

# The Laurel

February, 2007

Volume 20, No. 1



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Gordon Hayward**

**"Your House, Your Garden:  
A Foolproof Approach to  
Good Garden Design"**

**Gordon Hayward** is a nationally recognized garden designer, writer and lecturer. He has been writing for Horticulture magazine for 25 years, is a contributing editor for Fine Gardening magazine and author of nine books on garden design. Hayward and his wife, Mary, have been developing a one and a half acre garden around their 20 year old farmhouse in southern Vermont for the past twenty-three years as well as a tiny garden outside their cottage in the Cotswold hills of England. His book 'Your House, Your Garden' won a book award from the American Horticultural Society.

Gordon's keynote lecture will illustrate how your house can help you design the surrounding gardens, as well as gardens between buildings, gardens in an ell or courtyard, or gardens centered around outbuildings. He will also provide ideas for dealing with the usual problem areas around air-conditioning units, cellar door bulkheads, electrical meter boxes, propane tanks and wellheads.



### CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## Annual Symposium XIV

**Saturday, March 17, 2007  
9AM - 4:30PM**  
(Registration and Coffee  
8:30AM)

Manchester Community College,  
Manchester, CT

## Making Gardens By Design

#### Cost:

**\$60.00 Members**  
**\$60.00 MG Interns**  
**\$75.00 Non-Members**

*Registration forms may  
be printed out from  
the CMGA website,  
[ctmga.org](http://ctmga.org)*

**See inside for  
symposium timetable  
and details of the  
session speakers**

### CLOSING SPEAKER

**Warren Leach**

**"Creating Inspiring Garden  
Divining Design (Sir George  
well meets Fletcher Steele**

**Warren Leach** is co-owner of Tranquil Lake Nursery in Rehoboth, MA, the largest grower of day lilies and Siberian and Japanese Iris in the northeast. Warren is a landscape horticulturist who creates distinctive and enduring garden designs for customers at his homes and businesses. He is a judge at many flower shows in the Northeast including the New England, Worcester and Philadelphia flower shows. He has been a horticulture and design instructor and lecturer at numerous flower shows and horticultural societies throughout the eastern US, at the NY Botanical Garden Design Program and Horticulture Magazine Symposium.

In his closing address, Warren will illustrate the timelessness of classic gardens. A century ago, George Sitwell explored the Renaissance gardens of Italy, still unfinished in their artful bearing beauty. Nearly fifty years ago, Fletcher Steele also wrote of the *Genius Loci* (spirit of the site) of those enlightened Italian garden designers. Warren's lecture will illustrate classic design philosophy in imaginative, contemporary gardens. No villa required.



**Warren Leach**

## CMGA Officers 2007

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Diana Ringelheim: Diana@Ringelheim.com

## From the CMGA . . .

It's February already, and the 2007 MG Classes are well underway. We are thrilled that the MG Program is continuing, offering unique and comprehensive training to MG students throughout the State. We extend a special welcome to the newly-appointed State MG Program Coordinator, Leslie Alexander.

While MG Interns are kept busy with their classes, there are ever more opportunities for them and for certified MGs to extend and refine their gardening knowledge: Advanced Master Gardener classes continue through the rest of the winter, the UConn Conference for the Home Gardener is to be held in March, and the Knowledge to Grow On series kicks off with a session on Organic Vegetable Gardening in April. Details of all these classes - and more - are in this issue of *The Laurel*.

Master Gardeners are involved in a variety of outreach projects that continue from year to year, some of which are featured in this edition. These ongoing projects offer excellent outreach opportunities for MG Interns, as well as for certified MGs looking to hone their own skills and to mentor the new students. CMGA provides funding support for many of these MG outreach projects - your CMGA membership contributions at work!

We are proud to present the CMGA Annual Symposium XIV - "Making Gardens by Design". The symposium is a special opportunity for CMGA members (and 2007 MG Interns) to revel in a wonderful day of gardening dreams and down-to-earth instruction. CMGA Board member Marge Bingham has assembled a knock-out selection of presenters for the symposium, with Gordon Hayward's approach to garden design as the keynote presentation. Session talks cover all aspects of garden design, from annuals to vines and everything in between. Vendors and Plant Societies will be at the symposium, giving us all the chance to browse and shop. The ever-popular MG Program Silent Auction will be in full swing too, offering an eclectic selection of gardening treasures.

The symposium is always a sell-out event - so get your registrations in early! It's the perfect remedy for gardeners' 'winter blues'. Full details of the symposium appear in this issue. The registration form can be printed out from the CMGA website, [ctmga.org](http://ctmga.org). We look forward to seeing you all there!

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*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 May 2007 edition:** April 1st, 2007

## MG Program News

### UConn Announces New State Master Gardener Coordinator

By Dawn Pettinelli, Extension Educator, Department of Plant Science, UConn

The University of Connecticut Plant Science Department is very pleased and excited to announce the hiring of Leslie Alexander as the new State Master Gardener Program Coordinator.

Leslie comes to us with a strong horticultural background and much teaching experience. She received a B.S. in Biology from Framingham State College and her M.S. in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Massachusetts. She worked as a horticulturist on a private estate, and was the Director of Fuller Gardens in New Hampshire for 8 years where her responsibilities included garden maintenance and operations, budgets, personnel, volunteer coordination and fund-raising.



**Leslie Alexander has been appointed State MG Program Coordinator**

Leslie has taught middle school, high school and college level classes and last year, presented a Master Gardener training session. Since 2005, she has been employed on a half-time basis at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center where she has proven herself a dedicated, knowledgeable and much valued employee.

Leslie's new full-time position will be split between the Center and the Master Gardener Program. Leslie has been extremely enthusiastic towards the Master Gardener Program and we consider ourselves very fortunate indeed to have her on board. Please give her a big welcome and congratulations when you see her.

### Hello Master Gardeners!

It is an honor to have been appointed coordinator for the UCONN Master Gardener Program. Challenging, exciting, demanding, rewarding these are but a few of the myriad of adjectives that come to mind as I contemplate this new position. As I write this, the New Year is two days away; January 2 will be the start of the 2007 Master Gardener Program. Put contemplation on hold as we have a new class to get underway.

Manuals to print, schedules to change and rearrange, snow days, grasshoppers, dissecting kits, what a job. I am in awe of Cyndi Wyskiewicz who spent the last seven years developing this wonderful curriculum and implementing this program. Her horticultural knowledge, infectious enthusiasm, and perseverance were remarkable. She is missed.

The program will go on with the talent, cooperation, and patience of the Extension Center Coordinators, the staff of the UCONN Home and Garden Education Center, university instructors and countless other individuals. A new crop of Master Gardeners will blossom in the spring equipped with great knowledge, enthusiasm and passion to carry on this wonderful tradition of outreach education.

Best wishes to all of you for the coming year!

*Leslie Alexander, State MG Program Coordinator*

### Master Gardener Volunteers Needed for CPTV Family Science Expo, April 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year that CPTV has sponsored the Family Science Expo. It is designed to offer K-8 children, teachers and parents hands-on opportunities to spark enthusiasm about science, math and technology and is held at the Expo Center in Hartford.

For the last 2 years Windham County MG coordinator, Kim Kelly and UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory Manager, Dawn Pettinelli have designed and constructed exhibits for the EXPO which were staffed by MG volunteers. CMGA has supported our efforts by provid-

ing funds for our booth and plant material giveaways to the visiting children. This year's exhibit will be on plants and energy.

We are looking for interested volunteers to help prepare the exhibit and also to staff it. Any MG who enjoys working with children can contact either Kim at 860-774-9600 or Dawn at 860-486-4274. Thanks for your support.

## CMGA elects a new President

### CMGA annual membership meeting held on December 5, 2006

Over forty CMGA members and friends attended the CMGA membership meeting held on December 5, 2006 at the Pond House, Café, Elizabeth Park, Hartford. The meeting was chaired by CMGA President Paul Grimmeisen.

The official business of the meeting included the presentation by outgoing Treasurer Billy Baxter of financial statements for 2006 and a proposed budget for the coming year.

A new slate of officers for 2007 was presented, and the following CMGA members were elected to the Board:

President	Billy Baxter
Vice President	Carol Quish
Treasurer	Sandy Myhalik
Secretary	Diana Ringelheim

Marge Bingham has been responsible for organizing speakers for the CMGA Symposium to be held on March 17, 2007. Marge presented a wonderful line-up of 12 presenters, including Gordon Hayward as keynote speaker, and Warren Leach as closing speaker.

Looking ahead to summer 2007, the next semi-annual meeting and garden adventure will be held in conjunction with the North Haven office. A search is underway to locate gardens that are worthy of a tour by Master Gardeners.

John Neff voiced the CMGA's concerns as to the future of the Master Gardener Program. Sarah Bailey, MG class coordinator of the West Hartford office, gave an update on the present position, and said that UConn did indeed intend to continue with the 2007 MG program. The MG coordinators were meeting with Dr. Nancy Bull, Assistant Dean, to discuss the situation, and Sarah undertook to keep CMGA members informed of any developments.

Bill Overton and Jay Beausoleil gave a vivid description of the highly successful outreach program at the



*Retiring CMGA President Paul Grimmeisen (at right) hands over the reins to newly-elected President Billy Baxter*

Channel 3 Kids Camp in Andover, CT. Bill and Jay spearheaded this MG outreach project in 2006, and are already making plans for the 2007 camp. This was one of the many projects that had received funding and support from the CMGA during 2006.

Special tribute was paid by Billy Baxter to retiring CMGA President, Paul Grimmeisen. Paul has served the CMGA for many years, first as Treasurer, then Vice President and, for the past two years, as President. His accomplishments and team spirit have made the CMGA a strong presence in Connecticut horticulture, and Paul has been an inspiration to us all.

### CMGA welcomes MG Interns of 2007

Nearly 200 MG Interns will be attending classes at 5 centers throughout Connecticut this year. MG Interns are welcomed as affiliate members of the CMGA, and are accorded full membership benefits for the year.

The Connecticut Master Gardener Association "CMGA") is an association of certified master gardeners. It was formed with the aim of fostering members' connection with the master gardener classes, and to promote and support the MG Program.

CMGA organizes talks, trips and garden tours for members every year. The annual March symposium is their most ambitious project - this year's event is the 14th CMGA symposium, with a different theme featured every year.

*The Laurel* is the quarterly newsletter of the CMGA, and aims to advertise upcoming MG events and to promote all the wonderful MG projects throughout the

State.

As MG Interns, you have a challenging and interesting year ahead. When you started the Master Gardener course, you knew that the classes would impact your schedules once a week for the next few months. In effect, the MG course may have a much wider impact: it may even change entire lives! At the very least, the MG classes will change your gardening perspective, and you will view your garden - and gardening in general - with new eyes.

For instance, you may have thought that the MG classes would give you some insight into how to get rid of the moss growing in your lawn. At the end of this course, you will not only understand why moss takes over parts of your lawn, you will be celebrating moss as groundcover and nurturing moss gardens!

## Congratulations to MGs and AMGs of 2006

### Fairfield County (Stamford)

Linda Albanese	Heather Duffly	Victoria Powell	<b>AMG certifi</b>
Jackie Algon	Dawn Fiss	Angela Rhoderick	Terry Karpert
Phyllis Alkinson	Elaine Grunberger	Joan Stefura	Greg Moonie
Luigi Badetti	Monica Hill	Laila Tiefenthaler	<b>Bronze bar</b>
Karen Boshka	Mary Hogue	Karen Vogel Grefe	Lesley Gehr
Ill Chase	Ann Huck	Leslie Williamson	Alice Smith
Marcia Coyle	Esra Koseathac	Jane Wooding	<b>Silver bar</b>
Michalina Doimo	Ann Mele	Gail Zaremba	Hilary Forsytt

### Fairfield County

Susan Abbett	Gail Lawson	Eileen O'Neill	<b>AMG certifi</b>
Cynthia Bainer	Ann Levison	Mary Quinlan	Warren Della
Maria Benedetti	Fran Litwin	Susan Petrie	Johanna Weiz
Lisa Bennett	David Looney	Lynn Rook	Nancy Baker
Carolyn Bernard	Shelley Margolis	Judy Schweitzer	Joy Norman
John Cox, Jr.	Alison Menendez	Melissa Spinner	<b>Bronze bar</b>
Linda Gray	Lois Meyers	Phyllis Suppe	Ingrid McCau
Judith Hsiang	Fran Morrow		Sue Deilus

### Litchfield County

Adele Banas	Colleen Goldstein	Lynda Neilsen	<b>AMG certifi</b>
Holly Barnes-Zamora	Marge Goslee	Frances Owles	Karen Anders
Bradley Boers	Joseph Hajek	Cindy Palumbo	Sarah Bailey
Joseph Bojko Jr.	Anna Heys	Cecelia Santillo	Steve Morse
Nancy Boyne	Nancy House	Amy Schuster	George Treat
Elizabeth Bradanini	Jane Hutter	Elizabeth Secord	<b>Bronze bar</b>
Reymond Budny	Shaila Kambli	David Silver	Kim Bouley
Andi Marie Cantele	Alan Kennedy	Olaf Soltau	Judy Olsen
Sharon Cien	Jennifer Kern	Susan Stover	Lisa Stoddart
Barbara Corr	Barbara Lang	Laura Thomas	Janet Valenci
Dorothy Coyne	Robert Lyle	Mary Jo Torcello	<b>Silver bar</b>
Karen Craparo	Michele Maillet	Mary Jane Vallee	Faith Heering
Lorraine Davis	Mary Marino	Rebecca Wanag	Richard Shaff
Allison deVaux	Kit Martinsen	Deborah Zullo	Carol Quish
Claudia Duhamel	Laurie McKenna		
Jeanne Fouke	Diane Mudano		

### New London County

Peggy Bliss	Christine Jeffrey	Marjukka Trumbauer	<b>AMG certifi</b>
Phyllis Bruce	Stanley Kaplan		Connie Bergli
Maria A. Buatti	Maryann Korpita		Carl Sommer
Sally Carbone	Crystal Kovalik		Harry Teller
Diane Christensen	Julie Lehmann		Elizabeth Bea
Joan Grecki	Joanne Malahias		<b>Bronze bar</b>
Katherine Green	Donna Meadows		Beverly Weyt
Judith Huntley	Catherine O'Brien		Marie Kuchy
Geraldine Jacobson	Christina Roberge		<b>Silver bar</b>
Colleen Jeffords	Geraldine Shaw		Frank White

### Windham County

Jasmer Bajwa	Tracy Gorecki	Evelyn Glander	<b>AMG certifi</b>
Deborah Beacham	Amalita Grimes	Barbara Perry	Angelika Larh
Francesca Bogoslofski	Ann Harrington-DiBella	Jane Perry	
S. Micaela Boland	Ruth Hoffmann	Debbie Poltras	
Stanley Bonk	Judith Hopkins	Jim Raynor	
Linda Brown	Robert Johansen	Toni Royal	
Chandler Caton	Lisa Kegler	Marlene Serio	
Pamela Cooper	Jennifer Krueger	Susan Shear	
James DeLisle, Jr.	Deborah LaFrancis	Theresa Siver	
Ellie Doane	Joyce Lafue	Laurie Stanley	
Charles Edinger	Joyce Lorenzo	David Starr	
Nancy Kibbe Emery	William Marshall, III	Barbara Steele	
Donald Feltovic	Karen McKenzie	Virginia Tewksbury	
Gladys France	Carole Miller	Tierney Tully	
Jennifer Giguere	Jessica Neilsen	Susan Ward	

## From the Home & Garden Education Center

### Volunteers Needed for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Flower and Garden Show

UConn's Home and Garden Education Center/Master Gardener Program and the CT Master Gardener Association will host a booth at the 2007 CT Flower and Garden Show, held **February 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>** at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Certified Master Gardeners are needed for various shifts throughout the show to answer gardening questions and distribute educational materials. Volunteers will be given free admission to the show and free parking. Days are broken into 3 or 4 hour shifts with two Master Gardeners per shift. Shifts are filled on a **first come, first call basis**.

Master Gardeners who are interested in this opportunity for outreach hours should call MG Bobbie Orne at 860- 875-3005 to volunteer.

### Worried about the unusual weather?

By Carol Quish

Don't worry about the warm weather harming hardy plants. It will lessen the blooming amount of some flowering shrubs that are popping into blossom now, such as forsythia. Bulbs that are growing now will not be harmed now since the blossom growing point is below ground in the bulb. Most plants need a cold period for dormancy to be broken, once the plants go dormant they stay dormant until a certain number of cold hours occur regardless of how warm it gets. Shortened day length will also keep some plants in dormancy.

### Knowledge to Grow On

Offered by the UConn Home & Garden Education Center, this education series features UConn Extension Educators, faculty and staff. Seminars are held at Auer Farm in Bloomfield, CT from 10 am. - 2 p.m. The registration fee is \$50 per seminar.

Go to [www.ladybug.uconn.edu](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu) for more information or call (877) 486-6271.

#### Organic Vegetable Gardening

Saturday, April 14, 2007

Many gardeners want to grow nutritious and tasty vegetables without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. The keys to success lie in soil preparation, variety selection, and pest management. Learn the techniques for having an organic vegetable garden and reap the bounty.

#### Lawn Care Basics

Saturday, September 8, 2007

A healthy lawn looks good and is less likely to be stressed by insects, diseases or weeds. Like all plants, turf grasses benefit from proper maintenance. Learn about lawn seed selection, the cultural requirements of turf, when to renovate, and how to manage problems like moss, shade and grubs.

## UConn Conference for the Home Gardener

The University of Connecticut is sponsoring the "Conference for the Home Gardener" to be held at the University of Connecticut on **Friday, March 9, 2007**. The conference will be held at the Lewis B. Rome Commons on the Storrs campus in Storrs, CT. This all-day conference offers exciting educational opportunities for home gardeners at all interest levels - from the casual gardener to the garden enthusiast to the Master Gardener.

This year's featured speaker is Judy Glattstein, noted garden designer, lecturer, and author of numerous gardening books. Judy will be speaking on *Consider the Leaf: Foliage for Garden Design*.

C. Colston Burrell, well-known garden designer, photographer, and award-winning author will be speaking on *More than a Pretty Face: Native Alternatives to Invasive Exotic Plants*. (Sponsored by the New England Invasive Plant Center).

Holly Shimizu is the Executive Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, DC. Herbs are one of her areas of special interest and have been since her early days as curator of the National Herb Garden. Holly will be speaking on *Using Herbs in the Garden*.

Steven Aitken is the managing editor of *Fine Gardening* magazine. He will be speaking on *Designing with*

*Containers*. (Sponsored by Fine Gardening magazine).

Warren Leach is a landscape horticulturist and co-owner of Tranquil Lake Nursery, Inc., a prominent grower of beardless iris and daylilies in Rehoboth, MA. Warren will be speaking on *Surmounting the Site Challenged Garden*.

There is a pre-registration fee of \$80 per person if postmarked on or before March 2nd. The fee is \$90 per person if postmarked after March 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Please make checks payable to the University of Connecticut.** Registration is limited and nonrefundable. Please send checks to Richard McAvoy, University of Connecticut, Department of Plant Science, 1376 Storrs Road, Unit 4067, Storrs, CT 06269-4067. Included in the cost of admission are a buffet lunch, parking, snacks and beverages during breaks and the information packet with session summaries. There is also an opportunity to purchase selected autographed books, plus a wide array of gardening books.

If you have questions about the conference, please contact Dr. Richard McAvoy at 860-486-0627 or email: [richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu](mailto:richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu). Information is also available at: [www.hort.uconn.edu/2007garden](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/2007garden)

## Advanced Master Gardener Courses : Winter 2007

Date and Time	Location	Class and Instructor
Tuesday, February 6, 2007 12:00PM - 4:30PM	UConn Storrs	<b>Turfgrass Disease 101</b> John Kaminski
Tuesday, February 6, 2007 1:00PM - 3:00PM	Brooklyn	<b>Best Management Practices for Organic Vegetable Gardening</b> - Wayne Hansen
Thursday, February 8, 2007 10:30AM - 12:30PM	Norwich	<b>What's in a Name? A Primer in Plant Systematics</b> Caroline Driscoll
Tuesday, February 27, 2007 1:00PM - 3:00PM	Stamford	<b>Have Fun, Grow Orchids</b> Lesley Gehr
March 7, 14, 21, 24, 28 and April 4, 11 and 21, 2007 (8 sessions)	Haddam	<b>Master Composter Training</b>
Wednesday, March 14, 2007 1:00PM - 3:00PM	UConn Storrs	<b>Co-Existing with Connecticut Deer, or How to Have Vegetables and Eat Them Too!</b> - Steve Olsen
Thursday, March 15, 2007 10:00AM - 12:00PM	Norwich	<b>An Introduction to Wetlands and Vernal Pools of Southern New England</b> - Jon Mitchell
Tuesday, March 20, 2007 10:00AM - 12:00PM	UConn Storrs	<b>A Seed Starting Guide</b> Rob Durgy
Saturday, April 14, 2007 10:00AM - 12:00PM	West Simsbury	<b>Energy Alternatives for Home &amp; Farm</b> Nevin Christensen
Saturday, April 14, 2007 10:00AM - 12:00PM	Haddam	<b>Ferns, the Unsung Heroes</b> Helen Pritchard
Saturday, May 5, 2007 10:00AM - 1:00PM	UConn Storrs	<b>Basics of Rock and Alpine Gardening</b> Joyce Fingerut
Wednesday, May 16, 2007 7:00PM - 8:30PM	Stamford	<b>Containers through the Seasons</b> Barbara Soebbing

Full details and registration form: [www.ladybug.uconn.edu/mastergardener](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/mastergardener) Telephone : 1-860-486-6343

## CIPWG symposium report

"*Working Together for the Landscape of Tomorrow*" was a fitting title to the symposium presented by the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group. Over 300 people - nursery representatives, plant scientists, landscape architects, master gardeners, conservationists, Department of Environmental Protection employees, the general public, and even a candidate for the CT State Senate--gathered together on October 12, 2006 at The Mountainside Resort in Wallingford to discuss native and non-native plants as well as invasive plants in our state.

In 2003, Public Act 03-136 was passed which created a council in the state legislature to define standards of invasiveness and to create a list of plants which are considered invasive in Connecticut.

The following year, Public Act 04-203 further defined invasives and set out penalties for violation of the provisions. The ultimate goal of the council is to educate the people who buy plants - **us** - and to give us alternatives to invasives.

Plants are big business in Connecticut: both *Berberis thunbergii* DC (Japanese barberry) and *Euonymus alatus* Sieb. (burning bush), two principal invasives, are ubiquitous in the state; from highway dividers to home gardens. People recognize these plants and find them easy to grow. Just these two plants represent \$6 million in sales in Connecticut alone.

Adam Wheeler of Broken Arrow Nursery has lists of

alternative plants to both barberry and burning bush. Broken Arrow Nursery was started by a plant scientist from UConn. Today, Broken Arrow has over 2,000 plants, many of which are native to Connecticut. Mark Seller of Prides Corner Farms spoke passionately about the line of plants he has created called American Beauties, saying, "I grow plants and think about who will buy my plants." American Beauties is a series of gardens: butterfly garden, bird garden, dry shade garden, and a moist, sunny garden with native plant recommendations for each. Individual nurseries throughout the northeast sell the plant series.

Kristen Schwab, landscape architect, discussed alternative plants to create sustainable landscapes. She spoke about 'planting with a purpose' - how to have balance in plant design especially in roadside plantings and commercial design.

Steve Taylor, Sunny Borders Nurseries in Kensington, challenged the audience to think about our area - our Connecticut environment and what grows well here. He has created a list of northeast native plants: ferns, grasses, perennials, vines, ground covers, and shrubs.

Clearly, the professionals in the field - the scientists and nurserymen - have taken the time to learn more about this problem. Now we, as plant lovers and gardeners, need to become more educated about invasives.

By Susan Popovitch - From a report commissioned by Connecticut Gardener.

Making Gardens By Design

CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION Annual Symposium XIV

Saturday, March 17, 2007

9AM - 4:30PM

Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT

Session Speakers:

Session I-A: John Alexopoulos: "Maintenance Strategies in Low Impact Design" will illustrate the principles of sustainable design that come into play with even the most minor landscaping decisions.



John Alexopoulos

John is Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Plant Science Department, UConn and has been with the landscape architecture program there since 1977.

Previously he worked with the Knox Parks Foundation in Hartford, and with local neighborhood groups restoring playgrounds, developing a community gardening program and establishing a horticulture center at Elizabeth Park. His research resulted in the publication by Hartford Architecture Conservancy of the book "The Nineteenth Century Parks of Hartford".

Session I-B: Christine Cook: "Eco-Friendly Landscapes". Christine's lecture will explore how to create an ecologically sound environment that will encourage wildlife to visit and perhaps stay for a while in your backyard.

Christine is an artist, lecturer and landscape designer whose company Mossaics specializes in moss garden design, wildlife habitat restoration and contemplative gardens. Her work reflects an ecological approach to each site with an under-

standing of natural systems. Christine serves as Conservation Chairperson for the CT Butterfly Association.

Session I-C: Len Giddix: "Thinking out of the Box: Vegetable Gardening". Len will describe his method of assuring an attractive and productive vegetable garden

Table with symposium timetable: Morning Sessions, 8:30-9:15 Registration and Coffee, 9:15-10:30 Keynote Speaker: Gordon Hayward, 11:00-12:00 Session I Speakers (I-A to I-F), 12:00-1:20 Lunch.

without moles, voles, slugs, weeds or bunnies. He will share his secrets of success - which are as easy as 'thinking out of the box'.



Len Giddix

Len is a certified CT Landscape and Nursery Association professional and a member of the American Garden Writers Association. He is a sales representative for Prides Corner Farms and co-hosts with Lisa Napolitano a two-hour, call-in radio show every Saturday at noon on WTIC-AM.

Session I-D: Gordon Hayward: "The Uses of Stone in the Garden". In this Session talk, Gordon will

cover the aesthetics of and practical concerns about the proper way to lay and set stone in the garden. His talk will cover all aspects of using stone in the garden - stone for structure, for design, and purely for ornament.

Session I-E: Sarah Bailey: "Landscape Design 101". Sarah will



Sarah Bailey

define concepts to consider and techniques for designing a livable, attractive and functional outdoor space.

Sarah is Hartford County Coordinator for UConn's Master Gardener Program and has her own garden consultation maintenance firm in West Hartford. She is a CT Accredited Nursery Professional who has provided design advice in the Farmington Valley for eight years. For a number of years she was the horticulturist for Lexington Gardens in Farmington.

Session I-F: in her lecture, "Create Winning Perennial Combinations using Color and Texture Basics", Maria von Brincken presents design techniques critical in the creation of a multi-seasonal sunny or shady border.



Maria von Brincken

Maria is a certified member of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers who conducts workshops and lectures to garden clubs and plant societies throughout New England. Her design work has been featured in 'Fine Gardening' and she is a contributing editor to LandShapes magazine geared to design professionals. Trained as a fine artist, color theorist and graphic designer, she brings years of critical design thinking to her landscape solutions.



## CMGA Annual Symposium XIV - "Making Gardens By Design"

**Session II-G:** In his lecture "Components of a Perennial Border", **Leo Blanchette** will provide information on horticultural and design elements required for selecting and combining plants for texture and color in the border.

Leo is owner and propagator of Blanchette Gardens in Carlisle, Massachusetts, a nursery specializing in perennials for almost every site and condition and featuring many rare and unusual varieties. A former teacher, he has lectured to numerous groups throughout the US as well as Canada and Japan. He has been featured in many major horticultural publications and has written numerous articles for national gardening magazines, including *Horticulture* and *Better Homes and Gardens*.

**Session II-H: Rob Fuoco:** "New Thinking in Historic Landscapes". In this talk, Rob will share secrets of the art of landscape design through an illustrated lecture focusing on new ways of treating historic landscapes.

Rob is a consultant and designer of historic landscapes including Nook Farm in West Hartford, the Butler-McCook property in Hartford, and the Harkness Estate in Waterford. He is presently managing Hillstead Museum's gardens in Farmington. Rob authored the historic grounds report that is credited with saving the Nook Farm grounds and is currently developing new theories about historic landscape preservation.

**Session II-I: Jeff Hutton:** In his lecture "The 'Art' of Landscape Design: Common Creative Principles and Application", Jeff will include a discussion of the common creative aspects of landscape and the other arts, including interior design, as well as gardening as a single element of overall landscape design with associated positive and negative components.

Jeff is owner of Earthworks Landscaping in Tolland, an award-winning landscape designer, and had one of his pro-

jects featured in 'American Nurseryman' magazine. He writes a column on Landscape Design for Manchester's newspaper, *The Journal Inquirer*, and publication of his first book on landscaping 'The Art and Craft of Residential Landscape Design' is projected for May 2007.

**Session II-J: Sarah Mittledeier:** "Avoiding Common Design Missteps in the Residential Landscape". Sarah will explore common problems and possible solutions for the homeowner by defining spatial hierarchy and the effect of curved and linear shapes when evaluating plant material appropriate for the intended function.

SYMPOSIUM TIMETABLE	
Afternoon Sessions	
1:00	
Silent Auction closes	
1:30 - 2:30	
Session II Speakers	
II-G	Leo Blanchette
II-H	Rob Fuoco
II-I	Jeff Hutton
II-J	Sarah Mittledeier
II-K	Mike Ruggiero
II-L	Laura Eisener
3:00 - 4:00	
CLOSING SPEAKER	
Warren Leach	



Sarah Mittledeier

Sarah is a professional landscape designer residing in Newtown who has been committed to the environment, encouraging the fostering of a healthy, diverse ecosystem and a meaningful connection between architecture and landscape. For many years she has edited and written articles for 'The Connecticut Landscape Architect'.

**Session II-K: Mike Ruggiero:** "Designing with Annuals". Mike's lecture will redefine the term 'annual' by showing the varied types of plants that now fit the new definition of annuals. The many uses of annuals from containers to borders and how to make a spectacular show will be reviewed.

Mike Ruggiero is a horticulturist at Matterhorn Nurseries in Spring Valley, NY, former senior curator at NY Botanical Garden and author of *American Garden Guides: Perennial Gardening: Reliable Roses; Spotters Guide to Wildflowers of North America* and co-author of 'Annuals with Style'. He has taught many classes at NYBG, IES and UConn. Michael has lectured all over the country on about twenty different subjects to over 100 garden clubs and extension services.

**Session II-L: Laura Eisener:** "Designing with Vines". Laura's lecture will illustrate how vines can solve many landscape problems through her review of woody, perennial and annual vine species that can be used in New England with recommended support structures appropriate for each type of climber.



Laura Eisener

Laura is a landscape designer and lecturer from Saugus, MA, who has taught for over 20 years at the Landscape Institute of Arnold Arboretum. She is president of HortResources, a non-profit organization for gardeners and landscape professionals of New England. Since 2002, she has also been the MA Associate Editor for 'People, Places, Plants' magazine and is a frequent writer for that publication.



Jeff Hutton

## CMGA Annual Symposium XIV - "Making Gardens By Design"

### Additional Symposium events

The CMGA Annual Symposium is an all-day event! Besides the wonderful speakers (details on page 1 and pages 8 and 9), the symposium offers MGs a chance to shop, browse, bid for items in the Silent Auction, meet old friends and make new ones!

### Silent Auction

As in previous years, 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!

#### Bidding starts early and closes at 1 PM

The person with the highest bid at closing (1 pm), gets to purchase the item. All bids are in increments of \$1.00.

#### Support the UConn Master Gardener Program! Donate items for the CMGA Symposium Silent Auction!

If you can donate items for the silent auction, contact Leslie Alexander, 860-486-6343 or bring the items with you the morning of the symposium. All proceeds go directly to the MG Program to support county coordinators and educational efforts. So come bring your pocketbooks and be prepared to take home great treasures!

### Master Gardener Logo Items for sale at the Symposium

- ◇ Long sleeved denim shirts - women's & men's sizes
- ◇ Navy fleece vests
- ◇ Long-sleeved T-shirts
- ◇ Sweatshirts
- ◇ Ball caps

*Cash or checks are accepted. Shop early - our booth will be open at 8AM prior to the symposium.*

#### Symposium Registration inquiries:

Sandy Myhalik, Phone: 860-677-0504  
Email: myhalik@comcast.net

#### 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

### Vendors

What a great time for gardeners to shop! Many vendors will be at MCC for the symposium, offering a wide range of gardening-related products. Vendors who will be at the symposium include:

Ballek's Garden Center  
Natureworks  
Ellen Hoverkamp  
Connecticut Gardener  
CT Agricultural Experiment Station  
Ai Dragon Garden Tools  
Horticulture Therapy  
Dempsey Greenhouse  
The Garden Party

### Plant Societies

Once again CMGA is pleased to welcome many Plant Societies to the symposium, including:

Rhododendron Society of Connecticut  
CT Herb Association  
CT Cactus & Succulent Society  
CT Chapter North American Rock Garden Society  
CT Chapter of NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association)

### CMGA members save!

CMGA members (and this includes MG Interns) benefit from a \$15 discount on the cost of the symposium.

Forgotten to renew your CMGA membership for 2007? Simply visit the CMGA website, [cmga.org](http://cmga.org), print out a membership renewal application, and mail in your check today!

Mislaid your symposium flyer? Registration forms can be printed out from the CMGA website, [cmga.org](http://cmga.org).

#### 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.
6. Take right onto Founders Drive South for Lot C

## West Hartford Extension Center Reports

*By Sarah Bailey, Cooperative Extension Center Class Coordinator, West Hartford*

It may still be winter, but we have already sown the first crop of the season – the 2007 crop of Master Gardeners! A large class is well underway in West Hartford, and plans are under development for a variety of great outreach projects for the year.

Last year's projects included the Foodshare Garden at Auer Farm, where rain on every major work-project day was an interesting challenge. Nonetheless, we harvested almost 1,800 pounds of produce for the food bank, thanks to the ongoing efforts of volunteers from both the Master Gardeners and Foodshare. There were ongoing projects at both the Mark Twain House and the Hill-Stead Museum and programs with the Asylum Hill Boys & Girls Club in Hartford. We hope to build our relationship with the Boys & Girls Club to develop a sustained gardening presence with this group.

Several interns had a lasting impact on the Hartford County program by creating the Master Gardener display booth "kit"; a completely self-contained package that includes everything one needs to promote the Master Gardener program at fairs, festivals and other events. Along with displays and materials, it includes a "what-to-do" manual as well as a logbook for feedback on how to make the next presentation even better. This group created a presentation on water quality as part of the display. I'm now looking for people interested in creating more modules for the package, so that we have a variety of topics to highlight within the program. If anyone wants to use the display to promote the program, give me a call or stop on by.



Photo: Sarah Bailey

**Master Gardener intern Betty Secord shows off one of the tools from the tool chest for the new garden at the J.C. Clark, Jr. Elementary School in Hartford. Betty and MG intern Shaila Kambli (on left, facing away from the camera) developed the new garden with assistance from the Knox Park Foundation and a grant from the Sisters of Mercy of Connecticut.**



Photo: Sarah Bailey

**It was a beautiful October day for the dedication of the new garden at the J.C. Clark, Jr. Elementary School in Hartford. Students, teachers and community members gathered around the new 30' x 100' garden, (which still had produce growing in it!) for songs and presentations. A generous grant from the Sisters of Mercy of CT provided for tools, supplies, and a chain link fence to separate the garden from the playground.**

Several school garden programs were developed or enhanced in 2006. The Canton Intermediate School's Garden Club involved 78 fourth through sixth-graders in designing, planting and maintaining the gardens, as well as building worm composters. In Hartford, two interns spearheaded the creation of the J.C. Clark, Jr. Elementary School Garden and helped teachers integrate the garden's lessons into their curriculum. The Knox Parks Foundation, which assisted the project, honored the two interns with an award for their efforts.

Certified and Advanced Master Gardeners were also busy, helping out in the office or working on outreach projects. I am looking for assistance this May, as a very large number of interns will be in the West Hartford office this year. As we all remember, those first few office shifts can be intimidating!

There are lots of other plans and projects simmering here in the West Hartford office, so come on in and lend a hand. Whether it's a couple of hours now and then or jumping into a major project, staying in touch is rewarding – and fun.

If you're interested in any of these projects, or have ideas of your own, get in touch at 860-570-9013 or [sarah.bailey@uconn.edu](mailto:sarah.bailey@uconn.edu) and we'll make it happen.

## Extension Center Reports

### Outreach in New London County

By Susan Munger

MG Program Coordinator, New London

By the time this issue reaches people, the 2007 Master Gardener class will be well underway. I have information on some interesting projects where master gardener help is sought. This year's interns have a busy time ahead of them at the MG program classes, but it's never too soon to think about what you might do for the required 30 hours of outreach.

If any of the projects described below appeal to interns or certified master gardeners feel free to contact me in the Norwich Extension office (860-885-2823, susan.munger@uconn.edu).

Two towns in New London County have programs to inform home owners about ways to protect their local water supply. They can do this by reducing pesticide and fertilizer use on lawns and gardens and by planting native plants, which are adapted to surviving the quirky southern New England climate.

There are several interesting projects at a local

public school system working with middle and high school students. Both schools have greenhouses. Teachers are looking for master gardeners to work with them as the students to learn to grow plants from seed and work with the soil.

An historic site is looking for master gardeners to restore the original garden around the house built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. By great good fortune the original plant lists exist.

Norwich is participating in the America in Bloom program, which involves beautification projects throughout the city of Norwich.

This is just a sampling of interesting and rewarding opportunities for master gardeners. There are ongoing projects as well working with the handicapped, at another historic site, more city beautification projects. And more requests for help will come in this spring. So feel free to call me about what's doing in New London County.

### Welcome Bethel Master Gardener and Hort Pro Class of 2007!

By Sandi Wilson,

MG Program Coordinator, Bethel

Welcome MG Interns of 2007! Your MG Program classes are in full swing, and you will be feeling more comfortable each week as your horticulture knowledge grows. As the program progresses, you will begin to notice a continuity of information and the pieces will begin to fall into place.

On behalf of myself and our crew, I would like to welcome all of you to the Fairfield/New Haven County Hort Pro and Master Gardener Program! We are happy to have you become a part of a wonderful group of volunteers who generously share their talents with the community. After you pass your final exam (which I am

sure you will ace), you will get to meet some of these extraordinary volunteers. Many participate in the next phase of the program, by mentoring interns in the extension offices and leading outreach projects in the community. I am sure you will make some lasting friendships among them and your classmates.

Whether you are pursuing this goal for professional or personal reasons, I wish you success. I hope you thoroughly enjoy your experience with the program, and then find a way to share your knowledge and special talents with others!

### Southwest Conservation District Annual Plant Sale

#### April 27th and 28th, 2007

10:00-4:00 Friday,

10:00-2:00 Saturday

The Southwest Conservation District will hold its Annual Shrub and Perennial Plant Sale April 27th and 28th at Lockwood Farm in Hamden and Bethel Fairgrounds Barn in Bethel.

Available are: Evergreen bareroot seedlings, native as well as ornamental shrubs and trees, perennials. Volunteer UCONN Certified Master Gardeners as well as North Haven and Wallingford Garden Club members will be on hand to



assist the customers on site. Preorder forms are available from the SWCD office at 900 Northrop Rd, Suite A, Wallingford CT 06492. Call for a newsletter and order form. Email address: [swcd43emt@sbcdglobal.net](mailto:swcd43emt@sbcdglobal.net).

If you live outside of New Haven or Fairfield County, check the other Conservation Districts for their annual plant sales. Details are available on [www.conservect.org](http://www.conservect.org).

## Extension Center Reports

### Fairfield County - Stamford

By Regina Campfield  
MG Program Coordinator, Stamford

I would like to welcome the new Master Gardener Class of 2007 to our community of gardeners. There is so much to be learned and to be enjoyed: you have big challenges ahead but also wonderful rewards.

At the Bartlett Arboretum, the Master Gardener program is busy not only while class is active, but all year long. Various outreach projects have developed into long-term groups that continue the work and the relationships started during intern days. Here is a brief glimpse into some of the local activities we have going on, all of which welcome MG Interns who are working to fulfill their outreach requirements.

MG Laura DePreta, who was certified as a Master Gardener in 2004, worked with several MG Interns in the 2006 class to establish a beautiful new herb garden on the Bartlett property. MGs who worked on this project - and continue to do so - include Karen Boschka, Dawn Fiss, Jackie Algon, Michellina Docimo, and Linda Albanese.



**Members of the Bartlett MG Herb Garden group meet in the Library at the Bartlett Arboretum to plan their strategy for the Herb Garden in 2007. From left: Laura DePreta, Dawn Fiss, Linda Albanese, Michellina Docimo, Jackie Algon**

In 2007, the Herb Garden group plans to work with MG Interns to care for and maintain the herb garden, and to identify and label all of the plants growing there. The group has also been researching ways in which the herbs they harvest can be used for dyeing and for cooking, and they now plan to offer this information in booklet form and at classes at the Bartlett. Our herb gardeners have developed a reputation for themselves as wonderful cooks and bakers. The group hosted the first MG class at the Bartlett this year, and MG Interns were treated to a wonderful spread of herbed breads, nut confections and snacks.

The Woodlands Treasures Group has many faces and many activities. The group was started in 2001 by



**Woodland Treasures Group's signboard at the Bartlett Arboretum provides a wealth of seasonal information**

MG Interns Alice Smith, Judy Steinberg and Linda Ike and the group now boasts 10 core members. As a long time volunteer and woodlands tour guide at the Bartlett, Alice knew the woodlands and its inhabitants better than most, and was eager to share her knowledge and expertise. Joining the MG class gave Alice the opportunity to draw many like-minded people into the wonderful world of the woodlands through the medium of the WT group.

Since its inception, the group has identified and catalogued many of the woodland plants that grow in the Bartlett Arboretum's 91-acre property. They have produced extensive notes on their research, illustrated by group member Sue Sweeney's evocative photographs. The group is also responsible for compiling beautiful seasonal signboards in the gazebo at the Bartlett parking area, with photos and information on wildflowers and wildlife that may be encountered on the nearby trails.

In 2006 the Woodlands Treasures group worked with the Cove Island IBA (Important Bird Area) in Stamford. This new sanctuary on the Stamford shoreline is in the process of development, and the developers have turned to our experts to aid their work in controlling invasive plant species. The group has researched local invasive plants and is in the process of developing ID cards for the invasives found on the Cove Island site. These cards will be used to train volunteers to be effective in identifying the invasive plants and ways to remove the unwelcome plants.

MG Interns from the Stamford class fulfilled their outreach commitments by working with people at plants at such diverse sites as the Silver Hill Hospital, Northeast and Newfield Elementary Schools, Scofield Middle School, The Marvin Senior Residence, the Naaman Nature Center and the Garden Education Center of Greenwich. They also worked at several projects at the Bartlett Arboretum, including maintenance of the perennial border, and as docents on the Champion Tree Tour. All of these projects are ongoing, and MGs are ready and willing to mentor interns this year and pass on their knowledge and skills.

## A Wonderful First Year of Beekeeping

By Cheryl Carter and Laura DePreta  
Stamford MG Class of 2004

We both knew the critical role honeybees play in our lives, pollinating about 80% of the fruits and vegetables we eat. But it was the beekeeping course at Norwalk Community College that really piqued our interest and gave us the desire to learn more. We enrolled in the class in March 2006, and we not only learned about honeybees and the role of the queen bee, the worker bees (females) and the drones (males), but also how to build our own hive - a real challenge!

Materials for our hives were provided and included in the cost of our class. As in building a home, you get to know every square inch of it: each hive has a lower deep, upper deep, queen excluder, shallow honey super, inner cover, outer cover and the bottom board. Assembled, the hive forms a box about two feet tall. The hive is made primarily of pine wood with certain parts made of cypress which is highly resistant to rot.

Once we had assembled our hives, we made sure that they were appropriately positioned, always facing the southeast so as to get first exposure to the morning sun. One day in early spring, our nucleus (box) containing approximately 30,000 honeybees arrived. What an exciting day for us! But not without trepidation. The nucleus contains about seven frames of 30,000 honeybees and their queen. The frames are inserted into the lower deep and it is then that the wonder of the honeybee starts to take place. The queen's pheromone attracts those bees that have left the frame and are flying



*Cheryl (left) and Laura prepare to open the hive*

around the hive, and by mid-summer we had about 60,000 honeybees. How beautiful they were to watch and how absorbed we became in their activities!

Beekeeping is not without some disappointing situations, however. Late in August, almost 90% of the bees in Cheryl's hive died. Cheryl immediately consulted several local bee experts, and the consensus was that the tragedy may have been caused by aerial pesticide spraying that had recently been carried out in the neighborhood. Luckily, the queen was unharmed so she could resume reproduction to build up the hive population. The honey super (which was filled with honey for human consumption) had to be removed immediately and discarded. Aggressive feeding was started to strengthen the remaining bees so that they could build up an ample honey supply for the winter. To survive the winter, bees need 70lbs. of stored honey. Laura's hive did not produce any harvestable honey but it is not uncommon to have little or no honey in the super the first year. Next year we hope for a bumper crop!

Despite the setbacks, we found beekeeping to be truly rewarding and endlessly fascinating. We've learned so much, and thought you'd like to know a few facts:

- The hive maintains a temperature of 92 to 95 degrees F year-round. During the summer, worker bees at the entrance draw air into the hive to cool it by fanning their wings. This takes place within the hive as well. In winter, the temperature of the hive is maintained at 92 degrees by the bees shivering their wing muscles.
- The queen lays more than 1500 eggs a day.
- Worker bees (females) live only 6 weeks.
- The honeybee hive is one of the most organized and cleanest environments in nature.

The two of us working together, running questions by one another and lending support to each other, all helped in boosting our confidence level. Now that we have gained some experience with our own beehives, we look forward to building awareness about the importance of honeybees.



*Laura applies smoke to the hive, to calm the bees so that the hive can be inspected*

around the hive, and within hours the household is totally inhabited! We were now on our own with our bees.

As soon as we transferred the bees into the hives, we installed feeders filled with sugar syrup, because nectar flow is at a minimum at that time of year. As late spring arrived, it was so exciting watching the bees take off from the landing board of the hive and return with their pollen baskets bulging. Opening the hive for periodic checks gave us the most anxiety: we were curious to see what life was like inside, but so afraid of upsetting their household too much. Each week proved to be

## The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
February 6, 7 & 8,	<b>New England Grows 2007, "One Show. A Million Ideas"</b> . The Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. Visit: <a href="http://www.negrows.org">www.negrows.org</a> .
February 10, 2007	Special Saturday Programs <b>"Shade Gardening"</b> @ New York Botanical Garden.. Info: 718-817-8747 or visit <a href="http://www.nybg.org/edu">www.nybg.org/edu</a>
February 15, 2007 7:30PM	<b>"Daylilies: The Great American Success Story"</b> by Sydney Eddison. Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Monthly meeting, CT Horticultural Society. <a href="http://www.cthort.org/calendar">www.cthort.org/calendar</a>
February 22-25, 2007	<b>The Connecticut Flower &amp; Garden Show "Puttin' on the Ritz"</b> . The Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT. Seminar speakers include: Nancy DeBrule and Tom Christopher. Contact 860-844-8461 or <a href="http://www.ctflowershow.com">www.ctflowershow.com</a> .
February 24, 2007 10AM - 12PM	<b>Pruning Fundamentals</b> . New England Wildflower Society class presented by Carl Galanter at Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, CT. Fee. Info: <a href="http://www.newfs.org">www.newfs.org</a>
February 24 - April 8, 2007	<b>The Orchid Show</b> . New York Botanical Garden, Bronx River Parkway, NY. Info: call 718-817-8700, email <a href="mailto:nybg.org">nybg.org</a>
February 28, 2007 7PM	<b>"Easy Care Roses"</b> by Donna Fuss @ Pond House, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford, CT. Learn about new roses on the market that are easier to care for & are high performers. The Friends of Elizabeth Park: 860-321-9443 or <a href="http://www.elizabethpark.org">www.elizabethpark.org</a>
March 4-11, 2007	<b>Philadelphia Flower Show, "Legends of Ireland"</b> @ Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: 215-988-8800 or <a href="http://www.theflowershow.com/involved/index.html">www.theflowershow.com/involved/index.html</a>
March 9, 2007	<b>2007 Conference for the Gardening Enthusiast</b> @ Lewis B. Rome Commons, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. Speakers include: Steve Aitken & Holly Schimizu. Contact: Richard McAvoy, 860-486-0627; email <a href="mailto:Richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu">Richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu</a> or
March 15, 2007 7:30PM	<b>"Propagation of Perennials"</b> by Leo Blanchette (Carlisle, MA). Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Monthly meeting, CT Horticultural Society. <a href="http://www.cthort.org/calendar">www.cthort.org/calendar</a>
<b>March 17, 2007 8:30AM - 4:30PM</b>	<b>CMGA Annual Symposium 2007: "Making Gardens by Design"</b> . Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT. See details in this edition of <i>The Laurel</i> . Keynote speaker Gordon Hayward. Closing speaker Warren Leach. Info: Contact Sandy Myhalik, phone 860-677-0504, email <a href="mailto:Myhalik@comcast.net">Myhalik@comcast.net</a> .
March 17-25, 2007	<b>New England Spring Flower Show, "Yes, You Can"</b> . Bayside Exposition Center, Boston, MA. MA Horticultural Society. Contact 508-785-8007, <a href="http://www.masshort.org">www.masshort.org</a>
March 19, 2007 11:30AM	<b>Feng Shui in Chinese Gardens</b> by SGC member Anita Brucker, Simsbury Garden Club General Meeting at the Apple Barn, 60 Old Farms Road, West Simsbury.
March 21, 2007 7PM	<b>"RX for Perennials"</b> by Bill Turrull. Pond House, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford, CT. Learn the what, where and how for taking care of perennials. The Friends of Elizabeth Park. 860-321-9443 or <a href="http://www.elizabethpark.org">www.elizabethpark.org</a>
March 31, 2007	Special Saturday Programs <b>"Native Plants"</b> . New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. Classes are in three two-hour sessions beginning @ 10 AM. Attend all three sessions & receive a 10% discount. Info: call 718-817-8747 or visit <a href="http://www.nybg.org/edu">www.nybg.org/edu</a>
March 31, 2007 1:30 - 4:30PM	<b>Pruning Shrubs with the Pros</b> . Garden in the Woods, New England Wild Flower Society, Framingham, MA. Limit: 15 participants. Info: 508-877-3658 or <a href="http://www.newfs.org">www.newfs.org</a> .
April 14, 2007 10AM - 2PM	<b>Organic Vegetable Gardening</b> UConn Home & Garden Education Center education series @ Auer Farm, Bloomfield, CT. Fee. Infor: 877-486-6271, <a href="http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu">www.ladybug.uconn.edu</a>
April 27-28, 2007 10:00AM	<b>Southwest Conservation District Shrub and Perennial Plant Sale</b> at Lockwood Farm, Hamden and at Bethel Fairgrounds Barn, Bethel. See announcement in <i>The Laurel</i> .
August 9-12, 2007	<b>28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference—American Community Gardening Association</b> , Boston, MA. Includes: hands-on workshops, keynote speakers, film festival, & visits to parks, school gardens, etc.

Connecticut Master Gardener Association

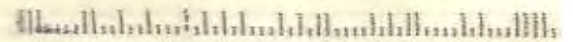
# The *Laurel*

**CMGA**

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



0682532628 CD41



March 17th, 2007

9:00AM - 4:30PM

Manchester Community College, Manchester CT

**2007 CMGA Annual Symposium**  
***"Making Gardens by Design"***

**Details inside**





**Connecticut Master Gardener Association**

**Semi-Annual Meeting and Summer Safari III**

**Saturday, July 14th, 2007**

Join fellow CMGA members on the CMGA's third annual summer garden tour. This year, the tour will visit two wonderful gardens in the North Haven area, and the day will end with a visit to the well-known Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden.

See page 8 for more details of the gardens we will be visiting



***The beautiful koi pond (left) welcomes visitors to Marvin Carley's garden***

*Marvin writes: "My wife and I have always enjoyed being near water. We decided to build a koi pond near the patio 15 years ago. We enjoy listening to the calming sounds of the waterfall as we sit on our patio during the spring, summer and fall."*

**Tour Schedule and registration details:**

Our day will start at 8:30AM, with coffee and passes, followed by a brief membership meeting.

Immediately following the membership meeting, a group will depart by bus for the garden tours. We will return to our meeting venue after the tours, with an opportunity for a brief lunch break before taking our transport to Broken Arrow Nursery.

A flyer will be mailed out to all CMGA members next month, with further details of our tour schedule and driving directions to the meeting venue.

Registration for the tours will be \$20 per CMGA member, \$25 for non-members. To secure your place on the tour, please send your check (made out to 'CMGA') to

Kathy Baechle,  
6 Christmas Tree Hill,  
Canton, CT 06019

- President:** Billy Baxter  
293 South Orchard Street  
Wallingford, CT 06492  
*bilbax@snet.net*
- Vice-President:** Carol Quish  
89 Cedar Ridge Terrace  
Glastonbury, CT 06033  
*Quishfam@cox.net*
- Treasurer:** Sandy Myhalik  
89 Ely Road  
Farmington, CT 06032  
*Myhalik@comcast.net*
- Secretary:** Diana Ringelheim  
121 Godfrey Road  
Fairfield, CT 06825  
*Diana@Ringelheim.com*
- Membership:** John Neff  
18 Knollwood Road  
Farmington, CT 06032  
*Jneff@comcast.net*

**Cooperative Extension Center  
Coordinators (by County):**

- Fairfield:** Sandi Wilson  
203-207-3262 *Sandra-wilson@uconn.edu*  
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*mastergardener@bartlettarboretum.org*
- (Stamford):** Sarah Bailey  
203-322-6971 *Sarah.bailey@uconn.edu*
- Hartford:** Sarah Bailey  
860-570-9010 *Sarah.bailey@uconn.edu*
- Litchfield:** Pat Eldredge  
860-626-6240 *Patricia.eldredge@uconn.edu*
- Middlesex:** John Castagnò  
860-345-4511 *John.castagno@uconn.edu*
- New Haven:** Susan Munger  
203-407-3161 *Susan.munger@uconn.edu*
- New London:** Susan Munger  
860-885-2823 *Susan.munger@uconn.edu*
- Tolland:** Mary Collins  
860-870-6934 *Mary.collins@uconn.edu*
- Windham:** Kim Kelly  
860-776-9600 *Kimberly.kelly@uconn.edu*

**UConn Home & Garden  
Education Center:**

877-486-6271 [www.cem.uconn.edu/garden](http://www.cem.uconn.edu/garden)

**UConn Liaison:**

Leslie Alexander: 860-486-6343  
*Leslie.alexander@uconn.edu*

**CMGA website:** [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org)

Webmistress: Amy Talbot

**The Laurel:**

Hilary Forsyth *rayhbf@optonline.net*  
Diana Ringelheim *Diana@Ringelheim.com*

*By Hilary Forsyth*

The CMGA Membership Directory is a listing of the names and dresses of all active members of CMGA for the current year. This list is compiled every year by our membership secretary, John Neff, as our membership subscriptions are received. The Membership Directory includes the CMGA Bylaws, a listing of the current year's MG Intern and contact information for all of the Extension Offices and MG class coordinators.

In years past, the Membership Directory has been printed and mailed to active members, MG Interns, Class Coordinators and UC personnel. Many people have found the directory a useful resource keeping in touch with master gardeners around the State.

However, with membership of CMGA exceeding 800 people, the directory has become a bulky document - last year's directory was pages long. Getting this document printed is an expensive exercise, increasingly expensive to mail out.

The CMGA Board has therefore taken the decision this year to print and mail copies of the directory to every CMGA member. Instead a limited number of copies will be printed, for circulation to Board members and to MG Class Coordinators. The directory will be available to active CMGA members on request, at a cost of \$2.00 per editor cover printing and postage costs. If you would like to receive a copy of the 2007 CMGA Membership Directory, please mail your request with a check for \$2.00 (made out to 'CMGA'), to: John Neff, 18 Knollwood Road, Farmington, CT 06032.

CMGA Bylaws are available to the public, and are published on website, [ctmga.org](http://ctmga.org), along with the CMGA mission statement, history and minutes of past Board meetings. For security reasons, we do not publish the membership listing on the website.

If you have any thoughts, comments or suggestions about the membership directory, I would be pleased to hear from you. My address and email are listed below.

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**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](mailto:rayhbf@optonline.net), or by mail to 94 Birchwood Road, Stamford CT 06907

**Deadline for August 2007 edition:** July 1st, 2007

## The 2007 CMGA Symposium that Wasn't

By Paul Grimmeisen  
2007 Symposium Committee Chairman

The cancellation of our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Symposium as a result of the severe snow storm was a big disappointment. The Symposium was to have been held at Manchester Community College on Saturday, March 17th. The day before, your committee spent the entire morning at the college getting ready for the event, putting up the tables for registration, the vendors and the different horticultural societies. Later that day, MCC notified us that due to the storm the college may have to cancel all activities and may not open their doors in the morning, but would not be able to give us the final word on this until Saturday morning. Well, at 6:00 AM, Saturday, we received a call notifying us that the college would indeed not be open, and all events at the college would be cancelled. Your Association had no control over the cancellation of the event. Manchester College notified the radio and television stations that they would be closed. (This was the first time your Association had seen a cancellation in 14 years.)

Early that morning Marge Bingham, our speaker's chairman, called all our speakers to let them know what had happened. Gordon Hayward, our keynote speaker, had come down from Vermont the day before so that he would be prepared early Saturday morning. He, too, was snow bound in his motel. Unfortunately, approximately 30 attendees were outside the AST Building waiting to get in and had to leave because no one was there. Many of us were not plowed out until afternoon.

The cancellation also caused problems with our caterer. He had made enough food for 450 attendees and our concern was what we were going to do with all this food. We decided to give the food to soup kitchens in Bristol and New Britain as well as to the South Park Inn Shelter in Hartford and Peter's Retreat, an HIV facility. None of the food went to waste and the facilities to which the food was delivered were very appreciative. We did keep the soda and potato chips.

Our committee worked very hard this year and I would like to thank them all for their efforts: Carol Quish, co-chairman; Marge Bingham, speaker chairman; Ellen Morse, speaker committee; John Carlson - facilities; Marian Rowles - societies; Debbye Rosen - vendors; Sandy Myhalik - registration; Richard Shaffer -



signs; Charlie Tefft - maintenance; John Neff - coordinator; Kathy Baechle and Diane Ostheimer - badges, flyer and program; Billy Baxter - vendor supplies; Hilary Forsyth - Laurel editor; and Diana Ringelheim - secretary. I thank them again for their dedication and hard work.

The Association had a number of financial responsibilities to assume as a result of the cancellation. We had to pay the caterer as well as costs for the flyers, programs as well as the associated postage. The CMGA Board held a meeting to make out checks to each participant and return their registration fee. Therefore, we had to pay for additional checks and the postage. In all we lost approximately \$6,000. A number of attendees donated their registration fee to the association, which was very much appreciated.

We are in the process of getting next year's Symposium organized and have decided to keep the theme, "Making Gardens by Design", with essentially the same speakers.

Thank you for your kind understanding of this unfortunate circumstance.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**CMGA Annual Symposium XV**

**Saturday, March 29 2008**

**Manchester Community College,  
Manchester CT**



## Master Gardener Program Coordinator Vacancy

The New Haven County Cooperative Extension Center is soliciting applications for the position of Master Gardener Program Coordinator. This is a part time, sixteen hour per week position.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to training and supervision of Master Gardener students, program development, coordinating program mentors and volunteers, and creating outreach programs.

### Requirements for this position include:

Preference will be given to candidates with a degree in horticulture, botany, biology or equivalent experience. The applicant should possess strong organizational, communication and interpersonal skills, be able to take initiative, work independently, and be willing to work flexible hours including some evening and weekends.

To apply for this position please send a resume by **May 11, 2007**. If you have any questions please contact me at 1-860-486-6343 or email questions direct to [Leslie.Alexander@uconn.edu](mailto:Leslie.Alexander@uconn.edu). Please send resumes to:

Leslie Alexander  
State Master Gardener Coordinator  
UConn's Home and Garden Education Center  
1380 Storrs Rd Unit 4115  
Storrs, CT 06269

## MG Program News and Events

### Deepest sympathy to Susan Munger

It is with regret that we report the death of Neild Oldham, 79, husband of New London County Coordinator Susan Munger, on March 7, 2007. He spent most of his professional life in journalism and publishing and was an active member of several local historical organizations. Neild was actively involved in the recent eminent domain issue in New London.

### Goodbye and best wishes, Mira Schachne

Best wishes to Mira Schachne, New Haven County's Master Gardener Program Coordinator, who recently left UCONN's employ to pursue other endeavors.

Over the past seven years, Mira has been a hard-working, conscientious, leader who generously gave of her time and talents. Her horticultural knowledge, professionalism, and wonderful sense of humor, will be missed by volunteers, clients, and co-workers alike. Good luck Mira and stay in touch!

With many thanks,  
Your Fellow Master Gardeners

### MG volunteers needed!

By Leslie Alexander

I am looking for help from MG volunteers in my office at the Storrs campus. I need help updating class registrations, class hours, and generally getting the office organized.

If you are interested, please contact me direct on 860-486-6343, or email [leslie.alexander@uconn.edu](mailto:leslie.alexander@uconn.edu).

### MGs certified in 2006

The names of Master Gardeners who graduated at the end of 2006 were published in the February edition of *The Laurel*. In error, the names of several of the newly-certified MGs were omitted, and we do apologize for the omission.

Congratulations to Darlene Bourassa and Bill Sturman both graduated out of the New Haven County office.

- Hilary Forsyth, Editor

### Afraid of Ticks? Learn How to Protect Yourself and Your Property

The UConn Master Gardener Program is offering the class "Tick Proof Yourself, Your Family and Your Yard". Susan Perlotto of the Torrington Area Health District will give a broad overview of ticks, their life cycle, habitat and preferences and how to limit your exposure through revention techniques that can be applied to your yard and property. Tick borne diseases will be covered, including Lyme Disease. Information will also include interesting research on chemical and biological controls. Question and answer session will follow.

The 1½ hour class is open to the public and will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2007 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Litchfield County Extension Center, 843 University Drive, Torrington. The cost is \$37.50 to non-master gardeners or \$22.50 for master gardeners. Registration may be found at [www.cant.uconn.edu/garden/mastergardener/Tickproof.htm](http://www.cant.uconn.edu/garden/mastergardener/Tickproof.htm) or by calling 1-877-486-6271.

## Advanced Master Gardener Courses : Spring/Summer 2007

Date and Time	Location	Class and Instructor
Saturday, May 5, 2007 9:30AM - 11:00AM	Torrington Extension Office	<b>Tick Proof Yourself, Your Family and Your Yard</b> Susan Perlotto
Saturday, May 5, 2007 10:00AM - 1:00PM	UConn Storrs	<b>Basics of Rock and Alpine Gardening</b> Joyce Fingerut
Tuesday, May 8 & May 22, 2007 6:00PM - 8:30PM	Hartford County Extension Center	<b>Livable Garden Design (2 sessions)</b> Sarah Bailey
Wednesday, May 16, 2007 10:00AM - 1:00PM	Tolland County Extension Center, Vernon	<b>Hot Topics - Part I</b> Registration deadline May 4, 2007
Wednesday, May 16, 2007 7:00PM - 8:30PM	Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford	<b>Containers through the Seasons</b> Barbara Soebbing
Wednesday, May 23, 2007 1:00PM - 3:00PM	Young Building, Room 327 Storrs Campus	<b>Beneficial Insects - How to Know and Enjoy Them</b> Ana Legrand
Thursday, May 24, 2007 10:00AM - 12:00 PM	Fairfield Extension Center, Bethel	<b>Low Toxic Approaches to Home Gardening</b> Lorraine Ballato
Friday, June 1, 2007 10:00AM - 12:00PM	Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford	<b>Why an Herb Garden?</b> Laura dePreta
Wednesday, June 6, 2007 11:00AM - 1:00PM	UConn Plant Science Research Farm, Storrs	<b>Woody Plant Propagation</b> Greg Tormey and Leslie Alexander
Thursday, June 7, 2007 10:30AM - 12:30PM	Fairfield Extension Center, Bethel	<b>Trees - Tree ID, landscape ecology and tree care</b> Lars Cherichetti
Tuesday, June 12, 2007 1:00PM - 3:00PM	Windham Extension Center, Brooklyn	<b>Create your own Hypertufa Planter</b> Lisa Kegler
Saturday, June 23, 2007 9:30AM - 11:30AM	New Haven County Extension Center	<b>Violets from Africa</b> Edna O'Rourke
Saturday, August 18, 2007 9:30AM - 11:30AM	New Haven County Extension Center	<b>The Latest Buzz</b> Leslie Huston
Tuesday, August 28, 2007 1:00PM - 3:00PM	Windham Extension Center, Brooklyn	<b>Water Color in the Garden</b> Jan McCulloch
Saturday, September 8, 2007 9:30AM - 11:30AM	New Haven County Extension Center	<b>Propagation of Annuals and Tender Perennials</b> Kevin Wasilewski
Saturday, 8 September, 2007 10:00AM - 1:00PM	Fairfield County Extension Center	<b>Hot Topics - Part II</b> Registration deadline TBA
Tuesday, October 16, 2007 10:00AM - 12:00PM	Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford	<b>Growing African Violets</b> Earl Utter

For full details, registration deadlines and registration form:  
[www.ladybug.uconn.edu/mastergardener](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/mastergardener). Information: Telephone 1-860-486-6343

### 2007 Spring-Summer AMG course catalog is now available online!

For up-to-date information about all of the AMG Classes, visit the Home & Garden Education Center website at [www.ladybug.uconn.edu](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu).

The AMG Garden Master catalog, with all the latest information on new classes and events from the MG Program, is now available by email!

Contact Leslie Alexander direct at [leslie.alexander@uconn.edu](mailto:leslie.alexander@uconn.edu) to have your email address updated and added to the direct mail listing.

## Focus Groups

### Middlesex County Focus Group: Community Vegetable Garden

By Marsha Dowling

The Middlesex County Focus group is developing an exciting outreach project and you're invited to participate.

We have designed a model community vegetable garden to be planted on extension office property in Haddam. This project will allow gardeners at all levels of the program to mentor, be mentored, accumulate outreach hours and use knowledge gained from the certification program. The garden is going to be grown organic with all harvests being distributed to the needy of Middlesex County through soup kitchens or food pantries.

If you are interested in sharing your vegetable gardening expertise or want to learn more about edible crops we welcome you to join us. For additional information contact Marsha at 860-344-8307.

**Vegetable garden Volunteers welcome!  
Contact Marsha Dowling at 860-344-8307**

### New London County Focus Group: Third Annual Plant Sale

By Richard Palazzo

The New London County Focus Group is having their third annual plant sale on May 20th from noon to 4:00 PM at the New London County Extension Center, 562 New London Turnpike in Norwich.

Most of the stock has been greenhouse grown and carefully cared for by the focus group members, with some donated by local garden centers. This includes annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs. There will also be great raffles, door prizes, demonstrations, garden advice, cooking demonstrations, educational displays, used book sales and warm friendship.

The popularity of this sale has increased every year due to the quality of the inventory and the notoriously reasonable prices. Donations prior to May 19th of gardening type books and magazines or whatever is appreciated.

For information contact the Director of All Operations Upstream and Downstream, Richard Palazzo (commonly known to friend and foe as "The Gardinator") at 860-376-6247 or [tubalcaine@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tubalcaine@sbcglobal.net).

## Fairfield County - Bethel Extension - 2007 Community Outreach Projects

Numerous outreach opportunities are available for Master Gardeners and Advanced Master Gardeners in Fairfield County including:

- ◆ Garden design and installation of an organic vegetable garden at a magnet school in Danbury. Includes teaching proper gardening techniques to children and other volunteers responsible for maintaining it.
- ◆ Invasive plant removal programs concerning Mile-A-Minute vine (New Milford/Bridgewater) and Barberry (Redding).
- ◆ Diverse volunteer opportunities including the design of native and other demonstration gardens at the Old Quarry Nature and Science Center in Danbury.
- ◆ Raising and releasing Galerucella beetles for the biological control of Purple Loosestrife at various sites throughout the county.
- ◆ Creation of a teaching garden and educating kids about soil, gardening, etc. at Newtown Youth Services in the Sandy Hook section of Newtown.
- ◆ Renovation and creation of additional garden areas at the children's healing garden at Healing Hearts Grieving Center in Danbury (A division of Hospice).
- ◆ Garden design, renewal, and maintenance of a historic sunken garden at the Scott Fenton Museum in Danbury.

- ◆ Numerous opportunities to help plan, implement, and staff the 5th annual Master Gardener's Gardening Fair to be held August 18th at the Extension Grounds in Bethel.
- ◆ Speaking to groups and special organizations on garden related topics at various locations throughout the county.

If you would like more information or to volunteer for any of the projects listed above, please contact Sandi Wilson by phone at 203-207-3261 or by email at [Sandra.Wilson@uconn.edu](mailto:Sandra.Wilson@uconn.edu).

### Save the Date!

Saturday August 18, 2007

### The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gardening Fair Fairfield County Extension Grounds

67 Stony Hill Rd, Bethel, CT 06801  
203-207-3262

See page 14 for further details

## Master Gardeners Head up Volunteers at Elizabeth Park

By Paul Grimmeisen

Elizabeth Park is the oldest public rose garden in the United States. It was opened in 1904 and the present design is the original plan with many of the original rose bushes. The gazebo in the center is over 100 years old and was refurbished in 2005.

Recently the Master Gardeners have been making an impact on the future of the park's gardens and especially the rose garden. As a result in the decrease in help from the City of Hartford, the Friends of Elizabeth Park have seen the number of employees drop from seven to three for 2007. Thus, the park now depends on its volunteers to maintain the gardens.

Along with the rose gardens there are extensive perennial gardens, annual gardens, and a large rock/shade garden. Richard Shaffer, a Master Gardener, has for years taken care of the rock/shade garden, most of the time single handed. Dr. Joanne Gerber, another Master Gardener has been associated with the perennial garden, while Carmen Holzman, Janet Valencis and Paul Grimmeisen have taken over the responsibility of the rose gardens.

There are over 15,000 rose bushes and each year the plants and beds need to be prepared for the growing season, pruned and deadheaded. We are fortunate to have Donna Fuss, the park Rosarian and Bob Prill to provide us much needed advice and assistance during the year. We have numerous volunteers that may adopt a bed or come any time during the day to work on the gardens. However, we are in the rose garden every weekend working to make it a beautiful place for all to enjoy. Volunteers come from all walks of life, doctors, lawyers, housewives, teenagers and seniors who looking to get their hands into soil after they have moved to a senior housing development.

Master Gardeners and Rose Garden volunteers get together to work on the gardens on the first Saturday and the second Wednesday of every month, commencing May 5, 2007. Meet at the gazebo at 9:00AM, and we'll work through until 12:00PM. Please bring your gardening tools: pruning shears, hoes, and a good set of gloves.

**Want to learn more about roses  
and how to care for them?  
Join the team of volunteers at Elizabeth  
Park, and get some real hands-on  
experience.**

Master Gardeners and Rose Garden volunteers get together to work on the gardens on the **first Saturday** and the **second Wednesday** of every month from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. Meet at the gazebo. Please bring your gardening tools: pruning shears, hoes, and a good set of gloves.

If you want to find out more information please call the Friends of Elizabeth Park at 860-231-9443 or Paul Grimmeisen at 860-677-8645.



*The pagoda in the center of the rose garden at Elizabeth Park, is surrounded by beds of roses and archways covered in blooms*

We welcome any Master Gardener to join us. There is always a pot of coffee on, plenty of water and, of course, good fellowship. If you would like to join us we would welcome you to adopt a bed. This provides you the opportunity to maintain just one bed for the entire season, as well as allow you to come at any time during the week at your own convenience.

Another small project the Master Gardeners were involved with was the entire rejuvenation of Sunrise Overlook, a steep bank on the eastern side of the park that overlooks the city of Hartford. This garden is full of azaleas, Cornell Pink rhododendron, and a number of different viburnums and hydrangeas. It's such a beautiful location that one could spend hours just enjoying the view and on Easter Sunday, 5 churches participated in a sunrise service at this special place.

If you want to find out more information please call the Friends of Elizabeth Park at 860-231-9443 or Paul Grimmeisen at 860-677-8645.

**Rose Weekend  
At Elizabeth Park  
June 23 - 24, 2007  
12:00PM - 4:00PM**

### **June is peak rose bloom time!**

Rose Weekend is Elizabeth Park's crowning event. The Rose Garden covers over two and a half acres and features 15,000 rose bushes and arches.

In addition there will be children's activities, poetry reading, storytellers, horticultural societies and other festivities.

Info: 860-231-9443 or [www.elizabethpark.org](http://www.elizabethpark.org)

## Summer Safari III : Gardens on the Tour

### The Peckhams' garden

Neal and Maureen Peckham are the original owners of this home, and have lived there since February 1965. It is a half acre lot and they have planted every plant on it.

Among its many features are: three decks, a patio and an above-ground pool attached to one of the decks. It has a well kept lawn and some twenty planted beds. Numerous manicured beds of pachysandra highlight the landscape, annuals and tropicals in the yard are propagated and grown by Neal in the greenhouse he operates with his student garden club at the North Haven Middle School.

The yard contains a gardener's favorite places: a potting area with a nursery for "standby" plants, a composting area with four 6'X6'X6' bins, and a 20X24 foot garden house for tool and equipment storage.

The landscape is designed for casual strolling, sitting and enjoying and has open areas to accommodate family gatherings.



*The Peckhams' garden is a fine example of tight design and attention to detail*

### Marvin Carley's Garden

Williams Road in Cheshire was Williams Orchard in the 1930s and 40s. We purchased the house in 1976 when there was only a back and front yard filled with old and dying apple trees which we removed. I learned



*Structured plantings surround the koi pond in Marvin Carley's garden*

about perennial gardens in the late 1970s, and the perennial garden near the driveway was my first design. Then I built a larger curving perennial garden in the back yard. In 2001, I created the shade pathway garden filled with shade loving shrubs, perennials, and annuals. It leads from the front down the south side of the property spilling onto the patio, going through the bird feeder area, and emptying out near the back perennial garden.

My wife and I have always enjoyed being near water. We decided to build a koi pond near the patio 15 years ago. We enjoy listening to the calming sounds of the waterfall as we sit on our patio during the spring, summer and fall. I installed outdoor speakers which look like large rocks near the pond so we can enjoy music while we relax by the pond. The pond area has a variety of shrubs, annuals, perennials, as well as flowering water plants. In 1995, more than 400 people strolled the gardens and the koi pond as part of a town-wide water garden tour sponsored by local garden clubs.

We added a swimming pool to use as a cooling off area after gardening. Because I enjoy working in my gardens during the spring, summer, and fall months, we don't have to concern ourselves with vacationing during the summer when vacation spots are usually crowded. I would rather be in my garden anyway!

- Marvin Carley

### Broken Arrow Nursery

Situated in Hamden, CT, Broken Arrow Nursery is well-known for its Kalmia collection. Dick Jaynes has been instrumental in making these wonderful native plants more available to the gardener, with extensive research, hybridization and propagation programs. The nursery has a multitude of plants on offer besides Mountain Laurel, however. As the Broken Arrow website ([Brokenarrownursery.com](http://Brokenarrownursery.com)) notes: "Since our early days

*when Kalmia was king . . . , we have grown by leaps and bounds and now our plant offerings are in excess of 1200 plants. . . While Broken Arrow has always been dedicated to growing the rare and uncommon, we continue to offer older, time-tested plants along with an extensive collection of native plants."*

Broken Arrow Nursery are offering a special **10% discount** to the CMGA Summer Safari tourists!



## Hartford County report

*Sarah Bailey, Extension Center Coordinator*

A busy class term has come to an end in the West Hartford office. Fifty-two students have survived their term and are getting familiar with the office routines and digging into their outreach projects.

The projects range from the Hill-Stead Museum and the Mark Twain House - both ongoing projects started in previous years - to the creation of two completely new community gardens. In Hartford, interns and Advanced Master Gardeners will be working with the Asylum Hill Boys & Girls Club to create a portion of the new community garden. In New Britain, interns and Master Gardeners will be creating a community garden from a vacant field for the community.

Other projects involve an intergenerational garden at a senior center, projects at Elizabeth Park, work with

the Northwest and North Central Conservation District and an educational gardening program for kids through a municipal Recreation Department. Also, the Foodshare Garden is taking new shape at the 4H Auer Farm in Bloomfield as we build raised beds to increase yield and address the slope and drainage issues.

As if we aren't busy enough, the Master Gardener office is moving! While it's only to the office next door (#108) it will mean more space for interns and sources alike. At the moment, though, it's a maze of computer and phone hookups and figuring out what furniture will fit. **Phone numbers for the office stay the same.**

There are plenty of projects available for those who want to accrue outreach hours. Feel free to stop by the office and see what options might interest you!

## Saturday, April 21, 2007: Foodshare Garden workday at the 4H Farm in Bloomfield



*Master Gardener interns and other volunteers help re-plant the raspberry fields.*



*Master Gardener Bob Lyle works on one of the raised beds being built for the Master Gardener/Foodshare Garden.*



*Interns from the 2007 Master Gardener program, along with Foodshare volunteers, get a head start on their outreach at the season-opening work day for the Master Gardener/Foodshare Garden. Fences were cleared and the perpetual crop of rocks was harvested in preparation for planting.*

*Text and photos by Sarah Bailey*

## Watching People Bloom at Silver Hill Hospital

by Gail Zaremba, Master Gardener Class of 2006

In March 2006, Jan King, Director of Volunteer Services and Alumni Relations at Silver Hill Psychiatric hospital in New Canaan, CT presented our class with an idea for an outreach project.

Silver Hill has a Transitional Living Program which allows patients who are being treated for chronic disorders like depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and substance abuse to continue their recovery in a residential home on campus. The program is designed to provide comprehensive psychiatric rehabilitation as well as participation in life skills for patients who have achieved stabilization. Jan thought that creating a garden would give the residents an opportunity to take care of the plants and use the fresh vegetables in their meals.

A classmate and I liked the idea and started to plan the project. We started with a site visit to River House to evaluate the growing conditions. The house is a Tudor-style home with a large grass lawn set on about 2 acres. Plenty of land and sun, but there were several concerns. We observed a flock of Canadian geese and saw deer. The soil would have to be amended and a fence installed for a garden to succeed there. The final problem was the two large flights of steps leading to the lawn - a definite impediment to caring for the garden.

The house has 2 patios attached to the house, one near the kitchen and one by the front door, so I suggested that we create a container garden on the patios. My classmate didn't have any experience with this, but agreed it would be preferable to the obstacles and costs we faced if we tried to plant at the lower level of the lawn. He made a scale drawing of the patios and we proceeded to plan how many containers would fit. We noted the amount of sun and the location of water spigots. We went to local nurseries and the Home Depot to get prices for everything we would need to set up the container garden, items like hoses, planting medium, fertilizer, pots, garden gloves, tools and vegetables. We submitted our itemized proposal to Silver Hill and



Photo by Michael L. Brubeck

*Tomatoes and herbs thrive in containers on the sunny patio*



Photo by Michael L. Brubeck

waited for budget approval.

We were invited to a staff meeting at to discuss the goals of the garden, and why from the residents. Patients with chronic disorders may have difficulty managing daily organized and participating in activities, quiet or reluctant to communicate with others. The River House habilitation program is structured to encourage ability, develop appropriate social skills and participation in group goals. The River House residents scheduled chores posted as they take turns in their house. We would set up the garden and the residents would be responsible for watering.

We purchased everything we needed and on a Friday in late May, my husband joined me and myself as we installed the container garden. We purchased 12 foam-type terracotta pots in 3 sizes and a same design for the front patio. On the ledge of the plastic window box planters that we purchased we planted types of lettuce for salad. My classmate bought a trellis above the ledge on one side of the patio. We coated the wire. We placed the largest pot on the trellis for trained cucumbers, green beans, squash and melons to grow up the trellis. We planted peppers, 1 tomato, nasturtiums and edible marigolds in the pots. We cleaned the patio and planted geraniums at the front steps filled with geranium and sweet potato vines, put down a "welcome" mat at the front door, a cascading blue solar water feature and an outdoor rug. My classmate and I purchased a wooden glider to make the patio more inviting and encourage the residents to come outside.

The back patio was very sunny so we placed 4 large plastic terracotta containers against the wall and planted 6 types of tomatoes, basil and dill in them. We filled 3 window box containers with oregano, parsley, English thyme, lemon thyme, lavender, chocolate mint and peppermint.

The River House residents were now working in the garden, but they had a lot of gardening questions.

*(Continue)*

## Watching People Bloom at Silver Hill Hospital

*(Continued from page 10)*

so Silver Hill asked us if we would hold a "Gardening Group" once a week. It was a great opportunity to teach them how to take care of the garden, talk about the Master Gardener program and to engage them in conversation.

The fun began when we started to harvest the vegetables and they would greet us with stories about how they had prepared their meals using the fresh herbs and vegetables. The herbs made a big impression—they started to make dishes like lamb with rosemary and chicken with thyme. Two of the guys were so inspired by the fresh herbs they earned the nickname



*Gail Zaremba proudly displays vegetables harvested from the container garden*

"The Chefs" from their fellow residents! As the garden grew, the interest grew too. People who were shy the week before now came to group and participated in discussions. We encouraged them to continue gardening when they went home. One man said he had never seen

vegetables growing in containers before. He thought you needed a large yard and he had a condo with a balcony. When he was leaving River House he told me "I can do this! I can grow tomatoes and herbs!"

We learned that even the residents who seemed disinterested were enjoying the garden in their own way. They would observe the changes from day to day, sometimes stroking the fragrant herbs and remembering other gardens, and memories of family meals. I would stop by to check on the garden and residents would stop and say "thank you for doing this. I love sitting out here at the end of the day." We never used pesticides so the residents knew they could pick anything we grew and eat it without a worry! And, maintenance was simple - no weeds!

As the weeks passed, I began to notice the changes in some of the residents. Some people were too shy to come to group but they always initiated conversations with me when I stopped by. One young woman who barely made eye contact with me for weeks, started coming to group. She really enjoyed talking about recipes. One week I noticed she had changed her hairstyle, and had a sparkle in her eye. The next week she spoke with confidence and enthusiasm about the zucchini dish she was making for the residents. The week after that, she told me she was going home to her family and she and her husband were going to plant a garden.

This year we are going to expand the garden and plant flowers for cutting. We will include crafts like pressing flowers, making potpourri and drawing pictures, as well as some cooking classes. The Bartlett Arboretum MG Class of 2007 Interns will assist me and bring their ideas and skills to inspire the residents of River House.

The River House residents will also continue to inspire the Master Gardeners.

## From the Home & Garden Education Center . . .

*By Carol Quish*

The weather has great influence on our plants. This past winter seemed mild for a long time, then temperatures dropped. Some plants were harmed by this sudden shock. Numerous evergreens are showing winter damage this spring. We are seeing lots of rhododendrons with complete branches wilting and brown. Time will only tell if recovery is going to happen. If the branch dies, it will need to be pruned out. If the whole plant dies, replace it. If new green leaves sprout, rejoice!

Another weather problem facing us is flooding. Do

not work or walk on the soil when it is wet and soggy. This will damage the soil structure and cause compaction. Plant roots need non-compacted soils with air spaces for water and air to penetrate. Compaction reduces these areas.

Floods along rivers can be good for soils as they pick up rich minerals from the river bottom and deposit them onto farmland. Historically farmers chose these rich river floodplains to plant their crops. So if you are lucky enough to live near a river, your soil should be rich once it dries out and waters recede.

## Channel 3 Kids Camp 2007

Bill Overton

We're back with Channel 3 Kids Camp "Second Edition!"

This year, we think we'll be bigger and better now that we have the luxury of a heated and lighted greenhouse. Early in the year, Paula Robinson, Carole Miller, Ann DiBella, Bob Duffy and Jay Beausoleil participated in a series of meetings to plan the "kickoff" of our greenhouse season on March 12th. Seeds were ordered and funds for miscellaneous greenhouse items were sought. Our desire is to have food and flowers for early harvests at the Camp in June. Last year, we had some growing pains and much if not all was delayed.

We have a VERY active greenhouse this spring as a result of the newly-installed heating system. Many of this year's volunteers giving of their time again this year, and it's only April. Thanks to a grant from Mary Cross at the Tolland Extension Office, we were able to purchase and install a new heater in the greenhouse.

People's Harvest in Brooklyn, the Tolland Extension Office plant sale and the UConn/Connecticut Public Science Fair have been beneficiaries of this heated greenhouse. It allowed MGs Carole Miller, Paula Robinson, Jay Beausoleil, Norma Miller, Ann DiBella and 2007 MG Interns Terry Aleman, Susan Thatcher and Dave Thatcher to volunteer their time seeding. The CPTV portion alone amounted to almost 2,000 tomato plants for giveaways to children.

The camp was gifted a commercial composter which we hope to develop a lesson plan around. Campers will have an opportunity to recycle food scraps into useful compost. In addition to that, the Camp wishes to increase the space allotted to annuals and introduce a



*MGs Mary Cross and Paula Robinson at work with kids in the greenhouse at Channel 3 Kids Camp*

floral arrangement program for boys and girls. Apparently, there is great interest in such a program. We will need volunteers to work one-on-one with the kids this year, somewhat less academics and more time in the garden "hands-on." That takes people who want to work with 8 to 12 year olds.

Interested in joining this very active group of MGs? Contact Bill Overton at [BillDO103@aol.com](mailto:BillDO103@aol.com).

## Winter damage in the garden



By Hillary Forsyth

With mild winter weather in December 2006 and into January 2007, CT gardeners thought they were going to have an easy time of it. Some plants, lulled by the mild temperatures, had come into bloom a little early - such as this *Helleborus orientalis* (Lenten Rose) pictured at right.

Then the cold hit, and we realized our garden plants were going to be in for a rough ride. A couple of inches of snow, some ice and sleet, a bit of rain, followed by sub-normal temperatures: the combination of these conditions damaged many evergreen plants.

We are advised, however, that most healthy plants will recover, and we have to marvel at their resilience. I've cut back the dead hellebore leaves and flowerbuds to the ground, and the plants have sprouted fresh green leaves and a new crop of blooms. A reminder to us all of the wonder of nature.

## How Green is Your Grass

By Robert Durgy, Horticultural Diagnostician

For many people a thick, green lawn is the epitome of summer. For others the lawn is something under their feet while attending to real summer activities. Opinions vary greatly on the importance of a nice lawn. The quality of one's lawn is a matter of personal judgment. The color, thickness and health are all factors that make up lawn quality but what do we base it on? Without something to compare it to, we have only our perception of what is acceptable to base our opinion.

Research has been going on at UConn for many years now on the quality of turf. But often this research is based on measurable quantities. How high does a soccer ball bounce off of it? How quickly does it recover after a football game? We can even measure how green it is using light reflectance meters. These are all quantities; measurements that can be compared one against the other.

Dr. Karl Guillard from the Department of Plant Science at UConn has been conducting studies on the use of a reflectance meter. This project has been a cooperative effort between Dr. Guillard, the Residential Water Quality group and the Master Gardeners. This simple tool allows researchers to just point the meter at the ground and measure the light that reflects off of it. He has determined that there is a strong correlation between the meter measurements and the amount of chlorophyll in the grass tissue. Chlorophyll is a molecule that gives grass its green color. That means the meter accurately correlates how green the grass is.

The next step in his research was to use the meter to determine if varying rates of nitrogen fertilizer make an acceptably green lawn. This has important environmental implications. People want green lawns and use nitrogen fertilizer to get them green. But if too much nitrogen is put down, the grass doesn't use it all and the excess will leach into the groundwater, polluting the environment. The measurements from the reflectance meter were correlated with measurements of nitrate in the soil. The results of his research showed that there is a point where the grass will not get any greener with increased additions of nitrogen fertilizers.

Another interesting result of this research is that soils in Connecticut have varying ability to produce nitrogen on their own without the addition of fertilizers. Dr. Guillard put research plots out at several different locations. At one location there was no difference in color between plots with no fertilizers and plots with the highest rate. The soil there was able to produce enough nitrogen to grow green grass all by itself. Factors that may influence this are soil type, organic matter, the presence of clover, returning your clippings and past management systems. What this tells us is that using fertilizers on your lawn every year may not be necessary and soil tests should be conducted to determine their necessity. Don't just assume you need to use fertilizer.

This leads us to another important factor and that is perception. The quality of your lawn is based on how you think it looks. But that carries with it certain perceptions or assumptions. Specifically, fertilizer will make my lawn green. Dr. Guillard has shown these plots to

tour groups such as the Master Gardeners. He has asked people to pick the plots that they perceive as the highest quality. After explaining that the plots range from lowest to highest nitrogen rates, everyone gravitated to the highest rates. The assumption was that high rates of nitrogen meant greener turf. The scientific data collected with the light reflectance meters proved otherwise.

So, if the heavy rainfall last summer left your lawn yellow don't assume nitrogen fertilizer is the answer. Give your soil some time to recover and the lawn may green up on its own. We strongly discourage using soluble nitrogen fertilizers during mid summer. These fertilizers can increase disease and injure grass roots. If you absolutely have to fertilize, use an all organic or fifty percent slow-release fertilizer. If you want a green lawn don't assume nitrogen is necessary to achieve that goal. Your eyes might be playing tricks on you.

If you are interested in learning more about growing great grass join us at the next Knowledge to Grow On Educational Series. Home Lawn Care will be the next seminar with topics including seeding and establishment, fertilization and pest control. The class is offered on September 8th, 2007, from 10:00 AM to 2:00PM at the Auer 4-H Farm in Bloomfield, CT. The registration fee is \$50.

Details on [www.ladybug.uconn.edu](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu). Call the UConn Home and Garden Education Center at 877-486-6271 for registration information.

*Adapted from Rob Durgy's original article written in 2006, and used with kind permission of the author.*

- Editor

### Knowledge to Grow On

Offered by the UConn Home & Garden Education Center, this education series features UConn Extension Educators, faculty and staff. Seminars are held at Auer Farm in Bloomfield, CT from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM. The registration fee is \$50.

Go to [www.ladybug.uconn.edu](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu) for more information or call (877) 486-6271.

#### Lawn Care Basics

Saturday, September 8, 2007

A healthy lawn looks good and is less likely to be stressed by insects, diseases or weeds. Like all plants, turf grasses benefit from proper maintenance. Learn about lawn seed selection, the cultural requirements of turf, when to renovate, and how to manage problems like moss, shade and grubs.

## Plant Sales and other Gardening Events

### Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington May Market

May 11 & 12 Friday & Saturday 10 AM - 4PM  
(Rain or Shine)

Experience one of Hill-Stead's signature events, featuring over 50 exhibitors of antiques and quality crafts for home and garden. Shop for perennials and woodland plants, enjoy garden and cooking demonstrations with local experts, consult with horticulturalists and Master Gardeners, join an estate walk and take a tour of the museum.

Hill-Stead Museum,  
35 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT 06032.  
Information: 860-677-4787, [www.hillstead.org](http://www.hillstead.org).

### Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 : 10AM to 3PM  
Members Preview 8:30AM - 10AM

Over 250 species and cultivars of perennials, shrubs and trees. Knowledgeable staff and volunteer Master Gardeners on hand to answer questions and aid in your selection. Specially created display gardens designed to give you ideas.

Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens,  
151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, CT  
(Exit 35 from the Merritt Parkway)  
Information: 203-322-6971, [www.bartlettarboretum.org](http://www.bartlettarboretum.org)

### New London County Focus Group Third Annual Plant Sale

May 20th from noon to 4:00 PM  
New London County Extension Center,  
562 New London Turnpike in Norwich.

Full details on page 6

### The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program 2007 Garden-visiting season

Take the opportunity to visit other people's gardens, to learn from their experience, gather ideas for your own garden, or simply to admire!

A listing of all of the gardens that are part of the Open Days Program, visit the Garden Conservancy's website at

[www.opendaysprogram.org](http://www.opendaysprogram.org)

### Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Plant Science Day

Wednesday August 1st, 1007  
10AM

Lockwood Farm, Hamden  
Details at [www.ct.gov/caes](http://www.ct.gov/caes)  
Information: Toll free 877-855-2237

### The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gardening Fair Fairfield County Extension Grounds

Saturday August 18, 2007

Fair planned, organized, implemented, and staffed by Fairfield County Master Gardener volunteers as a community outreach to the public and fellow Master Gardeners!

Tentative schedule includes presentations by Master Gardeners on topics such as Garden Insects, Perennials, Garden Design 101, Pruning, Vegetables, and Composting. Talks are held both indoors and outdoors on the extension grounds. Also offered will be informational booths on Turf, Soil Testing, Composting, Vermiculture, Shade Plants, Non Toxic Approaches to Home Gardening, Invasive Plants, Beetle Farming, Food Safety, and Container Gardening.

Other activities planned include a used gardening book table with items for sale, a perennial walk among the demonstration gardens on site, and a free perennial plant raffle.

Free admission and refreshments!

67 Stony Hill Road, Bethel, CT 06801  
203-207-3262



*The 2006 4th Annual Gardening Fair at Bethel was a tremendous success*

## The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
May 2, 2007 6:30PM - 8:00 PM	Hartford Library Gardening Series: Patricia Klindienst reads from her book <b>"The Earth Knows My name: Food, Culture, and sustainability in the Gardens of Ethnic Americans."</b> Registration requested. To register: <a href="http://www.hplct.org/register">www.hplct.org/register</a> , or call 860-695-6295
May 3, 2007 12:00 PM	Branford Garden Club meeting: JoAnn Greenwood <b>"50 Secrets of Landscape Designers"</b> . Branford Community House, 46 Church St., Branford. Guest fee \$5.00. Contact: Rodney Hayes 203-481-5918 <a href="mailto:rodneyfhayes@yahoo.com">rodneyfhayes@yahoo.com</a>
May 9, 2007 6:30PM - 8:00PM	Hartford Library Gardening Series: <b>Gardeners That Know, Grow Organic: Organic Gardening 101</b> presented by Ron Pitz, AmeriCorps Program Director at the Knox Parks Foundation, and H. Charmaine Craig, Community Gardens Program Director. Registration requested. To register: <a href="http://www.hplct.org/register">www.hplct.org/register</a> , or call 860-695-6295
May 11, 2007 11AM	<b>Hill-Stead Museum's May Market</b> at Hill-Stead Museum, 35 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT 06032. <b>Ken Druse</b> is the featured speaker. Info: 860-677-4787, <a href="http://www.hillstead.com">www.hillstead.com</a>
May 12, 2007 10:00AM - 3:00PM	<b>Spring Plant Sale</b> at Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, CT (Exit 35 from Merritt Parkway). Info: call 203-322-6971, or <a href="http://www.bartlettarboretum.org">www.bartlettarboretum.org</a> .
May 16, 2007 6:30PM - 8:00PM	Hartford Library Gardening Series: <b>"Pot Herbs, Sallads, and Roots : Kitchen Gardens in the Early nineteenth Century"</b> presented by Christie J. Higginbottom, Research Historian and Garden History consultant from Old Sturbridge Village. Registration requested. To register: <a href="http://www.hplct.org/register">www.hplct.org/register</a> , or call 860-695-6295
May 18 2007 7:30 PM	<b>"What's New in Trees &amp; Shrubs"</b> by John Elsley (Greenwood, SC). Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Monthly meeting, CT Horticultural Society. <a href="http://www.cthort.org/calendar">www.cthort.org/calendar</a>
May 19, 2007 10:00AM - 4:00PM	<b>Plant Sale &amp; Combined Horticultural Show</b> (Iris, Rhododendron & Rock Garden Societies) @ Elizabeth Park, Hartford, CT. Info Center & Pond House, Info: 860-231-9443 or <a href="http://www.elizabethpark.org">www.elizabethpark.org</a> .
May 21, 2007 11AM - 12PM	<b>The Rainbow Contained</b> slide show presentation by Sydney Eddison. Co-sponsored by Wilton Library and Wilton Garden Club. Wilton Library, 137 Old Ridgefield Road, Wilton. No charge for program; advance registration is suggested. Tel 203-762-3950, <a href="http://www.wiltonlibrary.org">www.wiltonlibrary.org</a> .
May 23, 2007 6:30PM - 8:00PM	Hartford Library Gardening Series: <b>"Adventurous Annuals"</b> presented by Steve Silk of <i>Fine Gardening</i> . Registration requested. To register: <a href="http://www.hplct.org/register">www.hplct.org/register</a> , or call 860-695-6295
June 2, 2007	<b>Connecticut Trails Day</b> @ Various locations throughout the state of CT. Connecticut Forest & Parks Association, Rockfall, CT. Info: 860-346-2372 or <a href="http://www.ctwoodlands.org">www.ctwoodlands.org</a> .
June 2, 2007 9AM - 4PM	<b>Herb Fest 2007</b> Sponsored by CT Herb Association, Inc. Topmost Herb Farm, 244 North School Road, Coventry, CT 06238. \$10 admission. Information: <a href="http://www.ctherb.org">www.ctherb.org</a> , or <a href="http://www.topmostherbfarm.com">www.topmostherbfarm.com</a> .
June 7, 2007 12:00 PM	Branford Garden Club meeting: Becky Paul : <b>"Dahlias: Pompoms to Dinnerplates - Horticulture Methods and a summer Blush of Bloom"</b> . Branford Community House, 46 Church St., Branford. Guest fee \$5.00. Contact: Rodney Hayes (203)481-5918 <a href="mailto:rodneyfhayes@yahoo.com">rodneyfhayes@yahoo.com</a>
June 21, 2007 7:30PM	<b>"The Charmingly Seductive Garden"</b> by Carol Reese (Jackson, TN), Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Monthly meeting, CT Horticultural Society. <a href="http://www.cthort.org/calendar">www.cthort.org/calendar</a>
June 22-24, 2007 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>Rose Weekend</b> @ Elizabeth Park. Activities, horticultural societies & other festivities. Info: 860-231-9443 or <a href="http://www.elizabethpark.org">www.elizabethpark.org</a> .
June 26, 2007 10:00 AM	<b>"Treasured Landscapes—Outstanding USA"</b> , by Robert Grogan, American Society of Landscape Architects @ Southington Library, lower level, 255 Main Street. Orchard Valley Garden Club of Southington. Reservations: 860-621-5014
July 10, 2007 12:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Workshop: <b>Summer Care of Roses</b> @ Elizabeth Park, Hartford. Info: 860-231-9443, <a href="http://www.elizabethpark.org">www.elizabethpark.org</a> .
July 14, 2007	CMAA Semi Annual meeting and Summer Safari III. See page J for details. Contact: Sandy Myhalik, 860-677-0504, email <a href="mailto:Myhalik@comcast.net">Myhalik@comcast.net</a> .
August 1, 2007 10:00AM	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station <b>Plant Science Day</b> at Lockwood Farm, Hamden. Information call 203-974-8500, or toll free statewide 1-877-855-2237; <a href="http://www.ct.gov/caes">www.ct.gov/caes</a>

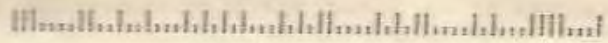
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Connecticut Master Gardener Association

**Summer Safari III**

July 14th, 2007

See inside for details





## Stamford Master Gardeners spread the word at local Farmers' Market



*An informative and colorful display attracted people to the Master Gardeners' table at the New Canaan Farmers' Market*

### in Carr

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the Stamford Master Gardener Class had an exciting new public relations effort involving outreach and education at Farmers' Market events in Fairfield County. The "tag-team" at our first event in Canaan was 2007 MG Interns, Carole Dell'Aquila and Lynn Carr. The day was met with glorious weather, hospitality from vendors and a warm reception from local townsfolk. Our presence brought a surprising amount of encouragement from vendors and visitors.

After a small hiccup in the set-up, we were directed to a perfect spot (between bakery and herb seller) and displayed our display. At opening, people flooded in with grandparents, children, dogs, carts and just about everything else in tow. Although the rush peaked for about an hour after noon, we had very steady traffic and interest until close. Most of our time was focused on getting the word out about the Bartlett Arboretum, the MG program and our Plant Clinic at the Arboretum. A number of passersby engaged us in specific questions about

turf grass, roses, shrubs and even houseplants. Many seemed quite positive about the exchange and were relieved that resources are available to help.

We thought it would be effective to show our new topics (alongside the Bartlett Arboretum program information) to target this unique audience. Information on Herbs, Edible Flowers, Wine/Fermentation, and Container Gardening were offered as they had an appeal to "foodies" and others with gardening interests but lacking in time/space/know-how.

Our future plans include return trips to New Canaan (7/28, 9/1), visits to Darien (8/15, 9/26) and possibly 1 or 2 other towns this year. Over time we will have a strategy evolving to additional locations and topics such as: seasonal (how to winterize your garden), specific segments (Plant Clinic intake) and horticultural demonstrations (pruning basics). We are excited to spearhead this pilot and hope that Farmers' Markets will prove to be a creative and viable way to engage the local Bartlett Arboretum and MG program advocates, volunteers, clients and patrons.

A listing of Connecticut Farmers Markets is available at [EdibleNutmeg.com](http://EdibleNutmeg.com).  
History of Farmers Markets and Locations at [ctfarmfresh.org](http://ctfarmfresh.org)  
The Connecticut Farmlink Program at [farmlink.uconn.edu/](http://farmlink.uconn.edu/)

## CMGA Officers 2007

**President:** Billy Baxter  
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**CMGA website:** [www.cmga.org](http://www.cmga.org)  
Webmistress: Amy Talbot

**The Laurel:**  
Hilary Forsyth [rayhbf@optonline.net](mailto:rayhbf@optonline.net)  
Diana Ringelheim [Diana@Ringelheim.com](mailto:Diana@Ringelheim.com)

## CMGA President's message

On July 14<sup>th</sup> we held our semiannual meeting in North Haven. It was a fantastic day for the 64 people who attended. We met at the Congregational Church in North Haven for a continental breakfast and our semiannual meeting. From there, we boarded 2 buses and visited two private gardens, Marvin Carley's and Neal Peckham's (read more about our tour on page 9).

We have been preparing for our symposium, "Gardening by Design" to be held in March 2008, with the speakers being essentially the same as for the symposium that was snowed out earlier this year. For the 2008 symposium we have a snow date, which will be the following day, Sunday. After last year's unfortunate episode we are going to be prepared this time around.

We have been working on some bus excursions for this coming fall for our membership, with one possibility being a trip to the New York Botanical Gardens. There also are a number of other possibilities your board has been working on.

Our membership is actively working on over 9 outreach projects, with some of them being discussed in the following pages. This has been one of the most active years for Master Gardeners being involved in community efforts. Once again Bill Overton and his core group are working with Channel 3 Kids Camp concentrating on vegetable and flower gardens. In addition, the Middlesex County and Farmington Focus Groups have been creating and maintaining gardens in the community, and Stamford MGs have been dealing with invasives. You can read more about these and other MG projects in this edition. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated master gardeners.

Our membership now numbers over 860, with some 200 associate members (MG Interns of 2007). Through the efforts of our members, the Association's contribution to the community continues to grow.

### Billy Baxter CMGA President

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**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](mailto:rayhbf@optonline.net), or by mail to 94 Birchwood Road, Stamford CT 06907

**Deadline for November 2007 edition:** October 1st, 2007

## CMGA Board in Action



*John Carlson deciding who stays and who goes*

*Photos by Carol Quish  
Text by Diana Ringelheim*



*Marge Bingham evaluating a Sambucus*

The monthly meeting of the CMGA board is usually held in the elegant surroundings of the Pond House Café in Elizabeth Park. The June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting however, was moved to the Vernon office where the board members proved that they can do more than push paper.

Because of several sets of circumstances, the Vernon office had not yet received its annual spring clean up so the CMGA board decided to help the office present an appropriate gardening picture to the public. We met at 9AM (except for those whose journey locked them into traffic jams) in our work-clothes with tools in hand. Kay Varga, temporary Vernon coordinator, worked alongside and



*Charles Tefft conquering an enemy*

made the decisions regarding weeds vs. volunteer seedlings. Shredded mulch was on hand and was spread on the beds quickly and efficiently, in the style of experienced Master Gardeners.

The work was hot, heavy, tiring, and an awful lot of fun. It proves that volunteer gardening is its own reward – in the amount of enjoyment and the sense of accomplishment, regardless whether the 'hours' count toward outreach.

In addition to board members pictured, Sandy Myhalik, Billy Baxter, Amy Talbot, and Carol Quish completed the work crew.



*Diana Ringelheim sitting down on the job*



*Paul Grimmeisen snuggling a plant into a mulch blanket*



*John Neff, enjoying every minute*

## MG Program News and Events

### Mary Collins and John Castagno

Goodbye and best wishes to Master Gardener Coordinators Mary Collins and John Castagno who are both leaving their positions after dedicating several years of tireless efforts to the UConn Master Gardener Program. Many thanks to both of them for their generosity in sharing their horticultural expertise, their perseverance in teaching and patiently training hundreds of Master Gardeners, and the wonderful leadership and talent they devoted to the fine outreach programs they produced.

Mary and John, you will both be missed by your many students, your colleagues and all involved in the program.

Best wishes,  
*Leslie Alexander, Sarah Bailey, Regina Campfield, Pat Eldredge, Kim Kelly, Susan Munger, Kay Varga, Sandi Wilson*

### Applications for MG Classes 2008

Applications for the 2008 Master Gardener Program classes will be available by the end of August. These can be obtained at any of the Extension Center offices and from the Home & Garden Center website at [www.ladybug.uconn.edu/mastergardener](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/mastergardener). The due date for applications to be submitted is October 31, 2007.

We all enjoyed the MG classes, and are proud of our Master Gardener certification. Now is a great time to encourage family, friends and acquaintances to share our experiences and join in the fun! We are the best ambassadors of the MG Program, so for the future of the program—go spread the word!

## Advanced Master Gardener Courses : Summer 2007

Date and Time	Location	Class and Instructor
Wednesday August 1, 2007 9:30AM—11:30AM	Norwich Extension Center	<b>Dichotomous Keys: Great Tools for Plant Identification</b> Susan Munger
Saturday, August 18, 2007 9:30AM - 11:30AM	New Haven County Extension Center	<b>The Latest Buzz</b> Leslie Huston
Tuesday, August 28, 2007 1:00PM - 3:00PM	Windham Extension Center, Brooklyn	<b>Watercolor in the Garden</b> Jan McCulloch
Saturday, September 8, 2007 9:30AM - 11:30AM	New Haven County Extension Center	<b>Propagation of Annuals and Tender Perennials</b> Kevin Wasilewski
Saturday, 8 September, 2007 10:00AM - 1:00PM	Fairfield County Extension Center, Bethel	<b>HOT TOPICS - Part II</b>
Tuesday, September 11, 2007 2:00PM—4:00PM	Fairfield County Extension Center, Bethel	<b>Water Garden Planning &amp; Construction — Create Your Piece of Paradise—</b> Bill Hosking
Tuesday, September 11, 18 & 25 6:30PM—8:00PM	Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford	<b>Basic Bonsai for the Novice</b> 3-session course by Melba Grieshaber
Tuesday, October 16, 2007 10:00AM - 12:00PM	Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford	<b>Growing African Violets</b> Earl Utter

For full details, registration deadlines and registration form:  
[www.ladybug.uconn.edu/mastergardener](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/mastergardener). Information: Telephone 1-860-486-6343

### MG volunteers needed!

By *Leslie Alexander*

I am looking for help from MG volunteers in my office at the Storrs campus. I need help updating class registrations, class hours, and generally getting the office organized.

If you are interested, please contact me direct on 860-486-6343, or email [leslie.alexander@uconn.edu](mailto:leslie.alexander@uconn.edu).

## MG Program News and Events

### Middlesex County MGs 2006

By Hilary Forsyth—Editor

The names of Master Gardeners who graduated out of the Middlesex County Extension Center were inadvertently omitted from the February edition of *The Laurel*, and these are now listed below. Belated congratulations to all of you!

#### Middlesex County 2006 Graduating Master Gardener Class

Holly V. Baldyga  
Margaret Bliss  
Phyllis Bruce  
Maria A. Buatti  
Greg Burritt  
Sally Carbone  
Diane Christensen  
Rebecca L. Connell  
Lauren Glazier  
Gladys C.H. Goodale  
Joan Grecki  
Katherine Green  
Judith Huntley  
Geraldine Jacobson  
Colleen Jeffords  
Christine Jeffrey  
Stanley Kaplan  
Maryann Korpita  
Crystal Rose Kovalik  
Julie Lehmann  
Joanne Malahias  
Donna Meadows  
Catherine O'Brien  
Christine Roberge  
Geraldine Shaw  
Marjukka Trumbauer

**Advanced MG certification:** Marsha Dowling

### MG Summer Tour of UConn Science Research & Teaching Facility

MG Interns were invited for an educational tour of UConn Research Farm in Storrs. The day's program featured tours of the facility highlighting research involving plant selection and breeding, invasive species management, IPM, turf management and a living playground.

Pictured below, plant propagator Greg Tormey conducted a tour of the interesting and diverse plant selections found in the Burr Nursery. A further report on the tour appears on page 8.



*Greg Tormey demonstrates the new misting system in use in the hoop house at the Burr Nursery. "Can we walk through the sprays to cool down?"*

## Welcome to three new Master Gardener Program Coordinators



Leslie Alexander, State Master Gardener Coordinator, is pleased to announce the appointment of three new Master Gardener Program coordinators to the Middlesex, Tolland and New Haven offices: Carol Gregoire has been appointed Middlesex County coordinator at the Haddam office; Kay Varga is the coordinator of the Tolland County Extension Center at Vernon, and Judith Hsiang is appointed coordinator for the New Haven office.

Carol, Kay and Judith are pictured at left, enjoying some respite from the sun at the UConn Research Farm Tour.

## Summer in Norwich

By Susan Munger,  
Norwich Extension Center Coordinator

We had a series of questions regarding browning on branches of eastern red cedar; it turned out to be Kabatina blight, a kind of fungus. The first person to bring this problem to our attention was an employee at a local golf course. After numerous interns looked at numerous samples, we got the answer from Rob Durgy. And then we learned that one of the interns is related to the golf course employee. So it pays to be persistent and you never know what else you'll learn along the way.

Interns are working at Harkness State Park, the Connecticut College Arboretum, the Shaw Mansion, the Shoreline Soup Kitchen; they are writing articles for the

Post Road Review, attending fairs and other public events. Cynthia Shanley and Kathy Johnson landed what is probably one of the better outreach opportunities planting a herb and cutting garden at Mitchell College, where they can get free Michael's Dairy Ice Cream.

Master gardeners and interns planted 100 hot pink geraniums and cleomes in front of the Shaw Mansion in New London. The geraniums were donated and the cleomes purchased with money provided by CMGA last year.

One of last year's MGs has been helping all year with the America in Bloom project that the city of Norwich is working on.

## Rain Garden installed in Norwich

By Susan Munger,  
Norwich Extension Center Coordinator

A rain garden was installed at the Norwich Extension Center this spring under the guidance of Extension Educator Mike Dietz. Mike visited the Center first to select the best site, which turned out to be near to the front corner of the building where there is a down spout. The land slopes down to the drive. The rain garden now collects water and allows it to infiltrate the soil instead of running down the drive.



The rain garden is situated just down from the front corner of the Extension Center building

The garden is enclosed with a wall of landscaping stone, which was necessary because the garden is on a slope. We selected the following plants, which are recommended for rain gardens: high and low bush blueberry, chokeberry, aster, coreopsis, liatris, hibiscus, and red twig dogwood. These are all plants that can with-



Susan Munger and Mike Dietz checking on the placement of plants to be installed in the rain garden

stand periodic flooding and dry conditions. And all are adapted to New England soil.

Many people helped construct the rain garden. Master gardeners Joe Mingo, John Castagno, Susan Munger and MG interns Ellen Falbowski, Tracey Pavlacka, and Lori Morales all contributed to the effort.

Our rain garden will be low maintenance, will conserve water, and is also lovely to look at. When we arrive at the Extension Center we have to pass through the massive construction project at Three Rivers College, making the rain garden and plantings around the newly dedicated flag pole an especially welcome sight.

## CPTV Family Science EXPO Energized by CT Master Gardeners

By Dawn Pettinelli,  
Extension Educator,  
UConn Home & Garden Education Center

A big round of applause goes to MG Coordinator, Kim Kelly, and all the Master Gardener volunteers who helped design and staff this year's exhibit at the CPTV Family Science Expo held April 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hartford Expo Center.

Our exhibit was entitled 'Plantastic Science – Energize Me.' It focused on how we are dependent on plants for our energy. Sections of the exhibit covered fossil fuels, biofuels, and heat from decomposition. We had a great poster of the energy cycle from photosynthesis to the calories we get from eating plants and examples of various fruits and vegetables and how much energy they supply us with.

Master Gardeners, Bill Overton and Jay Beausolleil grew tomato seedlings in the heated greenhouse at the Channel 3 Kids Camp for giving out to any interested students attending the EXPO. The kids loved them! In fact, Jane Moreno from CPTV told me that several kids mentioned their plants when they sent thank you letters



*"Sow it! Grow it! Know it!" proclaims the Plantastic Science booth banner.*

*Kim Kelly, at left, works with fellow Master Gardeners*



*Tomato seedlings, grown and raised in the heated greenhouse at Channel 3 Kids Camp, were given out to students by Master Gardeners at the Plantastic Science booth*

to the public television station. We gave all 2000 of them away!

The other Master Gardener volunteers who either helped design our exhibit or staff the booth through a busy 3 days include Mary Cross, Paula Robinson, Jill Monsarratt, Ruth Hoffman, Kate Desjardins, Lisa Vaughn, Tony Miller, Ann DiBella, Norma Miller, Katie O'Brien, Donna Gagnon and Arlene Hoffman. This was a great effort on their part and wonderfully done.

I also want to thank the CMGA for their donation towards our booth and plant materials. This year's EXPO had quite a large crowd with over 13,500 students, teachers and parents attending the event. There were students from 98 schools plus home schoolers.

Information about our exhibit was included in the Science Expo Study Guide which received great reviews from the teachers using them. Kim and I really appreciate all the Master Gardener volunteers who made this year's exhibit so successful.

### The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program 2007 Garden-visiting season

Take the opportunity to visit other people's gardens, to learn from their experience, gather ideas for your own garden, or simply to admire!

A listing of all of the gardens that are part of the Open Days Program, visit the Garden Conservancy's website at [www.opendaysprogram.org](http://www.opendaysprogram.org)

## UConn Research Farm Tour : July 10th, 2007

*Text and photos by Hilary Forsyth*

MG Interns of 2007, MGs who graduated from the 2006 classes, mentors and coordinators were invited to the UConn Science Research & Teaching Facility in Storrs for an educational tour of the Research Farm.

On the hottest day of the season thus far, over 60 of us gathered to join in tours of research plots given by some of the very people who teach the MG classes: Steve Ratcliffe discussed current research findings on turf grass; plant propagator Greg Tormey gave a tour of the Burr Nursery and of the Waxman Conifer collection;

Rob Durgy discussed the latest research in vegetable production and the All-American selection vegetable trials that UConn conducts each year; Donna Ellis identified invasives and discussed bio-control methods and other IPM techniques; Dawn Pettinelli conducted on-the-spot soil tests.

Among other tours available was a visit to a collection of living play structures constructed from live and growing brightly colored willow whips; I would have enjoyed seeing that display—but time and heat got the better of me!



*Items for the Silent Auction quickly drew an eager crowd of bidders*



*A real hayride—but to the Waxman Conifer Collection, rather than the pumpkin patch*



*The group seeks refuge from the heat while touring the Waxman Conifer collection.*

*"Just shout as you go through your tour, Greg: 'We'll stay here under the shade of this Acer griseum!'"*



*Everybody enjoyed cold and delicious UConn Dairy Bar icecream, sponsored by CMGA.*

*(From left): Regina Campfield, Sandi Wilson and Carol Quish gave the latest scoops*



*Text and photos by Hilary Forsyth*

The weather couldn't have been better for CMGA's semi-annual meeting and tour of two beautiful private gardens. The group met at the Congregational Church Hall in North Haven, and enjoyed a gourmet continental breakfast of fruit salad, bagels, cookies, orange juice and coffee. This was followed by a brief membership meeting, when CMGA President Billy Baxter gave an overview of the Association's activities. Complete Minutes of this Board meeting (and all other Board meetings) will be posted on the CMGA's website, [ctmga.org](http://ctmga.org).



*Neal Peckham's tranquil garden showed little evidence of its recent transformation from shade to full sun.*

The group then boarded two large school buses for the garden tours. What a treat to be invited into these two beautiful gardens! Neal Peckham and Marvin Carley gave us extensive tours of their gardens, introduced us to their favorite plants, shared stories of their successes, and the plantings that hadn't quite gone to plan.



*Everybody appreciated the lush plantings and the splash of cool water in Marvin Carley's beautiful koi pond*



*Neal Peckham chats with members of the tour group in the perennial garden which borders his garden shed*

The gardens looked pretty near perfect to us, but we all know that perfection doesn't come easily. Neal Peckham described how his garden of 42 years had grown from absolute bare ground to the lush haven we saw on the tour. But every maturing garden is a landscape of change, and Neal had had to deal with the loss of two very large trees, turning his full-shade garden into one of heat and bright sun.



*Marvin Carley describes to members of the tour how and why this part of his garden has recently been re-planted*

Marvin Carley had a different problem to deal with recently: a meadow at the end of his garden, which had provided him with the ideal 'borrowed view', now had a house built on it. Neal had transformed that part of his garden by planting a living screen of trees and shrubs. Dealing with such problems are a part of gardening life; it takes a dedicated gardener to rise to the challenge, and these gardens were a testament to success.

Many thanks to Neal and Marvin for sharing their beautiful gardens with us!

## Channel Three Kids Camp 2007

*Myrton and Jay Beausoleil share their reports on the session at Channel Three Kids Camp:*

We began on Tuesday, June 26 with 3 fifty minute sessions led by MG Carole Miller and assisted by Mary S, Ann Dibella Harrington, Paula Robinson, Toni Hill, Sue Thatcher and Dave Thatcher. The lessons drew upon Carole's deep knowledge of herbs. The sessions had a total of 14 children, which was not a turnout considering the unfriendly weather. We're erecting a canopy to be installed to shade the kids on where rain and/or heat is a problem.\*

The canopy was purchased through a grant given to the camp by the ELLEN GOLDFARB MEMORIAL TRUST. The grant was specifically donated for the purpose of outfitting the garden program. The Trust donates money each year for children's programs as Ellen herself a 17 year old high school senior from West Hartford passed away due to a ruptured aneurysm. She was admitted to Georgetown University when she lost her life in the early 1990s.



*Worms! "Ann Dibella Harrington led the session on Friday and was assisted by Sue Thatcher, Bob Duffy and Dave Thatcher. Ann gave a great hands on presentation on earthworms and their benefits in the garden."*

Bob Duffy worked the kids in the garden planting potatoes. He told stories about his younger days in New York City cooking "Mickey Finns" (potatoes) over an open pit fire. Bob also brought the equipment and material to start a propagation program in the greenhouse.

Friday's attendance took a giant leap in that we had a different group of kids: 36 in total over 3 sessions. If the size, it may be too large for the garden, we'll have to see how it works out over time.

We are very fortunate this year in that we got an early start by having a greenhouse and the benefits are passed on to the kids at meal time. We've harvested spinach, cucumber, cherry tomatoes, corn (yes corn!), wax beans, wax beans, lettuce and broccoli. Seed was chased through a grant from CMGA and we thank them.

We've also benefited this year from an expansion of



*Kim Kelly Brooklyn Extension Coordinator was a guest speaker at the Kid's Camp today lecturing on "bugs"*

the fenced garden area. We've added approximately 500 square feet of garden space for flowers and vegetables. The children were able to transplant flowers (Mums) to take home when they leave after this five week session.

We caught a "caterpillar" on a dill plant several weeks ago - Paula took it home. Tuesday she brought the most beautiful blue swallowtail butterfly it morphed into. The kids named 'her' SHELBY, and had a ceremony as we let her go - spontaneous applause from the kids. Shelby headed straight for zinnia flowers.



*A very proud student poses at the entrance to the garden with his Certificate of Completion*

\*July 23rd update: "Carole, Ann, Mary and I have had the benefit of a 18 X 20 foot Canopy for lessons that was erected on June 29th. This has made instruction a little more comfortable for the kids."

### Creating a Model Community Garden at the Middlesex County Extension Center

By Marsha Dowling

What a wonderful feeling when a plan comes together perfectly! That is exactly what happened as the Middlesex County Focus Group kicked off their first project: A Model Community Garden located at the Middlesex County Extension Center. Through the collective efforts of the Focus Group, MG Class of 2007, Extension Staff and several local volunteers we raised the funds, a deer fence and a beautiful vegetable garden.

Our plans began in March with a garden design by Becki Connell, a focus group member. The next step was to propose the garden to Cherry Czuba, Extension Center Coordinator, and staff to get their approval and be given an area for the garden. Our project was enthusiastically accepted by all. Resident experts in various departments immediately jumped in to help us with materials and a water source.

Through the dedication and generosity of many people contributing research, tools and most importantly time and energy we have truly raised a "Community Garden".

We were assisted by donations from the Middlesex County MG Class of 2007, CMGA and the Middlesex Cooperative Extension Council.

The garden is surrounded by an eight foot



*The Middlesex Focus Group Fence Raising Team*

possible to the needy of our county.

Harvests will include: carrots, cucumbers, onions, peppers, squash, string beans, and tomatoes.



*"Planting Day: Tomato plants: 12 indeterminate, 8 determinate and 4 cherry; 15 pepper plants, onion sets, cucumbers . . . Then we'll see about adding some herbs and some flowers that draw pollinating bees & deter other pests."*

deer fence and black locust posts milled on site by Tom Worthley Extension Forest Management.

The fence was built under the tutelage of Paul and Mia Vallor, community volunteers.

The garden gate and cucumber trellis were custom built by Fern Martin from the 2007 MG class.

Soil was amended with compost from a nearby nursery and the farm of extension staff member Carol Birdsey.

Plants and seeds were selected based on yield, so we can maximize our crops and contribute as much as

Future plans will give gardeners at all levels of the MG Program the opportunity to enhance the garden possibly with composting and seed propagation using cold frames.

Visitors are invited to stop by for a tour and information anytime the Master Gardener Office is staffed, and all are welcome at the Extension Center's Open House on Saturday September 15, 2007.

#### To the Middlesex County MG Class 2007:

Thank you very much for your monetary contribution to the Community Garden Project at Middlesex County Extension. Your generosity helped in the acquisition of the fence and other garden supplies, which in turn will provide fresh vegetables to the needy.

We look forward to working in the garden with

some of you through the summer months into the fall.

Good luck to all of you as you work towards completion of the MG course, and success in wherever this venture takes you.

Sincerely,  
The Middlesex County MG Focus Group

## Farmington MGs Focus Group

### Farmington Library Garden

By John Neff

The Farmington Master Gardeners formed a focus group four years ago and decided that their main project would be the development of an educational garden at the Farmington Library which was, at that time, building a children's wing and patio adjacent to the main library building.

The group met every Friday morning during the planting season and soon bonded into a close knit group of gardeners which has now been joined by several members of the Friends of the Library. Not all 15 Farmington Master Gardeners would show up each week, sometimes there would be three, sometimes 10 or 12. Each year the garden has grown a little bigger and more unusual cultivars have been added. One member is working on an index book showing each cultivar and its requirements.

The garden has become a real show place and in appreciation the administrative staff of the library gave a breakfast in the garden for the group - omelets and potatoes with fruit and muffins - and 13 MGs attended.

Other activities of various members of the group are: beautification of the Unionville Gazebo and the Unionville Boy's and Girl's Club, gardens at the Hartford Boy's and Girl's Club, the Hillstead sunken gardens, the Rose Garden in Elizabeth Park, the library garden tour, and the CMGA Board.



*Farmington Master Gardeners in the educational garden they created at Farmington Library.*

*(L-R): Bob Slabinski, Sandy Myhalik, Martha Chesniré, Jessie Saxton (Library Gardener), Jay Johnson (Farmington Library Director), Roberta Beyer (Library Gardener), John Neff, Bob Johansen, Pam Morrison-Wolf, Alan Kennedy, Paul Grimmeisen and, in front, Carolyn Lloyd (Library gardener). Not in picture: Ken Bobinski and Sandra Gorainik)*

## Bethel Gardening Fair

The Fairfield County Master Gardener office in Bethel will be holding its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Gardening Fair on Saturday, August 18 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It will be held on the grounds of the Extension Center, 67 Stony Hill Road (Route 6) in Bethel. Last year this eagerly awaited event attracted approximately 200 people from the area and a greater number are anticipated for this year.

The purpose of the fair is to assist local gardeners by answering their questions and providing information on a variety of topics as well as increasing awareness of the Master Gardener program. Booths are arranged on the lawn and will cover topics such as invasive plants, beetle farming, turf and it's problems, container gardening, soil testing, shade gardening, deer deterrents, beekeeping, and food safety from the garden. Staffed by Master Gardeners with interests or special training in these topics, the booths generate lively discussions with visitors on an informal basis. The one-on-one exchanges can become as educational for the Master Gardener as for the visitor.

More formal presentations are also given in either the air-conditioned comfort of the extension center's lecture hall or in the covered outdoor classroom:

**10 Questions to Ask About Your Garden's Design:** Steve Aitken, Managing Editor of *Fine Gardening* magazine will analyze the elements that go into a beautiful garden design.

**My Favorite Perennials:** Pamela Weil, publisher and editor of 'Connecticut Gardener' will discuss the strongest performers in her garden.

**Composting:** Explore the trials and errors of a gardener who knows the value of being a 'dirt worshipper'.

**Insects:** Not all insects in the garden are bad! How to identify some common insect pests, find out about environmentally-friendly ways of keeping them in check, and get to know some of the good guys in the garden.

**Pruning Tips:** Avoid common pruning mistakes and learn how to keep evergreens, trees, and shrubs under control and looking natural.

**Vegetable Gardening:** The fall is the best time to prepare next year's vegetable garden and this presentation will discuss the 'hardscaping' - raised beds, critter deterrents, soil mixes, watering requirements, etc. of the well tended vegetable garden.

The Bethel Gardening Fair is open free of charge to all gardeners, novice as well as masterful. It is educational, stimulating, chatty, and friendly. If you're in the area, stop by and enjoy the company of fellow gardening enthusiasts at this educational and entertaining event.

For further information, please contact Jane Wooding at 203-938-1199 or Susan Weenink at 203-740-0929.

## Creating a Community Garden in Middlefield

By Dianne LaRosa

When seeking a project for the required outreach requirement for the Master Gardener course the first thing I did was approach the senior center director in my town, Middlefield. Antoinette Abile and I met and she asked me to create a garden for her seniors that they could enjoy throughout the seasons.

First I measured the garden and took soil samples to send to UConn. The piece measured 40 feet x 40 feet and was surrounded by the community building and fronted by a parking lot. The lot was grassed and had been planted with two deciduous trees - a crab apple and a dogwood, two evergreen trees, some bulbs the Girl Scouts had planted, and mint the seniors used in their iced tea. There was a faucet in one corner of the garden where a hose could be hooked up for the water supply. It was a blank slate!!

Second I met with the seniors as a group and listened to their wish list for the design and plants they would like to see in their garden. Half the seniors wanted a formal garden the others a casual, more English garden. All of the seniors wanted a combination of shrubs, perennials and annuals.

Then I met with the first selectman at the time, Charlie Augur, and he was very supportive of the project from the beginning. The town needed to be on board with the project and agree to supply the topsoil, gravel for sidewalks and pay for the bulk of the plants. I was given carte blanche for the most part, which was ideal. The plants were ordered from our local garden center, Country Flower Farms. Paul and Cheryl Schatzman gave me a discount on the plants and soil amendments that they delivered to the garden - along with great advice. There were also donations of plants from the seniors and fellow garden club members.

The final plan that the seniors liked the best was a combination of a formal and informal garden. The walkways are made of crushed gravel which is very safe to walk on. Instead of sharp corners, I designed the walks to curve at the corners to make it more informal. Everyone involved seemed to agree.

In April the town highway men skimmed the top layer of soil and grass away. Topsoil was delivered and spread by many people. My husband was at my side throughout the process and helped me with the heavy physical work. Tim Malo, a Master Gardener Intern, volunteered to do some of his hours with me and was a super source of manpower and knowledge. A few of my garden club sisters were also right there to help along with my son, sister and grandchildren, for which I am

very grateful. Rosalie Lamphier donated plants for the garden, and MG Marsha Dowling provided help and support.

After the soil was spread, the walkways were laid out with stakes and string and were dug to four inches. Landscape cloth was laid down and the crushed gravel spread over that. Very few weeds have made their way through those layers.

We then spread the soil amendments and peat moss in each section and double dug them to really mix them in before planting. The plants were then planted according to my plan which worked out pretty well. All the plants survived the drought year of 2005 be-

cause of faithful watering. I was there at least three times a week to water, weed and deadhead but it was so worth it. Total hours for community outreach was eighty five.

The community garden flourishes today with the help of my fellow garden club members, the Mid Lea Garden Club of Middlefield, who are committed to keeping it beautiful for the seniors and citizens of Middlefield.



*A combination of shrubs, perennials and annuals fill the garden at the Middlefield Community Garden.*

**Learn more about roses and how to care for them:**  
**Join the team of volunteers at Elizabeth Park, and get some real hands-on experience.**

Master Gardeners and Rose Garden volunteers get together to work on the gardens on the **first Saturday** and the **second Wednesday** of every month from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. Meet at the gazebo. Please bring your gardening tools: pruning shears, hoes, and a good set of gloves.

If you want to find out more information please call the Friends of Elizabeth Park at 860-231-9443 or Paul Grimmeisen at 860-677-8645.

## Those Invidious Invasives

By Dan Schiefferle and Paul Wicht

Master Gardeners and interns are working this summer at Stamford's Bartlett Arboretum to control two invasive plants. This project is being carried out under the direction of botanist Eric Morgan, the Bartlett's Collections Manager, with assistance from Master Gardener Sue Sweeney of Woodland Treasures. The area at the Bartlett selected for the invasive removal effort is along either side of the new entry road. The invasive plants targeted for control are *Euonymus alatus* (winged euonymus or Burning Bush) and *Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese barberry).

Various techniques for control of these two plants are being tested by the Master Gardeners. The density of the plants in selected plots is being recorded and the method of control documented by the volunteers. For example, in one plot the *Euonymus alatus* is being cut at ground level, while in a second plot the plant is cut about a foot above ground level in an effort to prevent suckering. In a third plot, the group is removing the plant completely, including roots. The goal is to determine if one technique is more effective than others. These plots will be monitored over the next several years. The uprooted plants and cut branches are being used to create brush piles which are excellent animal habitat.

The Master Gardeners are also involved in another invasive plant control project at Stamford's new Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary. The Sanctuary has been designated an IBA, or Important Bird Area, as it is part of the east coast fly-way for migratory birds. This project is under the direction of Master Gardener David Winston, head Steward for the Sanctuary, with assistance from Sue Sweeney, Eric Morgan, and several Interns. The invasive plants targeted at the sanctuary this year are *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard), *Polygonum cuspidatum* (Japanese knotweed), *Acer platanoides* (Norway maple) and *Artemisia vulgaris* (mugwort).

At Cove Island, various control techniques are being used by the volunteers. For example, research by Master Gardener Monica Hill, Co-leader of the Woodland Treasures' Invasives Section, has shown that garlic mustard, being a biennial, can be effectively controlled by cutting the flower stem at ground level in the spring before the flower goes to seed. Since garlic mustard flower stems can still form seeds after being cut, the cuttings were collected and black-bagged. Weight records are being kept to measure progress over the coming years.

The control technique being used for mugwort is to cut the plant a few inches above ground level several times during the growing season. This control strategy is said to weaken the plant as well as prevent its spread, which can occur by both seed and rhizome.

The mature Norway maples are being girdled to create standing "snags" (dead trees), which provide valuable food and habitat for the native fauna. The young saplings are being cut at ground level as research shows that Norway maples don't tend to root sucker when low-cut.

A different control technique will be utilized for the Japanese knotweed. One possibility is the use of a non-



Dressed in a protective apron and heavy gloves, Monica Hill (left) wields the loppers. With (L-R) Dan Schiefferle, Nedra Gillette and Sue Sweeney, the team get down to some serious work on the invasives at the Bartlett.

selective herbicide in September or October; however, non-chemical means of removal are still being researched. If herbicide is used, the plants will be cut down and the herbicide (carefully) placed in the hollow stem cavities. The early fall timetable is chosen because at this time the plant is storing sugar in the root system in preparation for winter. The herbicide is translocated by the plant to the roots, thus killing the entire plant including roots. This plant has been selected by the sanctuary group for GIS (geographic information system) monitoring. This system allows the Sanctuary to more accurately determine the spread or efficacy of the control measures.

The long-term goal of invasive plant strategy at the Sanctuary is to allow native plants, which provide food and shelter for the bird population, to 'out-compete' the invasive plants with a little help from the Master Gardener volunteers. As Dave Winston observed:

"It's not that the invasives will ever be truly eradicated, with billions of seeds in the 'seed bank' just waiting for a chance to break out. In addition, the feathered friends we are trying to support add to the seed bank by dropping off invasive seeds they've imbibed elsewhere.

"Managing invasives in a wildlife sanctuary requires a long-term approach. Any wildlife has adapted to the existing vegetation and these invasive plants must be removed selectively, in an effort to reduce the disturbance. However, with the proper approaches in a methodical, species-specific approach, we will begin to see the Sanctuary come into its own."

## The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
August 1, 2007 10:00AM	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station <b>Plant Science Day</b> at Lockwood Farm, Hamden. Information call 203-974-8500, or toll free statewide 1-877-855-2237; <a href="http://www.ct.gov/caes">www.ct.gov/caes</a> .
August 7, 2007 10:00AM-11:30AM	<b>An introduction to the native flora of the northeastern United States.</b> Lecture and slideshow by Eric Morgan at Bartlett Arboretum, & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford. Arboretum members \$5/non-members\$10. Information: 203-322-6971, or <a href="http://bartlettarboretum.org">bartlettarboretum.org</a> .
August 14, 2007 10:00AM-11:30AM	<b>Rainforests.</b> Lecture and slide presentation by Eric Morgan at Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford. Arboretum members \$5/non-members\$10. Information: 203-322-6971, or <a href="http://bartlettarboretum.org">bartlettarboretum.org</a> .
August 18, 2007 12:30PM-5:00PM	<b>5th Annual Gardening Fair : Fairfield County Extension Grounds</b> , 67 Stony Hill Road, Bethel, CT. Contact: Jane Wooding at 203-938-1199, or Susan Weerink at 203-740-0929.
August 21, 2007 10:00AM-11:30AM	<b>Southwestern Flora.</b> Lecture and slideshow presentation by Eric Morgan at Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford. Arboretum members \$5/non-members\$10. Information: 203-322-6971, or <a href="http://bartlettarboretum.org">bartlettarboretum.org</a> .
September 6, 2007 12:30PM	<b>"Waiting for Wings - All About Butterflies"</b> The Branford Garden Club monthly meeting, Branford Community House, 46 Church Street, Branford. Guest fee \$5. Contact: Rodney Hayes: 203-481-5918, <a href="mailto:rodneyhayes@yahoo.com">rodneyhayes@yahoo.com</a> .
September 8, 2007 10:00AM-2:00PM	<b>Lawn Care Basics</b> Auer Farm, Bloomfield, CT. Part of the UConn Knowledge To Grow On series. Registration fee \$50. Information: <a href="http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu">www.ladybug.uconn.edu</a> or call (877) 486-6271.
September 9, 2007 11:15AM-12:15PM	<b>Fall Wildflower Tour</b> with Carol Levine @ Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford. Information: 203-322-6971, <a href="http://bartlettarboretum.org">bartlettarboretum.org</a> . Members free, non-members \$6 entrance fee
September 19, 2007 8:00PM	<b>Gardening on Both Sides of 'The Pond'</b> . Presentation by David J.A. Smith of Litchfield, CT. CT Horticultural Society meeting @ United Methodist Church, 1358 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford. Information: 860-529-8713, email <a href="mailto:connhort@aol.com">connhort@aol.com</a> .
September 22, 2007 11:15AM-12:15PM	<b>Gardens in Bloom Tour</b> @ Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford. Information: 203-322-6971, <a href="http://bartlettarboretum.org">bartlettarboretum.org</a> . Members free, non-members \$6 entrance fee.
October 4, 2007 12:30PM	<b>"Growing Ourselves—an Experimental Journey"</b> . The Branford Garden Club monthly meeting, Branford Community House, 46 Church Street, Branford. Guest fee \$5. Contact: Rodney Hayes: 203-481-5918, <a href="mailto:rodneyhayes@yahoo.com">rodneyhayes@yahoo.com</a>
October 15, 2007 11:00AM-12:30PM	<b>"Great Gardens from Coast to Coast.</b> Slide presentation by Daryl Beyers, Assistant Editor with fine Gardening Magazine, on their recently published 'Great Gardens' issue. Co-sponsored by Wilton library and Wilton Garden Club. No charge for program. Advance registration is suggested. 203-762-3950, <a href="http://www.wiltonlibrary.org">www.wiltonlibrary.org</a> . Wilton Library, 137 Old Ridgefield Road, Wilton.
October 18, 2007 8:00PM	<b>"Returning Fruit to the American Backyard"</b> presentation by Roger B. Swain of Newton, MA. Monthly meeting of CT Horticultural Society at Emmanuel synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Information: 860-529-8713, email <a href="mailto:connhort@aol.com">connhort@aol.com</a> .
November 8, 2007 7:00PM	<b>"The Flowers of Impressionism"</b> presented by Tish Robinson for Simsbury Garden Club, at Ero Hall, Simsbury. Reservations \$15 per person. Information and reservation: 860-408-1384.

### Knowledge to Grow On

Offered by the UConn Home & Garden Education Center, this education series features UConn Extension Educators, faculty and staff. Seminars are held at Auer Farm in Bloomfield, CT from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM. The registration fee is \$50. Go to [www.ladybug.uconn.edu](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu) for more information or call (877) 486-6271.

#### Lawn Care Basics Saturday, September 8, 2007

A healthy lawn looks good and is less likely to be stressed by insects, diseases or weeds. Like all plants, turf grasses benefit from proper maintenance. Learn about lawn seed selection, the cultural requirements of turf, when to renovate, and how to manage problems like moss, shade and grubs.

Connecticut Master Gardener Association

# The *Laurel*

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



6602542225 COA



*What could be so fascinating?  
Read the article on page 10 to find out how Master Gardeners share  
the dirt and spread the word about good gardening practices*

Connecticut Master Gardener Association

*The Laurel*





## Connecticut Master Gardener Association Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, December 1, 2007  
The Pond House, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford

<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>Coffee and continental breakfast</b>
<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>Brief business meeting</b>
<b>10-11:00AM</b>	<b>"Ancient Herbs, Modern Uses"</b>

### Meeting agenda

Election of CMGA Officers for 2008, as follows:  
President: Billy Baxter (up for re-election)  
Treasurer: Sandy Myhalik (up for re-election)  
Vice-President: Carol Quish (nominations pending)  
Secretary: Diana Ringelheim (nominations pending)  
Nominations for officers may be made by CMGA members.  
Officers will be elected by majority vote of CMGA members present.

### Join us at CMGA's Annual Membership Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 at the Pond House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford, CT. We will begin with a continental breakfast at 9:00AM, followed by a brief business meeting and then a presentation by our speaker, Carole Miller.

Carole is an enthusiastic and avid grower of medicinal and culinary herbs. She is the owner of Topmost Herb Farm located in Coventry, CT, which she founded in 1998 after a career in graphic arts. Her topic will be "**Ancient Herbs, Modern Uses**", covering some of the ancient lore and a bit of the mystique of these timeless plants and their use today in landscaping, cooking and health.

Carole is devoted to growing herbs without the use of pesticides or commercial fertilizers. She maintains an extensive variety of annual and perennial herbs, which can be found in her display gardens. During the summer she is al-

ways available for tours of her gardens, giving various demonstrations such as preparing herb vi-herbal appetizers and making pesto for her home heirloom tomatoes.

She hosts two herb festivals, the first Saturday in June "Connecticut Herb Association Herbs" which attracts more than 800 at and the second in September at "NOFA's Taste! Organic Connecticut". I first met Carole at the Chai Camp, an organization that CMGA supported. She was an enthusiastic teacher introducing young people to the joy of gardening and enjoying the fruits of their labor.

Carole graduated as a Master Gardener in 2006 from the Vernon Extension Office. She is a member of NC Herb Association and the Coventry Gardeners' Market committee.

— Paul Grimmeisen



Guest speaker Carole Miller, whose presentation is entitled "Ancient Herbs, Modern Uses"

#### Directions to Elizabeth Park:

**I-84 West bound** to Exit 48 (Asylum Street). Stay to the Right on Asylum. Follow for approximately 1.8 miles. Turn left into the Pond House (1555 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford). **I-84 East bound** to Exit 44 (Prospect Ave). Straight thru stop sign. Left at right onto Prospect Avenue. Follow approximately 1.8 miles. Entrance on Left (915 Prospect Avenue, Hartford)

## CMGA Officers 2007

**President:** Billy Baxter  
293 South Orchard Street  
Wallingford, CT 06492  
Bilbax@isnet.net

**Vice-President:** Carol Quish  
89 Cedar Ridge Terrace  
Glastonbury, CT 06033  
Quishfarh@cox.net

**Treasurer:** Sandy Myhalik  
89 Ely Road  
Farmington, CT 06032  
Myhalik@comcast.net

**Secretary:** Diana Ringelheim  
121 Godfrey Road  
Fairfield, CT 06825  
Diana@Ringelheim.com

**Membership:** John Neff  
18 Knollwood Road  
Farmington, CT 06032  
jneff@comcast.net

### Cooperative Extension Center Coordinators (by County):

<b>Fairfield:</b>	<b>Sandi Wilson</b> Sandra.wilson@uconn.edu
203-207-3262	
<b>Fairfield</b> (Stamford):	<b>Regina Campfield</b> mastergardener@bartlettarboretum.org
203-372-6971	
<b>Hartford:</b>	<b>Sarah Bailey</b> Sarah.bailey@uconn.edu
860-570-9010	
<b>Litchfield:</b>	<b>Pat Eldredge</b> Patricia.eldredge@uconn.edu
860-626-6240	
<b>Middlesex:</b>	<b>Carol Gregoire</b> carol.gregoire@uconn.edu
860-345-4511	
<b>New Haven:</b>	<b>Judith Hsiang</b> Judith.hsiang@uconn.edu
203-407-3167	
<b>New London:</b>	<b>Susan Munger</b> Susan.munger@uconn.edu
860-885-2823	
<b>Tolland:</b>	<b>Kay Varga</b> kay.varga@uconn.edu
860-870-6934	
<b>Windham:</b>	<b>Kim Kelly</b> kimberly.kelly@uconn.edu
860-774-9600	

**UConn Home & Garden  
Education Center:**  
877-486-6271 [www.canr.uconn.edu/garden](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/garden)

**UConn Liaison:**  
Leslie Alexander 860-486-6343  
leslie.alexander@uconn.edu

**CMGA website:** [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org)  
Webmistress: Amy Talbot

**The Laurel:**  
Hilary Forsyth [rayhbf@optonline.net](mailto:rayhbf@optonline.net)  
Diana Ringelheim [Diana@Ringelheim.com](mailto:Diana@Ringelheim.com)

## CMGA President's message

### CMGA report

A number of good things are now happening in your association. On Saturday, December 1st, we are having our annual meeting at the Pond House at Elizabeth Park in Hartford. We will have a continental breakfast followed by our annual meeting and our speaker Carole Mill. Further details of the meeting and of Carole's presentation appear on page 1.

Your board has worked hard this year to keep our dues at \$20. for this coming year. It was a difficult decision, due to the financial problems we had encountered earlier this year in canceling our Spring Symposium. That also reminds me that we are moving along well on our plans for the 2008 CMGA Symposium "Gardens By Design", which is to be held on Saturday, March 29th, 2007 (with Sunday March 30th being set as the snow date). Be sure to save the date: we have a wonderful line-up of presenters for this event.

We are sending out CMGA membership renewal applications in the latest edition of *The Laurel* (see page 15). Your timely response would be greatly appreciated as this would help us get our finances under control more quickly. Membership of the CMGA is open to all Connecticut certified Master Gardeners, including those MGs who are graduating this year.

We are planning some significant changes to our website. We have decided to up-date our site to provide more information to our members. Amy Talbot has been responsible for maintaining the site and doing a great job. You can read all about the website on page 3, and check out our website at [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org).

We look forward to seeing many of you at the annual meeting on Saturday, December 1st at Elizabeth Park.

**Billy Baxter**  
CMGA President

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*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](mailto:rayhbf@optonline.net), or by mail to 94 Birchwood Road, Stamford CT 06907.

**Deadline for February 2008 edition:** January 1st, 2008

### More and More Gardeners are Digging Up Information at the CMGA Website

Are you one of the 25,000 visitors who have checked out the CMGA website ([www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org)) in the last year? Since the site was redesigned in May 2006, the number of people we are reaching has really blossomed, with CMGA members and other horticulture enthusiasts coming to learn more about the great work we are doing and gardening goings-on in the state.

Though there are some areas of the site exclusive to registered CMGA members, almost all information is available to anyone who is interested. Click on the *About CMGA* tab to read about our mission, the association's history, membership, and upcoming meetings. We hope that this information will be helpful to Certified Master Gardeners who are considering membership, and possibly, a resource for people outside the organization who may benefit from our expertise.

The *CMGA Projects* section highlights community projects that members are leading around the state, and the *Want to Volunteer?* section lists outreach opportunities by county. Those who would like to dedicate their time or who need to fulfill requirements for MG or AMG certification can often find interesting options right in their areas. The *Events* and *Education* components

provide information about upcoming classes and gardening-related events - whether sponsored by CMGA or not - plus links to updated Master Gardener Program news on the UConn Home & Garden Center website.

Current CMGA members are encouraged to register on the site, which also allows them to access archived, full-color issues of *The Laurel*, converse with other CMGA members on the message board, and opt-in to emails about local classes and volunteer opportunities. The registration process is free and very simple, and as the site evolves, there is likely to be more content just for registered members.

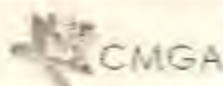
Ultimately, the website should be an easy-to-use tool that, along with *The Laurel*, helps to inform and excite CMGA members, and connects them with opportunities to learn and give back to their communities. If there are other things you like to see on the site or if you have information to share (success stories, volunteer opportunities, events, etc), please contact me at [amytalbot2@comcast.net](mailto:amytalbot2@comcast.net) or call 860-295-1433.

- Amy Talbot

### The CMGA Message Board Makes It Easy to Connect With Others

The CMGA message board is like an online discussion group where Certified Master Gardeners can exchange ideas and information with each other. Click on a subject, such as "Gardening Tips and Tricks" or "I'm Searching For . . .", and it is very simple to give your two cents on messages already listed on the board or to post a new message. You can choose to receive an email when someone responds to your post, or you can view responses on a future visit to the site.

The message board is an exclusive CMGA member benefit and only accessible to registered users of the site, who will see "Message Board" in the list of tabs on the left hand side of the Welcome page. Site registration is open to all current CMGA members, and directions are on the site. Registration is free, simple, and quick.



### Connecticut Master Gardener Association



Learn the latest horticultural news, get the most up-to-date information on gardening with others through gardening co-ordinating activities, or help us protect the state's scarce resources by being a volunteer and beautify our communities. [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org)

Welcome to the CMGA website! Pictured above is the interesting and enticing front page that greets visitors to the CMGA website at [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org).

### In celebration of a year of achievements

We celebrate the graduating Master Gardener class of 2007, the three, new, enterprising coordinators who are becoming acclimated to the frantic pace of this program, the six seasoned coordinators who graciously added to their already overfull schedules to facilitate our transition, the CMGA who persevere, promote, and provide for Master Gardener Program and Dean Nancy Bull, Dr Mary Musgrave, Dr Tom Morris and Dawn Pettinelli who have worked to ensure the continued support for this dynamic program.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers, mentors, faculty and staff members who made this year a success. Three of the extension offices were without their Master Gardener coordinators for extended periods of time. Several staff members and Advanced Master Gardener mentors contributed their time and effort to make sure that the offices functioned, classes were moderated and students advised.

Special thanks to Advanced Master Gardeners Sally Carbone and Marie Dube who filled in on numerous occasions in the Middlesex and New Haven offices respectively and Kay Varga who graciously volunteered to help in the Tolland County office and who, despite knowing the tremendous amount of work involved, accepted the position of coordinator for that office.

In the middle of January, with the 2007 Master Gardener classes underway, I focused on the pile of regis-

tration forms that had been sitting on my desk for months, with more coming in every day, and a data base that was not friendly: help was needed. I made a request for assistance in The Laurel and AMG Jay Deming called, said he needed a challenge and found it fun working with Access data base program. He reworked the data base and with the assistance of AMG Richard Palazzo spent hours getting the classes, students, addresses and emails in order and accessible. AMG Tulay Luciano and MG students Mary Alexander and Lynn Rugh have been volunteering their time and skills to keep mounds of paperwork organized. Many thanks.

On the horizon we are contemplating a 2008 fall tour of some of the remarkable Litchfield County gardens to be followed up with a reception at a fabulous location. Work continues on creating Garden Master classes that will challenge, educate and entertain. Our focus is to create a core group of classes that will be offered on a rotating basis at locations around the state. Implementing the "train the trainer" ideal, we hope that many of these classes will eventually be offered by AMGs and Master Gardener Coordinators.

My special thanks to all of you. Your patience, assistance, suggestions and commitment have made it possible for this year of transition to be a success.

- Leslie Alexander

State Coordinator UConn Master Gardener Program

### Garden Master Classes : Fall/Winter 2007/2008

Date and Time	Location	Class and Instructor
November 3, 2007: 10:00AM—Noon	New Haven County Extension Center	<b>Introduction to the Kingdom of Fungi</b> —Dianna Smith
November 6, 2007: 6:00PM—8:00PM	Middlesex County Extension Center	<b>Latin for Gardeners</b> —Thomas A. Sievel
November 13, 2007:	New Haven County Extension Center	<b>Soil Sense &amp; Sustainability</b> —Dawn Pettinelli
November 17, 2007: 10AM—12:30PM	Norwich Extension Center	<b>Make a Living Wreath</b> —Susan Munger & Carol Gregoire
November 17, 2007: 10:00AM—Noon	Goodwin Forest, Hampton CT	<b>Dormant Tree Identification</b> —Emily Komenski
December 4, 2007: 10AM—Noon	UConn Plant Science Research Farm, Storrs	<b>Woody Plant Propagation</b> Greg Torney and Leslie Alexander
January 12 & 26, 2008: 9:30AM—12:30PM	Litchfield County Extension Center	<b>Livable Garden Design</b> -Sarah Bailey
January 17, 2008: 10AM—Noon	Computer Lab at UConn Stamford	<b>Be Powerful with Powerpoint</b> —James Kaechele
January 22, 2008: Noon—3PM	Windham Cooperative Ext. Center	<b>Watercolor in Winter</b> —Jan McCulloch
January 31, 2008: 9:00AM—Noon	Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford	<b>Ready, Set, Teach</b> —James Kaechele
February 13, 2008: 2:00—4:30PM	Fairfield County Extension Office	<b>Pruning Tips and How-To's</b> —Carol Beerbaum
February 16, 2008: 9:00—11:00AM	Litchfield County Extension Center	<b>Bonsai Basics</b> —David Silver
February 26, 2008: 6:00—8:00PM	Hartford County Extension Center	<b>What's New for the 2008 Landscape?</b> - Chris Valley
March 4, 2008: 2:00—4:00PM	Fairfield County Extension Office	<b>The Other www: White Grubs, Woolly Adelgids and Weevils</b> - Dr. Richard Cowles
March 15, 2008: 9:00—11:00AM	Litchfield County Extension Center	<b>Fundamentals of Water Gardening</b> —David Silver

Full details of these and other Garden Master Classes : [www.ladybug.uconn.edu/](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/). Telephone 1-860-486-6343

### Litchfield County MGs pitch in at Goshen Fairgrounds and plan a garden tour

Graduation time is almost here for the Master Gardener Class of 2007 and we are busy planning for, and taking applications for, the 2008 class. It is the great never-ending cycle of Master Gardening.

Since the North Region classes were in West Hartford this year my load in Torrington was lighter, but not less interesting, than last year. We had a great group of students this year who did an interesting variety of outreach projects. Some highlights of these projects are:

The Northwest Conservation District Plant Sale (Earth Day weekend at the Goshen Fairgrounds) always attracts a lot of student participation. It is an intense few days of work to set up the sale and then help answer the public's gardening questions. The Conservation District is looking forward to our participation again next year.

One of our students worked with students at a grade school to establish a garden on the school grounds. They spent many enjoyable hours caring for the garden and even started a garden club. These young people could be future Master Gardeners.

The Goshen Fair (Labor Day weekend) is another popular outreach activity. Every year many of our students man a Master Gardener information booth at the fair. It is a great way to interact with the public in a fun atmosphere.

So now we are winding down and winding up at the same time. Classes will be back in Torrington in 2008 and I am receiving lots of applications as well as calls from new people who have outreach opportunities for us.

Another fun project for 2008 - Sarah Bailey and I are hoping to do a Litchfield County Master Gardener's garden tour next summer. We recently visited several gardens and they looked great. If people are interested in helping, or having their garden on the tour, please let Sarah or me know.

- Pat Eldredge  
Coordinator, Litchfield County Extension Center

### MGs at Norwich Extension help nurture "America in Bloom"

By the end of October, Master Gardeners will have attended at least three agricultural fairs in southeastern Connecticut.

The rain garden plants installed last spring have all survived, with the possible exception of a New York aster, and in spite of sawfly larvae eating the hibiscus leaves mercilessly. We carry on amidst the noise and dust of the construction at the technical college.

AMG classes will be offered on Geology of Connecticut (Oct 20), Ferns, Indoors and Outdoors (Oct 27), and on Living Wreaths (Nov 17).

Adrienne Loweth of this year's class has undertaken an interesting outreach project that she expects to continue with next year. Working with a person at UConn at Avery Point, she is studying a pond near the campus where invasives are driving out native flora and where periodic influxes of salt water effect the ecology of the pond. She has identified the plants around the pond and hopes that in the future the pond can be restored and invasives controlled.

Master Gardeners Stan Kaplan and Charlie Tefft volunteered with the Norwich committee preparing the city for the "America in Bloom" program. The committee, which began meeting late last year, was led by Joyce and Dave Hart, owners of Hart's Greenhouses & Florist. They organized beautification in neighborhoods, parks, downtown, the Pawtitive Dog Park, and made sure trash was picked up. When the judges came they had nothing but the highest of praise for the city. Congratulations to Stan and Charlie for being part of such a successful project.

**Late breaking news!** Norwich won the Meister Media Worldwide Heritage Preservation Award, one of eight special awards given at the 6th annual America in Bloom Symposium and Awards Program.

- Susan Munger,  
Coordinator, Norwich Extension Center

## UConn Poinsettia Cultivar Trials

An open house and grower evaluation will be held on **Thursday, November 15, 2007** from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Floriculture Greenhouses on Route 195 on the Storrs campus of University of Connecticut.

Students and growers will have the opportunity to view and evaluate the newest and best cultivars from Dummen USA (Red Fox), EcoStar, Fischer USA, Paul Ecke Ranch, and Selecta First Class.

Registration is **free**. Growers can walk through the cultivar trials and evaluate varieties on their own. Handouts will be available and University of Connecticut researchers will be on hand to answer questions.

Contact: Dr. Richard McAvoy, University of Connecticut.  
Phone: 860-486-0627; email [richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu](mailto:richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu)

### A busy summer keeps Middlesex County MGs on the move . . .

The Middlesex County Master Gardener office in Haddam has been a very busy place for the past few months. Since I arrived here as the new coordinator in July, and began meeting the interns, we have been riding a surge of enthusiasm generated and re-generated by the class of 2007 as they produced their outreach projects, answered a myriad of gardening questions for the general public, and eased the office re-organization process, and my acclimatization. My first month on the job was rounded out nicely by the invitation to be a guest on the radio program, *Connecticut Outdoors*, aired by WMRD, and talking about - what else? The University of Connecticut Master Gardener Program.

August was no less interesting with the Diagnostic Clinic set for the first week, Tree/Shrub/Vine Projects coming in for review, and gardening questions from the public in abundance. We continued to sort out the office, inventory the book collection, and get to know each other. Working with Susan Munger, my counterpart in New London County proved to be a joy. Thanks Susan!

As inquiries began to wane with the arrival of the Labor Day holiday, time seemed to evaporate as we prepared for the Final Practicum, reviewed outreach projects, counted up office hours, and sent folks off to the local fairs. Our Middlesex County Extension Office Open House on September 15th was a delightful day. Interns Betsey Broomall and Susan Lardner greeted the public and answered their diagnostic questions while I gave a presentation on planning a Spring garden. We offered forsythia plants, daffodil bulbs, and gently used garden related books for a modest donation to the Master Gardener Program.

Now that Fall has settled in, our Master Gardener 2007 Graduation plans are well underway. We will harvest our newest crop of Master Gardeners on October 30. Congratulations to all of you! We are hard at work developing our Advanced Master Gardener Class Schedule. Two classes to be offered in Haddam will be Garden Tool Maintenance, on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, and Latin for Gardeners on November 6. Questions coming into the office are picking up again, and we are looking ahead to our 2008 class. There is always something going on here in Middlesex County. It is an exciting, exhilarating, and most rewarding place to be. Come on down, I'll show you the great click beetle that just came in...

- Carol Gregoire  
Coordinator, Middlesex County

### . . . While New Haven County MGs find a new classroom

Things are settling into a smooth routine at the New Haven MG office. I took over the position of New Haven County Coordinator in July 2007, and my first challenge was to find a location for the 2008 MG class. The ACES classroom that had been used by the MG Program for several years, had been rented out, and at a much higher rate.

After 6 weeks of searching, with the help of MGs and others, we have confirmed a fine location: the Carnegie House at Edgerton Park on Whitney Avenue near the New Haven/Hamden line. Not only is it a lovely park, but it offers several outreach opportunities and new exposure to area gardeners — our future Master Gardeners.

I would like to acknowledge and thank New Haven Master Gardeners who kept the office going and blooming during the spring and summer, when the office had no coordinator. At the grave risk of leaving someone out, they (alphabetically) are:

Susan Abbett, Carolyn Bernard, Marie-Luise Blue, Marvin Carley, Marie Dube, Gail Eisenhauer, Allison Menendez, MaryLee Obert, Neal Peckham, Mary Quinlan, Lynn Rook and Ellie Tessmer. Grateful thanks to Leslie Alexander, for hiring me on, and to all of the coordinators, particularly, Sandi Wilson, who will be shepherding me through the 2008 MG class.

### New Volunteer opportunities for MGs in New Haven County:

ACES, which runs high schools for those whose disabilities are not served by their home town schools, and serves adults through ACES ACCESS, and our New Haven center 4-H, have been awarded a U.S. Department of Education grant to establish a new program, "Gardening For Life". This program will develop a sustainable nursery business in cooperation with the horticulture program at Wallingford's Lyman High School. Master Gardeners are invited to become part of this new venture beginning in November 2007.

- Jude Hsiang  
Coordinator, New Haven County

### Be a Master Gardener Mentor!

Become a Mentor to students in the MG classes. Mentoring is one of the best ways to give back to the Master Gardener Program. Stay involved in the world of Master Gardeners and hone your gardening, teaching and diagnostic skills.

Interested? Contact Sarah Bailey at 860-570-9010, email Sarah.bailey@uconn.edu, or get in touch with your local MG Class coordinator (see listing on page 2).

## Bartlett MGs share their knowledge and skills

What is a Master Gardener to do? At the Bartlett there are many, many answers to this question. This autumn one had the opportunity to learn to cook, take an AMG class on Bonsai or on African Violets, pick up a lecture on Native Plants by staff horticulturalist, Eric Morgan, or visit with MG friends at the Annual Herb Garden Tea. Most of these activities are the result of Master Gardeners' work and kindness. There is a vibrant community of Master Gardeners who love to be involved and generously share their time and talents in this part of the state.

Melba Greishaber, MG 2005, taught an AMG Class called Bonsai for Beginners. Melba is an experienced Bonsai gardener and made the concepts she discussed approachable and understandable to her students. Her years of teaching experience in Stamford Public Schools came into play as she instructed and guided her novice and experienced students in pruning, wiring and planting their tiny Junipers in the appropriate containers. Under her direction Master Gardeners created bonsai in the style of "father and son" and cascade forms.

A big thank you goes to the Herb Garden group at the Bartlett for the lovely tea they created for our Master Gardeners in October. Each of the group members baked or prepared an herbal specialty dish. The platters of treats not only tasted wonderful but were beautifully presented and were decorated with fresh herbs. A large basket filled with freshly picked herbs took center stage on the table. It was a feast for the eyes and olfactory glands as well as for the palate. Recipes were shared, plants were discussed and friendships grew.

Earl Utter is a member of the 2007 MG class, and also Secretary for the Connecticut State African Violet society, and an African Violet judge for the tri-state area. Earl not only taught an excellent AMG class on African Violets but he also brought plants and goodie bags for all and provided the snacks too. Earl's first attempts at PowerPoint resulted in an eye-pleasing presentation and a well-organized talk for his audience. By way of warm up, he covered the history of African violets and discussed flower and leaf shapes. Earl explained the care and culture and really opened up on methods of propagation. He showed several techniques for watering these plants, including tools and tricks that he uses. He explained and demonstrated potting up and potting down of the plants.

"Harvest Cooking with Herbs" was a class taught by Pam Carey, MG Intern in the class of 2007. Pam is a professional chef and caterer and teaches a great cooking session. Not only does she cover ingredients, preparation and cooking techniques but she also tutors her gathered students in knife skills and use of unusual kitchen tools. Pam's focus for this class was on recipes that incorporated herbs in the preparation and she used the same herbs for decoration in the presentation of the finished dish.

All in all, it has been a busy autumn and the best part of it all is sharing time and learning experiences with Master Gardeners.

*-Regina Campfield  
MG Class Coordinator, Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford*

## New Britain Community Garden at Corbin Heights housing project

The New Britain Community Garden was set up in a large open field in the middle of the Corbin Heights housing project, located in northwest New Britain. Ten beds were built and filled with soil on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>, and planting day was on the following Saturday. Eight of the ten beds were taken by interested residents.

The remaining two beds were reserved for the youth of the community. The intent of the project was to provide residents with a nice location to grow their vegetables and flowers and to get the young people of the community involved as a deterrent to joining gangs. In addition, it teaches and shows the youngsters where their food comes from. Only time will tell if the project can help deter them from joining gangs.

Harvesting has been going on for quite some time now, with all beds being very productive. Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, beans, herbs and summer squash are just some of the produce being grown. A second crop of herbs and beans has been planted in some of the beds. By mid-summer, the participating residents had pretty much taken over the care of the garden. A peace garden is still in the works but has not yet been installed. The plan calls for an additional ten beds to be installed next year and hopefully the involvement of more residents and young people.

Sarah Bailey, MG coordinator at West Hartford, MG

interns for 2007 Donald Lukaszek, Sandra Magana and Abe Warner-Prouty all contributed their time and expertise to this project.

*- Donald Lukaszek, MG Class of 2007*



*Mid-summer at Corbin Heights: All 10 of the raised beds at the New Britain Community Garden are full and the harvest has begun. Plans for next year—more beds and a kids' garden program—are well underway.  
Photo: Sarah Bailey*

## Goodwin State Forest

As Master Gardeners we are always searching for places, people, and plants (of course) that will satisfy our hunger for knowledge, experience and beauty. Sometimes our 'garden adventures' take us far and wide, while others are right under our noses, or in this case, right up the road. Nestled in Eastern CT, right off of busy Rte 6 is the Goodwin Forest and Conservation Center encompassing 2000 acres of stunning beauty abutting the Natchaug forest, a mere 12,900 acres. But before I begin singing the praise of the passionate people that have helped to nurture this very special place, let us take a walk back in time.

Back in the 1900's hardly anyone gave a thought to the despoliation of our environment. But when James L. Goodwin graduated from the Yale School of Forestry in 1910, he was interested and educated in a newly born conservation movement, which grew out of the shocking depletion of American Forests. The classroom led him to the forest and in 1913 Goodwin purchased 28 acres of what would become Pine Acres Farm. He added acreage every year and in 1915, after tearing down the derelict farmhouse, his brother, Philip L. Goodwin, designed and built the farmhouse that stands to this day.

Through the many years Goodwin established management plans for both forest products and fire prevention, all the while experimenting with different timber plantations for production of posts, pilings, pulpwood, Christmas trees and even orchards. Not all of these endeavors were successful, as with the 10,000 Scotch pines he planted in 1923, whose trunks were too crooked for timber. The 1938 hurricane struck wreaking incredible damage, which took four years and many men to clean up and salvage what could be saved.

Mr. Goodwin's effort went beyond his Pine Acres Farm. In 1913 he voluntarily made the first survey of the location of Connecticut's future state parks as the Field Secretary of the new State Park Commission. In 1923 he helped organize the Talcott Mountain Forest Protective Association, which worked to protect members' properties covering 11,200 acres in Avon, Granby, Bloomfield, Farmington, Simsbury, and West Hartford. In 1930 Mr. Goodwin acquired a 300 acre tract in Simsbury which became the Great Pond Nursery and Tree Farm, the first certified tree farm in Connecticut. In 1967 Mr. Goodwin willed the Great Pond Tree Farm to the State of Connecticut as a state forest.

Over the years his impact was immeasurable. He was an honored member of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, and in 1919 was one of the first in the US to become a licensed Tree Expert. He devoted his life to making this a better world. In 1964 Pine Acre Farm was presented to the State of Connecticut and renamed the James L Goodwin State Forest. The terms of the gift set aside the farmhouse and about 80 acres as the James L Goodwin Conservation Education Center. With incredible foresight and generosity he also established a trust to help fund the Center. James L Goodwin died on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1967, leaving a legacy that has been continued by dedicated Center directors.



*Gardens at the James L. Goodwin Conservation Education Center are designed to promote the widespread use of native plants and their many environmental and cultural benefits*

Over the years there have been only three Center directors, each pursuing the dream that Mr. Goodwin had of a vibrant Conservation Education Center. The third and most recent director was the late Richard D. Haley. Richard D. Haley (1962-2006) was director of the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center from 1992-2002. Under his guidance, the Center thrived, teaching and inspiring thousands of school children annually. His strong conservation ethic and passion for native plants left a legacy that has inspired a team of volunteers to fulfill his vision for the Goodwin grounds.

Fast forward to 2007 and the Center, due in part to the determination of UCONN Cooperative Extension forester Steve Broderick, is again fulfilling the dreams of Mr Goodwin and others. Today we are hard at work developing the Richard Haley Native Plant Wildlife Gardens located on the Center's grounds. A growing number of trained volunteers are now committed to improving and maintaining the Goodwin Center gardens. Significant contributions have been made by landscape architect Barbara Yeager, who did the initial design; Advanced Master Gardeners Anne Latham and Diane Angotta; Master Gardeners Sarah Gworek and Cynthia Achten; DEP staff Rowan Saylor; and many Master Gardener interns who have worked tirelessly to help install and maintain these gardens. In addition the CMGA selected this project to be the recipient of outreach funds for 2007. Ecologist Deb Lee and UConn's wildlife biologist Jack Barclay are contributing their expertise as well.

These gardens are designed to promote the widespread use of native plants and their many environmental and cultural benefits. Native plant landscapes create a deeper awareness of issues such as biodiversity, conservation and restoration, invasive species management and habitat loss. There are many other attractions at the Goodwin Forest, from horse trails, to

*(Continued on page 9)*



### Windham County MGs share their bounty

Begun in 2005, the People's Harvest Master Gardener project is located in Mashamoquet State Park in scenic Pomfret, CT. It continues to operate and thrive as one of our proudest projects of the Windham County Master Gardener outreach program.

The People's Harvest is a food rescue and sustainable agriculture education project. Its mission is simple: plan the garden, cultivate, grow and finally harvest and distribute summer's bounty to those in need. This year, through the efforts of many, we delivered over six thousand pounds of fresh produce to 18 homeless shelters and food kitchens in Windham County.

The garden is located in the pristine woods of Pomfret just off of scenic Rte 169. We are fortunate to have a working partnership with the state park and are able to utilize their barn for our storage needs. Sometimes when this author has been tying tomatoes or pulling weeds, we witnessed the humbling experience of a weeks-old fawn grazing in the wild meadow beyond the garden fence.

This garden is big, beautiful and bountiful, due to the hard work and commitment of Master Gardeners. It boasts 9 plots each of which are approximately 30' x 90'



L-R: People's Harvest volunteers Dr. Bob Stetson and Jim Raynor chat with Windham County MG coordinator Kim Kelly



People's Harvest : Left field, approximately five weeks after planting (July 12, 2007)

and carrying a specific crop or mixed plantings. This year a gravity-fed irrigation system was set up and although some kinks need to be worked out, we are confident it will serve our needs in the future.

In May we had a big work day with students from the North East Regional School. With their help we installed a sub-ground woodchuck fence around the entire perimeter! This, along with our above ground deer fence, was very successful. Overall we had very few pest problems. Last, but definitely not least, this garden is entirely organic.

Although there were too many names to list, we would like to recognize Kim Kelly, Windham County MG coordinator for her support and efforts for this project. The camaraderie and shared knowledge that comes from just spending time in the field with our peers is a rich experience indeed. Knowing that our efforts will benefit those less fortunate is a rewarding feeling.

- Laurie Waite  
MG Class of 2007  
NOFA - Accredited Land Care Provider

### Goodwin State Forest (cont.)

(Continued from page 8)

letterboxing, self-guided forestry tours, to the Blue-Blazed Natchaug Trail and the Airline trail. Along with the Yale Forest, the Nipmuck and Natchaug State Forests, and Bigelow Hollow State Park, the Goodwin State Forest creates one of the largest protected greenways in Southern New England.

With so many contributing so much over the years, it is easy to see why the James L. Goodwin Center is so special. With easy access, right off of Rte 6 in Hampton, CT, it is well worth a day trip. Or if you are interested in getting involved please call Kimberly Kelly at either

860-455-9534 or 860-774-9600, or email: [Kimberly.Kelly@uconn.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Kelly@uconn.edu)

- Kim Kelly  
Coordinator, Windham County

Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center  
Goodwin Trails: Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.  
Conservation Center: Please call before visiting to ensure an educator is available.  
(860) 455-9534 Phone; (860) 455-9857 Fax  
23 Potter Road, Hampton, CT 06226

## Asylum Hill Community Garden

### This Garden Angel Had Wheels....

One of this year's projects – a community garden in Hartford, to be built jointly by the Master Gardeners and the Asylum Hill Congregational Church, and involving the Asylum Hills Boys & Girls Club, has had its share of challenges. Master Gardener and project coordinator Mary-Jo Torcello has doggedly shepherded this project through the sometimes conflicting agendas of the member organizations, delayed materials deliveries, and the problems inherent with a vacant urban lot.

Nonetheless, Mary-Jo's efforts and those of interns



*Master Gardener Intern Mary Lou Prange and Master Gardener Al Kennedy work with Asylum Hill Congregational Church's Director of Outreach Ministries Fredd Ward and his son Nathaniel spreading bark mulch at the new community garden on Huntington Street.*

*Photo: Sarah Bailey*

Mary-Lou Prange and SallySue Girolamo have resulted in the first 20 garden beds being built, filled and put to use. (When Fredd Ward, Director of Outreach Ministries for the church met me for the first time, he was so relieved I only had one first name!) Ten beds were planted with vegetables for the Boys & Girls Club to harvest this fall, and community residents filled the remainder. Trash and other detritus were cleared and – of course – the weeds followed.

Bark chips were the mulch of choice, and the task was to find enough to cover a city building lot. In September, a work day was planned to clear the fencelines and spread loads of mulch. Volunteers were recruited and we were ready to go!

One slight problem. No piles of mulch. The supplier who had said he could donate mulch apparently fell through without notice. We decided to plug on and at least clear the weeds and invasives.

An hour or so later, I looked up to see a large Sava-Tree truck parked on the street. "Fredd," I said, "is that the guy who was supposed to deliver the mulch?"

It was not. It was, however, a truck full of bark chips. Right here. Right now. Hey, no harm in asking.....

Giovanni was puzzled, but very helpful. He couldn't stop now – he was running late – but he said he'd come back in a few hours. At that point, he'd have even more chips.....When he did come back he unloaded a full truck, including eight stump segments that are just perfect for seats. In a subsequent call to thank the company, a promise to provide the rest of the chips we need was offered.

Garden angels come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Sometimes, they even have wheels.

*- Sarah Bailey  
Coordinator, Hartford County*

## Foodshare Garden at 4H Resource Farm in Bloomfield

### Five years and still growing!

The first set of 20 raised beds was installed in the Master Gardener Foodshare Garden at the 4H Resource Farm in Bloomfield this year and the results were superb. More intensive production, fewer weeds and focused watering led to over a ton of produce for Foodshare, all grown in a sustainable, organic manner.

The fun new crop this year – sweet potatoes! Many, many thanks to Master Gardener Marlene Mayes and her husband Ed for steering this garden through a long summer of little rain and lots of projects.

*- Sarah Bailey  
Coordinator, Hartford County*



*The raised beds at the Foodshare Garden, pictured above on Labor Day, yielded over a ton of produce*

*Photo: Sarah Bailey*

## Focus Groups

### Middlesex County Extension Open House

A weather forecast of impending showers did nothing to dampen the spirit of the Middlesex County CMGA Focus Group's enthusiasm for participating in the Middlesex County Extension Open House held on Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Preparation for the event began Friday with harvesting produce, and general clean up of the garden to ready it for tours. A fall display was built outside the fence to attract passers by the next day. Handouts were printed detailing the various materials that had been used in building the fence, soil amendments, seeds and plants, rain barrels as one of two water sources, mulch, and organic pest control. A Spring Garden Basket complete with over 200 bulbs, fertilizer, gloves, hand tools, books and other gardening essentials was crafted and donated by focus group members to the Extension Council for raffle.

The day of the Open House was a bit wet and dreary. The arrival of colorful 'mums to be sold to fund projects in 2008 started lifting spirits immediately. Instead of the beautiful fall sky we had hoped for, up sprung several canopies to keep us dry. Becki Connell immediately began to set up her display enticing visitors to take a chance on winning a 300 square foot garden design as an additional fund raiser.

Another table set up right outside the model community garden was manned by other members to answer questions, provide handouts, accompany visitors through the garden and share all we have gained by designing, building and maintaining this project. Many of the visitors had seen the garden from the road and were curious about it. The garden drew a lot of interest and questions, and this event gave us the opportunity to encourage people to plan for their own vegetable gardens next year. We are here as a resource to the community, and we can provide information to enable



*Middlesex MG Class coordinator Carol Gregoire takes charge of the MG Program display table  
Photo: Joel Stocker, UCann Cooperative Extension*

them do it right the first time.

Inside the building a photo display by Dianne LaRosa story-boarding the progress of the garden shared an information table with the Master Gardeners. John Gibson spoke to visitors on the topic of fall lawn care and contributed home made spelt bread to the refreshments being served by extension staff.

Focus group members staffing this event were: Betsey Broomall, Becki Connell, Marsha Dowling, Jackie Fantasia, Marisa Fede, John Gibson, Barbara Glista, Gerri Jacobson, Dianne LaRosa, Fern Martin, Jerome Zabiski and Terry Zabiski.

*- Marsha Dowling*

### What is a Master Gardener Focus Group, and how can I get involved?

My name is Marsha Dowling. With the commitment of fellow Master Gardeners I helped form what is now known as "The Middlesex County CMGA Focus Group".

It all started with a letter going out to Master Gardeners and interns in Middlesex County. The letter stated I was looking for a venue to connect with members interested in promoting the purpose of the CMGA, specifically community outreach. I wondered if there were others out there who felt the same need to use the knowledge we'd gained through the program. I was willing to coordinate our meetings, and the group would decide on projects we were interested in working on. Twelve gardeners attended that first meeting.

A year later we have a successful project underway that will be an open air classroom for interns, mentors and gardeners at all levels of the program for years to come. We actively pursue community outreach through donating our harvests and willingness to share openly

our successes and failures. Recently I asked the members what they liked about the group and what has kept them involved. The answers were simple and to the point: love of gardening, sense of fellowship, opportunity to learn, and helping others.

In the future we hope to enhance our original project, start new projects that our members wish to pursue and support community activities.

I encourage all of you who are interested in forming a focus group, or becoming involved with an existing group, to do so. I am willing to share what I've learned over the past year, and eagerly look forward to hearing from some of you.

You can reach me with questions or comments at: [marsha.dowling@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marsha.dowling@sbcglobal.net) or 860-344-8307.

*- Marsha Dowling*

## Haddam Extension Community Garden Project

With September 23<sup>rd</sup> being the start of autumn it seems appropriate to share the results of the Middlesex County CMGA Focus Groups model community garden project grown on the front lawn of the Middlesex County Extension, 1066 Saybrook Road in Haddam. The garden was planted, tended and harvested by nineteen Master Gardeners and interns beginning on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The garden itself produced bountiful harvests that we didn't expect to see the first year. Together we've logged over 120 work hours with tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, spinach, and Swiss chard still growing and yet to be harvested. These dedicated gardeners have helped feed some of the more than seven hundred needy families and individuals of Middlesex County through Amazing Grace Food Pantry, St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen, and the Haddam Food Bank.

Our first dilemma was using what was supposed to be seedless straw that all of a sudden was growing everywhere faster than the plants we had put in. We quickly remedied that situation by removing all the mulch, both hand weeding and stirrup hoeing the remainder and replacing it with Mainely Mulch a sterile weed-free easy to apply mulch placed over paper that worked wonderfully for the entire season. Over the past four months we have had to contend with aphids, squash bugs, Mexican bean beetles, powdery mildew, tomato hornworms (complete with parasitic wasp larvae), and the early stage of crown gall. When necessary these were quickly brought under control by hand picking the pests, pulling the plants out and using organic Veggie Pharm Spray.

The next hurdle came when our tomato plants grew so large with so many tomatoes that the stakes could no longer support them. First we tried to tie the stakes together thinking one would support the other and keep them from falling over. One heavy rain dashed those thoughts; 30 plants lay on the ground with bent stems and lots of tomatoes weighing them down. It was then that one of our members Fern Martin, designed, built, and installed a heavy duty support system, and lifted all thirty plants to once again get them upright. You usually hear of livestock being tethered to a stanchion; our tomato plants are. We have some big plants! Not one plant succumbed to the trauma and neither did our talented gardener/inventor Fern. Our total harvests to date are: Over 900 tomatoes, 113 yellow and green squash, 459 peppers, 121 cucumbers, 4 gallon size



*"Not one plant succumbed to the trauma (of outgrowing their stakes) and neither did our talented gardener/inventor Fern Martin"*

bags of carrots, 11 1/2 gallon size bags of green beans, and a scant amount of small onions.

It has been an exciting time for our group and the Extension staff. People continue to stop by, asking for garden plans and information on various components of the project. We have learned the importance of keeping a garden journal, of sharing knowledge, fulfilling our commitment. Each and every gardener that contributed time to this garden is a credit to the UCONN Master Gardener Program, and the CMGA and its purpose. Most importantly, we are willing to share our experience with other groups interested in working projects like ours.

Master Gardeners participating in this project from inception are: Holly Baldyga, Peggy Becker, Lynn Blakely, Betsey Broomall, Becki Connell, Marsha Dowling, Jackie Fantasia, Marisa Fede, Barbara Glista, Gladys Goodale, Gerri Jacobson, Linda Kris, Jamie Kulig, Dianne LaRosa, Susan LoGatto, Fern Martin, Elizabeth Possidente, Terry Zabiski, and Jerome Zabiski.

- Marsha Dowling

### Renew your CMGA membership and keep connected!

Connecticut Master Gardener Association exists to keep Master Gardeners in touch and involved with the MG Program. Our association's aim is to support and promote the Program, providing scholarships and funding towards the costs of MG outreach projects. Membership of CMGA is open to all certified Connecticut Master Gardeners (including MG Interns who graduated this year).

As a member of CMGA, you will receive a free subscription to our quarterly newsletter, "The Laurel", as well as discounted prices on tickets for our annual March Symposium, Summer Safari garden tours and other outings and events.

Your membership subscription form appears on page 15. Thank you for your support—and welcome to the CMGA!

## Book Review: "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver

When cold weather keeps me from outside gardening, I like to be inside reading about gardening. I had the pleasure of recently reading Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, a non-fiction book about local eating, food buying and vegetable gardening. The author has written a number of other fiction novels including *The Poisonwood Bible* and *The Bean Trees*.

Her current book is a factual unfolding in story form of her and her family's pledge for one year to eat only locally grown or produced food. This sounds great in the gardening months but takes some thought and planning to stick to during the leaner, colder months. Granted their family lives in Virginia where the weather is a zone or two warmer but January and February still presented a challenge. Eating only in-season fruits and vegetables meant foregoing tropical shipped-in produce. No bananas, pineapples or citrus was a different thought for the family. Learning the arts of canning, freezing and dehydrating for food preservation were tasks the family mastered. I enjoyed their search for a local mill to grind almost-local wheat and corn into flour. Poultry was raised, farms were found for buying local beef and lamb and the farmers' markets became a mentoring place. Detailed sections on bread baking and cheese making even excited me enough to try making mozzarella with great results!

The book is a joint effort with narratives from Kingsolver's husband, Steven L. Hopp and oldest daughter, Camille Kingsolver. Steven's additions are about the science and industry of food production and a bit politi-

cal. He touches on the costs of organic versus chemical farming and the transportation impacts of hauling what we eat. Camille's essays give a college age point of view. She is studying nutrition, adding much insight into what we need to eat and why. Younger daughter, Lily, rounds out the family, but was restricted from writing because of her age. Lily did participate fully in the year-long adventure, raising chickens and turkeys from hatchlings to egg production to meat in the freezer. This part was done very tastefully (pun intended). The topic of the birds and the bees, mainly the bird part by way of the turkeys, is discussed in great detail.

Kingsolver even included a long-awaited trip to Italy with her husband, deliciously describing the food and gardens as well as the travel. Visits were also chronicled to various other states, farms, friends and families all sharing their growing expertise and food bounties. Eating locally when in a different locale, introduces us to various new varieties of vegetables and recipes. A website is maintained as the book's companion and continuation. Recipes and menus referred to in the book are posted there.

I enjoyed this book so much, I was sad when it ended. I recommend this book to vegetable gardeners, food shoppers and food eaters. A lot will be learned from this chronicle of eating locally and in season.

- Carol Quish

## Cornell Vegetable Varieties Database

Information about this database came to me from one of my garden writer friends who writes, "... The concept is that gardeners from the U.S. and Canada can go into the site and report their experience, good or bad, with one or more varieties of vegetable or herb in their garden each year. Over time as more and more gardeners offer their ratings, we will finally have a database that helps us discover those varieties of each vegetable that perform the best in our own region (eventually down to state and zip code). The database has been in operation for three years. Examples: Sungold tomato has 42 rating comments from all over the country. Brandywine tomato has 37 evaluations from all over the country. If a gardener has never heard about Sungold and has a chance to review comments by 42 vegetable gardeners, that person is going to be in a lot better position to make a good decision about whether

Sungold will work in their own garden. They have over 5000 varieties of vegetables and herbs listed in their database waiting for evaluations.

They also have excellent growing sheets for all the vegetables and herbs. It is a vegetable gardeners dream, beginner or old hand..."

Go to [www.vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu/](http://www.vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu/) to see this beauty for yourself. Wish I had known about it earlier, but better late than never. I would think our CT Master Gardeners, being the passionate and vociferous lot we are, would jump at the chance to not only avail ourselves of the info, but also to enter our own experiences into this database so we all can benefit from this collective "wisdom."

- Lorraine Ballato

## Subscription offer from *Fine Gardening* magazine

*Fine Gardening* magazine will donate \$10 to the Connecticut Master Gardener Program for each new, paid 1-, 2-, or 3-year subscription order from a gardener in Connecticut who signs up for this special offer on the *Fine Gardening* website before May 31, 2008.

Full details of this offer appear on the Home & Garden center website at [www.ladybug.uconn.edu/](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/) under "Master Gardener".

## The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
November 2, 2007 8:30AM—4:00PM	<b>"Bounty &amp; Beauty in your Yard", A SALT (Smaller American Lawns Today) Seminar.</b> Blaustein Humanities Center, Room 210, Connecticut College Arboretum. Speakers include: Patricia Klindienst, Glenn Dreyer, & Rob Durgy. Info: 860-439-5020; <a href="http://www.arboretum.conncoll.edu">www.arboretum.conncoll.edu</a>
November 9, 2007 1:30PM—2:30PM	<b>Donald Maynard Lecture: "Cruising America's highways with a map from the plant gods: A photographic tour of great public gardens in the U.S. and Canada".</b> Presented by Dr. Bob Lyons. To be held in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. <b>Free.</b> See box below for full details
November 15, 2007 10AM to 3PM	<b>University of Connecticut Poinsettia Cultivar Trials.</b> Floriculture Greenhouses on Route 195, Storrs campus. Free. See box on page 5 for further details
November 15, 2007 7:30PM	<b>"Woodland Gardens for Habitat", by Catherine Renzi (Chester Springs, PA),</b> Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Monthly meeting, CT Horticultural Society. Info: 860-529-8713, <a href="http://www.cthort.org/calendar">www.cthort.org/calendar</a>
November 27-28, 2007,	<b>Gardening Study School Course II,</b> sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Jones Auditorium, CT Agriculture Experiment Station, New Haven. Info: <a href="mailto:rodneymh@yaho.com">rodneymh@yaho.com</a>
December 1, 2007 9AM—11:30AM	<b>CMGA Annual Meeting @ The Pond House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford.</b> Guest Speaker: Carole Miller; "Ancient Herbs, Modern Uses" Details on page 1 of The Laurel
January 17, 2008 7:30PM	<b>"The Living Lawn—A Lawn for Living: Simple Steps to Organic Lawn Care, by Chip Osborne (Marblehead, MA),</b> Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Monthly meeting, CT Horticultural Society, Info: 860-529-8713, <a href="http://www.cthort.org/calendar">www.cthort.org/calendar</a>
February 21-24, 2008	<b>27<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Flower &amp; Garden Show, "Once Upon a time" @ Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT.</b> Contact: 860-844-8461 or <a href="http://www.ctflowershow.com">www.ctflowershow.com</a>
February 28, 2008 10:00AM—2:30PM	<b>Special Program Conference/"Landscaping With Native Plants @ New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.</b> Three speakers with question & answer session & open panel discussion, 10 am to 2:30 pm. Info: call 718-817-8747 or <a href="http://www.nybg.org/edu">www.nybg.org/edu</a>
March 15, 2008 10:00AM—4:00PM	<b>100 Native Plants for your Home Landscape:</b> New England Wildflower Society workshop. Yale/Peabody/ Marsh Botanic Garden, New Haven, CT. Fee. Info: <a href="http://www.newenglandWILD.org">www.newenglandWILD.org</a>
March 29, 2008 9AM—3:30PM	<b>CMGA Annual Symposium 2008: "Making Gardens By Design".</b> Manchester Community College, Manchester CT. Further details and application forms will be available early 2008.

### Donald Maynard Lecture:

November 9, 2007, 1:30PM, Konover Auditorium in the Dodd Center, UConn, Storrs.

**"Cruising America's highways with a map from the plant gods: A photographic tour of great public gardens in the U.S. and Canada."** Presented by Dr. Robert Lyons, Director of Longwood Gardens.

Dr. Lyons is a renown horticultural photographer and, prior to his current position at Longwood Gardens, he served as Director of the JC Raulston Arboretum (Raleigh, N.C.) and Director of the Virginia Tech Horticulture Gardens (Blacksburg, VA).

Dr. Lyons has given over 300 talks to professional and non-professional organizations and has received awards from the Garden Writers Association of America for both his photography and writings.

Contact: Dr. Richard McAvoy, UConn. Phone: 860-486-0627 or email: [richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu](mailto:richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu)

This event is **free** and open to all.

# CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## 2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CMGA membership for the period  
January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

Annual membership fee: \$20.00

*Membership is restricted to certified Master Gardeners*

Membership status:      Renewing member   
   2007 MG Intern

NAME (please print clearly)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in forming or participating in a  
CMGA Focus Group in your community?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in being a mentor for students  
in the Master Gardener Classes?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_

**Clip out this page and send in your membership subscription today!**

Mail your completed application, together with  
check or money order for \$20 payable to 'CMGA'

to:

**KATHY BAECHLE  
6 Christmas Tree Hill  
Canton, CT 06019**

Please cut along this line

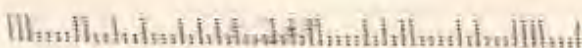
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## CMGA Annual Membership meeting

Saturday, December 1st, 2007  
@ The Pond House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford

Special guest presenter Carole Miller  
will be speaking on  
**"Ancient Herbs, Modern Uses"**  
See page 1 for directions and further details

## Time to renew your CMGA membership!

Your CMGA annual membership expires on December 31st 2007

**Your subscription will help support the MG Program**

**Membership benefits include:**  
**Free subscription** to this quarterly newsletter  
**Discounted tickets** for the March 2008 Symposium and other CMGA garden tours  
**See page 15 for your membership renewal application form**