



# The LAUREL

Connecticut  
Master  
Gardener  
Association  
Newsletter

Winter 2015 Volume 28, No. 1

## Symposium XXII ***Productive, Beautiful, Fun Gardens*** March 21, 2015

The 22nd annual CMGA symposium will be held at the Manchester Community College in Manchester, CT. Please join us! The price remains the same as it has been for many years. Register by flyer received in the mail, or online at [www.cmga.org](http://www.cmga.org).

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 at noon is an assortment of wrap sandwiches (including vegetarian), green salad, assorted chips, assorted cookies, apples and beverages. 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). Session descriptions are on page 3.



### **Keynote Speaker: Catherine Zimmerman**

**"URBAN AND SUBURBAN MEADOWS"** discusses meadowscaping as a lawn alternative. Meadow habitats are beneficial, both economically and environmentally. Catherine gives a step-by-step primer on reducing lawn size and organically installing a beautiful meadow in your own yard. Join the movement to bring back native habitat for wildlife and human life!

### **Closing Speaker: Barry Glick**

Enlightening, entertaining and educational look at some of the plants that we overlook on our woodland hikes. Some of the most interesting and unusual wildflowers are growing in our own backyards right under our noses. Join native plant expert Barry Glick for a fascinating wild wander into the wonderful world of woodland wildflowers.



# Officers 2014

<b>President:</b>	Tracy Burrell president@ctmga.org
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Maureen Gillis cmga@comcast.net
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Debbye Rosen debbyerosen@sbcglobal.net
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<b>Membership:</b>	Kathy Baechle k.baechle@comcast.net

## Board of Directors:

Kathy Baechle	Billy Baxter
Marge Bingham	Tracy Burrell
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Diane Ostheimer	Florie Ricciuti
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**CMGA website:** [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org)  
**The Laurel:** [cmganews@gmail.com](mailto:cmganews@gmail.com)  
Alicia Cornelio (Editor)

## Cooperative Extension Center Coordinators

<b>Bartlett:</b> 203-207-3262 <b>(by County):</b> <b>Fairfield</b> (Stamford): 203-322-6971 <b>Hartford:</b> 860-570-9010 <b>Litchfield:</b> 860-626-6240 <b>Middlesex:</b> 860-345-4511 <b>New Haven:</b> 203-407-3167 <b>New London:</b> 860-885-2823 <b>Tolland:</b> 860-870-6934 <b>Windham:</b> 860-774-9600	<b>Julia Cencebaugh</b> julia.cencebaugh_kloth@uconn.edu  <b>Regina Campfield</b> mastergardener@ bartlettarboretum.org  <b>Sarah Bailey</b> sarah.bailey@uconn.edu  <b>David Lewis</b> david.lewis@uconn.edu  <b>Gail Kalison Reynolds</b> gail.reynolds@uconn.edu  <b>Judith Hsiang</b> judith.hsiang@uconn.edu  <b>Susan Munger</b> susan.munger@uconn.edu  <b>Deb Prior</b> deborah.prior@uconn.edu  <b>Deb Lee</b> deborah.2.lee@uconn.edu
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## UConn Home & Garden Education Center:

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

## UConn Liaison:

Leslie Alexander: 860-486-6343  
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**Deadlines for publication are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1**

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# President's Message

Productive. Beautiful. Fun. As Master Gardeners and lifelong volunteers we see this in our efforts to serve the citizens of CT every day: The excitement of doubling the amount of vegetables donated to a food bank. The wonder of implementing a gorgeous native landscape. And the tired smile at the end of a wonderfully dirty, sweaty day in the garden.

This year's Symposium, which will be held on March 21, 2015 at Manchester Community College echoes the theme of Productive, Beautiful, Fun with wide ranging offerings sure to enlighten, entice and excite you as you gear up for gardening this year! With the hard work of the Board, we have managed, once again, to keep the cost of attending the Symposium at the same price that it has been for the last seven years, while also increasing the amount that CMGA has been able to give to the Master Gardener program. In order to maintain and hopefully increase the level of support we give to the MG program, we hope that you will be able to join us in March, and also at other CMGA events throughout the year.

I am in awe of Maureen Gillis and Diane Ostheimer who have taken on the herculean task of Co-Chairing the Symposium again this year, and we look forward to their drive, creativity and sense of humor as they coordinate this huge undertaking.

This issue is full of information on a number of topics, including the upcoming Symposium and a recap of our Annual Meeting, which was held at the Bartlett Arboretum in November.

(continued on page 5)

# Breakout Sessions at the 2015 Annual Symposium

## MORNING AND AFTERNOON SPEAKERS

**Anita Dafonte** is Sales Director for Coast of Maine Organic Products. She lives and gardens on five acres in Newtown, CT where her true passion is for vegetables, vines and annuals. Anita's lecture, **ORGANIC GARDENING TIPS AND TECHNIQUES** focuses on how to create a kitchen garden that is both beautiful and productive. Grow flowers, herbs, and vegetables organically by understanding companion planting, light conditions, soil and pest management.

**Nancy DuBrule-Clemente** is the owner of Natureworks, an organic garden center and landscape design business in Northford, CT. Her educational work includes lectures, her blog The Daily DuBrule, and weekly free workshops throughout the growing season at the garden center. Nancy's lecture is **BLENDED GARDENS-PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**. No matter how big or small your yard is, combining food and flowers is the way to go. It will increase pollination, benefit native insects, and make your yard much more interesting and beautiful. Nancy will share photographs to illustrate this design style.

**Barry Glick** will deliver a lecture on **THE JOY OF PROPAGATION**, aka EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PLANT PROPAGATION, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK. Every aspect of plant propagation is covered from plant pollination, hybridization, seed collection and sowing to tissue culture. Subjects also include rhizome division, air layering, branch layering, root division, root cuttings, stem cuttings, use of hormones, and mist propagation. Each participant receives a seed collection bag and a four-page handout.

**Ellen Sousa** is an author, speaker and garden coach specializing in habitat landscaping using northeast US native plants. She has published a book about New England habitat gardening "The Green Garden: A New England Guide to Planning, Planting and Maintaining the Eco-friendly Habitat Garden" and has contributed to many national and local magazines. Ellen's lecture will be on **POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDENING**. Pollinators play vital roles in food production, pest control and environmental stability, but many of them are suffering worrisome steep declines and extinctions. Learn how gardens and backyards can supply important habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects, and how just a few changes to your gardening practices can help support populations of these often misunderstood forms of wildlife that are essential to life as we know it.

**Mary Villa** has been a Curator at Connecticut College Arboretum for over ten years. Mary's lecture will be on **SMALL TREES FOR BIG RESULTS**. Small ornamental trees are a key element in nearly every garden and landscape. Trees provide much more than just shade, flowers or fall foliage color. Bark patterns and winter silhouettes add year-round beauty and richness to the design palette. Selecting the right tree to add interest and depth to your garden projects requires knowing their form, function, and aesthetic qualities as well as horticultural requirements.



# CMGA Annual Meeting

The 2014 CMGA Annual meeting took place on November 2, 2014 at the Bartlett Arboretum. Over 50 people attended to hear about the goals and accomplishments of CMGA throughout the year and help celebrate milestones of CMGA members. Featured speaker Glenn Dreyer, Director of the Connecticut College Arboretum, gave a presentation on the *CT Notable Trees Project*. John Carlson received a life-time achievement award from an appreciative and enthusiastic crowd. After the meeting, a splendid luncheon spread was enjoyed. There was also the opportunity to do a bit of shopping among several CMGA items. The meeting ended with the distribution of numerous and varied door prizes.



## Meet our New Litchfield Extension Center Coordinator

David Lewis is the newest member of the Torrington branch of UConn, in the County Extension office. David oversees the Master Gardener certification and the Advanced Master Gardener classes in Litchfield County, where he also coordinates diagnostic services, and community outreach projects.

Previously, Dave taught elementary and middle school, and continues to focus on creating school and community gardens. He lives in Barkhamsted, CT.



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### **President's Message** (continued from page 2)

A special moment at this year's meeting was awarding Lifetime Membership to John Carlson. John has been a tireless member of CMGA for many years and at 82 years young, he is still going strong. Congratulations to John!

Thanks to Florie Ricciuti for her service as our Secretary for the last two years and departing Board member Ellen Bender. If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact me.

Don't forget to renew your membership.

Tracy Burrell

# Heirloom Vegetables Forever!

**By Alicia Cornelio**  
**Editor, Laurel**

As home gardeners sit inside poring over their garden catalogs this winter, there are many reasons to choose heirloom varieties.



Superior taste is the number one reason gardeners are growing heirlooms. Many vegetables developed for the needs of commercial growers often lose flavor and nutrition in favor of higher yields, ripening at once, and tough skins.

Heirlooms perform best in home and market gardens. They are specific to regions, and open pollinated. Heirloom seeds will endure the local weather conditions and diseases. When home gardeners collect seed from heirlooms, they can be assured that the seeds will develop true to type the next year. Exceptions to the open pollination process are squash, pumpkins, and members of the brassica family. They tend to cross pollinate.

Growing heirlooms is also critical to the preservation of genetic diversity. Local gardeners are doing a great service by preserving heirloom varieties.

So, what defines an heirloom vegetable? There is much debate, but most gardeners agree that an heirloom vegetable variety must have existed before the hybridization era. Others feel the variety should not have been developed for the commercial trade. Here are heirloom vegetables most popular for Connecticut:

## ***Tomatoes:***

Mortgage Lifter: Developed in 1930, this huge pink-skinned beefsteak is delicious. It was so popular the developer paid off his mortgage in six years!

San Marzano: Grown for centuries in the lava rich soils of Italy, this large plum has a well balanced acid/sweet flavor and meaty flesh. It is perfect for sauce.

## ***Peppers:***

California Wonder: The standard, trusted, sweet bell pepper since 1928, it has high yields, resistant to Tobacco Mosaic Virus, thick walls, and mild flavor.

Jalapeno Tam: Developed by Texas A & M, it is disease-resistant, productive, and very tasty with less heat. Great for stuffing or making chili powder.

## ***Beets:***

Detroit Dark Red: Introduced in 1892, this is a popular, standard red beet with smooth flesh and sweet flavor. The tops are great in a salad.

**Beans:**

Kentucky Wonder: An original pole bean from the 1850s, it is a brown seeded, heavy yielder, with exceptional flavor. It is Rust resistant and successful in all parts of the US.

Blue Lake 274: Developed in 1961 from Pole Blue Lake, this bush habit growing bean is very reliable, long growing, hardy, prolific, flavorful, and early yielding.

**Lettuce:**

Black Seeded Simpson: Popular since the 1850s, it has huge heads of loose leaves, very reliable, heat tolerant, and productive.

**Carrot:**

Scarlet Nantes: Originally developed in France in the 1850s, it has reddish, crisp flesh, extremely flavorful, and blunt ends. It is perfect for home gardens.

**Radish:**

French Breakfast: Originating in France, it was further developed in 1875 in Massachusetts. It is very crisp with a pungent flavor.

**Cucumber:**

Marketmore 76: More dependable than Straight Eight, it is considered an heirloom despite development in 1976. It is open pollinated, very disease resistant, with heavy yields.

**Winter Squash:**

Hubbard: Introduced in 1894, it is very vigorous, hard shelled, and stores well.

**Pumpkin:**

Connecticut Field: This Native American heirloom has a history predating 1700. It has a hard, thin rind with thick sweet flesh, and dependable yields.

**Corn:**

Golden Bantam: Introduced in 1902, it was developed by a Massachusetts gardener who proved that yellow corn was not just for animal feed. It is an early sprouter with high yields and delicious flavor.

**Sources:**

"Heirloom Vegetables." *Mother Earth News*. 2015. Web. <http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/heirloom-vegetable-advantages.aspx#axzz3NgHTFFCo>

"Heirloom Vegetable Varieties." *The Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment*. 2015. Web. [http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/sites/landscape/files/publications/heirloom\\_vegetable\\_varieties\\_0.pdf](http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/sites/landscape/files/publications/heirloom_vegetable_varieties_0.pdf)



# 2014 Master Gardener Graduates

## Bartlett

Georgia Abbott  
Jane K. Alpert  
Elyse Arnow Brill  
William R. Casale  
James Ellsworth  
Patricia Glass  
Hanifa Hosein  
Tracy Inall  
Julie Johnson  
Barbara Eno Karp  
Marilynn Klepfer  
Paul Lindemeyer  
Lea Lombardo  
Susan McCardell  
Pamela McDonald  
Lori Meinke  
Natasha Muttukumaru  
Margaret Nuzum  
Lore Oricchio  
Sharon Reilly  
Alexander Rochefort  
Karen Hiniker Simons  
Susan Skerrett  
Karen Sunden  
Tara Tanzer  
Barbara Thanhauser

## Middlesex/N. London

Elizabeth Adams  
Elizabeth Badin  
Yelena Bergman  
Gene Blomberg  
Margaret Blumie  
John Bodin  
Karen Cote  
Rudolph E. Croteau, Jr  
Maureen Egan  
Madelyne Greif  
Patricia Halvordson  
Bear Hardin  
Harry Link  
JoAnn Lockwood  
Maria Martinez  
Margaret McElroy  
Tracy McMorran  
Patricia Palmer  
Judith Parda  
Philip Parda  
Elaine Remondi-Simpson  
Carol Robbins  
Gina Rubin  
Lisa Seethaler  
Jessica Sommar  
Maria Starke  
Suzanne Thompson  
Kathryn Wright

## Windham/Tolland

Gayle Anton  
Kathleen Aubin  
Howard Becker  
Lynn Bestor  
Ronald Blanchette  
Debra Buettel  
Nancy Cleary  
Pamela Cone  
Tina Forsberg  
Sharon Foster-Chalecki  
Emily Gedney  
Lenore Gilnack  
Rachel Grigorian  
Linda Hothan  
Catherine Hallisey  
Theresa Hennessey  
Kelly Jarvis  
Toree Kluntz  
Alexis Kuchel  
Shawn Lappen  
Jean Laughman  
Scott McIntire  
Marian Matthews  
Karen Metersky  
Catherine (Kate) Morgan  
Ruth Nye  
Joan Page  
Christobelle Payne  
Tracy Pell  
Mary Ryan  
David Stabnick  
Helena Thomson  
Debra Turner  
Kurt Werner



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



# 2014 Master Gardener Graduates

## Hartford/Litchfield

Dale Brown  
Vincent Brown  
Janet Bumstead  
Mary Catherine Conklin  
Suzi Diehl  
Holly Florio  
Juliana Ghanem  
Mary Guilfoile  
Donna Hall  
Melinda Hardy  
William Hantzios  
Ricki Hellner  
Suzanne Iwanicki  
Jan Manchester  
Susan Manzi  
Lynn Melanson  
Susan Munger  
Eugene Newell  
Suzanne Newell  
Marc Nied  
Katherine Peterson  
Eric Pumiglia  
Brian Swander  
Michelle Winkler  
Eleanor Woike

## Fairfield/New Haven

Debra Andruss  
Susan Anton  
Louise Bahner  
Dorie Baker  
George Benson  
Trevor Biggs  
Gene Blomberg  
Casey Caine  
Cynthia Carlson  
Wade Caszatt  
Tami Christopher  
Joann DeVecchio  
Taylor DiNicola  
Victoria Feyk  
Anna Rose Gable  
Susan Giordano  
Sonia Gubitza  
Paula Haeberly

Katy Hanlon  
Rebecca Koepf  
Paula Leibovitz  
Frank Lopez  
Jean-ellen McSharry  
Tamira Montorsi  
Patty Primavera  
Sallie Roth  
Jim Scilia  
Laura Sorensen  
Bob Stamp  
Pat Taylor  
Linda Tichy  
Mary Beth Torello  
Lisa Totman  
Janis Underwood  
Kelly Vaughan  
MaryAnn Viscio  
Catherine Walters  
Stephanie Wilson

## 2014 Master Gardener Advancements

### **Bartlett**

#### **Ruby:**

Allan Brown  
Susan Carlson  
Nedra Gillette  
Donna Katsuranis

Steve Kovacs  
Don Lukaszek  
Beth Miller  
Jean St. Clair  
Daniel Scheifferle  
Uta Zickfeld

#### **Ruby Gold:**

Linda Nykaza Albanese  
Lesley Gehr  
Lillemor Wallmark

#### **Ruby Sapphire:**

Ganga Duleep  
Alice Smith

# 2014 Master Gardener Advancements

## Hartford/Litchfield

### **Advanced Master Gardener**

Melissa Emma  
Marilyn Palmer  
Karen Pierson  
Jackie Wasta  
Gina Amalfitano  
Theodora Kachergis  
Debbie Kupfer  
Anna Corcoran

### **Bronze**

Fran Baiamonte  
Linda Olson

### **Silver**

Christina Beebe

### **Gold**

Marlene Mayes

### **Ruby**

Uta Zickfeld  
Jean St. Clair  
Steve Kovack, Jr.  
Don Lukaszek

## Middlesex/N. London

### **Advanced Master Gardener**

Jim Woodworth  
Kate Hull  
Shari Guarino  
Christine Galla  
Barbara Muhlfelder  
Jean Wells Golicz  
Ken Sherrick

### **Silver**

Maureen Gillis

### **Gold**

Charles Tefft

### **Ruby**

Corinne Berglund  
Harry Teller

### **Ruby Sapphire**

George Smith

## Fairfield/New Haven

### **Advanced Master Gardener**

Julia Cencebaugh-Kloth  
Janet Connolly  
Kerry Karlson  
Judith Madeux  
Elaine Piraino-Holevoet  
Tom Fatana  
Carol Mulligan  
Deanne Hobson  
Sally Pfeifer  
Kristine Scerbo  
Renee Marsh  
Flo Vannoni  
Theresa Merola  
Deirdra Wallin

### **Bronze**

Flo Vannoni  
Anne Mygatt

### **Silver**

Tim Ohsann

### **Gold**

Mary Ellen Ungar  
Kathy Ohsann

### **Ruby**

Allan Brown  
Donna Katsuranis

### **Ruby Silver**

Judith Chute Hsiang

## Tolland/Windham

### **Advanced Master Gardener**

Ingrid Fraize	Bill Oros
Ellie Fiske	Marcella Lavoie
Mary Ann Gates	Rosanna Longenbaker
Pam Hawkins	Sue Makoski
Debbie Kupfer	Cindy Malm
Donna Landerman	Joe Manfre

# 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					
City				State	Zip
Email			Phone (       )		
Office Where Certified	Year		RENEWING MEMBER		2014 GRADUATE or NEW MEMBER

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](http://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 <a href="mailto:president@ctmga.org">president@ctmga.org</a>
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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# THE LAUREL 2014



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# The LAUREL

*Connecticut  
Master  
Gardener  
Association  
Newsletter*

Spring 2015 Volume 28, No. 2

## Summer

### Program:

- ◆ 8:30 am - Buffet Breakfast at The Fairfield Extension Center
- ◆ 9:00 am - Quick CMGA Semi-Annual Meeting
- ◆ 9:30 am - Busses bring us to tour two beautiful gardens.
- ◆ 12 pm - Back to the Extension Center for a brown-bag lunch. Drinks and desserts provided by the CMGA.
- ◆ 1 pm - We drive ourselves to a local nursery for special offers.

More details will be available in the next issue and our website [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org) as soon as arrangements have been finalized. Please check the website frequently for updates and expanded information!

July 25, 2015

*Fairfield County  
Extension Center  
67 Stony Hill Road  
Bethel, Ct. 06801*

## Garden



## Safari

# Officers 2015

<b>President:</b>	Tracy Burrell president@ctmga.org
<b>Vice-President:</b>	TBD cmganews@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Debbye Rosen debbyerosen@sbcglobal.net
<b>Secretary:</b>	TBD cmganews@gmail.com
<b>Membership:</b>	Maureen Gillis cmga@comcast.net

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# President's Message

Nothing can defeat Master Gardeners! Linger-ing snowfall, slippery roads and overcast skies did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of almost 400 Master Gardeners who attended our annual Symposium on March 21. It was a great day and a great gathering for everyone. I want to thank all of the volunteers whose hard work over many months made this event a spectacular success, especially Maureen Gillis for her organizational skills, Diane Ostheimer for her artistry and John Carlson for his ability to come through in the clutch.

Longtime Board Member Billy Baxter received a Lifetime Membership at the event. Past President and current Grant Committee head, Billy is moving to South Carolina later this year and we will miss him dearly.

Sadly, longtime CMGA member Robert S. Sherman passed away in October. Bob was an integral part of the founding of CMGA, a past President, and a Lifetime Membership recipient.

In order for CMGA to meet the needs of our membership, we need you! There are numerous opportunities to volunteer, from serving on the Board, to working on special events, administrative activities, and expanding the Retail Partners program. We're also looking for new ideas that can make CMGA an even more valuable resource to our members. See page 5 for a listing of openings.

Tracy Burrell

# 2015 CMGA Symposium Enjoyed By All

A huge thanks to the outstanding job of the Symposium Committee, all the Master Gardeners, friends, and vendors (about 400 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 2016 Symposium, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 2016.



Tracy with  
Keynote Speaker  
Catherine Zimmerman



Visiting the many vendors



Lifetime Membership  
Recipient  
Billy Baxter



Floral Paper Design  
by  
Diane Ostheimer



John Carlson with Great Path  
Student Volunteers



## 2015 Symposium, continued

Despite lingering snow and cold winds, the symposium was well attended and bustling with activity.



Attendees enjoyed many more vendors this year.



Barry Glick, closing speaker, explaining propagation techniques to an attendee



Kim enjoying a laugh with Jamie Burgess, Symposium Food Chair

### ***Mark your calendars!***

- ◆ Summer Garden Safari July 25 Bethel (Fairfield Co)
- ◆ Annual Meeting November 7 Tolland



# CMGA Needs You...More than Ever!

CMGA is at a crossroads. Several members are retiring from the Board and from various roles they've held for many years. Please consider joining the Board or volunteering to head up the Symposium or other committees for next year. We have as variety of tools and support to help you in your new role, including mentoring from previous Board members. We need help or risk failing as an organization. Please consider being one of the volunteers who remake CMGA!

## Officer Positions:

Vice President and Secretary is currently open. President and Treasurer will be vacant in 2016. If these leadership roles aren't filled, there will be no CMGA. This is a great opportunity for new members and Officers to redefine CMGA, to make it the organization you want it to be! For a full description of openings, see <http://www.ctmga.org/#/board-and-chair-roles/4567742869> .

**2016 Symposium Positions:** Without these roles, there will be no 2016 Symposium!

- ◆ Chair (or Co Chairs) for the Symposium
- ◆ Speakers: after 10 years procuring speakers, Marge Bingham is retiring from her role
- ◆ Publicity/Activities: coordinate vendors/societies and signage

Planning starts in the Fall. These roles do not need to be filled by Board members, so it's a great way to help without being committed to monthly meetings.

## Other Positions/Activities:

These activities can be done from your home with the right coordination/communication with the Board. Contact Tracy Burrell at [president@ctmga.org](mailto:president@ctmga.org) for more information .

- ◆ **Publicity:** promotes CMGA events and activities, such as posting notices in local papers or placing articles about CMGA grant recipients. Symposium publicity is included in this role.
- ◆ **Retail Partners Program Chair:** reviews and expands current offerings in the program by communication with current / potential retails partners willing to give discounts to members.
- ◆ **Online Merchandise:** explore, select and manage online capability for CMGA Merchandise. We envision using a robust online merchant who has the capability to deliver a selected range of "on demand" merchandise with our logo directly to members.
- ◆ **CMGA Webmaster** (in 2016): This is not difficult but can take several hours per week or more. It involves management of content, forms, hosting and domains, and email alerts.

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## Thanks to new Chairs and old for your service!

Maureen Gillis will take over CMGA Membership Chair from Kathy Baechle. Renewals should now be sent to Maureen Gillis, 93 River Rd, East Haddam CT 06423 OR [cmga@comcast.net](mailto:cmga@comcast.net).

***Thank you Kathy for your many years of service as Membership Chair.***

Kim Kelly will take over Grants Chair from Billy Baxter. Send all proposals and inquiries to [grants@ctmga.org](mailto:grants@ctmga.org).

***Thank you Billy for your many years of service as Grants Chair.***

***Thank you Marge Bingham for your many years of service as Symposium Speaker Chair.***

# Experiencing the Natural Beauty of Japan



**Linda R. Boodman**  
**CT Master Gardener 2012**

We spent our 45th anniversary in Japan, hosted by my college roommate.

First stop was Tokyo, at Mico's home, overlooking the Sumida River. Tokyo mixes past and present as temples and shrines inhabit well maintained gardens throughout the city.

Next was Karuizawa and Mico's country home, in the lush volcanic mountains. Her door opens on a Rowan Berry tree (*Sorbus aucuparia*, family Rosaceae), a conical, deciduous native to all of Asia and Europe. It is similar to the Mountain Ash with large, sharply toothed leaflets. The red berry clusters appear at the end of summer and provide food for the birds. The Rowan Berry



Tree is considered "protection against evil spirits". It was early fall, with color changes just beginning. Japan shares the same latitude as the east coast of the United States. We visited Mt. Asama, the second most active volcano in the area. Fortunately, we had moved on just before a volcanic event 100-200 kilometers from Karuizawa.

Then, off to Kyoto. Kyoto was Japan's capital (Edo Period) for over one thousand years. It is rich in garden art and as a living chronicle of Japan's cultural history and environmental design. Japanese gardens are influenced by the Shinto love of nature and Buddhist idea of paradise.

There are basically four garden types: dry-landscape; the paradise garden; gardens for strolling and tea gardens. The Kyoto Botanical Garden incorporates many of these 'different gardens'. It is a 24 hectare (60 acres) site on a bank of the Kamo-gawa River.



It includes approximately 120,000 plants representing over 12,000 species



including a Bamboo Garden, Bonsai Exhibits, Camellia Garden, Cherry Trees, Japanese Iris Garden, Peony Garden, Sunken Garden. A large conservatory of glass and metal geodesic domes houses 25,000 specimens representing 4,500 species of bromeliads, aquatic and carnivorous plants, forest succulents, desert and savanna plants, alpine plants and tropical produce plants.

The pond with floating pink and white lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) blossoms was spectacular. Roots are planted in the soil of the pond and the leaves float above the surface. The plant can grow to heights of 150 cm (59") and up to 3 meters (9') in width. The leaves may be as big as 60 cm (23") in diameter. The leaves or pads of each floating plant have its own distinct shape and pattern.

A short walk put us into the Arashiyama Bamboo grove. The dense and towering bamboos soared on either side of the path. The sun filters through the trees backlighting immense spider webs with formidable spiders, some four and a half inches.

Nearby is the Ryoan-ji Temple, founded in 1450, featuring a rock and white gravel garden. Monks maintain the premises and shoes must be removed before entering the wooden buildings with tatami floor covering and shoji sliding screens. The serenity is pervasive as many sit, meditate or even wonder at the placement of the 15 rocks on the swirling gravel. The garden is an expression of Zen Buddhism.



Last stop was the Kinkaku-ji: the Golden Pavilion originally built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. A tree-lined path leads into a great garden set on a lake with a three storied gold-leaf covered temple crowned with a bronze phoenix. The view from any perspective on the surrounding banks displays a mountain in the background and layered trees, all inseparable from the pavilion of gold they host.

Then it was back to Tokyo on the Shinkansen or bullet train, traveling at about 120 mph, and then home.



# Spring Garden Recovery

Alicia Cornelio, editor Laurel

It was a long, brutal winter with record cold and snowfall. As spring slowly emerges, we gardeners will be out assessing our plantings to see what has prevailed. This spring is a good opportunity to see what trees, shrubs, and perennials are *really* suitable for Connecticut. Our hardiness zone ranges from 6a to 5b. Selecting plants that can survive zone 5 is best.

## **Hydrangeas**

Sarah Bailey, Hartford County Extension Coordinator, predicted in a recent presentation that few of us are going to enjoy flowering “mophead” hydrangeas this year. Older hydrangea macrophylla varieties bloom on old wood. During a very cold winter, the buds are killed off. The plants will emerge with many leaves but very few flowers. The solution is to replace the shrub with a new variety that blooms on new wood. Buds forming in the spring will offer flowers in the summer. New macrophylla varieties are Endless Summer, Penny Mac, and Pistachio. Hydrangea arborensis ‘Annabelle’ is an older variety that also blooms on new wood. Ask a nursery which hydrangeas they offer blooms on new wood.



## **Roses**



Those impulse purchases of blooming roses from the nursery can be short lived unless attention is made to the plant’s hardiness. Select roses that tolerate a zone 5 for reliable sustainability. If you don’t need flowers with the familiar hybrid tea shape, many shrub roses are perfect for Connecticut. They form a full rounded shape, are disease resistant, and are filled with blooms for most of the summer. Recommended series are Bill Radler’s Knock Out, Brownell sub-zero,

Griffith Buck, and Canadian Explorer. *Roses for New England* by Mike and Angelina Chute is a good guide.



## ***Conifers and Evergreens***

If protected from desiccating winter winds, conifers and evergreens are a safe choice for Connecticut. But there are exceptions. Some varieties of holly such as Nelly Stevens are not hardy in zone 5. Avoid cedar and cypress in general including Leyland Cypress, Deodar Cedar and Japanese Cedar. Of daphne, only 'Carol Mackie' is hardy. American arborvitae is very hardy but Oriental arborvitae is not. There are trees and shrubs that will be seen in nurseries because their top range is zone 6, but choose carefully. Borderline plants are common boxwood, some azaleas, and osmanthus. Camellias and Gardenias, even hardier types, won't survive a Connecticut winter.



## ***Perennials and bulbs***

We all know dahlias, gladiolus, and canna must be stored inside each winter. Beware of the borderline bulbs and tubers that need a protected site such as Peruvian lily, anemone blanda, bletilla, camassia, foxtail lily, fritillaria, and ranunculus. Iron clad performers are daffodils and hyacinths. They are hardy as well as poisonous. You won't lose your bulbs to hungry critters.



Some perennials have many varieties with wide tolerances to conditions. Tricky selections you might see in a local nursery are acanthus, anise hyssop, creeping verbenas, gunnera, many exotic grass varieties, torch lily, lavender, perennial viola, verbascum, primula, and geranium. Some plants have a tender variety that are offered during holidays. It is easy to pick up a plant with a familiar name that actually is not hardy in zone 5.

Yet, there are many perennials that do so well here! Consult a garden guide. When you find your bare spots this spring, choose a hardy plant!

# Colchester Butterfly Gardens

CMGA awarded a grant in 2014 to the Butterfly Gardens Project at the Cohen Woodlands and Wildlife Sanctuary on the former property of late state Rep. Rubin Cohen and his wife, Elizabeth Johnston Cohen, now administered by the Colchester Land Trust and Garden Club.



The project was spearheaded by Connecticut Master Gardener Katherine Kosiba as part of her Advanced Master Gardener certification. CMGA provided funds for the plants in the butterfly gardens.

The Cohen Wildlife Sanctuary and its surrounding 150 acres, are town property preserved for posterity. The purpose of the butterfly gardens is to attract native species and promote biodiversity to the site.



*Butterfly pictures by Todd Kalif , Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester*

# Build a Fairy House



Friends of Goodwin Forest in Hampton, CT, created a beautiful Fairy Trail through their woods that is done in all natural construction. A workshop was held last year to show others how to create a habitat design for the use of Fairies & Elves. Visitors can view this display at Goodwin Forest.



A Fairy House Workshop was held at the 2015 CMGA Symposium to help our symposium attendees learn how to build fairy houses for their own gardens. It was fun and the results were beautiful.



For more information on Goodwin Forest trails, see: [www.friendsofgoodwinforest.org](http://www.friendsofgoodwinforest.org)



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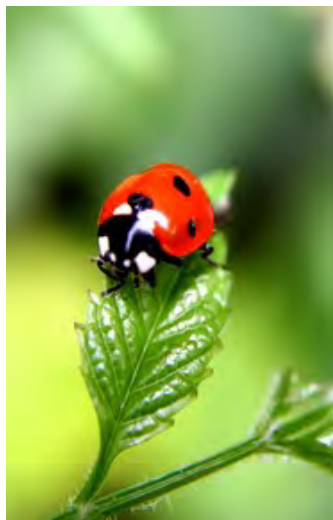
# The LAUREL

Connecticut  
Master  
Gardener  
Association  
Newsletter

Summer 2015 Volume 28, No. 3

## UConn celebrates Bug Week!

### Do you know your bugs?



UConn Extension is hosting Bug Week from July 20-25, 2015 to bring awareness of all bugs good and bad in our environment.

There will be events, interactive activities, and programs for children as well as adults that can be done on your own or part of a UConn group activity.

Featured activities include a photo contest, tour of insect collections, scavenger hunt, and a visit to Spring Valley Farm and their student program.

Bug kits are available to educators and a video on creating a bug barn can be viewed on their website.

Browse their site <http://bugs.uconn.edu/> for a description of activities and programs during Bug Week as well as a resource page of insects and pest management strategies.

If you have questions, email them at [bugweek@uconn.edu](mailto:bugweek@uconn.edu) or call 860-486-9228.



### **Summer Garden Safari is July 25!**

A full description of the program and sign up is on page 3.

Don't miss it!



# Officers 2015

<b>President:</b>	Tracy Burrell president@ctmga.org
<b>Vice-President:</b>	TBD cmganews@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Debbye Rosen debbyerosen@sbcglobal.net
<b>Secretary:</b>	TBD cmganews@gmail.com
<b>Membership:</b>	Maureen Gillis cmga@comcast.net

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Kathy Baechle	Marge Bingham
Tracy Burrell	Alicia Cornelio
Maureen Gillis	Paul Grimmeisen
Kim Kelly	Paula Leibovitz
Diane Ostheimer	Florie Ricciuti
Debbye Rosen	Toni Royal

**CMGA website:** [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org)  
**The Laurel:** [cmganews@gmail.com](mailto:cmganews@gmail.com)  
Alicia Cornelio (Editor)

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**UConn Home & Garden Education Center:**  
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Please send news, photographs and calendar items by email to [cmganews@gmail.com](mailto:cmganews@gmail.com)

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

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## President's Message

Summertime...and the livin' is easy – but not if you're a Master Gardener! We volunteer at fairs and farmers markets, expand community gardens, give out advice and mentor at the Extension offices and in our spare time, work in our own gardens!

We're always busy, but CMGA members and their guests always take some well-deserved time off for our annual Summer Garden Safari and Semi-Annual Meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup>. This year, we'll be in Fairfield County with Julia Cencebaugh and her fantastic team of MGs. Check out the article for details about the spectacular sites we'll be visiting.

Our new Grant Committee Chair Kim Kelly, has highlighted several grants that were approved in 2015 – we still have money available – put in an application!

The August 4 Board Meeting will be held at Connecticut College – the folks at the Arboretum are definitely looking forward to seeing us again, so please join us! We've asked the folks there to give us a private tour of one of their smaller garden areas, and you can also tour the Arboretum itself, on your own, after the Board meeting.

If you are looking for some outreach hours, write an article for The Laurel! Your fellow members are very interested in gardens you have seen, your pictures, and new ideas for the home garden. Please share by sending your thoughts to Alicia Cornelio at [cmganews@gmail.com](mailto:cmganews@gmail.com).

Tracy Burrell

# 2015 Summer Garden Safari

## Don't miss it!

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 and a great way to meet Interns and Master Gardeners from other counties. This year's Safari will be held in Fairfield County, with the Bethel Extension Center's "White Building" as home base.

Registration remains at only \$15 per person (CMGA members and guests). Please reserve a place for yourself and your guests by registering by mail or online.

Send your check (payable to CMGA) for \$15 per person to:  
Debbye Rosen  
138 Arundel Avenue  
West Hartford CT 06107

Please include the name of your guest(s) when sending payment for more than one.

Credit card payments can also be made through PayPal at <http://www.ctmga.org/#/summer-safari-pay-online/4551120615> . Select the number of registrations you want to pay, and please include guest(s) names in the comments section of the payment.

### **PROGRAM:**

#### **WHEN**

Saturday, July 25 beginning at 8:30 am

#### **WHERE**

Meet in Bethel at the Fairfield County Extension Center in the White Building (67 Stony Hill Road Bethel, CT 06801-3056).

See <http://www.extension.uconn.edu/extension-centers/fairfield.php> for directions.

#### **DETAILS**

8:30 Buffet breakfast provided by CMGA (bring a dish to share if you'd like!)

9:00 CMGA Semi-Annual Meeting

9:30 and 10:30 Busses bring us to one-hour tour of two gardens (see below)

12:00 Bring a lunch and join us back at the Extension Center; CMGA will supply drinks and desserts (bring a dish to share if you'd like!)

1:00 10% Discount at Shakespeare's Garden Nursery in Brookfield for CMGA members (transportation on your own)

# Summer Garden Safari Tours

## *Garden Tour #1: Garden of Ideas (Ridgefield)*

The Garden of Ideas is eight acres of marsh, woodland, meadow and vegetable plots located in Ridgefield featuring an arboretum-like collection of plants (trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, vegetables, tropicals) amidst a unique array of original garden art. The Garden is maintained to create beautiful garden spaces, grow interesting plants well, minimize unnecessary landscape maintenance, provide animal habitats, and produce an abundance of nutrient dense foodcrops. The property includes a natural marsh, which is fed by overflow from Lake Mamasasco. Some interesting animals and plants are present due to this unusual and changing water feature. Of particular note, is an annual crop of wild rice.



## *Garden Tour #2: Ballard Garden (Ridgefield)*



trees, formal gardens, a gazebo and children's playground.

Ballard Garden and Greenhouse is an historical garden maintained by the Garden Club of Ridgefield, which celebrated their centennial last year. Situated on Main Street, Ballard Park is a five-acre, lush green oasis which once housed the 18th century estate of Colonel Philip Burr Bradley, a Commander during the Revolutionary War and friend of George Washington. Bradley fought in the Battle of Ridgefield and was also the town's first postmaster. The Park features stately

## *Shakespeare's Garden Nursery (Brookfield)*

Shakespeare's Garden is a unique garden center and barn shop specializing in arrangements, annuals, perennials, landscape design, installation, and property management. They grow all their annuals on site, and have a wide selection of perennials, trees, and shrubs. There are display gardens for inspiration, and an uncommon passion in all our staff to help design, create and care for the simplest to the most ornate garden setting. See <http://www.shakespearesgarden.net/> for more information.

We hope to see you there! This special Safari is one you won't forget.

# Putting Knowledge to Work in Your Community

Kim Kelly, CMGA Grants Coordinator

You've finished your classroom instruction, made new friends, spent winter months dreaming of gardening, and hear about outreach projects. Maybe that's how you heard of the Master Gardener program, having seen the results of these amazing projects in your community. For others this may be a whole new concept! But not to worry, as passionate Master Gardeners present their ideas and projects to the class you will soon be 'hooked'.

The CMGA has been proudly supporting Master Gardener Outreach projects through their grant program for over 17 years. We are working on updating/improving the grant application and year end progress reports on our website.

This year the CMGA has provided grant funding to 8 different outreach projects. Some are new projects while others are ongoing, and all are impressive! Here's a quick look at the projects funded so far.

**Bethel fair-** this will be the 13th annual Bethel gardening fair that is held at the Litchfield County Extension Center. The fair has become a welcome resource for the community, with hands on activities and demonstrations, while highlighting the Master Gardener projects at the Center.

**I-Park-** A non-profit artist's retreat center in East Haddam. Master gardeners will design and install a medicinal herb garden.

**Peoples Harvest-** An educational community garden focused on sustainable agriculture and food security, this project is in its 10th year. It continues to be an outdoor classroom for youth groups and local organizations while donating all the produce to the soup kitchens and food pantries.

**Harwinton Super Saturday-** Located at the Harwinton Public Library, the project educated and assisted school aged children to plant patio tomatoes and learn how to care for them at home.

**Bethany Community Garden-** A community garden consisting of 40 raised beds designed for the mobility impaired and seniors, this project will donate produce to a local soup kitchen. Educational programs focusing on Best Management Practices and IPM will be provided annually

**Mercy Center-** Located at the Mercy Center in Madison, this project will work with the children at Our Lady of Mercy School to teach them about organic gardening. In addition work will continue at The Mercy Center in the organic kitchen garden and various garden sites around the Center. This involved a complete greenhouse cleanup as well!

**Goodwin Forest and Conservation Center-** In its 10th year, Master Gardeners have helped to transform the Center and its grounds into a working classroom focused on native plants, ecology, sustainable landscape design and propagation.

**Kid'sPlay Children's museum-** This new project is focused on creating an urban native habitat for birds and insects in downtown Torrington. The space will be used for an outdoor classroom, providing opportunity for exploration and observation.

# Bee Pollinators

## Protecting Bees from Pesticides



Hot Topics, the annual educational forum for Master Gardeners, included a presentation on bees, pesticides, and pollinators as an important issue for 2015.

Bees play a major role in pollinating commercial and home crops as well as plants in natural environments. Without bees, there will be no nuts, fruits, and vegetables for human consumption. All bees, including honey bees, bumble bees, and a wide diversity of native bees are highly sensitive to insecticides. There is now evidence that pesticides are a major factor in bee colony collapse disorder.

You can help bee survival by considering the following practices when using insecticides around your home:

**Spraying:** Do not spray insecticides on any plants in flower during the time they are visited by bees. When spraying insecticides on plants not in flower or not attractive to bees, avoid drift. Pesticides can be carried by air currents to other plants that bees will pollinate.

**Systemic insecticides:** These are insecticides that are incorporated by the plants and move through their tissues. Insects ingest these insecticides while feeding on treated plants and are killed.

Which pesticides are especially harmful to bees?

**Neonicotinoids:** These insecticides affect the nervous systems of insects. The most widely used by homeowners are imidacloprid and dinotefuran. Read the fine print under "Active Ingredients". If you must use them, avoid drift and apply to plants not in flower. If applied to the soil, only use on soil directly around a particular plant since the chemicals will be absorbed by other plants in the soil.

**Fungicides:** There is growing evidence that fungicides harm bees by making them more susceptible to diseases and interfere with fungi that live naturally in hives. Fungicides may also interact with the insecticides to make them more toxic to bees.



Honey bees were imported from Europe by Colonial settlers, however there are over 4,000 native bees that contribute to pollination. Bumble bees are unfortunately rarely seen but you will have a good chance of spotting mason bees, sweat bees, carder bees and leafcutter bees.



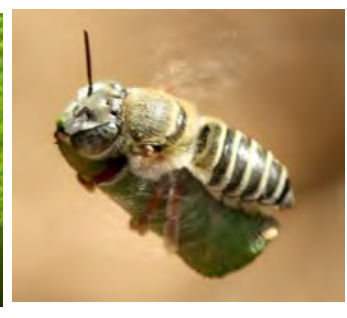
Mason bee



Sweat bee



Carder bee



Leaf cutter bee

The flowers that are visited by bees are typically:

- \* Full of nectar
- \* Brightly colored with petals that are usually blue or yellow (bees cannot see red)
- \* Sweetly aromatic or have a minty fragrance
- \* Open in daytime
- \* Provide landing platforms
- \* Provide tubular shape with nectar at bottom

You can help by planting a bee garden, a garden filled with flowers bees visit. Reduce your lawn and plant a bed of flowering plants in your front yard to provide food and habitat for bees. Plant native flowers that bees know and like. Plant single flower tops such as daisies and marigolds. They produce more nectar and provide a landing area for bees. Plant blooms that will last the whole season, starting with spring bloomers and ending with fall bloomers. Create a bee bath by leaving a shallow pan of water in your garden. Also, leave a dead limb on a tree to provide a home for native bees.

Let's be a friend to bees! We need them and they need us more than ever.

Alicia Cornelio, editor

Sources:

"Bee Pollination." *United States Dept. of Agriculture*. 2015. Web.  
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# Summer is for Touring Gardens!

Alicia Cornelio, editor Laurel

It was a challenging spring for our gardens after a long, cold winter. Yet, with diligent watering to offset an especially dry spring and a few very warm days, gardens are flourishing all over the state. Annuals and perennials are popping up practically overnight, and vegetables are growing rapidly. With our gardens well underway, summer is a great time to enjoy the efforts of other gardeners. Along with the not-to-be-missed **CMGA Summer Safari** experience, there are many gardens in the state that offer free or low priced admissions. Below are some of my favorites:

## ***Nipmuck State Forest Mountain Laurel Sanctuary, Union***

The primary attraction of this sanctuary is a mile-long stretch of dirt road flanked by 10 to 15 foot mountain laurel bushes. You can walk the road or just enjoy the view from your car. There are picnic tables along the road to enjoy a lunch while viewing the laurels. This trail is not to be missed in June. Admission is free.

[www.ct.gov/deep/nipmuck](http://www.ct.gov/deep/nipmuck)



## ***Cedar Hill Cemetery Tree Walk, Hartford***



This final resting place of many of Connecticut's most famous residents through the centuries, contains many unique trees. The Notable Trees brochure introduces visitors to Cedar Hill's most rare and notable trees with tree descriptions and a map for visitors to walk freely amongst the grounds and view these trees themselves.

<http://cedarhillfoundation.org/visit-cedar-hill/self-guided-tours/>

### ***Roseland Cottage, Woodstock***



Tucked away in Connecticut's quiet corner, the Gothic Revival style home was visited by four presidents and is surrounded by gorgeous Victorian style gardens. There is a small fee to tour the home but the gardens can be viewed for free.

<http://www.historicnewengland.org/historic-properties/homes/roseland-cottage>

### ***Sundial Gardens, Haddam***

Tea lovers can combine their favorite pastime while exploring beautiful formal gardens by the tea and gift shop in the Higganum section of Haddam. Formal gardens include a Persian-style knot garden, an 18th-century style garden with geometric walkways, and a topiary garden with boxwood, roses and ivy garlands surrounding a fountain. These architectural gardens are incorporated into the landscape around a restored 18th century farm house. Even if you don't buy any tea, the gardens can be viewed for free.



<http://www.sundialgardens.com/>



## ***Dinosaur State Park, Rocky Hill***



Dinosaur State Park and Arboretum is a unique 63-acre state park located at 400 West Street, Rocky Hill. It contains one of the largest dinosaur track sites in North America, with early Jurassic fossil tracks in sandstone from about 200 million years ago. There is a fee to enter the geodome, but the trails and gardens are free.

The arboretum's goal is to grow representatives of as many Mesozoic Era plant families as possible on the site. It currently contains more than two miles of nature trails with more than 250 species and cultivars of conifers, plus collections of arborvitae, chamaecyparis, ginkgo, juniper, katsura, pine, sequoia and magnolia. Some rarer species in the arboretum's collection include the evergreen southern magnolia and monkey puzzle. Recent plantings have focused on woody plants from the Cretaceous angiosperm families.

## ***Boothe Park Wedding Rose Garden, Stratford***

Boothe Memorial Park & Museum sits on an idyllic, 32 acre site in the north end of Stratford high above the Housatonic River. It was the estate of the Boothe family for many generations and willed to the town in 1949 for the public to enjoy. The park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The park contains many architecturally unique buildings including a windmill, clocktower, a small observatory, playground and the popular rose garden where you will see wedding parties exchanging vows among the beautiful roses.







### ***Uconn Home Food Preservation Workshops July–August, 2015***

Uconn Extension is holding workshops at various times at three of their offices to educate on food preservation techniques. See this link for more information: <http://www.ctmga.org/#/non-cmga-events/4532058827>

### ***CMGA Summer Garden Safari July 25, 2015***

See page 3 for a full description.

### ***Lost Gardens of New England until July 31, 2015***

The Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London is featuring an exhibit of images, drawings, watercolors, and historic photographs, to depict gardens, great and small, that no longer exist or only partially survive.

<http://www.lymanallyn.org>

### ***Tomato Tasting and Family Fun August 17, 2015***

Enjoy an epicurean afternoon at the Ambler Farm in Wilton while tasting and learning about a variety of fresh heirloom, hybrid and "garden variety" tomatoes. <http://www.amblerfarm.org/summer/>

### ***"Flight of the Butterflies" until September 7, 2015***

The Norwalk Maritime Aquarium is a wonderful place to visit anytime, but this summer an IMAX film on monarch butterflies is featured. It follows the incredible year-long migration cycle of millions of monarch butterflies from Canada, across the United States and into Mexico.

<http://maritimeaquarium.org/>

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# THE LAUREL 2014



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# The LAUREL

*Connecticut  
Master  
Gardener  
Association  
Newsletter*

Autumn 2015 Volume 28, No. 4

## Annual Meeting November 7

Please join us for the CMGA Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at the Tolland County Extension Office. This is always a fun meeting and a great chance to socialize with your fellow MGs. For directions and address click [here](#).

### **Agenda:**

- 10:00 Socialize/Special Brunch  
Goodies
- 10:30 Business meeting and  
elections
- 11:00 Guest Speaker
- Noon: Door Prizes!



### **CMGA Vice President, Secretary, and Board Members Wanted**

If you are interested in joining the Board, email Tracy Burrell at [president@ctmga.org](mailto: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!

## President's Message

The Master Gardeners lost someone very special with the passing of Dick Shaffer in July. Dick was a masterful gardener, a tireless volunteer and an extraordinary human being. Everything he did was meticulously and beautifully accomplished from the Shade Garden at Elizabeth Park, the signs that directed folks at the CMGA Garden Symposium to his carefully crafted emails. He took everything he did seriously, but he never took himself seriously, and his wry observations and gentle humor always made us smile.

He was a great friend and we miss him dearly. Hartford County Master Gardener Coordinator Sarah Bailey is leading the effort to remember Dick, including a plaque in the Shade Garden, and CMGA has contributed funds towards that project. Sarah also said that plans are in the works to have a special remembrance of Dick at the Hartford and Litchfield Counties 2015 Master Gardener graduation on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

This issue has a recap of our Summer Garden Safari, some fantastic articles and information on the November 14 Connecticut College Arboretum's SALT (Smaller American Lawns Today) Conference that CMGA members can attend at the Arboretum member rate.

Special thanks to Safari Co-Chair Paul Grimmeisen and Florie Ricciuti, Fairfield County MG Coordinator Julia Cencebaugh and MG Renee Marsh for all their hard work on a wonderful day!

Don't forget – the Master Gardener year ends in September – log in your outreach hours in the MG database at [uconnmastergardeners.com](http://uconnmastergardeners.com). Also, renew your membership now, using the enclosed form on the last page of this newsletter.

Tracy Burrell

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Tracy Burrell	Alicia Cornelio
Jean Fletcher	Paul Grimmeisen
Kim Kelly	Paula Leibovitz
Diane Ostheimer	Florie Ricciuti
Debbye Rosen	Toni Royal

**CMGA website:** [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org)  
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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](mailto:cmganews@gmail.com)

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

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# CMGA Summer Garden Safari July 25

It was a fun and fabulous time at the 2015 CMGA Summer Safari! About 70 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 Garden of Ideas, Ballard Garden, and the Shakespeare Garden. Thanks to Paul Grimmeisen and Florie Ricciuti for co-chairing the Safari committee.





# Bethany Community Garden

The Connecticut Master Gardener Association has a long history of promoting and supporting community based gardens from its Grants program.

A recent grant recipient is the Bethany Organic Community Garden, organized by the Bethany Garden Club. Located at 90 Pole Hill Park, it opened for the first time in 2015. Bethany Community Garden will eventually consist of forty raised beds designed for seniors and the mobility impaired.



There are several Master Gardeners on the committee available to assist and educate fellow community gardeners in organic gardening methods, Best Management Practices, and IPM.

This garden strives to promote a feeling of friendship and sharing among its gardeners. Some of the beds will be dedicated to grow food for a soup kitchen or local families in need.

If you would like to join this effort, please see more information on their [Facebook page](#).



# Reclaiming a Weedy Lawn

Alicia Cornelio, Editor Laurel



You've been thinking about it. So don't hesitate. Do it now, right now! Fall is the best time to plant grass seed. Grass needs help establishing when weed growth slows in the cooling months of fall, the time of year grass loves. After two seasons of trying to establish a lawn in the spring only to lose out to the weeds, my son decided to call the swat team.

A lawn is reclaimable if at least 50 percent is grass. Otherwise, tilling and starting over is more practical. Geoff's lawn passed the 50% mark. So, we began by hand pulling all the weeds, making sure to pull *all* the roots. Ideally, pull weeds before their flowers set seeds and drop in the soil, to avoid a vicious cycle.

Next was a soil test. Lawns like a neutral PH. Luckily, no amendments were needed. And, grass seeds can't root in hard soil. After only two seasons, the existing topsoil was not compacted and no new topsoil was needed. New topsoil is never completely weed free, so the added bonus was no additional weed seeds to deal with. Due to the unusually hot weather, seeding begins next week. The grass seed will be sown by hand and covered by a quarter inch of composted cow manure. Composting kills weed seeds in the mixture! The manure will feed the lawn and protect the seeds from birds. Keeping the seeds moist is essential for germination. Neglect watering and all the other steps are in vain. Once grass seedlings emerge, water regularly until the first frost.

Hand pulling weeds is not possible for everyone. The alternative is to spread a weed killer and dethatch to pull up the dead weeds from the soil. This process is expensive with a longer lead time before reseeding. You can fertilize the grass seedlings right away using a fertilizer that specializes in feeding grass seedlings. Add the fertilizer right into the soil. Next spring weeds can be kept under control early by hand weeding or using an herbicide.

We heard many comments from neighbors and passers-by during the hand weeding stage. But the successful end result will be the response from the lawn itself!

Next issue: the pictures!



# The Glory of the August Garden

Michele MacKinnon, Master Gardener Class of 2013



Summer marches on. My August garden is at its peak, with highlights provided by swaths of golden rudbeckia, spiky clumps of mauve Agastache, and whopping white cones of *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Little Lime'. These stalwarts reward all varieties of winged and footed garden visitors on a daily basis with visual pleasure and abundant pollen.

You might want to plant some Hyssop, Agastache 'Honey Bee Blue', in your garden. Also known as Hummingbird Mint, its inch-wide bottlebrush-like mauve flowers attract gold finches, hummingbirds, swallowtail butterflies and a wide variety of other pollinators. When the flowers age, gold finches become frequent visitors, dangling upside down like circus acrobats, to peck at the seeds. Another bonus is hyssop's deer resistance; even unprotected plants have withstood the marauding herds in my area. I learned it is because hyssop is in the mint family, which deer dislike. Due to its prolific seed production, my only caution is to deadhead after blooming to limit reseeding.



It is time for some garden maintenance too. Cut down spent stalks of hostas and lilies, and pull out the messy brown leaves of Stella D'Oro lilies. Cut some flowers to enjoy indoors too, or share some with your friends.

Having learned from painful trial and error, regular deer and rabbit repellent spraying is now part of my summer routine. Emerging hydrangea, rudbeckia and hosta blooms are enticing to our hooved visitors so I started spraying earlier this year and it is working.





Keep a close watch on vegetables for mildew problems. My cucumber vine was not getting enough air or light, so I trimmed neighboring tomato vines to overcome this issue. As you may have heard many times water early in the day so foliage has time to dry. You can start planting cool season crops such as peas, lettuce, radishes, and spinach.

Weeds are hyperactive now. Crabgrass is sprouting everywhere. Watch out for a second flush of invasive garlic mustard blooms too. This is the plant you see with tiny white blooms in groupings along the forest edge. It is a prolific seed producer and will quickly spread in disturbed soil areas, such as where trees have fallen or leaves are blown back at lawn edges. Even inch-high plants will produce seeds so pull all plants, regardless of size. For more information, and photos showing the various stages of this nasty plant, visit [http://www.eddmaps.org/ipane/ipanespecies/herbs/Alliaria\\_petiolata.htm](http://www.eddmaps.org/ipane/ipanespecies/herbs/Alliaria_petiolata.htm).



It's not too early to start planning fall garden fixes. Fall is a great time to garden: it is cooler, there are fewer bugs, there are bargains at nurseries and there is ample time for plants to establish before winter's arrival.

A word of caution: it is still necessary to examine plants and roots to ensure you are buying worthy specimens.

*Broken Arrow Nursery is a great place to find shrubs to fill in that empty spot in your garden.*

Sit back, or dig in and clean up. Whichever option you choose, it's a wonderful time to enjoy your garden.

# The Domes

Nancie Keenan

Yes, we have summer and Connecticut gardens are at their peak for colors, textures and beauty. However, if you have an opportunity in your cross-country travels to pass through Milwaukee, Wisconsin, take time to visit the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory fondly called "The Domes".



I had the chance to spend several hours there in June. There are three domes: the Desert Dome, the Tropical Dome and the Themed Dome. The Desert and Tropical Domes remain constant year round while the Themed Dome, changes four times a year. During Wisconsin winters, the Tropical and Desert Domes are truly enjoyable climate adventures! Even in June the Desert Dome with the dry air was a welcomed relief after spending time in the Tropical Dome.

You can experience orchids and many bromeliads in a tranquil waterfall environment in the Tropical Dome. Seeing a few colorful tropical birds flying around the dome adds to the atmosphere. You can stop to rest on a number of benches throughout the exhibit.





In the Desert Dome it has one of the world's finest collections of cacti and succulents, shrubs and arid-land bulbs. Palms and Pampas Grasses show geometric contrasting forms. As you walk thru the Domes it is hard to explain how every ten feet the various perspectives of color and form are endless in the changing views. It is a dramatic display worth seeing if you are in the Milwaukee area.



The Themed Dome in June had the seasonal flowers of a typical garden in Wisconsin during the summer with peak Color. It is complimented with seasonal wire sculptures such as an old woman feeding doves and children flying kites.



The Domes are open every day. Admission is just \$7 and \$6 with a AAA discount. You can read more about the history of how The Domes came to be [here](#). Or, write to the organization below:

"The Domes"  
524 S. Layton Blvd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
414-257-5611

# The Phragmite Challenge

Sue Sweeney

Phragmites, also called common reed, is the most widespread reed in the world. This Asian variety has inter-bred and out-bred our native variety. Sadly, the plumes have become a common sight in our regional wetlands. Phragmites has virtually no value to our wildlife.

At the Scalzi Riverwalk Nature Preserve, we're slowly eliminating the the phragmites through a little-known, minimally-disruptive technique. What we found by trial and error (lots of error!) was that shade-grown phragmites can be pretty much killed by a single ground cutting in June. No chemicals, bulldozers, etc., needed.

So each June, we select a manageable patch to cut down and over plant with tall native herbaceous plants, sapling trees and young shrubs. The patch then has to be defended from new invasives, such as bindweed, while the natives are filling in and stabilizing the ground. Weeding is carefully done to avoid stepping on the good plants. The small amount of phragmites that survives is recut each June.



Good herbaceous plant choices are helianthus (wild sunflower), New York Ironweed, joe-pye weed, pokeweed, evening primrose, swamp milkweed, common beneset, plus local asters and goldenrods. These plants shade the phragmites while providing a cheerful riot of mid- to late-season color with plenty of for pollen and seeds for wildlife. Meanwhile, in other sections of the preserve, we cut the edges of the patch back to prevent root-spreading and cut off the seed plumes to prevent seed-spreading downstream.





## ***Foliage Tours***

It's that special time of year in New England. Even the most hardened New Englander will stop and admire the colors that burst onto the scene. So, immerse yourself in the wonderful scenery of Connecticut's spectacular fall foliage – Take a fall driving tour through some of the state's charming towns, explore some of the most beautiful Connecticut hiking trails or enjoy a unique leaf-peeping experience as you zip through the trees at the Adventure Park at Storrs. Check the fall foliage forecast and decide on your preferred hiking and / or driving route at: <http://www.ct.gov/deep/foliage>.

## ***10th Annual SALT Conference for Homeowners November 14, 2015***

Connecticut College is hosting this conference to prepare home gardeners for any environmental changes that may take place in the future. If storms threaten, oceans rise, or droughts come, is there anything you can do now to ensure the sustainability of your land? Gathered together are experts in the field who will share with you what they are doing now to maintain the sustainability of their land and what they have done when disaster has struck. They will show you how to make the best of a bad (or good) situation, and how to create lawns that will better withstand assaults from nature. CMGA is a co-sponsor of this event and ***Master Gardeners will receive the Arboretum member rate of \$45.***

For information:

<http://www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum/programs-and-activities/salt/>

# Connecticut Master Gardener Association

## 2016 Membership Form

for the calendar year Jan. 1, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2016

**Dues are \$20**

PLEASE PRINT

Name				
Street				
City			State	Zip
Email			Phone (    )	
Office Where Certified	Year		RENEWING MEMBER	2015 GRADUATE & NEW MEMBER

Membership is restricted to Master Gardeners  
**Dues are payable by December 31, 2015. Annual dues are \$20.**

Please send your check, payable to **CMGA**, and this page or a copy to **Maureen Gillis, 93 River Rd East Haddam, CT 06423**

**OR pay online with your credit card using Paypal at [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org)**

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

- Symposium (March) _____	- Annual Meeting (Nov) _____
- CMGA Board Member (monthly meetings and committee work) _____	- Publicity/Public Relations _____
- Partners Program Chair _____	
- Summer Safari (July) _____	- Other skills/suggestions?

Email us at [president@ctmga.org](mailto:president@ctmga.org)

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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