



# The LAUREL

Connecticut  
Master  
Gardener  
Association  
Newsletter

Winter 2018 Volume 31, No. 1

## Symposium XXV Special 25th Anniversary Celebration **Nature's Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together** March 17, 2018

CMGA has put together a very special 25th annual symposium with renowned national speakers to be held at the Connecticut College Crozier-Williams building in New London, CT. The location remains the same as last year to ensure an smooth symposium experience for this special event. The price remains the same as it has been for many years. Register by flyer received in the mail, or online at [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org). Please join us!



Registration begins at 8:00 am. Opening remarks are followed by our keynote speaker in the main auditorium at 9:00 am. The morning sessions will begin at 11:00 am. Lunch at noon is an assortment of wrap sandwiches (also vegetarian), green salad, assorted chips, assorted cookies, apples and beverages. The afternoon sessions will begin at 1:30 pm. Our closing speaker will begin at 2:45 pm. And check out our vendors and the silent auction (bidding ends at 1:00). Session descriptions are on page 3.



**Keynote Speaker: Thomas Rainer**  
**"DESIGNING PLANT COMMUNITIES FOR RESILIENT LANDSCAPING "**



**Closing Speaker: Rick Darke**  
**"A WATERSHED IN DESIGN: THE BEAUTY OF INSPIRED STEWARDSHIP"**

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*The Laurel* is published quarterly for CMGA members. Please send information 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

Dear Gardening Friends:

Are you a satisfied CMGA customer? Are you a disgruntled CMGA employee? The answer to both questions is "no", because CMGA has neither customers nor employees. We have dedicated members who volunteer their time, energy and money to support the goals and mission of CMGA and the UConn Master Gardener program. I want to extend my personal thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who have worked so hard to make 2017 such a successful year for us.

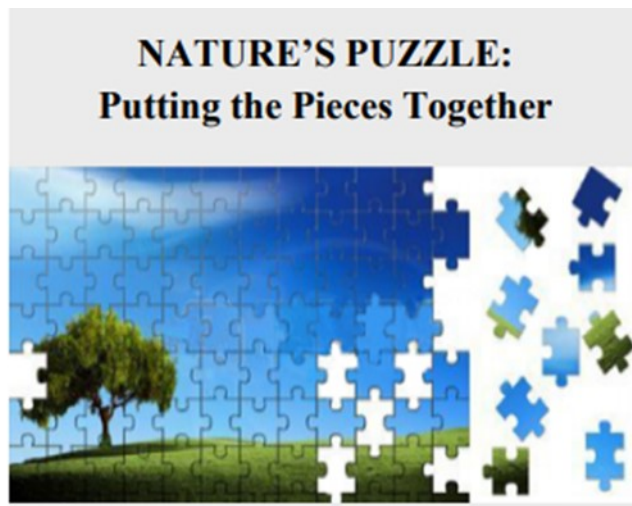
As you may know, CMGA is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation under Connecticut Chapter 251 of the General Statutes. As such, we are considered a public charity, and your dues payment is a tax-deductible charitable donation. From a legal standpoint, we can give you nothing in return for this donation, other than the satisfaction of knowing that your money will be put to good use supporting CMGA's mission, as stated in our bylaws:

- To support the horticultural activities of Master Gardeners and Interns in providing educational outreach to the residents of Connecticut.
- To support the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program and its projects.
- To foster communication, education, and esprit de corps among Master Gardeners.
- To engage in activities that further the purposes of the Association.

The recent state budget crisis will affect the Master Gardener Program in the following way: starting in mid-2018, UConn will be reducing its direct financial support for the program. Within the near future, the MG program is expected to become self-funded.

(continued on page 5)

# Main Speakers at the 2018 Annual Symposium



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Thomas Rainer is a registered landscape architect, teacher and writer living in Washington, D.C. He is a specialist in applying innovative planting concepts to create low-input, attractive and ecologically-functional designed landscapes. His recent work focuses on the artful interpretation of wild plant communities into designed plantings that thrive in the context of towns and cities. He teaches planting design for the George Washington University Landscape Design program and regularly speaks to audiences throughout the country on sustainable planting design. Thomas's lecture, **DESIGNING PLANT COMMUNITIES FOR RESILIENT LANDSCAPING** will provide a shift from thinking about plants as individual objects to communities of interrelated species. When you plant in communities, you manage the entire planting, not each individual plant. Many garden books focus on what to plant, but few focus on how to arrange plants to fit together in ecological combinations.

**CLOSING SPEAKER:** Rick Darke is owner of Rick Darke LLC, a Pennsylvania-based consulting firm focused on landscape ethics, contextual design and photography. Darke's work blends art, ecology, and cultural geography in the design and management of living landscapes. His many books include "The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden" and the "Gardens of the High Line: Elevating the Nature of Modern Landscapes". Rick's lecture **A WATERSHED IN DESIGN; THE BEAUTY OF INSPIRED STEWARDSHIP** will illustrate a turning point in landscape design, leaving fixed patterns behind and looking forward to living process as inspiration for dynamic modeling. Celebrating the flux of biological and cultural communities and its relationship to natural resources is the key to successful design and stewardship. Using examples of water-conserving designs based on northeastern natives, he will illustrate an ethical approach that results in beautiful, useful and sustainable landscapes.

# Breakout Sessions at the 2018 Annual Symposium

(continued from page 3)

- 1. Nancy DuBrule-Clemente: The Butterfly Connection** Owner of Natureworks in Northford, CT, Nancy will share her insights of how studying and raising Monarch butterflies have informed her thinking about organic gardening, the use of chemicals, and the importance of grasses, weeds, and plants you may not think are vital to this effort. You will learn all about the larval food plants needed for CT butterflies and Nancy's favorite nectar plants for summer feeding and fall migration.
- 2. George Coombs: The Science Behind Native Cultivars** Horticultural Research Manager at Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, Delaware, George will review the results of various research projects aimed at discerning if cultivars are able to support wildlife as well as their native species counterparts. This lecture will cover pollinators and leaf-eating insect behavior across many different types of popular garden plants.
- 3. Dan Long Beyond the Trellis: Using Innovative Techniques to Support Vines and Climbers** Dan, owner of Brushwood Nursery in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, specializes in unusual vining plants. There is so much potential! Clematis and climbing roses are natural partners. Training vines to cascade through other objects, or as climbers in shrubs and small trees, as well as using them as ground covers, will be illustrated.
- 4. Ellen Ecker Ogden: The Art of Growing Food** Ellen is an award-winning food and garden writer based in Vermont, and co-founder of The Cook's Garden seed catalog. Her talks give fresh ideas for how to design a kitchen garden rich in details. She will illustrate her six steps to successful kitchen garden design, based on classic design techniques. Included is a primer on foursquare crop rotation for healthy soil, and how to give your kitchen garden unique style.
- 5. Annie White, PhD: How Native Plants Affect Pollinators** Annie is owner/principal designer of Nectar Landscape Design Studio in Burlington, Vermont, specializing in artful and ecologically sensitive landscape designs. The growing demand for native plants, coupled with the horticulture industry's desire for unique garden offerings, has led to the increased development of new native cultivars. Annie will share four years of field data that helps determine if these cultivars are as valuable as the true native species in pollinator habitat gardens.
- 6. Kevin Wilcox: Advanced Pruning Techniques** Kevin is a Connecticut Accredited Nursery Professional who has worked in the nursery industry for over 30 years. His workshop will be a concentrated course on how, when, where and why to prune trees and shrubs. Along with a slide presentation, there will be tools available with which to practice, and examples of trees and their healing abilities. This class will boost your confidence and show you just how simple and straightforward pruning really is.

## New Grant Project at the Hospital for Special Care

Nicholas Pisani and Olivia Astle, coordinators of the Garden Club of the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, CT, reached out to the CMGA for suggestions on gardening projects for their members. Pat Taylor and Alicia Cornelio met with them and created a plan for succulent centerpieces with directions and provided materials. The result was a huge success for their holiday sale. They did so well in the sale, garden club members



donated the money to the festival of trees project at the hospital. This project helps local families in need to be able to provide food and gifts for the holidays.

Nick and Olivia have expressed an interest in working with CMGA on future projects and hope to start on a spring bulb project with our help.

### President's message continued from page 2

All Extension programs, including the Master Gardeners, will now have to compete for federal funding that used to be provided as block grants. Since UConn currently provides about 1/3 of the program's budget, the program leadership feels that this is an achievable, yet challenging, goal. However, it can't be done without continuing support from CMGA. This means that your dues payments are more important than ever. Please show your support for our beloved MG program by paying your dues (still only \$20.00!), and consider additional donations through your employer's matching grant program, and participation in our other fundraising events throughout the year. With your help, we will survive, and thrive!

Happy Gardening!

Theresa Hennessey  
2018 CMGA President

Sarah Bailey  
State Extension Master Gardener Program Leader  
Hartford County Master Gardener Coordinator  
Youth Gardening Coordinator

# CMGA Annual Meeting

The 2017 CMGA Annual meeting took place on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at the Litchfield County Extension Office in Torrington, CT. About 50 people attended to hear about the goals and accomplishments of CMGA throughout the year, and elect a new slate of officers and Board Members. Our featured speaker, Lars Demander of Clover Nook Farm, Bethany CT, spoke about the challenges of running a family farm for eight generations, and the importance of preserving farmland. Thanks to Jean Fletcher, our Annual Meeting chairman, and to all those who donated food and raffle items.





## Connecticut Master Gardener Association

MERCHANDISE STORE

[www.barkerstores.com/cmga](http://www.barkerstores.com/cmga)

### SAMPLES

will be available to see and try on at our **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium**

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018



Travel Mug  
CMGA-001  
\$18 each



Lightweight Jacket  
CMGA-004  
\$36 each



Hooded Sweatshirt  
CMGA-012  
\$35.95 each



Polo Shirt  
CMGA-013  
\$24 each



Fleece Vest  
CMGA-011  
\$35 each



Men's Vest  
CMGA-005  
\$49 each



Ladies Vest  
CMGA-006  
\$49 each



Baseball Hat  
CMGA-009  
\$12 each

Orders placed for in stock items by February 16, 2018 will be available for pick up at the Symposium.

**YOU SAVE  
THE SHIPPING  
CHARGE!**

# 2017 Master Gardener Graduates

## Fairfield/New Haven

Ginette Budd  
Diane Cooke  
Sarah Courteau  
Andrew Danzig  
Kitti Deak  
Robin DeCaro  
Christine DeCrescenzo  
Susan Dieterich  
Linda Elder  
Sharon Feeley  
Francisco La Orden

Barbara Frederick  
Gail Friedman  
Marie-Anne Gajdosik  
Lindy Hennessy  
Terri Jennings  
Kathleen Jordan  
Nancy Knorr  
Daniel Kowarick  
Joan K. Lord  
James Lugo  
Andromeda Macri

Joanne McMillan  
Karen Murchison  
Nancy Prior  
Catherine Riordan  
Andrea Sarnik  
Marisa Schoenberg  
Stephanie Spinner  
Nancy L Taylor  
Melissa Timmerman  
Jane Yankocy  
Fraij Yapoujian

## Middlesex/New London

Katryna Albert  
Leah Allen  
Rosemarie Bagioni  
Beth Baird  
Susan Bellefleur  
Sylvia Delson  
Denise Dinsmore  
Burgess Dole  
Elizabeth Duffy  
Alex Dupuy  
Catherine Ferguson  
Karen Fors  
Sheila Fuller

Susan Goodall  
Lumie Han  
Denise Heinrich  
Ramona Helf  
Suesan Hickey  
Penelope Howell Heller  
Janice Hromi  
Kathryn Hughes  
Timothy Jarrell  
Susan Kelley  
Jonathan Kwant  
Joan Lazar  
Elaine Lombardi

Tina Marsh  
Kristin Meier  
Jeffrey Nelson  
Anne Potter  
Bea Reynolds  
Ruth Riggs  
Elizabeth Santamaria  
Nui Sendee  
Barbara Singer  
Denise Slater  
David Smith  
Gene Smith

## Hartford/Litchfield

Stephanie Bahramian  
Eileen Beaulieu  
Christina Bozza  
Anne Farnum  
Lisa Gould  
Paula Herman  
George Jones  
Ralph Kadden  
Todd Kasack  
Jarrett Koorse  
Robin Kriesberg

Mary Lavery  
Louis Lombardi  
Lucien Lombardi  
Diane Mack  
Shea Maloney  
Linda Manzione  
Holly Maynard  
Linda McDonald  
Jenevieve Palczewski  
Allan Polak  
Julia Pratt

Shari Rourke  
Pat Sabosik  
Jennifer Sherman  
Tracey Wilson  
Susan Williams  
Joellen  
Bonnie Zacharias  
Ken Zacharias  
Greg Zito

## Tolland/Windham

Nancy Adams  
Mickie Bettencourt  
Carlo Borsarini  
Eric Buckland  
Sue Ann Clark

Michelle Giannattasio  
Paul Grenier  
Warren K. Hastings  
Heidi Horsman  
Jessica Huey  
Lorraine Liswell

Linda Mathes  
Kristy Rogers  
Peter Scanlon  
Patricia Schurr  
Hannah Withers  
Susan P. Wright

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# 2017 Master Gardener Graduates

## **Bartlett**

Lisa Barton  
Cheryl Cappiali  
Karen DeWahl  
Alice Ely  
Linda Engel  
Emily Fisher  
Brigid Flannery  
Wendy Ford

Kelly Luce Forsberg  
Nathalie Fonteyne  
Marcy Goldstein  
Susan Hawley  
Rebecca Hoefler  
Nancy Juarez  
Ricky Mathieu  
Sarah McKenna

Laurie Rivera  
Colette Rogers  
Annea Rosenberg  
Nicoletta Salvi  
Jamela Sullivan  
Kevin Tepas  
Barbara Vahsen

## 2017 Master Gardener Advancements



### **Hartford/Litchfield**

#### **Advanced MG**

Janet Bumstead  
Mary Guilfoile  
Susanne Iwanicki  
Cheryl Johnson  
Janice Sniffin  
Carolyn Wilcox  
Michelle Winkler  
Maryann Winnick

#### **Bronze**

Jane Comerford  
Diana Simoni  
Jackie Wasta

#### **Silver**

Susan Chapin-Manzi  
Holly Florio

#### **Gold**

Holly Florio  
Marilynn Palmer

#### **Ruby**

Sandy Ingellis

#### **Ruby Bronze**

Marlene Mayes  
Beverly Savulak

#### **Ruby Silver**

Jean Fletcher  
Don Lukaszek  
Rebecca Martorelli  
Uta Zickfeld

#### **Ruby Gold**

Cheryl Marino

#### **Sapphire**

Sarah Bailey

#### **Sapphire Bronze**

Steve Kovack, Jr.

### **Middlesex**

#### **Advanced MG**

Yelena Bergman  
Lisa Doggart  
Sherrri-ann Martin  
Dave Smith

Mary Sullivan  
Sally Uden

#### **Bronze**

Rob Mirer

#### **Ruby Bronze**

Gail Reynolds

#### **Ruby Silver / Gold**

Ken Sherrick

### **Fairfield (Bethel)**

#### **Advanced MG**

Theresa  
Bearden-Rettger  
Sharon Bender  
Nicole Christensen  
Kim Doyle  
Amy Estabrook

Helen Evans  
Dan Gill  
Lisa Greene  
Tami Montorsi  
Bianca Romano  
Diane Ryan  
Lia Scammon

Barbara Stauder  
Sue Turner  
Kelly Vaughan  
Beverly Waczek  
Richard Wenzel

### **Windham**

#### **Advanced MG**

JeanMadden-Hennessey  
Pam Cone  
Linda Hothan

#### **Silver**

Theresa Hennessey

# 2017 Master Gardener Advancement

## **Bartlett**

### **Advanced MG**

Frances Bright  
Cheryl Cappiali  
Patricia Carroll  
Barbara Eno Karp  
Eva Klatt  
Patty Morris  
Jane Rinard  
Cynthia Sherwin  
Toni Simonetti

Diane A Wilson

### **Bronze**

Dorene Grasso  
Susan Skerrett

### **Silver**

Georgia Abbott

### **Gold**

Linda Albanese

### **Ruby Silver**

Peter Russell

### **Ruby Gold**

Beth Miller  
Carrie Sears

### **Sapphire Bronze**

Regina Campfield  
Lesley Gehr

## **New London**

### **Advanced MG**

Margaret Blumié  
Linda Boodman

### **Bronze**

Joanne Lukaszewicz

# 2017 Recognition Hours



## **Bartlett**

### **Trowel (100-249)**

Jackie Algon  
Frances Bright  
Elyse Arnow Brill  
Cheryl Cappiali  
Alice Ely  
Linda Engel  
Barry Leibowitz  
Sarah Madson  
Patricia Pavlov  
Stephanie Sisk  
Jane Rinard

### **Oak Leaf (250-499)**

Tara Forschino  
Jennifer Jackson  
Barbara Eno Karp  
Paul Lindemeyer  
Lore Oricchio  
Dana Weinberg

### **Pinecone (750 Hours)**

Sarah Graber  
Cathy Lynch

### **Sunflower (1,000 Hours)**

Elaine Hjelte

### **Pruners (1,500 Hours)**

Greg Moonie

### **Gardener's Boot (2,000)**

Dawn Fiss

## **Middlesex/New London**

### **Trowel (100-249)**

RoseMarie Bagioni  
Yelena Bergman  
Joanne Bradbury  
Ron Cummings  
Denise Dinsmore  
Lisa Doggart  
Diane Erling  
Catherine Ferguson  
Karen Fors  
Jan Hromi  
Lillian King

Susan Koris  
Joan Lazar  
Andrea O'Boyle  
Dave Smith  
Mary Sullivan  
Cindy Tillson  
Suzanne Zitser

Jackie Parente  
Phil Presti  
Sherry Smith  
Mary Solera  
Margaret Steele-  
Kaczorowski

### **Oak Leaf (250-499)**

Maureen Egan  
Margaret McElroy  
Rob Mirer

### **Wheelbarrow (500-749)**

Gail Reynolds

### **Pruners (1500)**

Ken Sherrick

# 2017 Recognition Hours

## Fairfield/New Haven

### **Trowel (100-249)**

Margot Abrams  
Ginette Budd  
Diane Cooke  
Marcia DeBrock  
Kim Doyle  
Erick Frisk  
Dan Gill  
Holly Marini  
Barbara Thomas  
Beverly Waczek

### **Oak Leaf (250-499)**

Terry Bearden-Rettger  
Elizabeth Craig  
Robert Fossity  
Rosemary Gramatico  
Lisa Greene  
Barbara Myers  
Patricia Primavera  
Bianca Romano  
Lia Scammon  
Kristine Scerbo  
Patricia Sell  
Ellen Visnyei  
Deirdra Wallin

### **Wheelbarrow (500-749)**

Janet Bruehlman  
Terese Burns  
Adrienne Caruso  
Sue Deilus  
Holly Kocet  
Fran Litwin  
Kathie Ohsann  
Richard Wenzel

### **Pinecone(750-999)**

Marsha Scherr  
Karlyn Sturmer

## Hartford/Litchfield

### **Trowel (100-249)**

Linda Aldrich  
Debra Barberi  
Barbara Beaudin  
Dale Brown  
Janet Bumstead  
Susan Caron  
Lisa Cushman  
Mary Davidow  
Elise deFrank  
Suzi Diehl  
Rose Dufour  
Jane English  
Lisa Gould  
Susan Grew  
Mary Guilfoile  
Bill Hantzos  
Vicki Hart  
Marianne Horn  
Sandy Ingellis  
Cheryl Johnson  
Christie Kuriger

Louis Lombardi  
Lucien Lombardi  
Eric Lukingbeal  
Lora Madorin  
Linda McDonald  
Rebecca Nisley  
Katherine Peterson  
Janice Sniffin  
Glenda Thomas  
Barbara Wolf

### **Oak Leaf (250-499)**

Karen Berger  
Faith Geist  
Jennifer Klinger  
Jon Krish  
Don Lukaszek  
Jan Manchester  
Cheryl Marino  
Lea Anne Moran  
Beverly Savulak  
Diana Simoni

Susan St. John  
John Vecchitto  
Carolyn Wilcox

### **Wheelbarrow (500-749)**

Holly Florio  
Susan Chapin-Manzi  
Jennifer Klinger  
Kathi Mag  
Marilynn Palmer  
Maryann Winnick

### **Pinecone (750-999)**

Jean Fletcher

### **Sunflower (1,000)**

Sarah Bailey

### **Gardener's Boot (2,000)**

Marlene Mayes

## Tolland/Windham

### **Trowel (100-249)**

Nancy Adams  
Connie Bird  
Carlo Borsarini  
Judith Dreyer  
Stuart Fisher  
Linda Fitzgerald  
Paul Grenier  
Warren K Hastings  
Rita Labato  
Gail Marken  
Linda Mathes  
Jean Rocheleau

Patricia Schurr  
Ruth Shea  
Deborah Wright

### **Oak Leaf (250-499)**

Catherine Deptula  
Deborah Flower  
Mary Ann Gates  
Mary Hawkins  
Linda Hothan  
Rosanna Longenbaker  
Carol Salisbury  
Nancy Stearns

**Wheelbarrow**  
Deborah Kupfer

### **Pinecone (750-999)**

Tina Forsberg

### **Pruners (1500)**

John C. Lorusso Sr.

Connecticut  
**Master Gardener**  
Association

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# The LAUREL

*Connecticut  
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Association  
Newsletter*

Spring 2018 Volume 31, No. 2

## *CMGA Nursery Day*



*CMGA Nursery Day  
Wednesday  
June 13, 2018  
McCue Gardens  
47 Hartford Ave.  
Wethersfield, CT 06109*

*Webb Barn  
Colonial Garden  
Main Street Wethersfield*

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# President's Message

Dear Gardening Friends:

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at the recent CMGA Garden Symposium 25th Anniversary celebration. Your symposium team worked very hard to make it a special day, and worth the trip from wherever you garden. We had over sixty energetic volunteers working that day, and I send my heartfelt thanks to all of them. We couldn't do it without you!

I had the privilege of conferring CMGA Life Member status to three of our hardest working members: Chantal Foster, Jamie Burgess and Tracy Burrell. I think of Jamie and Chantal as the "Batman and Robin" of food service for CMGA events. All we have to do is send the signal, and they are there in a flash with food, beverages, coffee pots, cups, plates, napkins and all the other paraphernalia that keeps us well fed and happy. They always serve us with a smile and good humor, and they deserve all the credit and honor we can give them.

We all know and love Tracy Burrell's big smile and infectious laugh at CMGA events across the state. What you may not know is how Tracy led the CMGA Board of Directors through troubled times when the symposium was suddenly homeless. In the summer of 2015, Manchester Community College informed the Board that due to budget cuts, they would no longer host outside events such as our symposium. We had no choice but to find another venue, and we had to do it in a hurry. Thanks to Tracy's connections with the good folks at the Connecticut College Arboretum, she was able to secure the Crozier-Williams Building on the beautiful Connecticut College campus for the 2016 symposium, and the event went off without a hitch. Therefore, it's fair to say that Tracy saved the symposium, since I don't know where we would be without her! She also deserves all the credit and honor we can give her.

Now your symposium team is starting to plan the 2019 event. The date is set for Saturday, March 16, 2019. Our speaker chairman is busy hunting down the best garden speakers in the country, since this is the main reason you keep coming back. The venue, however, is somewhat uncertain.

(continued on page 7)

# CMGA Nursery Day Returns



The well-liked CMGA Nursery Day Fundraiser at McCue Gardens in Wethersfield returns again this year! This is an opportunity for Master Gardeners, MG Interns, their friends and family to purchase plants grown at this family nursery operated by Bruce and Cindy McCue. CMGA will receive a percentage of the price of

each plant purchased. McCue Gardens has over 1400 varieties of native perennials and woodland plants. With easy access from rte. 91 and the Silas Deane Highway, McCue Gardens is just minutes from the center of Old Wethersfield, "**Connecticut's Most Auncient Towne** - deeply devoted to preserving our authentic New England heritage, now over 375 years in the making." This center has many restaurants and businesses, historical sites, and lovely sidewalk plantings maintained by the businesses and volunteers of the Wethersfield Beautification Trust. This CMGA fundraising event is worth a trip for this unique shopping opportunity and spending time in this historical part of Connecticut.

**Wednesday, June 13, 2018**

**Arrive 10:00 a.m – 2:00 p.m.**

**Rain date: Thursday, June 14, 2018 (CMGA email will be sent if rain date applies)**

Parking is behind the Church of the Sacred Heart (56 Hartford Avenue) directly across the street from McCue Gardens. Walk down the driveway to back of the house, check-in at the CMGA Welcome Table, and say that your purchase is to support the CMGA. Payment methods accepted: cash, checks, all major credit cards. Bring your CMGA water bottles, as there will be a water refilling station on site or you may purchase a water bottle for \$5.00.

## Order Your Spearhead Spade and Pick up at McCue Gardens

Pick-up Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at CMGA Nursery Day at McCue Gardens

**Digging in the soil is a basic function of gardening.**

**They say "*Buy the best shovel you can afford*"**

**This is it – The Spearhead Spade**



Back by popular demand, CMGA is again offering all models of the spearhead spade to Master Gardeners, interns, their families and friends – long handled, short handled in four colors – yellow, lime, pink and lavender, and the mini spade which has limited quantities. A percentage of each shovel sale will come to the CMGA organization.

Go to [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org) for details, then print the form, complete and mail with check payment. Shovel pick up will be at the CMGA Nursery Day at McCue Gardens on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> (rain date: June 14; CMGA email will be sent if implemented).

***Gardening will be so much easier with your new Spear Head Spade.***

# CMGA 25th Anniversary Symposium Spectacular

CMGA was committed to making the 25th anniversary Symposium an event to remember. And, they did not disappoint! The speakers were exceptional, many vendors and associations, fabulous breakfast and lunch, and the time-tested venue was perfect.

This year, lifetime memberships were awarded to Tracy Burrell, Jamie Burgess, and Chantal Foster. Tracy has been a vital contributor to CMGA as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Symposium Chair, and so much more. Jamie Burgess and Chantal Foster have been organizing food for our events for many years. We couldn't live without them! To all three, a huge thanks!

A special thanks to Marge Bingham for bringing in a wonderful group of speakers. This event could not have been possible without all the work of the 2018 Symposium Committee: Theresa Hennessey as Chair, Vicky Ambrosey, Jamie Burgess, Stuart Fisher, Jean Fletcher, Kim Kelly, Katherine M. Kosiba, Marie Kuchy, Kathi Mag, Maggie McElroy, Paula Russo, Deb Prior, Gloria Shusdock, Pat Taylor, and Susan Turner. There were also 47 volunteers that made the symposium a success. Thank you!



Huge crowd at opening keynote address

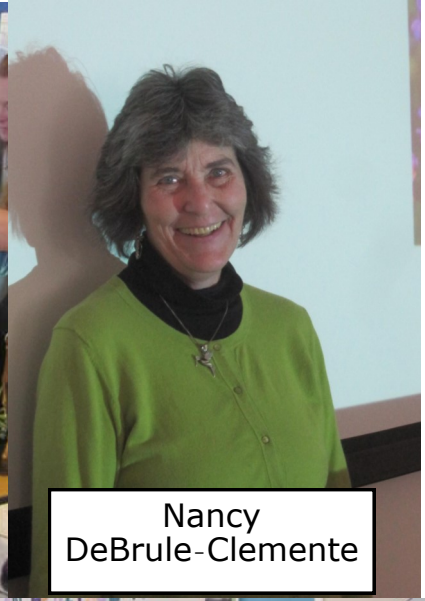
Thomas Rainer

Lunch!

Registration



Ellen Ecker Ogden



Nancy DeBrule-Clemente

Jamie Burgess, Chantal Foster, and Food Committee



Jean Fletcher  
Maggie McElroy

# CMGA awards Grant to Mercy by the Sea

Since 2012, Master Gardener volunteers have been keeping the grounds of Mercy by the Sea, a spiritual retreat and conference center in Madison, Connecticut. The Master Gardeners mentor 12 to 15 interns enrolled through the UConn program. As part of their internship, they spend time at Mercy Center, caring for the various vegetable, perennial, and annual gardens. Master Gardeners also give tours to visitors describing the Master Gardener program and the contributions of members to the Mercy by the Sea gardens.

This year CMGA gave the volunteers a grant to fence in the vegetable garden, add an herb garden and add a lavender peace garden.



## New Haven 2017 MG advancements



### **AMG:**

Sharon Bender  
Amy Estabrook  
Tami Montorsi  
Sue Turner  
Kelly Vaughan

### **AMG bronze:**

Susan Anton  
Lynn Lanziero  
Renny Loisel

### **AMG Silver:**

John Kasinskas  
Donna Pursley

### **AMG Sapphire:**

Jude Hsiang

### **Volunteer Hours Recognition: Trowel (100-249 hours):**

Sharon Bender  
Trish Helm  
David Looney  
MaryannLynn  
Ellen Schultz  
Sarah Torff  
Sue Turner

### **Oak Leaf (250-499 hours):**

Louise Bahner  
Sue Burchstead  
Katy Hanlon  
Renny Loisel  
Sylvia Ohlrich  
Elaine Piraino-Holevoet  
Nancy Scanlon  
MaryEllen Unger  
Alexis Wilcox

### **Wheelbarrow (500-749 hours):**

Susan Anton  
Dawn Harrison  
Richard Straub  
Janis Underwood

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(President's message continued from page 2)

After months of site visits and meetings, we must rule out Naugatuck Valley Community College as a symposium venue. Although they have excellent facilities, the cost to rent those facilities is very high, and the scheduling is difficult. Nonetheless, we remain hopeful that we can find a venue that is centrally located in the state, and meets our needs for size, cost and scheduling. Thank you to all the folks who made site suggestions via the symposium evaluation survey. We will continue to investigate all appropriate sites until we find the perfect home for the CMGA Garden Symposium.

Happy Gardening!  
Theresa Hennessey  
2018 CMGA President

# Wind Resistant Trees for Connecticut

Alicia Cornelio, editor Laurel

March was a lion from beginning to end this year! Four major storms in one month with high winds and saturated ground caused major damage to trees. Some trees lost their entire crowns as their trunks cracked and others simply fell over with their roots ripped from the ground. If you lost a tree, you may be contemplating its replacement. To avoid the expense of cleanup and general heartbreak, consider replanting a wind resistant tree.

## Small Trees:

Small trees (under 30 feet in height) present less surface area for winds to push against. Small, slender or flexible leaves help wind to pass through the tree canopy. Open branching patterns rather than a thick canopy helps with wind tolerance. Long tap roots developed early in life and healthy root systems help anchor trees.

- ◆ Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)
- ◆ Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* spp.)
- ◆ Eastern Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis*)



## Medium to large trees:

The following trees have strong root systems and flexible limbs to withstand strong winds.



- ◆ Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)
- ◆ Amur Maple (*Acer tataricum* subsp. *Ginnala*)
- ◆ Katsuratree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)
- ◆ American smoketree (*Cotinus obovatus*)
- ◆ Fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
- ◆ Tupelo, Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)



American Smoketree



Amur Maple



Black Gum Tupelo

Evergreens:

Conifers are especially vulnerable to winds and snow load because they do not lose their needles. Below are two trees frequently recommended.

Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)



American hollies (*Ilex opaca*)



**Sources:**

"Five Hardwood Trees for Windy Locations". <https://www.arboristnow.com/news/five-hardwood-trees-for-windy-locations>

Glen, Charlotte. "Planting Trees With Hurricanes in Mind".

<https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2013/06/planting-trees-with-hurricanes-in-mind/>

"Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Low Maintenance Landscapes". <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/trees-shrubs-vines-for-low-maintenance-landscapes>



# Save the Date

## Tolland County Master Gardener Plant Sale



Tolland County Master Gardener Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 12 from 9 am – 1 pm at the Tolland Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue in Vernon. Vegetable and perennial plants will be sold at a very low cost to the public. Master Gardeners will be available to answer gardening questions; informational displays and live demonstrations are included. Please join us!

## Spring Garden Fair Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the UCONN Extension Master Gardener Program

Thursday, May 3, 2018 2 p.m.-6 p.m.  
The Carriage House, Edgerton Park, New Haven  
Edgertonpark.org



- Used garden book sale
- Floral design demonstration
- Children’s activities
- Guided walks in historic Edgerton Park
- Free soil pH testing (bring 1 cup of soil)
- Houseplant Clinic (plants in pots up to 6” x 6”)
- Bring a picnic dinner! (light refreshments provided)

*Gardeners’ Door Prizes!  
Drawing at 5:30 PM  
(Must be present to win)*

### Special Lecture After the Garden Fair

Garden writer **Tovah Martin**, will introduce her latest book,  
*The Garden in Every Sense & Season* with a talk  
“Boot Camp for the Senses” 6:30 - 8:30 PM  
\$50 per person (\$40 for UConn Extension Master Gardeners)  
To register, visit [uconnmastergardeners.gosignmeup.com](http://uconnmastergardeners.gosignmeup.com)

Participants: Edgerton Park Conservancy, The Garden Club of New Haven, Connecticut Gardener Magazine, The Connecticut Master Gardener Association, The New Haven Land Trust, G.R.O.W.E.R.S, LEAP

# CMGA Announcements

## Volunteer opportunity



The Board of Directors is actively seeking candidates for the positions of secretary and assistant secretary. Meanwhile, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to attend a Board meeting and prepare the meeting's minutes - take notes and type and distribute meeting minutes to meeting attendees. Just a one-meeting commitment is requested, but we would be glad to have you work with us as long and as often as you like. As always, CMGA Board meetings are open to all Master Gardeners. Check our web-site for meeting dates and locations: [www.cmga.org/#/cmga-board-meetings/4516998132](http://www.cmga.org/#/cmga-board-meetings/4516998132).

### **Interested or have questions?**

Please contact Theresa Hennessey, [president@ctmga.org](mailto:president@ctmga.org).

## Laurel newsletter is moving to digital

CMGA is aiming to move the Laurel newsletter to an all digital format. Currently, 25% of the membership is still receiving a print copy. Do you have email? Are you willing to receive your newsletter by email and help CMGA save money to be used for projects and events? The goal is to go to an all digital format by the end of 2018. **However**, if you do not own a computer and can not access the newsletter in digital format and still need a print copy: Mail below form to editor Alicia Cornelio.

### CMGA Laurel Print Request

Please continue to send me the Laurel in print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Alicia Cornelio 327 Whitewood Drive Rocky Hill, CT. 06067

## CMGA is participating in AmazonSmile!

What is AmazonSmile? If you shop at Amazon.com, AmazonSmile is a simple way to support your favorite charity whenever you make a purchase. Amazon will donate 0.5% at no additional cost to you. Here is what you need to do: simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com> from your web browser or mobile device, and choose your charity. We are listed as the "Connecticut Master Gardener Assoc Inc" when you use the search tool. Easy!

The AmazonSmile logo features the word "amazon" in black and "smile" in orange, with a curved arrow under "amazon". Below it is the tagline "You shop. Amazon gives." in black.

Connecticut  
**Master Gardener**  
Association

**CMGA**  
C/O Ken Zacharias  
P O Box 803  
Windsor, CT 06095

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# THE LAUREL 2018



#UConnExt100years

[www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org)







# The LAUREL

Connecticut  
Master  
Gardener  
Association  
Newsletter

Summer 2018 Volume 31, No. 3

## CMGA Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 10, 2018  
10 am—4 pm

**University of St. Joseph**  
1678 Asylum Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117



### Program:

9:00 am - continental  
breakfast  
10:00 am - annual meeting  
10:30 am - speaker  
12:00 pm - meeting ends

We are featuring speaker  
**Kirsten Martin** on the topic  
*"Making a Meadow: To mow or  
not to mow."*

You are welcome to tour  
the Grasslands Project at the  
University of St. Joseph, a  
joint project with USJ and the  
UCONN Master Gardeners.

# Officers 2018

<b>President:</b>	Theresa Hennessey president@ctmga.org
<b>V-President:</b>	Deb Prior vicepres@ctmga.org
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Paula Russo treasurer@ctmga.org
<b>Secretary:</b>	TBD
<b>Membership:</b>	Ken Zacharias cmga2@comcast.net

## Board of Directors:

Marge Bingham	Kathy Culhane
Stuart Fisher	Terry L. Hockla
Kim Kelly	Katherine M. Kosiba
Marie Kuchy	Kathie Mag
Margaret McElroy	Diane Ostheimer
Pat Taylor	Susan Turner
Jean Fletcher	Toni Leland, inter.

<b>CMGA website:</b>	www.ctmga.org cmgaweb@ctmga.org Vicky Ambrosey (Editor) cmganews@gmail.com
<b>The Laurel:</b>	Alicia Cornelio (Editor)
<b>Membership:</b>	cmga2@comcast.net Ken Zacharias (Chair)

## UConn Extension Center Coordinators

<b>Bartlett:</b>	<b>Pat Carroll</b> 203-322-6971x18 patricia.carroll@uconn.edu
<b>Fairfield</b>	<b>Sandi Wilson</b> 203-322-6971 sandra.wilson@uconn.edu
<b>Hartford:</b>	<b>Sarah Bailey</b> 860-570-9023 sarah.bailey@uconn.edu
<b>Litchfield:</b>	<b>David Lewis</b> 860-626-6240 david.lewis@uconn.edu
<b>Middlesex:</b>	<b>Gail Kalison Reynolds</b> 860-345-4511 gail.reynolds@uconn.edu
<b>New Haven:</b>	<b>Judith Hsiang</b> 203-407-3167 judith.hsiang@uconn.edu
<b>New London:</b>	<b>Paul Armond</b> 860-885-2823 paul.armond@uconn.edu
<b>Tolland:</b>	<b>Jean Madden-Hennessey</b> 860-870-6934 jean.madden-hennessey@uconn.edu
<b>Windham:</b>	<b>John Lorusso</b> 860-774-9600 john.lorusso@uconn.edu

<b>UConn Home &amp; Garden Education Center:</b>	877-486-6271 www.ladybug.uconn.edu
<b>State Coordinator for the MG Program:</b>	<b>Sarah Bailey</b> 860-570-9023 sarah.bailey@uconn.edu

*The Laurel* is published quarterly for CMGA members. Please send information 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

Dear Gardening Friends:

I hope all is well in your gardens this summer, and that you found a nice, cool place to read this edition of your CMGA Laurel newsletter. FYI, we will be making some changes to the way we distribute the Laurel in the coming months.

As you may know, we spend over \$2300 for printing and mailing 200 paper copies of the Laurel to our members, four times a year. Due to the recent cutbacks in UConn funding for the Master Gardener Program, your CMGA Board of Directors feels that this money could be better spent on outreach grants and stipends for the local MG offices. Therefore, we will be converting to an on-line format for the Laurel, starting with the Winter 2019 edition. Your quarterly issue of the Laurel will be available to download from our CMGA website, [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org), for you to print at home.

However, we understand that some of you do not have computers and/or printers at home, so we will continue to mail a limited number of print copies to those members who fill out and return the print request form in this issue. The print request form is also available to download from our website. ***Only folks who specifically request a hard copy will receive their Laurel in the mail.***

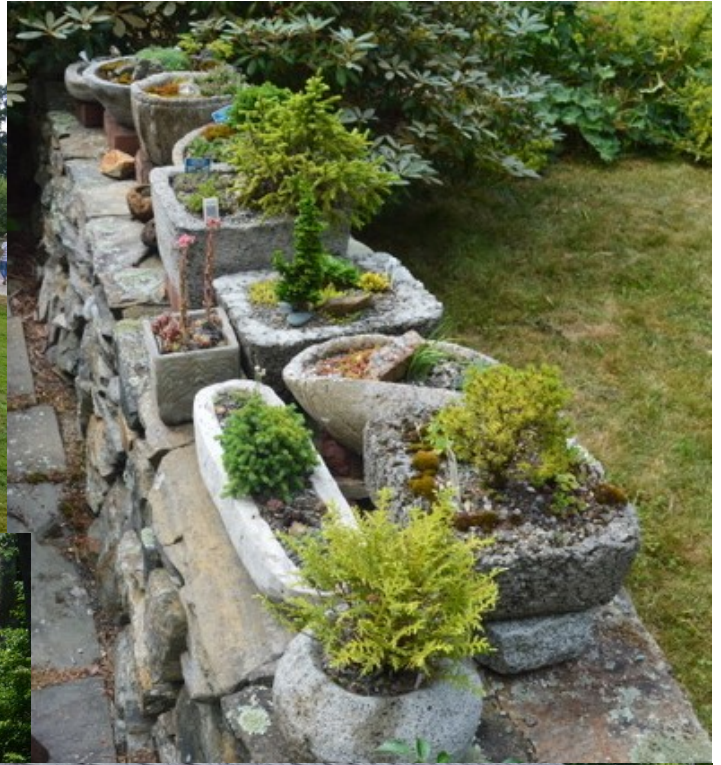
In other news, I would like to highlight some of our recent CMGA activities and events. We had another successful nursery day fundraiser at McCue Gardens in Wethersfield, CT on June 13, and raised over \$600 for the CMGA coffers. Thanks to Katherine M. Kosiba for organizing this event for the second year.

Another new benefit has been added to our CMGA Partner Discount Program: all Master Gardeners can receive a 10% discount from NE Seeds in East Hartford, CT, by using the coupon code CMGA10 when you order on-line or by mail. Check out their catalog at <https://www.neseed.com/>. Better yet, visit their outlet store at 122 Park Ave., Building H, East Hartford, CT 06108.

(continued on page 9)

# CMGA Summer Safari 2018

This year our semi-annual meeting and summer garden tour was held in Litchfield. It was another successful meeting with over 75 attendees! Three garden tours were offered: a Maple Street five acre garden documented by the Smithsonian; a 56 acre property with a meadow, pond, orchards, mature conifers, and flowers; and a bonus garden tour of the property and house formerly owned by Oliver Wolcott Sr. in 1753. Many thanks to the Katherine M. Kosiba for organizing the event! Pictures by John Carlson.



*More pictures from 2018 Summer Safari*



# “If You Build it, They Will Come”

John Vecchitto, Advanced Master Gardener

Harwinton Library has a new Seed Library filled with great vegetable and pollinator seeds from which residents can "withdraw" seeds. It was started by Lydia Smith, librarian and Master Gardener, who wanted to open opportunities for people throughout the community to have access to seeds for gardening.

## How do you create a seed library?

**Contact a library:** Find out if your local library will provide a workspace and collaboration for storage and seed distribution. Starter money in Harwinton of \$300 came from a Civic Family Services grant. It paid for signage, brochure, packaging, sign-up sheets, and other start-up supplies. The workstation includes a sign, a log listing borrowers and what seeds they take, stored seeds, small envelopes, and seed brochures. Harwinton uses an old card catalog to house the seed packets. It's sitting on a table accompanied by an added chair.

**Gather seeds:** You can contact seed companies and you will find they will often donate some of last year's seed stock.

**Publicity and Education:** A Master Gardener offered a class about saving seeds at the onset of the seed library initiative. Saving seeds for donation is a sustainable resource. Also, I obtained a Connecticut Master Gardener Association grant for a \$150 to help us buy and restock seeds as well as support ongoing costs like more seed saving workshops.

Recently, I presented a "Companion Planting" workshop at the library, which reinforced our project. A little bit can go a long way.

**Program Setup:** Provide a sign-up log for residents at the workstation along with small envelopes for seed they borrow. Currently, the library is asking recipients to take up to 20 seeds of each flower and/or vegetable they wish to grow. It's an honor system. One of our local elementary schools, a past CMGA grant recipient, has borrowed seeds to begin this year's plantings. Everyone packs his or her own seeds and signs out what is withdrawn.

**Monitor demand:** The seed library's inventory is monitored, so new seeds can be added as the growing season progresses. Keep reminding the public that the seed library is available at the public library. Using social media is a great way to keep the idea alive. Currently, 34 people have participated in the seed library.

Starting a seed library is a real bonus for first time gardeners, youngsters, educators, civic groups, and senior citizens who want to put their green thumbs to work. Remember, there are plenty of ways to organize it. Be creative and figure out what works for you. For Master Gardeners, it's a great project with lots of spin-off opportunities. "If you build it, they will come." Good luck!



# Using Edible Flowers

By Judith Dreyer, MS, BSN  
website: judithdreyer.com

Flowers are not just for display. Have you made a sun tea lately? There's nothing prettier than a glass jug filled with flower blossoms brewing in the sun. Many Mediterranean herbs like oregano, basil, thyme, and sage produce small flowers that can be added to vinegars, oils and butter. Other flowers like roses and nasturtium blossoms can be added to veggies and used as a garnish. Flavored butters are a hit, a bit different and can be used as an herb bread spread, as often served in upscale restaurants. Edible flower examples include: wild violets, dandelion blossoms, nasturtium blossoms, chive blossoms, oregano flowers, yarrow flowers, untreated roses petals, edible peas (not sweet peas as they are poisonous). *The Edible Flower Garden* by Rosemary Creasy, a beautiful tome and compilation of flowers and recipes, is a great addition to any gardener's library.

## The Ten Rules for Using Edible Flowers:

1. Eat flowers only when you are positive they are edible.
2. Just because it is served with food does not mean a flower is edible (see Rule 1).
3. Eat only organically grown flowers.
4. **Do not** eat flowers from florists, nurseries or garden centers (see Rule 3).
5. If you have hay fever, asthma or allergies, do not eat flowers.
6. Do not eat flowers picked from the side of the road. They are contaminated from car emissions (see Rule 3).
7. Remove pistils and stamens from flowers before eating. Eat only the petals.
8. Not all flowers are edible. Some are poisonous, for example daffodils.
9. There are many varieties of any one flower. Flowers taste different when grown in different locations.
10. Introduce flowers into your diet the way you would new foods to a baby - one at a time in small quantities."





If you have an organic garden, this is a great time of year to think about and use flowers. Google makes it easy to find flower recipe suggestions. Pinterest has edible flower boards where cakes and confections are simply lovely. Gathering flowers is a delightful chore especially when they can be used to compliment a menu, adding beauty and charm.

1. **Vinegars:** Get a favorite bottle, washed and cleaned. Place several edible blossoms into this jar and then cover with rice vinegar, or organic apple cider vinegar. Add

oregano, thyme, basil, chive, or lavender blossoms to rice wine vinegar. These blossoms will tint the vinegar a light pink. Let sit for 6 weeks. You can strain and enjoy the soft coloring the flowers bring to the vinegar and then use as a condiment, or to marinate a specific meat or vegetable entree.

2. **Butters:** soften 1 stick of butter at room temperature. Chop about 1-2 tablespoons of the herb desired, depending on how strong you want the flavors, into butter. Stir and then place back in refrigerator until ready to use. Herb buttered bread or adding to a vegetable dish are easy ways to incorporate many garden flowers. Mediterranean herbs work best.

3. **Tea sandwiches:** Roses, whether in a vase or in food, are colorful and pretty, adding grace to any table. Simply layer untreated petals with your favorite scone, biscuit or bread. Cream cheese spreads pair nicely.



# CMGA awards Grant to Oak Hill School

Connie Bird, a Master Gardener and site manager with Hartford Food Share, and Oak Hill staff collaborated on a project for a teaching and demonstration vegetable garden at the Oak Hill School for the Blind.



Connie designed the 40 by 40 foot garden that includes 18 different vegetables, such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and summer squash. Flowers grow around the perimeter. A two bin compost bin system was constructed and a harvesting table was placed adjacent to the garden. The project began with a soil test. Then, black plastic was laid down on the site to kill the existing vegetation. Based on the soil test, amendments were applied and planting began in May.

In early June a drip irrigation system and timer were installed to conserve and minimize water use. Sustainable and organic farming methods have been employed. So far the garden is growing well and has been very productive. The produce is harvested and supplied both a booth at the Northend Farmers Market and Hartford Food System's Mobile Market which travels around Hartford selling fresh produce. Congratulations on a successful effort!





# Laurel Newsletter is Digital in 2019

CMGA has decided to move the Laurel newsletter to an all digital format beginning in 2019 to save money.

**However**, if you do not own a computer and cannot access the newsletter on-line and still need a print copy, there will be a very small mailing available to unconnected members.

If this decision affects you, mail the below form to editor Alicia Cornelio as soon as possible. **Do not delay!**  
*The last reminder will be in the 2018 Autumn Laurel issue.*



## CMGA Laurel Print Request

Please continue to send me the Laurel in print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Alicia Cornelio 327 Whitewood Drive Rocky Hill, CT. 06067

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(President's message continued from page 2)

Check out all the available discounts by logging onto the CMGA website, and clicking on the "Members Benefits" tab. Select and click on the "Partners Discount" link to download the complete list of participating vendors. Do you shop online with Amazon? Remember to use the "smile.amazon.com" feature to support CMGA each time you make a purchase at Amazon.

Thanks so much for your cooperation!

Theresa Hennessey  
2018 CMGA President



# Save the Date

## Plant Science Day

108th annual Plant Science Day is an opportunity for the public to check out what the Station scientists have been researching all year. There are lectures, exhibits, demonstrations, and over 90 field plots featuring the scientists' work, as well as interesting presentations from outside exhibitors. There will also be food, walking tours, an opportunity to get pesticide credits, a bird and butterfly garden, activities for kids, and more! Please come out and enjoy the day.

Wednesday, August 8, 2018  
10 am–4 pm

**The Connecticut Agricultural  
Experiment Station  
Lockwood Farm  
890 Evergreen Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06518**

<http://www.plantscience.uconn.edu/>



## CMGA Garden Symposium

Saturday, March 16, 2019  
Connecticut College  
270 Mohegan Ave.,  
New London CT

Keynote speaker: Doug Tallamy  
Closing speaker: Heather Holm

## CMGA Merchandise Store

CMGA has received a lot of very positive feedback on the items available at the CMGA online merchandise store. The most popular items are hats and vests. So, check it out at :

<http://ctmga.org/cmga-online-store/4592708410!>

There are twelve different items for every taste and budget. Show your CMGA pride!



# CMGA Announcements

## Volunteer opportunity

The Board of Directors is actively seeking a volunteer to be our Board secretary. Meanwhile, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to attend a Board meeting and prepare the meeting's minutes - take notes and type and distribute meeting minutes to meeting attendees. Just a one-meeting commitment is requested, but we would be glad to have you work with us as long and as often as you like. CMGA Board meetings are open to all Master Gardeners. Check our website for meeting dates and locations:



[www.cmga.org/#/cmga-board-meetings/4516998132](http://www.cmga.org/#/cmga-board-meetings/4516998132).

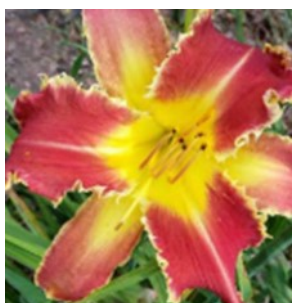
**Interested or have questions?** Please contact Theresa Hennessey at [president@ctmga.org](mailto:president@ctmga.org).

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## CMGA Commemorative Daylily Sale



**There are only 16 daylilies left!** Celebrate 40 years of the UCONN MG program with the purchase of our own CMGA commemorative daylilies! Hybridized by Richard Howard, owner of CTdaylily in Wallingford, CT, each of these daylilies is registered with the American Hemerocallis Society, and they are **not** available to the general public. If planted this fall, these pot-grown plants are sure to bloom next summer. Each variety is priced at \$20.00 apiece, with a portion of the price going to support CMGA grants and activities. The order form is available on our website:

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

Connecticut  
**Master Gardener**  
Association

**CMGA**  
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# THE LAUREL 2018



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# The LAUREL

*Connecticut  
Master  
Gardener  
Association  
Newsletter*

Autumn 2018 Volume 31, No. 4

## LEAP Project

LEAP is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1992 to help New Haven children of families falling below the poverty line. They have changed lives providing a learning and athletic center for children in the city. And, LEAP had the foresight to purchase an adjacent vacant lot to someday establish a garden for the children. But there it sat. A vacant lot for many years. Until...



*continued on Page 7*

## Officers 2018

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## President's Message

Hello Fellow Gardeners!

I hope you're all enjoying this beautiful autumn season. The cool weather certainly is refreshing, after this year's very hot summer. And later, after our fall chores are done, we can sit back and enjoy a winter filled with hopes and dreams for next year's projects.

All this reminds me of just how industrious the Master Gardeners have been this year. Although we all like to enjoy the lovely flowers and delicious produce we grow in our own back yards, Master Gardeners also get out there and change the world, one little outreach project at a time!

That's why - for the very first time - the entire \$8,000 CMGA Outreach Grant budget was used up before the year's end. Our remarkable Master Gardeners are devoting ever more of themselves to helping others. We are so proud of you, and so very thankful for your service.

However, sometimes our hearts are bigger than our purses, and 2018 was also the first year we had to turn away some very worthy projects due to lack of funds. This was truly a bittersweet feeling, and we encourage these groups to reapply as soon as possible in 2019.

In order to address these and other financial challenges, your CMGA Board of Directors has decided that the most prudent course of action is to **raise the cost of dues from \$20.00 to \$30.00, effective Nov. 1, 2018**. This modest increase will enable CMGA to balance its budget for the first time in 2 years, and allow us to continue supporting the UConn Master Gardener program at our current levels, with outreach grants, scholarships and stipends to the MG offices.

We can't imagine a world without the LEAP garden, the POP newsletter, the Story Walk and all the other rain, pollinator, community, school, library, hospital and historical gardens our members have created across the state. Nor do we want anyone to be denied admission to the MG program due to lack of funds. And we won't allow any of the county MG offices to be victims of the UConn budget axe.

Rest assured that your \$30.00 membership dues will play a vital role in financing all of these important projects and programs. Master Gardeners have big hearts - they deserve the support. Please pay your dues today!

Thank you so very much,

Theresa Hennessey  
2018 CMGA President

# CMGA Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 10, 2018  
9 am—12 pm

**University of St. Joseph**  
**1678 Asylum Avenue**  
**West Hartford, CT 06117**



Please plan to attend our annual meeting this year. It is going to be a very special event, centrally located in West Hartford.

There is a very special speaker this year on the topic of meadows. Reducing lawns in our country is a very hot topic. Do you know that grass is the largest crop grown in the U.S. and we don't even eat it? Learn more about this important issue at our meeting.

Also, we will be voting for officers and board members. Your participation is valuable.



## Program:

9:00 am - continental  
breakfast  
10:00 am - annual meeting  
10:30 am - speaker  
12:00 pm - meeting ends

We are featuring speaker **Kirsten Martin** on the topic "*Making a Meadow: To mow or not to mow.*"

You are welcome to tour the Grasslands Project at the University of St. Joseph, a joint project with USJ and the UCONN Master Gardeners.

# Just Another Community Garden, Or is It?

Lorraine Ballato, Advanced Master Gardener

Community gardens are fairly common these days. You find them all over the country, especially since the inception of the Garden Writers' Plant-A-Row initiative several years ago. But maybe you'll find this one a bit different. It's officially the Fairfield County (CT) Master Gardener Demonstration Garden but it's so much more than that.

This garden has a lot going for it. It gets a lot of attention because of its location on a main road which is very visible to the hundreds of vehicles which pass it daily. Then there is our deer fence which draws people in to ask about it. The weekly Bethel Farmers' Market is adjacent which attracts many visitors, children in hand (the "demo" part of our name). The kids are great fun to have in the garden and we try to grow things for them like stevia (sweet leaf). The children sample it and learn about something sweet they can grow at home. The homeless shelters also like it for their diabetics.

Each season we try different things. We started growing climbing (Malabar) spinach on a trellis for people who have limited space since it grows vertically. That's another sample we hand out to encourage the public to grow it on their own. The farmers' market features purslane as a salad green, which was growing as a weed in our cold frame. We harvested it for sampling so visitors could taste it before they made a purchase (we think of ourselves as a very mini-Costco!). The 2016 addition of a 3-Sisters garden drew a tremendous amount of interest. Everyone got a history lesson and our recipients got the produce.

In 2017, we added a straw bale garden and a pallet garden (see right), an inspiration from an episode of Joe Lamp'l's Growing a Greener World: [www.growingagreenerworld.com](http://www.growingagreenerworld.com).

Both ideas resonated with our visitors. Everything that's grown in the garden has a purpose. All our flowers are carefully chosen for their pollinating power or to draw specific beneficials. We intersperse alyssum and use it as a border plant to draw syrphid flies, voracious eaters of aphids. The donated peonies which border the garden are there to attract the typhia wasp which feeds on Japanese beetle larvae.







The flowers serve a secondary purpose: they are part of our weekly donations to add color and brighten the table settings of the homeless shelters that get our donations (see left). All of these elements make for rich discussions with the public.

We're always working to improve how we do things for better yield and happier gardeners. To stop the birds from pecking at our tomatoes, we hang red plastic Christmas balls from the tomato cages (see below). Of course we have to move them every week, but it stops the pecking and saves the crop. Visitors with the same problem and loved learning a solution.

Last year we needed to improve insect control for our brassicas and didn't want to use row covers. We're not in the garden on a daily basis and no amount of Bt (bacillus thuringiensis) and hand picking was sufficient to effectively control this pest. We came up with custom sized insect netting (see below) which has kept our brassicas completely free of any pest damage and no gardener has had to do anything except admire how great the crop looks. At harvest time, the netting simply is lifted and then replaced. The netting saves an enormous amount of maintenance time to protect the crop, increases our yield, holds up to fierce summer storms and has generated lots of discussion among our visitors who leave with a handout on how to construct it: BINGO!



Money is always tight. Many local and national vendors have been very generous in supporting this garden: Renee's Garden Seeds has donated annually. Coast of Maine's yearly donation of a full pallet of compost is an invaluable part of the success of our crops as are the countless amendments donated by Espoma. Corona has helped us refurbish our wheelbarrows. Brent and Becky's Bulbs and Color Blends have helped enhance our peony border to make it a real spring traffic stopper, bringing people to our gates.

Deer Defeat's repellent has kept the deer away from our crops. Local hardware stores and garden centers like Stew Leonards and Hollandia, and other suppliers generously donate when asked. In return, we openly tell our visitors about these donations and products so they can replicate what we do in their own gardens and patronize these same suppliers.

And then there is the learning that takes place. Our team consists of Master Gardeners of all levels from interns to seasoned Advanced MGs with well over 1000 hours. The learning is constant. Last year we tried and now continue to use an improved method to combat squash vine borers, formidable opponents: we use a turkey baster to inject the infected stem with Bt to kill the invader (see right). It preserves the stem and allows the plant to recover in record time with little or no impact to the crop. This year, we have learned to remove insect eggs on any vegetable plant with duct tape the same way you would take lint off your clothing with no damage to the foliage: extremely fast and easy (see left) . We also discovered an ingenious way to eliminate the squash bug from non-vining squash by pouring water into the center of the plant: they hate taking



a bath and simply crawl up to be grabbed and drowned in soapy water -- very cool!

In the end, this demo garden is more than the seasonal donation of over 700 pounds of produce. The steaming hot days, working in the rain and cold, and all the challenges we face are nothing compared to the gratitude of the people we see who struggle with hunger. And that's before we even start to measure the sense of accomplishment we gardeners get from working with the public, mentoring interns, and problem solving along the way. Community gardening doesn't even come close to describing the experience.

If you would like to visit our garden, we are located at 67 Stony Hill Rd, Bethel CT 06801 and are open to the public on Saturday mornings when the Farmers' Market is open, 9.30-12.30 p.m. We post regularly to our Face book page which you can follow to see what we do and how we do it: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/349478115442455>.

Lorraine Ballato is an Advanced Master Gardener, speaker and author. Her latest book is Success With Hydrangeas, A Gardener's Guide, available at all book buying outlets and at <http://www.lorraineballato.com> where you can also read her hydrangea blog.

# LEAP Project

(continued from page 1)



In 2015, a LEAP staff member was able to contact Susan Anton through the Master Gardener Program. Susan, a 2014 graduate from the New Haven Extension Office class, took a leap of faith. It isn't a vacant lot anymore.

Susan always wanted to work with children who had such limited opportunities to see the beauty we often take for granted. She knew the affect it would have on their lives. Children could actually see how things grow - including their food.

Clearing out the overgrown, weed covered, litter strewn lot was a monumental accomplishment in itself. Susan sought the help of AMG Cordalie Benoit. Cordalie offered guidance on establishing the garden and finding contributions for supplies. LEAP offered the first official budget for the project - \$25. But, an Outreach Grant from CMGA helped to make the garden a reality.



Vicky Ambrosey was the first Master Gardener to join Susan and Cordalie

working and teaching the 2015 garden classes. Those first years it was all up to Susan, Cordalie, Vicky and a very dedicated LEAP counselor and staff member.

Susan's husband, Basil, worked on the project from the start. If something needs to be done, Basil is there. Neighbors have even pitched in weeding, beautifying, and eradicating invasives. Now there are healthy raised beds, a garden bench, a new pergola this year and hopefully a shade garden in 2019. This year MGs Elaine Stangland, Sue Rubin and Celeste Suggs, joined in.



(LEAP continued from page 7)

The children, ages 6 to 12, participate in one hour long weekly classes. 2018 saw over 140 children enjoy and learn. They sampled vegetables and herbs that they learned to dry, learned what plants need to grow and how to care for them. There is such joy in seeing the light in a happy child's eyes and their unbridled enthusiasm. Maybe some will grow up to be Master Gardeners.



We're all so busy - remarkable projects are popping up everywhere. So finding Master Gardener volunteer help has been a challenge and more help is needed. And greatly appreciated.

From the pictures, it seems like a long established outreach project, but remember, it started in 2015. Master Gardeners mean business ! If you didn't have as many pollinators as usual in your yard this summer - they're at 31 Jefferson St. I have never seen so many bees and butterflies in one place !

By Pat Taylor  
CMGA Board member



# Laurel Newsletter is Digital in 2019

CMGA has decided to move the Laurel newsletter to an all digital format beginning in 2019 to save money.

**However**, if you do not own a computer and cannot access the newsletter on-line and still need a print copy, there will be a very small mailing available to unconnected members.

If this decision affects you, mail the below form to editor Alicia Cornelio as soon as possible. **Do not delay!**  
*The last reminder will be in the 2018 Autumn Laurel issue.*



## CMGA Laurel Print Request

Please continue to send me the Laurel in print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Alicia Cornelio 327 Whitewood Drive Rocky Hill, CT. 06067

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## Kathy Culhane is the new CMGA Secretary

**Thank you** to Kathy for volunteering to be our new CMGA Secretary! It is an important job to record the proceedings of the Board meetings and manage all our correspondence. We are very appreciative!!

Contact information is still the same:  
secretary@ctmga.org.





# Save the Date

## CMGA Garden Symposium

Saturday, March 16, 2019  
Connecticut College  
270 Mohegan Ave.,  
New London CT

Keynote speaker: **Doug Tallamy**

“Creating Living Landscapes”

Closing speaker: **Heather Holm**

“Common Native Bees:

Their Life Cycle, Foraging Behavior and Role in Pollination of Native Plants”

### Break-Out Speakers:

**Dan Jaffe** “The Best Plants for Bees, Butterflies and Birds

**Matt Mattus** “The Art of Vegetable Gardening”

**Lee Reich** “The Science, Art, Fun and Tasty Fruit of Espalier

**Stephen Scanniello** “The Right Roses for CT from Antiques to Most Modern

**Nancy DuBrule-Clemente**: lecture topic yet to be defined

## CMGA Merchandise Store

CMGA has received a lot of very positive feedback on the items available at the CMGA online merchandise store. The most popular items are hats and vests. So, check it out at :

<http://www.barkerstores.com/cmga/>. There are twelve different items for every taste and budget. Show your CMGA pride!



## CMGA is participating in AmazonSmile!

What is AmazonSmile? If you shop at Amazon.com, AmazonSmile is a simple way to support your favorite charity whenever you make a purchase. Amazon will donate 0.5% at no additional cost to you. Click on the picture or this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1221782> from your web browser or mobile device. This will allow you to change your charity to CMGA if desired. We are listed as the “Connecticut Master Gardener Assoc Inc” when you use the search tool. Easy!



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