

Connecticut Master Gardener Association

The Laurel

February, 2008

Volume 21, No. 1



**Making
Gardens
By Design**

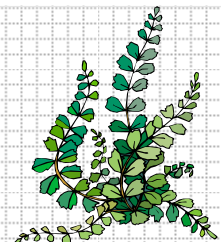
CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Annual Symposium XV

Saturday, March 29, 2008

9AM - 4:30PM

Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT
(Snow date Sunday March 30, 2008)



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

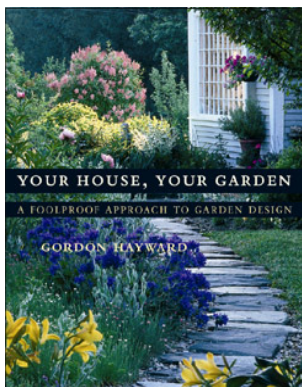
Gordon Hayward

"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 220 year old farmhouse in southern Vermont for the past twenty-four 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 front, side and back gardens

as well as gardens between buildings, gardens in an ell or courtyard, or gardens centered around outbuildings. He will explain how to create a coherent landscape plan that seamlessly links house to garden, and provide ideas for dealing with the visual problem areas around air-conditioning units, cellar door bulkheads, electrical meter boxes, propane tanks and wellheads.



CLOSING SPEAKER

Warren Leach

"Creating Inspiring Gardens - Divining Design (Sir George Sitwell meets Fletcher Steele)"

Warren Leach is co-owner of Tranquil Lake Nursery in Rehoboth, MA, the largest grower of daylilies and Siberian and Japanese Iris in the northeast. Warren is a landscape horticulturist who creates distinctive and enduring garden designs for customers at their 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/lecturer at numerous flower shows and horticultural societies throughout the eastern US, at the NY Botanical Garden Design Program and Horticulture Magazine Symposiums.

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



Warren Leach

"Making Gardens By Design"

Symposium Cost: **\$60.00 Members**
 \$60.00 MG Interns
 \$75.00 Non-Members

Driving directions to Manchester Community College: see back page

Symposium Registration inquiries:

Sandy Myhalik: 860-677-0504, myhalik@comcast.net
Registration forms may be printed out from the CMGA website, ctmga.org
Symposium timetable and details of session speakers appear on pages 6 and 7

CMGA Officers 2008

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

**Vice-
President:** John Carlson
209 Old Cart Road
Haddam, CT 06438-1272
John.I.carlson@att.net

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

Secretary: Barbara Mitchell
72 Oakengates
Avon, CT 06019
Mitchell0167@sbcglobal.net

Membership: Kathy Baechle
6 Christmas Tree Hill
Canton, CT 06019
K.baechle@comcast.net

Cooperative Extension Center Coordinators (by County):

Fairfield: Sandi Wilson
203-207-3262 Sandra.wilson@uconn.edu

**Fairfield
(Stamford):** Regina Campfield
203-322-6971 mastergardener@
bartlettarboretum.org

Hartford: Sarah Bailey
860-570-9010 Sarah.bailey@uconn.edu

Litchfield: Pat Eldredge
860-626-6240 Patricia.eldredge@uconn.edu

Middlesex: Carol Gregoire
860-345-4511 carol.gregoire@uconn.edu

New Haven: Judith Hsiang
203-407-3167 Judith.hsiang@uconn.edu

New London: Susan Munger
860-885-2823 Susan.munger@uconn.edu

Tolland: Kay Varga
860-870-6934 kay.varga@uconn.edu

Windham: Kim Kelly
860-774-9600 Kimberly.kelly@uconn.edu

UConn Home & Garden Education Center:

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

UConn Liaison:

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

CMGA website: www.ctmga.org
Webmistress : Amy Talbot

The Laurel :

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

CMGA President's message

Connecticut Master Gardeners, MG Interns and CMGA members :

The first month of 2008 has flown by, and we are already facing the challenges of the new gardening year. Don't forget your new year resolutions - among which were, no doubt, the resolutions to be better gardeners, to share your gardening knowledge, to take care of our precious environment.

Before the new year takes over, we have some very special people to recognize: all the MGs who graduated from the class of 2007, along with the MGs who attained Advanced status and those who were awarded their AMG Bronze or Silver bars. We also need to recognize the achievement of the first-ever Horticultural Professionals who graduated during 2007. A listing of all of these graduates appears on the opposite page - and on page 9 you can read Erica Carroll's entertaining description of what it takes to become a Hort Pro.

The 2008 MG classes are well under way, and we'd like to welcome all of the MG Interns for this year. And there are many of you - the MG classes throughout the State are full to capacity. We welcome MG Interns as affiliate members of CMGA for the year; this means that you will be receiving issues of this quarterly newsletter, and discounted prices on CMGA events - in particular our annual symposium.

Registration flyers for the CMGA Annual Symposium XV: "Making Gardens By Design" have already been sent out, and all of the details appear again in this edition of the CMGA newsletter. Attendance at the Symposium is limited to 400 people, so get your applications in soon to ensure a place. We have a wonderful selection of presenters who are well-known in the field of horticulture and garden design. The Symposium is just what we need to boost our spirits as winter draws to an end and spring awaits!

As well as being made available to all 2008 MG Interns, this edition of *The Laurel* is sent out to all current CMGA members, and to previous CMGA members and affiliate members who have perhaps not got around to renewing their memberships. Membership only costs \$20 for the current year, and the funds raised help us to present the annual Symposium and this newsletter, and to support the MG Program and many MG outreach projects. So join us - and keep in touch with your MG community!

With very best wishes for 2008.

Billy Baxter

Inside this issue:

	Page
CMGA Symposium 2008: Keynote and Closing Speakers ...	1
2007 MG, AMG and Hort Pro graduates.....	3
Winter 2008 Garden Master Classes	4
Extension Center reports	5
Symposium timetable and session speakers	6
Windham/Tolland MG Classes reports	8
A Horticultural Professional's take on the MG Class.....	9
"Pushing Up Daisies" : An MG's gardening mystery.....	10
The Laurel Calendar.....	11
Driving directions to MCC	12

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 2008 edition: April 1st, 2008

2007 MG, AMG and Horticultural Professional certifications

Fairfield County (Bethel and North Haven)

Meg Barnes
Starlet Braden
Peter Bull
Jan V. Carey
Susan Church
Anne W. Foster
Sheila Gervais
Dean Haines
Arlene Hoffman
Linda Jacobs
Ellen C. Koh
Clare M. Le Seelleur

Danielle Lischke
Rick Martin
Bob Merola
Robin Michalak
Claudette Michaud Amen
Debbie Mirti
Adele E. Mooney
Rita Mulvey
Carolyn Oggeri
A. Gloria Ricco
Christine Rising
Susan McL. Rosen

Tom Ryan
Irene Skrybailo-Meltzer
Roger Spencer-Jones
Virginia Teichner
Jeanette Thompson
Matt Wage
Jenny Weber
Richard Weide

Hort Pro Graduates:
Susanne E. Lambert
Sheila E. Torres

AMG certification : Bethel and North Haven

Bethel

Tanya Castiglione
Joan Miles
Mary McCarthy
Judy Schweitzer

Bronze Bar:

Nancy Baker
Lorraine Ballato

North Haven

Gail Eisenhauer
Judith Chute Hsiang

Silver Bar:

MaryLee Obert

Fairfield County (Stamford)

Mary Bopp
Emeline Bravo-Blackwood
Pam Carey
Dawn Carr
Patrick Conner
Carol Dell'Aquila
Daphne Dixon
Nedra Gillette
Pamela Hale
Henry M. Hull

Diane Hunt
Joan Krieg
Thomas Lawton
Ann Morris
Alice K. Osborn
Cassen Pjura
Brian Prosser
Mala Ranade
Daniel Schiefferle
Steve Shomstein

Laura Sprengelmeyer
Royal Stradinger
Earl J. Utter
Addison VanNess
Paul Wicht

Hort Pro Graduates:
Erica Carroll
Mary Louise Santacaterina

AMG certification : Stamford

Phyllis Atkinson
Betty Johnson
Wally Pugh

Bronze Bar:

Regina Campfield
Greg Moonie
Lillemor Wallmark

Silver Bar:

Alice Smith

Middlesex County (Haddam and New London)

Lynn Blakely
Mary A. Bowers
Robbin Boyatt
Gloria S. Bradley
Betsey Broomall
Anne Cherry
Frances S. Dallas
Mimi Dekker
Joanne DiCamillo
Maurice Dion
Barbara A. Douglas
Ellen M. Falbowski
Marisa Fede

Judith Fitzgibbons
Geraldine U. Foster
Mary Lou Gahagan
Eugene M. Henson
William J. Jacaruso
Kathleen Johnson
Katherine M. Kosiba
Linda Kriss
June Kulig
Susan H. Lardner
Susan LoGatto
Adrienne Loweth
Fernand J. Martin

Diana Matsuzaki
Claire K. Matthews
Diane Mierz
Jill Monsarrat
Lori Ann Morales
Noelle O'Connor
Barbara J. Olsen
Roberta S. Padgett
Margaret Phillips
Elizabeth M. Possidente
Priscilla Pultz
Edward R. Ricciuti
Michael H. Rottas

Sharon Sanders
Susan H. Sangster
Cynthia Shanley
Sherrin Monte Thornton
William J. Jacaruso
Susan L. Watson

Hort Pro Graduate:

Rachel Eckert

AMG certification :

New London County

Richard Palazzo

Bronze Bar:

Richard Palazzo
Jan McCue
Louisa Broadbent

Silver Bar:

Louisa Broadbent
Charlie Tefft

Torrington and West Hartford Counties

Wendy Amblo
Maggie Belcher
Sandra Blumer
Mary Bovich
David Childs
Bonnie Christopher
Irene Clark
Carl D. Contadini
Alicia Cornelio
Ellen B. Cunha
Kathy Dowling
Eva Espinosa
Betsy Fackler

Maureen Farmer
SallySue D. Girolamo
Leslie Grey
Tom Grigaitis
Denise Grippo
Edeline Kalbach
Margaret Kassner
Patty Kent
Lisa Linehan
Claudia Ludovici
Donald Lukaszek
Saundra Magana
Rebecca Martorelli

Victoria McCarthy
Christopher Meade
Elaine D. Naczkowski
Kathleen Narowski
Mary Lou Prange
Carol Reffel
Lynn Rugh
Anne Sargent
Suzanne Sayers
Lenore Schack
Brenda Schaufler
Rebecca Sisson
Cynthia Smith

Nancy Statchen
Jean St. Clair
Dona J. Tutunjian
Abraham Warner-Prouty
Anna Webersen
Uta R. Zickfeld
Margaret M. Zorn

Hort Pro Graduates:

Victoria McCarthy
Stephen Sears

AMG certification :

West Hartford County

Christina Beebe
Claudia Blozy
Nancy Dreyer
Sandra Goralnick
Nancy L. House
Diane Mudano
Joan Stubenrauch
Thomas G. Traver
Ellen Weingold
Bronze Bar:
Susan Popovitch
Sarah Bailey

Windham and Tolland Counties

Theresa Aleman
Mary Alexander
Marie Arsenault
Annalisa Brassard
Linda DiPasquale
David Fiorio
Rosemary Hathaway
Laureen Hegan
Sharlet Hull

Pam Landry
Todd LaPointe
Jeff LeMay
Stephen Murray
Norma Nichols
Anne O'Connor
Janice Patry
Meredith Poehlitz
George Smith

Dave Thatcher
Sue Thatcher
Mary Jane Tynan
Sharon Voorvaart
Laurie Waite
Douglas Ward
E. John White
Anne Wiant-Rudd

AMG certification : Windham and Tolland

Mary K. Cross
Robin Dixon-Rouse
Donna Gagnon
Bill Overton
Jim Raynor
Paula Robinson
Dr. Bob Stetson, Jr.
Richard C. Stroiney
Lisa D. Vaughn

Dick Wilber
Pam Wright

Garden Master Classes : Winter/Spring 2008

From the Coordinator of the UConn Master Gardener Program

We find ourselves this January in the midst of a true New England winter where we have been treated to some glorious snowfalls that turn our landscapes into enchanted places. As I put more wood from that dwindling pile into the stove I keep reminding myself that these really cold temperatures will keep some of the pesky insects under control. Yet, despite my best efforts to convince myself that winter is fun, I cannot wait for spring. The days are lengthening and the plant and seed catalogs are beckoning.

With a few months before we can throw ourselves into gardening mode every spare moment from dawn to

dusk, there is time to peruse this new catalog and pick from the numerous fabulous classes.

There are pruning classes in Bethel, Milford and Hampton, conservation classes, water gardening, orchid growing, hardy cacti cultivation and succulent wreaths for your patio table and lots more.

Don't let the winter blahs get you down, take some great gardening classes and get primed for spring!

Enjoy!

~ Leslie Alexander

Date and Time	Location	Class and Instructor
February 6, 2008: 6PM - 8PM	New Haven County Ext. Office	Birdscaping: Creating a Backyard Sanctuary - Jayne Amico
February 13, 2008: 2PM—4:30PM	Fairfield County Extension Office	Pruning Tips and How-To's —Carol Beerbaum
February 16, 2008: 9AM—11AM	Litchfield County Extension Center	Bonsai Basics —David Silver
February 26, 2008: 6PM—8PM	Hartford County Extension Center	What's New for the 2008 Landscape? - Chris Valley
February 27, 2008: 6PM - 8PM	Tolland Agricultural Center	Backyard Conservation - Vivian Felten and Ruth Klue
February 28, 2008: 10AM - 2PM	Windham Extension Center	Organic Gardening - Laurie Waite
March 1, 2008: 10AM - 12PM	UConn, Storrs	The World of Succulents - Dr Matthew Opel
March 2, 2008: 10AM - 12PM	Windham Extension Center	Starting From Seed - Wayne Hansen
March 4, 2008: 2—4PM	Fairfield County Extension Office	The Other www: White Grubs, Woolly Adelgids and Weevils - Dr. Richard Cowles
March 8, 2008: 10AM - 12PM	Middlesex County Extension Office	Make a Succulent Wreath -Carol Gregoire, Susan Munger
March 15, 2008: 9AM - 11AM	Litchfield County Extension Center	Fundamentals of Water Gardening —David Silver
March 15, 2008: 10AM - 12PM	Milford Library Community Room	Fruit Tree Pruning - Henry Dana Rotman
March 15, 2008: 10AM - 12PM	Middlesex County Extension Office	Growing Hardy Cacti - John Spain
March 19, 2008: 10AM - 12:30PM	Windham Extension Center	Intro. to Horticultural Therapy Kate Desjardins HTR
April 2, 2008: 10AM - 12:30PM	John Dempsey Center, Putnam	Adapting Horticultural Therapy - Kate Desjardins HTR
April 5, 2008: 10AM - 12PM	Hartford County Extension Center	Orchid Growing on Windowsills - Sandy Myhalik
April 15, 2008: 10AM - 12:30PM	Camp Quinnebaug, Danielson	Teaching Hort. Therapy activities - Kate Desjardins HTR
April 24, 2008: 10AM - 12:30PM	John Dempsey Center, Putnam	Activities for Hort. Programs - Kate Desjardins HTR
April 29, 2008: 10AM - 12PM	Goodwin Forest, Hampton	Spring Pruning - Matt Quinn
May 1, 2008: 12PM - 2PM	Windham Extension Center	Vermicomposting - Mary Jane Tynan
May 15, 2008: 10AM - 12PM	Fairfield County Extension Center	Weeds & Wildflower ID walk - Donna Katsuranis
June 14, 2008: 10AM - 12PM	Norwich Extension Center	Using Keys to ID Wildflowers - Susan Munger

Full details and registration form : www.ladybug.uconn.edu/. Telephone 1-860-486-6343

Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

Home & Garden Center phone lines:

The Home & Garden Education Center in Storrs is looking for a few Advanced Master Gardeners to help man our phone lines. If interested, contact the Center at (877) 486-6271.

Connecticut Flower and Garden Show:

The Home & Garden Education Center is also looking for volunteers to staff our booth at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show held February 21 - 24, 2008 at the Convention Center in Hartford. If interested, contact the Center at (877) 486-6271.

New Haven/Bethel MG Class

The 2008 New Haven/Bethel class settles in at Edgerton Park

As *The Laurel* goes to press, Sandi Wilson, Fairfield County Master Gardener Coordinator, and I are looking forward to welcoming 45 students to our classroom in the Carriage House at Edgerton Park in New Haven on January 3rd.

The Edgerton Park property was originally owned by Eil Whitney. It then became the site of a grand Victorian estate, giving way to a Tudor style mansion, before being donated to the city in 1965. The mansion is gone now, making room for Shakespeare in the Park performances and other events. The greenhouses remain and are used by the Easter Seals Goodwill's Greenbrier program and activities for school children. Bench space in the greenhouses and community gardens plots are available to those with the patience to get on the long waiting lists. We are sure the MG class will enjoy walking among the park's beautiful old trees through the winter and spring.

The New Haven County Master Gardeners have two major outreach commitments for 2008. One is our new collaboration with the 4-H and the Area Cooperative Education Services faculty, whose students are already learning basic horticulture at Wallingford's Lyman Hall High School. The program has been promised money and supplies to build a wheelchair accessible greenhouse on the Hamden campus. A garden plot nearby has also been donated. Whether working on these projects or with students in their classrooms, there will be a number of opportunities for our interns in the coming years.

Our other major project is on the grounds of the New Haven County Cooperative Extension, where our

interns will have MG mentors to guide them in re-designing our sustainable urban perennial garden to better suit the challenges of its site between the street and parking lot. Several of our new students are already qualified landscapers and arborists whose knowledge, tools and trucks will be most welcome!

Master Gardener Interns will again be offered the opportunity to write articles for the North Haven Citizen on a variety of gardening subjects.

We will be helping out with the annual Southwest Conservation District April plant sale held at Lockwood Farms in Hamden, and be setting up our MG information booth at farmer's markets, fairs and other events.

Other outreach possibilities include a return to Ronald McDonald House where the 2004 MG class updated the grounds for its 20th Anniversary. We'd like to offer gardening recreation for the families enjoying the organization's hospitality.

Phyllis Suppe, class of 2006, invites MGs to help improve the gardens at the Red Cross center on Whitney Avenue, New Haven, for the enjoyment of the public as well as the Red Cross volunteers who work in this lovely building. More outreach opportunities in New Haven County are in the works.

John Cox, '06, and I will be writing a gardening column for the New Haven Register beginning in the spring. We intend to take every advantage of this opportunity to publicize the UConn Master Gardener Program!

Wishing everyone warm winter thoughts as you peruse your gardening catalogs!

~ Jude Hsiang

New Haven County Master Gardener Coordinator

New London Extension Center report

News from Norwich:

We have a class of 41 master gardener students in Norwich starting Tuesday, January 8, 2008. The room will be at full capacity when coordinators and instructors are included. Once the class is underway we will invite people to come and talk to the class about outreach opportunities.

There are always a few people calling in with questions well after the end of the gardening season, for example, what to do about an infestation of ladybugs. Has anyone tried the wet towel on the window-sill as a way of trapping them? We don't want anyone killing them, but they are nuisance if they fall on your dinner plate or on your face when you are in bed.

Master gardeners in East Lyme completed a series of programs this year focused on encouraging residents to reduce water usage and to practice sustainable landscaping. We worked with residents of a beach commu-

nity and gave presentations at the library. Karen Filchak and Roy Jeffrey of the UConn Extension System Water Quality program are helping guide the program.

Plant Sale and Open House planned for May 18:

The New London County Focus Group is meeting regularly on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in the Norwich Extension Center. The group is starting to plan their annual Plant Sale and Open House for next May 18, where the public can get free gardening advice. The meetings are open to all master gardeners.

~ Susan Munger

New London County Master Gardener Coordinator

CMGA Annual Symposium XV - "Making Gardens By Design"

SYMPOSIUM TIMETABLE : Morning Session

8:30 - 9:15	Registration and Coffee
9:15 - 10:30	Keynote Speaker: Gordon Hayward
11:00 - 12:00	Session I Speakers

Session I-A: Steve Aitken is Managing Editor for *Fine Gardening*, and has written articles for that magazine on topics ranging from drip irrigation to building twig structures. A Master Gardener, Steve is currently carving out beds and borders around his home in Cheshire, Connecticut.

Steve's lecture "**Ten Questions to ask about your Garden's Design**" will draw on personal experience as well as his work with outstanding gardeners and designers from around the U.S. We have all been in and seen photos of gorgeous gardens that leave us in awe and make us wonder "Why can't my garden look like that?" It would be wonderful if there were a one-size-fits-all solution to garden design, but every space and every gardener is unique. Steve will present a series of questions to ask when considering how to improve your garden. Whether your area is sunny or shady, sloped or flat, large or small, these questions will identify fundamental design issues, which, if addressed, can greatly enhance a garden's form.



Steve Aitken

Session I-B: John Alexopoulos: "Maintenance Strategies in Low Impact Design" will illustrate the principles of sustainable design that come into play with even the most minor decisions regarding the effect on maintenance of low impact design. A design process will be presented that addresses these issues of maintaining landscapes. Specific maintenance strategies and techniques will support this process.

John is Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Plant Science Department, UConn, teaching design courses. He has 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*".



John Alexopoulos

Session I-C: Maria von Brincken presents design techniques critical in the creation of a multi-seasonal sunny or shady border.

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.



Maria von Brincken

Session I-D: 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. Planting, pond construction and maintenance will be discussed as well as ways to design a woodland edge thicket, wet meadow, dry meadow and riparian buffer.

Christine is an artist, lecturer and landscape designer whose company *Mosaics* specializes in moss garden design, wildlife habitat restoration and contemplative gardens. Her work reflects an ecological approach to each site with an understanding of natural systems. Christine serves as Conservation Chairperson for the CT Butterfly Association.

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



Len Giddix

Session I-F: 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, is an award-winning landscape designer, and has had one of his projects featured in *American Nurseryman* magazine. He writes a column on Landscape Design for Manchester's newspaper, *The Journal Inquirer*, and recently published his first book on landscaping '*The Art and Craft of Residential Landscape Design*'.



Jeff Hutton

CMGA Annual Symposium XV - "Making Gardens By Design"

SYMPOSIUM TIMETABLE : Afternoon Session

12:00 - 1:25 Lunch. Silent Auction closes at 1:00PM,
1:30 - 2:30 **Session II Speakers**
3:00 - 4:00 **Closing Speaker:** Warren Leach

Session II-G: Sarah Bailey: "Landscape Design 101". Sarah will 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 nine years. For a number of years she was the horticulturist for Lexington Gardens in Farmington.



Sarah Bailey

Session II-H: 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 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.



Laura Eisener

Session II-I: 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. His work has been featured on HGTV 'Great Gardens of America', on CPTV 'House and Garden', and in many local and national publications.

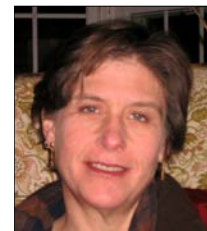


Rob Fuoco

Session II-J: Gordon Hayward: Our Keynote Speaker returns for a further presentation, "**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 walls, stone for structure, stone under foot and with water, standing and ornamental stone, stone for design, and purely for ornament.

Session II-K: Sarah Middleleer is a professional landscape designer residing in Newtown who is 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*.

Shaping spaces in inviting and functional ways is a universal challenge in landscape design. In her presentation, "**Structure in the Landscape**", Sarah will illustrate how certain concepts and techniques can make the difference between landscapes that are merely pretty and those that speak to their inhabitants on a profound level.



Sarah Middleleer

Session II-L: Mike Ruggiero: Mike's lecture on "**Designing with Annuals**" 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.

Windham/Tolland MG Classes

Celebrating the class of 2007

On a delightful Friday evening we celebrated the graduation of the 2007 Windham/Tolland Master Gardener class this past November. It was even more exciting due to the graduation of 11 very dedicated and talented Advanced Master Gardeners.

With some creative touches the classroom at the Windham Extension Center was transformed to host the buffet feast. Dr. Nancy Bull and past-CMGA president Paul Grimmieson were the guest speakers and all enjoyed a very pleasant evening. Highlights of the evening included the sharing and celebrating of outreach projects, experiences and friendships made over the year.



Advanced Master Gardeners pose at the Windham and Tolland graduation ceremony with class coordinators Kay Varga (Tolland) and Kim Kelly (Windham).

L-R: Kay, Kim, Donna Gagnon, Paula Robinson, Lisa Vaughn, Mary Cross, Robin Dixon-Rouse, Bob Stetson, Jim Raynor. Not pictured: Bill Overton, Dick Stroiney, Dick Wilbur, Pam Wright

The class of 2007 was as hardworking as they come. The outreach projects were impressive, and will carry on for future Master Gardeners. The People's Harvest had another banner year as we harvested over 12,000 lbs of organically grown vegetables. All produce went to service organizations and soup kitchens in Windham County, along with nutritional education programs. We were treated to projects on worm composting and the importance of local foods and food safety.

The Goodwin Forest was another impressive effort, as the first of many gardens were installed and more were planned. This educational native plant arboretum promises to be a jewel for Windham County. The Community Garden in Windham's Lauter Park got off to a big start, and will be in full swing this year.

We will be installing an Iris display garden at the Extension center in memory of the late Richard Sparling (class of 2002). His family generously donated much of his extensive iris collection to the Windham Extension Center. This will be a welcome addition to the Sustainable display gardens at the Center.



Dr Nancy Bull (pictured above) was a guest speaker at the MG graduation ceremony. Dr Bull is Associate Dean, Outreach and Public Service, UConn, and Associate Director of the UConn Cooperative Extension System

Congratulations to all who graduated. I hope you take with you the knowledge and satisfaction that you have made a difference in your community as we look forward to another exciting year!

*~ Kimberly Kelly
Windham Master Gardener Coordinator*

TAC in Vernon is the venue for the 2008 MG Class

Because Brooklyn hosted the 2007 class, there were few interns in the Vernon area to man the volunteer desk at TAC. With incredibly dedicated mentors, volunteers, and super enthusiastic interns who volunteered well beyond the 30-hour requirement, we were able to stay on top of questions posed by homeowners. Students contributed countless hours to People's Harvest, Farmer's Markets, Fairs, and the Channel 3 Kids' Camp. In other outreach projects, an experienced volunteer took leadership of the 4-H Childrens' Garden, a 2007 intern did the groundwork necessary to support the design of a new shrub rain garden here at the Tolland Agricultural Center (TAC), and another posted informative labels on trees and shrubs in Manchester's Wickham Park.

The 2008 class, a combination of Windham and Tolland counties, is being held at TAC in Vernon. The class of 52 is enthusiastic about learning and sharing their knowledge and experience with the public, particularly in working with children. With strong individual backgrounds in community involvement and commitment, I look forward to significant contributions in fulfilling the educational mission of UConn's Cooperative Extension System.

*~ Kay Varga
Tolland Master Gardener Coordinator*

Erica Carroll graduates as one of the first Hort Pros!

I have thought for sometime now that I came to be a gardener by accident. Arriving in Connecticut in May of 2006 after traveling for many months I needed to earn some money. I also wanted to try something new and interesting so that work wouldn't feel so much like work. Feeling a bit stressed about my situation I took a bike ride. Not knowing the area well I became lost, but it ended up being one of the best things that could have happened to me.

I came upon Oliver Nursery and decided to ask for directions; and while I was there, I took a chance and asked about posting a flier offering my help with garden maintenance. I had no experience about my gardening but liked the idea of being outside playing in the dirt all day. And how hard could it be pulling a few weeds?

That day I left Oliver's with directions home and a new job. The head of the perennial department said not only could I post a flier but I might as well work there too.

I became fascinated by the gardening subculture. I was surrounded by people who loved and respected nature, had a profound curiosity with regard to science, and felt a deep connection to the earth. Best of all everyone was having fun - people were there because they loved plants.

I became very interested in gardening and asked questions constantly. I learned some valuable lessons right away. First, there is no such thing as a few weeds. Second, it really helps to know the difference between weeds and plants. Third, weeding inevitably becomes adding new perennials, which becomes re-edging the bed, which becomes mulching; by the end, the entire border garden is completely redesigned.

Independent jobs came quickly and I was surprised at how naturally I grew into the business. With the little knowledge I gained by that time and my own instincts, I seemed to have a way with plants even if I didn't know their names. I did make many phone calls to my boss and could often be seen in a client's yard, phone in one hand, pruners in the other being coached on just exactly how to prune that lilac.

Instinct and phone calls could carry me only so far however. As my side business grew rapidly I recognized that I needed some education to back up what I was doing. I wanted a deeper understanding of how plants worked so I could work better with them. A client mentioned the Master Gardener program and I decided to sign up for the Horticultural Professional certification.

I missed our first class and my intro to the program was Entomology. I will never forget that day. I left class with a 'deer caught in the headlights' look. Words like hemiptera, mandibles, and associated ganglia whirled around my head and I thought, 'sweet lord what have I gotten myself into?' I was overwhelmed but nonetheless intrigued. It helped to again be surrounded by people who were there because they loved plants and shared a respect for nature. Classes continued and my mind swelled. There were so many new doors opening up to me and I was discovering things that I never knew existed.

At home I would sit on the couch, manual to one side, printouts on the other, highlighter in hand, in-

tensely reading as much as I could to prepare for the next class. I was amazed at how much there was still left to learn and excited that my education would be continuing for a long time to come.

I didn't really understand how much the class had taught me until spring arrived and I went back to work. I walked into the gardening world with new eyes. I couldn't pass by a plant without examining it closely, noting stigmas, styles, anthers, lateral buds, and leaf shapes. I had a new-found respect for soil, worms, and spiders - the latter of which I have come to regard as fellow soldiers in the battle against pests. I was able to diagnose the powdery mildew infecting clients' phlox, the slugs eating holes in the leaves of their ligularia, the leaf miners creating squiggles in their lilacs' foliage, and the winter damage on their azaleas. I educated them on the life cycles of beetles and why it's important to know this when treating their lawn for grubs. I no longer needed to call anyone for guidance when pruning woody ornamentals. I now knew how and when to cut that overgrown buddleia back as hard as possible, and where to make proper cuts when trimming that new deciduous tree into shape.

Even walking in my spare time I constantly examine flowers, shrubs and trees, pointing out to whoever is in earshot what they are and how they work.

One of my clients was so impressed with my new-found knowledge that he gave me a significant raise and many clients passed on my name to friends and family. My 2008 season is nearly full already.

The Hort Pro program has had so much value for me. It has not only helped me in my work, but laid the groundwork for me to better educate myself in the future. The manual, notes from lectures, and numerous other books and websites that I learned about in class are still a regular information resource. The class has inspired me and turned a spark into a fire.

~ Erica Carroll

2007 Hort Pro Graduate, Stamford CT

Hort. Pro. Certification

In 2007, the certification of 'Horticultural Professional' was introduced into the Master Gardener Program. This certification is aimed specifically at people in the horticultural industry, offering them access to the extensive training and good gardening practices advocated by the MG Program, while acknowledging that it is effectively impossible for them to fulfill the outreach requirements during the growing season. Hort Pros are required to attend all classes in the MG Program course, plus two additional classes in lawn care and the use of pesticides, and must successfully complete the final exam. Hort Pros are not required to fulfill the outreach commitments that are such an important part of the full Master Gardener certification, but do pay a much higher fee for their certification.

Erica Carroll graduated as a Hort Pro in 2007, and the above was her class essay.

~ Sarah Bailey, UConn MG Coordinator, Hartford
Hilary Forsyth, Editor

Pushing Up Daisies

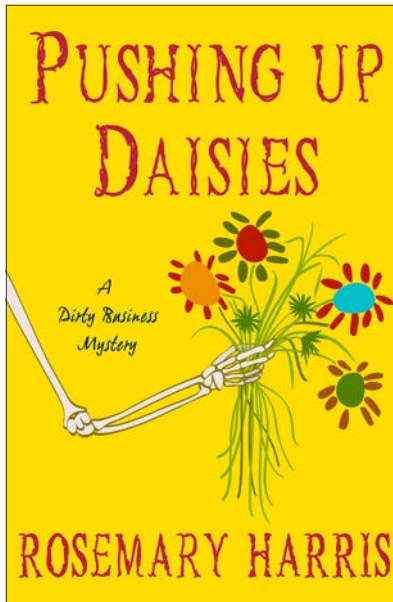
Cabin Fever:

It hits every one of us at a different time. The Christmas tree has been turned into mulch. The well-thumbed gardening catalogs are soon to join them minus the torn out pages of the plants we ordered - or merely lusted for, the sun-loving perennials that will never make it in our shady gardens, the plants that have the deer chuckling and licking their chops almost as soon as they arrive.

Still, we dream - they say no one's as optimistic as a gardener. Visions of next season's garden dance in your head like so many prunus domesticas until you look out the window. Your rhododendrons' leaves are curled up like Pirouette cookies. You check the calendar. It can't be. *January? February?*

With March and April snowstorms ever more possible it may be weeks or even months before you can get back into your garden to do anything more than fill the birdfeeders. What's a gardener to do?

Yes, yes, we can catch up on our reading and watch all of last summer's blockbusters now available on DVD. And there are always houseplants. But how much satisfaction can you get staring at your amaryllis and waiting for it to rebloom when you really want to be out there digging in the dirt?



In 2002 I dealt with my gardener's cabin fever by taking the master gardener course. In 2004, I handled it differently. I wrote a book. *Pushing Up Daisies* (St. Martin's Feb. 2008) is the first in the Dirty Business Mystery series. Its heroine, Paula Holliday, is a Connecticut master gardener (they do say to write what you know!) who digs up more than just her summer bulbs when she agrees to restore a neglected garden and unearths a dead body.

So I managed to stay in the garden - even in the dead of winter, and if that feeling of cabin fever starts to get to you, check out *Pushing Up Daisies* at your local library or bookstore.

~ Rosemary Harris

MG Rosemary Harris is a former video producer and bookstore manager who currently lives and gardens in Stamford, CT. Come meet her at The Bartlett Arboretum on Feb. 17, The Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, Hartford, CT on Feb. 24, and various other venues around the State. For more details, visit her website at www.rosemaryharris.com. - Editor

CMGA newsletter and membership directory

The new-look *Laurel*

The purpose and aim of the CMGA is to provide support to the MG Program and master gardener classes around the State. In pursuit of this objective, *The Laurel* plays an important part in keeping CMGA members updated on MG program news, developments and outreach opportunities.

CMGA funds are raised by way of the annual membership fee (presently \$20), by the sale of CMGA logo items, and by registrations to the annual CMGA March symposium.

A sizeable proportion of these funds goes towards printing and postage of this newsletter. In the interests of economy it has been decided to reduce the size of the newsletter to its new, 12-page format. The newsletter is still packed with information, and we hope that you will enjoy the new format.

However, we hate to have you miss out on some of the wonderful stories and photos which are submitted for each edition, and many of these will now appear exclusively on the CMGA website, at www.ctmga.org.

News of MG projects and garden-related events for either the newsletter or the website are always welcome, and may be sent direct to the Editor at rayhbf@optonline.net.

CMGA Membership Directory

Connecticut Master Gardener Association compiles a membership directory every year, and the 2008 version will shortly be available. The Membership Directory lists the names of CMGA members and of the current year's MG Interns. The Directory also contains the CMGA by-laws and gives the addresses and contact information of all MG class sites around the state.

The Membership Directory is published and copies are made available to CMGA members and MG Interns on request, at a charge of \$2 per copy to cover printing and postage. Copies of the directory are sent to the MG class coordinators, and may be accessed by CMGA members for free at the class sites. If you would like a copy of the membership directory, please contact me direct, or any other member of the CMGA Board (details on page 2).

The by-laws of the Association, the addresses of class sites and contact information for all class coordinators, are available on the CMGA website at www.ctmga.org. Names of CMGA members are NOT made available to the public, and are NOT published on the website.

Hilary Forsyth, Editor : email rayhbf@optonline.net

The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
February 5, 2008 10AM	CMGA Board Meeting @ The Pond House, Elizabeth Park, 915 Prospect Avenue, Hartford. Meetings are open to all. Info: CMGA President, Billy Baxter, 203-265-1540, bilbax@snet.net
February 9, 2008 9AM - 3:20PM	Connecticut Horticultural Society symposium: Spring into the Garden , with Andy Brand, Paul Tukey, Jane Knapp and Nancy DuBrule-Clemente. 860-529-8713, www.cthort.org.
February 19 & 26 2008 7PM - 9PM	"Let's Have a Safe Lawn!" Two-session class presented by AMG Lorraine Ballato at Brookfield Town Hall, 100 Pocono Road, Brookfield CT 06804 Fee. To register call 203-775-7310.
February 21, 2008 7:30PM	"Dogwoods - The Next Generation" - Paul E Capiello. CT Horticultural Society monthly meeting @ Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. www.cthort.org
February 21-24, 2008	27th Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, "Once Upon a Time" @ Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT. Contact: 860-844-8461 or www.ctflowershow.com .
March 4, 2008 10AM	CMGA Board Meeting @ The Pond House, Elizabeth Park, 915 Prospect Avenue, Hartford. Meetings are open to all. Info: CMGA President, Billy Baxter, 203-265-1540, bilbax@snet.net
March 6, 2008 8:30AM - 3PM	New Canaan Nature Center 2008 Horticulture Symposium: "The Lure of the Garden; Patterns in Nature - A Source of Inspiration" . Presenters: Bill Cullina, Gary Smith, John Greenlee, Patrick Cullina. To register 203-966-9577. Details at newcanaannature.org
March 7, 2008 10AM - 5:15PM	Symposium: "Creating Green Roofs, Step-by-Step" @ New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. Three speakers. Participants select as many as 3 sessions from 6 topics. Info: call 718-817-8747 or www.nybg.org/edu .
March 9, 2008 2PM - 4PM	Hill-Stead Museum Winter Garden Lectures: "A Genius for Place: The Landscapes of Warren Manning" @ Hill-Stead Museum, 35 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT 06032. Info: www.hillstead.org , To register: 860-677-4787 x 111.
March 13, 2008 8PM	CT Horticultural Society monthly meeting: "Butterflies and Their Gardens" with John Himmelman of Killingworth CT. Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Info: 860-529-8713, www.cthort.org.
March 14, 2008 8AM - 4:30PM	UConn Garden Conference @ the Lewis B. Rome Commons, Storrs campus. Featuring Rick Darke speaking on <i>'Livable Landscapes for a Changing Environment'</i> . Other speakers will talk on <i>'Designing the New Kitchen Garden'</i> , <i>'Surefire Maintenance Shortcuts for Showcase Gardens'</i> , <i>'Gardening in Deer Country'</i> , <i>'Organic Lawn and Garden Care'</i> . Fee. Contact: Richard McAvoy: 860-486-0627, Richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu .
March 15, 2008 10:00AM—4:00PM	100 Native Plants for your Home Landscape: New England Wildflower Society workshop. Yale/Peabody/ Marsh Botanic Garden, New Haven, CT. Fee. Info: www.newenglandWILD.org
March 17, 2008 11:30AM	Simsbury (CT) Garden Club General Meeting. Program: "Ponds and Water Gardens" by Dan Berg and Steve Emmons. Meeting held at the Apple Barn, 60 Old Farms Road, West Simsbury 06092. Contact Anne Hartman : 860 658-2652, fchagh@gmail.com
March 19 and 26 2008 7PM - 9PM	"Low toxic approaches to Home Gardens and Landscapes" . Two session class presented by AMG Lorraine Ballato. Brookfield Town Hall, 100 Pocono Road, Brookfield CT 06804
March 29, 2008 9AM—3:30PM	CMGA Annual Symposium XV: "Making Gardens By Design" . Manchester Community College, Manchester CT. See this issue of <i>The Laurel</i> for further details.
April 17, 2008 8PM	CT Horticultural Society monthly meeting: Evolution of the Rose with Tommy Cairns. Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. 860-529-8713, www.cthort.org.
April 25 & 26, 2008	Southwest Conservation District Annual Shrub and Perennial Plant Sale @ Lockwood Farm, Hamden. Pre order forms are available from SWCD office at 900 Northrop Rd Suite A in Wallingford CT 06492. Tel: 203-269-7509, email swcd43@sbcglobal.net .
April 24, 2008 1PM	Spring Open House @ Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT. More details to follow. Info: 877-855-2237, www.ct.gov/caes

The *Laurel*

CMGA

c/o Kathy Baechle
6 Christmas Tree Hill
Canton, CT 06019



2008 CMGA March Symposium

Gardens By Design
Saturday, March 29, 2008
9:00AM - 3:30PM

@

Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT
Keynote speaker: Gordon Hayward
Closing speaker: Warren Leach
Further details inside!

CMGA Annual Symposium XV : "Making Gardens By Design"

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

Symposium cancellation and rescheduling:

In the event the Symposium is cancelled due to adverse weather conditions,

Snow Date is Sunday, March 30, 2008

Advice of cancellation of the Symposium and rescheduling to the Snow Date will be posted on the CMGA website, www.ctmga.org, and broadcast on the radio stations: WTIC AM, WTIC FM, WRCH, WZMX

Members of the Connecticut Master Gardener Association save \$15 on the price of their Symposium tickets. Membership of CMGA is open to all Connecticut certified master gardeners. Renew your CMGA membership today! CMGA membership forms may be printed out from the CMGA website at www.ctmga.org.

Connecticut Master Gardener Association

The Laurel

May, 2008

Volume 21, No. 2



CMGA Summer Safari IV CMGA's semi-annual membership meeting and summer garden tour

Saturday, July 26th, 2008, 9AM - 1PM

Summertime – and it's all about garden tours! CMGA invites members and guests to Summer Safari IV, the association's semi-annual membership meeting and garden tour.

This year's Summer Safari is being held at one of Lower Fairfield county's hidden treasures – the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens in Stamford. As attendees at previous Summer Safaris will attest, the focus of the day is a special opportunity to visit new and wonderful gardens. MGs affiliated with the Bartlett look forward to welcoming CMGA to our special corner of Connecticut.

The Bartlett Arboretum offers a diversity of plantings to gladden every gardener's heart. The Cottage Garden is a showcase for plants that survive in dappled shade; the 130-foot long Perennial Border is filled with tough, deer-resistant plants; the Sundial Garden is a magnet for hummingbirds and butterflies – and for the bees from the Bartlett's own hives. The gigantic leaves and impressive structure of the plants in the Tropical Garden will transport you to a tropical paradise! And there is even more to the Bartlett's gardens. Set amidst 91 acres of tranquil woodland, the Bartlett also offers a diversity of environments: the woodland trails, a hidden conifer garden, and the secluded garden (pictured), are just a few. And of course a plethora of trees, with a host of unusual tree specimens, and a fine collection of Champion trees, including the original Bartlett Chestnuts.

So what makes these trees special? And why do we have an Arboretum? On the day of our visit, Eric Morgan, the Bartlett's Manager of Collections, will talk about the history of plants at the Bartlett and the im-

portance of plant diversity. He will also explain the work that is being carried out at the Bartlett to expand its plant collections, and why it is so important to establish a garden legacy for the future. Following his presentation, Eric will lead the group on a tour of some of these special plantings, with MGs leading a shadow tour.

Master gardeners affiliated with the Bartlett head up a variety of projects at the arboretum and many of them will be on hand to share their expertise and answer your questions. Meet MG beekeepers who will tell you about their bee-keeping experiences and show you the Bartlett's demonstration beehive; talk to the herb gardeners, take a walk along the woodland trails and discover the local wildflowers, visit the Bartlett's meadow, meet with the MGs who regularly provide tours of the Bartlett's showcase gardens.

Summer Safari tourists are also invited to join the Bartlett's weekly public tour (which happens to be a Tree Tour on this occasion), and to view the art show on display in the Visitor Center. And visitors are welcome to stroll the grounds on their own. Bring your lunch, and enjoy a restful picnic under the cool shade of the Bartlett's trees.

The Bartlett Arboretum has generously offered to waive entrance charges for all Summer Safari attendees. Summer Safari IV is free to all members, and the event will be held rain or shine.



Details of Summer Safari IV agenda appear on the back page of *The Laurel*, along with directions to the Bartlett Arboretum.

CMGA Officers 2008

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

Vice-President: John Carlson
209 Old Cart Road
Haddam, CT 06438
john.i.carlson@att.net

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

Secretary: Barbara Mitchell
72 Oakengates
Avon, CT 06001
mitchell0167@sbcglobal.net

Membership: Kathy Baechle
6 Christmas Tree Hill
Canton, CT 06019
k.baechle@comcast.net

Cooperative Extension Center Coordinators (by County):

Fairfield: **Sandi Wilson**
203-207-3262 *Sandra.wilson@uconn.edu*

Fairfield (Stamford): **Regina Campfield**
203-322-6971 *mastergardener@bartlettarboretum.org*

Hartford: **Sarah Bailey**
860-570-9010 *Sarah.bailey@uconn.edu*

Litchfield: **Pat Eldredge**
860-626-6240 *Patricia.eldredge@uconn.edu*

Middlesex: **Carol Gregoire**
860-345-4511 *carol.gregoire@uconn.edu*

New Haven: **Judith Hsiang**
203-407-3167 *Judith.hsiang@uconn.edu*

New London: **Susan Munger**
860-885-2823 *Susan.munger@uconn.edu*

Tolland: **Kay Varga**
860-870-6934 *kay.varga@uconn.edu*

Windham: **Kim Kelly**
860-774-9600 *Kimberly.kelly@uconn.edu*

UConn Home & Garden

Education Center:
877-486-6271 *www.ladybug.uconn.edu*

UConn Liaison:

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

CMGA website: *www.ctmga.org*

Webmistress: Amy Talbot

The Laurel:

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

CMGA President's message

Greetings to all CMGA Members and Master Gardener Interns,

How can we express enough thanks to the legions of volunteers who made the 2008 Symposium the best one ever? Last year's disastrous March snow storm left many of us depressed and disheartened, but the CMGA has recovered with great energy and enthusiasm. From registration, to breakfast, to keynote speaker, to individual classes, to lunch, to the wrap-up and closing speaker, the symposium moved with clockwork precision, and all due to the expertise of the volunteers. Thank you with all our heart.

The attendees, the maximum number that could be accommodated, responded warmly to Gordon Hayward, the keynote speaker, and to Warren Leach, the closing speaker. They, like the other twelve presenters at the symposium, shared their professional secrets to making the kind of gardens we all dream about.

In between lectures and classes the symposium offered many opportunities to shop for garden related items and converse with horticultural or plant specialty societies. Nine plant societies set up and staffed tables with information about their specific beloved corner of horticulture. Ten vendors had booths brimming with temptations, practical, inspirational, or just plain beautiful.

The Silent Auction and the CMGA logo items table are fund-raising activities that were sorely missed in 2007. This symposium however, made up for the earlier disappointment. Thank you all for your support.

The next major event for the CMGA is Summer Safari IV on July 26, 2008 in Stamford at the Bartlett Arboretum, which you have already read about on page 1 of The Laurel. Hope to see you all there.

Happy gardening,

Billy Baxter

Inside this issue:

	Page
Summer Safari IV invitation.....	1
Garden Master Classes.....	3
News from the Extension Centers.....	4
MG Program News and Events.....	5
CMGA March 2008 Symposium Report.....	6
Stamford MGs Teach Gardening Basics.....	8
Model Community Garden in Middlesex.....	9
Farmington Kitchens and Gardens 2008 Tour.....	10
The Laurel Calendar.....	11
Summer Safari IV Agenda and directions.....	12

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 Diana Ringelheim, *diana@ringelheim.com* or by mail to 121 Godfrey Rd. Fairfield, Ct. 06825 or to Hilary Forsyth at *rayhbf@optonline.net*, or by mail to 94 Birchwood Road, Stamford CT 06907
Deadline for August 2008 edition: July 1st, 2008

Garden Master Classes : Spring 2008

Advanced Master Gardener classes are being added on an on-going basis so be sure to check the Home & Garden Center website often for additional classes: <http://www/ladybug.uconn.edu/>

Date	Time	Location	Class and Instructor
4/24/08	10am—12:30pm	John Dempsey Center, Putnam	Activities for Hort. Therapy Programs Kate Desjardins HTR
4/29/08	10am—12pm	Goodwin Forest, Hampton	Spring Pruning—Matt Quinn
4/30/08	10am—12pm	76 Anderson Road, Wallingford	Hybridizing Daylilies—Rich Howard
5/1/08	12pm—2pm	Windham Extension Center	Vermicomposting—Mary Jane Tynan
5/7/08	9:30am—11:30am	UConn Avery Point, Groton	Coastal Habitats of Connecticut—Juliana Barret
5/14/08	10am—1pm	Tolland Office, Vernon	Hot Topics—Various Instructors
5/15/08	10am—12pm	Fairfield County Extension Center	Weeds & Wildflower ID Walk—Donna Katsuranis
5/20/08	10am—12pm	UConn Avery Point, Groton	Aquatic Invasive Species—Nancy Balcom
5/28/08	10am—12pm	Bartlett Arboretum	Lyme disease—John Costa, M.D., M.G.
5/30/08	1pm—4pm	UConn Avery Point, Groton	Seaweeds Are Not Weeds—Peg Van Patten
6/4/08	6:30pm—8:30pm	Norwich Extension Center	Diagnosing Common Problems—Melissa Smith
6/14/08	10am—12pm	New London Extension Center	Using Keys to ID Wildflowers—Susan Munger

Full details and registration form : www.ladybug.uconn.edu/. Telephone 1-860-486-6343

These are the last advanced master gardener classes to be offered until the fall catalogue is issued. The classes being given at Avery Point in Groton, on 5/7, 5/20, and 5/30, investigating shoreline environmental issues, are a departure from gardening but introduce a vital ecosystem to a wider audience. It is hoped that these classes will inspire the formation of a group to pursue additional education in this area and create outreach opportunities in these ecologically sensitive shoreline systems.

ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER CERTIFICATION A REVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS

Certified Master Gardeners may obtain Advanced Master Gardener certification by fulfilling the following requirements:

-20 classroom hours and 40 outreach hours over a three-year period. The time starts accumulating with the first AMG/Master Gardening class you take after graduation.

To maintain active Advanced Master Gardener status you must:

-Take five (5) AMG classroom hours per calendar year.

Three (3) of those hours must be the Hot-Topics class. If you are an active Advanced Master Gardener, the fee for Hot Topics is waived.

Two (2) of those hours may be a class of your choice.

-Complete twenty (20) hours of outreach per year. Ten (10) of those hours must be completed mentoring in your Extension Office or the Bartlett Arboretum.

News from Extension Centers

Hartford County

It's raining (rather than snowing), the crocus and snowdrops are poking their heads up, and the classroom portion of the 2008 Master Gardener class is almost over. Therefore – it must be spring!

This year's students are already working on their outreach projects and the tree/vine /shrub ID projects. By the time this is printed, most will have started their office hours – and discovered that yes, they *do* know something about horticulture....

The Hartford County office has been enlarged and reorganized, with room and equipment for mentors and students to comfortably work together. We anticipate that the cold, wet spring and damage from the earlier ice storms should generate many questions for the office.

Outreach projects this year include creating a new community garden in Enfield, a sustainable landscaping project in Farmington with Tunxis Community College, and projects with the Hill-Stead Museum and Gardens, the Mark Twain House, Elizabeth Park and the Foodshare garden, just to name a few. We hope to improve upon last year's record harvest of almost

2,700 pounds of produce for Foodshare this year! New outreach opportunities continue to come in as well.

Any Master Gardener is welcome to assist on any of these projects – and mentors in both the office and the field are warmly welcomed. If you feel a little rusty in your office procedure, a "re-orientation" is always a phone call or email away, so don't let time passed keep you from being an active part of the program today.

Pat Eldredge, the Litchfield County coordinator, and I have been working on a late-season Master Gardeners' Garden Tour and Gala in the Litchfield area, scheduled for Sunday, August 24. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

~Sarah Bailey
Hartford County Master Gardener Coordinator

New London County

The Master Gardeners students are winding up their classroom hours and getting ready for the next phase of training: office and outreach hours. Everyone's managed in a tight setting and the parking was not the problem we feared it might be. Next fall when the Community College moves the rest of its operation here from their other campus we'll no doubt have to adjust again.

The New London County Focus Group is working on landscaping plans that include connecting the lower parking area with the building and obtaining plants for the space in between. The plantings around the building look good after the winter.

One interesting problem occurred with the rain

garden. When the ground was frozen and snow was melting off the roof into the rain garden, the water just flowed right through and out on to the pavement. I wonder if this is inevitable when the water can't soak into the ground. We also had some erosion of the mulch because the rain garden is not completely level, which it ideally should be. So we'll have to work on fine tuning this year.

East Lyme master gardeners gave a talk on Herbs and other Drought Tolerant Plants at the library for about 25 people; another talk is scheduled for May 7 on Sustainable Gardening Practices. Other MGs are giving talks at the Norwich and Colchester libraries.

~Susan Munger
New London County Master Gardener Coordinator

Middlesex County

Master Gardener Coordinators, Carol Gregoire, Jude Hsiang, and Kay Varga were there and on the job as the Connecticut Horticultural Society urged all to "Spring Into the Garden", on February 9th at the Portland High/Middle School. The one-day symposium created a preview of the season with excellent speakers, vendors, and plant society representatives. There was a lot of interest in the Master Gardener tri-

fold display provided by our New Haven County coordinator, and all the handouts and good garden talk provided throughout the day by the Tolland and Middlesex County coordinators. With little to pack up at the end of the day, the tired, but enthused coordinators faced a snowy ride home, but heads and hearts were swimming in blossoms.

~Carol Gregoire
Middlesex County Master Gardener Coordinator

News from Extension Centers—Continued

Tolland County

As I write, the 2008 class of 50 MG Interns is preparing for the final exam (April 18), and the jitters over outreach are setting in. This is the first class to be in our new office on the first floor in the Elliott Building at TAC (Tolland Agricultural Center). There's tons of space now for the MG library, research, and home owner consultations.

In addition to the established outreach programs, for example, the Channel 3 Kids Camp, and MG booths at Fairs, Markets, Tours, and Show, interns have new outreach opportunities. Working closely with the TAC Landscape Committee, we are adding a Shrub Garden, and a new Perennial/Shrub Rain Garden to the extensive demo gardens already here. The Children's Garden is refreshed each year with a new design, and is planned to peak in time for the 4-H Fair in August.

A new project is The Varney Farm Project 2007, in South Windsor. This is in partnership with Foodshare, and is in its second year of operation. Volunteers are also getting involved in educating Glastonbury community members in the care of plants and importance of biodiversity by

working with Glastonbury Partners in Planting. And a number of interns are interested in doing pH tests at public events, to back up the active team that we already have.

As a group, the 2008 class has a lot of depth in volunteer as well as gardening activities. They've been enthusiastic about learning and sharing their experiences with classmates – each week bringing in something new – perhaps a book, edible roots for a snack, plants to share, articles written by or about MGs. I'll miss them in class, and I'm sure they'll shine in their volunteer activities.

Happy Spring and Healthy Gardening!

~Kay Varga
Tolland County Master Gardener Coordinator

MG Program News and Events

Leslie Alexander, State Master Gardener Coordinator

Volunteer Opportunities in the Storrs Area

- ◇ The Home and Garden Education Center needs Master Gardeners to field telephone calls, answer questions, make identifications, etc. This is a great opportunity to work with the staff at the Center.
- ◇ Master Gardeners, particularly alumni of UCONN, are needed to represent and promote the MG program at Alumni Weekend, June 7, 2008. The MG program will have a table at the event which needs staffing for a few hours in the afternoon.
- ◇ The Landscape Design Department is planning and refurbishing one of the Plant Science gardens and could use Master Gardener and Advanced Master Gardener assistance. The Master Gardener program should have a presence on campus, and this opportunity will spruce up the campus as well as promote the program.

If you are interested in the above volunteer opportunities, please call the Home & Garden Education Center at (877)486-9271.

Alumni of the Master Gardener Program

The UCONN Master Gardener Program has been certifying people for over 30 years, approximately 2,000 gardeners. However, there are gaps in the records kept over that period of time and some MGs have slipped off the mailing list. If you know of a certified Master Gardener who is not receiving current information about the program, please let me know. It would be wonderful to have a complete list of MGs and include them all in our activities.

Contact me at: www.leslie.alexander@uconn.edu or (860)486-6343

Summer Garden Tour and Gala Being Planned

An end of summer garden tour and gala is scheduled for Sunday, August 24, 2008 in Litchfield County. County Coordinators Pat Eldredge and Sarah Bailey are organizing the event. Be sure to save the date on your calendar. Details will be posted on the Master Gardener/Home & Garden Education Center website: www.ladybug.uconn.edu as they become available and information will be sent to Master Gardeners as the date approaches.

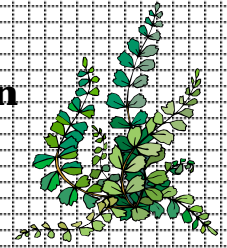
SYMPOSIUM - MARCH 30, 2008

Making

Gardens

By Design

**Connecticut Master Gardener Association
At the Manchester Community College**



Ladies and Gentlemen—Start Your Engines— The 2008 Gardening Season is Off and Running

The day dawned sunny, clear, and cool and the bad weather of 2007 was forgotten. Luckily, it was too chilly to work comfortably out of doors, so 400 avid gardeners resigned themselves to sit and listen to practical advice on garden design and execution. A keynote speaker and a closing speaker were enjoyed by everyone and an additional twelve speakers were available by pre-registration choice of the attendees. A wealth of information and enjoyment in a day that passed all too quickly.



Registration

Before visiting the breakfast table, symposium participants had to run the gauntlet of the Badge and Registration Tables. With all materials prepared and in strict alphabetical order, there was no delay and everyone proceeded to coffee and muffins without incident.



Gordon Hayward

Keynote Speaker

**YOUR HOUSE, YOUR GARDEN:
A FOOLPROOF APPROACH TO GOOD GARDEN DESIGN**

Mr. Hayward's (seated) approach to garden design relates very comfortably to interior design. Gardens exist to serve and please people. Keeping this in mind will let you organize your outdoor space in a logical way, even before you fill the space with plants. After the presentation, Mr. Hayward signed copies of his books for a large and enthusiastic group of Master Gardeners.

Plant Societies and Non-Profit Organizations

In addition to Connecticut NOFA (pictured), there were informational tables representing a number of special groups. The Ct chapters of the Iris Society, Daylily Society, Cactus and Succulents, Botanical Society, Rhododendron Society, Horticultural Society, as well as the Hill-Stead Museum and "Non-Toxic" Gardening.



Found after the Symposium: a glove; a key; a 'smart card' for a very small device. Please contact a CMGA officer if you lost any of these items.

SHOPPING AT THE SYMPOSIUM

Space doesn't permit photos and descriptions of all the vendors who helped to make the Symposium such a memorable day, but here is a list of those who participated: Ballek's Garden Center; Natureworks; Ellen Hoverkamp; Al Dragon Garden Tools; The Garden Party; Perennial Herbs (Heather/Heath); Joy Newton Designs; Meadowpoint Pottery; and Woodland Trails Wildflower; and the Ct. Agricultural Experiment Station.



Vendors

The booth from Natureworks is pictured on the right, with books for the environmentally conscious gardener.

On the left is Meadowpoint Pottery, featuring hand crafted vases, mugs, and decorative pieces with a natural theme.



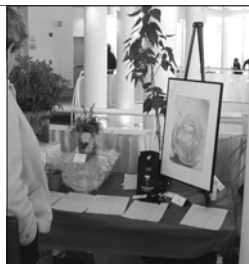
Connecticut Master Gardener Association

Tee-shirts, windbreakers, tote bags, pins and pens—all bearing the logo of our CMGA were also available for purchase. This year a selection of gardening books (without logo!) was included for the first time.



Silent Auction - Staged by the Master Gardener Coordinators

The Silent Auction was even busier than the lunch tables. A wide range of articles to choose from attracted a ferocious crowd of bidders. The champion flamingo, posing with Carol Gregiore, is the one being auctioned, along with plants, pictures, gift baskets, books, etc. Every item was sold, making this Symposium a record-breaker for the Silent Auction Fund Raiser.



Stamford MGs Teach Gardening Basics

A team of seven master gardeners in Stamford recently presented a series of gardening classes in the Lower Fairfield County Adult Education Program. Entitled "Gardening Basics", the classes are aimed at people who are looking for some good information and guidance to enable them to be more successful in their gardening ventures. The series of four classes were presented on Wednesday evenings from 7PM until 9.30PM, with two one-hour topics each evening.

Shoe-horning eight topics into four 2-hour sessions (allowing for a tea- and snack-break in between) with seven enthusiastic presenters took a lot of planning and discipline. We realized that, as with the MG Program classes, each of these topics would form the basis of the next topic. This inter-relationship gave us the opportunity to repeat key points, to emphasize the importance of others. At the same time we needed to make sure that we didn't step on each other's toes. A fine line, indeed!

This is the third year that Stamford MGs have offered these Adult Ed classes, and we are very proud and pleased that every year our class membership has increased. On the first evening of class, we invited everyone to introduce themselves briefly, to give us – and fellow students - an idea of our audience. As one would expect with an evening class, people were from the local area – Stamford, Rowayton, Westchester NY, Darien. Some students had lived in the same property for many years, but now had more time to devote to gardening; some had recently moved into the area and inherited a neglected garden, or had moved into the area from warmer climates. The gist of their comments was: I need some help and encouragement! What can I grow in this area? How do I cope with my garden of shade and rocks – and deer? All pleas that are so familiar to master gardeners.

Our mantra for the classes quickly became "Get a Soil Test", closely followed by "Right Plant, Right Place"! As we worked our way through the classes, we realized that we had indeed assessed our potential audience correctly: it was the basic points that struck a chord with these students.

Of course, as master gardeners ourselves, the class presenters do not always agree on every single aspect of gardening! While we did follow the guidelines of the MG classes, it was clear from our presentations that there are many different views on what makes for good garden practice: some of the presenters were sticklers for exact measurements and hot compost heaps, while

others had a more *laissez-faire* attitude. This gave us the opportunity to explain to our students that gardening is not an exact science and that, while there are basic principles that will lead to success, there is plenty of leeway for interpretation.

As the classes continued over the weeks, our group – presenters and students alike - became more involved in the subject matter, increasingly vociferous and questioning, and increasingly enjoying the shared experiences. The students commented that they had not only learned from us, but that they especially appreciated our encouragement, tips, advice and enthusiasm. One of the more experienced gardeners in the class said that he had been pleased to have affirmation that his gardening instincts were correct for the most part, and that he was doing a good job of looking after the environment; on the other hand, it was immediately apparent to him that there were a couple of areas where he was going wrong – too much fertilizer, too much water, incorrect timing of herbicides – and he planned to make changes in those areas.

There were other revelations: our recommendations on proper turf care, for instance, would actually save time and money! Water bills can be reduced because gardens do pretty well on 1 inch of water per week – whether applied by the gardener or supplied by nature; compost is gardener's gold, doesn't need fancy equipment, and is the ultimate in recycling; plants generally grow well on their own – gardeners merely assist in the process. And starting a garden is easy – the first step is to plant something!

We felt that our students really appreciated that we were providing good advice on gardening practice, based on sound gardening principles; we were not selling them a product or a service. The class evaluation sheets said it all: Great classes! Yes, I learned a lot! Yes, I'll change my gardening practices! And – can we sign up for further classes in the Fall?

The classes offered in this year's Gardening Basics were: Plant physiology – John Costa; Assessing your garden – Regina Campfield (MG Class coordinator); Perennials – Hilary Forsyth; Composting, and preparing garden beds – Greg Moonie; Turf – Dan Schiefferle; Tools and garden maintenance – Char Barnes; Growing vegetables from seed – Ros Brady; Vegetable gardening – Wally Pugh.

~Hilary Forsyth

Grants for Master Gardener Projects

The CMGA has set aside funds to give Master Gardeners and Interns financial assistance with outreach projects. The application process is simple, involving little more than your name and address, the name and address of the project, a general description of goods to be purchased, and a brief description of the benefit to be derived from the project.

Master Gardeners can apply directly to the CMGA Board for funds. Interns must process requests through their coordinators. Forms will be available on the website, or contact Committee Chairman John Neff, www.jneff@comcast.net, or (860) 673-5018

Model Community Garden in Middlesex

On a sunny Saturday March 22nd with cool temperatures and gusting wind the Middlesex County Focus Group kicked off the 2008 gardening season. At the February monthly meeting the group scheduled a work day that included cleaning the Model Community Garden located at 1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam of fall and winter debris, tilling, and finally planting. Seeds donated by the Chas. C. Hart Seed Co. Wethersfield, CT were sown by nine Master Gardeners and Cherry Czuba, Middlesex County Extension Coordinator. The spring garden will provide May harvests of lettuce, sugar snap peas, pod peas, swiss chard, spinach, and radishes to be donated to a local food pantry and soup kitchen. In addition to the seeds, the group planted red and yellow onion sets, learning from last year that onions grow best when planted in early spring. Once the spring crops have been harvested the summer crops of tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumber, string beans, broccoli and other greens will be planted.

The success of the 2007 garden has been an inspiration to the group and Extension staff. Our goal is to enhance the garden project annually as new members join and contribute their ideas, and talent is proving to be very fruitful. This year, through the winter months Fern Martin designed and built a three bin compost unit to place outside the garden. Part of the leaf mulch protecting the soil since fall was recycled into brown material to start the composting process.

Member Betsey Broomall is nurturing broccoli plants while Dawn Hendrixson, a 2008 intern, is growing several varieties of heirloom tomatoes to be included in the garden plan. Becki Connell and Gladys Goodale will once again be plotting the best use of our 900 square feet of garden space. Member Barbara Glista and 2008 intern Ann Parrent have partnered to lead a committee planning to refurbish a small herb garden also at the Haddam site.

Peggy Becker, Betsey Broomall, Marisa Fede, and Jackie Fantasia are coordinating Focus Group participation in the 4H Plant Auction Saturday May 10th from 2:00 pm-10:00 pm at the Middlesex County Extension, selling herb dish gardens, herb plants and other gardening items as a fund raising event to cover the 2008 project expenses. We look forward to a very busy and successful year.

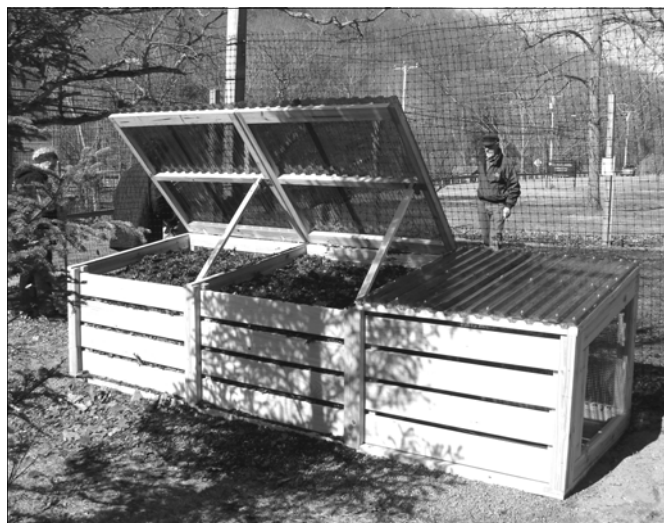
For additional information on the garden project or Focus Group, please contact: Marsha Dowling at 860-344-8307, or marsha.dowling@sbcglobal.net.

~Marsha Dowling
Middlesex County Focus Group



March 22nd, 2008, and the Middlesex County Focus Group are geared up and ready to go. Back row, left to right: Peggy Becker, Holly Baldgyga, Cherry Czuba, Fern Martin, Jackie Fantasia, Susan LoGatto, Linda Kriss. Front Row Left to Right: Marsha Dowling, Dianne LaRosa

Becki Connell took the picture.



Our new composter which was hand crafted by Fern Martin.

Photo: Dianne LaRosa



Pictured at left: Fern Martin and Peggy Becker get down to the hard work of planting.

Photo: Dianne LaRosa

Looking for ORANGE

Farmington Kitchens and Gardens 2008 Tour

It's always an inspiration to visit the gardens of our fellow master gardeners. I know the yards are going to be colorful, use foliage for interest and have those extra special perennials I've always wanted, but couldn't afford . . . or never thought of combining . . . or wasn't brave enough to try. I've always hated orange in my garden. I have orange tiger lilies but the bloom only lasts a week or so, thankfully. However, it seems, the more gardens I visit, the more I can appreciate ORANGE - with lime, purple, or black, especially elephant ears. When a Master Gardener opens their home, it's a must see. I want to see how they use orange.

If you attended the UCONN CMGA 2006 garden tour, you will remember the garden of Sandy Myhalik, MG, perched on a cliff, off Ely Road in Farmington. We all missed the spectacular view of the Farmington Valley. It was raining and overcast that day, but everyone looked out over the precipice and hoped that the clouds would lift. Even without the view, her yard was full of surprises. Sandy's garden boasts charming outdoor garden rooms bespeckled with astilbes, wandering woodland paths adorned with hostas and ferns, a stream with stepping stones, perennial beds, a gazebo and her fabulous orchid room.

Master Gardeners, you are in luck! Sandy's garden will be featured on the Farmington Kitchens and Gardens 2008 Tour, June 14th. It is one of six private and two museum kitchens and gardens to be enjoyed. If you missed Sandy's in 2006, now is your chance. Or maybe you want to see it again and bring your friends. The orchid room will be open!

Another fabulous tour property, though not a Master Gardener's, is the Appell estate maintained by a staff of three gardeners. Ponds, waterfall, lush lawn, and an aviary ... UNBELIEVABLE. If you are looking for ideas, this is the property to see. He uses orange.

Also featured on the tour is the charming kitchen and garden of Martha Cheshire, MG Martha and her husband bought a deteriorating, non-descript house (if I may be so blunt) in the 'village'. Uninhabited for

years, it's transformation has been magical. The Cheshires have spent the last few years painting, remodeling the interior, and re-roofing the home. She totally redesigned the entrance and gardens of the expansive property into the most charming English 'Cotswold style' home. Her window boxes make me smile. Last year they were overflowing with spectacular profusions of flowers. Dark Purple! What a POP of color. It's such a gracious home now. Don't miss their kitchen.

Right down the block is the Stanley Whitman Museum, this year's venue for the luncheon. Hostesses in 18th century costumes will serve a buffet luncheon to be enjoyed on the garden patio or by the hearth. The entire museum/home will be open to attendees. Ten vendors will be on site with plants, herbs, and specialty items of interest to gardeners.

Farmington Historical Society's Gridley Cottage kitchen and garden is also on the tour. The Gridley Garden is my MG volunteer project this year. The FHS was granted the historical buildings in 1998. Landscape architect Sarah laCour designed the 18th century, symmetrical garden and paths 'reflecting the style typical of and common to New England'. FHS volunteers donated perennials from their gardens when funding ran out. The last few warm summers were not kind to this precious garden. Little is viable. I plan to research what should be there (probably more herbs), replant and label each, and finally, document each plant's location. I plan to create a notebook with care and pest control directions for all the bulbs, perennials and shrubs for future FHS volunteer gardeners. The

kitchen of the Gridley is an original hearth. If you like antique, historic homes, this one is tiny but charming.

So save the date and enjoy the gardening efforts of three fellow Master Gardeners. And yes, you'll see Elephant Ears ... and purple ... and lime ...and ORANGE.

*~Peggy Bliss
Publicity Co-Chair
Friends of the Farmington Library Board*

The Farmington Kitchens and Gardens 2008 Tour is sponsored by the Friends of the Farmington Library to benefit the Barney Library restoration.

Tickets are \$20/ advance -after May 15th in the Library; \$25/ tour day.

For information, call 860-673-6791.



CMGA Logo 'Store'

If anyone in the CMGA membership loves to shop 'till they drop or has talents in retailing, the CMGA needs help with our logo goods. Inventory maintenance, an understanding of the latest fashions, and storing goods are areas in which help is needed. Currently there are only a few people who handle the sale of our logo merchandise throughout the state and assistance is desperately needed. If you are interested, please contact CMGA President Billy Baxter, www.billbax@snet.net or (203)265-1540.

The Laurel Calendar

Date/Time	Event, Location, Contacts
May 6, 2008 10am	CMGA Board meeting at the Pond House Cafe, Elizabeth Park, 915 Prospect Ave., West Hartford Meetings are open to all MG's. Info: Billy Baxter, 203-265-1540, www.bilbax@snet.net
May 9 & 10 10am—4pm	Hill-Stead Museum May Market , 35 Mountain Road, Farmington. Featured speaker is floral designer Chris Giftos. Info: Cynthia Cagenello (860) 677-4787, ext. 111 or www.cagenello@hillstead.org
May 10, 2008 10am—3pm	Bartlett Arboretum Plant Sale , 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, Ct. Display gardens and plants for sale. Information at (203) 322-6971 or www.bartlettarboretum.org .
May 10, 2008 9AM—12pm	North Haven Garden Club Annual May Market Saturday , 9am to 12pm on the North Haven Green. Perennials, May Baskets, Garden Treasures, and Baked Goods.
June 3, 2008 10am	CMGA Board meeting at the Pond House Cafe, Elizabeth Park, 915 Prospect Ave., West Hartford Meetings are open to all MG's. Info: Billy Baxter, 203-265-1540, www.bilbax@snet.net
June 5, 2008	Connecticut Trails Day —Various locations throughout the state—call 860-346-2372 or www.ctwoodlands.org
June 7, 2008 10am—4pm	West Hartford Garden Club Biennial Garden Tour —Six private gardens and the Noah Webster House. Advance tickets: \$15, after May 16: \$20. Info: Joan Larkins (860) 561-0724 or www.jlark07@comcast.net
June 7, 2008 9am—4pm	HerbFest 2008 —Topmost Herb Farm, 244 North School Rd. Coventry, Ct. \$10 admission for over 12 and under 70. Info: www.ctherb.org or www.topmostherbfarm.com
June 8, 2008 10am—4pm	'Pathways and Blooms—A South Windsor Garden Tour' Sponsored by the Down to Earth Garden Club and Wood Memorial Library. Eight local gardens, plant sale, optional lunch available. Call (860) 289-1783 for information
June 10, 2008 10am—4pm	Bartlett Arboretum & Garden Spring Garden Tour —a selection of very special private gardens that are rarely open to the public. More information at www.bartlettarboretum.org or call (203) 322-6971 to purchase tickets.
June 14, 2008 10am—4pm	Farmington Kitchen and Garden Tour —Sponsored by the Friends of the Farmington Library to benefit the Barney Library Restoration. Seven gardens and kitchens. Call the library for information (860) 673-6791. See the article on page 10.
June 19, 2008 7:30pm	"Garden Photography: Capturing the Interest of the Gardener" by Rich Pomerantz (Washington Depot, CT) Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT. Monthly meeting, CT Horticultural Society. www.cthort.org/calendar
June 20, 2008 12am-4pm	Rose Weekend Elizabeth Park. Noon to 4 pm activities, horticultural societies, etc. Info: 860-231-9443 or www.elizabethpark.org
July 1, 2008 10am	CMGA Board meeting at the Pond House Cafe, Elizabeth Park, 915 Prospect Ave., West Hartford Meetings are open to all MG's. Info: Billy Baxter, 203-265-1540, www.bilbax@snet.net
July 12, 2008 to Sept. 13, 2008	Wallingford Gardeners Market sponsored by Wallingford Center, Inc. and Wallingford Garden Club, at the Railroad Station Green (Routes 5 & 150). Saturdays, 9am to 12pm. Featuring local produce, eggs, honey, flowers, plants, baked goods, crafts, cooking demos. Website: www.wallingfordgardenersmarket.com
July 26, 2008	CMGA Summer Safari IV —Bartlett Arboretum. See page 1 for details.
August 5, 2008 10am	CMGA Board meeting at the Pond House Cafe Elizabeth Park, 915 Prospect Ave., West Hartford Meetings are open to all MG's. Info: Billy Baxter 203-265-1540, www.bilbax@snet.net
August 6, 2008 10am	Plant Science Day Lockwood Farm, Hamden, CT, CT Agricultural Experiment Station. Info: toll free (877) 855-2237 or www.CT.GOV/CAES

Calendar notices must be for events open to the public and of interest to Master Gardeners
If you have items for the Calendar, please contact the editor at www.diana@ringelheim.com. or 203-372-8498
Deadlines for publication are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1
Thanks to Dick Shaffer for invaluable assistance with the Calendar.

The *Laurel*

CMGA
c/o Kathy Baechle
6 Christmas Tree Hill
Canton, CT 06019



Summer Safari IV

CMGA semi-annual meeting and garden tour
Saturday, July 26, 2008, 9AM - 1PM
To be held at
Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, Stamford

Agenda:

- 9 AM Coffee and Continental breakfast
- 9:30 CMGA semi-annual membership meeting
- 10:00 Presentation by Eric Morgan, Collections Manager
- 11:00 Guided tours of Bartlett grounds and gardens

Bring your own lunch to enjoy in the arboretum's grounds.

CMGA membership meetings are open to the public, though only current CMGA members are eligible to vote

Directions to Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens

151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, CT
Phone: 1-203-322-6971. Website: www.bartlettarboretum.org

Directions

The Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens is located at 151 Brookdale Road in Stamford, Connecticut. It is conveniently located 1.5 miles north of the Merritt Parkway and 6 miles from downtown Stamford.

By Car:

From the Merritt Parkway (Route 15) - Take Exit 35 and follow High Ridge Road (Route 137) north for 1.5 miles to Brookdale Road. Turn left on Brookdale Road and proceed 3/10 of a mile. The entrance to the Bartlett will be on your right.

From Interstate 95 - Take Exit 7 and follow Route 137 north 6.3 miles to Brookdale Road. Turn left on Brookdale Road and proceed 3/10 of a mile. The entrance to the Bartlett will be on your right.

From Westchester County - Take Exit 4 on Interstate 684 and go east on Route 172 to Bedford Village. Continue on Route 172 to Pound Ridge and take Route 137 south five miles to Brookdale Road. Turn right on Brookdale Road and proceed 3/10 of a mile. The entrance to the Bartlett will be on your right.

By Connecticut Mass Transit:

Take the "E" High Ridge Road bus which stops at Brookdale Road.

Connecticut Master Gardener Association

The *Laurel*

August, 2008

Volume 21, No. 3



GARDEN TOUR AND PARTY CELEBRATING THE 30TH YEAR OF THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM IN CONNECTICUT

TOURS 12:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

GALA RECEPTION 4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

Sunday, August 24, 2008 will be a day of celebration for the 30th year of Connecticut's Master Gardener Program. The day will begin at 12 pm with a self-guided tour of six outstanding gardens in Litchfield County, with patrons lingering as long as they like, but finishing by 4 pm. The party, from 4 pm to 6 pm is a Gala Reception in the garden of Carl Contadini, and will include hors d'oeuvres, desserts, wine, a live band, and a raffle/drawing of great prizes.

Morris, Ct. The garden of David Silver features shade tolerant plants and a his own design for a quiet and contemplative water garden. David will also be displaying his sizeable collection of bonsai.

Goshen, Ct. Carl Contadini's 100 acre estate has pick-your-own blueberries with 5,000 bushes in 19 varieties. It also features many interesting trees and shrubs around the house and the pond. The house was converted from a former tobacco barn. This garden will be the site of the Gala Reception beginning at 4 pm.

Northfield, Ct. Carole St. Mark gardens with the help of MG Cheryl Della Pelle. The herb garden, pictured right, as well as a greenhouse, rose garden, and a walled perennial garden compete somewhat with the beauty of the surrounding country.



Carole St. Mark's Formal Herb Garden in Northfield, Ct.

Litchfield, Ct. This bird, bee, and butterfly heaven is gardened by Andi Marie Cantele. The informal beds surround the colonial saltbox style house and are filled with native and exotic plants that give year-round interest and wildlife benefit.

Litchfield, Ct. Ten years ago, Jerry Gault's garden was woodland and meadow. Today trees, shrubs, cutting plants, and perennials surround the house. Paths lead to a variety of serene garden settings.

Washington, Ct. Karen Craparo gardens on sloping terrain that naturally lends itself to rock walls, paths, terraces and quiet contemplation of the environment. A new pool and greenhouse add to the landscaping and plant collection.

This event has been organized by Pat Eldredge, MG Coordinator for Litchfield County, and by Sarah Bailey, MG Coordinator for Hartford County. Tickets can be purchased at their offices or at the Home and Garden Education Center in Storrs. The ticket prices and the addresses and telephone numbers of the three offices are on the back page of The Laurel. Please call those offices if you have questions about this Garden Tour.

In an effort to save the expense of mailing, the organizers ask that patrons stop by the Litchfield, West Hartford, or Storrs offices to pick up their tickets. However, advance registrations mailed and paid by check can have their tickets sent by return mail.

CMGA Officers 2008

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

Vice-President: John Carlson
209 Old Cart Road
Haddam, Ct 06438
john.i.carlson@att.net

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

Secretary: Barbara Mitchell
72 Oakengates
Avon, Ct 06001
mitchell0167@sbcglobal.net

Membership: Kathy Baechle
6 Christmas Tree Hill
Canton, Ct 06019
k.baechle@comcast.net

Cooperative Extension Center Coordinators (by County):

Fairfield: **Sandi Wilson**
203-207-3262 Sandra.wilson@uconn.edu

Fairfield (Stamford): **Regina Campfield**
mastergardener@bartlettarboretum.org
203-322-6971

Hartford: **Sarah Bailey**
Sarah.bailey@uconn.edu
860-570-9010

Litchfield: **Pat Eldredge**
Patricia.eldredge@uconn.edu
860-626-6240

Middlesex: **Carol Gregoire**
carol.gregoire@uconn.edu
860-345-4511

New Haven: **Judith Hsiang**
Judith.hsiang@uconn.edu
203-407-3167

New London: **Susan Munger**
Susan.munger@uconn.edu
860-885-2823

Tolland: **Kay Varga**
kay.varga@uconn.edu
860-870-6934

Windham: **Kim Kelly**
Kimberly.kelly@uconn.edu
860-774-9600

UConn Home & Garden

Education Center:
877-486-6271 www.canr.uconn.edu/garden

UConn Liaison:

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

CMGA website: www.ctmga.org
Hilary Forsyth
rayhbf@optonline.net

The Laurel :

Diana Ringelheim diana@ringelheim.com
Hilary Forsyth rayhbf@optonline.net

CMGA President's message



Dear Folks;

Your CMGA is a vibrant, healthy, and active organization with lots of things in the works. The semi-annual meeting in the form of the fourth annual Summer Safari was held on July 26th at the Bartlett Arboretum, and you can read all about it in this issue of The Laurel. We have already reserved the Manchester Community College for the annual symposium: save the date of March 21, 2009 (snow date March 22) for this normally sold-out event.

The CMGA has been seeking Master Gardener and Intern projects that need funding through the Grants program. The article on page 5 lists the wonderful projects that have been supported so far this year and we all hope that our members will come forward with more outreach projects that we can admire and assist. The mission of the Master Gardener Program and the CMGA is to disseminate information about gardens and their relationship to the natural world. We are a creative and resourceful group of people who seem to have a need to teach, which is vital a world that may be on the brink of environmental disaster.

Please take advantage of a new feature we hope to run in The Laurel: a Letters to the Editor column. With creativity and resourcefulness come strong opinions, and they are exactly what we need to keep us aware and useful (see page 3).

This year marks the 30th year of the UCONN Master Gardener program. Let's raise our glasses and toast to 30 more years!

All the best,

Billy Baxter, President of the CMGA

CMGA Membership Directory

The 2008 Membership Directory is now available in PDF format which is free of charge to anyone with email, or a paper copy can be obtained for \$2 to cover the cost of printing and mailing.

The Directory contains the names and address of all members as well as the list of officers, statement of purpose, Extension System offices and Coordinators, CMGA By-Laws, a brief history of the CMGA, and names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of CMGA members and 2008 interns.

Please contact Diana Ringelheim at www.diana@ringelheim.com or (203) 372-8498 if you would like a copy.

Inside this issue:

	Page
Master Gardener Day Trip.....	3
Channel 3 Kids' Camp.....	4
Career Day at R.M.T. Johnson School.....	4
CMGA Grants.....	5
Master Gardener Classes.....	5
Summer Safari.....	6—7
Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary.....	8
Notable Trees Tour.....	9
Boys and Girls Club Asylum Hill.....	9
CPTV Science Fair.....	10
Master Gardeners at the Farmington Library.....	10
Bethel Garden Fair.....	10
Calendar.....	11

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 Diana Ringelheim at diana@ringelheim.com or 121 Godfrey Rd., Fairfield, Ct. 06825

Deadline for November 2008 edition: October 1st, 2008

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are planning to devote a section of The Laurel to CMGA members who would like to convey their ideas, opinions, experiences, handy tips, etc. on subjects that affect us all such as gardening, volunteering, ecology, wildlife, environment, or the garden industry. A full page article may not meet everyone's needs, and a shorter statement such as a Letter to the Editor will give everyone a forum in which they can make their opinions known.

Please send your Letters to Diana Ringelheim, 121 Godfrey Rd., Fairfield, Ct. 06825 or to diana@ringelheim.com. Phone: (203)372-8498

As always, full articles on Master Gardener activities are essential to the continued success of The Laurel and are also gratefully accepted at the above address.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear CMGA Members;

With this issue, the editorship of The Laurel has officially changed. Hilary Forsyth has been the stalwart and inimitable editor for more than four years and will now pursue new challenges with the CMGA website. The standard of excellence and clear formatting of this publication are due to her creativity and attention to detail. Hilary has always worked to include as many CMGA members as possible in the writing of The Laurel, a practice to which the new editor is also committed; easily done since the members are such a knowledgeable and expressive group.

The entire membership of the CMGA owes a debt of gratitude to Hilary, but it is not as large as my personal debt. Hilary's technical assistance and moral support during this transition has insured that The Laurel will remain a publication worthy of the high standards of the CMGA.

Again, thank you Hilary for all your hard work in formulating a publication of which we can all be proud.

Sincerely,
Diana Ringelheim, Fledgling Editor, The Laurel

Master Gardener Day Trip

At 8:00am on June 4th a bus load of Master Gardeners, Master Gardener students, and friends headed south to the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx. It was discouraging that after weeks of beautiful weather our tour day started out rainy. It rained all the way to the Bronx but stopped as we left the bus. What started as a disappointment turned into a perfect day to roam the 250 acres. It was cool and cloudy so no one got sunburned or heat stroke.

It was decided to go to the gardens on a Wednesday to save money. Admission to the grounds of the gardens is free on Wednesdays. There was plenty to see without spending anything extra but many of us purchased an all day/all garden pass for \$17. This entitled you to go to extra exhibits such as the Conservatory, Rose Garden, and Rock Garden. It also gave you unlimited rides on the tram which runs around the perimeter of the park. There was so much to see you could not take it all in during a single visit. You could easily spend the whole day just in the

Conservatory. The Rose Garden was really beautiful and seemed to be at peak bloom. Wandering through the paths of the Rock Garden, looking at Lady Slippers by a waterfall, it was hard to believe that you were actually in the Bronx.

We could tell that we had missed a beautiful display of blooms from bulbs but we were there at just the right time for the Rose bloom. To get the full effect from the gardens you would really need to go every month during the growing season. I'm sure people who live nearby get a season's pass and visit often. For those of us who come from a distance it helps to go to the NYBG web site (www.NYBG.org) which will tell you what is blooming and what exhibits are running each month so you can pick the perfect time visit.

As we reluctantly left the Bronx at 3:30pm it was agreed that a good time was had by all.

~Pat Eldredge, M. G. Coordinator,
Litchfield County



L to R: Inside the conservatory; Mary Jo Torcello and Sarah Bailey in the Perennial Garden; the Rose Garden

Channel 3 Kids' Camp 2008



The Channel 3 Kids' Camp gardening program began its 3rd year on March 12, 2008 when MG volunteers brought the greenhouse back to life. All of 2008's garden plantings were started from seeds planted at that time along with seeds for UConn's Dawn Pettinelli's CPTV Science Fair (all 3,000 plants). The Tolland Plant Sale benefited also.

MGs Paula Robinson, Ann Harrington-Dibella, Carole Miller, Mary Cross, Toni Royal and Bob Duffy will handle the class instructions assisted by the many interns Ann recruited from the Tolland MG Class of 2008. Kim Kelly of the Brooklyn Office has once again offered her help as a guest lecturer. Kim was well received last year and several individuals asked that she return. MGs Norma Miller and Jay Beausoliel returned this year to assist them.

Weather is an important part of any gardening program and our project was fortunate to receive a grant from The Ellen Goldfarb Memorial Trust for the purchase of a Davis Weather Station and computer. The two items together will allow children to track temperature and rain fall over the summer period. The Camp is planning on daily reporting from the greenhouse weather station on Channel 3. The Camp will benefit via the anticipated positive PR.

The great "Sunflower Race" for 2008 is underway. Last year we charted 2 plants for the kids. This year we will have four, names given were Paula, Ann, Jay and Bill. We were close to having a 12 foot sunflower in 2007, and this year on Friday June 27th Ann was in the lead at 57 inches followed by Bill at

48½, Paula at 46½ and Jay at 45 inches.

Similar to last year, the Junior MG Program offers 3 - 50 minute training classes twice a week, on Tuesday and Friday. As of Friday, we have worked with 45 children. We will close out the kids' garden experience with a "Green Thumb Certificate"; it's something they all look forward to taking back home. One of the daily sessions will include a group of day campers which is a new program for 2008. These kids range in age from 6 to 8 years old. Also new is a State of Connecticut Foster Children program that will bring separated siblings together for one week working in conjunction with the Wheeler Clinic.

Beyond the new weather station, we had the pleasure of receiving a large number of children's books from former Tolland Coordinator Mary Collins. Added to that the Girl Scouts of Colchester rounded up over 2,700 books for the start of a new camp library. Ann Harrington-Dibella solicited a generous gift of Mountain Laurels from the kind people at Broken Arrow Nursery for the replacement of the invasive "Burning Bush".

Bob Duffy not only donates his time but he provided the children with a dwarf orchard of Cherry, Apple and Peach Trees.

2008 Interns who have assisted in helping the program grow are Peter Clark, Michelle Weiner, Steve Aldi, Denise Cooper, Trish Safer, Nick Krukoff and Pam Harvey. To those who's names I may have overlooked please forgive me. There have been many and their efforts have been appreciated.

~Bill Overton, Master Gardener

Career Day at R.M.T. Johnson School, Bethel

On May 16, 2008 I had the pleasure of spending the morning with groups of 4th and 5th graders at R.M.T. Johnson School in Bethel, CT at their annual Career Day. This was my third consecutive year speaking to students about my work as a Master Gardener. May is a fantastic time of year for such a presentation, and after a quick speech on tick bite prevention I happily open my bag of tricks. Students are drawn in by the bald-faced hornets nest and enjoy my explanations of current garden issues from cedar apple rust to sawfly larvae. The "yuck factor" is always satisfied with a definition of frass and the opportunity to hold a white grub they sift from a bucket of dirt. The half hour I am given to speak passes quickly, and I generally have to pry my samples from the children's hands and shoo them on to their next presenter. While I may not make my fortune as a Master Gardener I do hand on my knowledge and excitement to this group of students, and who knows where that may lead?

~Michele Bardwell, Master Gardener



CMGA Grants to Master Gardeners

To date, the CMGA has approved 8 requests for funding outreach projects of Master Gardeners or Interns, for a total of \$2400. It is not too late to apply for funding for worthwhile projects. Please contact John Neff at jneff@comcast.net or (860)673-5018.

Channel 3 Camp: MGs Bill Overton and Jay Beausoleil. A vegetable garden at the camp gives inner city kids a hands-on learning experience.

Auer Farm: MG Marlene Mayes. MGs and Interns raise large quantities of food for local food banks.

SB Butler Elementary School: Intern Ronda Halperin. Educating children on planting and maintaining plants.

Heritage Commons Adult Assisted Living: Intern Donna Monnes. A draught-resistant perennial garden featuring native plants to enhance the facility.

Mystic Seaport Historic Garden: Interns Amy Bush and Pam McGee. The existing garden is being enhanced with additional plants and the team is preparing literature regarding the garden.

Chaplin School and Public Library: Kim Kelley. Several Master Gardeners from Windham County are working with students at the Goodwin Forest Edu-

cation and Conservation Center. They collect and propagate seeds of native plants and learn about their importance. The students are developing a pamphlet for use by the library patrons to identify native plants in the library garden.

Colchester's Green Team: MGs Katherine Kosiba, Ellen Falbowski, and Diana Matzusaki. This program involves an intergenerational garden project that brings children in grades 3 to 8 together with Senior Citizens to plant and maintain gardens devoted to vegetables, herbs, and butterflies.

Growing Connection: MG Robin Dixon Rouse. This program makes it possible for children in Windham County to participate in an international association that promotes knowledge about horticulture in other cultures, particularly in Third World countries.

In addition to the above eight projects, the CMGA was happy to give funding to **Dawn Pettinelli** to assist with UConn's booth at the **CPTV Family Science Expo** (related article on pg. 10). The booth has been undertaken for many years and the CMGA is committed to helping with this effort.

~ John Neff, Master Gardener and Chair of Grants Committee

Advanced Master Gardener Classes : Fall 2008

Date and Time	Location	Class and Instructor
9/9/08 10 am—1 pm	Bethel Extension Office	Hot Topics Updates on insect and disease problems in Conn., organic and sustainable garden products, and other topics of current interest.
9/20/08 9 am—12 pm	Norwich Extension Center	Nature Journaling for Master Gardeners. Instructor: Frances Topping
9/25/08 2 pm—4 pm	Bethel Extension Office	Vermicomposting. Instructor: Irene Skrybailo
10/11/08 10 am—12 pm	Middlesex County Ext. Office	Homebrew for the Home Gardener. Instructor: Robert O'Connor
10/18/08 10 am—12 pm	George Stafford Torrey Herbarium, Storrs	Herbaria: What They Are & What They Tell Us. Instructor: TBA
10/20/08 2 pm—4 pm	Bethel Extension Office	Managing Invasive & Non-native Plants. Instructor: Peter Picone
Date & Time: TBA	Tolland County Office	Designing and Building Labyrinths in All Seasons Instructor: Charlotte Pyle
Date & Time: TBA	UConn Research Farm	Hands on Turf Pests Class: Weeds, Insects, & Diseases. Instructor: Steve Ratcliffe

The official Fall Catalogue is due at the end of August. Be sure to check the Master Gardener Website for more details and updates on classes. www.ladybug.uconn.edu/. Telephone 1-877486-6271

Master Gardener Classes: Winter 2009

Applications and information for the 2009 Master Gardener Class are now available on line at www.ladybug.uconn.edu. Be sure to tell friends and family about this opportunity to add UConn's horticultural expertise to their years of practical gardening experience.

The Hort Pro Program will again be offered to professionals in the horticultural business who may not be able to complete the volunteer hours normally required for a Master Gardener Certificate. They have as much, if not more, need to learn the latest developments in gardening as non-professionals.

The application process will close on Friday, October 31, 2008. As always, classes will be given in five locations around the state. And remember, these classes fill up, so the sooner the application is completed, the better the chance of being accepted. Letters of acceptance will be sent by November 14, 2008 to all the lucky people whom we may one day welcome to the membership of the CMGA.

Summer Safari IV, Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Stamford



1



2



3



4

CMGA members, friends and family gathered at the Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens in Stamford, Ct. on July 26 for the semi-annual CMGA meeting and fourth annual Summer Safari. The day began bright and early, with a sumptuous breakfast prepared by MGs who also volunteer at the Bartlett. It provided a chance for us to chat with new and old friends from all corners of Connecticut (picture #3).

After a gracious welcome from Regina Campfield, MG Coordinator at the Bartlett, and a very speedy business meeting by Billy Baxter, CMGA President, the Safari embarked on its true purpose: pleasure and education. Eric Morgan, Collections Manager and resident botanist gave a PowerPoint presentation as an overview of this remarkable property.

The Visitors center, picture #1, was the home of Dr. Francis Bartlett, founder of the Bartlett Tree Experts, a company that now operates internationally. Many of the unique specimens on the 91 acres are due to Dr. Bartlett's curiosity and professional activities such as propagation, hybridization, and investigations into tree biology and health. The Education Building, picture #2, had been Dr. Bartlett's laboratory and continues as the site of ongoing scientific projects, public lectures and symposia, as well as the setting for the Master Gardener classes held at the Arboretum.

After Eric's presentation we broke up into five groups for tours representing some of the activities at the Bartlett. Tours included Beekeeping; Notable Trees; Plants in Bloom; Herb Garden; and an Overview of the Grounds. In photo #4, Greg Moonie, MG and Bartlett board member, leads a group to the pol-

larded trees. (Pollarding is a method of keeping trees small and is still practiced on Europe's charmingly narrow streets. Dr Bartlett used the technique to test pesticides on trees that could be more easily monitored than their 60-foot tall standard versions. See photo page 7, below.)

Eric Morgan on the Past, Present, and Future of the Bartlett Arboretum.

Eric Morgan has been on the staff at the Bartlett Arboretum for two years and is intimately aware of everything botanical that exists on the property. He is also well versed in the characteristics of a garden with scientific importance as well as beauty and charm.

Because the Arboretum began its existence in part as a commercial venture, trees had been planted as 'inventory' resulting in many individuals of the same species. Even a 91-acre arboretum has a limited amount of space, and Eric is involved in editing the collection and bringing it into the sharper focus required of an educational institution.

Specific genera are being collected and planted in close enough proximity to allow visitors to see similarities and differences among members of the same plant families. Theaceae, the Tea family (such as *Camellia sinensis*, the original source of the beverage) has members that are hardy in our area, including *Stewartia* and the native *Franklinia*.

A landscape favorite, *Magnolia*, is currently represented by 30 different species and will have its presence increased to 50 species by next spring. The hardiness of these plants in the Connecticut environment will be monitored closely. Oaks (*Quercus*) are some of the most important wildlife trees in Connecticut and

Summer Safari IV (continued)

the Bartlett will have 40 species by next spring.

The Mehlquist Rhododendron collection contains almost 600 plants, many of which were donated by Dr. G.A.L. Mehlquist, renowned plant scientist at the University of Connecticut who introduced many cultivars into commercial production. Science aside, the Mehlquist Garden blooms spectacularly all spring.

Eric is also engaged in an ongoing catalog of all vascular plants and bryophytes (non-vascular plants such as mosses) on the 91 acres of the arboretum. This inventory of all green organisms on the premises is basic for a serious scientific institution. To date, 360 species of vascular plants and 70 species of bryophytes have been identified on the grounds.

For gardeners, the Bartlett Arboretum gives an invaluable opportunity to see a wide variety of trees and shrubs growing in conditions similar to our own gardens. It is not only a gloriously beautiful place, but can help us with practical applications and suggestions at home. And the tree collections, particularly the Champion Trees, can help us avoid some costly mistakes of scale!

Gardening to Take Home

The Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens also contains ornamental beds and borders that are rich with planting ideas. From small landscaped areas such as the front of the Visitors Center to larger areas and formal gardens such as the Cottage Garden, Secluded Garden, Sundial Garden, Herb Garden, Alpine Garden, and Perennial Border, there is a wealth of plants for the serious gardener to delight in.

Master Gardeners and Interns are very actively involved in the creation and maintenance of these gardens. For many years the Perennial Border was the most flower-filled spot on the grounds. It has been kept thriving by Hilary Forsyth and an ever enlarging crew of MGs and Interns.

The pathetic black and white photograph at the top right of this page barely gives an impression of a border that is 130 feet long, 12 feet deep, and in bloom from April to November. Without a sprinkler system and minimal deer protection, the garden flourishes because of masterful technique and heroic effort. The Perennial Border provides another opportunity to 'shop' for garden worthy plants that have



proven themselves fit to meet Connecticut's challenges. Books and catalogs do not tell all; plants living in a local garden speak eloquently.

The sparkingly beautiful Summer Safari ended with our brown-bag lunches and conversations about all we had seen. The CMGA would like to thank the folks at The Bartlett Arboretum for making the Summer Safari IV a resounding success. Special thanks have to be extended to Regina Campfield, MG Coordinator, and Hilary Forsyth, AMG and CMGA board member, and to all the volunteers who helped cater and stage this unforgettable event. A strong recommendation is made to all CMGA members who missed the Safari to schedule a visit to the Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens.

~Staff Reporter

THE EMAIL ADVANTAGE

The Summer Safari IV was the first time a group email message was used to notify members of a CMGA event. In all, 841 emails were sent, resulting in a saving of about \$350 in postage (not counting printing costs, and the labor of folding, stuffing into envelopes, stamping, and mailing).

Another advantage of emailed communications is the speed with which people can be notified of changes. For instance, the Bartlett Arboretum was struck by lightning a few days before the Summer Safari and the telephone system and other electric equipment was damaged before electricity was lost altogether. Luckily the power was restored and our meeting was held without incident. However, the timing might not have worked in our favor and the meeting might have been canceled. Email notification could have been sent to all registered attendees, if not to the entire membership, at no extra charge.

One hundred thirty-four paper letters were mailed to CMGA members for whom we do not have an email address. The advantages of email are apparent and we ask that any member who received a paper notice and who has email please send your email address to Membership Chair Kathy Baechle at k.baechle@comcast.net. Thank you.



Butterfly Garden at Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Stamford

If you wander into Stamford's Cove Beach Park for a seaside stroll any Monday morning, perhaps you'll notice a cluster of cars gathered together at the far end of the parking lot. There, each week a group of MG Interns arrives with pruners, notebooks and plenty of drinking water to participate in an extraordinary community outreach project—the establishment of a 4,000 square foot butterfly garden in the midst of the Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary.

Begun in November of 2006, the project is up and running under the stewardship of Dave Winston (MG 1998) and Sue Sweeney (MG 2004). This is the second year that Master Gardeners have participated. Already designated as an "Important Bird Area," the 82 acre Wildlife Sanctuary is, arguably, the crown jewel of Stamford's park system, attracting thousands of visitors each summer weekend. However, if you ask this hard-working group of Interns and Mentors, it is a different kind of visitor it hopes to attract to this spot, and its preferred guests all have wings.

The Connecticut Atlas of Butterflies, a DEP publication, lists 125 different butterfly species residing in our state, many of which already are classified as "critically imperiled," "imperiled" or "vulnerable". The goal here, week in and week out, is to help create an environment where members of the Lepidoptera family can remain for their complete lifecycle as well as reproduce, thus ensuring their very survival.

Of course, this is not a simple task. Initially a dumping ground, the area was cleared of trash and debris accumulated over many years of neglect. Soil was added and a mix of native plants was used to create a meadow. However, it is Invasive Management which has been the focus for the MG Interns so far this spring and summer. Each week they tackle a specific culprit—garlic mustard weed, *Artemisia* or Japanese knotweed—to ensure that the plants which sustain butterfly life continue to thrive and grow.

Asked why they participate in this labor-intensive project, each Intern offers an individual explanation. "It feels meaningful to restore a native habitat," says one. Another says she is learning "valuable information about invasive and native plants." All seem to feel a sense of satisfaction in playing their part in preparing the area for this purpose.

According to Winston, by summer's end many more plant materials will be added to the Preserve, all chosen to attract those butterfly species most at risk. Most, if not all, will be native. This group of 17 Interns will continue with that task in the Fall, then wait with fingers crossed to see who is flying overhead next spring.

~Marjorie Schwartz, Master Gardener Intern



Volunteers at Stamford's Cove Island Wildlife Sanctuary work with Dave Winston in assessing what plants are valuable and which one must be removed to achieve the goals of the project.

Notable Tree Tour, Central Connecticut

Sponsored by
HARTFORD COUNTY EXTENSION COUNCIL

Well after they finish their "formal training", Master Gardener alumni continue to give back to the community. Alumni from Hartford County are no exception. The Hartford County Extension Council Board of Directors has six directors who are Master Gardener alumni. The work of Cooperative Extension includes, among other things, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, food safety education, lead paint remediation education and support, urban gardens, pesticide safety, the Master Gardener program, 4-H and urban forestry.

On Saturday, October 18, 2008, the Hartford Cooperative Extension Council will host a charter bus tour of Notable Trees of Central Connecticut. The chief tour guide will be well known tree expert Ed Richardson. To be classified as Notable, a tree must satisfy a number of specified criteria having to do with height, circumference of the trunk and spread of the canopy. Many of the trees on the tour are not only unique but are located on private property and are not normally accessible to the public.

Established in 1985, the Notable Trees Project collects and distributes information about Connecticut's largest and most historic trees, both native and introduced. Education of the citizens about the importance of the state's natural heritage contributes to the preservation of that heritage. It is a volunteer enterprise sponsored by the Connecticut Botanical Society,

The Connecticut College Arboretum, and the Connecticut Urban Forest Council.

A database of notable trees is maintained at the Connecticut College Arboretum. The database includes records of over 2800 individual trees in the state. Information for each tree includes size, location, ownership, and condition. The exact location of the tree is not always given because some are on private property and are not open to the public.

A full description of the project and a listing of all notable Connecticut trees can be found at the project's website, at: <http://oak.conncoll.edu:8080/notabletrees/>

The bus tour will begin and end in the parking lot of the University of Connecticut greater Hartford campus on Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford. The bus tour, including a box lunch, begins at 9 a.m. and will end at approximately 4 p.m. Proceeds from ticket sales will be used to support the work of the Hartford County Extension Council. The cost of the Tree Tour, including lunch, is \$65 per person for registrations received prior to September 15, and \$70 thereafter. Registrations will be accepted until October 13, 2008. A portion of the registration is tax deductible. For registration information or additional information about the tour, send an e-mail to: debbyrosen@sbcglobal.net. The bus tour will be held rain or shine and is limited to 100 people.

~Debbie Rosen, Master Gardener

Boys and Girls Club Asylum Hill Community Garden, Hartford

A vacant lot behind a church becomes a nutritionist's dream, combining growing and preparing vegetables as well as emphasizing the benefits of healthy eating habits.

Approximately one year ago Mary Jo Torcello, a Master Gardener from Southington, was interested in working with the Boys and Girls Club located in Hartford. Asylum Hill Church owned an empty building lot behind the club which could be made into a community garden while reserving a large area for the Boys and Girls Club.

Mary Jo and Sarah Bailey, with the help of other Master Gardeners, constructed 19 raised beds in this area. This year an additional 30 raised beds were constructed for use by the community. We were able to get a good mixture of compost and topsoil for our first year's crop. Marlene Mayes was helpful in suggesting ways to utilize the space and how to make it more attractive to the neighborhood. She also provided a number of plants from her community garden at Auer Farms, a large Foodshare garden.

We were fortunate to have Terry Dumais, from Community Health Network, who is a nutritionist, to teach a course on good nutrition for these children.

Her goal in working with Master Gardeners is to grow and harvest the crops, then show the children how to cook these vegetables and herbs. Eventually the children will bring their experiences home to provide the benefits of fresh vegetables and good nutrition to all their families.

Bill Overton and Jay Beausoleil from the Channel 3 Camp in Andover were also planning to work with Terry, unbeknownst to me. They were going to teach the basics of good gardening skills at the camp and then have the Boys and Girls Club continue the gardening experience in Hartford.

It is amazing to me how many areas Master Gardeners are not only crossing each others paths but are assuming an important role in society's need to educate our young people in growing fresh vegetables and herbs along with the importance of good nutrition and its relationship to a strong and healthy body.

~Paul Grimmeisen, Master Gardener

Master Gardeners at the CPTV Family Science EXPO

Once again enthusiastic Master Gardener volunteers teamed up with the University of Connecticut Departments of Plant Science and Cooperative Extension to design, develop and staff a hands-on exhibit at the CPTV Family Science EXPO held April 24th – 26th at the Hartford Expo Center. This year's exhibit was called 'Going Buggy!' Our intent was to educate both students and their adult companions about the important contributions insects make in our world. We presented information about many types of insects but the main focus of the exhibit centered on pollinators. There was information on different pollinating insects and on the mysterious colony collapse disorder that is currently devastating our honey bees.

Once again Master Gardeners, Bill Overton and Jay Beausoleil grew seedlings in the heated greenhouse at the Channel 3 Kids Camp for giving out to any interested students attending the EXPO. We chose anise hyssops because they are attractive to many pollinating insects. Marigolds were our back up plant. Again we had kids lining up to pot up their seedlings

so they could bring them home. We gave close to 3000 of them away!

The other Master Gardener volunteers who helped grow and care for the seedlings, design our exhibit, or staff the booth through a busy 3 days include Mary Cross, Paula Robinson, Anne Wiant Rudd, Lisa Vaughn, Ann Harrington-DiBella, Peter Clark, Linda Lareau, and Donna Gagnon. 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 a wonderful turnout with over 10,500 students, teachers and parents attending the event. There were students from 70 elementary and middle schools plus a number of home schoolers. Kim and I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the Master Gardener volunteers who made this year's exhibit so successful.

~Dawn Pettinelli, Assistant Extension Educator,
UConn Home & Garden Education Center

Literary Master Gardeners, Farmington

For the past five years, the Farmington Library had been blessed with the attention and skill of a dedicated group of Master Gardeners. Work begins in the late spring (pictured) and includes maintenance as well as adding new plants. This year's additions included 'Knockout' Roses, 'Popcorn' Viburnum, Datura, Japanese Painted Fern, Leopard's Bane, and Elephant Ears. Altogether, there are about 60 different types of plants in the garden.

Sandra Goralnick has created a catalogue of all the plants in the garden, which includes pictures. The catalogue is kept in the library as a handy reference.

When the Master Gardener work-crew is on duty, on Friday mornings, they answer questions directly from the public and spread the word about the joys of gardening.

~John Neff, Master Gardener



Master Gardeners at the Farmington Library. L to R: Paul Grimmeisen, Alan Kennedy, Caroline Lloyd, Bob Johansen, Ken Bobinski, Sandra Goralnick, Sandy Myhalik, Martha Chesire, Peggy Bliss, John Neff (not pictured: Pamela Morrison Wolf)

6th Annual Garden Fair at the Bethel Extension Office

Meg Barnes is coordinating the 6th Annual Bethel Garden Fair, and the event is shaping up to be as informative and pleasurable as in the past. The Fair will be held on August 16, 2008, from 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm at 67 Stony Hill Rd., Bethel. Info at (203)207-3262.

Lectures

- 12:45—1:30 Low-Toxic Approaches to Garden Products—Lorraine Ballato, AMG
- 1:45—2:30 Composting—Donna Katsuranis, AMG.
- 3:15—4:00—Invasive Plants—Larry Birch, MG
- 4:15—5:00—Pruning—Carol Beerbaum, AMG.

Booths

Master Gardener Q & A; Invasive and Toxic Plants; Turf; Soil Testing & Composting; Vegetables & Herbs; Annuals & Container Gardening; Perennials; Low Toxic Approaches; and a Sale Table of Used Books.

Guided Walks

- 2:30—3:15—Pests & Diseases led by Sandi Wilson, AMG and Ext. Coordinator, through areas of the grounds that have been left wild.
- 3:45—4:30 Perennial Walk led by Fran Litwin, MG and professional landscaper.

The Laurel CALENDAR

Date/Time	Event, Location, Contacts
Aug. 5; Sept. 2; and Oct. 7, 2008—10am	CMGA Board Meetings at the Pond House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford. All members of the CMGA are welcome. For info contact Billy Baxter at bilbax@snet.net
August 6, 2008 10 am—4 pm	Plant Science Day Lockwood Farm, Hamden, Ct. Conn. Agricultural Experiment Station makes their expertise available to everyone. Barn displays, 70 field plots & exhibits, plant diagnosis, insect i.d., questions answered, demonstrations, lectures, farm walking tours. Free. Call (877)855-2237 or www.ct.gov/caes.
August 15, 16, 17, 2008	Dinners at the Farm. A series of benefit dinners celebrating local farms, food, and community. Held at White Fate Farm, East Lyme. Info at www.DinnersAtTheFarm.com or River Tavern (860) 526-8078.
August 16, 2008 12:30 pm—5 pm	Bethel Master Gardener 6th Annual Gardening Fair. Held at the Fairfield County Extension Center, 67 Stony Hill Rd., Bethel, Ct. Lectures, booths, walking tours, etc. Free. For information call the Bethel MG office at (203)207-3262. (See article on page 10 of this issue.)
August 17, 2008 10 am	Conn. Botanical Society Field Trip to Szegda Farm Property, Columbia, Ct. Free. Information at www.ct-botanical-society.org click on 'Field Trip Schedule'
September 6, 2008 9 am—3 pm	Cheshire Garden Club is sponsoring 'A Water Garden Tour'. Advance tickets are \$10, available from Tony Fay, (203) 272-4173
September 12, 13, 14, 2008	Dinners at the Farm. A series of benefit dinners celebrating local farms, food, and community. Held at Hindinger Farm, Hamden. Info at www.DinnersAtTheFarm.com or River Tavern (860)526-8078.
September 13, 2008 10 am	Conn. Botanical Society Field Trip to Machimoodus State Park, East Haddam, Ct. Free. Information at www.ct-botanical-society.org click on 'Field Trip Schedule'
September 13, 2008 10 am—4:45 pm	'Foliage Forever' New York Botanical Garden , Bronx, NY. Six 2-hour programs to choose from; get a 10% discount if you attend three. Information at (718)817-8747 or www.nybg.org/edu.
September 18, 2008 7:30 pm	Connecticut Horticultural Society meeting. Speaker Suzanne Knutson on <i>Planning and Designing Your Landscape</i> . Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., West Hartford. Info at (860)529-8713.
September 24, 2008 12 pm	Workshop: 'Closing Your Perennial Garden' Elizabeth Park, West Hartford, Ct. Information at (860)231-9443 or www.elizabethpark.org.
September 26, 2008 7:00 pm	Conn. Horticultural Society Fall Plant Auction. Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Ave., Vernon, Ct.
October 1, 2008	Invasive Plant Symposium "Cherish Our Natural Heritage: Managing Invasives to Promote Natives", Univ. of Conn., Storrs, Ct. Hosted by Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) Keynote Speaker: Doug Tallamy, Unive. Of Delaware. Information at (860)486-6448 or www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg.
October 4, 2008 10 am	Connecticut Botanical Society tour of CT Department of Environmental Protection Goshen Wildlife Management Area. Free. Info at www.ct-botanical-society.org click on 'Field Trip Schedule'
October 16, 2008 7:30 pm	Conn. Horticultural Society. Speaker Brent Heath on <i>Bulbs as Companion Plants (Especially Critter-Proof Varieties)</i> Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., West Hartford. Info at (860)529-8713.
October 18, 2008 9 am—4 pm	Notable Trees of Central Connecticut. A charter bus tour organized by the Hartford County Extension Council. Tour guide is tree expert Ed Richardson. Cost includes lunch. Fee is \$65 by Sept. 15, and \$70 thereafter, up until Oct. 13. For information email Debbyerosen@sbcglobal.net. (See article on page 9 of this issue.)
November 1, 2008 10 am—11 am	Workshop: Closing Your Rose Garden for Winter Protection. Held at Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. Information at (860)231-9443 or www.elizabethpark.org.

Calendar notices must be for events open to the public and of interest to Master Gardeners
 If you have items for the Calendar, please contact the editor at www.diana@ringelheim.com. or 203-372-8498
 Deadlines for publication are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1
Thanks to Dick Shaffer for invaluable assistance with the Calendar.

Connecticut Master Gardener Association

The *Laurel*

CMGA

C/O Kathy Baechle
6 Christmas Tree Hill
Canton, Ct. 06019



**GARDEN TOUR AND RECEPTION
CELEBRATING THE 30TH YEAR OF THE
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM IN CONNECTICUT
AUGUST 24, 2008
TOUR 12 PM–4 PM
RECEPTION 4 PM–6 PM
LITCHFIELD COUNTY**

**ORDER TICKETS FOR THE GARDEN TOUR AND GALA RECEPTION
AUGUST 24, 2008:**

Home & Garden Education Center
1380 Storrs Rd. Unit 4115
Storrs, Ct. 06269-4115
(877)486-6271

Litchfield County Extension Office
843 University Drive
Torrington, Ct. 06790
(860)626-6240

Hartford County Extension Office
1800 Asylum Avenue
West Hartford, Ct. 06117-2600
(860)570-9010

Master Gardeners (Tour Only)	\$15 per person
Guests (Tour Only)	\$20 per person
Tour and Reception	\$50 per person
(Reception must be reserved one week before event)	

A brochure that will have the addresses and directions to all the gardens will be the patron's entrance ticket. A separate ticket will be included for the Gala Reception, if purchased.

Please call Pat Eldredge in Litchfield or Sarah Bailey in West Hartford if you have questions about the garden tour.
This event is sponsored by the UConn Master Gardener Program.



Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Master Gardener Association

Saturday, December 6, 2008
Pond House Café, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford
8:30 am to 11:00 am

We will gather for a buffet breakfast at 8:30 and after we are well fortified, we will have a business meeting addressing matters such as the election of new officers, presentation of an annual budget, and discussion of any new business raised by the membership. Our reward for these exertions will be a presentation by Deborah Kent, detailed below.

Please join us for this meeting which is so important to the continued strength of the CMGA and vital to our mission of keeping the Master Gardeners of Connecticut together.

CMGA Member

DEBORAH KENT

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL CMGA MEETING

CREATING MIXED BORDERS USING MULTI-SEASONAL PLANTS

Deborah Kent retired as a Channel 3 news reporter in 2004 and is now a horticultural professional whose design company can create new gardens as well as maintain and enrich existing plantings with window boxes, containers, and even pre-party or holiday facelifts. However, in the tradition of Master Gardeners, Deborah also volunteers and is President of the Glastonbury Partners in Planting, a non-profit organization that focuses on horticultural education and beautification in town.

Deborah will give a PowerPoint presentation on the use of trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses in the creation of long-season interest in our garden. A plant list will be provided since there are approximately seventy slides in the program and we would not want to miss one plant name.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING MASTER GARDENER CLASS OF 2008*

We applaud your achievements after a year of exploring the enormous variety of activities that gardening can encompass. Keep the spirit of exploration and volunteerism alive by supporting the CMGA and becoming a regular member. Interns are given Associate Membership status, which ends with graduation. The annual membership form is on page 11 of *The Laurel* and we look forward to having you join as a certified Ct. Master Gardener.

*At press time, all graduations had taken place except for the Vernon office, which will occur on November 14, 2008.

CMGA Officers 2008

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

Vice-President: John Carlson
209 Old Cart Road
Haddam, CT 06438
john.i.carlson@att.net

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

Secretary: Barbara Mitchell
72 Oakengates
Avon, CT 06001
mitchell0167@sbcglobal.net

Membership: Kathy Baechle
6 Christmas Tree Hill
Canton, CT 06019
k.baechle@comcast.net

Cooperative Extension Center Coordinators (by County):

Fairfield: **Sandi Wilson**
203-207-3262 *Sandra.wilson@uconn.edu*

Fairfield (Stamford): **Regina Campfield**
203-322-6971 *mastergardener@bartlettarboretum.org*

Hartford: **Sarah Bailey**
860-570-9010 *Sarah.bailey@uconn.edu*

Litchfield: **Pat Eldredge**
860-626-6240 *Patricia.eldredge@uconn.edu*

Middlesex: **Carol Gregoire**
860-345-4511 *carol.gregoire@uconn.edu*

New Haven: **Judith Hsiang**
203-407-3167 *Judith.hsiang@uconn.edu*

New London: **Susan Munger**
860-885-2823 *Susan.munger@uconn.edu*

Tolland: **Kay Varga**
860-870-6934 *kay.varga@uconn.edu*

Windham: **Kim Kelly**
860-774-9600 *Kimberly.kelly@uconn.edu*

UConn Home& Garden

Education Center:
877-486-6271 *www.ladybug.uconn.edu*

UConn Liaison:

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

CMGA website: *www.ctmga.org*
Hilary Forsyth
rayhbf@optonline.net

The Laurel :

Diana Ringelheim *diana@ringelheim.com*

CMGA President's message



Billy Baxter
CMGA President

The end of another season in the garden: raking leaves, tidying beds and planning for next year. The CMGA is also looking to the future and our next big event is the **Annual Meeting on Dec. 6**, at which we will elect officers, present and discuss the 2009 budget, and eat, drink, and talk gardens. After that we eagerly anticipate the annual **Symposium in March, 2009** (details in the next issue of *The Laurel*).

As always, we encourage (alright, beg) members to join the **Board of the CMGA** to add their unique talents to the future of our organization. To become a Board member you only have to attend the monthly meetings at Elizabeth Park (please see *The Laurel* Calendar, page 10); there is no application form, nominating committee interview, or **gruesome** initiation ceremony!

One of the things not new this year at the CMGA is the amount of the **annual dues**. We have been able to keep the dues at \$20 and yet provide the same benefits to our members as last year. This is solely due to the outstanding work of the folks who volunteer to serve on the board and make sure we have a lively and meaningful organization.

We would like to extend our hearty congratulations to the **Master Gardener Class of 2008** and hope that we meet most of you as new members. The application form on page 11 can be used for new and renewing membership. The CMGA is like an **alumni association** of the Master Gardener Program since we keep certified Master Gardeners informed about the MG program and provide crucial support and **Grants** for Interns and MGs for their outreach gardening projects.

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting where we'll meet, mix, and mingle with fellow Master Gardeners.

Inside this issue:

	Page
CMGA Annual Meeting & Program	1
Colchester Green Team	3
Book Reviews	4
AMG Classes	4
Bethel Garden Fair	5
Carol Gregoire's Address	6-7
Let's Go Let's Grow	8
Soundwaters Garden Renovation	9
Master Gardener Scrapbook	9
<i>The Laurel</i> Calendar	10
Membership Application/Renewal Form.....	11

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 Diana Ringelheim at diana@ringelheim.com or 21 Godfrey Rd., Fairfield, Ct. 06825 phone (203)372-8498
Deadline for February, 2009 edition: January 1, 2009

Community Outreach

Colchester Green Team Has Its 10th Successful Year

by **Katherine Kosiba**, Master Gardener

Take 26 children grades 3-8, add 6 senior adults, mix in 4 master gardeners/ interns with local Youth and Senior Services Coordinators and put them all into vegetable, herb and butterfly gardens and what do you get? - The Colchester Green Team! This is the tenth year of the Green Team, an intergenerational gardening program sponsored by Colchester's Youth Services and Senior Services.



Photo compliments of the Colchester Bulletin

For the last two years the Green Team has given an opportunity for local master gardener interns to perform outreach hours, and continue to contribute their knowledge and experience within their own community. The Green Team met Wednesdays at the Colchester Senior Center from May until late August. The program's format included the preparation and serving of a healthy snack coupled with a gardening lesson, followed by work in one of the three gardens under the guidance of the master gardeners and senior mentors. Sometimes the program included a garden-related arts/craft project or a look at nature in and around the gardens. The program ended with "the best Block Party in Town" for families, neighbors, friends, and town officials. The Green Team spent the morning preparing special foods made from vegetables from the garden, served deli-



Photo by Ellen Falbowski

The Colchester Green Team graciously acknowledges the CMGA for its financial support.

icious dishes to the guests then took them on tours of the three gardens.

This year the Green Team visited the Haddam UConn Cooperative Extension for a day of learning and fun in the community vegetable garden, with talks on insects, natural landscape, invasive plants, 4-H, and a tour of the building and grounds.

The Green Team was thankful to receive a Connecticut

Master Gardeners Association \$250.00 grant for needed tools (handles were stenciled with Green Team name), supplies, and a portion of the cost for a program banner. The Green Team logo was designed by the Senior Center program coordinator, Priscilla Clesowich specifically for the banner.

This year's harvest from the vegetable garden was the best yet due in part to the new fence donated by the town (no groundhogs), good garden planning and practices, and a dedicated group of gardeners of all ages. Although the program is over for the summer, Priscilla Clesowich continues to take older visitors of the Senior Center to the garden to harvest vegetables several days a week.

A recent article in the [Colchester Bulletin](#) about the Green Team's Block Party had this to say about the program:

'The program is a wonderful opportunity for kids and seniors to learn from each other and have fun working together,' said [Lyn] Marra (Coordinator Youth Services).

[Kathy] Russi (Director, Senior Center) said she was glad to help lead the team. 'We had four great master gardeners who helped to make this possible. This is a great way to promote positive aging in our community.'

Now this is a program to be proud of, and the master gardeners/interns, Ellen Falbowski, Mary Glod, Diana Matsuzaki and I are very happy to have contributed to its success this year.

Book Reviews

A discussion of two books that address the topic of the moment: Gardens and Native Wildlife. This subject previews the theme of the CMGA Symposium in March, 2009: Gardens Going Green.

By **Carolynn Sears**, 2008 Master Gardener

Recently I read two informative and thought-provoking books about bugs and gardens. Both authors write with authority as professional entomologists and experienced gardeners. Neither one shakes an accusatory finger at the reader, but both present compelling descriptions of the critical contributions of gardeners to the long-term health and well-being of our gardens, communities, and planet. Reading these books has influenced me to think again about the ethical practices and philosophical basis of gardening.

In *Insects and Gardens* (2001) by Eric Grissell with photographs by Carll Goodpasture, the author challenges us to become *realistic gardeners*, to work with the laws of nature and develop a garden that functions as a balanced, naturalistic system. He especially wants us to leave the chemical sprays alone and presents coherent arguments against biological controls. He urges us to give up the quest for perfection and reminds us that harmony in nature occurs when all factions are in constant battle. He challenges gardeners to increase the diversity of their gardens, to integrate native plants into our garden schemes, and to develop *complex gardens*. The photographs by Goodpasture are exceptional.

In *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* (2007) by Douglas W.

Tallamy, the author impresses upon the gardener the vital role of *native plants* in the suburban garden. Referring to the research, Tallamy documents how little wildlife is supported by introduced plant species. He explains why native insects can't use *alien* species and he constructs a persuasive case for planting only natives. Tallamy reminds us that all life is fueled by the sun's energy, captured by the green plants, and made available to other animals by the insects. Tallamy's book post dates Grissell's and his sense of urgency is keener. He describes our gardens as last refuges and that "increasing the percentage of natives in suburbia is a grassroots solution to the extinction crisis (p. 237)". He provides practical suggestions for changing over to native plants, and urges gardeners to begin now.

These books have influenced me to think deeply about being a gardener. Both books have alerted me to appreciate the thousands of living interactions in the garden. Both books have inspired me to think about the ethical decisions represented by what I plant in my garden. Can I let go of my fascination with alien ornamentals? Should my goal be to plant natives only or to develop a complex garden? And should I install a deer fence to resolve the conflict between gardening for diversity and co-existing with an established herd of deer?

Advanced Gardener Master Classes

Date and Time	Location	Class and Instructor
11/3/08 7:00 pm—9:00 pm	Bartlett Arboretum Stamford, Ct.	Working Around Trees III — Site Analysis & Planning— Instructor: Wayne Cahilly. The class is a continuation of Working Around Trees I & II. This session will focus on soil texture, structure, moisture, irrigation, drainage, etc.
11/10/08 7:00 pm—9:00 pm	Bartlett Arboretum Stamford, Ct.	Working Around Trees IV— Instructor: Wayne Cahilly. The class is a continuation of Working Around Trees I, II, and III. How to prepare trees for construction events and how to care for them during and after.
11/12/08 6 pm—8 pm	New London County Extension Office Norwich, Ct.	Creating Period Gardens — Instructor: Leigh Knuttel. Emphasis will be on mid-19th century period gardens of southern New England.
11/14/08 10 am— 12 pm	Carol Yee's Collectibles Perry Hill Road Ashford, Ct.	Woody Plant Propagation — Instructor: Carol Yee. Hands-on class on propagating woody ornamental plants. Tool sharpening demonstration also.
December, 2008 Date & Time TBA	Plant Science Research Farm Agronomy Rd., Storrs, Ct.	Organic Vegetable Gardening— Instructor: Wayne Hansen. An examination of the cultural practices used at Wayne Hansen's own farm.
1/22/09 and 1/27/09 9:30 am—12:30 pm	Camp Quinnebaug Taos Drive Danielson, Ct.	Fresh Floral Projects for Horticultural Activity Programs— Instructor: Kate Desjardins. Ongoing classes in horticultural therapy. These classes investigate the sensory stimulation afforded special populations through contact with fresh flowers.

Full details of these and other Garden Master Classes : www.ladybug.uconn.edu/. Telephone 1-877-486-6271. Classes are added on an on-going basis and the Home & Garden Education Center website should be checked frequently.

Sixth Annual Bethel Master Gardener Garden Fair



Registration Booth



Book Sale Booth



Soil Test Booth



Low Toxic Booth



Invasives Booth

By **Meg Barnes** –
Master Gardener and
Coordinator of the 2008 Garden Fair

August 16, 2008 started out as a gorgeous summer day and the perfect venue for the 6th Annual Master Gardener Fair. The Fairfield County Master Gardener Program hosted the fair on the property at 67 Stony Hill Road in Bethel, CT from 12:30 to 5:00. Preparations began in February and many, many master gardeners worked hard to make the fair a great success. It would be impossible to name everyone who contributed but a special mention and a thank you should go out to a few key volunteers including Irv Agard, Lorraine Balatto, and Jane Wooding for helping me with coordination of the event.

The fair featured four presentations - *Low Toxic Approaches* by Lorraine Ballato, *Composting* by Donna Katsuranis, *Invasives* by Larry Birch and *Pruning* by Carol Beerbaum. In addition there were two walks that attendees could participate in – *Pests and Diseases* led by Sandi Wilson and *Perennials* led by Fran Litwin. Also included was a raffle of plants donated by local and not so local businesses and nurseries. If you turned in an evaluation sheet you received a raffle ticket and a chance to win one of over 50 plants that were generously donated!

There were booths that provided information and examples of vegetables and their diseases, invasive plants, turf care and problems, perennials and their uses in the landscape, low-toxic solutions to gardening problems, container gardening, and the Master Gardener's booth

where you could bring questions about your garden and get answers and practical advice. Our Used Book booth was a roaring success. There were hundreds of books donated for the sale this year and all but a handful were sold. The proceeds from this year's book sale were given to Master Gardener, Johanna Weiss who lost her home in a fire earlier this year. We hope this will help her rebuild her library of gardening books.

Free soil testing was offered again this year and at the end of the day over 120 soil samples were tested. A special thanks goes out to Dawn Pettinelli and the Soil Laboratory in Storrs for letting us borrow the equipment for the fair. The 4-H club had a booth promoting their organization and their fund-raising bulb sale. Redmond Foley a vocational agricultural student from Southington High School brought his collection of carnivorous plants to the fair and everyone enjoyed the venus flytraps and pitcher plants. Redmond's mom, JoAnn, is a Master Gardener.

A fast and furious lightning storm washed out the Perennial walk but it was all over in 30 minutes and the raffle closed the day at 5:00. We had over 250 people attended the event including Judy Wolf and friend from the Dutchess County Extension Center's Master Gardener program. Everyone had a great time, the presentations were well attended, and it is heartwarming to see the amount of time and effort that is donated by all of the Master Gardeners and friends involved. I can't thank you all enough for the great day we had.



Part of the Bethel Garden Fair Grounds

Why We Are Master Gardeners

An address by **Carol M. Gregoire**, Middlesex County Master Gardener Coordinator, to Dean Gregory Wiedemann, the new dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut, on August 6, 2008 at the Middlesex Office.

Surely, Dean Wiedemann, you, as most people here, are familiar with the Master Gardener Program, since it is available in almost all of our fifty states, but you, as many of us here, may wonder what exactly Master Gardeners are doing in Middlesex County. The Master Gardener office at this Extension Center is usually quite busy during the warm weather months, but just to make sure that the local folks knew what sort of services were available here, I wrote an article for *The Haddam Bulletin*, the area's monthly news magazine, which was published in the July issue. In it I explained that Master Gardeners are available to answer horticultural questions and I invited the public to call or come in. Well, our interns haven't had too many dull moments since, not that they weren't busy before the article. From insect and weed identifications to pasture clearing and deer deterrents, the questions have poured in. We've been answering questions in the office ranging from lawn problems to fungal diseases (it's been a great year for fungal diseases!) to tomato blossom end rot, to slime mold creeping around the vegetable plants.

Two weeks ago this Extension Office was visited by a group of about twenty-five children and several adults called "The Green Team." The Green Team is an intergenerational project in Colchester involving children and senior citizens. In 2007 it was taken on by three Master Gardener interns who have developed The Green Team into horticultural and recreational phenomena. It brings two widely varying age groups together to vegetable garden and explore nature while learning also about the nutrition in the food they produce and enjoy eating [see related article on pg. 3]. Their field trip to this site allowed them to see The Model Community Garden (a project of the Middlesex County Master Gardener Focus Group) and have a guided tour by one of the garden volunteers, a bug talk by me, and a presentation by our forester, Tom Worthly. Through this visit we literally brought in the public of all ages, and provided information and horticultural enrichment.

In addition, this past weekend, our interns and I attended the New Haven and Middlesex Counties 4-H Fair at the Durham Fair Grounds. There we set up a display, provided many handouts, and talked to people who came by about a number of plant topics and the Master Gardener Program. We are planning to do the same in a few weeks at the Haddam Neck Fair.

Besides researching and answering questions in the office, inviting groups into this Center, and going out into the public, our interns have been working on several varied outreach projects. One such project again involved going out into the public. Our interns and I presented a series of lectures at the Cromwell Belden Public Library in Cromwell. Lecture topics were: The Late Spring Vegetable Garden, Chemical-free Gardening and Integrated Pest Management for the Homeowner,

and an entire presentation on The Master Gardener Program. Other outreach projects that are underway include the installation of a new garden at a substance abuse rehabilitation residence, the renovation of plantings at a retirement/convalescent facility [related pictures, right], and, of course, interns working the Model Community Garden here on the grounds, which supplies fresh vegetables to two agencies helping the needy. There are many other projects underway, too numerous to mention now.

Master Gardeners in Middlesex County are bringing the expertise housed and developed by the University of Connecticut in Storrs and its branches into the backyards, vegetable gardens, and flower patches of Connecticut. We are bringing the University of Connecticut into the town halls, libraries and schools. We are bringing the University of Connecticut into the soup kitchens and drug rehab centers of this state.

Master Gardeners are helping the University of Connecticut work for the average citizen, the non-academically minded, the non-sports fan, and the elderly and children of Connecticut in addition to all those who are traditionally fostered by the University.

Who are the Middlesex County Master Gardeners? They are frequently people who sign up for a program with excitement, apprehension, and sometimes concern and anxiety. They become absorbed in the studies, captivated by the lectures, and eager for the next topic after each class. They find that they love the program. Master Gardener students, interns, and certified Master Gardener are people who genuinely love and are dedicated to the Program. Comprised primarily of mature adults, many retirees, many over 55 years of age, these people love learning. Not only do they love gardening, they love learning about gardening. Many have been out of the classroom for years, and face such topics as Botany, Entomology and Plant Pathology timorously. Others have advanced and weighty degrees in a variety of fields. As I am sure you will hear in New Haven this afternoon, ages can range from young whipper-snappers in their 20's to seasoned seniors nearing 90. What they hold in common is the love of learning, love of gardening, and love of the Master Gardener Program because the Master Gardener program provides the opportunity for participants to share their learning and gardening expertise with others.

This segment of the population, the mature adults is significantly underserved in our society from the standpoint of enrichment programs. Yet, it is a large, richly gifted, and extraordinarily generous segment of the population in terms of volunteer work hours freely donated. That the people of this state benefit tremendously from Master Gardeners' efforts cannot be overstated.

Middlesex County Master Gardeners and Interns renovated plantings at a local retirement/convalescent facility.



Although I've completed only one year as Master Gardener coordinator in this office, I have been active in the Program since becoming certified in 1999. In this time I have become aware of two predominate desires of most Master Gardeners concerning the Program. The first wish is a way to continue the learning, sharing, and camaraderie experienced during the classroom sessions. The second wish is for strong leadership and support, definite goals, and involvement starting at the top of the chain of command. This is the year of our 30th anniversary, and Master Gardeners understand that we are constantly evolving and developing our Program. But we, at all levels of leadership must recognize the treasure in the form of human initiative we are working with. It is imperative not to "use" volunteers, or paid volunteers, but to engage, and involve them. Strong leadership and support with continued learning, camaraderie and sharing of knowledge seems a fair bar-

ter for the wealth of connection that Master Gardeners provide between the University of Connecticut and the people of our state. So, to reiterate: what do these people want? 1) Continued learning and sharing, and 2) strong support and involvement from leadership.

Three questions framed this brief discourse. These questions have danced in my mind for quite some time, long before I learned that I would be speaking here today. I suspect that my associates from other agencies housed in this Center might have wondered the same things, and I took the liberty of presuming that you, Dean Weidemann might wonder also about the Middlesex County Master Gardeners: What are they doing? Who are these people? What do they want from me? I hope I have succinctly provided fertile soil for cultivating some answers.



A corner of a desolate urban yard is made to bloom and yield. **MG Intern David Doan** facilitated the installation of this garden with the help of residents at Teen Challenge of New Haven, a drug rehabilitation center. The residents have been enjoying the various kinds of tomatoes, peppers (some hot), squash, and a variety of herbs in their meals.



Let's Go Let's Grow

This 2008 Master Gardener Intern Community Outreach Program provided gardening experiences for youngsters aged 6–11 at the Farnam Neighborhood House in New Haven.

By **Pat Bender**, 2008 Master Gardener

Appreciating that today's students are the next generation of environmental stewards, several Master Gardener interns decided to work collectively on their community outreach project. The result was a program entitled, "Let's Go Let's Grow". The project's mission was to provide inner city children with classroom learning on key ecological concepts and to bring these ideas to life with outdoor experiences.

"Let's Go Let's Grow" was provided at the on-site summer school extended day program of the Farnam Neighborhood House (FNH), 162 Fillmore Street, New Haven, CT. Farnam House is a not-for-profit organization that serves families, teenagers and children from every neighborhood in New Haven. Committed to its original settlement house mission, it provides a continuum of culturally diverse preventive outreach programs. During summers the organization sponsors a day camp program in Durham, Ct. "Let's Go Let's Grow" was planned for those students staying in the city to attend summer school, and who would participate in the extended day program offered at Farnam House. These children ranged in ages from 6 to 11 years old.

"Let's Go Let's Grow" involved the design and provision of five classroom topics and the partnering with an ongoing FNH summer program which collaborates with URI (Urban Resources Initiative's Green-space). URI is a community not-for-profit organization which works in conjunction with the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University. Their mission is to foster community-based land stewardship, promote environmental education, and advance the practice of urban forestry. Their program provided an intern, perennials, mulch, and gardening tools.

The main objective of the program was to expand the student's appreciation of the living world around them. Hands on learning experiences were provided and it was hoped that the program would contribute to each child's sense of achievement.

All the interns contributed to the design and development of the total curriculum. Four interns took on the responsibility to write and provide the classroom content. Three other interns committed to following through with the URI partnership in reclaiming and landscaping available green spaces along the inner city street where Farnam Neighborhood House is located.

Every Thursday, June 5, 2008 – August 14, 2008 "gardening" took place on Fillmore Street led by Mae Chon, Joan Murphy, and Valerie Traumer with Jeanette Penniman, the URI intern. The specific areas our work group tackled were maintaining, reclaiming and landscaping which included the Farnam Neighborhood Playground, Fillmore Street curb strips, the previously landscaped areas in front of the Farnam House and landscaping newly acquired adjacent Farnam properties. This portion of the program included encouraging residents to adopt their curb strip, transforming each into flourishing perennial borders. Dramatic transformation of these sites confirmed the beneficial contribution of gardens in an urban setting.

Meanwhile the classroom content was written and provided by Pat Bender, Lucy LaCava, Doris Murphy and Donna Wrubel. These classes addressed the following learning activities: the variety of gardens and their importance; how plants grow; the importance of soil, light, and water; the value and identification of birds, the life-cycle of butterflies, symmetry in design, and the need for re-cycling. The children shared their experiences with gardening. They witnessed the metamorphosis of butterflies, an experience highlighted by their release in the garden. They planted bean seeds and monitored their growth as well as adopting plants already in the Farnam borders, learning their scientific names and care requirements. They also learned about the behavior of birds.

A pre-test determined that the children were knowledgeable about the needs of plants. The faculty adjusted their classes to highlight the areas the children were uncertain about and to reinforce the knowledge they possessed. It was hoped that there would be continuity in the children who attended so the information could build on facts. However, the participants varied given the other choices they were given in the extended day program. Each week the lead faculty member coordinated with Farnam staff to enlist students. Each class averaged 8 students. Despite the inconsistency of participants, the program was a success since each child had exposure to the garden and was provided with the undivided attention of the interns involved.



Back Row: MG Interns Pat Bender, Valerie Traumer, Mae Chon, and URI Intern Jeannette Penniman with young gardeners.

Interns at Soundwaters—Stamford

Master Gardener Interns take on a weedy, neglected garden and bring it back to order.



Left to Right: Elaine Hjelte, Peter Coll, Jeanne Hersh, Phyllis Padro

By **Jeanne Hersh**, 2008 Master Gardener

Four MG Interns volunteered to renovate a garden adjacent to the non-profit agency Soundwaters, on Cove Island in Stamford. Their efforts began with a site assessment, revealing plant thugs such as Artemisia, Oriental bittersweet, Norway maple, Tree of Heaven, and other weeds. But of course this had been a garden,

so desirable plants such as daylilies, purple coneflower, hostas, iris, lupines, butterfly bush, American holly, Mt. Laurel, and lilac were also mixed into this battlefield. The monumental amount of grunt work was finally rewarded with a clean slate on which to dream.

Peter Coll made a scale drawing of the garden and all four of us collaborated on the design. The backbone of the design was native shrubs with herbaceous perennials providing seasonal color. We each had our favorite plant in mind for the garden, but finding them at local nurseries proved to be a problem and we had to make some last minute substitutions. However, Sand Cherries and Summersweet are such wonderful plants that they eased the pain of disappointment. The Stamford Master Gardener Coordinator, Regina Campfield, surprised us by donating some plants left over from the Bartlett plant sale, including Montauk daisies, a Clethra in a different color, and even a Ninebark which we had been unable to find earlier.

The people at Soundwaters gave us a splitter for the faucet, a soaker hose, and a bale of peat moss which let us get the garden into fine trim by the end of the season. The new plants have been dug in, the weeds have been kept at bay, and the edges of the beds have been sharpened.

Next year, we will reap all the rewards of this monumental effort and have the pleasure of maintaining and rearranging to our hearts content.

Master Gardener Scrapbook

News Flash

The Sensory Garden in South Windsor's Boundless Playground, which was designed by **MGs Dave Starr and Bill Marshall** was used as the backdrop for a Martha Stewart show. The program is scheduled to be broadcast the first week of November, just as *The Laurel* goes to print! Keep an eye out for the re-runs if you miss it.



MG Marlene Mayes explains the gardening practices used at the Food Share Garden at Auer Farm in Bloomfield. A number of volunteers produced over 3,200 pounds of produce this year.



Remember the anxiety? Interns examine a diagnostic sample this past June.



Celebrating the 30th year of the Master Gardener Program at the Litchfield County gala.



From the summer Garden tour: Andi Marie Cantele's garden. The universal question was: How does she get so much color in the shade?

The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
November 4, 2008 10:00 am	CMGA Board Meeting at Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. All CMGA members are cordially invited. For information contact Billy Baxter www.bilbax@snet.net or (203) 265-1540
November 19, 2008 Evening	Growing Older With Your Garden. A presentation by Nancy DuBrule-Clemente at the Solomon Wells House, Wethersfield, Ct., sponsored by the Hardy Plant Society of New England, Ct. Chapter. Info at www.cthardyplantsociety.org .
November 20, 2008 7:30 pm	Begged, Borrowed & Stolen: Knowledge of the Great New England Gardeners. Presented by Tovah Martin at the Ct. Horticultural Society meeting at Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford. Info at (860) 529-8713
November 20, 2008 7:00 pm	Monet's Masterpiece: Giverny. Presented by the Simsbury Garden Club at Eno Hall, 745 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, at 7 pm (refreshments), 7:45 pm (the program). Tish Robinson, French Impressionism specialist and SGC member, will present a slide lecture about Monet's Garden at Giverny. Floral designs by SGC members will interpret the gardens and be on view that evening. Reservations, \$15 Per Person. For more information and to reserve, please call 860-408-1384
December 2, 2008 10:00 am	CMGA Board Meeting at Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. All CMGA members are cordially invited. For information contact Billy Baxter www.bilbax@snet.net or (203) 265-1540
December 6, 2008 8:30 am—11:00 am	CMGA Annual Meeting —Pond House Café, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford, Ct. Breakfast, followed by a short business meeting. Deborah Kent will present a slide program on plants with long-season interest. (See article on page 1)
December 17, 2008 Evening	Heath & Heather in the New England Landscape. Presented by David Krieger-Dewitt at the Solomon Wells House, Wethersfield, Ct., sponsored by the Hardy Plant Society of New England, Ct. Chapter. Info at www.cthardyplantsociety.org .
January 6, 2009 10:00 am	CMGA Board Meeting at Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. All CMGA members are cordially invited. For information contact Billy Baxter www.bilbax@snet.net or (203) 265-1540
January 15, 2009 7:30 pm	Design Strategies from Great Garden of the Berkshires. Presented by Rich Pomerantz and Virginia Small at the Ct. Horticultural Society meeting at Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford. Info at (860) 529-8713
January 19-21, 2009	Northeastern Aquatic Plants Management Society Conference held at Saratoga Springs, NY. Info at www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/news/calendar .
January 28, 2009 Evening	Butterfly Gardening. Presented by Chuck Carberry at the Solomon Wells House, Wethersfield, Ct., sponsored by the Hardy Plant Society of New England, Ct. Chapter. Info at www.cthardyplantsociety.org .
February 6, 2009 All Day Event	Today's Horticulture: the Professional Gardener Alumni Association's 19th Annual Symposium. Closing speaker is Doug Tallamy (see book review pg. 4). Other speakers TBA. Held at Longwood Gardens, Kennet Square. PA. Info at (610) 388-100, ext. 507, or www.longwoodgardens.org/Symposia .
March 21, 2009 Snow Date March 22 All Day Event	CMGA Symposium. Save the date. The February edition of The Laurel will have all the details.

Calendar notices must be for events open to the public and of interest to Master Gardeners.
If you have items for the Calendar, please contact the editor at www.diana@ringelheim.com. or 203-372-8498
Deadlines for publication are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1
Thanks to Dick Shaffer for invaluable assistance with the Calendar.

CUT HERE AND MAIL

CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CMGA membership for the period
January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

Membership is restricted to certified Ct. Master Gardeners

CMGA members: Stay in touch and help support the activities of the association.

2008 MG Graduates: Affiliate Membership in the CMGA was granted during 2008. As graduating, certified Ct. Master Gardeners you are now eligible for full membership status.

Membership fee for the year is \$20.

To become a CMGA member or renew your membership, simply complete this form and mail it, together with your money order or check payable to 'CMGA', to:

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

Re-newing Member

**New Member or
Graduating Intern**

NAME (please print)

FIRST _____ **M.I.** _____ **LAST** _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

E-MAIL _____ **PHONE** (_____) _____

YEAR CERTIFIED _____ **OFFICE/COUNTY WHERE CERTIFIED** _____

→ **THIS IS YOUR ONLY REMINDER TO JOIN THE CMGA** ←

To insure addition in the 2009 CMGA Membership Directory, dues must be received by December 31, 2008

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

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

The *Laurel*

CMGA
C/O Kathy Baechle
6 Christmas Tree Hill
Canton, CT 06019



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Pond House Café
Elizabeth Park, West Hartford, Ct.
8:30 am to 11:00 am

Buffet Breakfast, Business Meeting, Gardening Presentation
(Please see the articles on Page 1)

Membership

in the Connecticut Master Gardener Association
is renewed at the end of the calendar year.

Please see the Membership Application on page 11 of this edition of
The Laurel.