

The *Laurel*

February, 2009

Volume 22, No. 1



CMGA SYMPOSIUM

March 21, 2009

Manchester Community College
Manchester, Ct.

Once again the CMGA is offering its unique and highly popular symposium to fulfill its mission of continuing education delivered to the most knowledgeable gardeners in the country. Here are introductions to the speakers who will make this another memorable day. Use the information provided here to make your decisions and above all, register early because this event is usually sold out and lecture rooms are quickly filled.

The chairperson of the Speaker Committee, **Marge Bingham** has again done an outstanding job assembling a roster of inspirational lecturers for this symposium. In the following article, Marge highlights the specialties and accomplishments of the speakers we will have an opportunity to hear.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Jeff Lowenfels is a leader in the soil food web movement. His entertaining and educational talks have popularized soil science and converted gardeners within and outside the U.S. He is America's longest running garden columnist, having written a weekly column for the *Anchorage Daily News* for thirty years. He is a former President of the Garden Writers of America and a member of the GWA Hall of Fame. As founder of 'Plant a Row for the Hungry', gardeners in forty-eight states are now growing and donating produce to feed the hungry. He is also host of a popular Alaska radio show, 'The Garden Party with Jeff Lowenfels'.

Jeff's Keynote lecture **TEAMING WITH MICROBES: A GARDENER'S GUIDE TO THE SOIL FOOD WEB** reveals what science has shown us about the way we garden. Learn about soil, why microbes are essential, and how this will make gardening more rewarding. Even experienced organic gardeners will learn the science of why chemicals and gardening don't mix and how to adopt easy and practical, natural practices.

Jeff Lowenfels' second lecture **COMPOST HAS A FOOD WEB, TOO: DEMYSTIFYING COMPOSTING ONCE AND FOR ALL** expands on the basic 'Teaming with Microbes' lecture by taking the mystery out of composting. In addition to some fascinating science, learn why compost works, the easiest ways to make it, and how to make compost designed for particular plants.

CLOSING SPEAKER



Claire Sawyers is Director of the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA., which provides horticultural programs and tours of the 330 acre campus-arboretum through most of the year. It is regarded by some as the most beautiful campus in America. Claire brings both U.S. and international perspectives to her work. She has worked with Japanese landscapers, at an arboretum in Belgium and in private gardens in France. She holds masters degrees from Purdue University in horticulture and from the University of Delaware where she was a Longwood Fellow. She is the author of over 40 articles in major horticultural publications.

Claire's lecture **THE AUTHENTIC GARDEN: FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR CULTIVATING A SENSE OF PLACE** will illustrate how to correct gardens that have little connection to our daily lives because their design protocols are borrowed from other national traditions which bear little relationship to our local landscapes and history. We can create gardens that are rooted in their surroundings and be satisfying to their creators and owners. With her knowledge of a vast array of the design principles of American and foreign gardens, Claire identifies the five principles that help instill a sense of authenticity.

Speaker profiles and more information about the symposium are continued on page 6.

CMGA Officers 2009

President: Sandy Myhalik
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Treasurer: Barbara Mitchell
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New London: Susan Munger
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Tolland: Kay Varga
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Windham: Kim Kelly
860-774-9600 Kimberly.kelly@uconn.edu

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

The Laurel :

Diana Ringelheim diana@ringelheim.com

CMGA President's Message



Sandy Myhalik
CMGA President

Dear CMGA Members,

Hi and Happy New Year! My name is Sandy Myhalik and I am your new president for 2009. I received my Master Gardener certification in 2003 and then my Advanced Master Gardener certification in 2005. I live in Farmington, Ct. where I have worked on several projects including the Farmington Library garden, Noah Wallace School, the Farmington Habitat for Humanity house and the Unionville gazebo. I've also had my gardens on tour for UConn and again for the Farmington Library Kitchen and Garden Tour. Perhaps, I met some of you at one of these tours or at the orchid class I taught last Spring. If not, I'm looking forward to meeting you in the future. I'm really excited to begin my presidency and I'd like to start by inviting all of you to our board meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 10 am at the Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. If you can't make it to the meetings please share your ideas for CMGA with me by phone or email. You'll find my address, email and telephone number in this Laurel. Please contact me any time! I'd be happy to add your ideas to our agenda.

The board will be very busy from January 1st to March 21st organizing the 2009 CMGA Symposium entitled "Gardeners Going Green". It's guaranteed to give you many ideas on gardening in an ecologically healthy way that's safe for you and our environment. I can't wait! It always fills up fast so please register early. Registration forms will be going in the mail Jan 15th. You can also get one from the website (www.ctmga.org). Hopefully, I'll see you all there!

Sandy Myhalik

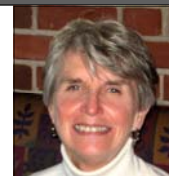
Additional Officers for 2009



John Carlson
Vice President
Certified MG in
1993



Barbara Mitchell
Treasurer
Certified MG in 1996
Advanced MG in 2003



Fran Maynard
Secretary
Certified MG in
2008

CMGA Website: www.ctmga.org

Expanded biographies of the officers and much, much more about the activities of the CMGA and the Master Gardener Program are available on line. Visit the site and sign up today so you can access the 'Members Only' locations on the website and quickly know what is happening.

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 May, 2009 edition: April 1, 2009

Master Gardener & Advanced MG Graduates 2008

Steven C.	Aldi	Carole	Davis	Zsuzsanna	Kovacs	Susan	Pronovost
Daniel L.	Aldrich	Aileen	Deamer	Barbara	Krampitz	Melissa	Ralston-Jones
Sterling K.	Andrews	Rita	Decker-Parry	Jon	Krish	Rich	Rhodes
Denise	Arturi	Gary F.	DeFemia	Nick	Krukoff	Marilyn	Riordan
Karen	Bradley Barletta	Donna	Dellacamera	Kathleen	Kushwara	James	Robarge
Edward	Barry	Paul	Demi	Lucy	LaCava	Courtney	Roy
Robin	Bates-Mason	Carol	Denham	Heather	Laidlaw	Trish	Safner
Mariah	Beaney	David	Doan	Suzanne	Lametta	Sandra	Saucier
Stephne	Behrend	Kim	Donahue	Lori	Langdon	Jeff	Savitsky
Patricia	Werner Bender	Darlene	Dopirak	Linda	Lareau	Rowan	Saylor
Diane	Bernier	Judith	Dreyer	Kristen	Lewis	Rosanne	Schaffner
Jarre	Betts	Donna	Eriksen	Cynthia	Limberger	David	Schiffer
John F.	Blake	D'Ann	Dubuque Fede	Denise	Lippy	Rita	Schlitter
Annette	Boeding	Karin	Feingold	Christy	Lucas	Marjorie	Swartz
Phil	Boeding	Dawn C.	Ferland	Maira	Lynch	Kathryn	Scott
Ralph	Boles	Betsy	Fertman	Laura	Malin	Carolynn	Sears
Jane	Juchnick Bonner	Eleanor	Fiske	Nicholas	Mancini	Dorine	Setzler
Katharine	Bothner	Joe	Fitzgerald	Cheryl	Marino	Jessie L.	Shea
Robert D.	Bradley, Jr.	Patricia	Fliakos	Maryjane	Markey	Marty	Sienko
Mary	Breneman	Brandon	Fravel	Elaine	Massa	Carol	Skalko
Ronald	Brine	Judy	Keefe Freedman	David	May	Steven	Snyder
Patricia	Brink	Judi	Fruedenburg	Fran	Maynard	Janis	Solomon
Karen	Brobst	Elizabeth	Fuerst	Caroline	McFarlan	Diane	St. John
Adrienne	Brochu	Kelly	Gallagher	Pam	McGee	Sharon	Stackpole
Alan	Budney	Kathy	Gilbert	Wayne E	McKinney	Janet	Sundman
Terri	Burke	Mary	Glod	Joan	Mikolowsky	Evelyn	Tarozzi
Tracy	Burrell	Catherine	Graham-Kohler	Pat	Miller	Mary Ann	Taylor
Elizabeth V.	Burt	Roger	Gregoire	Kathleen	Miller	Carol	Terrell
Amy	Bush	Shirley	Hales	Mary T.	Millican	Barbara	Tessier
Claire	Calabretta	Ronda	Halperin	Carlene	Mills	Valerie	Traumer
Sheryl	Camp	Sally	Hambleton	Margaret	Miner	Tracy	Usher
John	Camp	Nancy	Harriss	Donna	Monnes	Jeanne	Wadsworth-Hla
Stacey	Caren	Dawn	Hendrixson	Teresa	Montejo-Cacciatore	Eleanor L.	Wetmore
Margot	Carpenter	Jeanne	Hersh	Doris	Murphy	Stacey	Whitney
Jill	Casertano	Elaine	Hjelte	Joan	Murphy	Elaine	Widmer
Kathy	Chapman	Judith	Hopkins	Mary	Noonan	Chris	Williamson
Tracy	Chase	Denise	Howard	Deen	O'Connell	Donna	Wrubel
Young M.	Chon	Rich	Howard	Barbara J.	O'Donnell	Sharon	Young
Michelle	Ciccaglione	Jo	Jenssen	Phyllis	Padro	Lawrence	Zarbo
Peter	Clark	Mary Beth	Johnson	Janice	Parker	Rachel	Zeisk
Peter	Coll	Nancie	Keenan	Janet	Parks		
Audrey	Connolly	Norma	Kerlin	Robert	Patterson		
Denise E.	Cooper	Monica	Kish	Sara	Pfeifer		
Paul	Coutu	Gail	Kolin	Mari	Pfirman		
Cheryl A.	Damiani	John	Kosky	Marilyn C.	Plowman		

Advanced Master Gardeners

Linda	Nykaza Albanese
Michele	Bardwell
Larry	Birch
Robert J.	Brach
Ros	Brady
Debra	Carson
Cheryl	Carter
Karen	Chase
Particia	Curtin
Joanne	DiCamillo
Dawn	Fiss
Adelle	Hack
Donna	Karsuranis
Peter	Knowles

Anne	Latham
Fran	Litwin
Shelly	Margolis
Bill	Marshall
Debbie	Mirti
Noelle	O'Connor
Larry	Schlegel
George	Smith
Jean	St. Clair
Dave	Starr
Jeri	Taylor
Uta	Zickfeld

Bronze

Phyllis	Atkinson
Joanne	Frentz
Jude	Hsiang
Gloria	Jaccarino
Jim	Raynor
Judy	Schweitzer

Hort Pro

Jodie	Chase
Jude	Hsiang
Steve	McCann
Kim	Payne
Jeff	Sullo

Silver

Nancy	Baker
Regina	Campfield
Suzanne	Delius
Ingrid	McCauley
Greg	Moonie
Diana	Ringelheim
Sandra	Wilson

Gold

Hilary Forsyth
Richard Shaffer

Congratulations to
graduates
at all levels!

The **2009 CMGA Membership Directory** should be available to current CMGA members by the end of February. In addition to all CMGA members, the directory includes this year's interns, UConn Master Gardener program personnel, and information on all Extension Centers.

If you want your name to appear, dues must be received by February 15. Dues are \$20 per year, coincidentally, the same amount as the member discount to the Symposium! Renewal forms and symposium registration forms are available at the website www.ctmga.org.

Copies of the Directory can be obtained by request to either Hilary Forsyth at rayhbf@gmail.com or Diana Ringelheim at diana@ringelheim.com or 203-372-8498. Emailed PDF copies are free and strongly encouraged but paper copies can be obtained for a charge of \$2. (People who requested copies at the CMGA Annual Meeting are all set.)

The Directory is not made available to the general public, and for this reason it does not appear on the CMGA website.

MG Program News and Events

Advanced Master Gardener Classes : Winter 2009

Date and Time	Location	Class and Instructor
2/3/09 6:30 pm—8:30 pm	Tolland Agricultural Center	Houseplants / Indoor Gardening. Elaine Massa
2/5/09 10 am—3 pm	Windham County Extension Center	Landscape Design—Ground to Paper. Ruth Cutler
2/7/09 10 am—12 pm	Norwich Extension Center	Seed Starting. Wayne Hansen
2/14 & 2/28/09 10 am—12:30 pm	Hartford County Extension Center	Livable Garden Design. Sarah Bailey
2/18/09 6:30 pm—8:30 pm	Tolland Agricultural Center	Grow Your Own Vegetables. Roger Gregoire
2/19/09 6:30 pm—8:30 pm	Litchfield County Extension Center	Bonsai Design for Gardens. David A. Silver
2/21/09 9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hartford County Extension Center	Propagation - Grafting. Kevin Wilcox
2/24/09 10:00 am—12:00 pm	Bartlett Arboretum—Stamford	Plant Morphology. Eric C. Morgan
2/25/09 10:00 am—12:00 pm	Windham County Extension Center	Tool Maintenance. Roger Gregoire
3/19 & 3/24/09 9:30 am—12:30 pm	Camp Quinnebaug, Danielson, Ct.	Hort. Therapy—Spring Projects. Kate Desjardins
3/24/09 10:00 am—11:30 am	Bartlett Arboretum—Stamford	Tricks of the Trade. Mary Jo Bridge Palmer
3/28/09 9:00 am—12:00 pm	Farmington Valley Nursery, Avon, Ct	Pruning. Kevin Wilcox
3/28/09 1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Tolland Agricultural Center	Lay Out a Labyrinth. Charlotte Pyle
4/16/09 10:00 am—12:00 pm	Bartlett Arboretum—Stamford	Container Vegetable Gardening. Wally Pugh
4/23/09 9:30 am—12:30 pm	John Dempsey Center, Putnam, Ct.	Hort. Therapy—Accessible Gardening. Kate Desjardins

Full details on these and other Garden Master Classes : www.ladybug.uconn.edu/. Telephone 1-860-486-6343

WELCOME NEW CMGA MEMBERS

Steven	Aldi	Claire	Calabretta	Norma	Kerlin	Mari	Pfirman
Dan	Aldrich	Jill	Casertano	Kathy	Kobishyn	Marilyn	Plowman
Debra	Barberi	Kathy	Chapman	Gail	Kolin	Malavika	Ranade
Karen	Barletta	Paul	Coutu	John	Kosey	Cynthia	Richardson
Robin	Bates-Mason	Paul	Dami	Leon	Kouyoumjian	Courtney	Roy
June	Bencivenga	Carol	Davis	Barbara	Krampitz	Sandy	Saucier
Pat	Bender	Rita	Decker-Parry	Jon	Krish	Kathryn	Scott
Diane	Bernier	Donna	Dellacamera	Lucy	LaCava	Carolynn	Sears
Jarre	Betts	Kim	Donahue	Lori	Langdon	Carol	Skalko
Sandra	Blumer	Darline	Dopirak	Linda	Lareau	Janis	Solomon
Annette	Boeding	Donna	Eriksen	Laura	Malin	Sharon	Stackpole
Phil	Boeding	D'Ann	Fede	Nicholas	Mancini	Snyder	Steven
Ralph	Boles	Karin	Feingold	Cheryl	Marino	Janet	Sundman
Jane	Bonner	Dawn	Ferland	Fran	Maynard	Evelyn	Tarozzi
Katharine	Bothner	Eleanor	Fiske	Pamela	McGee	Mary Ann	Taylor
Robert	Bradley	Patricia	Fliakos	Wayne	McKinney	Carol	Terrell
Mary	Breneman	Mary	Glod	Kathleen	Miller	Valerie	Traumer
Ronald	Brine	Catherine	Graham-Kohler	Mary	Millican	Tracy	Usher
Trish	Brink	Roger	Gregoire	Carlene	Mills	Eleanor	Wetmore
Karen	Brobst	Shirley	Hales	Mary	Noonan	Stacey	Whitney
Adrienne	Brochu	Nancy	Harris	Deen	O'Connell	Elaine	Widmer
Alan	Bundney	Jeanne	Hersh	Barbara	O'Donnell	Donna	Wrubel
Tracy	Burrell	Elaine	Hjelte	Janice	Parker	Sharon	Young
Elizabeth	Burt	Judy	Hopkins	Janet	Parks		
Amy	Bush	Leo	Kelly	Sara	Pfeifer		

Wasps and Other Garden Friends

Article and Photos By Hilary Forsyth, Advanced Master Gardener (Gold)

As I stroll around my garden, I cannot help but notice that I have fellow plant admirers in the form of a variety of wasps. Sometimes these wasps are foraging in amongst the flower petals, competing with the bees for nectar. But mostly I see them just cruising about under the plant canopy, long legs trailing behind, stopping from time to time to inspect the underside of a leaf, or to alight briefly on a stem. These wasps are quite unconcerned by my presence and pose no danger to me: they are on the prowl! While bees famously pack in the flowers' bounty for their babies, most wasps feed their growing larvae with fresh insect meat.

Wasps can range in size from the tiny to the intimidatingly large. The Aphelinid wasp is minute, barely 1/16th of an inch in length, small enough to parasitize aphids. At the other end of the scale, though not quite attaining a 'Bugs: The Movie' size, the cicada-killer wasp can measure up to an inch and a half in length.

In the world of the wasp, only the females hunt - and only the females possess a stinger. Social wasps,



such as yellow-jackets and bald-faced hornets, will aggressively defend their nests against all intruders, as anyone who has had the misfortune to get too near to a nest will attest. Yellow jackets may use their stings

to kill or immobilize their prey, then chew off some of the meat and feed this to their developing larvae. Other common garden wasps, including the cicada-killer wasp, use their stingers primarily to anaesthetize their prey. The huntress then transports her immobilized prey back to her lair, and deposits her eggs on the prey; when the larvae hatch, they feast on the still-fresh insect meat.

On yesterday's garden patrol, I noticed that some of the inner leaves of a purple cabbage plant had been chewed to a nub, and I could see the telltale green frass left behind by the cabbage butterfly caterpillar. I was just about to delve into the heart of the cabbage in search of the culprits, when a wasp emerged, carrying in her jaws a large portion of bright green caterpillar. Hmm - no need for me to worry about digging out the other caterpillars from that cabbage - the wasp will do the work for me.



Conversely, the cabbages growing in a mixed container of zucchini and bush beans have a healthy population of bright green caterpillars chewing away on the purple leaves. So - what's happened to my caterpillar control system? Perhaps the container is off the wasp patrol radar for some reason. Reluctant to deprive some vespidae larvae of their meal, I've moved the caterpillars over to the hydrangea. I feel like hanging up a sign: Free Wasp Food! Take All You Can Carry!

If you have made observations in your garden as Hilary has done, or if you have some practical tips that make gardening easier and more productive, please consider sharing your experiences with other CMGA members here in *The Laurel*. Plant 'specialists' such as daffodil lovers, dahlia fanatics, or vegetable gurus can tell us so much about their beloved plants and which species and techniques would result in the best performance in our climate. Writing for *The Laurel* can also count toward outreach hours, so check with your coordinator and share your expertise with your fellow gardeners. Information on submitting articles appears on page 2 of *The Laurel*. Deadlines are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

Community Gardens Project from the Home & Garden Education Center

Dawn Pettinelli, Extension Educator

The UConn Home & Garden Education Center is working with the CT Community Gardening Association both to continue our evaluations of levels of heavy metals in community garden plots and also to establish an educational component for community gardeners. To start with, we are in the process of updating our statewide community garden list and I am asking for your assistance. If you know of any community gardens, whether they are ones you volunteered in or not, could you pass on to me their name, location and a contact person? I will keep you informed as this project progresses and may be asking for greater assistance. Information about community gardens can be sent to: dawn.pettinelli@uconn.edu (860) 486-4274. Thank you so much!

Symposium, 2009

Continued from Page 1

Nancy DuBrule-Clemente is owner of Natureworks Horticulture Services in Northford, CT established in 1983 as a fully organic garden center offering landscape design services as well as education on organic and sustainable practices through plant catalog, nursery website, workshops and lectures. She is past president of CT NOFA and author of *Succession of Bloom in the Perennial Garden*.

Nancy's lecture WHAT'S BUGGING YOU: ORGANIC SOLUTIONS FOR PERENNIAL PESTS will review the worst perennial pests and recommend problem prevention through cutting edge organic products. Learn from Nancy's 25 years of experience with the plant inventory and demonstration gardens at Natureworks about what works, what doesn't, what to do, and when.



Bill Duesing is Executive Director of CT NOFA, the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut. He has been an educator and advocate of a local organic food system in Connecticut since 1972 when he bought the Old Solar Farm in Oxford and began growing food organically. He is the author of *Living on the Earth: Eclectic Essays for a Sustainable and Joyful Future* and has created educational gardens at several Connecticut schools.



Bill's lecture CREATING AN ABUNDANT HARVEST ORGANICALLY will illustrate why an organic garden is the most important solar collector you can add to your home. Learn how to work with nature to grow delicious food. Starting with the soil, strategies that make organic growing successful in our region will be reviewed.

Rose Hiskes is a diagnostician and horticulturist in the Entomology Department of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, CT. She is also the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Coordinator for Connecticut. She has a master's degree in plant science from UCONN and has worked in the green industry for twenty years. Some of her horticultural interests are insects, flower gardening and invasive plants.

Rose's lecture GROWING NATIVES TO SUSTAIN BIRDS, BEES AND BUTTERFLIES will showcase some of



Connecticut's natives: birds, bees, butterflies and the plants that sustain them. If you cultivate native plants, native birds will be sustained by the bugs they attract. What roles do Mason bees, solitary bees, bumble bees play in nature? Come and find out more about gardening for life in your backyard!

Dave Jacke, primary author of the award winning two-volume book *Edible Forest Gardens*, has studied ecology and design since the 1970's. In 1984 he established his own design firm, Dynamics Ecological Design of Greenfield, MA. which has installed ecologically-focused landscapes throughout the United States. He holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Simon's Rock College and an M.A. in Landscape Design from the Conway School of Landscape Design. He is a passionate teacher of ecological design and permaculture.

Dave's lecture GARDENING LIKE THE FOREST: HOMESCALE ECOLOGICAL FOOD PRODUCTION will illustrate how you can grow an abundant food-producing ecosystem in your back yard like the healthy forests that maintain, fertilize, and renew themselves naturally. The lecture introduces the vision of forest gardening with some scientific background, a few living examples and a sampling of some useful perennial edibles.



◆ Silent Auction ◆

The Silent Auction, staged by Master Gardener Coordinators is one of the most valued traditions of the Symposium. Donations range from plants to tools to garden decorations to books to . . . very imaginative items. If you would like to donate an item for auction, please contact your Extension Coordinator.

The bidding is fast, furious, and so much fun!

Also

◆ Plant Societies ◆
◆ Vendors ◆
◆ and More! ◆



Peter Picone is a wildlife biologist for the State of Connecticut and the DEP Wildlife Division contact person for invasive non-native plant questions, problems, and solutions. He provides technical assistance to the public regarding managing

invasives and enhancing habitat utilizing native plants. He is a member of the steering committee of the CT Invasive Plant Working Group and owner of Charter Oak Tree Farm located in Sprague, Ct. which has goals to improve wildlife habitat and restore the land's native plant communities.

Peter's lecture **SELECTING AND MANAGING PLANTS FOR ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: PLANTS AND WILDLIFE ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED** will illustrate why native plant selection habitat restoration projects and landscaping become increasingly important. Wildlife habitat can be enhanced through selection of Connecticut's native plants for their seasonal food and cover value. Habitat enhancement projects on State lands will be highlighted.

Paul Tukey is founding editor and publisher of *People, Places & Plants* magazine and author of *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*, 2007. The companion DVD *Making the Organic Lawn Care Transition* received the Garden Writers of America Award for Best Electronic Media of 2007. In 2006, Paul created the SafeLawns Foundation to educate consumers and the horticulture industry about how and why to make the transition to organic principles of landscape management. Prior to founding his own Maine landscaping company in the late 1980's, Paul spent nearly a decade as a reporter and editor at the Maine Sunday Telegram and Portland Press Herald.



Paul's lecture **NATURAL LAWN CARE, WHY AND HOW** covers a broad range of reasons why synthetic chemicals, including fertilizers and pesticides, are problematic for the environment as well as human and animal health. The lecture focuses on how natural lawn and garden care really works from the soil up, and concluding with specific how-to information that includes a step-by-step process for transitioning from chemicals to organics.

Fee for the Symposium:

Members \$60 Non-members \$80
Includes lunch

Registration Flyers were mailed in mid-January and forms are also available at the website: www.ctmga.org

Photo not available at press-time

Lisa Turoczi holds a degree in Landscape Architecture from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry. She is co-owner of Earth Tones, LLC, a landscape design business established seventeen years ago that offers only plants native to New England. With a focus on environmentally sound practices, it provides design, consulting, installation, maintenance and wetland mitigation services.

Lisa's lecture **XERIC LANDSCAPES: NOT JUST FOR DESERT DWELLERS** will introduce some very unique xeric habitats in New England. Most gardeners see rich, deep soil being the perfect ground for a garden and are challenged by rocky, dry areas that look hopeless. Don't despair. There are opportunities for such areas. By studying the existing ecosystems provided by nature here in New England, we can begin to understand and appreciate the beauty and resilience that xeric landscapes have to offer.



Larry Weaner Since 1982 Larry Weaner Landscape Associates has installed ecologically supportive landscapes in more than ten states. Many have been included in garden tours sponsored by the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, the American Horticultural Society and the Garden Conservancy. In 1990, he developed New Directions in the American Landscape which provides a leading-edge conference-style series of educational workshops. Larry has a dedicated following within the professional landscape community.

Larry's lecture **GARDENS THAT EVOLVE: DIRECTING NATURAL SUCCESSION** will illustrate how the gardener becomes more of a partner with, rather than an adversary to nature. While the jump from landscape ecology dynamics to garden design may seem a stretch, our speaker will explain concrete and usable examples of new and exciting techniques as they were introduced in a variety of residential landscape designs.

Larry's lecture **GARDENS THAT EVOLVE: DIRECTING NATURAL SUCCESSION** will illustrate how the gardener becomes more of a partner with, rather than an adversary to nature. While the jump from landscape ecology dynamics to garden design may seem a stretch, our speaker will explain concrete and usable examples of new and exciting techniques as they were introduced in a variety of residential landscape designs.

Larry Weaner's second lecture **BACK YARD RAIN GARDENS** will show that planting native wetland plants in soggy spots in the garden can not only fix the problem, it can add a whole new visual dynamic to the landscape. Whether in existing or created wet areas, rain gardens minimize runoff and maximize water infiltration into the ground, provide significant ecological benefits and display some of nature's showiest and most beautiful plants.

Register for the Symposium as soon as possible if you want to hear your first choice of speakers—the event usually sells out and classrooms fill up quickly.

Symposium Snow Date: March 22, 2009

The Shade Garden at Elizabeth Park

By Richard Shaffer,

Advanced Master Gardener (Gold) and a Member of the Friends of Elizabeth Park

How many of you have ever visited the City of Hartford's Elizabeth Park? Those of you who have are likely to be familiar with its famous and historical 2-1/2 acre Rose Garden that contains some 15,000 rose bushes and climbers. Tucked away and behind the park's Perennial Garden, which is located across from and west of the Rose Garden, is another one of the Park's horticultural gems, the Shade Garden, sometimes also known as the Sunken Garden. Since 1999, and except for the year 2000, I've been taking care of the Garden; some discussion of this will come later after I share some statistical data and history of the Garden.

The Shade Garden is the "baby" of the display garden family at the Park as its overall dimensions are only 50 feet wide by 125 feet long. It contains nine raised beds (planters) and one grade-level bed, some dry stone walls, a set of blue stone stairs, a scaled landscape drawing at the head of the stairs, and five park benches. Surfaces of foot paths created by the raised planters are covered with brick dust. A rear border consists of a collection of very large (more than 12 feet high) and mature Rhododendron of mixed species that forms a continuous wall of evergreen for almost the entire length of the Garden. Overall, the Garden contains more than 50 genera, with each raised bed bearing its own combination of perennials, ground covers, and deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees. The grade-level bed is dominated by an unknown cultivar of *Miscanthus sinensis*.

Historically, the Shade Garden, formerly known at the Rock Garden, first appears on a map of the Park in 1914. The original name for a Rock Garden was an Alpine Garden, which was designed to look like miniature mountains or stony hills. Plants native to Alpine meadows were planted in these types of gardens, and quickly became something of a high fashion statement in the plant collection world. Unfortunately, this effort proved to be impractical as most of the plants succumbed to their un-natural environment.

The Rock Garden again appeared on maps of the Park during 1925 and 1928, with the latter map listing all of the plants used in the Garden. Basically, all went well until the 1970's when the Garden had fallen into a state of neglect and disrepair. A Board member of the Friends of Elizabeth Park (a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining, restoring, and preserving the Park) rearranged the planters and added a stone wall. The net effect of these changes was the creation of a Sunken Garden.

All went well with this until 1994 when the Garden fell again into disrepair. The Friends sought and even-

tually obtained and accepted a proposal from a landscape designer, Marc Tonan, with the stipulations that the design remain the same, that the Garden be accessible, and that existing trees be incorporated into the renovations. By the spring of 1995, renovation of the Garden was complete. During 2002, because of increasing shade from neighboring mature trees and the lack of Alpine plantings, the Friends changed the name of the Garden to the Shade Garden.

The Shade Garden was the focus of my Master Gardener internship during 1999. Since then and except for the kind and occasional assistance of intern MG's or other volunteers, I have rendered custodial care and stewardship of the Garden on a strictly solo basis. Then, at the end of 2006, a light bulb went off in my head and I realized that while this *modus operandi* is admirable and self-serving, it doesn't allow or encourage other volunteers to lend a hand, to learn, to teach/instruct others, and to spread the word about the Shade Garden and Elizabeth Park. So, I made a direct appeal for help during a 2007 Master Gardener intern class at the Hartford county extension center. Two intern Master Gardeners, Sandy Blumer and Kathy Knarowski, stepped forward to lend a hand during that growing season. As part of their outreach, Sandy and Kathy also submitted a preliminary but comprehensive report addressing various conditions within the Shade Garden as well as recommendations regarding expanded utilization of the Park's Information Center and additional educational outreach. Sandy and Kathy helped me during this year and were joined by visits of Master Gardeners Linda Lareau and Michelle Ciccaglione.

Now, for 2009 and beyond, I am making another appeal for hands-on assistance in the Shade Garden from both certified and intern Master Gardeners. And, coupled with approval through Sarah Bailey's office at the Hartford county extension center, I'd like to continue offering outreach opportunities along the lines of creating a long-range comprehensive management plan (master plan) just for the Garden that could, on a raised planter basis, furnish detailed inventories of existing plantings using common and botanical names along with discussions and analyses of existing conditions within each planter (including the collapse/disappearance of rocks that decorate and line perimeters of each planter). Other objectives for additional study likely beyond 2009 would be to submit proposals, with timelines and associated estimated material costs on an annual/priority basis, for changes (improvements) within each planter. All of this would eventually enable appropriate revisions of an existing brochure and a landscape plan.

A Beautiful Lawn and a Healthy Environment

Mark your calendars now with this step-by-step eco-friendly turf management program.

By Joan Miles, Master Gardener

Spring is on its way and people's thoughts are turning to enjoying outdoor activities. One of those activities is lawn work. For many people this means making a trip to their local garden center and purchasing the first of a four-step fertilizer program. While that might seem to be the easiest plan, I would like to suggest a different approach.

What many people do not realize is the typical four-step fertilizer program for their lawns contain too much Nitrogen. A number of studies have shown high levels of pesticides and nutrients, primarily nitrates, leaching into drinking water wells and flowing into rivers that enter the Long Island Sound. With the increase in development in the form of lawns and pavement, water moves across the surface of the land picking up pollutants as it goes. The good news is we can counteract this by changing our landscape practices. We can have nice lawns and still maintain good water quality by following some simple rules.

The first thing a homeowner should do is get a soil test available from University of Connecticut's Soil and Nutrient Analysis Laboratory for \$5 per sample. A soil test will tell you what nutrients are needed which is important because it reduces excess fertilizer applications that leach or run off into storm drains and ultimately into our water systems. This is especially true for our lawns because Nitrogen is the primary fertilizer for lawns but also the nutrient that is the greatest threat to our water quality.

If your soil test indicates the need for Nitrogen, it is best to use a slow release form. A fertilizer with at least 50% of slow release Nitrogen is preferable. Slow release Nitrogen is available in organic fertilizers such as Milorganite and sulfur-coated urea. Sulfur coated urea reduces the rate at which the nitrogen becomes available to plants. This results in the most efficient use of nitrogen by growing plants. In other words, the plant gets only the amount of nitrogen it can use at one time. If for some reason you are unable to get a soil test there are some general rules to follow.

An important rule is that grass clippings returned to a lawn during mowing reduce the need for Nitrogen applications by 30%. Clippings do not add to thatch build up if you are mowing your lawn on a regular basis. Remove no more than a 1/3 length of the grass blade when cutting your lawn. It is also important to keep your grass mowed to the height of two to three inches. The height of cut is important because the lower the grass length the shallower the root system, which translates to more water needed. The old saying, "cut it high, leave it lie" is an integral part to a healthy self-sustaining lawn.

Another general rule is to use about one to two pounds of Nitrogen per 1,000 square feet each year. Apply no more than one pound per 1,000 square feet at one time. Here is a basic schedule of application.

In April before the Forsythia stop blooming, apply a crabgrass inhibitor with no Nitrogen added. An example of a pre-emergence herbicide is Barricade (prodicamine). Remember crabgrass treatments are a pre-emergent herbicide applied when the grass is dry so granules drop to the soil where this herbicide is active. Water it in after application. After using a pre-emergence herbicide to prevent crabgrass, avoid raking or aerating which disturbs the protective chemical barrier.

In May apply your Nitrogen that is a mixture of 50% urea and 50% slow release Nitrogen. You can also add Merit grub prevention at this time if you have had a problem with grubs in the past.

In October add another mixture of Nitrogen to your lawn. It is critical not to apply this mixture after October 15. After this date, a tremendous amount of Nitrogen leaches out of your lawn possibly in the form of run off and really does not provide any benefits.

During all of these applications, it is important to sweep up any fertilizer that falls on hard surfaces, like your driveway, walkway, or street, and return it to your lawn. Fertilizer left on hard surfaces wash quickly into storm drains leading to water systems. Also, remember to lightly water after fertilizing to incorporate the nutrients into the soil.

Another great way to reduce the maintenance required for a healthy lawn is to plant low maintenance turf types in your lawn. Turf-type tall fescues and fine-leaf fescues are well adapted to Connecticut's climate and require less fertilizer, water, and pesticide applications. Turf-type and dwarf tall fescues are good choices for high traffic areas. Fine-leaf fescues are not good in high traffic areas because they have poor wear tolerance. Whichever species of fescue you choose, make sure to use a blend of varieties within that species to avoid disasters. Planting only one variety creates a monoculture meaning a pest or disease attacking that variety might destroy your entire lawn. A phrase coined by a Master Gardener working to promote sustainable lawns, "Fescue to the Rescue" is apt considering the advantages of this grass species. Fescues are preferable because they require less water, are more drought-tolerant, tolerate shade, require less fertilizer, tolerate low soil pH, maintain greenness during the summer, maintain quality at higher mowing levels and have high salt tolerance.

It is possible to have a beautiful lawn and landscape without applying excess fertilizers. A dark, green turf achieved by high nitrogen applications weakens the grass, decreases its health, wastes money, needs more frequent mowing, and hurts our environment by leaching into our water. More details are available in a publication, Turf IPM and Nutrient Management, from Publications Resource Center Store at the University of Connecticut. Call 860-486-3336 or email store@canr.uconn.edu. You can also visit www.sustainability.uconn.edu to learn more about this topic.

Focus Groups - Middlesex County

Reflections on a highly successful year in a garden located at the Middlesex County Extension Center

By Susan LoGatto, Master Gardener

Winter can be a time for reflection and a time to anticipate what's to come. At this moment as I look around at the winter landscape, it becomes increasingly clear that in approximately one month's time the garden soil will be ready to be worked to begin a new planting season. Thinking back on the past two summers I am reminded of the wonderful experience I have had as a Master Gardener. During my 2007 internship, I joined the Middlesex County Master Gardener Focus Group and quickly found myself surrounded by a group of people who were both inspirational and hardworking. A 900 square foot model home garden was cast upon the front lawn of the Middlesex County UCONN Extension Center that year through the efforts of many people, including contributions made by the class of 2007, and the garden has been a source of fresh vegetables to Amazing Grace Food Pantry and St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen ever since.

The garden design was rotated for 2008 and planting began in March. The first day of harvest in 2008 was May 22 and consisted of spinach and radishes and the last harvest was on October 25 and consisted of a small amount of tomatoes. The 2008 growing season yielded 101 heads of lettuce, a total of 672 red, yellow and heirloom tomatoes, cubanelle and bell peppers totaling 511, 35 heads of broccoli, 70 quarts of yellow and green beans, and, herbs, peas, onions, squash and zucchini. We were not, however, without our challenges. We had what amounted to a near infestation of cucumber beetles that mostly ate leaves, did not destroy any crops but were seemingly getting out of con-

trol. We relied on handpicking and organic Veggie Pharm Spray to conquer the beasts.

One of our members, Fern Martin, designed, built and installed a 3-bin composter adjacent to the garden that was readily put to use by the Extension Center staff and focus group members (See *The Laurel*, May, 2008). Two of the three compost bins managed to get filled and by the end of the season had produced a fine, black (gold) compost that was worked into the ground in early November when the garden was put to rest for the year.

The Focus Group meets throughout the year. During the winter months the garden is planned, seeds are purchased and good conversation is had. Throughout the summer we meet to discuss harvesting and delivery schedules as well as maintenance of the garden. The 2008 garden was maintained by a core group of 14 master gardeners Peggy Becker, Betsey Broomall, John Carlson, Becki Connell, Marsha Dowling, Jackie Fantasia, Marisa Fede, Barbara Glista, Gladys Goodale, Diane LaRosa, Susan LoGatto, Fern Martin, Terry Zabiski, Jerome Zabiski and 5 then-interns, the newly graduated, Dee Dopriak, Diane St. John, Jeff Savitsky, Christy Lucas and Dawn Hendrixson.

The Middlesex County Master Gardener Focus Group always welcomes new members and would like to extend an offer to the class of 2009 and other master gardeners to join our group and participate in what is sure to be a very worthwhile vegetable gardening experience.



L to R: Fern Martin, Marisa Fede, Becki Connell, Peggy Becker, Susan LoGatto, Cherry Czuba, Marsha Dowling. Photo by Dianne LaRosa

Marsha Dowling Awarded the William D. Lowry III Friend of the UConn Cooperative Extension System Award for Middlesex County

By John Carlson, Master Gardener

Marsha Dowling became a Master Gardener in 2003, achieved Advanced status in 2006 and is a volunteer extraordinaire. Regarding the above mentioned community garden on the grounds of the Middlesex Extension Office, Marsha chaired the planning meetings, inspired other volunteers to join the effort, and sought the necessary funding.

Congratulations to Marsha and our best wishes for similar success in the future.

PLANNING 2009 MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS?

Plans for ongoing or new public garden projects for Master Gardeners are probably well underway. Please remember that help is available for your wildest dreams. If you need helping hands, be sure to remember the new class of MG Interns who will be looking for outreach opportunities and on-the-job training. Contact your nearest coordinator (listed on pg. 2). If you need help with funding, please remember the CMGA Grants program which is explained on the website www.ctmga.org. The application can also be downloaded there, or contact John Neff at 860-673-5018 or jneff@comcast.net. If you have applied for Grant funding in the past you are eligible again this year.

The Laurel Calendar — February through April

Date & Time	Event, Location, Contacts
Feb. 3; March 3; April 7 10 am	CMGA board Meetings Location to be determined. Info: Sandy Mhalik at Myhalik@comcast.net or 860-677-0504 ALL CMGA MEMBERS WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND
February through March 7 pm	Garden Lecture Series at the Pond House Hall in Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. Three lectures per month, \$10 per lecture. Info at: 860-231-9443 or www.elizabethpark.org .
February 8 2:00 pm—3:30 pm	Hill-Stead Museum "Beatrix Farrand at Bellefield" lecture by Anne Cleves Symmes. Info at www.hilstead.org or 860-677-0174
February 10 6 pm	21st Century Foundation Plantings at Natureworks, Northford, Ct. Info at www.naturework.com or 203-484-2748.
February 19 7:30 pm	Conn. Horticultural Society meeting. "Global Warming—Fact or Fiction?" by Art Horn. Meeting held at Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford. Info at 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org .
February 19—22	28th Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show. Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford. Info at: www.ctflowershow.com or 401-272-0980
February 19—22	16th Annual Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show. Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI. Info at www.flowershow.com .
February 27—28	Ecological Landscaping Association 2009 Conference: "Digging In: The Theory & Practice of Ecological Landscaping". Info: 617-436-5838 or www.ecolandscaping.org/conference .
March 1—8	Philadelphia Flower Show at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. Info at: www.theflowershow.com/home
March 6 All Day	Longwood Graduate Program Annual Symposium: "Branching Out—cultivating Community Engagement" Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. Info at: www.udel.edu.longwoodgrad/symposium .
March 6 All Day	Creating Green Roofs: The Next Step, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. Four speakers. Info at 718-817-8747 or www.nybg.org/edu .
March 7 9 am—12 pm	Pruning in Winter (HOR314B) Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, MA. Fee \$90. Kyle Stephens, arborist. Info: 617-524-1718 or www.arboretum.harvard.edu .
March 7 TBA	Hardy Plant Society of New England, CT Chapter Annual Symposium held at Portland High School, Portland, CT. Info: www.cthardyplantsociety.org .
March 8 2:00 pm—3:30 pm	Hill-Stead Museum "Beatrix Farrand at Hill-Stead" lecture by Paula Brisco. Info at www.hilstead.org or 860-677-0174
March 13 All Day	UConn 2009 Conference for the Home Gardener held at the Lewis B. Rome Commons, Univ. of Conn, Storrs, CT. Info: Dr. Richard McAvoy, Dept. of Plant Science, 860-486-0627 or Richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu or www.hort.uconn.edu/2009garden .
March 14 TBA	Grow It Yourself: Planning, Planting, and Harvesting Your Organic Vegetable Garden at Natureworks, Northford, Ct. Info at www.naturework.com or 203-484-2748.
March 19 7:30 pm	Conn. Horticultural Society meeting. "Outstanding Variegated Plants for the Garden" by Stanley Megos. Meeting held at Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford. Info at 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.org .
March 21	CMGA Symposium—See front page of <i>The Laurel</i> for details
March 23 8:30 am—3:30 pm	2009 Landscape Season Preview: Insects, Weeds, and Ticks held at the UMass Experiment Station, E. Wareham, MA. Fee: \$65. Info at 413-545-0895 or www.umassgreeninfo.org .
March 28 10 am—4:45 pm	Native Plant Saturday, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. Select three sessions from six topics. Info at 718-817-8747 or www.nybg.org/edu .
April 23 7:30 pm	Conn. Horticultural Society meeting. "Love Your Hydrangeas" by Mal Condon. Meeting held at Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford. Info at 860-529-8713 or www.cthort.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.

The *Laurel*

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



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2009 CMGA SYMPOSIUM

March 21, 2009

Snow Date March 22, 2009

Manchester Community College

Registration form is available on-line at

www.ctmga.org

Connecticut
Master Gardener
 Association
 Newsletter

The Laurel

SPRING, 2009 Volume 22, No. 2

Summer Safari



Blue Flag Garden

New London
 Extension
 Center
 Saturday,
 July 11, 2009



Salem HerbFarm

FEE: \$10

Per person,
 Member or Guest

- 8 AM** Gather for a buffet breakfast
- 9 AM** Super-fast CMGA Business Meeting
- 9:15 AM** On the busses to the designated gardens
- 12 PM** Return to the New London Extension Center for your own brown-bag lunch (drinks will be provided by the CMGA)
- 1 PM** Make your own way to the Salem Herbfarm to cap off the day

Susan Munger,
 Coordinator

New London
 Extension Center

562 New London
 Turnpike
 Norwich, Ct.

RSVP required for bus rental—please send check (payable to CMGA) to Paul Grimmeisen, 24 White Oak Road, Farmington, Ct. 06032. If you have any questions, contact Paul at paul24wor@aol.com or 860-677-8645.

We are privileged to tour two outstanding gardens just one week before they are featured by the Garden Conservancy.

Blue Flag Garden was named after *Iris versicolor* which blooms in the pastures of this old New England Farm. The garden is also famous for day-lilies, 600 varieties, which are artfully displayed along with complimentary perennials and annuals. The combinations are very educational and dazzling in their own right. There should also be daylilies for sale, which will satisfy the cravings that this garden will create.

Kentford Farm is a five-acre site, surrounded by an additional eighty acres of preserved open space. Winding pathways feature mature trees along with more recent plantings, and even water features. An historic home and barn also grace the property and a Garden and Floral shop complete the picture-perfect setting.

Salem Herbfarm boasts the third generation to farm this site. There is an antique barn that is stocked with gifts and gourmet foods. Questions about the herbs for sale are eagerly encouraged—the knowledgeable staff strives to give old fashioned, personal service.



Kentford Farm

CMGA Officers 2009

- President:** Sandy Myhalik
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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

Newsletter *The Laurel* :
Diana Ringelheim diana@ringelheim.com

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Just like your garden, the CMGA is constantly changing.

It is with great regret that we announce the resignation of **Barbara Mitchell** from the office of Treasurer. Barbara brought to the CMGA a lively imagination and extensive experience from other volunteer organizations. We hope that she will again consider participating in the CMGA should circumstances change. **Billy Baxter** has assumed the duties of Treasurer with a seamless transition since it is an office with which he is very familiar, having held it in the years 2005 and 2006.

Looking forward, we hope you enjoy the new masthead for **The Laurel**. Please let us know your feelings. Remember, you are supposed to be writing letters to the editor and we have yet to receive one!

Peggy Bliss has contacted many Garden Centers and Nurseries around the state for discounts for CMGA members, and she is calling this effort the '**Partners Project**'. Reward these businesses in the easiest way possible—spend. Peggy's Partners have recognized the contribution that CMGA members make in their communities and it will be delightful to return the compliment by patronizing these outstanding vendors. See page 11 for details.

The next big event for the CMGA is the **Summer Safari**, described on page 1. Registration for the Safari is limited, so get your reservations in as soon as possible.

If there are many more rainy days in this gardening season, the CMGA has plenty of thing to do to prevent boredom in the frustrated gardener. Articles about **outreach activities** should be easy to write when your activities are cancelled by bad weather. Or you could share the **gardening wisdom** that you've accumulated over the years, in a article like the one **Roger Gregoire** has written on page 8. Or, see page 7 to sign up for **speaking engagements** since requests are flooding the Extension offices. If you are someone who likes to look far into the future, plans are already being developed for the **CMGA Symposium, 2010**, and your help would be warmly welcome.

Wishing you the best
of the gardening season,

Diana

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The Laurel is published four times a year for members of the Connecticut Master Gardener Association. Please send news, photographs and calendar items by email to Diana Ringelheim at diana@ringelheim.com or 21 Godfrey Rd., Fairfield, Ct. 06825 phone (203)372-8498
Deadline for the Summer, 2009 edition: July 15, 2009

Correcting an Omission

An Advanced Master Gardener Gold Bar was awarded to **Frank White** at the 2008 graduation ceremony in Norwich. Unfortunately his name was omitted from the list of graduates, but his achievement and his dedication to the Connecticut Master Gardener program must be honored. Our heartfelt congratulations!

CMGA Membership Directory

The 2009 CMGA Membership Directory is now available. Many copies have already been emailed and if you would like one, please send your request to Hilary Forsyth at rayhbf@gmail.com or to Diana Ringelheim at diana@ringelheim.com.

It is strongly wished that the Directory travel via email, but if that's not possible for you, please call Diana at 203-372-8498 and a copy will be mailed. A charge of \$2 applies to paper copies, to cover the cost of printing and mailing.

Preview of a major story coming in the Summer issue of The Laurel

The invasion of the Asian Long Horn Beetle reads like the script for a horror movie. Unfortunately, this invasion is real.

Rose Hiskes from the Ct. Agricultural Experiment Station will give us an update on the Asian Longhorn Beetle, the devastation it is causing, the latest discoveries about its life-cycle, and tactics being used against it.

- ◆ The progress the beetle's invasion is making into wild areas
- ◆ The devastation it has wrought on our close neighbor, Wooster, Mass.
- ◆ The symptoms that should alert us to its presence



Keep yourself on the lookout for this beetle—the adult is active from mid-June or July to frost. Look for holes drilled into the cambium layer of trees, which is where it lays its eggs.

The adult beetle will feed on leaves, principally the veins, which is an unusual characteristic. Imagine a maple leaf with its veins chewed away—a very odd method of insect feeding, since we more familiar with leaves being skeletonized (where everything except the veins are eaten).

If you see any signs of the beetle, or have questions about it, don't hesitate to contact the Ct. Agricultural Experiment Station (877-855-2237) or the UConn Home & Garden Center (877-486-6271).

WEBSITE SUGGESTIONS FOR MASTER GARDENERS

By Lorraine Ballato, Advanced Master Gardener

As you gear up for this gardening season, here are some websites you may want to cruise, if you haven't found them already:

Dave's Garden: This one has been around for a while and keeps getting better. It started out as a gardener-written site and still gets most of its content from dirt gardeners, which is extremely valuable. There are lots of articles and videos on how to do things to get your best garden results. Over the years, it has been added to, the most recent addition being a birding section. The section known as "Garden Watchdog" allows gardeners to report their experience with on-line and mail order vendors which in turn causes those vendors to sit up and take notice, improving the marketplace for all of us. Go to www.Davesgarden.com to see for yourself. It's free but you get the most out of it by taking a few minutes to register.

The University of Massachusetts has a very useful "**Weed Herbarium**" database run by Dr. Randy Prostek, a noted professor, writer and speaker. You can look up your weed by common name, scientific name, or plant family by using a sorting function on the web page. Images and notes to aid in identification are revealed by clicking on the weed name. The photos are excellent in that they show the weed in various stages of growth so that you can recognize it as a seedling and catch it well before it establishes in the landscape. Go to

http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/weed_herbarium/common_name_list.htm

Enjoy Gardening is a twice-yearly garden publication in Canada. It's focused on delivering expert information and inspiring images to gardeners that have an even shorter growing season than we do. The editorial staff espouses a belief that "...a garden is more than a thing to tend—it's a destination; a place to reflect, relax, and reconnect..." The website includes features like profiles of 100 must-have plants (if they can make it in Canada, they are sure to make it here!), informative articles on design and planning and so on. I find the content more than interesting. See if you do by going to: <http://www.enjoygardening.com/>

GARDEN MASTER CLASSES

Spring, 2009

Date and Time	Location	Class and Instructor
5/13/09 6 pm—8 pm	Topmost Herb Farm	Herbs and Heirloom Vegetables— Organic Growing. Instructor: Carole Miller
5/13/09 6 pm—8 pm	UConn Avery Point, Groton	Wetlands & Riparian Buffers Instructor: Juliana Barrett
5/16/09 10 am—1 pm	Edgerton Park Carriage House North Haven	Landscape Design Walkabout & Talkabout Instructor: Ruth Cutler
5/20/09 10 am—1 pm	Tolland Agricultural Center	Hot Topics (required for Advanced Master Gardeners—a second class will be held later in the year) Instructors: Various
6/6/09 9:30 am—12:30 pm	George Safford Torrey Herbarium, UConn	Collecting, Pressing, and Mounting Botanical Specimens Instructors: Don Les, Ph. D. and Robert Capers, Ph. D.
6/9, 6/16, and 6/23/09 4 pm—6:30 pm	Windham County Extension Center	Intro. To Nature Photography Instructor: Elaine Widmer Limit: 15 Students
6/13/09 10 am—12 pm	South Windsor Community Center	Boundless Playground Sensory Garden Instructors: Bill Marshall and David Starr Limit: 15 Students
6/20/09 10 am—12 pm	Tolland Agricultural Center	Caterpillars, Butterflies & Moths Instructor: Pamm Cooper
<p>Classes are being added on an on-going basis so be sure to check the Home & Garden Center website often for the most complete list of Garden Master and Advance Master Gardener Classes</p> <p>Full details on these classes : www.ladybug.uconn.edu/. Telephone 1-860-486-6343</p>		

CT. MASTER GARDENER ASSOC. GRANT RECIPIENTS

The CMGA is proud to offer financial assistance to Master Gardener and Intern Outreach projects that serve the general public. So far this year these worthy endeavors have been given grants that we hope will assist with their efforts:

- ◆ MG Bill Overton—Channel 3 Kids' Camp
- ◆ MGs Marlene Mayes & Sarah Bailey—Food Share Program at Auer Farm
- ◆ MG Jay Beausoleil—People's Harvest in Pomfret
- ◆ MG Nicholas Mancini—Espalier Demonstration Garden at the Bartlett Arboretum
- ◆ MG Marsha Dowling—Middlesex Extension Office Garden
- ◆ MG Elaine Hjelte—SoundWaters, Old Greenwich
- ◆ MGs Duane and Alice Luster—Boys & Girls Club Community Garden, Huntington St., Hartford

Grants are awarded throughout the year, so it is never too late to apply. The application form and full instructions are available at the website www.ctmga.org or from Billy Baxter, 203-265-1540, or bilbax@snet.net

Junior Master Gardener Program is Launched in Connecticut

By Kimberly Kelly, Master Gardener Coordinator

For 30 years the Master Gardener program has been training thousands of CT residents, who in turn have given uncountable hours back to their communities. Many of these hours have involved youth projects and school gardens. To help support more of these efforts UCONN has partnered with Texas A & M to officially launch the Junior Master Gardener Program here in CT. The JMG program already exists in over 28 states and Canada. The Junior Master Gardener program is a perfect fit for many situations because of the ease of implementation and the wide variety of available curriculum.

What is the JMG program?

The Junior Master Gardener program is an international youth gardening program of the University Cooperative Extension network. JMG engages children in novel, "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that provide a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind. JMG also inspires youths to be of service to others through service learning and leadership development projects, and rewards them with certification and recognition.

Youths can explore their world through meaningful horticultural and environmental science activities that encourage leadership development, personal pride, responsibility, and community involvement. The program incorporates service learning and volunteerism, which enables youth to make a positive contribution to their community.

Peer and cross generation mentoring occurs when JMG groups interact with Master Gardeners, community leaders and other volunteers. JMG Kids can be mentors to younger youths, by teaching them about horticulture. JMG provides an opportunity for youths to interact and bond with nature. As they go through the JMG program, they can learn how to conserve our natural resources and make knowledgeable decisions about the environment.

What are the levels of instruction?

The JMG program is broken into three levels which allows the program the opportunity to make age relevant activities. Level 1 (for grades 3-5) contains the JMG Core Curriculum (Teacher/Leader Guide and JMG Youth Handbook) and the Golden Ray Series, Health and Nutrition from the Garden, Wildlife Gardener, and Literature in the Garden. Level 2 (for grades 6-8) currently consists of Operation Thistle: Seeds of Despair, Plant Growth and Development. Future modules of JMG Level 2 Operation Thistle are currently under development. Level 3 has yet to be developed.

Is the curriculum aligned with state teaching standards?

Standardized testing has become more and more important in our school systems. The JMG program in CT is in the process of taking each curriculum and aligning all activities to Connecticut's standards. This will open doors into the public school system. The alignment is essential for adoption and use of JMG in school programs.

How do I start a JMG group?

To get started identify a leader or teacher willing to be the contact for the JMG group. This can be anyone interested in working with youth. The JMG leader does

NOT have to be a Master Gardener. If a JMG leader needs garden resources and information they can contact their local county Extension service for gardening support. Identify a group of youths. This may be a school group, 4-H club, home school group, youth club, or an after-school program. The program is flexible and can be offered to many different groups and in many different environments. A JMG group must have minimum of five youths. An important step is to register your JMG group. The registration packet is four pages and located in the appendix of the JMG curricula.

Who can participate in JMG?

JMG is a project of the 4-H program. However, the strength of the JMG program is its flexibility. We do not restrict who can participate in the program. Most JMG groups are associated with a public/private school and an increasing amount of home school groups are becoming involved. JMG is also used as a part of many traditional youth clubs such as 4-H, Boy/Girl Scouts, YMCA and faith based groups. In addition, public and botanical gardens, children's museums, and libraries typically have great educational environments and are utilizing JMG in their programming. JMG is a great match to these groups and an excellent educational outreach program.

Registering your group is FREE. Youths who are registered in the JMG program are eligible for certification in a national program. Each registered group will have a web page on the JMG web site, this site will be maintained by the JMG web master. Registered groups will be eligible for JMG contests, awards and certification. And, registering gives us a way of knowing where the JMG program is being utilized and who to contact with program updates and information. Registering does not obligate the group to complete the entire JMG program or have youths be recognized as certified Junior Master Gardeners

How do I register a JMG group?

To register a JMG group complete the JMG registration packet (four pages), and send it in to Marc Cournoyer and Kimberly Kelly. These are forwarded to the National JMG Program office. The National JMG Program office adds the groups to the national database and web page.

Since formally announcing the program here in CT we are excited that there are a number of new groups registered. We are also in the process of creating a 'train the trainer' workshop for interested group leaders.

UCONN JMG State Coordinators:

Marc Cournoyer

Program Coordinator 4-H Youth Development

Email: Marc.Cournoyer@uconn.edu

Kimberly Kelly

Master Gardener Coordinator, Educational Outreach

Email: Kimberly.Kelly@uconn.edu

Marc and Kimberly have offices at:
UCONN Cooperative Extension System
139 Wolf Den Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Phone: (860) 774-9600—Marc at ext. 18; Kim at ext. 25
Fax: (860) 774-9480

SYMPOSIUM

'09



Sign-maker Dick Shafer assisted by Bill Overton, at the crossroads-of-the-world

The annual shopping frenzy at the Silent Auction, run by the MG Coordinators



MG Coordinators Regina Campfield (l) and Sandi Wilson (r) beaming over the enthusiastic support of the Silent Auction by the Symposium attendees.



SPEAKERS WANTED

Requests for Master Gardeners to speak at various venues have been pouring into the Extension Centers recently. The CMGA had a list of MGs willing to speak, but it was last updated in 2006.

If you had volunteered in the past to fulfill speaking engagements, or if you are new to this opportunity, please register so the CMGA can help the Extension Coordinators get the Master Gardener message out to the general public. Outreach hours will be credited for speaking engagements. Links to community colleges are also being made, particularly with Manchester CC, which has been so helpful with our annual Symposium.

There is enormous interest in ornamental gardening, vegetable gardening, and lawn

maintenance from the general public. Apparently, people are no longer willing to relegate the care of their property to the 'mow and blow' crews.

The effort to assemble a list of Master Gardener speakers is being spear-headed by **Bill Overton**, with the experienced assistance of **Paul Grimmeisen**. Their contact information is below; please let them know if you are willing to speak and which topics are your specialties.

Bill Overton
Email: billdo103@aol.com
Phone: 860-655-9461

Paul Grimmeisen
Email: paul24wor@aol.com
Phone: 860-677-8645

Thank you so much for your participation.

NORTH HAVEN EXTENSION OFFICE

Jude Hsiang, Coordinator

What do Master Gardeners do in Winter?

Between October's graduation celebration for the MG class of 2008 and the arrival of Class of 2009 interns in the office, New Haven County Master Gardeners did a lot more than peruse garden catalogs and wish for sunny weather! Several folks helped out in the Master Gardener office over the winter, where a number of changes in the Extension building have kept us busy between client inquiries. Several Master Gardeners have donated new and gently used books to the office.

New Haven County Master Gardeners continue to write articles for weekly and monthly newspapers and for the newsletters of organizations including the Connecticut Botanical Society. In January we set up an information table at the Yale Peabody Museum's event in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy of Environmental & Social justice. MGs volunteered at the Hartford Flower Show's UConn Home & Garden Center booth as well as in other capacities. A Master Gardener working with the New Haven Land Trust's community gardens gave a well-received talk at the New Haven Main Library. More towns are becoming interested in community gardening, which the UConn Master Gardener Program is now focusing on throughout the state. Offices are receiving calls from town officials, PTA groups and individuals, and MGs are offering help in many ways.

Spring clean-up of the Extension gardens began in early March with Master Gardeners, MG interns and students from ACES Eli Whitney High School all joining in. The ACES students enjoy seeing new flowers blooming week by week and have asked to continue the Wednes-

day morning weeding parties through the end of the school year. Great Master Gardener projects like the North Haven Middle School's *Courtyard Caretakers* continue.

As weather warmed, Master Gardeners and interns were in greater demand. One spoke to a 4-H Club made up of home-schooled teens anxious to begin vegetable gardening with their families. We returned to the Peabody Museum for Earth Day and were pleased to meet folks from the U.S. Forest Service, The Connecticut Food Bank, the New Haven Land Trust, and other organizations who share our concerns. We were also invited to discuss gardening with kids on the *The Classroom Connection*, a Branford Cable TV production which is also being shown in Hamden, East Haven, New Haven and West Haven.

A number of folks assisted with the Southwest Conservation District plant sale and the Brass City Harvests plant sale which was held in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of Waterbury's beautiful Fulton Park. Plans for the New Haven County Extension Resource Council's annual plant sale in May were completed.

Grateful thanks to Karen Barletta, Pat Bender, Marie-Luise Blue, Bob Bradley, Marvin Carley, John Cox, Marie Dube, Kelly Davis, Joe Fitzgerald, Judi Freudenburg, Adelle Hack, Dawn Harrison, Laura Josephson, John Kasinskas, Renny Loisel, MaryLee Obert, Neal Peckham, Becky Paul, Susan Pronovost, Mary Quinlan, Liz Van Nostrand, Ellie Tessmer, and Rachel Ziesk. And a special thank you to all who continue to volunteer quietly— though we really want to know what you're up to and thank you personally. As you read this issue of *The Laurel*, interns from the Bethel, Haddam and West Hartford classes are settling in at the North Haven MG office and working on outreach projects throughout our area.

The Procrastinator's Vegetable Garden

By Roger G. Gregoire, Master Gardener

If you can count, you can have a vegetable garden even if you did not make plans early enough to do it according to the books.

So, it is mid-Spring already, or maybe we waited until mid-June to read this issue of *The Laurel*. Well, be of good cheer! We can still plant our "Recession Vegetable Garden" and get a bountiful harvest.

The last frost of spring has come and gone. Now our attention turns to the first frost of autumn as our limiting factor. If the first frost occurs about September 20th or 30th, that leaves us with about 100 to 110 days remaining to raise our garden. Now, timing is everything.

We have missed the early window of opportunity for growing many of the lush, green, leafy, cool temperature loving crops. But we will make up for these later in the fall.

Now, that the weather and soil are warm, we can plant directly into the garden. It is time to plant warm weather crops. These include basil, beans, chard, carrots, corn, cucumber, melons, onion (from sets), pumpkins, squash – both summer and winter varieties, and many more.

These crops can all be planted from seed sown directly into the garden and there is sufficient growing season for the plants to grow to maturity and should yield good harvests, if we do everything right. We have to pay particular attention to the maturity dates of the varieties of crops we want to grow. The seed packets and catalogs give us the number of "days to maturity," that is, to getting the first fully formed and ripe fruit with viable seeds. But, we want more than just one fruit, we want a large harvest. By selecting earlier maturing varieties of the plants we are to grow, we can increase the length of time that the plants can produce fruit and thus increase the probability of a rich and bountiful harvest.

Looking at squash for a moment, we see that summer squash will bear their first fruit in as little as 40 to 60 days. That leaves plenty of time to get many fruits from our plants. On the other hand, winter squash have much longer maturity dates, ranging from as short as 70 days to as long as 140 days. Any maturity date longer than 110 days is out of the question – unless we want to chance the first frost being late this year. Even maturity dates of 100 days leaves us little leeway to bounce back from a cloudy period or less than ideal growing conditions. But, we can still expect to harvest a full crop of acorn squash – 70 to 90 days; buttercup squash - 80 to 105

days; baby Hubbard squash – 85 to 95 days; and butternut squash – 95 to 105 days. Selecting the shortest maturity dates for the variety grown will increase the days of productivity for the plants.

But, what about our favorites from the Solanaceae family - tomatoes, peppers and eggplants? Even though the seed packets or catalogs may state 75 or 80 days to maturity, there is a caveat that goes along with these vegetables. The number of days to maturity for these plants are counted from the time of setting out transplants. The transplants were started from seeds planted 6 to 8 weeks earlier for tomatoes and peppers and 8 to 10 weeks for eggplants. Now, we are at the mercy of the nurseries to provide us with transplants. Fortunately, purchasing transplants will allow us to grow some of our favorite garden vegetables this year. Unfortunately, the selection of varieties may be quite limited at this time of season. And, the transplants have been in their tiny, starter packs for longer than they should be and are probably root bound. Such conditions will check the plants' growth for a while – thus, further extending the days to maturity by another week or more. In this case, look for earlier maturing varieties of the plants you want to grow, since these will allow for a longer harvesting period at the end of the season—they are still available for sale.

As summer progresses, we start to count back from the first frost date to plan and plant a fall harvest of the cool weather crops that we missed earlier in the year. Vegetables such as those of the Brassica family—broccoli, Brussels sprout, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, rutabaga, and turnip—as well as lettuce and spinach, will all do well in the cooler autumn days to come. The maturity dates for spinach range from 32 to 50 days; for lettuce from 45 to 60 days; and for the many varieties in the Brassica family from 48 to 105 days. With these wide ranging maturity dates, we can begin planting the fall crops as soon as late June and continue into early August. Planting at the correct time will provide a bumper crop of cool weather vegetables for the table and for winter storage.

Okay, so we have put it off for a while, but we still have time to get our "Recession Vegetable Garden" growing. So, let us get going and growing!



BETHEL EXTENSION OFFICE

Sandi Wilson, Coordinator

The Master Gardener interns have recently completed the classroom portion of the program and have begun their internships in the Extension office. The Fairfield County office is already bustling with calls, and walk-in clients with Cedar Apple Rust galls, Boxwood Leaf miner, and plenty of winter damage. Also, carpenter bees, wasps, Lily Leaf Beetles, and native Long Horn Beetles. Questions on growing vegetables and fruit trees have been numerous thus far.

Community Outreach Opportunities

We have had a record number of requests for outreach. Many schools are implementing gardening programs with the children and are interested in starting vegetable and other teaching gardens on their properties. The following schools are starting up programs and are looking for Master Gardeners to help with them.

Hill and Plain School, New Milford – The PTO is looking to establish a butterfly garden on the school premises, erect fences, gates, and raised beds. They would like to teach the children (K-3) about composting and construct a simple compost container. Master Gardeners are needed for guidance on any or all of these issues.

Hawley School, Newtown – The Go Green Committee and the PTA are creating a garden and establishing a Junior Master Gardener Program as an after school club. This club will educate youths about horticulture, environmental science, nutrition, etc. Master Gardeners are needed to consult with parents and teachers and help with curriculum.

Huckleberry Hill Elementary School, Brookfield – Master Gardeners are needed to work with teachers during the school day to create a garden club curriculum and provide outdoor hands on instruction to the children in recently established gardens.

Other Outreach Opportunities

Discovery Museum Garden Tour – June 5, 2009. Master Gardeners are needed to answer questions at private gardens in Southport and Fairfield from 9:30 - 3:00. Proceeds of the tour support the Discovery Science Museum in Bridgeport.

Invasive Plant Table at the Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport– August 1, 2009 - Master Gardeners are needed to help with an information table and display on invasive plants during the Yale Peabody Museum's bioblitz being held on August 1, 2009. The bioblitz is a 24-hour survey of plants, animals, and fungi, where scientists and volunteers gather to count species, gather data, and identify their finds.

7th Annual Garden Fair, Bethel – Saturday August 15, 2009 Master Gardener volunteers needed to staff information booths, help with set-up/tear-down, organization and implementation of this popular event which is free to the public. Master Gardeners will be giving free seminars on various aspects of Garden Design and there will be a free perennial plant raffle.

For additional information and contact numbers for any of these outreach opportunities and others in Fairfield County, please contact Sandi Wilson at 203-207-3261 or Sandra.wilson@uconn.edu.

WEST HARTFORD EXTENSION OFFICE

Sarah Bailey, Coordinator

Final exams have been given and the 47 students in the 2009 West Hartford Master Gardener class are getting started on their outreach projects and their office hours. Additionally, many of them are well into their Tree, Shrub and Vine projects. Despite having to cancel two class dates due to snow and ice, the final exam was given before the end of April, as daffodils and cherry blossoms promised warmer weather ahead.

Outreach projects are many and varied this year, including the Mark Twain House and Butler-McCook House. There are many farmers' market opportunities this year where MGs will provide horticultural information to the public, including a new market at Billings Forge in Hartford.

In New Britain, one intern is spearheading a project to rebuild the rose garden in Walnut Hill Park and has received initial approval from the town for the initiative.

The Foodshare garden at Auer Farm in Bloomfield is expanding yet again, with another 16 raised beds installed in April, and the Thompsonville Community Garden is starting Year Two amidst an exponential increase in interest in community gardening.

Phones have been ringing in the office since March, with an overwhelming interest in vegetable gardens this year. Community gardens, container gardens, backyard gardens – it's all about growing your own food. The economy is one reason, callers say, but also the interest in safe, local food.

The outreach requests exceed the number of available interns this year! Any certified MGs who wish to stay (or get) involved are welcome to call or come by and join in the fun!

NORWICH EXTENSION OFFICE

Susan H. Munger, Coordinator

The AMG class on Wetlands and Riparian Buffers on May 13 is not yet full. Just being at Avery Point in the spring is worth the trip.

On May 17, the Focus Group have their annual plant sale from 11 am to 2 pm. There will be vegetables, flowers, some herbs, and a few other items, all at great prices.

The 2009 interns are starting on their office hours, with mentors to help them through the first days. Not surprisingly we are getting calls about rhododendron problems and lawn questions. Spring has been cool and dry as of this writing so maybe we will see less in the way of fungal problems. On the other hand, it would be nice if the fungus that destroys the gypsy moth larva is around to do its lethal work.

We continue work on the landscaping of the grounds. The committee has put together a good list of native trees and shrubs and plan to start installing them soon. When it gets a bit warmer we'll plant the raised beds with vegetables and flowers that attract the beneficial insects. Then we hope the deer don't come and eat everything.

The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
First Tuesday of the Month 6/2; 7/7 10am	CMGA board meeting. Location varies; please contact Sandy Myhalik at Myhalik@comcast.net or 860-677-0504
5/17/09 1 pm to 3:30 pm	An Afternoon with Alpine Plant Expert Josef Halda. North American Rock Garden Society and Wave Hill, Bronx, NY. Info at www.wavehill.org.
5/21/09 7:30 pm	On the Road with a Gardener's Diary —People, Places, and Plants by Erica Glasener from Atlanta, Ga. Regular meeting of the Connecticut Horticultural Society. Info at
5/28/09 to 5/30/09	The Gardeners of America / Men's Garden Clubs of America 2009 National Convention in Santa Rosa, Ca. Info at www.tgoa-mgca.org/Convention2009.
6/3/09 11 am to 2 pm	Tulip Bulb Sale, Elizabeth Park (Rain date 6/4) Elizabeth Park, 1555 Asylum Ave., West Hartford, Info at 860-231-9443, or www.elizabethpark.org
6/4/09 to 6/6/09	Native Plants in the Landscape —a conference at the campus of Millersville University, Lancaster County, Pa. Speakers from Univ. of Delaware, Penn State Univ., and Mt. Cuba Center. Info at: www.millersvillenativeplants.org.
6/6/09 9 am to 4 pm	HerbFest 2009. Connecticut Herb Association celebration at Pleasant View Farms, 452 Sough Rd., Route 83, Somers, Ct. \$10 for those over 12 & under 70. Thirty herb & craft vendors. Info at www.ctherb.org or www.herbfest.com or 860-763-5206
6/12/09 10 am to 4 pm	20th Annual Secret Gardens Tour, to benefit the New Canaan Nature Center. Tour and lunch \$75 or tour only \$50. Phone 203-966-9577 x50. Info at www.NewCanaanNature.org.
6/13/09 10 am to 3 pm	CT NOFA 1st Annual Organic Gardens Tour. Admission \$20. Advance registration recommended. Info at 203-888-5146 or www.ctnofa.org.
6/13/09 10 am to 4 pm	Garden Tour to benefit the Farmington Library. Fee \$20 in advance, \$25 on the day. Info at 860-673-6791
6/18/08 7:30 pm	Creating Magical Spaces (Gardens for the young and young at heart) presented by Jane Taylor from Cape Elizabeth, Me. Regular meeting of the Connecticut Horticultural Society. Info at www.cthort.org
6/19/09 to 6/21/09	Rose Weekend at Elizabeth Park. A display of 15,000 rose bushes and perennial, annual, herb, and shade gardens. Info at www.elizabethpark.org
6/20/09 10 am to 4 pm	Summertime in the Litchfield Hills Litchfield Garden Club Flower Show. Flower designs, horticulture, and conservation exhibit. Free. Litchfield Community Center, Route 202, Litchfield, Ct. Info 860-567-0263
6/23/09/to 6/27/07	The Global Garden, a conference of the American Public Gardens Association at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo. Info at www.publicgardens.org.
7/17/09	Woody Plant Conference at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa. Info at Longwood Gardens Continuing Education Office, 610-388-1000 ext.507 or www.woodyplantconference.org.
7/18/09 10 am—4 pm	"Gardens of Vision and Inspiration" A tour of nine gardens sponsored by Tolland Garden Paths. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 on the day. Proceeds to benefit Tolland civic projects. Make check payable to 'Tolland Garden Paths' and send with SASE to TGP, C/O Rubino, 296 Weigold Rd., Tolland, Ct. 06084. Info at 860-872-0662
7/23/09 to 7/25/09	American Horticulture Society's 17th Annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Info at: 703-768-5700 ext. 132 or www.ahs.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.

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS OF CMGA

The CMGA is happy to announce a new benefit of membership: discounts to a number of Connecticut garden centers and nurseries. The fastest way to get this information and these privileges to you is *The Laurel*.

In lieu of a membership card, please use this page and your mailing label on the next page as proof of membership when you shop at the locations listed here.

Peggy Bliss is chairing the 'Partner's Project' and she can be reached at ctbliss@aol.com for recommendations on your favorite vendors who may want to be included on this list.

<p>Botticello Farms 109 Hillstown Road Manchester, CT 06040 1-860-649-2462 10% discount</p>	<p>Maple Row Growers 227 Stepney Road Easton, CT 06612 1-203-395-6191 5% on in-stock trees & shrubs only</p>
<p>Cheshire Nursery Garden Center 1317 S. Main Street Cheshire, CT 06410 1-203-272-3228 10% discount</p>	<p>N.E. General Store (soon to be Petals and Paws) 361 Scott Swamp Road, Rt. #6 Farmington, CT 06032 10% discount on plants</p>
<p>Comstock Ferre & Company 263 Main Street Wethersfield, CT 06109 1-860-571-6590 10% discount</p>	<p>O'Brien Nurserymen LLC (Hostas) 40 Wells Road Granby, CT 06035 1-860-653-0163 10% discount Open Fri., Sat., Sun—Call to make sure open</p>
<p>Cricket Hill Garden (Tree Peonies) 670 Walnut Hill Rd. Thomaston, Ct. 06787 1-860-283-1042 10% discount</p>	<p>Petals Cafe (Formerly Canton Creamery) 465 Albany Turnpike Rt. #44 Canton, CT 06019 10% discount on plants</p>
<p>Garden Barn Nursery 228 West Street Vernon-Rockville, Ct 06066 1-860-872-7291 Shop Wednesday only Register at Gardenbarn.com</p>	<p>Riverside Nursery and Garden Center 56 River Road Rt. #179 Collinsville, CT 06022 10% on everything but delivery & excavation</p>
<p>Geiger's Garden Center 40 Belmont Street Fairfield, CT 06824 1-203-255-1024 10% discount</p>	<p>Salem Country Gardens 380 New London Road Salem, CT 06420 1-860-859-2508 10% discount</p>
<p>Heirloom Gardens 59 Main Street Rt. 25 Newtown, CT 06470 1-203-241-0301 10% discount—20% orders over \$250</p>	<p>Van Wilgen's Garden Center 51 Valley Road off Rt. #139 North Branford, CT 06471 1-203-488-2110 Join club at nursery for benefits & discount</p>
<p>Kent Greenhouse and Gardens Rt. 7 South 30 South Main Street Kent, CT 06757 1-860-927-3480 20% discount</p>	<p>UPDATES TO THIS LIST WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AT THE WEBSITE www.ctmga.org</p>

The Laurel

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

2009

SEE BELOW
 FOR NEW AND
 EXCITING CMGA
 MEMBERSHIP
 BENEFITS

LOCAL NURSERIES AND GARDEN CENTERS OFFERING DISCOUNTS TO MEMBERS OF THE CMGA

See page 11 of this edition for details on how to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Botticello Farms	Maple Row Growers
Cheshire Nursery Garden Center	N.E. General Store (soon to be Petals & Paws)
Comstock Ferre & Comapny	O'Brien Nurserymen
Cricket Hill Garden	Petals Café (Formerly Canton Creamery)
Garden Barn Nursery	Riverside Nursery & Garden Center
Geiger's Garden Center	Salem Country Gardens
Heirloom Gardens	Van Wilgen's Garden Center
Kent Greenhouse and Gardens	

Connecticut
Master Gardener
Association
Newsletter

The Laurel

Summer, 2009 Volume 22, No. 3

PROTECT OUR TREES

By Lisa Esposito and Dr. Kirby Stafford

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, Ct.

«Look Out for the Asian Longhorned Beetle»

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), a shiny black insect with white spots, is native to China and was discovered in Brooklyn, New York in 1996. It is likely this insect was introduced as larvae embedded in wood-packing material used to transport goods. It has been found in several areas around New York City and Long Island, nearby areas of New Jersey, Chicago, Toronto, Ontario, and most recently in Worcester, MA.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle attacks several species of hardwood trees including maple, elm, willow, birch, horsechestnut, and poplar. Oak and pine trees are not affected. During summer and early fall after mating, females chew niches in host tree bark and lay individual eggs in each, from 35 to 90 eggs per female. The eggs hatch in 10 to 15 days and the caterpillar-like larvae tunnel into the tree, feeding on the phloem and cambium layers beneath the bark. They then proceed to bore into the heartwood where they mature over winter. Around late June to July, the adult ALBs chew their way out of the tree, leaving perfectly round ¼ to ½ inch exit holes and coarse sawdust-like material behind. This damage can kill a host tree within 3 years.

Because this insect gets into the heartwood, there are currently no effective treatment methods other than

to remove and chip infested trees. Finely chipping the wood will destroy any ALB larvae that may be inside. Quarantines have been established to prevent all wood from leaving areas where ALB has been identified. Surveys of trees and wooden imports are being conducted by The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and the USDA/APHIS/PPQ.

An undetected infestation would impact the balance of our ecosystem, the maple syrup industry, hardwood lumber processing, nurseries, and the beauty of Connecticut. People can help us by looking for the beetle and beetle damage in order to identify and control early infestations. Thus far, all ALB infestations have been detected by citizens who reported the beetle. Purchasing and using local firewood can help stop the spread of invasive wood-boring insects.

For more information, please visit www.uvm.edu/albeetle. If you suspect that you have found an ALB in Connecticut, capture the beetle and place it in the freezer until official identification can be made. Take digital pictures of the situation and call The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at (203) 974-8474 or email high quality digital images to CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov.



A proud parent ALB examining the work of its voracious offspring.

Master Gardener Coordinators Helping the CAES Investigate the Asian Longhorned Beetle

Sue Munger of the New London office and Pat Eldredge of the Litchfield office have been assisting the Ct. Agricultural Experiment Station with their research into the Asian Longhorned Beetle, with much gratitude from the CAES.

A glimmer of hope for a systemic insecticide regimen to control this devastating pest is beginning to be seen. Further research on the above-mentioned website www.uvm.edu/abeetle/research/insecticides.html will outline the substances being investigated.

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The Laurel :

Diana Ringelheim diana@ringelheim.com

Summer, 2009

Greetings to all CMGA Members,

This edition of *The Laurel* is packed with practical advice from Master Gardeners and Interns: espaliered fruit trees, gourds for birdhouses, websites for shopping, plant recommendations—so much to keep us busy and entertained during these monsoon rains.

The season is progressing despite the challenges and we are already looking to the fall and winter activities at the CMGA. As always, help is needed in inventing the future of our organization. Please consider attending the Board meetings (for dates see the *Laurel* Calendar on page 11) to find out what is on the agenda and which areas might interest you. New technologies in gardening as well as in communications are being developed at an ever increasing rate and the CMGA needs savvy people to help relay information to our membership. Walk-ins to the Board meetings are always welcome, and we won't make you sign anything or make a long term commitment!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to invite you to use these rainy days to write about your own gardening experiences, successes, failures, and hard-won wisdom. The Fall and Winter editions of *The Laurel* should be the places where we share information and expertise. Late Summer in the garden is hot, humid, and exhausting. Grab an iced drink, relax, and jot down some recommendations for your fellow Master Gardeners. Send your 'jots' to me at the address below—they are what make *The Laurel* a valuable tool in your gardening kit.

All the best,

Diana

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 Fall, 2009 edition: October 1, 2009

NEWS FROM EXTENSION CENTERS

By Kay Varga, Master Gardener Program Coordinator
Tolland County Extension Center

The 2009 class of Master Gardeners have passed their final exams, and are well into their community outreach projects, including some right here at TAC. Three Master Gardeners are working with 4-H'ers and their moms in designing and planting the Children's Garden. The theme for this year's garden is "A Victory Garden" and it will be at its peak for the 4-H Fair in August.

The Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale, our fund raiser to support the Tolland County Master Gardener Program, was a huge success, surpassing last year's sales by 50%. The generosity and enthusiasm of Master Gardeners is overwhelming. In addition to bringing plants from their own gardens, there were crews who dug hundreds of plants for gardeners in exchange for making room for new gardens (over 1,500 irises from one place!) The sale would not have been possible without the dozens of volunteers who were there between Friday morning through Saturday afternoon, from set-up to clean-up and all points in between.

It's even more amazing that 'work' can be so much fun!



Sensory Garden

Three new Garden Master classes were held through the Vernon office this spring. Advanced Master Gardeners David Starr and Bill Marshall taught about Sensory Gardens and conducted a tour through the one that they created as

part of a Boundless Playground.



Sensory Garden Photos by Pamm Cooper

Charlotte Pyle held another popular workshop on Building Labyrinths. Last fall, Charlotte headed up the project to create a Daffodil and Grape Hyacinth Labyrinth here at TAC. This spring we were rewarded with a glorious show of daffodils, followed by the hyacinths. As a temporary labyrinth, it will now be mowed and maintained as part of the lawn, to re-bloom next spring.



Labyrinth Garden

Pamm Cooper shared her experiences in "Enjoying Butterflies, Caterpillars, and Moths".

Wishing you all a Wonderful Summer!

A message from:

CONNECTICUT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

At the Connecticut Horticultural Society, we are working to improve our newsletter and Web-site in order to better serve our members. So, we are seeking a Director of Communications to be the newsletter editor and to coordinate Web and other communication efforts. The successful applicant should have editorial experience, public relations and networking skills and a love of gardening.

This will be a paid, part-time position.

For more information, please visit the CHS Web-site at <http://www.cthort.org>

The deadline for applications is August 17, 2009

THE MYTH OF ESPALIER FRUIT TREES

By Nicholas Mancini, Master Gardener

My dear colleagues, the espaliering of fruit trees is not a daunting task or relegated only to a privileged few, it's for all of us to practice, enjoy and perfect so we can be proud of our achievement and harvest bona fide organic fruits. This technique is a highly developed form of training that can achieve beauty, functionality and allows the home gardener to grow varieties in relatively small spaces. You can prove, contrary to popular belief, that espaliered dwarf or semi-dwarf fruit trees are not less productive or yield smaller fruit. They are as prolific and yield great tasting fruit, like standard trees. I have been espaliering trees for the past 23 years, and I too, was skeptical at first, but because of circumstances, I had no choice but to resort to this method when I purchased a postage stamp-sized property in Westport, wedged between two main roads.

This spring I had a chance to work with my group of Master Gardeners when we received a grant from the Connecticut Master Gardener Association to purchase four apple and two pear trees to be espaliered along the stone walls of the Organic Vegetable garden at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, Conn. Everyone participated during the planting, staking, pruning, training and other necessary work to make this project successful. One of the requirements for espaliering trees is a southern exposure, and this and all our other conditions were met in the Vegetable Garden. It's a venture that everyone involved is proud of.

This type of tree growing can be against a wall, fence, along a walkway, or to define a perimeter in your garden or property. Practically any 1 or 2 year-old (one year old *whip* preferred) fruit tree can be used to achieve such a goal. Other than a grafted dwarf or semi-dwarf bare root *whip*, a pair of pruning shears, a support for your plant, and the willingness to work and learn, the rest should come easily to Master Gardeners who have devoted a good part of their lives to helping Mother Nature. Since we already



know the dynamics, success is a reasonable expectation – I guarantee it!

Before choosing a tree, decide what is your favorite fruit, where will the plant fit best (of course taking sunlight under consideration), erect a framework with wires to support the cordons (side arms) once they begin to grow. It's essential to order your tree(s) far in advance so the Nursery has it in stock in the spring rather than be back ordered until fall. Immediately after the bare root tree arrives at your doorstep (that's how they are shipped), plant it right away. You must have established a location, and erected a framework before planting since it's easy to knock a bud or shoot off the *whip* when you're trying to work around it, especially if doing it alone.

If planting against the house or solid wood fence, make sure to leave roughly 6-8" between your tree and the solid surface in order to get decent air circulation and minimal heat build-up during high temperatures.

Dig a copious hole so the roots are extended fully, and when refilling it, use the same soil, or add only a minimal amount of compost to the soil, making sure the graft joint is a couple of inches above the soil line.

Head the top of the tree right below the first wire, which should be 18" high. Once the buds on the plant sprout, rub off all emerging shoots except the top four; two of them will be used for the cordons; the one on top will travel upward and establish the trunk of the second tier. The fourth one is for insurance purposes. In case one of the shoots is accidentally knocked off before the others are securely tied, the fourth can be used as a substitute, and once the three are successfully tied, the extra one can be removed. The same procedure can be applied the following year to make another tier, which should be spaced 16" above the first. For a more detailed explanation of the espalier procedure, log on to my website: www.OrganicGardeningSimplified.com/fruit-trees, or send an e-mail to me at: Nick@OrganicGardeningSimplified.com



ESPALIER CONTINUED . . .

Taking care of organically grown fruit trees in Connecticut is a bit more challenging for the home gardener than for the non-organic commercial growers who use harsher chemical treatments. The Organic Mixtures are not as strong and obviously not as effective, and to offset the difference, we need to spray more often, but they are much kinder to nature and to us. Fortunately, spraying espaliered trees is not backbreaking since the tops are easily reached. I begin with a dosage of horticultural/dormant oil sprays in mid-January when the temperature exceeds 40° F, and another spraying in early spring, just before bud-break. Before bloom or after petal-fall, I change either to an extract of Neem oil, lime sulfur, or a copper based spray, depending on the amount of fungus, insect presence and type of tree that needs attention. *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (BT) is

another spray recommended for growing organic fruits, however, I bought a bottle years ago but haven't used it because of its harsh characteristics, and since the others are working satisfactorily, there is no need to get alarmed unless an infestation is prevalent, only then I'll resort to such action.

So, my fellow Master Gardeners, if I can espalier five apple trees, one Asian pear, one apricot, plus grow dwarf apples, pears, cherries, apricots and peach trees, including grapes, figs and brambles, in addition to the usual flowers and vegetables in a tiny property such as mine, so can you. If you haven't already attempted the technique of espaliering your favorite fruit tree, why not give it a try and put another feather in your cap of successes. ♦

Dear Friends,

Despite the weather that we have been having in late June, as I am writing this note, my garden is calling out for attention. Actually, it has been calling out since late March when I took a very brief vacation from my Master Gardener Coordinator's duties to survey the winter's mischief and look for early sprouting Narcissi. Since that time the quote from Voltaire's satire, *Candide*, had been rolling around my head: "Il faut que nous cultivar notre jardin," which translates to: "We must take care of our own garden." With mixed feelings, the realization came that I needed to free up more time to spend working with my plants. This line of reasoning led to the inescapable conclusion that it was time for another Master Gardener to take over the responsibility of Coordinator in Middlesex County.

Since becoming a Certified Master Gardener in 1999, I had always wanted to assume the leadership role of Coordinator, and am very grateful for having had the opportunity to serve in this capacity. It has been a wonderfully enriching experience. I cannot thank my sister Coordinators enough for how helpful they have been. Their generous sharing of experience and resources has been very supportive in streamlining operations in the Middlesex County office throughout the two years that I have served. I send profound thanks to Leslie Alexander, Sandi Wilson, Sarah Bailey, Kay Varga, Pat Eldredge, Jude Hsiang, Regina Campfield, and Kim Kelly. My sincere gratitude also goes out to Susan Munger, my regional counterpart. I will miss our easy companionability and superb working relationship.

My appreciation for all that the Coordinators do has been greatly enhanced since I have had the opportunity to serve as one. We all, as University of Connecticut certified Master Gardeners, and as the people of the great State of Connecticut, benefit tremendously from the perhaps unnoticed, but massive efforts of all our Coordinators. From the smooth running of the Master Gardener classes, the training of interns, the efficient operation of the offices, and the supervision of outreach projects to assuring the extremely high quality of information that is provided to the gardeners of Connecticut, all of our Coordinators are on the job around the clock. The work of the Coordinators is endless in part because Coordinators are always looking for a better way to accomplish a given task. Coordinators are constantly refining, redesigning, and reviewing. Our Coordinators take the responsibility of the appointment to the position very seriously. It is a responsibility that Coordinators cherish and one on which they thrive to the benefit of all. It is important to acknowledge their efforts and applaud them. Thank you all, Ladies, for all you do. It has truly been an honor to work with you.

The joy of meeting and getting to know the fine people of Middlesex County, all those who participated in the classes in Norwich and Haddam, and those who participated in the Master Classes was one of the greatest rewards of the job of coordinator. Fond memories will replace that compelling summons from the garden, once I start to get my hands in the soil, I'm sure. Best wishes to you all and I hope our paths cross again soon.

Lest this 'note' go on forever, I must close by saying that this is not "goodbye," but rather "see you soon." I will stay active in our Program through the CMGA, and by volunteering in Tolland, and Middlesex Counties. It has been a privilege to serve as Master Gardener Coordinator in Middlesex County.

Sincerely,
Carol Gregoire

GOURDS ARE FOR THE BIRDS

By Renny Loisel, Master Gardener Intern

Hard Shells of *Lagenaria siceraria* gourds make ideal bird shelters, for nature's best pollinators, and their flowers attract hummingbirds

Members of the Cucurbita family include pumpkins, squash and gourds. All are easy to grow. They come in all kinds of shapes, sizes and colors. And, they usually find their way into fall baskets and festive arrangements.

Squash, of course, is a year-round vegetable that is most versatile in the summer months. However, there is only so much zucchini bread you can bake and give away in the name of "home-grown." Pumpkin, my favorite, always takes center stage in October, yet its year-round value is debatable beyond pumpkin bread, soup and pasta variations.

But what about gourds? Basically, there are three types of gourds – decorative, hard-shell and luffa. They're oddly-shaped, colorful and textured. Some are striped, others mottled. They're plentiful in fall, but no recipes come to mind. And there are no family traditions, save the festive arrangement.

So what else can you do with a gourd? I found out during an overdue visit to my cousin's home in Maryland last August. It was a beautiful farm with rolling hills, ponds, an old Pennsylvania Dutch barn and large patches of fresh vegetables growing everywhere. There, I had a life-changing rendezvous with the hard-shelled *Lagenaria siceraria* gourds.

Both Dick and Anne are attorneys by trade and farmers at heart. Anne prepares the gardens with mushroom soil and TLC. She plants the seeds, tends the beds, harvests the vegetables and cooks incredibly good meals. Dick is quick to test every savory bite.

While picking tomatoes, I noticed bees going in and out of a hive located far to the right. On the way to investigate the art of beekeeping, my eyes fell upon a vine-covered area. Like a child, I shifted my attention from the bees to the discovery of huge green fruits hiding beneath broad leaves. Unknown to me, these newly

discovered treasures were *Lagenaria siceraria* gourds.

Seeing my delight, Anne suggested I pick some and take them home. Without further thought, I did just that, gathering six of them. On the way back to Connecticut, I did some research and quickly realized the *Lagenaria siceraria* gourd has been around for over 15,000 years! In fact, it was one of the first cultivated plants, providing people with food (although I can't find any modern recipes). It can also serve as a variety of tools, utensils, string and drum instruments - as well as shelter for birds.

Considering that food, utensils, tools and musical instruments from gourds are not necessary for survival in 2009, building bird houses seemed like the best plan. Birds are some of nature's best pollinators. Their colors, designs and gestures are delightful to watch and to hear their songs is magical. So I set to work.

Do It Yourself Bird Houses

Initially, I wiped the gourds down with mild bleach-water to help prevent rotting and then, for six months, the gourds stayed on our front porch. Each day, I would turn them and check for any soft spots. By February, we had lost two of them to rot.

Because of the high winds, we moved the gourd into a shed and I continued turning them a couple of times a week. On a sunny day in mid April, the shells of the gourds were finally hard. The outside was full of mold and you could hear the seeds when you shook the gourd. They were ready to be made into birdhouses.

There are many variations on how to build a gourd birdhouse. The suggestions below are from my experience and the Amish Birdhouse Book/www.amishgourds.com.

- Start with a dry gourd. If you have a choice, leave the gourd on the vine through the winter and collect it in the spring. If the gourd is green, it will take 4-6 months to dry. You can also hang the gourd by the stem or turn it frequently in a well-ventilated area. Check it often. Mold will form. This is OK. Get rid of any gourds with soft spots.
- Clean the outside with a brush or sand paper. Wash it with mild bleach-water to protect it from rot, fungus and/or mold. Then dry it.
- Make a hole above the center of the gourd face using an expansion drill bit or a hole-saw. Size the hole to the type of bird you want to attract.
- Clean out the gourd with a serrated knife
- Cut two ¼-inch holes in the top of the gourd so it can be hung with wire, a leather strip or some other material



GOURDS CONTINUED . . .

- Using 3/8-inch bit, drill 4 or 5 holes in the bottom for drainage, and two or three on the sides for ventilation.
- Finish by lightly sanding the gourd. Then coat it with an oil-based primer, followed by enamel paint. Or, simply use 2 or 3 coats of clear polyurethane. For an air conditioned home, paint the outside of the house white to reflect heat.

The seeds from the gourds were saved, dried and then germinated. All 16 of them took. The plants are now scattered throughout New England. In Connecticut, six of them have taken up residence on a small farm in West Haven. One other is in New Britain, near Hartford. Two are in Massachusetts. We'll keep a couple in our backyard.

As for the gourds, they now hang around our property, waiting for their first tenants to arrive. ♦



NEWS FROM EXTENSION CENTERS

7th Annual Bethel Gardening Fair

Fairfield County Extension Center
67 Stony Hill Road, Bethel, Ct.

Saturday, August 15, 2009—12:30 to 5:00 PM

Master Gardener Presentations

12:45—1:30 Designing Troughs & Containers
Presented by Claudette Amen, MG

Claudette is the owner of Flower Me Pretty and will give you instructions for making every aspect of an alpine trough, including making the trough itself. Appropriate plants and even the recipe for the soil mix will be covered. Container gardening includes design elements, plant selection, and how to keep everything looking good throughout the season.

1:45—2:30 Designing with Native Plants
Presented by Donna Katsuranis, AMG

Donna is the owner of Dream Gardener and will discuss all the wonderful native plants that add attractive elements and interest to our landscape. Native plants perform with little additional care because they are well suited to our soil and weather conditions.

3:15—4:00 Designing with Water
Presented by Laura Stabell, MG

Laura is a garden designer and consultant. Rain gardens provide habitat to many animals and insects that inhabit our landscapes, and contribute to our responsible use of water in the rest of the garden. Collecting rainwater reduces urban flooding and stresses on town storm sewers.

4:15—5:00 Designing with Shrubs
Presented by Lorraine Ballato, AMG

Lorraine is a garden writer and will discuss some tried and true plants that are the backbone of the landscape. She will also have pictures and descriptions of newer cultivars that are sure to whet our appetites. Shrubs can provide year-round interest with a fraction of the work required by other types of plants.

Booths

- Master Gardener Questions and Answers
- Invasive Plants
- Turf Problems and Management
- Soil Testing and Composting
- Vegetables and Herbs
- Annuals and Container Gardens
- Perennials
- Low Toxic Approaches to Problems
- Used Book Sale

Perennial Walk

Fran Litwin, AMG, will lead a tour of the gardens on the Extension Center's grounds. Maintained by Master Gardeners, the gardens contain native trees, shrubs, and perennials that attract birds, butterflies, and bees.

THE COTTAGE GARDEN AT THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM

By Laura Sprengelmeyer and Nedra Gillette

The Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens has a series of gardens meant to help local folks learn about their options for gardening in Southwestern Connecticut. While the gardens are always available for visitors to explore, they are also presented through Saturday morning tours once a month during the late spring, summer, and early fall. Each garden has a different aspect: there is a Perennial Garden about 160 ft. long, with semi-shade at either end and bright sunshine on the middle section. There is a full-sun and very exposed garden which is known as the Sundial Garden, containing mostly perennials, also. And, there is a Cottage Garden, somewhat sheltered, primarily shady, but with some spaces where the sun highlights it for about three hours around noon-time.

As Master Gardeners, class of '07, we were asked to assume responsibility for the Cottage Garden this year. Recently expanded, it has about one-third more planting space than it had previously, so the challenge was too good to pass up! We invited members of the class of '09 to consider working with us for their outreach project, and have been delighted to welcome four of those interns: Al Daniels, Diane Faxon, Cathy Lynch, and Charlie Northsheild. Four better workers could not be found - -anywhere- - and great progress is being made towards the restoration of this garden.

The garden is approximately 1,000 square feet, and faces the entryway to the Bartlett's administration building. All of one side and about 1/3 of another side have wooden fences, which make nice backdrops. A very large white pine tree anchors one corner of the garden, and helps to shade a collection of azaleas which the deer had decimated this winter. Paths are being widened to accommodate wheel chairs, and old stone edges have been reconstructed, as the stones become available through lots of on-the-knees digging.

Dozens of shade-loving perennials are waiting to be divided: *Pulmonaria*, at least 4 kinds of cranesbill *Geranium*, a nice variety of *Heuchera*, and lots of *Tiarella*, to name but a few. There are areas where tulips flourish (in spite of the deer) and where daffodils mingle with three different varieties of *Corydalis*. There are big patches of *Arum italicum*, a group of *Aconitum*, a few

Delphinium, a variety of Japanese painted fern and plenty of *Dianella tasmanica*. As we dig and divide we try to design on the spot, as there is a sense of urgency to get most of the planting done while the rainy season supports our efforts. We have new *Dicentra*, *Aquilegia*, *Clematis*, and climbing hydrangeas to add, and we have an amazing array of *Begonia*, *Fuchsia*, *Caladium* and other dramatic annuals to fill in color all around the garden.



Dianella tasmanica variegata—Variegated Flax Lily

So, this is learning-by-doing, maybe even by guess-and-by-golly, as this garden grows under our hands, and is revised and re-thought. The fact of having more plants than we really can use presents much of the problem. We have outlined some principles to follow (regarding edging plants, height, focal points, accessibility, items of winter interest and structure, etc.) and we try to follow these principles as we work. As an outreach project, it could be called a program of rehabilitation and reconstruction more than a lesson in landscape design. And yet, having worked together, we all have a sense of accomplishment and great pride in what we've managed to do.



Aquilegia canadensis—Columbine



Arum italicum—Italian Lords and Ladies



Tiarella cordifolia—Foam Flower

THE *GROWING CONNECTION* AT WINDHAM CENTER SCHOOL

By Robin Dixon-Rouse, Advanced Master Gardener

Throughout the cold fall and winter months, the second graders of Windham Center School faithfully composted their leftover snacks, awaiting the first signs of spring and their new adventure in becoming part of the *Growing Connection*. Approximately 60 students participated in the international non-profit program, whose goal is to connect youths from around the world and teach them about the benefits of sustainable gardening. Windham Center students will collaborate by sharing data and ideas, as well as noting successes and failures in their gardening experiences.

Windham Center students are linked up with students from the Dominican Republic, and they will be able to communicate directly with their sister school from their classroom via the Internet. All the participants in this program are provided with Earth Boxes; these have been proven a breakthrough in growing healthy produce in areas of the world with poor soil conditions and limited water and space. In March, Fran Bowen, Master Gardener, and I braved the cold spring winds to assist the students in starting their seeding prior to planting. To the students' utter amazement, the peas, lettuce and spinach began to sprout within two weeks. For most of the children this was their first experience with growing plants from seed. They had a hard time believing these small

seeds would produce the same vegetables they see in the food store. During the day of transplantation, the students were ecstatic to see how the roots had started to curl around the bottom of the cup.

The second graders at Windham Center Elementary School have a new-found appreciation for growing their own healthy fresh produce. They plan to share with the entire school. Not only did these students learn tangible lessons about sustainable gardening, but also we hope that the *Growing Connection* project will bring a much larger lesson of global awareness to them. We hope they will begin to understand the plight of other children around the world and the struggles they have for the basic necessities of food and water. The project is ongoing and we hope that every year the students will continue to reap the harvest they produce.

This would not have been possible if not the liberal contributions of the CMGA, the University of Connecticut Brooklyn Extension Office, the Windham Garden Club, and a generous parent. The second graders say a big THANK YOU and wish you Happy Growing!

More information about the *Growing Connection* is available at www.thegrowingconnection.org

Summer Safari 2009

The annual CMGA Summer Safari Garden Tours and Semi-Annual Meeting was held on July 11, hosted by Susan Munger, MG Coordinator at the New London Extensions Center. The weather was absolutely perfect, in a season of absolutely disastrous storms.



CMGA Member Paul Coutu

CMGA member Paul Coutu and his partner have designed and installed gardens on their property that make Kentford Farm magical. Imaginative horticulture along with sculpture, found objects, and an advanced sense of fun mean that Kentford Farm can be toured many times before all it has to offer is discovered. And by that time, Paul would have changed things!

Blue Flag Garden is an oasis of splendor in a wooded setting, which means that an electrical fence controls the species of visitor. Master Gardeners were warmly welcomed and were bewitched by a display of daylilies growing at their best.



More pictures of the Summer Safari 2009 in glorious color are available on the CMGA website: www.ctmga.org.

Partner's Project

The list of garden related business that are offering discounts to CMGA members is growing all the time. Make sure you check our website (www.ctmga.org) before going on a shopping excursion—it may save you a bundle!

GARDEN MASTER CLASSES

Advanced Master Gardener Classes : Summer 2009

The new list of Garden Master Classes will be posted on the H & G website by mid-August. The only class currently on the schedule is **Hot Topics** which will be given in the Bethel Office on Thursday, September 24, 10 am to 1 pm.

Please visit the website or call the Home and Garden Education Center for the most current information: www.ladybug.uconn.edu/. Telephone 1-860-486-6343

Applications for the Master Gardener Class of 2010 will be on the agenda shortly.

Be sure to tell your gardening friends and family about this program. Applications will soon be available from the Master Gardener Coordinators at your local Extension Office.

WEBSITE SUGGESTIONS FOR MASTER GARDENERS

BY Lorraine Ballato, Advanced Master Gardener

It should come as no surprise that our challenging June and July weather was even more challenging for garden centers and nurseries. As a result, the usual end-of-season sales have started earlier than usual so you may be able to get some good deals by shopping early. Being an informed consumer may make that deal even sweeter, as you pick the winners from among the many options available. Here are some websites to consult so you can be ready to scoop up those bargains.

All America Rose Selections (AARS):

<http://www.rose.org/>

AARS is a nonprofit association dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. The AARS runs a world-wide horticultural testing program, and consistently recognizes roses that will be easy to grow and require minimal care by today's busy homeowner. These are not to be confused, however, with the current selection of "low maintenance" roses being touted by breeders and growers, although there are some overlaps.

Since 1938, the AARS testing program has encouraged the rose industry to improve the disease resistance, ease of care, and beauty of roses. Today, the AARS program is one of the most successful and highly regarded of its kind, having brought to the forefront some of the most popular roses in history, such as Peace, Knock Out and Bonica. AARS Winning Roses are labeled with the AARS red rose seal of approval to distinguish them from other plants in the nursery.

Once you're on the site, click on Region Choice, scroll down to New England. You'll see the 2009 Winners, and the past winners as well. Plus the site is loaded with great info about growing roses.

Cary Award Winners:

<http://www.caryaward.org/>

The Cary Award is a program to promote outstanding plants for New England gardens. Named in honor of a highly regarded plantsman (Ed Cary), it highlights home landscape plants that have proven their

performance in New England. The Cary Award Program is a collaborative effort of the Worcester County (Massachusetts) Horticultural Society, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the New England Nursery Association, the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, and numerous other organizations across New England.

Once you're on the site, you'll see "New Winners," and even where to buy/find them. Don't be fooled, however: that's not a complete list.

You can also see past winners which are still viable choices for your landscape.

The American Rhododendron Society:

<http://www.rhododendron.org/>

The American Rhododendron Society is a world-wide non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage interest in and to disseminate information about the genus Rhododendron with members whose experience ranges from novice to expert. Their site details Rhododendron of the Year (ROY) by geography both present and past. If you want to know how to grow rhodies, this is the site for you.

American Hemerocallis Society:

<http://www.daylilies.org/>

If it wasn't for deer, daylilies would be the ultimate bulletproof landscape perennial. But many of us can still use them in our landscapes so this site is well worth your time, even if just for daydreaming. In these pages you'll find a wealth of information as well as places to go to find even more knowledge about the daylily and the organization that supports it. This society is dedicated to education about daylilies and how to use them in the landscape. If you're looking to learn more about daylilies, you've come to the right place.

Click on "Awards and Honors" and you'll see which ones have received the Stout Medal of Honor, the highest award a daylily can receive. Again, past winners are also included as is tons of info about growing daylilies.

Happy shopping!

The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
8/4/09 10 AM	CMGA board meeting at the Visitor's Center, Elizabeth Park, Hartford. Info from Sandy Myhalik at Myhalik@comcast.net or 860-677-0504.
8/5/09 10 AM to 4 PM	Plant Science Day , Lockwood Farm, Hamden. Sponsored by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Info at www.ct.gov/caes or 877-855-2237
8/15/09 12:30 to 5 PM	7th Annual Bethel Gardening Fair sponsored by the UConn Fairfield County Master Gardener Program and the CMGA. Free. See related article on page 7.
8/29/09 10AM	Fern Identification Workshop , sponsored by the Ct. Botanical Society. Lockwood Farm Cottage, Hamden, Ct. Info at www.ct-botanical-society.org or Casper Ultee at 860-633-7557.
9/1/09 10 AM	CMGA board meeting at the Pond House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford. Info from Sandy Myhalik at Myhalik@comcast.net or 860-677-0504.
9/10/09 7:30 PM	Colorful Foliage? Now You've Gone Too Far! Louis Raymond, speaking at the Ct. Horticultural Society. Info at www.cthort.org
9/12/09 9 AM	Grasses Identification Workshop , sponsored by the Ct. Botanical Society. Lockwood Farm Cottage, Hamden, Ct. Info at www.ct-botanical-society.org or Lauren Brown at 8203-481-0377.
9/23/09 12 Noon	Closing the Perennial Garden —a workshop at Elizabeth Park. Free. Info at www.elizabethpark.org or 860-231-9443
9/25/09 7 PM	Ct. Horticultural Society Fall Plant Auction . Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Ave., Vernon. Info at www.cthort.org
9/30/09 8 AM to 5 PM	Elements of Design Garden Tour with Jeff Jabco, horticulture manager at Scott Arboretum. Lunch included. Meeting at the Visitor Center Parking Lot, Longwood Gardens. Info at 610-388-1000, ext. 559 or www.longwoodgardens.org.
10/6/09 10 AM	CMGA board meeting at the Pond House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford. Info from Sandy Myhalik at Myhalik@comcast.net or 860-677-0504.
10/8/09 to 10/9/09	American Public Gardens Association Volunteer Interaction Symposium , hosted by Chicago Botanic Garden. Info at www.publicgardens.org.
10/15/09 7:30 PM	Fine Painting as Inspiration for Garden Design , Gordon Hayward speaking at the Ct. Horticultural Society. Info at www.cthort.org
10/14/09 and/or 10/17/09	Notable Trees Class (10/14) and Tour (10/17) Learn about Ct's historic and valuable trees from knowledgeable guides and enjoy an autumn tour on a luxury motor coach, and lunch. Info at www.ladybug.uconn.edu or Debbyrosen@sbcglobal.net.
10/16/09 All Day	Perennial Plant Conference , Scott Arboretum, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA. Info at Longwood Gardens Continuing Education Office at 610-388-1000, ext. 559 or www.perennialplantconference.org.
10/17/09 to 11/15/09	Kiku in the Japanese Autumn Garden , Chrysanthemums. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. Info at www.nybg.org or 718-817-8700
11/7/09 10 AM	Closing the Rose Garden , a workshop at Elizabeth Park. Info at www.elizabethpark.org or 860-231-9443.
11/19/09 7:30 PM	Combinations—Finding the Right Mix , Dan Benarcik speaking at the Ct. Horticultural Society. Info at www.cthort.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

2009

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Connecticut
Master Gardener
Association
Newsletter

The Laurel

AUTUMN, 2009 Volume 22, No. 4

Annual Meeting of the CMGA

Saturday, November 21, 2009 - 9AM

Pond House Café at Elizabeth Park, West Hartford.

We will begin with a buffet breakfast and socializing at 9 am. At 9:30 the business meeting will begin. We are electing officers for 2010 and have new Bylaws to examine (see pages 5, 6, and 7). Steve Silk's presentation will begin at 11 am.

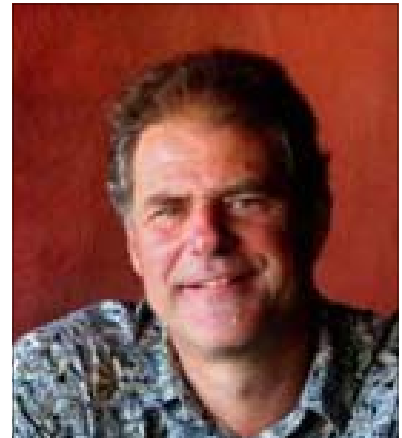
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED*

The capacity of the room is limited and we must have a count in advance.

Garden Photography: Seeing the Picture

"This garden photography workshop covers basics like film, lenses, and lighting, but its emphasis is on seeing the picture. Because if you can't 'see' a picture, that is, recognize the elements of a strong composition and portray your subject in a visually pleasing way, then it really doesn't matter how fancy your equipment may be - you're simply not going to take a good picture. Though this program is geared for serious photographers, even beginners using point-and-shoot cameras will learn a few tips to improve their garden photos."

-Steve Silk



Steve Silk became interested in plants more than 20 years ago, during extended travels in tropical South America and Southeast Asia. Some of the tropical plants seen during his journeys, along with hundreds of other plants from all parts of the world, now grow in his ever-expanding Farmington, Ct. garden. Steve's gardening year begins with the sowing of more than 1,000 seedlings and ends with the planting of as many bulbs.

After 15 years as an award-winning photographer and travel writer at the Hartford Courant, Steve moved to Fine Gardening magazine in 1996, where he was Managing Editor. He is currently Contributing Editor for that magazine and spends most of this time writing about, photographing, and re-inventing his own back yard. His photography has garnered two Garden Writers of America awards for best portfolio. He collaborated with Sydney Eddison on "Gardens to Go" (published by Bulfinch), a book about container gardens. Steve and Sydney also worked together on "The Gardener's Palette: Creating with Color in the Garden" (published by Contemporary Press). Steve has appeared several times on HGTV's "Gardening by the Yard". He is a past President of the Ct. Hardy Plant Society and is currently Vice President of the Ct. Horticultural Society.

Space will be limited for this event and for that reason it will be open only to members of CMGA.
Unfortunately guests cannot be accommodated for this meeting.

***Please register with Sandy Myhalik to insure there is enough food and chairs!**
Call 860-677-0504 or email Myhalik@comcast.net

This event is free to members of the CMGA

- President:** Sandy Myhalik
89 Ely Road
Farmington, CT 06032
Myhalik@comcast.net
- Vice-President:** John Carlson
209 Old Cart Road
Haddam, CT 06438
john.i.carlson@att.net
- Treasurer:** Billy Baxter
293 So. Orchard St.
Wallingford, Ct. 06492
bilbax@snet.net
- Secretary:** Fran Maynard
113 Williams Way
Tolland, CT 06084
fo45maynard2@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:** **Victoria McCarthy**
860-345-4511 *victoria.mccarthy@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*

Greetings Master Gardeners;

After a gardening year of unparalleled challenges, we are encountering even more challenges at the CMGA. The annual meeting will involve the **election of Officers** as well as the election of members of the **Board of Directors**. In the past, the Board consisted of any member who attended the monthly meeting(s). We now find that the CMGA can only succeed if there is an ongoing core of participants, and the Board will now consist of 15 to 25 voting members. However, please be assured that monthly meetings will always be open to interested CMGA members.

The Nominating Committee is looking for people to energize the CMGA in the coming years. See page 5 for further information. **Nominations for Officer and members of the Board of Directors will remain open until the meeting and will be accepted from the floor.**

In addition to the elections, we will be voting on new **Bylaws** that will bring the administration of the CMGA up to date. They are printed on pages 6 & 7 and are very important to our future. Please give the Bylaws your careful consideration.

Page 11 of this *Laurel* contains the **membership renewal** form. The earlier we file that form the earlier the Membership Directory will be available as well as the other benefits. The CMGA is run exclusively by volunteers and we really must ask that you help us by responding as quickly as possible.

Please get your reservations in early for the Annual Meeting so that you can enjoy **Steve Silk's** presentation as a reward for taking care of all this business.

Thanks for everything,

Diana

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The Laurel is published four times a year for members of the Connecticut Master Gardener Association. Please send news, photographs and calendar items by email to Diana Ringelheim at Diana@ringelheim.com or 121 Godfrey Rd., Fairfield, Ct. 06825. Phone (203)372-8498
Deadline for the Winter 2010 edition is January 1, 2010

2009 MASTER GARDENER GRADUATES AND ADVANCED DEGREES

Congratulations to all the newly certified Master Gardeners, Advanced Master Gardeners, and those who have added bars to their badges.

Chaleen	Abely	Robert	Cross	Sandy	Jerbert	Charles	Northshield Jr.
Margot	Abrams	Gina	Cubbage	Patricia	Justus	Elisabeth	Oakes
Joanne	Alfieri	Aldon	Daniels	Kerry	Karlson	Sally	O'Brien
Maureen	Anderson	Kelly	Davis	John	Kasinskas	Lisa	O'Bryan
Dana	Armitage	Paola	Decristofaro	Bill	Kies	Frederick	Odell
Claire	Bacon	Rita	DePasquale	Laura	King	Kathie	Ohsann
Frances	Baiamonte	Scott	Dimo	Courtney	Kolakowski	Tim	Ohsann
Carl	Baker	Judith	Douville	Sandra	Koorejian	Linda	Olson
Roberta	Ball	Ganga	Duleep	Steve	Kovack, Jr.	Anne	Pacheco
Michael	Ball	Walter	Euskas	Kenneth	Kraus	Sandra	Paget
Barbara	Baron	David	Farrell	Rob	Krizek	John	Perry
Maryann	Barrett	Lisa	Faucher	Lynne	Krynicky	Mary	Polci
Kathleen	Barton	Donna	Faulkner	Peggy	Kunkel	Michelle	Poulin Kiley
Martin	Behm	Diane	Diane	Ronald	Laput	Clare	Purcell
Heather	Berner	Susan	Fazzino	Sally	Lariviere	Glenna	Ramstein
Eva	Besmer	John	Ferez	Suzanne	Lavallee	Ruth	Randolph
Gloria	Bilodeau	Carolyn	Fisher	Sherri	LeBlanc	Patricia Caton	Reardon
Joan	Boehm	Susan	Flynn	Jackie	Lee	Christopher	Schaefer
Jean	Bonzani	Chantal	Foster	Pamela	Lee	Judy	Shaw
Jerry	Brady	Katherine	Francis	Patricia	Lenda	Mary Ellen	Smith
Jennifer	Brantley	Faith	Geist	Renny	Loisel	Charles	Sohl
Karen	Brown	Sharon	George	Jason	Long	Mercedes	Spencer
Allan	Brown	Jeff	Gerbert	Catherine	Lynch	Sue	Staehtly
Deborah	Brownell	Maureen	Gillis	Kathi	Mag	Una	Sullivan
Amanda	Bruce	Rogene	Gillmor	Aileen	Magda	Winnie	Suraci
Gail	Bruhn	Janine	Gillum	Janet	Marciniak	Sheree	Surdam
Jamie Ann	Burgess	Kathleen	Ginotti	Grace	Marshall	Robert	Sutton
Jane	Butler	Julie	Grant	Julia	Massolin-Walas	Margaret	Tanner
Janet	Cadro	Dorothy	Guillette	Alexandra	Mazzeo	Thu	Tran
Elizabeth Caitlin	Carbone	Mark	Guss	Candice	McCallum	Faith	Tyldsley
Tage	Carlson	Gloria	Hager	Kate	McCue	Cheryl	Umscheid-
Barbara	Carroll	Marian	Hallowell	Barbara	McLaughlin		Banister
Marianne	Cassidy	Susan	Hally	Terry	McManus	MaryEllen	Unger
Julia	Cencebaugh	Martha	Hansen	Trisha	Mihan	Elizabeth	Van Nostrand
Candace	Chase	Andrew Merz	Hanson	Michael	Mikolowsky	Rosemary	Volpe
Samuel	Chisholm	Dawn	Harrison	Beth	Miller	Cheryl	Wadsworth
Madeline	Coakley	William	Haselton	Diane	Montuoro	Gabrielle	Walther
Janice	Coco	Bernadette	Hennessy	Lea Anne	Moran	Lynne	Warren
Sue	Colanti	Aile	Hepburn	Thomas Lewis	Morehouse	Barbara	Weber
Stephen	Colgan	Diana	Highe	Marta Elisa	Moret	Erica	Welch
Norma	Collier	Nancy	Hinchey	Karrie-Ann	Morris	Alli	Whyte
Christine	Collins	Raymond	Hollerbach	Luanne	Murphy	Melanie	Wyler
Stacy	Connors	Trina	Horine	Anne	Mygatt	Carol	York
Cynthia	Conti	David	Hoyt	Janet	Nadel-Klein	Michael	Young
Donna	Corticelli	Phoebe	Huang	Angela	Nero	Linda	Young
Marc	Cournoyer	Susan	Hunter	Cynthia	Newby		

ADVANCED MASTER GARDENERS:

Jackie	Algon
Margaret	Barnes
Pamm	Cooper
Pam	Cox
John	Cox
Nedra	Gillette
Gene	Henson
Ellen	Koh
Kathryn	Kosiba
Fern	Martin
Marlene	Mayes
Rita	Mulvey
Susan	Munger
Kathleen	Narowski
Dan	Schiefferle
Steve	Shomstein
Laura	Sprengelmeyer
Mary-Jo	Torcello
Paul	Wicht
Pamela	Wright

BRONZE BARS:

Linda	Albanese
Warren	Delibro
Dawn	Fiss
Betty	Johnson
Ellie	Tessmer
Johanna	Weiss

GOLD BARS:

Louisa	Broadbent
Regina	Campfield
Leslie	Gehr
Mary Lee	Obert
Alice	Smith

SILVER BARS:

Phyllis	Atkinson
Betty	Beaudette
Joanne	Frentz
Judith Chute	Hsiang
Lillemor	Wallmark

GOLD AND RUBY:

Jan	McCue
-----	-------

GARDEN MASTER CLASSES

Advanced Master Gardener Classes : Fall, 2009

Date and Time	Location	Class and Instructor
10/13/09 10 am - 12 pm	Tolland Agricultural Center	Master Composter (multiple dates). Instructors: Multiple
10/19/09 2 pm - 4 pm	Fairfield Cnty. Extension Center	Color Drifts & Lines - Shade. Instr.: Cynthia Woodbyrne
10/21/09 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Tolland Agricultural Center	Everlastings. Instr.: Sandy Jerbert
10/21/09 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Hartford Cnty. Extension Center	Asian Longhorn Beetle. Instr.: Susan St. John
10/22/09 9 am - 2:30 pm	Windham Cnty. Extension Center	Home Composting. Instr.: Mary Jane Tynan
10/24/09 10 am - 3 pm	Elizabeth Park, West Hartford and Stonegate Gardens, Granby	Walking Among Conifers. Instr.: Kevin Wilcox
10/24/09 10 am - 12 pm	Tolland Agricultural Center	Fall Abundance. Instr.: Sandy Jerbert
10/24/09 10 am - 12 pm	Litchfield Cnty. Extension Center	Starting a Community Garden. Instr.: Trish Safner & Marty Sienko
10/26/09 2 pm - 4 pm	Fairfield Cnty. Extension Center	Color Drifts & Lines - Sun. Instr.: Cynthia Woodbyrne
11/3/09 1 pm - 5 pm 11/4/09 10 am - 12 pm	Fairfield Cnty. Extension Center	Troghing Pre-form Molds. Instr: Claudette Michaud Amen and Meg Barnes
11/4/09 10 am - 12 pm	New Haven Cnty. Extension Center	Starting a Community Garden. Instr.: Trish Safner & Marty Sienko
11/4/09 7 pm - 9 pm	Hartford County Extension Center	Conifer Culture II. Instr.: Kevin Wilcox
11/7 & 11/21/09 1:30 pm - 4:pm	Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford	Livable Garden Design. Instr.: Sarah Bailey
11/14/09 9:30 am - 11:30 am	New London Cnty. Extension Center	Herbarium Specimens. Instr.: Robert Capers
11/14/09 10 am - 12 pm	Litchfield Cnty. Extension Center	Gardening for Butterflies. Instr.: Robert & Pat Goldberg
11/17/09 7 pm - 9 pm	Hartford Cnty. Extension Center	Conifer ID II. Instr.: Kevin Wilcos
11/19/09 10:30 am - 12:45 pm	Bartlett Arboretum	Vermicomposting. Instr: Mary Hane Tynan
11/23/09 10 am - 12 pm	Windham Cnty. Extension Center	Thanksgiving Arrangements. Instr.: Lisa Withers
12/5/09 10 am - 12 pm	Litchfield Cnty. Extension Center	Landscaping with Natives. Instr.: Sarah Bailey
12/16/09 10 am - 12 pm	Windham Cnty. Extension Center	Holiday Boxwood Tree. Instr.: Lisa Withers

Classes are being added on an ongoing basis so be sure to check for updates often.
Full details of these and other Garden Master Classes : www.ladybug.uconn.edu/. Telephone 1-860-486-6343

Master Gardener Class of 2010

Applications are now available for the next Master Gardener Program.

Please check the website www.ladybug.uconn.edu/ to download the form in either Word or PDF format.

Inspire your friends and relatives to experience gardening at a new, and more masterful level.

CMGA SYMPOSIUM

The CMGA's 2010 Symposium is entitled 'Greenscaping: Variations on the Theme' It will be held at Manchester Community College on March 27, 2010. A very impressive list of speakers is being prepared.

It is recommended that you reserve your place as soon as you receive the Symposium Flyer in January. A complete description of the speakers and other details regarding the Symposium will appear in the Winter Edition of *The Laurel*.

CMGA ELECTIONS

Nominees for Officers of the CMGA Nominations are open until the vote is taken at the Annual Meeting

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2010 as of the publication of this issue of *The Laurel*:

President	Bill Overton
Vice President	Jay Beausoleil
Treasurer	Roger Gregoire
Secretary	Fran Maynard

Nominations for Board of Directors of the CMGA

Nominations are open until the vote is taken at the Annual Meeting

Please don't be shy! The CMGA is looking for members who are interested in joining the Board of Directors for a term in accordance with the proposed Bylaws. You can even have a preview of Board activities by becoming a pre-voting Intern and attend the meetings to see if the activities are of interest to you.

Committees include Symposium, Programs, Publicity/Marketing, CMGA/UConn Coordination, Membership, Outreach, Publications, and Grants & Scholarships. New board members have the chance to work with experienced people on a wide variety of duties that guaranty the continued success of the CMGA.

Please volunteer to help the existing, hardworking, fun-loving CMGA Board of Directors! Contact Nominating Committee Chair Paul Grimmeisen at 860-677-8645 or paul24wor@aol.com, or the committee members: Marge Bingham at marjbin@yahoo.com, Sterling Andrews at asandrews92@cos.net.

CMGA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time of year again - CMGA memberships are up for renewal. The dues will remain at \$20 while membership is becoming ever more valuable.

Class of 2009 - Please stay in touch with your MG friends and their activities by becoming a regular member of the CMGA.

This is the first year we will have membership cards and they will be mailed with Symposium Registration Forms in January or will be available for pick-up at the Symposium. The cards entitle you to discounts at garden-related vendors throughout the state.

The renewal form is on page 11 for your convenience.

CMGA BYLAWS

Revision of the Bylaws of the CMGA

The Bylaws Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors in April, 2009 to review and revise the current Bylaws of the CMGA. Members of the committee are Billy Baxter, John Carlson, Roger Gregoire, Paul Grimmeisen, Fran Maynard, Ellen Morse, John Neff, Bill Overton, and Dick Shaffer.

A very special thanks goes to Fran Maynard who typed all of the revisions and prepared the final document.

We ask the membership to read the Bylaws before the annual meeting to expedite the voting procedure.

Ellen Morse,
Chairperson, Bylaws Committee

Summary of Differences—Old and New Bylaws

<u>Article</u>	<u>Old Bylaws</u>	<u>New Bylaws</u>
I	Name	Essentially the same
II	Purpose	Rewording only
III	Membership	No Change
IV	Finances	Board of Directors (new)
V	Officers	Essentially the same
VI	Executive Board	Now limited to 5 members Section 1b-now under President's job
VII	Committees	Now Finances - Section 3 - Change from \$100.00 to \$250.00
VIII	Counties Committees	Eliminated Divided into: Ad Hoc and Standing Added standing committees- Symposium, Outreach, Publicity/Marketing, UConn/CMGA Coordination Grants and Scholarships
IX	Meetings	Reduce from 25% to 10% for special meetings
X	Amendment of Bylaws	Disciplinary Action (new)
XI	Role of UConn Extension	Amendment of Bylaws
	Eliminated	No Change
XII	Miscellaneous	No Change
XIII	Dissolution of Association	No Change

The proposed Bylaws, are printed on pages 6 & 7 of *The Laurel*. Any member who would like a larger print version of the proposed Bylaws sent via email, should contact the editor at diana@ringelheim.com.

PROPOSED BYLAWS OF THE CONNECTICUT MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION AS REVISED OCTOBER, 2009

Article I: Name

The Connecticut Master Gardener Association, hereafter referred to as CMGA or the Association, is a non-profit organization comprised of certified Master Gardeners.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the CMGA shall be educational as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code:

- To support the horticultural activities of Master Gardeners and Interns in providing educational outreach to the residents of Connecticut.
- To support the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System Master Gardener Program.
- To foster communication, education, and esprit de corps among those involved in the Master Gardener Program.
- To engage in activities that further the purposes of the Association as defined above.

Article III: Membership

The classes of membership are Active, Associate, and Honorary:

- Active:** Active membership is limited to individuals who have successfully completed the Master Gardener course and obligatory service and have been certified as a Master Gardener. Payment of dues is required for a person to be a voting member. Only Active members are eligible to vote and hold office.
- Associate:** Associate membership is limited to interns who are currently participating in the Master Gardener training process, but are not yet certified Master Gardeners.
- Honorary:** Honorary members may be elected by the Board of Directors. They include any Extension or University staff engaged in the Master Gardener Program. Honorary members are exempted from payment of dues and may not vote or hold office.

Article IV: Board of Directors

Section 1: Number

The Board of Directors shall consist of no less than fifteen (15) members and no more than twenty five (25). If the number of members falls below the minimum, the Board of Directors shall appoint interim members for the remainder of the term. In replacing board members, attention will be paid to having representation from all counties. In addition, a representative shall be appointed from the University of Connecticut Extension Master Gardener Program.

Section 2: Election

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Master Gardener Association.

Section 3: Duties

The Board of Directors shall manage the business, property, and affairs of the Association. Each member is obligated to serve on a minimum of one standing committee.

Section 4: President

The President shall serve as chairperson of the Board of Directors, shall call and chair all regular meetings, and shall appoint standing and ad hoc committees as required.

Section 5: Attendance

The Board of Directors shall meet once per month. Any member absent from three consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have resigned and will receive written notice of such action by the Secretary. Exceptions may be made by approval of the Board of Directors. Voluntary resignation requires written notice to the Association's Board of Directors.

Section 6: Term Limits

Each Director shall serve a term of three years. A member of the Board of Directors may be re-elected without limitation.

Article V: Officers

Officers of the CMGA shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

- Officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual November membership meeting for a term of one year. A simple majority of active members present is necessary for election.

All terms of office shall commence on January 1.

No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 1: Duties of the Officers

President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Board and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by these bylaws or assigned to him/her by the Association or the Executive Board, and shall coordinate the work of the officers and committees in order that the purposes of the Association may be served.

Vice President: The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the event of his/her absence and such other duties as shall be assigned by the President.

Secretary: The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Association and the Executive Board and shall perform other duties as may be assigned to him/her.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Association, shall keep a full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures, and shall make disbursements in accordance with the directions of the Executive Board and the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall present a financial statement at each Board of Directors' meeting, shall make a full report to the membership at both the annual and semi-annual meetings, and shall perform other duties as may be assigned.

Section 2: Check Writing

The President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall have the authority to sign checks for the Association.

Article VI: Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, the immediate Past President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Each shall have the right to vote.

Section 1: Duties of the Executive Board

- To transact necessary day-to-day business that requires action prior to the next Board of Directors meeting, and to generally supervise the affairs of the organization.
- To control and manage the organization's activities.
- To present a report of its activities and plans to the membership at the Association's annual and semi-annual meetings.
- To fill any vacancy in the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee shall present candidates to the Executive Board for approval.
- To assure representation of the Association at all Master Gardener graduations and to visit a class at each extension center.
- To create the annual budget and present it to the Board of Directors for approval.

Section 2: The Executive Board shall meet as often as necessary to carry out the Association's business or at the call of the President or any three (3) members of the Executive Board.

Section 3: A majority of the Executive Board (3) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Actions taken by the Executive Board shall be presented to the full Board of Directors.

Article VII: Finances

Section 1: Dues for the next calendar year shall be determined by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 2: The fiscal year of the Association shall be from January 1 through December 31.

Section 3: All service shall be voluntary with no remuneration, except reimbursements may be made to members for appropriate out-of-pocket expenses upon presentation of verifying receipts to the Treasurer. The Board of Directors must approve any expense greater than \$250.

Article VIII: Committees

Committees shall consist of Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees.

- A. The Standing Committees are: Programs, Symposium, Publicity/Marketing, UConn-CMGA Coordination, Membership, Outreach, Publica-

tions, Grants & Scholarships.

Each committee shall have a minimum of two members. All committees shall report on their activities to the Board of Directors.

Section 1: **Programs**

This committee directs all programs, stand alone or in concert with another event, except for the Symposium which is produced by the Symposium Committee. Examples include programs associated with the annual and semi-annual meetings, and Association sponsored tours. Program recommendations are submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

Section 2: **Symposium**

This event takes place annually at the end of March with a main theme incorporating speakers presenting lectures and/or demonstrations applicable to the theme. It is the Association's main fund raising event. The Chairperson, supported by a co-chair, draws on member volunteers to implement assigned production tasks.

Section 3: **Publicity/ Marketing**

This committee has the responsibility for marketing, public relations, merchandise sales, and other areas that directly relate to the advancement and delivery of CMGA's mission to the public.

Section 4: **UConn-CMGA Coordination**

This liaison committee shall work in partnership with members of the University of Connecticut and of the University Extension System to continue to help improve the quality of the Master Gardener Program, to support outreach projects, and to increase the expertise of Association members.

Section 5: **Membership**

The Membership Committee shall be responsible for the following activities:

- a) Conducting the annual membership enrollment drive in the fall by drafting the annual membership renewal form and supervising its distribution through *The Laurel*, the CMGA website, and direct mail.
- b) Issuing membership cards by March 1 to members who have paid their annual dues.
- c) Preparing the data necessary for the publication through *The Laurel* and/or the CMGA website of an annual membership directory by March 1. Such directory shall include the names of the current members, honorary members, students currently enrolled in the Master Gardener classes, and a list of those members who are willing to teach gardening courses.
- d) Giving an annual summary to the Board of Directors.

Section 6: **Outreach**

This committee has the responsibility for scheduling and arranging for speakers to fulfill requests for CMGA presentations to the community. Any training necessary to prepare speakers for public presentations shall be the committee's responsibility.

Section 7: **Publications**

The Publications Committee shall be responsible for the printing and distribution of *The Laurel* and for maintenance of the CMGA website.

The newsletter shall be printed and mailed to each member four times per year and at such other times as deemed necessary.

The website shall provide up to date information about CMGA and CMGA projects and events.

Section 8: **Grants & Scholarships**

The Grants Committee administers the awarding of monetary assistance to Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Interns for projects promoting horticultural knowledge and serving community needs with garden based activities in accordance with the Master Gardener Application Form.

The Scholarship Committee administers the awarding of monetary assistance to students pursuing a career in the field of horticulture. Recommendations are submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

B. Ad Hoc Committees

Section 1: **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee shall consist of not less than three members, none of whom shall be on the Executive Board, who shall be appointed by the President at least four weeks before the annual meeting. The Audit Committee shall examine the Treasurer's accounts of the fiscal year and submit a report in writing at the annual meeting signed by all members of the Audit Committee.

Section 2: **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President with Board of Directors' approval at least two months prior to the annual meeting election. The committee shall nominate one member for each position as well as for each office. The proposed slate shall be presented for election at the annual meeting at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor.

The proposed slate of officers, whenever possible, should represent diverse geographical sections of the state.

Article IX: Meetings

Section 1: Two membership meetings shall be held each year, one in June and one in November if possible, at times and places designated by the Executive Board.

Section 2: A special meeting may be called by the President or by a petition of not less than ten percent (10%) of the Association members in good standing (current dues have been paid). A thirty day notice shall be given if called by the President. In the event of a petition, the meeting shall be held within thirty (30) days of the petition. Either meeting shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 3: **Notice of Meetings**

Notice of place, day, and time of the two membership meetings shall be mailed to all members by the Secretary through the newsletter at least two weeks before the meeting.

Notice of place, date, and time of a special meeting, including the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be distributed to all members by the Secretary as early as possible.

Section 4: All action shall be by majority vote of Active Members present.

Article X: Disciplinary Action

All members are expected to act in good faith in accordance with the CMGA Bylaws. Any action tending to injure the good name of the CMGA, disturb its well being, or hamper it in its work is considered a serious offense properly subject to disciplinary action, removal from office or the Board of Directors, or termination from the CMGA. Upon notice of any action, a committee of five shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to investigate the charges and report its findings and recommendations to the Board. Any recommended action requires a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Any actions not governed by these Bylaws shall be governed by the rules in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Article XI: Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of the Association by a majority vote of the Active Members present, provided that notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been given to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting when they are to be voted upon.

Article XII: Miscellaneous

Section 1: This Association is organized and will be operated exclusively for educational purposes. No substantial part of the Association's activities will consist of participating in political propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. It will not participate in any political campaign for public office.

Section 2: The Association will not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, or veteran status.

Section 3: Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the authority in all cases not governed by these Bylaws.

Article XIII: Dissolution of the Association

In the event that CMGA ceases to function and dissolves itself, all assets after obligations and expenses of CMGA have been satisfied, shall be transferred to the Master Gardener Program at the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System, a tax-exempt organization. In no event shall any of the assets be distributed to any organization which does not qualify under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

A summary of the differences between the current Bylaws and the proposed revisions is on page 5.

Master Gardeners at the Bioblitz

Master Gardener 2009 Interns dispensed information to the public at an environmental/educational event at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo.

By Rosemary Volpe, 2009 Master Gardener Intern

This summer, Master Gardener interns from the Fairfield and New Haven County extension offices had the opportunity to spread the word about invasive



L to R Joan Boehm and Susan Hunter

species as part of an educational bioblitz event on August 1, 2009 at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo and co-sponsored by Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History. Our outreach project was a great success because of the energy and efforts of Master Gardener interns Joan Boehm, Susan Hunter, Diane Montuoro and Mary Ellen Unger.

A bioblitz is a 24-hour survey to identify as many living organisms — plants, animals and fungi — as possible in a specific area, in this case the town of Stratford. To determine how the species diversity in a given location changes throughout the year, the Yale Peabody Museum sent its teams of scientists and volunteers to collect data in different seasons; this was its third bioblitz in Stratford since 2007, and hundreds of species have been documented each time. There are several bioblitz events each year throughout the state, including one by the University of Connecticut that takes place in a different town every other year.

The bioblitz teams set out on Friday afternoon to survey habitats that included two beaches, a salt marsh, a cranberry bog, rivers, streams, ponds, and a mixed hardwood forest. Techniques to tally species include motion-sensitive cameras, trackway traps, funnel net traps, light traps, seining, bird call-back surveys, good old fashioned observation, and even trawling in Long Island Sound. The next day these teams met at the Beardsley Zoo's Hanson Exploration Station to sort and identify what they had collected, and this was where Zoo visitors could watch the teams at work, hear about the bioblitz and learn about the biodiversity of the area. Our outreach project was welcomed as part of this effort by David Heiser, Head of Outreach, and herpetologist Greg Watkins-Colwell, both of the Yale Peabody Museum, and the Beardsley Zoo's director Gregg Dancho.

Although the bioblitz began on an afternoon of severe weather, the next day, Saturday, was warm and

sunny, and brought many visitors to the Zoo. We set up our tables — piled high with handouts, brochures, posters, fact sheets and banners courtesy of Master Gardener Program coordinators Sandi Wilson and Judith Hsiang. We had a prime location just inside the main gate. Near us were docents from the Peabody's 'On the Road Program', which brings natural history items, such as a replica of a T. rex tooth and black bear fur, to public events. Having a treasure trove of museum specimens nearby attracted children and families both entering and leaving the Zoo.

The focus of our project was to provide information about invasive species, a perfect fit in the context of a local biological survey. Thanks to Master Gardener Larry Birch, we had fresh samples of invasive plants to display, including Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Autumn Olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*), and Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*). We even had a display specimen of the Asian Long-horned Beetle to show (a real conversation starter!).

The bioblitz organizers asked us to let people know about landscaping alternatives for potentially invasive plant cultivars (the commercially available selections of a plant species). Although these species are on the Connecticut Invasive Plant List, many of them are still available for purchase. Some examples are Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Winged Euonymus, also called Burning Bush (*Euonymus alata*), Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), California Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*), European Privet (*L. vulgare*), and Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). We were fortunate to be able to display some samples of landscaping alternatives to these and other cultivars because of the loan of native plants provided by Andy Brand from Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden.

We spoke with many families that day, fielded a range of questions about plants, insects, gardening and the Master Gardener Program, and hopefully left people a little wiser about the problem of invasive species. Our thanks to everyone who helped out for their support and encouragement.



Some of the local fungi collected in the Stratford Bioblitz



MG Invasive Information Table at CT's Beardsley Zoo

CMGA RECEIVES THE 'MOHEGAN SUN'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD'

By Bill Overton, Master Gardener

Master Gardeners Jay Beausoleil and Bill Overton accepted on behalf of CMGA "The Mohegan Sun's Community Service Award" in August. The award is given by the Mohegan Sun throughout the year to special organizations that volunteer their time. It is one more way of thanking them for making a difference in their communities. CMGA members annually give of their knowledge and time at the Channel 3 Kid's Camp and have done so since the summer of 2006. The Camp's children benefit through knowledge and mentoring which takes place during their stay.

The shining Lucite trophy will be on display at the Annual Meeting of the CMGA on November 21 (see pg. 1) and we hope to have it on permanent display in a public location.

Text of the Engraved Trophy:

Connecticut Sun
Community MVP

Connecticut
Master Gardener
Association

Thank you for
making a differ-
ence in our com-
munity

Presented by
Channel 8
wtnh.com



REPORTING OUTREACH

Master Gardeners continue to volunteer in their communities whether they need 'the hours' or not. You may not need to keep track of your gifts of time, but that information is vital to the Master Gardener Program. These donated hours are reported to the federal government and enhance the Ct Master Gardener program with some funding as well as status.

Please be sure to talk to your nearest MG Coordinator and let her know what you are doing as a Master Gardener and see if your activities can be added to total.

OPPORTUNITIES AT THE CMGA

Publicity and Marketing Chairperson and Committee Members

There are various aspects to the advertising undertaken by the CMGA and this committee reflects that diversity. Events such as the Symposium and member benefits such as the Partners Project (discounts at local gardening vendors) are just two. If you have skills in salesmanship, or would like to develop them, please contact any officer (listed on page 2) and let them know that you are interested.

GARDENING IN THE LAUREL

Thank you for your patience and thoughtful consideration of all the serious business that has occupied so many of the pages of this edition of *The Laurel*.

The Winter edition will have more about plants, favorites and experiments, and recollections about the 2009 gardening season. We welcome all your comments, whether a part-page, full-page article, or a Twitter particle.

If you would prefer a 'chat' format, don't hesitate to give me a call (203-372-8498) and we can do an amateur version of a news interview. I'll write up the substance of our talk so that all members can benefit from your experiences.

Please send along your thoughts and remembrances, specially if you have something good to say about this extraordinary year. Email to diana@ringelheim.com and feel free to send some pictures as well. USPS to Diana Ringelheim, 121 Godfrey Rd., Fairfield, Ct. 06825. The deadline for the Winter edition is January 1, 2010.

Thanks, Diana

The Laurel Calendar

Date and Time	Event, Location, Contacts
12/1/09 and 1/5/10 10AM	CMGA Board Meeting at the Visitor's Center, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford, Ct. Info: Sandy Myhalik at Myhalik@comcast.net or 860-677-0504.
10/25/09 - 10 am to 4 pm	Nutmeg State Orchid Society Show & Sale. Free admission. Info at 860-677-5381 or www.nutmegochids.org
11/5/09 - 12 Noon	Holiday Tables with Glitter and Glitz by Dee Mozzochi. Branford Garden Club Guest fee: \$10 (includes lunch). Branford Community House, Church St., Branford.
11/7/09 - 10 am	Closing the Rose Garden Workshop. Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. Free. Info at 860-231-9443 or www.elizabethpark.org.
11/14/09 - 10 am	Closing the Iris Garden Workshop. Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. Free. Info at 860-231-9443 or www.elizabethpark.org.
11/19/09 - 7:30 pm	Combinations - Finding the Right Mix presented by Dan Benarcik from Wilmington, DE. The Connecticut Horticultural Society, Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford. Info at www.cthort.org.
11/21/09 - 9 am	CMGA Annual Meeting. Steve Silk, speaker. Pond House Café, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. Reservations required. See page 1.
11/23/09 10 am	Wreath Workshop. Simsbury Garden Club, Apple Barn, 60 Old Farm Rd., West Simsbury, Ct. Info from Diana Hughes, 860-242-5703 or hughesct@comcast.net.
11/24/09 - 8 am to 4 pm	Forest Research & Education Forum. Lewis Rome Commons, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Ct. Info at www.ctwoodlands.org/events.
12/8/09 - All Day	NOFA Organic Land Care Update Course. Sturbridge, MA. Info at 203-888-5146 or www.organiclandcare.net.
12/14/09 - 11:30 am	Mushrooms & Fungi by Marlene Snecinski. Simsbury Garden Club, Apple Barn, 60 Old Farm Rd., West Simsbury, Ct. Info from Diana Hughes, 860-242-5703 or hughesct@comcast.net.
12/16/09 - Check Website	Berried Treasure: Spectacular Fruit for Connecticut Landscapes by Andy Brand of Broken Arrow Nursery. Held at the Solomon Welles House, Wethersfield, Ct. Monthly meeting of the CT Hardy Plant Society. Info at www.cthardyplantsociety.org.
1/18/10 - 1/20/10	Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting. Gideon Putnam Resort 24, Saratoga Springs, NY. Info at www.neapms.net
1/20/10 - 10 am	Winter Tree & Shrub Identification Workshop at Lockwood Farm, Hamden, Ct. Connecticut Botanical Society. Info at www.ct-botanical-society.org, click on 'Field Trip Schedule'.
1/21/10 - 7:30 pm	Our Life in Gardens by Joe Eck & Wayne Winterrowd from Readsboro, VT. The Connecticut Horticultural Society. Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, Ct. Info at www.cthort.org.
1/25/10 - 11:30 am	'Why I Love My Job' Kevin Wilcox, manager, Farmington Valley Nursery. Simsbury Garden Club, Apple Barn, 60 Old Farm Rd., West Simsbury, Ct. Info from Diana Hughes, 860-242-5703 or hughesct@comcast.net.
2/18/10 - 2/21/10	29th Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show. Ct. Convention Center, Hartford, Ct. Info at www.ctflowershow.org
3/27/10 All Day	CMGA's 2010 Symposium (see page 4 for more details) SAVE THE DATE

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



2010 Membership Form

for the calendar year Jan. 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2010

Dues are \$20

Name					
Street					
City			State		Zip
Email				Phone ()	
Office Where Certified			Year	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWING MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> 2009 GRADATE / NEW MEMBER

Membership is restricted to Certified Master Gardeners
Dues are payable by December 31, 2009.

Annual dues are \$20. Please send your check, **payable to the CMGA**, and this page or a copy to :

Kathy Baechle
6 Christmas Tree Hill
Canton, Ct. 06019

The CMGA is run exclusively by volunteers and is always happy to welcome participation by its many members. Please circle all activities that reflect your areas of interest:

- ◆ Public Speakers List _____
Topic(s)
- ◆ Symposium Committees (diverse jobs)
- ◆ CMGA Board Intern (Pre-Voting Member)
- ◆ Fashion (and Logo Items)

- ◆ Membership Committee
- ◆ Program Committee
- ◆ Outreach Committee
- ◆ Publicity/Public Relations
- ◆ Other _____

Dues provide a subscription to this publication, *The Laurel*; discounted admission to the annual symposium; discounts at area garden-related businesses; support of the Master Gardener Program at the University of Connecticut Extension Service; and grants and support for Master Gardener activities throughout the state.

Connecticut
Master Gardener
Association

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The Laurel

CMGA

C/O Kathy Baechle
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2009

Annual Meeting of the CMGA

Saturday, November 21, 2009

Pond House Café at Elizabeth Park, West Hartford

9 AM - Gather for a buffet breakfast and socializing

9:30 AM - The annual business meeting of the CMGA
Including the Election of Officers for 2010 (see pg. 5)
Discussion and Vote on the proposed new Bylaws (see pgs. 5, 6, 7)

11 AM - A presentation by Steve Silk on Photographing the Garden

This event is limited to members of the CMGA and
is free but reservations are required.
Please see Page 1 for full details.