

The Connecticut  
Master  
Gardeners  
Association

# The *Laurel*

Spring 2003

Volume 16, No. 2



## ***From the President...***



Spring has finally arrived after a few false starts. It was just wonderful to find forsythia and daffodils in bloom over the Easter and Passover holidays. The next few weeks should be glorious in color and garden excitement.

Early Spring was a busy time for CMGA members preparing for Symposium 2003. We are happy to report the event was hugely successful and earned a significant amount of funds for the organization. Treasury specifics will be reported in the minutes published in the next issue of *The Laurel*.

We are now ready to support our 2003 Interns who have begun the outreach portion of training. Initial funds for their outreach efforts are being distributed to each Master Gardener Coordinator. Additional monies are available for projects. An outreach request may be submitted to the CMGA Board Outreach

Committee for review. Advanced Master Gardener students may also take advantage of the opportunity to secure funds for their projects by contacting the Committee. John Neff, Paul Grimmeisen and Marie Dube drive this effort for the organization. Please contact them with your requests.

Preparations are underway for Symposium to be held Saturday, March 20 at Manchester Community College—with loads of event appropriate conference space. The theme, "Gardeners as Environmentalists" has been chosen and a very special keynote speaker has agreed to participate. More next issue...

Please join us at the June Semi-Annual Membership Meeting to formally kick off this event 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 28 at Connecticut College Arboretum.

Happy Gardening!

*Becky Paul*

***Feedback...*** everyone agreed on evaluations the facilities at UConn were challenging. (We're heading back to Manchester CC for 2004!) Here are some other notes folks made on their evals.

- √ "This is the first symposium I have attended and I was excited by the quality of the speakers...Great Job!"
- √ "A great day...the whole affair was well organized, informative and enjoyable. You guys know what you're doing."
- √ "Well worth the time and trip."
- √ "Worked very well under the tough 3 building constraints. Organization very 'well oiled'. Great silent auction. Good vendors. Good food."
- √ "Extremely valuable, delicious information! Thanks!!"
- √ "The hat parade, which I regretfully did not participant in, was a wonderful idea. A great touch of whimsy which we all need!"
- √ "Great reunion opportunity!"
- √ "Wow! What a day!!"

## ***Symposium 2003... a tremendous success!***

A warm sunny day. A roster of exciting presenters. A sold-out crowd of Master Gardeners and their guests. A roomful of items to consider for purchase or bid. A high level of energy and anticipation.

It was Saturday, March 15 and the annual CMGA Symposium was underway with a record number of participants. For the first time in our history we had 300 folks joined to celebrate the beginning of Gardening Season 2003.

Utilizing three facilities at UConn's West Hartford Campus, the event offered 15 sessions discussing everything from weed management to photography to floral design.

The biggest challenge of the day was working in the venue's space. Having been spoiled using Manchester Community College for many years, all of our attendees were wonderful in adapting to the more limited space at UConn. The great news? Rebuilding of facilities at Manchester CC is now complete and we are booked for next year's event in the luxurious expanse of space and new auditorium.

Save the date...March 20, 2004. Plan to register as soon as registration materials are distributed after the first of the year to reserve your spot!

## ***Inside this Issue...***

***2003 CMGA Directory***

***This and That...***

***June Semi-Annual Meeting***

## ***The Laurel***

is published a minimum of four times a year for the members of The Connecticut Master Gardeners Association. Please send news, calendar items, articles and photographs to the Editor, Becky Paul, at the address below. Next deadline for the early summer issue is June 1.

## **2003 CMGA Officers**

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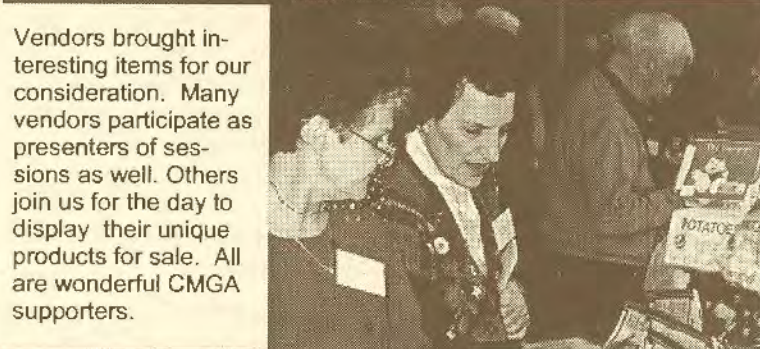
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**Norwich:** Melissa Smith (860) 887-1608  
**Torrington:** Karen Anderson (860) 626-6240  
**Vernon:** Mary Collins (860) 870-6934  
**West Hartford:** Katie Melvin (860) 570-9010  
**Home and Garden Center** (877) 486-6271

## ***The Photo Corner: Symposium 2003!***



Our keynote Sydney Eddison signs, "A Gardener's Palette" for Judy. Sydney and Steve Silk personally autographed close to fifty of the books for attendees after the opening presentation.



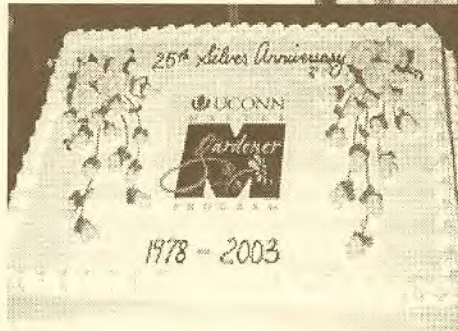
Vendors brought interesting items for our consideration. Many vendors participate as presenters of sessions as well. Others join us for the day to display their unique products for sale. All are wonderful CMGA supporters.



Priscilla Pultz (left) joined us as a guest. She'd love to be a Master Gardener and is planning to apply for next year's class. She chats with Pamela Weil, a CMGA Past President and publisher of "The Connecticut Gardener".



The Silent Auction was amazing! The vast array of contributed items was incredible, including garden planters, tools, decorative items, houseplants, and a variety of trees and shrubs.



Happy Anniversary Master Gardeners! The centerpiece of our luncheon (and dessert of course!) was a beautifully decorated cake commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the program.

## ***This and That...***

Save this important date! Thursday, July 10 from 9-4 will be the Master Gardener Silver Anniversary Celebration at UConn Storrs Campus Plant Science Research Facility. There will be tours, guest speakers, contests, plants, ice cream and lots of fun!

Speaking of ice cream...don't forget to enter the MG 25th Anniversary Ice Cream Contest! Send your idea of a name, flavor, and ingredients for the 25th Anniversary MG Ice Cream to Cyndi Wyskiewicz. Your idea may be the winner!

New Advanced Master Gardener Courses are posted on the web. Visit [canr.uconn.edu/garden/](http://canr.uconn.edu/garden/) to review these great new selections!

Scholarship recipients for the 2003 Master Gardener Program from CMGA were Louise Michaud of Hartford County, Patrice McCracken from Middlesex County, and Maria Villaran and Robin Seirgney from Windham County. We hope you are enjoying the program and look forward to your successful graduation!

The 2003 CMGA Directory has been prepared from your 2003 membership applications. Please send any changes you may have to your personal information to John Neff, our database manager.

Are you interested in joining CMGA members on trips to various nurseries or Botanical Gardens? Please

contact Peter Lirot with your ideas and interest. We are hoping to arrange get-togethers at Pride's Corner and the NY Botanical Garden as an organization. We need to hear from you if you are interested in joining us.

Mini's are scheduled for most Counties. Support your MG Program. The next event is in North Haven the morning of Saturday, June 21.

Please join us at our next Board Meeting scheduled for May 20, 9:00 at Elizabeth Park. All CMGA members are invited to Board Meetings and we'd love to see more of you!

Interns and AMG Candidates are reminded to submit articles and photographs to *The Laurel*. The membership would love to see and learn more about your outreach projects and ongoing efforts. MG Coordinators are also asked to send news and photographs from the Extensions for publication. Any CMGA member may submit articles and information for publication. Book reviews, interesting facts, items for sale, gardening articles, and calendar information are most welcome.

MG Joan Bower has a 6' Crepe Myrtle available. The price is negotiable. You can dig and move. She can be reached at (203) 453-4660. Joan is also current President of The Guilford Garden Club, Inc.

"A garden is a place where hopes give promise to coming true."



New Haven County Master Gardeners have been off on Spring buying trips. Kathrine Neville, foreground, hosted a trip to Gilberti's to comb greenhouses and purchase fabulous herbs. With her are MG's Helen Pignone and Marvin Carley.



## ***Hats, Hats, Hats!***

Winners of the Symposium 2003 Garden Hat Contest were: 1st Place Billy Baxter with his hardhat (Builder Billy!) rendition; 2nd Place Bonnie Lindland with her gorgeous spring garden, trellis-work, tools and all; and 3rd Place Cyndi Wyskiewicz with her 25th MG Anniversary Pom-Pom Celebration. A big thank you to Cheron Barton for organizing all of the fun and to the many attendees who participated.



# *The Laurel*

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Farmington, CT 06032

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Marie Dube  
455 Amity Road  
Woodbridge, CT 06525

**Join  
Us!**

Day's events include:

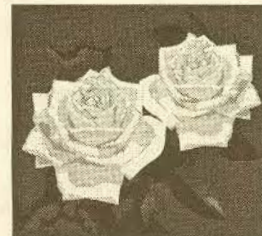
- Pot Luck Luncheon
- Semi-Annual Meeting
- Arboretum Tour

## **CMGA**

Further Info: (203) 458-8413

## **Semi-Annual Meeting**

**Connecticut  
College  
Arboretum**



June 28th  
11:00 - 3:00

Directions:  
[www.camel2.conncoll.edu/  
ccrec/greennet/arbo/  
welcome](http://www.camel2.conncoll.edu/ccrec/greennet/arbo/welcome)

  
Celebrating 25 years  
Connecticut Master  
Gardener Program



## From the President...

The crisp days of Fall have arrived after a gardening season like no other. The days are getting shorter, the leaves are turning glorious shades of red, and the scent of wood burning in the neighbors' fireplaces fill the air. Our thoughts now turn to picking the last pumpkins, putting the gardens to bed, ensuring cover crops are planted, and updating our garden journal with comments of this year's successes and dreams of next year's plans. This is truly a blessed season of beauty, harvest and giving thanks. Please take time to enjoy all it has to offer.

This is CMGA Membership renewal season as well. Your 2004 CMGA Membership Application is enclosed in this issue of *The Laurel*. Please take a moment now to complete your application and forward it on to our Membership Chairman John Neff. Doing so will reduce the amount of postage we spend in sending out reminder mailings to our members. Thanks for taking a moment out of your busy schedule to tend to this detail.

Congratulations to all Master Gardener Interns who prepared for their program graduations. We look forward to your joining CMGA as fully Certified Extension Master Gardeners, enabling you to continue your growth path and share the program's mission with us as we move into an exciting 2004. (see application on Page 11)

CMGA members have been very busy throughout the season planning next year's activities, including additional mini-symposiums at the Extensions and the eleventh annual CMGA Symposium. Symposium 2004 will be held March 20th at Manchester Community College. The facilities have been updated and are just fabulous. We will occupy an expansive two floors in one building this year and have plenty of space in the auditorium, classrooms, and common areas to enjoy refreshments, lunch, each other's company, the vendors' wares, and participate in the silent auction. We have many new speakers and topics to entice and educate you. Actress Susan Saint James, Certified Extension Master Gardener Class of 1997, will provide our keynote address. It's shaping up to be our best symposium yet. Registration material will arrive soon. Please mark your calendar now and keep an eye on your mailbox for registration material.

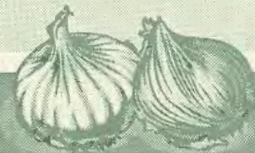
I'd like to thank the many folks who work hard behind the scenes of CMGA to keep it glowing and growing. Like embers in the fire, it is your spark of enthusiasm that sets off the flame of energy which allows us to thrive as a viable organization.

Have a wonderful harvest season,

*Becky Paul*

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*Onion skin very  
thin, mild winter  
coming in.  
Onion skin thick  
and tough, com-  
ing winter...cold  
and rough.*

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# 2004

## **Master Gardener Program**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2004 Master Gardener Program. Class locations for the 2004 MG program are:

Tuesdays	New London County - Norwich office
Wednesdays	Litchfield County - Torrington office
Thursdays	New Haven County - North Haven office
Fridays	Tolland County - Vernon Office

Applications can be sent by mail from the county Cooperative Extension offices or you can download a copy from the Home and Garden Education Center's Website. [www.canr.uconn.edu/garden/](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/garden/)

### **SUSAN SAINT JAMES** **Actress and Entrepreneur**

Susan Saint James is best known as a star of the comedy series "Kate & Allie", her role in "McMillan and Wife" in which she starred with Rock Hudson, her role as Peggy Maxwell in "The Name of the Game" for which she received an Emmy Award, as well as for several motion pictures, the best known being "Love At First Bite".

Ms. Saint James has been involved with the Special Olympics since 1972. She has served on the Board of Connecticut Special Olympics since 1983, and after a brief hiatus she is returning for another term. She has served as executive member of the 1995 Special Olympics World Games in New Haven, Connecticut and still serves as Honorary Executive board member for The Special Olympics International.

Ms. Saint James has been honored with many awards for her work with Special Olympics, including Honorary Doctorates from Connecticut Colleges and Universities, and she has been inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame.

Ms. Saint James has recently founded "Seedling and Pip", an online mail order company for personalized gift bundles of books for newborns and their siblings, including gifts for Special Needs and Adoptions. She has transferred her creativity to the other subjects she knows so well—children. She is married to Dick Ebersol, President of NBC Sports, and together they have five children.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Eleventh Annual CMGA Symposium  
March 20th, 2004  
Manchester Community College  
Manchester, Connecticut

### SUSAN SAINT JAMES TO PRESENT KEYNOTE

By Becky Paul

The Connecticut Master Gardeners Association is delighted to announce Emmy Award winning actress and entrepreneur Susan Saint James has accepted our invitation to be Keynote Speaker for Symposium 2004.

Susan Saint James is best known as star of the comedy series *Kate & Allie*, her role in *McMillan and Wife* in which she starred with Rock Hudson, and her role as Peggy Maxwell in *The Name of the Game* for which she received an Emmy Award. She starred in several motion pictures, the best known being *Love at First Bite*.

Susan is also a 1997 University of Connecticut Certified Extension Master Gardener and has been using her talent to propel our program's mission over the last six years. She will present us with her views on *The Power of Gardening*, discussing the fusion of plants and people in creating dynamic relationships between societies.

Susan spent many of her Master Gardener internship hours working with the challenged in the Enabling Garden at Waterford's Camp Harkness, noting, "it is very powerful what goes on there...". She believes all people regardless of their abilities, age, or socioeconomic background need a connection with one another and feels the seeds are within us to use gardening as a potent tool to bring humanity together. Susan will share examples of her ideas and their execution, including the Unified Gardening Contest held for many summers throughout the State and her vision of the social aspects of community gardening.

Susan considers volunteerism to be a foundation of life and has long been recognized as a major force in the Special Olympics. She has been involved with the organization since 1972, has served on the Board of the Connecticut Special Olympics since 1983, serves as an honorary board member for Special Olympics International, and was an executive board member of the 1995 Special Olympics World Games held in New Haven. Susan has been highly accredited with numerous civic awards and six Honorary Doctorate degrees in acknowledgement of her efforts.

While visiting Susan at her Connecticut home to discuss Symposium she told me she loves to look at things against perfection...and her personal environment certainly reflects that passion. Her enthusiasm in sharing her home, gardens, business and ideas was infectious. She is a fervent woman of flair with a driving sense of organization and mission. Susan will certainly enable all of us with her special insights during her reunion with CMGA members and our guests.

This is the eleventh annual CMGA Symposium, co-supported each year with The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and University of Connecticut. Please mark your calendar now and plan to join us on March 20th at Manchester Community College. Registration material will be sent to you shortly. Announcement and registration opportunities will be made to the general public shortly thereafter. Be sure to register right away to ensure your space is reserved in this extremely popular event. Space and sessions fill very quickly.





## MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION HOLDS SEMI ANNUAL MEETING AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S BUCK LODGE

It was a beautiful day in a glorious setting of lush blooms and greenery, sparkling water and crisp, clean scents. With a well-stocked table the Connecticut Master Gardeners discussed business, shared stories and hiked the trails surrounding Buck Lodge. Photos courtesy of Diane Laurent — left, MG Marie Dube shared MG history for a future article of The Laurel. Other MGs and friends were clearly enjoying the day together. An excellent turnout toured the grounds of this beautiful property.



### MEETING MINUTES SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2003

President Becky Paul called the meeting to order at 11:07am. There were 24 members in attendance. Members enjoyed a potluck luncheon, followed by business

Secretary Sylvia Foster read the minutes from the November 2002 meeting. There being no additions or corrections, John Neff made a motion to accept the minutes seconded by Paul Grimmeisen.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Peter Liriot passed out copies of the Treasurer's Report as of May 31, 2003. Balance \$14,245.70, with a CD of \$11,001 and a checking balance of a\$1628.00. Also presented was a financial statement from the Symposium 2003. There were 262 attendees, \$15,765 income, \$6526 expenses, \$9236 profit.

Discussion followed on future fundraisers. The group was reminded that we must stay below \$20,000 to meet IRS regulations for non-profits.

No other discussion, additions or deletions, John Neff made a motion to accept Treasurer's report, seconded by Richard Schaeffer.

Membership: John Neff reported that for the first time we have lost members. We are down to 627. Discussion on ways to increase membership. Dues are to stay at \$17.



### Old Business:

Outreach: \$300 was sent to each Coordinator this past year to be used for outreach projects. Mini-symposiums: New Haven had 25 attendees. Very successful

New Business: Symposium 2004 was discussed. Paul Grimmeisen Chair. DATE: March 23, 2004, Manchester Community College. Keynote speaker Susan St James Ebersol Theme: The Environment Goal: 300 attendees; hat contest

Continuing Education for Master Gardeners: There was an open discussion on whether or not to begin requiring continuing education hours and outreach hours to qualify for membership in the CMGA.

On the positive side, other states are doing it. Members could self-report at time of membership renewal, i.e., where they volunteered and how many hours. Recognition certificates

could be provided with possible multi-level status of AMGs Good source of class mentors

On the negative side: Too much record keeping and if required, could lose members or alienate present members, other states had this requirement at inception

The general consensus was that a form of recognition was preferable to a requirement, and that members' self-reporting would be acceptable accountability.

There being no further business before the assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia H. Foster, Secretary



Peter Liriot,  
Richard Schaeffer arrive early to enjoy coffee on the deck.



## BETHEL Gardening Fair A Successful Mini-Symposium

Bethel Extension service held its first mini-symposium on Saturday, August 23, 2003. The day was perfect, blue sky and warm weather. Susan Weenink was the chairman of the event, which turned out to be a huge success. There were over 105 people in attendance with over 80 plants brought by master gardeners to be given away. There was a plant swap; a table set-aside for plant, soil and garden questions, another table for plant and weed identification. A large area was set-aside for the sale of over 200 books donated by Master Gardeners. At least 30 Master Gardeners attended and helped out.

The many speakers made the day: "Growing a Lush Lawn and Learning About Turf Problems", by Joe Maisano; "The Basics of Pruning Trees and Shrubs," by Brid Craddock; "Integrated Pest Management and Sound Gardening," by Ingrid McCauley; "Planting and Harvesting an Herb Garden," by Susan McMahan; and "Extending the Gardening Season, Before and After and Overwintering your Plants," Carol Beerbaum; "Wildflower Identification Walk," by Dr. Jean Kreizinger; "Tour of the Perennial Gardens and Discussion of the Perennial Flowers," by Kathy Wandelmaier.

Many thanks to Irv Agard, Carol Beerbaum, Anne Butler, Susan Delius, Ingrid McCauley, and Sandi Wilson for helping plan the event. Thanks to all the Master Gardener speakers and volunteers who came out to help on that day. Special thanks to Susan Weenink, Chairman, for the enormous amount of time and energy she spent organizing the very successful event.

Contributed by: Paul Grimmeisen & John Neff

## STAMFORD Master Gardeners hold PLANT EXCHANGE.

The Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens was the site for the August 24th plant exchange. Just in time for fall planting, (l-r) Alice Smith, Cheron Barton, Lynne Garcia, Barbara Leffler exchanged this for that and were all very pleased with new perennials for their gardens. Submitted by Barbara Leffler. Also attending but not pictured, Roxanne Kuppersmith, Diane Laurent



Encourage a child to garden — seeds, painted pots and a bit of your time make great holiday gifts!



Black & White it is NOT! This beautiful garden (at left), is the result of the hard work of Farmington MGs. (Summer Issue, Laurel) Next time you're at the Farmington Public Library stop by and see what is possible in your community. Photo submitted by John Neff.

Bethel Symposium - A visitor entered her ticket for the plant raffle., left  
Dr. Jean Kreizinger, MG led a wildflower identification walk (center photo)



David McCauley helps Master Gardeners Kelly Whalen, Caraleigh Wilson and Intern Susanna Nielsen greet guests at the Gardening Fair.

# 25<sup>th</sup> Master Gardener Anniversary Celebration a Huge Success!

On July 10<sup>th</sup> over 250 Master Gardeners, friends and family participated in the 25th Master Gardener Anniversary celebration that was held at the UConn Plant Science Research and Teaching Facility just past the Storrs campus. The day was filled with plants, contests, great food and friends. Master Gardeners and their spouses came from all over the state to join in celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the Master Gardener program in Connecticut. They listened to lectures on Turf, beneficial Insects, and invasive species. They toured the Burr nursery and took a hayride to see many unique woody ornamental plants. The weather was wonderful and we all enjoyed listening to Donna Fuss, the Rosarian from Elizabeth Park in Hartford teach us how to care for our roses in the summer while enjoying lots of UConn ice cream. A big thanks to everyone who attended and to my MG volunteer committee who did an awesome job, by helping me organize the big event. If you missed this celebration try to join us on Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Auer Farm in Bloomfield, Ct for another celebration. See you there!

Cyndi Wyskiewicz  
State Master Gardener Program Coordinator



The big tent (L) was crammed with MG., while Stamford MGs (Barb Leffler, Bill Baxter, Hillary Forsyth) considered their bids on plant selections, right. Below left, the always insightful d Marotte, center below, Cindy W. and Marie Dube shared a moment. Below left, our blue ribbon winner, Bonnie Lindland poses with her stunning blue arrangement.

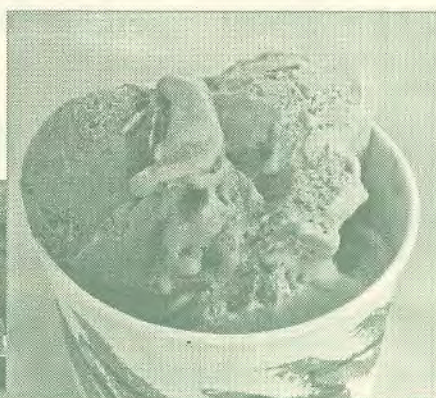


Below left, Dr. Karl Guillard talked "Turf"; Frank Himmelstein (center) coaches "Weed Identification" replete with examples; Nancy H. Bull, (below) Associate Dean, Outreach & Public Service, Assoc Dir. Cooperative Extension Service, addresses a packed MG audience.





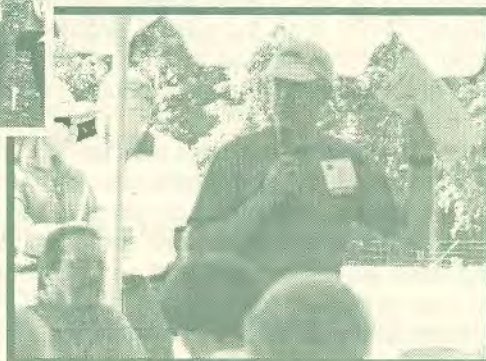
Who doesn't like ice cream and cake? And, what a cake it was! MG (1978) Dorothy Cheo and Shirley Mitsko agreed, photo left.



A black and white photo doesn't do this ice cream justice! A special blend for the 25th Silver MG Anniversary prepared just for us by UCONN's Dairy — we loved it!



Clockwise: Dr. Ana Legrand, Entomology offers hands on field work; Dr. Musgrave Dept Head, Plant Science takes a refreshment break; Rob Durgy, Extension Educator, and Steve Olsen, Research Farm Manager provide education.



The Connecticut Master Gardener Association supports UCONN College of Agriculture and Natural Resources annual scholarship programs. The Scholarship Committee selected Ms. Jessica Allison as the 2003-2004 recipient of a \$2,000 Connecticut Master Gardener Association Scholar. Ms. Allison is an upper division incoming student majoring in Landscape Architecture in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Here, in Allison's own words:

"Dear Mr. E. Paul Grimmeisen,

### Our Scholarship Winner Thanks YOU!

*Words cannot express the amount of gratitude I have to be the recipient of the Connecticut Master Gardener Association Scholarship. It is such an honor to have been chosen among the many strong candidates for your generous scholarship. I truly appreciate your recognition of my hard work and faith in my ability. I am very fortunate to be rewarded for pursuing a career which gives me such pleasure. I cannot thank you enough."*

*Sincerely,  
Jessica Allison*

## CAES Plant Science Day

Becky Paul, AMG 2003 North Haven

Wednesday, August 6, was the annual Plant Science Day held at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's (CAES) Lockwood Farm in Hamden, Connecticut. For 93 years CAES has been supporting the agricultural effort of the people in Connecticut.

Plant Science Day is an event that all who are interested in the scientific aspects of gardening should attend each year. The day's activities included fifty-seven field plots/experiments, talks on current research, barn exhibits, insect identification, plant disease diagnosis, and the *Samuel W. Johnson Memorial Lecture* presented this year by Ralph L. Snodsmith (pictured above with Becky Paul) - well known to all of us as host of *The Garden Hotline*.



The field plots, manned by CAES scientists, covered studies in many diverse areas. Of particular interest to me were experiments in composting. One experiment studied what effect the differences in the rate of decomposition of oak and maple leaves had in amending soils and crop production of lettuce, peppers and delicata squash. Other than increasing organic matter content, there hasn't been a difference in soil pH between treated and control crops to date, but this study will be repeated once again next year as it has for the last seven to continue gathering statistical information.

Another compost experiment was using composting to control weeds and disease in tomato production. The scientist was studying the effectiveness of mature or immature leaf compost on weed control, increased disease resistance, and effect on yields. The five treatments include mature compost incorporated into the soil, mature compost mulch, mature compost incorporated plus mature compost mulch, immature compost (under-composted leaves) mulch, and an unamended control. Last year the study showed the greatest yields were from plots amended with mature compost incorporated into the soil. The smallest yields were seen from plots amended with mature compost mulch. Last year's results regarding weeds and diseases were affected by the drought.

An interesting study was in using compost in butternut squash production to research utilizing compost on crops with long-term fertility requirements such as winter squash. The experiment was comparing the rate of inorganic fertilizer needed with leaf compost for optimum production. The comparison of three leaf compost-fertilizer combinations and an unamended control, which was fertilized at full rate with 10-10-10, has shown interesting results. For the second year of this scientist's study, the greatest yields were from plots amended with compost and the full rate of fertilizer. The yields from these plots were similar to the unamended full-fertilized control plots. The experiment will be repeated for another three years on the same plots to observe any cumulative effect of compost additions.

Other areas of demonstration included loads of work with Chestnut trees, experiments of semi-tropical and tropical plants (including Maxixi, Jilo, and Calabaza squash) to grow in Connecticut, and culture of artichokes (my favorite vegetable!). Wine grape trials, disease-resistant apple experiments, Fusarium rot of gladiolus and fusarium wilt of herbs studies were in process. Do you have powdery mildew on tomato plants? Considerations of using diluted milk or solutions of lactose are being tested to provide an organic alternative of disease control! These studies were complimented with ongoing work on foreign insects threatening our landscape and orchard plants, DDE and Coal-Tar contaminated soils, West Nile Virus, and Lyme Disease and Ticks.

CAES is a state-supported scientific research institution dedicated to improving the food, health, environment and well being of Connecticut's citizens since 1875. CAES is also our partner. They provide speakers and resources to support the annual Connecticut Master Gardener Program Symposium effort. Please take the time to visit them on the web at [www.caes.state.ct.us](http://www.caes.state.ct.us) to learn more about this wonderful organization. Or, you can visit them at 123 Huntington Avenue in New Haven. Their hours are 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday except State holidays. Telephone: Plants: (203) 974-8601, Insects: (203) 974-8600, Soils: (203) 974-8521.

Facilities are also located in Windsor. A statewide telephone number is available for your use, 1-877-855-2237. We hope to see a great turnout of Master Gardeners for the 2004 event next August!

Enjoying Plant Science Day and the company of fellow MGs: Right—MG Catherine Priswalko discussing disease samples with CAES representative, while MGs (far right, l-r) Diana Ringelheim, Hillary ForsythAMG, Judy Steinberg. Seated,



## Advanced Master Gardeners Graduate

We had 56 Advanced Master Gardeners receive certification at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Congratulations to all those students who participated in the program. (See graduate list below.) Guidelines have been established to keep AMG status as ACTIVE. AMGs can also earn incentive bars on the certification pin to display for all to see.

### Annual requirements for active status as a Certified Advanced Master Gardener are:

- √ Attend a minimum of 5 hours of AMG educational classes. One class will be a 3-hour refresher course, which will cover annually updated materials and diagnostics. Additional hours can be a chosen AMG class.
- √ Give 20 hours of outreach B minimum of 10 hours in your local extension office mentoring new students.
- √ After completing the annual requirements you will receive a voucher good for 2 free hours of advanced instruction, to be redeemed within one year of issue for any of the AMG class.

### 2003 Certified Advanced Master Gardener Graduates

**Fairfield County**—Suzanne Deilus, Gloria Jaccarino, Shar Landers, Ingrid McCauley, Barbara Mitchell, Vidi Piersall, Diana Ringelheim.

**Litchfield County**—Lorna Delaney, Gerald Gault, Faith Heering, Wayne Wood

**Tolland County**—Lida Bilokur, Maureen Burke, Mary Collins, Linda Frucce, Marilyn Shirley, Diana Stanzione, Carole Williamson

**Middlesex County**—Kathy Connolly, Penny Dobratz

**Stamford**—Cheron Barton, Hilary Forsyth, Judy Brody, Joanne Frenz

**Hartford County**—Leora Berns, Kim Boulay, Sylvia Foster, Paul Grimmeisen, Denise Hills, Carole Lantz, Bonnie Lindland, Cynthia MacGranor, Ellen Morse, John Neff, Carol Quish Susan Säckler Reuben, Sarael Sargent, Jackie Shadford, Richard Shaffer, Rev. Thomas Sievel, Andi Thorne Jepson, David Witkins

**New London County**—Marie Kuchy, Margaret LaPorte, Robert Regan, Lauren Thibodeau, Beverly Weymouth, Frank White

**Windham County**—Joe Celentano, Kim Kelly, Marty MacLaren

**New Haven County**—Jean Jones, Joan Lenart, Mary Lee Obert, Becky Paul, Mira Schachne, Sandra Wilson.

The following incentives can be earned by any Certified AMG wishing to advance their status:

LEVEL	Number of Hours Required
Bronze	40 classroom / 80 outreach
Silver	60 classroom / 100 outreach
Gold	80 classroom / 140 outreach
Platinum	100 classroom / 180 outreach

Hours are cumulative, adding on to the previously earned hours of 20 classroom and 40 outreach hours initially achieved for AMG certification.

Unlike the initial AMG time requirement (earned over 3 years) these 4 levels will have no time restrictions.

Our goal is to keep students involved and working toward the program mission of education and outreach.

### Fall 2003-2004 Catalog now available!

The fall 2003-2004 classes are now available on the Website. Log on to the Home and Garden Education Centers website to check on class availability, dates, times and to download a registration form. Register early; with limited space for some classes, they fill up fast. For your convenience, we offer registration by credit card (Master Card and Visa only). The Web address is [www.canr.uconn.edu/garden/](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/garden/).

Contributed by: Cyndi Wyskiewicz, Education Coordinator  
UConn's Home and Garden Education Center

**Pest & Disease Detectives Unit**

*By Diana Laurent*



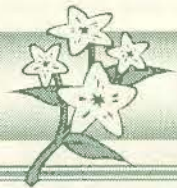
By now, most of the beloved bees, bugs and slimy slugs have disappeared for the remainder of the season; however, many egg casings can be found in the crevices of the garden fencing, or under the rims of your pots. Tools are cleaned, oiled and put away and the time has come to finish putting out those last few bulbs, storing the tubers and closing the door on the garden shed. Oh my, the season flew by!

I followed a chat among members of my Stamford area MG group and noted some have decided to bring many of their precious tender plants inside to pot up and hold over; adding some indoor color and cheer. If in haste, maybe you forgot to check those pot rims, spray away lingering pests with a quick burst of water from the hose, or flick off a pesky fly. In my haste, I missed a few and later noted a minor critter or two climbing my walls! With the weather so cold, have you also noticed the annual amassing of the "ladybugs" at your door, knocking to get in? Friends are good, but not nearly so many!

Now that you're turning your attention to things indoors, it's a good time to make sure they are free of pests and diseases, too. Indoor "gardeners" have plant problems, too; we'd like to hear how you solve yours. Join the Pest & Disease Unit — we'll publish your tips and tricks in a future edition of this column.

**FALL GARDEN SCRAMBLE**

KARE                    -----  
 CHUML                -----  
 DINWY                -----  
 RUNEP                -----  
 STOFR                -----  
 LUBBS                -----  
 NEALC LOOTS        -----



**The Connecticut Master Gardeners Association**

**A Non-profit Organization of Certified Extension Master Gardeners and Interns**

**Our Purpose** is to enhance and supplement the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System's Master Gardener Program

**Our Mission** is to share our knowledge and expertise with the public, offering help and assistance through educational gardening and horticultural programs

**The Association provides:**

**A CMGA Newsletter, The Laurel**, published every 2 months.

**An Annual Symposium** -- This year the event will be Saturday, March 20 at Manchester Community Technical College.

**Participation in State/Local public events;** i.e., Hartford Flower Show and fairs.

**Networking** on a local, regional, statewide and national level. Open houses, Mini-Symposiums, Semi-annual and Annual Membership Meetings & monthly Board Meetings

**Scholarships** for the Master Gardener Program

**Outreach Dollars** to support funding for Master Gardeners' ongoing and new projects.

**Organized trips** to points of interest around the State and New England

**The Advanced Master Gardener Program** CMGA provides program support of UCONN's Advanced Master Gardener objectives and financial support for AMG project outreach activities.

**Membership Directory** of all CMGA members and Master Gardener Program Interns - to stay in touch! Published yearly, this document also includes a copy of the organizations' by-laws.

CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
2004 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



**MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$17.00**  
(Make checks payable to CMGA)

YES, I am a **fully certified** Master Gardener and I want to be **MEMBER** of **CMGA**.

**CHECK ONE:**

I am **renewing** my membership (No need to complete entire form unless there are changes to be made from last year)

I am a **new** member (Please fill out form completely)

FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR CERTIFIED \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE WHERE CERTIFIED \_\_\_\_\_

List any subjects you are willing to teach:



**I AM WILLING TO WORK ON THESE COMMITTEES: (CHECK THEM)**

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| OUTREACH PROGRAMS _____  | CLASS MENTORING _____   |
| LAUREL PUBLICATION _____ | COMMUNITY GARDENS _____ |
| ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM _____   | MINI SYMPOSIUM _____    |
| PUBLICITY _____          | FUNDRAISING _____       |
| CMGA BOARD REP. _____    |                         |

PLEASE MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION WITH YOUR PERSONAL CHECK FOR CMGA DUES TO:

JOHN NEFF  
18 KNOLLWOOD ROAD  
FARMINGTON, CT 06032

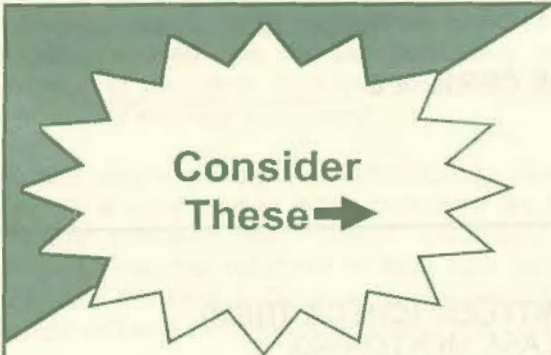
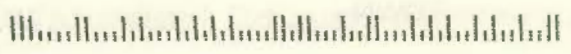
# The Laurel

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## HOLIDAY IDEAS!

# CMGA

Further Info: (203) 458-8413

- ✓ GIVE YOURSELF AND YOUR MG COLLEAGUES A WONDERFUL GIFT OF CMGA MEMBERSHIP - RENEW TODAY AND GET YOUR MASTER GARDENER FRIENDS AND NEW GRADUATES TO JOIN, TOO.
- ✓ PLAN TO ATTEND THE BIG SYMPOSIUM EVENT- (SEE PAGE 3 INSIDE THIS ISSUE); BRING A FRIEND OR TWO - **WHAT A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA** FOR THOSE GARDENING ENTHUSIASTS ON YOUR LIST. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE DATE WITH FRIENDS!
- ✓ HELP US OUT AT THE LAUREL - LET US KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING THIS WINTER TO PLAN YOUR 2004 GARDEN, HELP YOUR COMMUNITY OR SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE, PICTURES, NEWS, EVENTS