and Paul will get together to shop for the computer. John Neff seconded the motion. Discussion by the group. Motion approved by the board. Articles for the newsletter must be in by Sept 20. No information has been received yet on bulk mail permit. Cost for printing the Laurel is \$658, plus \$285 for postage

#### **Membership: John Carlson**

John Carlson reported no change in membership. There are 683 paid members plus 216 associate members. Since the next issue of The Laurel is the membership renewal issue, he recommended sending this issue to the 200 members who did not renew last year. John Carlson made a motion to increase dues for next year to \$17 to cover increased mailing costs. Becky seconded the motion. The board approved the motion. John Carlson is resigning as Membership Chair, but will keep up until some is found. John Neff will consider accepting the position. Tabled until November meeting.

#### **Symposium:**

Sylvia Foster reviewed list of speakers who are confirmed. The group discussed possible speakers to cover workshops not yet filled. Flyers for the Symposium will be sent to all new students in the 2003 MG classes. There will be a Symposium meeting in October, date and time to be finalized.

#### **Fund Raising: John Neff and Paul Grimmeisen**

John and Paul will be at all graduation ceremonies this fall. More circle hoes, shirts and other supplies need to be ordered. Help will be needed to sell CMGA items at the graduations as well as at the new classes in January. Many Board members volunteered to help.

#### **Outreach:**

Funds available: There is money available, but few applications for the money. We need to make the availability of money known to classes by April. A suggestion was made to install "Master Gardener Outreach Project" signs available. No firm action was voted on for this item.

**Mini-Symposiums:** A discussion was held regarding holding free MG mini-symposiums at the County Extension offices. These symposiums would be run by CMGA. The purpose is to attract MG's into becoming more active in the organization. Since the sites and the speakers would be free, the only cost to us would be refreshments. The symposiums would be open to the public. There would be a call-in RSVP

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A nominating committee of John Neff, Wendy Drenga and Julia Griswold was appointed

Budget for the new year was tabled, however it must be ready before the November Meeting. A budget meeting will be held immediately after the Symposium meeting in October.

November Meeting. To be held either November 9 or November 16 at the New Haven Ag Exp Station. Speaker will be Dr. John Anderson, Director of the station. Pot Luck will be at 11:30 am, Meeting at 12 noon.

The next Board meeting will be in January at the North Haven Extension Office.

Paul Grimmeisen brought up the possibility of a New England Master Gardeners' meeting sometime next year. The Board met it with enthusiasm. Paul will look into it and have information by the next Board meeting.

Becky Paul suggested that CMGA written articles be distributed to newspapers over the state next year. She will look into this and report back to the board.

All business having been conducted, a motion by Sylvia Foster was made to adjourn, seconded by Becky Paul, and approved by board at 12:08pm

*Respectfully submitted*  
Sylvia H. Foster, Secretary



## ***There are some Thingies***

***on my***

### ***Whatchamacallits***

By Chris Thurlow, MG Intern-Stamford

Why is my maple tree dying? My columbines just keeled over! When do I prune my Hydrangeas, clematis, azaleas? Why is my blue spruce purple?

Answering the community information hotline at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, CT, Master Gardener interns are faced with a constant stream of mysteries. Callers describe bizarre symptoms attacking their plant life, ask for curative formulae, denounce the evils of the deer population, and confront the eager interns with a host of perplexing scenarios. Walk-in clients deliver samples of withered leaves, twigs crusted with var-mints, and captured fauna. So goes the work of the Master Gardener interns and their patient mentors, as they serve the community in their very popular plant clinic.

When starting their investigations, a litany of questions about the location and history of the specimen must be posed. Clinicians must determine if the problems are caused by weather/water/temperature influences, seasonal, pathogenic, environmental, or location factors. Fortunately for the interns, the Bartlett Arboretum hosts a sizable research library to assist them in the often challenging task of identifying the specimens and making their diagnoses. If and when the most diligent research still leaves large questions about the probable causes and remedies, the actual samples are sent to the State Home and Garden Education Center for additional input. The goal of all this activity is to serve the community, but most interns feel that they are the greater beneficiaries, in that repeated exposure to the research materials and exchange of ideas provides them with a comfortability and greater ease in achieving solutions.

More than 150 inquiries were addressed in the summer of 2002. Environmentally related problems included frost, drought and heat damage, while human errors in fertilization, over/under watering, and improper planting techniques caused a large portion of the difficulties faced by the area gardeners. The interns identified a wide range of critters attacking the area gardens, including the ever-popular aphids, Japanese beetles, scale, mealy bugs, and spider mites. More exotic munchers were also prevalent, including the four-line plant bug, cottony camellia scale, rhododendron gall midge, the black vine weevil, leaf-footed bugs and pine web-worm. Other pathogens discovered were grape anthracnose, root rot, fusarium wilt, sooty molds, ring spot virus, and the common rose black spot.

- Continued next column

✓ - continued from previous column

The Master Gardeners, faithful to their training, suggest the integrated pest management approach for control, emphasizing to their clients the importance of maintaining the delicate balances of nature and the protection of the beneficial insects and wildlife denizens of our gardens. Acting as conduits to the community, the interns are spreading the gospel!

## ***Seed Exchange***

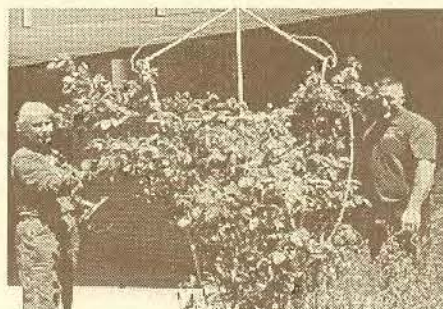
By Kathy Wandelmaier

If you save more seed than you know you will ever use just because you hate to see it go to waste, consider the following: Rather than have your surplus seeds go stale in some forgotten jar somewhere, offer them up for exchange! Submit a listing to The Laurel and it will appear in the next issue. Your listing should read as follows, for example:

Looking for: Briza maxima, foxglove, heirloom tomatoes.  
To Exchange: northern sea oats, (burgundy) castor bean cosmos (orange mix). Give your e-mail or regular mailing address.

Due to space limitations, please limit your requests/offers to no more than 10 seed types. Please follow exchange etiquette. If you are sending seeds by mail please pack them carefully so they will not be crushed. If you are not swapping seeds, send a SASE with sufficient postage to cover the cost of mailing.

Submit your listing to The Laurel's Editor, Becky Paul I hope this is successful. I'm certainly one of those people who hoards more seeds than I could ever possibly grow.



Master Gardener Catherine Prishwalko (left) arranges rose vines on a trellis fashioned by Facilities Support Services' Tim Polaske at Gaylord Hospital. Catherine is maintaining Gaylord's planting beds and working on the renovation of gardens in the courtyard and patio areas. Plans for the interior courtyards and the Jackson main entrance are underway. Funding for the project was made possible by a bequest of Rose and Gertrude Taurig of Waterbury.



## Before and After...



A quiet shade garden at The Connecticut Hospice, Inc.'s sunny seaside location in Branford was created by Becky Paul with CMGA Outreach Funds. Families used the spot all summer to sit quietly in a cool space on comfortable benches with the soothing tones of a windchime. Other than *Hosfa*, *Periwinkle* and *Impatiens*, the garden area now has *Fall chrysanthemums* and bulbs tucked away for surprises next Spring.

### Master Gardener Dan Noel

For those of you who have been associated with Dan Noel, we have been informed by Wendy Noel that Dan passed away in May.

In her note to us she asked that we "...convey my thanks to all for their companionship with Dan over the years. He was a dedicated Master Gardener."

### The Eleventh Month...

To make an outdoor garland, drill holes in the tops of colorful dried gourds and string them onto twine, spacing the gourds with drilled whole walnuts or large seedpods in between...When constructing a cold frame from old windows, let the window sash overhang each side by an inch or two... remember to bring in some potting soil from the shed—you're bound to need it before spring! Enjoy all the holidays have to offer. Give thanks.

6

## Organic Gardening (cont. from page 1)

### What is organic?

- Organic, synthetic, natural - what do they mean? No simple answer exists. In chemistry, "organic" refers to the presence of carbon. Yet some materials have no carbon and are acceptable in the "organic" standards. Wood ashes are a fine example of this. "Synthetic" is another confusing word. It evokes images of substances that nature does not produce. Yet, as Grace Gershuny points out in *Start with the Soil*, some synthetic processes yield purely "natural" substances. She offers the example of sulfur by-products from manufacturing. Here are some key points to help you identify a truly "organic" fertilizer:
- Does the label name natural materials such as bone meal, poultry feathers, blood meal and greensand? These are natural "organic" materials.
- The terms "slow release" and "low analysis" often (but not always) indicate an organic product. True organic products generally have a lower "NPK" than synthetics. It would be rare for "N" to exceed 12 on an organic product.
- Anything containing urea is a synthetic, manufactured product.

It is allowing nature's ways rule the yard and garden space. How can the average homeowner really "go organic" in the garden? For most of us who live and consume in the mainstream of today's economic life, it's not completely obvious. We have to do a lot of thinking, planning and decision-making. Even one choice in this direction qualifies us as members of the journey.

While the standards for organic certification might prove daunting, they are revealing of how deeply "conventional" practices are ingrained in our lives. So I offer a "self-test," developed to measure my own (sometimes imperfect) progress towards a more completely "organic" garden. Some of the terms used in the questionnaire may leave you wondering if you really understand the question. I know because I've only recently gone through the same evolution myself. To help, a list of resources and favorite books are provided at the end of the booklet. *You might particularly want to visit the discussion on "organic," "natural," and "synthetic" fertilizers to the right.*

Give yourself a "checkmark" for each question you can answer "yes" in Table 1. If you are a food grower, use the Food Production Column. If you are a home gardener working with an ornamental landscape, use that column.



Table 1: Organic gardening practices – A self-test	Ornamental Landscape	Food Production
Have my gardens been free of synthetic chemical fertilizers for the past three growing seasons?		
Have my gardens been free of synthetic insecticides, fungicides, or herbicides for the past three growing seasons?		
Has my soil been tested?		
Do I use natural organic fertilizers in quantities dictated by soil test results?		
Do I monitor for insects and, if needed, apply only the least toxic pesticide to accomplish control?		
Do my gardening techniques encourage beneficial organisms, such as earthworms, bees, butterflies, ladybugs, and praying mantises?		
Do I use crop rotation?	Usually not applicable	
Do I use compost to build soil organic matter?		
If my compost uses animal manure, has it been composted at least six months?		
Are my gardens free of treated lumber?		
Are my seeds free of chemical fungicide treatments?		
Are my seeds and seedlings organically grown?		
Are my seed purchases completely free of genetically engineered varieties?		
Do I select plant varieties that are adapted to local conditions, emphasizing native varieties?		
Do I keep unplanted soil covered by hay, straw, mulch, or green cover crops?		
Am I increasing soil organic matter every year?		
Have I emphasized wise water use?		
Is my potting soil free of synthetic chemicals, such as wetting agents?		
Have I de-emphasized or removed all invasive species?		
Have I eliminated use of scarce or non-renewable materials such as peat moss?		

All rights reserved. Copyright 2001-2002 by Kathleen Groll Connolly. Kathy has successfully completed the Northeast Organic Farming Association's (NOFA) course in Organic Landscaping. Her gardens have been certified organic by NOFA in 2001 and 2002. North Cove Organic Gardens offers certified organic flowers, fruit, perennials, vegetables, and herbs seasonally, as well as consultation in ecological landscape design.



## ***Invasives:***

### ***Naturalized or Cultivated?***

By Becky Paul

Did you know Invasive Plants are listed as the #2 threat to our native plant species? These plants are a very serious concern since they grow and establish aggressively, disperse over wide areas, displace our native species and reduce biological diversity. The United States now has at least 4,000 species of non-native plants outside cultivation. Fifty percent of all agricultural weeds are non-native, many of which were originally brought to the United States as ornamentals.

What are the characteristics of an invasive? These are plants with an aggressive growth habit, prolific seed production, successful seed dispersal, germination and colonization, rapid vegetative spread, a lack of natural enemies, and a better competitor than our native species for sun, nutrients and water.

We've all heard about the State's challenge with Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*, Lythraceae). These are the pretty purple spikes you see in open wetland areas through the summer months. Native to Europe and Asia, Loosestrife was introduced to the United States in the early 1800's. You will spot this invasive in lakes and ponds, river and stream banks, wet meadows and pastures, marshes and swamps, and roadside drainage ditches. If you look closely as you drive down the Boston Post Road through our commercial areas you will see this plant, usually accompanied by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*, Poaceae), another invasive problem for our wetlands.

The good news about Purple Loosestrife is that the goal of control vs. eradication is becoming possible through use of biological controls.

Several insect species have been approved by USDA APHIS for introduction, including varieties of leaf-feeding beetles, root-feeding weevils, and flower-feeding weevils. This practice assists us from using mass doses of chemical controls, which is a threat to our standing water.

Now let's look at invasives which either came on their own through seeds, or were intentionally planted in our own backyards.

**S** To the right of my driveway is a very old, thick, and in the fall most beautiful Asiatic Bittersweet. These dense, woody vines can strangle shrubs and trees

up to 60 feet. Upon closer inspection I find that the cherry supporting this vine is indeed dead. The Asiatic Bittersweet's fruits develop at each leaf axil and ripen in September. Our native Bittersweet has fruit only on the ends of the vines. A deciduous perennial, the Asiatic Bittersweet can be controlled either mechanically or chemically. I will use mechanical control by cutting the entangled vines, which will kill off the top growth.

Another invasive you'll likely find in your yard is Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*, Rosaceae). Eastern Asia in origins, these dense bushes establish in pastures, fields and roadsides. Used sometimes as a "living fence", this perennial shrub produces fragrant white flowers followed by red fruit. There are physical, chemical and biological controls recommended for this plant. But, the most important thing to do is to control it to avoid the plant from choking and killing the host plants it uses for support. Years ago my yard was pasture, and today's problem with this plant on the right property border is an ongoing battle to protect the beautiful native cedars. Since I'm not a chemical-user, I use mechanical control by cutting stems close to the ground once a year, and hand pulling small plants as they appear.



Dr. Donna Ellis points out bittersweet growth patterns on an invasive plant tour at the Storrs Campus of The University of Connecticut. Donna is the Extension Educator and Co-Chairman of CIPWG in the Department of Plant Science of the University of Connecticut. She recently taught an Advanced Master Gardener Class on "Controlling Invasive Plants". Material from her presentation was used in preparing this article. An upcoming Symposium, "Invasive Plants in Public Landscapes...Meeting the Challenge" will be held on November 7 in Burlington, CT. Specific information is noted at the end of this article.

As we approach October, some of the invasives we purposely put in our yard will begin their display of color. These include the Winged Euonymus (*Euonymus alatus*, Celastraceae), known better to all of us as the Burning Bush. This deciduous shrub's leaves turn a beautiful scarlet in the fall and its fruits split open when ripe in pod clusters. Yes, this is an invasive. Its roots form a dense mat below the surface and choke out native plants. Its seeds scatter across the land and reproduce rapidly.

Another we often find in our yard is the Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*, Berberidaceae). Long used as a landscape plant, this species is native to Asia. You can tell if yours is indeed a Japanese Barberry by cutting into the bark - it will be bright yellow. The fruit of this plant spreads widely, and easily self-sows.

There are many new invasives making themselves known in Connecticut. This summer Mile-a-Minute (*Polygonum perfoliatum*, Polygonaceae) and Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*, Apiaceae) were found for the first time. Giant Hogweed is very poisonous and dangerous to those who come in contact with its sap.

- Continued on page 12



## 32 Master Gardener Interns...

By Chris Thurlow

Math question: Take 32 Master Gardener Interns, add an intense interest in horticulture, divide that by a desire to serve others, and multiply the result by dozens of hours of public service. What is the result? Answer: Over 2000 hours spent enriching the life of our community.

The 32 Master Gardener interns from the classes at the Stamford campus have spent the spring and summer in a broad array of activities. They have each spent a minimum of 15 hours in the Plant Clinic of the Bartlett Arboretum, doing research and answering inquiries from local citizens about various plant dilemmas. The Bartlett was also the venue for work on the dwarf conifer garden, where interns located, inventoried and labeled more than 125 varieties of dwarf conifers. Others put their energies to use in the wildflower and meadow projects, greenhouse plant propagation, and the annual plant sale.

Interns also spent hundreds of hours at the nearby New Canaan Nature Center, in varied activities. Many either worked in the greenhouse with Gail Robinson or spent time revitalizing the herb garden. Others worked on the grounds or with the popular "Garden Kids" educational program, fostering enthusiasm and curiosity about plant life and our environment.

Interns worked on the Butterfly Garden at the Audubon Center, at the Garden Education Center and at the Montgomery Pinetum, all in Greenwich. One intern is helping the Board of Social Services in that town to develop gardens at the Parsonage Cottage Senior Residence, which can be worked and enjoyed by the residents. School children were among the many beneficiaries of the interns' hard work. Through after-school activities at the Scofield, Davenport and Newfield Elementary schools and the Rippowam Middle School, interns helped foster an understanding of good horticulture practices, the need for attention to the fragility of our environment, and a love for the beauty found only in a garden. The junior gardeners created butterfly gardens, water gardens, rock, shade and scented gardens, herb and vegetable beds, cutting areas, bird-friendly spaces, and perennial and annual gardens.

Through work at the Greenbrier in New Haven, and at the John Dempsey Center in Putnam, master gardener interns assisted in bringing the

joy of gardening to seniors and both physically and mentally challenged participants in their horticultural therapy programs. The Aquinas House, which provides safe and affordable housing for seniors, was also the recipient of intern assistance at their fund-raising garden show.

Then the MG interns took to the streets! In downtown Stamford they worked in the Special Services area to beautify the city through the merchant planter project. At the Springdale train station they cleaned, planted junipers, and created a memorial. They attacked areas of in-town parks needing attention, creating stunning planters with splashes of color. They assisted with the Hoyt Farm neighborhood beautification project, volunteered at the Lapham Common Center and even weeded along I-95.

The MG interns were so enthusiastic about their projects that they developed a newsletter, aptly named the *Little Laurel*, to share information and trade tales with each other. Their energy and commitment to their undertakings, along with their burgeoning knowledge of all things horticulture, signals a tribute to the Master Gardener concept, the excellent program developed and administered by Uconn, and the encouragement and tutelage of their program coordinator, Cheron Barton. As one intern summed up her experience, "I entered the program with hesitation and caution, but I feel like I have blossomed with the other flowers of summer."



Connecticut Master Gardeners took a moment out of their busy agendas to pose for a group photo at the Master Gardener Conference this summer. (above). Right: Kim Kelly, Brooklyn Coordinator, enjoys the Cornell display gardens in full summer bloom.







**Outreach Results...** Sylvia Foster's newly formed Enfield Garden Club designed and planted gardens at entrances to the town with an outreach contribution from CMGA. CMGA has monies available for outreach projects to all CMGA interns and members. To access funds, please prepare a description of your project, with designs if appropriate, and requested dollars. Please send your requests to Paul Grimmeisen, CMGA Treasurer, for Board consideration.

## ***Plant Science Day at Lockwood Farm 2002***

*By Nan Phillips*

If each year YOU ignore the annual invitation to Plant Science Day at Lockwood Farm (as I used to) let me tell you what you are missing while it is still fresh in my mind from my recent visit. This quiet country farm is located less than 4 miles from Interstate 91 with ample parking inside the farm gates. The activity center, a cluster of sheds and canopied exhibits, is nearby. My first stop was the question and answer tent where the friendly agricultural station scientists take my soil samples for testing, identify the beetle I brought in a jar, and diagnose the damaged leaves I have in a paper bag. (The beetle that has been denuding my perennials is an Asiatic Garden Beetle and the leaf damage which was previously misdiagnosed was caused by the Four line plant bug.

Next stop is a shady picnic table to scan the list of the day's activities (7 half hour talks and 60 exhibits and field trials). A free lemonade is refreshing. People are already saving seats for 2 early talks on Perennial Propagation and then the keynote speaker Dr. Roger Swain. He arrives wearing the familiar red suspenders and

carrying a box of his early apples which he passes out to all. He stresses the benefits of growing our own food, buying from local farmers, sharing plants and produce with others. In a discussion of drought he says emphatically, "Do not water your lawn. No one has ever been able to collect the \$100 I offer for proof of a lawn that has been killed by drought!"

A brown bag lunch follows, then on to some field trials. I bypass the butterfly garden and trials of apples, strawberries, raspberries, plums, wine grapes and various exotic fruits and vegetables in favor of visits to plots using composted leaves in various ways. I learn that if I amend my garden plot each year with 1" of composted leaves I can cut the fertilizer to 2/3 or 1/3 and have great yields. A few more plots, then saturated with information I finally leave.

Next week the soil test results will arrive, the final bonus of Plant Science Day 2002. Plant Science Day 2003 (August 6) is already on my calendar.

- Continued next column



## ***Farmington Master Gardeners***

The Farmington Master Gardeners met at the home of Paul Grimmeisen September 28th to discuss projects for the upcoming year.

Bob Slabinski gave a short report on the possibility of giving classes for beginning gardeners at the Town Community Garden.

Martha Chesire had obtained the plans for the new addition to the Town Library to determine if the site could include a garden sponsored by the Farmington MG's. It was decided that such a garden was possible and plans were made to propose an educational garden to the architect, possibly in January.

The group is meeting again early November to draft a working plan for such a garden with emphasis on low maintenance and perennial use from member's own gardens.

Please contact John Neff if you are interested in participating with this group's activities.



Plans are well underway for the 2003 CMGA Symposium. Speakers have all confirmed and are ready to present us with their knowledge next March. Shown organizing the Program are (left to right): Sylvia Foster, Speaker Chair, Ellen Morse, John Neff., and Wendy Drenga. Missing from photo is photographer, Becky Paul, 2003 Symposium Chair.

Vendors spaces are still available for this event. Please contact Larry Van der Jagt or Jonas Zucker, our Vendor Co-Chairmen, with names of businesses or organizations who would like to participate and for further details.

## ***Harvest Time Mini-Symposium Scheduled for Windham Extension***

CMGA is sponsoring a "Mini"-Symposium, "Harvest Time", at the Windham County Extension Center in Brooklyn on November 23 from 9 a.m. to noon. This program is open to the public and there will be no admission charge.

The keynote speaker is Richard Sparling, whose specialty is the Iris. Richard has been associated with many iris associations, most recently as president of the Connecticut Iris Society and vice president of Region 1 of the American Iris Society. He has given numerous talks to garden clubs throughout the East Coast and is an entertaining speaker that is not to be missed. He calls his own garden, "The Green Box Iris Gardens".

After the keynote and some great refreshments from Krispy Krème, there will be a choice of one of two classes. The first choice will be a class on soils taught by Master Gardener Dawn Pettinelli, Manager of the UCONN soil nutrient analysis laboratory. Dawn has been a soil specialist for many years and previously was a horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She was also Master Gardener Coordinator for Worcester County Cooperative Extension in Massachusetts. She presently writes a weekly column for a newspaper and participates in an Adult Education program.

The other choice is a class in photographing the garden taught by another Master Gardener, Bob Leavitt, Site Coordinator for the Hungerford Nature Center in Kensington. Bob's passion for photography has been used extensively in his work as a specialist in establishing habitats for wild life. His class will include both basic instruction on camera equipment and advice on how to best photograph the garden. Bob has a Masters Degree from Southern Connecticut State University in biology and has taught at both the high school and collegiate levels.

This is a great opportunity for you to bring a neighbor, friend, or significant other for an exciting and educational half-day of gardening. In order to reserve a place at this "mini", call the Windham Office at (860) 774-9600. There is limited capacity, so don't delay!



## **Invasives**

*(Continued from page 8)*

There are many ways to join the fight against invasives and learn more. First, use local plant materials if possible and use mail-order services wisely to reduce the possibility of bringing potential problem plants into your area. Select native plants or non-invasive ornamentals for your garden. Second, don't release aquarium plants outside into our wetlands. Third, learn more and work to confine the invasives on your property.

[www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg) is an online resource to visit. You will find Connecticut's Non-native Invasive Plant List, Fact Sheets and an Invasive Plant Management Guide, offering mechanical and chemical means of dealing with the invasives on your property.

If you would like to participate further in the invasive effort, The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) is planning a symposium entitled "**Invasive Plants in Public Landscapes — Meeting the Challenge**". The symposium will be held at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington, Connecticut on Thursday, November 7, 2002 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The theme of the symposium will be the reduction and elimination of invasive plants from public landscapes and promoting the use of alternatives. The speakers, primarily from Connecticut, will address a variety of issues, including the use, selection and availability of non-invasive alternatives from the perspectives of state agencies, municipalities, the Connecticut Green Industries, landscape architects and public works departments.

The symposium registration form and program are available to download as a PDF file from the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group web site at [www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg). Contact Helen Pritchard (203-754-3378) or Susan Parr (860-225-9757) to obtain a printed copy if you do not have Internet access. Please contact Donna Ellis by phone (860-486-6448), fax (860-486-0534) or via email at [donna.ellis@uconn.edu](mailto:donna.ellis@uconn.edu) if you have any questions or need additional information.

## **Litchfield Steering Committee**

*By Gerald (Jerry) Gault*

Members of the Litchfield County Steering Committee were hard at work this summer on a new outreach project, renovation of the "Garden of the Senses" at White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield.

This is the second in a series of Master Gardener projects at White Memorial. The first, renovation of the "Nectar Garden" located directly behind the museum building, was started by Jerry Gault in 2000 and completed last year.

Maintenance work on both the "Nectar Garden" and "Garden of the Senses" will be ongoing with the usual pruning, weeding, watering, fertilizing and mulching. Extra hands are always welcome. Please contact Jerry (860) 567-1641 if you have an hour or two you would like to donate at White Memorial Conservation Center.



Master Gardeners and/or Master Gardener candidates are invited to join us in these and other Litchfield County outreach projects. Contact Karen Anderson at (860) 626-6240 if you are interested in joining our Steering Committee, have new outreach project ideas, or just want to put in a few hours in sun and soil.

***Please remember to renew your  
CMGA Membership  
this month.  
The Membership Form  
is on page 15.***



**Master Gardener  
Robert McNeill**



*But that which has been born of earth  
To earth returns;  
And that which sprouted from ethereal seed  
To heaven's vault goes back.  
So nothing dies of all that into being comes,  
But each from each is parted  
And so takes another form.*

- Euripides

Robert A. McNeil, 84, of Niantic passed away in July after a brief illness. Bob moved to East Lyme in 1958 to become the first principal of the junior high school there. He retired in 1978 and worked in the business office at The Day (New London). After taking the Master Gardener course at the University of Connecticut he went on to promote composting as a means of recycling yard waste throughout New London County. In his retirement, he also wrote a column called "Garden Corner" that appeared in The Day's Friday gardening page during the warmer months, and helped coordinate the columns of other Master Gardeners in the region as well.

CMGA member John Carlson remembers, "From the very first time I met Bob at a lecture about spring seed starting, he was performing the primary mission of CMGA—to educate the public. He also rarely missed an opportunity to speak about his favorite subject—composting. He was the epitome of a Master Gardener."

**CMGA Annual  
Membership Meeting**

**Saturday, November 16, 2002**

**The Connecticut  
Agricultural Experiment Station  
123 Huntington Ave.  
New Haven, CT**

Dr. John Anderson, Director of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, will be our host and guest speaker. Dr. Anderson will present an overview of CAES including its history and services. Following his presentation we will move on to Lockwood Farm for a tour of CAES activities and resources. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to meet Dr. Anderson and learn more about CAES!

**All 2002 Master Gardener  
Students and CMGA Members  
should plan to attend.**

**Questions? Please call  
Becky Paul (203) 458-8413  
Wendy Drenga (860) 873-8145**

***Free to Good-Home...*** I have too many baby Mountain Laurel from 6" tall to 12" and would like to share them. They are healthy-- only waiting to be dug. Acid soil needed. Please call Bette Glickman at 860-6332939 or email [travelqueen80@yahoo.com](mailto:travelqueen80@yahoo.com).

***The Twelfth Month...***

Cut back on watering and stop fertilizing houseplants until the days begin to lengthen...For best winter bloom, place geraniums in a sunny, warm window and don't over water. They don't mind being pot-bound...Paint simple designs onto clay pots with acrylic paints, and wrap them as gifts for the gardeners on your list...As the Moon begins to wax, light an additional candle each evening against the darkness...Begin the New Year square with every man (*Robert B. Thomas, founder of The Old Farmer's Almanac*).



OUTREACH		OPPORTUNITIES	
<b>SW</b>	The Scott Fanton Museum	Danbury	Ingrid McCauley, 203-426-5990
	Extension Gardens Committee	Bethel	"
	Southbury Training School	Southbury	Volunteer Services, 203-586-2485
	New Canaan Nature Center	New Canaan	Gail, grobinson@newcanaannature.org
<b>NEW</b>	Greenwich Education Center	Greenwich	Lisa Beebel, Horticulturalist
	Bartlett Arboretum	Stamford	MG Office, 203-322-6071 Ext. 15
<b>NE</b>	Nature Trail (Tolland County Extension)	Vernon	Mary Collins, 860-870-6934
	Tolland County Extension Center	Vernon	"
<b>NEW</b>	UConn, Medicinal Herb Garden	Storrs	Diana Stanzione, 860-871-1750
	Danielson Access Shelter	Danielsen	Kim Kelly, 860-774-9600
	Abington Library Historical Landscape	Abington	"
	Windham Mills Heritage Park	Willimantic	"
<b>SE</b>	Shaw Mansion (Historical)	New London	Susan Munger, 860-443-2261
	Alliance for Living	New London	Corinne Clevenger, 860-887-5117
	Denison Homestead	Mystic	Melissa Smith, 860-887-1608
	York Correctional Facility	East Lyme	"
	The Hygienic Art Gallery	New London	"
	Chelsea Gardens	Norwich	"
	Harkness Memorial Park East Garden	Waterford	Julia Griswold, 860-535-3061
	DMR Group Homes	Waterford	"
	Camp Harkness (Challenged/Elderly)	Waterford	"
	Byran House (Disabled)	Haddam	John Castagno, 860-345-4511
	Montville Minimum Security	Montville	"
	Florence Griswold (Historical)	Old Lyme	"
	Hart House (Historical)	Old Saybrook	"
<b>NW</b>	Mary Mahoney Village Greenhouse	Hartford	Katie Melvin, 860-570-9010
	Auer Farm	Bloomfield	"
<b>NEW</b>	MACC Samaritan Shelter	Manchester	Judy Corbitt, 860-646-1718
	CT Children's Medical Center	Hartford	Michelle Marra, 860-658-9110
	The Children's Place (DCF)	East Windsor	Laura Dillman, 860-668-4606
	Jubilee House	Hartford	Shiela Craven, 860-668-9543
	UConn Butterfly Garden	West Hartford	Randi Rigg, 860-668-4418
	Hillstead Museum Sunken Garden	Farmington	Maggie Carpenter, 860-693-0340
	Hungerford Nature Center	Kensington	Bob Levitt, 860-827-9064
	Community Gardens, Hartford Area	Hartford	John Neff, 860-673-5018
	Elizabeth Park	Hartford	Carol Quish, 860-649-0452
	Plymouth Historical Society	Plymouth	Karen Anderson, 860-626-6240
	Prime Time House	Torrington	"
	Community Gardens	Torrington	"