

The Laurel

February, 2005

Volume 18, No. 1



CMGA Annual Symposium XII : *Gardeners In Print*

Saturday March 19, 2005, 9AM—4:30PM (Registration 8:30AM)
Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT

The CMGA 12th Annual Symposium is just six weeks away, and it's bound to be sold out. What a program it will be! Keynoter **Ken Druse** is a powerhouse of knowledge and inspiration in garden design. During the day, presentations will be given by some of the best authors in print—12 in all. Then **Pat Stone** will join us for some home-style chicken soup wisdom and humor.



Keynote Speaker Ken Druse

Keynote Speaker - Ken Druse

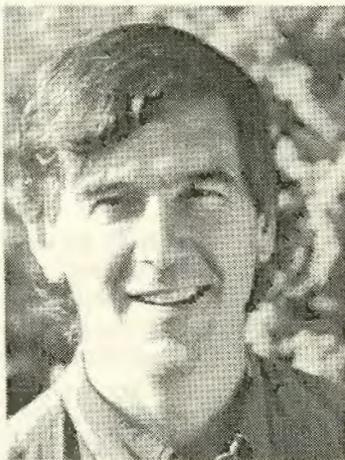
In the competitive world of garden writing, Ken is a recognized master. His newest book, *Ken Druse: The Passion for Gardening* won the 2004 best book of the year from The American Horticultural Society as well as the coveted "Award of the Year," from the Garden Writers Association of America, of which he is also a fellow. Ken believes, "When people connect with nature, things change...People who discover the passion for gardening are able to bring nature into their homes, hearts, minds—their lives."

Ken Druse is nationally known as a garden expert, and with the huge success of his five titles *The Natural Garden*, *The Natural Shade Garden*, *The Natural Habitat Garden*, *The Collector's Garden*, and *Making More Plants: The Science, Art, and Joy of Propagation*, is America's best-loved gardener. He divides his time between his New York City studio, his garden in New Jersey, and lecture engagements around the country.

Further symposium details and information about the Session Speakers on pages 8, 9 & 10.

Closing Speaker - Pat Stone

Real gardeners make mistakes. And some of us do this spectacularly, and publicly. Pat Stone will share with us some of the dirt on gardeners in his talk, "Real Gardeners' True Confessions". Pat is a gifted performer who helps us see the human in humus. Or is it the other way around? Editor/Publisher/Creator of *Green Prints: The Weeder's Digest*, Pat's books and articles have made gardeners laugh and learn. Pat contributed to *Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul*, some of the best gardening stories ever told, and retold.



Pat Stone will end the day with gentle humor

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CMGA Business

Dear Master Gardeners:

Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year. Your board and committee members have been working hard to develop a terrific agenda for 2005. Peter Lirot, our new CMGA VP, has organized a bus trip to the **Rhode Island Flower Show** on Thursday, February 17th leaving from both Hartford and Old Saybrook for \$30, which includes the bus and the entrance fee. A real deal! See the announcement on page 14.

By now you should have received the flyer and registration form for our annual symposium, **Gardeners In Print**. It is the finest gathering of authors I have ever seen, especially for the price. I have been to both regional and international master gardener conferences, and have never seen such a selection of speakers. If you do not sign up early it is truly a loss, as we expect a quick sell out of 400. Further symposium details are in this issue of *The Laurel*, and on our website, www.ctmga.org.

Community focus groups have been formed around the State—see page 6 for their reports. We will keep you posted on these and many other exciting CMGA events coming up in the next months.

See you at the symposium on Saturday, March 19th.

Paul Grimmeisen
President, CMGA

Introducing . . .

We would like to introduce you to the CMGA's new slate of officers, elected at the Semi-Annual Meeting held on November 6, 2004:

Paul Grimmeisen: President

It is easy to find common ground with CMGA President, **Paul Grimmeisen**. During his professional years Paul found relaxation in daily gardening. Often Paul accompanied his friend and bridge partner, John Neff, to CMGA functions. When Paul retired he entered the West Hartford Master Gardener class of 2001. He served two terms as CMGA treasurer, followed by two years as vice president.

Now elected CMGA president, Paul hopes to increase membership and volunteerism. An enthusiastic volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, he advises new homeowners where to locate plants so they will thrive, and how to maintain their lawns. He hopes CMGA members "use the training to help people and get involved with the community."

IPM is high on his list of concerns. What bugs him? "Abuse of chemicals so easily available to the homeowner. They spread much more than they need."

He is a passionate gardener with a special love for hostas and other perennials, which do well in his rocky, shady land. Deer seem to enjoy outwitting the mechanical obstacles he devises. Deer are very grateful for Paul's tasty tulips, azaleas and rhodies; CMGA members are grateful for his dedicated service and leadership.



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 May 2005 issue: April 1, 2005

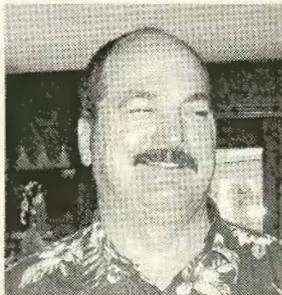
Peter Lirot, Vice President

Peter lives in Killingworth and was our able CMGA Treasurer last year. He graduated from the 2000 Haddam Extension Center MG program and is currently working on his AMG certification. A past President of the Killingworth Garden Club, Peter is interested in raised bed gardening and growing unusual plants such as paw paw. The vegetables from his garden are canned and then used in cooking. Peter loves to cook and is famous for his marinara sauce with meatballs. He says "the end of the gardening day usually finds me at our fish pond with a nice glass of Merlot (for medicinal purposes)."



Billy Baxter: Treasurer

Billy recalls that he often had to help his father with gardening chores on the family's small farm in Mississippi. Billy moved to Connecticut many years ago and on his retirement, found he had more time to concentrate on his own garden in Wallingford. His efforts drew many compliments from the neighbors, and soon people were stopping by to ask for gardening tips and advice. His father had been a Master Gardener, and Billy realized that taking the Master Gardener course would help increase his own knowledge and understanding of the plant world. He graduated out of the Stamford class in 2002. Billy grows a mix of annuals and perennials, many from seed, and believes that a well-tended lawn is key to enhancing any garden.



Sandy Myhalik: Secretary

Sandy will return as the CMGA Secretary, and always does a very efficient job of capturing the CMGA meeting minutes. Not an easy task, due to the enthusiastic and sometimes unruly discussions at monthly board meetings! She lives in Farmington and completed her Master Gardener program at the West Hartford Extension Center in 2003. She is an



active mentor and says, "I'll mentor anyone who listens to me." She is also working on her AMG certification.

Sandy is the annual symposium registrar, and has worked on projects at the Farmington Library, Noah Wallace School, the Habitat for Humanity house in Farmington, as well as the Unionville town gazebo. She is an avid home gardener with a special interest in landscaping, perennial gardening and water gardening.

A TREE FOR TEDDY

By Hilary Forsyth

It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of 14-year old Teddy Ebersol in a plane crash in Colorado in November 2004. Teddy was the youngest son of Connecticut Master Gardener Susan Saint James and her husband, Dick Ebersol. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family on their tragic loss.

Susan Saint James became a Master Gardener in 1997. She was the keynote speaker at the CMGA Symposium in March 2004, when she spoke about the Power of Gardening. She entertained us all with lively and energetic descriptions of how she became involved in gardening, and inspired us with her strong belief in volunteerism as a foundation of life.

Ms. Saint James is able to combine her love of gardening with her dedication to helping people. She has worked with the challenged in the Enabling Garden at Waterford's Camp Harkness, with the Connecticut Special Olympics, and with the Unified Gardening Project which supports the mentally handicapped in the Litchfield area. She also has her own business enterprise, Seedling and Pip, supplying books and gifts for new-borns.

In memory of her son, Teddy, the CMGA is proposing to plant a tree in the Litchfield Library Garden. It is felt this would be a fitting tribute, as Teddy was an avid reader. Master Gardeners in the Litchfield area have worked in this garden, and the tree will be carefully tended and watched over as it grows to maturity.



MASTER GARDENER CLASS REPORTS

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2005

Master Gardener classes for 2005 commenced the first week of January. CMGA and The Laurel would like to welcome the new Interns into the world of Master Gardeners.

Interns automatically become associate members of the CMGA for the year and receive copies of this quarterly newsletter and the membership directory due out later this month. They also qualify for membership discounts at the upcoming Symposium and other CMGA events.



Regina Campfield, class coordinator, and Cyndi Wyskiewicz with some of the new Interns in the 2005 Stamford class. MG Barbara Leffler, and AMGs Cheron Barton and Lesley Gehr join in

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2004 AND TO THE CERTIFIED ADVANCED MASTER GARDENERS

2004 Fall Certified Advanced Master Gardeners

Fairfield County North Lorraine Ballato Carol R. Beerbaum Denise Bigelow Peggy Borland Anne J. Butler Laurie Gavel	Fairfield County South Lesley Gehr Alice B. Smith Judy Steinberg	Hartford County Marjorie E. Bingham Melissa Haseley Carol Ann Luttrell Marie Lipski Judith Olsen Janet Valencis
Litchfield County Laurie Charleton Marie A. Murphy	New Haven County Pat Bontatibus Barbara Duffy	New London County Janice McCue Charles Tefft
Middlesex County Joene Hendry	Tolland County Dave Durfee Teresa Hessler Lori Lundeberg	Windham County Deb Dulmaine-Coonan Jan McCulloch Eleanore Provencal

AND THE JOURNEY CONTINUES . . .

Advanced Master Gardener Winter Classes

Date and Time	Location	Topic
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

2004 MASTER GARDENER GRADUATES

Litchfield and Hartford Counties

Steve Aiken
Kerstin Andersson
Laurel Bean
William Beardsley
Christina Beebe
Kevin Borla
Diane Brescia
Nancy Cebik
Shirley Cullen
Diane Curtis
June Dalton-Morris
Jack Donohue
Kathleen Donohue
Lisa Durante

Catherine Felten
Noreen Franklin
Sue Frisch
Patricia Gallagher
Robert Goldberg
Patricia Goldberg
Bernadette Grahn
Mary Grant
William Grothaus
Tami Lynn Hayes
Sigrid Hildmann
Susan Janhkne
Andrea Jakiela
Steve Johnson

Kathryn King
Wendy Larsen-Beneke
Loretta Longo
Frank Longo MD
Lois Lounsbury
Lorrie Marfyak
Maureen McDermott
Pauline Musto
Kelly Newman
Joy Norman
Deborah Nye
Susan Oliver
Diane Lynn Pollack
Kathleen Rohrs

Lisa Shaggy
Stan Solkowski
Sarah Sotille
Paula Terwilliger
Charles Thermer
Penelope Totton
Gay Tucker-Duncan
Sergio Vega
Conrad Weeks
Albert Whaples
Cathy Zbuska

North Haven and Fairfield Counties

Shiela Bergmann
Patricia Colwell
Jessica Criscuolo
Warren Delibro
Barbara Dworetzky
Gail Eisenhauer
Pauline Emyle Geer
Dawn Graham
Betsy Greene
Sally Gundy

Marie Hall-Trexler
Rodney F. Hayes
Liz Hellwig
Karen Hope-Murray
Michelle M. Jaffee
Laura Josephson
Glenda Kammerer
Marie Kuntz
Cindy Lehr
Susan J. Llorca

Kathleen Magliochetti
Ron Pascale
Lisa Pecunia
Noel Pelletier
Anna Perry
Evelyn Rauscher
Gillean Reinders
Rita Romano
Nancy Rosenblatt
Bonny Rowe

Jennifer Roy
Mary Sagarin
Rosemary Serfilippi
Susan Sternberg
Barbara Wacholder
Lillemor Wallmark
Constance Wood

New London and Middlesex Counties

Robert Adams
Shannon Aiello
Kathleen Bierwirth
Cheryl Ryerson Baurle
Patricia Bolles
Cynthia Brinkman
Christine Carrieri
Maryann Casciano

Barbara Casey
Diana Charnok
Rosemarie Coney
Patricia Crandall
Andrea Donald
Brian Downey
Victoria Engelhardt
Joan Gibson

Lisa Marie Hill
Pamela Hebert
Jean Howard
Joanne Hurd
Breck Lardner
Ruth MacDonald
Patricia Mandeville
Betty Maugle

Richard Palazzo
Mark Pratt
Carl Sommer
Harold Teller
Barbara Tomasi
Richard Wilber
Norman Ruderman

Tolland and Windham Counties

Henry Bellingher
Bruce Bellingham
Deborah (Walsh)
Bellingham
Barbara Birth
Pamela Brooks
Douglas Bullard
Christina Dahl
Carolyn Drescher
Julie Fogg
Sister Mary Friel, SND

Sharon Gresk
Karen Haraghey
Janet Heller
Cheryl Holtman-Mucci
Margaret Hoskins
Jean Inge
George Ingram
Deborah Johnson
Nancy Kunak
Joan Lacey
Susan Ledger

Nancy Long
Marlene Mayes
Lise McKeever
Maria Masmanian
Stacy Melanson
Sandra Minguy
William Morowski
Steven Morse
Sharon Mystique
Ellen Nichols
Rondi Niles

Kathleen O'Callaghan
Luping Pell
Susan Prest
Jeffrey Rhodes
Jennifer Riggs
Donna Ryan
Louis Santini Jr.
George Treadwell
Diane Wright
Pamela Wright
Stacie Young

Fairfield County (Stamford)

Mary Ellen Baker
Karel Banks
Cheryl Carter
Linda Christians
Linda Cummins
Laura DePreta
Keith Erikson

Susan Frey
Jean Gregory
Betty Johnson
Perry Betteridge Johnston
Geraldine Klein Robbenhaar
Kathy Kling
Julie Kurose

Betsy Malloy
Merry McDonnell
Terry McDonough
Tessa O'Regan
Wally Pugh
Liz Rapp
Emalou Rausen

Jane Romano
Karen Royce
Joan Shaw
Jill Smyth
Susan Sweeney
Judith Weller
Victoria Yolen

REPORTS FROM THE MG FOCUS GROUPS

Avon-Canton-Collinsville MGs

Diane Ostheimer hosted a planning session for the Avon-Canton-Collinsville MG Focus Group at her home on October 27th 2004 with fellow MGs Kathryn Baechle, Mary Harrop, and Kathleen Tallen. The planning group also includes MGs Maria Uzzi, Janis Sanner and Teresa Tracy who were unable to attend.

The group decided that they should meet regularly with scheduled speakers. They plan to have a full meeting on January 25th and invite MGs from Simsbury and Farmington to attend also.

Special projects were also discussed and the Group intends to work at the CMGA Symposium this year. It was a very enthusiastic meeting and they hope to have a big crowd for the January meeting.

Farmington Master Gardeners

Eight Farmington Master Gardeners met at the Farmington library garden on October 15th for a general clean-up of the Library garden for winter. Two members of the Friends of the Library also attended in preparation for their taking over the maintenance of the garden. Plans were made for a breakfast meeting in February 2005 in order to discuss preparation of two summer projects: landscaping of the Farmington Habitat For Humanity House in Oakland gardens, and the gazebo in Unionville center.

Northwest Mountain Laurels

MG Faith Heering has organized a core group of four Master Gardeners from the Torrington area. This group of garden-loving folks includes Faith, Lorna Delaney, Evelyn Betz, and Jackie Shadford. They plan to have educational meetings, develop nearby community projects and to just have fun.

The group decided to have community focus group meetings

on the first Wednesday of each month. They also decided to invite local non-members who were avid gardeners to join. Thirteen people attended the November 1st exploratory meeting and they had an agenda, a meeting place, food, and a raffle. The Core Group met again on November 10th, and two more MGs, Roxann Lovell and



The NW Mountain Laurels Focus Group and invited guests at the group's first meeting

Steve Johnson, joined the group. Our feet were wet, we were ready! We began looking for speakers. We were amazed at the people this group knew who would be willing to speak at our meetings for free!

Art Hall of Contagious Cacti (www.contagious-cacti.com) spoke to sixteen attendees at our December 1st meeting at the Plymouth Town Hall in Terryville. Art spoke for about an hour with the humor and ease that comes from a thorough understanding of his beloved subject: cacti. He was great! The next meeting was January 5th at the Burlington Historical Society and Roxann Lovell spoke. The Foothill Trader has agreed to post our events on their calendar page for free, one week prior to the event.

We expect to continue growing our Northwestern corner community focus group and to gather more gardeners for education, community service and a good time. We expect to have a booth at the symposium in March that will allow all community focus group organizers to recruit new members from their areas.

CMGA Shoreline Chapter

The CMGA Shoreline Chapter met for the very first time at Bauer Farm in Madison on November 18th. Heather Atwater and Barbara Tenney conducted a short business meeting and get acquainted session followed by refreshments. Twenty enthusiastic Master Gardeners attended representing the towns of Branford, Clinton, Guilford, Killingworth, Madison, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook. This group included Kathy Floyd, Pat Bontatibus, Marge Reid, Sally Heffernan, Ron DeMartino, Ted Mankovich, Chris Plum, Marilyn Campbell, Michele Hurteau, Julianne Derken, Ruth Kurle, Terry Bischoff, Nancy Urban, John Rossi, Linda Lawton and Cheryl Baurle. Paul Grimmeisen, President of the CMGA, and John Neff, Membership

Coordinator also joined the group.

It was decided that the focus of the Shoreline Chapter would be community projects, local events, enlisting speakers, planning day trips, and developing camaraderie among members. It was noted that there are CMGA funds available up to \$300 for special projects, which were discussed at the meeting which took place at Bauer Farm on Thursday, January 13th. Special guest at that meeting was Madison farm owner and operator, Scott Cole, who spoke about starting vegetables from seed, and growing plants along the shoreline. Anyone wishing to attend the next meeting or to join the CMGA Shoreline Chapter should contact Heather Atwater (203-421-8489 - e-mail: heathsail@sbcglobal.net) or Barbara Tenney (203-421-5687 - e-mail: btenney@comcast.net).

Beginning February 2005, CMGA Shoreline Chapter meetings will be held at Bauer Farm on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM. Mark your calendars: February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19.

(Continued on page 7)

BOOK REVIEW

Book Review : *The Passion for Gardening* by Ken Druse with Adam Levine, Clarkson Potter/Publishers, New York, 2003, 256 pp

By Barbara Duffy

It is no wonder that Ken Druse's new book *The Passion for Gardening* was voted the best book of the year in 2004 by The American Horticulture Society.

Ken Druse is a gifted writer, a talented photographer, and a nature philosopher, but he is a gardener at heart. He puts into words the reverence that many of us feel for nature. This highly personal book about his "partnership with nature" focuses upon his strong commitment to conservation.

He is a proponent of utilizing restraint with earth threatening chemicals or techniques, controlling invasive plants, using water conservatively, and using native plants. However, that doesn't mean he doesn't have the same weakness that many of us share, when we see a glorious exotic plant and just have to have it. The artist in him just can't resist natural beauty in any form.

The book has over 250 spectacular color photographs that readers will enjoy and get ideas from. Most of the gardens are Northern, and the plants you see in the photos can be successfully utilized in your own gardens. The

"Gardening is always collaboration between a person and at least one partner - nature."

composition of the book's photos emphasizes the need for a good framework for a garden. He shows you why the trees, shrubs, and "bones" of the garden need to be well thought out before you create the individual garden areas. He has some very useful tips on how to use photography to assist in landscape design.

Throughout the book there are photos of gardens that Ken Druse has created on his own properties, in New York City and New Jersey. The photos and gardens are extraordinary and the seasonal photos of his New Jersey property are wonderful.

"Tending the soil with busy hands sets the mind free to dream and can soothe the spirit like no other pursuit"

Ken Druse is a strong believer in the healing powers of gardening. He reminds us through his powerful prose that we need to slow down life's chaotic pace, and that gardening is a great way to do it. The number of gardens that sprung up after September 11th, is a testament to his words.

He takes you on a tour of some extraordinary gardens created by people who share his philosophy.

Ken Druse's horticultural "Golden Rule" is: "As gardeners, we should always strive to improve the health of the earth, leaving places we live better off than we found them."

The gardens are mostly private, and the people who designed them share the evolution of their gardens over the years through photography and words. The gardens are all unique and diverse, ranging from a classic Japanese influenced garden, to a garden that was designed to display works of community artists. Druse has many wonderful photos throughout the book that show how sculpture, stone formations, wrought iron, and other types of garden art can be utilized. A public garden in Philadelphia, Chanticleer, is featured and the photos emphasize how unique this garden has become in the hands of an innovative gardening staff.

There are some areas in the book that provide hands-on gardening advice, and to Master Gardeners this advice will probably seem elementary. His landscape design tips throughout the book, however, are very valuable and provide an artist's perspective. This book is perfect winter therapy for passionate gardeners, but I warn you, it will make you itch to get out in your garden.

Ken Druse's website www.kendruse.com includes a seasonal garden guide with seasonal recipes, photos of Ken's garden, "garden tested" plant recommendations, conservation, and information on his books.

(Continued from page 6)

Norwich-Griswold Focus Group

Master Gardener Jay Deming is organizing a Focus Group for the Norwich-Griswold area. An organizational meeting was planned from 7PM, January 12th at the New London Extension Office. Any Master Gardener

interested in joining this group should contact Jay at 860-376-3852 or Yahjay66@yahoo.com.

General

Any Master Gardener interested in forming a Focus Group in their community should contact John Neff at 860-673-5018 or jrneff@comcast.net.



SYMPOSIUM TIMETABLE

8:30 — 9:15	Registration & Coffee
9:15 — 10:30	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Ken Druse
11:00 — 12:00	Session I
12:00 — 1:20	Lunch
1:30 — 2:30	Session II
3:00 — 4:00	CLOSING SPEAKER: Pat Stone



Session Speakers

By Barbara Walker

Karen Bussolini (Session II-G): If your garden doesn't already have some silver plants, that is bound to change after you hear Karen Bussolini describe *Elegant Silvers* from her book of the same name. These wonderful plants are adapted to extremes of heat and wind, drought, salt air and even shade. Silvery plants with undertone colors of blue, green, grey, can appear icy, airy, garish or subtle. They can also be deer-resistant and fragrant. Karen's previous photographic work can be seen in Sydney Eddison's *The Unsung Season*.

Carlo Balestrieri (Session I-E): Curator of the Rock Garden at New York Botanical Garden, Carlo Balestrieri, is a master of alpine plants. He delights in the challenges of growing tiny plants in jewel-box rock gardens. Dwarf conifers, plants from arid and mountainous regions, plants for heath, crevice, and bog offer new possibilities for gardeners who can learn to create the conditions where these miniature marvels thrive.

Tom Christopher (Session I-D): For color and texture, for ease of culture there is nothing like annuals. They bloom their little hearts out for us all summer long, and Tom Christopher knows them well. He'll share plans for a black garden, a night-blooming garden, and a do-it-yourself tropical paradise, together with tips on how to make annuals flourish in

your garden. Christopher co-authored *Annuals with Style*, with Michael Ruggiero. To open this book is to enter a sunlit garden on a warm day. But the lush photos are not just eye candy; they show clever tricks, like creative plant pairings and easy-to-make focal points.

Sharon M. Douglas (Session II-L): A treasure in Connecticut's landscape and essential to our state history are our oaks, whose deep colors strike the final chord in autumn's color symphony. When 10,000 rhododendrons were recently shipped from Washington state, they brought with them Sudden Oak Death disease. Plant pathologist Sharon Douglas quarantined the rhodies, keeping our oaks safe from the disease. Sharon is an engaging speaker. She'll talk about Sudden Oak Death and two other plant pathogens that are at our borders.

C.L.Fornari (Session I-A): Though many Connecticut gardeners toil in heavy clay, some of us till into the same stuff they throw on roads in winter. For us, C.L.Fornari wrote *Gardening in Sandy Soils*. Author, consultant, media personality and all around plant nut, Fornari is known on Cape Cod as "Gardenlady". She is host of the call-in radio show, "Gardenline" and appears on the "Cape Cod Gardening" TV program. She will be answering the question, "Is Low Maintenance Gardening an Oxymoron?" Her books include *Your Garden Shouldn't Make You Crazy*, so we can guess which side of the debate she takes.

(Continued on page 9)



**BEAUTIFUL PLANTS ON FILM
A PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

CONTEST RULES:

1. Only one entry per person
2. Color prints only, maximum size 8" x 10"
3. Photos should be matted, not framed
4. Plants should be the center of interest, not people or pets
5. Photos must be mailed (post marked) no later than March 1st to:
Barbara Walker, 63 Sherman Street, Bristol, CT 06010
6. Contestants are responsible for collecting their photos at the close of the symposium. CMGA will not be responsible for any loss or damage.

CATEGORIES:

- A First, Second, Third, and one overall BEST OF SHOW will be chosen from the following:
- I. **LANDSCAPES:** Whole or partial garden shot which may include your flower gardens, trees, and/or shrubs.
 - II. **STILL LIFE:** A posed/arranged shot of plants/or plant material using artificial or natural lighting.
 - III. **CLOSE-UP:** Photo of a single plant or parts thereof.
- If you have any questions, please call Barbara Walker at 860-314-1029.

(Continued from page 8)

Sal Gilbertie (Session II-H): The fragrance of lavender, the flavor of parsley, few plants have the power to delight us like herbs. If you have ever bought herbs in pots, chances are good the *Gilbertie's* label was stuck inside. From a modest beginning as a cut-flower business in 1922, Gilbertie's Herb Gardens now supply more than 400 varieties of herbs to nurseries and greenhouses all over the Northeast. Sal Gilbertie's passion for these treasured plants inspired him to write several books and he'll speak to us about "Herbs: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow".

Robert Gillmore (Session II-J): Spend a session with Robert Gillmore, to learn about the many possibilities for creating a low maintenance garden. Gillmore is creator of the one-acre woodland garden, Evergreen, in New Hampshire, and author of *Beauty All around You*, and *The Woodland Garden*. He is a landscape architect who advocates the use of berms to enclose space, soften sounds, create focal points, elevate plants to highlight them, and add grace to your surroundings.

Carol King (Session I-F): Carol King, N.N.S., (No, Not the Singer) is author of *Living in the Landscape*, now in its third printing. She is listed as one of *People, Places, Plants* magazine's top ten garden personalities. Her website, carolkinggardens.com, shows a cool white clematis behind a white bistro table and chairs. It's a super little focal point with elements that are easy to assemble. A Connecticut gardener who knows the good, the bad and the ugly of gardening in our fair state, Carol suggests that if she can do this, so can you.

Nancy Ballek McKinnon (Session II-K): The Ballek name has been part of Connecticut nursery industry for several generations. Nancy Ballek McKinnon's book, *The Gardener's Book of Charts, Tables, and Lists*, holds a unique space on the cluttered shelf of books on perennials. It instructs gardeners how to plan for bloom time, height, color, tex-

ture and so many other factors. Now Nancy turns her attention indoors, to those plants that keep us daily company on our shelves and window sills. House plants become members of our families, adding personality, color and texture to our rooms, refreshing our air and lifting our spirits during winter. Nancy has collected, propagated and cultivated plants from all over the world and will help you get the best from your indoor garden.

Paula Panich (Session II-I): Want to make your garden journal sparkle? Want to publish your musings? Learn to write like an English major from Paula Panich. She believes that your green thumbs should be hitting the space bar as well as holding a trowel. "The world needs to hear your voice", says Paula, who recently taught a class for our Advanced Master Gardeners. She's back for the day to coach more future writers.

Steven Scanniello (Session I-B): You say you love roses but don't want to create a separate rose bed. Why not incorporate them into the garden, says New Jersey Rosarian, Steven Scanniello. Roses belong in every garden, he believes, and he'll show attendees many possibilities for grouping roses with annuals and perennials.

George Trecina (Session I-C): Do you like pina coloda colors? Get out your Hawaiian shirts, gardeners, and learn from George Trecina how to put some tropical punch into your garden containers. Containers are tricky, because things have to look good from the start, but plants can outgrow their limited space. Let George show you how to select and arrange plants, mix the potting soil, and best of all, how to over-winter your favorite plants for regrouping next summer.



Help support the Master Gardener Program by donating items to the Silent Auction!

As in the past, UConn's Master Gardener program will be holding a silent auction at the CMGA annual symposium. This auction features great plant materials and garden-related items at very reasonable prices! The bidding wars start early and go until 1PM. The person with the highest bid at the closing (1PM), gets to purchase the item. All bids go in increments of \$1.00.

If you wish to donate items for the silent auction contact Cyndi Wyskiewicz (860-486-6343) or bring the items with you the morning of the symposium. All proceeds from the auction go directly to the MG

program foundation account to support educational programs and MG outreach projects. So come and bring your pocketbooks and be prepared to take home great treasures.....

New Master Gardener Logo Items for Sale at the Symposium

CMGA will have a new selection of logo clothing for sale at the symposium for purchase. We will have a new long-sleeved denim shirt, a fleece vest, a long-sleeved T shirt, a visor, and a new waterproof ball cap. Merchandise will be available in a variety of sizes. We'll also be discounting some of the items we already have in inventory, so there will be some bargains for smart shoppers.

MG OUTREACH REPORT

Outreach Spreads Growth

By Barbara Charlamb

The Master Gardener program gives to all kinds of people. It gives answers to perplexed gardeners, amazingly high-quality lectures to students, safe agricultural practices to all who listen, and it gives joy to children: all kinds of children. It touches the hearts of the innocent and not so innocent. It shares the love and care of the natural environment with a new generation.

My outreach project found me in the winter of 2004 in the person of my friend, Karen Field, a dedicated teacher at Moylan School in Hartford. One cold, March afternoon, I set up a table with bags of soil,



This planting party made everyone smile: finally, **Shadday Lopez** and her classmates could take something home—impatiens plants

peat pots, and seeds for zinnias and cosmos plants in the hallway near Karen's room. Two boys couldn't wait for someone to bring the gardening gloves before diving into the soil and were horrified when I casually mentioned, in terms they would understand, that manure was included in the

mix.

Arranged in small groups, all 17 of the children eagerly planted the tiny seeds and carefully carried the peat pots to their classroom. Karen relayed to me their excitement as they watched the growth of the plants. They were great caretakers, presenting healthy plants for transplanting in the courtyard in May.

Among the houseplants Karen has in her classroom is a spider plant. Thus the children decided to make cuttings and sell baby spider plants during parent conferences at school. They raised \$29 to pay for a lovely peony from Garden Sales in Manchester. It was rewarding to see their initiative.

All spring the children were wishing they could take some plants home, so my husband, Alex, donated plants and planting materials to make that possible. Near the end of the school year, we had a planting party with multiple colors of impatiens plants, soil, peat pots, and one medium plastic pot for each child. It was an ambience of grateful enthusiasm as the children prepared potted plants to take home for themselves, their siblings, grandmothers, or other important people.

Now a second season has begun with a new class of fifth graders caring for the courtyard beds begun by a sixth grade class last year and planning a new project, a butterfly garden, outside a classroom for physically challenged students. They have added daffodil and tulip bulbs to the beds and have done fall cleanup chores. To share our experiences of planting, fundraisers, and accepting gifts to support our program, we printed our first issue of *LEARN*, a newsletter.

(Continued on page 11)

CMGA 12TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM (cont.)

Directions to Manchester Community College from I-84 East or I-84 West

1. Take Exit 59 to I-384 East.
2. Immediately take Exit 1.
3. Turn left onto Spencer Street (eastbound).
4. Turn right onto Hillstown Road.
5. Take first left onto Great Path and proceed to stop sign. Take right onto Founders Drive South for Lot C.

Registration inquiries: Sandy Myhalik, Phone: (860) 677-0504 / Email: myhalik@comcast.net

Book sales, signings and autographs

Many of the books written by the featured authors will be available for purchase at the symposium, and some authors will be available for book signings.

These books, written by the top garden authors, will make a notable addition to your personal library or can be an exceptional gift for a special person.

Cancellation of symposium due to weather conditions:

Advice of cancellation of the symposium due to adverse weather conditions will be broadcast on the radio stations WTIC AM, WTIC FM, WRCH, WZMX

At the time *The Laurel* went to press, all details of the symposium and the speakers were correct.



MG OUTREACH REPORT

(Continued from page 10)

My focus seems to have drifted far away from the Master Gardener classes I sat through last spring, but that is also my point. The Master Gardener program is itself a seed to be dispersed in unimagined places. It is so open-ended that I can have an outreach project that provides Karen a hook to bring practical science to her students to improve their education and also to have a calming effect upon their personalities as they take pride in improving their school. It's the influence of my work with these children and my past experience of being Karen's teaching partner in Manchester that enabled me to devise the following acronym for our project at Moylan School:

LEARN

Learning
Environmental
Awareness and
Respect for
Nature

The following letters, written by students, appeared in the first issue of *LEARN*, dated November 10, 2004:

"...my teacher, Ms. Field, told the class that we would have an opportunity to plant flowers in the courtyard of the school. Ms. Field called a friend, Mrs. Charlamb, to help us out. I can recall seeing long, empty cement spaces to put flowers in. At the time, the kids would jump and step all over the planters and even draw on them. But we planted the flowers and made it so beautiful! Our sweat, care, and patience helped us to make the flowers as beautiful as they are now." *Destiny Vega - Grade 7*



Xianni Santiago beams proudly after new annuals and perennials brought color to the Moylan School courtyard

"The best part about doing the garden project is that it was the first time I planted flowers. Also, it's because you can be in a small group because people really like to talk and work together. Mrs. Charlamb taught me a lot of things. She showed me pictures from her garden. My favorite flower is the White Nancy. In Ms. Field's class we rooted and planted spider plants. We had to keep the plants away from Pookie, our class rabbit, or he would eat the spider flowers. We sold the plants and made money to buy a special rose bush and other flowers for the gardens in the courtyard. It was a good project because we helped out in the environment. This was my best experience with gardens!" *Johnny Rojas - Grade 7*

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut *Nurturing Nature* captures the spirit of New England in Full Bloom:

Storrs: The 2005 *Nurturing Nature* calendar has been released, and it features an array of colorful photographs and gardening tips. Its 28 pages contain monthly, full-color 9.5" x 12" images of plants and landscapes. These photographs each display a unique perspective of Northeast America's verdant plant life. For instance, a hummingbird moth visits a phlox flower in the July photograph.

While the photographs will certainly catch your eye, the true beauty of the calendar lies in the abundant gardening tips. Tips are listed for each day of the week, and they provide an array of information, from ideal harvesting times for crops such as onions and sweet corn, to pesticide application, to mixing the best soil for your plants and much more. There is a compliment of helpful hints in this calendar for either the experienced or casual gardener.

The *Nurturing Nature* calendar points users to a database of over 500 New England plants and acts as a guide that directs the gardener to useful websites and organizations. Also, the calendar provides instructions for soil testing procedures and detailed information on when to plant and harvest crops and integrated pest management advice.

This 2005 calendar, produced by Communications and Information Technology, a part of the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, costs \$9.95 plus postage for a total of \$12.25. *Nurturing Nature*, which includes U.S. holidays, space for notes, a 2006 calendar grid and moon phases, is perfect for gardeners and other nature lovers. Get 365 gardening tips plus vibrant color photographs to help improve your surroundings easily and quickly.

Buy *Nurturing Nature* by calling (860) 486-3336, faxing (860) 486-0100, mailing the order to University of Connecticut Communications and Information Technology Publications Resource Center 1376 Storrs Road, Unit 4035 Storrs, CT 06269-4035, or go to www.store.uconn.edu for an order form.

TROWELS AND TRIBULATIONS

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HWA?

By John Carlson

Don't recognize the acronym "HWA"? Let me give you MG's a hint. It has to do with an insect that has devastated a beautiful softwood tree, virtually eliminating it throughout New England following its 1986 introduction to Connecticut on the southerly winds of hurricane Gloria. By now I credit you all with recognizing this insect as the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

This past spring and into the summer I noticed that one of the two remaining hemlocks in the yard exhibited significant new growth and no sign of the white woolly mass that covers the HWA. The other hemlock did show some new growth, but its condition has deteriorated to the point that making its recovery has apparently been more difficult. What caused this new growth condition? I asked myself. The only thing my wife (she's a MG, too) and I could come up with was that it's weather related, as we saw no evidence of insect activity. Last spring we noticed some winter kill to shrubbery. Could it be possible the severe cold killed off the HWA, too?

To find out, I accessed the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) Web site. Why this site? I have, over the years since 1986, been following the efforts of Dr. Mark McClure of the CAES and his staff to find methods of controlling the spread of the HWA. This team has been leading this investigation in Connecticut and I felt they would know if anyone did.

The CAES web site has information about the history and treatments to protect the hemlocks, but, like other sites I checked, revealed nothing about the current status of the HWA. So, I sent them an e-mail asking what information they had on the current status of the HWA. At the same time I gave them our observations and possible reason for its disappearance. I thought you may be interested in their response sent to me courtesy of Richard Cowles, CAES, Valley Laboratory.

"Your observations match those I have made through much of Connecticut. Two successive harsh winters have the HWA "on the ropes". With climatological predictions related to the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) suggesting that we will have cold, snowy winters for the next 10 years, I expect that the HWA population through New England, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey to have little likelihood of rebounding until such time that a few successive warmer winters have occurred. The prognosis for our hemlock trees thus is quite good for the next few years.

The prediction is only as good as its assumptions. If the NAO happens to be weak, and we return to warm winters, all bets are off on the HWA staying at low populations. Also, adaptation of the HWA to colder temperatures could also allow resurgence. There are many other considerations.

"Two successive harsh winters have the HWA "on the ropes".

The impact of exceptionally low HWA population densities on biological control is unpredictable. While the lady beetle (*Sasajiscymnus tsugae*) is quite cold-adapted and apparently is good at finding low density populations of HWA in Japan, local extinction of the lady beetle is possible where HWA is virtually eliminated by cold weather. On the other hand, opportunistic biological control from generalist predators may keep HWA populations low following cold-induced die-offs, especially where hemlocks are mixed with hardwoods.

Nitrogen fertilization of hemlocks can dramatically affect their survival and reproduction. Avoiding N fertilization may be important for keeping HWA from rebounding. Hemlock (and probably all other trees adapted to New England) has very low nitrogen requirements. Earthworms intro-

duced to the Northeast (probably from ships' ballast in colonial times) cause rapid decay of leaf litter, which increases N availability. Precipitation in the industrial era also includes dilute NOx constituents, which also act as fertilizers. Finally, residential use of fertilizers within reach of landscape hemlocks' roots will also provide N. Taken together, it is probably a rare hemlock that does not have an ample supply of N without any further additions specifically to the tree. The nitrogen issue is one that Mark McClure has looked at with respect to HWA and elongate hemlock scale (EHS) reproduction. As available nitrogen increases, the fecundity of practically all the foliar feeding pests on hemlock (HWA, EHS, and spruce spider mite) increases. Since hemlock is already a low-nitrogen requiring plant, then addition of further N can only have deleterious effects through indirect effects in stimulating the growth of its arthropod pests and root diseases.

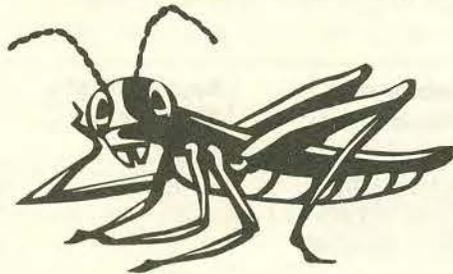
When hemlock woolly adelgid populations are eliminated or greatly suppressed, then hemlocks will respond by growing much more vigorously. This includes trees that have experienced tip dieback: dormant axillary buds will break and new shoots will grow. This growth response occurs whether additional N is applied or not; therefore, N is not important for reinvigorating trees that have suffered from previous HWA injury.

I do not expect N concentration to have much direct impact on *S. tsugae* ladybeetle populations. They will only eat adelgids, and their prey will probably all have similar nutritional value, whether they are feeding on N-limited or N-fertilized trees. An indirect effect of course would be expected, as the size of the adelgid population will be related to N level. However, we originally were concerned that *S. tsugae* might not be able to "catch up" with exploding adelgid populations. Now, perhaps, we might be concerned that there are

(Continued on page 13)

Remembering Hoppy

(A brief essay reflecting an experience I would like to share about the Master Gardener program).
 By Jennifer Roy, New Haven County, Class of 2004



This is the story of Hoppy. Hoppy was a grasshopper – a VERY large grasshopper, to whom I was introduced on March 5, 2004. Hoppy has made a lasting impression on me, despite the fact that he was dead when we met and did not have much of a personality. I found that his being the largest insect with whom I had ever had personal contact more than made up for his lack of animation.

Being a grasshopper, Hoppy was classified in the phylum Arthropoda. This means that he had an exoskeleton, jointed appendages, a segmented body, bilateral symmetry, a dorsal blood vessel, and a ventral nerve cord. Even more specifically, Hoppy was in the class Insecta, which means he

had three pairs of legs, a set of antennae, and two pairs of wings. But there are millions of insects that fit that description, and this is a personal story about Hoppy the grasshopper, so let's narrow this down even further: Grasshoppers are found in the order Orthoptera, along with crickets, katydids, praying mantis and cockroaches. (Although I could never compare dear Hoppy to a cockroach.)

Some general Orthoptera characteristics include chewing mouthparts, conspicuous antennae, jumping hind legs, and males with sound-producing organs. Hoppy was a male, but he was pretty quiet when we met. (Come to think of it, he did not do any jumping either. But in my imagination, I see him as the carefree, singing and bouncing creature that he once was.) We could tell that he was a male by the layout of the rear region of his abdomen. The last three segments of a grasshopper's abdomen make up its genitalia. Females have an ovipositor for laying eggs. Hoppy did not have one of these.

Hoppy's mouth was made up of a labrum (basically, his upper lip), mandibles (for chewing), a labium (lower lip), maxillae, and palpi. Palpi are funny looking little finger-like things that actually help the grasshopper to taste. When we pried Hoppy's mouth open (trust me, he did not mind), we got a pretty good look at his mouthparts. I was especially impressed with how strong his mandibles were. I had been worried that if we opened his mouth up too wide, his little head might fly off and get caught in my hair. Thankfully, my concern was unnecessary.

After we got a good look at Hoppy's mouthparts and external genitalia, we were supposed to actually slice into Hoppy's thorax and abdomen to get familiar with some of his internal organs. But by then, Hoppy had already found his way into our hearts (where he remains to this day) and we just could not bring ourselves to do it.

Rest in peace, Hoppy. I will never forget you.

Technical source: Master Gardener Textbook, Entomology Chapter



(Continued from page 12)

too few adelgids to support many *S. tsugae*. In Japan, though, this beetle is able to eke out its existence on scattered and patchy populations of adelgids, the situation we now see in CT. My expectation is that cold winters will work in concert with the presence of *S. tsugae* to speed up the effective biological control of HWA. *S. tsugae* is thought to be more cold tolerant than HWA, and it may be able to "mop-up" patches of HWA following cold winters."

I found Richard Cowles' information to be very, very interesting, and I thank him for permitting me to share it with you. I trust you've enjoyed his remarks as much as I have.

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 conservation 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.

Large Northeast Spring Flower Shows in 2005
Looking to satisfy that winter craving for color, scent, and beauty?
Here's the solution!

Dates	Show Name	Location	Website Phone	Approximate Attendance
2/17/05 - 2/20/05	Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show "Gardens of New England"	RI Convention Center Providence	www.Flowershow.com (401) 253 0246 tickets (401) 421 7811 general	34,000
2/24/05 - 2/27/05	The Connecticut Flower & Garden Show "Nature's Playground"	CT Expo Center Hartford	www.ctflowershow.com (860) 844 8461	33,000
2/24/05 - 2/27/05	Central Massachusetts Flower Show "Festival of Color"	DCU Center — Worcester (formerly Worcester Centrum)	www.centralmaflowershow.com (800) 533 0229	20,000
3/6/05 - 3/13/05	2005 Philadelphia Flower Show "America the Beautiful"	Pennsylvania Convention Center Philadelphia	www.theflowershow.com (215) 988 8899	265,000
3/12/05 - 3/20/05	134th New England Spring Flower Show "A Fresh Perspective"	Bayside Expo Center Boston, Mass (Dorchester)	www.masshort.org (617) 944 4900	112,000



Volunteers needed at the Connecticut Flower Show!

UConn's Home and Garden Education Center/ Master Gardener Program and the Connecticut Master Gardener Association will have a booth again this year at the 2005 Connecticut Flower and Garden Show to be held February 24th - 27th. Certified Master Gardeners are needed for various shifts throughout the show to answer gardening questions and distribute educational material. Volunteers will be given free admission to the show and free parking.

Days are broken up into 3 or 4-hour shifts with two Master Gardeners per shift. Shifts are filled **on a first come; first call basis** with preference being given to those who have not worked at the show in the past, so everyone gets a chance to help. Master Gardeners who are interested should call The Home and Garden Education office @ 1-860-486-6343 or Master Gardener Bobbie Orne @ 1-860-875-3005 after February 10th to volunteer.

**CMGA Bus Trip to Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show
Friday, February 18, 2005**

The CMGA is arranging a one-day bus trip to the Rhode Island Flower Show. The bus will depart the commuter parking lot at Exit 35 off I-91, the Windsor Exit at Cottage Grove Road in Hartford at 8:00AM. Additional pickup in Old Saybrook at the Amtrak Station commuter lot at 8:45AM. Arrive at the Flower Show at 10AM. Depart at 2PM. Trip includes transportation and admission. Cost: CMGA members \$30.00, non-members \$35.00. Seating is limited. Call Peter Lirot 860-663-1595 for registration by February 8th.

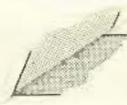
The Laurel CALENDAR

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Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
Now—November, 2005 Mon—Sat, 10AM-5PM Sunday noon—5PM	Landscape Under Siege: Invasive Plants of Connecticut. Botanical illustrations by the Guild of Natural Science. Peabody Museum, 170 Whitney Avenue, New Haven. 203-432-5050, www.peabody.yale.edu
February 2, 2005 7PM	Pruning Apple Trees & Conifers by Gordon Himes of Holiday Farm, New Hartford, at the New Hartford Beekley Library, 10 Central Avenue, New Hartford. (NW Mountain Laurels Focus Group). Contact Evelyn Betz 860-738-4062
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 12, 2005 1:30—2:30PM	How to Make Lots of Plants. New Canaan Nature Center Greenhouse cutting and propagation workshop. Fee. Contact 203-966-9577 / www.newcanaannature.org
February 17-20, 2005	Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show —See details of the show and CMGA bus trip opposite
February 17, 2005 7PM	Shoreline Chapter Focus Group @ Bauer Farm, Copse Road, Madison, CT. Contact Barb Tenney 203-421-4587/ btenney@comcast.net or Heather Atwater 203-421-8489 heathsail@sbcglobal.net
February 17, 2005 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 24-27, 2005	The Connecticut Flower & Garden Show. Connecticut Expo Center, Hartford, CT—See details opposite
February 26, 2005 10—11AM	Wonderful Woodland Wildflowers. Slide Show presented by Gail Robinson. New Canaan Nature Center. Fee. Contact 203-966-9577/ www.newcanaannature.org
March 2, 2005 7PM	Slide Show and talk on Medicinal Plants @ New Hartford Beekley Library, 10 Central Avenue, New Hartford. (NW Mountain Laurels Focus Group event.) Contact Evelyn Betz 860-738-4062
March 8, 2005	Univ. of Connecticut—Garden Conference, A Conference for the Gardening Enthusiast @ Lewis b. Rome Commons, Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. Contact: Richard McAvoy 860-486-0672 or Email richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu or www.hort.uconn.edu/garden .
March 12 & 13, 2005	Hebron Maple Festival @ Throughout the town of Hebron, CT. Check Web site for program details: www.hebronmaplefest.com .
March 17, 2005 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 17, 2005 7PM	Shoreline Chapter Focus Group meeting @ Bauer Farm, Copse Road, Madison, CT. Contact Barb Tenney 203-421-4587 or Heather Atwater 203-421-8489
March 19, 2005	CMGA March Symposium : Gardeners In Print. Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT. Contact: Sandy Myhalik 860-677-0504 / Myhalik@comcast.net or the CMGA website at www.ctmga.org
April 6, 2005 7PM	Connecticut Wildflowers with Naturalist and Historian Walt Landgraf at Sessions Woods, CT Wildlife & Conservation Center, 341 Milford road (Rte 69), Burlington. (NW Mountain Laurels Focus Group). Contact Faith Heering 860-583-3288
April 21, 2005 8PM	A Passion for Pots by Steve Silk (open to the public) @Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Monthly meeting of CT Horticultural Society. Contact: 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org .
April 21, 2005 7PM	Shoreline Chapter Focus Group meeting @ Bauer Farm, Copse Road, Madison, CT. Contact Barb Tenney 203-421-4587 btenney@comcast.net or Heather Atwater 203-421-8489 heathsail@sbcglobal.net

Connecticut Master Gardener Association

The Laurel



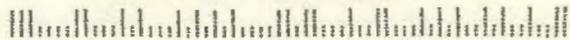
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SAVE THE DATE!

March 19th 2005

CMGA 12th Annual Symposium

Gardeners in Print

See details inside:

- the best garden authors in print
- book sales and signings
- photo competition details
- silent auction
- vendors
- new CMGA logo items for sale

PLEASE REMEMBER

**THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE LAUREL
IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR CMGA MEMBERSHIP**

Send your membership renewal check for \$20 (payable to CMGA) today to
John Neff, 18 Knollwood Rd, Farmington, CT 06032.

RENEW AND SAVE!

CMGA members get **\$10 off** the symposium fee (CMGA members and
associate members pay \$50, non-members pay \$60).



CMGA Summer Safari

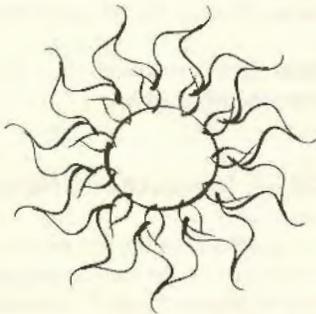
Saturday, July 16th, 2005

By Barbara Duffy

CMGA has lined up an exciting agenda for this year's mid July semi-annual meeting. We will tour two exceptional private gardens and also visit an outstanding family-run nursery.

➤ **Maywood Estate Gardens** in Bridgewater is a private estate owned by Peter and Leni May. Their extraordinary gardens (and the staff that designs and maintains them!) are every Master Gardener's dream. The Mays began their garden dream in 1993 and started by hiring a large staff of horticulturalists, designers, landscapers, and gardeners. Many of their plants are raised in their 10 year old 4,000 square foot greenhouse. They have created a wide range of gardens including ten perennial gardens, two annual gardens, a formal hybrid tea rose garden, a ledge garden, a white garden, and an orchid house.

➤ **Sydney Eddison's** private gardens at her home in Newtown are a testament to her garden philosophy and the subject of her book "The Garden Palette". Sydney is an artist and a gardener and her gardens reflect her passion for both. She has written five gardening books and is a frequent contributor to Fine Gardening Magazine. You may remember Sydney as a past symposium keynote speaker who showed slides of her fabulous primrose garden and talked about color in gardening. We will miss her primroses, but she has wonderful perennial gardens.



➤ **Hollandia Nursery** is a retail nursery in Bethel started by Hans and Sally Reelick in their garage in 1964. They have expanded considerably and now have twenty acres of display gardens, twenty five greenhouses, and a broad variety of plants and hard goods. They have an extensive selection of perennials, annuals, vegetables, and landscape plants. They also have a large collection of outdoor furniture, statuary, granite benches, pottery, birdhouses, grills, tractors, and masonry.
(www.connecticutgrown.com)

You'll receive a flyer in the mail with further information but plan to safari with us on July 16th - it promises to be a full and fun day!

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CMGA Officers 2005

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CMGA Business

Dear Master Gardeners,

What a success! Yes, our March 19th symposium, "Gardeners in Print" attracted over 400 Master Gardeners with 99% of our members having only positive comments. The board has already started planning next year's symposium, on the theme of specialty nurseries in Connecticut. If you have a favorite nursery please let us know.

Our semi-annual meeting to be held in Bethel on July 16th is well into its planning stages, with Maywood Gardens and Sydney Eddison's gardens already booked. Read all about the planned trips for the day on page 1 of this edition. Final details will be advised shortly.

The focus groups are doing extremely well. The Northwest Mountain Laurel focus group had over 40 people attend their last meeting. The Shoreline Master Gardeners, Avon and Norwich focus groups are busy with a number of outreach and fundraising projects. We are looking for master gardeners in the Hartford, West Hartford area to start their own focus group.

If you have any suggestions regarding symposium topics, workshops or speakers please feel free to contact the board members. Our membership is now 760, and we hope to increase that to 800 members. Thanks for all your support.

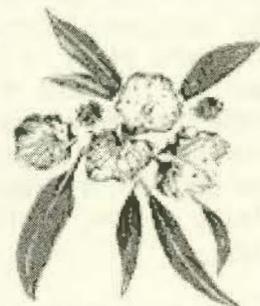
Paul Grimmeisen
President, CMGA



CMGA Volunteers Needed for Web Site

CMGA has launched a new website in the last year and needs volunteers who can work with an experienced website developer to further develop and maintain the web-site.

CMGA would like to utilize the website more effectively and also assure that all information is current and complete. Experience in this area would be desirable, and at least one person would need to attend the CMGA monthly board meetings which are held at 10 AM on the first Tuesday of the month at the Pond House Restaurant in Elizabeth Park in West Hartford. The hours spent on this project can be utilized as outreach hours for Master Gardener or Advanced Master Gardener certification. Please contact Hilary Forsyth at rayhbf@aol.com or 203-353-9847 if you are interested in this project.



Ctmga.org

The Laurel is published 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 August 2005 issue: July 1, 2005

Help wanted! Certified Master Gardeners in the Extension Offices/Plant Clinic

By Cyndi Wyskiewicz, State Master Gardener/Education Program Coordinator

It is a little known fact that the county coordinators for the Master Gardener program are less than part time employees. They work only 16 hours a week and have much to accomplish to run the program in that time frame. For many years the MG program has received tremendous and welcome help from certified master gardeners who have come back to volunteer their expertise in some capacity to help with the program. Every county office and the MG program at the Bartlett Arboretum can always use your help. There are three ways you can help in your local office:

Mentoring

A mentor is defined as a trusted counselor or teacher. The Master Gardener program for years has used certified master gardeners as mentors. These mentors come in the office when the new students have finished their classroom hours and are learning how to do their office training. The mentors assist the new students with the correct office and diagnostic procedures. They can help the students by showing them where the proper research material is and how to go about finding the answers to the home owners' questions. Do you remember how scary it was your first time alone in the office? Where to go or where to find something? It can be quite daunting and intimidating. With the use of mentors, certified MGs are scheduled on the same day as the students and are in the offices to work with them and help them answer the questions.

In New Haven County, the mentors are assigned to a specific student and every week the students get the great advantage of learning from this special mentor. In other county offices and the plant clinic at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, the mentors are on a rotating basis, and come in a specific day and/or time each week or month. This way they can share their knowledge with several new MG interns over the course of the summer.

In Fairfield County, MG coordinator, Sandi Wilson likes to staff a mentor with two interns for every shift. This ensures that the interns get the attention they need, and allows them to be exposed to a variety of questions and samples. Due to space constraints, the Tolland County office utilizes mentors for the first part of the summer to work with the interns until the students are comfortable enough answering the public's questions and analyzing samples without help. This usually happens after June.

All of the MG offices and the Bartlett plant clinic need mentors to help the coordinators get the interns adjusted to answering the public's questions. Some offices are so busy there can be several clients in the offices at one time during the growing season,

so it can get quite hectic and overwhelming.

Not sure if you qualify to be a mentor? It is easy; all it takes is patience and the willingness to help the interns. Not sure if you know enough about the routine in your local MG office to help out? Not to fear, all of the offices provide mentor training days on the correct procedures for handling diagnostics and where and how to find research materials. Mentoring interns is also a great opportunity to earn Advanced MG outreach hours. For those certified AMGs, mentoring is a yearly requirement to remain on active status. Certified AMGs are required to give back 10 hours mentoring interns yearly. It can be a great learning experience for both the certified MG and the interns. Give it a try!

Coordinator Assisants

Certified MGs can also play another role in the extension offices/plant clinic. They can help their local coordinator with the day-to-day things in the office. They can answer phones and help with diagnostics when the coordinator is not in the office. Help is always needed through out the entire year, to organize files, create plant databases, organize outreach projects and answer questions. Any MGs with computer skills will be put to good use. This can be done whether there are interns in the offices or not. Much help is still needed after the students complete their required hours in September.

Project Leaders or Managers

If the thought of answering those phones again causes you too much anxiety, do not worry, Certified Master Gardeners can also help out as project managers or leaders. MGs are extremely important in the initiation, continuation and success of our community outreach projects. Certified MGs are important project leaders who keep ongoing projects in existence and running smoothly especially in years when the class is held in the partnering county. With their confidence and expertise, Certified MGs are also an important source of speakers for gardening programs. Due to their own time constraints, the coordinators need to rely on them to help with organizing and executing community events.

Certified Master Gardeners can help the MG program in so many ways, and the MG program and county coordinators are so grateful for all the help these MGs give the program. Please consider giving some volunteer time in the offices mentoring or as a project manager for our ongoing outreach projects. You won't regret it! Call you local MG coordinator today. Their numbers can be found on the inside cover of the Laurel.

News from MG Groups around the State

Farmington Focus Group

The educational garden at the Farmington Library, which the Farmington Master Gardeners plant and maintain, will be on the Friends of The Library Garden Tour on June 4th in Farmington. Farmington Master Gardeners will be at the garden all day as hosts, as well as to answer any gardening questions (see *The Laurel* calendar for further details). Contact: John Neff, 860-673-5018, jrneff@comcast.net.

New Haven County Master Gardeners

The mentoring efforts in the North Haven Extension Center are going into full swing as the weather warms and the phones begin to ring. There are several outreach projects about to fire up and they have been approved for Master Gardener or Advanced Master Gardener outreach hours. The New Haven County group is looking for volunteers for the following approved projects:

- ◆ The North Haven Extension Center is in a leased facility and the yard and gardens are in need of spring clean up as well as maintenance into the summer and fall. Among the perks is that the team of helpers gets cuttings from some of the specimen plants, free plants when they are available, and all the free exercise they want!

- ◆ The Ronald MacDonald House in New Haven provides free lodging to critically ill children and their families while they are in New Haven for medical treatment. They are having an anniversary this year and the dedicated, but exhausted group of New Haven County volunteers could use help with planting and getting the facility ready for the anniversary celebration.

- ◆ The Creative Arts Workshop in the Audubon Arts district of New Haven is a non-profit regional center for visual arts education, and they need volunteers to do planting and restoration.

- ◆ Gaylord Hospital is a special-

ized rehabilitation hospital in Wallingford that needs people to develop sites that have been neglected for a long time.

The New Haven County group kicked off into spring on April 9th with a tour of a Milford nursery owned by one of their own Master Gardeners. All interns in the Bethel and North Haven Extension Center classes were also invited.

A stepping stone workshop taught by Marvin Carley will be held on Saturday May 21st. The group also helped out by providing planting and after-care information to the public at the Southwest Conservation District annual and perennial plant sale on April 29 and 30th at Lockwood Farms in Hamden. Master Gardeners will have a table at the Hamden Arts Commission on Saturday June 11th at Eli Whitney Park in Hamden.

Lots more activities are in the planning stages, please contact Mira Schnache at 203 407 3167 or Mira.Schnache@uconn.edu to join the group or participate in an outreach project.

Northwest Mountain Laurels

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 4th at 7:00 PM. Kim Ruddy, Horticulturist & Herbalist "Native Medicinal Plants". Beekley Community Library, 10 Central Avenue, New Hartford, 860-379-7235.

Outreach projects:

We have two community outreach projects planned for this spring. The first is the heirloom garden at the Burlington Historical Society's historic Elton Tavern to be installed this spring in preparation for the town's 2006 bicentennial celebration. Annuals and perennials will be interspersed throughout shrubbery and planted in geometric raised flowerbeds to mirror the parlors of the tavern and will have paths easily accessible to the handicapped. Outreach Coordinator Jackie Shadford 860-675-3425.

Our other community project is with the Litchfield Hills Audubon

Society at Boyd Woods in Northfield. An area called the "Splash" (smaller than a pond but bigger than a splash), has been cleared of invasive plants and debris. Native wildflowers, trees and shrubs will be planted to discourage erosion and to attract winged creatures. Outreach Coordinator: Kathy Zbuska 860-485-0121.

The Torrington Branch of the UConn Cooperative Extension Center Master Gardeners planted a garden last year at the university. This project needs volunteers for continued care. Outreach Coordinator is Kathy Zbuska 860-485-0121.

A small but delightful new children's museum in downtown Bristol called The Imagine Nation Museum has requested volunteer master gardeners. They have a small greenhouse where they would like to offer educational programs to children aged ten and younger. If you have special talents working with young folks, please call MG Faith Heering 860-583-3288. The museum's website is www.imaginationmuseum.org.

There will be a schedule of gardens tours through the Open Days Directory program of The Garden Conservancy on Saturdays throughout the summer months. For more information, please call Faith Heering 860-583-3288, Lorna Delaney 860-379-6419, or Evelyn Betz 860-738-4062.

To kick off the "Summer Fun" of the NW Mountain Laurels, there will be a tailgate pot luck at Jackie Shadford's early 18th century home in Burlington on Sunday, June 5th at 11:30 a.m. We will be joining the Burlington Historical Society for a "Spring Ramble" at 1 pm. A forester will guide us through the woods to relics of the past which include charcoal pits and a cranberry bog. The bog is currently home to a beaver pond and a blue heron's nest. The easy hike will be followed by refreshments in the garden. Please call Jackie Shadford at 860-675-

(Continued on page 5)

News from MG Groups around the State

3425 to reserve your spot.

CMGA Shoreline Chapter

The group has monthly meetings and has several ongoing projects. They kicked off their spring projects with a clean up day at Bauer Farm in Madison that several members participated in. They are planning a new garden site as part of the main gardens. It will be either a wildflower or native plant garden. Anyone wishing to get involved should contact Heather Atwater at heathsail@sbcglobal.net or 203-421-8489.

Marge Reid has developed plans including a plant list and maintenance schedule for a new butterfly garden at Bauer Farm and presented them to the group. Her plans include a two phase garden encompassing two 6' by 6' interlocking kidney shaped gardens on a slope near the pond along the pathway to the community gardens. It is near the out-

door classroom so that it may be used as part of Bauer Farm's community education program. Contact Marge at 860-669-9979 or willow100@msn.com if you would like to get involved with this project.

Ted Mankovitch has several ongoing projects at the Guilford Land Trust located on the corner of Broad and River Streets in Guilford. He has established a schedule of projects and work dates. If you would like to participate, contact Ted at Theodore.mankovich@snet.net or 203-453-4415.

Ron DeMartino has organized a trip to the New York Botanical Gardens which includes a docent tour and lunch at the restaurant in the Botanical Gardens. The cost of the tour and entrance fee is \$16. The date is Wednesday May 25th at 9AM. The group will car pool from a commuter lot off I95. Contact Ron if you would like to join the group at rondemartino@comcast.net or 203-453-

6256.

The March 17th meeting was a round table discussion on deer control. Donna Ellis of the CT Agricultural Extension Services at UCONN spoke to the group on April 14th about recognition and management of pests.

Ron DeMartino and Cheryl Baurle represented the Shoreline Chapter at the March symposium and Cheryl and Marge Reid attended a recent Haddam Extension Center Master Gardener Intern class to tell the students about the Shoreline Chapter activities and encourage them to participate.

Their next meeting is scheduled for May 19th and will include a plant swap. Anyone interested in joining the Shoreline Chapter should contact Heather Atwater at heathsail@sbcglobal.net or 203-421-8489 or Barbara Tenney bttenney@comcast.net or 860-421-5687.

The Friends of Elizabeth Park

BUS TRIP TO THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

Bus will depart at 7:30 AM from St. Joseph's College Parking Lot, 1678 Asylum Ave in West Hartford. (Lot is visible from Asylum Ave). The bus will depart at 3:30 PM from NYBG and arrive home 5:45 PM

Ticket Price is \$55.00 and includes: General Admission, Tram Tour of Park, plus \$10.00 Luncheon Voucher for the Garden Cafés.

If it rains, the trip is still on. This is policy of the NYBG. No refunds. Please respond ASAP so you won't be disappointed!!

Please make your checks payable to: **Friends of Elizabeth Park**, and include your name, address, and phone number. Send checks to:

Mary Clare Mooney
55 West Hill Road
West Hartford CT 06119

Contacts: Mary Clare Mooney

mary.mooney@comcast.net
860-236-8039 (Home)

Kathy Krackowsky

Kathy 860-881-5512 Cell for day of tour

Mentoring Projects

New Garden Design at the Bartlett Arboretum Meadow

By Liz Rapp and Betty Johnson

How is walking through a summer meadow like sitting beside a winter fire? Both serve up images of warmth, quiet and peace. We don't build a fire when we are busiest; we take time to watch the flames change shape. A stroll through a meadow can have that same unhurried quality. There's so much to see with birds, hidden bits of flower in the grass, butterflies perhaps, and long vistas toward the woods. Even with all its sensory cues, however, a meadow is still as much a product of the imagination as the pictures we see in leaping flames. As a man-made (and maintained) system, a meadow reflects our notions of the natural world as it provides a home to countless creatures.

Using the elements of a ramble to entice visitors into the meadow of the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford was the challenge taken on by a team of Master Gardener interns in the summer of 2004. The Arboretum meadow was established in 2002 using native wildflowers and grasses in an area of three and a half acres along High Ridge Road. In its mid-part, the meadow was fronted with the remnants of an old stone wall, several mature deciduous trees and a mown area adjacent to the street. In its planning, the team's mission was to make the meadow one of the new public "faces" of the Bartlett Arboretum as it began programs and improvements to grounds and facilities. Design groups would focus on cultural conditions at the site with attention to existing plant material and after-care.

As envisioned and completed by the team of six, the design forms an extension of the existing meadow by its reference to the meadow's plant palette and the placement of openings in the stone wall to allow free flow from the meadow to the new garden. A path winds among the new plantings to encourage a stroll as one might wander through a meadow. The design now functions as an eye-catching demonstration garden of native plants suitable for the home gardener. It encourages conservation of native habitat and wildlife through its selection of hardy, adaptable plants which provide food and shelter for numerous inhabitants.

Paths curve away from a stone wall to provide a smooth transition from the areas of sun to shade, allowing glimpses of color and texture to beckon a visitor onward. Large sitting stones and stone benches invite pausing for a moment to view the garden and the meadow beyond. Naturally enclosed planting areas give privacy to the visitor near a busy road while providing enhanced views to those passing by. Mown paths lend the feel of the meadow and invite the visitor back through the meadow in the direction of the Bartlett.

A meadow, like a native prairie, may be composed primarily of grasses, so native selections with

brighter colors have been added. Plant material has been chosen for season color, from the early *Phlox subulata* (moss phlox) and *Aquilegia canadensis* (wild columbine), to mid-season *Baptisia alba* (white false indigo), to high season *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed) and *Heliopsis helianthoides* (oxeye sunflower), with late-blooming *Aster symphyotrihum* *oblong*. 'October Skies' (aromatic aster) and *Gaura coccinea* (scarlet gaura) finishing beside the foliage of late-season grasses such as *Sporobolus heterolepis* (prairie dropseed) and *Panicum virgatum* (switch grass).

Plants have been researched for low maintenance and deer-resistant selections with the ability to support butterflies, birds, and beneficial insects. All plants are perennials native to North America. For example, *Pycnanthemum incanum* (hoary mountain mint) is both hairy-stemmed and aromatic (not preferred by deer), does well in dry woods (low maintenance), and provides nectar to beneficial wasps. Lower-growing selections of such hardy plants as *Boltonia asteroides* 'Snowbank' (false aster) and *Vernonia missurica* (Missouri ironweed) are drought-tolerant and need no staking. The ironweed attracts butterflies and the *Boltonia* provides September bloom. *Baptisia australis* (blue false indigo) provides larval food for the Wild Indigo Dusky butterfly, and *Liatis* provides mid-season nectar and seeds for goldfinches. *Lupinus perennis* (sundial lupine) is the only larval host for the rare Karner Blue butterfly.

Shrubs have been placed for design dynamics as well as leaf texture, bloom, and fall color with the scarlet of *Vaccinium angustifolium* (lowbush blueberry) and the burgundy of *Gaylussacia baccata* (black huckleberry). Alternatives for alien, invasive plants such as Asian *Euonymus alatus*, Japanese honeysuckle and Japanese barberry include *Diervilla lonicera* "Wilderham" (dwarf bush honeysuckle), *Ceanothus herbaceus* (prairie red root) and *Myrica pennsylvanica* (bayberry).

Plants have been added for extended-season interest, such as the long-blooming *Hypoxis hirsuta* (yellow star grass), *Chrysogonum virginianum* (golden star), and *Callirhoe involucrata* (wine cups). Pink flowers of *Geum triflorum* (prairie smoke) give way to ornamental seed heads while the spiky foliage of *Iris missouriensis* (blue flag) covers the disappearing foliage of sundial lupines.

Certain plants have been placed throughout the garden to tie together the design. *Houstonia caerulea* (bluets, Quaker ladies), *Viola pedata* (bird's-foot violet), and *Maianthemum canadense* (Canada mayflower) mirror the natural growth of plants which spread randomly about the area. Plants found in the area like *Carex pennsylvanica* (Pennsylvania sedge) and *Sisyrinchium* (blue-eyed grass) are incorporated in the design.

Each of the cultural areas (sun, shade, and partial sun/shade) features familiar plants such as *Rud-*

(Continued on page 7)

Mentoring Projects

The Tree, Shrub and Vine (TSV) Project

By Hilary Forsyth

The Tree, Shrub & Vine Project was introduced in 2001 as a requisite part of the Master Gardener course. The aim of the project is to encourage Interns to carry out research on 22 genera of trees, shrubs and vines. These plants were specifically chosen for the project because they are the most commonly encountered in the extension offices (or, in the case of the Bartlett Arboretum, the plant clinic). Being able to identify the plants is a vital step towards diagnosing the pests and diseases that may attack them.

Certified Master Gardeners, who took the MG course before the introduction of the TSV Project, will have little idea of the scope of this task. As pre-TSV MGs, we also missed out on a terrific opportunity to study and identify the trees in our own back yards: having to write down a cohesive presentation on a subject certainly focuses the mind!

Advanced MG Lesley Gehr and I are mentors working with the Stamford class and Class Coordinator Regina Campfield, and we have had the opportunity to check through the TSV Projects prepared by interns. These vary in content and style of presentation, according to the abilities, interests and time commitment of the interns. Most interns carry out a lot of research and present beautiful binders and gather marvelous plant samples, but from time to time incorrect facts or samples are included. Sometimes interns delay work on their TSV Projects, resulting in a real time crunch to get the work completed in time.

We felt that leaving the correcting of the completed TSV binders until the end of the summer was a missed opportunity for us all to learn. Early in 2004, we devised a plan that we hoped would make the TSV Projects a better learning tool, as well as encouraging interns to start working on their projects earlier in the year.

The interns were requested to research a specified plant each week, and to present their worksheets and plant samples at the following week's class. We managed to cover 10 of the 22 genera in this way, dealing with conifers and evergreens. In-



AMG Lesley Gehr (right) discusses identifying characteristics of conifer foliage with MG interns Suzanne Gold and Maria deVita of the 2005 class

terns had to continue research of the remaining 12 genera on their own. We checked the projects during the morning class, and Lesley kept a record of each intern's progress. We then gave a brief presentation to the class on the plant in question, pointing out identifying characteristics, and any particularly interesting facts or plant samples - including incorrect ones - that had come to light in the projects submitted.

Every morning the TSV Projects were set out on a table for checking. The binders created much interest and discussion amongst class members: information and plant samples were compared, reference books were discussed and research web sites shared. This format proved to be an encouragement and inspiration for everybody in the class.

Each of the extension centers has its own approach to the TSV Projects, but the results are the same: every newly certified Master Gardener creates his or her personal TSV Binder as an invaluable research tool. As mentors, our involvement in the TSV Project with the Stamford class has provided us with an opportunity to interact with the interns, not to mention being a terrific learning experience for interns and mentors alike.



(Continued from page 6)

beckia fulgida (black-eyed Susan), *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower) and *Coreopsis verticillata* (threadleaf tickseed), as well as unusual selections such as *Paxistima canbyi* (rat stripper or cliff green), and *Euphorbia corollata* (flowering spurge), which has white flowers and fiery autumn color.

The Master Gardener interns participating in the garden design were Jean Gregory, Betty Johnson, Betsy Malloy, Liz Rapp, Emalou Rausen, and Gerald-

ine Klein-Robbenhaar, with Alice Smith as the Mentor. Acting as Project Head was Yuliana Yevoushok, the Bartlett Arboretum's Director of Horticulture. The garden is designed to be a resource from early spring to late fall, with winter sentries of grasses, dried seed heads and evergreen plants to give form through the snowy months. It could become a destination for visitors or a colorful calling card to the Bartlett's other offerings.

CMGA Annual Symposium a Winner!



The line builds at the registration table as attendees arrive for the Symposium

The CMGA 12th Annual Symposium, *Gardeners in Print*, was a sell-out success with 400 people attending. The format for the day was a keynote speaker (Ken Druse), followed by two sessions of lectures given by 6 garden writers per session, then a closing speaker (Pat Stone).

Keynote speaker Ken Druse, author of *The Passion for Gardening* opened his talk with apologies as he was suffering from a bad cold. But he reassured everyone that he had all the necessary medications – throat spray, lozenges, water, lemon – and disinfectant to spray the microphone so he didn't pass on his bugs! Ken graciously presented his entertaining and educational lecture and slides despite some technical difficulties in the auditorium.



Keynote speaker, Ken Druse, autographs a copy of his book *The Passion for Gardening* for Symposium attendee Jackie Landsberg

The two session talks, each featuring a choice of 6 presentations, took up the main part of the day. The lunch period provided ample time for people to pick up their lunch choices as well as put in bids for the silent auction items, browse the book sale, have authors autograph books, and make purchases from the vendors. Even more importantly this was the time to get together with people: the area hummed with the happy buzz of people meeting people, talking with old friends, meeting new friends, making contacts, exchanging information, and – talking about gardening.



What to buy? Ballek's Garden Center, one of the many vendors at the Symposium, offered a fabulous array of plants

Pat Stone, coauthor of *Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul* was the symposium's closing speaker. He provided a fitting end to a busy day with some zany humor, a little music, a bit of philosophy, and a reminder that our mistakes are just a part of the gardening journey.



Pat Stone, the Closing Speaker, with Symposium Committee member Debbye DuImaine-Coonan

Beautiful Plants on Film : The Photography Contest

By Barbara Walker

CMGA's first photo contest was a welcome addition to the day's program and their display area was a busy space at the Symposium. After our long tough winter, images of flowers, plants and gardens brightened up the day and sparked conversation. Forty photo entries represented the general categories of Landscape, Still Life and Close-Up. Judges Bob Leavitt and Mary Ellen Robinson applied principles of good photography as they studied each entry carefully and chose the winners.

Deborah Prior's photo of an Echinacea, ornamented with a poised butterfly, took the Best of Show award. The judges said Deborah's photo had it



Photo competition judges Bob Leavitt and Mary Ellen Robinson gave careful consideration to each of the 40 photo entries

all. The bright purple flower and its dark green background were exactly opposite on the color wheel, showing maximum possible color contrast between subject and background. The flower was centered and crisply in focus, the background unfocused. The vertical

line of the flower stem dictated the portrait or upright layout of the 8 x 10 photo and Prior cropped the picture to pleasing proportion. The butterfly was the ornament of the flower, not the other way around.

Congratulations to Deborah and to all winners, and sincere thanks to all entrants whose vision delighted us immeasurably.

The competition was judged by Bob Leavitt and Mary Ellen Robinson, both of whom are members of Country Camera Club of Kensington, CT, and award-winning photographers with ample judging experience. Bob Leavitt, a Master Gardener since 1999, has taught MG workshops in Garden Photography. He has a special interest in nature photography, and his photos have received numerous awards and ribbons. Mary Ellen Robinson, APSA, judges competitions throughout Connecticut. She is winner of the prestigious Willard Dolan Cup, and over 300 of her prints decorate corporate walls, restaurants, and

private homes.

Whether it is a painting or a photo, the same combination of objective and subjective elements apply. The rule of thirds divides the picture into a tic-tac-toe grid, where viewers expect to find the picture's subject and background in harmonious proportions.

Judges consider both pluses and minuses: what's presented in the photo, and things that detract, or omitted elements that should be present. Some photos show too much content, an excess of texture, light or subject matter that distracts from the main point of the photo. The subject should be properly lit or back-lit, and the background should enhance, not compete with the subject. Proper exposure, sharpness, impact, and originality also count. Layout is the orientation of the rectangular picture. A strong vertical line in the subject dictates a portrait (upright) layout, and not a landscape view.

Next time the contest will have different categories and guidelines. Till then we have four new seasons in which to keep camera shutters blinking.



Barbara Walker, organizer of the photo competition, takes notes from Bob Leavitt on the techniques used to judge the entries



Deborah Prior's beautiful study of a butterfly perched atop a purple Echinacea flower, was judged Best of Show in the photography contest

The Olive and George Lee Memorial Garden

By Hilary Forsyth

Tucked away down a small, winding road in the wooded outskirts of New Canaan lays a small, secret woodland garden. The property, situated on the slopes of a steep, rocky hillside and down into the dell below, is punctuated by a number of tall broad-leaf trees, interspersed with conifers. This canopy provides ideal conditions for an extensive collection of rhododendrons and azaleas, and they, in turn, provide shelter for the bulbs, spring ephemerals and wildflowers nestled below.

There is no better description of the garden than that written in 1978 by George Lee Jr., when he willed the property to the Garden Center of New Canaan, and we are pleased to have permission to publish his account:

"The Memorial Garden has been in the making since 1940; slowly at first as the woods were being thinned; more rapidly after 1952 when propagation of the azaleas began, and even faster following retirement in 1962. Visitors are often surprised that there are only three acres, although within that area there are about three-quarters of a mile of paths in the shape of a large and complex pretzel.

"The garden is an expression of love for plants and if it has any further purpose, it might be to show that plants which are at home in our New England woods can make a setting which is no less attractive than a lawn. Since the collection of plants is unique in some respects—a fact which might not spare them from the heavy hand of some future owner more interested in a swimming pool—the property has been willed to the Garden Center of New Canaan, Inc., in the hope that it may continue for a while as an oasis in an increasingly bleak environment.

"The feature of the garden which attracts most attention is the display of azaleas in mid-May. There are about 2,000 plants in some 175 varieties, although the main display is formed by 40 varieties created by the late Joseph B. Gable of Stewartstown, PA. This collection of Gable hybrids was assembled with the cooperation of Mr. Gable and contains all the introductions he wishes to bear his name. Since this may be the only complete collection of his azaleas in existence, its preservation becomes an obligation as well as our good fortune. Gable was a pioneer in hybridizing azaleas and rhododendrons and ranks high among the few outstanding plant hybridizers which this country has produced.

"Second in claiming the admiration of visitors is the Rhododendron Path, a double dogleg out and back along two sides of the property, a quarter mile in length. Here may be seen over 280

rhododendron species and hybrids revealing the great advance which has been made in rhododendrons in recent years over the commonplace varieties still carried by most nurseries. The work of Gables, Shammarello, Dexter, Amateis, Nearing, and Leach is well represented. Special attention has been paid to the growing number of small-leaved rhododendrons, infrequently seen but useful in foundation plantings.

"Much more modest in making its presence known is a notable collection of wildflowers; mostly natives of the Eastern states but with the Pacific Coast states represented by the occasional flowers which will tolerate our conditions. Among the families of natives to be seen, some by numerous unfamiliar forms, are trailing arbutus, trillium, shortia, goldthread, bunchberry, bloodroot, violets, iris, rattlesnake plantain, galax, pyrola, phlox, and erythronium.

"During the last Ice Age a tongue of ice carved a channel through the property terminating in a dying lake (now a swamp) beyond the rear boundary which is the property of the New Canaan Audobon Society. The drainage from the glacier created a river whose abandoned bed is now revealed as a boulder drift crossed by paths at four points. These rocks have their own beauty but are occasionally used to display some of the more tolerant rock garden plants.

"Children are always welcome, hopefully to discover that life offers something besides war, pollution, and drugs."

For the past two years, the garden has been under the curatorship of Jessica Taylor. Jessica graduated with a BS in Horticulture and Landscape Design from the University of Illinois. Her remit is not only to maintain the garden, but also to renovate and rejuvenate the plantings, and to replant species that were in the original inventory of the garden but which have been lost over the years.

Jessica is presently involved in producing detailed plans and an inventory of the entire garden. This will enable proper labeling of the existing plants, and identification of plants that should be replaced. Because of the extensive pruning and renovation Jessica has undertaken, she feels the garden will not be at its best this year. I visited the garden in early April, and judging by the masses of flower buds on the azaleas and rhododendrons, May and June at the garden are going to be spectacular!

The garden is listed as a public garden in The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Directory. It is open every day, and entry is free. Please respect the garden, obey the signs, keep to the paths, and treat this garden as the true haven it is. The garden is situated at 89 Chichester Road, off Wahackme Road, in New Canaan.

Destinations

The Wildflower Island at Teatown Lake Reservation

By Barbara Leffler

Back in mid-May 2004, an enthusiastic group of about eight MGs and Interns made the trek to see the lady's slippers in bloom on Wildflower Island in Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining, New York. MG Lesley Gehr scrupulously organized our visit, right down to maps and guides. Our tour guide turned out to be a New York State Master Gardener, Chris Murray.

I had expected to see fields of lady's slippers in bloom, like daffodils. Instead, as we made our way along the paths of the two acre site, we spotted beautiful pink and yellow lady's slippers, peeking out from solo sites. Only in a couple spots were they clumped. It was an exquisite sight, and one I only now appreciate, after this viewing.

This little wildflower island at Teatown was formed when a field was flooded to create a lake. The island proved a perfect, protected place for wildflowers, and creation of a wildflower garden on the Island began in 1982. With careful attention, the site was preserved and nurtured by many volunteers. It has controlled access, via a little bridge, and a locked gate. (The gate is distinctive--wrought iron, with carvings of jack-in-the-pulpit, lady's slippers, trillium, and iris.)

Chris regaled us with thoughtful insights and observations about the many wildflowers we saw. The property is so carefully watched that we were given a sheet with the 47 wildflowers in bloom that week, in order of their place on our path. Volunteers maintain a meticulous inventory of which plants are on site, and when, exactly they bloom. Looks like research to me, and is certainly data gathering at its finest.

We learned that Latin names are most useful because they are specific (unambiguous, as compared to the common names), and because the names of-

ten tell something descriptive about the plant. We learned that "sessile" means "not on a stalk"; false Solomon's seal has its foam flower-like bloom at the end of its stalk, not underneath the leaves as in true Solomon's seal; maidenhair fern has a black, wiry stalk, with an umbrella-like habit; spotted wintergreen is not actually spotted, but striped. We learned that yellow lady's slippers are more common than are the pink variety, that the pink has two leaves at the base, while the yellow has leaves all the way up the stalk. To help one remember which is which, simply recall, "Pink is pure". Why are lady's slippers so rare? It takes a long time for the seeds to germinate and for the plants to grow to maturity. And lady's slippers are favorite deer food, so their very existence is threatened.

There were many other unusual plants to see and learn about. Perfoliate bellwort has a stem that comes through the leaves ("per" means "through" in Latin). Bluets are commonly called Quaker Ladies. Ferns can be identified in part by peeking under the leaves and seeing where the spores are forming. Thus "marginal wood fern" has spores forming on the margins underneath the leaf. Did you know that ostrich fern is vase shaped and invasive? New York fern tapers at both leaf ends, coming and going, like New Yorkers. The tiny pines on the forest floor are "Princess Pines".

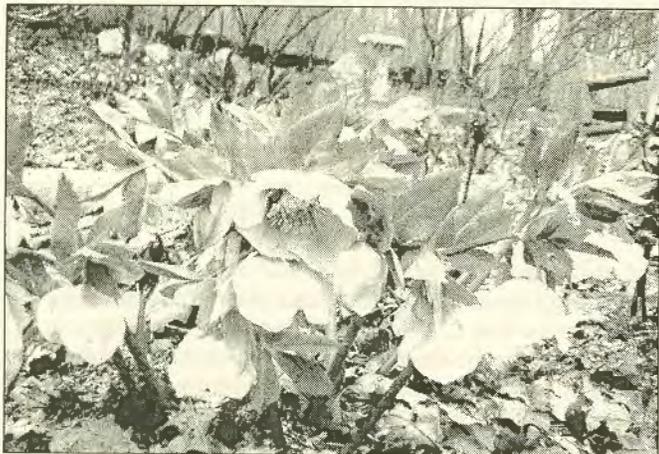
I was really thrilled and impressed with our visit to Teatown. Kudos to Chris Murray for leading us. This was a true learning experience, and also a great opportunity to see and appreciate beauty. It's easy to be too busy to set forth on a field trip, but these are gem opportunities.

Teatown Lake Reservation is at 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining, NY 10562 (www.teatown.org). Chris Murray is curator of the Bee and Butterfly Garden, and is a guide on Wildflower Island. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Teatown at 914-762-2912, ext. 10. Private tours on weekdays can be arranged for groups of six or more.

The Lee Memorial Garden, the Wildflower Island at Teatown Lake Reservation and the New York Botanical Garden (see article on page 12) are all public gardens and are listed in The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Directory for 2005. In addition to providing details of public gardens, the Directory lists private gardens which may be visited at designated times for a minimal fee.

More information is available from the website, www.gardenconservancy.org, or telephone The Garden Conservancy at 845-265-5384. The Directory costs \$5, and is available from selected bookstores or direct from The Garden Conservancy.

Proceeds from the Open Days Program support the national preservation work of the Garden Conservancy, as well as local not-for-profit organizations designated by individual garden hosts.



Hellebores in full bloom at Lee Gardens

Destinations

BENENSON ORNAMENTAL CONIFERS COLLECTION

New York Botanical Garden (NYBG)

By Richard Shaffer

During October 2004 my wife and I participated in the grand reopening of the Benenson Ornamental Conifers collection at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG). Even though the weather was overcast, cool, and at times drizzling, activities of the day and the presence of so many members and visitors made for a warm and memorable event.

The day's busy schedule included five guided tours throughout the day, two home gardening demonstrations during the afternoon, an afternoon lecture by none other than UConn's Dr. Sidney Waxman, and two afternoon question and answer sessions. These were on top of other exhibitions and family activities.

The tour was lead by NYBG's Todd Forest, Director of Living Collections and Senior Curator of Trees and Shrubs. Over 100 people attended, and Mr. Forest's remarks were extensive and very informative. The best way to describe this NYBG project is to quote a portion of what Forest wrote in the fall issue of the NYBG newsletter, *Garden News*:

"The Benenson Ornamental Conifers includes more than 400 beautiful conifers from around the world. After an intensive five-year renovation, the largest undertaken at the Garden, this historic 15-acre landscape reopened October 30th with improved public access, new information for visitors, and the addition of more than 200 conifers.

"The Benenson Conifers were established in the late 1940's with the donation of 200 specimens from the collection of Colonel R. H. Montgomery of Connecticut. Landscape architect Marian Coffin, who also designed the gardens at Winterthur, integrated these plants harmoniously with the exposed bedrock and mature shade trees.

"Over the decades, most of the conifers grew gracefully, but some succumbed to the vagaries of nature. By the late 1990's deterioration was readily apparent. Rock outcrops had become overgrown and the footpaths deteriorated. In

Dr. Sidney Waxman of Storrs, CT, who donated dwarf conifers to the NYBG's refurbished Benenson Ornamental Conifers collection, died on February 10th of this year at the age of 81. He established the UCONN nursery where he developed over forty cultivars—among them the popular dwarf conifers Sea Urchin, Blue Shag, and Sand Castle. He will certainly be missed at UConn

1999, the Garden began a complete renovation of the collection. Five years of effort were realized clearing rock outcrops of weed trees, restoring turf, and pruning and planting hundreds of conifers.

"For new plantings and features, the Garden called upon designer Patrick Chasse and landscape architect Shavaun Towers. Their design, based upon Ms. Coffin's original plan, includes three new stone and cedar pavilions, an updated path system, automatic irrigation, and two new dwarf conifer display beds.

"Among the new conifers added during the renovation was a group introduced by the legendary Dr. Sidney Waxman of the University of Connecticut. Fifteen of Dr. Waxman's named selections, including two pines, *Pinus strobus* 'Sea Urchin' and *Pinus densiflora* 'Vibrant', a Japanese umbrella-pine, *Sciadopitys verticillata* 'Wintergeen', and three spectacular unnamed selections headlined the Benenson Conifers."

Excellent handouts on conifers were available at NYBG, and their publication entitled *The Benenson Ornamental Conifers* was available for sale. Though only containing 28 pages, this little booklet is packed with beautiful photographs and information about conifers, the history and renovation of the conifer collection, selecting, planting and caring for ornamental conifers, as well as highlighted species and cultivars of the Benenson collection.

Without a doubt, we'll be revisiting the Benenson collection sometime during this upcoming spring or early summer to see it and other areas of the NYBG in all their glory.

Master Gardener Scholarship for 2006

A Master Gardener who prefers to remain anonymous and has been very active in CMGA for a number of years, quite unexpectedly lost her best gardening and lifelong friend Janet Ross last year. In memory of her friend, she has donated money to CMGA in Janet's name for the 2006 Master Gardener classes which Janet had hoped to attend. She prefers that the scholarship be given to a needy person, possibly from the inner city, who is interested in gardening. If you know of someone you believe would be a good candidate, please contact Cyndi Wyskiewicz at 1 877 486 6271.

Book Review

GARDEN INSECTS OF NORTH AMERICA

The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs

By Whitney Cranshaw

2004, Princeton University Press :

List price \$29.95

Reviewed by Hilary Forsyth

"When managing garden pests, identification is always the required first step – and this book is designed to assist in this."

Troubled yet fascinated by the insects which inhabit your garden? Ever wonder how these bugs seem to appear as if from nowhere? Get the feeling that by the time you notice them, it is too late to do anything about them anyway? And even if you knew which bugs you had, you wouldn't know how to deal with them? Then Whitney Cranshaw's ***Garden Insects of North America*** is the book for you.

Cranshaw is Professor and Extension Specialist at Colorado State University, and dedicates his book *'To entomology educators and to the Cooperative Extension system which so well fosters the spirit of shared learning'*. This guide to insect identification emphasizes the insect species most likely to be encountered in the garden setting, and strongly promotes the principles of Integrated Pest Management as a means of pest control.

The publication is not your pocket guide to bugs. It is over 650 pages in length, and weighty despite being presented in a soft-cover format. The book is divided into 11 Chapters with extensive indices and references. Cranshaw's clear and readable descriptions, supported by hundreds of color photographs, make this the ideal book to keep close at hand for frequent reference.

The first chapter, "Introduction to Garden Insects and Their Relatives", briefly covers insect classification, body structure, life cycle and reproductive stages. This is followed by discussion of the immature stages of arthropods, and a section dealing with the symptoms that can indicate the presence of in-

sects – their excretions and secretions, cast skins, and the types of injuries they cause to plants.

The opening sentence of the second chapter: *"The overwhelming majority of arthropods encountered in the yard and garden are of innocuous habit or may even be beneficial."* sets the tone for the garden pest management principles discussed. Various methods of pest control are described, with explanations of the life-cycle stages when pests are most vulnerable.

The book gives an up-close-and-personal look at insects we may encounter in our gardens. Chapters are conveniently divided to cover specific areas of plants where insects may cause damage: Leaf Chewers and Leaf Miners; Flower, Fruit and Seed Feeders; Sap Suckers; Stem and Twig Damagers; Trunk and Branch Borers, and so on.

Each chapter is organized so that description of the subject under discussion is placed on the left-hand page, with an illustrative full-page collage of photographs on the accompanying right-hand page. At the end of the book there is an appendix of host genera and associated insects, a glossary of terms, a list of selected references, and a comprehensive index to guide you through the publication.

The last chapter deals extensively with beneficial species. Concise descriptions and numerous pictures of the various life stages of beneficial insects make identification easy. Here we get to learn not only about the various life stages of the beneficial lady birds, lacewings and bees that we should welcome into our gardens, but also about the pathogens – viruses, bacteria, fungi, nematodes – that are the natural enemies of our garden pests.

I do have one small complaint about this book: The captions to the photographs are streamed across the bottom of the pictorial page. With up to 15 photos per page, connecting caption to photograph can be a little awkward. On the other hand, this format does encourage the reader to study all the photographs and all the captions on the page – perhaps not a wasted exercise after all.

"... the part of the plant where an insect is encountered is likely to be how a gardener most strongly associates the insect."

Books and Magazines Needed

Submitted by Richard E Palazzo

The New London County office has formed a focus group and is organizing a May Day open house on the office grounds. The building was closed for some time for extensive renovations and we have found that many members of the general public don't realize it has reopened. We hope to create a greater awareness in our area with this event which will include educational displays and plant sales. I have been requested to take charge of a book sale table and would appreciate any assistance.

We are looking for donations of gardening-type books and magazines to be sold to help pay for renovations to our landscaping, etc. Call our coordinator Melissa Smith at 860-887-1608 or Richard Palazzo at 860-376-6247. (cell 860-334-3441), email tubalcaine@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
Now—Nov. 2005 Mon—Sat, 10—5 Sunday noon—5	Landscape Under Siege: Invasive Plants of Connecticut. Botanical illustrations by the Guild of Natural Science, Peabody Museum, 170 Whitney Avenue, New Haven. 203-432-5050, www.peabody.yale.edu
May 12, 2005 4 PM—5:30PM	"New England's Invasive Plants". FREE gallery talk by Christopher Mattrick of the New England Wild Flower Society. Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, 170 Whitney Avenue, New Haven. 508-877-7630. No pre-registration required.
May 14, 2005 10AM—2PM	Perennial Sale, Herb Sale, Dahlia Plant & Root Sale, and Iris Sale. @ Information Center, Elizabeth Park. Offered by Friends of Elizabeth Park, CT Herb Society, CT Dahlia Society and CT Iris Society. Call 860-231-9443, or visit www.elizabethpark.org
May 15, 2005 10AM—2PM	Field Trip to Sleeping Giant State Park, Hamden, CT, led by botanist Ted Elliman. Co-sponsored by NEWFS and Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. Preregistration required at registrar@newfs.org . Fee.
May 17—October 11 2005	Garden Gang Days @ Hillstead Museum's Sunken Garden. Join volunteers to help maintain the garden. Contact: Dave Perbeck at 860-677-4787, ext. 170 or perbeckd@hillstead.org
May 19, 2005 8PM	The Artist's Garden @ Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Robert Fuoco at monthly meeting of CT Horticultural Society. Contact: 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org
May 21, 2005 Noon—4PM	Combined Horticultural Show @ Pond House, Elizabeth Park. Offered by CT Iris Society, CT Rhododendron Society and CT Rock Garden Society. Information, call 860-231-9443 or visit www.elizabethpark.org
June 1, 2005	Friends of Elizabeth Park Bus Trip to NYBG. See page 5 of <i>The Laurel</i> for details.
June 4, 2005 All day	Friends of The Library Garden, Farmington. Tour of 5 gardens, plus the MG Garden at Farmington Library. MGs will be at the Library Garden all day to conduct tours & answer gardening questions. Tickets available at Farmington Library, 860-673-6791
June 4, 2005 9AM to 4PM	Herbfest 2005. Topmost Herb Farm, 244 North School Road, Coventry, CT 06238. Workshops, demonstrations, weed walks, information tables. Suggested donation \$5. Sponsored by CT Herb Association. 860-742-8239, www.topmostherbfarm.com
June 7, 12 & 15 2005, 12 & 6:30PM	Rose Garden Tours @ Rose Garden Gazebo, Elizabeth Park. Information, call 860-231-9443 or visit www.elizabethpark.org
June 8, 2005 7:30PM	Tom Nasser of Carolina Orchids—Angraecoids Angraecums. @ New Haven Agricultural Station. CT Orchid Society meeting. www.geocities.com/ct_orchids
June 9, 2005 6:30PM	Perennial Garden Tour @ Elizabeth Park. 860-231-9443, www.elizabethpark.org
June 11, 2005 10AM—3PM	Plant Sale @ Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA. New England Wild Flower Society. Includes silent auction and book sale. Contact: 508-877-7630 or www.newfs.org
June 12, 2005 9.45AM—1:15PM	Field Trip to Horse Island, Thimble Islands, CT. Led by botanist Lauren Brown, author of <i>The Vegetation of Thimble Islands</i> . Co-sponsored by NEWFS and Yale Peabody Museum. Preregistration required at registrar@newfs.org . Fee.
June 12, 2005 12PM & 6:30PM	Summer Care of Roses Workshop @ Rose Garden Gazebo, Elizabeth Park. Information, call 860-231-9443 or visit www.elizabethpark.org
June 17-19, 2005	Rose Weekend @ Elizabeth Park. Call 860-231-9443 or visit www.elizabethpark.org
June 25, 2005 9AM to 12PM	The Art and Science of Woody Plant Propagation. Hands-on workshop held at Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, CT. Pre-registration required at registrar@newfs.org . Co-sponsored by NEWFS and Yale Peabody Museum. Fee.
July 16, 2005	CMGA Summer Safari—Semi-Annual Meeting. Starting @ Bethel Extension Center. Tour: Maywood Estate Gardens, Sydney Eddison's private gardens, and Hollandia Nursery. Information: www.ctmga.org . A small fee will be charged for coach transport.
August 3, 2005 10AM—4PM	Plant Science Day @ Lockwood Farm, CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 890 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden, CT. Contact: www.caes.state.ct.us

Information and Interest

Connecticut and Regional Plant Societies

CT Botanical Society	www.ct-botanical-society.org 860 633 7557
CT Cactus & Succulent Society	www.ctcactusclub.com
CT Dahlia Society	Jesse Peterson, 860 485 0326 JessePJ@aol.com
CT Daylily Society	www.ahsregion4.org/r4cds.htm Cheri Ferrari 860 526 1048
CT Horticultural Society	www.cthort.org 860 529 8413
CT Iris Society	www.irisgarden.org
CT Orchid Society	www.geocities.com/ct_orchids Judy Becker 860 435 2263
CT Rhododendron Society	www.psofconn.com/ars/pener.htm
CT Rose Society	www.ctrose.org
New England Wildflower Society	www.newfs.org 508 877 7630
North American Rock Garden Society - CT Chapter	www.narqs.org/meet/chap_ct.html
Tri-State Hosta Society	www.tristatehosta.org

Volunteers Wanted!

Volunteer to look after wildflower gardens at Bent of the River Audobon Center, 185 East Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT 06488. Contact Carolyn Longstreth of the Audobon Society at 203-264-9502.

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 860-231-9443, or email www.elizabethpark.org

Books Wanted!

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

CMGA Logo Clothing Available

The new CMGA Logo clothing was very popular at the CMGA Symposium and we ran out of stock quickly. If you were unable to attend the symposium, this is your chance to buy the new CMGA clothing. If you would like to order a light blue denim shirt or the navy fleece vest with a CMGA embroidered logo, please fill out the form below and mail it before May 25th. An order will be placed at the end of May and they will be mailed directly to your home by the end of June. They are men's sizes, so a medium is the equivalent of women's generous large. A small is the equivalent of a women's generous medium.

Please cut out this form and mail it with a check made out to CMGA to:

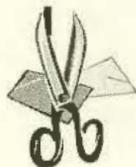
Barbara Duffy, 9 Blossom Lane, Wallingford, CT 06492

Qty	Size (XXL, XL, L, M, S)	Price	Total
_____	Light blue denim shirt	\$40/\$45 for XXL + \$5 shipping =	\$45/\$50
_____	Navy fleece vest	\$35 all sizes + \$5 shipping =	\$40

Tax does not apply as CMGA is a not for profit organization

Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City/Zip _____
 Phone #/Email _____

Thanks for your order - proceeds go to CMGA scholarships and outreach funding



Connecticut Master Gardener Association

The *Laurel*

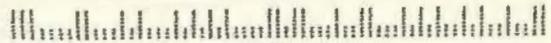
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c/o John Neff
18 Knollwood Road
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Marie Dube
455 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525

06525+1647 03



SAVE THE DATE!

CMGA Summer Safari
Saturday, July 16th, 2005

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Keep connected! Become a Mentor!

Read all about some fantastic gardens to visit this Spring!

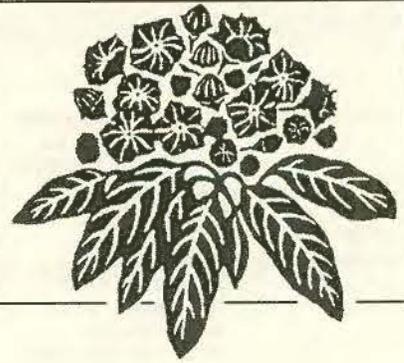
Get to know your backyard bugs! - See book review inside

CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

The Laurel

August, 2005

Volume 18, No. 3



Summer Safari Report

The CMGA's semi-annual meeting on July 16th 2005, included a visit to three gardens in the Bethel area. One of these was Sydney Eddison's garden. Many CMGA members will be familiar with this garden from reading Sydney's books on gardening or from attending her lectures.

This small section of the 100' long border (photo at left) exemplifies the elements of structure and depth that Sydney describes so eloquently.

See pages 8 and 9 for more Summer Safari reports.



Outreach Opportunities are Abundant!

Community outreach is what the master gardener program is all about and is a good way for all levels of Master Gardeners to stay involved with the program. The Laurel is an excellent vehicle for letting MGs know which outreach opportunities are active. The extension centers and local focus groups have been great about providing information of their activities so that we can let our readers know how they can get involved. All you have to do is read this month's Laurel to see how many exciting projects are in the works in schools, senior centers, public gardens, historic sites, and community gardens of all types. Our MGs are working successfully with volunteers from a variety of community groups like 4H, scouting groups, and food banks. MGs are really making a difference in our communities! So make that phone call and get involved. Your training makes you an invaluable asset to your community.

If you have a worthy outreach project but lack funding, please see page 14, your project may be a candidate for CMGA funding assistance.

Save the Date!

The next CMGA semi-annual meeting is planned for November 12th, 2005. There will be a volunteer appreciation brunch, and a guest speaker will entertain and inform us all. Notice of the meeting and further details will be mailed to members shortly.

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UConn Home & Garden

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877-486-6271 www.cnr.uconn.edu/garden

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CMGA website: www.ctmga.org

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CMGA Business

Dear Master Gardeners,

On July 16th, we held our semi-annual meeting in Bethel, CT at the Stony Hill Fire Station's Community Room with approximately 112 in attendance. We were able to introduce a new line of CMGA clothing along with an exciting new logo design thanks to Billy Baxter and Barbara Duffy. Following the meeting we had a tour of Maywood Gardens, Sydney Eddison's garden and Hollandia Nursery. As many of you know we had to turn away a number of members as we were limited to the number of guests the garden owners would permit. It was difficult for your board to make this decision; however, we had to respect their requests.

We are in the process of setting up next year's semi-annual meeting in the Northeast part of the state with the Brooklyn Extension Service being our host. It is our hope that once again we will visit some private gardens in the area, this time we have to divide the group into thirds if we get more attendance.

We are in the process of obtaining speakers for our 2006 Spring Symposium, which will focus on nurseries throughout Connecticut. If you have a favorite one please let Marge Bingham know, as she is our speakers chairman (telephone 860-678-9575).

The focus groups continue to expand with many involved with their outreach projects. If we can assist you or if you are thinking of starting a focus group in your area, please contact John Neff (telephone 860-673-5018).

Carl Sommer has been gracious to help with our website. He has a number of new and exciting ideas so please check us out at www.ctmga.org.

If you are interested in attending our board meetings, they are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Pond House, located in Elizabeth Park in Hartford, CT, with our next board meeting to be held on September 6, 2005.

Paul Grimmeisen
President, CMGA



Master Gardener Scholarship for 2006

A Master Gardener who prefers to remain anonymous and who has been very active in CMGA for a number of years, quite unexpectedly lost her best gardening and lifelong friend Janet Holmes last year. In memory of her friend, she has donated money to CMGA in Janet's name for the 2006 Master Gardener classes which Janet had hoped to attend. She prefers that the scholarship be given to a needy person, possibly from the inner city, who is interested in gardening. If you know of someone you believe would be a good candidate, please contact Cyndi Wyskiewicz at 1 877 486 6271.

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

Deadline for next issue: October 1st, 2005

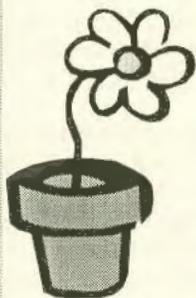
Save the date!
Saturday August 20, 2005

UConn Master Gardener Program's summer fundraiser tour

Where: at Natureworks Garden Center in Northford, CT

When: Saturday August 20th starting at 1pm

Why: to raise \$\$ for UConn's Master Gardener Program and see some great summer plants!



A small fee will be charged for the tour

Full details will be in your mail boxes soon. For questions call Cyndi at The Home and Garden Center Education Office @ 1-860-486-6343.

2006 Master Gardener Program

Applications for the 2006 Master Gardener Program will be available in the County Cooperative Extension offices from August 15, 2005 to October 15, 2005. You can also find the application on the Home and Garden Center web-

site www.canr.uconn.edu/garden/. Go to the Master Gardener link. Please tell your friends about our great program. For further information call Cyndi at the Home and Garden Center education office. 1-860-486-6343.

Advanced Master Gardener Classes — Summer 2005

Date and Time	Location	Topic
September 10 & 24, 2005 10:00AM—1:00PM	West Hartford	Introduction to Garden Design
September 13, 2005 6:00PM—8:00PM	Storrs	Establishing Perennial Beds
September 15, 2005 9:30AM—12:30PM	Bethel	HOT TOPICS
September 17, 2005 9:30AM—11:30AM	North Haven	Rhodys—The Whole Story from the Ground Up
September 23, 2005 10:00AM—4:00PM	Camp Quinebaug, Danielson	Vocational and Leisure Aspects of Horticultural Therapy
October 4, 2005 1:00PM—2:30PM	Brooklyn	How we Grow Garlic at Wayne's Organic Garden
October 8, 2005 9:30AM—11:30AM	North Haven	Dahlias as Annuals as well as Perennials

Gardening Fair

Saturday, August 13, 2005

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fairfield County Agricultural Center

69 Stony Hill Rd, Bethel, CT

Come and hear Master Gardeners speak on:

Sustainable Turf - Keeping Your Lawn Green with Less Fertilizer

Choosing and Care of Perennials for Sun and Shade

Controlling Deer and Other Critters

Enhancing Your Home with Foundation Plantings

Identifying Native Wildflowers

Identifying and Controlling Non-Native Invasive Plants

Plus

Master Gardeners on site to answer your plant, soil and garden questions,

identify plants & weeds, help with pest identification and management

Guided tour and discussion of perennial gardens

Nature walk with wildflower expert

Display of various turf types

Display and identification of invasive plants

Weed and Wildflower Identification

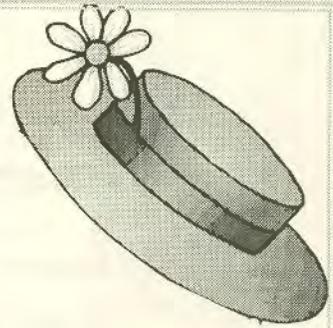
Free Perennial Plant Raffle

No admission charge

Open to the public

No registration necessary

Questions? Call the MG office (203) 207-3262



*(Left):
Visitors to
the 2004
Gardening
Fair were
given a warm
and friendly
welcome*



(Above): Fairfield Coordinator Sandi Wilson (at left) shows a bald-faced hornets nest to fascinated youngsters at the 2004 Gardening Fair

Fairfield County/Bethel Extension Center
2005 Outreach Opportunities

By Sandi Wilson, Extension Center Coordinator

Volunteers are needed for the following community outreach projects in upper Fairfield County:

Healing Hearts – Danbury: Volunteers are needed to assist the current crew who are restoring the healing gardens at this Hospice-affiliated grief counseling center for children and adults. The gardens include a water garden, maze, meadow area, and formal garden area. A plan for an interactive plant walk is being developed. For more information, please contact the project manager, Ingrid McCauley at 203-426-5990

Scott Fanton/Danbury Museum Gardens – Danbury: Volunteers are needed to join the team of Master Gardeners who continue to restore the historic sunken gardens on the grounds of the Danbury Museum. For more information, please contact project manager, Carol Beerbaum at 860-210-1433.

Ashlar of Newtown: Volunteers are needed for horticulture therapy with residents of this non-profit nursing home and assisted living facility. Other projects in the works include the design and implemen-

tation of a wheelchair accessible serenity garden, an interior window herb garden, and a research project on interior plantscapes for a new wing in the facility. Please contact Sandi Wilson at 203-207-3261 for more information.

Third Annual Garden Fair – August 13, 2005 Bethel: Volunteers are needed in all capacities at the third annual Master Gardener sponsored community outreach fair. The following help is needed: set up, break down, speaker keepers, staffing information booths, parking, registration, etc. Please contact Priscilla Terhune, 2005 Fair Chairperson at 203-262-6435 to volunteer.

Many more outreach projects are currently available. If you would like more information on other community outreach opportunities, please contact Sandi Wilson at 203-207-3261 or sandra.wilson@uconn.edu.

New Haven County

By Mira Schachne, Extension Center Coordinator

Despite the triple H weather we had in June, the Master Gardeners of New Haven County (MGNHC) decided to hold a fire sale... of plants, naturally. Selected to fill in the bare spots we suddenly discover in our gardens at this time of year, the bright colors of many different plants lit up our parking lot. It also gave the group a chance to catch up with each other and plan future events. We sold out early.

We continue to work with students from the ACES schools and are training some in the fine art of

planting, pruning and (horrors) weeding. They seem to enjoy it and come back in the morning, two days a week, to help us keep the extension center site maintained. The North Haven Extension Center office property is owned by UCONN and the Master Gardeners are responsible for the grounds. In order to keep the site looking well, we would like to borrow someone with a truck to transport plant material from Storrs to North Haven. Your gas expenses will be paid and it is approved outreach time...

Just to list a few outreach opportunities for AMG consideration:

- ❖ The weather should be more pleasant during the weekend of September 17 & 18. We need people, mostly on Saturday, to set up the MG table at the **Orange Country Fair**, and naturally, answer questions. This is one of our ongoing outreach opportunities. This is a great little fair for adults and families.
- ❖ We've been asked to provide a speaker for the **North Haven Recycling Center's** ongoing project to inform people about composting. They would like a speaker (or two) for two Saturday mornings in October...and as a perk, you can get

a free compost bin. Our office has material you can use.

- ❖ If you want to try your hand at plans to convert a 1950 landscape to more current ideas, we have a project for you. We started this last year and due to limited intern coverage now, we've had to delay some of the planning. The site is the **East Haven Food Bank** – and there is a staff to do the work. They need the ideas, though.

If you want to help the New Haven County group in any of these projects, please phone Mira Schachne at (203) 407 – 3167 or email at: Mira.Schachne@uconn.edu.

News from MG Groups around the State

CMGA Shoreline Chapter

By Heather Atwater

The Shoreline chapter of the CMGA had a very successful first year in existence and wound up the season with a members' plant swap at Bauer Park in Madison in lieu of the June meeting. Regular monthly meetings will start up again in September and those on our email list will get updates and calls to duty for our ongoing projects.



MGs of the Shoreline Chapter, Madison, at the plant swap at Bauer Farm on May 19th. (L to R): Ted Mankovich, Marge Reid, Evelyn Rose (MG Intern), Barbara Tenney; Foreground: Heather Atwater

The Olmstead Garden in Guilford will be the site for an informal meeting and walk-through in August (if interested and not on our email list, contact Heather Atwater at heathsail@sbcglobal.net or 203 421 8489 or Ted Mankovich at 203 453 4415). We will let you know of the date by email if you are on our membership list.

The butterfly garden project at Bauer Farm, headed up by Marge Reid, is progressing nicely and we plan to have an educational table and activities for the fall Harvest Festival Saturday on October 15th 11 - 3 pm. Volunteers are needed for garden design and planting as well as for the event in October. If interested, please contact Marge Reid at 860 669 9979. **Master Gardener Interns who need hours to complete their course, please contact Heather Atwater** (heathsail@sbcglobal.net or 203 421 8489) **for volunteer opportunities.**

Fall speakers include Barb Yaeger on the history of Olmstead in Connecticut (and where to see some of his most beautiful gardens) and Summer Hill Nurseries (hopefully on their specialty of propagating woodies!).

Farmington Valley Focus Group

(Includes Avon, Canton, Collinsville, and Granby)

By Diane Ostheimer

Our group is working on a project for the Avon Senior Center which is located in Sycamore Park on West Avon Road. The garden the group is working on has been named A Living Memorial Garden. The group is working with Rosalie Moore, Avon Senior Center Program Coordinator on this great site for a beautiful, large garden.

The group has worked on four garden beds including a pathway to the center. The plantings include a weeping mulberry tree as well as a variety of annuals and perennials. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for September 19th and the whole town is invited to attend and view the gardens.

The group plans to continue their efforts at the Sycamore Park in the future by overhauling an overgrown garden. The CMGA has given us a grant and all the help we need (our thanks to John Neff, Paul Grimmeisen, and the CMGA Board). We welcome anyone who would like to come and see it.

The Farmington Valley Focus Group is planning to merge with the Northwest Laurels Focus Group and is planning a large joint meeting in September.



(L to R): Kathy Baechle, Diane Ostheimer, Grace Ostheimer and Bonnie Lombard, ready to start work on the Living Memorial Garden at the Avon Senior Center

Volunteers Wanted!

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 860-231-9443, or email www.elizabethpark.org

News from MG Groups around the State

New London County Focus Group Celebrates May Day

By Melissa B. Smith, New London MG Class Coordinator

The Master Gardeners Focus Group of New London County had a May Day Celebration on May 1st, complete with May Pole! The day included a plant sale, and many demonstrations. Topics included plant propagation, cooking with spring vegetables, invasive plants, weeds, edible plants and herbs. There were numerous raffle prizes and 4H summer programs to sign up for, Mothers Day gifts for the children to make, garden items, gently used garden books and magazines to buy - and free coffee! The weather was a bit iffy up until 11:45 a.m. and then up went the May Pole topped with flowers and wrapped with colorful ribbons blowing in the warm breeze. The day was considered a complete success.

The Master Gardener Focus Group wants to "thank" the other programs from the extension cen-



Charlie Tefft and Maryann Casciano (left) gave a propagation demonstration at the New London County Master Gardeners May Day Plant Sale

ter that participated and gave us their time and energy that Sunday.

The next project for the Master Gardener Focus Group is the landscaping for the New London County Extension Center. We've already started by planting around our new UCONN Extension Center signs down by the main road and driveway. We also planted around our neighbors (The Three Rivers Community College) sign to compliment our sign and to be good neighbors. Plans are getting firmed up for the plaza area which includes a bench, a flagpole, and final landscaping. If anyone is interested in joining our M.G.F.G. or just wants to help with the landscape project for outreach please call: Melissa B. Smith @ 1 860 885 2823.



(L to R): MGs Jan McCue, Bev Weymouth, Pam Hebert, Nancy Noyes and Betty Beaudette worked at the New London County Master Gardeners Plant Sale

Windham County

By Kim Kelly, Extension Center Coordinator

This season we are very excited about the outreach projects in Windham County. Thanks to the support of CMGA, we have been able to achieve our goals.

We have been upgrading the extension center's gardens by installing a sustainable landscape which will be featured on the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor walking weekend.

The newest "kid on the block" is the People's Harvest, a food rescue and agricultural education, non profit organization dealing with issues of hunger, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture. Windham County Master Gardeners have worked hard to establish a People's Harvest vegetable garden at Hotchkiss Farm in Pomfret's Wolf Den Park. While the location is beautiful, this farm had not been actively worked in many years and required many

hours of hard work including extensive poison ivy removal.

With generous contributions from CMGA, Wayne's Organic Farms, and proceeds from our annual plant sale, we were able to amend the soil and plant a great variety of vegetables. Along with local schools and community groups, master gardeners will be distributing the harvest throughout Windham County. Cheryl Rautio, Windham County's EFNEP agent is preparing healthy recipes and nutritional information and will be conducting preparation workshops.

The hardworking crew of master gardeners working on the People's Harvest project includes: Dr. Bob, Dick Campbell, Jay Beausoleil, Gloria Larusso, and many others who have volunteered.

July 2005 Summer Safari Report

What a day! The CMGA's Summer Safari on July 16th gave participants a rare chance to visit three very different gardens.



(Above): Sydney Eddison talks to the group about the planting, maintenance and continuing development of her garden

Sydney Eddison's garden was quite beautiful. Nestled in amongst shady woodlands (most welcome on what was a very hot and humid day), the deceptive simplicity of the plantings gave this garden an almost ethereal serenity.

Sydney herself greeted visitors. She gave a brief overview of her garden, the color palette and design elements she had used, and the plants she grew there. Sydney was happy to talk to everyone; she answered questions and autographed books, and even provided warm coffee cake. She was as charming as her garden!



*(Left): A view of part of the 100' long perennial border, with its edging of silver-leaved lamb's-ears (*Stachys byzantina*). The border was in full glory, with vibrantly-colored daylilies blooming amidst a mixture of perennials.*

*A chartreuse-leaved Honey Locust (*Robinia*) draws the eye down the length of the border to the far end of the garden.*

(Below): We all fell in love with the beautiful salmon-pink annual poppies blooming alongside this pathway.



*Sydney Eddison has very generously offered to share seeds from this beautiful plant, a variety of *Papaver somniferum*. If you would like some of the seeds, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:*

*Sydney Eddison
65 Echo Valley Rd
Newtown, CT 06470-1126*



(Above): Sydney Eddison autographs books for Master Gardeners on the tour.

July 2005 Summer Safari Report

Maywood Estates: The many gardens at Maywood Estates were almost overwhelming in their variety and splendor. Property Manager Greg Bollard led the tours through the gardens, and explained the theme and purpose behind each of the gardens as well as the IPM gardening practices followed on the Estates.

Greg had mapped out a course for the Master Gardeners which covered only some of the gardens on the property; even so, our 75-minute tour turned out to be quite a route march!

(Right): Beds in the Sunken Perennial Garden are bordered by stone edging. The grassed pathway leads up to a seating area with a glorious view over the valley.



(Above): Members of the group in the beautifully trimmed Loggia Garden where boxwood hedges divide block plantings of silver artemisia and purple astilbe into a checker-board design



(Above) Follow me! Property Manager Greg Bollard leads the group from the Gazebo Garden towards the Rose Garden



(Above) We certainly got some exercise! Hiking up the path through the Woodland Garden. (Transport in a golf cart was thoughtfully provided for those unable to cope with the steep terrain)

Hollandia: Our final tour was of plantings with a purpose at Hollandia, a large retail nursery in Bethel.

Eugene Reelick, son of the nursery's founder, gave us a very interesting tour through gardens at the nursery which are designed both to display plants and to trial new plant varieties. Eugene described various aspects of the nursery,



including maintenance of the gardens and sale plants, pruning of conifers to keep them to size, growing vegetables with very little water, making compost. And then we got to shop!

(Left): Eugene Reelick of Hollandia Nursery talks to the group about maintenance of the nursery's display gardens.

Northwest Mountain Laurels

By Jackie Shadford

The Connecticut Master Gardener Association gave \$300 towards the Northwest Mountain Laurels' heirloom garden project and most of the funding was used to construct raised beds and to purchase composted soil. The beds are specifically designed to mirror patterns inside the historic Brown-Elton Tavern parlors, and they have handicapped accessible paths. MG Faith Heering has installed a delightful, shady island garden with seating. MG Jackie Shadford has been the construction manager with the strong back. Plants were donated and labor was all volunteer.

Volunteers met outside the tavern every Saturday in June to help plant about 60 varieties of flowers. We asked for donations of particular heirloom plants that would have been cultivated before 1860 in New England. Flyers were left for garden visitors



Mid-June 2005, and the beds are ready for planting at the Historical Garden at Burlington Museum

in a green mailbox installed at the entrance to the garden with a wish list of plants. We told people who were kind enough to donate plants that we would accept any plant material, but would prefer heirloom or non-hybrid plant material, so that we could maintain historically accurate gardens as much as possible. We were willing to take any and all plants however, and swap, sell, and barter for what is needed.

Just some of the plants used include: peonies, iris, convallaria, achillea, aquilegia, aster, baptisia, campanula, clethra, chrysanthemum, dicentra, dianthus, digitalis, echinacea, echinops, filipendula, kalmia, liliun, lobelia, rudbeckia, phlox, scabiosa and viburnum. Many types of herbs were planted which came from members' gardens as well as from MG Evelyn Betz's Homegrown Farms in Barkhamstead. In September the group will have workdays for fall planting as the tavern gardens are still a work in progress. Faith Heering is the liaison for volunteers and can be reached at 860 583 3288.

The Northwest Mountain Laurels' **next scheduled meeting** will be at the Brown-Elton Tavern in Burlington on Wednesday September 14th at 7pm. Contact Jackie Shadford at 860 675 3425 for further information.



MG Jackie Shadford gets to work

Litchfield County

By Jerry Gault

A small but active group of Litchfield area master gardeners would welcome the energy, ideas and projects of other master gardeners in the area. There are currently four active master gardeners (Karen Andersen, Laurie Charlton, Marie Murphy, and Jerry Gault) actively involved in local outreach projects. They are working on ongoing beautification projects at Litchfield's Oliver Wolcott Library and the White Memorial Conservation Center.

The Litchfield County Master Gardeners have supported the annual Family Nature Day at the White Memorial Conservation Center for several years. It will be held on September 24th from 11 to 5 and master gardeners are needed to answer questions, provide printed material on a variety of subjects, and sell chrysanthemums donated by a local

greenhouse. We will even introduce you to one of the Nature Day's most illustrious guests - Erma from Burma (a Python)!

Any master gardener interns who need outreach hours or master gardeners who are interested in joining the group on Nature Day or other outreach projects, call Jerry Gault at 860 567 1641 or Karen Andersen at 860 868 2116.

*"But though an old man,
I am but a young gardener."*

- Thomas Jefferson

Letter to Charles Willson Peale, August 20, 1811. *Thomas Jefferson's Garden Book* (1944), Edited by E.M. Betts

Farmington Focus Group

By John Neff

The Farmington Master Gardeners finished three projects. They planted about 30 shrubs, bushes and trees at the Habitat House in Oakland Gardens. They completed planting of the gazebo at the Green in Unionville. And they had about 150 visitors to their garden at the Farmington Library during the Friends of the Library garden tour in June.



Master Gardeners and MG Interns at the Farmington Library Garden Tour included Martha Cheshire, Ken Bobinski, Pamela Morrison Wolf, Paul Grimmeisen, Sandy Goralnick



(L to R): Master Gardeners Ken Bobinski, Martha Cheshire, Sandy Myhalik and Paul Grimmeisen working on the landscaping at the Habitat House in Farmington on May 2nd, 2005. Not pictured: Ed Owens and John Neff

Master Gardeners and Interns working on these projects were: Marge Bingham, Ken Bobinski, Martha Cheshire, Sandy Goralnick, Paul Grimmeisen, Sandy Myhalik, John Neff, Ed Owens, and Pamela Morrison Wolf.

Farmington Master Gardener Interns Janet Culver and Peter Knowles had their gardens on the St. Mary's tour of Unionville gardens in July, with over 100 visitors in 100 degree heat.

Master Gardener Intern Project – New Haven Jewish Home for the Aged

By Suzanne Gold

Last February, just a few weeks into the Master Gardener Course, I was explaining to my family the prerequisites of the MG designation. At the mention of the 30 hour community educational project, my mother-in-law's eyes lit up and an idea was born. She sits on the board of the of the New Haven Jewish Home for the Aged. Just that week they had been discussing the need to beautify the rather dismal courtyard area of the downtown New Haven nursing home.

After securing the necessary approvals, I was ready to get started. I was armed with \$200 from the auxiliary and a rather ambitious set of plans, which subsequently had to be modified due to budgetary constraints.

The courtyard comprises two 25 by 25 foot gardens and three small raised beds. I was told that there were some existing plantings that had been donated over the years. On my initial viewing in April nothing was visible except two flowering cherry trees. Over the next couple of weeks various perennials and bulbs began to pop up. I saw an abundance of lily-of-the-valley, a few columbines, sedums and evidence of a future bountiful display of lilies. It became clear to me that I would not be able to adopt a specific color scheme. Staff members and a few visi-

tors were beginning to bring in offerings from their own gardens and with my limited budget, I was grateful for all donations.

I decided to devote the \$200 to the purchase of annuals, a few herbs for one of the raised beds and some daffodil bulbs to plant in the fall so that they wouldn't forget me next year! I bought the annuals from Filanowski's in Milford who, on learning of my project, gave me some very generous discounts.

As I write this article it is almost the end of June. The garden looks lovely. It is a mass of color and is enjoyed every single day by residents, their visitors and the staff. I have had some wonderful helpers; residents of the JHA who lovingly remember their own gardens and who each week enthusiastically greet me and enquire as to what we will be planting today. Some are sprightly and can bend and kneel with ease, others have some physical limitations, but without exception everyone has a good time. A big concern was the watering schedule as there are a dozen planters that need daily watering. A wonderful visitor has taken it upon herself to water them daily. The housekeeping staff has volunteered to water the rest of the garden when needed. Everyone now has a vested interest in this little haven of peace, color and tranquility.

Master Gardeners Make 'Plantastic Science' Exhibit a Success!

By Dawn Pettinelli, UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Lab

The theme for the 14th annual CPTV Family Science Expo was '**Sense-sational Science: Extending the Senses through Science**' and Master Gardeners were there inviting curious kids to touch, smell, see and learn about plants. Over 14,000 school-aged children, teachers and parents attended this year's event which was held April 7 - 10 at the CT Expo Center in Hartford.



Master Gardener/Youth Program Coordinator, Kim Kelly (center) with Master Gardener Bill Overton staffing the 'Plantastic' Science exhibit

Dawn Pettinelli from the UConn Department of Plant Science, Storrs campus, and Kimberly Kelly from Windham County Cooperative Extension developed their first ever Family Science Expo exhibit entitled, '**Plantastic Science - Sow It!, Grow It!, Know It!**'. The Connecticut Master Gardeners Association graciously covered the cost of the booth and provided funds for plant materials.

Various types of tropisms were shown and explained. The children could touch and learn about different kinds of leaves. Master Gardeners encouraged the young visitors to touch and smell a variety of scented plants.

The exhibits' two most popular plants were the Venus fly trap and the sensitive plant, *Mimosa pudica*. Exhibit staffers gave away over 2000 sensitive plant seedlings grown for the CPTV Family Science Expo by the UConn Floriculture Greenhouse in Storrs. Many unique plant species used for this display were on loan from the UConn Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Greenhouse. A number of herb plants were donated by Woodland Gardens.

The enthusiastic and tireless Master Gardeners



MG Norma Miller shared her enthusiasm and plant expertise with some of the 14,000 school children visiting the Science Expo.

who made this exhibit so successful were Bill Overton, Janet Munichiello, Donna Hoover, Norma Miller, Donna Gagnon and Lisa Vaughn. UConn staff members Cyndi Wyskiewicz, Lisa Roser, Kimberly Kelly, Elisabeth Gleason, Leslie Alexander and Dawn Pettinelli also staffed the exhibit. The combined efforts of the University and Master Gardeners generated considerable interest among the throngs of school kids who learned that plants can be quite unique in their adaptations and responses to the world they inhabit.

Calling all Master Gardeners! Can you be my eyes?

I would very much appreciate your help. We are trying to promote both the Home & Garden Education Center and the county extension centers by sending out a series of press releases and other promotional information.

All I need you to do is keep your eyes peeled for any mention of any of the centers in the local newspapers and if you could, send it or a copy to me at the Soil Testing Lab. You can mail it to 6 Sherman Place, U-5102, Storrs, CT 06269, fax it to 860-486-4562 or email it to dawn.pettinelli@uconn.edu.

I would really appreciate your help. Thank you! Thank you!

Dawn Pettinelli
UCONN Soil Testing Lab

News from MG Groups around the State

Marvin Garden Club

By Melba Grieshaber

The Marvin, a senior residence in Norwalk, has been the site of an outburst of planting this spring, courtesy of a number of residents and Ms. Lori Coates, the Marvin Resident Services Coordinator. Melba Grieshaber is a master gardener intern at the Bartlett Arboretum who has been involved in the project. Lori works on-site and has been very encouraging. She did the work of gathering the materials, and assuring those in wheelchairs or using walkers, that, "Yes, you too can garden!"

In May, after the first meeting of the Marvin Garden Club, a dozen half-barrel planters were filled with soil and a large variety of flowers, herbs, and vegetables.

At the initial meeting, following some confusing introductions due to the number of duplicate names amongst the members (Rosene, Rosie and Rose; as

well as Anne and Anne), each gardener decided on their favorite annuals to set into the prepared casks. Arlene wanted carnations, Anne was determined to have only impatiens, and Betty remembered geraniums from her native Ireland. Lorraine just wanted little flowers, while Grace wanted tomatoes, as well as flowers. Rosine already had her vegetable seeds



Which plant will look best? Rosene and Betty try to decide



Grace certainly knows how to grow tomatoes!

sprouting in the strip of ground along the driveway.

The resulting containers, planted before Memorial Day, were placed around the main entry to The Marvin, and showcased their individual interests with Italian peppers, kitchen herbs, heirloom tomatoes, and colorful displays of young, bright blooms.

Additional meetings of the Marvin Garden Club have focused on planting seeds, the state of the vegetable garden along the driveway, and the Japanese style of bonsai. Melba brought a few of her personal bonsai, in the informal upright style, and demonstrated how a nursery plant is chosen and initially styled to resemble a small tree rather than a lush bush. In July, a workshop for the gardeners will be held to create small indoor bonsai for year-round enjoyment in the residents' apartments.

Now, the beginning of each meeting is a tour of the plantings, with "oohs and ahhs" for the tiny grape tomatoes, and the colorful flowers. Each barrel is different, but all provide a delightful and satisfying sight around the small outdoor seating area in front of the building.

Did you know?

In case anyone comes across the terms "ex situ" and "in situ", they are used in conjunction with plant conservation efforts (conserving plant diversity). Ex situ occurs when a plant species is conserved (managed) outside or beyond its natural habitat; in situ occurs when a plant species is conserved (managed) within its natural habitat.

- Submitted by Dick Shaffer

Books Wanted!

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

by Carol Quish, AMG

This past spring has been a busy one at the Home and Garden Center. There have been a lot of phone calls to answer and samples mailed in daily for diagnosis. We take samples from people who bring them in person, too. The center is located on the Storrs campus in the College of Agriculture, Plant Science Department. The office is in the Ratcliffe Hicks Building on the basement level in room 4. Rob Durgy is the full time Horticultural Diagnostician and Leslie Alexander and Carol Quish are Program Aides working half time each. Lisa Roser pitches in during the busy seasons. Rochelle Syme is our full time secretary. We all work on figuring out the plant and pest problems of the general public.

My day is spent answering email inquiries, answering questions over the phone, diagnosing mailed in samples and writing response letters, assisting master gardener interns in their offices by phone, and researching, reading and always learning! I learn new things every day.

The newest pest to enter the area is the lily leaf beetle (*Lilioceris lili*), a pest of true lilies, not day-lilies. It is a bright red, ½ inch, elongated beetle that feeds on lilies. We have reports in the shoreline areas and the Woodstock area, also over the border in eastern Massachusetts. Reddish brown eggs are laid by the adult on the undersides of the lily leaf, hatching in 4 to 8 days into a slug-like larva. As the larva feeds, it piles its own excrement onto its back, making it rather disgusting looking. The larva starts feeding on the under side of the leaf and later moving to the upper side of the leaves and the buds. It will feed for about 3 weeks then drop to the soil to pupate for another 3 weeks until it emerges from the ground as the adult beetle. This adult stage will feed on the lilies, too until they retreat to sheltered hiding



The lily leaf beetle, *Lilioceris lili*
Photo: Lisa Tewksbury, University of Rhode Island. www.forestryimages.org

places for the winter, waiting to come out next spring to mate and lay eggs.

We are keeping track of where the lily leaf beetles are migrating. Call us toll-free with updates. Stop in for a visit to see what else is new.

UConn Home and Garden Education Center
Room 4, U-4115
1380 Storrs Road
Storrs, CT 06269-4115

CMGA Outreach Project Funding Assistance Available

Qualified 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 President, Paul Grimmeisen (see page 2 of The Laurel for contact information). The CMGA Board reviews requests monthly. 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.

The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
Now—Nov. 2005 Mon—Sat, 10—5 Sunday noon—5	Landscape Under Siege: Invasive Plants of Connecticut. Botanical illustrations by the Guild of Natural Science, Peabody Museum, 170 Whitney Avenue, New Haven. 203-432-5050, www.peabody.yale.edu
August 3, 2005 10AM—4PM	Plant Science Day @ Lockwood Farm, CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 890 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden, CT. Contact: www.caes.state.ct.us , call 1-877-855-2237
August 13, 2005 1:00PM—4:30PM	Gardening Fair @ Fairfield County Agricultural Center, 69 Stony Hill Road, Bethel CT. Contact: MG Office @ 203-207-3262. See notice in this issue for details
August 18, 2005	Perennial Garden Tour. @ Perennial Garden, Elizabeth Park; 6:30 p.m. Information, call 860-231-9443 or visit www.elizabethpark.org .
August 20, 2005 1:00PM	UConn Master Gardener Gardener Program's Summer Fundraiser Tour @ Natureworks Garden Center, Northford CT. A small fee will be charged. Call Cyndi Wyskiewicz @ 860-486-6343. See notice in this issue for details
September 6, 2005	Annual Garden Tour. @ Annual Garden, Elizabeth Park; 6:30 p.m. Information, call 860-231-9443 or visit www.elizabethpark.org
September 8, 2005	Rose Garden Tour. @ Rose Garden Gazebo, Elizabeth Park; 6:00 p.m. Information, call 860-231-9443 or visit www.elizabethpark.org
September 15, 2005 8:00PM	Connecticut Horticultural Society. Russ Bragg (Underwood Shade Nursery, N. Attleboro, MA): Gardening in Dry Shade. Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Contact: connhort@aol.com , Telephone 860-529-8713
September 17, 2005	Carlo Balistrieri of the New York Botanical Garden @ Windsor Agricultural Experiment Station. Connecticut Chapter—North American Rock Garden Society. 10AM coffee, two talks, program begins at 10:30AM. Contact: www.nargs.org/meet/chap .
September 17 & 18, 2005	A Festival of Flowers : Simsbury Garden Club. Preview September 17 6PM to 9PM; Show September 18, 2005. Fee. Tickets: 203-658-5190. Tel 860-658-2652
September 28, 2005	Closing Your Perennial Garden Workshop @ Perennial Garden, Elizabeth Park: 12 p.m. If raining, held at Information Center. Information, call 860-231-9443, or visit www.elizabethpark.org
October 30, 2005 8:00PM	CT Horticultural Society: Prof. John Ball (So. Dakota State University): 1,000 Years of Trees: If We Only Knew Now What We Knew Then. Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, W. Hartford. Contact: connhort@aol.com , Telephone 860-529-8713
October 26-28, 2005	Gardening Study School @ CT Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT. Contact: The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc., www.ctgardenclubs.org/events .
November 5, 2005	Winter Care of Roses Workshop @ Rose Garden Gazebo, Elizabeth Park: 10:00 a.m. Information, call 860-231-9443, or visit www.elizabethpark.org .
June 5-8, 2006	2006 Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference — "Passion for Gardening" @ University of Rhode Island, Newport, RI. Contact: URI Cooperative Extension Education Center 401-874-2900 or www.passionforgardening.com .

Connecticut Master Gardener Association

The Laurel

CMGA

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

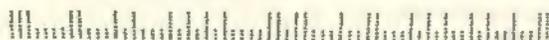
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SAVE THE DATE!

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| August 3, 2005 | Agricultural Experiment Station Open Day |
| August 13, 2005 | Gardening Fair, Bethel (page 4) |
| August 20, 2005 | MG Program's summer fundraiser tour (page 3) |
| November 12, 2005 | CMGA Semi-Annual Meeting |

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**Read all about Master Gardener activities
around the State**

Summer Safari Report

The Laurel Calendar : Upcoming Events

CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



CMGA Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast & Membership Meeting

Saturday November 12th 2005 at 9AM

@ Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Guest Speaker - "The English Lady"

CMGA will start this year's semi-annual membership meeting at 9AM with a continental breakfast to honor all the hard working volunteers in the CT Master Gardener Association.

At 9:30 we will have a short business meeting and the election of officers for 2006. At 10AM the "English Lady", Maureen Haseley-Jones (yes, she really is English!) of Essex, CT will speak. Her firm specializes in landscape design and installation of gardens, walls, fences, decks, arbors, gazebos, pool and pond design, and all aspects of a property's exterior. The "English Lady" comes from a long line of English gardeners and landscapers who established themselves by designing the 17th century formal gardens at Powys Castle in Wales. These gardens are still reputed to be some



Guest speaker Maureen Haseley-Jones

of the finest 17th century gardens in Britain. The "English Lady" designed her first garden as a child in England and decided to follow the path of her ancestors and make a career of her heritage. You can hear her on the radio the third Thursday of the month from 8-9AM on WRCH 100.5 FM. For more information, visit the website www.TheEnglishLady.com.

A variety of CMGA logo items will be available for sale at the meeting. See list of items and prices on page 2. We can accept cash or checks.

CMGA annual memberships expire on December 31. Save postage! Renew your membership at the meeting.

Directions to

CT Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Ave, New Haven

From I-95 North or South: Exit onto I-91 north in New Haven. Take Exit 6 (left exit) to Willow Street. Follow instructions below.

From I-91 South: Take Exit 6 in New Haven to Willow Street. Follow instructions below.

From I-84: Take Route 691 to I-91 south to Exit 6 in New Haven. Follow instructions below.

Detailed instructions: Turn right onto Willow Street and proceed to the end. Turn right onto Whitney Avenue. Take the third left off Whitney Avenue (Huntington Street) and proceed up the hill. The Experiment Station is on the right just past the first cross street.

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CMGA website: www.ctmga.org

Editors of The Laurel:
Barbara Duffy Barbduffy2@aol.com
Hilary Forsyth rayhbf@optonline.net

Dear Master Gardeners,

The summer is over and your board has not stopped working. We met at board member, Barbara Duffy's, home for a 4 hour brainstorming session to come up with some new ideas for our association as well as review our successes and failures of the past year. This proved to be one of our most successful meetings.

On Saturday, November 12, 2005, your association will hold its annual meeting at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, at 9:00 AM. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the Treasurer's report, to elect officers for 2006, and to recognize our CMGA volunteers. We have many volunteers in our association who spend countless hours improving Connecticut's landscape, developing library gardens, memorial gardens, butterfly gardens, etc. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize all the effort put into these outstanding outreach projects.

We will begin the morning at 9:00 AM with a catered continental breakfast, followed by a short meeting and then our keynote speaker Maureen Haseley-Jones, better known as **The English Lady**. She can be heard on WRCH 100.5 FM radio in Hartford from eight to nine in the morning on the third Thursday of the month. She is a landscape designer par excellence. Her family has been involved in gardening for over four hundred years beginning with the gardens at Powys Castle in Wales in the 17th Century. She began designing gardens here in Connecticut in 1992. This should prove to be a fascinating hour for the avid gardener. So, save the date and check the front page of this issue for more information on the meeting.

The spring symposium, "It All Begins in the Nursery," is well underway and should turn out to be one of our most successful. We will keep you informed as to what is going on. The Laurel will provide insight as to what the speaker's committee is up to. The date of the symposium is Saturday, March 18th 2006.

Paul Grimmeisen
President, CMGA



CMGA Fundraiser Items on Sale at November Membership Meeting	Price
Denim Shirts	\$35
Fleece Vests	\$40
T Shirts	\$15
Canvas Bags	\$20
Cash or checks accepted	

The Laurel is published four times a year for members of the Connecticut Master Gardener Association. Please send news, photographs and calendar items by email to Hilary Forsyth at rayhbf@optonline.net, or by mail to 94 Birchwood Road, Stamford CT 06907
Deadline for next issue: January 1st, 2006

Congratulations to all graduating Master Gardeners and Advanced Master Gardeners!



Graduation Dates for the 2005 Master Gardener Program

Fairfield/New Haven Counties:	November 3rd - Thursday	Bethel Extension Center, 2:00 PM
Windham/Tolland Counties:	November 4th—Friday	Brooklyn Extension Center, 6:30 PM
Stamford	November 6th - Sunday	Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 3 PM
Middlesex/New London Counties:	November 8th—Tuesday	Haddam Extension Center 6:30 PM
Hartford/Litchfield Counties:	November 9th—Wednesday	Pond House Hartford, 6:30 PM

A letter to all 2005 MG Interns: Don't lose it! Join the CMGA and keep in touch!

By Hilary Forsyth

Congratulations to all the new Master Gardeners around the state! You have made it to the end of your commitment to the Master Gardener course, and graduation is nigh!

It was quite a journey, wasn't it? Whole days attending classes; many happy hours solving plant-related problems at the Extension Center or (in the case of the Bartlett) the Plant Clinic; yet more hours on outreach projects. And this doesn't even start to go into the time spent on the Tree, Shrub & Vine Projects, and all the preparation for classes, and driving time. This was one huge commitment!

But I think you would agree that there have also been huge gains. The intense and varied structure of the classes covers the botanical basics, then builds on that knowledge and takes it along ever-widening pathways. Perhaps as you reached the end of the course, you came to realize that the classes merely provide a basis for further learning: the more you know, the more there is to know! And that you can't know all the answers, but now you know where to start looking.

Will your lives ever be the same again? Will you ever be able to walk past a conifer and see it only as an evergreen plant? ("Is that taxus or tsuga?"). Will you ever be able to drive past some newly-applied volcano mulching without flinching? Like it or not, the Master Gardener course you have been so involved with this year has now become a part of you.

But knowledge and skills can fade away all too quickly if we don't keep working with them. Don't let your efforts lapse. Stay in touch with your newfound friends and fellow Master Gardeners. Keep working on your outreach projects. Share your hard-earned knowledge by becoming mentors to the MG Interns of 2006. Keep building on your knowledge by attending classes and becoming Advanced Master Gardeners.

What's the best way to stay in touch with the Master Gardeners? It's simple - join the CMGA! As MG Interns you have been associate members of the CMGA during the year, but your current membership is now coming to an end. Sign up now and keep connected. A membership application is on page 15.

Help is needed in the Master Gardener Education office with advanced Access programming at UConn, Storrs campus

The state Master Gardener program's Education Office is looking for help with the Advanced Master Gardener database. The database is set up in Microsoft Access. I need an MG intern or AMG to help work on advanced programming for us to increase the efficiency of the database. Plenty of outreach hours can be earned with this project. You will have to travel to the UConn, Storrs campus to work on the database with us, but the hours can be flexible.

If you have advanced Access experience and are willing to help, please call Cyndi Wyskiewicz, State MG coordinator at 1-860-486-6343.

Save the Date for the 2006 CMGA Symposium

"It All Begins in the Nursery"

DATE: Saturday, March 18, 2006
TIME: 9:00AM to 4:30PM
PLACE: Manchester Community College
 Manchester, CT

By Amy Talbot

As the weather cools and our beloved gardens begin their winter slumber, spring can seem an eternity away. Jumpstart your season with the 2006 CMGA Symposium: "It All Begins in the Nursery". A gathering of noted experts from Connecticut's finest nurseries will educate, inspire, and arm us with fresh ideas just in time for the spring thaw.

We'll kick off the festivities with a keynote address by William Cullina, who is Nursery Director at *Garden in the Woods*, headquarters and botanic garden for the New England Wildflower Society in Framingham, MA. Author of "New England Wildflower Society's Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers", Mr. Cullina will share his insights on the best native plants for the Northeast.

Additional topics will be presented in breakout

groups in the late morning and early afternoon, with a catered lunch "sandwiched" in to keep up your strength. The amateur photo contest and silent auction will both be back by popular demand.

Our very full day will close with Robert Herman discussing hot, new cultivars of favorite perennials. Formerly of White Flower Farm and Germany's Countess Von Zeppelin Perennial Plant Nursery, Mr. Herman has taught at Radcliffe College and UMass. He now owns *Uncamman Plants*, a company that imports new and rare plants, and consults for nurseries around the state.

The 2005 CMGA symposium sold out in record time, and we expect another great response for this event. Registration material will be sent out after the first of the year, and you are urged to return it as soon as possible.

Symposium Photo Contest – March 2006

Snap those Photos Now!

By Barbara Walker

The photo contest was so popular at last year's symposium, that the 2006 symposium will host the second annual photo contest. Entries will be accepted during February and opening and closing dates as well as mailing instructions will be announced. Awards will be given for first, second and third places in each category. There will be new categories and a few new guidelines.

Guidelines

- ◇ The contest is open to CMGA members attending the symposium.
- ◇ One entry per person.
- ◇ This is a fun contest for amateurs – sorry, no professionals!
- ◇ Camera photos only. Photocopies, scanners or other prints cannot be accepted.
- ◇ Oversize photos cannot be accepted due to limited display space. Maximum size is 8" x 10"; mats should not be wider than 2½".

- ◇ Each entry should be submitted with a name, address, contact phone or email, and the category designation.
- ◇ Entries should be collected after the symposium.

Categories:

Plant portrait: Here's your chance to show off your garden's "best of show". Herbs, flowering plants, vegetables or fruit are all admissible subjects. More than one plant can be in the picture but entries should show a single plant, whole or in part, as the featured subject.

Container garden: Were your hanging baskets the envy of the neighborhood? Were your summer window boxes lush with color and texture? Submit a photo of your handiwork. The entry should show all or at least part of the container.

Garden in autumn: Your photo should show a plant or landscape that comes to its sublime peak in autumn. If mists and mellow fruitfulness inspired you to capture the beauties of the quiet season, this category will let you share your vision.



Display stand showing just a few of the photo competition entries at the 2005 March Symposium

Photo Contest for 2006 Symposium

The 2006 Photo Contest is in the planning stages and there is a place for you on the committee. This event is so much fun to prepare I should be raffling off chances to work on it. Just think of opening all the entries, arranging them in categories and then setting them up for judging on the eve of the symposium. The time commitment is small: just a couple of hours a week in February and March and setting up the display the night before the contest. This is a great way to make a contribution to the CMGA organization. Email Barbara Walker pichoux22@hotmail.com, subject "CMGA Photo Contest".

CMGA 2006 March Symposium : "It All Begins in the Nursery" Volunteers needed!

A lot of work goes into organizing the annual CMGA March Symposium, and extra hands are always in great demand. You can help to make the 2006 Symposium a resounding success! Time spent volunteering on the Symposium can count towards outreach hours for MG Interns and AMGs.

Below is a list of the Committees working on the Symposium, the Committee Heads and contact telephone numbers.

Committee	Committee Head	Contact Details
Chairman	Paul Grimmeisen	860-677-8645
Facilities	John Carlson	960-345-8807
Flyer	Diane Ostheimer	860-673-4102
Fundraiser items	Barbara Duffy	203-269-7155
Photo competition	Barbara Walker	860-583-9677
Plant Societies	Marion Rowles	860-653-4484
Publicity	Amy Talbot	860-295-1433
Registration	Sandy Myhalik	860-677-0504
Signage	Richard Shaffer	860-667-2752
Silent Auction	Cyndi Wyskiewicz	860-486-6343
Speakers	Marge Bingham	860-678-9575
Vendors	Debbye Rosen	860-521-0743

Master Gardener Outreach Opportunities Available!

The Home and Garden Education Center at UConn will be presenting three hands-on workshops in 2006. These *Knowledge to Grow On* workshops will be open to the public and focus on current areas of interest. The first workshop on Pruning will be in April, followed by a wildlife workshop in the summer and a fall workshop on turf. We are looking for Certified Master Gardeners to help with the teaching and presenting of these day long hands-on presentations. If you are skilled in these areas and want to share your expertise, you can earn valuable Advanced Master Gardener outreach hours.

If you are interested in helping the Center with this training please call Cyndi Wyskiewicz, Education Coordinator for the Home and Garden Center at 1-860-486-6343.

Congratulations to Cyndi Wyskiewicz Awarded Masters Degree



Most of you know Cyndi Wyskiewicz who is the UCONN liaison to the CT Master Gardener Program. She is the tireless blond who pops up everywhere and has that infectious laugh. She coordinates the educational programs for Master Gardeners and Advanced Master Gardeners and in addition to those responsibilities has managed to complete a masters program. Cyndi's professionalism and great attitude have been a huge asset to the CT Master Gardener Program and to the CMGA. Cyndi was recently awarded a Master of Science degree in Plant Science from the UCONN College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. *Way to go Cyndi!*

Advanced Master Gardener Classes for Fall/Winter 2005/2006

	Date	Time	Class	Location	Presenter
October 2005	27	1PM-4PM	Native Plants	Bartlett	Carol Levine
	29	11AM-2:30	Wild Mushrooms	Storrs	Bill Yule
November 2005	3	7PM-9PM	Border/Island Garden Design	Litchfield	Roxann Lovell
	9	1PM-3PM	Morphology of Trees (Session 1 of 2)	Bartlett	Ed Roy
	12	10AM-12PM	Troubleshooting Tips	Norwich	Linda Turner
	16	1PM-3PM	Morphology of Trees (Session 2 of 2)	Bartlett	Ed Roy
	16	1PM-3PM	Beyond the Basics (Session 1 of 2)	Danielson	Byron Martin
	19	10AM-12PM	Container Gardening	Litchfield	Steve Aitken
	19	10AM-1PM	Floral Grace/ Harvest Table	Storrs	Louise Pastormerlo
	30	6:30PM-9:30	Holiday Decorating	West Hartford	Rose Agostinucci
January 2006	17	6PM-8PM	Japanese Maples	West Hartford	John O'Brien
	25	1PM-3PM	Beyond the Basics (Session 2 of 2)	Danielson	Byron Martin
February 2006	11	10AM-12PM	Plants from Seeds	Norwich	Linda Turner
	11	10AM-1PM	Herbs for Health	Storrs	Deb Pouech
	21	6PM-8PM	New for 2006	West Hartford	Chris Valley

For the complete list please visit the Home and Garden Center Website: www.ladybug.uconn.edu

Master Gardener 2006 Summer Tour

SAVE THE DATE!

What: Fundraiser for the
UCONN MG program

When: Saturday June 24th
10AM—4PM

Where: Avon Farmington
West Hartford Bloomfield

Garden tour
\$15.00 per person

Gala Reception:
Pond House, Elizabeth Park
Tour & Gala—\$50.00
200 person limit

Support the UCONN
Master Gardener Program
& CMGA

INFO: (860) 486-6343

Introducing *Nature's Close-ups* Connecticut's 2006 Gardening Calendar

Because of the positive reception of *Nurturing Nature*, our 2005 Gardening Calendar, we are pleased to offer the 2006 edition, *Nature's Close-ups*.

This 9 1/2" x 12 1/2" wall calendar features all-new daily gardening tips for Connecticut conditions. As in *Nurturing Nature*, we provide large squares for taking notes each day, plentiful gardening information, notations of moon phases and colorful monthly photos. The 28-page calendar allows the user to see nature up close and personal.

Order *Nature's Close-ups* (for yourself and friends) from the Resource Center Store, (860) 486-3336 or www.store.uconn.edu. \$8.95 plus \$3 first class shipping. Checks should be made payable to University of Connecticut. The store accepts Visa and MasterCard, as well.

Nature's Close-ups is a product of Communications and Information Technology at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Connecticut.

Calling all Master Gardeners!

Can you be my eyes?

I would very much appreciate your help. We are trying to promote both the Home & Garden Education Center and the county extension centers by sending out a series of press releases and other promotional information. All I need you to do is keep your eyes peeled for any mention of any of the centers in the local newspapers and if you could, send it or a copy to me at the Soil Testing Lab. You can mail it to 6 Sherman Place, U-5102, Storrs, CT 06269, fax it to 860-486-4562 or email it to dawn.pettinelli@uconn.edu. I would really appreciate your help. Thank you! Thank you!

Dawn Pettinelli
UCONN Soil Testing Lab

CMGA Shoreline Chapter Bauer Park Butterfly Garden 2005

By Heather Atwater

The dream of a butterfly garden at Bauer Park has become a reality. We started in November 2004 with the research of the butterflies in the area and plants needed to attract them and worked hard through April with the garden design and site location. The Recreation Department and the Bauer Park Committee gave their approval at their March meeting. Shoreline Chapter members cleared the tree roots and brambles in April and the ground was plowed twice in May. Raking began the end of May into early June with amending of the soil after samples were taken.



Early July, 2005: (L-R) Heather Atwater, Ted Mankovich, Marge Reid, Sandra Martindale and Barbara Tenney take a break

The dedicated volunteer CMGA-Shoreline Chapter and Master Gardener Interns of 2005 have spent so far over 25 hours actually working the land and creating the gardens. The final task is to complete red brick edging around both of the 6 ft. by 12 ft. kidney-shaped gardens and that will be completed by Oct. 1st.

Planting took place on June 25th and July 9th and the gardens were mulched. Landscape cloth and mulch was put down over the walkways between and around the gardens on August 6th and 13th. The butterflies cooperated by arriving when we finished mulching: 2 Eastern Tiger Swallowtails, 1 Black Swallowtail and 1 Monarch. On August 27th we had Monarch caterpillars on the native milkweed. I call that success!

Master Gardeners are needed to assist with watering and weeding. For more information contact Marge Reid at 860-669-9979 or Heather Atwater at 203-421-8489.



August, 2005: The garden has made good progress. (L-R) Sandra Martindale, Evelynne Rowe and Peter Sims at work in the Butterfly Garden

New Haven County Extension Center

By Mira Schachne, Extension Center Coordinator

The New Haven County Master Gardener class has just about finished its requirements. Some Interns have put in more time than required on their projects and are justifiably proud. All will come away having learned more than they thought they could. Talk about adult learners . . .

We are already receiving community requests for Master Gardener assistance in 2006, so we are probably doing something right. Special thanks, however, should go to those certified Master Garden-

ers, some of whom gave their time to come into our office to serve as mentors and others who helped do those tasks that we all tend to postpone. From formulating lists of our library holdings, formatting our client questions into usable monthly statistics for next year, cleaning out old information in the files . . . these volunteers deserve more than just a 'thank you'. On the other hand, they did it, as one said, "Just because".

"If one really loves nature, one can find beauty everywhere." - Vincent Van Gogh

Pretty and Practical Mesh Perfectly in Meriden's Community Garden

by Amy Talbot

Violet morning glories smother the eight foot tall teepees that act as both centerpiece and sentinel in this unexpected plot of leafy green in the city's center. Defying the summer drought, lush foliage nearly obscures the ripening tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and summer squash that await harvesting. Cabernet-colored dahlias stretch to keep up with their radiant sunflower neighbors around the garden's perimeter. And well outside the garden proper, tendrils from a rogue patch of pumpkins soldier their way through what's left of the parched grass but seem to retreat from the heat coming off the crumbled edges of the parking lot.

A sign facing the street identifies this as the *Beat the Street Community Garden* and lists the people and organizations who helped make the project a reality, including members of the Middlesex County Master Gardener Class of 2005. The garden is the brainchild of Larry Pelletier, president of the *Beat the*



Welcome to our garden

Street Community Garden, and soon after, the Master Gardeners and their young assistants unloaded soil provided by the city and made the recommended amendments based on soil test results.

Members of *Beat the Street* worked with the Master Gardeners to get the flowers, herbs, and vegetables planted but have managed much of the maintenance themselves, including the daily watering made possible by the Hudson United Bank next door. Their hard work has been repaid with a bountiful crop, but the youths involved are taking home more than fresh produce.

"The benefits have been more far-reaching than we ever anticipated," says Larry Pelletier. "These kids are learning how to maintain the garden and harvest the vegetables at just the right time. They are thrilled to see the impact of their dedication."

What began as a summer youth program has blossomed into a source of pride for community members of all ages. Explains John Watts, "We initially had concerns about security because the garden is out in the open, but there have been no instances of vandalism or theft. And we've been getting requests from organizations that want to be involved next year."

"We think people see the kids out there working hard every day, and they respect that."



Beat the Street community Garden Rocks!

Photos by Rose Walsh



Larry Pelletier, president of the Beat the Street Community Center, with some of the kids in the garden

Street Community Center, which operates fitness programs for over 600 inner city children in Meriden; and John Watts, a volunteer at the center and director of Community Support Services for the Department of Children and Family Services. John enrolled in the Master Gardener Program to prepare for the venture and enlisted the help of classmates Jean Gagnon, Jeri Taylor, Jane Vollers, and Rose Walsh to get things growing.

The team began meeting in early April to map out the project, which was designed primarily as a nutrition education effort. They were successful in securing additional partners in the community: United Way, NAACP, Fischer's Fine Foods, Meriden Parks and Recreation, and Ballek's Garden Center, among others. Power tools in hand, John framed the raised

Growing Vegetables at Bush-Holley House

By Ros Brady, Class of 2005, Stamford

Between 1890 and 1920, the Bush-Holley House in Greenwich, Connecticut was run by Elmer McRae and his wife as an artists' colony and boarding house for American Impressionist artists. The site is now a National Historic Landmark, and home to the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut.

In those days, a large vegetable garden on the property supplied the colony with fruit and vegetables. During the summer of 2005, Master Gardener Interns Ros Brady, Beth Ryder and Sally Tepas worked on a slightly smaller recreation of the vegetable garden (though large enough at 12' x 36'). Joan Faust, author and former garden editor for *The New York Times*, directed the work.

Master Gardener Interns followed Mr. McRae's garden diary to establish the historic garden, using many of the heirloom plant varieties he would have planted. In early April they planted Swiss chard, spinach, beets, carrots, peas, radish, lettuce, cabbage with seeds obtained from Heirloom Seeds. In May and June when the soil warmed, they planted lima beans, pole beans, squash, cucumbers, corn, tomatoes, broccoli, sweet peppers, and eggplant. They planted Golden Bantam corn from 1900 – edible, but not nearly as sweet as the hybrids of today – and Crimson Cushion tomatoes, an 1892 beefsteak type.

Every Monday morning the MG Interns worked in the garden, weeding, watering, and tying up beans and tomatoes. Rabbits harvested much of the early garden, so a school group was recruited to plant



Look at the height of that corn! Summer campers pick fresh corn at the Beth-Holley House

marigold seedlings all around the perimeter of the garden; this ploy successfully deterred the rabbits, and eventually the garden produced an excellent crop.

In the Bush-Holley summer camp program, the MG Interns taught children how vegetables grow and reproduce and each camper chose a fresh home-grown vegetable to take home. Master Gardener Interns were rewarded as much by the best harvest ever, as by the fun we all had working together.

Litchfield County : White Memorial Conservation Center's Family Nature Day

By Jerry Gault

WMCC in Litchfield holds its Family Nature Day annually on the 4th Saturday in September. The weather, as usual for this time of year, was a delightfully sunny day with mostly blue skies. Many family groups turned out to appreciate the wonders of nature and the environment.

lightfully sunny day with mostly blue skies. Many family groups turned out to appreciate the wonders of nature and the environment.

Vole control? 'Irma from Burma' mixes with Master Gardeners at the WMCC Family Nature Day.



(L-R): Karen Andersen, Brea Walden and Jerry Gault at the Information Center

Master Gardeners Reach Out

Bethel Summer Garden Fair

By Tanya Castiglione, Class of 2005

Bethel Master Gardeners offered their Third Annual Gardening Fair on August 13, 2005. Master Gardener presenters spoke on Perennial and Foundation Design, Lawn Care, Pest Control, Managing Invasive Plants, and Vegetable Gardening. Displays and exhibits were also well attended, as well as a Wildflower Walk and Perennial Garden Tour.

Participants were extremely enthusiastic. Their responses to a follow-up questionnaire suggested that the fair was a significant educational experience for them. Many said they intended to reevaluate and change their gardening practices, particularly in the ecologically important areas such as turf maintenance, pest control and the vigilant control of invasive plants.



*A hoe-down at the Bethel Summer Garden Fair.
L-R: Sally Moss, Larry Birch, Beverly Reukberg,
Donna Katsuranis, Cynthia Carlson, Priscilla Terhune,
Tanya Castiglione*

CMGA President Paul Grimmeisen appointed to the Board of Friends of Elizabeth Park



Photo by Hilary Forsyth

A view at Elizabeth Park: Larix decidua pendula trails over an archway, framing the clematis pergola, which in turn frames the arches of climbing roses in the rose garden

The Friends of Elizabeth Park recently appointed Paul Grimmeisen to their Board. They were very much aware of CMGA's dedication to the park and were interested in having representation from our organization. Many Master Gardener Interns from West Hartford do their 30 hours outreach in the park. Advanced Master Gardener Richard Shaffer spends a number of hours working at the park. He enjoys working in the Shade and Rock Garden.

We have our monthly board meetings at the Pond House, which is owned by the Friends. The Friends of Elizabeth Park was established in 1977 to save the famous West Hartford, Connecticut, Rose Garden, which is the oldest municipally operated rose garden in the country designed by Olmsted and Son. Since then they have maintained the perennial, rock, heritage rose and a number of other gardens. They work with a number of Connecticut horticultural societies and garden clubs to create and maintain new gardens, i.e. herb, hosta and dahlia gardens. They also sponsor a number of garden tours, workshops, walks and educational programs, all free to the public.

The Friends of Elizabeth Park are interested in developing new gardens and would like our assistance in these gardens. This is an exciting time for CMGA as we are being recognized as one of the foremost gardening organizations in the state.

Volunteers Wanted!

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 860-231-9443, or email www.elizabethpark.org

Books Wanted!

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

The Hottest Advanced Master Gardener Class

By Diana Ringelheim

One of the requirements for maintaining an Advanced Master Gardener certificate is attending an annual Hot Topics class. However, given the high quality of the instruction and the seriousness of the topics, the class is more a privilege than an obligation. Working in a master gardener office may make us one of the first people to see diseases or insects that could become major pests in the state. The ramifications of pests and diseases extend far beyond the home garden into commercial agriculture, the state economy, and our food supply. This year's Hot Topics class included presentations from Rob Durgy and Dr. John Kaminski on diagnosing disease and ended with a slide show and commentary from Lisa and Kyle Turoczi, the owners of EarthTones Native Plant Nursery.

Rob Durgy, horticulturalist and diagnostician at the UCONN Home and Garden Education Center reviewed the correct methods for preparing samples for transfer to his laboratory. It is very important that he receive some healthy plant tissue along with the damaged, so we should routinely tell clients to take a large enough sample to include both. Rob can grow the pathogen on the healthy tissue and create a fresh sample for identification. Roots should be included if feasible, but soil should be removed as thoroughly as possible (without destroying the sample) and the roots should be packaged separately from stems and leaves. The samples should not be wet when they are sealed in a zipper plastic bag and may benefit if wrapped in dry paper towels before sealing the bag. This careful preparation will prevent secondary diseases, especially fungal, from obscuring the primary pathogen. Rob also asked that photographs of the plant and its site be included if possible because often the problem is environmental and that may be very obvious in a photo. A completed diagnostic sheet is the most important piece of the puzzle and must accompany all samples.

There are tests that professionals use to identify pathogens and the Hot Topics class had some hands-on experience using a chemical test kit for tobacco mosaic virus. Working under the direction of Dr. John Kaminski, we tested leaves of tobacco plants, squashing portions of the leaves in an Agdia ImmunoStrip Test and were able to identify infected leaves from leaves taken from immune plants. The type of test kit used in class comes in a variety of formulations that detect different pathogens on different plants. Although they are most suitable for use in commercial applications (they are expensive), the class enjoyed a foray into the scientific method and the tools that make a positive diagnosis possible.

The final presentation of the day was a charming story about the creation of a new nursery, not yet open to the public, but one that will probably be a



Dr. John Kaminsky (at right) discusses test results with Diana Ringelheim (left) and Cheron Barton

destination for serious gardeners with environmental concerns. EarthTones is located on 68 acres of woodland and rock ledge in Woodbury (shade and rocks, we can sympathize) and specializing in native plants. Lisa and Kyle Turoczi are designing and building display gardens of plants that not only look great, but serve native wildlife with food and shelter. So much land is being developed in the state of Connecticut that habitat is being fragmented, and invasive plants muscle-out so many native plants that we have a responsibility to grow some natives in our gardens to preserve even a small aspect of our special environment. We are rewarded for this effort with a garden of hardy, disease-resistant plants that are attractive for long periods of time and bring animation from birds, butterflies, and other creatures.

Hot Topics is a class that covers a wide range of topics at a level equal to the sophistication of the attendees. It is not limited to Advanced Master Gardeners and is a resource that should be used by all Master Gardeners to keep in touch with advances in gardening sciences, design, and plant choices.



Stamford class coordinator Regina Campfield chats with Lisa Turoczi of EarthTones

Gardening Exercises

By Hilary Forsyth

Daily exercise is a necessary component of a healthy lifestyle, and gardeners can incorporate an exercise regimen into their gardening routine, along the following lines:

Early to rise: Wake up at daybreak to check if the weather has cleared after last night's rainstorm. It is bright and sunny outside, the air sparkling – an excellent day for gardening. Jump out of bed and rush to the window to check whether the peonies survived the rainstorm intact.

Always start an exercise regime with deep breathing and gentle stretching:

Out into the garden to stake the remaining peony blooms. These peonies have no scent, but the dianthus nearby smells wonderful. Bend down (slowly) to breathe in the perfume. Ah-h-h! Keep those knees bent. And stre-e-e-tch to reach the maple seedlings which have popped up in the middle of the dianthus.

More stretching, gentle walking: Stroll over to the big rhododendron. Start deadheading the spent flowers, being careful to use both hands so as not to damage the emerging shoots. Stretch up to reach the topmost branches. Dash round to the porch to get a bucket to stand on, to reach the last few flowerheads. Put flowerheads in bucket, and walk round to compost heap to empty bucket. Walk over to garden hose to wash stickiness off hands.

Deep knee bends: Notice that the nearby perennials are at risk of being overtaken by weeds. Start pulling weeds, remembering that straight back and bent knees are better than straight knees and bent back. Bend knees, pull weeds, stand up straight, move to another spot, stepping carefully around perennials; and repeat.

Increase the tempo: Suddenly realize an hour has passed, and nothing else has been accomplished. Rush around house, basement (3 trips – good stair work), garage and garden, gathering items to be taken down to the recycling center – bags of prickly old holly leaves, and fallen rhododendron leaves, twigs, branches and shrub clippings, that cannot go into the compost heap, along with other less-important recyclables. At recycling center, notice that a new load of compost has been delivered.

Working with weights: Quickly unload vehicle, retaining all containers that could possibly hold compost; spend 30 minutes shovelling heavy, wet compost into containers, and loading these into vehicle. Drive home. Unload compost-laden containers and carry round to back of house. Notice how containers feel heavier the second time around.

Aerobics: Too hot for coffee, so drink water instead. Decide to take a break and go for a walk to relax back muscles. Take apple to eat on the way (healthy). Really want to have a closer look at some beautiful flowering shrubs down near the pond.

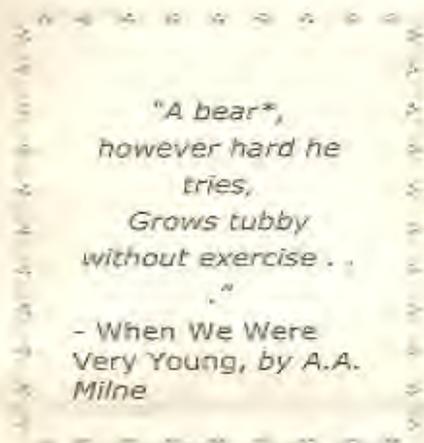
Spend time examining shrubs – they must be viburnums, but should check. Now late, so hurry back uphill to home. Didn't realize the shrubs were so far away. Arrive puffing.

Go For The Burn: Decide it's the ideal time to plant large shrub purchased last week. Gather up gloves, spade, fork, compost and empty buckets. Commence digging hole, using spade; discover there are even more Connecticut potatoes in this area than usual; loosen stones with fork, deep knee bends then get down on hands and knees to remove stone and place these in empty buckets; repeat; breathe; repeat. Wipe sweat

from eyes. Mix compost with remaining soil in hole. Collect shrub in pot from back of house. Lift shrub into hole; lift shrub out of hole because hole is too deep; add compost; turn shrub on side and remove pot (looks easy on TV); place shrub in hole. Fill in rest of hole with compost/soil mix and firm down, water in well. Stand back and admire, stretch and breathe. Pick up stone-filled buckets and stagger with them over to the recycling pile to take back down to the dump tomorrow. With all the stones removed over the years, surely the garden must weigh less than it used to.

Slow down: Walk back to admire shrub and collect garden implements. Watch the robin digging for worms in the lawn, and realize she is feeding a fledgling hidden under the nearby Oakleaf Hydrangea. Admire flowers of Oakleaf Hydrangea from afar so as not to disturb birds. Sit next to the scented geranium on front step; rub foliage and breathe in the scent. And relax.

*The bear in question is, of course, Edward Bear, a.k.a. Winnie-the-Pooh



The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
November 4-6, 2005 10:00AM to 4:00PM	Orchid Sale @ the Lyman Estate Greenhouses, Waltham, MA. Sponsored by Historic New England. Tele: 781-891-4882.
November 5, 2005 10:00 AM	Winter Care of Roses Workshop @ Rose Garden Gazebo, Elizabeth Park: Information, call 860-231-9443, or visit www.elizabethpark.org .
November 5, 2005 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM	"User-Friendly Home Landscapes" - A SALT (Smaller American Lawns Today) Seminar, Olin Science Auditorium, CT College Arboretum, New London, CT. Charge. Contact: 860-439-5020 or visit http://arboretum.conncoll.edu .
November 8, 2005 7 PM	Trees and Shrubs for Small Gardens and Winter Gardens - Frank Buddingh Westchester Fairfield Horticultural Society, @ 5 Sinawoy Road, Cos Cob, CT. Contact www.westfairhort.org / Loretta Stagen, 203-323-3544
November 10, 2005 10AM-2PM	Orchid Trunk Show with Carri Raven @ Garden Education Center, Greenwich, CT. Free. Contact www.gec@gecgreenwich.org , Tel 203-869-9242
November 12, 2005 9 AM to 12 PM	CMGA—Annual Meeting @ Jones Auditorium, CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT. Contact: Paul Grimmeisen, 860-677-8645
November 14, 2005 10AM	Growing Begonias with Mark C. Tebbitt @ Garden Education Center, Greenwich, CT. Charge. Contact www.gec@gecgreenwich.org , Tel 203-869-9242
November 17, 2005 8 PM	Your House, Your Garden by Gordon Hayward @Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, CT. Monthly meeting of CT Horticultural Society. Information: 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org/calendar .
November 19, 2005	Annual Meeting, Connecticut Botanical Society —Bill Cullina of the New England Wild Flower Society, author of three renown books, will speak on orchids. Details to be posted on their Web site, www.ct-botanical-society.org/meetings .
December 6, 2005	Decorating Christmas Wreaths for Local Charities —Mary Jo Palmer @ Sam Bridge Nursery, Greenwich, CT. Contact: www.westfairhort.org
December 10, 2005	Winter Twig Identification —Bryan Connolly, New England Wildflower Society @ Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, New Haven, CT. Charge. Contact www.newfs.org , 508-877-7630 X 3303, fax 508-877-3658
January 19, 2006 8PM	Invasive Plants in Connecticut , by Dr. Leslie Mehrhoff @Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, CT. Monthly meeting of CT Horticultural Society. Information: 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org/calendar .
January 27-29, 2006	Eastern Winter Study Weekend—A Master Class in Rock Gardening @ Manhattan Chapter, New York City. North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). Registrar: Jacques Mommens: nargs@advinc.com , PO Box 67, Millwood, NY 10546. Tel: 914-762-2948.
February 11, 2006 8:30AM-4PM	CT Horticultural Society Symposium, "Spring into the Garden" @Portland High School, Portland, CT. CT Horticultural Society. Charge. Information: 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org/calendar .
February 16, 2006	Jazzing up the Garden with Color & Contrast , by Karen Bussolini @Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, CT. Monthly meeting of CT Horticultural Society. Information: 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org/calendar .
February 23-26, 2006	The Connecticut Flower & Garden Show @ Connecticut Expo Center, Hartford, CT
March 18, 2005 9:00 AM to 4:30PM	2006 CMGA Symposium "It all Begins in the Nursery" @ Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT. Contact: Paul Grimmeisen, Tel 860-677-8645
June 5-8, 2006	2006 Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference —"Passion for Gardening" @ University of Rhode Island, Newport, RI. Contact: URI Cooperative Extension Education Center 401-874-2900, www.passionforgardening.com .
June 24, 2006 10AM-4PM	Master Gardener 2006 Summer Tour —Greater Hartford Fund-raiser for UConn Master Gardener program. Information, call 860-486-6343.

CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

2006 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CMGA membership for the period January 1, 2006

through December 31, 2006

Annual membership fee: \$20.00

Membership is restricted to certified Master Gardeners

Membership status: *2005 Intern*
 Renewing member

NAME (please print)

FIRST _____ M.I. _____ LAST _____

(Complete address and details only if changed, or if you are a new member)

ADDRESS:

TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTY _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE (____) _____

YEAR CERTIFIED _____ OFFICE WHERE CERTIFIED _____

I AM INTERESTED IN HELPING THE CMGA WITH:

OUTREACH PROGRAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLASS MENTORING	<input type="checkbox"/>	MINI SYMPOSIUMS	<input type="checkbox"/>
LAUREL PUBLICATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	TEACHING (list subjects)	<input type="checkbox"/>

I WOULD LIKE TO ORGANIZE OR HELP TO ORGANIZE A
MASTER GARDENER FOCUS GROUP IN MY COMMUNITY

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION AND MONEY ORDER OR CHECK
FOR \$20 (check payable to "CMGA")**

MAIL TO: JOHN NEFF, 18 Knollwood Road, Farmington, CT 06032

*To insure addition in the 2006 CMGA Membership Directory, dues must be received
on or before December 31, 2005*



The *Laurel*

CMGA

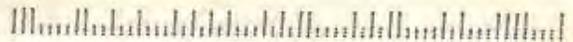
c/o John Neff
18 Knollwood Road
Farmington, CT 06032



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SAVE THE DATE!

November 12, 2005 **CMGA Semi-Annual Membership Meeting**
Guest Speaker: Maureen Haseley-Jones

March 18, 2006 **CMGA Annual Symposium :**
"It all Begins in the Nursery"

June 24, 2006 **Master Gardener 2006 Summer Tour**

Time to renew your CMGA annual membership!
Memberships expire on December 31, 2005
Membership application form inside