



The LAUREL

Connecticut
Master
Gardener
Association
Newsletter

Winter 2019 Volume 32, No. 1

Symposium XXVI

Nature's Creatures: Bring More Life to Your Landscape

March 16, 2019 — 8 am to 4 pm

Connecticut College 270 Mohegan Ave. New London, CT

The CMGA 26th annual symposium will return to Connecticut College's Crozier-Williams building in New London, CT. **There will be no print flyer mailed this year.** The registration form can be found in this publication or go online here at [Symposium Registration Online](#). 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 (including 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: Doug Tallamy
"A CHICKADEE'S GUIDE TO
GARDENING"



Closing Speaker: Heather Holm
"WHAT'S THE BUZZ ABOUT
NATIVE BEES?"

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President's Message

Dear Gardening Friends:

A new year has begun, and a new era for CMGA and the Master Gardener Program has also begun. In this new era, Master Gardeners will be asked to shoulder a somewhat larger share of the financial burden of keeping the program alive. So yes, dear friends, it will cost you more money to be a Master Gardener in 2019 than in previous years. My question to you is this: Is it worth it?

Looking at the big picture, is it worth it to you to live in a healthy environment full of biodiversity? Is it worth it to you that future generations learn how to be good stewards of the earth? Is it worth it to you to feel connected to other passionate, dedicated gardeners in our state and across the nation?

Judging from the record enrollment in this year's MG class, the unprecedented number of CMGA grant applications, the growing popularity of our CMGA Garden Symposium, and the number of private and corporate donations coming into the program, the answer to the above questions is an enthusiastic YES!

Master Gardeners are some of the most remarkable people I've ever met, full of ideas and energy for improving the quality of our environment and our communities. In this era of advancing climate change, educated home gardeners can be effective soldiers in the struggle to preserve our fragile environment. I hope you will join me in saying YES to the challenges facing the Master Gardeners program in the coming months, and keep up your membership in CMGA by paying your \$30.00 dues for 2019. Your generosity of spirit will enable us to win a few more battles in our local communities.

(continued on page 6)



Main Speakers at the 2019 Annual Symposium



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 92 research publications and has taught many courses, including Insect Taxonomy and Ecology, and Behavioral Ecology. His research focus is on the ways insects interact with plants, and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. He is author of "Bringing Nature Home" and co-author of "The Living Landscape", with Rick Darke.

Among his awards are the Garden Club of America Margaret Douglas Medal for Conservation and the 2018 American Horticultural Society B.Y. Morrison Communication Award.

Doug's lecture is entitled **A CHICKADEE'S GUIDE TO GARDENING**. In the past, we have designed our landscapes with no thought of the impact on the natural world around us. Using chickadees and other wildlife as guides, Doug will explain how plants that evolve in concert with local animals provide for their needs better than plants that evolved elsewhere. In the process, he shows how creating living landscapes by sharing our spaces with other living things will enhance our pleasurable garden experiences.

CLOSING SPEAKER: Heather Holm is an award-winning author and pollinator researcher, spending much of her time educating audiences about the fascinating world of native bees and the native plants that support them. Her first book "Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide" won five book awards including one from the American Horticultural Society.

Heather's lecture **WHAT'S THE BUZZ ABOUT NATIVE BEES** will focus on the nesting habitat, life cycle, pollen collection and brood rearing of common genera of native bees in the north-central and eastern US. She will highlight the pollination of native plants and the mutualism between native plants and native bees. She will discuss the presentation of floral resources and how the bees' physical characteristics can influence their effectiveness as pollinators.

UConn Master Composter Workshop - Space is limited to 25 participants. Volunteers from the UConn Master Composter Program will hold a workshop on the fundamentals of composting, with emphasis on how materials break down in a compost pile and the various composting structures that can be used. Participants will also learn how to make their own worm bin. Bring your own starting materials: 2 dark plastic storage bins with lids (18" x 24" x 10"), shredded newspaper, vegetable scraps and sterilized soil. Worms will be provided.

Breakout Sessions at the 2019 Annual Symposium

(continued from page 3)

Nancy DuBrule-Clement is owner of Natureworks, a specialty organic garden center and landscape design, installation and maintenance business in Northford, CT. Her educational work includes classes, lectures, weekly e-mails and free workshops at the garden center. Nancy will deliver a lecture on FOLIAGE PLANTS. Plants that have good leaves are the backbone of the garden. When dealing with gaps in succession of bloom from early spring until late fall, this is where foliage comes to the rescue. Nancy will share her best choices for color and texture in the landscape based upon three decades of landscaping.

Dan Jaffe is Propagator and Stock Bed Grower at the New England Wildflower Society. He is co-author of the recent publication "Native Plants for New England Gardens", on designing habitats that attract species that are local to the environment. His lecture THE BEST PLANTS FOR BEES, BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS will cover issues of habitat decline, the overuse of insecticides, large scale agriculture and more. With such far reaching issues, it begs the question what can each of us do? Join Dan for a run-down on the best plants to introduce into your landscape to support these pollinators.

Matt Mattus is author of the award winning gardening blog GROWING WITH PLANTS.com where he features many of his travels and in-depth horticultural projects. His greenhouse and gardens have been in many publications. Matt has been in leadership roles with the North American Rock Garden Society, the Worcester County Horticultural Society and the Board of Tower Hill Botanical Garden, including a career as a Principal Designer at Hasbro. His lecture is based upon his recent publication THE ART OF VEGETABLE GARDENING. Join Matt as he shares some of his most fascinating cultural discoveries even with common crops. He will share how he has had to reprogram himself based on new research, and how he discovered some new crops worth trying.

Lee Reich is an avid "farmdener", with graduate degrees in soil science and horticulture. After working in plant and soil research with the USDA and Cornell University, he turned to writing, lecturing, and consulting. He writes regularly for many gardening magazines. His books include Landscaping With Fruit, Uncommon Fruits for Every Garden, and Growing Fruit Naturally. He will deliver his lecture on THE SCIENCE, ART, FUN AND TASTY FRUIT OF ESPALIER. Explore the theory and practice behind the pruning and orienting of branches to create an espalier. This decorative, two-dimensional form offers high fruit yields decorating a wall or creating a fence. Recommended fruit plants, branch pruning and orienting techniques will be reviewed.

Stephen Scanniello is an author of six books on roses, curator of New York Botanical Garden's Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, and Consulting Rosarian for Elizabeth Park Conservancy. He spent 17 years at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden with the major portion of time rebuilding the historical Cranford Rose Garden. Based upon his experience with old roses, Stephen fulfilled a major role in the development of Elizabeth Park's Heritage Rose Garden with roses over a century old. As President of the Heritage Rose Foundation, he's keen on getting older roses back into circulation. His lecture on THE RIGHT ROSES FOR CT FROM ANTIQUES TO MOST MODERN will help you choose the right rose from the modern to the most ancient that is perfect for the New England climate. Steven will focus on his work in recent New England rose gardens.



One registration per page. Must be received by 3-4-19. Walk-ins only after that date. No refunds or credits after 3-8-19.

Mail completed registration form to:
CMGA, PO Box 120022, East Haven, CT 06512
 Questions: 860-982-4302 or email: symposium@ctmga.org

We're going **GREEN**
 Please bring your own water bottle & tote bag

Breakfast & buffet lunch will be provided and is included with your registration fee

Cancelled check or PayPal email are proof of registration payment

Please print clearly or fill in online and print

* Name *Required field	
*email	*Phone
*Office	*Year Graduated

***COST**

check box(es) that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$65 2019 CMGA Member
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, I would like 2 AMG credits
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$65 2019 CMGA Member Guest ¹
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$95 Non-member and all walk-ins

***PAYMENT OPTIONS**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Online by PayPal \$3 additional processing fee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mail a check
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complimentary Lifetime Member, door prize winner, other

- If **paying by check**, click box on left and mail completed registration and check made out to **CMGA** to address above. **NOTE:** This form cannot be emailed.
- If **paying by PayPal**, click box on left then go to www.ctmga.org and follow the links to **2019 Symposium**. Mail completed registration form to address above. Registration is not complete until PayPal payment is received. **NOTE:** \$3 additional processing fee.

¹If you are a guest of a CMGA member, name of the CMGA member:
 Limit 1 guest per member

***Mark your 1st, 2nd & 3rd choice for both the AM and PM sessions.** Register early for best selection.

AM SESSION	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1. Foliage Plants that Give Color & Texture in the Landscape (Nancy DuBrule-Clemente)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The Best Plants for Bees, Butterflies & Birds (Dan Jaffe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The Art of Vegetable Gardening (Matt Mattus)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The Science, Art, Fun & Tasty Fruit of Espalier (Lee Reich)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The Right Roses for CT from Antiques to Most Modern (Stephen Scanniello)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. UConn Master Composter Workshop (limit of 25)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PM SESSION	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1. Foliage Plants that Give Color & Texture in the Landscape (Nancy DuBrule-Clemente)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The Best Plants for Bees, Butterflies & Birds (Dan Jaffe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The Art of Vegetable Gardening (Matt Mattus)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The Science, Art, Fun & Tasty Fruit of Espalier (Lee Reich)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The Right Roses for CT from Antiques to Most Modern (Stephen Scanniello)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. UConn Master Composter Workshop (limit of 25)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CMGA Annual Meeting

The 2018 CMGA Annual meeting took place on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, CT. Our featured speaker, Kirsten Martin, explained how to create a meadow, its benefits, and the meadow project at Saint Joseph. After the meeting, members went out to view the meadow at Saint Joseph College.

Thanks to Theresa Hennessey, our Annual Meeting chairman, and to all those who donated food and raffle items.



President's message (continued from page 2)

And mark your calendars for Saturday, March 16, for our 2019 CMGA Garden Symposium. We have a great line-up of speakers, so watch your emails and social media for registration information. Please note that in an effort to cut costs, we did not mail individual symposium flyers this year. (So no, yours did not get lost in the mail!) On-line registration opens on Jan. 15, 2019, and mail-in registration forms will also be available at your local MG/Extension offices. Questions? Contact us at: symposium@ctmga.org for further details.

Happy Gardening!
Theresa Hennessey
2019 CMGA President

Come to the CT Flower and Garden Show!

**CMGA GROUP TICKETS ARE
\$14.00 PER TICKET
25% OFF THE ADMISISON PRICE!**

**DEADLINE FOR GROUP PRICE IS
FEBRUARY 1, 2019**

- ❖ Payment by check only (made out to **CMGA**). PayPal is not available for this event.
- ❖ Limit: 5 tickets per order.
- ❖ Tickets can be used for any day of the show.
- ❖ Group Ticket Sales Policy: Group tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable.
- ❖ Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



38TH ANNUAL CONNECTICUT
Flower & Garden Show
February 21–24, 2019
Connecticut Convention Center
HARTFORD

Thurs. 10 am – 7 pm
Fri. 10 am – 8 pm
Sat. 10 am – 8 pm
Sun. 10 am – 5 pm

Ticket prices include State of CT 10% Amusement Tax—
Adults \$18
Children 5-12 \$5
Under 5 Free
Seniors \$16
Thurs. & Friday only

Mar Jennings All weekend
Mike McGrath Thurs. & Fri.
Nancy DuBrule-Clemente All weekend
Roger Swain Fri. & Sat.

Number of Tickets # _____ (limit: 5 tickets)

Enclosed is my check in the amount of: \$ _____

(make checks payable to **CMGA**)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Send your order form and payment to:
Deborah Pike
1050 Burlington Ave.
Bristol, CT 06010

**** Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. ****

Your purchased ticket(s) will be mailed to you (expect delivery around Feb. 18th).

Questions? Call 860-585-0679, or email dpike53@att.net

Winter Green to Counter Winter Blues

John Carlson,
CMGA member, class of 1994

For five years I had the pleasure of supporting Science Teacher Ms. Whitney Thurrott, and her Great Path Academy Magnet High School Garden Club located on the Manchester Community College campus. Unfortunately, all school clubs were canceled for this 2018-2019 school year.

Prior to this, Whitney and I were making headway with improving methods that enhanced growing seedlings indoors for transplanting outdoors in the club's garden plot in the Community Gardens on the college campus. One of our main challenges had been finding an appropriate grow light source that was adequate in keeping the seedlings from getting "leggy". Last year's effort in overcoming that challenge took a noticeable turn for the better when we added two LED full-spectrum flood lights to two unusual grow light fixtures Whitney had acquired. These 4' fixtures contained two fluorescent tubes and two mogul sockets, the sockets inserted between the tubes and into which we inserted the LED lights.

The results were dramatic almost overnight. The leaves on the seedlings under these LED's began turning darker green and the seedlings slowed down reaching for the grow lights. Since the school year would be ending in two to three months, it didn't make sense to change tactics then. We would take the knowledge gained and plan on grow light changes for the 2018-2019 school year. Cancellation of the garden club stopped our plans. So my enthusiasm switched directions from the garden club to creating an indoor winter tomato patch here at home incorporating better full spectrum grow lighting like this one: This fixture dimensions are 12.2" x 12.2" x 1.4".



So here's how I went about setting this project up:

Project Target - To harvest indoor grown winter tomatoes.

Location - Is space available in the house for plants to grow to full maturity? The best location seemed to be the living room bay window facing southwest where I had a commercial 4', 2-tube fluorescent grow-light setup and where some sunlight could stream through the window.



Watering - How best to provide constant moisture to the root systems? The 45 inch long boot tray already there needed to be modified so that the pots weren't sitting in water. To raise the pots, four 44 inch lengths of 1 1/8 inch x 1 1/8 inch PVC corner molding were aligned in the tray for the pots to sit on. To allow water to come in contact with the soil, a 3/4 inch x 5 inch strip of capillary mat material was inserted into the bottom of each pot so that one end of the strip came in contact with water and the other end contacted the soil. Though capillary

action, sometimes including full spectrum liquid fertilizer, the water moved upward into the soil keeping it moist and fed the plants.

Plant Selection - I needed to find a tomato variety that would not outgrow the available space. The Minibel 1 foot height and spread characteristics fit within the space envelope nicely. I found this variety from Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds available in the old Comstock - Ferre store in Wethersfield.



Hardware Summary:

- 1 - 4 foot boot tray (reservoir)
- 4 - 44 inch lengths of PVC corner molding to fit in the boot tray (plant container support)
- 1 - grow light stand modified with 3 full spectrum LED grow light fixtures (grow lighting)
- 1 - surge protector multi socket extension cord (power source)
- 1 - electric timer (light source timer)
- 1 - one-to-three multi plug (to adapt access to timer outlet socket for three grow light fixtures)

Sufficient cord to suspend and adjust the height for three grow light fixtures.



There are at least sixty tomatoes among the nine plants so far. Next milestone is to pick a ripe vine ripened tomato. Thinking beyond winter growth, it will be interesting to see how well these plants do when they are placed outdoors to continue producing, as the variety Maribel is an indeterminate variety.

Winter Gardens Can Be Beautiful

Alicia Cornelio, Editor

Winter in your garden doesn't have to be a vast wasteland. Many plants have interesting bark, evergreen branches, dried flowers, and vibrant berries to make your landscape beautiful! Winter is a season for work-free plants to enjoy!

Evergreens come in a variety of colors and textures that sparkle in the winter. Shrubs with outstanding berries are viburnums, winterberry, snowberry, cranberry cotoneasters, hawthorns, and hollies.



Many trees and shrubs have interesting bark for winter interest. There are bright red twigs on dogwoods, twisting branches on Japanese maples, the stunning white bark of birches, and the ex-foliating bark of many trees like sycamores, crepe myrtles, and lace-bark pine.

Many perennials look pretty in the winter if you don't cut off their stems and dried flowers.

Tall sedums have sturdy stems and hold up to snow. Tall grasses can turn a pretty, rustic brown. Hellebores and heath keep their leaves green all winter and reward you with very early spring flowers.



2018 Master Gardener Graduates

Fairfield/New Haven

Kathy Beaty
Wendy Bellmore
Gary Copas
Lou Denaro
Marilyn Elsworth
Karyl Evans
Emily Fajardo
Natalie Glidden
Gwen Goldman

Rachel Hereema
Sandra Horowitz
Joan Hilliard
Trish Jarrell
Ken Kaye
Leo Moerkens
Vicki Murphy
Jessica Nelson
Deb Persson

Mary Powell-St.Louis
Sherryl Priviti
Samantha Pullaro
Kim Radda
Esther Rose-Wilen
Sue Rubin
Celeste Suggs
Paula Wolf
Camille Zotto

Middlesex/New London

Abbey Anders
Kerry Brown
Donna M. Carlson
Deborah Dodds
Diane Earl
Ruth Eckhoff
Ray Hasson

Carol House
Carissa Johnson
Molly Klise
Stacia Rice Libby
Lydia Miner
Pamela Rottier
Linda Rumsey-Dolega

Elizabeth Shore
John Smigel
Brittany Paige Sullivan
Shawn Sylvain
Anzelma M. Thibault
Gary Wilson
Kelly Wood

Hartford/Litchfield

Helen Baldwin
Brooks Belter
Judy Blake
Ginni Block
Mary Dombrowski
Susan A. Eisenhandler

Kristin First
Beth A. Hamilton
Sarah L. Hsieh
Katie Jacob
Amanda Lukingbeal
Dawn Pinkowish

Debrah A. Pollutro
Melissa Powell
Susan Rea
Helen Shu
Karren Slade
Caroline Swartz
Lauren Taft

Tolland/Windham

Lynn Blackmer
Dee Blanton
Leslie Brand
Amy Cianci
Michael Demers
Amy Eisler

Sarah Farrell
Dan Gallagher
Norma Gentifcore
Cindy Holden
Aimee Langlois
Katherine Laufer

Mary Lawrence
Conor McNamara
Aimee Petras
Deborah Rodriguez
Ulla Britt Roemer
Diane Vounatso
Ashley Wagner

Bartlett

M.B. Betsy Barosky
Diane Beck
Tom Bruno
Denise Drake
Margaret Eustace
Joanne Gabriel

Kim Istona
Sherry Johnson
Diane Lampert
Lori Martin
Claire Matzke
Taylor Lynne Matzke

Nancy McClelland
Lucille Oricchio
Veronica Richter
Michele Sorensen
Lisa Stuart
Fiona Willcox

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2018 Master Gardener Advancements



Bartlett

Advanced MG

Betsy Bilus
Jan DeAngelo
Barry Leibowitz
Sarah Madson
Maryjane Markey
Dana Weinberg
Diane A Wilson

Bronze

Marie Gross

Silver

Martina Doshan
Maryjane Markey

Gold

Georgia Abbott

Ruby Bronze

Cathy Lynch

Ruby Gold

Janet Kruse

Sapphire

Peter Russell

Sapphire Bronze

Linda Albanese
Regina Campfield (2017)

Sapphire Silver

Beth Miller

Tolland/Windham

Advanced MG

Gail Marken
Jean Rocheleau

Bronze

Susan Makoski

Ruby

Theresa Hennessey

Hartford/Litchfield

Advanced MG

Stephanie Bahramian
Victoria Hart
Marianne Horn
Nancy Jordan (2017) Gina
Amalfitano(2014)

Bronze

Linda Aldrich
Karen Berger
Janice Sniffin

Silver

David Lewis
Deb Pike
John Vecchitto

Ruby

Holly Florio
Marilyn Palmer

Middlesex/New London

Advanced MG

Paul A. Armond, Ph.D.
RoseMarie Bagioni
Susan Bellefleur
Deborah Dodds
Diane Earl

Catherine Ferguson
Ray Hasson
Joan Lazar
Elaine Lombardi

Kristen Meier
Margaret McElroy
Brittany Paige Sullivan
JoEllen Vasbinder

Silver

Robert Mirer

Ruby

Gail Reynolds

Sapphire

Kenneth Sherrick

Fairfield / New Haven

Advanced MG

Diane Cooke
Marcia DeBrock
Ken Erdman
Cathy Setterlin

Bronze (cont.)

Annelise McCay
Patty Primavera
Barbara Stauder
Beverly Wacz

Gold

Siobhan Deveney

Ruby

MaryEllen Unger

Bronze

Sharon Bender
Cheryl Cappiali
Carol Hamilton
Deanne Hobson
Robin Michalak

Silver

Bill Flahive
Deanna Hobson
Tom MacGregor
Patty Patricia
Flo Vannoni

Sapphire

Allan Brown

Sapphire Bronze

Jude Hsiang

2018 Recognition Hours



Middlesex/New London

Trowel (100-249)

Beth Baird
Sylvia Delson
Diane Earl
Janice Hall

Ray Hassan
Lumiere Han
Penny Howell Heller
Jennifer James

Marie Kuchy
Elaine Lombardi
Kristin Meier
Timothy Zuzel

Oak Leaf (250-499)

Paul A. Armond, PhD
John Boden
Jan Hromi
Barbara Longo
Margaret McElroy

Elaine Remondi-Simpson
Dave Smith
Margaret Steele-Kraczorowski
JoEllen Vasbinder

Wheelbarrow(500-749)

Bob Bartosiak
Jean Golicz
Tom Kalal
Donna Rini
Sherry Smith
Marilyn Zeeb

Pinecone (750-999)

Gail Reynolds
Ken Sherrick

Sunflower (1,000 Hours)

John Suhr

Bartlett

Trowel (100-249)

Jan DeAngelo
Brigid Flannery
Emily P. Fisher
Wendy Ford
Nathalie Fonteyne Gavrilovic
Elizabeth Gilbert
Maryjane Markey
Ulrike Mathieu
Laurie Rivera
Colette Rogers
Annea Rosenberg
Nicoletta Salvi
Toni Simonetti
Kevin Tepas

Oak Leaf (250-499)

Barbara Boland
Jan Broome
Colleen Giambo
Alice Ely
Toni Simonetti
Barbara Thanhauser

Wheelbarrow(500-749)

Martina Doshan
Toni Simonetti
Barbara Thanhauser

Sunflower (1,000 Hours)

Beth Miller
Peter Russell

Pruners (1500 Hours)

Carrie Sears

2018 Recognition Hours

Fairfield/New Haven

Trowel (100-249)

Kathy Beaty
Cheryl Cappiali
Cordalie Benoit
Cherie Elliott
Karen Gallagher
Lizbeth O'Connor
Linda Elder
Lou Denaro
Gail Friedman
Lindy Hennessey
Paula Hutchinson
Kathleen Jordan
Nancy Knorr
Robin Michalak
Vicki Mulligan

Sue Rubin
Andrea Sarnik
Stephanie Spinner
Nancy Taylor
Melissa Timmerman

Oak Leaf (250-499)

Chery Cappiali
Elaine Piraino-Holevoet
Lisa Totman
Bill Flahive
Eric Frisk
Michelle Mackinnon
Karen Mayhew
Diane Ryan
Barbara Stauder

Wheelbarrow(500-749)

Adelle Hack
Pat Taylor
Janis Underwood
Carol Beerbaum
Allan Brown
Liz Craig
SueDelius
Ken Erdman
Tom MacGregor
Renee Marsh

Pinecone(750-999)

Liz Craig
Annelise McCray
Richard Wenzel

Hartford/Litchfield

Trowel (100-249)

Stephanie Bahramian
Paula Hutchinson
Pauline Krofssik
Jill Peters-Gee
Joanne Pomerantz
Julia Pratt
Jennifer Sherman
Gloria Shusdock
Bonnie Zacharias
Ken Zacharias

Oak Leaf (250-499)

Sandy Ingellis
Cheryl Johnson
John Vecchitto

Wheelbarrow (500-749)

Karen Berger
Cheryl Marino

Pinecone (750-999)

Jen Klinger
Dave Lewis
Uta Zickfield

Sunflower (1,000)

Jean Fletcher

Tolland/Windham

Trowel (100-249)

Ellen Charpentier
Brenda Folland
Marilyn Jezek
Shawn Lappen
Deborah Rodriguez
Ulla Britt Roemer
Patricia Schurr
Ruth Shea
Deborah Wright

Oak Leaf (250-499)

Linda Anderson
Kim Boulay
Gail Marken
Deb Prior
Carol Salisbury

Pinecone (750-999)

Jean Laughman

Sunflower (1000)

Maryellen Donnelly
Bill Oros

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C/O Ken Zacharias
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The LAUREL

Connecticut
Master
Gardener
Association
Newsletter

Spring 2019 Volume 32, No. 2

Summer Garden Safari



**Thursday
July 18, 2019
Westport
Woman's Club**
44 Imperial Ave.
Westport, CT 06880

Online registration
opens May 18
visit www.ctmga.org

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V-President:	Deb Prior vicepres@ctmga.org
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Jean Fletcher	Kim Kelly
Kathie Mag	Paula Russo
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President's Message

Dear Gardening Friends:

We had another successful symposium last March, thanks to our dedicated Symposium Committee and tireless volunteers. Kudos to all who worked so hard to make this event happen, and thanks to all who attended. The symposium is the highlight of our year, and we enjoy connecting with old friends, meeting new friends, learning new information and feeling the spirit of inspiration that makes us want to go out and save the world...one garden at a time!

Another highlight was your response to the UConn Giving Days fundraising challenge on March 27-28. We claimed the top spot for number of donors, and earned a \$5,000 bonus for the MG Program in the process! I'm so grateful for all the folks who invested in the future of this fine program.

I had the opportunity to share my "MG pride" with the new Dean of the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey, when we met at the springtime Dean's Advisory Board meeting.

Dean Chaubey comes to UConn from Purdue University, where he was Associate Dean and Director of International Programs in Agriculture from 2016 to 2019, and was also a professor in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences. You can read more about his background and research interests at the CAHNR website:

<https://naturally.uconn.edu/2019/03/01/college-welcomes-dean-indrajeet-chaubey/>

As the CAHNR Dean, Dr. Chaubey is also the new Director of the UConn Extension System, so he holds the future of the MG Program in his hands in many ways. I hope we can impress on him the value of our volunteerism in our communities. I want him to know how many hours we Master Gardeners spend teaching our friends, families and neighbors the science-based information they need to know, in order to care for and sustain our fragile environment. I want him to see us eradicating invasive species and building community gardens. I want him to see us planting seeds with children and comforting our elders with healing herbs. I want him to understand that our state needs more Master Gardeners, like we need more bees, birds, bats and butterflies. The future is calling, and the Master Gardeners will answer!

Happy Gardening!

Theresa Hennessey
2019 CMGA President

Summer Garden Safari 2019 Program



THURSDAY July 18, 2019

Registration opens May 18

The CMGA semi-annual meeting is in Fairfield County this year. We will begin the day at the Westport Woman's Club, 44 Imperial Avenue in Westport, for our continental breakfast, meeting and speaker. Sheri Forster will speak on "**Seasonal Garden Design**". Then we will proceed in our own cars to Wakeman Town Farm, a short distance away at 134 Cross Hwy, Westport, CT 06880.

Schedule:

- 8:30 am - Parking, check-in and continental breakfast at Westport Women's Club
- 9:00 am - Presentation by Sheri Foster on "Seasonal Garden Design"
- 10:00 am - Semi-annual meeting and report
- 11:00 am - Wakeman Town Farm Tour
- 1:00 pm - Shopping at the farm store, lunch at area restaurants. CMGA members also receive a 20% discount at Oliver's Nursery, Gilberti's Herb Garden and Butternut Gardens flower farm.

Westport Woman's Club

The recently refurbished Bedford House in downtown Westport is an attractive venue for the many groups that use it for meetings, weddings, and corporate events. The Saugatuck River can be viewed from the gazebo in their landscaped garden patio area. General Parking is in the large commuter lot at 50 Imperial Avenue, then walk up the stairs to the club house. Handicapped parking is on site at 44 Imperial Avenue. For more information, go to **www.westportwomansclub.org**.

Wakeman Town Farm

The Wakeman Town Farm Sustainability Center is an organic demonstration homestead dedicated to serving the Westport Community. The Farm is a model facility created to educate the community about local healthy food production, responsible land stewardship, sustainable practices and community service opportunities. Activities include educational workshops, student internships, after-school environmental clubs and children's summer camp programs. Learn more at **www.wakemantownfarm.org**.

2019 CMGA Symposium: A Fun Time for All!

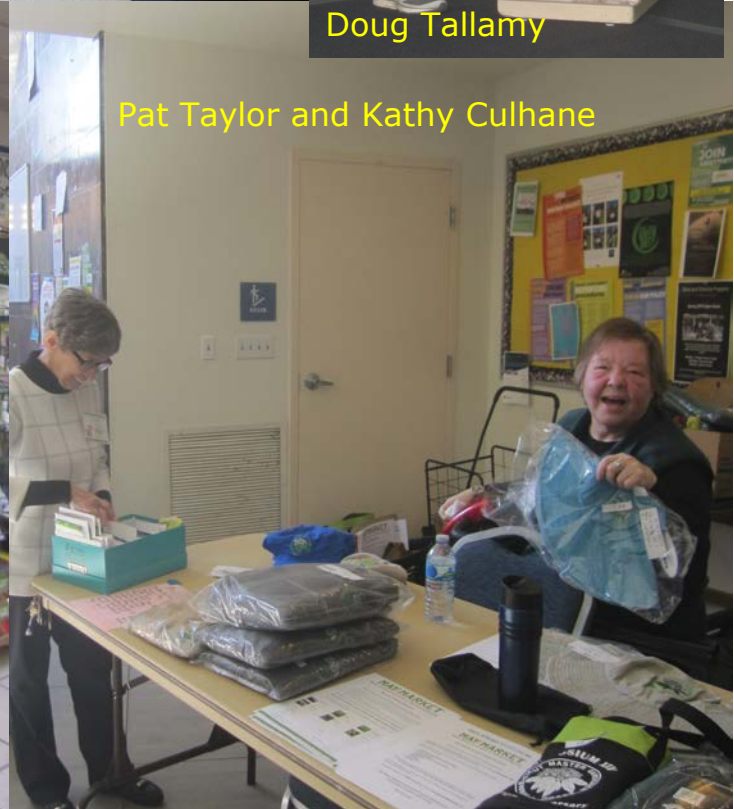
It was another successful and fun-filled symposium. The theme of pollinators is of great interest currently and brought out an enthusiastic crowd of Master Gardeners. Thanks to the symposium committee, especially Theresa Hennessey and Marge Bingham, for finding wonderful speakers, providing delicious food, and for making the symposium a smooth operation!



Listening to keynote speaker



Doug Tallamy



Pat Taylor and Kathy Culhane



Dan Jaffe



Book signing



Bartlett's Herb Garden

Linda Albanese
Master Gardener 2006

At the Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens you will find a very special herb garden created by Master Gardeners beginning in 2006. On any given Tuesday morning from April through October, you will find us working in the garden sharing botanical and horticultural facts with visitors. These information sessions provide detailed descriptions of the many culinary, aromatic, medicinal and economic herbs represented throughout our garden, containers and surrounding beds. Interesting sessions also include edible herb flowers, pruning, care of tools, insects & diseases, nature photography, companion planting, alternatives to invasives, propagation, oils & vinegars, and culinary delights.



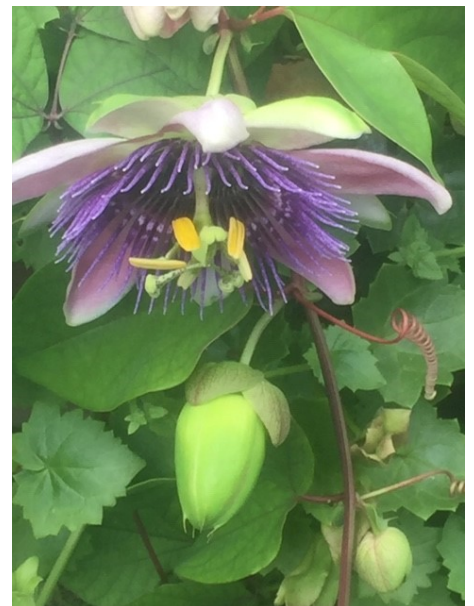
The garden is now formally designed in four quadrants, with a brick walk and surrounded by low fencing and boxwood. We provide a brochure describing plants found in each category/section with signage that includes both common & Latin name, origin and uses.

The Culinary section includes a variety of basils, thymes, peppers, angelica, fennel, borage, and French tarragon. Some of our Aromatic herbs include lemon verbena, anise Hyssop, orris root, many scented geraniums (propagated by our Herbies in the greenhouse), lavenders, chocolate mint,

peony, Gallica rose and pineapple sage.

Our economic section represents herbs grown for dyes, natural repellents, herbs in architecture, clothing, teas, and historical tools. Herbs represented here can be flax, cotton, bear's breeches, milkweed, goldenrod, stevia, and santolina.

Medicinal herbs are represented, but we refer everyone to their health professional regarding treatment and usages. Some of my favorites are passionflower, feverfew, yarrow, chamomile, parsley, garlic, oregano, eucalyptus, and wild yam vine.

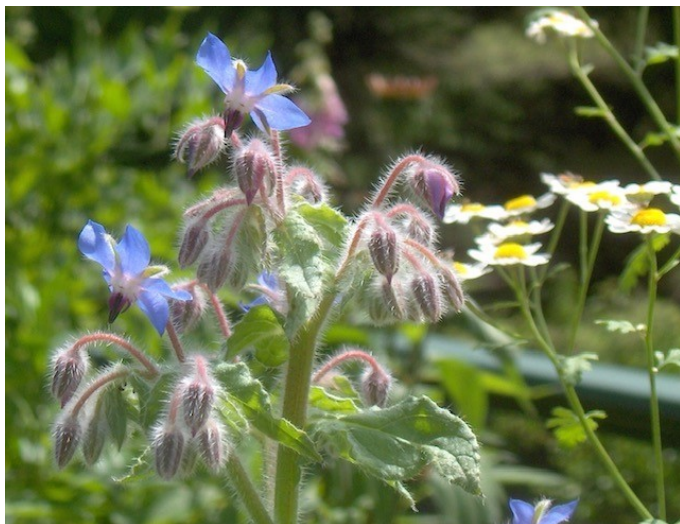


Every year, there is an Herb and Notable Native herb we highlight. This year anise hyssop (agastache foeniculum), New Jersey Tea/buckbrush (ceanothus L.) and horsetail S. (equisetum L.) are recognized for 2019.



Anise Hyssop is loved by so many pollinators! Our garden hums with bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and so many more. An alternative name is licorice mint, appropriate as it is a perennial from the Lamiaceae family. The anise/licorice flavor/scent comes from the volatile oil of the leaves NOT the flowers. It has a small tap root with spreading rhizomes, a square stem, opposite and alternating leaves, a broad-lanceolate to ovate dull green leaves, and cylindrical blue/purple flower spikes. The nutlets or pollinated seeds are a great food source for birds. The greatest benefit is this herb is not often browsed by deer! It makes flavorful beneficial teas, jellies, syrup, and light-handed salad addition. It is also used as an anti-inflammatory and antibacterial treatment. The best time to harvest leaves are when their flowers have just past bloom.

Our group harvests during the season as appropriate but in the fall we create a culinary and floral feast to share with Master Gardeners and the Bartlett staff that is known as our Herb Garden Tea & Tasting. We also are inspired by our tours of other gardens. My particular favorite being The Cloisters.



Come visit!

A great resource for herbs is the GreenBridges initiative at Hsa.org.

Tomato Experiment Update

John Carlson
Master Gardener 1994

This experiment, from my perspective, has been and continues to be remarkable in its success. I measure success not only by the survival of the plants, but by the tomatoes produced by these plants. However, it is what these plants are continuing to do that is most interesting. Let me start with two photos, both of which make up my tomato patch (see below). As a reminder, there are two patches, one in the living room bay window (5 plants; EW facing), the other in the kitchen bay window (4 plants; SE facing).

As the following photos reveal, all the plants have grown and continue to grow nicely. There is a difference in the growth habit of the plants, even though the seeds came from the same packet. They range from a tall, open habit to short, with tight branching. As you can see, some are reaching the LED grow light fixtures and the fixtures need to be raised. The problem is the grow light stands are not tall enough to raise the light fixtures higher, so that leaves me with choices. The taller ones, those at or above the fixtures, should be removed and taken outside where they are free to grow taller in the great outdoors. Those still below the light fixtures can remain until all danger of frost is gone.

As for the tomatoes themselves, there is a difference in the flavor. The most appealing is definitely sweeter. There are two of these. The others are more traditionally acidic. All are delicious.

Hope you enjoyed reading about and seeing these photos. It's likely there are no tomatoes visible, but there are some that should be ripening very soon. There weren't a lot of tomatoes, but surely enough to enjoy as snacks or topping a salad. I've shared them with others, too. If I can have success in growing them, so can you.

One interesting reality, I have kept a record of the amount of water I've added to the trays and today, April 25th, I've reached 100 gallons of water with a full spectrum liquid fertilizer added at reduced level.



Kitchen Bay Window



Front Bay Window

Gardening for Climate Change

Alicia Cornelio
Editor, Laurel

What do you say to someone looking out at a blizzard saying, “Wow. I wish global warming was true, ha ha”? You reply, “Do you know the difference between weather and climate?” Weather is the atmospheric conditions that occur each day but climate is the summation of all the weather that took place that year or longer. In a Pew study, 87% of scientists believe in climate change due to human activity.

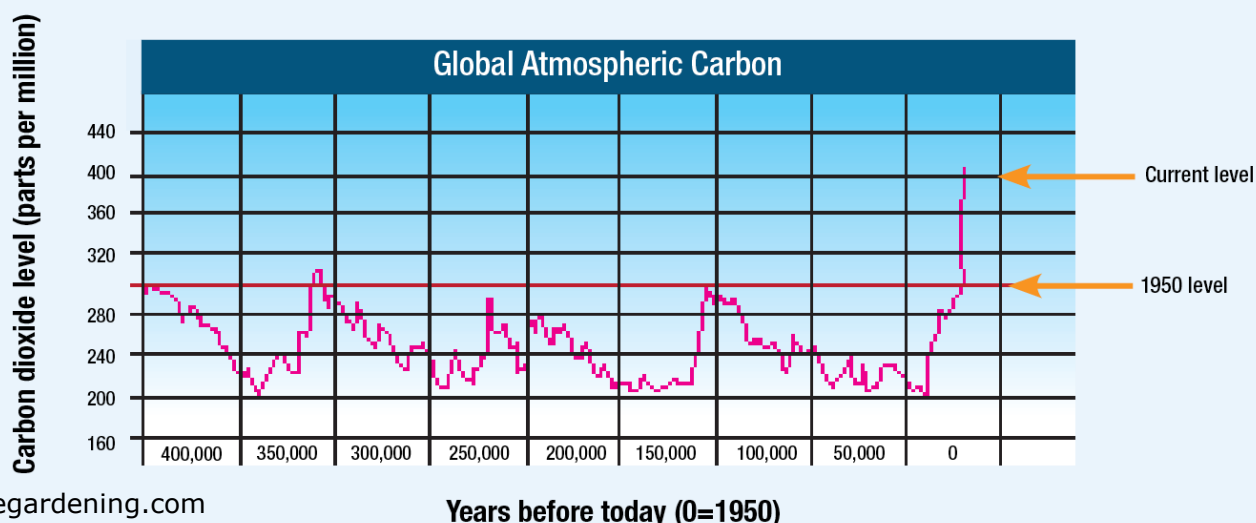


While global models predict general warming, the probabilities also increase for more intense droughts (California) and more extreme rainfall events (Nebraska). It may result in instability in jet stream patterns that could increase the frequency of extreme cold polar vortex events (Midwest). The one sudden cold snap in the middle of a warmer winter can have a devastating effect on plants. Shrubs that rely on the protective cover of snow to survive cold temperatures are killed. Higher temperatures and erratic precipitation patterns cause plants to bloom earlier, creating unpredictable growing seasons.

Invasive, non-native plants and animals’ ranges are expanding and making them more apt to outcompete native species. Some of the most problematic plant species, seem to thrive in increased carbon dioxide air.

Climatic shifts also mean that many native plants may no longer be able to survive in portions of their historic range. In fact, many states across the country may lose their official State Trees and Flowers.

Important connections between pollinators, breeding birds, insects, and other wild-life and the plants they depend on will be disrupted. Birds and bees may arrive too early or too late to feed on the flowers on which they normally rely.



Gardeners can adapt to climate change by managing risk.

- ◆ Grow diverse plants to minimize loss from weather and new insect pests
- ◆ Keep plants that can't tolerate floods in a high, dry location in your yard
- ◆ Mulch plants to protect against drought and cold
- ◆ Experiment with annuals and perennials to see what grows successfully now
- ◆ Farmers are using high towers more than ever

We can reduce our carbon imprint at home in simple ways.

- ◆ replace outdoor light bulbs with high-efficiency LED bulbs or purchase solar-powered garden products
- ◆ Reduce the use of gasoline-powered yard tools
- ◆ Reduce water consumption with rain barrels and drip irrigation
- ◆ Reduce or eliminate your lawn
- ◆ Compost kitchen and garden waste to reduce methane emissions in landfills
- ◆ Plant lots of trees to absorb carbon dioxide in the air

Finally, contact your elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels urging them to implement a strong plan of action to combat climate change. The more they hear from you, their constituents, the better chance of implementing change.

Sources:

Cregg, Bert. "With an increasingly erratic environment, find out what you can expect and what you can do on your little piece of the globe". Finegardening.com
 "Gardening for Climate Change". National Wildlife Federation.
www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Environmental-Threats/Climate-Change/Greenhouse-Gases/Gardening-for-Climate-Change

Announcements

Master Gardeners are First in UConn Giving Days Fundraising Challenge!

Extension Master Gardeners

UConn Extension Master Gardener Program in Farmington, CT



Thirty-six hours. 425 donations. \$11,941.

We couldn't have done it without you!

UConn Extension Master Gardeners were the big winners in the recent UConn Gives! Campaign. This two-day online event raised money for over 100 programs across UConn, including student, sports and educational groups.

The challenge this year was not to raise the most money, but to have the most donors, with the winner of that challenge receiving an additional \$5,000 from the UConn Foundation. Thanks to loyal Master Gardeners and their supporters that winner was UConn Extension Master Gardeners. Not only did we have the most donors, we finished in fourth place for amount raised.

As you are all aware, the program was tasked with becoming fully self-funded for this fiscal year ending in June. Raising an additional \$50,000+ seemed daunting, but it proved attainable. Small steps, such as an annual recertification fee and selling Master Gardener caps, combined with larger moves, including the addition of an evening Master Gardener class and formal fundraising campaigns have kept the program funded, while expanding its reach to even more interested folks.

The challenge grant win means that we receive a total of \$16,941. It means that a couple of significant expenses in the next budget are already covered. We're on track to end this fiscal year in positive numbers - and have a step up on next year. Our first year of extensive fundraising has demonstrated that the program remains vibrant and valued, and that's a great feeling! Now, with another growing season beginning, we can concentrate on what really matters - getting our hands in the dirt!

Events

Master Gardener Plant Sales at the UConn Extension Centers

- May 11, 2019** ***University of St. Joseph parking lot*** ***9 am – 3 pm***
[Hartford County Extension Center](#)
1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117
- May 11, 2019** ***[Tolland County Extension Center](#)*** ***9 am – 1 pm***
24 Hyde Avenue Vernon, CT 06066
- May 18, 2019** ***[Fairfield County Extension Office](#)*** ***9 am - 1 pm***
67 Stony Hill Road Bethel, CT 06801
- May 18, 2019** ***[Windham County Extension Center](#)*** ***9 am – 2 pm***
139 Wolf Den Road Brooklyn, CT 06234
- June 1, 2019** ***[Middlesex County Extension Center](#)*** ***9 am – 4 pm***
1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam, Connecticut 06438

Come and buy the best plants at the best prices from the best gardeners! We'll have annuals, perennials, veggies, house plants, tag sale items, free soil pH tests and more! **Plant donations greatly appreciated!** Questions? Contact the above Extension Center links for more information.



CMGA Nursery Day at McCue Gardens

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rain or shine!
47 Hartford Avenue Wethersfield, CT 06109



The ever-popular CMGA Nursery Day at McCue Gardens returns with a new twist! This year, Master Gardeners and MG Interns will have the opportunity to purchase amazing plants at a 10% discount, simply by mentioning CMGA or the Master Gardener Program.

In addition, Bruce and Cindy McCue, who own and operate this family nursery, have graciously agreed to donate a percentage of the sales to CMGA.

McCue Gardens has over 1400 varieties of perennials, a great selection of native and woodland plants waiting to be purchased by gardeners for their landscapes and gardens. Easy accessible from route 91 and the Silas Dean Highway (route 99), McCue Gardens is just minutes away from the center of Old Wethersfield.

Parking is behind the Church of the Sacred Heart, located directly across the street from McCue Gardens at 56 Hartford Avenue. After parking, cross the street and walk down the driveway to the back of the house and mention CMGA when you check-in at the CMGA table. Payment methods accepted are cash, checks and all major credit cards.

We hope to see you there!

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

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The LAUREL

Connecticut
Master
Gardener
Association
Newsletter

Summer 2019 Volume 32, No. 3

CMGA ANNUAL MEETING



**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 2, 2019
9 AM—12 PM**
**CT Agricultural
Experiment Station
Jones Auditorium
123 Huntington St.
New Haven, CT 06511**

**LYME DISEASE AND TICK
CONTROL TALK**
*Don't miss this important topic!!
Registration will be announced soon.*

Kenneth H Thomas/Science Source/Getty Image

Officers 2019

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Jean Fletcher	Kim Kelly
Kathie Mag	Paula Russo
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President's Message

Dear Gardening Friends:

Summer is finally here, and I hope all your gardens are flourishing. We know you have been very busy this year, because the CMGA Grants Committee has received an over-abundance of grant applications. By early May, we had received more grant requests than we could afford to fund. In response to this new challenge, we decided to implement a new, competitive evaluation process for awarding grants in 2019.

First of all, we decided to divide our \$8,000 grant budget into two rounds. The first round gave \$5,000 to springtime projects, since the majority of grant applications are submitted early in the year. The second round will allot \$3,000 for summer and fall projects, with an emphasis on new projects from interns. We want to encourage and assist our newest Master Gardeners to share their new-found knowledge and enthusiasm for gardening in new and creative ways.

We then reviewed and confirmed the five evaluation criteria (also listed in our grants guidelines) as our basis for awarding grants. The Grants Committee will evaluate each grant application, and award a score of 1-5 in each category, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest score. Projects with the highest overall score will then be recommended for funding.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. Strong educational component
2. Accessible to the public or non-profit facility it serves
3. Number of people potentially affected by project
4. Long term benefit
5. Number of MGs/Interns involved in the project

As of this writing, we are accepting grant applications for the second round from July 3-July 26. The Grant Committee will then evaluate all applications according to the above criteria, and present their funding recommendations to the Board for final approval at the August Board meeting. Applicants will be notified of their funding status within two weeks after that. Please note that projects that did not receive funding in the first round may re-apply in the second round.

We are glad that so many Master Gardeners want to help their communities by implementing new gardening projects. We hope our new evaluation process will enable us to invest in the most worthy projects, and encourage our interns to "get growing" in their communities. Please remember that we depend on your membership dues and other fundraising events to provide the resources that support so many fine MG outreach activities. You can also make additional donations directly the CMGA Grant fund. Learn more on our website at <http://ctmga.org/-/donate-to-cmga/4546359583>. Thanks for all you do!

Theresa Hennessey, 2019 CMGA President

CMGA 2019 Annual Meeting

SATURDAY November 2, 2019



The CMGA 2019 Annual meeting is in New Haven County this year. We are featuring a very important lecture on Lyme Disease and Tick Control by Entomologist Dr. Kirby Stafford III to be held at Jones Auditorium. Tick populations are on the rise and it is more important than ever to learn how we can protect ourselves from tick-borne diseases.

This meeting is free to all CMGA members. There is the annual report of CMGA finances and accomplishments, election of new officers and board members, and the featured speaker.

An email blast will go out to all CMGA members when online registration is open. Look for it soon!



Program:

- 9:00 am - Parking, check-in and continental breakfast at Jones Auditorium
- 9:30 am - Semi-annual meeting and report
- 10:30 am - Presentation by Dr. Kirby Stafford on "Lyme Disease and Tick Control "
- 12:00 pm - Meeting ends

Spenser Village Community Garden Grant

By Theresa Hennessey
President CMGA

This project started in June, 2014, with the renovation of an existing community garden at the Manchester Housing Authority's residential complex on Pascal Lane in Manchester CT. The residents there are low-income, elderly and moderately disabled citizens. The original garden was built and maintained by the residents. It measured approximately 30 feet x 50 feet, with long rows plowed into the existing topsoil, and no fencing or water access. This garden was abandoned in 2012, when marauding wildlife destroyed all the resident's crops.



Original abandoned garden, 2014

The old garden was re-built in 2014, with 16 individual 4' x 8' raised beds, 2 large water barrels, mulched walkways between the planting beds, a small shed and a 4-foot deer fence with 2 gates. In 2016, the garden was expanded to include 4 additional planting beds with associated fencing and walkways.

growing their crops. In April 2015, Tolland County Master Gardeners conducted a seed-starting workshop at the village, to teach the residents how to start their own tomato and pepper seedlings. These seedlings were successfully transplanted into the gardens in May, and produced a bountiful crop of vegetables. Container gardens were added for potatoes and melons, and various flowers are planted to attract beneficial insects.

Master Gardeners assist the residents in planting and

2018 was another busy year in the garden. In spring and summer, the Master Gardeners assisted the residents in planting a wide variety of vegetables, including onions, carrots, beans, squash, cucumbers, lettuce, cabbage, herbs, potatoes, radishes, tomatoes, peppers,



New garden under construction

potatoes, radishes, Swiss Chard, spinach, and strawberries. Later, the strawberry plants were moved to a single, dedicated berry bed and the surplus plants were donated to the Tolland County MG plant sale. We also tried sweet potatoes for the first time, and harvested a moderate crop of delicious tubers.



We are also experimenting with re-mineralizing the soil in the raised beds.

After 5 years of intensive gardening, the crop yields are diminishing. Plant diseases and insect pests are on the rise. Consulting with the Bionutrient Food Association, we have

learned that mineral deficiencies can be a contributing factor in these problems. Therefore, in the springtime, we fertilized the beds with a commercial mineral mix for gardens and lawns. We saw improvement in the yields of several crops, especially the cabbages. Thus encouraged, we will continue the re-mineralization experiment in 2019, using a specialized mix of minerals and beneficial soil microbes.



The residents really enjoy their garden. The MGs teach them how to grow their crops, and everyone helps with the various garden chores. The harvest is always bountiful, and is shared by all residents. This project has united residents across all ages and stages of life. These differences are bridged through cooperation, teamwork and a common purpose.

The Manchester Housing Authority is very supportive of the garden, providing soil, compost and water, free of charge. We also thank CMGA for their grant funding over the years.

Worm Day Recap

Theresa Hennessey
President, CMGA

On Saturday, June 22, CMGA and the UConn Master Composter Program jointly held a special springtime edition of Worm Day. Fifteen eager novice and experienced worm farmers met at the Middlesex County Extension Center in Haddam, CT for a day of fun, information and food for all, including the worms.

The event started with a slide show presented by Gail Reynolds, Middlesex County MG Coordinator and UConn Master Composter. She gave an introduction to the chemistry of composting, and reviewed several composting techniques, including thermophilic composting and vermicomposting. She then moved on to the physiology of worms, and the difference between earth-moving and composting worms. She shared some of her favorite fun facts about worms, including worms have no eyes, teeth or lungs, but they do have five hearts!

The second half of Gail's lecture focused on how to create worm bins for raising composting worms at home. She discussed the proper care and feeding of worms, and how to collect worm castings and compost tea. Gail's complete slide show is available to download from the CMGA website:

Go to: www.ctmga.org, and click on the Worm Day link.

After the slide show, participants were eager to start creating their own bins from containers they brought from home. Bedding materials were provided by CMGA, and red wiggler worms were donated by Master Composters Charlie Tefft and Vivian King.



Further assistance and materials were provided by Master Composters Thomas DiMauro, Jamie Burgess and Stephanie Bahramian. The room was bustling with activity, as folks drilled drainage holes and filled their bins with shredded newspapers, coconut coir and sterilized soil.

Then they gently nestled their new pet worms into the bedding materials, and topped it all off with watermelon rinds. Both the worms and the people went home with big smiles on their faces! Thanks to all who made this event a success!



Green Thumbs Gardening Club

Leah Allen
Master Gardener 2017

"Congratulations, you are a gardener!" I announce as I shake their little hand and hand them their diploma. It was May 31st and the Green Thumbs Gardening Club was having a graduation. Eight weeks prior, 21 children in kindergarten through third grade, got off the bus after school at the North Stonington Recreation Department and began their journey into gardening.



I have been longing to work with children to educate them about gardening for some time. After attending an Introduction to Horticultural Therapy class through the Master Gardener program last January, I became inspired to apply similar practices and ideas to a children's gardening class. I partnered up with friend and occupational therapist Jenn Anderson to bring fun movement to the class. Green Thumbs Gardening Club was born!

The club space at the Recreation Department was decorated weekly with lime green tablecloths, lots of colorful visuals, and our rotating book table that featured books from Wheeler Library about that week's subject. Also there were observation tables that

changed weekly, where kids could get up close and observe soil samples, root systems, and seeds.

Featured subjects were soil, seeds and germination, annual/perennial flowers, pollination, and the importance of helping our pollinators! Children planted vegetable and flower seeds and later transplanted the seedlings into bigger pots to take home.



We made wildflower seed bombs. We practiced bee safety and tasted local honey. We took a nature hike in our town to positively ID poison ivy for summer safety. The children also competed against each other in a super fun Gardening Bee!

One of the most memorable sessions of the club was the special Mother's Day Class celebrating all the moms in the children's lives. The child became the teacher and taught their moms and grandmothers how to plant a flower container. Together they picked containers, flowers, and planted. It was such a wonderful self-esteem building experience for the children and a lasting memory for both!

Over seven weeks, we did all those gardening activities PLUS lots of movement including wheel barrow races, minute-to-win-it games, obstacle courses, and Bee Freeze tag. Movement is fun. By including it into a gardening class, children will associate gardening with fun and be more inclined to continue outside the class!



The Green Thumbs Gardening Club graduation was their eighth class and we wanted to celebrate them! Celebrate that they earned their Green Thumbs and the honorable title "gardener". Each child received a diploma, personalized Garden Sugar Cookies and a plant from Pequot Plant Farm. In attendance was the 1st selectman, town selectman, elementary school principal, parents, and grandparents. Food served was fresh fruits and vegetables and Dirt pudding cups.

Starting children at a young age to discover and explore gardening is a worthwhile project that promotes an appreciation of the natural world around them.

Build a Mason Bee Home

Alicia Cornelio
Editor, Laurel

It was shocking to learn in a Rocky Hill Garden Club speaking engagement by Pam Cooper of the UCONN Home and Garden Education Center that 80 percent of insect species are in decline or gone worldwide. Studies in Europe have been recording this decline for decades and believe pesticides have a major role in this trend. Without enough pollinators, world crops for humans will be significantly impacted.

So, how can we help? By providing homes to attract native insects. Hole-nesting bees represent about 25% of the world's bee species.



By M. J. Raupp

The gentlest, most efficient native pollinator is the Mason bee. Mason bees are native, solitary bees that do not sting. They are one of the easiest to raise of the four thousand native bee species. In the wild, mason bees use galleries in trunks of dead trees as homes for their brood.

We can increase mason bee populations by raising them in our backyards and gardens to supplement the stressed honeybee and sustain our future food supply. These homes

can provide nesting sites for other native bees, too.

Getting started on this simple project requires the following supplies:

Natural Wood method:

- ◆ Drill holes in a piece of wood

OR

Can Method:

- ◆ Round or oval "can" with a back
- ◆ Mason bee tubes
- ◆ Paper fillers for the tubes
- ◆ Dowel for rolling paper
- ◆ Duct tape for sealing back (if needed)



In both methods, tubes need to be created for nesting. Either take a piece of wood and drill holes or drill holes in an old tree. However, if you don't put liners in the holes or clean the holes out every year, the bees will not reuse the house.

An easier method is using a can or other round receptacle to hold mason bee tubes you can buy.



- ◆ Roll paper liners with a dowel and insert into each tube
- ◆ Fill can with tubes
- ◆ If no backing, use duct tape to seal the back of the can
- ◆ Hang can in tree or by the garden
- ◆ At the end of the season, pull out the liners and refill with new liners in the spring

The Rocky Hill Garden Club used PVC pipes to hold the tubes. The tubes are lined with paper that can be discarded at the end of the season.

Place the nest in a sheltered, sunny spot facing East or South to catch the morning sun. Under the eaves of a shed or garage is an ideal location and be sure to avoid direct exposure to rain. The mud filled tubs can be ruined if they get soaked.



Mason bees do not like an open back. If your can has an open back, seal it with duct tape.

This is a fun project for a garden club, children's group, senior center, or other civic association. Or, do it for yourself and see how attracting mason bees can improve the yields in your garden. They need all the help we can give them.



Sources:
"Mason Bee Haviors". April 30, 2018. Bugoftheweek.com.
"Mason Bees: Nature's Spring Pollinators". Honeybee Conservancy. www.thehoneybeeconservancy.org

Announcements

CMGA Needs You...More than Ever!

Please consider joining the Board, join a committee, or volunteer to help the Symposium. There are currently three openings on the Board. It is a friendly group with a common goal. And many hands make light work! CMGA does so much to promote its mission of gardening for health and joy!



If you can't commit to a monthly meeting on the Board, consider joining a committee such as membership, grants, marketing, or the audit. Much of the work can be done at home. Another opportunity is to volunteer at the Symposium. The success of this important event depends on dozens of people to help with the many little tasks that must get done. No experience is necessary!

And after the work is done, there are so many opportunities for comradery. Won't you get to know us better? We have a variety of tools and support to help you in your new role, including mentoring from previous Board members. Read about the description of roles at: <http://www.ctmga.org/board-and-chair-roles/4567742869>

We'd love to hear from you! <http://ctmga.org/contact-us/4516995531>.

CMGA Launches New Website!

Many hours of work has been spent on the important and monumental task of streamlining and updating our website. The web team has spearheaded this project and we couldn't have done it without them. Many thanks!! Please look for the new website in **September, 2019**.



Members Enjoy CMGA Nursery Day

On June 5, CMGA members took advantage of the discounts provided by Bruce and Cindy McCue of McCue Gardens in Wethersfield to buy some perennials from the 1400 varieties available. It was the perfect time for gardeners to assess their winter losses and buy new plants to fill in their gaps. This has been an annual event for three years and CMGA plans to hold this event next year.

Events

UCONN Plant Science Day

109th 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 7, 2019
10 am—4 pm

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

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

Cool Off at a Connecticut Waterfall

Take advantage of the rainy spring to view a waterfall in Connecticut. They are spectacular this year! Many can be viewed from the parking lot or just a short walk up a trail.

A list of waterfalls in Connecticut can be viewed here:

<http://www.ctvisit.com/articles/waterfalls-in-CT>



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The LAUREL

*Connecticut
Master
Gardener
Association
Newsletter*

Autumn 2019 Volume 32, No. 4

Native Biofilter Project Gay City State Park



The Day October 11, 2019

Master Gardeners participated in a project to restore native habitat to the Gay City State Park in Hebron to improve the quality of the water in the pond and discourage Canada Geese.

(Continued on page 4)

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

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President's Message

Dear Gardening Friends:

As another growing season comes to a close, it's only natural to look back and review what we accomplished so far this year. If you are a graduating MG intern, you put in over 100 hours of class time, 60 hours of outreach and office service, and countless hours on your tree-vine-shrub project. All active, certified Master Gardeners have donated at least 22 hours of outreach and education, but most of you contribute so much more. In fact, according to the most recent Extension Master Gardener National Report, (see page 5) active certified MGs average about 60 hours of volunteer work in their communities each year.

Here at CMGA, we supported 27 wonderful outreach projects this year, with all their associated volunteer hours. And along the way, our Grants Committee created and implemented a new evaluation system for awarding grants. To top it all off, our all-volunteer Website Committee labored intensely all summer to create our beautiful new website. Check it out at www.ctmga.org. They did an amazing job!

What is the value of all this volunteerism? Economists have estimated that in our area, volunteer hours are worth about \$30 per hour. I can't imagine trying to pay contractors to do all the things Master Gardeners do! Yet we continue to pour our time and talents into these projects, simply for the love of it.

As this is my last column as CMGA President, I want you to know that I have been so proud to represent such a great group of people these past two years. I also want to encourage you all to keep up the good work. You are making significant contributions to your communities, and creating lasting impressions on your friends and families. What's the value of an active certified Master Gardener? PRICELESS!

Theresa Hennessey, 2019 CMGA President

CMGA 2019 Annual Meeting

SATURDAY November 2, 2019



**Jones Auditorium
CT Agricultural
Experiment Station
123 Huntington St.
New Haven, CT
06511.**

We are featuring a very important lecture on Lyme Disease and Tick Control by Entomologist Dr. Kirby Stafford III to be held at Jones Auditorium. Tick populations are on the rise and it is more important than ever to learn how we can protect ourselves from tick-borne diseases.

This meeting is free to all CMGA members. There is the annual report of CMGA finances and accomplishments, election of new officers and board members, and the featured speaker.

Please register: <https://ctmga.org/annual-meeting>
If you would like to contribute a breakfast item for the buffet, you will receive a CMGA water bottle.

Program:

- 9:00 am - Parking, check-in and continental breakfast at Jones Auditorium
- 9:30 am - Presentation by Dr. Kirby Stafford on "Lyme Disease and Tick Control "
- 10:30 am - Semi-annual meeting and report
- 12:00 pm - CMGA Monthly Meeting open to all members



Gay City State Park Restoration Project

By Alicia Cornelio
Editor, Laurel

Gay City State Park in Hebron is a popular outdoor destination. Wildlife such as deer, beaver, wild turkeys and turtles are welcome. But wildlife species, like Canada Geese, can be an issue from an environmental health concern.

Swimmers at the pond at Gay City State Park find the adjacent grassy picnic areas attractive. Unfortunately, so do Canada Geese. They feed on the grass and then leave droppings all over the adjacent beach. Visual access to the water gives them a sense of safety.



A water quality problem, identified by DEEP, was brought to the attention of the New London MG office and Paul Armond by the SRECC. It was agreed that the water quality problem could be addressed with a habitat restoration adjacent to the swimming area that would discourage nuisance geese.

“So how do we create a less inviting space for geese but do it naturally? As you may have guessed, native plants do it best. In a cooperative project between Connecticut Master Gardeners, DEEP State Parks and Salmon River Watershed Partnership, a native habitat restoration area or BioFilter, was designed and planted in the summer of 2018.”

The project was funded by the Salmon River Estuary Coordinating Committee (SRECC) and the Connecticut Master Gardener Association (CMGA).

The restored area lies between the picnic area and open water. Plants chosen have enough height to disrupt the geese’s visual access, but are low enough to maintain visitor views to the pond. As the plants fill in, they also help with filtering any overland flow to the pond and are pollinator friendly. Visitor informational signage was added in 2019.

We thank Paul Armond and his Master Gardener volunteers for a job well done! This project will be an example to others who want to remediate their problem areas due to invasive Canada Geese.

Sources:

The Day. “Green & Growing: Master Gardeners, a Connecticut original” October 11, 2019.
<https://www.theday.com/article/20181127/NWS01/181129915>.

Salmon River Watershed Annual Newsletter 2019. “Native BioFilter at Gay City State Park.”
<https://hebronct.com/uploads/2019/03/March-15.SRWP-newsletter-2019.pdf>

Announcements

CMGA Launches New Website October 1st!

Over the past year, our dedicated, volunteer website committee, made up of BOD members Jean Fletcher, Paula Russo, Pat Taylor, Vicky Ambrosey and Gloria Shusdock have collaborated and spent countless hours researching, planning, redesigning and creating our new site. You'll notice we have a fresh new look and have added new features - including **secure (https) forms & shopping cart** - to provide a new experience for our members and all who want to learn more about our CMGA organization.



A very special thank you goes to Gloria Shusdock, our designer, developer, and website specialist. Gloria has guided us through the intricacies of good website design and built the new site as a volunteer labor of love for CMGA. We appreciate everything she has done redesigning the website, as well as her advice, commitment, and expertise.

Check it out! Just go to ctmga.org and browse through the pages. We want to know what you think, so please send your comments and suggestions to us at: webinfo@ctmga.org

EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER 2018 NATIONAL REPORT

Extension Master Gardeners	Volunteer Hours	Value of Volunteer Hours	Newly Trained EMGs	Training Hours	Continuing Education Hours	Direct Contacts	Yearly Media Reach
86,076	5.6 million	\$140 million	13,879	638,556	901,246	8.6 million	45 million
One of the largest volunteer organizations in the country	Active certified EMG volunteers average 60 hours per year	The national estimated average of volunteer time is \$24.69	On average, each state trains 302 new EMGs every year	On average, EMGs have over 40 hours of training for certification	EMGs often continue their education	Clientele served through helplines, presentations, plant clinics, and more	Includes State & County websites, radio, TV, newspaper, & extension publications

The information provided was compiled by the Extension Master Gardener (EMG) National Committee in 2019. The numbers reflect 2018 data. 46 of 49 states that currently have Extension Master Gardener programs reported information about program outcomes.

<https://sites.google.com/a/extension.org/eng-coordinators/home>

Dwarf Tomatoes Indoors

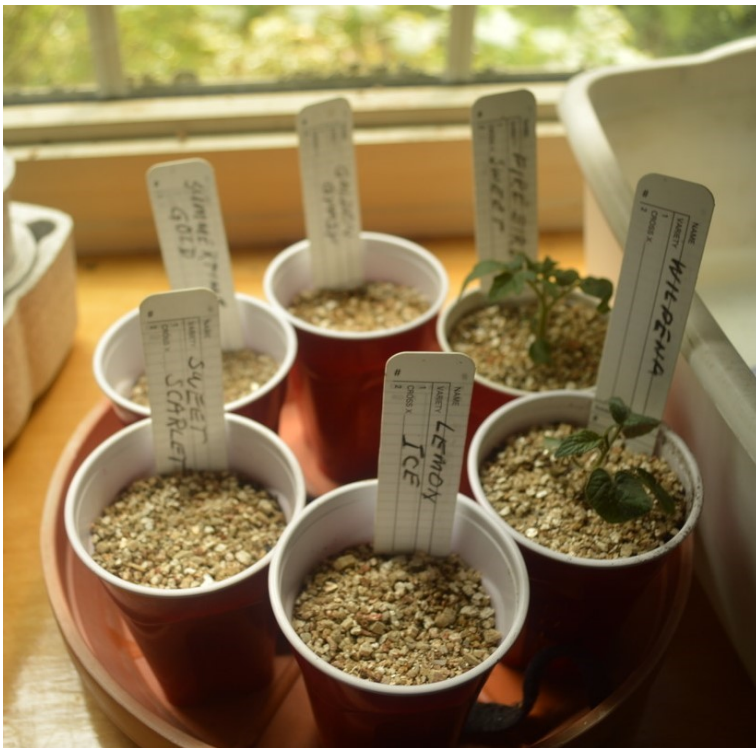
My Continuing Indoor Dwarf Tomato Experiment

John Carlson
Class of 1994

In my previous report, the Minibell dwarf tomato plants were producing cherry tomatoes and they continue to do so. Although the seed packet of this variety states it's a determinate, don't believe it. These plants continue to grow and as they do they produce more and more tomato clusters. These plants are *determined*, not determinate! They are determined to keep on producing tomatoes despite another source stating, "Determinates stop growing when fruit sets on the top bud." A UCONN Fact Sheet titled *Tomatoes* states "...Varieties designated determinate often have a compact bushy plant form with limited growth after fruit initiation, while indeterminate varieties continue to grow and set fruit throughout the season."



Continuing what I now term the "Minibell" part of the experiment, I will do two things. First, I will select two of the existing plants for overwintering this coming winter, growing them under LED grow lights. Second, I have already successfully started 4"-6" cuttings for this coming winter garden.



New is the "Six-pack" part of the experiment. I germinated seed of six varieties of Dwarf tomatoes: six yellow (Dwarf Golden Gypsy, Dwarf Lemon Ice and Summertime Gold) and three red (Dwarf Firebird Sweet, Sweet Scarlet Dwarf and Wilpena). A seed of each variety has been germinated although only two of the six failed to germinate on the first try.

The four that didn't sprout were placed in water, germinated in three days, and have been transplanted to a soil medium. The first attempt was in a soil medium. From my experience, the water medium method always had the most success, although this requires an extra step plus having to be very gentle handling a sprouted seed as the young root is very tender and can easily break off.



Each germinated seed is now in its own plastic cup with a layer of vermiculite over the soil to prevent damping off. The two successfully germinated seeds now have their first true leaves. The four new ones were just transplanted and haven't had time to take hold and sprout. All six cups are under an LED grow light fixture. The LED is my preferred grow light source having had the best success with this type of light source.

To accommodate the increase and size of the tomato plants and the interest in expanding growing vegetables beyond tomatoes, a bush cucumber is to be added. However, I will have to modify the two 4'x8' plant tables in the basement from florescent to LED grow light fixtures. One might interject here that it seems I'm getting carried away with this indoor winter growing thing and they would be correct. However, this beats off the winter blues! The byproduct of growing these plants is delicious, better than what's available in store vegetable departments.

Thanks for sharing John!
Please keep our readers
informed of your progress.
We are very interested!



Grow a Pollinator Plant Today!

Alicia Cornelio
Editor, Laurel

The theme of the 2019 CMGA Symposium in March was Pollinators. Members had the opportunity to learn how to help pollinators in their own gardens and hopefully put the practices into use. For those who did not attend the symposium, here is a summary and follow-up.



What is a pollinator plant and why are native pollinator plants preferable?

Pollinator plants attract animals such as birds, bees, bats, butterflies, moths, and beetles to carry and transfer pollen from flower to flower of the same species. Plants are then fertilized to create fruit production and seeds for its next generation. Native plants are best known to native pollinators and provide the best food and nutrients for their survival.

What kind of plants are pollinators?

Plants with flowers need to be pollinated to produce seeds and a future generation. Some are pollinated by insects and others by the wind. Plants using the wind tend to be unscented and dull in color because they do not need to attract an animal pollinator. Mosses and ferns are not pollinator plants. They use spores, not flowers.

Why is pollination important to humans?

Pollination is an essential ecological survival function. According to the United States Forest Service, "Of the 1,400 crop plants grown around the world that produce all of our food and plant-based industrial products, almost 80% require pollination by animals. Visits from bees and other pollinators also result in larger, more flavorful fruits and higher crop yields. In the United States alone, pollination of agricultural crops is valued at ten billion dollars annually. Globally, pollination services are likely worth more than three trillion dollars." Humans and animals that rely on crops would not survive without pollinators.

Why do homeowners need to help pollinators?

According to *Scienceline*, "Homes, golf courses and parks grow more acres of turf grass than U.S. farmers devote to corn, wheat and fruit trees." Turf grass and/or lawn is the largest crop in the U.S. and human can't even eat it. They use huge amounts of water that are taken away from food crops and don't provide plants to feed pollinators. The more space homeowners and civic organizations devote to lawn, the more resources homeowners take away from growing crops. Additionally, the pesticides used to maintain lawns are harmful to pollinators passing along in search of pollinating plants. Insect populations have been declining steadily, especially honey bees.

What can homeowners do to support pollinators?

- Plant native wildflowers in your shady areas around your home.
- Plant milkweed to specifically help Monarch butterflies.
- Grow native plants instead of hybrid double flowering and non-native plants that native pollinators are not familiar with and can not physically pollinate.
- Plant a tree. Trees attract pollinators who then go on to pollinate vegetables and flowers.
- Stop using insecticides on your flowers and lawn.
- Don't mulch all your garden beds. Many bees build homes in the ground.
- Build nesting houses for bees and butterflies in your yard.

How can a homeowner get started?

First, call your lawn guy today and change to organic weed control. There are many lawn services that provide organic solutions. And they work! I switched three years ago. Next, try to reduce your lawn. If managing a yard filled with flowers is too much work, plant trees and shrubs. Smaller varieties are relatively low maintenance and attract pollinators as much as flowers. I had a hot sunny spot on my lawn that was always burned and dead. I planted a dwarf conifer shrub bed ten years ago and all I do is admire it. My holly is in almost constant bloom and is filled with native bees all season. As for your problem shady areas, they are perfect for wildflowers. Look for deer resistant plants. Most natives have evolved to ward off grazing animals to ensure they are around for pollination. Plant herbs. They provide a nice kitchen garden without a lot of work and attract so many pollinators. Mint can be invasive, but my mint patch replaces a bit of lawn, is constantly in bloom, and filled with bees. Let your oregano and thyme go to flower, too.

On the next page is information on pollinators and plant guides for creating a pollinator garden.

Helpful links for Native Pollinator Plants:

- ▶ **United States Forest Service** overview of pollination and pollinators:
<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/importance.shtml>
- ▶ **University of Georgia Extension**
How to protect pollinators and create a pollinator friendly garden:
<https://extension.uga.edu/topic-areas/timely-topics/pollinators.html>
- ▶ The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Development (**DEEP**)
Pollinator overview:
https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&Q=567260&deepNav_GID=1655
- ▶ **United States Department of Agriculture** Importance of Pollinators:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/pa/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs142p2_018171
- ▶ **Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station** fact sheet chart, written by Dr. Kimberly Stoner, entitled *Planting Flowers for Bees in Connecticut*:
<http://northeastcovercrops.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Planting-Flowers-For-Bees-in-Connecticut.pdf>
- ▶ **Pollinator Partnership** Pollinator Guide: <https://www.pollinator.org/guides>
- ▶ **Xerces Society** Pollinator Plant List:
https://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/NortheastPlantList_web.pdf
- ▶ **Wildflower Center** Northeast Pollinator Plant List:
https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=xerces_northeast
- ▶ **Massachusetts Audubon Society** Pollinator Plant List:
<https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/help-pollinators-thrive/plant-a-pollinator-garden>
- ▶ **United States Forest Service**
Attracting Pollinators to your Backyard Guide and Booklet:
https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsEasternUS_V1.pdf
- ▶ **Proven Winners** Top Ten Shrubs for Pollinators:
<http://www.provenwinners.com/learn/top-ten-lists/top-ten-shrubs-pollinators>
- ▶ **Heather Holm**, Bee and Pollinator Guides:
<https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com/plant-lists--posters.html>

2020 Membership

It's that time of year again!



October is time for pumpkins, goblins and the annual CMGA membership drive. Master Gardeners are dedicated, passionate people who contribute thousands of hours of community service that truly make this world a better place. We are so proud of you, and so very thankful for your service. Please continue to support your fellow MGs, and renew your CMGA membership today!

As always, our membership forms are on our website:
<https://ctmga.org/membership-application-payment>

Save the Date



October 24, 2019 **CT Trails Symposium**
Goodwin College 1 Riverside Dr. East Hartford, CT. 06118
<https://cttrails.uconn.edu/2019symposium/>

November 2, 2019 — **CMGA Annual Meeting**
Jones Auditorium, CT Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington St., New Haven, CT 06511.
<https://ctmga.org/annual-meeting>

November 9, 2019 **SALT Conference (Smaller American Lawns Today)**
Connecticut College Arboretum 270 Mohegan Ave New London, CT 06320
<https://www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum/programs-and-activities/salt-conference/>

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