



From the President...



Happy New Year!

I hope you all had the opportunity to spend special moments and create new warm-hearted memories with your families and friends during the holidays.

The new year started off with an immediate flurry of activity for CMGA. New Master Gardener classes began during the week of January 5th. Board members stopped by to greet new interns at the Norwich, North Haven, Vernon, Torrington Extensions.

Mentors will be needed to support these large classes, so don't forget to give a call to your coordinator to ask how you can support their effort. Advanced Master Gardeners have a mentoring requirement to retain their AMG "active" status.

Board members and the Symposium Committee are readying final details for this year's Symposium entitled "**Gardener's in Action**". I think you

will agree this is probably the best group of workshops, speakers, and special events we have had in the history of the event. Our day will be information- and fun-filled complemented by our special keynote speaker Susan Saint James, a book signing with Sue Munger, loads of vendors, the silent auction, and an annual garden hat parade.

Last year the event sold out and we had to turn our own Master Gardeners away. MG's were the first to receive registration material the first of this year. Interns received their forms last week. The event is now open to the general public.

Have you registered? In order to avoid disappointment you will need to do so today...if you need further information please feel free to contact this year's chair, Paul Grimmeisen at (860) 677-8645 or by email at paul24wor@aol.com.

Best wishes until Spring...

Becky

Vision for 2004

The last year was certainly one of many wonderful accomplishments. A sold-out symposium, scholarship awards, outreach funding of projects for Interns and Advanced MG's, support of UCONN's 25th MG Anniversary celebration, CMGA weekly newspaper columns, and general educational projects such as mini-symposiums to the public surely addressed our mission statement.

We hope to have the people and financial resources to expand our programs further for 2004. We have already provided eleven partial scholarships for Interns enrolled in this year's program and have awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to a UCONN horticulture student. Shortly we will move significant funds to the MG Program Office providing each Coordinator with the opportunity to request these dollars for outreach projects. Advanced MG's are entitled to these funds as well as Interns.

Our volunteers and partners give tirelessly of their time. Your yearly membership fee, support of Symposium, and purchase of logo wear allows us to accomplish the financial aspect of our goals. Thank you to all of you for your ongoing support.

Inside this issue...

CMG.1 2004 Objectives	3
Book Reviews	6
Extension News	7
CMG.1 2004 Calendar	10
Membership Form	11

The Connecticut Master Gardeners Association

presents

Gardeners in Action

The Eleventh Annual Symposium

Saturday, March 20, 2004

Manchester Community College
Manchester, Connecticut

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 *Membership Directory Issue*: February 15.

2003 CMGA Officers

- President:** **Becky Raiola-Paul**
259 Saw Mill Road
Guilford, CT 0643
(203) 458-8413
r.r.paul@att.net
- Vice-President:** **Paul Grimmeisen**
24 White Oak Road
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 677-8645
paul24wor@aol.com
- Treasurer:** **Peter Lirot**
39 Burr Hill Road
Killingworth, CT 06419
(860) 663-1595
plirot@aol.com
- Secretary:** **Sandy Myhalik**
89 Ely Road
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 677-0504
myhalik@comcast.net
- Membership:** **John Neff**
18 Knollwood Road
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 673-5018
jrneff@attbi.com
- Liaison:** **Cyndi Wyskiewicz**
1-877-486-6271

Cooperative Extension Coordinators

- Bethel:** Sandi Wilson (203) 207-8440
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
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

Master Gardener's at Work...

The three Master Gardeners of the Guilford Garden Club, Inc. were the Club's January featured speakers. Each January the three join together as a team to demonstrate a specific skill and address questions from the audience in panel form. Below: Joan Bower demonstrates repotting of a pot bound cactus; Helen Pignone shares her favorite tools; and, Becky Paul leads a discussion on cultivating dahlias. This is an excellent example of outreach...



A Website to Explore

Master Gardener Barbara Walker recently wrote to *The Laurel* with the following...I'd like to suggest the BBC gardening site:<http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/>. It's a treat! The mild English climate allows some gardening to continue nearly year-round, and the country is full of passionate gardeners. The site has so many cool links & features it's hard to know where to begin. The left column has Quizzes & Downloads which includes screen savers. There are of course lots of articles to read & great photos.

*Silent, soft and slow
descends the snow...*

- Henry Wordsworth Longfellow

CMGA November Semi-Annual Membership Meeting...

By Becky Paul

Thank you to those who could join us for the Semi-Annual Membership Meeting held at CAES. We appreciate your confidence and interest in our efforts. Your input is invaluable in driving the direction of our organization.

At the meeting I presented a short review of 2003's accomplishments. These were published and enclosed in each member's membership renewal kit. I also developed and presented a list of 2004 objectives which provide the basis for CMGA's Operational Plan for the year. These are as follows.

Please contact a Board Member if you are interested in participating in any aspect of furthering our development. We'd love to have you!

2004 Objectives

Membership Level: Achieve/increase membership to 2003 levels, encourage interns to participate.

Educational, University and Outreach

- Continue to provide a CMGA-UCONN scholarship (voted/agreed to increase funding to \$2,500)
- Continue to provide CMGA MG Program scholarships (voted/agreed to 11 partial scholarships)
- Continue to provide Coordinator support (voted/agreed each extension to quality for \$300)
- Continue to consider and award funds for MG and AMG projects throughout the State
- Continue to support the MG Program State Coordinator in her efforts to secure funding
- Continue to attend/support all MG classes, graduations and special events

Public Education

- Market to the public and drive capacity participation at the 2004 Symposium
- Continue to encourage MG preparation of editorial material for publication in various media
- Continue to drive mini-symposiums at the Extensions (West Hartford and Vernon at a minimum)
- Drive an event at each Extension during the course of 2004

Association Support

- Develop a written "business and operation plan" for the organization for 2004 (new)
- Adhere to a publication calendar and editorial schedule for ***The Laurel***
- Publish the membership/intern directory in early Spring
- Continue Open Board Meetings (1st Tuesday each month at Elizabeth Park, 10:00)
- Continue to hold (2) Semi-Annual Membership Meetings each year
- Establish a Trip Chair and conduct at least 2 trips in 2004 (new)
- Establish a discount program for purchases (new)
- Establish a CMGA web site/page with appropriate links (new)
- Continue to drive fund-raising efforts; i.e., logo items, raffles, etc. to generate funds

New Areas of Activity

- Establish cross functional relationships with complimentary organizations
- Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. Establish joint projects; i.e., Habitat for Humanity Headquarters building in New London
- Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. Plan Joint flower/horticulture show
- Discover potential with other organizations; i.e., CAES, NOFA, Plant Societies, etc.

CMGA PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2004

OPERATING INCOME

Dues - paid members (600)	\$10,200.00
Interest	300.00
Fundraising	1,500.00
Symposium	<u>9,000.00</u>
Total	\$21,000.00

OPERATING EXPENSES

Publications (Laurel,/various mailings)	\$ 13,500.00
Fundraising	2,000.00
Scholarship (UConn)	2,500.00
Scholarships for 2004 Interns	1,000.00
Symposium	4,000.00
Mini-symposiums	750.00
Bulletin boards for coordinators (4 @ 300)	1,200.00
Supplies	200.00
Outreach projects (8-extension/\$300) plus AMG project funding	3,000.00
Misc. (telephone, stamps, etc.)	<u>750.00</u>
Total	\$28,900.00

Prepared by Paul Grimmeisen
January 2004

CMGA and FGCC

The Connecticut Master Gardeners Association and the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. are developing plans to establish a partnering relationship in 2004.

FGCC's president Meg Bremmer and CMGA president Becky Paul met during the Fall and defined two potential projects.

The first initiative is the Habitat for Humanity Headquarters for the New London area. Pictured at right, the lovely old building needs a little TLC in landscaping to complement its period-design. Working with members of the local garden club, CMGA members and interns will have the opportunity to enjoy a very satisfying beautification project. Funds are available from both organizations. This effort would be perfect for New London County (Norwich) interns and mentors in need of outreach hours. Please contact Becky Paul/Melissa Smith if you are interested as soon as possible.



The second initiative will be a joint flower show, expected to be held in the mid-August timeframe. FGCC members will be asked to participate in providing floral designs (and horticulture). CMGA members and interns will have an opportunity to show off their horticulture. FGCC Judges will judge this Small Standard Flower Show and awards/ribbons will be offered. We are hoping to secure the CAES auditorium. Please contact Becky if interested in working on the show. **4**

Keeping track of all those flowers

By AMG Hilary Forsyth

October 2003

It has been a gorgeous Fall day. Clear blue skies presage colder weather, but today the sun is bright and the air is still warm. It is the sort of day that makes it a pleasure to get out into the garden with the clippers and cut back the perennials that made such a show during the summer.

The surrounding trees are vibrant in the fire-cracker colors of the season. Bursts of gold of the katsura and sassafras trees; flashes of amber and red of the maples and oaks; glowing copper of the beech; rich burgundy edged with gold of the dogwoods. The focus of the garden has now shifted subtly upwards from the perennials to the trees.

There is still some color in the perennial beds: chrysanthemums echo the gold, copper and burgundy of the trees; and the puffs of a myriad tiny blue wild aster flowers have a hint of the sky about them. Perennials and shrubs still provide some good leaf color as well: platycodons and clethra shine gold for a couple of days, and the amsonia will continue that pale brightness for a little longer; sedum flowerheads pick up the deep burgundy theme, while the oak-leaf hydrangea and the fothergilla are waiting in the wings, ready to be the stars of the Fall show.

How lucky I am to be surrounded by all this beauty! But how fleeting are the days of glory, and how quickly the colors will fade and the leaves be swept away, exposing the bare bones of the garden. All season long, my garden has given me this gift of color and form, of light and life. I can talk about it, and write about it, take photographs of it, but somehow nothing conveys the beauty of the moment.

I have, however, found a way of preserving some of the memories of the garden over the year by keeping a record of the flowering times of my

plants. I cannot claim to have thought up this marvelous scheme all on my own. Nancy Du-Brule presented a most interesting lecture to Master Gardeners entitled "Planning a Perennial Garden on Paper". She suggested keeping a season of bloom chart as an invaluable aid to garden design.

The format is that you draw up a simple spreadsheet on paper (using pencil – no computers necessary!), onto which you fill in the names of your plants as they come into flower, noting when they finish flowering.

The list also gives a clear indication of periods when there may be a lack of color in the garden. Perhaps May and June gave a tremendous showing, but the end of July into August was a tad boring. Researching suitable plants that will provide some interest and color during late summer would be a great winter project.

In reality, because my season of bloom chart only deals in dates, it does not give me an indication of color in the garden at all. Nor does it tell me whether purple echinacea would look good next to blue platycodon (it doesn't - but at least I now know not to plant them close to each other because they flower at the same time). The more detailed information as to flower color, plant form and height, and various other plant quirks and characteristics is better noted in a garden diary (perhaps next year!).

One can hardly make such a list without counting the number of plants which have flowered over the season. To my amazement, my total was over 150 different types of flowering plants. I don't think I should be admitting to this: it speaks of far too much time spent in the garden, an inability to turn away any plant, and an interest bordering on obsession. It also means that my yard has become more England Cottage Garden than New England landscaped. Ah well, you know what they say: perhaps you can be too rich, or too thin, but you can never have too many plants!



Name of Plant	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Erica	=====	=====		
Phlox subulata	=====	=====	=====	- - - -
Hamamelis vernalis	=====	=====		
Aquilegia (pink)			==	===
Hellebore orientalis			=====	===
				5

Winter Reading

Two Book Reviews by Barbara Walker

Plant Propagation A to Z by Geoff Bryant (Auckland, Firefly Books, 2003), \$35 U.S. is a tantalizing thing to read, particularly in winter. Thumb through the 224 pages of this gorgeous book. The illustrations, both drawings and photos, are so wonderful and lucid you'd think that, if you could buy only one book on propagation this would be it. Well...maybe.

Let's start with the good points, there are so many. The author has over 25 years of experience hybridizing and propagating plants. Bryant writes clearly and simply. By the end of three paragraphs he has explained all the necessary biology underlying the process the dynamics of cloning. There's even a glossary at the end, and an index by common plant name. Material on cold frames and greenhouses includes such useful variations as sun frames and shade houses. Procedures such as air layering, root cuttings, grafting and budding are so clearly explained that the reader feels empowered to try them.

For ready reference there are pages and pages of tables: Table 2 is Germination Requirements and includes temperature and preconditions. That's just about everything you need to know to start seeds successfully. Table 4, Propagation by Cuttings, lists over 500 plants by botanical name, with the optimal season, number of days and approximate strike rate, which means simply, how many samples take root. Here you will find the best possible time of year to start cuttings and how many of your samples are likely to result in a new plant. Want to start some ferns? Pages 56-58 make it sound easy.

So what complaint could anyone make against such a book? My beloved pink dogwood is in its final years. There is nothing exactly like it in the plant catalogs, so I would dearly love to clone it. Bryant says: "...*C. florida* from cuttings or grafts. Consult more specialized information for precise details." But there is no bibliography so that is a dead end.

I also yearn for one of those deciduous native holly bushes, the kind that's just covered with blood-red berries right now; it's just the right size for my small yard. Of *Ilex*, he writes: "Also, as hollies are often dioecious, it is not possible to know the sex of the seedlings until they mature." This, too, raises lots of questions that I'd need

other sources to answer.

In spite of these exceptions, this book is very, very good. It builds confidence. It will inspire the novice to start plants from seed, spore and cutting, and will encourage those with some skill to try more adventuresome methods. Recommended.

The Lost Garden by Helen Humphreys (NY, Norton, 2001), is a slim, elegant novel set in wartime England, a nation mobilized for defense. In London where the story opens, houses are transformed to debris in seconds. "An accordion of staircase poking out of the top of the rubble...A looking glass hanging crookedly on the lone remaining wall." How do you find your way past the gaping holes that yesterday were buildings when you walk home in utter blackout darkness?

Everyone who could, did something for the war effort. With farmers called into the army, women were urged to take their places in the newly organized Women's Land Army to grow food for the nation and its soldiers. Most Land Girls were in fact city girls who'd never even owned wellies.

Gwen Davis, a shy and awkward researcher in London's Royal Horticultural Society, is unable to cope with the steady decimation of the city she loves. Reluctantly, Gwen enlists in the Women's Land Army. With her qualifications as a horticulturalist, she is sent out into the country and assigned to lead a group of young women who will grow potatoes in the fields of an abandoned manor. A group of Canadian soldiers is billeted in adjacent buildings. Predictably, the young people develop a social life into which Gwen is drawn and ultimately drawn out. Her private refuge from people and from her own mistakes is a hidden walled garden, a tangle of neglect, which conceals a puzzling message in its theme.

Helen Humphreys is a poet and concise writing is her forte. Emotions and events are laid before the reader pure and distilled. No words are wasted; such is the power of this writer. Though the novel is humorous at times the mood is as somber as the low angled light of the northern latitudes. In the title, *The Lost Garden*, Humphreys is making a conscious reference to *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The theme of the garden as a healing place was central to both.

A bibliography invites the reader to explore the references to roses, the poems quoted, and to learn more about the Women's Land Army.

Extension News...

CMGA assisted New London County in the opening of their newly refurbished facility by hosting a "Harvest Time Mini-Symposium" late fall. The session was full of information with presentations by Dawn Pettingill on soils and Carol Williamson on putting the garden to bed. Attendees were MG's, AMG's, and the general public. Shown below are (l to r) Melissa Smith, MG Coordinator for New London County, and Carol Williamson, AMG and member of the staff at UCONN's Home and Garden Center. Below is the new classroom (filled with attendees!) of the Extension during Carol's presentation.



What beauty sings, Sapphire jewels on wings...Neil Peckham hosted a bluebird house building workshop last Spring for New Haven County MG's. Participating were (l to r) Ellie Tessmer, MaryLee Obert, Carol Grillo, Neil Peckham, Catherine Prishwalko and Mira Schachne. Marie Dube, and Marvin Carley are missing from photograph. Forty houses were built, twenty of which were installed on the grounds of Gaylord Rehabilitation Hospital.

New Haven MG's also did a great job this fall putting their Extension gardens to bed.



Lower Fairfield County Master Gardener Alumni

Group members have been very busy. Continuing its monthly meetings, January's gathering netted an update on several activities. Master Gardeners, Suzanne Amster, '02 and Chris Reid, '01, will be making presentations at Stamford's Bartlett Arboretum's Winterbloom. Suzanne will conduct a dried topiary workshop March 20, using materials gathered from Bartlett's grounds. The next day, Chris presents her talk on analyzing light in the garden.

The group enthusiastically discussed an itinerary of monthly outings to area gardens and nurseries. The first of these is planned to the Doris Duke Greenhouses, on Feb. 8. Stay tuned for other exciting undertakings planned by the group, in keeping with its mission. That mission is: 1) To educate the public about best gardening practices through presentations and teaching; 2) to join with like minded people in attending seminars and classes, so that we hone our knowledge to pass on to the public; 3) to assist the public in making horticultural decisions through good advice, such as services rendered in the plant clinic; 4) to heighten and indulge our own sense of beauty and to learn from others by touring gardens, arboreta, herbaria, etc., and 5) to socialize with one another.

Master Gardeners from Lower Fairfield County

who will be helping with Stamford's Bartlett Arboretum's yearly spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 8. We'll have Master Gardeners on the field answering questions and offering advice, as well as promoting the program to the public. The sale includes quality plants—woodies, shrubs, and perennials. There will be display gardens featuring ideas for shade, deer-resistance, ground cover, attracting birds, xeriscaping, window box and container gardening, and foliage gardens. Don't miss the fun and the buys!

Writer/Editor Needed to work on a weekly gardening column for New London's "The Day" newspaper. CMGA has been preparing our column, "Garden Corner" for each Friday's edition from early March through the end of October for many, many years.

A lead person is needed to coordinate with the publication's editor each week to submit articles either written by oneself or CMGA members.

This effort has been supported over the last two years by Becky Paul. Master Gardener Robert McNeil held this position for numerous years prior to his passing. Please contact Becky (203) 458-8413 or by email at r.r.paul@att.net with your interest.

Nursery Trips

Submitted by *Connie Schultz, MG*

BONSAI GARDENS—VERNON, CT

The Feng Shui of Bonsai Gardening Indoors

During the cold bleak winter months when you're stuck indoors and nothing is blooming outside; when you're down to "winter interest" plants like sticks and twigs and seed heads – it's a good time to turn your interests to gardening indoors – like bonsai. It's a good way to bring nature indoors during the winter because bonsai are dwarf trees that mimic the big trees outside! I got my first bonsai years ago in San Diego at a local Bonsai club. I've been hooked ever since! In all the intervening years and many moves my bonsai have moved with me, always enriching my environs with their calming beauty and art – the feng shui of gardening indoors! So I was delighted when I discovered a new bonsai shop had opened in Vernon, CT. Victor Eng, Bonsai Master, owner and bonsai doctor, opened his new facility this fall, moving from New York to the quieter pace of Connecticut. The shop is located in a store front right off Highway 84 on Talcottville Rd. (across from Gem Jewelry/CVS).

As a bonsai enthusiast I've often been frustrated at being able to find bonsai supplies or appropriate (dwarf) plant material so I was thrilled to see that Mr. Eng carries a complete line of bonsai supplies - soil, pots, tools, and, of course, lots of plants to experiment with! I got a satsuki azalea the first time when I was there and last time I got a shimpaku juniper. I'm excited to see my collection start to expand again! He also has some exotics like cactus and Venus fly traps, beta fish, water bamboo, and orchids. He carries both indoor and outdoor bonsai. There are some plants that are easier for beginners to start with and Mr. Eng is very helpful and also offers classes in pruning, potting, and wiring. So if you get the winter blues, think about doing some indoor gardening and getting your "feng shui" balanced with a visit to Mr. Eng at the Bonsai Gardens in Vernon.

BONSAI GARDENS

151 Talcottville Road, Vernon, CT

Hours: Monday, Closed

Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 to 9:00 p.m.

THE WANDERING GARDENER - NURSERY NEWS

Hill-Stead Schedules Winter Events

Joy Pachla, Communications Director for the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, CT, has forwarded a listing of winter events for our members' enjoyment.

Lecture: Women Take the Lead in Landscape Architecture

February 8, 2004. Talk 2 pm Lunch by reservation 12:30 pm. Landscape historian Judith B. Tankard will showcase the accomplishments of pioneering women landscape designers of the early 1900s, remarkable for both their artistic vision and personal courage. Tankard is the author of The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman and the recipient of the Garden Writers Association's Quill and Trowel Award. \$10 for members and students, \$15 for non-members. Lunch with speaker and preferred seating by reservation: \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

Lecture: Women Designing Public Spaces

March 14, 2004. 12:30 pm lunch; 2 pm lecture. Learn about the women of the late 19th and early 20th century who designed landscapes for housing developments, parks, parkways and university campuses. Landscape historian and scholar Thaisa Way is the featured speaker. \$10 for members and students, \$15 for non-members. Lunch with speaker and preferred seating by reservation: \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

To register for either of these lectures please call Joy Pachla at 860.677.4787 ext 111 or email pachlaj@hillstead.org.

Hill-Stead Museum

35 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT 06032
860.677.4787

Symposium Sale!

Be sure to check out the CMGA logo items for sale at the Symposium. New for 2004 are (hefty!) tote bags and (handy!) clipboards.

We will also have a "clearance sale" at the symposium of various shirts, hats, mugs, tools, etc. Check it out for great bargains!

Congratulations Class of 2003!

As "official" Certified Extension Master Gardeners you can now realize your full potential and take pride in sharing your new-found knowledge with others. Please remember to join CMGA and continue to participate in our variety of programs.

Maura Albert
Kimberly Alleman
Judith Allik
Veronica Anderson
Paul Angelini
Sandra Aron
Karen Askins
George Asmus, III
Betty Baker
Ellen Barrett
Elizabeth Beaudette
Lisanne Belgrade
Madeline Benyeda
Kyle Blake
Pam Brundage
Norita Bunch
Patricia Buza
Kristen-Lin Care
Susan Chandler
Janet Chappel
Louis Cherichetti
Jean Chicoine
Maureen Cleaver
Kelly Conetta
Cindy Coville
Joan Crimmins
Debra Dalton
Alfred Damm
Christine Darnell
Denise Davis
Christine Decker
Patricia DiLauria
Avril Dobousek
Douglas Dole
Edward Donofrio

Patricia Dorion
Marsha Dowling
Nancy Dreyer
Nancy Eppley
Marlele Ewankow
Donna Fisher
David Flagge
Nancy Flemming
Robert Fletcher
Moses Flores
Kathryn Floyd
Beverly Floyd
Lisa Frederick
Paul Galuska
Bart Gannon
Carol Garber
LeDona Geise
Stacy Gendrau
Abigail Gorton
Paul Gurda
Bob Guzzio
Sarah Heminway
Rosellen Hernandez
Lorraine Hoagland
Julianne Hobbs
Carmen Holzman
Gloria Howell
Stephanie Hutter
Bailynn Hye
Vincent Ingala
Martha Ingues
Karen James
Jerry Kalinsky
Rarmsay Klaff
Kathleen Kraczkowsky

Mary Kundrath
Mike Labickas
Becky Laughlin
L. Lawson
Richard Lorenc
Kimberly Marrs
Roy Mathers
Kerry Mattie
Linda McArthur
Lisa McCabe
Patricia McCracken
Susan McMinn
Linda Medura
Alice Mellor
Louise Michard
Don Milbier
Susan Millen
Jim Morrison
Matthew Moser
Debbie Mullikin
Maureen Murphy
Jennifer Murray
Lois Nadel
Susanna Nielsen
Sue Nimerowski
Diane Ostheimer
Robert Palmer
Dom Palumbo
Laura Pelco
John Perch
Terry Pitt
Alison Rabinko
Rosellen Riley
Judith Robinson
Elizabeth Rose

Lisa Roser
Janis Sanner
Jodi Satter
Robin Sevigney
Penny Shea
Tina Shirshac
Beverly Sidway
Martha Smart
Anita Solosky
Chris Southam
Richard Sparling
Joan Stubenrauch
Gary Sylvester
Jason Terrance
Danielle Thalheimer
Richard Thomas
Linda Thomas
Lori Thompson
Gay Thorn
Susie Thorness
Teresa Tracy
Renee Turley
Patricia Tyszka
Nancy Urban
Misty Van Ryzin
Christina Van Scoy
Florence Varleta
Maria Villaran
Elizabeth Vogt
Gay Wagner
Stephanie Wargo
Deborah Weinberg
Virginia Wilson
Lori Winslow
Jennifer Wood

And, the Class of 2004 begins their journey...



First class lecture was on our most precious commodity of all: water quality.

Mira Schacne spells out "the rules of the road" on the first day of class in North Haven. Bethel and North Haven's class in being held at ACES.



2004 Calendar

Connecticut Master Gardeners Association

1ST Tuesday of each month
 10 am Open Board Meetings
 11 am Symposium Meetings
 Knox House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford

February 4 th	AMG Class: Feng Shui For the Garden
February 7 th	CT Horticultural Society Symposium <i>Spring into the Garden</i> Registration info 1- 860-529-8713
February 9 th	AMG Class: Woody Plant ID
February 16 th	AMG Class: Managing Land for Wildlife
February 18 th	AMG Class: Early Care of Trees
February 26-29	23 rd CT Flower and Garden Show CT Expo Center Hartford, CT Master Gardener Booth needs vol- unteers, Bobbie Orne-1-860-875-3005
March 9 th	Garden Enthusiast Conference Rome Ballroom, UConn Storrs Leane Pundt 1-860-626-6240 or www.hort.uconn.edu/garden/
March 10 th	Perennial Plant Conference Rome Ballroom, UConn Storrs www.hort.uconn.edu/ppc/
March 17 th	AMG Class: Connecticut Deer
March 19 th	Set up for Symposium VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Manchester Community College
March 20 th	CMGA Symposium Manchester Community College
March 30 th	AMG Class: Pruning of Fruit Trees

May/June	Mini-symposiums Dates To Be Announced
May 18 th	MG Diagnostic Session/ Norwich Melissa Smith 1-860- 885-2823
June 16 th	MG Diagnostic Session/Torrington Lorna Delaney 1-860-626-6240
June 19 th	CMGA Semi Annual Meeting <i>Location to be announced</i>
July 8 th	UConn Plant Science Research Tour Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343
July 22 nd	MG Diagnostic Session/ North Haven Mira Schachne 1-203-407-3167
August 13 th	MG Diagnostic Session/ Vernon Mary Collins-1-860-870-6934
Mid-August	Joint CMGA-FGCC Flower and Horticulture Show Becky Paul, 203-458-8413
October 1st	Final Diagnostic Session, Vernon
October 5 th	Final Diagnostic Session, Norwich
October 5-9	North East Regional Master Gardener Conference Baltimore, Maryland www.mastergardener.umd.edu Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343
October 7 th	Final Diagnostic Session, North Haven
October 13 th	Final Diagnostic Session, Torrington
October 24 th	MG Fall Festival, Auer Farm Bloomfield Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343
November 13 th	CMGA Annual Meeting <i>Location to be announced</i>

**Note: AMG Class Information and Registration
 Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343**

Other Scheduled Events...

Submitted by Richard Schaffer, AMG

January 26 thru February 22: Camellias in Bloom, daily 10-4. Lyman Estate Greenhouse, Waltham, MA (781) 891-4882 X244. Free.

February 5-7: "Shaping the Future of the Green Industry". New England Grows. Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA. www.negrows.org.

February 6: "Today's Horticulture" at Longwood Gardens by the Professional Gardener Alumni Association of Longwood Gardens. 610-388-1000, x507.

February 19-22: The Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show. Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence. 401-421-7811 or www.flowershow.com.

February 21: "Shade Gardening Saturday" courses at NYBG. 10-12 noon, 12:30-2:30, 2:45-4:45. www.nybg.org or 718-817-8747.

February 27-28: Ecological Landscaping Assoc. 2004 Winter Convergence & Eco-Marketplace. Boxborough Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA. Info 617-436-5838 or www.ela-ecolandscapingassn.org.

March 6-14: Philadelphia Flower Show at Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. Pennsylvania Hort Society, Midge Ingersoll, 215-988-8800.

March 13-21: Boston Flower Show at Bayside Exhibition Center, Boston, MA. www.masshort.org/showpage.

March 13, 20 & 27: Orchid Classes at NYBG. 10-1p.m. related to orchid exhibition, February 27-March 28. 718-817-8747 or www.nybg.org

2004 Calendar

Connecticut Master Gardeners Association

1ST Tuesday of each month
 10 am Open Board Meetings
 11 am Symposium Meetings
 Knox House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford

February 4 th	AMG Class: Feng Shui For the Garden
February 7 th	CT Horticultural Society Symposium <i>Spring into the Garden</i> Registration info 1- 860-529-8713
February 9 th	AMG Class: Woody Plant ID
February 16 th	AMG Class: Managing Land for Wildlife
February 18 th	AMG Class: Early Care of Trees
February 26-29	23 rd CT Flower and Garden Show CT Expo Center Hartford, CT Master Gardener Booth needs vol- unteers, Bobbie Orne-1-860-875-3005
March 9 th	Garden Enthusiast Conference Rome Ballroom, UConn Storrs Leane Pundt 1-860-626-6240 or www.hort.uconn.edu/garden/
March 10 th	Perennial Plant Conference Rome Ballroom, UConn Storrs www.hort.uconn.edu/ppc/
March 17 th	AMG Class: Connecticut Deer
March 19 th	Set up for Symposium VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Manchester Community College
March 20 th	CMGA Symposium Manchester Community College
March 30 th	AMG Class: Pruning of Fruit Trees

May/June	Mini-symposiums Dates To Be Announced
May 18 th	MG Diagnostic Session/ Norwich Melissa Smith 1-860- 885-2823
June 16 th	MG Diagnostic Session/Torrington Lorna Delaney 1-860-626-6240
June 19 th	CMGA Semi Annual Meeting <i>Location to be announced</i>
July 8 th	UConn Plant Science Research Tour Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343
July 22 nd	MG Diagnostic Session/ North Haven Mira Schachne 1-203-407-3167
August 13 th	MG Diagnostic Session/ Vernon Mary Collins-1-860-870-6934
Mid-August	Joint CMGA-FGCC Flower and Horticulture Show Becky Paul, 203-458-8413
October 1st	Final Diagnostic Session, Vernon
October 5 th	Final Diagnostic Session, Norwich
October 5-9	North East Regional Master Gardener Conference Baltimore, Maryland www.mastergardener.umd.edu Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343
October 7 th	Final Diagnostic Session, North Haven
October 13 th	Final Diagnostic Session, Torrington
October 24 th	MG Fall Festival, Auer Farm Bloomfield Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343
November 13 th	CMGA Annual Meeting <i>Location to be announced</i>

**Note: AMG Class Information and Registration
 Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343**

Other Scheduled Events...

Submitted by Richard Schaffer, AMG

January 26 thru February 22: Camellias in Bloom, daily 10-4. Lyman Estate Greenhouse, Waltham, MA (781) 891-4882 X244. Free.

February 5-7: "Shaping the Future of the Green Industry". New England Grows. Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA. www.negrows.org.

February 6: "Today's Horticulture" at Longwood Gardens by the Professional Gardener Alumni Association of Longwood Gardens. 610-388-1000, x507.

February 19-22: The Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show. Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence. 401-421-7811 or www.flowershow.com.

February 21: "Shade Gardening Saturday" courses at NYBG. 10-12 noon, 12:30-2:30, 2:45-4:45. www.nybg.org or 718-817-8747.

February 27-28: Ecological Landscaping Assoc. 2004 Winter Convergence & Eco-Marketplace. Boxborough Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA. Info 617-436-5838 or www.ela-ecolandscapingassn.org.

March 6-14: Philadelphia Flower Show at Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. Pennsylvania Hort Society, Midge Ingersoll, 215-988-8800.

March 13-21: Boston Flower Show at Bayside Exhibition Center, Boston, MA. www.masshort.org/showpage.

March 13, 20 & 27: Orchid Classes at NYBG. 10-1p.m. related to orchid exhibition, February 27-March 28. 718-817-8747 or www.nybg.org

CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
2004 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$17.00

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

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 _____ M. _____ LAST _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTY _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE () _____

YEAR OF CERTIFICATION _____ OFFICE WHERE CERTIFIED _____

I am willing to teach these subjects _____

I am willing to work on the following committee(s):

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

PLEASE MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION AND DUES TO:
(CHECK PAYABLE TO CMGA)

JOHN NEFF
18 KNOLLWOOD ROAD
FARMINGTON, CT 06032

The Laurel

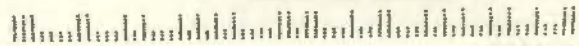
CMGA
c/o John Neff
18 Knollwood Road
Farmington, CT 06032

First ClassMail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 43
Guilford, CT 06437

This is your last issue
of **The Laurel**
if you have not renewed
your CMGA membership
for 2004.
Membership form can be
found inside

Marie Dube
455 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525

06525+1647 03



Here Ye, Here Ye!!

CMGA'S "Gardeners in Action" Symposium is calling all creative gardeners into action for our 2nd Annual Garden Hat Parade and Contest.

Remember 2003?? What fun we had!!

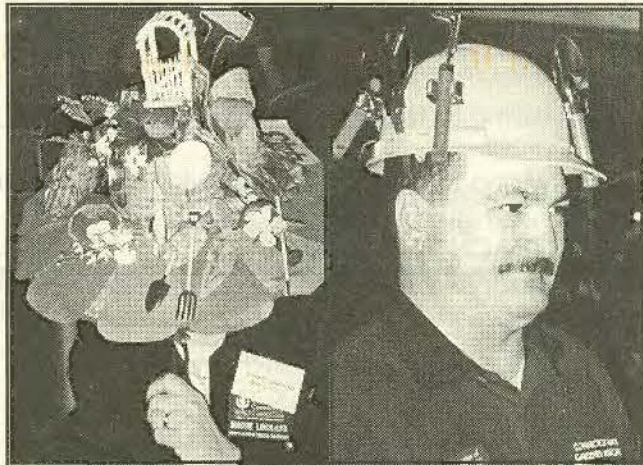
Let's use those creative juices stored up this winter to design a special Garden Hat once again!

"THE POWER OF GARDENING" is a great theme to use as your motivation.

Susan Saint James will be here to discuss the fusion of plants and humans, creating dynamic relationships between societies...We will be her attentive audience, in full hat display!

This year we would like to see more men involved! How about those baseball caps or hard hats worn while trimming your trees? These types of hats could be made to interpret our theme, too!

**Awards will be presented! Come on!
Join in the fun 2004!**



Last Year's Winners: Bonnie Lindland, Billy Baxter and Cyndi W.





From the President...



I believe it is finally Spring! Aconite, Snow Drops and Crocus are putting on a great show.

Primrose and pansies are new and very welcome colorful additions to the back entrance garden. We're ready for the daffodils, tulips, forsythia and other early spring surprises. Our peas have been planted outdoors. Tomato seeds have been planted indoors. This is a very exciting time of year...

This issue of *The Laurel* is better known as *The Directory Issue*. Each year at this time we publish a list of all members, interns, Master Gardener teachers, and our bylaws. This is a fairly extensive document of 24 pages. Take a moment to review CMGA's bylaws.

The CMGA Symposium 2004, *Gardeners in Action*, was a sell-out. Registration materials were in Master Gardeners' homes on January 2nd and interns were presented information on the event during their first week of classes. By early February we were sold out at the maximum of 372 attendees - a CMGA record!

Congratulations to the Symposium Committee and their Chair, Paul Grimmeisen. Our Team worked for a full year planning and presenting the

organization's most significant yearly education and development event. All of this hard work certainly paid off in a day full of excellent presentations, exciting vendors, great refreshments, enticing auctions and hat parade contestant fun.

A very special thank you is extended to Master Gardener Susan Saint James, our Key Note Speaker. Susan's presentation on the impact the MG program made to her life was marvelous and touched the hearts of all. Read more about her outreach effort, the Unified Gardening Project, in the next issue of *The Laurel*.

Next year's event is being prepared at this time. Our vision is to present a high-quality day of activity to the scale of this year's symposium. The focus will likely be that of New England gardening authors with sessions presented on their particular expertise.

The date of next year's symposium will be announced shortly. Please be sure to mark your calendar and post a reminder to register asap in early January. This will help to avoid disappointment.

Do enjoy all of the beauty our Connecticut early Spring has to offer...

Becky Paul

2004 CMGA Officers

- President:** **Becky Raiola-Paul**
259 Saw Mill Road
Guilford, CT 0643
(203) 458-8413
r.r.paul@att.net
- Vice-President:** **Paul Grimmeisen**
24 White Oak Road
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 677-8645
paul24wor@aol.com
- Treasurer:** **Peter Lirot**
39 Burr Hill Road
Killingworth, CT 06419
(860) 663-1595
pliro@aol.com
- Secretary:** **Sandy Myhalik**
89 Ely Road
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 677-0504
myhalik@comcast.net
- Membership:** **John Neff and
Connie Schultz**
18 Knollwood Road
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 673-5018
jneff@attbi.com
- Liaison:** **Cyndi Wyskiewicz**
1-877-486-6271

Cooperative Extension Coordinators

- Bethel:** Sandi Wilson (203) 207-8440
- 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
- Torrington:** Lorna Delaney (860) 626-6240
- Vernon:** Mary Collins (860) 870-6934
- West Hartford:** Katie Melvin (860) 570-9010
- Home and Garden Center** (877) 486-6271

The Laurel

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

First-Class
US Postage
PAID
Permit # 43
Guilford, CT
06437

**2004 Directory
Enclosed**

Marie Dube
455 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525

HELP A CHILD BLOSSOM!

Join Connecticut Master Gardener Association members for the
3rd Annual Prunathon & Spring Clean up



**Connecticut
Children's
Place**

Saturday, April 17, 2003, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

(Rain date Saturday, April 24th. Call 292-8333 for recorded info.)

36 Gardner Street, East Windsor

(corner of Gardner St. & Rt.140, I-91 Exit 45)

- *Bring your gloves, rakes and pruning shears for an afternoon of sprucing up the grounds, flowerbeds and gardens.
- *Work alongside and help abused and neglected children between the ages of 10-18 learn about the wonders of gardening.
- *Help cultivate a summer landscape of beautiful flowers and colors that will make a difference in the lives of these children.
- *End the day by joining the children for supper!

To sign up for the Prunathon or get more information, please call Master Gardener Laura Dillman at 860/668-4606 or email her at dillman4@cox.net. For more information about the Connecticut Children's Place, visit www.ctchildrensplace.org.



the **Laurel**

Summer 2004

Volume 17, No 3

Elizabeth Park Celebrates 100 Years of Roses

By Barbara Duffy

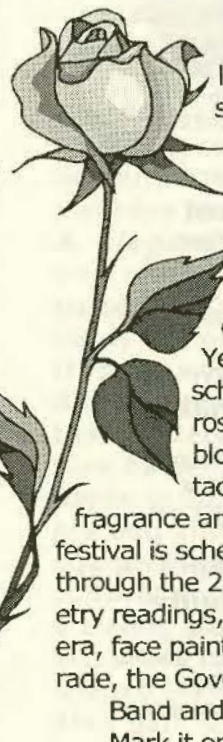
If Charles and Elizabeth Pond could see what wonderful use their Hartford estate has been put to, they would be very proud. Elizabeth Park was opened in 1904 and was the first municipal garden in the US. And what a treasure it is. They are celebrating their 100th anniversary, and have special events all year. The park is a wonderful example of how a committed group of city employees, community volunteers, and gardening organizations can work together to make a first class park and educational center available to the community.

The park was designed by the landscape design firm of Olmsted and Son, and the first garden planted was a 100 bush rose garden. It's grown a bit and is now the home of 15,000 historic and contemporary rose bushes as well as many other plants and trees. The rose garden has been a favorite location for Connecticut brides for years. Elizabeth Park is one of twenty-two All America test gardens, which evaluate new roses before they are released to the general public. At the heart of the rose garden at Elizabeth Park is Donna Fuss, a nationally known

rosarian with a vast knowledge of roses. She is an American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian and is a sought after speaker at events all over the US. The wonderful thing about Donna Fuss, is that she still likes to get her hands dirty, and her lectures and workshops are loaded with practical know how.

Elizabeth Park is not just about roses though. The 102-acre park has a spring bulb display of magnificent tulips, an annual garden, Dahlia beds, a perennial garden, a rock garden, a picnic grove, a pond, and extensive greenhouses. The 100-year-old greenhouses are used to grow annuals from seed that are used in plantings all over Hartford.

The Friends of Elizabeth Park is a dedicated group of volunteers who work in the gardens, raise funds for the park, and sponsor tours and workshops that are free and open to the public March through November. The park has volunteer gardening "Super Saturday" sessions starting in May and ending in November. Garden tours and workshops on roses and perennials are scheduled regularly. Dates, times, and driving directions are



listed on their website.

The annual Rose Weekend at Elizabeth Park will be particularly special this year as they are celebrating "100 Years of Roses". It is scheduled when the rose garden is in full bloom and is a spectacular display of color, fragrance and culture. This year's festival is scheduled for June 18th through the 20th and includes poetry readings, classical music, opera, face painting, cakes on parade, the Governor's Foot Guard Band and of course, the roses. Mark it on your calendar - it is sure to be a rose extravaganza.

Elizabeth Park

Prospect and Asylum Avenue
Hartford, CT 860 231 9443
<http://www.elizabethpark.org>
Friends of Elizabeth Park
860 242 0017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
Butterfly Gardening	3
Readers Corner	4
AMG Classes	5
Avoid Back Pain	5
2004 Symposium Report	6
Book Review	8
Web Garden	9
Behind the CMGA Symposium ..	10
Calendar	11

100 YEARS OF ROSES

CELEBRATE ROSE WEEKEND AT ELIZABETH PARK

Friday June 18 to Sunday 20, 2004
Prospect and Asylum Avenue
Hartford, CT (860) 231-9443
<http://www.elizabethpark.org>

CMGA Officers 2004

President

Becky Raiola-Paul

259 Saw Mill Road
Gulfport, CT 06437
(203) 458-8413
r.r.paul@att.net

Vice-President

Paul Grimmeisen

24 White Oak Road
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 677-8645
paul24wor@aol.com

Treasurer

Peter Lirot

39 Burr Hill Road
Killingworth, CT 06419
(860) 663-1595
pliro@aol.com

Secretary

Sandy Myhalik

89 Ely Road
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 677-0504
myhalik@comcast.net

Membership

Connie Schultz

25 Laurel Drive
Stafford Springs, CT 06076
(860) 684-1561
connie@schultz@hotmail.com

Liaison

Cyndi Wyskiewicz

1-877-486-6271

Cooperative Extension Coordinators

Bethel: Sandi Wilson (203) 207-8440
Brooklyn: Kim Kelly (860) 776-9600
Haddam: John Castagno (860) 345-4511
N. Haven: Mira Schachne (203) 407-3161
Norwich: Melissa Smith (860) 887-1608
Stamford: Regina Campfield (203) 329-3363
Torrington: Lorna Delaney (860) 626-6240
Vernon: Mary Collins (860) 870-6934
W. Hartford: Katie Melvin (860) 570-9010
Home and Garden Center: (877) 486-6271

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 Editors, Hilary Forsyth at rayhbf@optonline.net, or Barbara Duffy at Barbduffy2@aol.com, marking the subject as "CMGA - The Laurel".

Deadline for July issue: June 30, 2004

President's Message

Congratulations to the Class of 2004 Master Gardener Interns for finishing their formal classroom hours and written test. They, and their mentors across the State, are now in full swing with projects and office duty at the Extensions. There's truth to what some say in that now the real learning begins!

It's very important to remember that the key mission of CMGA is supporting the Master Gardener Program's outreach efforts.

What project(s) have you decided to work on this season? Please let us know so we can assist you with additional hands, education or funds. We would also like to once again run a master outreach listing in each issue of *The Laurel*. So, be sure to send a note to the editors with the name of your project(s), location, contact person, and the contact's phone/email. A very brief description of the effort can be included as well. There are many folks out there interested in finding a working project to commit to - take advantage of



our organization's resources of close to 1,000 members!

There are loads of classes, get-togethers and activities coming up over the next few months. Check out the enclosed schedule, mark your calendar and join your Master Gardener peers to celebrate our camaraderie and wonderful accomplishments together during this glorious time of the year.

Wishing you the best for planting success Memorial Day weekend!

Warm regards,
Becky

CALLING ALL GARDEN WRITERS!

The publicity committee of the Connecticut Master Gardeners Association is looking for people to write a weekly or monthly column for various local newspapers on timely gardening topics. We can organize a group of people to share responsibilities or one can take on the whole project. This is a great opportunity to share your master gardener knowledge with the public!

Please contact Carol Quish at Quishfam@cox.net or weekdays at 1-877-486-6271.

Butterfly Gardening: Stalking the Wild...Aristolochia

By Barbara Walker

As garden trends go, butterfly gardens are hot, hot, hot. During the last decade gardeners noticed that some of our cherished garden plants are visited by butterflies, making our gardens even more appealing. Now we are consciously selecting garden plants based on their appeal to butterflies—a new twist in the botany of desire.

A real butterfly garden has to feed and shelter the lowly caterpillar as well as nourish the glamorous adult. Each species has a preferred host plant, not all of which are attractive to people. Let's be honest here. Humans have to find the plants appealing as well, or the coveted space will soon go to other ornamentals. Simply put, the question is, would we want a particular plant in the garden, regardless of its connection to a butterfly life cycle? Take the milkweed for example.

Most gardeners know the connection between monarch butterflies and milkweed. Milkweed is a tall, ungainly wild plant, not suited to gardens because it is aggressive and lacks showy flowers. But milkweed's well-behaved cousins, *Asclepias tuberosa*, and *A. incarnata*, have become garden favorites in recent years. Butterfly weed, *A. tuberosa*, is orange in the wild, and cultivars of red and yellow are offered by plant and seed vendors. Taller, elegant *A. incarnata* has a

showy flower and monarchs will breed on its foliage. So we can please ourselves and the monarchs, but what can we plant to host the larvae of other butterflies?

The spicebush swallowtail butterfly, *Papilio troilus*, is mostly black and spectacularly beautiful. It lays eggs on either the spice bush or the sassafras tree. The spice bush, *Lindera benzoin*, is a better choice for gardens. *Lindera* is a shrub to 6'-10' high, that likes the moist soil and semi-shade that drives gardeners nuts. It does tolerate well in dryer, sunny spots, too. Remember the color, "Green Yellow" from your box of 64 Crayolas? That's about the color of *Lindera's* April flowers. Leaf and twig release a pleasing spicy scent when bruised, hence its common name. The foliage is pleasing in shape and color all summer, but just wait till it turns blazing gold in autumn. Its pretty red fruits beckon hungry birds. (You need male and female plants to produce the fruits, which are borne only on female plants.) *Lindera benzoin* will earn its keep in the garden.

The pipevine swallowtail butterfly, *Battus philenor*, takes its common name from its larval host plant, the pipevine plant, *Aristolochia* species. This is an interesting family of plants. The best known is *A. elegans*, or *A. littoralis*, commonly named



Dutchman's pipe or Calico flower. It resembles a freckled purple meerschaum pipe. But here we have a problem: ***A. elegans* is toxic** to pipevine swallowtail larvae. The butterflies will lay eggs on it, but it will poison the larvae. It is the **wild** *Aristolochia*, *A. durior*, syn. *A. macrophylla*, that is preferred by the pipevine butterfly. *A. durior* is hardy in zones 3-8. Flowers are odd and not showy. Foliage gives this plant its horticultural appeal: it will cover a trellis, tree or fence with attractive, dark green, heart-shaped leaves. Because it likes part shade, it can add texture and a vertical element to an otherwise challenging area. Toxicity of *Aristolochias* varies, so if this is a concern, consult a Toxic Plant data base before planting. So for an attractive screen plant, *Aristolochia* is a durable choice.

For more information on *Lindera benzoin* and *Aristolochia* species, consult William Cullina's excellent [Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines](#), UConn hort. and other plant databases, and the U.S.D.A. web site. A Google search on plant name will yield ample information, including vendors.

Onward and Upward in the Garden

by Katharine S. White

A book review by Diana Ringelheim

Can a book of collected essays on gardening subjects from the New Yorker magazine dated March 1958 to March 1970 be valuable to modern gardeners? Silly question. Although this book does not discuss the most salient topics of gardening today such as using native plants or organic methods, it will give the reader a perspective that stimulates independent thought and judgment. It has never been out of print and the latest re-issue was in April, 2002.

Katharine S. White was an editor at the New Yorker and an avid gardener, who died before the collection was published. The book was edited by her husband, E. B. White who also wrote an introduction in the form of a short biography. As a literary editor, Mrs. White developed a unique point of view on garden catalogues, treating them as works of literature. She could spot hype, marketing strategy, and phonicness instantly. It was her contention that the sincere and even quirky expressions of a plant enthusiast, describing the offerings of his/her nursery will give the gardener a better understanding and appreciation of the subtle characteristics that make a plant good for the garden. Ultimately, we can also piece together the characteristics that make a good garden. So much information can be acquired from well written catalogues that they become supplements to textbooks. Or at least they used to.

Some modern catalogues, with full color photographs, stars and stripes to announce specials, arrows and exclamations to get your attention, have almost jazzed themselves into the unintelligible. One of my favorite seed catalogues, the one associated with the nursery (forget discretion: Park's [brother of Wayside]) is now marketing plants along with the seeds. The graphics are so plentiful that your eye cannot rest for a moment. If you happen to see a picture that attracts you, the search for the text describing it is lengthy and frustrating, and at the end you discover that you can only buy it as a plant (it's supposed to be a seed catalogue!). The discussion in this book of Park's Seed catalogue is that much more heartbreaking because of what has been lost to marketing pizzazz.

Imagine reading catalogues written by crusty, opinionated, dedicated nursery professionals who have no idea how to caress or dazzle the customer. These are the individuals whose writings are described in *Onward and Upward in the Garden*. Some of the catalogues are still being produced, like White Flower Farm's, but without the same tone of voice (or graphics - in 1958 it only had black and white drawings). Catharine S. White was a person of strong, if not crusty, opinions also, and it is an eye-opener to read about the roots of some of the catalogues that are in our mail boxes today.

As critical and sharp-eyed as White was, she was a gardener we can sympathize with. Her description of the sweet torture of sitting in her living room while a blizzard rages outside (in Maine) surrounded by blooming garden catalogues is something we have all experienced. Her observations on the past year in her garden, the successes and failures, are very chatty and personal and she expressed what we all feel but are seldom able to put into words. Even flower arranging which is no longer a hot garden topic (cut their heads off ?!) is discussed affectionately and with contagious enthusiasm. Garden history, design, and even passing garden fashions are treated with serious consideration and fascinating insight.

The cherries on top of all this are the occasional illustrations which are reproductions from garden catalogues, of course. Many of them look like they were made from etched plates, a labor-intensive technique that even the post office has abandoned, but one that gives a sense of detail and importance to the things illustrated, even cabbages. This rich and luscious book is one that will never be obsolete because it arouses your imagination and provokes your opinions, which are invaluable tools for sifting through the overload of today's information age.

Advanced Master Gardener Classes

June - September 2004

Details at www.canr.uconn.edu/garden/

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 5	9am-12pm	Introduction to Tree ID	Storrs
June 5,12	9am-1pm	Propagation and Culture of Wildflowers and Native Plants	Woodstock Wildflower Nursery
June 9, 16	6pm-9pm	Designing a Successful Perennial Garden	West Hartford
June 14-18	10am-4:30pm	Introduction to Flower Painting	West Hartford
June 15	6.30pm-8:30pm	Nomenclature: How and Why Plants Get Their Names!	West Hartford
June 23	6pm-9pm	Basics of Landscape Design	Norwich
July 17	10am-12pm	Plants Out of Place	Storrs
July 21,28	6pm-9pm	Greenhouses 101	Vernon
August 4	10am-1pm	Butterflies, Dragonflies and Common Insects of CT	Bethel
September 9	9.30am-12.30pm	Hot Topics	Bethel
September 11	10am-1pm	Pruning Deciduous and Evergreen Trees and Shrubs	Haddam
September 18	10am-12pm	Winterizing your Vegetable Garden	Tolland

Avoid Back Pain from Spring Digging

By Barbara Duffy

Most gardeners dive right into the digging come spring, but before you grab those shovels and head for the garden this spring, remember - there is a right way and a wrong way to shovel. If you



are doing it incorrectly, you will pay! Here are some tips that will help you avoid back pain.

- Insert the shovel into the dirt so that the blade is straight up and down **not at an angle!**
- Keep your back straight, put your foot on the upper edge of the shovel, and use your body weight to push the shovel into the ground.
- Bend your waist and knees while pushing the

shovel into the earth, then straighten both waist and knees before lifting the soil.

- Turn your entire body before you deposit the earth, **don't twist at the waist and toss the soil.**
- Take frequent breaks. **Give your poor back a break, it's been on the couch all winter!**

Reports From The 2004 Symposium

"Victory, School, Unified, Prison, Community, there are many types of gardens", said keynote speaker, Susan St. James, as she began her talk on the Power of Gardening and the Empowering of Gardening. Lured into the Litchfield Garden Club by her mother-in-law, Susan soon felt the value of gardening and the strength of continuity in the garden club. It seemed a natural step to enroll in the Master Gardener program. The competitive spirit and energy that had made her a successful actress, she now applied to getting a perfect score on her quizzes and final exam.

Already active with Connecticut Special Olympics, Susan combined both of her pursuits when it came time to do a volunteer project. She is organizing people she'd met in the Special Olympics program to create a garden around a senior housing facility. The garden is designed with beds that can be reached from wheelchair bound visitors and has a range of plants for scent and touch. The garden became a meeting place and focal point for the residents. Ms. St. James described the positive effect the garden had on its creators as well as its visitors.

With her broad smile, her energetic, competitive and generous na-

ture, she is an American classic. Ms. St. James is the mother of a blended family with "kids 31 to 13". She retains a kid's enthusiasm for her gardening, her volunteer work and her business enterprise, Seedling and Pip, which supplies books and gifts for newborns. As a keynote speaker she articulated, exemplified and reinforced the focus of the Master Gardener Association: to use gardening skills in service to the community.

- Barbara Walker

Richard Jaynes presented an interesting and informative talk on "Outstanding Woody Plants and Their Propagation". Dick's first love in the plant world is Kalmias, or mountain laurels, the Connecticut State Flower. He is an acknowledged expert on the propagation of these plants, and has developed several new cultivars for the market.

Dick outlined the intricacies of plant breeding: from controlled crosses to tissue culture; from coaxing slow-germinating seeds into life, to caring for the



Bill Allyn, Director of Residential Services, CCARC with Susan St. James, Symposium keynote Speaker

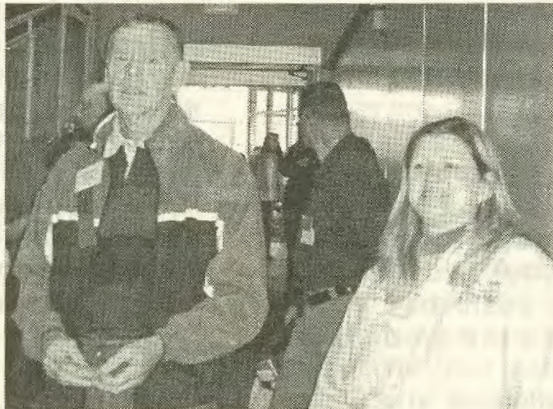
resultant seedlings in fog and mist houses. He detailed the various processes involved in propagating plants from cuttings, and we were amazed and interested to hear about the process of bench graft-

ing - until he explained that this process is so named simply because the grafting is carried out at a bench!

Dick's talk was illustrated by slides of Kalmia cultivars, and of other plant favorites such as Clethra, Oxydendron, Heptacodium and Stewartia. Dick was quick to give credit to his team at the nursery, and his gentle, unassuming manner made this a most enjoyable presentation, despite the high-level science.

- Hilary Forsyth

"This is my third Symposium", said Susan Spang of Salem, Connecticut. Susan, a Master Gardener since 2000, enjoyed the keynote address and the session on Grasses. "I will definitely use grasses in future projects." As William Turull spoke Susan could visualize where and how grasses could be used. Spang's volunteer project in Salem, CT, was the beautification of a trapezoidal-shaped piece of land against a chain link fence near a ball field. She is planning a butter-



John Neff and Cyndi Wyskiewicz

fly garden.

Donna Sebastian of Windsor, CT, sent in her registration the day after the announcement arrived in the mail. "I got all my first choice sessions", said Donna, who attended Katie Melvin's workshop on "Formal Herb Gardening". She was surprised when Katie Melvin broke the class into groups of five, gave each group specifications

and directed the teams to design a formal herb garden for a given setting. Donna's group designed a formal garden for a B&B. Donna felt apprehensive at first, but liked this session best of all. "I couldn't wait for this symposium day and I can't wait till the symposium next year."

What's the best thing about Symposium Day? Is it crossing

paths with former classmates? Listening to big-name speakers present state of the art information or fresh ideas? Renewing the excitement as a new gardening season begins? Strolling through the lanes of vendors? Recapping session content over lunch? Maybe it's being in the audience when Ed Marrotte is speaking. Really it's all of the above in large doses.
- Barbara Walker

Additional 2004 Master Gardener Interns

Welcome to the following Master Gardener Interns taking the class at the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens in Stamford. And welcome to their class coordinator, Regina Campfield, who graduated as a Master Gardener in 2002. We hope that they and all the 2004 interns are finding the course a valuable and enjoyable experience.

First Name	Last Name	Address	Town	State	Zip
Mary Ellen	Baker	121 Signal Hill Road	Wilton	CT	06897
Karel	Banks	20 Baldwin Street	West Haven	CT	06516
Cheryl	Carter	10 Alexandria Drive	Stamford	CT	06903
Linda	Christians	11 Orchard Drive	Wilton	CT	06897
Linda	Cummins	22 Baldwin Farms South	Greenwich	CT	06831
Laura	DePreta	211 Gary Road	Stamford	CT	06903
Keith	Erikson	67 Harbor View Ave	Bridgeport	CT	06605
Susan	Frey	22 Woodledge Rd	Stamford	CT	06903
Jean	Gregory	14 Maher Ave.	Greenwich	CT	06830
Betty	Johnson	41 Greenwich Hills Drive	Stamford	CT	06831
Perry	Betteridge Johnston	27 Greenbrair Lane	Greenwich	CT	06831
Geraldine	Klien Robbenhaar	159 Labbanca Lane	Fairfield	CT	06824
Kathy	Kling	251 Palmer's Hill Road	Old Greenwich	CT	06870
Julie	Kurose	164 Winfield Street	Norwalk	CT	06885
Betsy	Malloy	71 Great Pasture Rd	Redding	CT	06896
Merry	McDonnell	1670 Farmington Ave.	Unionville	CT	06085
Terry	McDonough	39 Nutmeg Lane	Stamford	CT	06903
Tessa	O'Regan	7 Hunter Lane	Ridgefield	CT	06877
Wally	Pugh	33 Highfield Lane	Darien	CT	06820
Liz	Rapp	54 Danbury Rd. #323	Ridgefield	CT	06877
Emalou	Rausen	176 Compo Road South	Westport	CT	06880
Jane	Romano	300 Cotton Hill Road	New Hartford	CT	06507
Karen	Royce	67 Harbor Drive	Greenwich	CT	06830
Joan	Shaw	11 Lycett Court	Norwalk	CT	06850
Jill	Smyth	439 Pepper Ridge Road	Stamford	CT	06905
Susan	Sweeney	44 Strawberry Hill Ave #5F	Stamford	CT	06902
Judith	Weller	32 Edgewater Drive	Old Greenwich	CT	06870
Victoria	Yolen	9 East Farm Lane	Ridgefield	CT	06877

Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning: What, When, Where and How to Prune for a More Beautiful Garden.

A book review by Chris Reid

From time to time in my life, I have known non-cooks who wanted to learn to cook. I remember their puzzlement over some of the telegraphic, terse phrasing in the cookbooks they tried to use. Cut butter into flour? Dice vs. mince? Beat till soft peaks form? Cook syrup to the soft ball stage? What were all those quick, snappy directions saying?

Sometimes highly experienced cooks like Julia Child come along and graciously describe in complete detail how to do humble and seemingly obvious tasks like making hard boiled eggs. In her book, *The Way To Cook*, Child took the seemingly elementary and made it immediately possible for the novice to do it right by using such a thorough explanation that there could be no doubt in anyone's mind exactly how to go forth and boil eggs. Since reading this recipe, my hard boiled eggs have improved tremendously!

But how about pruning? Is pruning terror an integral part of your spring? Is there a pruning terrorizer in your neighborhood? Where to turn?

It's not that there is a shortage of books on pruning. I own my share of pruning books, each with its particular virtues, yet I have to say that often, illustrations of the hypothetical shrub don't look like any shrub I've ever seen. (Kind of like those illustrations of tree

planting holes on completely level ground with no rocks, competing roots, or hard pan). And who exactly is growing such shrubs? More to the point, where is the illustration of a shrub that's been sheared for years that I now am being asked to rehabilitate? Finally, in the tell-all books with every shrub imaginable, directions are reduced to terse phrases like "prune lightly" or "remove suckers". Would somebody please tell me the difference between lightly and lightly? Because "lightly" to a Viburnum or Japanese maple is not "lightly" to a forsythia, not that anyone would ever say to prune a forsythia lightly. And removing suckers wholesale without understanding that the shrub or tree may be trying to survive previous over pruning and may respond to sucker removal by making even more suckers - well, that's not an insight to be found in many books on pruning. Could we use a Julia Child equivalent in the pruning world, someone to make the basics so transparent that it's very hard to fail?

Enter Cass Turnbull, arborist, master gardener, and founder of Plant Amnesty (<http://www.plantamnesty.org>), a Seattle-based nonprofit organization all about stopping the senseless topping of trees and reducing of shrubs to shear geometry. Cass is blessed with both the ability to prune and the ability to teach, a rare combination. Cass has done for pruning the old gar-

den shrub standbys, what Julia did for hard boiled eggs (and many other things).

Cass Turnbull's Guide To Pruning may be exactly the ticket, right this very minute. I joined Plant Amnesty last year and have learned a great deal from the pruning tips on the website and the newsletter. When I read Cass's detailed description of pruning forsythias (available at their website), I knew I had found a valuable mentor. Cass previously authored a book on home landscape rejuvenation, now out of print. In February, Sasquatch Books came out with her first book in many years. Since the guide is published by a regional press, I doubt Borders is going to pick up on it, so I decided not to wait to see it there. I was able to find quite a nice discount on a copy through Amazon.com.

There are detailed descriptions on garden standbys like abelia, boxwood, burning bush, evergreen azalea, juniper, spiraea, forsythia, hydrangea, kerria, cotoneaster, cherry laurel, lilac, rhodos, Viburnum, witch hazel, winter hazel, Clematis, Wisteria (yes, Eve!), and a few typical garden trees like dogwood, Japanese maples, magnolia, cherry/crabapple/plums, and weeping cherries. There are also sections on pruning basics such as types of cuts, pruning techniques, dealing with suckers and water sprouts, how to recognize deadwood, timing, and some

notes on pruning tools.

For me, this book diminished pruning terror. Pruning terror is what happens once I have looked up the terse and telegraphic-- and sometimes conflicting -- pruning info on a shrub in three different books, talked to a couple of people who have pruned it and now must approach the shrub with pruners drawn. Decision time is here. Of all the conflicting info, the admonishment to cut only when the moon is a waning crescent, the dark hints on watersprouts, flowering, timing, and the possible entrance of borers, I am now at moment of truth: What am I going to cut? The terror is partly related to getting to know the shrub and how it will react to being cut in the way I cut it. Will it go willy-nilly with Medusa sprouts? Curl up and die? Grow up strong and healthy? The long dark tunnel of pruning results lies straight ahead, and there I stand, pruners in hand.

Who better to have at my side than Cass? I guess you could say she's been around. She has been eyeball to eyeball with many suckers, and hung out with the worst of the deadwood. She knows of what she speaks, having been pruning for probably 20 years or so, and she is adept at describing what to do, having been giving lectures and workshops for about as long - even having made a pruning video in English and Spanish. She reviews the kinds of decisions the pruner will have to make, the kind of shrub characters the pruner will meet, and the results of different pruning decisions. She elaborates on the proclivities of many a common

shrub, and spells out their virtues. Reading her book is like being inside the shrub pruning. Best of all, she tells you what to do if you make a mistake! I must say, I like that part a lot. She asks rhetorically, "What hope is there for people who have unwittingly exposed the dead zone or for those whose artistic pom-pom or K-Mart bonsai didn't quite come out looking right?" And of course, an explanation follows.

Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning is not a replacement for my other guides -- rather, I find that it helps what I've read in many of the terser guides to fall into place and become more understandable.

Apparently I am not the only one who likes this book. Several weeks ago, when I attended the Mad Gardeners' symposium in Falls Village, a friend I had not seen in months suddenly descended upon me, a wreath of smiles, swooping me up into a big hug and an effusive "THANK YOU!" What could I possibly have done to merit such enthusiasm? I had almost forgotten that I had recommended Cass Turnbull's book to her. "I carry it with me everywhere, and when we're pruning [she and her professional gardening crew], I read it aloud to my crew!" And she confided, "You know, Cass is very, very funny." Last I heard, she was trying to convince the local radio gardening show host to interview Cass!

It's true. In addition to being an ace pruner and teacher, she has sense of humor and isn't afraid to use it. I suspect that Cass's book is the only pruning book I will ever own that will

make me laugh out loud on a regular basis. Cass relates that her friend Tina calls rehabilitating shorn shrubs resembling meatballs "ball busting", but quickly recovers her decorum and points out that "in print we call this rehabilitation." For a laugh and to save yourself from crying every time you look at your mal-pruned shrubs, you might try this book. It is inexpensive enough that one can pick up a copy for the town parks maintenance crew, the neighbors, that relative with the buzz-cut forsythia, the law firm in New Haven with the rhododendron cut into a cube...hmm, the possibilities are endless!

WebGarden

By Barbara Duffy

www.garden.org

The National Gardening Association is a non-profit organization that focuses on helping people become better gardeners. Their website is definitely helpful and has some information broken down into regions. There are sections on flowers, vegetables, nutrition, trees, shrubs, landscaping, and lawns. Some of the other things included are:

- Zone finder by Zip code
- Fertilizer quantity calculator
- Bug mug photo index for bug ID Pest control library (bugs, disease, and critters)
- Gardening articles
- Kids gardening (including teacher materials)
- Gardening news and tips by region
- Buyers guide and product search
- How to projects
- Events calendar by region

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE CMGA SYMPOSIUM

By John Neff

As soon as the 2004 CMGA Symposium ended, the work for the 2005 CMGA Symposium began. Already, the Symposium Committee, with Ellen Morse and Paul Grimmeisen as co-chairs, has met to discuss what went right with the 2004 Symposium and what went wrong, and what are we going to do in 2005. The theme had been picked, "Gardeners in Print" which means that the very first, and the most important beginning task, has been completed.

The next two decisions that must be made now are the location of the next symposium and the choice of a keynote speaker. We are very limited in the choice of a symposium site. Last year when we were not able to use MCC we visited at least 10 sites in the state, mostly community colleges, without success. Our requirements for a large auditorium, 5 large classrooms, vendor space, lunch privileges, and accessibility are not easily met. Some do not allow vendors, some require the use of their cafeteria staff (always expensive), some have union problems, some will not even guarantee the use a year in advance, and so it goes. Cost is always a factor, every additional classroom costs money. We have again chosen MCC because it best meets our needs and they are very willing to work with us as they have done so in the past.

Outstanding keynote speakers must be contacted well in advance of a symposium. Last year we contacted Susan Saint James in April, she committed in

June, and we had our first interview in July. She, as most of our speakers are, was a delight to work with and made this task much easier. We are now in the process of going through all the many, and exciting, suggestions for gardening authors we received in the evaluation sheets at the symposium. Although, one suggested author, Martha Stewart, may be busy elsewhere. We will be making contacts next month.

What went wrong? That's an easy one. We received a lot of legitimate complaints about the crowded vendor space. It's not so easy to fix. What we plan to do is to increase the numbers of vendors, negotiate with MCC to use the upstairs hallway and foyer in order to spread out the vendors, and to include exhibits from the various garden clubs in Connecticut such as the Iris and Dahlia societies which do not require as much room. We are restricted by MCC as to the use of the main foyer but we hope to negotiate some additional space there as well.

Some thought the hat contest was too silly, others got a "kick" out of it. Well, all fun and no play, etc., etc., but we will try to revamp the theme (flower arrangements from your winter garden - favorite houseplant) and maybe make it more germane to gardening and less intrusive on the classes.

What went right? That's an easy one too - the speakers. Almost without exception, the keynote speaker and the classroom speakers received excellent and

very good marks. In fact, a common comment was that they wished they could have been able to pick more classes. We were justly faulted for not describing a couple of classes adequately such as the class on ponds. Also, it was suggested that we indicate which classes would be basically slide shows and which would be a workshop without slides. We intend to add a class to each session next year to alleviate overcrowding and, also, to make sure that only those who are assigned to a particular class are in that class - no one should have to sit on the floor.

For a symposium of our size, and we will be even bigger next year, we are probably unique in that we do not use any professional help. The committee meets once a month for a year, and much effort and many hours go into the planning of the event. The goals are to have a quality product, please as many gardeners as possible, be educational, and generate enough income to fund CMGA activities for the coming year. One person asked if our committee didn't plan very well since we had to turn so many away; we like to think that it was because we are doing something right. Comments ranged from a person who stated that all the speakers were poor, and she would be looking elsewhere next year, to another person who stated that this was her fourth year and she wouldn't think of missing next year's symposium. We will continue to try to improve our program for you every year.

Understanding Botanical Names

By Barbara Duffy

Many gardeners are pros when it comes to remembering botanical names, but if you are like me, you may need some help remembering them. There are some key words commonly used in botanical names that tell you something about the plant. They tell you about the plant's habit or flower color, and may help you remember the botanical name. Here is a list of words that appear frequently in botanical names, and their common definitions.

Albus - white
 Argenteus - silver
 Aureus - golden yellow
 Caeruleus - blue
 Luteus - yellow
 Nanus - dwarf
 Niger - black
 Palustris - marshy
 Perennis - perennial
 Prostratus - trailing
 Punctatus - spotted
 Purpureus - purple
 Reptans - creeping
 Roseus - rosy
 Ruber - red
 Sempervirens - evergreen
 Speciosus - showy
 Spinous - spiny
 Stoloniferus - has stolons
 Tomentosus - thick, short hairs
 Variegatus - variegated
 Viridis - green

Wanted:

New and used gardening books to be donated for establishment of a library at Elizabeth Park. Contact Paul Grimmeisen, 860-677-8645, paul24wor@aol.com.

Shoreline Soup Kitchens vegetable garden needs MG's. Situated behind Grace Episcopal Church, Main St., Old Saybrook, the garden supplies produce to the Soup Kitchens' grocery distribution sites. Work is Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Email: claudiavannes@aol.com or 860-388-1988

Calendar of Events

- June 1 CMGA Open Board Meeting, 10am, Elizabeth Park
- June 5 Litchfield MG mini-symposium, 9am -noon, Litchfield County Cooperative Extension Center, Uconn Torrington Campus. Contact: 1-860-626-6240
- June 5 Herbfest at Topmost Herb Farm, 244 School Road, Coventry, CT. Admission \$5. Contact: 860-742-8239 or www.topmostherbfarm.com
- June 8 & 9 "The Great Plants/The Great Plantspeople - A Garden Party for Plant Lovers" at White Flower Farm, Litchfield, CT. *Horticulture* magazine's centennial celebration. Includes lectures, tours of White Flower Farm and private gardens, hot and picnic lunches, etc. Contact: 877-436-7764 / www.hortmag.com
- June 18-20 100 Years of Roses. Celebrate Rose Weekend at Elizabeth Park, Hartford. 860-242-0017 / www.elizabethpark.org
- June 20 New England Wild Flower Society guided botanical walk led by botanist Ted Elliman, Bear Mountain, Salisbury, CT, 10am to 4pm. A 7-mile loop hike along the Appalachian and connecting trails. Bring lunch, water and sturdy footgear. Fee member \$39, non member \$45. Contact: 1-508-877-7630, ext.3303
- July 6 CMGA 2005 Symposium Planning Committee Meeting, 10am, Pond House, Elizabeth Park. Contact: Paul Grimmeisen 860 677 8645
- July 11 CMGA Summer Meeting, and tour of Prides Comer Farms, Lebanon, CT. 11am. Details to be advised. Contact: Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343
- July 13 "Summer Care of Roses" workshop at Gazebo, Elizabeth Park, Hartford, Noon and 6.30 pm. 860-231-9443 / www.elizabethpark.org.
- July 15 Summer UCONN Plant Science Research Tour, Storrs. *Details to be advised.* Contact: Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343
- August 3 CMGA 2005 Symposium Planning Committee Meeting, 10am, Pond House, Elizabeth Park. Contact: Paul Grimmeisen 860 677 8645
- August 4 Plant Science Day at Lockwood Farm, Hamden, CT. Tel: 203 974-8500 or toll free statewide 877 877-2237
- September 11 Clean up day - Auer Farm, Bloomfield, CT
 Contact: Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343
- September 21 Fall Mini Symposium, 9am, Elizabeth Park, Hartford
- September 28 Workshop: "Closing your Perennial Garden", at the Perennial Garden, Elizabeth Park, noon. 860-231-9443 / www.elizabethpark.org
- October 5 - 9 North East Regional Master Gardener Conference, Baltimore, Maryland
www.mastergardener.umd.edu. Contact: Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343
- October 5 CMGA Open Board Meeting, 10 am, Elizabeth Park
- October 7 Invasive Plant Symposium: "The Silent Invaders - Identification and Management of Invasive Plants". CT Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) @ UCONN, Storrs, CT. Contact dellis@canr.caq.uconn.edu
- October 24 Fall Festival MG Auer Farm, Bloomfield, CT
 Contact: Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343
- November 6 Workshop: "Winter Care of Roses" at Gazebo, Elizabeth Park, 10am.
 860-231-9443 / www.elizabethpark.org
- November 13 CMGA Annual Meeting. *Location and program to be announced*

The Laurel

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

First ClassMail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 43
Guilford, CT 06437

Marie Dube
455 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525

Save the Date

A Spring Gardening Symposium

Saturday, June 5, 2004, 9am-12pm
Presented by Litchfield County Master
Gardener Class

"Mixed Borders"

A lecture by Roxann Lovell, Master
Gardener, Advanced Master
Gardening class instructor

"Cooking with Herbs"

Presented by Chef Dreama Erosity

Silent Auction

Litchfield County Cooperative
Extension Center
UCONN Torrington Campus
Contact telephone 1-860-626-6240

CMGA Summer Meeting

Sunday, July 11, 2004
Prides Corner Farms Wholesale Nursery
122 Waterman Rd, Lebanon, CT
800 437 5168

11 am - Business Meeting

12 pm - Lunch

Bring your own brown bag
drinks and dessert provided

1 pm - Tour of the nursery by Prides

Corner staff

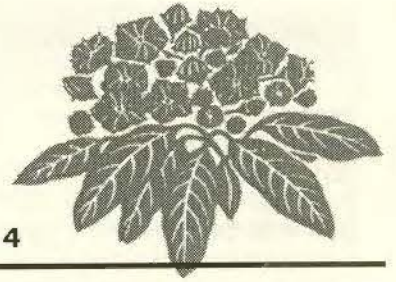
Door prizes

Spouses/significant others welcome!

Fall Mini Symposium

Saturday, September 21, 2004, 9am
Elizabeth Park, Prospect & Asylum Aves
Near Hartford/West Hartford town line
Bagels and coffee will be served
Hands on talks by Donna Fuss and
Bob Prill of Elizabeth Park.

Summer UCONN Research Tour
Plant Science Research Facility, Storrs.
July 15, 2004



HARTFORD COUNTY EXTENSION CENTER MINI SYMPOSIUM

When: Tuesday, September 21st, breakfast starts at 8:15 AM, Seminars 9 AM to 12 PM.
Where: Elizabeth Park, Pond House Restaurant, Prospect & Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT
 Tel: 860-231-9443 / www.elizabethpark.org
Directions: Take Prospect Ave Exit off I84, head North on Prospect. Gardens are ¾ of a mile on left.
Fee: \$25, includes continental breakfast
Register with Paul Grimmeisen 860-677-8645, paul24wor@aol.com.
Registration is limited to 125 – reserve a seat now!

Don't miss the Hartford County Extension Center Mini Symposium! The all-star lineup of speakers includes Bob Prill, Donna Fuss and Bill Turull, some of the top names behind the splendor that is Elizabeth Park.

Speaking on the care and culture of roses will be **Donna Fuss**, Rosarian at the park since 1987. Donna's *Vie en Rose* began with childhood outings in Elizabeth Park. After courtship strolls through the park, Donna and newlywed husband Mike bought five rose bushes for their new home. Donna and Mike went from "doing everything wrong" to winning blue ribbons on roses they grew. Donna and Mike organized the Connecticut Rose Society.

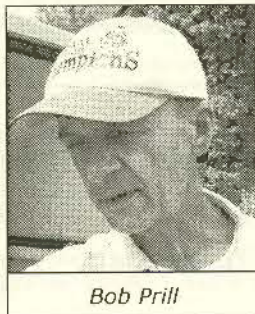


Donna Fuss

In the dark days of 1977, the City of Hartford came close to bulldozing Elizabeth Park's roses into oblivion. When Donna became full time Rosarian things really turned around. "There were no earthworms in the soil!" Donna said. "The soil was dead." Tons of compost and manure later the roses are thriving in healthy soil watered by an underground irrigation sys-

tem. She uses sensible pest control, fertilization and plenty of mulch. Her work of identifying all the roses in the garden is still under way.

Creator of the dazzling annual beds in Elizabeth Park is **Bob Prill**, who will speak on annuals. During winter's short gray days Bob pores over seed catalogs and drafts designs for the coming summer's annual beds. Under his care the seeds are started in greenhouses and raised till



Bob Prill

they are set out in beds throughout Hartford's parks, rotaries, planters and cemeteries. Bob's intensive formal education in horticulture at UConn's Ratcliffe School was followed by forty years of professional landscape work. Bob is a member of the Dahlia Society and the Connecticut Rose Society. His great enthusiasm is sharing what he knows about plants. His talk will cover soil conditions, diseases, watering, pruning, deadheading, hybrids and cultivars, accent plants and border plants.

Audiences enjoyed **Bill Turull's** engaging style at last spring's Symposium and other events. We know him as owner of Garden

Sales in Manchester and a nurseryman for over 30 years. Now we'll see him wearing his other

hat, as member of the Board of Directors of Friends of Elizabeth Park. Six times each year Bill conducts groups around the perennial beds focusing on what's in flower, observing the changes throughout the growing season. Bill will speak on all aspects of growing perennials: dividing, color combinations, shapes in the garden, how and why a garden works, diseases of perennials, and closing up the garden at season's end.

By Barbara Walker



Bill Turull

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
Focus Group	3
Tribute to Paul Brown	4
CMGA History	4
Summer Meeting Report	5
Extension Center News	6
Calendar	11

CMGA Officers 2004

President

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

Vice-President

Paul Grimmeisen
24 White Oak Road
Farmington, CT 06032
860-677-8645
paul24wor@aol.com

Treasurer

Peter Lirot
39 Burr Hill Road
Killingworth, CT 06419
860-663-1595
plirot@aol.com

Secretary

Sandy Myhalik
89 Ely Road
Farmington, CT 06032
860-677-0504
myhalik@comcast.net

Membership

Connie Schultz
25 Laurel Drive
Stafford Springs, CT 06076
860-684-1561
connie@schultz@hotmail.com

Liaison

Cyndi Wyskiewicz
877-486-6271

Cooperative Extension Center

Coordinators (by County):

Fairfield: Sandi Wilson 203-207-8440

Fairfield (Stamford): Regina Campfield
203-329-3363

Hartford: Katie Melvin 860-570-9010

Litchfield: Lorna Delaney 860-626-6240

Middlesex: John Castagno 860-345-4511

New Haven: Mira Schachne 203-407-3161

New London: Melissa Smith 860-887-1608

Tolland: Mary Collins 860-870-6934

Windham: Kim Kelly 860-776-9600

Home and Garden Center: 877-486-6271

Connecticut Master Gardener
Association Website
<http://www.ctmga.org>

From the President

Gardening season 2004 is in full swing with loads of sunshine and adequate rain. Our vegetable garden is generating squash, and the tomatoes are on their way to swelling and ripening. Daylilies are beginning their show, and Dahlias promise gorgeous color as the season progresses. The blackberries are ready to ripen, while strawberries have been tucked away in the freezer. Isn't this time of year fabulous?



Our Master Gardener Interns are also in full swing executing their projects and adding up the required office hours. We look forward to joining them in celebration of their well earned certificates this fall. We are so proud of you!

A big thank you goes out to Sylvia Foster who has been very active with CMGA over the last four years. She has served as board secretary and has actively coordinated and driven the speakers function of our symposium. Sylvia

is moving out of state and will be missed by all.

Another huge thank you goes out to Cathy Slavin. Cathy and I communicated a few months ago about her interest in generating a CMGA web site. The great news is that she launched the site early in July and you can visit her effort at <http://www.ctmga.org>. This is a monumental step for our organization, having struggled with an internet identity, using jump pages off other web sites over the last few years. Great job!

There are loads of activities coming up for Master Gardeners so be sure to check out the enclosed calendar. We are planning a mini symposium, joining in activities at the research farm, and scheduling more mini symposiums at the extension centers. Have you been participating in the Advanced Master Gardener classes?

Let us know what you have been up to!

Hope to see you all soon...

Best Regards,

Becky

Advanced Master Gardener Classes

Date	Time	Details	Location
August 4	10am-1pm	Butterflies, Dragonflies & Common Insects of CT	Bethel
Sept. 9	9.30-12.30pm	Hot Topics	Bethel
Sept. 11	10am-1pm	Pruning Deciduous and Evergreen Trees and Shrubs	Haddam
Sept. 18	10am-12pm	Winterizing your Vegetable Garden	Tolland

The Laurel is published a minimum of four times a year for the members of The Connecticut Master Gardener Association. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send news, photographs and calendar items to the Editors: Hilary Forsyth at rayhbf@optonline.net, or Barbara Duffy at Barbduffy2@aol.com, marking the subject as "CMGA - The Laurel".

Deadline for November issue: October 1, 2004

Focus Group Initiates Increased Involvement by CMGA Members by Barbara Duffy

John Neff has brought together a group of people who are interested in generating networking opportunities and grass roots activities amongst CMGA members. There are many CMGA members who are inactive, and the group was asked why and how CMGA can do a better job of keeping Master Gardeners involved in the organization. People who had indicated on their CMGA membership forms that they were interested in getting involved in several areas, were invited to the focus group. Attending the first meeting on May 25th 2004 were Thomas Ainsworth, Heather Atwater, Barbara Brenneman, Arlene Dobson, Faith Heering, Diane Otheimer, (Sheryl Rutledge was unable to attend), as well as CMGA Board Members John Neff, Marie Dube, Peter Lirot, Barbara



Left to right: Barbara Brenneman, Diane Otheimer, Faith Heering, Arlene Dobson, Heather Atwater

Duffy, Sandy Myhalik, Cindy Wyskiewicz, Paul Grimmeisen, and Ellen Morse.

The group agreed that the establishment of small, local CMGA sub groups would establish more effective networking amongst members, and would lead to development of local outreach projects and educational activities. Many members have such busy schedules, that they are unable

to devote much time to CMGA, but through these groups could stay connected to the organization. Some of the activities discussed in addition to outreach were speakers, day trips, plant swaps, and whatever the local groups feel is of interest to their group. A follow up meeting was held on the evening of June 22nd and some plans were presented for organization of the new local groups. Six local groups have started to form and CMGA members are encouraged to participate. If your particular town is not listed, you are still welcome to join the group. If you are interested in starting another local group, please contact John Neff at 860-673-5018 or jrneff@comcast.net. The local areas represented and the contacts are as follows:

Contact Person	Local Area	Contact Information
Arlene Dobson	Meriden, Wallingford, Cheshire, North Haven	adbs837@aol.com 203 238 4891
Diane Otheimer	Avon, Canton, and Collinsville	osthedia@comcast.net 860 673 4102
Heather Atwater	Madison, Clinton, Guilford	heathsail@sbcglobal.net 203 421 8489
Barbara Brenneman	Simsbury, Granby	Grandybb5@hotmail.com 860 678 0626
Faith Heering	Bristol, Plymouth, Terryville	860 583 3288
Carol Quish, Cyndi Wyskiewicz, Ellen Morse	Manchester	cquish@canr.cag.uconn.edu 860 649 0452 (Carol)
Sheryl Rutledge	Cromwell, Middletown	Sheryl.Rutledge@thehartford.com 860 635 9069

Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference

Baltimore, MD, October 5-9, 2004

University of Rhode Island is arranging a **motor coach** to travel from Rhode Island to Baltimore on October 4th, returning October 10th. If enough people from Connecticut want to join the coach, URI will be able to arrange a pick-up site along I95. Contact Jackie Dawley at 401-884-8878 or dawleyj@ride.ri.net about bus transportation **only**. Contact Cyndi Wyskiewicz at 860-486-6343 about attending the conference.

A Tribute to CMGA Third President Paul Brown, December 19, 1922 – March 29, 2004

by Larry Van Der Jagt, CMGA President, 1999/2000

It is with sadness that we have to announce the passing on March 29, 2004 of Paul Brown, CMGA President 1991/92.

After retiring from the military, Paul Brown qualified as one of UConn's certified Master Gardeners. He was ever enthusiastic about his gardening and always willing to share his knowledge with the community as well as with new students.

Paul spent many hours dedicated to mentoring new students in the West Hartford Extension Office. He gave many lectures to the community, as well as to Master Gardener students, on his favorite subjects: organic gardening and composting.

Carl Salsedo remembers Paul as one of the most giving people he knew. He was dedicated to a life

of service, and used gardening as one of the channels to give back to the community. He helped get the Plainville Community Gardens started, and in keeping with his desire to give back to the community, he expected the participants to donate part of their harvest to the Food Pantry.

Paul possessed an extensive library of gardening books, and readily shared his library with others. He was also a key initiator in establishing a CMGA symposium. He coordinated many activities such as finding speakers and reserving the Plainville Public School for the first symposium. His goals also included funding a scholarship for UConn students

I first met Paul when he appeared before my Master Gardener class in 1994 to encourage us to join the CMGA. When I became Presi-



Paul Brown

dent of the organization, I often met with Paul to discuss policy and organizational issues, and to familiarize myself with the past history of the organization. He was always willing to share his time and knowledge with me. In Marie Dube's words, "we will miss Paul's generosity, booming voice and wide smile".

The Laurel has since been advised that Paul Brown bequeathed his valuable library of garden books to the CMGA and the UConn Master Gardener program.

A Little History Lesson on CMGA

- 1978 First Connecticut Master Gardener class graduated. The classes were held in Wallingford (New Haven County), Bethel (Fairfield County), and West Hartford (Hartford County). Some of the original attendees were Marie Dube, Dorothy Cheo, Roberta Levandowski, Shirley Mitsko, Joan Lehn.
- 1987 The Connecticut Master Gardener Association was established. Forty five people attended the first CMGA meeting which was held in the Haddam Extension Center office. Bob McNeil was elected the first CMGA President.
- 1987 The first CMGA newsletter was published with Jean Chasnow as the editor.
- 1987 The first National Master Gardener Conference was held in Washington DC with twenty Connecticut Master Gardeners in attendance.
- 1990 CMGA had 197 paid members and a checking/savings account balance of \$1,225.
- 1993 The first CMGA Symposium was held at the West Hartford campus of UConn.
- 2000 A formal program for Advanced Master Gardener certification begins. Informal AMG programs began in the 80s.
- 2004 There are now over 731 paying members of CMGA and there are 220 Master Gardener interns. The Spring CMGA Symposium, which featured actress and Master Gardener Susan St. James as the keynote speaker, was a great success with 345 attending. Master Gardener interns are currently in training in nine Extension Centers.

Compiled by Barbara Duffy
With thanks to Marie Dube - the unofficial CMGA Historian

Summer Meeting at Prides Corner By Barbara Duffy

The CMGA summer meeting was held on July 11th 2004 at Prides Corner Farms in Lebanon, CT. There was a record attendance of over 80 people and the event was a big success. The day was sunny and warm, the company outstanding, and the setting beautiful.

The Prides Corner staff headed up by Lenny Giddix, hosted the CMGA meeting under a tent right in the

middle of their outstanding arboretum.

CMGA members were able to stroll through the arboretum and go on van

tours of the 240 acre wholesale nursery.



Lenny Giddix,
Prides Corner Farms

Paul Grimmeisen, CMGA Vice President, officiated at the informal meeting. Peter Lirot, CMGA Treasurer, gave a financial report on the 2004 Spring Symposium and announced that CMGA made a profit of \$8,616 at this year's symposium. The efforts of the symposium committee (Debbye Rosen, Marge Bingham, John Neff, Billy Baxter, Sandy Myhalik, and Ellen Morse) are greatly appreciated.

Ellen Morse announced that the 2005 symposium is scheduled for Saturday, March 19th 2005 at Manchester Community College with a theme of "Gardeners in Print". They have already lined up celebrated gardening author Ken Druse as the keynote speaker. He is the author of "Ken Druse: The Passion for Gardening", "The Natural Garden Habitat", "The Collector's Garden",

and many other books. He is also the garden editor for House Beautiful magazine. Other speakers will include Pat Stone, author of the delightful "Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul" and "Weeder's Digest", and C.L. Fornari, the author of "The Cape Cod Gardener" and "Your Garden Shouldn't Make You Crazy!". A total of 14 gardening authors are expected to speak at the symposium. CMGA will make some changes in how they utilize the MCC facility, so that up to 400 people can attend.

CMGA is trying to improve communications with members, and part of that effort includes the CMGA newsletter and the CMGA website. Hilary Forsyth and Barbara Duffy were introduced as the new co-editors of The Laurel; and the new CMGA website, currently under development by Cathy Slavins, was announced (www.ctmga.org).

Christina Beebe, a MG Intern, gave a short talk on the first phase of the Heublein Tower Project in Avon that she and other interns have been working on.

The meeting was wrapped up quickly as everyone was anxious to get out into the sun and enjoy the inspiring surroundings at Prides Corner.



Paul Grimmeisen,
CMGA Vice President

**Master Gardeners Wanted
for Prides Corner Garden Stewardship Program**

Prides Corner wholesale nursery in Colombia, CT, is in need of experienced gardeners to help with development and maintenance of their 4 acre arboretum. Gardeners must be 18 or older, and willing to work at least 10 hours. The Garden Stewardship program is available through September 15th, and the teams will be working Fridays and/or Saturdays. Prides staff will supervise and share their knowledge. In exchange for their efforts, MGs would be able to purchase plants from Prides at a rate determined by time invested. For each hour, MGs will be able to purchase at wholesale pricing: four 1 gallon plants, or two 2 or 3 gallon plants, or one 7, 10, 15 or 25 gallon plant.

For more information, call Len Giddix at 860-642-7535.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Elizabeth Park is desperately in need of volunteers to help maintain the gardens. Please call Friends of Elizabeth Park at 860-231-0443 if you are able to help.

WANTED!

New and used gardening books to be donated for establishment of a library at Elizabeth Park. Contact Paul Grimmeisen, 860-677-8645, paul24wor@aol.com

MASTER GARDENERS REACH OUT

Extension Center News, outreach opportunities, and report-back on some of the many outreach projects underway around the State

Foodshare Garden at the 4H Center @ Auer Farm, Bloomfield, CT

The **Foodshare Garden** was planted Saturday May 15th, 2004. Over 25 Master Gardeners, Foodshare Volunteers and 4-H Center staff helped with the planting, along with Stephen Slipchinsky, Cyndi Wyskiewicz and seasoned Master Gardener Frank Stenta. The



Frank Stenta

garden site was fully planted. Also planted was a section for an Advanced Master Gardener class that included a number of

specialty beds to show techniques for season extension.

The Foodshare Garden Project is a full growing season commitment and needs volunteers throughout the summer. The success of this garden will guarantee a bountiful harvest that will help to feed the hungry from the greater Hartford Community. If any Master gardener is interested in helping out, our goal is to have MG's work with and mentor the Foodshare and 4H volunteers. Our role will be to help identify insect and disease problems, the cultural conditions of the vegetables that are planted in the gardens as well as some maintenance.

If you can help out at all, Please call **Alyssa Phelan, the Office Manager at the 4-H Center** to schedule a time. Her number is 860- 242-7144 Ext.



10. We have certain days that are needed in the garden. If you are not able to meet the scheduled date please find an alternate and inform Alyssa of your alternate.

Thank you for your commitment!

Cyndi Wyskiewicz
860-486-6343
cwyskiew@canr.cag.uconn.edu

Middlesex County

Angel Memorial

Between 1919 and 1967 more than 100 infants & children passed away at Niantic State Prison (now known as Janet York Correctional Institution). The children are buried in a remote corner of Niantic's Union Cemetery. The burial site has suffered from years of neglect and the forces of nature. The New London & Middlesex Counties 2004 Master Gardener Class was presented with outreach opportunities to help restore and dignify this precious burial site. St. John's Episcopal Church Deacon Rev'd. Diane Warley made a wonderful presentation to the class about the history and status of the children's graves. Rev'd Warley is also involved with "Sacred

Place - A Place of Sanctuary for Incarcerated Women" a non-profit support group at York C.I. Needless to say, the response from the class was quite remarkable!

Following Diane's presentation, we submitted a proposal outlining Master Gardener participation in the cemetery project. It was exciting to receive a phone call stating our MG proposal "IS ACCEPTED" by those responsible for the graves. We proposed to locate and clear around all the grave markers, outline and edge the entire area, plant appropriate evergreens/perennials, mulch and finally maintain this burial site. It should be pointed out that these small granite and concrete markers may have initials, the letter "X" or are completely blank. As Master Gardeners, we look forward to offering volunteer hours as our contribution to the memory of the children buried at "Angel Memorial" in Union Cemetery.

We would like to mention a few important items regarding this outreach project. Inmate Community Outreach Work Details have spent many hours cleaning debris and locating or re-setting grave markers. Because of their hard work and dedication, the grave count now stands at 127. Also, we as Master Gardeners promise to proceed quietly and not seek publicity on our own behalf. Any and all public announcements will be at the discretion of Janet York Correctional Institution and/or Connecticut Department of Correction.

John Castagno, 860-345-4511

MASTER GARDENERS REACH OUT

Tolland County

Outreach opportunities

Get involved with the Ecological Landscape Network in one of the many projects envisioned for the Tolland Agricultural Center, Vernon. Projects already under way include a rain garden and butterfly garden, but many more opportunities are available, including participation / involvement with the nature trail or other trial planting areas. Contact Vivian Felton at 860-738-4508 and she'd be happy to discuss the options. It's close to home and can be made to fit anyone's schedule!

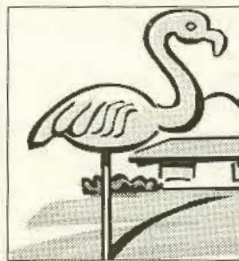
Educational displays are wanted for use at various fairs and other events ... topics such as invasive plants, beneficial pests, types of specific plants, etc., are just a few of the possibilities. Funds are available for materials costs, so you need only invest your time and creativity! Contact Mary Collins at the Tolland County MG office at 860-870-6934.

YWCA Camp AYA-PO is a day camp for children located in Somers, CT. They are seeking assistance in planting a vegetable garden using corn, squash, etc. that would have been available to the Podunk Indian tribe, to get children involved with history of the land. Hours M-F 9:00-4:00, June 28th through August 29th. Contact Dana Sears at 860-561-6000.

Plant Sale a Huge Success!!

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, energy and enthusiasm (and plants!)

to our Master Gardener Plant Sale held at the Tolland Agricultural Center on June 5th. We are thrilled to have our third year be our most successful sale yet! In addition to the plants donated by Master Gardeners, there were perennials donated by the Garden Barn of Vernon, as well as selections from Dr. Corbett from the teaching nursery located at the Research Farm in Storrs. There were also numerous garden-related tag sale items, ranging from the practical to the whimsical. Free soil pH testing was available, as well as the Master Gardener information booth. A definite conversation



piece of the sale was the offered door prize of a designer garden flamingo, compliments of Lida Bilokur and Mansfield's Garden Gate Club's popular Flamingo Project - 2004!

Remaining plants were made available to Master Gardeners involved with area outreach projects, and then were divided up between the Town of Manchester (in exchange for their generous donation of compost earlier in the spring), and also the Windham County Master Gardeners, for their plant sale which was held the following weekend.

Special thanks go out to the plant sale committee ... a dedicated group of special people who worked hard on planning and running the sale, many of whom have been involved since our first sale in 2002 ... Cindy MacGranor, Kim Boulay,

Lida Bilokur, Teresa Hessler, Sherry Kotowski, Kay McNabb, Judy Corbett and Kay Varga ... the sale wouldn't have been the success it was without each of you ... thank you.

Mary Collins
860-870-6934
mcollins@canr.cag.uconn.edu

New Haven County

We've been busy continuing our MG Outreach with projects, such as Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford, Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven, and North Haven Middle School, among others. All of these can always take on more MG help.

We have two new outreach projects, and could use some help on them. One project is the Connecticut Food Bank in East Haven, which needs landscape redesign help. That project is underway. The other project, for which we do need help, is the Ronald MacDonald House in New Haven. They are going to celebrate their 20 Anniversary next year and they actually want to plan ahead. Their landscaping is traditional Mid 1950's and they need new plants to give the place a feeling of color and activity. While we have some MG Interns already involved, we need help in all phases - and we can actually buy plants, shrubs, bulbs, etc - in moderation.

If you want to get involved in a great project, please phone Mira Schachne.

Mira Schachne,
203-407-3167
mschach@canr.cag.uconn.edu

Fairfield County

The Fairfield County Master Gardeners are planning their 2nd Annual Garden Fair at the Bethel Extension Grounds on Saturday August 14, 2004 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Last year's collaboration with the CMGA was extremely successful with over 100 people attending and we hope to have an even bigger turn out this year. Events being planned include a wide variety of speakers, demonstrations, booths, walks, and other information for Master Gardeners as well as the general public. It will be free to the public and free perennials will be given to the first arrivals while supplies last. The fair was a success last year due to all the Master Gardeners who participated. We need your help again this year! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Gillean Reinders at 203-792-4303 or email her at reinders@sbcqlobbal.net.

Master Gardener intern, Lisa Pecunia is spearheading a fascinating outreach project this year. She is helping UConn's Donna Ellis rear Galerucella beetles. These beetles are a biological control for purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, a non-native plant from Eurasia that is invading our waterways. The beetles are being reared on loosestrife plants growing in pots outside the Bethel Extension Center building. Later, they will be released into a designated wetland spot for monitoring and control. If you are near the Bethel office, swing by and check out the outdoor display and poster against the building.

Master Gardener speakers are sought for gardening programs,

local garden talks, etc. If you have a specific gardening interest or just like to teach and public speak, we need you!

Sandi Wilson
203-207-3261

SAVE THE DATE!

BETHEL EXTENSION CENTER GARDEN FAIR

FREE and open to Master Gardeners and the public

SATURDAY August 14th, 2004
1:00 PM until 4:00 PM

Presenters:

Joe Maisano, former UConn Extension Horticulturist, will talk on Plant Problems, and hold a short diagnostic clinic.

Carol Beerbaum will discuss Fall Gardening Tasks, with a tour of the Extension Center's display gardens.

Ingrid McCauley will speak on Gardening Folklore

Cindy Hunt-Stowell will lead a nature walk on the grounds.

And more!!!

Free perennials to the first arrivals, while supplies last. Many educational booths and exhibits. Refreshments served.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Gillean Reinders at 203-792-4303 or email at reinders@sbcqlobbal.net.

Windham County

The Brooklyn Extension Center Master Gardeners are in full swing as summer begins. Our first annual plant sale was a great success! Thanks to everyone who helped in so many ways. It was great to see so many familiar faces, hope to see you all more often.

The outreach projects are in full swing! The Windham Hospital project is to install a healing garden for both patients and families. Deb and her crew are hard at work.

The Sterling Memorial School project is close to completion. The project is part of the pilot for the new Youth Horticultural Program, "Yippee"; Youth in Project based Environmental Education. The amphitheater style garden features a performance area surrounded by "musical" gardens and bordered by a habitat garden. Grades K-4 had 6 weeks of junior horticultural education during which time they helped in the concept and design of their "outdoor classroom".

The Putnam Elms historical gardens are still growing thanks to the efforts of Martie. She hired a docent from Sturbridge village which has really helped with the research and planning.

The Dempsey Center's Kate Desjardins, Day Kimball Hospital volunteers and the Master Gardeners are planning a memorial garden at JD Cooper's restaurant in Putnam. This August the annual "5 at 10" will be held to raise money for the families of cancer patients here in Windham County. It is a 5 mile run at 10 in the morning, The rainbow shaped garden will be planted by purchasing annual plants that are being grown at the ARC greenhouse in Killingly. Near the plant that you purchase will be a card in memory of a cancer patient. We are still in need of volunteers for this one!

The sustainable demonstration gardens at the extension center are almost done and they look great! We will be planning workshops and are participating in the Quinebaug Walking Weekend again. We are also adding a sustainable turf grass demonstration site. Jean Chicoine will be heading up that effort for the Brooklyn Extension Center.

As we look forward to July we will be planning for the fairs! If you are interested in getting involved in Windham County please call the Extension Center 776-9600.

Kim Kelly, 860-776-9600
Kkelly@canr.cag.uconn.edu

MASTER GARDENERS REACH OUT

Litchfield County

Spring Gardening Symposium 2004

By Lisa Durante MG class of 2004

There was excitement brewing at the Cooperative Extension, Torrington Branch of UConn all Saturday morning into what turned out to be a beautiful afternoon. The Master Gardeners Association as well as the Litchfield County Master Gardeners sponsored the Gardening Symposium. The event was free of charge and the 2nd in as many years held at the Cooperative Extension Building where classes are held for Master Gardeners. This year was a very successful fundraising to benefit the landscaping for the new Extension building. The 2004 Master Gardener class organized themselves with the major design plan and will use the money to start the landscaping at the front of the building.

Walk into the Cooperative Extension building and purple covered tables were loaded with beautiful items that were donated by local business, perennials and annual hanging baskets and several gift certificates. Many of the Master Gardener students brought in healthy looking perennials from their own gardens. The Litchfield Master Gardeners set up a beautiful refreshment table for the guests. Balloons marked the beautiful crafts donated by local artists - pottery, iron garden statuary, wreaths and even a large concrete birdbath waited to go home with the highest bidder. More of the items included in the silent auction was an 8' tall Flowering

Plum and several Birch trees.

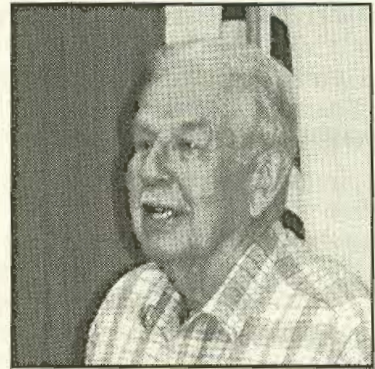
The Symposium included 2 scheduled speakers; "Mixed Borders" with Roxann Lovell who made us laugh and offered some real down to earth good information on building perennial borders by not only looking at them from the front of your property, but from the view of the house. Lovell also explained how textures of foliage add interesting effects to a garden walkway or path, and how using color can change the appearance of a walkway.

"Cooking with Herbs" with Chef Dreama Erosity added to the excitement when one of her pans started to send out flames, taking the symposium outdoors until the smoke cleared from the building. We were very happy to see most of the guests come back in and Chef Erosity treated all to her pasta primavera made with all homegrown herbs from the garden.



Chef Dreama Erosity with her favorite kitchen appliance

In addition to the main speakers, the silent auction and the Torrington Fire Department's visit, we were also treated to ideas and advice from one of



David Smith, founder of White Flower Farm

the guests at the symposium, David Smith, founder of the well known White Flower Farm. Smith brought in several cuttings of Viburnum and Dogwood that were beautiful, especially the Viburnum 'Kerns Pink' and talked a little about himself. Our own Master Gardener class of 2004's Cathy and Jack Donahue, president of the Connecticut Herb Society gave us a small presentation on growing and using herbs. This husband and wife team showed us that pinching back your beloved Basil will make it a more attractive and shrubby plant.

The 2004 Garden Symposium was a great success thanks to all the hard work of the Litchfield Master Gardeners and the MG class of 2004, and generous donations from local business owners. Eighty people signed the guest book at the event as well as 15 volunteers from the 2004 MG class and several from the Litchfield Master Gardeners. \$2,148 was raised for the new landscaping project for the school's Cooperative Extension building.

Way to go!

MASTER GARDENERS REACH OUT

Fairfield County, Stamford

Docent Program at the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, Stamford

On Sunday afternoons in the summer, visitors can spend an hour exploring the Bartlett Arboretum, and viewing the collection of Champion Trees, with a knowledgeable Master Gardener docent as their guide. The Arboretum is home to a great variety of plants and trees set in gardens, woodlands and wetlands. The Docent Tour of Trees and Gardens leaves the Visitors' Center at 1:30 PM and is led by one of the volunteer docents recruited by Harvey Caney (MG 2002) and Lars Cherichetti, Director of Education at the Bartlett. Each week a band of garden lovers follows along on an information-packed stroll through the grounds. As they wander, the docent regales the group with tales of history and horticultural facts. Who was Dr. Bartlett? Where did that fabulous stone bench come from? What is a Champion Tree?

Of course Champion trees are old and very large. In some areas of the USA, old trees date 150 to 300 years or more. During the 1880's Connecticut land was cleared of trees to provide farmland, building material and firewood, thus eliminating most of the truly old trees. In this area a tree of 120 years is considered old. The definition of a Champion Tree is set by the American Forestry Association and is expressed as a formula: $AFA\ Points = Circumference\ of\ the\ trunk\ at\ 4.5\ feet\ above\ the\ ground + Height\ of\ the\ tree\ in\ feet + \frac{1}{4}\ of\ the\ average\ branch\ spread\ in\ feet.$

Harvey Caney is the mastermind of this new and interesting project. Harvey's fascination with the Bartlett's collection of Champion Trees motivated him to design the program. Master Gardeners

Susie Thorness and Suzanna Nielson researched and identified the trees as their outreach project while interns in the MG class of 2003. Their work was extensive and very complete. Not to let such a resource sit idly on a shelf, Harvey and Lars worked to bring the research to life. Thus was born the Tour of Trees and Gardens.



MG docents Harvey Caney and Barbara Leffler lead a tour at the Bartlett

The program maps out a path to follow, and designates the most interesting specimens as stopping points along the way. Each stop describes trees and nearby plantings; mix in a little history and a pinch of trivia to create an interesting script; then lure a few Master Gardeners and a sprinkling of MG Interns to the project. Harvey and Lars presented the package in a training session and provided the script and resource materials. Each attendee committed to escort a group of visitors one Sunday during the summer months. Presto! The Tour of Trees and Gardens program is born.

Master Gardeners and Interns are the backbone of the Docent force. Each one of them committed to learning the material, studying the trees and guiding a tour once or twice in the summer. Docents attend the tours and training sessions to reinforce their command of the information and to support each other. New volunteers are welcome.

New Canaan Nature Center Herb Garden

By Sue Kelley

The Herb Garden at the New Canaan Nature Center (NCNC) was originally a complex of greenhouses and a potting shed developed by Catharine Bliss as part of her estate which she started in 1899 with the purchase of 10 acres on Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan.

In the 1950's Catherine's niece decided to give the property away, with the responsibility of its care shared by the town and the NCNC. Of the four original greenhouses, only one remains. In the late 1970's, the cost of heating the greenhouses became prohibitive. (costing some \$10,000 annually). The greenhouses were dismantled and the Herb Garden was created.

Under the guidance of the Director of Horticulture at NCNC, Gail Robinson, many volunteers lend a hand to keep the garden in shape. MG interns work side by side with mentors and community volunteers. This season the focus has been on identification of plants and the creation of an Herb Garden brochure. (And lots of weeding!)

The garden is divided into various categories: Culinary, Bird, Bee and Butterfly, Fragrance, Weaver and Dyer, Silver and Gray, Groundcovers, Tisane, Shady Corner and Medicinal.

Next time you are in the area, please stop by the Herb Garden and see for yourself this little slice of paradise!

If you are interested in taking the tour or joining the docent team, contact the Arboretum for details. Tel: 203-322-6971

Regina Campfield
Tel: 203-322-6971 X24

The Laurel CALENDAR

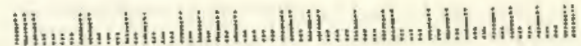
Date	Time	Details
July 11 to Sept. 19		Waterlilies & Lotus Exhibition @ New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. Information, call 718-817-8700, or visit www.nybg.org/edu/conted/ .
July 17 to October 17		David Rogers' Big Bugs Sculpture Exhibition @ Garden in the Woods, New England Wildflower Society, Framingham, MA. 508-877-7630 or visit www.newfs.org/bigbugs .
August 3	6.30PM	Annual Garden Tour @ Elizabeth Park. Free. 860-231-9443 or www.elizabethpark.org .
August 4	10AM-4PM	Plant Science Day at CT Agricultural Experiment Station , Lockwood Farm, Evergreen and Kenwood Avenues, Hamden, CT. Tel 203-974-8500 or toll free statewide 877-855-2237, or www.caes.state.ct.us .
August 7	10AM-1PM	A Perennial Border for all Seasons. New York Botanical Garden class held at New Canaan Nature Center. Presenter: Sydney Eddison. \$32 NCNC members, \$35 non-members. To register: 1-800-322-6924 / www.newcanaannature.org/nybg
August 8	10AM, 12&2PM	Guided walks at The Garden Conservancy's Open Days @ Highstead Arboretum , 127 Lonetown Road, Redding, CT. Fee. 203-935-8809.
August 14	1PM-4PM	2nd Annual garden Fair at Bethel Extension Grounds. Free. Contact Gilleen Reinders at 203-792-4303.
August 19	6.30PM	Perennial Garden Tour @ Elizabeth Park. Free. 860-231-9443 or www.elizabethpark.org .
September 2	6.30PM	Annual Garden Tour @ Elizabeth Park. Free. 860-231-9443 / www.elizabethpark.org
September 7	6PM	Rose Garden Tour @ Elizabeth Park. Free. 860-231-9443 / www.elizabethpark.org
September 11		Clean up day-Auer Farm , Bloomfield Contact: Cyndi Wyskiewicz 860-486-6343
September 18	9AM-3PM	Celebrating Agriculture @ Woodstock Fairgrounds , Route 169, Woodstock, CT. Community Outreach, the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. 203-974-8447 or www.caes.state.ct.us/Communityoutreach .
September 21	9AM	Fall Mini Symposium , Elizabeth Park, Hartford. Continental Breakfast @ 8.15am. Speakers: Bill Turull, Bob Prill, Donna Fuss. \$25. Contact Paul Grimmeisen 860-677-8645.
September 25	9AM-12PM	Lecture: Alternatives to Invasive Plants. New Canaan Nature Center, New Canaan, CT. Presented by Chris Mattrick, NEWFS's Senior Conservation Programs Manager. \$30 NCNC members, \$37 non-members. Register by September 20. Contact NCNC 203-966-9577 / www.newcanaannature.org .
September 28	12PM	Workshop: Closing your Perennial Garden @ Elizabeth Park. Free. 860-231-9443 / www.elizabethpark.org
October 2	10AM	Tree Tour @ Elizabeth Park. Meet @ greenhouse parking lot. Free. 860-231-9443 or www.elizabethpark.org
October 5	10AM	CMGA Open Board Meeting , The Pond House, Elizabeth Park.
October 5 - 9		North East Regional Master Gardener Conference, Baltimore, Maryland. www.mastergardener.umd.edu . Contact: Cyndi Wyskiewicz 1-860-486-6343.
October 7	9AM-4PM	Invasive Plant Symposium: The Silent Invaders—Identification & Management of Invasive Plants ". CT Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWIG) @ UConn, Storrs, CT. Registration form & program posted at www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg . Registration & payment postmarked by August 31, 2004 & mailed to Donna Ellis at UConn. No walk-in registrations will be allowed. Brochures: email donna.ellis@uconn.edu or 860-486-6448.
October 24		Fall Festival MG Auer Farm, Bloomfield, CT. Contact: Cyndi Wyskiewicz 860-486-6343
November 6	10AM	Workshop: Winter Care of Roses @ Elizabeth Park. Free. Meet @ gazebo. 860-231-9443 / www.elizabethpark.org
November 13		CMGA Annual Meeting. <i>Location and program to be announced</i>

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

PRSR
STD
U.S Postage
PAID
Permit #42
Guilford, CT

Marie Dube
455 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525

06525+1647 03



Save the Date

Plant Science Day

CT Agricultural
Experiment Station

Wednesday, August 4,
2004
10AM - 4PM

Lockwood Farm
Evergreen and
Kenwood Avenues,
Hamden, CT
Tel: 203-974-8500 or
Tollfree 877-855-2237
www.caes.state.ct.us

Fairfield County Extension Center

Garden Fair

Saturday, August 14,
2004
1PM - 4PM

Fairfield County
Extension Office, Be-
thel
Stonyhill Road (Rte 6),
Bethel, CT
Tel: 203-792-4303

September Symposium

Hartford County
Extension Center

Tuesday, September 21,
2004, 9AM to 12PM
Breakfast from 8.15AM

Elizabeth Park, Prospect &
Asylum Aves, Hartford
Hands on talks by Donna
Fuss, Bob Prill, Bill Tumull
of Elizabeth Park.
Register: 860-677-8645
Paul24wor@aol.com

Invasive Plant Symposium

CT Invasive Plant
Working Group

Thursday, October 7,
2004

Donna Ellis at
donna.ellis@uconn.edu
Tel: 860-486-6448
[www.hort.uconn.edu/
cipwg](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg)

Register by August 31,
2004



CMGA SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

The CMGA Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2004 from 9.30AM – 12PM in the Jones Auditorium at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Huntington Street, New Haven, Connecticut. The meeting is open to everyone, although only CMGA members are able to cast a vote.

The November Semi-Annual Meeting of CMGA has two main items of business: to receive the Treasurer's Report for the year, and to elect new officers of the Association for the year commencing January 1, 2005.

The officers are elected by a ballot of CMGA members present at the meeting. All positions are

for a term of one year, no officer to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Becky Raiola-Paul has been president of the Association for the past two years and was vice-president for two years before that. She now retires. **Paul Grimmeisen** has been vice-president for the past two years and now stands for election as president. **Peter Lirot** has been the treasurer for the past two years, and has been nominated as vice-president. **Billy Baxter** has agreed to have his name put forward as treasurer. **Sandy Myhalik** was secretary for the past year and has offered to continue as secretary for a further year.



Combining food and gardening, Louis Lista will share his creative ideas on decorating the buffet table

But first . . . Coffee, pastries, and time to meet and greet fellow CMGA members. Then sit back while Louis Lista of the Pond House Café at Elizabeth Park entertains us with ideas on using items from garden and kitchen to decorate a buffet table and create edible table centerpieces for the holidays.

TIME TO RENEW!

CMGA memberships expire on December 31, 2004

Renew your membership today to continue to receive these great benefits:

- ◆ Quarterly editions of The Laurel newsletter, with the latest CMGA and Extension Center news, upcoming classes, MG outreach projects and class reports
- ◆ CMGA Membership Directory
- ◆ Discounted price on the CMGA Annual Symposium

Membership fees help support CMGA funding for:

- ◆ CMGA UCONN School of Agriculture scholarship awarded annually to a deserving student
- ◆ Outreach projects that qualify for funding assistance
- ◆ MG Intern tuition grants for those students who qualify for financial aid
- ◆ Outstanding speakers at CMGA meetings and events.

Keep connected and support our valuable and important organization! Your 2005 Membership renewal application is on page 15

Inside this issue:

CMGA Business	2
CMGA News.....	3
CMGA Reports	5
MG Outreach Reports	7
AMG Fall/Winter Classes	10
AMG Class Reports	11
MG Workshops.....	12
News from the Garden.....	13
The Laurel Calendar	14
Membership Renewal Form	15

CMGA Officers 2004

President

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

Vice-President

Paul Grimmeisen
24 White Oak Road
Farmington, CT 06032
860-677-8645
paul24wor@aol.com

Treasurer

Peter Lirot
39 Burr Hill Road
Killingworth, CT 06419
860-663-1595
plirot@aol.com

Secretary

Sandy Myhalik
89 Ely Road
Farmington, CT 06032
860-677-0504
myhalik@comcast.net

Membership

Connie Schultz
25 Laurel Drive
Stafford Springs, CT 06076
860-684-1561
connie@schultz@hotmail.com

Cooperative Extension Center

Coordinators (by County):

Fairfield: Sandi Wilson 203-207-8440
Fairfield (Stamford): Regina Campfield
203-329-3363
Hartford: Katie Melvin 860-570-9010
Litchfield: Lorna Delaney 860-626-6240
Middlesex: John Castagno 860-345-4511
New Haven: Mira Schachne 203-407-3161
New London: Melissa Smith 860-887-1608
Tolland: Mary Collins 860-870-6934
Windham: Kim Kelly 860-776-9600

**Uconn Home & Garden Education
Center:** 877-486-6271

Liaison: Cyndi Wyskiewicz

877-486-6271
cwyskiew@canr.cag.uconn.edu

The Laurel Editors:

Barbara Duffy
Barbduffy2@aol.com
Hilary Forsyth
rayhbf@optonline.net

CMGA website: www.ctmga.org

From the President . . .

The foliage has peaked and the first hard frost hit us in Vermont on October 5th. It won't be long now before our Connecticut gardens are hit as well. Are you prepared?



This certainly has been a busy year for our 2004 Master Gardener Interns - it seems like just yesterday we welcomed them as associate members. Graduations are coming up over the next few weeks - do try to attend, lend your support and offer congratulations for a job well done!

November is a very important month for CMGA for two reasons. First, you are reminded to renew your membership for 2005. Our membership year runs from January through December. Complete the enclosed form and return it before the holidays begin to ensure you remain active.

The second important event is our Semi-Annual Meeting, to be held this year on November 6th at

CAES in New Haven. Officers will be voted on for the coming year. I've acted as Vice President for two years and President for two years. As a result, there will be a fresh new slate of nominations for President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Our Secretary will remain. Please join us to vote in and welcome our new officers!

It really has been a great privilege working with this organization over the last four years. We've grown our membership tremendously, as well as our financial assets. New faces have come forward to serve on the Board of Directors, edit *The Laurel*, and manage other aspects of our day to day efforts. Our relationship with UCONN has become strong. We're in a great place to continue our dynamic growth into the next year.

Thank you for your ongoing support!
Becky

Membership dues increase

The CMGA Board has agreed a \$3 increase in membership dues, to \$20 per year. This will cover rising postal and printing fees without reducing the level of donations and grants provided by CMGA.

The Laurel is published a minimum of four times a year for the members of the Connecticut Master Gardener Association. Please send news, photographs and calendar items to Hilary Forsyth at rayhbf@optonline.net.

**Deadline for February
2005 issue:
January 1, 2005**

CMGA Annual UCONN Scholarship Award

CMGA is pleased to announce the recipient of the student scholarship award for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture. **James Reviczky** was recommended by the Department of Plant Science and has been selected as the 2004-2005 recipient of CMGA's \$2,500 scholarship. James has an undergraduate education degree from UCONN and will be majoring in landscape architecture.

SAVE THE DATE!
2005 CMGA March Symposium
Gardeners In Print

Saturday, March 19, 2005, 9AM – 4.30PM
(Registration 8.30AM)

Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT
Fee: CMGA members \$50 / non-members \$60
Lunch is included in the fee

**Announcing the CMGA
March Symposium
March 19, 2005**

By Barbara Walker

You thought the 2004 Symposium program was as good as it gets. Wait till you see what's in store on March 19, 2005 at Manchester Community College, when the CMGA presents **Gardeners In Print**. We'll get to listen to gardeners whose additional talent is writing about our favorite obsession.

Ken Druse will keynote the day. Writer of about ten beautiful award-winning books, Ken's many titles include works on plant propagation, shade gardening, garden design and use of native plants. **Pat Stone**, contributor to

Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, will close the symposium with equal doses of humor and lore. Stone, editor of the book, *Weeder's Digest*, brightens any gathering.

Also slated to speak are: **Sal Gilberti**, because herbs continue to fascinate us; "Gardenlady" **C.L. Fornari**, and **Tom Christopher** on the myth and reality of "low maintenance" gardening, and **Robert Gillmore** who believes in creating *Beauty All Around You*. **Paula Panich** will speak on writing about plants and gardens, and garden photographer **Karen Busolini** will preview her book on silver plants.

The program committee is still filling the last few slots in the program. Meanwhile, as the gardening year slowly winds down,

browse your library or book store for the works of these authors. Then get ready to meet them in person at the start of another gardening year.

**Garden and Plant
Photo Competition**

Save all the wonderful photographs you took in the garden this year! Your photo could win a prize at the 2005 March Symposium

Full details of the Symposium and registration forms will be mailed out in January 2005, and will also be available on the CMGA website, www.ctmga.org.

Introducing . . .

Earlier this year, Hilary Forsyth and Barbara Duffy became the new co-editors of The Laurel. They aim to make the newsletter as effective as possible, providing CMGA news and reports on events, outreach projects and classes.

Hilary was certified as a Master Gardener in 1999 out of the North Haven Extension Center. She attained her Advanced Master Gardener certification in 2003. Hilary has been a volunteer at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford for several years, where she takes care of the perennial border. She



Hilary Forsyth

assists with the MG classes in Stamford, and is a regular mentor in the Plant Clinic at the Bartlett.

Barbara lives in Wallingford, and took the Master Gardener program in Haddam in 2001. She has completed the Advanced Master Gardener requirements, and will graduate with the next class. Barbara fell in love with gardening as a college student when she worked transplanting in greenhouses, and was excited to finally have the time to pursue this hobby more seriously.



Barbara Duffy

Hilary and Barbara welcome feedback from readers, and suggestions that will help to make the newsletter

something that CMGA members can rely on and enjoy reading.

You can contact Hilary at rayhbf@optonline.net and Barbara at Barbduffy2@aol.com.

Congratulations newly certified Master Gardeners!

2004 Master Gardener Graduation Dates

Litchfield and Hartford Counties	Friday, October 29, 2004 : 6PM
Tolland and Windham Counties	Friday, November 5, 2005 : 6PM
Fairfield County (Stamford)	Sunday, November 7, 2004 : 2PM
Middlesex and New London Counties	Tuesday, November 16, 2004 : 6PM
Fairfield and New Haven counties	Friday, November 19, 2004 : (brunch)

Outreach Project Funding Assistance

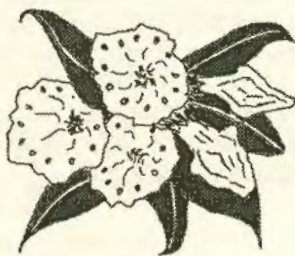
A limited number of outreach projects are eligible for up to \$300 funding per project through CMGA. Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Interns should apply for funding through their Extension Center Coordinator who will forward the request to the CMGA Board. Advanced Master Gardeners should apply in writing to the vice-president, Paul Grimmeisen (see page 2 of The Laurel for contact information). The CMGA Board reviews requests monthly. Some examples of projects that have been approved for funding recently are the projects at Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford, Heublein Tower in Avon (see article on page 9), landscaping at a Habitat For Hu-

manity house in Farmington, and creation of a new garden at the Litchfield County Extension Office. Written requests for funding should include the following information:

- Project overview, location, and community benefit.
- Extension Center Coordinator name (MGs and Interns only) and whether the project is approved.
- Project leader and contact information as well as other MGs and interns involved.
- Start and completion dates.
- Other community organizations involved and/or contributing.
- Plans, site designs, plant material selection.
- Ongoing maintenance plan.
- Approximate costs.

Caterpillars on the Foliage of Conifers in the Northeastern United States

To obtain a free copy of the book, "Caterpillars on the Foliage of conifers in the Northeastern United States (publication FHTET-2004-1) or a CD-ROM of it, contact: Richard Reardon by phone, mail or email:
Richard Reardon
USDA Forest Service
Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team
180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505
Phone: 304-285-1566
Email: rreardon@fs.fed.us



Drawing by Diana Ringelheim

In memory of Lori Lundeberg

"Her Favorite Garden was of Family and Friends"

Submitted by Mary Collins

A tragic ATV accident recently took the life of Lori Lundeberg of Ellington, a Master Gardener who was in the Vernon class of 2000. Lori had recently completed the Advanced Master Gardener program. She leaves a husband and three daughters Kailyn, Chelsea, and Madison. A fund has been established for the benefit of Lori's children, and those who would like to contribute can mail a check made out to the Lori Lundeberg Children's Fund, PO Box 59, Ellington, CT 06029.

Elizabeth Park Hosts Master Gardeners



Symposium participants in the formal annual garden with its backdrop of mature trees and shrubs

What could be more fun than spending a beautiful fall day in outdoor classes at Elizabeth Park, with three of the top gardeners in New England? The September 21, 2004 event was a mini symposium held by the Hartford County Extension Center. Kudos should go to the Co-chairmen Paul Grimmeisen and John Neff for organizing this thoroughly enjoyable morning at one of Connecticut's treasures –



Bob Prill talks to the group about the design and care of the summer annual beds at Elizabeth Park

Elizabeth Park.

The day began with breakfast at The Pond House and a presentation of a donation of \$1,000 to the Friends of Elizabeth Park represented by Sali Riege. She thanked CMGA for the donation of money and

over 100 gardening books donated by individual CMGA members for their new library. She also told the group about the desperate need for more volunteers at Elizabeth Park. Cutbacks in staff and the recent decline in volunteers have made it very difficult to maintain

these beautiful gardens. Master Gardeners are particularly valuable volunteers, and anyone interested can call the Friends of Elizabeth Park at 860 231 9443, or fill out the form on their website

www.elizabethpark.org.

Over 100 people attended the September 21st seminar and they were broken up into three groups which rotated through outdoor lectures in the rose garden, the perennial garden and the annual garden. Donna Fuss, the Elizabeth Park Rosarian, spoke on roses; Bill Turull, owner of Garden Sales Nursery in Manchester, spoke on



Donna Fuss, Rosarian at Elizabeth Park, shares her extensive knowledge of roses

perennials; and Bob Prill, who manages the annual gardens and greenhouses for Elizabeth Park, spoke on annuals. Each speaker generously shared their vast knowledge and lots of gardening tips that they have discovered over the years. Participants were very enthusiastic about the sessions and were excited about trying some of the new techniques and varieties they learned about. All in all – it was a great day!

Federated Garden Clubs Landscape Design Study Program

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. will be offering Course III of The Landscape Design Study Program on March 22-24, 2005 in Jones Auditorium at the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06504.

The program is open to the public. The four courses in the program may be taken in any order. Each course has a two day lecture period taught by landscape architects and other professionals. The morning of the third day is set aside for an optional exam. Among the topics covered in Course III are: color, accessories and maintenance in the landscape, introduction to urban design, parks, playgrounds and conserva-

tion areas, graphics interpretation and guidelines for evaluating landscape design.

Cost for Course III is \$70.00. A one day lecture may be attended for \$40.00. Pre-registration is required.

For more details please contact: Regina Neal, 67 Ledyard Road, West Hartford, CT 06117. Phone: 860-233-7200. E-mail: ramn1@aol.com.

Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference – 2004



Standing l-r, Dermott Breen, Paul Grimmeisen, Kim Kelly. Seating l-r, John Neff, Sue Breen, Carol Quish, Cyndi Wyskiewicz)

Twelve Connecticut Master Gardeners attended the Regional Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland, October 5 to 9 along with 475 other Master Gardeners from the Northeast. Highlights were speakers such as Rick Drake and Colston Burrell, and tours of the Baltimore municipal park system and the newly renovated harbor.

This was the 6th inter-national or regional conference for Master Gardeners Sue and Dermott Breen of Southbury who make it a part of their vacation plans each year. They are looking forward next year to the inter-national conference to be held in Calgary, Canada with tours in the Candaian Rockies. Two years from now the regional conference will be held in Newport, Rhode Island and the Connecticut Master Gardeners have been asked to help. The conference is a great chance to meet other MG's from nearby States and exchange ideas.

Attending this year were: Steve Aitken, Sue and Dermott Breen, Regina Campfield, Paul Grimmeisen, Jean Gregory, Kim Kelly, John Neff, Carol Quish, Melissa Smith, Teddi Therkildsen, and Cyndi Wyskiewicz.

Bethel Extension Center Garden Fair

By Hilary Forsyth

On August 14, 2004, the Bethel Extension Center held their Second Annual Garden Fair. It was a tremendous success, with over 100 visitors coming to the event.

A wide variety of programs were on offer. Indoors there were presentations on "Weeds as Indicators" by Ingrid McCauley, and "Common Plant Problems and Garden Pests" by Joe Maisano.

Outside in an area adjacent to the parking lot several tables were set up with displays and information on gardening-related topics.



Jill Kotch and Betsy Greene give advice on how to deal with invasive plants

When I visited, the invasives table was generating a lot of interest, with enormous samples of invasive plants (why have one Norway maple leaf, when you can have a 6-foot sapling!) and plenty of good advice provided by Jill Kotch and Betsy Greene. At the Master Gardener Plant Clinic booth, Sue Deilus was among the MGs discussing gardening problems with the public. The table was piled high with reference books, and extension coordinator Sandi Wilson's favorite bugs were on display.

Steve Aiken, Editor of Fine Gardening Magazine, gave an excellent demonstration on Container Gardening. Lisa Pecunia and Nancy Gould provided information and a

storyboard of photos on the Scott Fanton Museum, where MGs have restored and care for the gardens. And, of course, Cyndi Wyskiewicz and Paul Grimmeisen were there, selling MG T-shirts, tote bags and mugs and spreading the word about our Master Gardener course.

Cindy Hunt Stowell led a large group of people on a Wildflower Identification Walk, and Carol Beerbaum gave a presentation entitled "Fall is for Planting" and provided a tour of the Extension Center's Gardens.

Popular as these exhibits and displays were, two tables proved to be even more of a hit than all the others. The lure of a free plant offered to early arrivals ('while stocks last') had people lining up well before opening time; and the table offering free refreshments – home-made cookies and bottled water – with enthusiastic 'salesmanship' by Mike Smith and Eugene Rosen did a roaring trade.

The Master Gardeners mentioned are only the ones I happened to talk to and whose names I noted: there were many more who added to the success of this event. This dedicated and enthusiastic group made the garden fair a stellar occasion.



The Plant Clinic booth attracted many customers and raised plenty of questions

News from Camp Harkness 2004

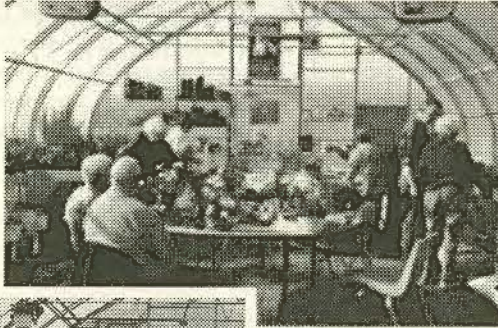
By Julia Griswold

Our greenhouse program at Camp Harkness in Waterford provides a wonderful activity in the fall and winter months for a group of residents from Crossroads Place an assisted living facility in Waterford CT. In November, we plant bulbs in layers in the greenhouse and they provide a succession of spring color. Tomato seeds will also be planted in November, and we hope the tomatoes are ripe in April, to go with our crop of mesclun greens which the residents will plant in window boxes. Valentine's Day inspires a flower arranging session, and the group produces very attractive baskets using local evergreens, red and white carnations and baby's breath to take back to Crossroads.

As spring draws nearer (it is always summer in the greenhouse where bougainvillea, bananas, and cannas rub shoulders with geraniums and impatiens), we plan to seed many annuals which will fill boxes, baskets and beds in the camp and also provide material for the Friends of Harkness plant sale in May. This season Charlie Tefft will add a heated seed starter which will greatly aid in seedling germination. Master Gardener Elisabeth Gardner keeps the plants under her wing, popping in to the greenhouse on a regular basis between sessions.

In April, we move outside as the weather allows, to the accessible gardens where there is much to be done. Our four new raised beds near the greenhouse require a fence before planting can begin to ward off deer, and irrigation and stone dust walk-

ways will be added to enable wheelchair gardeners to participate. The water garden will gain a new pump and have part of its fence repaired. The volunteers watched impatiently for the many fall planted tulips, donated by Master Gardener Ken Graham, to emerge in the new bed at the front entrance. The overgrown hedge near the guardhouse was



Master Gardeners work with residents from Crossroads Place in the sunny greenhouse at Camp Harkness



finally removed last summer and was replaced by a new sustainable garden with plants provided by The Judges Farm in Old Lyme.

This is a very dedicated group of master gardeners who donate hours of volunteer time. Madeline Benyeda is our photographer/ publicity person and Judy Bombaci, in addition to her weekly commitment to the program brings in truckloads of mulch. Elisabeth Gardner makes sure the plants in the greenhouse get plenty of water, and Mary

Maria wages war on weeds in the spring and helps maintain the beds with the assistance of her husband Dave. Bob Regan is our water garden guru and Bruce Reiber is the designer of our greenhouse and, with help from the local correctional facility, has converted a large rocky area originally chest high in sumac into a lovely rock garden. He also brings beer for our summer picnics.

Albert Romboni is always to be depended upon, chauffeuring Julia to and from the Camp and offering his endless ability to fix almost anything. Albert and Chuck Weidig, Dave Maria, Ken Graham, and Bob Regan, built the greenhouse under the talented leadership of Bruce Reiber. Mary Smeraldi, our very generous donor of funds to build the greenhouse, is a constant supporter year round bringing humor and often a batch of brownies for our summer picnics.

Last, but definitely not least, is Charlie Tefft, our compost king and teacher. Charlie, Judy Bombaci and Liz Gardner successfully run the program when Julia is unavailable.

This list of volunteers seems very long but we **DESPERATELY** need new faces. 2004 is the first year that we have not welcomed new students, so we are very hopeful that the class of 2005 will join us to do their hours and/or those of you who are looking for hours for your advanced certificate.

Please call me at 860-535-3061 or email at juliagrishwold@comcast.net.

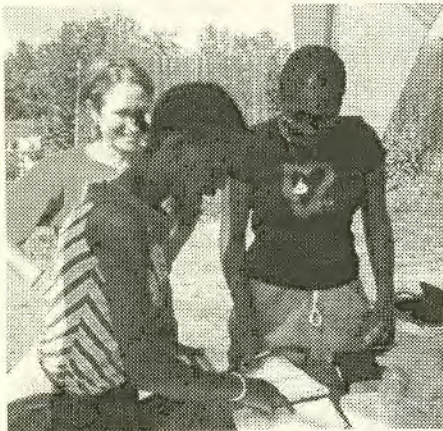
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**SOIL AND THE CITY
Gardeners of the Future
Learn as they Grow**

By Merry McDonnell

"So you know that skirt that they had in the mall that we saw, well, I got it... yeah, I know my mom said it is TOO short but it is so cute...here, this squash goes in the compost, but let's cut it up into little pieces because it will compost faster that way...and those tomatoes, you know they NEED some help from the compost...."

Typical teenager conversation? Sure it is. Typical for the eight Hartford teenagers who are part of the urban agriculture education program GrowHartford.



"Students . . . learn to run a business with checking account and deposits" Laura Brown watches as two of the GrowHartford teenagers calculate produce prices at the farmstand

In a converted half-acre lot under an I-84 overpass into Hartford, youth and staff created an organic vegetable operation that "encourages active lifestyles and fosters community action". The goal of this project, part of the Hartford Food System, is "to eventually be an outdoor classroom for more than one hundred young people and families to learn about healthy food choices and how food is grown."

GrowHartford runs a farmer's



"Welcome to GrowHartford's Laurel Street Farmers Market Saturdays 9 - 12 July to October"

market at 75 Laurel Street on Saturdays, offering various organically grown vegetables from 9 AM to noon. Much of the produce comes from their partner, Holcomb Farm Community Supported Agriculture

in Granby, in this first summer of the project. However, one teenager reports proudly as he mans the farmstand, "Those beets, we grew them right here! And next year when the soil is better, the tomatoes will do better too!"

Residents of a nearby elderly housing complex drop by to purchase vegetables for the week, or stop to watch the teenagers weeding, building raised beds for perennial herbs, or learning in their outdoor classroom. Students keep journals on their farming lessons, and maintain an online blog website:

www.growhartford.blogspot.com. They also take trips to area farms and agriculture programs, learn to run a business with checking account and deposits, weigh produce, and, of course, learn to compost.

Several city programs take youth out to the country to see where food is grown. However, GrowHartford brings the farm into the city. Program director Laura Brown explains, "We wanted to connect the program to youth and the neighborhoods where the kids come from, and the only way to do

that is to farm in the city." One teenager sums it all up when she says, "We picked beans this morning. Picking beans can be very stressful so we made it into a game. We played Bean Basketball and shot the beans in to the bucket and we filled it up faster. Today we also had our Farmers Market and we are becoming very successful with our market because our food is good and people love that."

For more information, contact Laura Brown at www.outreach@hartfordfood.org

"GrowHartford is a project of the Hartford Food System, promoting a sustainable and equitable food system in Hartford by cultivating youth leadership and civic participation through agriculture." - Grow Hartford Project promotional pamphlet



"Those beets, we grew them right here!" A tempting array of fresh vegetables is offered for sale

Master Gardeners Reach Out

Creative Collaboration at The Heublein Tower

By Christina Beebe

"Many hands make light work" is an old adage appropriate for this season's outreach project by five of the UCONN Master Gardener interns from Torrington. Under the auspices of the Friends of the Heublein Tower and the State of Connecticut's DEP, we designed and planted the Tower's Circle Garden, located in a lovely shady glade on the Tower's southern



Dad and daughter, Paul and Stephanie Zaloom from Simsbury, make a great team

side. Seventy "Dads and Daughters" volunteered from Valley Community Baptist Church for planting day on June 12th 2004, and hundreds of annuals were donated by the

Pickin' Patch farm in Avon. Funding for the trees, shrubs and perennials was provided by generous donations from the Heublein Tower, the Connecticut Master Gardener Association, Valley Community Baptist Church, and several private donors.

Clearing out the convallaria was our most odious task, but the finished product is glorious! *Betula nigra* 'Little King' anchors the bed, while *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Pee Wee', *Ilex crenata* 'Beehive' and *Pieris japonica* 'Valley Valentine' serve as distinctive textures. The woodland mountaintop is a perfect location for the various native ferns, lamium, astilbe and epimedium that thrive here.

We have been very fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of the Friends of the Tower, as well as season-long maintenance from the DEP. We are looking forward to an ongoing partnership as we redesign the exposed western facing slopes next season, hopefully while mentoring our incoming Master Gardeners!



Taking a break from their work in the Heublein Tower's shady Circle Garden are (L-R): Kathy Rohrs, Diane Brescia, Kathryn King, Kathryn Hoidge (co-president of the Friends of the Heublein Tower), Pauline Musto, Christina Beebe

We hope you will be among the 100,000 visitors to the Tower this coming year! If you see MG Interns Kathy Rohrs, Pauline Musto, Kathryn King, Diane Brescia or Christina Beebe watering or weeding, please stop and say hello!

The Heublein Tower is located in Avon, Connecticut, overlooking the Farmington River Valley. The property is on The National Register of Historic Places, and is utilized by thousands of hikers and nature lovers annually. Volunteers are always needed! Contact Christina Beebe at 860-651-3122.

A Facelift for an Old School

By Sandy Myhalik

In the spring of this year, the Farmington Master Gardeners were contacted by Lisa Troy, a parent volunteer at Noah Wallace School, to solicit their help in redoing the landscaping at the 100 year old school for its centennial celebration, and also to create a children's reading garden. Next year Noah Wallace is planning to have a big centennial celebration, and Lisa and the rest of the Parent Teacher Organization wanted to make the school look as beautiful as possible because it's the oldest continuously operating elementary school in Connecticut! So, Master

Gardeners Sandy Myhalik, John Neff, Paul Grimmeisen, Bob Slabinski, Barbara Brennemen and Marge Bingham met with Lisa Troy several times in the winter and early spring to discuss the ideas and draw up plans for the new garden.

Lisa Troy was able to get many donations from local garden stores especially Lexington Gardens, who generously donated all the front foundation plantings. Master Gardener Sandy Myhalik drew the plans for the new gardens, and in April the Master Gardeners and several parent volunteers led by Lisa Troy, all got together to mark out the new gardens, turn over the soil, work in new compost, and

move several plants. One month later, we all assembled once more to plant the new shrubs. It was a very busy and exhausting day of work but the final results were worth it. Now, we're looking forward to next years Centennial Celebration in the beautiful new gardens at Noah Wallace School!

"I can not thank you enough for what you gave to our school. Our research of the last 100 years at Noah Wallace School revealed that the courtyard was at one time a parking lot. It sure has come a long way!" - Kelly M. Lyman, Principal, Noah Wallace School.

Advanced Master Gardener Fall/Winter Classes

Date and Time	Location	Topic
November 6, 2004 Saturday: 9AM - 1.30PM	Haddam	Garden Photography
November 13, 2004 Saturday: 9.30AM - 12.30PM	North Haven	The Making of a Thrilling Small Rock Garden
November 13, 2004 Saturday: 10AM - 1PM	Bethel	Formal Herb Garden Design
January 8, 2005 Saturday: 10AM - 12PM Snowdate: January 15	Storrs	Fun With A Dozen Roses
January 11, 2005 Tuesday: 6PM - 7.30PM	Storrs	Architects of the Land - What is Landscape Architecture?
January 11, 2005 Tuesday: 7PM - 9PM	Haddam	Houseplants and their Personalities
January 15, 2005 Saturday: 9AM - 12PM	Storrs	Non-Toxic Cleaning for the Home and A Natural Bath and Body Workshop
January 18, 2005 Tuesday: 1PM - 3PM	Bethel	Orchids for Everyone
January 31, 2005 Monday: 1PM - 3PM	Bethel	All About Nematodes
February 1, 2005 Wednesday: 6PM - 9PM	Haddam	Basics of Landscape Design
February 5, 2005 Saturday: 9.30AM - 11.30AM	North Haven	Backyard Plant Invaders - Aggressive plants in your Yard
March 5, 2005 Saturday: 10AM - 1PM	West Hartford	So You Want to Start a Gardening Business?
March 12, 2005 Saturday: 10 - 12PM	West Hartford	Ecological Design of Gardens and Borders
March 12, 2005 Saturday: 1PM - 3PM	West Hartford	Ecological Maintenance of Perennial Gardens

Check the Home and Garden Center website
www.canr.uconn.edu/garden/programs/amg
 for all details on class times, locations, presenters, topics, registration fees,
 registration deadlines, and registration forms.
 Or Phone UConn Home and Garden Education Center at
877-486-6271

The UConn Home & Garden Education Center Programs are open to everybody; Master Gardeners get a substantial discount on class prices, but non-Master Gardeners are always welcome. Master Gardeners who wish to apply for their Advanced Master Gardener certification need to accrue at least 20 hours of class time over a 3-year period, and a further 5 hours of class time per year thereafter in order to maintain that status.

Insect Surveillance: Butterflies, Dragon- flies, and Common Insects of Connecticut with Bill Yule

By Diana Ringelheim

Bill Yule led a class of Master Gardeners on a magical mystery tour through an ordinary vacant lot in Bethel on a sunny day in August. Grasses, sedges, clovers, bird's foot trefoil, fleabane, spotted knapweed, and goldenrod were just some of the plants in residence. They supported a dizzying and dazzling array of flying insects.

Thanks to meticulous notes kept by Alice Smith, we know that the class saw six kinds of dragonflies, two kinds of damselflies (despite the fact that very little standing water was close by), eleven kinds of butterflies, a Japanese beetle, a leaf hopper, and a praying mantis!* Many more insects were probably missed because the class was only in the field for an hour and a half.

Bill introduced us to an ingenious way of observing insects, up close and personal. Instead of trapping (and killing) the insect for viewing with a hand lens or a microscope, Bill uses his birding binoculars to zoom in on the little creatures. Many modern binoculars will focus on an object as close as five feet and this is powerful enough to give you an amazing experience viewing these animals in action. My own binoculars will focus on an object about ten feet away, and even this is close enough to be fascinating. At home after the class, I was much more aware of insect activity in my backyard and used binoculars to see the details. Tiger swallowtails, spicebush swallowtails, cabbage whites, sulphurs, and skippers are absolutely gorgeous when spied upon. After running around the garden after the butterflies, I found it was easier to station myself near a nectar source (lantana,



The class didn't have to go far to find insects. In the perennial garden outside the classroom at the Bethel Extension Center, Bill Yule uses the handle of his butterfly net to point out a small butterfly.

agastache, coneflower, etc) and wait for the rainbow parade to come to me.

Dragonflies and damselflies share some characteristics and diverge in other characteristics such as position of wings and colors. Both begin life in water in their larval stage, when they are referred to as naiads or nymphs. Dragonflies can live for years as larvae, going through eight to fifteen instars before emerging as adults. They are voracious feeders, consuming mosquito larvae, fish fry, and any other small bits of animal matter in the water. In temperate zones, the adults only live for one to two months but they also feed heavily, often on mosquitoes. None of the 400 - 500 species found in the United States stings or is in any way harmful to humans.

Because the iridescent brilliance of dragonflies and damselflies cannot be easily preserved, they are best appreciated alive. This is true of other insects that inhabit our gardens, even the pests. Using binoculars allows you to glimpse the world the insects occupy without disrupting their

routines or taking their lives.

*Alice Smith's list of insects sighted can be e-mailed or snail-mailed upon request: diana@ringelheim.com or 203-372-8498.

Bill Yule is a high school biology teacher, a freelance naturalist and an ecotourism guide. Mr. Yule is on the board of directors for the local Audubon Society and is involved with many environmental organizations in Guilford where he resides. The class was presented as an Advanced Master Gardener class in July, 2004.

Master Gardener Workshop Reports



Marvin Carley instructs Mira Schachne, Terri Flynn and Gail Eisenhauer.

Stepping Stones Workshop

By Neal Peckham

On Saturday, August 14, 2004 the Master Gardeners of New Haven County sponsored a workshop on the creation of cut glass mosaic stepping stones. Marvin Carley, one of our own master gardeners and an award winning cut glass artisan, was the presenter.

The technique of creating a mosaic was explained, demonstrated, and examples were on display. Marvin brought along numerous containers of cut glass that he prepared ahead of time. He also provided written instructions and many templates that we used to create our own mosaics.

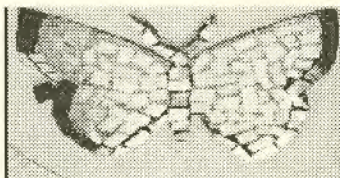
We chose our own colors and laid out the cut glass on top of the

template of our choice. When finished, a piece of pre-cut clear contact paper that matched the size of the mold was laid atop our mosaics and stuck to the glass. Next the contact paper with its attached mosaic was laid into the mold and concrete was poured over it. After a day of hardening the stone is removed from the mold and allowed to cure until the masterpiece is complete.

Naturally, to create your own at home you have to buy cut glass and break it up into small pieces and provide your own mold and concrete.

The activity was easy, enjoyable and very rewarding.

The workshop was held in North Haven and was attended by Neal Peckham, Mira Schachne, Marie Dube, Terri Flynn, Linda Bushey, MaryLee Obert, Marlene, Gail Eisenhauer and Teddi Ther-kildsen.



A beautiful butterfly stepping stone would enhance any pathway



Bittersweet Obelisk Workshop

Submitted by Mary Collins

Creative energy bloomed at the Advanced Master Gardener Bittersweet Obelisk workshop, held in Vernon this past May. Here Lisa Stoddard works on her personal one-of-a-kind creation

Hypertufa Workshop

By Neal Peckham

The Master Gardeners of New Haven County held a workshop on making hypertufa pots on July 17th at the New Haven County Extension office. The presenter was Christina Swanke, a local artist and gardener.

Hypertufa is a process of mixing cement, peat moss and perlite, and molding it into pots and troughs. The products can be embellished in many different ways, thus allowing for one's own creativity.

Once molded, the pots need to harden slowly and cure for 3 months. Then the pots are left out in the rain so the lime in the cement can leach out and not affect the pH of the plants.

The workshop was attended by Master Gardeners Marie Dube, Marylee Obert, Tekki Therkildsen, Arlene Steinlauf, Peggy Eatherton, Vinny Ingala, Joan Lenart, Terri Flynn, Linda Fox and Neil Peckham.



Mixing and molding the hypertufa material is a hands-on activity

See page 10 for a listing of Fall/Winter Advanced Master Gardener classes.

Millipedes and Centipedes

By Sandi Wilson

As fascinating as insects may be, there are other classes of arthropods that warrant the gardener's attention. Many serve important ecological functions in our homes and backyards and are deserving of some recognition. Two examples include millipedes and centipedes. These creatures are not insects at all, but rather examples of two diverse classes of arthropods.

Millipedes are members of the class Diplopoda. The word Diplopoda derives from two Greek words, diplo, meaning double, and poda, meaning foot. Because of the way their bodies are fused, millipedes appear to have two

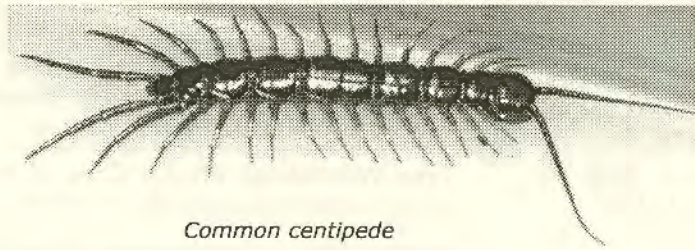


Millipede

pairs of legs per segment, hence the class name Diplopoda. These worm like creatures are generally brownish black in color and range from 1/2" to 1 1/4" long in our area. There is one species from Africa that measures over 11 inches long!

Millipedes are important recyclers in the environment. They feed on decaying vegetative matter and occasionally on dead snails, earthworms and insects. On rare occasions they may damage live plants by their feeding. Millipedes are important inhabitants of the compost pile. They strip the vegetative matter into smaller pieces that create more surface area for the microbes to break down. In addition their bodies and excrement enrich the compost and become food for other organisms that also inhabit the compost pile.

Millipedes love humidity and seek moisture. As a result, they can usually be found under rocks,



Common centipede

in piles of leaves, and even in damp basements. It is in basements and other damp areas that hundreds sometimes turn up, during late summer and fall; distressing homeowners. Drought, excessive rainfall, lack of food, and winter hibernation are all theories used to try to explain these common mass migrations.

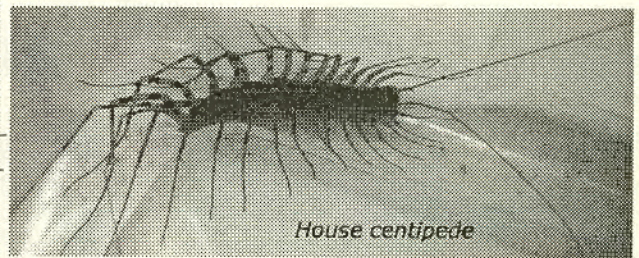
Millipedes do not bite but possess some interesting defense mechanisms. Some species coil up in a "C" shape to avoid predators.

Some species have discharge glands that emit toxic chemicals such as alkaloids, phenols, and even hydrogen cyanide. *Polyxenus fasciculatus* is a species of millipede that is covered in bristles instead of having a smooth body surface. In addition, it has tufts of barb-like bristles that stick to insects and are capable of tying them up and rendering them helpless.

Unlike millipedes, centipedes are endowed with poison fangs that they use to paralyze their prey. Some species can inflict a painful bite if handled, but in general they are considered harmless to humans and even quite beneficial. While millipedes feed primarily on vegetation, centipedes eat small creatures. They are important predators of insects, spiders, slugs, and earthworms.

Centipedes belong to the class of arthropods known as Chilopoda. The word derives from the Greek words kheilos,

meaning lip, and poda, meaning foot. The meaning comes from the fact that members of this class of arthropods have legs that are modified into jawlike appendages. Centipedes can be distinguished from millipedes by the presence of only one pair of legs on each segment. One commonly seen type is the house centipede. Their long legs and habit of scurrying about at a harried pace, sometimes frightens homeowners who describe them as "large and hairy". They are usually more active in the evening, providing a beneficial house cleaning service by controlling other indoor pests including cockroaches. The outdoor species are more elongate and have shorter legs. Centipedes prefer humid environments. Outdoor habitats include rotting wood, piles of leaves, and compost piles where they feed on other organisms. Centipedes are yet another essential member of the food web assisting gardeners in manufacturing that all important compost often called "black gold".



House centipede

Photos by Hilary Forsyth

The Laurel CALENDAR

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
* November 6, 2004 Saturday, 8AM - 12PM	CMGA Annual Meeting and Guest Speaker Louis Lista. Jones Auditorium, CT Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven CT. Contact: Paul Grimmeisen 860-677-8645 or www.paul24wor@aol.com
November 6, 2004 Saturday, 10AM	Free Workshop: Winter Care of Roses. Elizabeth Park, West Hartford - meet at Gazebo. Contact: Friends of Elizabeth Park 860-231-9443 or www.elizabethpark.org
November 13, 2004 Saturday, 8.30AM-3.30PM	Annual SALT (Smaller American Lawns Today) Seminar: "Beauty in Biodiversity" . Olin Science Center Auditorium, CT College Arboretum, New London CT. Contact: 860-439-5020 or www.conncoll.edu/ccrec/greennet/arbo .
November 18, 2004 Thursday, 8PM	Transition in the Landscape by Rick Darke. Monthly meeting of CT Horticultural Society. Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Contact: 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org .
November 15, 2004 Monday, 10AM - 3.30PM	Topiaries by Maureen Laning. NYBG Garden Class at New Canaan Nature Center. To register: www.newcanaannature.org/nybg or call 800-322-6924
December 4 & 5, 2004 Saturday & Sunday, 11AM - 4PM	Family Winter Festival at the Bartlett. Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, Stamford, CT. Contact: 203-322-6971 or www.bartlettarboretum.org
January 20, 2005 Thursday, 8PM	Viburnums to Tempt Any Gardener by Tom Ward. Monthly meeting of CT Horticultural Society. Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Contact: 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org
February 8 - 10, 15 & 16 (5 days)	NOFA's 4th Annual Course in Organic Land Care @ CT Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT. Contact: Bill Duesing, Program Coordinator, 203-888-5164 or ctnofa@ctnofa.org . On-line registration: www.organiclandcare.net . Fee.
February 17, 2005 Thursday, 8PM	New Trees for the Northeast by Brian Maynard. Monthly meeting of CT Horticultural Society. Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Contact: 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org
February 17 - 20, 2005	The Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show , Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, Rhode Island *
February 24-27, 2005 Thursday - Sunday	The Connecticut Flower & Garden Show. Connecticut Expo Center, Hartford, CT
March 10 & 11, 2005 Thursday & Friday	2005 Symposium: The Visitor Experience. Presented by Longwood Graduate Fellows. Hosted at Winterthur, Delaware. Contact: www.udel.edu/LongwoodGrad .
March 17, 2005 Thursday, 8PM	So Many Lilacs, So Little Time by Jack Alexander. Monthly meeting of CT Horticultural Society. Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Contact: 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org
* March 19, 2005 Saturday	CMGA March Symposium : Gardeners In Print. Manchester Community College, Arts, Science & Technology Building, Manchester, CT. Contact: Paul Grimmeisen 860-677-8645 or www.paul24wor@aol.com or ctmga.org

*A Master Gardener bus trip is planned!

To
The Rhode Island Spring Flower
& Garden Show
Friday, February 18, 2005

For details contact Peter Lirot
860-663-1595

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Elizabeth Park is desperately in need of volunteers to help maintain the gardens. If you are able to help, please call Anne Stone at Friends of Elizabeth Park at 860-231-443 or email www.elizabethpark.org.

WANTED!

New and used gardening books to be donated for establishment of a library at Elizabeth Park. Contact Paul Grimmeisen, 860-677-8645, paul24wor@aol.com