



THE LAUREL

CONNECTICUT
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

WINTER, 2013 VOLUME 26, NO. 1

Visual Lessons in Landscape Diversity

Register Now!

March 23, 2013

The 20th annual CMGA symposium will be held at the Manchester Community College in Manchester, CT. Registration opens at 8:00. We will have opening remarks followed by our keynote speaker in the main auditorium at 9:00. The morning session will begin at 11:00. Lunch, an assortment of wrap sandwiches (including vegetarian), green salad, assorted chips, assorted cookies, apples and beverages will be provided at noon. The afternoon session will begin at 1:30. Our closing speaker will speak at 3:00. Don't forget to check out our vendors and the silent auction (bidding ends at 1:00). Check page 3 for more details on the breakout sessions.



This year's symposium will focus on design aspects in gardening. Our opening speaker will be Andrew Bunting who has been the curator of Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College since 1993. He is also the owner of Fine Garden Creations, Inc. which is a full service landscaping company in the Philadelphia area. (finegardencreations.com) Andrew will be speaking about the "Nuts and Bolts of Creating a Home Garden."

Our closing speaker will be Dan Benarcik who has been a horticulturist at Chanticleer since 1993. He is also an instructor at Longwood Gardens and a horticulturist at Perennial Plant Association. Dan's topic will be "Foliage First: Creating a Tapestry Rich in Pattern and Texture".



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President's Message

Happy New Year, CMGA Members, and welcome, new Master Gardener students!

In 2012, CMGA funded \$6,000 for 20 outreach projects led by MGs and Interns. Projects ranged from creating vegetable gardens with students; supporting the preservation and growth of native species and elimination of invasives; supplementing resources for a number of soup kitchen gardens; building accessible gardens; and enhancing educational opportunities aimed at the public. We also provided \$3,500 in scholarship money for the MG program and stipends of \$300 for each of the MG Coordinators to use at their discretion. Our plan is to continue this level of support in 2013, but we need your help.

Please take a few minutes and sign up (if you haven't already) for our annual Symposium (March 23); in addition to being a fun and educational day, and an opportunity to mingle with your fellow MGs, this is our most important fundraiser. We count on these revenues to fund grants and support the MG program.

Another important source of revenue for these important projects is membership dues. If you haven't paid your dues yet (still only \$20), please check www.ctmga.org to download the form to mail, or pay online. Remember, if you are a new graduate, you'll need to join to continue in the MG alumni association. New students can participate in all events and enjoy all benefits, but are exempt from dues until graduation.

Please feel free to contact me at president@ctmga.org if you have any questions or suggestions about CMGA. I hope to see you all at the Symposium!

Maureen Gillis

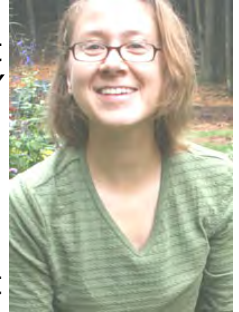
The Laurel is published four times a year for members of the Connecticut Master Gardener Association. Please send news, photographs and calendar items by email to cmganews@gmail.com

Deadlines for publication are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1

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Breakout Sessions at the Annual Symposium

Jennifer Benner, author of *The Non-Stop Garden*, will be speaking about "*Serving Up a Botanical Buffet: Native Plants That Send Wings Aflutter.*" Learn what it takes to make your garden a beautiful, hospitable destination for hummingbirds, butterflies and other notable pollinators.



David Dew Bruner, registered landscape architect and teacher at the New York Botanical Garden, will present: "Where's the Front Door? Designing the Front Yard." Bring a photo of your front yard as several will be selected to illustrate common design challenges and solutions.

James Carr, NYBG instructor, will illustrate: "Intensive Home Growing Techniques for Homegrown Edibles." How do you utilize your gardening space? How do you extend the season and encourage more production from your plants? Come learn some tips on how to get more from your garden.



Mike and Angelina Chute, authors of *Roses for New England*, will introduce: "Selecting Sustainable Roses For New England Gardens." Learn to identify rose varieties that will be disease resistant, winter hardy and long blooming. Learn about grading, growth habits and best selection for a sustainable rose garden.

Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, owner of Natureworks Horticultural Services, will present: "Selecting, Siting and Pruning Flowering Shrubs in the Perennial Garden." Add shrubs to your perennial garden to add color and reduce maintenance. Proper siting, pruning techniques and more will be explained.



Jeff Woodward, of Woodward Greenhouses, will offer a Hypertufa Container Workshop. There will be very limited space (16 students per class) and a materials fee of \$5 payable at the class (do not send in with registration as it will be filled on a first come, first served basis.) **SESSION IS FILLED.**

reminder: 2 AMG credits may be earned by checking the appropriate box on your registration form.

Plants, Problems and Practice Tutorial to the Rescue!

Submitted by Candice Chase MG 2009

Carrie Sears, MG 2008 Bartlett, has developed a supplemental tutorial to assist MG interns with their diagnostic skills. Plants, Problems and Practice, or P3 for short, was developed to work in tandem with the 16 week classroom course work offered by the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program. Since 2009 P3 has been up and running at The Bartlett Arboretum and, new this year, at the Bethel Extension Center.

With a background teaching science, in particular biology and natural history, Carrie was inspired to help her MG classmates with the intricacies of plant identification. Concerned that the MG interns without a science background might be overwhelmed from information overload, she saw an opportunity to help out those who might want extra time and experience in plant identification. "I think people needed a lifeline and I am willing to provide it," she said.

With Bartlett Arboretum MG Coordinator Regina Campfield's blessing Carrie designed the course "to provide learning opportunities that create context and connections, foster cooperation, reduce anxiety, and prepare participants for Plant Clinic and the fall practicum (diagnostic) [and to] bridge the academic course of study and the diagnostic process: practicing the skills needed to identify plants and diagnose problems."

Initially Carrie started small with one table set up for observations. A single reference book along with specimens was provided for the MG interns discussion and observations. From that small beginning the P3 program has expanded to three tables of specimens, identification books and keys with Master Gardeners working as mentors to help with the discussions, observations and diagnosis.

Carrie strategically plans the P3 course to coordinate with each week's class curriculum and ID challenges. Regina asked that the P3 program not preempt any of the MG classroom topics. For example, don't present an insect key before insects or keys have been taught. The interns have been enthusiastic with the coordination of classroom instruction and P3 hands on identification process.



P3 Mentors from Bethel and the Bartlett: (l-r) Beth Miller, Janet Kruse, Jackie Algon, Margot Abrams, Ros Brady, John Morabito, Carries Sears, Michael Love, Linda Albanese, Laurie Tuck.



Mentor Michael Love showing Intern Juliet Cassone a plant specimen for identifying trees.

Since identification is a large part of the plant clinic Carrie wanted the interns to be comfortable using a complicated key to identify trees, shrubs, vines and flowers. Early in the instruction schedule P3 was devoted to identifying firs, pines and spruces using a very simple, truncated key.

Plants Problems and Procedures Continued

As the year continued, Carrie revved up the problems, making it harder for the students, but also challenging her mentors. "I started with a very easy thing for my mentors to do, which was basic IDs. The mentors would come back enthusiastic [about their experience] because they knew what to expect and what it felt like to show people. Then I would begin to notch things up for the students and for the mentors. In the beginning we did a lot of showing: here's the book, here's how it works. In the end, the goal was to say, 'Ok, here are the choices. Now you do it.' We would narrow the choices down but we'd ask, 'Where would you begin?' And then, we would help them," she explained.



Michael Love, Margot Abrams, Jackie Algon before the interns arrive, identifying the plant.



Intern Stefan Martin talks with Mentor Ros Brady about the difference between firs, spruces and Douglas Fir.

"By the 4th class I gave the mentors a list of examples of plant, shrub and tree diseases to gather in the middle of winter." The mentors and Carrie kept in touch during the week via a Yahoo Group, informing each other what was available. On the day of class samples would be brought in and discussed. "How are we going to make a lesson plan out of these specimens? This is where having a teaching background really helped," Carrie said.

Aside from key IDs, Carrie's other goals for the year were to introduce students to the available reference books, and to give them experience using a microscope. A typical weekly P3 set-up might include one station with a problem that could be solved using the *What's Wrong with My Plant* as a reference. Another station would have the students using a text by Michael A. Dirr, where they would have to ID a plant, read the list of diseases in the book for that plant, and then name the problem using the process of elimination. The third station would have a problem that could be studied using a microscope. The students, at first, would be told what the problem was, and then taught how to use the microscope to view it.

When asked what is the best thing for her about this program Carrie replied, "It's been incredibly rewarding. I wish people could understand how rewarding it has been to work with the new class of interns and with the graduates, and the material. [It is] so satisfying on so many levels, so much fun to keep learning and so much fun to invite other people along the journey."



Candace Chase with the learning tools used in P3 discussions.

Carrie's advice to anyone interested in setting up a similar program at his or her Extension Office would be to start small. Currently the program is in the start up phase at the Bethel Extension Center. According Jackie Algon, Bethel coordinator' "We're planning on starting the first week in February. Janet's Kruse has been attending the Monday P3's at the Bartlett, getting familiar with the procedures, and I'm clearing the decks for a small beginning in Bethel on Thursdays in two weeks."

If other groups are interested in creating a similar program or have any questions, please contact Carrie or Regina.

To contact Regina Campfield, mastergardener@bartlettarboretum.org

To contact Carrie Sears, csears47@yahoo.com

Soil Renewal at Old Sturbridge Village

Submitted by Tom Morehouse, Old Sturbridge Village volunteer, MG

I'm tired – I need a rest. Sound familiar?

After more than 40 years of growing heirloom vegetables, the kitchen garden at Old Sturbridge Village's Freeman Farm was showing declining productivity. It needed a rest.

Despite yearly applications of cow manure and lime (19th century practices), the harvest was growing smaller each fall. Quality and quantity of produce had been dropping for over five years, especially brassica (turnip, rutabaga, radish, etc.). Weed growth (primarily galinsoga, pig weed, purslane) was extremely hard to control. Leaf-eating insects were devouring bean, potato, turnip, rutabaga, and many other crops.

Step number one: have garden soil and plants professionally analyzed. We took soil samples to the Soil Lab and Plant Pathology Lab at UConn. Results showed soil pH of 7.5 (a bit high for vegetables, often preventing cationic nutrient transfer), substantial un-decomposed cow manure, and spores of phoma lingam fungus. Phoma lingam targets the brassica family, and can lead to crown rot and "black leg" of the root. Brassica crops had suffered the worst declines.



Step number two: find what techniques were used in the 19th century to improve soils. Using Samuel Deane's *The New England Farmer* (1822), particularly the sections "Change of Crops" and "Rotation of Crops", and Thomas Fessenden's *The Complete Farmer and Rural Economist* (1857), particularly the sections "Manures", "Ploughing", "Soils", and John Nicholson's *The Farmer's Assistant* (1814), we devel-

oped and implemented the following plan to improve soil fertility, and reduce insect and disease proliferation.

For the year 2011-2012, instead of planting the Freeman kitchen garden, we used period methods of soil renewal. In addition, to supply the historic kitchens, we planted a new garden in a nearby field. In one year, using period techniques, we (1) lowered soil pH, (2) greatly reduced insect and weed presence, and (3) reduced fungus and disease threats.

Fall of 2011. After garden harvest, plow and harrow the original garden area. Nineteenth century farmers would often "let the pigs run" in the garden, to eat any remaining growth. Harrow in two pounds sulfur to each 100 square feet to increase soil acidity. Broadcast and harrow rye seed (*secale cereale*). Rye serves as a cover crop during winter, and while growing, inhibits germination of other plant seeds (allelopathy). This substantially reduces fall and spring weed growth.

Soil Renewal at Old Sturbridge Village continued

Spring of 2012. Plow in rye (milk stage). Broadcast peas and harrow in. We used Alderman peas; peas are a legume, which harvests nitrogen from the air and stores the (fixes) nitrogen in root nodules with the help of Rhizobium, a bacteria harmless to the plant.

Late Summer of 2012. Chop, plow, and harrow in peas while still in flower. This stops their growth and keeps the nitrogen in the soil. The 19th century farmer would call this "green manure". Harrow once more before planting another crop of cereal rye in early fall. Note: due to high pH of soil and presence of un-decomposed cow manure, no lime or cow manure was added.

Fall of 2012. repeat soil analysis. The good news – soil analysis in October 2012 showed pH had returned to a more desirable 6.5. Soil texture was substantially lightened as the previous year's cow manure decomposed, and weed seed content had been reduced. We were so pleased by this result, we decided to repeat the sequence for one more year.

You can see in the accompanying photo, how we accomplished this major task. Plowing and harrowing in sulfur and rye, the greatly reduced weed growth where cereal rye was planted, and the use of peas as a way to increase soil nitrogen without using animal products.



New England farmers and gardeners have known these techniques for centuries. Smell and taste the soil, and observe what's growing well; this lets the farmer determine the soil's "sweet" (alkaline) or "sour" (acidic) qualities. Some farmers actually purchased "litmus cakes" of dried lichens to help determine acidity. Let the soil rest for a year or two, cut weeds before they drop seed, change crops, etc. Natural ways to improve field and garden soils.

Note: elimination of vegetable crops for the entire year substantially reduces insect growth. Insect eggs in the soil hatch, but find none of the preferred vegetable matter as food. Thus they don't thrive, and don't reproduce. In addition, fungus and other disease are reduced, as the "host" plants are no longer present.

There are many other techniques we use on the farms and gardens at Old Sturbridge Village. Come visit and learn!

2012 Graduates and Advancements

Bartlett Arboretum

Barbara Boland
Richard Bryn
Christine Carlucci
Andrew Chapin
Eileen Cottington
Mary Ann Dunnell
Ann Galvin
Barbara Gerson
Sarah J. Graber
Carol Hamilton
Elaine K Hoben
Alison Hood
Elena Bullen
Janet Kruse
Raymond R. Long
Carol Lyons
John McGroarty
Tara Lynn Reynolds
Peter W. Russell
Patricia Sechi
Katherin Smith
Pamela Tunnell
Daria Vilanova
Jill Young

Litchfield

Gina Amalfitano
Liria Arnedo Asio
Elana Cohen
Audrey Cushion
Anne-Marie Fenn
Sally Follansbee
Ashley Gannon
Nell Glass
Melissa Harvey
Gail Herson
Sandy Ingellis
Scotty Johnston
Marty Leftoff
Nancy MacDonald
Becky Moses
Jami Murdock Sylvester
Tinker Murphy
Barbara Nimmich
Fred Norton
Nora Norton
Roberta Peron
Therese W. Rock-Cuccia
Jeffrey Sonstroem
Thom Ramsay
Niki Vincent
Kathleen Wallace
Chele Wilkins

New Haven

Diana Abshire
Victoria Ambroseay
Alicia Bacon
Taylor Boudreau
Terri Cain
Elise Cusano
Michele Daniels
Rita DeRosa
Mary DuFord
Doreen Rundiller-Zweig
Christine Galla
Charles Gill
Debbra Gill
Nancy Grenier
Rod Groff
Meg Gurly
Mary-Alice Howley
James Johnson
Debra Lambe
Carol Lambiase
Dolores Luciano
Judith Mardeux
Renee Marsh
Annelise McCay
Bob McMahon
Carol Mason
Carol Mulligan
Victoria Parslow
Kater Peterson-Burns
Elaine Piraino-Holevoet
Paul Reslink
Michael Russo
Barbara Scala
Mark Scencina
Jane Weimar



Congratulations graduates! Don't forget to continue entering your service and education hours on the UConn Master Gardener website:

<http://www.uconnmastergardeners.com/login>

2012 Graduates and Advancements

New London

Renee Beaulieu
Janet Beck
Jean Becker
Linda Boodan
Kathleen Chapman
Kathleen Cietanno
Cheryl Crocker
Debra Curra
Rose DesJardins
Flora Drapeau
Stella Elbaum
Alexandra Frech
Sandra Howe
My Kim T. Huynh
Linda Jaynes
William Kivic
Joanne Lukaszewicz
Mary Anna Martell
Linda Martin
Michael Josef Mathewson
Daniel Moalli
Jolanta Nowakowski
Larry Owens
Susan Perry
Jean Petryshyn
Paul Thompson
Susan Ucci
Christine Unson
Gisella B. Weissbach-Licht
Lynne Wilkinson

Tolland

Elizabeth Bartron
Susan Choma
Mitchel Colgan
Donna Corcoran
Christine Daly

Tolland cont

Patricia Devivo
Maryellen Donnelly
Sarah Ellis
Kathleen Fabian
Thomas Fabian
Diana Fiske
Ingrid Fraize
Mary Ann Gates
Joel Gissendanner
Jacqueline Granta
Robert Grindle
Grace Hayes
Theresa Hnessey
Terry L. Hockla
Linda Kaplan
Jack Kertenis
Julianne Kilburn
Donna Lanerman
Marcie Lavoie
Patricia Lazos
Susan Makoski
Cynthia Malm
Joe Manfre
William M. Oros
Tina Marie Peña
Fran Petersen
Charles Porter
Kate Powers
Linda Pricone
Donna Sawan Bergman
Kathy Scott
Nancy Stearns
Donna M. Tedford
Jennifer Thorpe-Pallo
Sara Truesdale
Pamela Wells
Tersa Wenthe

AMG

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Cathy Charles
Susan Carlson
Kate Keith
Sally O'Brien

Litchfield

Janine Laplante

New Haven

Walt Brockett
Siohghan Deveney
Rosemary Gramatico
John Kasinskas
Anne McDonnell
Barbara Meyers
Anne Mygatt
Donna Pursley
Will Rowlands
Mary Ellen Unger
Kathy Ruzek
Jean Stetz-Pulchalski
Bob Wojciechowsky
Rosemary Volpe
Rachel Ziesk

New London

Chip Allard
Steve Colgan
Diane Erling
Bonnie Penders

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Cathy Lynch
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Sandy Paget

New Haven

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Adelle Hack
Dawn Harrison
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Mary Ellen Unger

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Bartlett

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Ros Brady
Nedra Gillette
Dawn Fiss
Dan Schiefferle
Carrie Sears

New Haven

Allan Brown

AMG GOLD

New Haven

Donna Katsuranis

New London

Connie Berglund
Richard Palazzo
Harry Teller

AMG RUBY

Bartlett

Greg Moonie
Leslie Gehr
Walmark Lillemor
Ganga Duleep
Regina Campfield

New Haven

Jude Hsiang

AMG RUBY BRONZE

Bartlett

Phyllis Atkinson
Linda Albanese

New Haven

Sandi Wilson

AMG RUBY SILVER

Bartlett

Alice Smith

Please send any omissions or corrections to:
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The Laurel

There are many pros and cons to continuing with a print publication but from this editor's standpoint, the negatives are beginning to outweigh the positives. Are you aware that almost 15% of our annual budget goes to printing and mailing the Laurel? If you have opted for the electronic version, thank you! If not, please consider the following:

- Mailing and printing costs continue to rise
- Printing uses up resources
- Printing takes more time (the electronic Laurel is available immediately)
- The Laurel will follow you wherever you go (email)
- The money spent on printing and mailing the Laurel could help fund over 15 more Master Gardener projects in the state (or better fund ones requesting help).

From a publishing standpoint, we are limited to what we can actually do with our publication. For instance, we like to include links to websites that you can click on to gain more information about topics, including video illustrations. We have also tried to limit the number of pages to 12 to keep costs down. We need to print out our own copy to ensure the print version will be readable and have realized that the black and white printed version is very different from the online color edition.

Beginning this year, all new members (including Interns) will be able to access the online version only. We are hoping to phase print out entirely and bring you a re-vamped, in-depth publication that will enhance the master gardener education you have achieved.

The CMGA board has discussed this issue several times. What would you prefer? Raising dues? Charging for hard copies? A pdf version that is delivered to your inbox? Do nothing? Please take a moment to email cmganews@gmail.com with your

UConn Garden Conference

For those of you who want to add more gardening excitement to your calendar, the UConn annual garden conference will be held at the Lewis B. Rome Commons at the Storrs campus on March 22, 2013. Registration will begin at 8:00. More information on registration, speakers, program itinerary can be found at: <http://www.2013garden.uconn.edu/>



2 AMG credits may be earned for one of the qualifying events: CMGA symposium, UConn Garden Conference or the CIPWG symposium.

Connecticut
Master Gardener
 Association

2013 Membership Form

for the calendar year Jan. 1, 201 to Dec. 31, 2013

Name		
Street		
City	State	Zip
Email	Phone: home ___ or cell ___ ()	
Office Where Certified		Year

Membership is open to all Master Gardeners. A \$20 annual fee is due by Jan 1 of the membership year. This fee entitles members to a subscription of our quarterly newsletter, *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 which support Master Gardener activities throughout the state.

The print version of the Laurel is being phased out. As of 2013, new members will receive the electronic version of the Laurel. If you have not opted out of a hard copy, please consider doing so by emailing cmganews@gmail.com or check here

CMGA is a volunteer organization and welcomes participation from its members. Share your expertise and ideas!

Some of the activities to get involved with include: public speaking, symposium, board of directors, membership, programs and events, grants, publicity, and much more.

email: volunteer@ctmga.org

with your area of interest . Thank you!

Please send your check, payable to the CMGA, along with this completed form to:

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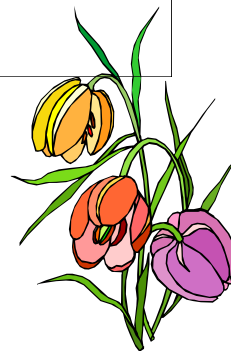
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THE LAUREL 2011

Gardening is not a rational act.
-Margaret Atwood

Did you know?

Tulips will last longer if you wrap the stems in newspaper immediately after cutting and place them upright in water for several hours.



Don't forget to order your CMGA Cookbook/Almanac! Reserve your copy today!

www.ctmga.org





The Laurel

Connecticut Master Gardener Association Newsletter



Spring 2013 Volume 26, No. 2

Horticultural Spring Workshop Draws Multistate Attendance

The Goodwin Forest and Conservation Center was the site of the Spring workshop for the Northeast Horticultural Therapy Network (NEHTN). NEHTN is a professional organization whose mission is to serve its members and the public by promoting and advancing the use of horticulture as an effective therapy through advocacy, education and financial support.

The workshop was hosted by the Friends of Goodwin Forest and directed by Kimberly Kelly and Kate Desjardins. In attendance were program directors from New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut, and Master Gardeners Janet Cadro and Bill Haselton. After a business meeting the group toured the Discovery Trail, which was followed by the training session: Fairy Houses, creative expression, discovery, and exploration. The fairy houses at the Goodwin Center are made completely from natural components, and must not leave any footprint in the forest as they decompose.

Fairy houses have become extremely popular as an environmental educational tool. But their value in horticultural therapy is just now being realized. Unlike building a linear structure like LEGOS or blocks, there are no limitations to this very self expressive creative process. Benefits of this hands on activity include encouraging low impact physical exercise, social interaction/teamwork, mental function/choice making, observational skills, creativity, self expression.

It is a low cost easy to construct project that can be ongoing. Relaxing and creative, it connects individuals to the natural world. Upon completion there is a sense of achievement, as every house is unique. For more information on this program or NEHTN please see:

<http://www.nehorticulturaltherapy.net/what-is.php> or contact Kim Kelly at Kimberly.A.Kelly@ct.gov



Left photo: Fairyhouse constructed by workshop participant Janet Cadro using local natural building products.

Right photo: NEHTN workshop attendees Kate Desjardins and Janet Cadro.



Officers 2013

President's Message

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(Stamford): mastergardener@

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Middlesex: OPEN

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Happy Spring, Master Gardeners!

Now that work on the Symposium has concluded, we are busy working on events and activities for the remainder of the year and have started to plan next year's Symposium. Our next major event is this year's Summer Garden Safari, to be held in Tolland County on July 20. Watch your email and our web site for details as they unfold. This is always a great event! If you haven't been receiving emails from us (which is our major form of ongoing communication, in addition to the web site) please contact Kathy Baechle (see address to left) to make sure we have your correct email address.

Are you interested in joining the CMGA Board? We would love to have you! We'll have several officer slots open next year, including the Treasurer, so if you have that special skill we would especially appreciate your help. See our web site for more info on being a Board member, or just email me. We have also been busy reviewing the many grant requests for outreach projects we receive. If you need funding for your outreach project, download our grant process and form from the web site. Remember, Interns need sign off from your MG Coordinator on all grant requests.

Speaking of MG Coordinators, we must say a sad goodbye to Vicky McCarthy, who recently left her MG Coordinator position for a new full time job. Her creativity, great attitude, flexibility, work ethic, and sense of teamwork (among other skills...including of course horticulture!) will be sorely missed, but we wish her the best!

Maureen Gillis

president@ctmga.org

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 cmganews@gmail.com

Deadlines for publication are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1

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2013 CMGA Symposium Success Thank You, All Volunteers!

The success of this year's Symposium was not just because the Symposium Committee did an outstanding job, it was also due to you—Master Gardeners and your friends (almost 330 attendees) who came out in support of the event. Once again, we exceeded our budgeted profit, which means more dollars to support outreach and MG Program activities. We couldn't have done that without the support of the MG Coordinators, who encouraged students and MGs to attend; the enthusiasm of attendees; and especially the aid of our volunteers. We thank you for being part of the Symposium and look forward seeing you at our 2014 Symposium, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 2014. We are trying to schedule the event a week earlier than usual, so as not to conflict with UConn's Garden Conference.



VEGETABLE GARDEN AT THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM

By Eve Mauger



Planting for the vegetable garden at the Bartlett Arboretum is about to start for its fifth season, since being completely rebuilt in 2009. Master Gardener Nick Mancini began renewing the old garden with a handful of Master Gardeners and MG interns in the fall of 2008, setting the stage for what has become a beautiful and bountiful space. Nick is no longer active in the garden, but is always available with advice and encouragement, and is indispensable when it comes to giving directions on pruning the grape vines. Master Gardeners Elaine Hjelte, Pat Connor, Cynthia Lupo and Eve Mauger head up an enthusiastic and hard-working group of MGs and MG interns, meeting every Thursday from 9:30 to noon.

We traditionally start the season with planting peas and spinach around St. Patrick's Day, accompanied by amending all the beds with the Bartlett's rich compost, which is screened and dug into the many raised beds.

Cool-weather crops follow, with radishes, turnips, lettuce, arugula, mizuna and carrots sown in the beds, while seeds of the warm weather crops such as tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumber and edible flowers....nasturtiums, marigolds, sunflowers are started in the Bartlett greenhouse. We aim to be completely organic in our methods, using eggshells and banana peels for calcium and potassium and cottonseed or bone meal for nitrogen and phosphorus. We do a lot of hand-picking of bugs and insects and there are always plenty of samples to show interns for the Plant Clinic. Squash vine borers wreak havoc on the squash and zucchini, despite the use of row covers, but we continue to search for more resistant varieties.



Perennial fruits and vegetables also have their space in the garden. These include rhubarb, asparagus, strawberries, raspberries and blueberries as well as figs and artichokes, which are protected with extra leaves and wrapping in the winter. Red currant bushes were planted in the spring of 2012 and we have espaliered apple trees along one fence, which require vigilant pruning during the year. Squirrels, chipmunks, birds and deer all do damage. We have yet to



taste a strawberry!



By early June, potatoes, beans, tomatoes, peppers and eggplants are in the ground and we swap recipes for Swiss chard, turnip greens and pickles. The “Serpent of Sicily” squash grew to three feet long and was the most asked-about vegetable by visitors to the garden. All agreed that our very favorite bean was “Romano” pole bean.

Weeding is an ongoing chore, and in some areas we laid down newspaper and covered it with wood chips to help keep the weeds down. We had a canning demonstration in late September

and are working on educational signs to be in place for visitors next year. Todd DuPont, Director of Children’s Education at the Bartlett, brings in his groups of students to discuss how and where their food is produced and they are able to take food home to share with their families.



We ended the season with planting garlic and shallots and put the garden to bed around the middle of November.

Master Gardeners Elaine Hjelte, Cynthia Lupo, Nancy Harris, Joan Seguin, Pat Connor, Lynn House, Jan DeAngelo, Jackie Barchilon and Eve Mauger all put in many hours of work and we hope to attract more interns this spring. With the ever increasing interest

in home vegetable gardens, the Bartlett veggie garden is a great source of inspiration and education for home gardeners. If you’d like to volunteer, please contact: Eve Mauger 203-662-9852 or Regina Campfield rcampfield@optonline.net website: <http://bartlettarboretum.org/>

Native Gardens at the Goodwin Forest

Lynne Warren, AMG 2011

In 2009 I began my journey to become a certified master gardener and found my gardening passion working with native plants in the Richard Haley Native Wildlife Garden, which is a part of the James L. Goodwin State Forest Conservation Education Center in Hampton, CT.



The project, lead by horticultural director Kim Kelly, began six years ago. In that time, the neglected garden, which was overrun by garlic mustard, bitter-sweet, barberry, burning bush and our very own special invasive, the Amur cork tree, has begun an amazing transformation.



← 2007

2012 →



Master Gardener volunteers design, install and maintain the native gardens and also educate the public about the ecological and economical benefits of planting native species.

I chose this outreach project because it is a beautiful, quiet place to be. The staff at Goodwin are very supportive and very generous with their time and knowledge and the volunteers are also a wonderful source of information and expertise.



In four years, I have learned the importance of Latin names, formed a non-profit **Friends of Goodwin Forest** group to obtain grants and receive needed funding for the gardens and trails, helped expand a seed collecting and propagation program, began a larval food garden for butterflies. Current projects include designing and installing a children's discovery trail.

The Children's Discovery Trail is a woodland path that will be dotted with native fairy houses and have learning stations for children to test their observational skills. The stations are based on environmental education curriculum inspired by Project Learning Tree. Strict building standards are in place for our fairy houses: materials have to be natural, so nothing manmade (except glue if they're being transported); they have to be 'local' (you wouldn't find conch shells on a forest floor); and do not pick living things (although we have transplanted moss for aesthetics).



This spring, we hosted a horticultural therapy workshop where developmentally disabled adults learned to collect materials and build fairy houses. It was a great success and we plan to have more workshops in the future.



Other plans for the trail include installing a sensory garden, creating a building zone for on-site fairy house construction, and connecting the trail to an existing self-guided forest discovery trail, which is also being extended to take visitors through wetland areas.

We are anxious for spring to begin and are looking forward to the annual national trails day (the first Saturday in June, this year, June 1st). Check out the activities we're offering at <http://www.friendsofgoodwinforest.com/> If you can't make it that weekend, we will be hosting the June CMGA board meeting on June 4th. After the meeting, we will have a pot-luck lunch and give tours of the gardens. There will also be native plants for sale (they are very inexpensive since we want to encourage people to use natives in their gardens!)

Master gardeners and interns are always welcome to join us. Our workdays are typically on Wednesdays from 9-3 during the summer as a general rule, but other workday opportunities are available. Please contact Kim Kelly at kimberly.a.kelly@ct.gov for more information.

The Farmer's Garden

by Maureen Farmer, MG 2007 West Hartford

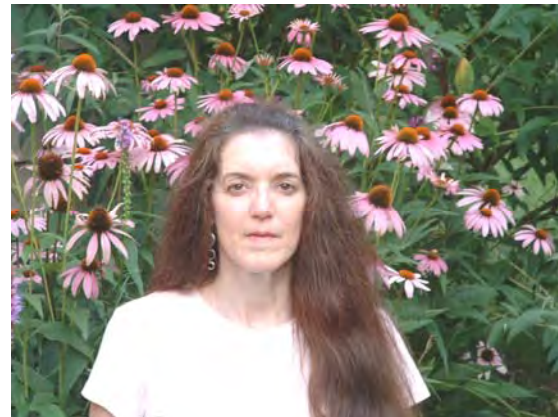
I've been interested in plants and gardening since I was a little girl. After I purchased a house, I removed a few sections of the lawn and planted perennial flower gardens. I've been a vegetarian for many years, so to save money I started an organic vegetable garden in one 3 foot by 6 foot cedar raised bed. That led me to discover my passion for vegetable gardening. I was so inspired with the results that I decided that I needed to learn more about gardening and the following year I became a Master Gardener.

Now, in addition to even more perennial gardens, I have ten raised beds for growing vegetables and herbs on the west side and behind my house. I experiment with growing more varieties of vegetables every year and even built a cold frame so that I can grow greens during the winter months. The cold frame is also a great place to start my seedlings. I usually grow and harvest more produce than I can eat, freeze, dehydrate and give away. Soon I realized that I enjoy giving my extra vegetables and herbs away to my family, friends and neighbors. If I go to someone's home during peak harvest season, there's a good chance that I'll be sharing some of my extra produce with the host or hostess. For pot luck events, I tend to make something that includes at least one ingredient from my garden.

People seem genuinely pleased to receive a bag of mixed greens or a zucchini and their happiness mirrors back to me. As the saying goes - one of the most difficult things to give away is kindness because it usually comes back to you.

My current profession is web application developer. To increase my skill set, I decided to teach myself another programming language. To become a proficient programmer, you need to actually dig in and start writing code. To make learning more fun, I decided to create a gardening website. My idea, The Farmer's Garden (www.thefarmersgarden.com) is a place for others to share or trade their excess produce. At The Farmer's Garden, the mission is to enable more people to have access to home gardens and healthier food.

I've expanded my original idea to building local communities of gardeners across the country. Free registration allows members to search and post classified ads to share excess homegrown produce, tools, gardening space, or other gardening related items and activities with people in their local area. Food banks and individuals can post wanted classifieds for surplus food or other items. The Farmer's Garden currently has members from almost every state.



Visitors to the site must be registered and logged in to view or search ads posted by other members within one to one hundred miles of their location. I plan on expanding the site to include a blog and a forum section where gardeners and non-gardeners can ask for and share gardening advice and tips. Future plans include a section for uploading and sharing garden photos and videos and a newsletter featuring gardening advice, success stories and links to gardening topics.

Please join The Farmer's Garden community and help to spread the word about the rewards of gardening and let more people see for themselves how delicious just picked in-season produce can be. At The Farmer's Garden, we want to grow community, one tomato at a time.

We apologize to the following 2012 Master Gardener Graduates whose names were either misspelled or not included with our list in the last issue:

Donna Landerman, Tolland County

Jean St Clair, AMG Gold, Hartford County

Uta Zickfeld, AMG Silver, Hartford County

Lynne Lanziero, New Haven County

Congratulations on your achievements!

BITS AND PIECES

This year marks the return of the Cicadas (once every 17 years). New York is hosting several events in anticipation of their arrival. Follow along online and/or attend some of the interesting workshops they have planned!

<http://project.wnyc.org/cicadas/>

Save the Sound, a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment, and the University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research's (CLEAR) Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) program launched its new green infrastructure website, www.ReduceRunoff.org.

The new website is designed to assist Connecticut homeowners in reducing the harmful effects of storm water runoff.

Currently, rain running off of our roads, parking lots, and roofs can overwhelm the sewer systems of older, combined sewer overflow communities like Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford—resulting in releases of raw sewage. In other communities, it floods streets and carries fertilizers and pesticides into rivers and the Sound. This pollution forces summer beach closings, and make it hard for shellfishermen to earn a living. According to state data, many rivers and shoreline waters fail to meet key water quality standards because of stormwater.

But common sense solutions can help protect our waters. Innovative green infrastructure concepts like rain gardens, rain barrels, downspout disconnections, permeable pavers, and green roofs, can help naturally manage stormwater, limit raw sewage discharges, reduce flooding risk and improve water quality. Major cities like Portland, Kansas City, Philadelphia and New York are working to promote the use of green infrastructure; ReduceRunoff.org is designed relay the lessons-learned from those cities by helping Connecticut residents green their neighborhoods while reducing pollution statewide.

Additionally, www.ReduceRunoff.org features information on three localities using green infrastructure to benefit the community. In the Quinnipiac River Watershed small rain gardens and large bioswales will be used to boost drinking water supplies. And in New Haven and Bridgeport green infrastructure will help reduce flooding, reduce non-point source pollution, and limit combined sewer overflows.

GARDENER'S ANONYMOUS

by Margaret Roach

From the website WaytoGarden.com

The Twelve Steps start with admitting our powerlessness, and it's all uphill, pushing a loaded wheelbarrow, from there:

1. We admitted we were powerless over plants—that our lives had become unmanageable (even though the garden is looking really buff).
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity (or at least reduce our annual expenditures by 10 percent).
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves (and our beds and tool sheds, garden-book libraries and seed-catalog stash).
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs (give or take the part about the teeny obsession with pumpkins and *Viburnum*; best leave that bit out of these little confessional chats).
6. We're entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character (but not the plants, please...can't I keep the *plants?*).
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings (but leave the garden intact).
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all for having spent more on garden supplies than food, and having spent more time outside alone gardening than connecting with said injured persons.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others, or interfere with our alone-time in the yard.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it. Maybe. Maybe not.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His Will for us and the power to carry that out. (Good thing so much of gardening is done on your knees already, making this step easier and more natural-feeling.)
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to plant-aholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs. (Please note: This last one doesn't allow you to go take their problem plants off their hands: That's co-dependence, a whole other topic.)



THE LAUREL 2013

“Remember to REDUCE, REUSE , RECYCLE, COMPOST; it’s a first step toward a more sustainable world. Each time a man stands for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

Robert Francis Kennedy

**Please send your suggestions, submissions
or comments to: cmganews@gmail.com**



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

The Laurel

Connecticut Master Gardener Association Newsletter

SUMMER 2013 Volume 26, No. 3

Summertime Fun

Despite the heat and pop-up thunderstorms that threatened us, and sometimes surprised us, master gardeners gathered together for some special events.

On July 10th, the classes of 2012 and 2013 gathered at UConn for Farm Day. Topics included living structures and biofuel created from willow, tours of the Waxman collection and Burr Nursery, propagation and production of native shrubs, identifying invasive species in the landscape, perennial rye grass research and plants' influence on parasitic wasps of white grubs.

July 20th was another perfect summer day for our annual Summer Garden Safari. Many thanks to the Marcianos and Carol and Baker Salisbury for giving the CMGA an opportunity to peruse their fabulous gardens and to Paul Grimmeisen and Tony Royal for co-chairing the Safari Committee.



Donna Ellis discusses invasive plants, biocontrol and IPM .



Carol and Baker Salisbury's Garden



Marciano Garden

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Fellow Master Gardeners,

Summer is a time for mentoring and outreach and, as ever, we'd love to hear about your projects and publicize them on our web site. Whether you're an Intern or an experienced MG, your projects (whether funded by a CMGA grant or not) are of interest to the membership. Please take a few minutes to email me a short article about your project (a couple hundred words is great) and a few pictures and I'll put them up on our site. And don't forget to report all your outreach hours to your MG Coordinator using UConn's online facility at [http://](http://www.uconnmastergardeners.com)

www.uconnmastergardeners.com. If you haven't signed up for their site yet, email your coordinator for the initial sign-in code. Reporting your hours is another important way to support the MG program.

Our annual meeting will be held Nov. 9 in West Hartford at the UConn Campus and Pamm Cooper will be our featured speaker...so save the date! Elections for 2014 will be held at that time, so if you are interesting in joining the CMGA Board, please contact me or check the web site at <http://www.ctmga.org/#/board-application/4567742869> for information about being a board member.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Maureen Gillis

president@ctmga.org

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Turf Wars

Lynne Warren, AMG 2011

I am not a fan of turf. While I do agree that a small patch of green can be beneficial, I just don't care for it. I don't like promoting it either. When I see people loading fertilizers, grub control and weed killer into their carts, I want to scream "STOP! Think about what you're doing to the environment!" or ask how much money they think they've wasted on trying to maintain a lawn without bothering to get a soil test.

Alas, years of advertisements and articles with glossy pictures of that perfect lawn have created a zombie like approach to the expanse of green we are all supposed to envy. The general public doesn't think about what they're doing; they just follow the lead from corporations that have told them what problems they have with their lawns and the miracle products they've manufactured to make it all better.

That said, I was a little surprised that there were very few people who attended post doctoral fellow Chandra Thammina's presentation on turf grass during the UConn Farm Day.

Thammina is working with Dr. Yi Li to develop a perennial rye grass that will reduce the need for mowing, watering and fertilizing. It will also be more tolerant of varied growing conditions, including shade tolerance.

The process of developing new grasses is daunting and takes several years before seed can actually go into production. There are currently two strains of rye grass that are showing a lot of promise but it will be three more years before it will become available.



I know I can't win the turf war but being able to recommend a more environmentally friendly product is progress.

H.O.P.E. Project

Gail Wilson



In 2012 a small group of Ledyard Garden Club members embarked on an ambitious project. We decided to raise vegetables to donate to the needy. None of us were hugely experienced vegetable gardeners but we pooled our knowledge and carried on.

Just finding a location was a challenge--we needed access to water, some deer protection, sun etc. An area near an old unused school was chosen, it was about 24 by 30 feet. We were given some plants and seeds by the Southeastern Community Garden Association and got started. The garden was called H.O.P.E., an acronym for Helping Other People Eat.



The very first day we worked, several of us were completely drenched when the water faucet pulled out of the building and let go! That was the first of our water issues, which seem to have continued. We decided to keep our donations local and we brought our beautiful produce to the Ledyard food locker where it was gratefully received. We were thrilled to donate almost 350 pounds of vegetables, a respectable amount for our first year, we thought.

2013 has brought more challenges as the town moved us to a new location, near our old one but that meant starting all over again. It meant more work but it's a much bigger area, 48' by 30' so it is a blessing in disguise.



The soil was pretty much compacted sand from generations of little feet so the first thing we did was beg for compost. People are generous when you ask and we had good results, which of course involved lots of spreading.



Our little group of 5 swelled to over 13 and several husbands and a father have contributed immensely, building us a beautiful sign, trellises and figuring out a good watering system, as well as roto-tilling. The students from the Agri Science Program at Ledyard High School raised and donated many flats of seedlings for us this year. I am personally learning lots. For instance, I now know what a manifold is because we had to use two as part of our new watering system. It is a very helpful gadget that splits the water from one hose into several hoses, with on-off switches

on each--very handy when you have lots of soaker hoses and not very much water pressure!

A \$300 grant from the CMGA was a huge help for which we are very grateful. We try to get as much as possible at no cost but sometimes you just need to spend money. We are hoping for to be able to donate many more veggies this year--doubling last year is our goal.



Scalzi Riverwalk Nature Preserve 2013 Update

By Sue Sweeney Volunteer Head Steward

Scalzi Riverwalk Nature Preserve was established in August 2009 when Bartlett Arboretum-based Master Gardeners and Scalzi Park neighbors volunteered to help the City of Stamford restore and manage this wonderful urban wild place. Stamford has numerous human-centered recreational parks, but could we make a wildlife-centered space -- complete with dead trees and brush piles -- work near the heart of downtown? Further, could we make it work with just volunteers on an extremely limited budget? While we have years to go on our 15-year restoration plan, as we approach our fourth anniversary, the animals are thriving; the neighbors are happy, and we have half the Japanese knotweed that we had four years ago.



Mergansers

The Preserve consists of 6.5 acres of urban wildness, centering around a ADA-compliant half-mile riverwalk with excellent visual access to wildlife. The animals don't tend to be rare species but there are enough so that most visitors get to see at least a few mallards, song birds, and/or chipmunks, and perhaps a turtle or a hawk. It is a place for the neighbors to take an afternoon walk, a morning run or eat lunch on a bench.



Boneset

As time goes on, we have realized that, due to the fragile nature of this riparian buffer zone; if the visitors (and their children and dogs) don't stay on the paths and out of the water, the vegetation will quickly perish and the animals will leave, perhaps for less favorable accommodations. Local users, who have a personal stake in the Preserve's long-term viability, cooperate. Thus, we are emphasizing that it's a neighborhood park – not a recrea-

tional destination, and working with the City on signage inviting cooperation in protecting the habitat for the sake of the wildlife.

From the start, the horticultural challenge has been controlling the invasives and encouraging the natives, while not disturbing the wildlife. We don't use any type of concentrated substance, and strictly limit the use of power tools.

The basic control method for herbaceous perennials such as Japanese knotweed, bindweed, and mugwort is a bi-weekly ground cutting. Porcelainberry needs about the same treatment; bitter-sweet and the other slower growing woody invasives can be cut less frequently. The key for us is to prioritize: step one was to save the native woody plants and to earn community support by making the space look cared-for. Second, go after the worst invasives a patch at a time, staying within the limits of existing resources. Now in our fourth summer, there is a remarkable difference in the vigor and presence of invasives in the targeted areas. Of course, we have many more areas to target but this is a long-term plan. We're ahead of schedule but the extreme weather is becoming more a challenge each year.

One thing we learned is the need to constantly balance protection of habitat with invasive removal. It's like remodeling the house while living in it. While the invasives don't provide food, they do provide cover and if too much is removed at once, there is, e.g., insufficient mallard nesting habitat or cover for the green heron.

We've also learned, to the extent possible, to encourage natural regeneration of the natives. This strategy is much better at getting the "right plant in the right place" and creating maximum diversity than re-planting. It also limits the amount of volunteer time (our scarcest resource) that we need to devote to watering. To fill in gaps in the diversity, we do add a few hundred new plants each year – mostly local genotypes from the same watershed raised from seed in the Scalzi Riverwalk Nature Preserve's Propagation Lab at the Bartlett Arboretum.



Master Gardeners who have devoted at least 100 hours to this project since our 2011 report include Sue Sweeney (Volunteer Head Steward), Linda Coven, Lisa Shurfo, Cee Moreyn, Daria Collins, John McGroarty and Sarah Gaber. We are grateful for the support of the Bartlett Arboretum, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Westchester Land Trust, Stamford Land Conservation Trust, Connecticut Master Gardener Association, Stamford's Pioneer Towers, and the City of Stamford's Land Use Bureau and Parks Department.

Learn more about the Preserve on FaceBook at Scalziriverwalk.com

Tolland Youth Garden



The Tolland Youth Garden is in its second season and riding high on the first year's success! A small group of gardeners, or the Board of Directors, as we call ourselves, has continued to engage children and adults in the love of gardening.

We have continued our garden classes for the Tolland day campers and our partnership with two town youth groups, the Tolland Family Resource Center and the Tolland Learning Center.

Each organization has planted and raised vegetables, herbs and flowers in the Youth Garden this year. We have expanded our stewardship program with middle and high school students, training them to be stewards of the garden and teacher's aides for the youth classes. These young people will be earning their Junior Master Gardening certificate as they work with us in the garden and with the campers.

Our group's goal for the Tolland Youth Garden remains the same as last year: to bring together youth and adults to experience the joy of gardening, educate them about the benefits of gardening, teach them about environmental stewardship, and offer them the chance to participate in community service. We are proud to practice Integrating Pest Management in our youth garden which includes a variety of vegetables, herbs, flowers, raspberry bushes, a butterfly garden, and a compost pile.

This year the Board of Directors tried a new way to publicize our name and mission and heighten the awareness of our garden in the community. Our group began by using three showcases in the Tolland Public Library during the month of April and filling them with information on the Tolland Youth Garden. We included displays of our garden, pictures of our activities, and information on our summer youth classes. We were pleased with the number of inquiries and interest that the advertising generated, and, as a result, our numbers of participants increased this summer.

We have some new additions to our garden this year. The first is the addition of a Monarch Way Station. This new flower garden is growing along the outside of our garden fence and was designed and planted by a group of young people with the direction and help of Jane Seymour, a DEEP employee. We also purchased a cold frame to enable us to get an early start on planting our seeds. Other purchases we have made with money donated to us by the Tolland Lion's Club are garden tools, teaching supplies, and books on gardening and insects. Tri County Green House in Mansfield was generous with vegetable plants, charging us just a fraction of the price.

Our biggest new addition has been the purchase of a garden shed, bought largely with the CMGA grant. The Ellington High School shop class built the shed for us, charging us just for the materials. Kloter's Farm delivered the shed and set it up for us, free of charge. We are so thankful for their work because we can now store our tools, teaching supplies, canopy, and tables without having to carry them in from a far away parking lot. We have also benefitted from the shed in another way. By using the shed's roof and gutter system, our three rain barrels supplied us with enough water to keep the plants in good health during those dry days.



The harvest from our garden is donated to the Senior Center in Tolland and the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen in Rockville. The Board of Directors and all our helpers look forward to more years of educating youth and adults about the joys of gardening and the importance of good stewardship for our environment. Thank you for supporting the Tolland Youth Garden!

Sincerely,
Debbie Kupfer, Sandie Benjamin (President), Paula Johnson, Fran Maynard, Sue Mundy, Carol Zerio



UConn Farm Day 2013



Summer Garden Safari 2013

LEFT: Diane Ostheimer and John Neff present Paul Grimmeisen with a Lifetime Member Award in recognition for his many years of contributions to CMGA's success.



Thank you to the Salsburys



Mrs. Marciano relaying information about her gardens.

EXHIBIT YOUR GARDEN HARVEST

at **OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE**

September 14 – 15, 2013

Help save heirloom vegetable and flower varieties from extinction and celebrate with us at Old Sturbridge Village! As part of our Agricultural Exhibition, the Annual Home Gardeners' Exhibit will be held September 14-15, 2013. If you have exhibited in the past, we welcome you back. If you haven't exhibited before, we invite you to plant some history this season and bring your harvest to the exhibit. Young Gardeners have their own exhibit division, and we encourage their participation.

You will find entry rules, class lists of eligible varieties, and exhibit instructions online:

<http://www.osv.org/sites/default/files/2013AgFairFlyer.pdf>

Each exhibitor will receive a Certificate of Participation. All entries will be considered for Best of Show, with a blue-ribbon award going to the first place entry in each class. Don't miss our "Advice from the Experts" session on Sunday, when our premium winning exhibitors share the tips and tricks that won them their ribbons. Entries will be judged using early nineteenth century criteria, such as size, form, color, uniformity, etc.

Garden Exhibit Entry Rules

- See Class List online : <http://www.osv.org/sites/default/files/2013AgFairFlyer.pdf>
- Entries are open to the general public and museum staff. Entries will be exhibited and judged in two divisions: Young Gardener (ages 5 through 12) and Adult Gardener.
- There is no entry fee and no limit to the number of classes that may be entered. A one-day complimentary admission ticket will be issued to each exhibitor.
- Each entry must have been grown by the exhibitor.
- Each entry must meet the criteria in the Class List description.
- Heirloom vegetable varieties eligible for entry are listed in the Class List.
- Heirloom flower and herb varieties eligible for entry are limited to the open-pollinated flower and herb varieties offered for sale or in garden workshops by Old Sturbridge Village. Seeds and plants may be purchased at the Museum Gift Shop and other heirloom seed sources. Seeds may be ordered by mail or on line at: www.shoposv.com. Seed savers are invited to exhibit these same varieties grown from their own saved seed.
- Registration forms are due by September 7, 2013. ONLY ONE EXHIBITOR PER ENTRY FORM. (Entry form may be copied.)

Note: Exhibit entries may be delivered on Friday, September 13, between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m., or Saturday, September 14, between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. Entries may be picked up on Sunday, September 15 between 3:00 and 4:30 p.m. Entries not picked up by 4:30 p.m. will become the property of Old Sturbridge Village.

Garden Harvest Exhibit, September 14 and 15, 2013 Entry Registration Form (*available online:* <http://www.osv.org/sites/default/files/2013AgFairFlyer.pdf>)

Apple Days

October 5 and 6, 2013

Antique apple tasting and orchard tour.

From Field to Table Weekend

October 19 and 20, 2013

Help harvest vegetables and learn about food preservation and storage techniques.

Garden Thyme

OSV Members are invited to attend these monthly programs. Not an OSV Member? Join and receive access to this and other Member-only programs.

<http://www.osv.org/sites/default/files/2013AgFairFlyer.pdf>

CMGA
C/O Kathy Baechle
6 Christmas Tree Hill
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THE LAUREL 2013



My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view.

~H. Fred Dale

**Please send your suggestions, submissions
or comments to:**

cmganews@gmail.com



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

The Laurel

Connecticut Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Autumn 2013 Volume 26, No. 4

ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 9TH

Please join us for the annual meeting which will be held in West Hartford this year. Our guest speaker will be Pamm Cooper. Her topic "A Wild Safari Into the Connecticut Landscape" will take us on a journey through flora and fauna found in various habitats throughout Connecticut. You may recognize some of the wildflowers, insects, animals and birds, some of which are also seen in the garden or home landscape but you will also learn how, when and where to look for things that are harder to find! Do you know what's lurking in your yard?



The Agenda:

9:30 Continental Breakfast

10:00 Welcome

10:30 Treasurer's Report; Approve 2014 budget (<http://www.ctmga.org/#/2013-annual-meeting/4576274292>)
Election of Officers/Directors; Approve Semi Annual Minutes (copies available)
Symposium 2014

10:50 Break

11:00 Pamm Cooper "A Wild Safari Into the Connecticut Landscape"

12:00 Door Prizes

12:15 Adjourn

The CMGA annual meeting will be held in the Zachs Room (in the School of Social Work) on the West Hartford Campus. A map of the campus can be found at <http://hartford.uconn.edu/us/#maps>

Officers 2013

President's Message

President:	Maureen Gillis president@ctmga.org
Vice-President:	Diane Ostheimer osthedia@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Toni Royal pita60@aol.com
Secretary:	Florie Ricciuti ricciutf@yahoo.com
Membership:	Kathy Baechle k.baechle@comcast.net

Board of Directors:	
Billy Baxter	Ellen Bender
Marge Bingham	Tracy Burrell
John Carlson	Paul Grimmeisen
Kim Kelly	Richard Shaffer
Lynne Warren	

CMGA website: www.ctmga.org cmgaweb@ctmga.org
The Laurel: Nancy Hinchey Lynne Warren cmganews@gmail.com

Cooperative Extension Center Coordinators (by County):	
Fairfield: 203-207-3262	Open
Fairfield (Stamford): 203-322-6971	Regina Campfield mastergardener@bartlettarboretum.org
Hartford: 860-570-9010	Sarah Bailey Sarah.bailey@uconn.edu
Litchfield: 860-626-6240	Pat Eldredge Patricia.eldredge@uconn.edu
Middlesex: 860-345-5234	Gail Reynolds gail.reynolds@uconn.edu
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New London: 860-885-2823	Susan Munger Susan.munger@uconn.edu
Tolland: 860-870-6934	Deb Prior Deborah.prior@uconn.edu
Windham: 860-774-9600	Deb Lee deborah.2.lee@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	

Congratulations to the 2013 Master Gardener Graduates! We certainly hope you will continue to be active at your Extension Center as a mentor, work on outreach activities, and become a member of your alumni association, CMGA. As you know, your dues and attendance at the Symposium in March support the MG Program, the MG Offices, and provide grants for outreach. So please take a few minutes today to start your paid membership. Use the form contained in this issue or pay online. There will also be an opportunity to join at your graduation festivities. And current members...it's time to renew. We don't send a separate, mailed renewal notice so please renew at this time.

I hope to see many of you at the annual meeting, November 9 in West Hartford (Zachs Room). We'll have lots of giveaways/prizes and a special brunch menu is planned. We will also elect new officers; I am excited to announce that Tracy Burrell has agreed to serve as President and we welcome Debbye Rosen as Treasurer and new Board Member.

Planning for the March 15 Symposium at Manchester Community College is in full swing. In addition to our speakers, we will have 2 small "hands on" workshops: hypertufa and living wreath. And we moved the date up a week this year so that it doesn't conflict as much with UConn's Conference. So save the date...tickets will be available online starting in December, and look for the flyer in your mail in January. And check out our *TShirt Saying* contest to win a free ticket to the Symposium.

I want to thank "retiring" Officers VP Diane Ostheimer and Treasurer Toni Royal (both will remain on the Board) as well as Dick Shaffer, who will be leaving the Board at the end of the year.

Thank you for all your hard work and contributions that make CMGA the great organization it is.

Maureen Gillis
president@ctmga.org

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 cmganews@gmail.com

Deadlines for publication are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1

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tips and reminders:

CMGA MEMBERSHIP:

Please renew your CMGA membership for 2014. Dues have remained at \$20 since 2007, and they are used to support the Master Gardener program through scholarships, outreach grants, Master Gardener office support as well as to provide many of the free educational and social opportunities we sponsor throughout the year. Members also receive *The Laurel* and discounts at participating partners (check the member benefits link on our website). Membership forms will be available at the annual meeting in November, on our website at www.ctmga.org, in *The Laurel* or we can send you the form electronically. In an effort to curb expenses and keep our dues low, we no longer snail-mail membership reminders. Please take a few minutes to renew now! We appreciate your support. Annual membership is valid from January—December.

Win a Free Ticket to the 2014 Symposium!

At the March 15, 2014 Symposium, we will have new CMGA TShirts for sale. The shirts will come in 2 colors, with the CMGA logo on the front and a pithy “saying” on the back. Enter your suggested saying in our contest, and the winning entry selected for our T-Shirt will receive a FREE ticket to the Symposium and recognition for your creativity! Email your entry to cmga@comcast.net. Winner will be chosen in January. We hope you can beat the last great saying (*Master Gardeners Know the Best Dirt!*). Enter as many sayings as you’d like! Go crazy!

The Laurel

We have been publishing the Laurel since 1987 . With new technology, the editors would like to go to a fully electronic version that incorporates multi-media links to enhance stories and give readers a broader perspective. We continue to mail copies to those members who are grandfathered in at a cost of \$10 per year for each of these members. The electronic version keeps color photos while the print remains black and white. Due to printing issues all the photos have to be somewhat overexposed to prevent being muddied. Postal costs and printing costs go up and the expense for communication is money that could be spent on grants for the projects in communities throughout the state. Many of our members have opted out of the print edition. The board continues to discuss whether or not to continue with the print edition. If you have an opinion, please share it with us cmganews@gmail.com. You can opt out of the print edition by checking the appropriate box on the membership form. Thank you!!

“However many years she lived, Mary always felt that 'she should never forget that first morning when her garden began to grow'.”

— Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*

When did you discover you liked gardening? Were your parents gardeners?

Lynne Warren, AMG 2011

I was having dinner with friends last week and the topic came up. Friends who have known me for over a decade were curious, especially now that I’m consumed with designing, developing and acquiring plants, seeds and space!



I have always been attracted to the outdoors—flowers, trees, moss, animals. Discovering the secrets in the natural world is thrilling; sharing those discoveries, even more so. But, my first introduction to plants came in a cereal box in the form of tomato and green pepper seeds. The back of the box had instructions on how to germinate seeds in egg shells. So, with an empty cardboard egg carton, 12 egg shelf halves, a piece of plastic wrap and a sunny windowsill, my passion for gardening was born. I was 10 years old. At the end of that summer, I

was harvesting tomatoes and peppers for my family. I was hooked.

There were no gardeners in my family. My grandfather started vegetable gardening when I was 17. My dad began gardening when I was 24 and my mother, recently retired, is now discovering she does not have a black thumb.

I was 47 when I became a master gardener. I had seen the information and wondered if it would be beneficial for me to take it. It was a life changing event. The things I’ve learned have given me even more confidence and there is now very little that I won’t try to do. My guest room becomes a plant nursery in the winter and my husband indulges me by adding more raised beds for my seedlings, shopping for plants and visiting gardens. I’ve made some really good friends doing outreach and have pushed myself in civic activities. The journey for me seems to have just begun and I am enjoying the ride more than ever.

What’s your gardening story? Share it with us at cmganews@gmail.com

Adventures in Gardening

Nancy Hinchey

I first became interested in gardening while living in Boston and going to school at Northeastern University. My roommates and I lived in The Fenway section of town and had the opportunity to share a garden plot in the famous Victory Gardens. Our enthusiasm for gardening in this historic site was enhanced by dreams of adding fresh veggies to our fast food student diet.



We were among many new gardeners working side by side with the experienced green thumbs who really knew what they were doing. Their neat rows of vegetable plants were labeled and laid out using best methods for getting the best yield. We were in awe of their fences, trellises and watering cans. Our sorry little plot suffered from our inexperience. The only bumper crop we had was radishes. We had rows and rows of these little cuties. But honestly, how many can you eat at one time? As students we were busy going to classes, studying for final exams and going away for summer vacations. Weeks would go by between visits to our garden plot to weed and water. It was no surprise that by mid-summer it was a sorry mess. Weeds had staked their claim and mocked our efforts. The last time I checked it for tomatoes in August rats chased me out of the pathway. They had taken over from the weeds and were clearly in charge of eating any and all crops from our plot. They were a bunch of city thug rats.



My next attempt at any kind of gardening came years later when my husband and I bought our first house in Hebron in 1985. And what did I plant? Not radishes or tomatoes but gladiolas. I didn't think any rats would eat those but the deer loved them. We soon learned we were living in country thug deer territory.

Today I am armed with my Master Gardener certificate ('09) and know how to get into and out of horticulture trouble. I still struggle with providing the proper growing conditions for my vegetables and flowers, doing battle with slugs and black spot. But my love of gardening, designing and landscaping will never grow old.

Project Update: Hartford Public High School

Hartford Public High School NAF Academy of Nursing and Health Science has a greenhouse in between the Biology/Environmental Science classroom and Health Careers/Global Health classroom. This space is a perfect spot for teaching students about growing plants in terms of health, botany, environmental science, medicine etc. The greenhouse needed some supplies to get it going and CMGA granted \$300.00 to the school to purchase these items.

The school purchased soil, herb pots, seed starter pots, greenhouse shelves and some seeds.

The students planted squash, tomatoes, and beans in the greenhouse in March and then the plants were planted the school garden in June.

The students also grew some cool weather crops including radishes, lettuce and arugula that was harvested before school ended in June.

Two students constructed the much needed greenhouse shelves. Previously there were cafeteria tables in the greenhouse, which were functional but were not good when plants needed to be watered. The shelves also allowed for better use of space and sunlight as many of the plants could be placed on upper or lower shelves depending on the amount of sunlight required.

About 70 freshmen and 30 sophomores were able to plant flowers and vegetables in the greenhouse and in garden beds in the school courtyard. The students enjoyed taking care of their plants and watching them grow. Some students had prior knowledge of growing plants but some had never had that experience.

We were able to harvest some of the radishes before school was over. Most students did not enjoy the taste of a radish right from the garden. Next year we will have to make a nice salad.

As our herbs began to grow some of the students realized that they were familiar with some of the herbs because they use the herbs at home to make sofrito. I mistakenly thought that sofrito was the Spanish word for cilantro. I now realize that sofrito is a delicious blend of herbs and spices used by many cultures in a variety of dishes.





My community outreach project began as an idea that reminded me of who I am. It prompted me to ask myself what is important to me, and what can I give back to this world. The unspeakable act of violence that shattered nearby Sandy Hook School last December spurred me to take action and create a healing garden for our children. After discussing with Principal Len Tomasello of New Milford Intermediate School about potential volunteer projects it was decided that an outdoor classroom/healing garden would be gratefully appreciated by the school population.

I looked at many healing gardens that were created at hospitals. They were meant for meditation and restful moments in the fresh air. The gardens were accessible to those who could not walk well and many featured labyrinths. I read more about labyrinths and found they were being used in schools. Children who were having conflicts could walk the labyrinth together for resolution. Many issues could be refocused by labyrinth use.

I applied to the Connecticut Master Gardeners Association for a grant to buy plants and won approval. I met with the art teachers at the school and discussed my design. A teacher at our school lost her granddaughter Olivia at Sandy Hook. When it was mentioned that pink had been her favorite color Dr. Tomasello suggested planting a pink dogwood tree in Olivia's memory. Award winning poly resin seating that resembled logs was purchased through the generosity of the PTO, with the shipping costs for 26 seats eliminated by the manufacturer.



With the garden plans in place who would help me build this garden? A newspaper article advertised that a local landscaping company called “Yard Apes” was looking for service projects. They participated in a National Day of Service with other landscapers across the country. The only requirement was that the project had to be accomplished in one day - April 22nd! They agreed to help with our project and brought about a dozen volunteers from the Brookfield Business Network International plus their own workers. After we discussed the project in detail, Shaye Newman, owner of Yard Apes donated belgian block, grass seed, top soil, and heavy machinery used to level and install the labyrinth. He also set up an automatic watering system for the turf grass being planted. We ordered a Cornus Florida – “Cherokee Brave” pink dogwood tree from them which they delivered to the school!

The last part of my plan was to be sure to feed all those hungry people. Ron and Dianne Pellitier of Jo-Jo’s Deli in New Milford donated a six foot sub.

When I think about what this project has taught me, I am humbled by the experience but also empowered. I see my role as someone who was willing to help and able to co-ordinate all the elements that amazingly came together to give life to my vision. While the project evolved as it went along, there had to be someone to keep it alive, and that was me and my idea.



The following are the officers and directors who will be up for election at the annual meeting.

If you would like to serve on the CMGA board and help determine the direction of the organization, please contact any of the current members (found on page 2 of *The Laurel*). Meetings are held at 10:00 on the first Tues-

day of each month, usually at the Caretaker's Cottage in Elizabeth Park in West Hartford.



CMGA board meeting in June included a private tour of the native plant garden at the Goodwin Conservation Center in Hampton, CT. Followed by a pot luck cookout!

2014 Officers and Directors Slate

OFFICERS:

President: Tracy Burrell

Vice President: Maureen Gillis

Treasurer: Debbye Rosen

Secretary: Florie Ricciuti

DIRECTORS:

For term ending 12/31/16:

Toni Royal

Maureen Gillis

Paul Grimmeisen

Debbye Rosen

CURRENT DIRECTORS (NO VOTE REQUIRED)

Term Expires 12/31/2014

Kathy Baechle

Billy Baxter

Ellen Bender

Marge Bingham

John Carlson

Kim Kelly

Lynne Warren



Term Expires 12/31/2015

Tracy Burrell

Diane Ostheimer

Florie Ricciuti

Connecticut **Master Gardener** Association

2014 Membership Form

for the calendar year Jan. 1, 2014 to Dec. 31, 2014

Dues are \$20

PLEASE PRINT

Name				
Street				
City			State	Zip
Email			Phone ()	
Office Where Certified	Year		RENEWING MEMBER	2013 GRADUATE or NEW MEMBER

Membership is restricted to Master Gardeners
Dues are payable by December 31, 2013. Annual dues are \$20.

Please send your check, **payable to CMGA**, and this page or a copy to
**Kathy Baechle, 6 Christmas Tree Hill,
 Canton, Ct. 06019**

**OR pay online with your credit card using Paypal at
 www.ctmga.org**

CMGA is run exclusively by volunteers and is always happy to welcome participation by its members. Please check activities with which you are willing to help.

Symposium (March 15) ____	Annual Meeting (Nov) ____
CMGA Board Member (monthly meetings and committee work) ____	Publicity/Public Relations ____
Membership Database Maintenance (Using MS ACCESS) ____	Partners Program Chair ____
Summer Safari (July) ____	Other skills/suggestions? Email us at president@ctmga.org
Annual Meeting (Nov) ____	

Dues provide a subscription to our newsletter, *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.

CMGA would like to take advantage of the latest technology in communications; please let us know if you would prefer to access *The Laurel* online instead of receiving a hardcopy. The online version is in full color; we will send you an email when it's available. All new members, beginning in 2013, have online access only. *The Laurel* currently costs CMGA approximately \$10 per member to print and mail each year to those receiving a hard copy. If you have signed up for online access in the past, you will not receive a hard copy.

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Fall 2013

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“An addiction to gardening is not all bad when you consider all the other choices in life.”

~Cora Lee Bell



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or comments to:

cmganews@gmail.com



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