



THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS

Executive Board

Robert McNeil, Pres.
Marianne Godston, V.Pres.
Jean Sparkes, Sec'y
Wendy Maxwell, Treas.

Newsletter

Jeanné Chesanow, Editor
Nancy Wolff

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__CAEMG members

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Your state organization is off to a good start. Officers, a by-laws committee, and a newsletter editor have been elected. Revised by-laws have been written and will be presented at the next meeting of the association at the Cooperative Extension Service in Haddam on November 17. Details of the meeting are given elsewhere in the newsletter.

To carry out the purposes of the association several standing committees are being recommended. None will require an excessive amount of time but their work is essential to the success of the association. Because we are a new organization covering the entire state, we will have to rely on volunteers for these committees until we become better acquainted. As Master Gardeners we have volunteered to help others. I invite you to volunteer to serve on a committee and become an active member. Details of the committee work will be given at the meeting.

I was pleased with the attendance and enthusiasm at our first meeting in September. If you could not attend or have questions about the association, come to the meeting on the 17th to help make plans for the future. As Master Gardeners we have an opportunity to contribute a great deal to gardening and related activities in Connecticut. YOU can play an important part.

Robert McNeil
President, CAEMG

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON
November 17, 1987 at the
MIDDLESEX COUNTY EXTENSION
OFFICE in Haddam. (Map on last
page.)
6:30 snacks, 7:00 meeting

SPARKES SPEAKS

Jean Sparkes, our secretary, asks that everyone who is coming to the meeting please call ahead--345-4511--by Nov. 13 so that we can prepare enough copies of the bylaws.

... And get enough cider pressed!

BYLAWS MEETING

On Thursday October 15 the executive board of the newly-formed Connecticut Association of Extension Master Gardeners (CAEMG) and three members of the bylaws committee met at the Hartford County Extension Service on Asylum Avenue.

This group reviewed the proposed by-laws and made changes and additions which will be presented at the next meeting on Nov. 17.

Consideration of the amended bylaws will be among the first orders of business at the meeting.

We will also take up the matter of dues and other items of concern to a new organization that intends to grow strong with your help.

Jean Sparkes, Sec'y

The fall crop of Master Gardeners is being harvested as we go to press. New Haven County honored its graduates at a recognition dinner on Thursday, October 1. Marie Dube, Agriculture Program Assistant, presented certificates to 13 new MGs: Ruth Demeter, Jessica Dennis, Robert Dennis, Irene Evans, Robert Furono, Eleanor Hylinski, Pat Jaeger, Paul Jiantonio, John Lugin, Wendy Maxwell, Pamela Rackliffe, Denise Ross, and Morris Teller.

Because Bill Barber, NHC Administrator, had given strong support to the Advanced Master Gardener program, Marie was also proud to present certificates to 9 who had completed this advanced level of training including an independent project: Jeanne Cochran, Gail Collins, Ted Gazda, Judith Martz, Richard Smail, Evelyn Stanford, Jean White, Elizabeth Wikfors, and Betty Williams.

Graduation for Middlesex County MGs was held at a potluck supper on Nov. 5 at the Extension Service in Haddam. Dr. Anne H. Rideout, Associate Director for the Cooperative Extension Service of the Univ. of Connecticut, handed out certificates of completion and participation to the new MGs. The following received certificates of completion: Diane Ballek, Donna Ballek, Kathy Brooks, Janet Dineen, Kathy Griffis, William J. Hamel, Mary Hilbert, George E. Johnson, Georgica M. Kearney, Nancy Kougras, Frank Lawson, Robert D. McGreevey, Patricia Sears, Walter J. Smigel, Jean Patrice Sparkes, Robert S. Taylor, Curtis M. Tolman.

Certificates of participation went to: Ms. Marion T. DeTour and Brian J. Mapes. Speaking for the whole group, Jean Sparkes says, "Thanks to Dr. Lighari and teachers from UConn who shared their experience and education with us."

The new MGs of New London County reportedly celebrated their graduation at a wine-tasting. Since no other details have been received, perhaps they are still sipping. The next issue of the newsletter will report on new Master Gardeners in the other counties.

Bob McNeil, CAEMG's first president, is now on his third career, that of a Master Gardener par excellence. His first career as an educator, culminated in his serving as principal of Litchfield High School and then East Lyme Junior High. His second career was with the Day Publishing Company. In 1984 Bob embarked on his third career; he completed the Master Gardener course and has been active ever since as a New London County MG.

He has assembled an impressive collection of slides on many aspects of gardening. Currently Bob is updating a filing system for the slides; each slide will have an accompanying descriptive index card. This collection is a great resource for Master Gardeners who are preparing lectures in their communities. Bob has also formed a speakers' bureau for New London County. As a result, a series of gardening lectures was presented at the Mystic Community Center.

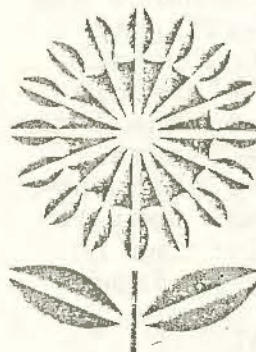
At his church Bob gives talks on gardening and grows plants for children to give to their mother on Mother's Day.

Nancy Wolff, who interviewed Bob for this newsletter, comments, "With all his energy and enthusiasm I'm sure Bob will do a wonderful job as president. He is just what the CAEMG needs to get off the ground. WE COULDN'T BE IN BETTER HANDS!"

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IN SEARCH OF A LOGO AND A SLOGAN

The CAEMG needs a distinctive logo and a slogan. A tree in a circle with the motto "Together we grow" was used for this first newsletter. The sunflower below is to appear on all MG correspondence that goes out from the county offices. The watering can was on badges worn at the national conference MGs. Suggestions? Send artwork to the editor.



FIRST NATIONAL MEETING

Over 600 Master Gardeners and extension workers attended the first national meeting of Master Gardeners in Washington, DC from October 7 to 10, 1987. MG's from CT who attended are: Sharon Larson, Arlene Hartmann, Bob Sherman, Carol Redfield, Isabelle Bulger, Mary Ellen Hoff, Margot Hallett, Genie Copp, Gail Collins, Bob Taylor, Nancy McGarra, Laura Evans, Dula Fuller, Elaine Wood, Lucia Johnstone, Enid Sherman, Nancy Beaubaire, Janelle Beardsley, and Gail Conway. Marie Dube, program assistant in NH County also attended. (Thanks, Marie, for sending us the above information.)

The conference offered lectures and workshops by leading horticulturalists, all of whom donated their time and expertise. Tours to the US Botanical Garden and the National Arboretum were also on the busy agenda.

Two goals of this conference were: 1) to show elected officials the importance of the Master Gardener programs. Senators and representatives were invited to an exhibit of Master Gardeners' nationwide work. At a reception the officials got a chance to talk firsthand with Master Gardeners from 44 states including Alaska and Hawaii. 2) to be the cornerstone of the newly formed Master Gardeners of America.

The next national meeting will be in Oregon in 1989. SEE YOU THERE!

Some of the fascinating lectures at the national meeting were: Project Towards 2005: Food, Forestry and Agriculture in the Northeast, the New Zone Hardiness Map, Global Plant Extinction-- the Role of the Gardener, Computers and Master Gardeners, Shaping the Garden with Your Intellect, and Horticulture Therapy. Among the exciting presentations was one called Garden Video Turns Interactive.

Marie Dube commented that with such a wealth of excellent material it was hard to make choices.

Editor: If our members are interested in hearing more about any of the above, perhaps we can prevail upon those who attended to share their information with this Newsletter in future issues.



From the Editor's Desk

Since the CAEMG proposes to meet four times a year, we plan to issue the Newsletter on a quarterly basis with publication two weeks before each meeting.

In the next newsletter, February 1988, the topic of interest will be pesticides--using, avoiding, advising others on, disposing of, etc. Gail Collins of Cheshire has submitted one article; we welcome more articles, comments, and information on reading materials. For example Gail's article mentions a useful booklet Lawn Care Chemicals, What Consumers Need to Know. Published by the American Council on Science and Health, the booklet is 2.00 for 1 to 9 copies. (Less for more than 9?) The address is 47 Maple St., Summit, NJ 07901.

In our May newsletter perhaps we should consider some of the most frequently asked questions as recorded by MGs in county offices. I'll need volunteers to go through the log books to find this information. Perhaps this issue will be of help to the newly-trained MGs as they take to the phones.

We are mailing this issue and the next three to all the MGs who are listed at the county extension offices. With our November 1988 issue, we will begin to limit mailing to those who have paid dues. Membership in CAEMG is open to all fully certified MGs (those who completed a Master Gardener course plus volunteer hours).

Comment: On my recent trip through the Southwest I noticed that people are determined to have lawns at whatever cost. Of course we in the East grow plants which are not native and then use water, insecticides, etc. to keep them going. Where do you draw the line between rare non-native plants that require extra care and skill to grow, and plants that exact too heavy a price at the expense of the environment?

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