



The Laurel

Connecticut
Master Gardener Association
Newsletter



Winter, 2014 Volume 27, No. 1

Lessons in Horticultural Diversity



March 15, 2014
Register Now!

Registration must be received by March 8; Walk-ins only after that date

The 21st 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 several aspects of gardening outside traditional boundaries. Our opening speaker will be **Carole Sevilla Brown**, a conservation biologist who believes that a healthy planet begins in your own back yard. Carole's lecture, ECOSYSTEM IN GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE illustrates five steps to conserve natural resources, garden sustainably, and create a welcoming wildlife habitat including birds, butterflies, native pollinators as well as contributing to healthy ecosystems beyond property boundaries.

Our closing speaker will be **Ed Bowen**, a working gardener and proprietor of Opus Plants, a small nursery in southeast New England specializing in unusual herbaceous plants. Ed's lecture WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE? is a survey using plant images of the tensions at the intersection of commerce and horticulture past, present and future, and its influence on the selection and availability of garden plants.



2 AMG Credits Available! Check off the box on the registration form.

Officers 2014

President's Message

President:	Tracy Burrell president@ctmga.org
Vice-President:	Maureen Gillis cmga@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Debbye Rosen debbyerosen@sbcglobal.net
Secretary:	Florie Ricciuti ricciutf@yahoo.com
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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 cmganews@gmail.com

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

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Gardens never sleep...and neither do gardeners!

The trees may be bare and the ground might be hard, but there is always something going on in our yards.

Even in the depth of winter, gardens *and* gardeners are planning for the future—and so is CMGA. 2013 was a fantastic year, but we are not resting on our laurels—pun intended! Our Symposium continues to grow in offerings—please join us on March 15, 2014. It is a not only great value monetarily – we have not increased the registration fee – but it is an even greater value in the chance to learn, and to renew and make friendships with other MGs.

Winter is also time to review your accomplishments in the MG program. Take time to review your hours – you might be closer to becoming an AMG or achieving the next level than you think! Talk to your Coordinator about outreach opportunities this winter and log onto www.uconnmastergardeners.com to record your activities.

Finally, I'd like to give my sincere thanks to departing board members Dick Shaffer and Lynne Warren, welcome new board members Debbye Rosen and Alicia Cornelio and express my heartfelt appreciation and admiration for our outgoing President Maureen Gillis. Maureen is the true definition of a dynamo – whether it's balancing the books, leading a discussion or whipping up a tasty garlic dip, Maureen does everything with energy, humor and dedication. Maureen will continue as VP and also is the Symposium Chair, so I can chant happily that we will be seeing MO-MO-MO-Maureen!!!

Don't forget to renew your membership,

Tracy Burrell



Breakout Sessions at the Annual Symposium

Michael Dietz, a water resources educator, will discuss RAIN GARDENS. He will briefly introduce the topic and go through the basics of how to site, size, install and maintain them. He will also demonstrate two new tools that CT NEMO has developed to help people install their own rain garden.



Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, owner of Natureworks Horticultural Services, will present SHADY CHARACTERS FOR CHALLENGING SPOTS. Shade can be challenging. Dry shade, deep shade, steep slopes, rocky outcroppings can make a gardener discouraged. Don't be! This class will introduce you to a wide range of interesting shade plants for every month of the growing season. She will cover special soil preparation and continued care to make sure your shade garden thrives.

Carol Gracie, retired from the New York Botanical Garden, will present a discussion based on her book SPRING WILDFLOWERS OF THE NORTHEAST: A NATURAL HISTORY, for which she received a National Outdoor Book Award. Behind the beauty of many of our common spring wildflowers are fascinating life histories, important uses in modern medicine, and interesting discoveries about their pollination, seed dispersal, and predation.



Ellen Hoverkamp, the recipient of the Garden Writers Association 2013 Gold Medal for Photography, will present an INTRODUCTION TO FLORAL SCANNER PHOTOGRAPHY. A fun way to create art from your garden will be demonstrated using an affordable flatbed photo scanner and Photoshop Elements. Basics of design theory will inform the spontaneous creation of the bouquet, botanical, still life and macro image.

Lee Reich's lecture FRUITS FOR SMALL GARDENS will include low bush blueberries, currants, gooseberries, and super dwarf apples as among the fruits that visually and proportionally fit well into small gardens. Using fruits that double as ornamentals, variety selection, dwarf rootstocks, and espalier are some of the ways to reap delectable rewards from spaces as small as a balcony to as large as a small suburban yard.



Jeff Woodward will again offer a Hypertufa Container Workshop and **Karen Woodward** will offer a Succulent Wreath Workshop. Space is limited to 16 each session; a materials fee of \$7 (hypertufa) and \$25 (wreath) is payable at the class (do not send in with registration as it will be filled on a first come, first served basis; please bring exact change or a check.)

Invasive Worms in Connecticut

**By William Flahive,
Intern, CT Master Gardener and Composter Programs**

Worms are generally considered an overall benefit to the soil but they can be destructive. The US National Park Service and others who are concerned about the health of our forests and woodlands report that some species of worms, particularly the recently introduced earthworm from Asia, the *Amyntas agrestis* (also called the Crazy Snakeworm), are destroying the forest understory. This, in turn, can lead to the introduction of invasive plants and the slowing or failure of forest regeneration. While looking like common night crawlers, Crazy Snakeworms are distinguished by their startling, rapid movement when disturbed.

Recently, these worms have shown up in Connecticut gardens. They probably arrived from Asia in plant soil and were accidentally introduced into gardens by horticultural materials such as mulch and compost. These worms have been discovered in mulch in my yard, in friends' yards and, in one case, they had destroyed the understory of a wooded area between two homes.

In the garden, Crazy Snakeworms consume the top organic layer of the soil and mulch and deplete the nutrients that beneficial organisms, such as night crawlers, beetles, millipedes and other organisms, need to survive and keep the soil healthy. The full extent of the consequences of their activity is still unknown, but they do displace these other, beneficial soil dwelling organisms.

Crazy Snakeworms move quickly along the ground in a snake-like movement, making them difficult to catch and distinguishing them from other worms in the garden. They squirm violently when handled, sometimes leaping from one's hand. It has the ability to shed its tail, which continues to squirm, while the rest of the earthworm will try to escape. They are usually found in groups. The Common Nightcrawler is slow moving and usually seen alone.

Crazy Snakeworms are mostly surface dwellers that also make shallow cuts into the earth where they lay the cocoons containing their eggs under a layer of black castings (aka worm poop).

In August 2013, a couple from Shelton came into the Master Gardener office in Bethel with a container of Crazy Snakeworms and some associated castings. The worms were not found in their garden but in their lawn. The couple reported having noted lots of worms in their garden in the past few years which seemed to be changing the structure of the soil, but they believed that worms were good for the soil and didn't think much more about it. They had also seen worm casting piles in their lawn last year but assumed that they were benign. There were a few more piles this last spring, but after the period of high humidity and rain which Connecticut experienced in June, the lawn became covered with the casting piles. The couple reported that their lawn had been virtually destroyed by these worms, which had taken all of the nutrition from their lawn's surface.



What can be done to save our garden and lawns from the Crazy Snakeworm?

US National Park Service research, including the use of a natural predator, the salamander, has failed to find an organic control mechanism. Organic Neem and *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) were tested but found to be ineffective. Discussions with professionals indicate that until it becomes an economic problem, that is, reducing the regeneration of trees in infested forests or affecting food or grain production, research dollars may not be made available to search for a solution.

For the homeowner, the best defense is a good offense. The Snakeworms might be discouraged from the garden and thus from moving to the lawn by shoveling up their casting layers and an inch or so of soil below the surface where the cocoons that contain the snake's eggs may be located. The castings could be put in a black plastic bag and placed in a sunny place to be killed by the sun's heat and then into the trash. Worms that are caught could be put in a pail with a mixture vinegar and water to die.

This is not the end of the war. It is just a first battle that requires continuous vigilance but it is a battle that should be fought. For more info (UVM), see <http://blog.uvm.edu/jgorres/amyntas/>

Meet our Newest MG Coordinators

From SOHO to the Bronx to Bethel, making paper with flax and painting with wax, monitoring a stand of chestnut trees or taking care of her honeybees, Fairfield County Coordinator **Julia Cencebaugh** has been called encaustic, exuberant and enthusiastic, but never exhausted!

The president of the Ridgefield Garden Club, project coordinator for Partners for Plants and an American Chestnut tree monitor for the USDA and the American Chestnut Foundation, Julia has hit the ground running with her new post, already meeting with the MGs who implemented and maintain the Extension Center vegetable garden, discussing plans for expansion and also working with the Fairfield County Extension Council on enhancing the Center's ground for birds and butterflies.

Making paper from natural materials led to her love of plants, which ultimately led her to study landscape design at the NY Botanical Garden, where she focused on public garden



design. She considers nature her muse and utilizes an old form of painting called encaustic or hot wax painting, incorporating wax from her bees in her creations. Julia became a MG in 2009.

A winner of the Rosie Jones award from the Garden Club of America for her "exuberance of joy and enthusiasm in horticulture," Julia also lobbies for the environment and regularly attends the National Affairs and Legislation Conference each March in Washington DC.



Who is not offended when told that a moose was spotted and she was the first one who came to mind? Who gave out walnuts as a token at this year's graduation? Who has webbed toes and can wiggle her ears? None other than Middlesex County's **Gail Reynolds**.

Gail grew up in the New Haven area and was in the fifth class of women to enter Yale, where she went on to attend the masters program in Forestry. She cemented her relationship with her husband when she found purple fringed orchis (was *Habenaria*, now *Platanthera*) growing on his property in Vermont. Who can resist that?

Gail worked in technology for almost 30 years to make a decent living (all the while landscaping and gardening with native plants) and after completing the MG program in 2011, spent so much time in Haddam MG Office that the staff felt she needed her own office! And now she has one.

Gail (now an Advanced Master Gardener) wants to use her technology background to enhance the MG program and enjoys taking future MGs on walks around the Haddam Extension Center grounds and environs. Gail also runs the Higganum Farmers' Market, is Chair of the Haddam Conservation Commission, and Treasurer/Technology Director of the Haddam Land Trust. She was a CMGA Board member until accepting the position as MG Coordinator last spring. And she loves radishes!



2013 Graduates and Advancements

Bartlett Arboretum

Kenny Angarita
Pamela W. Barry
Jane Broome
Kenneth Brown
Juliet S. Cassone
Gay Clarke
Steven Giacose
Andrew Giordano
Carol Giunta
Carolyn Schaefer Glebas
Melanie Haven
Noelle Nevins Henderson
Margaret Hiatt
Barbara Kingsley Hirtle
Penelope K. Hoblyn
Shelley Kruk
Nan Lenore
Barbara Mayer
Bette Mocariski
Cait Morrison
Phil Schmidt
Ty Tan
Maggie Thompson
Eileen A. Vernik
Elizabeth Wieber
Donna G. E. Wimpfheimer
Lisa Wysocki

Fairfield/New Haven

Carrie Aitkenhead
Heidi Bender
Stella Caron
Amanda Chisholm
Jean Early
Tom Fontana
Erik Frisk
Hilary Gurdon
Serena Guerrette
Jack Hughes
Esther Johnston
Liz Keister
Nancy Kline
Ann Lockhart
Michele MacKinnon
Lou Menendez
Lisa Roller
Marsha Scherr
Karlyn Sturmer
Andrea Veikos
Jessica Wong
Adam Argraves
Allison Buckley
Adrienne Caruso
Elizabeth Craig
Adrian Fischer
Cheryl Freeman
Bernie Grant
Christine Griffin
Deanne Hobson
Jackie Hutchings
Nico Jordan
Kathleen Kiley
Tara Lee
Thomas MacGregor
Chris Majewski
Wendy Panikker
Nancy Scanlon
Cathy Setterlin
Andrew Summers
Richard Wenzel

Windham/Tolland

Angel Accomando
Nancy Bowden
Edward Dale
Gerard Ferrari
Gail Hamsher
Debra Hultgren
Patricia Lyons
Vivien Von Walstrom
Joyce Wicks
Kim Blair
Woody Crowley
Anne Donovan
Elizabeth Grey
Maureen Hart
Ruth Karl
Charles Russell
Kevin Wheeler

Please send any omissions or corrections to:
cmganews@gmail.com

2013 Graduates and Advancements

Middlesex/New London

Paul A. Armond
Patricia A. Bryzgel
Susan D. Burlison
Victoria De Angelis
Bonny Durbin
Joanne Goduti
Jean Wells Golicz
Cynthia Greenblatt
Kate Grimaldi
Merilyn Gustafson
Janice Hall
Abbe Hctor
Elizabeth Johnson
Margaret Steele Kaczorowski
Matt Klucha
Sherri-Ann Martin
Evelyn McKay
Rob Mirer
Dottie Moon
Jackie Parente
Faye Psillos
Lucretia H. Porizky
Arlene Raymond
Nancy Seaman
Cheryl Seger
Ken Sherrick
Rachel B. Shore
Janice Sina
Emily C. Smith
Karen Stein
Lisa Warkowski
Gina Wildermuth
Marilyn Zeeb

Hartford/Litchfield

Meredith Arcari
Robin Baena
Barbara Beaudin
Douglas Beebe
Karen Berger
Bo Bogart
Donna Brehm
Valerie Bryan
Claire Burnett
Jonathan Chesler
Jane Comerford
Mary Eberle
Janice Johnston
Nancy Jordan
Theodora Kachergis
Susan Kelleher
Richard Keppleman
Jennifer Klinger
Tina Knowlton
Diane Lewis
David Lewis
Edith McClure
Brad McDonald
Marilyn McGrath
Judith Melchreit
Michael Mikolowsky
Andrea Moschella
Stephen Nelson
Marilynn Palmer
Godfrey Pearlson
Patricia Salner
Carol Salisbury
Donna Stout
Jennifer Strassfeld
Jane Szollosy
Thomas Tozzo
Jacqueline Wasta

AMG

Bartlett

Christine Carlucci
Dianne Farley
Barbara Gerson
Sarah Graber
Raymond Long
Michael Love
Peter Russell
Katherine Smith
Amanda Sutton

Fairfield/NHaven

Margaret Barnes
Henry Bissonette
Jane Butler
Siobhan Deveney
Trish Helm
Holly Kocet
Carol Lambiase
Lynne Lanziero
Florie Ricciuti
Libby Root
Flo Vannoni

Middlesex/NLond

Tad Bartles
Linda Clough
Nancy Grenier
Tim Grilley
Gail Kalison Reynolds
Karen Rottner
Linda Stuhlman
Sherry Van Liere
Windham/Tolland
Mary Ann Gates
Emily Logee-Savoie
Joe Suich, Sr.

Hartford/Litch

Jean Fletcher
Darlene Normandin
Kitty Penton
Ardell Wilson
Sandy Ingellis
Fred Norton

AMG Cont'd

Hartford/Litchfield

Ellen Eberle
Beverly Savulak

AMG BRONZE

Bartlett

Susan Carlson
Janet Kruse

Middlesex/NLondon

Tracy Burrell
Chantal Foster
Maureen Gillis
Janis Solomon
Fairfield/NHaven
Margot Adams
Ruth Flahive
Rosemary Gramatico
Tim Ohsann

Kathryn Ruzek

Robert Wojciechowski

Hartford/Litchfield

Faith Geist

AMG SILVER

Bartlett

Patrick Connor
Ros Brady
Cathy Lynch
Beth Miller
Sandy Paget

New London

Tracy Burrell
Hartford/Litchfield
Pat Eldredge
Fairfield/NHaven
Ruth Flahive
Fran Litwin
Kathie Ohsann
MaryEllen Unger

2013 Graduates and Advancements

AMG GOLD

Bartlett

Dawn Fiss
Nedra Gillette
Pam Hale
Daniel Schiefferle
Carrie Sears

Fairfield/NHaven

Allan Brown

Hartford/Litchfield

Uta Zickfeld

New London

Tracy Burrell

AMG RUBY SILVER

Bartlett

Linda Albanese
Phyllis Atkinson
Ganga Duleep
Lesley Gehr
Lillemor Wallmark

Hartford

Dick Shaffer

AMG RUBY GOLD

Bartlett

Ganga Duleep
Alice B. Smith

NEW!! COASTAL GARDENING CERTIFICATES

Debra Barberi	Ellen Bender
Felise Cressman	Kacey Constable
Ganga Duleep	Robin Franklin
Antonio Frederick	Christine Galla
Sarah Graber	Ron Ianucci
Curt Johnson	Christine Kane
Emily Logee-Savoie	Kathleen Mag
Rebecca Martorelli	Lori Moralees
Karen Pierson	Evelyn Rowe
Janis Solomon	Deborah Soresino
Diane Stanzione	Kathy Strom
Linda Stuhlman	Jane Weimar
Gisella Weissbach-Licht	
Stacey Whitney	

AMG RUBY

Middlesex/NLondon

Tracy Burrell
Bev Weymouth
Stacey Whitney

AMG RUBY BRONZE

Bartlett

Greg Moonie

Hartford

Sarah Bailey

Windham/Tolland

George Smith

CONGRATULATIONS to those who won a **FREE** ticket to the Symposium at the graduations and annual meeting!!!

Ed Dale, Merilyn Gustafson, Lillemor Wallmark, Wendy Panikker, David Lewis, and Judith Doll-Foley!



We Have a New Editor!

We extend a warm welcome to Alicia Cornelio, who will take over as editor beginning with the next issue (Thank you, Alicia and several other members who offered to help!) Alicia is a computer analyst, educator, librarian, and MG. She authored several articles on librarianship that have appeared in various education journals and is the author of "Elizabeth Park: A Century of Beauty," written to bring awareness to Hartford's gem and leave a lasting record of its rich history and beauty. Please continue to send articles to her at cmganews@gmail.com.





Connecticut
Master Gardener
 Association



2014 Membership Form

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

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.

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) ___ | |

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.

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

Kathy Baechele
 6 Christmas Tree Hill
 Canton, CT 06019

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THE LAUREL 2014



Win a free ticket to the Symposium; enter our "TShirt Saying Contest" and if your entry is chosen, you receive a free ticket (or your registration will be refunded)! Enter by Feb 15, 2014. Email your saying(s) to cmga@comcast.net...fame is at your doorstep!

www.ctmga.org



The Laurel

Connecticut
Master Gardener Association
Newsletter

Spring, 2014 Volume 27, No. 2



Extension System Celebrates 100 Years

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Smith-Lever act that established the funding and creation of the Cooperative Extension System. This centennial presents an opportunity to honor past contributions UConn Extension educators and volunteers. It also challenges us to look ahead and ask ourselves what bold new ideas will increase the impact of the UConn Extension System in the next century. Areas of focus will be Sustainable Future of Agriculture, Healthy Living, and the Promotion of Locally Grown Products.

In 1914 when Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, it was the culmination of five years of debate over how agricultural extension work should be organized nationwide. The act brought together land-grant colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to further Seaman A. Knapp's demonstration work as the most effective means of transferring new ideas to farmers.

Over the years, home demonstration and education has extended to home gardeners as well. The Home and Garden Education Centers <http://www.extension.uconn.edu> provide valuable resources to the public, often by Master Gardener volunteers.

In his remarks at the CMGA Symposium, Associate Dean of Extension Michael O'Neill thanked Master Gardeners for their contributions. As lifelong learners and volunteers, you bring knowledge, awareness and expertise to the public, and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Everyone is encouraged to compose Thank-You notes to past and present extension coordinators who have made a difference in their life or business that will be used in year long promotions. You can email it to stacey.stearns@uconn.edu or mail to: The UConn Extension, 1376 Storrs Road, Unit 4134, Storrs, CT, 06269-4134. Look for upcoming events and information to celebrate the centennial on their website through the year.

Officers 2014

President's Message

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Marge Bingham	John Carlson
Alicia Cornelio	Paul Grimmeisen
Kim Kelly	Diane Ostheimer
Toni Royal	

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The Calendar was wrong - Spring actually began on March 15, 2014!

Over 300 Master Gardeners and their guests welcomed spring at our 21st Gardening Symposium on a beautiful Saturday morning. After an early rain, the sun came out and the day was glorious, easily 20 degrees higher than the day before. Attendees learned, laughed, renewed old friendships and made new ones.

I want to thank the dozens of volunteers - from teens to octogenarians - who put in hundreds of hours to make the event a success. Special thanks to the Symposium Committee including Co - Chairs Maureen Gillis and Diane Ostheimer and Core Members Kathy Baechle, Billy Baxter, Marge Bingham, Tracy Burrell, Jamie Burgess, John Carlson, Fran Maynard, Diana Ringelheim, Debbye Rosen, Toni Royal and Richard Shaffer.

This issue of The Laurel is chock full of great stuff, including an interview with Mary Villa, Curator of the Connecticut College Arboretum, and information on the FREE Private Tour of the Arboretum for CMGA members and their guests, which will be held on June 7.

For folks in the western part of Connecticut who'd like to attend a CMGA board meeting, but don't wish to travel to Hartford's Elizabeth Park, we will be at the Fairfield County Extension Center, in Bethel on June 3rd, from 10 - noon. CMGA Board meetings are open to our members - please join us!

Check out the MG database for upcoming outreach activities and don't forget to record your educational and outreach hours!

Tracy Burrell

2014 CMGA Symposium Success

A huge thanks to the outstanding job of the Symposium Committee as well as all the Master Gardeners, friends, and vendors (about 350 attendees) who came out in support of the event. When you attend the Symposium, you invest not only in yourself by the knowledge gained, but also in the funds raised which are used for CMGA grants, stipends for the Master Garden Program Coordinators and scholarships for MG Interns. We look forward to seeing you at our 2015 Symposium, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2015.



Natives from the Goodwin Forest and Conservation Area

**By Kim Kelly,
Horticultural Director, Goodwin Forest and Conservation Area**

Well, there were no planting of snow peas on St. Patrick's Day this year, although I did consider an auger! It is technically spring, but I can't wait for it to truly feel like spring. The landscape comes alive and Mother Nature shows off her amazing diversity and energy. It never ceases to amaze me. It is as if I am waiting for old friends to join the party! Spring at the Richard Haley Native Plant Arboretum is akin to a 'Block party' as we walk through the gardens peering for signs of our friends. So, as I sit and wonder if that snow storm prediction next week is an evil joke, I am daydreaming of some of my favorite old friends I cannot wait to see again.



One of my favorites is *Packera aurea*, formerly *Senecio aureus*, commonly called golden ragwort, native to Eastern North America. We frequently use groundcovers as living mulch. They are extremely beneficial to the soil and provide habitat for beneficial insects and other predators. In the Aster family, *Packera aurea* display beautiful, simple daisy like yellow flowers

that rise up from dark green basal foliage, creating a spectacular carpet of color in the spring. Grow them under a spring blooming shrub or tree such as *Cercis Canadensis* and you will be wowed! The toothed heart shaped foliage stays intact all season and in some protected locations will be semi- evergreen, forming a lovely green carpet. Saving seed is easy, as they will self-sow. However we have never had them 'leap' anywhere in our gardens.

They are tough little plants and very easy to transplant. It is a trouble free, pest free perennial that is wonderful in a variety of soil conditions, but thrives in moist shade. We grow it everywhere; shade, sun, moist and dry locations. It makes a great border plant that also tolerate some foot traffic. Best of all it is deer resistant and a wonderful early season nectar and pollen source.



Another under-used favorite is *Pycnanthemum muticum*, or mountain mint. In the *Lamiaceae* or mint family, it certainly does not share the aggressive tendencies of its kin. Growing 1-3 feet, it tolerates many different soil conditions, grows well in bright shade, but

thrives in the sunny border. Its flowers are pale pink with showy silvery bracts, surrounded by wide lustrous silver foliage. Silver foliage plants are very popular in the garden and this one will not disappoint! With a pleasing aroma and compact form it literally 'hums' with activity as one of the more popular pollinator plants in our garden. Native to the Eastern N. America, it is pest and disease free. With its compact clump forming habit it is worthy of more formal settings or you can pair it up with *Echinacea purpurea* and *Eupatorium perfoliatum* and have a beautiful low maintenance pollinators dream!

To view more native plants, tour the Richard D. Haley Native Wildlife Garden at Goodwin Forest. For more information on our programs and plants please visit

www.friendsofgoodwinforest.org



Tour the Connecticut College Arboretum

**By Tracy Burrell,
President, Connecticut Master Gardeners**

"Trees are my life!" Connecticut College Arboretum's Curator and Information Resources Manager Mary Villa once said during a job interview. She got the job. Mary's knowledge, drive, enthusiasm and yes, a lifelong devotion to trees, has led her to a unique and fascinating position at the 770-plus acre Arboretum in New London, Connecticut. The arboretum features a wildflower meadow, a bog, and a four-acre garden of choice ornamental trees and shrubs arranged in a series of garden rooms.



Graduating from UCONN with a degree in landscape architecture, Mary worked in the public and private sector for a number of years as a planner and landscape designer when she saw an ad for the position of Curator at the Arboretum. Intrigued, Mary applied, and she says it was "serendipity."

A number of people with wide variety of educational backgrounds, experience and skillsets had applied for the job.

But, when Mary and Arboretum Director Glenn Dreyer met, they both knew she was a perfect fit for his vision of the position, which on any given day might involve tromping through a bog, giving a lecture and researching through the thousands of documents in the Arboretum's library. The ability to work with students, faculty, administrators and the general public was a must.

"The primary mission of the Arboretum is education," Glenn said. "It is a living museum that is changing constantly, so the ability to recognize and adapt our plans to those changes, whether caused by the plants themselves, the surrounding environment, the weather and human interaction, including our own management and maintenance of the grounds, is critical. Having someone like Mary, who can navigate through a complex environment like this, is great."

Mary's primary responsibility is keeping track of the Arboretum's thousands of plants that comprise the Native Plant Collection, the Campus International Tree Collection and the Caroline Black Garden. She maintains a database with the source of a plant, its condition, location and other key data, including any changes in nomenclature and classification. On a five year cycle, Mary conducts a thorough review of all the plantings, including measurements, changes in condition, and other information.

She also oversees the Arboretum's library and documentation. One of the initiatives Mary completed in 2013 was digitizing all the hand drawn maps of all the tracts the college acquired over the years leading to the Arboretum's present size today.

Another initiative is a new garden plan for the plots around the Arboretum's greenhouse, which was recently renovated and refurbished, including a geothermal system. A student project involves analyzing the impact of construction, roads, sidewalks and other hardscaping on plantings around campus.

Mary also recently updated the docent guide for the Campus International Tree Tour – there are now over 80 trees highlighted in the guide, giving docents more leeway re: tailoring tours to the phenological changes in the plantings.

"Every day is a new learning experience for me," Mary said, "I couldn't be happier."

June 7, 2014 - Connecticut College Arboretum Tour

CMGA members (and their guests) are cordially invited to participate in a free, beautiful, private Spring Tour of the Connecticut College Arboretum.

Register before May 16th by email to Tracy Burrell at
burrell.tracy@gmail.com.

Raised Garden Revelation

By Alicia Cornelio
Editor, Laurel

The benefits of raised garden beds are well known. So, why do many home gardeners shy away from this method? Deep digging is hard work, and building raised beds can be expensive. Many home yards are too small for wide row planting. After a lifetime of gardening, my knees finally forced me to reconsider. Not willing to give up on my favorite pastime, I reconsidered raised bed gardening.

My first decision was the kind of material to use. Deep digging requires no materials at all. But it is hard work with annual maintenance. The soil must be dug down or piled up at least 12 inches. Erosion of the sides need constant attention.

Raised beds can be constructed with a variety of materials. The expense depends on how permanent a structure is desired. Wood is most popular. However, the corners need to be braced. Pressure treated wood can't be used due to the leaching of poisonous chemicals into the soil. So, there will be eventual rot depending on the type of wood used. Average life of wood raised beds is five years.

The more permanent choice is cinder blocks. They are more expensive, but they will never break down. They are easy to construct due to their stackable shape. There is no need for bracing corners, hence they are easy to dismantle later. But especially, two rows of cinder block raise the beds quickly to 16 inches. A gardener can sit on the wall comfortably while cultivating, no more bending.

The next consideration was garden layout and height. I chose rectangles no wider than four feet to reach into the middle easily from both sides. The raised beds are smaller than my traditional garden bed since walking paths are eliminated. I decided on three tiers, 24 inches, for comfortable sitting and reaching. The added depth helped the plant roots grow much longer. Despite tilling every spring, twenty years of walking on my old garden turned my soil into concrete. Annual amendments to the soil just didn't keep up with the compaction. Seeing my plants grow three times greater made me a believer. Without any other change to my gardening techniques, my yields are now substantial.



Once the layout was determined, construction began. First requirement was a level site. Laying cinder blocks, as well as wood timbers, requires an even base. It amazed me how my site looked relatively even, yet was inches off level. Digging with a shovel and hoe while checking with a level was tolerable knowing it would be the last time I

would ever dig again! Laying down the first course was the hardest. The first course was laid slightly under the ground to prevent the wall from bulging at the bottom. Putting soil in the cinder block holes added stability to the wall. Once the first course was laid, the second and third courses went up quickly. Overlapping the cinder blocks at the corners prevented the abutting walls from pulling apart.

Now that the buffet was open, I had more than the usual critter challenges. The most important placement of fencing was in the *bottom* of the raised bed. Ground hogs and chipmunks will tunnel under the walls and make permanent residence in raised beds. Discarded fencing is ideal since appearance is not important under the soil and will save on expenses. Unfortunately, three courses, 24 inches high, was not enough to keep critters from entering above. A two foot fence was adequate before, but a two foot wall was easy to climb. I needed to fence around my most tasty vegetables. However, pushing the fencing into the soft soil was very easy.

Some gardeners worry about rock ash in cinder blocks. If this is a concern, line the wall sides with plastic. Leave the bottom uncovered for drainage. I also used garden refuse, such as wood sticks and stones, as the first layer, to improve drainage.



Now, the raised beds were ready to be filled with soil and amendments. I found helpful soil calculators on the Internet to help determine how much soil is needed to fill a raised bed. At first I couldn't believe the amount of soil I needed and disregarded the calculated amount. I learned the hard way that the calculators are accurate and wasted some money on a second delivery of soil.

Did the benefits outweigh the expense and effort? Absolutely!! I originally calculated that it would take seven years of produce value to repay the cost of the construction. After the first year, I've decreased the time to three years.



Due to the grade, the third course is under ground in the front while above ground in the back of the raised beds.

The unexpected high yields were a new challenge. I had to get an extra freezer! I can now grow less of favorite vegetables and make extra space to try new vegetables and herbs. The beds are attractive, the garden is smaller, the



plants are easy to access, weeding is minimal, and animal deterrents are easy to install. Most importantly, no more kneeling, bending, hoeing, and shoveling is necessary!

BITS AND PIECES



It is easy to create your own CMGA Membership Card. This card enables members to take advantage of discounts with CMGA partners. Click on this link to begin:

<http://www.ctmga.org/#/cmga-membership/4516967603>

Look at the bottom of the page for the gray box and link.



Congratulations! to Marisa Fede (at left); winner of the CMGA T-shirt contest who offered the most popular saying, "**CMGA Just Another Day at the Plant**".

Congratulations to the Greenwich Community Garden for winning a grant from the CMGA to help purchase tools for their gardens. Their goal is to create access to affordable, local, healthy and sustainable food sources for all Greenwich residents.

May 5 to May 11, 2014 - National Wildflower Week: There are many trails in Connecticut where you can enjoy wildflowers.

<http://alltrails.com/us/connecticut>

<http://www.theday.com/section/hikingguide/>

Save the Date! The **CMGA Summer Safari** and Semi-Annual Meeting is **July 26, 2014!** Look on the CMGA Website and Facebook page for the latest details. The summer issue of *The Laurel* will contain all information just before the event.

June is Laurel month, when our state flower is in beautiful bloom. If you haven't visited lately, Nipmuck State Forest Mountain Laurel Sanctuary is still the best trail to view mountain laurel. It is a driving trail, perfect for accessibility, with picnic tables. Plan a visit this June and enjoy lunch among the laurels!

<http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?>



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The Laurel

Connecticut Master Gardener Association Newsletter



Summer, 2014 Volume 27, No. 3

Countdown! Connecticut Master Gardener Association's Annual "Summer Garden Safari" and Semi-annual meeting

The annual Summer Garden Safari is a little more than a month away, so now is the time to take a few minutes to sign up. This event is always a wonderful experience....also a great way to meet Interns and Master Gardeners from other counties!

Where: Meet and park at Zion Episcopal Church
326 Notch Hill Rd
North Branford, CT 06471
<http://www.zionepiscopalchurch.net/directions/>



When: Saturday, July 26, 2014 beginning at 8:30 am

Program

- 8:30 Buffet breakfast provided by CMGA at Zion Episcopal Church
- 9:00 CMGA Semi-Annual Meeting
- 9:30 and 10:30 Busses bring us to tour a private garden and Natureworks
- 12:00 Bring a lunch and join us back at Zion;
CMGA will supply drinks and a special dessert
- 1:00 10% Discount back at Natureworks for CMGA members (transport on your own)



Dessert after lunch will feature a new UConn ice cream creation called "Centennial Caramel Crunch" in celebration of 100 years of Cooperative Extension Service. It is vanilla ice cream with salted caramel and nestle crunch pieces. This is a limited edition flavor not sold at the UCONN Dairy Bar. Don't miss it!

Continue on page 3

Officers 2014

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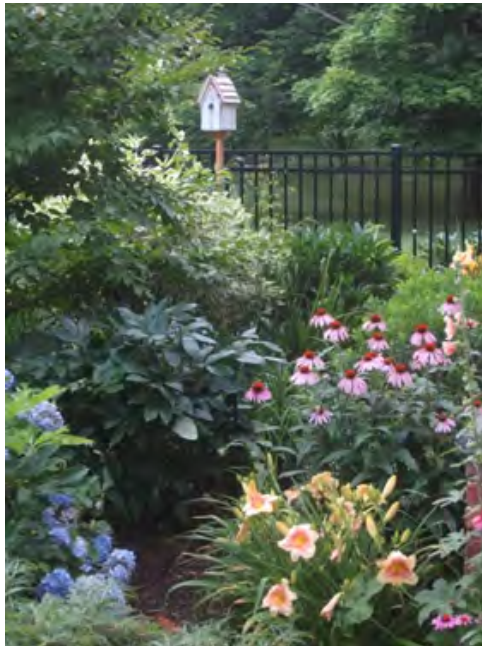
Gardeners are excellent resource managers. We'll pore over our gardening journals, talk with other MGs, document and tweak our processes and work, work, WORK, until we get the results we want. Our time, our labor and our money are precious resources and we want to make sure that we are spending them wisely.

We treat the money you give to CMGA as a precious resource. While we have not increased our membership dues or the fees to attend the CMGA Symposium or Summer Garden Safari in years, we have worked hard to streamline our processes and reduce our expenses. As a result, we've been able to increase the money budgeted for grants.

Earlier this year, we gave each Coordinator a grant of \$300. Thanks to your continued support, the work of the Board, and other dedicated volunteers, in honor of Extension celebrating its 100th anniversary, each Coordinator also received an additional \$200, celebrating 100 years of past achievement and another 100 years of achievement in the future.

Special thanks to Julia Cencebaugh and the folks at the Fairfield County Extension Center in Bethel. We held our June Board Meeting there and had a wonderful time learning more about the site, including touring the pollinator's garden, new foundation plantings and the 80' by 100' demonstration vegetable garden. Grants from CMGA have helped support those projects and others at the site, so once again, your support helps support other MGs, which in turn helps us all in our mission to serve the citizens of CT.

Tracy Burrell



This Year's Summer Safari Tour

Private Garden Tour:
Johanne Mangi's Garden in North Haven

We have a special garden for this year's Safari-- Johanne's garden was initially Glen Terrace Nursery with many fine specimen trees. She has been working on her garden since 2001, but it dates back to the early 1900's. Numerous artists come to paint in her garden, which is truly spectacular.

Natureworks: This educational tour will concentrate on succession of flowering with an emphasis on how to prolong your flowering time. Nancy DuBrule-Clemente will provide us with lots of hands-on information during the tour of her organic demonstration gardens. She will demonstrate gardening techniques as she leads us through Natureworks.

She is the coauthor of *A Country Garden for your Backyard*, (with Marny Smith) and the author of *Succession of Bloom in the Perennial Garden*.

For more information about Natureworks see <http://naturework.com>.



Registration: is only \$15 per person for CMGA members (Interns of course!) and guests. Register by mail or online.

1. Send your check of \$15 payable to CMGA to Maureen Gillis 93 River Rd. East Haddam, CT 06423
2. Reservations and credit card payments can also be made through PayPal at <http://www.ctmga.org/#/summer-safari-pay-online/4551120615>

We hope to see you there! We always have a simply wonderful time and this special Safari is one you won't forget!

Fairfield Extension Welcomes CMGA



The Fairfield Extension Office hosted the June 3rd meeting of the CMGA. Members toured the fruits of their grant money to the Extension that supports several projects.

Foundation plantings have been rehabilitated, a pollinator garden monitors the variety and number of butterfly populations, and a new 80 x 100 demonstration vegetable garden has been created.

The FCAEC Farmer's Market and Bethel Garden Fair provide educational opportunities to the public by answering questions, testing soil, and conducting tours of their demonstration gardens.



Spring Tour Delight



More than 80 Connecticut Master Gardeners assembled at the Connecticut College Arboretum in New London on June 7th for a tour of their beautiful gardens and grounds.

Glenn Dreyer, Arboretum Director, was thrilled with the turnout and predicts the CMGA will be its largest tour this year.

Glenn thanks Tracy Burell for her wonderful work organizing the tour as well as Jim Luce, Leigh Knuttel and their staffs for an expert job showing the arboretum.

The first tour was a view of the trees of the college campus. Many were in full bloom such as the Horse Chestnut (top left), Tulip trees, Fringe trees, and Dogwoods.

Next, CMGA members toured the extensive Native Garden, Azalea garden, and Conifer garden. The cranesbill was in full bloom (bottom right) among the dozen varieties of ferns, native shrubs and other wildflowers. Various azaleas in their collection assure blooming all season. And, the conifer collection is beautiful and unusual.

Last, was the tour of the Caroline Black Garden. This four acre garden features ornamental trees and shrubs arranged in a series of garden rooms.

The CMGA members walked the grounds and gardens for almost six hours as enthusiastic guides extended the time of each tour. Yet, it enticed us for a return visit.



Accidental Environmentalist

By Joe Manfre

Master Gardener and Volunteer at Goodwin Forest

It wasn't long ago that I thought that an environmentalist was someone who chained themselves to a tree to stop a bulldozer from building a shopping mall. I also envisioned myself as the bulldozer operator! However I now feel differently because I have discovered that I have become an environmentalist – not consciously but, of course, accidentally.

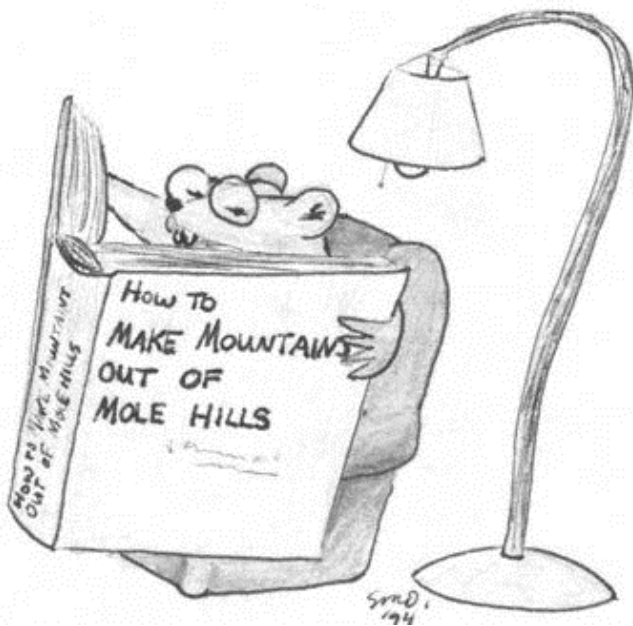
While taking the Master Gardening course I found I was unknowingly doing a lot of environmentally friendly practices. I was diverting driveway runoff into our yard, not because I was concerned that the associated pollution was entering our street storm drain and eventually emptying into a nearby creek, but because I noticed that the downspout water was eroding the driveway asphalt. I certainly didn't want to spend the money to replace the driveway. My first thought was to send the runoff into a deep ditch, filled with gravel but I found I could save a lot of labor and expense by digging out a depression where the runoff could collect and slowly drain and filter out the pollutants before reaching the water table. Eventually I added native plants to the depression which became a rain garden and now we enjoy the flowers and provide a beneficial wildlife area with little upkeep.

In my working days I was the typical weekend yard warrior, buying the four step program and every insecticide and herbicide that the Scotsman on TV advertised. It got to the point that my wife feared to find a neighbor lying unconscious in our yard. Upon retirement, time was abundant and on a fixed income it got me thinking to why I was fertilizing the lawn during its dormant phases. It was a lot cheaper and made more sense to fertilize when the grass started greening-up in May and after the heat of mid-summer. I cut the herbicide and insecticide budget by spot spraying and hand weeding. I have found that environmentalists are cheapskates!

I tried bagging grass clipping years ago and that didn't last long, it was such a bother. Later I learned leaving grass clippings does not add to thatch and provides 1/3 your lawns nitrogen needs. Really! Maybe I'll skip that spring fertilizing. I also abandoned leaf raking; it is a lot of work. I mulch over them with my mower and leave them. I have recently read you can hire landscapers to put leaf mulch on your lawn in the spring. I'm a true visionary!

I raged war with the moles (totally another story) and eventually reached an agreement with them albeit one sided I'm sure. Where their main runs were, I

turned them into planting beds and wood-chipped walkways (chips are available free in our town). Little did I know that I was enlisting in the ecological trend to reduce lawn size? Lawns provide little wildlife benefits and are costly to maintain. Replacing lawn with native plants is wildlife friendly and once established they don't require much care or water. They can be cheap (the theme continues) especially since I have a master gardener friend who is always looking for a home for her extras.



Life-with-the-topdown.com

Well you will never find me chained to a tree anytime soon, but you will not find me operating that bulldozer either. Being an environmentalist requires common sense, the ability not to want to spend money, and the desire to find the lazy way to do things! Perhaps not, but if you want to be an accidental environmentalist it does.

Wasp Watcher!



By Karlyn Sturmer, Master Gardener

On July 4, 2013, I found myself snatching food from the mouth of a babe, food that had been provided by an overworked mother who knew that she had only a few months to live. As a feminist and social worker, how had I come to this?

Actually this was one of the highlights of my Master Gardener intern experience. I was part of a Wasp Watcher project led by Dr. Claire Rutledge of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

The premise of the project is simple. The emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agilus planipennis*, is an invasive beetle thought to have hitchhiked its way to the United States from Asia in wood pallets and has become a serious threat to all species of ash trees in this country. The goal is to detect the movements of the EAB as early as possible so that measures can be taken to slow the spread of this invader and reduce its impact, primarily by banning the movement of firewood and educating the public.

One early-warning system already in place is the placement of purple traps in trees around Connecticut. Their color, along with scented lures, attracts the EAB to the sticky surface. To supplement that detection effort, a clever plan was created to take advantage of the activities of the *Cerceris fumipennis*, a solitary, groundnesting wasp that flies to the canopies of trees, catches buprestid beetles like EAB, paralyzes them, carries them down to the nest she has already dug, and deposits her bounty. On top of that beetle, she will lay an egg and continue that process until a cell in the nest is full, and then cover it over with sand, leaving the eggs with a food supply to sustain them when they hatch into larvae. By collecting some of her catch, researchers have another way to monitor for EAB.

I signed up for the CAES Wasp Watcher Program for two reasons: 1) I was so woefully unlearned in the field of entomology that it provided me an opportunity to increase my knowledge about insects. 2) I was already concerned about the threat to native flora by invasive plants so it was only natural that I would want to know more about both the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Long-Horned Beetle.

After attending a lecture and field trip in Litchfield with Claire and her assistant, Mioara Scott, I was handed a butterfly net, biosurveillance data sheets, collection bags, and my very own preserved EAB. That was it; I was a wasp watcher. I had no site to monitor as none were established in Newtown, so I took what I had learned and went searching. Most promising are baseball fields because they have the hard-packed, mostly vegetation-free, sandy soil that hunting wasps prefer for their nests. The fields must be for children as state law bans any pesticide treatment of their fields, and finally there should be ash trees in the area. It did not take me long to find two fields side by side that were perfect, not just because they met the above requirements, but because there were already some nests and activity by the *C. fumipennis*. Finally, an added bonus, these fields were temporarily out of use, due to construction and large equipment at a third contiguous field. Voila, I was in business.

So it was my job to separate this hard-working wasp from a sampling of her beetles.



There are two ways: 1) Gently scrape back the sand that she has built up around each nest to see if any beetles were dropped upon her re-entry or were excavated from the nest when rain or human activity caused sand to prematurely enter the hole. 2) Use a net to catch the wasp in her flight back to her nest with a beetle in her mouth. When caught, she drops the beetle and when released must hunt for a replacement prey. The goal was to collect a minimum of 50 beetles to provide a proper sampling of the buprestid activity in the area. Each day I bagged up my find and stored them in my freezer.

My site was so productive that I had well over 75 beetles in 4 days, partially due to the help I received when a fellow Master Gardener intern, Jeff Shwartz, joined me on this project. Even though I could consider that my work was done, I remained curious enough about the habits of this wasp that I returned periodically to check the site and observe changes.

My site was so productive that I had well over 75 beetles in 4 days, partially due to the help I received when a fellow Master Gardener intern, Jeff Shwartz, joined me on this project. Even though I could consider that my work was done, I remained curious enough about the habits of this wasp that I returned periodically to check the site and observe changes.

One day in late July, after a week's vacation, I visited "my" ballfields to discover an invader. It was a much larger wasp, and her nests were distinctly different. While the *C. fumipennis* excavates her nests from the inside, pushing the sand upwards to be deposited evenly around the opening, and leaving an almost perfect pencil-sized hole, the new nests were more than twice as large, and looked as if they had been dug in dog-like fashion, with all of the dirt piled on one side of the nest. The new wasp was about 1½ inches long, black with yellow-white stripes. I caught one in my net to examine her closely and then let her go so I could later identify this marauder with the help of my insect books. As I left I found a dead dog-day cicada on the ground, so I gathered that up also. That turned out to be the key to identifying the cicada killer wasp, which is the largest hunting wasp. While this wasp was not the target of the project, I found that I learned more about the *C. fumipennis* through comparing it to the cicada killer.

I consider it a real pleasure to have partnered up with this amazing native wasp whose EAB detection skills far surpass anything that humans have devised. Through the joint efforts of this wasp and wasp watchers in 2013, EAB was found in four new towns in Connecticut as well as in six towns where EAB was already known to be present. Before 2013, EAB had been found in only one county, New Haven. As of late 2013, EAB is now known to be in four counties: Fairfield, Litchfield, Hartford, and New Haven. While this is depressing news, it is better to know where the enemy insect is and try to contain it, then to not know at all. Perhaps by slowing its destructive path, there will be time to find a way to defend ash trees from total extinction. *C. fumipennis*, I'll see you next year.

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Poison Ivy Loves Climate Change

Climate change in New England has been noticed by many gardeners. Perennials are blooming earlier, and insects and plant pests seem more aggressive. But the most popular question on the minds of observant gardeners: *Is poison ivy getting more potent?* Gardeners know this beast well. Even gardens far away from woods will sprout the errant clump of poison ivy under a shrub or among the perennials.

A [much-cited study](#) published in 2006 found that a rise in carbon dioxide both fueled the growth of the weed and increased the potency of urushiol, the oil at the root of the rash. Poison oak and poison sumac also contain urushiol, and all three can cause the blistering rash. Airborne sap-coated soot can also get into the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory system, according to the National Park Service.



Poison ivy was the most responsive species to higher carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Compared to a tree in the experiment that grew 8 percent faster, poison ivy growth accelerated by 149 percent!

According to WebMD, the growth rate of poison ivy has doubled in the last 50 years and 80 percent of people are sensitive to the plant. WebMD recommends a pre-emptive strike. "If contact is suspected, wash the oil off the skin first, using rubbing alcohol. Next, use plain hot water. Finally, use a soap scrap and hot water. Discard the soap scrap, and wash the washcloth. Don't risk using the cloth again! It is also recommended to clean your gardening tools and gloves. The oil can stay on cloth for a year. Handling vines in the winter does not prevent a rash.

The best way to prevent contact is to avoid the plant. Know how to identify poison ivy and give it a wide path!!

Birds in the Garden

Support or Trouble?



By Alicia Cornelio
Editor, Laurel

The effects of birds on your gardens can be positive and negative. Anyone growing fruit has struggled with birds damaging and eating their crop. However, many birds can provide a great natural benefit. Birds help maintain a natural balance between plants and pests and are named by the Uconn Extension as a biological control. And their timing is just right for vegetable gardeners.

In order to feed their young the protein they need, birds that eat seeds and berries in the fall and winter switch to a more protein based diet of insects and other bugs in the spring and summer. Fledglings are insatiable and need food every few minutes. So when birds nest in your yard, they consume a lot of nearby insects.

Some birds eat certain pests, such as slugs, that feed on your vegetable plants, causing more damage than birds themselves. Hummingbirds, orioles, robins, finches and buntings, also help pollinate your crops, increasing yields of vegetables.

Birds will eat insect pests year-round in your garden, if you provide a few of the basic necessities to attract and keep them nearby. Twelve of the best birds for controlling garden pests are:

- ◆ **Bluebirds** love grasshoppers as well as weevils, crickets, and caterpillars. They prefer open spaces so attract them with nesting boxes.
- ◆ **Chicadees** and their relatives the **titmice** eat mostly insects. A feeder full of sunflower seeds will keep them around through the winter.
- ◆ **Hummingbirds** are known for loving nectar, but also eat fruit flies and gnats as well as the aphids from leaves.
- ◆ **Nuthatches** feed on seeds and nuts during the winter, but in summer they're 100 percent insectivorous, raising their young exclusively on insects.
- ◆ **Phoebes** feast on every kind of insect by swooping down into water and scooping them out of the air.
- ◆ **Robins** eat grubs, winged insects and caterpillars, keeping the ground free of insect pests. They feed up to three broods a year.

- ◆ **Sparrows** prefer weed seeds, such as from crabgrass, ragweed, and pigweed. But their diet switches to one-third insects, especially during the nesting season.
- ◆ **Swallows** are excellent flyers and much of their insect food is caught while they're on the wing. In spring, insects make up 99 percent of a swallow's diet.
- ◆ **Vireos** prefer woods. In spring, 99 percent of their diet is insects. A border of shrubs will attract them to your yard.
- ◆ The downy and hairy **Woodpeckers** get up to 85 percent of their food from wood-boring insects. They will eat insect pests from spring to fall.
- ◆ **Wrens** will clear a vegetable garden of most insects to feed their large families. Most wrens search trees, shrubs, and vines for a meal.

So, how to attract these insect eating birds? Birds prefer a multi-layered canopy of trees, shrubs, and flowers. Plant native trees and shrubs that the birds already know. Add a basic bird feeder with sunflower seeds to initially attract the birds to your yard and sustain them through the winter. Bring in a water source. An upside down garbage can cover is an easy bird bath. Keep it filled with clean water and put a stone in the middle for a perch.

For plant safety, Uconn Extension warns not to place bird feeders in or near your garden where droppings may fall onto vegetables.

Once baby birds leave the nest and adult birds begin to switch their diet to your berries, netting and row covers will deter them. As for my vegetables, I always plant enough to share as a thank you for keeping my yard organic and pest free!



Fledgling robins in a pine tree

For more information:

- "The Best Birds for your Garden." *Organic Gardening*. 2014. Web. <<http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/best-birds-your-garden>>.
- Ipatenco, Sara. "Birds & Growing Vegetables." *Homeguides*. 2014. Web. <<http://homeguides.sfgate.com/>>.
- "Vegetable Gardening and Birds." *Digginfood*. 2014. Web. <<http://www.digginfood.com/2009/03/vegetable-gardening-and-birds>>.
- "Vegetable Home Gardening." *Home and Garden Education Center*. 2014. Web. <<http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/>>.

Greenwich Community Gardens Bloom

The Greenwich Community Garden is a wonderful ongoing project supported this year by the Connecticut Master Gardener grants program.

The Greenwich Community Garden is an ambitious project consisting of vegetable gardens in two locations, and an educational native and butterfly garden. Their primary goals are growing healthy food locally, strengthening the community through participation in these projects, and protecting the environment by using responsible gardening practices.

GCG's first garden at Armstrong Court began in 2009 and now has 15,000 square feet of gardening space with 125 raised garden beds. Gardeners can rent space to grow their own food. The community atmosphere is enhanced with a pergola, pizza oven, and picnic benches.

GCG's second garden, Bible Street, opened for the first season in 2014 to address the successful demand for garden plots. It opened with 90 plots, some handicapped accessible.

GCG has delivered over 800 pounds of fresh produce to the Neighbor to Neighbor food pantry, providing nutritious food to over 1,000 people who depend on this service weekly.

The "Kids Gardening Club", offered to the on-site Head Start Program, uses the Butterfly Garden and several vegetable garden plots as an educational initiative to promote youth gardening.



BITS AND PIECES



- ◆ Next year's CMGA Symposium is Saturday, March 21, 2015. Planning is underway! We thank you for all your feedback.

- ◆ Don't forget to sign up for the Hot Topics classes which are being offered around the state. Check www.uconnmastergardeners.com for more information, including class dates and locations.

- ◆ We are always looking for articles from our Master Gardeners and Interns. If you have fun and / or useful information to share, please send your articles to Alicia Cornelio at cmganews@gmail.com.

- ◆ We have received inquiries lately about ways to help Monarch butterflies survive changing conditions in their environment. The best way we can help them is to plant asclepias (milkweed). There are many new varieties that are attractive enough to put into our gardens. For more information see:



1. The Milkweed Project:

<http://www.xerces.org/milkweed/>

2. Monarch Watch:

<http://monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs/>



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The LAUREL

*Connecticut
Master
Gardener
Association
Newsletter*

Autumn, 2014 Volume 27, No. 4

ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2ND

Please join us for the annual meeting which will be held **Sunday**, November 2nd at 10 am in Stamford this year at the Bartlett Arboretum in the Silver Educational Building. This is always a fun meeting and a great chance to socialize with your fellow MGs.

[Directions here](#). Our guest speaker will be Glenn Dreyer, Director of the Conn College

Arboretum. His topic "Connecticut Notable Trees" will highlight the most distinguished trees of Connecticut.

Agenda:

10:00 Socialize/Special Brunch Goodies

10:30 Business meeting and elections

11:00 Guest Speaker: Glenn Dreyer

Noon: Door Prizes!



CMGA Board Members and Secretary Wanted

If you are interested in joining the Board, email Tracy Burrell at president@ctmga.org or see <http://www.ctmga.org/#/board-application/4567742869> for more information (role, time commitment, meeting locations etc). We have several openings and could use your leadership skills! New MG graduates are welcome!

Florie Ricciuti's term as Secretary will end this year...so we need YOU! The term of Secretary is 2 years. Please consider joining the Board AND becoming our Secretary! Email Tracy if you think you can help us.

Officers 2014

President:	Tracy Burrell president@ctmga.org
Vice-President:	Maureen Gillis cmga@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Debbye Rosen debbyerosen@sbcglobal.net
Secretary:	Florie Ricciuti ricciutf@yahoo.com
Membership:	Kathy Baechle k.baechle@comcast.net

Board of Directors:

Billy Baxter	Ellen Bender
Marge Bingham	John Carlson
Alicia Cornelio	Paul Grimmeisen
Kim Kelly	Diane Ostheimer
Toni Royal	

CMGA website: www.ctmga.org

The Laurel:

Alicia Cornelio (Editor)

Cooperative Extension Center

Coordinators (by County):

Fairfield: 203-207-3262	Julia Cencebaugh julia.cencebaugh_kloth@uconn.edu
Fairfield (Stamford): 203-322-6971	Regina Campfield mastergardener@ bartlettarboretum.org
Hartford: 860-570-9010	Sarah Bailey sarah.bailey@uconn.edu
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Tolland: 860-870-6934	Deb Prior deborah.prior@uconn.edu
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UConn Home & Garden

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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 cmganews@gmail.com

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

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President's Message

The September 19 Smith-Lever celebration focused on giving – the time, effort, gifts and ideas that have made Extension such an integral part of communities across Connecticut for 100 years.

Master Gardeners have been in the forefront of that effort, so it was fitting that MG Jenny Riggs hosted that special evening. As Extension moves into the next century, MGs will be a critical part of bringing solutions to our friends, families and neighbors, as 'UConn Ties Research to Real Life'.

Special thanks to CAES' Rob Durgy who graciously allowed us to hold our September board meeting at the CAES Research Center in Griswold. Rob gave us a fascinating talk about the history of the site, the work being conducted there now, and his plans for the future. It's a beautiful location and we will definitely visit it again.

This issue is chock full of great stuff, including a recap of our Summer Garden Safari, an exciting new initiative from the MG program at Waxman and two articles on historical gardens. There's also a form for you to renew your CMGA membership for 2015.

So, as you take a break to read the Laurel, pause and congratulate yourselves for a moment, but just for a moment – you've got work to do!

Tracy Burrell

CMGA Summer Safari July 26

It was a fun and fabulous time at the 2014 CMGA Summer Safari! About 100 members attended the semi-annual meeting led by President Tracy Burrell. The weather cooperated beautifully as members boarded buses for a tour of the beautiful gardens of Johanne Mangi and NatureWorks with Nancy DuBrule-Clemente. A new, delicious ice cream from the UCONN Dairy was sampled during lunch. Thanks to Paul Grimmeisen and Toni Royal for co-chairing the Safari committee.



Garden Time Travel

By Lisa Seethaler
Master Gardener Intern

There are many practical advantages to learning about gardening. One can add to skills needed on the job, enhance healthy eating practices, develop a hobby, or learn more about how to care for our Earth. A trip to the Thankful Arnold House Museum and garden provides something different - a glimpse into American history.

The Thankful Arnold House Museum is located in Haddam, Connecticut. A visit there is like time travel, a trip back to "gardening times past." It gives the visitor a fascinating opportunity to learn about the ways that plants were used in daily life during the 1800's.

The museum grounds include a house that was built in the early 1800's and was home to the Arnold Family. Thankful was the wife of Joseph Arnold. She gave birth to twelve children and became a single parent after her husband died at age 49. With such a large family, there were many responsibilities to ensure that all were fed and healthy. The home is filled with artifacts which give one a glimpse into what homes looked like during this time period, what rituals took place, and what items were used.

Just a few steps outside the door to the kitchen is a garden. Designed in the Colonial Revival style, it is an interpretive display garden that contains flowers and herbs that would have been grown for a family around 1830. The garden is one of fourteen Historic Gardens in Connecticut (www.cthistoricgardens.org.) The garden symbolizes practices that were used by individuals such as Thankful and Joseph Arnold during a time when they did not have modern medicine, pre-made fabric available in all colors, or mattresses in a wide variety of sizes, styles, and comfort. It includes plants that were used for medicinal, household, and aesthetic purposes; plants to provide physical relief from illness; flowers to add color to their environment; and even material to fill a mattress. The latter is just one example of the ingenious ways that people relied on the natural world to enhance their lives during this time period.



Lisa Malloy, Executive Director of the TA House Museum, states that the garden accentuates the “self-sufficiency” that people possessed during this phase of American history. Haddam Historical Society member and Garden Volunteer Coordinator Deb Rutter appreciates the knowledge and independence that homeowners had. Parents and relatives “doctored on their own”, treating conditions with homemade remedies that were passed down through the generations. Visits to or from doctors occurred only when more serious health issues arose. Ann Leighton, author of “American Gardens of the Nineteenth Century” writes in her book that “Gardens, from their Colonial beginnings, had been blessings as well as necessities, as inevitable as roofs, fences, and wells.”

One of the plants in the Thankful Arnold House garden is common teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*.) Pictured right, teasel is spiny, stalky, and sturdy. It is native to Europe and was used for wool fleecing, or raising the nap on wool cloth. The plant heads were fixed on the rim of a wheel cylinder which revolved against the surface of a cloth. The roots were known to be a remedy for jaundice as well as a cleaning agent. (www.cwma.org; www.botanical.com)

Madder (*Rubia tinctorum*) was used to dye flax, cotton, and wool the color red. *Baptisia australis*, known commonly as Wild Indigo, was used as a blue dye. The stalks of Southernwood (*Artemisia arbotanum*) were used to deter insects in the house when the windows were open. One of the most common and vital uses of plants and herbs during the 1800’s was medicinal. Elecampane (*Inula helenium*) roots were sliced, put in a pot, covered with sugar and baked. The resulting product was used as a cough syrup. Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*), which we in modern times know as a treat for feline friends, was used to lower fevers and ease cramps. When children had colic, a little catnip tea with molasses would help them go back to sleep. Vegetable plants were also in the Arnold garden, especially ones that would keep during the winter when electric refrigeration was a luxury that had yet to be invented.



And, of course, beauty is appreciated during any historical era. So Thankful planted Flowers which were grown simply to provide pleasure for the eyes.

For more information about the Thankful Arnold House Museum, visit www.haddamhistory.org or take a ride to Haddam. It will be worth the trip.

UCONN's Waxman Legacy

By Sarah Bailey
Hartford County Program Coordinator,
CHS Board of Directors member



At the end of World War II, a young aircraft mechanic intended to enroll at the University of Rhode Island's liberal arts program. Finding it full, he signed up for the university's horticulture program instead.

As a result of this turn of events, landscapes all over America include many dwarf conifers developed from the witches' brooms of larger relatives. When Dr. Sidney Waxman started horticulture classes at URI, he started on a 50-plus year journey of observation and propagation that has resulted in plant introductions such as *Pinus strobus* 'Soft Touch' and 'UConn', *Larix decidua* 'Varied Directions' as well as *Sciadopitys verticillata* "Wintergreen".

After obtaining his Ph.D. from Cornell, Waxman came to the University of Connecticut in 1957, where he stayed until his retirement. He was particularly interested in "witches' brooms" – branches of trees that develop accelerated growth patterns resulting in dense, compact, multi-stemmed growth patterns. He recognized that these growths were often genetic mutations which might lead to the development of smaller woody ornamentals that would better fit in the new suburban neighborhoods springing up across post- WWII America.

When Waxman died in February 2005, he left a legacy of at least 40 cultivars that are known to have been introduced to the nursery trade. Many were witches, brooms, although he also worked with the Japanese umbrella pines, larches, hemlocks, azaleas and the cinnamon bark maple. 'Cinnamon Flake' is a hybrid between *Acer nikoense* and *Acer griseum* that he introduced.

The nursery where he grew out hundreds of thousands of seedlings to find and cultivate landscape-worthy cultivars is still part of UConn. It has been minimally maintained, despite budget constraints and shifting priorities within the horticulture field. As emphasis in research shifts away from the plant as a whole and moves more towards areas such as biotechnology, the specimens in the Waxman nursery have quietly grown into very large specimens, some crowding each other out for space, and others suffering the consequences of deer, voles and other pests. With no faculty following in Waxman and other retired professors' footsteps to develop woody ornamentals, the nursery has languished – until this year.

Evaluation and cataloguing of the existing tree specimens has begun, as UConn faculty and staff and master gardeners assess pest and disease damage and work to confirm the identity of each plant. (There are some maps of the property, but much of the information was kept in Waxman's head and

that of his staff. Those still available have been invaluable in helping identify plants that are there – and those that are missing!) Trees that are too badly damaged will be removed, as will redundant examples of a cultivar that are crowding out more desirable specimens.

Pest management has also begun, with rodent habitat being removed and a winter pest management program being put in place to control the damage to the trees. A deer fence has been erected around the critical four acres of the property that houses the plant specimens.

Along with the tree specimens, plans are to develop several educational display and/or research gardens on the property. A native landscape display was begun this summer, with a variety of native ornamental plants that demonstrate tolerance to both climate and pests. Other gardens being considered include one for UConn plant introductions, edible landscaping, and sustainable gardening.

As the plants on the property are identified, a map of the arboretum will be created as will signage to label the specimens. The idea is for members of the public to be able to walk the arboretum grounds and learn about these woody ornamentals, either on their own or as part of tours and seminars. “The goal is to continue Sid Waxman’s legacy through classes and demonstrations and resources,” explains Leslie Alexander, State Master Gardener Coordinator. “Along with preserving the legacy of his work, we want to provide education and inspiration to the public about horticulture, gardening and the environment.”

Longer-term goals include developing trails through the rest of the property that would connect with existing hiking trails in the areas, adding specimens of Waxman cultivars that are not currently in the collection and the addition of a propagation house. At the moment, however, the immediate goals are renovating the current collection and the development of a significant fundraising plan.

The UConn Master Gardener Program asked to shepherd this ambitious project because its members believe in the value of Sid Waxman’s unique contributions to ornamental horticulture and want to help preserve the work of this esteemed plantsman. But they well know that this is a huge undertaking that will require partners - both the periodic and on-going help of other like-minded people and organizations. They are reaching out to their members, plant societies, arborists, landscape associations, other researchers – and the CHS – for help in making this vision a reality.

Collections of Waxman plants are already established at the New York Botanical garden and the Montreal Botanical Garden. This however, is an opportunity to restore his living laboratory where the actual development of these many plants happened – and perhaps to help carry that work into the future.

Connecticut Botanical Society Tours Waxman Gardens

**By Jude Hsiang,
New Haven County Program Coordinator and member of CBS**

On October 13, 2013, members of CBS toured the Sidney Waxman Conifer Collection at the UCONN Storrs Campus. Behind the small 18th century farmhouse, where the Waxman family lived, are several mature trees including a large Miyabe Maple, (*Acer miyabei*). Ed Richardson was on hand to verify the tree as a CT champion. [See here](#).

The area has been partially cleared of invasive plants, such as Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), by volunteers from the UCONN Master Gardener Program and the CT Tree Protective Association as well as UCONN arborists and research farm staff, some working on their own time.

The Master Gardeners, who have undertaken management of the collection, are working to salvage trees and replace lost cultivars with the help of Dr. Mark Brand of the UCONN Plant Science and Landscape Architecture Dept. Dr. Jessica Lubell's students have been planting native shrubs—witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), clethra (*Clethra alnifolia*), and winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*). They are also planning a native garden to honor the late Dr. Mary Musgrave, who was head of the Plant Science and Landscape Architecture Dept. and instrumental in saving the Waxman collection from further deterioration. Mapping and updating signage is underway.

Visitors saw several Eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga Canadensis*) which had been grown from witch's brooms; large *Sciadopitys verticillata* 'Wintergreen', a cultivar that exhibits denser and darker foliage than the species; and a number of dwarf or weeping white pines (*Pinus strobus*) cultivars; various firs, spruces and larches. Prominent among the broad leaf specimens are a group of fastigiate English oaks (*Quercus robur*) and Cinnamon Flake maples planted in an alley.

Next, CBS toured the Fifty Foot Preserve which overlooks the Fenton River valley. The fall foliage was not yet at peak but we could see a colorful patchwork broken by occasional groves of white pine. The weather had been very dry and the only fungi we spotted were the ubiquitous turkey tails (*Trametes versicolor*), pure white Birch polypores (*Piptoporus betulinus*), and a well-nibbled *Russula* cap. The varied plant communities found in the 102-acre preserve should provide more interest to mycologists in a more typical fall.

Leaving Fifty Foot, a light breeze stirred the burnt sugar scented leaves of a large *Katsura* tree (*Cercidophyllum japonicum*), reminding us that it was time for lunch.



Fall Gardening Cleanup

Don't Skip These Beneficial Tasks!

Alicia Cornelio, editor Laurel

2014 was a cool, dry summer and many of us were still waiting for our main harvest of vegetables in early autumn; especially peppers, tomatoes, and eggplant.

The delayed harvest and storing of our bounty preoccupied many home gardeners. It is tempting to forgo some autumn chores that benefit our gardens in the spring. Here is a list of tasks that will save work and aggravation next season.



⇒ **Vegetable garden beds**

Be sure to remove old plants and fallen leaves to avoid late blight next spring. Mulch with straw, grass clippings or chopped leaves. These mulches can be turned into the soil in the spring as fertilizer.

⇒ **Perennial flower beds**

Like vegetable beds, weed to avoid disease and mulch around the crowns of your plants to reduce the chance of frost heaving.

⇒ **Soil test**

Get a soil test now and amend your beds or lawn over the winter. Adding lime to a lawn, if needed, is best done in the fall.

⇒ **Orchards**

Pick up any fallen fruit around fruit trees to reduce the chance that pests such as apple maggot and codling moth will overwinter and attack your fruit next year.

⇒ **Lawns**

Re-seed the bare spots on your lawn in the fall. Weed growth slows down in the cool fall weather and won't crowd out new grass seedlings. It is for this reason that fall is the least troublesome time to plant a new lawn.

⇒ **New garden beds the easy way**

If you plan on making new garden beds, or expanding current ones, save yourself some work during the hectic spring gardening season by covering an area with thick newspapers and mulch and you'll have an area ready to amend and plant next spring -- without having to remove sod!



⇒ **Free fertilizer**

Make leaf mold with fallen leaves by mulching and turning into your garden, rather than removal, for an excellent soil amender!

⇒ **Protect your garden ornaments**

Bring in any pots or statuary that can't take a freeze. Terra cotta, ceramic, and many plastic materials don't overwinter in Connecticut. With care, these garden ornaments can last a long time.

⇒ **Food for the birds**

Leave free bird food standing in your garden. Don't cut back Black-eyed Susans, Coneflowers, and other plants with seeds and berries that sustain birds during the long winter months.

For more information:

"Fall Garden Cleanup." *Organic Gardening*. 2014. Web.

<<http://www.rodalenews.com/fall-garden-cleanup>>.

McLaughlin, Chris. "Perfect Fall Gardening Tasks." *Vegetable Gardener*.

2014. Web. <<http://www.vegetablegardener.com>>.

"What to do in your Garden this Fall." *About Home*. 2014. Web.

<<http://organicgardening.about.com>>.

Wilton Historical Society Herb Garden

CMGA provided a \$250 grant this year for the completion of the Wilton Historical Society (WHS) Colonial Herb garden. Using this generous grant, the Master Gardener volunteers posted 49 professional signs that were created by WHS volunteers using Bartlett Center equipment. The signs describe each herb as visitors proceed through a self-guided tour of the garden. Each sign contains the common name, scientific name, and usage of the herb during colonial days circa 1740.



Additionally, a full color handout was developed to allow patrons to search for their favorite herb and take home with them after viewing the garden. Master Gardeners acted as docents at a recent garden party of historians, garden club members, and general patrons. The evening was highly successful in emphasizing the work of Connecticut Master Gardeners to the public.



Bits and Pieces

CMGA Membership...It's That Time of Year

Please renew your CMGA membership for 2015 (or if you are graduating, please join as a regular member)! Dues are still only \$20 per year (they've remained the same for the 11th year now), and they support the MG Program through scholarships, outreach grants, and MG Office support, as well as provide many of the free educational and social opportunities we offer. Print the membership form on the next page, download the form www.ctmga.org, pick up a form at the annual meeting, or pay online with Paypal (\$21) from the link on our web site.

Butterfly Guides

The Colchester Garden Club is selling Butterfly Field Guides as part of its fundraising efforts this year, and making available with that sale four useful butterfly gardening handouts and plant lists. Contact Katherine Kosiba at kmk178@att.net.

Rain Gardens

What is a rain garden? It is a garden planted to catch polluted runoff before it reaches our groundwater. A new UCONN website will show you how to design, install, and maintain a rain garden. <http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/> There's even an app for it!! Let's stop water pollution today.

Annual Gala

The Nutmeg State Orchid Society is holding its annual gala on October 25th: <http://www.nutmegorchids.org>.

Farmers Day is October 12

Most of us know October 12 as Columbus Day, but Old Farmers Day in the US has been celebrated for so long, no one knows when it started. Even if your community doesn't have a special celebration, there are TEN ways to support local farmers. 1) Visit the farmer's market in your town 2) Buy something local 3) Ask your grocery to offer local goods 4) Eat at a restaurant that serves local food 5) Try a new recipe using local foods 6) Teach a child about where our food comes from such as reading a book about farming 7) Visit a farm and participate in an organized tour 8) Join a CSA in your area and buy food directly from the farm 9) Volunteer at your local farmers market 10) Plant a garden and join your fellow farmers.

Connecticut **Master Gardener** Association

2014 Membership Form

for the calendar year Jan. 1, 2015 to Dec. 31, 2015

Dues are \$20

PLEASE PRINT

Name					
Street					
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Membership is restricted to Master Gardeners
Dues are payable by December 31, 2014. Annual dues are \$20.

Please send your check, **payable to CMGA**, with 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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